



PRESS RELEASE

Young Scientists are Missing, even though their Prospects Improve

There is still lack of young scientists at Czech universities. Young academics leave for the private sector and abroad due to higher wages. Nevertheless, an academic career in the Czech Republic has a lot of prospects. Consider the following factors: lack of younger academic staff at Czech universities, some interesting professional development opportunities and growing demand for university degrees.

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Demand for young scientists is growing especially because of increasing **interest in university degrees** in the Czech Republic. In 1990/1991 there were 96 thousand students at the Czech state universities (not including foreign students). In 1999/2000 it was already over 159 thousand students and in 2005/2006 it was over 276 thousand students.

One of the most visible problems of the academic sphere is still low wages in comparison with the private sector. On the other hand, academic staff can nowadays raise their wages by taking part in **European projects**. Young scientists are also often supported by private companies. A typical example is the **Corporate Chair** project, where a company gives 1 million CZK to a young successful assistant professor for his or her research.

To demonstrate what the work of a scientist involves, five Czech universities are organizing a "Research Day at the Prague Universities – Scientia Pragensis". Pupils, students and the public will have an opportunity to speak with scientists, see the results of their work and gain other interesting information. Visitors can attend many attractive lectures – e.g. a lecture about discovering ancient Egypt, about foodstuff safety or about animal cloning. More information is to be found at www.sciprag.cz.



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