

Czech Arctic Research “Josef Svoboda Station” in Svalbard

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The “Josef Svoboda Station” (JS Station) is run by the logistics team of the Czech Arctic Scientific Infrastructure of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice (USB). The JS Station consists of the Julius Payer House in Longyearbyen, the Nostoc Field Base in Petunia Bay, the Clione science ship and a building of the Faculty of Science, USB. The building houses a scientific department called Centre for Polar Ecology (CPE) and the logistics team of the JS Station. Under the leadership of CPE, interdisciplinary international ecological research and polar ecology courses are taking place at the JS Station, preparing Czech academic experts to solve global problems related to the impacts of climate change in the Arctic and the Czech Republic. At the same time, CPE employees provide higher education in the fields of polar ecology and, with the support of EU projects, Norway Grants, national and JU resources, create conditions for the integration of “Polar Ecology” into the higher education system of the Czech Republic. At the same time, the JS Station promotes Czechia in the Arctic countries (it is an unofficial Embassy of the Czech Republic in the High Arctic) and helps to develop scientific and cultural cooperation. CPE’s scientific and educational activities create the conditions for Czechia’s greater involvement in the Arctic.