



PRESS RELEASE

The University of Economics, Prague, and AXA Czech Republic & Slovakia, have signed a Partnership Agreement

The Rector of the University of Economics, Prague (VŠE), Professor Hana Machková, and Robert Gauci, Chief Executive Officer of AXA Czech Republic & Slovakia, have today signed a Partnership Agreement. The agreement concerns the provision of lectures by AXA specialists at the VSE. These specialists will be meeting with the students on a regular basis. The partnership will also give the students of the school the opportunity to gather valuable experience through student internships at AXA.

Prague, 10 May 2017

“We are delighted to be partners with the largest business university in the Czech Republic. We are very pleased that the successful partnership with the Faculty of Business Administration of the University of Economics, Prague; which we established last year by founding of the Centre for Research and Prevention of Financial Risks; will now blossom into full-scale cooperation with the university as a whole. As part of our partnership with the University of Economics, Prague, we will be holding specialized lectures for the university’s students. We will also sponsor, and guarantee, dissertations and theses and finally we will provide the greatly coveted internships for students. During these internships, the students will gain a realistic view of the life of one of the largest financial institutions in the world,” says Robert Gauci, CEO of AXA CZ/SK.

The cooperation between AXA and the University of Economics, Prague, or more precisely its Faculty of Business Administration, started in the autumn of 2016 with the foundation of the Centre for Research and Prevention of Financial Risks. Its mission is to carry out research into, and raise awareness about, personal financial risks and the methods used to limit this risk in the Czech Republic. The activities of the Centre are based on the practical prowess of AXA, as well as on the theoretical knowledge of the academic staff of the University of Economics, Prague. In addition to the research and awareness initiatives, the Centre also aims to carry out social experiments. AXA’s and the Faculty of Business Administration’s pilot project was to study the financial literacy of its freshman students, particularly the students’ perceptions of risks which they are willing to purchase insurance against, and what coverage they would like to get for their old age.

With today’s signing, AXA becomes a partner of the whole University of Economics, Prague. The Rector of the University of Economics in Prague adds: *“AXA is a leading company in the global insurance market, and stands as one of the largest French enterprises. The goal of the*



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University of Economics in Prague is to cooperate with the top institutions in their respective fields, hence giving its students opportunities to gain the most up to date practical knowledge. What is special about our partnership with AXA, are the research projects which have already been realized at the Faculty of Business Administration. I am glad that the board of AXA has decided to extend its partnership to the University of Economics, Prague as a whole, after its experience with the previous cooperation project. Today, we are becoming partners mainly because AXA wants to find talented students, and future employees, at our school.”

AXA operates in 64 countries all over the world. It employs more than 160 000 people and has over 100 million clients in total. In the Czech Republic, AXA's main fields of focus are: pension, life, property and accident insurance, building savings, and credit card issuance.

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The University of Economics, Prague (Vysoká škola ekonomická v Praze) is the leading university in the field of management and economics in the Czech Republic. The University of Economics, Prague is composed of more than 16,700 students and has six faculties – five in Prague and one in Jindřichův Hradec in South Bohemia. These include: the Faculty of Finance and Accounting, the Faculty of International Relations, the Faculty of Business Administration, the Faculty of Statistics and Informatics and the Faculty of Economics and Public Administration. The faculty based in Jindřichův Hradec is specialized in management. Graduates of the University of Economics, Prague occupy responsible positions in the private as well as in the public sector. Most of them are employed in the sectors of industry and services, trade, marketing, banking, public administration, accounting, audit, tourism and the field of information technology. Many significant Czech and foreign economists have obtained the University's Honoris Causa Title; for example, the Nobel Prize winner Prof. Robert A. Mundell, Prof. Milton Friedman and Prof. Gary S. Becker. More information at <http://www.vse.cz/english>.

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