



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITIES OF THE THIRD AGE, CZECH REPUBLIC

UNIVERSITIES OF THE THIRD AGE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC



Principal issues with which the AU3A CR is concerned:

1. Accreditation and the general legal position of senior education in the Czech republic
2. Co-operation between individual U3A at member universities
3. The economics and management of universities of the third age
4. Inter-generational dialogue; the contribution made by ordinary students to the educational activities of U3A

Statistical Data of UTA in Czech Republic in the year 2009/2010

Name of University	No. of course	No. of students
1 Czech University of Life Sciences Prague	11	402
2 Czech Technical University in Prague	22	238
3 University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice	18	508
4 Masaryk University in Brno	30	1545
5 Mendel University in Brno	9	603
6 University of Ostrava	6	320
7 Silesian University in Opava	35	1094
8 Technical University of Liberec	46	856
9 University of Hradec Kralove	16	683
10 Jan Evangelista Purkyne University in Usti nad Labem	16	640
11 Charles University in Prague	89	4217
12 Palacky University Olomouc	17	863
13 University of Pardubice	1	48
14 Tomas Bata University in Zlin	14	542
15 University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences Brno	4	330
16 University of Economics Prague	36	910
17 Institut of Chemical Technology Prague	4	182
18 Brno University of Technology	21	684
19 University of West Bohemia	27	1216
20 College of Polytechnics Jihlava	8	224
21 Technical University in Ostrava	6	128

The Association of Universities of the Third Age of the Czech Republic (AUTA CR) is a not-for-profit civic organisation affiliating providers of senior education at Czech universities. In the Czech Republic, the title University of the Third Age may be used by institutions engaged in tertiary education with a professional connection to a university with at least one accredited master's study programme.

Public universities in the Czech Republic offer educational programmes for seniors and the 50+ generation – known as the University of the Third Age. Twenty-one universities organise several hundred such programmes every year in a wide range of medical, scientific, humanitarian, technical and economic fields. These studies are lead by experienced professors and lecturers and are of a university standard, though they are adapted to the needs of the senior age category. We consider the active engagement of this section of the population in the university environment to be equally important.

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These programmes generally cover a number of semesters and include lectures, seminars, laboratory and practical exercises, and excursions. No professional qualifications are awarded to those completing these studies, which are intended rather to satisfy the personal interest of those taking part. The aim is not merely to share new knowledge, but also to prepare a high-quality social environment for students – the chance of making contacts and engaging in intergenerational dialogue. The universities involved are also developing a network of regional branches and programmes featuring elements of distance learning (under the title Virtual U3A) for those interested who are unable to commute to university towns due to a lack of time or for health reasons.



The costs of these studies are paid in part by the students themselves in the form of a registration fee. Public funds to the amount of 1.4 million Euros a year (designed in part for a joint project of 21 participating universities organised by the Association of Universities of the Third Age of the Czech Republic) make an important contribution, in addition to support from the individual universities concerned. Education in the form of U3A has a tradition stretching back to 1987 in the Czech Republic. More than twenty thousand senior students were registered in the 2009/2010 academic year.

The AUTA and its individual member universities have extensive contacts with similar institutions abroad. We participate in the work of renowned European organisations affiliating those with an interest in adult education (AIUTA, EFOS) and corresponding Grundtvig programmes (SEN-NET, ADD-LIFE).