

MEi:CogSci Alumni Newsletter for 2025/26



Dear MEi:CogSci alumni,

Believe it or not, the **cognitive science study program in Bratislava is celebrating its 20th birthday!** In September 20 years ago, the program opened its gates to our very first cohort: Tomáš Gál, Peter Jankovič, Tomáš Princ, Dana Retová, Vlado Bahna and Jarmila Šilliková. Since then, many things have changed but the program is still alive and thriving. Read on about what happened during the last year.

International consortium

After more than 20 years of service, the program director of the international MEi:CogSci consortium prof. Markus Peschl has been replaced by [prof. Moritz Grosse-Wentrup](#). Also, Elisabeth Zimmermann, the long-term international project coordinator has been replaced by Adrian Fleisch. We thank Markus and Lisl for their excellent work and wish the new leaders all the best in their effort to continue improving the program.



Left: Adrian, Igor and Markus's farewell at MEi:CogSci conference 2026. **Right:** Lisl Zimmerman with Igor at MEi:CogSci conference 2024 in Bratislava.



From left at the front table: the new program director Moritz Grosse-Wentrup, Igor Farkaš, Budapest coordinator Flóra Fülöp, Martin Takáč, the new project coordinator Adrian Fleisch.

Study

In the academic year 2025/26 we had 9 students in the first year (6 from Slovakia, 1 Czech Republic, 1 India, 1 Kazakhstan) and 8 in the second year (6 from Slovakia, 1 Australia, 1 Canada). We hosted 9 mobility students from the partner universities (6 Vienna, 2 Ljubljana, 1 Budapest).

In May we held entrance exams for the program with 77 applications from 24 countries (the record so far!). 58 applicants handed in the entrance exam, out of whom we accepted 30. The exact number of students who will actually enroll is not known yet at this moment.

We gained 12 new graduates in 2026 – Alexandra Dyalee, Alica Bednaričová, Dávid Bartoš, Ján Hučko, Jelena Epifanić, Laura Jirásková, Marvin Steven Marz, Miroslav Cibula, Nico Henschel, Peter Juriga, Sarah Marie Wingert, Silvia Adámyová – congratulations and welcome to the alumni family! Check out their master's theses in our [Master's thesis archive](#).



Science

Our annual [MEi:CogSci conference](#) took place in Vienna on June 19-21, 2026, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the whole MEi:CogSci consortium and the cognitive science program in Vienna, with strong participation from Bratislava (see the photo). The [conference proceedings](#) are available online. The next year's conference should take place in Budapest on June 17-19, 2027.



Bratislava group getting crazy at MEi:CogSci conference 2026 in Vienna.

This year's annual Czech-Slovak conference [Cognition and Artificial Life \(KUŽ/CAL 2026\)](#) took place at Třešť castle in the Czech Republic. The main organizer was the newly revived [Czech Cognitive Science Society](#) (and they have done very well). The conference languages were English, Czech and Slovak. Our department was (dominantly) represented by 15 people including 7 undergraduates and 4 PhD students. The [conference proceedings](#) are available online.



Part of our representation at KUŽ/CAL 2026 with the Unitree G1 robot.

Most of our research takes place in the context of [Cognition and Neural Computation](#) (CNC) research group. At the level of our department, we continued in developing the cognitive robotics lab. Starting from this year, our family of robots has been enriched by two Unitree G1 robots that, besides research experiments, have already successfully played a role in several popularisation activities such as FMFI Open doors day, summer camp Matfyzáček, and many others.

Check out also [our research](#) and current or recent projects. Part of our CNC research (related to cognitive robotics and human-robot interaction) was triggered by [TERAIS](#) project that ended last September and received an excellent final review from the European Commission.

Community

Our annual **cognitive drink** with newly arrived 1st-year students, 2nd year students, incoming mobility students, teachers and alumni is coming soon! Please mark in your calendars **Tuesday September 29 from 18:30**. The venue is still in negotiation (most probably [Karloveska Klubovna](#)) – we will send you a reminder a few days before the event, but book the date, we'd love to see you there!

The traditional annual **MEi:CogSci Christmas event** with the students and teachers from the partner universities is planned for **Friday December 11**. You are welcome to join us for a drink in the evening, 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) mainly enabling our students to participate in international conferences, summer schools and workshops, by providing financial support. In 2025 we supported 10 students with a total amount of 1600 eur, in 2026 it was so far 25 students with a total amount of 1990 eur. The full list of our activities is [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](#)
- Archive of [Cognition and Artificial Life](#) and [MEi:CogSci](#) conferences
- [Master's theses archive](#)
- [Slovak Cognitive Science Society](#)