## Conference Universities and Sustainable Development, Prague, 21st November

In commemoration of its 25th anniversary and with a view to welcoming new opportunities for the Charles University Environment Centre (CUEC), the *Universities and Sustainable Development Conference* took place on 21st November, 2017, at Charles University’s historic site. This conference aimed to explore emerging areas of sustainability education, science (especially at its policy interface) and university outreach which requires interdisciplinary cooperation in innovative education for sustainable development programs in higher education, evidence-based policy, and University cooperation with regional NGOs and businesses.

The Charles University Environment Centre was founded in 1992 as an independent institute at Charles University (Prague, CR). It focuses on conducting environmental research to provide expertise and information for students, university staff, and the general public. The Centre collaborates with parliamentary bodies, state administration, non-governmental organizations, and many academic and research institutions both nationally and abroad. The Conference Program provided an opportunity to reaffirm CUEC’s commitment to sustainability and share the goals, principles and achievements in research and education with the University. Keynotes included a reflection on sustainability science and the role of universities by Maik Adomßent, an outline of sustainability challenges for research and education by Arthur Lyon Dahl, and consideration of the role of universities in sustainability research and education in an example from CUEC by Jan Frouz, director of the Environment Centre. Bedřich Moldan, CUEC’s founder and former director, presented a summary of sustainable development goals from a higher education perspective. Panel and audience discussions at the conference were devoted to interdisciplinary cooperation within Charles University and other Prague universities who are signatories of the Agreement on Sustainability-Oriented Cooperation in Research and Education. Finally, employees of the Centre presented their research contributions to sustainability science in national and international arenas.

The Conference language was English the morning and Czech in the afternoon. Here you can find the planned speech of the Charles University rector, Tomas Zima, which he finally did not deliver; instead he greeted the participants with a very informal address, summarizing his views concerning sustainability, and recent experiences with the theme from international forums and debates. For more information and conference materials (presentations, photos, videos) please see the conference [web](https://www.czp.cuni.cz/czp/index.php/cz/archiv-aktualit/1085-univerzity-a-udrzitelny-rozvoj-universities-and-sustainable-development)site.