

# The Welcome Centre will take care of foreign visitors to UWB

The year 2020 is bringing to the University of West Bohemia an office that will offer complete service to professionals heading for Pilsen from abroad, so as to make them feel their best, make them come back and, ideally, recommend the University of West Bohemia to their colleagues.

In order to attract foreign employees, the University of West Bohemia needs sufficient infrastructure. Starting in 2020, a totally new office called the Welcome Centre – an international cooperation office that will take care of such guests – will ensure the necessary services.

All over the world, and partly also in the Czech Republic, such centres are a common part of universities. The UWB office will be located in the Rector's Office building on the Bory campus. If this project is supported by the Regional Authority of the Pilsen Region, the office will also be marked with the Pilsen Region logo, which will, at first glance, demonstrate the cooperation of the University and the Region in relation to foreign guests, as is usual in the West.

“Depending on changes in societal needs and the analysis of the University's weaknesses within the RIS3 strategy (the National Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialization, note of the editor), in the overall globalization of science and research, it is necessary to intensify international cooperation in science and research, expand the portfolio of students and employees from abroad, and support the internationalization of all UWB activities”, says Dita Hommerová, Vice-Rector for Internationalization.

According to the Vice-Rector, the University of West Bohemia has long been involved in projects in the area of international cooperation in research, development and study, participated in foreign professional events and conferences, and generally been seeking to internationalize all activities in order to succeed in international competition. “Most of these activities are already included in the University's strategic documents, such as the Long-Term Plan

of the University of West Bohemia, and, generally, being implemented across all UWB Faculties and research centres,” continues the Vice-Rector.

The Welcome Centre will offer full service – multi-level assistance in all areas – to foreign experts who possibly consider working at the University of West Bohemia, as well as to their families. It is the conditions for a full life for the foreign experts and their loved ones that decide whether they will or will not take advantage of job offers of the University of West Bohemia. Accommodation, schools, kindergartens, banks, doctors, cultural and sports activities, language skills of the staff of the authorities... Everything matters. “In addition to strictly formal issues, the International Cooperation Office will also enable the target group to be involved in the cultural and social life in the Pilsen Region; this is often neglected but is necessary for a successful and long-term integration in the society,” notes Ms. Hommerová.

The staff of the Centre will also participate in the active recruitment of foreign employees, piloting the recruitment in three or four destinations in the world, chosen based on experience, and will coordinate it. The Welcome Centre will be connected to the infrastructure of the Region and the City in order to share information. “This sharing of information and experience will become the basis of the concept of closer cooperation of three important partners, UWB, the Pilsen Region and the City of Pilsen, within the framework of internationalization of the Region. The University of West Bohemia is ready to provide this service for foreign professionals, upon mutual agreements, and also to selected external cooperating entities,” adds Vice-Rector Hommerová. ●