

# Czech Magazine

Let's Take a CLIL L.E.A.P



## Czechia & Science around Europe

In this issue of the project magazine, we bring you reports from our wonderful week in Česká Lípa (the Czech Republic). And should you wonder what is it like to be an European scientist, just continue reading!

The Czech Republic (Czechia) is a small country in the hearth of Europe. It is a nation of 10.000 people who are very proud of their culture, which includes also big scientists as Otto Wichterle (contact lenses) or Gregor Mendel (creator of the science of genetics). Thanks to European Union funded programme Erasmus+ we could experience some of Czech beauties.



Funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



### Czech Republic

We visited beautiful Prague, the capital of Czechia.



### Science

Managers, physicists or mathematicians. What do they actually do?



### Cooperation

We love working together in multicultural experience!

## Check the Czech Week

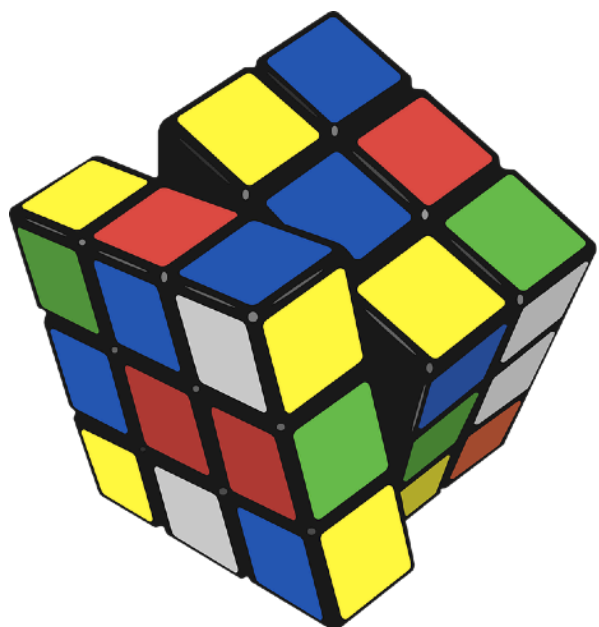
Reporters' team of the Let's take a CLIL L.E.A.P project monitored the project week day by day. What were the highlights of the precious time we shared together?

### MONDAY 5th February SPACE ROBOTS IN IQPARK

(Sam Holan, Matija Bijelić, the Czech Republic)

On Sunday we went to the airport to pick up students. After we got home, we met each other. On Monday we went to school as usual. At school we played many games and had a lot of fun. After school me, my family and my hosts went to the IQ Park. IQ Park is scientific center with many attractions and funny things for experiments. We explored all floors, but the funniest and most interesting was the training robot for astronauts. After a few hours we went for dinner to a local restaurant.

The trip was very funny.



### TUESDAY 6th February GREEK STUDENTS LOVE CZECH FOOD

(Eirini Christopoulou and Panagiotidou Katerina, Greece)

We woke up at 6 o'clock .We went to Prague. We visited the Prague Castle and we also visited many other historic landmarks in the Czech capital.

Later that day, we took a walk around the beautiful and picturesque city of Prague - what intrigued us was how colourful the buildings were.

Afterwards we went shopping in the Palladium Mall. It was amazing because it included over 200 shops!

In the evening we tried typical Czech food and it was fabulous.

## **WEDNESDAY 7th February** **SNOW GAMES WITH NO SNOW? NO PROBLEM!**

(Mariana Rego Costa, Portugal)

Our day started at the Town Hall. The foreign and the Czech students talked about the project and the experience of staying in another country for a week.

After the meeting, we came to school to play Math games. It was really fun because we got to know each other better.

The Math workshop ended and we went to the canteen to have lunch.

In the afternoon, the bus came to take us to play in the snow. There was not a lot of snow. The teachers put us into teams and organized a lot of different physical outdoor activities. After the games we were tired but we still had enough energy to climb a nearby hill. Everyone was happy!



## **THURSDAY 8th February** **THE UNFORGETTABLE DAY**

Authors: Csenge Dobrán and Flóra Nemes,  
Hungary

On Thursday, we started at school and we had Czech lessons, we learned about religion and we had an Art lesson. During Maths, we were putting in practice the Pythagorean theorem. After the lessons, we went to Lindava (a nearby town) by bus and we enjoyed the trip. We listened to music and enjoyed ourselves while we were on the way. When we arrived to the glass factory and a woman showed us the workshop. We blown vases after that and the teacher blownd mugs. We had lunch, we ate typical Czech food. When we finished lunch we gone home and spent time with our families. This was our Thursday and it was unforgettable.

## **FRIDAY 9th February** **JUST DANCE DANCE DANCE**

Today is Friday 9th of February, the last day.

In the morning we were at school and in the afternoon we were in a party.

In the school we did a lesson of FLAMENCO workshop and the other time was a normal morning in the school.

In the school we were with the other students.

This morning was interesting because they gave the results of the game of the previous day.

In the afternoon we were in a very fun party, we had dinner different typical foods of each country. We listened to music and we danced all the time with the other students.

# Science around Europe

Let's Take a CLIL L.E.A.P

We all know those subjects - Physics, Chemistry, Maths. Maths seems to be easy at the beginning, it is only about additions, summations and subtractions. But as we grow older, we discover that the world of sciences is much more complicated and much more complex. Some of us get scared by this complexity (or by the teacher!), some of us find it too abstract and difficult. But what is it like to fall for sciences and devote your professional life to finding and understanding the laws of nature and its processes on the most abstract and detailed level? Let's find out with our students, who made several incredibly inspiring interviews.



## PORTUGAL

**SANDRA RICARDO: "MATHEMATICS IS EVERYWHERE."**

Sandra Ricardo is a mathematician and a professor at the University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, in Vila Real, Portugal.



**How important is the study of mathematics in a world of populism and sometimes averse to rationality?**

Mathematics is everywhere: in nature, art, music, architecture, sports, games and other recreational activities, in practical life, etc. If we want to understand the world around us we need to study mathematics.

Neglecting the study of mathematics results in the injury to all knowledge and all progress in our world.

## **What is the quality of scientific culture among the general population?**

In part due to social communication, the majority of the population has a certain knowledge about science, but it is a superficial knowledge which can lead to several misconceptions.

**We do not have the same resources and facilities as countries like USA, Germany, France, England, among others, and many great young researchers prefer to emigrate.**

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## **Is it possible to be a professional scientist in a country like Portugal?**

It is certainly possible to be a professional scientist in Portugal and the fact is that we do have several examples of renowned scientists, whose work is known and respected in Portugal and abroad. However, we do not have the same resources and facilities as countries like USA, Germany, France, England, among others, and many great young researchers prefer to emigrate and work where they can find better research conditions.

## **Being a scientist implies working in international research networks. What importance do you attach to the Erasmus program in preparing future researchers?**

It plays a crucial role. In fact, we are more and more citizens of the world, not citizens of one country and we need to understand that deeply. Going abroad, living in another country, have

contact with other cultures allow to develop knowledges and abilities that cannot be achieved otherwise. Erasmus programs make possible to interchange experiences in a very significant way.

## **The head of the European Commission's Research, Science and Innovation portfolio is the Portuguese and former Erasmus student, Carlos Moedas. As a researcher, what request would you make to him?**

I would like to see more Portuguese researchers traveling and sharing experiences with researchers from different laboratories in different countries. I consider that research has only sense in interchanging experiences and sharing developments and discoveries. So I would request him more facilities to Portuguese researchers pursue their goals.

## **Is science pure rationality or is it passion too?**

I would say that science is rationality intertwined with passion. The human race has evolved to get pleasure in science. We like to think and to understand the phenomena that surround us. So there is a lot of passion in science.

## **Try to get better each day.**

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## **What advice would you give to a young student who wants to pursue your profession?**

Try to get better each day and found pleasure in science. I think that you can be good doing something only when you love it.

## PORTUGAL IS ALSO A VERY GOOD PLACE TO BE A PROFESSIONAL SCIENTIST

Vasco Amorim is a physician and a professor at the University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, in Vila Real, Portugal.

**How important is the study of physics in a world of populism and sometimes averse to rationality?**

The Study of Physics is of great importance to understand the nature of the world. Physics comprehend the study of the universe from the largest and very far away galaxies to the smallest subatomic particles. It is the basis of many others theoretical or applied orientated sciences, theoretical or applied orientated, including chemistry, meteorology, climatology, oceanography, seismology, and astronomy just to refer some of them. It can also be applied to biology or medical science, engineering or aerospace industry.

Physicists use their analytical skills to solve very complex social-technical problems, so they are not must impress with populism. Usually, they like very much to collect data, analyse and then formulate a rational opinion. After that, they are probably outstanding teachers to explain the problem to someone less educated.

Populism is almost the opposite of Physics. It is some "thin ideology" to apply in a too simple and easy way, many times appealing to emotions of fear or hate to be against someone.

**What is the quality of scientific culture among the general population?**

I think scientific culture is increasing in Portuguese society, especially among the youngest adults. As scientific culture is very difficult to measure, scientists use literacy instead. Of course, literacy and culture are not the same but can be used as an indicator. A



desirable level of scientific literacy depends from citizen to citizen. Researchers normally do surveys to get indicators of science literacy in all world, but they also recognise the limitations of these comparisons between different countries. For some countries, there are significant gaps between data collection years, and there is much irregularity between them as to when data were collected. The most well-known measure is the Programme of International Student Assessment (PISA) from OECD, which was set up in 1997 with the first survey results published in the year 2000.

**Is it possible to be a professional scientist in a country like Portugal?**

Physicists are problem solvers. Their analytical skills make them versatile, so they work in many different interesting places. You can find physicists in college campuses, but also in industrial labs, on banks, investment companies, engineering teams or doing consulting. Some work in government jobs or others are dedicated to being politicians attracted to complex social-technical problems in society. Saying this, I think Portugal is also a very good place to be a professional scientist.

## **International research networks are fundamental to exchange knowledge and progress of science.**

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**Being a scientist implies working in international research networks. What importance do you attach to the Erasmus program in preparing future researchers?**

I agree absolutely. International research networks are fundamental to exchange knowledge and progress of science. Erasmus program is essential to my students studying aboard and very important to us in Portugal and to my University (UTAD) with incoming students and visiting professors. Wonderful bilateral agreements have been made over the years with many different countries in Europe and with Erasmus+ with other countries in the world.

**The head of the European Commission's Research, Science and Innovation portfolio is the Portuguese and former Erasmus student, Carlos Moedas. As a researcher, what request would you make to him?**

Carlos Moedas presents himself as a “true European” explaining that he was one of the first Portuguese students to benefit from an Erasmus Exchange because he went to Paris where he actually met his wife. So, I do not need to explain to him the importance of exchange students, teachers and researchers. I believe that my request would be the increase of financial support to science in Portugal and to further development of bigger international networks. We need an increased budget in science and technology for Europe to catch USA and China annually investments and to prepare ourselves for a challenging future.

**Is it science, pure rationality or is it passion too?**

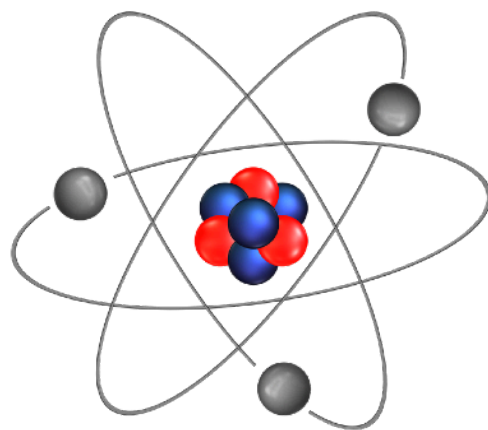
I do not know any excellent researcher who is not passionate about his work. Of course, his work must be prepared in an organised, logical approach, applying scientific methods in a reflective/deductive way. The rationality does not stop the use of creativity and brainstorming and other means to produce ideas and create a hypothesis to solve the problems.

## **I do not know any excellent researcher who is not passionate about his work.**

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**What advice would you give to a young student who wants to pursue your profession?**

The most important to a young student is to be able to learn different subjects and have experiences to see along the way what brings him the wish to learn even more. When curiosity arrives, the student feels the will to have a career and must work hard to be better every day to be successful and happy.



## **GREECE**

### **I'VE FOUND MATHS FASCINATING SINCE I WAS A LITTLE CHILD.**



**George Varnavas, is the headmaster of the 4th high school of Volos. He is a fully qualified mathematician and has also got a Master's Degree in Educational Management. He is also a certified trainer and educator for adults from both the ministry of Education and the ministry of Labour. For the past two years he has been organising "Moodle Seminars" in our school as he is also certified in ICT and distance learning.**

**What qualifications are required to do this job?**

Being a teacher is a job that needs a lot of qualifications. First of all, the academic degree is of great importance, and the masters. Furthermore, the teacher should have a pedagogical approach during his lessons and great patience.

**What kind of salary do you make?**

A teacher's salary has been affected by the recent economic crisis that our country is experiencing in the last 7 years. There has been a serious reduction and like most teachers my salary is close to 1000 euros. I also receive an extra bonus for being the headmaster of our school.

What's the social status of your profession within the society?

I have to admit that in the past the teacher's job was a well respected profession. Everyone looked up to him. Nowadays this has also changed for the worse. Students receive so much information from mass media that they tend to doubt and challenge a teacher's knowledge.

**Is it easy to climb the ladder of success in your line of work?**

In my opinion, it is not easy to climb the ladder of success in my line of work. You definitely need to extend your horizons, expand your knowledge and study abroad since abroad in many European countries the level of education concerning music is higher.

**How popular is this profession with men/women?**

It's a popular job for both sexes. Women have taken over many positions connected to sciences in the recent years.

**What are your working hours?**

Besides our programme at school from 8 to 2, we have to work in the afternoon preparing the next lessons and of course being a headmaster means I have to work sometimes at weekends to and during summer months as well.

**Briefly describe your everyday routine at work.**

In addition to teaching 4 or 5 hours a day, I have to deal with all sorts of administration tasks concerning the school as well as operational and practical matters.



## How many days of holiday do you get?

Two weeks at Christmas and two weeks at Easter. Teachers also stop working in July and August but for the headmaster this is different because he has to be on call even in summer.

## Women have taken over many positions connected to sciences in the recent years.

### What influenced you to choose this profession?

I loved working with numbers even as a child. I find maths fascinating. After graduating from University I thought I would like to pass on my knowledge to young children so I decided to become a teacher.

## What are the pros and cons of your job?

On the one hand, the job involves coming in contact with children and you get to travel in their world and this makes me happy. But on the other hand you don't make a lot of money. Schools in Greece are understaffed and teachers have to be secretaries, psychologists, nurses and so many other things. Also you don't have much free time. Last but not least, to do this job you should be patient and a considerate person.

### If you could change one thing in your job, what would it be?

If I had the chance to change something, I would certainly want more and better facilities for my students.



# HUNGARY

## INTERVIEW WITH A HUNGARIAN MECHANICAL ENGINEER LÁSZLÓ KISS

In our school we interviewed the husband of our English teacher, Mrs. Kiss.

He has been working as a mechanical engineer for a big German company called SchaefflerGroup for ten years now.

The foundation for the company as it is today was laid in 1946 when brothers Dr. Wilhelm Schaeffler and Dr.-Ing. E.h. Georg Schaeffler founded Industrie GmbH. The company's rise began in 1949 when Dr. Georg Schaeffler invented the needle roller bearing cage, which was swiftly followed by the large-scale production of INA needle roller bearings for the German automotive industry. The FAG brand is inextricably linked with the rolling bearing industry. In Schweinfurt, Germany, Friedrich Fischer designed a ball mill in 1883 that allowed machines to be used for the first time to produce steel balls with high precision and in large volumes. This idea is considered the historic beginning of the rolling bearing industry, which then started its widespread success around the globe from Schweinfurt. FAG (Fischers Aktiengesellschaft) has been a registered trademark since 1905 and, together with INA and LuK, has been an essential component of the Schaeffler Group since its acquisition by Schaeffler in 2001.



**What level of education do you need for this job?**

To be able to meet the conditions you have to have a university degree.

**What other requirements do you need to do this job?**

If you want to be an engineer you have to have the following requirements: endurance, precision, adaptability, logic.

**What qualifications are required?**

University studies are indispensable, but the knowledge of foreign languages is undoubtedly important. As for me, I speak German fluently on a C1 level and I also have the language exam in English in level B2.

**What kind of salary do you make?**

It depends on the location you live in Hungary. We live in the eastern part of Hungary, where salaries are average. The highest salaries are in the capital city in Budapest, and in the west of Hungary, near the Austrian border.

**At what age do you retire from the job?**

Normally at the age of 65.

**What's the social status of the profession within your society?**

Nowadays it's becoming more appreciated.

**Is it easy to climb the ladder of success in your line of work?**

No, definitely not. An engineering student has to learn a lot. The high level of use, application, and combination of learning is needed to meet the challenges of work.

**How popular is this profession with men/women?**

I think it's mostly popular among men.

**How much time do you sacrifice for your job (including you free time)?**

Usually in one month I have approximately 10 hours overtime.

**What are your working hours?**

On a normal day I work 8.5 hours. If the workflow requires, I have to work overtime. Briefly describe your everyday routine at work. I usually leave home at 7 o'clock. I drive to work, because we live about 28 km away from the factory. I start working at 7:30 and finish my day at 4:30 every day. We have half an hour lunchbreak.

**How many days of holiday do you get?**

In Hungary it depends on the age. I myself get 30 days paid holiday. In summers I have 7-10 days and in autumns and winters I have two weeks to relax. Young fathers with children get some extra days.

**You can always face new challenges and problems, and the solution is a success.**

**Who influenced you to choose this profession?**

My uncle. He was a mechanic engineer, too; now he is retired.

**What are the advantages of the job?**

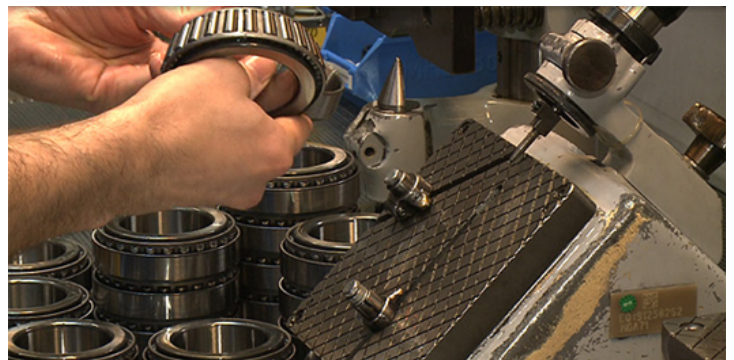
There are a lot of advantages of this job like you can always face new challenges and problems, and the solution is a success.

**What are the disadvantages of the job?**

The disadvantage of this job is specialization, which also means some level of constraint.

**If you could change one thing in your work, what would it be?**

I would introduce the engineering career pathway, in case people do not have to change jobs if a financial advance is needed.



## SPAIN

### INTERVIEW TO MARÍA PARDO DELGADO, AN EVENT ORGANIZER IN A MUSEUM

**What level of education do you need for this job?**

I had already finished my bachelor's degree when I got this position, however, this was not a requirement.

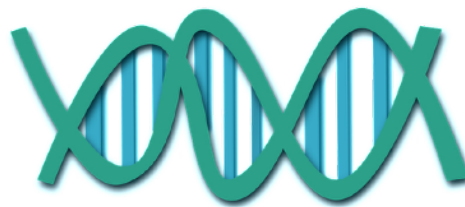
**What qualifications are required?**

In order to become part of the staff of the University Museum you need a professor to offer you the position. The museum I was working at, was provided with math, physics and chemistry experiments. Therefore, you must be currently studying one of those degrees at least.



**What kind of salary do you make ( high / average/ low)?**

The salary depends on the hours you work that month. I usually work two mornings per month, 2 hours per morning, and my salary is around 300 euros per month. Besides the museum, we also visit schools with the experiments, prepare some events like the Researcher's Night or the Week of Technology and Science. This events are paid separately about 100 euros per day.



**At what age do you retire from the job?**

This is a part time job for students or people who have just finished the degree. It is up to you, but I am working here while I am preparing my public examination to become a teacher.

**What's the social status of the profession within your society?**

It is appreciated by visitors, but, unfortunately, not many people in Spain are very interested in Science and Math.



**Is it easy to climb the ladder of success in your line of work?**

It is not, since my supervisor is a professor, and it requires many years of dedication to become a professor. Moreover, to be a professor with the consent of the University to be in charge of the museum.

**How popular is this profession with women/men?**

I think there is no difference between genders in this profession.

**How much time do you sacrifice for your job (including your free time)?**

It just needs some time to prepare the experiments and to organize the space in the museum.

**We ask all visitors for their opinion about the visit, so that we can improve our tours.**

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**What are your working hours? Briefly describe your everyday routine at work.**

As I mentioned before, it depends on the month. Sometimes I have to work almost every morning, and each morning with more than one school visit. Other months I might have to work only one morning per week.

Before the visitors arrive, my coworker and I have to prepare our experiments and think about the organisation (number of groups per tour, time to spend with each group, etc). When they arrive, we ask them to enter the museum in groups. Once we are done, we say goodbye to all the visitors and ask them for their opinion about the visit, so that we can improve our tours, depending on the preferences of the visitors.

**How many days of holiday do you get?**

It depends on the month, since it is an hour based salary.

**Who influenced you to choose this profession?**

My professor. He knew I was looking for a part time job while I continue studying.

**What are the advantages and disadvantages of this job?**

In my opinion, the salary is not bad if you compare it with the number of hours that you dedicate. It is also very flexible and easy. In my case, it is great to have my first approach with students. Besides, I live very close to the museum, just 10 minutes walking from home. But, on the other hand, it is just a part time, so you would need another job if you have to pay your own expenses.

**If you could change one thing in your work, what would it be?**

I am really happy with this job. My supervisor is really nice, and I am learning a lot from him. My coworker and I have become friends, so the working environment could not be better. Nevertheless, I want to become a teacher in the future, so it is not my dream job.

## The Czech Republic



### **KLESTIL: “FOR A PERSON TO GET A JOB IN TECHNOLOGY, ONE MUST HAVE A TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE AND SCHOOL EDUCATION”**

Mr. *Klestil* has been working in the same company for 12 years. He is the chief of technology. Technology means a lot of things, but in this profession, it means that when a product is made, he decides the place to produce it, the duration of production, the number of people to do it and the overall cost. But he does not do that anymore. Today, Mr. *Klestil* is in charge of a team that does exactly that. He only checks and manages them. When there is a new project, he also tutors and informs employees.

In his previous position, Mr. *Klestil* has done the same work, but in a different company. Back then, it was data, optical and other special cables/wires, but today the product his company

is making are lights. On average, the company makes up to 1.300.000 lights a year. Almost 5.000 lights are made every day. It is the biggest lights manufacturer in the Czech Republic, with its product going even to Africa. There are other competitors, so when there is a new project/contract offering, there is always a competition and then only one company is chosen for the job.

For a person to get a job in technology, one must have a technical knowledge and school. He graduated from an electro technical school. He had little IT knowledge at the time, but everything he needed, he studied himself on the Internet.

His position is right below the owner. In *Česká Lípa*, there is only one owner, but there are more branches in Prague and other cities. He usually spends eight hours at work. He used to spend

more time at work, but he has a family now and he wants to spend some time with them. He spends all of his free time with his family. Sometimes he works from home. There is a lot of new technology in his work, so Mr. *Klestil* appreciates learning a lot of new things. Also, he says, there is a lot of people on the workplace, so there is always fun and good atmosphere.

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## He used to work more than 8 hours per day, but now he has a family.

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He also travels to make arrangements with suppliers of material for the company. But that is usually once a year. He has been to many places in Europe, but also other continents. His colleagues have also been to Australia or even Kuwait. That is because in Kuwait there is a wholesale dealer, who arranges contracts for the company. So he is not a customer, but a middle man. He talks to clients and then tells the company what to do. It is thanks to this travelling that Mr. *Klestil* says how important it is to speak foreign languages today. It is not about mastering the language, but knowing at least the basics.



## VACH: MY JOB? JUST A COINCIDENCE.



Mr. *Vach* does more than one job. In one way, he is an employee, but he also does business. He does his business mainly in two areas. The first is tutoring and staff training and the other is counselling. He graduated from a university with a degree in innovative engineering, which is closely connected to technology, project management and industrial engineering.

Project management includes cooperation on projects, implementing a new product or method to the manufacturing process. In a project, everything must be planned. Industrial engineering studies manufacture (and making it more effective). Another point of interest is development of a product from both financial and marketing perspectives. Marketing aims to satisfy the needs of the customer and innovative engineer aims to make the product attractive to clients.

The second part of his business is counselling. As Mr. *Vach* told us, he focuses on electronics and technology. He may, for example, advise a customer about a specific situation, product or its component. One of the main reasons to do this is to get an objective perspective of a professional. That way, there is no misunderstanding or negative influence. Mostly company owners need this kind of advice. However, it is not only about owners of companies. Companies often need to train employees. That's when they also call Mr. *Vach*.

The counselling is nation-wide, so he has been to many Czech cities.

Mr. *Vach* has been doing business for 5 years. The idea to set up a business came to him on university. But he had to do a lot of planning, gain experience and contacts before he could start. Now, he is trying to stop doing business so much, because he wants to have time for family. He used to work almost 20 hours every day.

It was a coincidence that Mr. *Vach* does this profession. He always wanted to work with technology and to do business, you only need to get a Trade Certificate. But the beginnings were not easy. He was the first in his family to set up his own business and it took a year before there was a demand for his knowledge and experience. Thanks to his profession, he also found out that he enjoys teaching. That is why later he became a tutor.

His salary comes from both employment and business. Both of these salaries are above average. He has a stable clientele. If any of the clients have a problem, they call him. Sometimes he has to refuse to spend time with family.

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## He watches people and the work they do.

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His work also includes making manufacture more effective. That means he watches people and the work they do. Then he evaluates it and decides if there can be done more. That can sometimes be unpleasant. People who want to learn and grow are easy and he likes to work with them. But there are people, who do not want to change and improve. He needs to deal with both kinds.

His typical day at work starts at 7 am, when he comes to work and checks his emails. Then he talks to his boss if there is work to do. If not, he tends to his work, which he plans for himself. Aside from his usual work, Mr. *Vach* also organizes tours of the company for schools. He wants to show students what waits for them when they graduate and start working. He admits students are rather not prepared fully from school.

One of the advantages of the work is that Mr. *Vach* was able to do what he really enjoys and that he could grow professionally. The disadvantage of his work is time-consumption. He would like to find a way to live his social life more than the professional one.

## LUKÁŠ VOBECKÝ: "THE TIME CONSUMPTION IS A BIG DISADVANTAGE."

On 15<sup>th</sup> November we had an interview with Mr. *Lukáš Vobecký*, who does business in computer gaming. He organizes some competitions, works with youtubers and is also an editor. It's not only a living for him, but a hobby too.

This work has, according to him, many advantages. The biggest one of them is probably the fact that he doesn't have to buy any computers, phones, laptop, etc. All of his electronic devices are either free or borrowed. Aside from this profession, he also teaches in a high school.

He has been dealing with computers since he was a child, around the time computers arose. However, his hobby also became his job only three years ago.

His usual day starts at 7 am. During the day, he tends to a lot of phone calls and emails, pays winners of various competitions and fill in some forms. He often ends very late at night.



He has become quite famous in his profession. He helps organize various events (*Game On, WhoCon, Youtuber Train*). On the Championship of the Czech Republic, he is the editor-in-chief. This job includes making news, conducting interviews, taking photos and leading a team.



One of the biggest disadvantages of the job is, according to Mr. *Vobecký*, the time consumption. “If you want to do this job well, it takes a lot of time,” he says. In addition, the salary is not appropriate to the time and energy spent on the job. But thanks to the job, he does not have to buy most electronic devices we all have and also does not pay for car upkeep and service. At the moment, he has six notebooks. Furthermore, he gets to attend a lot of events with paid accommodation, food and transport.

As Mr. *Vobecký* told us, he has no role model, because there is no one else, who would sacrifice as much for the job. He also travels a lot. He has been to Spain, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, France, Hungary, Croatia and many others. He has also been to America. More specifically, he was on a world championship in Seattle, where he led the Czech and Slovakian group. Almost 20 countries took part in the championship. To take part in such a competition, a team needs license and sponsorship.

The most popular games are played on these competitions (including *League of Legends*,

*Heartstone, Counter Strike*, etc.). If a player proves to be really good, some of the teams might notice and draft this person. That way, one might participate in some interesting events. But it is not only about staying at home and playing, but actually training and wanting to get better every day.



The best country in gaming is South Korea. People there take it really seriously and want to raise their children to be professional gamers. Because gamers are paid there approximately at the same level as celebrities in the Czech Republic. It is a country of computer games. There are other “PC superpowers” like the USA, Germany, Poland, Sweden and China.

Approaching the end of the interview, we asked whether girls also play computer games at the same level as boys do. Mr. *Vobecký* told us that it is true, even though there are a lot more male gamers. In the Czech Republic, there is one “girl” team, which is quite successful worldwide. It is common for companies to have girls in their team, mostly to attract attention. Competitions are mostly divided into categories by gender. Usually, boys are at a higher gaming level, but there are girls who reach the boys’ level.

# Project partners:

THE CZECH REPUBLIC, ZÁKLADNÍ ŠKOLA A  
MATEŘSKÁ ŠKOLA KLÍČ S.R.O

GREECE, THE 4TH HIGH SCHOOL OF VOLOS

HUNGARY, II. RÁKÓCZI FERENC HUNGARIAN  
- ENGLISH BILINGUAL BAPTIST PRIMARY  
SCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY ART SCHOOL

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Funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union