

**EVALUATION REPORT FOR EVALUATION OF RESEARCH
ORGANIZATION IN THE SEGMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
INSTITUTIONS IN YEAR 2025**

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION NAME: Czech University of Life Sciences -ČZU (Česká zemědělská univerzita v Praze – ČZU)

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER (CRN): 60460709

THE LIST OF EVALUATION UNITS IN MODULE 3:

Faculty of Economics and Management - FEM (Provozně ekonomická fakulta - PEF)

Faculty of Agrobiology, Food and Natural Resources - FAFNR (Fakulta agrobiologie, potravinových a přírodních zdrojů - FAPPZ)

Faculty of Engineering - FE (Technická fakulta - TF)

Faculty of Environmental Sciences - FES (Fakulta životního prostředí -FŽP)

Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences - FFWS (Fakulta lesnická a dřevařská - FLD)

Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences - FTA (Fakulta tropického zemědělství - FTZ)

Institute of Education and Communication - IEC (Institut vzdělávání a poradenství - IVP)

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Mgr. Jindřich Chrtěk, CSc.	Member	Institute of Botany of the Czech Academy of Sciences -Botanický ústav AV ČR, v.v.i.
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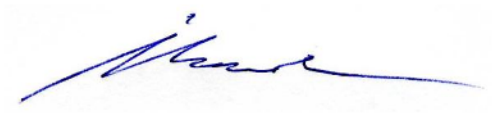
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Date of on-site visit of higher education institution: 13.- 14. 5 2025

In: Tartu, Estonia date : 19.10.2025

Signature



(IEP chairperson)

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Social relevance of individual Faculties (MODULE 3)

MODULE 3 – RESULTS OF INDIVIDUAL FACULTIES

NAME OF EVALUATED UNIT: Faculty of Economics and Management (EM)

FORD: 5 - Social sciences (SS)

SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE EVALUATED UNIT

3.1 Introductory information about the unit under evaluation

Indicator 3.1 is a non-evaluated indicator that provides basic information about the evaluated unit such as its mission and vision, organizational structure, size and staffing, or R&D&I capacities.

Commentary:

The Faculty of Economics and Management (FEM) is characterized by its interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary activities. It deals with sustainability aspects (economic, social and environmental specificities) and technological ones. Its activities are well integrated into the research and teaching work of the entire University, which deals with life sciences in general. The focus of the FEM is put on agricultural economics, environmental economics, circular economics, bio-economics, regional and rural development, management and business informatics.

This approach makes the specificity of the FEM in comparison to other Faculties of Economics and Management in the Czech Republic.

The inter- and transdisciplinarity offers opportunities to strengthen the cooperation with other faculties and other research partners and to deal with problems with innovative approaches leading to innovative results.

For the future, the focus will be put on social sciences, engineering and technology, natural sciences and agriculture and veterinary medicine. These topics are accurate as they represent real challenges for our society, with many innovations and new problems to be solved. They are also relevant for a FEM within a University of life sciences.

The staff of the FEM is considerable, with 286 Full Time Equivalent, including the administrative and technical staff. The academic staff is composed by 11 professors, 32 associate professors and 142 assistant professors. The staff is distributed among 12 departments, dealing not only with economics and management, but also informatics, law, psychology, foreign languages ... The ratio between men and women is good as a whole; however, men are predominant among professors and associate professors. The most populated age categories are the groups 40-49, 30-39 and 50-59, which seems appropriate.

The FEM is particularly successful concerning students attractivity. More than 8,000 students apply every year and can follow 13 bachelor's, 17 master's and 8 doctoral study programs, as well as 16 lifelong study courses. Lectures are in Czech or in English. Summer schools are also organized. There is a gender equilibrium among students. The internationalization is strongly and successfully encouraged.

Concerning R&D&I, the FEM is mainly oriented towards applied research. A bonus system in its incentive program for the academic staff puts the focus on three FORD fields: 1.2 Computer and Information Sciences; 5.2 Economics and Business and 5.4 Sociology. These choices are appropriate as

Universities should establish and maintain strong links to the society in general and to be useful to solve its practical problems along with theoretical progresses.

Important scientific outcomes in natural sciences, agriculture and modern technologies, including 6 Highly Cited Papers in the Web of Science (WoS) database and many other papers in leading academic journals prove that the R&D&I capacity is significant.

RECOGNITION BY THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY

3.2 Recognition by the research community

Evaluate the position of the evaluated unit in the R&D&I research community based on the facts presented in indicator 3.2 and its annexed tables (3.2.1 to 3.2.5).

Rating [1–5]:

5 - Outstanding

Qualitative assessment:¹

The FEM produced a significant number of scientific papers, and the total number is increasing. Q2 is the leading category, while there are around twenty papers in Q1 per year, more than one half being in D1. During the period 2019-2023, 59 “Highly Cited Papers” and 1 “Hot Paper” were published.

The members of the academic staff received several prestigious awards. Four staff members were regularly included in the “Highly Cited Researchers” by Stanford University.

Twenty-six staff members served on editorial boards of more than 70 international scientific journals. During the same period, several scientists were appointed to contribute to national and international professional societies.

Fifty-one staff members were invited speakers all over the world during scientific events, while twenty-eight scientists from many countries were invited to Prague to deliver speeches during conferences organized by the FEM.

Finally, many professors are also involved in scientific evaluations.

In brief, the FEM demonstrates many high-quality and diversified scientific activities at the national and international levels, proving that it is fully recognized by the research community.

Recommendations:

To continue in such a way, to increase the Q1 papers and to develop the relations with the European Association of Agricultural Economists, the International Association of Agricultural Economists and the geographical areas less covered by the present relations.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

3.3 Research projects	
Evaluate the most important research projects of the evaluated unit, especially regarding the results achieved and the application potential of the project, the proportionality with respect to the R&D&I capacities of the evaluated unit, the degree of interdisciplinarity and collaboration with other parts of the evaluated HEI, and the consistency with the declared mission and vision of the evaluated unit. Use the data from the full list of research projects and contract research activities in Tables 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 to supplement the evaluation.	
Rating [1–5]:	4 - Very good
Qualitative assessment: The research activity has considerably increased during the last years, the research funds raised being multiplied by three between 2019 and 2023, reaching more than 18 million euros in 2023. During the period 2019-2023, the number of research projects reached 78 (28 R&D projects and 50 contract projects). Among these projects, the FEM was the coordinator of 39. The results achieved and the application potential are important for the stakeholders like farmers, advisers, food chain operators, rural associations and authorities, the policymakers and the consumers. They concern a deep analysis of food chains and systems, the ways to improve the quality of life in rural areas, foresight studies about the Czech and EU agriculture, the adoption of new crops in the context of climate change, the adoption of new digital tools by the farmers, the impact of tax legislation, the development of new software packages. The research is interdisciplinary, combining economics, agriculture, sociology, environmental sciences, governance analysis, foresight studies, law ... and the cooperation with other faculties of the CULS is regularly implemented. The proportionality with respect to the R&D&I capacities is good, especially when the last years evolution is considered. The research is very consistent with the vision expressed by the FEM.	
Recommendations: The FEM should continue to develop its research activities in the areas it has defined and try to diversify even more its financial resources, for example by international organizations.	

3.4 Research results with existing or prospective impact on society	
Evaluate the research results already applied in practice or intended to be applied in practice. When evaluating, consider whether the results are proportionate to the R&D&I capacities of the evaluated unit, how they contribute to the fulfilment of the mission and vision of the evaluated unit and, if stated in the self-evaluation, how the results are related to the gender dimension and sustainability. Use the data from the full results summary in Table 3.4.1 to supplement the evaluation.	
Rating [1–5]:	4 - Very good
Qualitative assessment:	

There are more than 100 results which are used for the benefit of the society in general and specific stakeholders in particular. They are specific tools, methodologies and softwares solutions for practical application.

This is a really good achievement in comparison to the R&D&I capacities.

They concern several fields like rural development, agriculture, sustainability and public health, corresponding to the interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach of the FEM. They are consistent with the mission and vision expressed by the FEM: they contribute to economic and environmental sustainability (for example, a software analyses price transmission along the pork meat value chain, which enhances transparency and is useful for the stakeholders for the management of their activities, but also for the consumers; a software is used for tax calculation by the Ministry of Finance and small and medium entrepreneurs; a report analyses the situation of digitalization among Czech farmers, identifying the crucial points for the adoption of new technologies; a software is defined to analyse textual data in order to make foresight studies ...).

In the conception of these tools, the gender dimension should be considered as much as possible, for example to study the access to information or the situation of small farms, where women play a significant role.

Recommendations:

The FEM could try to define software packages to be used by farmers themselves or by farm advisers in order to evaluate the sustainability performance of their enterprise (for example, the emission of CO₂, the use of nitrogen ... in link with farm profitability). This kind of tool could be useful also for the entrepreneurs and the food processing industry, as well as for policy-makers dealing with sustainable development.

The FEM should continue to put the stress on applied research and to propose useful tools and scientific reports with deep economic and social analysis for the benefit of society.

TRANSFER OF RESULTS INTO PRACTICE

3.5 Transfer of results into practice

Evaluate the effectiveness of the transfer of results into practice by the unit being evaluated. Pay attention to whether the composition of the stated users of the results or the way the R&D&I results are commercialised (if stated) is consistent with the R&D&I results produced and the mission and vision of the evaluated unit and how successful the evaluated unit is in its activities, such as attracting new users of the results, commercialising the R&D&I results and obtaining funding from non-public, non-grant sources.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

The FEM works with the ČZU's Centre for Projects, Innovation, and Technology Transfer and the Technology Transfer Office in order to help the transfer of its research results into practice.

In addition, the Advisory Council for Industry Collaboration has been set up within the FEM in order to strengthen the links between the academics and the industry.

The FEM has also regular contacts with the representatives of the practice through the Quality Systems Consulting Centre, the Career and Professional Advisory Centre and the Centre for International Studies on Rural Development, which are established within the FEM.

During the 2019-2023 period, around half a million euros were obtained from non-public sources (donations, sponsorships, private enterprises, international organizations).

The research results of the FEM R&D&I do go into practice, but they are not really commercialized, as the FEM does not produce goods like machines, chemical products or selected varieties, but only intellectual material like reports and software packages.

The users of the research results are consistent with the R&D&I results and with the mission and vision of the FEM, corresponding to its inter- and transdisciplinary approach and to sustainable development.

The FEM is really involved in the search of new users of its results and is successful in raising non-public research funds, though it is an uneasy task in the field of economics and management, public funding being much higher, as the FEM has to give advice to policy- and decision-makers.

Recommendations:

The FEM could strengthen its relations with the farmers' organizations and also with its alumni who are active in very diverse fields of activities among the society.

POPULARIZATION OF VAVAI

3.6 The most important activities in the field of popularization of R&D&I and communication with the public

Evaluate how active and successful the evaluated unit is in the field of popularisation of R&D&I and communication with the public.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

The FEM is significantly active and successful in the field of popularization of its expertise and research results among the general public.

It participates to the Researchers' Night and the Science Fair organized in the Czech Republic and which have several tens of thousands of visitors.

Several members of the academic staff regularly appear on the Czech television and are interviewed on the Czech radio on different events and topics (agricultural commodity price increases, impacts of the war in Ukraine on agricultural markets, inflation ...).

In addition, several organizations within the FEM (the Consulting Centre in Quality Systems, the Centre of International Rural Development Studies, the Tax Centre) set up workshops and conferences to transfer knowledge to professionals and the general public (for example: lectures on organic farming, on tax calculation, on how to promote rural entrepreneurship).

Recommendations:

The FEM should continue to participate to general science exhibition putting the stress on its applied research results and usefulness for the society, and also to be regularly present on television, radio and

newspapers to show its permanent implication in today's problems and society, proving how it can contribute to improve the livelihood of the population and prepare a sustainable future.

The FEM should use all available media to do so.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

3.7 Implementation of the recommendations in Module 3

Evaluate how the evaluated unit has reflected the recommendations from the previous evaluation of the IEP, if applicable.

If the evaluated unit has not been evaluated before, the indicator will be marked as N/A – Not Applicable.

Rating [1–5]:

5 - Outstanding

Qualitative assessment:

The FEM made real efforts to follow the former IEP recommendations and was successful to implement significant improvements.

The first recommendation concerned the maintenance of a large scope of activities, dealing with economic, social and environmental aspects, to strengthen the utility of the FEM for society. Indeed, the FEM continued to implement its inter- and transdisciplinary approach during the 2019-2023 period, with fruitful results from the academic point of view, but also concerning R&D&I results useful for many stakeholders in particular the society in general.

The second recommendation concerned the strengthening of internationalization and the attraction of foreign scientists in Prague. The FEM report proves that internationalization has been reinforced in many aspects: research grants, publications, organization of conferences, invitation of foreign scientists, visits to foreign universities ... About doctoral programs, foreign experts are now invited for teaching, as dissertation consultants or opponents, and as members of doctoral programs boards. On the same time, there are higher requirements about PhD students' outputs in English. The FEM even tries to establish permanent consultancy with other universities about PhD students' work. Centres of Excellence have also been created to build international scientific groups for the definition of research projects and publications.

The third recommendation was to maintain the level of fund raising. Indeed, compared to the 2014-2018 period, the 2019-2023 period shows very significant increases for research projects, contract research activities and non-public resources as well. The amount for research projects constantly and significantly increased between 2019 and 2023.

The last recommendation was to increase communication activities towards professionals and the general public. Here also, significant efforts have been made with many actions towards professionals who can be interested by FEM's R&D&I results and towards the public interested in science in general, and also towards television watchers and radio listeners about recent events linked to the economy and agriculture.

Recommendations:

Concerning the PhD programs, the FEM could think about cotutelle (joint PhD supervision leading to two diplomas from both involved institutions) and double diplomas. Joint teaching programs under Erasmus could also be established.

EVALUATED UNIT RATING

Evaluation of unit	
Having evaluated the individual criteria of module M3, please summarise your evaluation in the context of the module, describing and justifying the strengths and weaknesses of the unit being evaluated.	
3.1 Introductory information about the unit under evaluation	NOT RATED
3.2 Recognition by the research community	5 - Outstanding
3.3 Research projects	4 - Very good
3.4 Research results with existing or prospective impact on society	4 - Very good
3.5 Transfer of results into practice	4 - Very good
3.6 The most important activities in the field of popularization of R&D&I and communication with the public	4 - Very good
3.7 Implementation of the recommendations in Module	5 - Outstanding
Average rating [1–5]:	4 - Very good
Grade [A–D]:	B
Summary assessment: The FEM made great efforts to implement the IEP recommendations formulated about the 2014-2018 period. These efforts have been very successful and the FEM made very significant progresses concerning research fund raising, results and activities, and publications notably. The internationalization has been boosted and the academic staff is well recognized and appreciated by the international research community. The research results, mainly software and scientific reports, are transferred into practice and useful for many stakeholders, policy- and decision-makers, and the whole society. Due to its inter- and multidisciplinary approach, the FEM has established many relations with all kinds of partners and is active to popularize its activities. The FEM is very successful to attract students, proving its usefulness for society. The vision of the FEM, related to sustainable development and dealing with economic, social, and environmental aspects in the fields of economics, management, agriculture, rural development and new technologies, is for sure promising for the future.	
Summary recommendations: The FEM has made many progresses during the 2019-2023 period and should continue in that way. Internationalization could be strengthened by covering new geographic areas, joint PhD supervision could be reinforced, as well as the links with EAAE and IAAE. The links with farmers associations could also be stronger. The financial sources for research could even be more diversified, and the number of papers annually published in Q1 and even D1 could even be increased.	

NAME OF EVALUATED UNIT: Faculty of Agrobiology, Food and Natural Resources (AbFNR)

FORD: 4 - Agriculture and veterinary sciences (AVS)

SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE EVALUATED UNIT

3.1 Introductory information about the unit under evaluation

Indicator 3.1 is a non-evaluated indicator that provides basic information about the evaluated unit such as its mission and vision, organizational structure, size and staffing, or R&D&I capacities.

Commentary:

The Faculty of Agrobiology, Food and Natural Resources (FAFNR) sees its mission in solving problems in agriculture and food security as well as in achieving sustainable agriculture and a higher quality of life for humans and animals.

The faculty's organizational structure consists of the faculty management by the Dean and the 5 Vice Deans, 12 Departments, and several Faculty Units.

The FAFNR is the biggest faculty of CULS with a staff of 360 FTE in 2023, which is around 19 % of the total CULS staff. Gender balance in staff is achieved in almost all age groups.

RECOGNITION BY THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY

3.2 Recognition by the research community

Evaluate the position of the evaluated unit in the R&D&I research community based on the facts presented in indicator 3.2 and its annexed tables (3.2.1 to 3.2.5).

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:²

The recognition by the research community is reflected by (1) rankings by international organisations, (2) the exchange with external researchers and organizations, (3) awards received by academic staff and (4) the reception of publications authored by the faculty staff:

(1) The faculty received remarkable recognition in international rankings agricultural faculties: in QS WUR (Agriculture and Forestry, 2023) FAFNR was ranked at 62nd place and in Shanghai ARWU (Agricultural Sciences, 2023) at 51st-75th place worldwide. Further improvement was achieved in the recent rankings.

(2) The faculty staff (71 Full and Assoc. Profs) are members of more than 90 editorial boards of international journals. The staff members have provided more than 20 invited lectures per year, i.e. around 1.4 per professor in the whole reporting period, which is a quite low number. By contrast, more than 30 lectures annually were given by foreign scientists and other guests at the Faculty, and this is a very good number.

(3) During the evaluated term, the faculty's academic staff received 35 awards including more than 10 prestigious awards from external institutions. On a professor basis, one award has been obtained per 2 professors within the reporting period, which is a very good outcome.

(4) A high reception of the papers in Agriculture published by staff members is partly reflected by the no. of papers in Q1, which comprise 33 % of all papers published in journals with impact factors (data from Module 2). The paper output of the Faculty (2175 over all FORDS in the evaluation period) is significant, with around 1.2 papers in IF journals yearly per staff. In the field of Agriculture, forestry and fisheries the FAFNR has published 38 % of the respective IF papers of CULS and 12% of the respective IF papers in the Czech Republic. The percentage of all IF papers in Q1 is slightly below the respective percentage in the Czech Republic.

However, it is important to keep in mind that the reception by the research community, given by citations or reads, is not obvious from the provided data.

Recommendations:

The recognition of the faculty staff in the scientific community is very good. The output in rankings, awards, and published papers is very good, and even improving in the current year. Within the Czech Republic, the faculty plays a big role in its research community. The international recognition has been improved since the last evaluation, but still the international mobility of the professors could be increased. A limiting factor is the rather low no. of international study programs (except the doctoral program) and the low no. of international staff with permanent contracts.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

3.3 Research projects

Evaluate the most important research projects of the evaluated unit, especially regarding the results achieved and the application potential of the project, the proportionality with respect to the R&D&I capacities of the evaluated unit, the degree of interdisciplinarity and collaboration with other parts of the evaluated HEI, and the consistency with the declared mission and vision of the evaluated unit. Use the data from the full list of research projects and contract research activities in Tables 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 to supplement the evaluation.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

The Faculty dealt with research projects in the amount of around 9.9 Mio € and research contracts of around 2.4 Mio. € annually, which is a substantial share of the Faculty's total research budget. The following projects were listed as the most important ones:

- (1) ECO-READY: Fostering resilience and ensuring food security in the European food system (2022 – 2026, funded by EC, 0.4 Mio. € in the reporting period),
- (2) NutRisk Centre: synthesis and transformation of nutrients in the food chain and their interactions with anthropogenic contaminants (2018 – 2023, funded by the Czech Ministry for Education, Youth and Sports, 5.8 Mio. € in the reporting period),
- (3) Drift Food: state-of-the-art research centre for advanced technologies for high quality, safe and sustainable regional food production (2020 – 2026, funded by EC, 1.2 Mio. € in the reporting period, ERA Chair project),
- (4) SOIL: Towards climate-smart sustainable management of agricultural soils (2020-2025, funded by EC, 1.5 Mio. € in the reporting period)

(5) METROFOOD-RI: large research infrastructure focused on metrology in food and nutrition (funded by EC, 156 k€ in the reporting period)

(6) AgroServ: supporting research and innovation in agriculture and agroecology (2022-27, funded by EC, 50 k€ in the reporting period)

Among these, in particular the EU projects had significant contribution to achieve the faculty's mission.

The degree of interdisciplinarity is good within the projects of the FAFNR as it involves researchers from at least 11 different disciplines.

Recommendations:

The Faculty has been increasingly successful in acquiring project funding, and the income from contract research has already doubled since the last evaluation. However, the 87 % share of national project volumes on the total projects' income is still high. For obtaining more flexibility and independence from state resources, research links internationally and with the private sector should be fostered.

3.4 Research results with existing or prospective impact on society

Evaluate the research results already applied in practice or intended to be applied in practice. When evaluating, consider whether the results are proportionate to the R&D&I capacities of the evaluated unit, how they contribute to the fulfilment of the mission and vision of the evaluated unit and, if stated in the self-evaluation, how the results take into account the gender dimension and sustainability. Use the data from the full results summary in Table 3.4.1 to supplement the evaluation.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

The projects of the Faculty are well in line with its vision and mission in solving problems in agriculture and food security, either environmentally or in human and animal well-being.

The faculty presents the following projects with respect to the different impacts:

Environmental impact: (1) Patent of a nitrification reactor for fugate from the NutRisk project, (2) Patent on fungicide made from thyme essential oil, (3) Migration fish barrier, (4) Soil quality indicators.

Impact on research: (1) Strain collection of microorganisms, (2) METROFOOD-Cz research infrastructure

Societal impact: (1) Food Pavilion, (2) Software patrac for searching of missing people

In particular, the Food Pavilion is a model for an integrated chain from farm to fork towards a resilient, local, sustainable strategy for the future agrifood system. Acceptance by the public is good, the local consumers are willing to pay higher prices than in supermarkets due to superior quality. Here the gender dimension is not particularly relevant, the gender balance in the faculty has already been stated in section 3.1.

Recommendations:

The projects presented here will not have an immediate economic output, but an intact environment and models for a local, resilient agrifood system are also essential for a sustainable economy and wellbeing of the population. Therefore, this line of research should be continued and further funding from the Czech state, but also from the EU should be acquired. For the Food Pavillon it is recommended

to monitor the expenses (staff and other resources) versus the revenues from the shop. The visibility in the public is important, but the activities should not be extended (e.g. further shops) as this is not the University's main focus and the University should not appear as competitor to local producers and retailers. To further improve the impact in society, memberships in scientific advisory boards for the government and other authorities should be carefully

TRANSFER OF RESULTS INTO PRACTICE

3.5 Transfer of results into practice

Evaluate the effectiveness of the transfer of results into practice by the unit being evaluated. Pay attention to whether the composition of the stated users of the results or the way the R&D&I results are commercialised (if stated) is consistent with the R&D&I results produced and the mission and vision of the evaluated unit and how successful the evaluated unit is in its activities, such as attracting new users of the results, commercialising the R&D&I results and obtaining funding from non-public, non-grant sources.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

The faculty has several strategies and infrastructures in place for translating the results into practice. With respect to farmers and agrobusinesses, the faculty runs experimental stations to generate and optimize the production of agricultural commodities and to teach farmers in collaboration with farmers' associations. Moreover, the faculty staff does not only publish in scientific journals but also in professional journals read by farmers.

For teaching veterinary assistants, the faculty runs an ambulance for companion animals, which is also well appreciated by the public.

Moreover, national or international authorities, various professional associations and organisations or local administration are supported with advice and evaluations on a scientific basis.

The transfer of results by e.g. patents is supported also by the University Centre for Innovation and Technology Transfer (CITT).

Recommendations:

Translation of research to farmers and administration is already good, but the revenue from companies, in particular from patents is still limited. Here the strategy of protecting and exploiting Intellectual Property can be improved.

POPULARIZATION OF VAVAI

3.6 The most important activities in the field of popularization of R&D&I and communication with the public

Evaluate how active and successful the evaluated unit is in the field of popularisation of R&D&I and communication with the public.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

As already presented for the last evaluation period, the faculty continued to organize interactive popularisation events and strengthened the ties to the alumni and Czech society. Examples for these interactions with the public are the e-book Soil - an overlooked wealth, the International Horse Show in Lysá nad Labem and the initiative "Science in the Fields and Stables - The Story of Food", which involves the whole value chain from farm to fork. In this regard also the Food Pavillon plays an important role to show cast the University's activities to foster local and resilient value chains in the agrofood system. A major improvement to the previous evaluation period is the visibility of these activities on the faculty's web page. Social media contents of the faculty are presented on an own YouTube channel.

Recommendations:

The information on the webpage still is mainly presented in only one language (either Czech or English). Here the local and international visibility could be improved by a systematic bilingual presentation. Some of the webpages could also be presented in a better readable and more attractive way (Czech STARFOS portal, report on EPJ soil).

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

3.7 Implementation of the recommendations in Module 3

Evaluate how the evaluated unit has reflected the recommendations from the previous evaluation of the IEP, if applicable.

If the evaluated unit has not been evaluated before, the indicator will be marked as N/A – Not Applicable.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

The faculty addressed all recommendations from the last evaluation period and, based on these, achieved some significant improvements. In detail, the following recommendations were implemented:

link with private sector should be fostered, increase revenues from non-public sources -

- the income from contract research has already doubled since the last evaluation

Results from applied research are limited to a regional and national level, dissemination and acquisition of trans-national funding should be enforced -

- the share of transnational funding among all research projects has been increased

The Faculty is mainly active at a national level, translation should also be sought internationally.

International visibility of the faculty staff is limited, mobility and networking could be improved-

- The international recognition and visibility of the faculty has been increased, but there is still room for improvement

Popularization is strong but dedicated section on the faculty webpage could help to increase links to the public, Implemented and attractive e.g. hands on science, popularization webpage of the faculty , but some pages are still only in Czech-

- the visibility of popularization activities on the faculty's web page and the social media has been improved. However, this information still is mainly present in only one language.

Recommendations: Implementation of the previous recommendations obviously started but is not completed yet. Aspects of Internationalization and IP generation and protection still can be improved but require a long-term strategy. Here also the formal limitations in international study programs and international recruiting may be addressed by a general University strategy.
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EVALUATED UNIT RATING

Evaluation of unit	
Having evaluated the individual criteria of module M3, please summarise your evaluation in the context of the module, describing and justifying the strengths and weaknesses of the unit being evaluated.	
3.1 Introductory information about the unit under evaluation	NOT RATED
3.2 Recognition by the research community	4 - Very good
3.3 Research projects	4 - Very good
3.4 Research results with existing or prospective impact on society	4 - Very good
3.5 Transfer of results into practice	4 - Very good
3.6 The most important activities in the field of popularization of R&D&I and communication with the public	4 - Very good
3.7 Implementation of the recommendations in Module	4 - Very good
Average rating [1–5]:	4 - Very good
Grade [A–D]:	B
Summary assessment: The FAFNR mission towards sustainable agriculture and a higher quality of life for humans and animals has been followed successfully during the last 5 years. Scientific recognition of FAFNR staff has increased and funding of internationally visible and nationally relevant research projects has been acquired. Impact on society is visible with respect to environment, research infrastructure and models for sustainable, local and secure food chains. Transfer to practice mainly refers to local farming and national teaching activities. The FAFNR is visible in the public as popularization of R&D&I is successful.	
Summary recommendations: The successful path of increasing scientific recognition, acquisition of project funding and popularization should be pursued. To further increase the international visibility, the hiring of more international staff can be recommended. For a better commercialisation of the University's intellectual properties, the filing of more patents could be fostered or incentivized. For increasing the impact on national policy, more memberships in advisory boards of governmental institutions would be helpful.	

NAME OF EVALUATED UNIT: Faculty of Engineering (E)

FORD: 2 - Engineering and technology (ET)

SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE EVALUATED UNIT

3.1 Introductory information about the unit under evaluation

Indicator 3.1 is a non-evaluated indicator that provides basic information about the evaluated unit such as its mission and vision, organizational structure, size and staffing, or R&D&I capacities.

Commentary:

The Faculty of Engineering (FE) focuses on multidisciplinary research in agricultural and mechanical Engineering for more than 73 years, covering FORD disciplines such as mechanical engineering, materials engineering, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, as well as other agricultural sciences, with a slight overlap with environmental engineering. It significantly contributes to the development of sustainable agricultural technologies, ecological farming, improvement of food production, and optimization of industrial processes. The faculty aims to create innovative links between these disciplines and promote scientific excellence in applied research.

The evaluated unit demonstrates a significant societal engagement, with several high-profile projects addressing practical challenges in agriculture, education, and sustainability, what is in accordance with their mission and vision. Regarding the organizational structure, FE has 9 departments, about 130 employees (80 academic staff), and roughly 1.500 students at 7 Bc study programs (one in English), 8 MSc programs (2 in English), and 6 PhD programs. The number of academic personnel is stable over the years.

Although the faculty recognizes the importance of scientific research for society and strives for maximum practical applicability of its results, there is still some space for progress. If we are looking for the concrete number of publications per 1 academic/research FTE (WoS), 2019-2023, the numbers for FE are 0,37; 0,55; 0,66; 0,44; 0.61, and they are below the University level.

RECOGNITION BY THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY

3.2 Recognition by the research community

Evaluate the position of the evaluated unit in the R&D&I research community based on the facts presented in indicator 3.2 and its annexed tables (3.2.1 to 3.2.5).

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:³

Overall, the unit achieves a solid performance across key indicators, including recognition in the research community and societal relevance. Faculty academics are members of editorial boards of journals focused on scientific and research activities conducted at the faculty. They serve on editorial boards of some Q1 journals indexed in Web of Science (e.g., Biosystems Engineering) as well as Scopus-indexed journals that align thematically with the faculty's mission but are not included in Web of Science. In addition to scientific journals, faculty employees also contribute to editorial boards of magazines intended for the public, such as Mechanization of Agriculture.

They organize regularly invited lectures in precision agriculture systems, agricultural product processing, and oilseed processing by their academic staff abroad (e.g. at the University Technology Petronas (UTP), Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) in Kaunas, Estonian University of Life Sciences (EMÜ) in Tartu, as well as at Universitas Sumatera Utara (USU) in Medanor. Similarly, foreign scientists and other relevant guests from f.i. Poland, France, Malaysia, Turkey, or Portugal delivered their lectures at the faculty.

Academic staff of the Faculty of Engineering granted by some R&D&I awards during the evaluation period (e.g. for teaching excellence, for dissertation, for international cooperation, for development of science and research in the agricultural sector, etc.), but these awards are mainly at the national level. They were also involved in the evaluation of national/European research project/programme calls relevant to the R&D&I area, but most often for Czech Republic agencies.

Recommendations:

- Promote greater international recognition through structured dissemination.
- Increase the participation of academic staff in editorial boards of international scientific journals.
- Engage emerging researchers in editorial board activities.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

3.3 Research projects

Evaluate the most important research projects of the evaluated unit, especially regarding the results achieved and the application potential of the project, the proportionality with respect to the R&D&I capacities of the evaluated unit, the degree of interdisciplinarity and collaboration with other parts of the evaluated HEI, and the consistency with the declared mission and vision of the evaluated unit. Use the data from the full list of research projects and contract research activities in Tables 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 to supplement the evaluation.

Rating [1–5]:

3 - Average

Qualitative assessment:

The faculty actively participates in several research projects with a high degree of interdisciplinary cooperation with consistent project implementation what has led to impactful, real-world outcomes. Key research areas are development of new technologies for more efficient agricultural and food production (for Bednar FMT), application of artificial intelligence and digital tools in the design and control of agricultural machinery (for Farmet, Bednar FMT), and collaboration with national and international partners on technological innovations (f. i. Guardians, LENS). The Faculty of Engineering works continuously not only with the other university departments (FAPPZ, FTZ, FŽP, FLD, PEF) on interdisciplinary projects, but also with industrial entities (Farmet, Bednar, SMS Rokycany, Orlen) in the development and testing of new technologies. There are also some collaboration with international research institutions (Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur) within European research initiatives.

IEP visited few laboratories to be more introduced with some examples of good practice. It could be highlighted one of them, such as GUARDIANS – Horizon project where FE is a partner aiming to empower small and medium-sized farms through innovative digital solutions. There are also some innovative solutions for development of small robots for agriculture and transport in forestry, some robots in rescue utilization for Czech army, research on the combination of biostrips with vertical agrivoltaic systems as part of agri-environmental and climate measures to support biodiversity, development of autonomous systems as tools for integrated vegetable production, etc. In the role of

beneficiary, FE has been supported by public funds with 202.5 thousand euros for 4 active projects in 2023, and in the role of another participant with additional 584.4 thousand euros for 12 projects. It means that the Faculty is more recognized as the partner institution than the leading institution in project proposals submission, although they have their own Office for projects. In other hand, the University has also own Centre for research projects, and sometimes this connection does not functioned well.

Contract research activities conducted on 7 projects with the industry in 2023 earned 103.7 thousands of euros (mostly for Forests of the Czech Republic).

Recommendations:

- Continue fostering interdisciplinary proposals with external relevance.
- Strengthen internal support for managing complex, multi-partner research projects.
- Encourage closer collaboration between the University and Faculty centre for projects.
- Motivate academic staff to tight collaboration with industrial partners.
- Encourage the research project submissions with international partners.

3.4 Research results with existing or prospective impact on society

Evaluate the research results already applied in practice or intended to be applied in practice. When evaluating, consider whether the results are proportionate to the R&D&I capacities of the evaluated unit, how they contribute to the fulfilment of the mission and vision of the evaluated unit and, if stated in the self-evaluation, how the results take into account the gender dimension and sustainability. Use the data from the full results summary in Table 3.4.1 to supplement the evaluation.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

Research results have led to concrete applications and show promising societal benefits at the national level. In the period under evaluation, academic staff of FE developed 2 software, 1 European patent, 2 Czech patents, 2 patents, 1 prototype, 3 functional samples, 9 utility models, 1 verified technology, 1 licence agreement, 1 Nmap, 1 technical report, and 2 book publications. Czech Patent No. 309605 - Device for Measuring Pressure Distribution was utilized in SANTAL spol. s r.o. As part of a contractual research project for Glanzstoff – Bohemia, s.r.o. titled "Processing of Waste Viscose Using the Technology of the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague", a new technology was developed to reduce the water content in waste viscose through heating in a semi-industrial facility at the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague. Developed within the project QK21010151 - Extraction of Vegetable Oils Using Modern Methods, this patent has contributed to improving and innovating the products of the company Farmet, particularly FK conditioners and CP pressing units. Most of these products are supplied to markets in Europe, North America, and South America.

It is worthy to note that there is also a ProLab engineering Ltd, as a spin off company for rapid prototyping, as a part of the University (support is indirect). One product they already prepared to be sold on the international market.

Recommendations:

- Introduce performance tracking of applied results.
- Increase visibility of high-impact outcomes.

TRANSFER OF RESULTS INTO PRACTICE

3.5 Transfer of results into practice

Evaluate the effectiveness of the transfer of results into practice by the unit being evaluated. Pay attention to whether the composition of the stated users of the results or the way the R&D&I results are commercialised (if stated) is consistent with the R&D&I results produced and the mission and vision of the evaluated unit and how successful the evaluated unit is in its activities, such as attracting new users of the results, commercialising the R&D&I results and obtaining funding from non-public, non-grant sources.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

Transfer of FE research results into practice takes place mainly towards manufacturers of agricultural machinery (Farmet, a.s., Bednar FMT, s.r.o., SMS CZ, s.r.o.) and technologies for processing agricultural products (Chmelařství družstvo Žatec, Partner MB s.r.o., Agrovýzkum Rapotín s.r.o.). The research results are being commercialized in companies with which the faculty cooperates through contractual research, and commissioned development and innovation projects. They also provide professional consulting, expert analyses, and specialized assessments in key areas of technological development. Their main expertise includes the optimization of agricultural machinery design, the implementation of smart agriculture—i.e., modern digital technologies in agricultural production and the application of advanced precision agriculture concepts that enable more efficient management of soil, water, and other resources. The faculty participates in the development of analyses, feasibility studies, and expert evaluations for new technologies and innovations in precision agriculture, including sensor systems, satellite monitoring, and autonomous agricultural machinery. Another form of collaboration is the involvement of company representatives in teaching at the faculty, where they give lectures and lead specialized seminars strengthening the connection between academia and industry, providing students not only with theoretical knowledge but also direct insight into industrial practice.

ProLab Engineering is a spin-off technology company of the Faculty of Engineering at the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, specializing in the development and research of autonomous technologies in agriculture, industry, and defense. The company emerged from the transformation of know-how and innovative ideas from the faculty into practice, successfully commercializing the results of academic research.

From the summary of non-public revenues received during the period under evaluation it is evident that ratio between main/non-commercial activities and secondary/commercial activities in 2023 is equal to 100.7/167.8 or 60%.

Effective mechanisms are in place for result commercialization, although more systematic user feedback would be beneficial.

Recommendations:

- Expand engagement with industry partners.
- Develop a formalized impact tracking process.
- Continue with activities to increase the funding from non-public, non-grant sources.

POPULARIZATION OF VAVAI

3.6 The most important activities in the field of popularization of R&D&I and communication with the public

Evaluate how active and successful the evaluated unit is in the field of popularisation of R&D&I and communication with the public.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

The unit is active in R&D&I promotion through lectures, media, and cooperation with public institutions through a wide range of activities, such as organizing the expert lectures and seminars for the public, farmers, and professionals from industrial practice, organizing Night of Scientists, summer schools, participation in exhibitions, trade fairs, and various open-air events, publishing articles in professional periodicals, participating in expert discussions on various television and radio stations, etc. Research results, expert interviews, and educational content are sharing continuously on platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram, reaching a broad audience interested in science and innovation. The faculty manages the platform agrivoltaics.tf.čzu.cz, which demonstrates the integration of photovoltaics with raspberry, apple, and blueberry cultivation, irrigation, thermal field monitoring, and mowing. The popularization of VaVal and communication with the public is also reflected in the activities of staff associated with the Czech Society for Maintenance (ČSPÚ).

Recommendations:

- Consolidate outreach into an institutional communication strategy.
- Encourage wider participation of students in public engagement.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

3.7 Implementation of the recommendations in Module 3

Evaluate how the evaluated unit has reflected the recommendations from the previous evaluation of the IEP, if applicable.

If the evaluated unit has not been evaluated before, the indicator will be marked as N/A – Not Applicable.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

Based on the recommendations from the previous evaluation of the IEP, the faculty intensified its efforts to establish partnerships with businesses both in the Czech Republic and abroad, leading to a significant increase in funding acquired from the private sector. Contract research and commissioned projects expanded, partially reducing the disproportion between public funding and private sources. Additionally, the faculty revised its pricing policy for applied research to better reflect the market value of the services provided and the expertise offered. They also strengthened the strategic management of contract research by developing internal mechanisms to support academic staff in identifying and executing research contracts. They have personalized plans for every academician. During the evaluation period, more than 30 cooperation agreements were signed with industrial partners (e.g., Schwarzmüller, s.r.o., Bosch, a.s.).

Although the Faculty expanded its cooperation with industrial partners what is in alignment with its long-term strategy for applied research development, the main priority still remains to increase the research papers in the Q1/Q2 databases, especially in D1, if possible.

Recommendations:

- Develop a formalized system for tracking of academicians scientific productivity.
- Continue to encourage the employees to be more active in submission of international project proposals with foreign partners.
- Continue to increase the revenues from the non-public funds.

EVALUATED UNIT RATING

Evaluation of unit

Having evaluated the individual criteria of module M3, please summarise your evaluation in the context of the module, describing and justifying the strengths and weaknesses of the unit being evaluated.

3.1 Introductory information about the unit under evaluation	NOT RATED
3.2 Recognition by the research community	4 - Very good
3.3 Research projects	3 - Average
3.4 Research results with existing or prospective impact on society	4 - Very good
3.5 Transfer of results into practice	4 - Very good
3.6 The most important activities in the field of popularization of R&D&I and communication with the public	4 - Very good
3.7 Implementation of the recommendations in Module	4 - Very good
Average rating [1–5]:	4 - Very good
Grade [A–D]:	B

Summary assessment:

The unit presents a well-rounded societal profile, with tangible contributions through applied research, education, and public engagement. Although the institution achieved some measurable positive outputs in the evaluated period, there is a lot of space for improvement in the field of high-quality research papers in Q1/Q2 databases, and particularly D1. There are also very few projects realized with the international partners, especially with the FE as a leading institution. The internalization should be in focus in the next period where better scientific visibility of the institution is expected. Improving scientific visibility is crucial for academic careers, as it can lead to increased citations, collaborations, and recognition.

Summary recommendations:

- Systematic monitoring of employee career plans.
- Foster the academic staff to increase the revenue from non-public funds.
- Focus on internationalization (mobility, European research funding programs/ERC grants, better scientific visibility and recognition).
- Find the ways to increase the number of high-quality papers published in impacted Q1/Q2 Journals, paying special attention to D1 publications.

- Improve internal documentation of social impact.
- Strengthen integration between societal goals and scientific strategy.

NAME OF EVALUATED UNIT: Faculty of Environmental Sciences (ES)

FORD: 1 - Natural sciences (NS)

SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE EVALUATED UNIT

3.1 Introductory information about the unit under evaluation

Indicator 3.1 is a non-evaluated indicator that provides basic information about the evaluated unit such as its mission and vision, organizational structure, size and staffing, or R&D&I capacities.

Commentary:

The Faculty of Environmental Sciences is primarily focused on Natural Sciences, specifically Earth and Related Environmental Sciences and Biological Sciences. Its mission is to advance knowledge in these fields and to promote sustainable development. Given the multidisciplinary nature of the research conducted at the faculty, the core areas overlap with other fields, in particular, Agriculture and Forestry. Furthermore, the faculty's focus extends beyond natural sciences, evidenced by a considerable number of publications in the field of social and economic geography. This multidisciplinary approach encourages collaboration across various scientific domains, integrating disciplines such as remote sensing, data science, machine learning, geographic information systems (GIS), big data, and predictive modelling. These integrated approaches enable the faculty to develop comprehensive solutions to both environmental and societal challenges.

RECOGNITION BY THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY

3.2 Recognition by the research community

Evaluate the position of the evaluated unit in the R&D&I research community based on the facts presented in indicator 3.2 and its annexed tables (3.2.1 to 3.2.5).

Rating [1–5]:

5 - Outstanding

Qualitative assessment

The Faculty demonstrates a very strong position within the R&D&I research community. Many faculty members are both well-established and globally recognized researchers in their fields. Compared to the previous evaluation period, there has been a very positive shift, resulting in a significant increase in the number of researchers who are an integral part of the global research community in their respective disciplines. This increased recognition is also evident in the placement of some researchers in various prestigious global rankings (e.g. Researcher.com ranking (2023) and Clarivate (2022)).

The faculty's reputation is reinforced by the prestigious awards received by its researchers (e.g. Cozzarelli and Josef Hlávka Prizes). Further recognition comes from European Commission awards and the successful obtainment of highly competitive research grants and fellowships, such as European Research Council (ERC) Grants, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowships, and Fulbright Scholarships. Two ERC grants were noted, one from the EU and one from a local ministry.

Academic staff members actively participate in the research community as editors in leading scientific journals published by prestigious editorials like Elsevier, Springer, and Taylor & Francis. The journals where faculty staff hold editorial roles represent leading titles in their disciplines. Examples include Critical Reviews in Environmental Science and Technology (IF 11.4), Global Ecology and Biogeography

(IF 6.3), and Landscape and Urban Planning (IF 7.9), illustrating the faculty's broad scope and World-wide reputation.

Recognition also extends to invited lectures, with academic staff giving a significative number of invited lectures at institutions abroad. Furthermore, Faculty members are actively involved in the evaluation of national and international project and programme calls, including those from the European Commission like Horizon Europe.

Overall, the Faculty of Environmental Sciences has a recognized and growing presence in the international research community, supported by the achievements of its researchers, success in securing competitive funding, and active participation in scholarly activities like editing journals and evaluating projects.

Recommendations:

- Continue to capitalize on the international visibility and collaboration achieved by the Faculty, further integrating into the global research community and securing international funding like ERC and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions grants.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

3.3 Research projects

Evaluate the most important research projects of the evaluated unit, especially regarding the results achieved and the application potential of the project, the proportionality with respect to the R&D&I capacities of the evaluated unit, the degree of interdisciplinarity and collaboration with other parts of the evaluated HEI, and the consistency with the declared mission and vision of the evaluated unit. Use the data from the full list of research projects and contract research activities in Tables 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 to supplement the evaluation.

Rating [1–5]:

5 - Outstanding

Qualitative assessment:

The Faculty of Environmental Sciences demonstrates strong performance in securing and implementing research projects. The faculty successfully implemented over 130 scientific projects funded from national and international sources during the evaluated period. This represents an impressive increase in projects and captured resources compared to the previous period (130 vs. 90 projects). Notably, the number of international project applications increased significantly (>50% increase). This success is supported by a dedicated project team.

The projects address highly relevant topics consistent with the faculty's mission to advance knowledge in environmental sciences and promote sustainable development. Key areas include environmental protection, landscape adaptation to climate change, climate change modelling, circular economy and waste management, geochemistry, water management, biodiversity support, and the use of remote sensing data.

In the SER ten projects have been presented and their objectives described. These projects demonstrate a strong focus on applied research, with a significant emphasis on practical application.

While project acquisition and scale have increased significantly, particularly from public sources and international programs, the volume and revenue from contract research has less increased. The

faculty's strategy for increasing contract research with higher revenues, particularly with foreign clients, could be further promoted.

Overall, the Faculty of Environmental Sciences effectively benefits from its R&D&I capacities to secure a significant volume of high-impact projects that align strongly with its mission and contribute substantially to addressing environmental and societal challenges through applied research and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Recommendations:

- Continue to prioritize and support the acquisition of competitive international projects, particularly from EU programmes like Horizon Europe and ERC.
- Develop a targeted strategy to increase contract research volume and revenue, particularly with the private sector and foreign clients, capitalizing on the faculty's expertise and research infrastructure. The Biochar Centrum initiative is a good example of pursuing this goal.

3.4 Research results with existing or prospective impact on society

Evaluate the research results already applied in practice or intended to be applied in practice. When evaluating, consider whether the results are proportionate to the R&D&I capacities of the evaluated unit, how they contribute to the fulfilment of the mission and vision of the evaluated unit and, if stated in the self-evaluation, how the results take into account the gender dimension and sustainability. Use the data from the full results summary in Table 3.4.1 to supplement the evaluation.

Rating [1–5]:

5 - Outstanding

Qualitative assessment:

The Faculty demonstrates significant success in producing research results with existing or prospective impact on society. This is evidenced by a considerable increase in the number of applied results (almost 25% increase compared to the previous evaluation period). The results generated cover a wide range of types (methodologies, utility models, software tools, etc.) used for water pollution abatement technologies, constructed wetland systems, biodiversity conservation, and other environmental applications. These outcomes are clearly integrated within the faculty's core research areas, contributing to environmental protection, sustainable development, and addressing urgent societal challenges. The faculty's results are directed to public administration bodies, municipalities, and other stakeholders involved in environmental and sustainability efforts, as a traditional commercial market for direct sales of many results is often limited. The transfer of results to the public sector is considered a main strength.

The faculty explicitly states that the produced outputs take into account the gender dimension as they serve a wide range of users free of charge, regardless of gender and age.

Recommendations:

- Continue to prioritize the development of applied research results that address pressing environmental and societal challenges, building on the demonstrated success in this area.
- Evaluate the possibility of developing a strategy for transferring results to the private sector, increasing the number of patents, licenses, and spin-offs.

TRANSFER OF RESULTS INTO PRACTICE

3.5 Transfer of results into practice	
Evaluate the effectiveness of the transfer of results into practice by the unit being evaluated. Pay attention to whether the composition of the stated users of the results or the way the R&D&I results are commercialised (if stated) is consistent with the R&D&I results produced and the mission and vision of the evaluated unit and how successful the evaluated unit is in its activities, such as attracting new users of the results, commercialising the R&D&I results and obtaining funding from non-public, non-grant sources.	
Rating [1–5]:	4 - Very good
Qualitative assessment: The Faculty demonstrates a strong commitment to the transfer of its research and development results into practice, particularly focusing on societal and environmental impacts. Given the faculty's focus areas like biodiversity, climate change, and conservation, the primary users are typically public administration bodies, municipalities, and other stakeholders in environmental and sustainability efforts, as a traditional commercial market for direct sales is limited. Collaboration with these institutions occurs through research contracts, advisory committees, regional networking and pilot projects. While the faculty shows overall good success in the application of its research results to the public sector, commercialization is noted as an area needing further development. Although a high potential for application and economic impact is recognized, no revenues from the sale of licenses and other commercialization items were recorded during the evaluation period. Initiatives like the "Biochar centrum" aim to bridge research with commercial potential.	
Recommendations: •Continue efforts to quantify the indirect economic and societal impacts of research results, especially those without direct commercial application, to better demonstrate their full value to stakeholders and funding bodies. •Develop a strategy for commercializing research results that have direct economic potential, like seeking licenses, supporting spin-off creation, and engaging more strategically with the private sector.	

POPULARIZATION OF VAVAI

3.6 The most important activities in the field of popularization of R&D&I and communication with the public	
Evaluate how active and successful the evaluated unit is in the field of popularisation of R&D&I and communication with the public.	
Rating [1–5]:	5 - Outstanding
Qualitative assessment: The Faculty is evaluated as being very active and successful in the field of popularisation of R&D&I and communication with the public. The faculty has a clear strategy for outreaching, with a number of activities aimed at spreading research results to schools and the general public. Given the nature of the research, which often has a societal rather than direct economic impact, popularization is crucial for	

ensuring results reach their stakeholders, such as state or government institutions, and the broader public.

Overall, the faculty's approach is considered highly effective.

Recommendations:

The successful policy of popularisation of R&D&I and communication with the public should be continued.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

3.7 Implementation of the recommendations in Module 3

Evaluate how the evaluated unit has reflected the recommendations from the previous evaluation of the IEP, if applicable.

If the evaluated unit has not been evaluated before, the indicator will be marked as N/A – Not Applicable.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

The Faculty of Environmental Sciences has actively engaged with the recommendations provided in the previous International Evaluation Panel. The self-assessment addresses key areas highlighted for improvement, demonstrating an awareness of past feedback and a commitment to addressing identified challenges. The Evaluation Panel wants to explicitly thank the Faculty Dean, Vice-Deans and members involved in the SER for their honesty in preparing all these documents.

A primary focus during the current evaluation period was on strengthening the strategy for securing more international projects. This directly responded to the previous recommendation emphasizing the high potential for capturing more resources from EU Programmes and the need for a strategy to achieve this. The Faculty established a dedicated project team which improved the efficiency in attracting international and national grants.

The self-assessment acknowledges that other reviewer suggestions were addressed "to a lesser extent". Specifically, the previous recommendations related to promoting contract research with higher revenues, especially with foreign clients, and addressing the "lack of spin-offs and strategy for commercialization" have seen more limited progress. Despite this, the faculty is showing increasing interest in exploiting results and transferring them to the public and private sectors. Initiatives like the "Biochar centrum" are mentioned as aiming to bridge research with practical applications and commercialization, directly addressing the reviewers' suggestion by fostering applied research with commercial potential.

In summary, the Faculty has demonstrated significant progress in attracting international project funding. However, the development of a robust strategy for commercialization is acknowledged as an area requiring further development and more time.

Recommendations:

- Develop a strategy for commercializing research results with economic potential, including proactive steps for identifying licensable outputs and supporting the creation of spin-off companies, building upon existing initiatives like the Biochar centrum.

EVALUATED UNIT RATING

Evaluation of unit	
Having evaluated the individual criteria of module M3, please summarise your evaluation in the context of the module, describing and justifying the strengths and weaknesses of the unit being evaluated.	
3.1 Introductory information about the unit under evaluation	NOT RATED
3.2 Recognition by the research community	5 - Outstanding
3.3 Research projects	5 - Outstanding
3.4 Research results with existing or prospective impact on society	5 - Outstanding
3.5 Transfer of results into practice	4 - Very good
3.6 The most important activities in the field of popularization of R&D&I and communication with the public	5 - Outstanding
3.7 Implementation of the recommendations in Module	4 - Very good
Average rating [1–5]:	5 - Outstanding
Grade [A–D]:	A
Summary assessment: The Faculty of Environmental Sciences is recognized as being composed of scientists with significant potential to contribute to national, European, and global science. The faculty primarily conducts applied research with a clear and recognized impact on society, primarily through knowledge transfer to the public sector. The multidisciplinary nature of the Faculty activities, covering a wide spectrum of environmental topics, is seen as a key social benefit. Research often results in outcomes that are societal rather than purely economic, with typical users being state or government institutions. The faculty demonstrates a proved and increasing capacity for capturing research resources and transferring results to the public sector and has a good capacity for giving services. The faculty also has a clear and seemingly successful strategy for popularization and outreaching activities. During the evaluation period, the faculty actively implemented recommendations from the previous evaluation. A main step was significantly strengthening the strategy for securing more international projects, leading to a notable increase in applications and funded international projects.	
Summary recommendations: Based on the previous evaluation and the Faculty's self-assessment regarding the implementation of recommendations, the following areas require increased focus: •Increase impact on the private sector: the Faculty has to develop a strategy to enhance its impact on the private sector. This involves promoting contract research with higher revenues, especially with foreign clients. •Strengthen commercialization and spin-off strategy: the Faculty needs a clear planned strategy to improve and boost the commercialization of R&D&I results. This includes actively encouraging researchers to commercialize their findings.	

NAME OF EVALUATED UNIT: Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences (FWS)

FORD: 4 - Agriculture and veterinary sciences (AVS)

SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE EVALUATED UNIT

3.1 Introductory information about the unit under evaluation

Indicator 3.1 is a non-evaluated indicator that provides basic information about the evaluated unit such as its mission and vision, organizational structure, size and staffing, or R&D&I capacities.

Commentary:

The Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences (FLD) contributes to the development of knowledge in these fields of in forestry, biological sciences, wood science, environmental economics and other related fields. Its mission is to advance knowledge in these fields and to promote sustainable development. FLD is considered a very important institution in science and research in the Czech Republic and a recognized forestry institution abroad. The strength of the Faculty lies in the relatively high proportion of applied research, as well as the implementation of research results. It is internationally highly visible and it is active in outreach. The societal benefit of the work in this faculty is remarkable. The Faculty has a state-of-the-art scientific environment and gets continuing science funding from project sources. Given the multidisciplinary nature of the research conducted at the Faculty, these core areas overlap with other fields, in particular, Environmental Sciences, Technology, Agriculture, Economy and Business. These integrated approaches enable the Faculty to develop comprehensive solutions to both environmental and societal challenges.

The basic bodies of FLD are the Academic Senate, the Scientific Board, and the Dean's Board. The FLD consists of nine departments and other workplaces, such as the newly established Forest Risk Research Centre. Staff gender balance of is achieved for younger age groups.

RECOGNITION BY THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY

3.2 Recognition by the research community

Evaluate the position of the evaluated unit in the R&D&I research community based on the facts presented in indicator 3.2 and its annexed tables (3.2.1 to 3.2.5).

Rating [1–5]:

3- Good

Qualitative assessment:⁴

The Faculty's recognition by the research community is reflected mostly by the awards received by academic staff and students, and by the exchange with external researchers and organizations.

The Faculty demonstrates a recognizable position within the R&D&I research community. Several faculty members are both well-established and internationally recognized researchers in their fields. A positive example is to hire by FLD an excellent world-class scientist (Dr. Andrew Liebhold) and to create a permanent research group focused on the field of biological invasions in forests. This was realized due to the acquisition of a prestigious grant from the Horizon Europe ERA Chairs programme HIVE

(Centre for Biological invasions in Forests). Compared to the previous evaluation period, in general, there was no significant increase in the number of researchers who are an integral part of the global research community in their respective disciplines.

The Faculty's reputation is reinforced by the prestigious awards received by its researchers (e.g. Award of the President of the Polish Academy of Sciences for scientific achievement and the Stanford's Top 2% Scientists Award) and several awards for research achievements by students and young scientists (e.g. Award of the Minister of the Agriculture for young scientists and Josef Hlávka Award for the best students and graduates).

FLD has a strong representation on the editorial boards of regional-level scientific journals: Central European Forestry Journal (IF 1.0; 6 FLD experts) and the Journal of Forest Science and (IF 1.1; 8 FLD experts). Most of the articles published by FLD members are in the Frontiers Group journals, MDPI journals, and the above-mentioned regional journals. Comparing with previous evaluation period it demonstrates some success, but high-level scientific journals have not been achievable yet.

Overall, the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences has a recognized and growing presence in the research community, supported by the achievements of its researchers, success in competitive funding, and active participation in scholarly activities like editing journals.

Recommendations:

For further recognition of the FLD it is recommended to:

- (1) continue successful applied research and related collaboration with local and international partners;
- (2) continue supporting students and young scientists for their excellent work
- (3) publish research papers in higher impact (Q1, IF > 3) international journals; it is possibly easier achievable if the Faculty could give up preference to so-called "selected scientific journals of thematic importance", in which many high-quality journals are missing;
- (4) be more active in applying for international research grants such as European Research Council (ERC) Grants, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowships, and Fulbright Scholarships.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

3.3 Research projects

Evaluate the most important research projects of the evaluated unit, especially regarding the results achieved and the application potential of the project, the proportionality with respect to the R&D&I capacities of the evaluated unit, the degree of interdisciplinarity and collaboration with other parts of the evaluated HEI, and the consistency with the declared mission and vision of the evaluated unit. Use the data from the full list of research projects and contract research activities in Tables 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 to supplement the evaluation.

Rating [1–5]:

5 - Outstanding

Qualitative assessment:

The Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences demonstrated strong performance in securing and implementing research projects. Research of exceptionally high societal importance at both national and international levels is reflected in the high financial support received from both project grants and

contract research The faculty successfully implemented over 250 scientific projects internationally funded) in total amount of 1.65 Mio Euro in total) funded from national and international (29%) sources during the period 2019-2023. This represents a remarkable increase in projects and captured resources compared to the previous evaluation period. Likewise, the number of international project applications increased significantly (>50% increase). This success is supported by a dedicated project team.

The projects address highly relevant topics consistent with the faculty's mission to advance knowledge in forestry and wood sciences and promote sustainable development. Key areas include the issue of climate change (supporting ecosystem adaptation, drought, fire issues, etc.), bark beetle outbreak, African swine fever, forest tree genetics, and the use of wood as a renewable natural resource.

Ten projects have been presented in the Self Evaluation Report project and their objectives described. These projects demonstrate a strong focus on applied research, with a significant emphasis on practical application.

Overall, the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Science effectively benefits from its R&D&I capacities to secure a significant volume of high-impact projects that align strongly with its mission and contribute substantially to addressing environmental and societal challenges through applied research and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Recommendations:

- Continue to prioritize and support the acquisition of competitive international projects, particularly from EU programmes like Horizon Europe and ERC.
- Develop a targeted strategy to increase contract research volume and revenue, particularly with the private sector and foreign clients, capitalizing on the faculty's expertise and research infrastructure. The Forest Risk Research Centre initiative is a good example of pursuing this goal.

3.4 Research results with existing or prospective impact on society

Evaluate the research results already applied in practice or intended to be applied in practice. When evaluating, consider whether the results are proportionate to the R&D&I capacities of the evaluated unit, how they contribute to the fulfilment of the mission and vision of the evaluated unit and, if stated in the self-evaluation, how the results take into account the gender dimension and sustainability. Use the data from the full results summary in Table 3.4.1 to supplement the evaluation.

Rating [1–5]:

5 - Outstanding

Qualitative assessment:

The projects of the Faculty are well in line with its vision and mission in solving problems related to climate change (supporting ecosystem adaptation, drought, fire issues, etc.), bark beetle outbreak, African swine fever, forest tree genetics, and the use of wood as a renewable natural resource.

The faculty presents the following projects with respect to the different impacts:

Environmental impact:

- (1) Systemic solutions for upscaling of urgent ecosystem restoration for forest-related biodiversity and ecosystem services (SUPERB). Horizon 2020
- (2) Agroforestry at the forefront of farming sustainability in multifunctional landscapes in Europe (REFOREST). Horizon Europe

- (3) Management of forest genetic resources under climate change (FORG) Joint programme of Norway and the Czech Republic
- (4) Large scale analyses of primary forests: disentangling drivers of biomass and biodiversity indicators. Czech Science Foundation
- (5) FORGENERES. ENRES Programme, EEA and Norway Grants

Technology impact:

- (1) Development of timber-concrete bridges using remote control and monitoring . Technology Agency of the CR (TAČR)

Socio-economic impact:

- (1) Resilient forest value chains – enhancing resilience through natural and socio-economic Responses (RESONATE). Horizon 2020

Social impact:

- (1) Forests in women's hands (Fem4Forest). Interreg Danube Transnational Programme.

Capacity building impact of FLD:

- (1) Building up an excellent scientific team and its spatio-technical background focused on mitigation of the impact of climatic changes on forests from the gene level to the landscape level at FLD ČZU Prague (EXTEMIT-K). European structural and investment funds
- (2) Advanced research supporting the forestry and wood processing sector's adaptation to global change and the fourth industrial revolution (EVA4.0) European structural and investment funds.

These selected projects demonstrate multidisciplinary of FLD research activities.

Recommendations:

- Continue to prioritize the development of applied research results that address pressing environmental and societal challenges, building on the demonstrated success in this area.
- Evaluate the possibility of developing a strategy for transferring results to the private sector, increasing the number of patents, licenses, and spin-offs.

TRANSFER OF RESULTS INTO PRACTICE

3.5 Transfer of results into practice

Evaluate the effectiveness of the transfer of results into practice by the unit being evaluated. Pay attention to whether the composition of the stated users of the results or the way the R&D&I results are commercialised (if stated) is consistent with the R&D&I results produced and the mission and vision of the evaluated unit and how successful the evaluated unit is in its activities, such as attracting new users of the results, commercialising the R&D&I results and obtaining funding from non-public, non-grant sources.

Rating [1–5]:

5 - Outstanding

Qualitative assessment:

The Faculty demonstrates a strong commitment to the transfer of its research and development results into practice, particularly focusing on societal and environmental impacts.

Given the faculty's focus areas like climate change issues (supporting ecosystem adaptation, drought, fire issues), forest ecosystem health problems (bark beetle outbreak), application of research results of genetics, and the use of wood as a renewable natural resource creates a promising platform for the further strengthening of the collaboration between the research, implementation and societal aspects.

Recommendations:

- Continue efficient transfer of research results into practice. In addition, intensify efforts to quantify the indirect economic and societal impacts of research results, to better demonstrate their full value to stakeholders and funding bodies. The climate impact of forestry practices is the most challenging issue.
- Develop a strategy for commercializing research results that have direct economic potential, like seeking licenses, supporting spin-off creation, and engaging more strategically with the private sector.

POPULARIZATION OF VAVAI

3.6 The most important activities in the field of popularization of R&D&I and communication with the public

Evaluate how active and successful the evaluated unit is in the field of popularisation of R&D&I and communication with the public.

Rating [1–5]:

5 - Outstanding

Qualitative assessment:

The Faculty is very active and successful in the field of popularisation of R&D&I and communication with the public. A variety products are directly used by wider audience: articles and expert outputs for policy making (Living with bark beetles: impact outlook, and management options; Protect old-growth forests in Europe now), books (Firefighting in the natural environment) software development (apps) (Tick App, SUSselect mobile mapping app; FOREST RESTORATION web app), domestic patents and prototypes (Bark beetle repellent; Transparent coating of oak wood); Modern methods of protecting forest tree seedling using hydrogels and other substances) and a predictive model (Behavioural response of wild boar to measures against the spread of African swine fever).

This all demonstrates a successful application and popularisation of research results. Overall, the faculty's approach is considered highly effective.

Recommendations:

Continue efficient transfer of research results into practice. Other possible targets to popularise (TV, social media platforms) could also be used for this purpose.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

3.7 Implementation of the recommendations in Module 3	
Evaluate how the evaluated unit has reflected the recommendations from the previous evaluation of the IEP, if applicable.	
If the evaluated unit has not been evaluated before, the indicator will be marked as N/A – Not Applicable.	
Rating [1–5]:	4 - Very good
Qualitative assessment: The Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences has actively engaged with the recommendations provided in the previous International Evaluation Panel. The self-assessment addresses key areas highlighted for improvement, demonstrating an awareness of past feedback and a commitment to addressing identified challenges. The Evaluation Panel wants to explicitly thank the Faculty Dean, Vice-Deans and members involved in the SER for their honesty in preparing all these documents. In summary, the Faculty has demonstrated significant progress in attracting both national and international project funding. However, more initiatives would be shown to publish research papers in higher impact international journals and also, Faculty need to be more efficient in applying for international scholarships and and research grants. Recommendations from the previous evaluation panel was to produce high level publications and results and also, to actively nominate Faculty members for prizes and awards. It was also recommended that the Faculty should actively support increased publication in high level journals to further increase the faculty's visibility internationally. Although, the ČZU provides significant support for the authors of papers in high-level journals and for receiving international research grants, the publication strategy still have to be optimized in future.	
Recommendations: • Develop a strategy for more effective publication of research results in high-level international journals and commercialize research results with economic potential, including proactive steps for identifying licensable outputs and supporting the creation of spin-off companies. • Develop a strategy for more active application for international research grants such as European Research Council (ERC) Grants, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowships, and Fulbright Scholarships.	

EVALUATED UNIT RATING

Evaluation of unit	
Having evaluated the individual criteria of module M3, please summarise your evaluation in the context of the module, describing and justifying the strengths and weaknesses of the unit being evaluated.	
3.1 Introductory information about the unit under evaluation	NOT RATED
3.2 Recognition by the research community	3 - Average
3.3 Research projects	5 - Outstanding
3.4 Research results with existing or prospective impact on society	5 - Outstanding

3.5 Transfer of results into practice	5 - Outstanding
3.6 The most important activities in the field of popularization of R&D&I and communication with the public	5 - Outstanding
3.7 Implementation of the recommendations in Module	4 - Very good
Average rating [1–5]:	5 - Outstanding
Grade [A–D]:	A
Summary assessment: The Faculty of Forestry and Wood Science is recognized as being composed of scientists with significant potential to contribute to national, and European science. The Faculty primarily conducts applied research with a clear and recognized impact on society, primarily through knowledge transfer to the public sector. The multidisciplinary nature of the Faculty activities, covering a wide spectrum of environmental, economic and societal topics, is seen as a key social benefit. The Faculty demonstrates a proved and increasing capacity for capturing research resources and transferring results to the public sector and has a good capacity for giving services. The faculty also has a clear and seemingly successful strategy for popularization and outreaching activities. During the evaluation period, the faculty actively implemented recommendations from the previous evaluation. A main step was significantly strengthening the strategy for securing more international publications and projects, leading to a notable increase in applications and funded international projects.	
Summary recommendations: Based on the previous evaluation and the Faculty's self-assessment regarding the implementation of recommendations, the following areas require increased focus: • Develop a strategy for more effective publication of research results in high-level international journals and commercialize research results with economic potential, including proactive steps for identifying licensable outputs and supporting the creation of spin-off companies. • Develop a strategy for more active application for international research grants • Increase impact on the private sector: the Faculty has to develop a strategy to enhance its impact on the private sector. This involves promoting contract research with higher revenues, especially with foreign clients.	

NAME OF EVALUATED UNIT: Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences (TA)

FORD: 4 - Agriculture and veterinary sciences (AVS)

SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE EVALUATED UNIT

3.1 Introductory information about the unit under evaluation

Indicator 3.1 is a non-evaluated indicator that provides basic information about the evaluated unit such as its mission and vision, organizational structure, size and staffing, or R&D&I capacities.

Commentary:

With its commitment to development oriented agricultural research, the FTA plays an important role in bridging the gap between applied research and its implementation to help achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Through teaching and research, the FTA has built a wide network across nations, income classes and occupations thus creating impact far beyond the university's boundaries. The faculty has steadily grown over the last 5 years, however, where research activities clearly increased, the number of students in the various study programs has been stable on average. The FTA has a clearly formulated mission and has also set clear objectives for its future development. Its long-term goals underline and support the strong focus on international visibility and impact creation.

RECOGNITION BY THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY

3.2 Recognition by the research community

Evaluate the position of the evaluated unit in the R&D&I research community based on the facts presented in indicator 3.2 and its annexed tables (3.2.1 to 3.2.5).

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:⁵

The members of the faculty are widely recognised for their academic and social achievements. Through a broad presence in editorial boards, the FTA has impact on international publication procedures and paper evaluations. However, international exposure through invited lectures abroad as well as through inviting foreign scientists to the FTA could be intensified.

Recommendations:

It could be a good idea to try to formalize the international scientific exchange more by using European networks, such as the ELLS Ligue, to create and organize a rotating symposium on international development-oriented research, as well as initiating a lecture series at the faculty with monthly invites, which probably would need some extra funding.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

3.3 Research projects

Evaluate the most important research projects of the evaluated unit, especially regarding the results achieved and the application potential of the project, the proportionality with respect to the R&D&I capacities of the evaluated unit, the degree of interdisciplinarity and collaboration with other parts of the evaluated HEI, and the consistency with the declared mission and vision of the evaluated unit. Use the data from the full list of research projects and contract research activities in Tables 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 to supplement the evaluation.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

The members of the faculty are involved several collaborative research projects of which many are led by the FTA. These projects generate an annual average of 350 k€ as income for the faculty. The individual contributions of the projects to this income vary greatly between 2 and 100k per year. Projects cover a wide area of subjects, reflecting the large research capacity of the faculty. Quite a few projects are dedicated to teaching, curriculum development, or communication. All international projects seem to generate tangible results. Although not clearly assessable because the projects partner and collaborators are not given, collaboration with other faculties seems to be limited. This may be due to the unique focus of the FTA on the tropics and on development-oriented research which is not a major focus of any other faculty.

Recommendations:

It is fully understandable to try to be involved in as many projects as possible to generate income from as many sources as possible. However, a very broad approach loses focus and does not help creating a reputation which is needed if international visibility is the objective. Finding a few key topics and try to raise significant funds within them would make it easier for the FTA to advertise their expertise and create a unique selling point. Development oriented research is already a good start, however, either a stronger regional or a stronger thematic focus in the projects is recommended.

3.4 Research results with existing or prospective impact on society

Evaluate the research results already applied in practice or intended to be applied in practice. When evaluating, consider whether the results are proportionate to the R&D&I capacities of the evaluated unit, how they contribute to the fulfilment of the mission and vision of the evaluated unit and, if stated in the self-evaluation, how the results take into account the gender dimension and sustainability. Use the data from the full results summary in Table 3.4.1 to supplement the evaluation.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

Research during the reporting period has resulted in a number of tangible products that have been targeted to and implemented in regions of developing countries. Three of these outputs were targeted to Vietnam on the use of renewable sources for biofuel production and 2 of the outputs were targeted to health improvement currently being implemented in parts of Africa. The successful implementation of these technologies shows that the FTZ knows how to find the right partners as often in such projects tangible results are developed but local partners to take it up and develop it further for

implementation are often lacking. The explicit target on the rural (poor) population with a strong gender aspect in mind fits perfectly with the mission of the FTA.

Recommendations:

It could probably a good idea to create a company closely related to FTA to exploit the research results in collaboration with local partners which would allow monitoring the economic and societal gains from the technology and at the same time define future research approaches which in turn could help sustaining a thematic focus beyond the duration of projects and develop new projects from which all partners could benefit. Such a company could also support start-up companies both from the Czech Republic and from the in-country partners while proving a platform for project development.

TRANSFER OF RESULTS INTO PRACTICE

3.5 Transfer of results into practice

Evaluate the effectiveness of the transfer of results into practice by the unit being evaluated. Pay attention to whether the composition of the stated users of the results or the way the R&D&I results are commercialised (if stated) is consistent with the R&D&I results produced and the mission and vision of the evaluated unit and how successful the evaluated unit is in its activities, such as attracting new users of the results, commercialising the R&D&I results and obtaining funding from non-public, non-grant sources.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

Tangible results as shown in section 3.4 were put into practice and to some extent commercialized through collaboration the ČZU unit OTT. This seems to be a successful and efficient pathway to get research results commercialized.

Revenues, however, do not really seem to justify the effort. If the only thing the FTA should do is to hand over the results to OTT and all the rest is done without them, this might be still a viable option. But if any of the FTA staff is involved in trying to commercialize the results, that this is a waste of time. In the target countries the results seem to be applicable and used and that is the actual output.

Recommendations:

It would probably be better and create more impact, if the results, patents, and methodologies would be commercialized in the country they were originally targeted to. Spill overs to Europe are nice but should not be the focus. Local start-ups on the other hand would be perfect, particularly if alumni from the ČZU were involved.

POPULARIZATION OF VAVAI

3.6 The most important activities in the field of popularization of R&D&I and communication with the public

Evaluate how active and successful the evaluated unit is in the field of popularisation of R&D&I and communication with the public.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

FTA has been very active on many different levels in communicating their work to the wider public, fellow scientist, media and within the university. This was apparently quite successful and should be continued supporting the clear focus on development-oriented research and innovation.

However, while making the wider public aware of the importance and outreach of the work, it is equally important to council the government and major donor organizations and being asked to express views or provide expert opinion and council. This part has not been addressed in the self-evaluation.

Recommendations:

Whereas it is very important to continue with a similar audacity the activities already started, it is recommended to seek participation in government and donor organizations advisory boards, advise major foundations and similar enterprises to influence policy and raise awareness at the deciders level.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

3.7 Implementation of the recommendations in Module 3

Evaluate how the evaluated unit has reflected the recommendations from the previous evaluation of the IEP, if applicable.

If the evaluated unit has not been evaluated before, the indicator will be marked as N/A – Not Applicable.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

FTA has followed the recommendation to increase international standing and visibility, particularly within the European Research for Development community. And while a good progress has been made, there is still room for improvement as stated above.

Recommendations:

Keep the effort up to increase international standing and visibility. Concentrating on a few key topics and create a unique selling point could be one of the approaches

EVALUATED UNIT RATING

Evaluation of unit

Having evaluated the individual criteria of module M3, please summarise your evaluation in the context of the module, describing and justifying the strengths and weaknesses of the unit being evaluated.

3.1 Introductory information about the unit under evaluation	NOT RATED
3.2 Recognition by the research community	4 - Very good
3.3 Research projects	4 - Very good
3.4 Research results with existing or prospective impact on society	4 - Very good
3.5 Transfer of results into practice	4 - Very good

3.6 The most important activities in the field of popularization of R&D&I and communication with the public	4 - Very good
3.7 Implementation of the recommendations in Module	4 - Very good
Average rating [1–5]:	4 - Very good
Grade [A–D]:	B
Summary assessment: Given the size of the faculty, the extraordinary focus on development-oriented research, the strong focus on developing countries both in research and teaching lets the faculty stand out among its peers. Few faculties in Europe have a similar focus and the FTA can easily keep up with them if not out-compete. In all fields FTA has improved as compared to the last evaluation.	
Summary recommendations: Finding a few key topics and try to raise significant funds within them would make it easier for the FTA to advertise their expertise and create a unique selling point. Along this line, It could probably a good idea to create a company closely related to FTA to exploit the research results in collaboration with local partners which would allow monitoring the economic and societal gains from the technology and at the same time define future research approaches which in turn could help sustaining a thematic focus beyond the duration of projects and develop new projects from which all partners could benefit. It is also recommended to seek participation in government and donor organizations' advisory boards, advise major foundations and similar enterprises to influence policy and raise awareness for the key topics at the deciders level.	

NAME OF EVALUATED UNIT: Institute of Education and Communication (IEC)

FORD: 5 - Social sciences (SS)

SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE EVALUATED UNIT

3.1 Introductory information about the unit under evaluation

Indicator 3.1 is a non-evaluated indicator that provides basic information about the evaluated unit such as its mission and vision, organizational structure, size and staffing, or R&D&I capacities.

Commentary:

It has been made clear that the University sees an important role for the IEC and has invested effort, staff and money to improve the IECs status as well as output since the last evaluation in 2025. In addition to trying to boost the scientific output and the active involvement in international projects, the institute also accredited two BSc programs taught in Czech, hosting a total 350 students per year. Life-long learning activities have been continued and involve about 120 participants per year.

The IEC sets itself a mandate of providing quality education and career counselling, with a focus on fostering professional development. For this it is set to provide educational and counselling activities for the development of teachers in vocational education and counsellors in the field of education and human resource development.

The IEC tries to improve scientific output by fostering an improved scientific environment, which has already yielded some quality publication in the field of social science.

RECOGNITION BY THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY

3.2 Recognition by the research community

Evaluate the position of the evaluated unit in the R&D&I research community based on the facts presented in indicator 3.2 and its annexed tables (3.2.1 to 3.2.5).

Rating [1–5]:

2 - Below average

Qualitative assessment:⁶ For such a small institute that does not have a purely research focussed objective, the recognition of the system within the Czech Republic is quite convincing. With 2 staff being involved in international publication activities such as journal editorial boards, the institute has a relative strong involvement, but limited impact. Three invited lectures delivered and seven obtained from outside the university in 5 years do not reflect well on the international visibility of the IEC.

Recommendations:

Partly the re-structuring process is not yet reflected in the reporting period of 2019 to 2023. Recent advances in the output of the IEC are not reflected yet. Nonetheless within the reported period the international visibility is not adequate compared to the rest of the university or to international standards. On the other hand, due to the size of the institute and the workload for research, teaching,

publication, fund raising, and administration for its individual members it will be difficult for the IEC to reach higher international reputation and visibility, particularly in the field of research recognition. The University should consider broadening the base for the institute by including more topics under the umbrella of the IEC that would allow for publication of research results in a wider international context.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

3.3 Research projects

Evaluate the most important research projects of the evaluated unit, especially regarding the results achieved and the application potential of the project, the proportionality with respect to the R&D&I capacities of the evaluated unit, the degree of interdisciplinarity and collaboration with other parts of the evaluated HEI, and the consistency with the declared mission and vision of the evaluated unit. Use the data from the full list of research projects and contract research activities in Tables 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 to supplement the evaluation.

Rating [1–5]:

2 - Below average

Qualitative assessment:

Although the number of projects has improved and more international involvement has been successfully achieved, the total amount of funds raised is by far too small to create a research impact. The funds are not sufficient to support a research team in a multi-year study. All projects were and are problem oriented, problem-solving applied research projects with a very practical output aimed at direct implementation. Whereas this is as such not a negative thing, a university should strive to procure results that advance science and that can be used in teaching students that will want to be involved in science. Vocational training, one of the most important aspects of the IEC, is very important but does not provide much substance for scientific publications unless it is embedded in a more socio-ecological frame.

Recommendations:

Clearly, if the institute wants to live up to its goals stated in the introduction, it needs to strive for large interdisciplinary projects in which a counselling component is needed, projects in which targeted (vocational) education is in the focus of the project for example to sustainably embed the projects results in future teaching activities in the target environment, projects that try to understand why certain methods, results or social outcome to not find the way to the people and what to do about it. For this the IEC needs to team up with the other teams in the university and become a partner to be included in any larger multidisciplinary and multinational project. Hiring a socio-ecologist would help and shifting the focus to developing countries of the global south as well as concentrating on gender issues would increase the relevance of the research.

3.4 Research results with existing or prospective impact on society

Evaluate the research results already applied in practice or intended to be applied in practice. When evaluating, consider whether the results are proportionate to the R&D&I capacities of the evaluated unit, how they contribute to the fulfilment of the mission and vision of the evaluated unit and, if stated in the self-evaluation, how the results will be considered the gender dimension and sustainability. Use the data from the full results summary in Table 3.4.1 to supplement the evaluation.

Rating [1–5]:

2 - Below average

Qualitative assessment:

A project of 4 years with a funding of about 45,000 EUR has resulted in one Book. A quick search in the internet did not find that book. Gender dimensions could not be assessed.

Recommendations:

Similar to the recommendation above, it is important to team up with more players. A larger basis allows creating more diverse output and thus targets a broader group of recipients. It is also important to define the target for the impact that should be generated and to develop a way forward as to how to reach it. Projects and activities should follow a predefined strategy including the creation of impact in the targeted group or society.

Although not a result of research as such, vocational training is one of the highest goods when made available to people. Particularly the marginalized and weak members of societies profit immensely and particularly in large parts of the global south, where such things hardly exist. Thus, the planet would profit immensely if, for example, small holder farmers worldwide would have access to vocational training. There is a vast field of research to be immersed in with a high potential impact on society. While there is a vast public interest in this field, the IEC does not seem to tap into this potential yet, but should.

TRANSFER OF RESULTS INTO PRACTICE

3.5 Transfer of results into practice

Evaluate the effectiveness of the transfer of results into practice by the unit being evaluated. Pay attention to whether the composition of the stated users of the results or the way the R&D&I results are commercialised (if stated) is consistent with the R&D&I results produced and the mission and vision of the evaluated unit and how successful the evaluated unit is in its activities, such as attracting new users of the results, commercialising the R&D&I results and obtaining funding from non-public, non-grant sources.

Rating [1–5]:

3 - Average

Qualitative assessment:

The IEC sees itself on a good way forward in this aspect by transferring project work-packages and deliverables in to practical use. This has been done so far mainly by publishing technical manuals, handbooks or monographs with limited range. No commercial applications have yet evolved from the work of the IEC.

Recommendations:

Given the current size and power of the institute, large scale output that could be commercialized cannot be expected and may not be desirable. However, if based on a sensible strategy for commercialisation or application, the IEC could document and exploit results from research as a service,

particularly if the research is so applied that its results cannot be internationally published. As stated earlier, services provided by the IEC, even if they are not contributing to new knowledge, but help improving the teaching and education approaches at different organisations, could be turned into service that can be booked at a certain cost.

POPULARIZATION OF VAVAI

3.6 The most important activities in the field of popularization of R&D&I and communication with the public

Evaluate how active and successful the evaluated unit is in the field of popularisation of R&D&I and communication with the public.

Rating [1–5]:

3 - Average

Qualitative assessment:

Whereas there was no activity, no strategy, and no discernible output before, in this reporting period, a number of activities were reported that popularise the research, development and innovation activities of the IEC and probably also the university.

Recommendations:

Here again, the IEC would profit from teaming up with more players. IEC could take the lead in such events as public lecture series, development of materials for the general public explaining the research results of the university, organize science fairs, get involved in larger projects for popularisation of scientific results in Europe. The university could task the instate to develop a general strategy and apply for projects to implement it. The beginning has been made; it is now important to develop this into an organized and sustainable activity at the core of the institute.

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

3.7 Implementation of the recommendations in Module 3

Evaluate how the evaluated unit has reflected the recommendations from the previous evaluation of the IEP, if applicable.

If the evaluated unit has not been evaluated before, the indicator will be marked as N/A – Not Applicable.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

The university clearly put emphasise on the work of the IEC and wants it to succeed and prosper. Many of the recommendations of last report have been used to improve the output and the relevance of the IEC.

Recommendations:

However, the IEC remains quite small and thus limited in what it can achieve. It is also not very common for an institute to run study programs. Normally study programs require infrastructural support that is provided by faculty structures. This does not seem to be the case here. While the path that has been opened since last evaluation is very positive and can only be commended, to make the work of the IEC

more visible with more impact both in the research community and the society, it is needed to team up with more diverse players, become part of multidisciplinary structures and teams and tackle more multinational projects in which the IEC may have a comparative advantage through its approach of practical and applicable science and the possibility of teaching the teachers.

It should also be considered to increase the size of the institute and include other aspects of teaching and skill development that are generally taught and researched currently in parallel in several faculties. This could include statistics, biometry, GIS analytics, methods of scientific working, language and translation skills, big data management and similar cross-cutting topics. It could be considered to bring the institute to faculty size and thus increase its effectiveness and outreach.

EVALUATED UNIT RATING

Evaluation of unit	
Having evaluated the individual criteria of module M3, please summarise your evaluation in the context of the module, describing and justifying the strengths and weaknesses of the unit being evaluated.	
3.1 Introductory information about the unit under evaluation	NOT RATED
3.2 Recognition by the research community	2 - Below average
3.3 Research projects	2 - Below average
3.4 Research results with existing or prospective impact on society	2 - Below average
3.5 Transfer of results into practice	3 - Average
3.6 The most important activities in the field of popularization of R&D&I and communication with the public	3 - Average
3.7 Implementation of the recommendations in Module	4 - Very good
Average rating [1–5]:	3 - Average
Grade [A–D]:	C
Summary assessment: The IEC has made quite some progress which is even more visible when considering most recent results, which are not part of the current evaluation period. Recommendation have been put into practice and seem to have impacted the output of the institute considerably. Nonetheless, in the last five years, although better than before, the visibility achieved, research conducted, output generated and future options produced remain below expected standard for a successful university unit.	
Summary recommendations: It should be considered to increase the scope of the institute to increase the chances for meaningful and publishable research results. A larger structure can be more effective if well organized. The IEC should try to build its core competencies as a stand-alone contribution into multidisciplinary and multinational projects in taking up some of the disciplinary aspects and translate them into usable approaches for the greater good of the projects. Conflict solving mechanisms, interdisciplinary teaching and learning platforms, farmers schools, participatory research agendas and the like could be in the	

core competency of the institute and could be implemented in large projects which would improve the funding situation and thus also the research output level tremendously.

Evaluation of the whole ČZU (MODULES 4 and 5)

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION NAME: Czech University of Life Sciences -ČZU (Česká zemědělská univerzita v Praze – ČZU)

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER (CRN):

MODULE 4 – VIABILITY

ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT OF R&D&I

4.1 Organisation and management of R&D&I

Evaluate the organizational structure and setup of the R&D&I management system in relation to the size and type of the university and its mission and vision. Also consider comparisons with foreign universities of similar size and focus.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:⁷

The structure established for R&D management seems to be quite efficient for a university of this size. With the faculties being quite diverse in their foci and targeted research areas, not losing focus by having a central person such as the Vice-Rector for Science and Research keeping the various Vice Deans from the Faculties streamlined for a central goal of the university is a very lean and efficient structure. Regular meetings ensure high communication density. Not quite clear to me is the mechanism with which decisions are taken, how such decisions are protocolled and followed up. In addition, the quality of the process hinges strongly on the person being the Vice Rector for Science and Research at any given moment. If the position is filled by a strong personality the system will work very nicely, however, if a weak person should take office, the quality of the process may suffer whereas efficiency and leadership might be lost. Some safety measures to ensure the consistency of the process beyond the people involved might be advisable.

At the same time, four other bodies have been established, the Department for Science and Research, the Center for Project Implementation, the Strategy department, and the Quality Assurance Office within the Rectorate. It is not quite clear from the self-evaluation report how these different entities interact, what their individual responsibilities are and how they link with the Vice-Rector for Science and Research. And again, decision making processes are not quite clear.

Recommendations:

If not yet done, establish a document that describes the process of decision making, of documenting the decisions taken and the follow-up procedure for the individuals and the various departments and offices involved. This will result in a kind of by-law that allows for consistency across different compositions of the “council” in lack for a better word. It will also give structure to the regular meetings and a reference for those not able to attend.

R&D&I QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT SYSTEM

4.2 System of support for a quality R&D&I environment and incentive measures for quality science

Evaluate the systems/measures/tools described to stimulate high-quality science at the HEI being evaluated. In your evaluation, consider the documented effectiveness of the measures described, their impact on achieving the mission and vision of the HEI being evaluated, the realization of excellent science and the possible absence of key systems/measures/tools.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

Qualitative assessment: So-called project teams (grant groups) at all faculties continuously monitor funding agencies, provide information about funding opportunities, and offer administrative support for both the preparation of grant proposals and the management of ongoing projects. Large structural projects are managed by the Project Department at the Rector's Office. The activities of the grant groups are considered to have a very high standard.

The ČZU has several motivational programmes and incentive schemes at both the rectorate and faculty levels, rewarding publications in D1, Q1, and Q2 journals, as well as in journals published by the Czech University of Life Sciences. There are also several awards (including two ministerial ones) for PhD students, recognising publications in high-quality journals, excellent dissertations, and outstanding doctoral programme graduates. This system of incentives for high-quality science is considered very effective.

The university (or at least some faculties) has a strategy for establishing new research teams and promoting research excellence. Internal funding allows teams to bridge periods without external research grant support, which is highly appreciated. Additional support strategies include the sharing of R&D&I equipment, laboratory space, and information infrastructure. The ČZU is committed to fostering international collaboration, which significantly enhances research excellence.

Recommendations:

The activities of the grant groups are considered to be of high quality, but better harmonization between individual faculties and the rectorate level is recommended. The strategy and opportunities for establishing new research teams—including international ones—and for supporting them should be more clearly defined. In particular, the tenure track system requires further clarification. The ČZU could also consider the introduction of junior research groups. Nevertheless, the overall direction is clearly positive, and there has been a noticeable improvement since the previous evaluation.

4.3 Quality control system for R&D&I environment

Evaluate the described internal and external evaluation system in terms of its quality, effectiveness and suitability for the HEI.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

The quality assurance and internal evaluation at ČZU follow the strategic plan and the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area. ČZU has successfully passed the international evaluation of its activities in the program of the European Association of Universities in 2022.

The internal quality control is managed and coordinated by the Vice-Rector for Quality of Educational and Creative Activities through individual committees and individual vice-deans of the faculties, in cooperation with a newly established rectorate workplace.

The ČZU has two types of structures for organisational arrangements of the quality assurance and internal evaluation system : (1) the structure for issuing management instructions and obtaining information related to quality assurance and internal quality evaluation (includes mainly the Rector, Deans and Directors of the University Institute) and (2) the structure for setting requirements for educational, creative and related activities and for discussing and approving matters related to quality assurance and internal quality evaluation activities. The second one includes mainly the Internal Evaluation Council (IEC) of ČZU, the Scientific Councils of the university and its units, and the Board of Trustees and the Academic Senate of ČZU.

The IEC of ČZU is responsible for linking the two abovementioned internal evaluation structures, including academic staff and students nominated by the components of both the quality assurance structure and the internal evaluation structure. The International Advisory Board, an external advisory body for the quality system, includes also the evaluation of research.

When comparing the results of previous evaluation the ČZU has demonstrated a significant success in the internal evaluation system in terms of its quality, effectiveness and suitability. Instead of separated faculty-based system of evaluation, the ČZU has now a uniform university system for evaluating the level of academic staff. Likewise, previously in some faculties only managers have been evaluated and nothing was said about the researchers. The new system focuses on researchers' quality highlighting the quality of scientific publications, received patents and participating in European research projects.

Recommendations:

The system can be harmonized, taking into account the specific needs of each faculty.

4.4 Sustainability and resilience of R&D&I

Evaluate the described system of measures for sustainability and resilience of R&D&I in terms of their quality, effectiveness or possible absence of key measures.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

The ČZU pursues a mission of promoting the principles of sustainability in the area of science, research and education and in linking sustainable solutions with practice. This can be seen from the research projects and social outputs of all faculties, which fall well in line with general sustainability goals. The university also pursues sustainability goals in the constructing and maintaining the buildings, with e.g. the utilization of grey waters and dealing with rainwater in one of the buildings. Such techniques serve as example for the larger society regarding the sustainability goals.

Within the university, sustainability and resilience goals are pursued with FAIR data management principles (Feasible, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) that ensure utilizing full potential of data collected, and data management tools to that end are being developed. University pursues open access publishing (while avoiding predatory journals). University has staff with experience in protecting the intellectual property and copyrights; and offers support to researchers in this respect.

Recommendations:

When the data management tools are implemented, it is important that researchers and doctoral students have clear guidelines as to which data they have open access to, and to what data they can have access and on what conditions. This will enhance data re-use, and potentially increase a number of publications utilizing any given dataset significantly, and through that improve publication records.

PERSONEL POLICY

4.5 Structure of human resources

Evaluate the described structure of human resources at the evaluated HEI in terms of age composition, degree of internationalization, distribution by job classification, and gender balance. For the assessment, use the data from the annexed tables 4.5.1 and 4.5.2; it is also possible to draw on the more detailed staffing data presented in indicator 3.1 of the self-evaluation reports for the evaluated units.

Rating [1–5]:

3 - Average

Qualitative assessment:

The human resources structure during the last two years has developed towards a slightly higher representation of women and a higher percentage of young employees until 29 years of age. The number of persons holding a full professor title with an age of 70 years and more has still increased within the last 4 years and accounts for 24 % of the whole group of full professors. Moreover, the number of foreign employees has increased, but it is still marginal. This is also a bottleneck for the internationalisation of the University.

Summary: The HR structure changed towards a slightly higher representation of women, a higher percentage of young employees, a higher number of full professors over 70 years of age and a marginal increase in foreign employees.

Recommendations:

The relatively small number of international professors is partly due to the hiring restriction given by the Czech state. The University may develop strategies to improve this situation. It has also to be considered whether the promotion of younger people to a full professorship can be facilitated.

4.6 Academic and Research Careers

Evaluate the described system for the recruitment and career development of academic and research staff. Evaluate the system in terms of its quality and effectiveness, as well as the potential absence of key elements.

Rating [1–5]:

5 - Outstanding

Qualitative assessment:

Qualitative assessment:

The system described for recruitment and career development demonstrates a strong alignment with formal HR standards at European level. The university has been awarded the HR Excellence in Research,

reflecting adherence to the European Charter & Code and the implementation of the Open, Transparent, and Merit-based Recruitment (OTM-R) policy.

The processes for habilitation and appointment to associate and full professorships are transparent, structured, merit-based, incorporating peer review, public lectures, and secret ballots. The system also provides a framework for performance-based career growth and the use of open recruitment practices.

The University demonstrates a robust regulatory framework and formal compliance with European HR principles. This is excellent.

Recommendations:

There is no description on mentoring processes for new staff. Policies and support systems for sabbaticals and return after career breaks are absent. International tenders are not clearly commented. Enhancing these areas would improve the quality of the recruitment and career development system.

4.7 Gender equality measures

Evaluate the gender equality measures described in self-evaluation. Evaluate the measures in terms of their quality and effectiveness, as well as the potential absence of key measures.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

The institution has the Gender Equality Plan of ČZU (GEP) since 2021 promoting gender equality and equal gender opportunities for all employees and students. The ČZU takes care to ensure equal treatment and to comply with the principle of non-discrimination of men employees, women employees, men students and women students. Feedback obtained from employees shows that the way the University addresses this area is perceived by them as positive. It is worthy to note that the ČZU has built a new kindergarten within the campus. The management shows understanding for parents with dependent children, whereby they have adjusted working hours. They organize the summer camps for children of the ČZU employees.

Problems of various harassment forms were registered at the ČZU during the evaluated period only occasionally. Issues of harassment, bossing and other socially unacceptable forms of conduct, if any, are solved by the ČZU Ethics Committee. Regarding the gender balance in management positions, there are 84 persons engaged in the position of the Rector, Vice-Chancellor, Dean, Academic Senate member, Academic Council member, Quaestor, or member of the Board of directors. Out of this number 14 were women in 2020 against 16 in 2024. It is slightly increasing, but still not in balance. The share of women in full professorship has not changed too much between the years 2018 and 2024 (20,9% and 19,6%), however, the share of women associate professorships increased from 16.4% in 2018 to 25.8% in 2024. It provides the potential for further promotion to full professorships. Basic gender equality policies are in place, but proactive monitoring and impact evaluation are lacking.

Recommendations:

Although much has been done in terms of gender equality in previous period, please implement regular gender audits by the University appointed body. In order to make your recruitment process more inclusive and promote equal opportunities, please introduce the trainings to promote inclusivity and prevent bias in recruitment.

4.8 Mobility of academic and research staff (including sectoral and inter-sectoral mobility)

Evaluate the described mobility of academic and researcher staff. Pay attention to whether the evaluated HEI achieves the set objectives, whether the mobility objectives are appropriately set for the HEI and whether the strategies in place lead to their achievement or help remove existing barriers to mobility.

Rating [1–5]:

3 - Average

Qualitative assessment:

The requirement for PhD students to stay at least one month abroad is beneficial for their education. The funding for these stays is provided by the ERASMUS program. The examples for academic staff members' international mobility still appear random and it is not visible from the data how the single faculties compare with each other. A comparison to the previous evaluation period is missing.

Summary: Mobility of PhD students is well regulated and organized, but the mobility of other staff hardly can be evaluated. A strategy for the whole University is missing.

Recommendations:

The university pays great attention to the acquisition, renewal, and maintenance of expensive equipment. Total infrastructure spending between 2020 and 2024 exceeded 123,000 EUR. Most of the high-value equipment is appropriate for the university's needs, is used efficiently, and contributes significantly to research excellence.

The mobility program for PhD students is already well developed. For the other academic staff, specific programs for the whole University are not obvious and could be developed. Moreover, no selection of strong strategic partners is visible and could be beneficial to streamline efforts and maximize the effect of resources.

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

4.9 Research infrastructure

Evaluate the system described for the acquisition/optimisation of core facilities and other equipment and their renewal. Evaluate the system in terms of its effectiveness and suitability for the HEI. Also consider the system for sharing instruments and equipment, including core facilities and equipment of evaluated units. Use the data in Annex Table 4.9.1 to support your evaluation.

Rating [1–5]:

5 - Outstanding

Qualitative assessment:

Different faculties offer services and analyses in various ways, and the availability of instruments and equipment is managed through tools such as catalogues of instruments/services and virtual organizational units.

Recommendations:

The strategy for acquiring and renewing instruments and equipment works well and should be continued to support research excellence and the successful implementation of results. The systems for sharing expensive instruments vary among faculties but appear to function efficiently. We recommend enhancing their visibility to external clients.

FINANCES

4.10 Budget and structure of financial resources

Evaluate the budget and financial resource structure of the evaluated HEI in terms of its suitability for the HEI, i.e. whether the financial resource structure is appropriate for the size and type of the evaluated HEI. You should also pay attention to the ability of the evaluated HEI to attract prestigious research projects. Use the data in the annexed tables 4.10.1 to 4.10.5 to support your evaluation.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

The total funds from all sources during the period 2020–2024 amounted to 178.447 million EUR, compared to 98.866 million EUR in the period 2014–2018, representing an increase of 80.5%.

As a result, the financial resource portfolio of ČZU has become comparable to that of similar research organisations in EU countries.

When comparing the results to the previous evaluation period, the share of foreign funding increased significantly — 18.412 million EUR as beneficiaries and 10.275 million EUR as co-investigators in 2020–2024, representing an increase of 184% compared to 2014–2018.

Total domestic funding increased by 66% compared to the 2014–2018 period, with the majority coming from public sources. Non-public sources accounted for only EUR 3.03 million EUR (2%) of the total R&D&I funding at ČZU.

Another important trend is a shift in the balance between applied and basic research. In 2014–2018, applied and basic research constituted 56% and 36% of the research funding, respectively. In the 2020–2024 period, their shares changed to 84% for applied research and only 8% for basic research. The share of innovation-related funding remained low at 8%.

The ability of ČZU to attract prestigious research projects has improved.

Recommendations:

When increasing the proportion of applied research, the importance of basic research must not be forgotten. ČZU should maintain this balance, which will also provide a better opportunity to join prestigious EU projects.

4.11 Rules for the use of institutional support for the LCDRO

Evaluate the strategy described and the rules for the use of institutional support for the LCDRO. In your evaluation, consider the effectiveness of the implemented strategy and policies and whether they contribute to the mission and vision of the HEI.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

The ČZU received the LCDRO funds from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports according to the « Methodology 2017+ ». At the beginning of the period, it was based on the category to which the University belongs and on the number of papers published in Q1 and Q2 quartiles of Web of Science based on the Articles Impact Score.

Later on, D1 papers, patents, books, softwares, methodologies, ... were also taken into account.

The ČZU does not define institutional policies and projects supported by LCDRO funds received from the Ministry at the University level, but has chosen to redistribute the funds among the Faculties and the Institute. The distribution is calculated through a system which is mainly based on the number of D1, Q1 and Q2 papers by each Faculty/Institute.

Then, the Faculties and the Institute organize themselves the distribution of their funds according to their own rules.

Different measures are implemented:

- Additional salaries for academics, researchers, technicians ...

- Support for scientific publications
- Co-funding of research projects
- Scholarships for Master and doctoral students
- Fellowships for postdoctoral researchers
- Investment in scientific material and infrastructure
- Support to research groups
- Support to internationalization

The abovementioned measures are efficient, as the ČZU significantly improved and increased its research activities (number of granted national and international project as leader or participant, number of D1, Q1 and Q2 papers, contracts with private companies, patents, softwares ...), its internationalization (research projects, study programmes, conferences, visiting professors, professors of the ČZU invited abroad ...) and its teaching activities (new master, doctoral and lifelong programmes, summer schools ...).

The implemented strategy and policies defined at the Faculty level perfectly contribute to the mission and vision of the ČZU, which aims to be a leading university in the field of life sciences in order to support sustainability, to assume social responsibility and to improve resilience in rural areas as well as cities, and to increase the quality of life of all citizens.

Recommendations:

ČZU is recommended to continue to develop the policy of handling LCDRO funds received from the Ministry at the University level and redistributing it among the Faculties and the Institute.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

4.12 Significant collaborations in R&D

Evaluate listed examples of significant R&D&I collaborations with respect to the effectiveness of the collaborations established, their proportionality and appropriateness to the type of HEI and its mission and vision.

Rating [1–5]:

4 - Very good

Qualitative assessment:

Unfortunately, the listed examples (limited to a total of ten) do not allow for a thorough evaluation of R&D&I collaborations, as they cannot represent all faculties or the various types of collaboration (cooperation with research institutions from 40 countries worldwide is mentioned in the self-evaluation report). Based on the self-evaluation reports of individual faculties, collaboration is primarily based on joint research projects, co-authorship of scientific publications, student and staff exchanges, organization of conferences and workshops, and science popularization activities. International collaborations are well aligned with ČZU's mission and vision.

The cooperation with domestic institutions resulted mainly in scientific publications, patents, utility models, proven and certified methodologies, software, organization of workshops and conferences. It seems to be consistent with the mission of ČZU.

Recommendations:

Overall, since the last evaluation, ČZU has strengthened its international collaboration—among other ways, through participation in global research networks and infrastructures—and the international visibility of its faculties has improved, although it remains limited in some cases. It is recommended that ČZU continues to pursue this policy.

STUDIES

4.13 Doctoral studies

Evaluate the described organisation of doctoral studies. Pay attention to the setup and quality of the processes, as well as their effectiveness through basic statistics, such as drop-out rate or data on the future career of graduates.

Rating [1–5]:

3 - Average

Qualitative assessment:

Doctoral studies are organized in two forms - full-time and combined types of study. The standard length of study is 3 and most often 4 years. The unified Study and Examination Code (SEC) applies to the study at doctoral study programmes (DSP) across the whole University. There are currently altogether accredited 39 doctoral programmes in Czech language, and 29 in English language. The number of the accredited study programmes seems unnecessarily high for a university with 6 faculties.

The information for applying to the doctoral programs can be found on the internet. The doctoral studies are well organized in a sense of clear minimum goals set for each year. During regular annual meetings, the Subject-area Boards evaluates each student and provides recommendation concerning the further study (pass, reproach, termination). If the student can finish all other requirements within the time limit, the defence can occur up to two years after the 4-year time scale, which gives also flexibility. All the students selected for the doctoral programmes need a post in a project or a direct funding from ministry to complete their studies.

The number of students graduated during 2020-2024 is 471 students on average per year. During years 2016-2020, about 1270 students started studying in the doctoral programmes, and about 37 % of the students started were able to finish their studies within the standard time frame. Funding of students based on the ongoing project portfolio likely has an important contribution to the drop-out rate.

Recommendations:

The drop-out rate could be improved. For that, it would be important to have information about 1) at which point of doctoral studies the drop-out typically occurs and 2) what are the main reasons (e.g. insufficient project funding, job offer from outside academia, failed courses/exams or e.g. health problems).

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

4.14 Implementation of recommendations in Module 4

Evaluate how the HEI has reflected the recommendations from the previous evaluation of the IEP, if applicable.

If the HEI has not been evaluated before, the indicator will be marked as N/A – Not Applicable.

Rating [1–5]:

5 - Outstanding

Qualitative assessment:

Overall, ČZU has very well reflected the recommendations from the previous evaluation. There is an obvious success in all categories of evaluation. The organizational structure and setup of the R&D&I management system is harmonized in relation to the size and type of the university and its mission and vision. The project teams (grant groups) at all faculties continuously monitor funding agencies, provide information about funding opportunities, and offer administrative support for both the preparation of grant proposals and the management of ongoing projects. The internal quality control is managed and coordinated by the Vice-Rector for Quality of Educational and Creative Activities through individual committees and individual vice-deans of the faculties, in cooperation with a newly established rectorate workplace.

The measures for sustainability and resilience of R&D&I in terms of their quality and effectiveness are well described. ČZU has developed a system to protecting the intellectual property and copyrights; and offers support to researchers in this respect. In comparison with previous evaluation period the HR structure changed towards a slightly higher representation of women, a higher percentage of young employees, and a marginal increase in foreign employees. The processes for habilitation and appointment to associate and full professorships is transparent, well structured, and merit-based. The system also provides a framework for performance-based career growth and the use of open recruitment practices. Since 2021 ČZU has the Gender Equality Plan, promoting gender equality and equal gender opportunities for all employees and students.

Mobility of PhD students is well regulated and organized, but the mobility of other staff hardly can be evaluated, while for the other academic staff, specific programs for the whole University are not obvious and could be developed. The university has an excellent research infrastructure, also paying great attention to the acquisition, renewal, and maintenance of expensive equipment. It is appropriate for the university's needs, is used efficiently, and contributes significantly to research excellence. The budget and financial resource structure of ČZU are appropriate for the size and type of the university.

Compared to the previous evaluation period both the share of foreign funding, and the total domestic funding have increased significantly. The ability of ČZU to attract prestigious research projects has improved. The Institutional Support Grants for Long-term Conceptual Development of a Research Organisation (LCDRO) have been used efficiently, as the university significantly improved and increased its research activities (e.g. number of granted national and international projects as leader or participant, number of D1, Q1 and Q2 papers, contracts with private companies, patents, and software's), and its internationalization and teaching activities. Since the last evaluation, ČZU has strengthened its international collaboration through participation in global research networks and infrastructures, and improved the international visibility of its faculties.

The organisation of doctoral studies has been well established but needs some harmonization regarding the number of PhD programmes, minimizing the drop-out rate, and handling data on the future career of graduates.

Recommendations:

It is recommended to establish a document that describes the process of decision making which documents the decisions taken and the follow-up procedure for the individuals and the various departments and offices involved.

The ČZU could consider the introduction of junior research groups.

The quality control system of R&D&I environment can be harmonized, taking into account specific needs of each faculty.

The data management can be improved and clear guidelines for accessing various data sets could be established.

The ČZU may develop strategies to improve this situation of hiring international professors. It has also to be considered whether the promotion of younger people to a full professorship can be facilitated.

Mentoring processes for new staff members and support systems for sabbaticals and return after career breaks can be developed.

In terms of gender equality measures, it is recommended to implement regular gender audits and to introduce training for promoting inclusivity and preventing bias in recruitment.

The mobility program for academic staff members could be better developed. Regarding the efficient selection of strong strategic partners and streamline efforts, it is recommended to improve the ČZU's visibility at international level.

The efficient strategy for acquiring and renewing instruments and equipment should be continued to support research excellence and the successful implementation of results.

For a better opportunity to join prestigious EU projects the ČZU should balance proportion of applied and basic research.

It is recommended to continue to optimize the system of handling LCDRO funds at the University-level, and redistributing it among the Faculties and the Institute.

The international visibility of ČZU faculties can be improved, although it is generally at relatively high level.

The organisation of PhD studies can be harmonized regarding optimization of the number of PhD programmes, minimizing the drop-out rate, and handling data on the future career of graduates.

MODULE 4 RATING

MODULE 4 – SUMMARY EVALUATION	
After evaluating each indicator, please provide an overall evaluation of Module 4. Assess the overall state of the research and institutional environment and the quality of the internal processes of the HEI. Consider whether and how the set processes contribute to the fulfilment of the HEI's mission and vision. The aggregate grade is determined in accordance with the rules of the Methodology HEI2025+ as a simple average of the scores for each indicator.	
INDICATOR	RATING [1–5]
4.1 Organisation and management of R&D&I	4 - Very good
4.2 System of support for a quality R&D&I environment and incentive measures for quality science	4 - Very good
4.3 Quality control system for R&D&I environment	4 - Very good
4.4 Sustainability and resilience of R&D&I	4 - Very good
4.5 Structure of human resources	3 - Average
4.6 Academic and Research Careers	5 - Outstanding
4.7 Gender equality measures	4 - Very good
4.8 Mobility of academic and research staff (including sectoral and inter-sectoral mobility)	3 - Average
4.9 Research infrastructure	5 - Outstanding
4.10 Budget and structure of financial resources	4 - Very good
4.11 Rules for the use of institutional support for the LCDRO	4 - Very good
4.12 Important collaborations in R&D&I	4 - Very good
4.13 Doctoral studies	3 - Average
4.14 Implementation of recommendations in Module 4	5 - Outstanding
AVERAGE RATING	4 - Very good
GRADE [A–D]	B
Summary assessment: Overall, ČZU has very well reflected the recommendations from the previous evaluation. There is an obvious success in all categories of evaluation. The point 4.14 highlights all the achievements and therefore, some negative aspects and suggestions for improvement and development are presented in the Recommendations section below.	

Summary recommendations:

The overall quality of the ČZU's visibility has significantly improved when comparing the previous evaluation period; significant improvement has occurred in the development of scientific infrastructure.

Regarding individual categories, the recommendations are as follows.

Organisation and management of R&D&I: Clarify the decision-making system describing and the follow-up procedures for the individuals and the various departments and offices involved.

R&D&I quality management and support system: The tenure track system requires further clarification, also paying attention on junior research groups; in the quality control system of R&D&I environment, specific needs of each faculty could be taken into account.

Personnel policy: It is recommended to hire more international professors, improve the system of promoting younger people, develop mentoring processes for new staff members and support systems for sabbatical leave.

Research infrastructure: Continue successful strategy of developing research infrastructure.

Finances: Increasing the proportion of international projects in research funding must be a priority. For a better opportunity to join prestigious EU projects, it is advisable to balance basic and applied research.

National and international cooperation: It is recommended to strengthen international through participation in global research networks and infrastructures.

Studies: Improve the organisation of PhD studies through optimizing the number of PhD programmes, minimizing the drop-out rate, and handling data on the future career of graduates.

Implementation of recommendations: It is recommended to continue the successful way of recommendations' implementation.

MODULE 5 – STRATEGY AND POLICIES

5.1 Mission and vision of the evaluated institution in R&D&I

Evaluate the described vision and general mission of the university emphasizing R&D&I (in context of its educational function and the educational policy strategy of the state or the relevant ministry for higher education. Compare the defined mission with reality. The evaluation should consider how the mission and vision of the HEI has been fulfilled in the past five-year period and whether the vision for the next five-year period is adequately set and realistically achievable.

Rating [1–5]:

5 - Outstanding

Qualitative assessment:

Mission and vision of the ČZU reflect institutional priorities in research and education with a focus on sustainability and applied innovation. They are given in the document Strategic Plan of Educational, Creative and Other Activities of the Czech University of Life Science Prague for the period from 2021 which is publically available. In this document ČZU academic community identified the strategic objectives and assign to them the appropriate measures for fulfilling the operational objectives with indicators/target values. There are 6 main strategic areas such as high-quality and competent graduates; available and flexible education; effective, very high-quality, international and responsible PhD studies; strategic managed research and development activities; sustainable strategic management et all ČZU levels; and high-quality international sustainable environment for the implementation of ČZU measures. There are also given 26 specific objectives with target values/indicators. It is the mission of ČZU to be as for R&D&I an excellent university in science and research, primarily in its profile areas such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, biological sciences, earth and related environmental sciences, including environmental engineering, and to develop its activities in other areas that form an integral part of ČZU, such as economics and business, informatics, engineering technology and materials, veterinary medicine, social aspects of human life or cyber security, as well as other challenges to which ČZU can contribute through its research and innovation transfers. The university's priority is to strengthen its position among important and reputable universities in European and global research and education area. The actions implemented by ČZU in the monitored period were in line with the National Research, Development and Innovation Policy of the Czech Republic 2021+ and they contributed to the NRDIP 2021+ key areas such as management and funding of the RDI system, quality and international excellence in RDI, cooperation between the research and application spheres using the ČZU innovation potential. The distribution of ČZU's research, development, and innovation (R&D&I) resources across various fields of research and development (FORDs) in the year 2025 is that 35,1% of total share goes to Natural sciences, 21,7% to Engineering and Technology, 1,7% to Medical and Health Science, 25,5% agricultural and veterinary sciences, and 15,9% social sciences. Target R&D&I capacities of HEI for the next five-year period are very similar. ČZU has implemented also the Strategy for internationalization, Plan for gender equality, Rectors Directive on Intellectual Property Administration at ČZU, Procedure for ensuring and internal evaluation of the quality of study programmes at ČZU, Sustainability strategy of the ČZU 2025+, and HR AWARD of the European Commission. Based on the follow-up they are continuously refreshed with the action plans, if necessary.

Recommendations:

It would be more efficient if the University consider defining SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable (or Attainable), Relevant, and Time-bound) objectives in future updates to the mission.

5.2 Research and development objectives

Evaluate the set goals of the HEI in both the area of R&D&I and the development of the HEI as an institution. Consider whether the goals are adequately established in relation to the size and type of the HEI, as well as its mission and vision, and whether they are achievable within the proposed timeframe.

Rating [1–5]:

5 - Outstanding

Qualitative assessment:

The objectives for the 5 next years are ambitious, well aligned and feasible. Focusing on life sciences and socio-economic disciplines, the university aims to achieve research excellence, innovation transfer, and collaboration with industry and public institutions, while supporting entrepreneurship, startups, and international partnerships. Development of young researchers is a priority, with PhD and postdoctoral engagement, mentorship programs, and initiatives in open science, digitalization, ethics, and gender mainstreaming.

The university is very well positioned to enhance scientific output, innovation, and its national and international reputation over the next five years. This is considered excellent.

Recommendations:

One can only recommend that ČZU continues its successful path.

5.3 Institutional instruments and measures for the implementation of the research and development strategy

Evaluate the described institutional and strategic instruments for the fulfilment of the research and development objectives regarding how they will contribute to the fulfilment of these objectives. In your evaluation, also pay attention to the possible absence of key instruments or measures.

Rating [1–5]:

5 - Outstanding

Qualitative assessment:

An ensemble of interconnected measures and policies have been implemented enabling high quality research and development while rewarding excellent science on an individual level as well as on faculty level. The ČZU has established a number of high-level international collaborations within several networks that support the research and development agenda of the university. At the same time ČZU has created an innovative environment to strengthen both the disciplinary international competitiveness and internally weaker competitors to reach a similar level of excellence. Striving to continuously adapt the university to a changing future has resulted in a focus on sustainable development on several levels addressing human potential, the resilience of the institution, as well as an adaptive educational program taking future societal needs into account. A comprehensive code of ethics as well a gender equality plan not only strongly subscribes to basic EU principles but has also won the ČZU the HR Excellence in Research Award from the European Commission.

Recommendations:

An impressive number of activities, measures and policies have been implemented with clearly defined goals and target outcomes. I think this is an outstanding development over the last 5 years. It may now be the time to consolidate and evaluate the different approaches in order to see if goals were reached,

adjustments needed, or if some measured would need to be adapted. Other than that, it is recommended to continue on that level.

5.4 Implementation of recommendations in Module 5

Evaluate how the HEI has reflected the recommendations from the previous evaluation of the IEP, if applicable.

If the HEI has not been evaluated before, the indicator will be marked as N/A – Not Applicable.

Rating [1–5]:

5 - Outstanding

Qualitative assessment:

The ČZU has fully reflected the recommendations from the previous evaluation of the International Evaluation Panel. Over the last 5 years the ČZU has demonstrated an outstanding development. An impressive number of activities, measures and policies have been implemented with clearly defined goals and target outcomes. The goals of the ČZU in both the area of R&D&I and the development of the university as an institution are set in excellent way being adequate in relation to the size and type of the university. These goals are achievable within the proposed timeframe.

Recommendations:

Considering the increasingly intense competition both domestically and internationally, it is very important to continue the successful course so far, constantly developing all strategically important areas.

MODULE 5 RATING

MODULE 5 – SUMMARY EVALUATION

After evaluating each indicator, please provide an overall evaluation of Module 5. Evaluate the overall setting of the HEI's strategic objectives and development plan.

The aggregate grade is determined in accordance with the rules of the Methodology HEI2025+ as a simple average of the scores for each indicator.

INDICATOR	RATING [1–5]
5.1 Mission and vision of the evaluated institution in R&D&I	5 - Outstanding
5.2 Research and development objectives	5 - Outstanding
5.3 Institutional instruments and measures for the implementation of the research and development strategy	5 - Outstanding
5.4 Implementation of recommendations in Module 5	5 - Outstanding
AVERAGE RATING	5 - Outstanding
GRADE [A–D]	A
Summary assessment: Since the previous evaluation period the ČZU has demonstrated an outstanding development in all categories of evaluation. An impressive number of activities, measures and policies have been	

implemented with clearly defined goals and target outcomes. The goals of the ČZU in both the area of R&D&I and the development of the university as an institution are set in excellent way being adequate in relation to the size and type of the university. These goals are achievable within the proposed timeframe.

The ČZU has established a number of high-level international collaborations within several networks that support the research and development agenda of the university. Also, the ČZU has created an innovative environment to strengthen both the disciplinary international competitiveness and internally weaker competitors to reach a similar level of excellence.

Focusing on life sciences and socio-economic disciplines, the ČZU aims to achieve research excellence, innovation transfer, and collaboration with industry and public institutions, while supporting entrepreneurship, startups, and international partnerships. Development of young researchers is a priority, with PhD and postdoctoral engagement, mentorship programs, and initiatives in open science, digitalization, ethics, and gender mainstreaming.

A comprehensive code of ethics as well a gender equality plan strongly subscribes to basic EU principles. This helped winning the ČZU the HR Excellence in Research Award from the European Commission.

Summary recommendations:

It is recommended to continue this successful development level but also consolidating and evaluating the different approaches to see if goals were reached, any adjustments needed, or if some measured would need to be adapted.

SUMMARY RATING IN MODULE 3

MODULE 3 – SUMMARY RATING

After evaluating the individual units, please provide a summary evaluation of social relevance in Module 3 for the HEI as a whole. Please assess the balance of the evaluated units, how they contribute to the mission and vision of the HEI and describe the strengths and weaknesses of the HEI assessed in Module 3.

The summary rating is determined in accordance with the rules of the Methodology HEI2025+ as the average of the grades of the individual units, weighted by their size in terms of FTE staff.

EVALUATED UNIT	Grade [A–D]
Faculty of Economics and Management	B
Faculty of Agrobiology, Food and Natural Resources	B
Faculty of Engineering	B
Faculty of Environmental Sciences	A
Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences	A
Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences	B
Institute of Education and Communication	C
Summary grade	A

Summary quality assessment:

All the faculties of the ČZU made great efforts to implement the IEP recommendations formulated about the 2014-2018 period, and progress during the 2019-2023 period has been remarkable. The ČZU made very significant progress concerning research fund raising, results and activities, and publications notably. The internationalization has developed rapidly, and the academic staff is well recognized and appreciated by the international research community. The research results are transferred into practice and are useful for many stakeholders, policy- and decision-makers, and the whole society. The ČZU has established many relations with all kinds of partners and is active to popularize its activities.

The vision of the ČZU faculties, related to sustainable development and dealing with economic, social, and environmental aspects, is promising for the future.

Scientific recognition of ČZU staff has increased and funding of internationally visible and nationally relevant research projects has been acquired. Most of the faculties are visible in the public as popularization of R&D&I is successful.

The ČZU's faculties successfully conduct applied research with a clear and recognized impact on society, primarily through knowledge transfer to the public sector. The multidisciplinary nature of the faculties' activities, covering a wide spectrum of environmental, economic and societal topics, is seen as a key social benefit.

Among the few weaknesses, one should mention the limited number high-quality scientific articles of Q1/Q2 and D1 categories, and the low participation in European Union research projects, especially the leadership role in them.

Summary recommendation:

Internationalization could be strengthened by covering new geographic areas, joint PhD supervision could be reinforced, as well as the links with EAAE and IAAE. The financial sources for research could even be more diversified, and the number of papers annually published in high-impact journals (Q1, Q2 categories, especially D1 publications), must be increased. All the faculties should develop a strategy for more active application for European research funding programs, e.g. ERC grants and ERA Chairs.

The successful path of increasing scientific recognition, acquisition of project funding and popularization should be pursued. To further increase the international visibility, the hiring of more international staff can be recommended. For a better commercialisation of the University's intellectual properties, the filing of more patents could be fostered or incentivized. For increasing the impact on national policy, more memberships in advisory boards of governmental institutions would be helpful.

In some faculties the internalization should be in focus in the next period where better scientific visibility of the institution is expected. Improving scientific visibility is crucial for academic careers, as it can lead to increased citations, collaborations, and recognition.

The ČZU's faculties are recommended to develop a strategy to enhance its impact on the private sector. This involves promoting contract research with higher revenues, especially with foreign clients.

Most of the faculties need a clear planned strategy to improve and boost the commercialization of R&D&I results.

The faculties are recommended to seek participation in governmental and donor organizations' advisory boards, advise major foundations and similar enterprises to influence policy and raise awareness for the key topics at the decision maker's level.

The development of the smallest faculty (IEC) with the most modest scientific achievements should receive greater support from the university. Integration into the research work of other faculties would be one option.

OVERALL EVALUATION IN MODULES 1 TO 5

OVERALL EVALUATION		
Provide a summary evaluation of the HEI as a whole across all five modules. Justify your evaluation and highlight the main strengths and/or weaknesses of the evaluated HEI. The overall grade is determined according to the rules of the "Methodology VŠ2025+".		
MODULE	MODULE WEIGHT	GRADE [A–D]
MODULE 1 and 2	50 %	B
MODULE 3	30 %	A
MODULE 4	10 %	B
MODULE 5	10 %	A
OVERALL RATING		A – Excellent
Qualitative assessment: Compared to the previous reporting period, the scientific research Viability, Strategy and Policies and Ratings (MODULES 4 & 5) at ČZU have remarkably improved. A particularly clear increase has been shown in Social Relevance of the scientific research carried out in the faculties (MODULE 3).		
Recommendations: It is recommended to continue ČZU's successful development level but also consolidating and evaluating the different approaches to see if goals were reached, any adjustments needed, or if some measured would need to be adapted.		