MARIE PŘIBYLOVÁ, JAKUB ŠINDELÁŘ

THE CZECH ASSOCIATION OF DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

Marie Přibylová, Jakub Šindelář
ČAD (2016-)  

• Česká asociace doktorandek a doktorandů, z. s.  
• 900+ registered members  
• all disciplines, both Czech and non-Czech PhDs  
• Goal = representation of PhD researchers, improvement of doctoral studies in CZ  

Reasons for creation  

Lack of representation for PhDs  

Frustration with systemic problems and long-term bad conditions  

(stipends, treatment at universities, NON-success rate of completing studies  

<50% and only 10% in standard time (3–4 years)
Areas of ČAD Activities

Setting of political agenda on doctoral studies and conditions of PhDs
- Increase of stipends + Health insurance for students over 26 years
- 2021+ Strategic Plan of MŠMT for Universities

Awareness raising activities
- Guides - for prospective PhDs (CZ; 2017, 2020)
  - for 1st year PhDs (CZ 2021)
- Summer schools, seminars, webinars (2022 Zotero Webinar (recording in Czech))
- Newsletter, news – Facebook

Consultations and individual help
- Study obligations
- Bullying by supervisors

www.doktorandivcr.cz
Acomplishments so far

**Stipends**
- Until 2018 as low as 4 000 Kč / month
- Increased, made low pay current agenda

**Health insurance**
- PhDs now state insured after 26 years of age
  (joint effort with SK RVŠ)

**Strategic Plan of Ministry of Education (2021+)**
- Improvement of conditions, PhD education as a priority

**Guides**
- Collection and dissemination of good practice
- Inspiration for universities

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Min. PhD Stipends

- ČAD overview table of all Czech universities per faculty
- [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/124Uuy9M-9tLd9HDfp9i99EmtuKwWi4KkXfLmGnvHfHM/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/124Uuy9M-9tLd9HDfp9i99EmtuKwWi4KkXfLmGnvHfHM/edit?usp=sharing)

- 2022: overall well below the minimum wage
(16 200 Kč / month)

Xxx living costs 25 – 35 000 Kč (2011)
= pre 2022 inflation levels

- Reform plan = min. 1,2x min. wage
Conflicts with supervisors (+other issues)

• Nontransparent and informal rules ----> favors the stronger
• Unequal level of duties (teaching, admin. duties)
• Obligatory co-authorship, appropriation of PhD’s work
• Harassment, bossing, psychological pressure

You’re just a PhD student and I am your Supervisor!

Help...

The uneasy life of a PhD researcher in the Czech Republic

www.doktorandivcr.cz
Where to look for help?

Appeal, consultation
• Your department, faculty
  (Dean, Vice-Dean for doctoral studies)
• Academic Senate – Ethics Commission

Getting information on what to do
• Summer schools (Hello Telč!), workshops

ČAD Guides
Guide for those interested in doing PhD
(2017, 2020)
For new PhD Researchers (2021)

MUNI guides: Fac. of Arts, Fac. of Science
?other?
Mental health and isolation prevention

- PhDs as a high-risk group for mental health issues
  (+ now exacerbated by Covid pandemic)

- Work-life balance
  (weekends, vacations, hobbies)

- MUNI Consultation Center - poradenstvi@muni.cz

- MUNI Help Direction Signpost
  (in Czech only)
Peer networking (department, faculty etc.)
National representation of PhDs

Executive board
- Web, social media, newsletter
- Communication with partners and authorities (Ministry of Education, SK RVŠ, universities, Eurodoc)
- + Suggestions from other members

Active member
- Local initiatives, associations (FF MUNI PhD Group)
- Commenting on ČAD projects (Guides for current PhD students, parents, supervisors)
- Suggesting new agenda for ČAD

Passive member
Legitimisation of ČAD – Thank You!

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ČAD General Assembly – (hybrid) Nov/Dec 2022

Why join ČAD?

- You strengthen the PhD’s voice
- We’re here to help each other
- Takes 3 min and it’s free
Questions? and discussion

- Your experience and issues in (not only) 1st year?
- Doing a PhD during Covid? (+ abroad)
- Individual Study Plan and problems with PhD Program Boards?
- Roadblocks along the PhD route and motivation?

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