

PRAGUE SUMMER UNIVERSITY

“CENTRAL EUROPE BETWEEN EU AND NATO”



REPORT OF THE SESSION

From 23 to 29 September 2019, the Summer University of the Czech Republic took place in Prague for the third time. It was organised in collaboration with CEVRO Institute, which is located very conveniently, close to the old town and all the interesting places of Prague.



The foreign students were accommodated in a hostel very close to CEVRO Institute and to the city centre of Prague. Although this hostel has a very good reputation, with one of the best roof views of Prague, the rooms of a few students were not at the expected level due to bedbugs. Nevertheless, the management of the hostel and the organisers of the programme were very responsive and proposed solutions to this problem.

The academic programme intended to develop a lot of topics regarding some aspects of Central Europe and its place in both the European Union and NATO.

The academic sessions contained approximately 30 hours of lectures, discussions and debates. They were conducted in English by international experts from the Czech Republic and abroad.

The 15 candidates who took part in the programme were selected either by CIFE or by the partner. They represented 8 different nationalities including the Czech nationality.

The group enjoyed a rich programme of additional activities that allowed them to appreciate the culture and gastronomy of the country. A guided walking tour in Prague made it easier for everyone to find their way around in the city from the very first evening. During a full day excursion, a personal guide made the students discover both Karlstejn Castle, a very famous place in the surroundings, and the unforgettable Prague Castle.

All the candidates who successfully completed the programme received a certificate of participation. Additionally, students who did some extra work after the session acquired ECTS Credits.

At the end of the session, we also asked our students to fill out an evaluation questionnaire and comment upon our programme. Their observations, which can be found further on in this report, have been of great value for us.

We hope that this session in Prague will be a very nice memory for everyone and we warmly thank our partner, CEVRO Institute, for this friendly collaboration.

**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 23TH, 2019: Arrival of the foreign participants
Accommodation – Free evening**

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2019:

10.00h: OPENING SESSION: *Presentation of the partners:*

Josef ŠÍMA, President of the CEVRO Institute
Marie France PERDIGON, Director of the Summer university program of CIFE.

Presentation of the students



10.30h: HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PRESENTATION OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Tomáš POJAR, Vice President for International Relations, CEVRO Institute, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and Ambassador to Israel



EUROPEAN FOREIGN POLICY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR PLANET AS SEEN FROM DENMARK

S.E. M. Ole FRIJS-MADSEN, Ambassador of Denmark in the Czech Republic

13.30 h: Lunch

15.00h: NATO AND COMMON EU SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY (CSDP) – TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS AND WILL FOR DEFENCE AND PROJECTION OF POWER

Daniel KOŠTOVAL, Former Deputy Minister of Defence of the Czech Republic – Head of the Armaments and Acquisition Division



**Walking tour
in the city**



Free evening

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2019:

10.00h: CZECH REPUBLIC AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT: WHAT COMMITMENTS?

Katerina DAVIDOVA, Research Fellow at EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy.



EUROSCEPTICISM IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Roman JOCH,

Director of the Civic Institute in Prague, commentator and lecturer on political philosophy and international relations

13.30 h: Lunch

15.00 h: EURO-ATLANTIC RELATIONS AND CE PERSPECTIVE

Martina HERANOVÁ,

Expert in international security issues, former Head of Unit for Visegrad and Baltic countries at the Central European Department and former Head of NATO Unit at the Security Policy Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech.



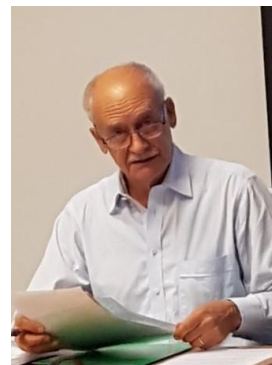
Free evening



THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2019:

10.00h: *RUSSIA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION*

Tomáš POJAR, Vice President for International Relations, CEVRO Institute, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and Ambassador to Israel



11.30h: *UNITED STATES VERSUS EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: FROM THE MARSHALL PLAN AS ITS BOOSTER - TO TRUMP AS ITS BRAKEMAN*

Prof. Jan WORONIECKI (Poland), Lecturer at the University of Social Sciences, Former Ambassador of Poland to OECD in France

13.30h: Lunch



15.00h: *POSTWAR GEOPOLITICAL EVOLUTION OF CENTRAL EUROPE: FROM ENFORCED SUBORDINATION - TO FREEDOM AND INTEGRATION WITH NATO AND EU*

Prof. Jan WORONIECKI (Poland), Lecturer at the University of Social Sciences, Former Ambassador of Poland to OECD in France

Free time evening



FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 27TH, 2019

10.00h: THE VISEGRAD GROUP

Cyril SVOBODA, Director of the Diplomatic Academy in Prague,
former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic



12.00h: CLOSING SESSION

Friendly drink
Distribution of diplomas



13.30h: Lunch



15.00h: Oral exams for students wishing to acquire ECTS Credits



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2019 :

Full day excursion out of Prague

KARLSTEJN Castle, one of the famous castles in the Czech Republic, **Medieval festival and Prague Castle**. Journey organized by bus with a private guide for the whole day








SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2019:

DEPARTURE OF THE FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPANTS

<p>AN-GOURFINKEL Tuong-Vi <i>France</i></p> <p>an-gourfinkel@orange.fr</p>		<p>Student at the Paris 2 – Panthéon-Assas, Faculty “Philosophy of Law”, second year of Law Bachelor.</p>
<p>GUNNE Kristina <i>Germany</i></p> <p>ceterum-censeo@gmx.de</p>		<p>Master student in History and Political Science, University of Vienna.</p>
<p>IKEN Jana-Annina <i>Germany</i></p> <p>jana.iken@gmx.de</p>		<p>Student at the Georg-August University of Göttingen, Dual Bachelor Degree of Political Science & Sociology.</p>
<p>ILERI Bahadir Mehmet <i>Turkey</i></p> <p>mileri@ankara.edu.tr</p>		<p>Journalist, Former NATO and EU expert.</p>
<p>JAMES Ebun <i>Great Britain</i></p> <p>ebunsarahjames@gmail.com</p>		<p>Student at the University of Birmingham, Faculty of International Relations.</p>
<p>LATIF Maher <i>Bangladesh</i></p> <p>maherlatif7@gmail.com</p>		<p>Master Student on International Management at the University of Economics and Human Sciences in Warsaw, Poland.</p>

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<p>OLŠANSKÝ Ondřej <i>Czech Republic</i></p> <p>ondrej.olsansky@seznam.cz</p>		<p>BA Student at the CEVRO Institute, Political Science and International Relations.</p>
<p>ONILEERE Aminat <i>Ireland</i></p> <p>aminatonileere@icloud.com axo757@student.bham.ac.uk</p>		<p>Student at the University of Birmingham, Faculty of Economics and Political Science.</p>
<p>OSTER Sophia <i>Germany</i></p> <p>Sophia.Oster@gmx.net</p>		<p>Student, Master of Arts in Governance. Enrolled on the second Semester.</p>
<p>POSPÍŠIL Petr <i>Czech Republic</i></p> <p>petrposp92@gmail.com</p>		<p>Master student at Charles University in Prague (European studies and Law), Editor at Euroskop.cz (online information portal raising awareness about EU among the Czech Republic)</p>

<p>SHAHEEN Ansa <i>Pakistan</i></p> <p>ashaheen786@hotmail.co.uk</p>		<p>Student (1st year), University of Birmingham.</p>
<p>SEIDL Jiri <i>Czech Republic</i></p>		<p>BA Student of Political Science and International relations, CEVRO Institute.</p>
<p>SOUČEK Jiří <i>Czech Republic</i></p> <p>Jiri.Soucek@vsci.cz soucek_jiri@centrum.cz</p>		<p>BA Student at the CEVRO Institute, Corporate Law Program.</p>

Find all the photos of the session on [Facebook “Summer University Programme-CIFE”](#)



EVALUATION

The last Summer University of 2019 took place in the beautiful city of Prague. In partnership with CEVRO Institute, CIFE managed to organise a programme that was well appreciated by the students, as demonstrated by the overall satisfaction rate of 85 %. At the same time, the analysis of the evaluation forms has allowed us to identify some areas for improvement.

Except for the local students, who live in the Czech capital themselves, the group was accommodated in a hostel that had been carefully chosen by the organisers based on its good reputation and central location. In their evaluation, most participants turned out to be satisfied on this point. More negative comments were, very understandably, made by the few students who were confronted with bedbugs in their room. As soon as the organisers were informed about this situation, they did everything they could to find a solution and they soon managed to accommodate the students in question in a nearby, very comfortable hotel. Furthermore, in order to prevent any problems of this kind in the future, the organisers have already decided not to return to the hostel concerned anymore.

The academic programme took place in the very comfortable premises of CEVRO Institute. During the lunch break, the students headed to a nearby restaurant where they enjoyed a traditional meal in a warm and friendly atmosphere. A few students suggested a more diverse menu with less meat, but at the same time they recognise the organisers' choice for the traditional Czech cuisine.

Evaluation of the lecturers

Generally speaking, the participants were very positive about the lecturers who ensured the academic part of the programme. It should however be noted that some professors were unanimously appreciated, whereas others got more differentiated grades as regards either the contents of their lecture or their way of presenting it.

When it comes to the relations with the organisers, the students had nothing but good things to say about both CIFE and CEVRO and their administrative assistance before and during the programme.

Evaluation of the programme

Almost all students agreed that the academic programme was very well designed. The topics were considered both interesting and relevant and the programme lasted sufficiently long to study them properly. In order to give the Summer University a somewhat more (inter)active character, it was nevertheless suggested to include a workshop or simulation and to leave more room for discussion. Furthermore, a few students would have preferred a little more concrete link between some of the topics discussed on the one hand and the central theme of the programme on the other.

The cultural part of the programme, which included a guided walking tour in the beautiful city centre of Prague and a full day excursion to both Karlstejn Castle and Prague Castle, was highly appreciated by the foreign students. They, however, regretted the choice of most of the local students not to participate in these activities to which, of course, the entire group had been invited.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that this Summer University in Prague was an enriching experience from both an intellectual and a cultural point of view. The students got the opportunity to attend a very interesting academic programme in the unique setting that is the Czech capital. CIFE warmly thanks CEVRO for making this possible.

SUMMER UNIVERSITY ORGANISATION

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