

REGISTRATION FORM FOR CZECH SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION

1. Research institution data (name and address):

Economics Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences
Politických vězňů 7
111 21 Prague 1

2. Type of research institution:

Public research institution – Czech Academy of Sciences (veřejná výzkumná instituce – Akademie věd České republiky)

3. Head of the institution: Doc. Sergey Slobodyan, Ph.D.

4. Contact information of designated person(s) for applicants:

Ing. Tomáš Nikodym, Ph.D. – Head of Grant Office
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Politických vězňů 7, 111 21, Prague 1

5. Research discipline in which the strong international position of the institution ensures establishing a Dioscuri Centre:

Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences: *Individuals, institutions, markets* - economics, finance, management, demography, social and economic geography, urban studies

6. Description of important research achievements from the selected discipline from the last 5 years including a list of the most important publications, patents, or other results:

The Economics Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences (henceforth “EI”) is dedicated to advancing the international frontiers of economics research, through which it has achieved global impact and reputation. EI specializes in research in the field of economics; nearly all of its outputs and activities fall into this core discipline. Its main focus within economics is in the research areas of economic theory, behavioral economics, experimental economics, macroeconomics, and applied microeconomics. EI researchers also produce policy-oriented economics research that provides much-needed informed input into Czech and European policy formation, and they provide expert advice to governmental bodies, international organizations, and other stakeholders.

EI researchers produce articles in the most prominent scientific journals in economics and related fields of social sciences. From 2017-2021, EI researchers published 142 articles in journals indexed in the Web of Science, of which 90 were in top quartile journals as ranked by Article Influence Score (AIS), and 34 were published in journals from the top decile according to this citation metric, including 5 papers in the top 5 most prestigious economic journals worldwide. These include two papers in the Quarterly Journal of Economics, two papers in Econometrica, and one paper in the Review of Economic Studies. No other research institution in the Czech Republic has been able to produce even a single article in a top 5 journal in economics during this period, except for the Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education (CERGE), a higher educational institute of Charles University with which EI forms a joint academic workplace commonly known as CERGE-EI.

EI articles in top 5 economic journals 2017-2021:

- Altmejd, Adam, Andrés Barrios-Fernández, Marin Drlje, Joshua Goodman, Michael Hurwitz, Dejan Kovac, Christine Mulhern, Christopher Neilson, and Jonathan Smith. 2021. “O Brother, Where Start Thou? Sibling Spillovers on College and Major Choice in Four Countries.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 136(3): 1831–1886.
- Gossner, Olivier, Jakub Steiner, and Colin Stewart. 2021. “Attention Please!” *Econometrica*, 89(4): 1717–1751.
- Kőszegi, Botond, and Filip Matějka. 2020. “Choice Simplification: A Theory of Mental Budgeting and Naive Diversification.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 135(2): 1153–1207.
- Jung, Junehyuk, Jeong Ho (John) Kim, Filip Matějka, and Christopher A. Sims. 2019. “Discrete Actions in Information-Constrained Decision Problems.” *Review of Economic Studies*, 86(6): 2643–2667.
- Steiner, Jakub, Colin Stewart, and Filip Matějka. 2017. “Rational Inattention Dynamics: Inertia and Delay in Decision-Making.” *Econometrica*, 85(2): 521–553.

Evidence of the strength of the research expertise that EI has been able to build also lies in the numerous research grants awarded to EI by Czech, European, and US grant agencies. For example, EI researchers hold two highly prestigious European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grants for 2018-2023 and 2021-2026, the latter of which follows up on an ERC Starting Grant for 2016-2021.

7. List of no more than 3 important research projects in the selected discipline awarded in national and international calls to the institution in the last 5 years:

ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANT 2020

Title: Economics of Inattention

Name of PI: Filip Matějka

Source of funding: European Commission

Amount of funding: 1,162,663 EUR

ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANT 2017

Title: Behavioral Implications of Information-Processing Frictions

Name of PI: Jakub Steiner

Source of funding: European Commission

Amount of funding: 1,321,488 EUR

GACR JUNIOR STAR

Title: Data, Algorithms, Power: Economic Theories of the Information Society

Name of PI: Ole Jann

Source of funding: Czech Science Foundation

Amount of funding: 13,806,000 CZK

8. Description of the available laboratory and office space for a Dioscuri Centre:

EI is located in the historic Schebek Palace in the center of Prague. The Dioscuri Centre research team will be provided office space in this building that is fully equipped to accommodate the needs of conducting research in the field of economics.

The Dioscuri Centre research team will benefit from access to the Jan Kmenta CERGE-EI Library, located in Schebek Palace. This is a premier economics library in terms of the accessibility and breadth of its unique physical collection of over 100,000 volumes of monographs, journals, statistical publications, reference materials, doctoral dissertations, and working and discussion papers produced by leading global academic institutions. Acquired over the last 27 years and available mostly in open stacks, the library collection is searchable through an online catalogue. The library provides direct and remote access to leading economic and other scientific licensed databases (bibliographical, statistical, and full text) including ScienceDirect, EconLit, OECD iLibrary, Web of Science, Scopus, JSTOR, EBSCOhost, ProQuest, SpringerLink, Wiley Online Library, and Oxford Journals. Professionally trained library staff supports CERGE's researchers through library research tools workshops and other types of user assistance.

EI provides standard ICT facilities and support for research in economics, including subscriptions for general statistical and econometric software packages including Stata, MatLab, and others. EI also maintains powerful heavy horse workstations (multiple core processor machines with extensive computing power and memory) designed for maximum performance in highly demanding numerical calculations and data processing, which are available to faculty members and researchers working with demanding mathematical and statistical calculations and modeling. Other computing/hardware needs of EI researchers are dealt with on an individual basis. The research infrastructure for empirical microeconomists consists crucially of the availability of micro data. EI researchers have access to pan-European labor market data including, for example, the European Labor Force Surveys, and Surveys of Income and Living Conditions, as well as individual-level data collected by the Czech Statistical Office (through a framework cooperation agreement).

EI opened a new Digital Media Center in February 2019. The center incorporates a new 80-seat lecture theater and studio, both equipped with the latest audiovisual technology. The facility is available for live-streaming lectures and seminars to multiple partner institutions across the region, and enables our researchers to hold virtual meetings with research partners and colleagues around the world.

9. List of the available research equipment for a Dioscuri Centre:

Four Heavy Horse workstations designed for maximum performance in highly demanding numerical calculations and data processing. The most powerful workstation installed in 2021 has the following specifications: 2×48-core processor AMD EPYC 2.3 GHz; 256 GB RAM DDR3; Drive C: 2 TB SSD for system (20 GB quota per user); Drive D: 11 TB RAID1 HDD for users data; NVIDIA Quadro RTX 4000 8GB; Microsoft Windows Server 2019; MatLab R2018b; STATA/MP 17 (64 bit); R v 4.1.0; R Studio 1.4.1717.

We provide access to confidential micro data from Eurostat, the Czech Statistical Office, and many other project-specific and on-demand data sources for research purposes.

The Jan Kmenta CERGE-EI Library is a rich resource of modern economics literature, housing an extensive international collection of books and all key economics journals and databases. It is widely considered the best library of its kind in Central and Eastern Europe, and has been awarded two consecutive grants from the US. Agency for International Development especially to enhance its digital library resources over the past decade.

10. List of the additional benefits (other than listed in the conditions for hosting a DC, see invitation) that the Institution declares to provide for a Dioscuri Centre (i.e.: additional funds, personal benefits, dual career options, relocation support or other):

EI researchers are rewarded for publishing articles in high-quality journals in economics and related disciplines; the major decision factor is the journal's Article Influence Score.

EI faculty members are granted conference support packages of up to 4,000 EUR per year, which provides institutional support for their active participation in international scientific conferences and workshops (up to five events per academic year).

EI's grant office provides its researchers with considerable administrative support for obtaining both national and foreign grants. This support allows the researchers to focus on their actual research, rather than on the administrative and financial issues around grants during the lifetime of the projects. Among other things, the grant office assists with content preparation, budget consultation, legal and administrative support, communication with grant-providers, etc.

As a measure to support a positive work-life balance, EI offers opportunities to work from home. EI also provides institutional contributions to private pension insurance, a Multisport card at discounted prices (the card allows one free daily entrance to many sports facilities), language lessons at a discounted price, and allowances for tickets to sport and cultural events.

EI researchers are eligible for relocation support of up to 1,500 EUR. EI's administration also provides assistance through the initial stages after arrival, for instance by arranging free accommodation for the first several days, helping researchers to navigate around Prague's administrative offices, including visa/permit processing as necessary, and assisting their apartment search. As far as dual career options are concerned, EI is open to considering a partner with a research profile in economics or a related discipline for a post-doc position; this arrangement has been already implemented when hiring in the past.

11. Other information about the internationalization of the research institution, international researchers employed at the institution, the availability of English language seminars etc.:

El is highly internationalized and operates fully in English. El has an international team of researchers; the majority are not Czech or Slovak citizens. Out of 22 senior and junior faculty members, who represent our core researchers with tenure or tenure track positions, there are 12 foreigners, from Croatia, Germany, Italy, Russia, South Korea, Slovakia, Switzerland, and the United States. El also has 3 visiting faculty members, Gérard Roland (the University of California, Berkeley), Avner Shaked (the University of Bonn) and Jan Švejnar (Columbia University). Faculty are regularly hired on the international labor market from leading US and European PhD programs. Many core faculty members earned their PhDs at leading western universities, including Princeton University, the University of Chicago, the University of Minnesota, the London School of Economics, Warwick University, and the University of Copenhagen.

El has an international advisory board, the Executive and Supervisory Committee (ESC) established in 1991, which consists of a number of eminent economists, including three Nobel Laureates in Economics and other professors from top western universities. The ESC meets biannually and plays a key role in hiring and tenure decisions, evaluation and supervision of the management, and in enforcing rigorous academic practices.

El runs three highly acclaimed public research seminar series: in macroeconomics, microeconomic theory, and applied microeconomics. Before the outbreak of the Covid19 epidemic, about 50 foreign seminar speakers, typically from top European and US research institutions, presented annually. El regularly hosts presentations of research reports by prominent international organizations, including the IMF, OECD and World Bank. El consistently attracts some of our profession's best scientists for short- and long-term stays.

El faculty and researchers serve on the editorial boards of the most prestigious journals in the field of economics worldwide, including the American Economic Review, the Review of Economic Studies and the Journal of Economic Theory. They are often invited to give seminars at top foreign universities, including Princeton, Harvard, Stanford, Columbia, and the University of California, Berkeley, for instance. They are members of key international economic associations and societies, including the European Economic Association, the American Economic Association, the Econometric Society, and the Royal Economic Society, and they also serve as research fellows at the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) and the European Association of Labour Economists.

El provides a range of support services aimed to develop academic skills and to support the career development of its junior researchers. The Academic Skills Center offers courses that help junior researchers learn to present their research in both written (academic papers, grant proposals) and oral forms (presentation at conferences, research seminars) at a professional level.