

Mobilities 3.0 brings researchers to Pilsen and sends our researchers abroad

People from Georgia, Iran, Japan and the UK come to the University of West Bohemia, and our people travel, for instance, to Italy, Germany, Switzerland or the USA. All this thanks to a well-proven project that has been connecting the Pilsen campus and the world since 2018.

Associate Professor Vitalii Yanovych from Ukraine works for the Department of Power Machines and Equipment of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. He conducts independent experimental research on aerodynamic devices, has participated in the preparation and experiments with a new device, which has been in the department since 2018, and presented the results of his work at a number of conferences in the Czech Republic and abroad. He is one of the researchers that the University of West Bohemia gained thanks to the important project Mobilities 3.0.

Mobilities mean travels of employees or students abroad and arrivals of foreigners here. The Mobilities 3.0 project is financed by the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports; UWB has been using this programme since its launch in April 2018: Since then, the Pilsen campus has welcomed 19 researchers from abroad and 11 researchers travelled from Pilsen to leading foreign institutions. The figures are not final because the project lasts until the end

of 2020. “The University of West Bohemia successfully exploits the potential of foreign researchers, supports the professional development of project participants, shares their international experience from the work of international research teams, and strengthens internationalization at the University,” Dita Hommerová, Vice-Rector for Internationalization, comments on the contribution of the project.

Project manager Markéta Ulčová from the UWB Project Centre describes how Mobilities 3.0 works. “The project carries out inbound and outbound mobilities of post-docs and junior and senior researchers. Job positions are filled on the basis of a selection procedure in cooperation with individual University Parts; the shortest duration of a mobility is six months, the longest two years. The project strengthens the research and development capacities of UWB and enriches our University environment with new scientific topics, approaches, experiences and culture,” explains Ms. Ulčová.

Researchers from Georgia, Iran, Japan, Russia, Turkey and the UK have already arrived in Pilsen. Most often, according to the project manager, they went to technical faculties, i.e. the Faculty of Applied Sciences, the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, as well as research centres. For example, Dr. Sree Lakshmi from India, who is currently working at the Regional Innovation Centre for Electrical Engineering RICE, received the position due to a successful selection procedure at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering. Thanks to our experience in the area of multi-level converters and control algorithms of permanent magnet synchronous motors, the research team is helping to develop the Power Electronics and Drives research team.

The most outgoing mobilities were organized by the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts. These headed to countries like Italy, Germany, Switzerland, the US or the UK. “It is excellent experience for our employees to have the opportunity to work abroad. They gain valuable knowledge for

areas of their research from teams at leading foreign institutions. The aim of the project is to support our researchers in their further professional growth and thus contribute to the development and strengthening of the internationalization of research at UWB,” continues Ms. Ulčová. Since scientists participating in foreign mobilities remain UWB employees, they receive wages assessed by the project; their travel expenses and participation in international scientific meetings, seminars and conferences are fully paid from the project.

Although the Mobilities 3.0 project will end with the end of 2020, this is definitely not the case of travels abroad. “We are currently starting the preparation of a follow-up project within the call of the Operational Programme Research, Development and Education of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. We would like to build on the success of the first run of the project and further strengthen the mobility of the staff at our University,” adds Vice-Rector Dita Hommerová. ●

