MEi:CogSci Alumni Newsletter for 2023/24

Dear coxies,

Here's some information for you about what and how have we been doing with our cognitive science program in the last year. Read on.

Study

In winter semester, we hosted 15 mobility students (7 Ljubljana, 8 Vienna).

In June, we held entrance exams for the programme. We had 37 applications from 21 countries. 26 applicants handed in the entrance exam, out of which we accepted 21. Eleven students enrolled in the first year (5 from Slovakia, 1 from Australia, Canada. India, Spain, UK, Russia).

Our alumni family has grown by seven new graduates in 2024 – Elena, František, Hillary, Jaanika, Kutlay, Mishka, and Tiam – congratulations! Check out their master's theses in our Master's thesis archive.
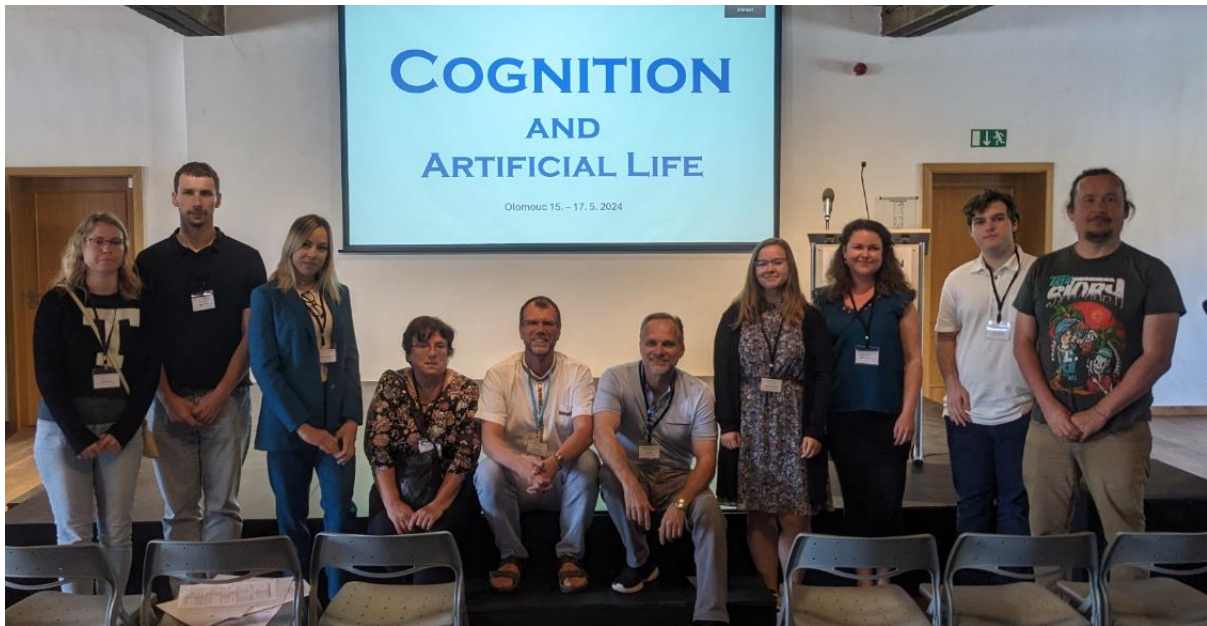
Science

We have been busy working on several research projects, out of which a 1.5 mil euro Horizon Europe **Twinning project [TERAIS](#)** is the most important one. The grant is aiming at transformation of the workplace to a research centre of excellence, which spans management restructuring, research support, people development and internationalization, communication and workplace culture. In terms of research, it focuses on cognitive robotics and artificial neural networks, aiming to contribute to the development of trustworthy and human-friendly robots, teaming up with two strong partners: [Italian Institute of Technology](#) in Genoa and [University of Hamburg](#). This also influences the students of cognitive science program via opportunities to get involved in experimental research in human-robot interaction (lead by our very own alumna Xenia Poslon!).

Our annual **MEi:CogSci conference** took place in Bratislava on June 13-15 and was organized by us with generous help of our students. The conference included an alumni panel in which the alumni from all partner universities share their perspective and post-hoc view on the programme. Bratislava was represented in the panel by Rado Škoviera, Yanchi Tóth and Laura Gschwandtner (thank you all!). The conference was collocated with a **summer school on Trustworthy Human-Robot Interaction [THRISS](#)**.

The annual Czech-Slovak conference **Cognition and artificial life (KUZ 2024)** took place in Olomouc this year in June. Ten people from our department attended, including three undergraduate students. The conference proceedings are freely available.

One big news: **Prof. Igor Farkaš** – the founder and guarantor of the Mei:CogSci Bratislava study program has received the **Scientist of the year 2023 Award** in the category "**Personality of international collaboration**" for significant scientific results in the field of artificial intelligence obtained in collaboration with foreign partners, and for the development of an international interdisciplinary master's programme in cognitive science. Congratulations, Igor, well deserved!

Social life

Our annual **cognitive drink** is coming soon (FB event here). Please mark in your calendars **Wednesday September 25 from 17:00 at Karloveska klubovna**. We'd love to see you there! We have some T-shirts left from this year's conference (see the picture on the right) for sale (5 EUR/piece, the proceeds go the fund we use for Christmas event refreshments etc). We'll bring a few pieces to Karloveska klubovna - if you'd like to have one, please email Kika (kristina.rebrova@gmail.com) with preferred size (S, M, L) and colour (orange, blue, purple). Payments cash only.

The traditional annual **MEi:CogSci Christmas event** with the students and teachers from the partner universities is planned on **Friday December 6**. You are welcome to join us for a drink, if you like. We will send a reminder/confirmation when the date is closer.

Besides this, the students themselves self-organize and sneak in several smaller cognitive drinks throughout the year, so follow us on Facebook.

We have also been active in the Slovak Cognitive Science Society (SSKV); check out our activities here.

Thank you for reading this newsletter and for being part of our vibrant alumni community!

Useful links

- [MEi:CogSci students and alumni Facebook page](#)
- Conferences [Cognition and Artificial Life](#)
- [Master's theses archive](#)
- [Slovak Cognitive Science Society](#)