

## PROJECT PROPOSAL: CEITEC PHD AND POSTDOC RETREAT 2024

### Introduction

In an increasingly interdisciplinary academic landscape, fostering collaboration among postdoctoral researchers (postdocs) and doctoral (PhD) students from various scientific fields is not only beneficial but essential for driving innovation and academic success. The annual Postdoc and PhD Retreat within our consortium is a crucial component in this. The retreat serves as a catalyst for enhancing relationships, skill development, and overall well-being among the vibrant community of postdocs and PhD students across our consortium's diverse fields of study.

**Language of event:** English

**Tentative date:** End of September

**Length of event:** 2 days, 1 night

**Venue:** University centre Telč

**Target groups:** PhD students, postdoctoral researchers from the whole CEITEC consortium

**Expected number of participants:**

- 35 PhD students
- 35 postdoctoral researchers

### Goals of the event

- **Bringing Together Postdocs and PhD Students:** By bringing together postdocs and PhD students from the CEITEC consortium, we aim to facilitate transfer of ideas, expertise, and perspectives, fostering a vibrant and inclusive scientific community.
- **Promoting Networking and Collaboration:** Our retreat seeks to promote networking across all the institutions within the consortium, creating opportunities for fruitful collaborations and knowledge-sharing initiatives.
- **Strengthening CEITEC Identity and Community:** By connecting researchers within the CEITEC consortium, we aim to strengthen the sense of community and identity, fostering a supportive environment for professional and personal growth.
- **Enhancing Science Communication and Presentation Skills:** the retreat will provide tailored training sessions aimed at improving soft skills for both postdocs and PhD students, giving participants valuable knowledge to navigate in the scientific environment and improve their career.
- **Supporting Researchers at Different Career Stages:** By providing a variety of soft skills workshops, professional talks and science presentations, the retreat serves as a holistic support for development of both postdocs and PhD students at different steps of their career.

## Transport

As all the participants are based in Brno, complimentary bus transportation will be arranged from Brno to the venue on day 1 in the morning and return transportation will be provided from the venue to Brno on day 2 in the afternoon.

## Preliminary programme

- **Keynote speeches:** two invited speakers will give 30min talks with the focus on showcasing how scientific collaboration can lead to intriguing discoveries, as well as exploring the alternative paths available to both PhD students and postdocs. The speakers could also serve as chairs for the scientific talk sessions.
- **Scientific presentations by PhD students and postdocs:** participants of the retreat will have the opportunity to present their research to the wider public CEITEC community, which will improve their ability to share the key points of their findings to an audience of researchers of diverse backgrounds (from material sciences to molecular medicine).
- **Poster session:** similarly to the oral presentations, the poster session will serve as a platform to share the participants' projects. We hope it will foster discussion across fields and may even give rise to new multi-disciplinary collaborations.
- **Soft skills workshops:** in recent surveys, researchers have disclosed that they perceive a lack of soft skills training. The retreat is a perfect opportunity to enhance them – we are planning to have multiple workshops led by professionals for example but not limited to healthy research culture, negotiation and conflict resolution skills or science communication.
- **Informal networking:** Informal networking cultivates a relaxed atmosphere where postdocs and PhD students engage in knowledge exchange while fostering stronger bonds and community cohesion. Through interactive activities such as scientific speed dating or a pub quiz, participants have an opportunity to deepen their connections and share experiences from their careers and beyond.

## Budget

- **Expenses: 293 950 CZK**
  - Accommodation and venue fees: 53 950 CZK
  - Catering for 80 people: 120 000 CZK
  - Workshop fees: 50 000 CZK
  - Promo materials (notebooks): 10 000 CZK
  - Other expenses (transportation, prizes for best presentation etc.): 60 000 CZK
- **Income: 184 000 CZK**
  - Conference fee: 84 000 CZK
  - Money pledged by BUT: 100 000 CZK
- On the occasion that we do not receive any additional funding, we plan to use residual funds from previous year's sponsors' donations and eventually increase the conference fee.
- Detailed budget available at the end of this proposal

## Organisers

### Postdoc peer committee

- **Mateo Seoane Blanco (MU)**
- Khadija Hajji (MU)
- Oleksii Laguta (BUT)

### PhD student committee

- **Lenka Dostalova (MU)**
- Katerina Linhartova (MU)
- Veronika Mattova (MU)
- Lucie Nepovimova (MU)
- Jorge Andres Navarro (BUT)
- Kaushik Baishya (BUT)

Provider	State	What	Count	Prize per room/per person / 1 night	Sum incl. VAT	Capacity
<b>Expenses</b>						
<b>Accommodation + venue</b>					<b>53,950</b>	
UCT		Pokoj dvojlůžkový (studentský)/Room (2 beds)	2	500	2,000	4
UCT		Pokoj třílůžkový (studentský)/ Room (3 beds)	12	500	18,000	36
UCT		Pokoj dvoulůžkový mezonet ( lektorský)/ Room (2beds)	6	550	6,600	12
UCT		Pokoj pětílůžkový mezonet (lektorský)/Room (5beds)	1	550	2,750	5
UCT		Pokoj čtyřlůžkový apartmán (lektorský)/Room (4beds)	1	550	2,200	4

Conference room		pronájem místností přednáškový sál P1/ Conference room (P1)	2	2500	5,000	
Room for workshop		pronájem místností učebna U20/ Conference room (U20)	2	900	1,800	
Poster session rooms		Učebna U9/ classroom U9 + corridor for poster session	4	900	3,600	
Hotel for speakers (U Hrabanky)		Pokoj dvojlůžkový/ Room	6	2000	12,000	6
Hotel for participants (Anton)		Room (2beds) - standard room	5	1800	9,000	10

<b>Catering</b>					<b>all inclusive - drinks, coffee etc.</b>	<b>120,000</b>
		Breakfast				
		Coffee break - 4x				
		Lunch- 2x				
		Dinner - banquet				
		Dishes, tables, service				

<b>Workshop costs</b>				<b>Prize per 1</b>	<b>50,000</b>
Workshop 1 - Healthy research culture					<b>25,000</b>
Workshop 2 - Science communication					<b>25,000</b>

<b>Promo materials + paperware</b>					<b>Prize per 1</b>	<b>10,000</b>
Bags						0
Pens						0
Notebooks						10,000
Book of abstract		Book of abstracts - only electronic				0
Name Tags						0

<b>Others</b>					<b>Prize per 1</b>	<b>60,000</b>
Transport_van		to transport the boards for posters				6,000
Transport_bus		2 smaller buses				40,000
Gifts for speakers						8,000
Best talk/poster prize						6,000
<b>Expenses in total</b>						<b>293,950</b>

<b>Income</b>			Prize per 1	184,000
Conference fee			70	1,200 Kč
				84,000 Kč
Projects BUT				100,000 Kč
<b>Income in total</b>				<b>184,000 Kč</b>

**Funds needed** **109,950 Kč**