

Code of Conduct of the Institute of Thermomechanics of the CAS

1 Preamble

The mission of the Institute of Thermomechanics of the CAS, which consists of conducting research and disseminating its results, has extraordinary societal significance. To fulfill this mission, the satisfaction of employees and the trust and support of the public are essential. The Institute strives to prevent the occurrence of undesirable behavior that could jeopardize the satisfaction, safety, and motivation of its personnel or damage its credibility. Therefore, employees are required to familiarize themselves with and adhere to the following regulations:

- a) The **Code of Ethics for Researchers of the Czech Academy of Sciences**, which came into effect on April 16, 2024, and any subsequent versions thereof.
- b) The **Code of Conduct of the Czech Academy of Sciences ("Code of Conduct")**, which was issued by Directive No. 6/2024 of the Academy Council of the CAS on May 28, 2024, and any subsequent versions thereof.

2 The distinction between the Code of Ethics for Researchers of the Czech Academy of Sciences and the Code of Conduct of the Czech Academy of Sciences

The Code of Ethics for Researchers of the Czech Academy of Sciences:

Focuses on issues related to scientific and research activities carried out at the institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences, such as principles of publication, maintaining research objectivity and principles of scientific work, principles for reviewing and expert activities, etc. It primarily concerns research staff.

The Code of Conduct of the Czech Academy of Sciences:

Focuses on issues of a fair and safe working environment and applies to all individuals working at the institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences, regardless of their employment relationship, job classification, merits, experience, or academic degrees, as well as to students and guests. The Code of Conduct supplements, clarifies, and supports the Code of Ethics for Researchers of the Czech Academy of Sciences, particularly in its provisions relating to general moral principles, principles of conduct among colleagues, or the conduct of authorities. The Code of Conduct also explains concepts such as respect, workplace violence, and gender-based violence.

Both codes apply to different affected groups of individuals, as described in the following table.

	Code of Ethics for Researchers	Code of Conduct
Researchers and students at the CAS's institutes	✓	✓
Other employees of the institutes of the CAS (administration, technical, and support professions)		✓
Other persons working at the institutes of the CAS who are not employed by the institutes of the CAS (university students, secondary school students, guests)	✓	✓

The codes apply to the following activity types:

	Code of Ethics for Researchers	Code of Conduct
Research related activities	✓	✓
Education (mentoring/supervision of students)	✓	✓
Activities not related to research and education		✓

In the event of a violation of the principles of conduct, different procedures will be applied depending on which code the violation relates to:

Code Whose Provisions Were Violated	Recommended Procedure
Code of Ethics for Researchers of the Czech Academy of Sciences	The matter is addressed by a superior at the appropriate level within the Institute of Thermomechanics of the CAS or by the Committee for Scientific Work Ethics of the CAS.
Code of Conduct of the Czech Academy of Sciences	The matter is addressed by a superior at the appropriate level within the Institute of Thermomechanics of the CAS, or, if established, by the Ombudsperson of the Institute of Thermomechanics of the CAS or the Ombudsperson of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

3 Effective date

This internal regulation becomes effective on April 1, 2025.

In Prague on March 27, 2025

Prof. Miroslav Chomát
Director

Attachments

Code of Ethics for Researchers of the Czech Academy of Sciences, version dated April 16, 2024 (available at <https://www.avcr.cz/en/about-us/legal-regulations/code-of-ethics-for-researchers-of-the-czech-academy-of-sciences/>)

Code of Conduct of the Czech Academy of Sciences, version dated May 28, 2024 (available on the intranet of the Czech Academy of Sciences at https://interni.avcr.cz/Dokumenty/Interni_normy/)

Code of Ethics for Scientific Research of the Czech Academy of Sciences

Motto: "To search for knowledge, that, sir, is an extremely active life. When you say science you also mean by it effort, patience, persistence, devotion, honesty – nothing but the requirements of an active life – and of a moral life."

(T. G. Masaryk in Karel Čapek: *Masaryk on Thought and Life: Conversations with Karel Čapek*)

I. General Principles

A CAS employee¹:

- a. abides in his/her work by the basic moral principles and values of the academic environment, which include primarily:
 - I. freedom of research;
 - II. fairness;
 - III. equal opportunities;
 - IV. responsibility;
 - V. honesty;
 - VI. diligence;
 - VII. trust;
 - VIII. respect for others.
- b. does not allow a conflict of interest to arise from his/her position at a CAS institute and related activities and his/her private interests; s/he also honours the Academy of Sciences by not jeopardising its operations through his/her other activities;
- c. conducts his/her research with full professional and personal commitment proportionate to the amount of his/her contractual workload. The total of his/her contractual workload will usually not exceed a 1.5 equivalent of standard full-time appointment;
- d. requires his/her colleagues to act in accordance with these principles;
- e. does not defend or conceal conduct that is in conflict with the principles set forth in this Code, not even through reference to any requirement of obedience and loyalty;
- f. considers science and research an integral part of culture and a source of innovation and defends them against being challenged;
- g. stands up to unethical and inappropriate use of scientific knowledge;
- h. broadens and deepens his/her knowledge and strives to improve his/her professional competencies;
- i. maintains a critical attitude toward his/her own scientific findings and results as well as to results of his/her colleagues and is open to discussion and dispassionate argument;
- j. defends the freedom of scientific thought, expression, exchanges of opinion and information;

¹ In this Code, CAS is understood to mean the Czech Academy of Sciences and its institutes. Terms referring to persons or positions in this Code are used in a gender-neutral sense.

- k. rejects the use of unscientific approaches and politically or socially prejudiced (e.g. racist, religious, nationalistic) perspectives in science;
- l. observes the principles of neutrality and resists ideological and political pressures as well as the interests of any pressure groups;
- m. recognises and personally helps uphold the principles of reliable, trustworthy scientific practice within the scientific community and rejects all scientific dishonesty and violations of the principles specified in this Code;
- n. does not hesitate to report to the appropriate authorities any ethical breaches in research activities if s/he becomes aware of them; in case s/he has exhausted all available options for resolving such an issue through the Academy of Sciences' internal mechanisms under Chapter VI, s/he may make public such transgressions without necessarily breaking his/her loyalty to the Czech Academy of Sciences;
- o. does not waste material and energy resources, strives to reduce the climate and environmental footprint of his/her activities;
- p. strives to strengthen the institutional resilience of the Czech Academy of Sciences and does not consciously create space for unwanted influence of a foreign power.

II.

Principles of Scientific Work

A CAS employee:

- a. focuses his/her research on pushing the frontiers of scientific knowledge for the benefit of society;
- b. carries out his/her research in such a way that society, the environment and cultural values are not endangered;
- c. performs animal experiments with respect for living creatures;
- d. when obtaining, selecting and assessing data, s/he observes the general principles (Article I) while taking into account the specifics of his/her discipline. Conduct that is incompatible with the principles of ethical behaviour in science includes, but is not limited to, fraud, forgery, plagiarism, falsification, misrepresentation, deliberate deception and theft at any stage of the scientific research process from its conception to the publication of its results;
- e. is responsible for the precision and objectivity of his/her research or research s/he directly coordinates, and recognises the limits of research methods used;
- f. when publishing findings and results concerning a particular problem, s/he is responsible for their completeness and verifiability and interprets them without distortion;
- g. after publication, s/he preserves the primary data and the documentation of all substantial results for the period of time that is customary in a given discipline, unless other obligations or regulations preclude this;
- h. is responsible for the purposeful and efficient use of research funds and does not duplicate research previously carried out elsewhere, unless replication is needed for verifying, supplementing or comparing the results;
- i. communicates those results of his/her research that are not considered confidential to the professional community and provides them in a judicious manner to the general public while keeping in mind the current state of scientific knowledge;

- j. does not disparage scientific practices and respects different scientific opinions as well as the plurality of scientific disciplines;
- k. respects intellectual property, does not remove it from the institute where it was created or devalue it in any way.

III.

Principles for Disseminating Scientific Knowledge and Results

A CAS employee:

- a. should be named as the author or co-author of a scientific publication if s/he has contributed in a substantial way to its creation, e.g., in the design of the studies and experiments and their realisation, in the analysis, interpretation, theoretical treatment or modelling of the data or in writing the publication, and if co-authorship is agreed to by him/her; a managerial position at an institute does not automatically constitute any right to co-authorship;
- b. as an editor or lead author of joint publications, s/he observes the rights of co-authors (does not change the text without their knowledge, takes every care necessary that the joint publication is published without needless delays, notifies authors of partial studies if their text will not be included in a publication, informs co-authors about the modes of joint publication);
- c. puts his/her research in the context of the current state of knowledge concerning a given topic and refers to previously published works while following the rules of a given field. When citing other authors' findings and results, s/he makes a clear reference to the relevant source;
- d. cites also important works that do not correspond to his/her own results and conclusions;
- e. publishes errata or other corrections, retracts a publication or takes other appropriate steps if s/he later finds a substantial error in his/her published data or if s/he is alerted to an error;
- f. avoids partitioning his/her results and findings by publishing them in multiple publications with the intention to increase artificially the number of his/her publications;
- g. does not intentionally publish in ethically dubious publishing platforms;
- h. publishes with the aim of transferring his/her results and knowledge to the professional community, not merely for the purpose of reporting scientific output;
- i. institute affiliation can only be used for publications that are at least partially the result of scientific work conducted at the relevant institute (in other cases, the institute can be indicated in the form of the "present address" of an author who is currently employed at the institute but obtained his/her results at another institution);
- j. does not obtain citations of his/her own works through participating in an ad-hoc alliance of multiple authors aimed at securing citations of each other's works.

IV.

Principles Regulating Relations among Colleagues

A CAS employee:

- a. accepts his/her research colleagues based on an objective evaluation of their intellectual, ethical and personal characteristics;
- b. if leading a research team, s/he ensures fairness and openness in mutual communication, avoids unjustifiably autocratic management methods and prevents dishonest behaviour set off by, for example, performance requirements and professional competitiveness;
- c. assesses his/her colleagues according to the results of their work and treats them fairly, not requiring from them work that is not their responsibility, and does not place demands on them that are unreasonable given their abilities and capacity;
- d. through discussion as well as personal example, s/he imparts his/her knowledge, skills and principles of good conduct in science to his/her colleagues;
- e. does not discriminate against other persons, in particular does not harbour prejudice based on race, ethnic origin, nationality, language, ideology, religious belief, worldview, age, gender, sexual orientation, physical handicap, social origin or material property;
- f. does not engage in or support acts that harm the psychological or physical integrity of other persons (in particular bullying, sexual harassment or other forms of aggression);
- g. does not abuse his/her senior position or professional authority by engaging in manipulative behaviour, intimidation or extortion, but develops independent, critical thinking and a responsible approach to work and respects the right to free expression of opinions about research;
- h. supports the professional advancement of subordinate researchers, their scientific and publication activities and international contacts and lists them among the authors of a publication if they made a creative contribution to it;
- i. ensures that there are consequences for any unethical behaviour by his/her colleagues;
- j. supports positive attitudes towards people with specific needs and supports improvements of the working environment such that these people can be involved in the academic community.

V.

Principles for Assessment, Evaluation, Peer Reviewing and Expert Activities

A CAS employee:

- a. personally performs assessment or other evaluative work s/he has been assigned;
- b. protects the intellectual property of the authors of manuscripts, project proposals and reports under evaluation; does not use any data from the materials in question for any purpose other than preparation of an expert opinion and does not disclose them to third parties;

- c. does not intentionally prolong the evaluation task so as to gain personal advantage or to benefit a third party;
- d. refuses to prepare an expert opinion, the conclusions of which could be influenced by his/her personal interest, or explicitly reveals this fact in advance; avoids any other potential conflicts of interest;
- e. prepares expert opinions responsibly and only within his/her area of expertise, resisting any potential external pressures which might affect the outcome of the evaluation;
- f. observes objective criteria in evaluating and peer-reviewing procedures, adheres to the contractor's rules and requires the same from any other participants in the procedure.

VI.

Procedure for Dealing with Breaches of Principles of Proper Conduct in Scientific Research Work

In the event of a breach of this Code's principles, the following procedure will be observed:

- a. the matter is discussed at the CAS institute at the level of its organisational structure (for this purpose, ad hoc committees may be established at the relevant level) or in the CAS Scientific Integrity Committee;
- b. a hearing is conducted in cooperation with all parties involved, and care is taken to ensure highest possible degree of privacy;
- c. the conclusions of the process must be communicated to all parties involved and must contain a proposal for remedial action if a breach of scientific ethics is found. Article 65 of the CAS Statutes or the Labour Code may be applied in cases that warrant such an approach.

Notes:

It is recommended that CAS institutes supplement the Code of Ethics with measures specific to different scientific fields.

When preparing the Code of Ethics for Scientific Research of the Czech Academy of Sciences, the following materials were used:

- *Research Ethics Framework, resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 1005 of 17 August 2005;*
- *European Charter for Researchers, 2005/251/EC, Official Journal of the European Union of 22 March 2005;*

- *Good Manners in Science; A Set of Principles and Guidelines, Polish Academy of Sciences, Committee for Ethics in Science, Third (amended) edition, Warsaw 2001;*
 - *Rules of Good Scientific Practice, adopted by the Senate of the Max Planck Society on 24 November 2000;*
 - *Memorandum on Scientific Integrity, All European Academies, Amsterdam 2003 (On standards for Scientific Research and a National Committee for Scientific Integrity, KNAW, NWO, VSNU, 2001);*
 - *Singapore Statement on Research Integrity, 2010;*
 - *The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, 2011;*
 - *Montreal Statement on Research Integrity in Cross-Boundary Research Collaborations, 2013;*
 - *The Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA), 2022*
 - *Guidance on Authorship in Scientific Publications for Researchers of the J. Heyrovský Institute of Physical Chemistry of the CAS;*
 - *Codes of Ethics of Charles University, GA CR and the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of the CAS.*
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VII. Effect

This Code of Ethics comes into effect on 16 April 2024

Handled by:
CAS Head Office

Ref. no.:
AVCR 3409/2024 SPO

URL:
http://interni.avcr.cz/Dokumenty/Interni_normy/

Internal Regulations

Czech Academy of Sciences

Instruction of the Academy Council of the Czech Academy of Sciences No. 6

dated 28 May 2024,

**on the basis of which the Code
of Conduct of the Czech Academy
of Sciences is issued**

Instruction distributed on 10 June 2024

Section 1

Basic Provisions

This Instruction is issued for the purpose of creating and cultivating a fair and safe working environment at the Czech Academy of Sciences and at CAS institutes.

Section 2

The Code of Conduct of the Czech Academy of Sciences was approved by resolution at the 35th session of the Academy Council of the CAS of 30 April 2024. It explains concepts such as respect, workplace violence and gender-based violence and declares the principles of desirable behaviour.

Section 3

The Code of Conduct of the Czech Academy of Sciences supplements and specifies, and thereby supports, the Code of Ethics for Scientific Research of the Czech Academy of Sciences, approved by resolution at the 63rd session of the Academy Assembly of 16 April 2024.

Section 4

The Code of Conduct of the Czech Academy of Sciences is attached to this Instruction.

Section 5

Effect

This Instruction comes into effect on 1 July 2024.

prof. RNDr. Eva Zažímalová, CSc., dr. h. c.
President of the CAS

Annex:

Code of Conduct of the Czech Academy of Sciences

Code of Conduct of the Czech Academy of Sciences

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Preamble

The mission of the Czech Academy of Sciences is to carry out research, an intrinsic part of which is the constant effort to extend the boundaries of human knowledge and contribute to finding solutions to the pressing challenges faced by society. This is a mission of extraordinary significance for all of society and its fulfilment depends crucially on the trust and support of the public. This is just one of the reasons why the Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS) works to uphold its good reputation and to ensure adherence to ethical principles in its work and in the work of its departments.

The **Code of Conduct of the Czech Academy of Sciences** (hereinafter ‘the Code of Conduct’ or ‘the Code’) is intended to prevent the occurrence of unwanted behaviour (which is defined in the sections below) that could jeopardise the sense of wellbeing, safety, and motivation of the people who work within the environment of the Czech Academy of Sciences or could damage the credibility of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

The Czech Academy of Sciences is a wide scientific and research community that consists of both the Czech Academy of Sciences as an organisational body of the state and the fifty-four institutes of the CAS that are legally autonomous institutions (hereinafter referred to as ‘CAS institutes’). This Code of Conduct applies to all natural persons who work within the community of the Czech Academy of Sciences, regardless of their employment status, job title (hereinafter referred to as ‘employees’), accomplishments, experience, or academic rank, including students and external collaborators.¹

The Code of Conduct is primarily focused on issues that relate to ensuring the existence of a *safe working environment*. This Code applies to every part of the Czech Academy of Sciences and to all persons working at the Czech Academy of Sciences regardless of their position, while the **Code of Ethics for Scientific Research Activities at the Czech Academy of Sciences** is primarily focused on ethical issues associated with the scientific research activities carried out at the Czech Academy of Sciences (hereinafter ‘the Code of Ethics’). The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to help create and cultivate a *fair and safe working environment* for everyone without distinction, one that is based on mutual respect, professional accountability, and integrity, so that the Czech Academy of Sciences can best fulfil its mission and obligations to society. The Code of Conduct therefore supplements, further specifies, and thereby supports the content of the Code of Ethics, in particular its provisions relating to general moral rules and principles, the treatment of colleagues, and the conduct of persons in positions of authority. The Code of Conduct also provides explanations of key concepts such as *respect*, *violence in the workplace*, and *gender-based violence*.

1. Respect

Respect (also personal respect) refers here to consideration for the rights, needs, and feelings of others. This differs from respect in the sense of showing others respect on the grounds of their abilities, qualities, or achievements, a respect that can be earned or lost. In the sense in which it is understood in this Code of Conduct, respect is something that every individual deserves to be shown, regardless of their title or position.

Employees must treat each other with respect under all circumstances. Mutual respect is of crucial importance for creating a just, open, and dignified environment and for preventing the occurrence of unwanted behaviour such as discrimination, harassment, prejudice, bullying, violence, and abuse of position.

¹ Unless indicated otherwise, for the purpose of this Code of Conduct the ‘Czech Academy of Sciences’ refers to this community.

Respectful conduct includes:

- equal treatment of others regardless of their age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, race, or beliefs;
- treating others with dignity under all circumstances;
- making an effort to understand others – showing empathy, a willingness to listen, and consideration of others' needs;
- open and fair communication, honesty, and constructive criticism.

Primary examples of disrespectful conduct include:

- conduct that demeans or embarrasses another person on the basis of their characteristics or beliefs;
- unfair treatment on the basis of characteristics such as age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, race, beliefs, social or academic status, or position in the workplace hierarchy;
- making prejudiced, unfair, or unreasonable comments about another person.

2. Non-discrimination

Discrimination refers to the unequal treatment of people, particularly on the grounds of sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, skin colour, language, age, disability, religion, political or other opinions, social background, membership of a nationality or ethnic minority, or some other status. Discrimination also refers to a situation in which a person is unable to exercise his or her rights to the same degree as others.

Direct discrimination occurs when one person is for any of the aforementioned reasons treated in a less favourable way than another person. *Indirect discrimination* occurs when an ostensibly neutral provision, criterion, or practice puts one person at a disadvantage compared to others. It involves any conduct where an entity (e.g. an employer) acts within the bounds of the law, but discrimination occurs as a consequence of that action.

Discrimination creates an atmosphere in which those who are affected by it may not feel free and may feel unwelcome or at risk. The Czech Academy of Sciences rejects all forms of discrimination and is working to build an environment in which all persons, irrespective of their differences, have equal access to opportunities and enjoy the same treatment.

All employees are expected in particular to avoid engaging in discriminatory conduct or the use of gender, cultural, and other stereotypes and they are expected to take action against any instances of such behaviour.

3. Violence, harassment, and bullying

The Czech Academy of Sciences opposes all forms of violence, harassment, and bullying in the workplace. Inappropriate and unacceptable forms of behaviour include but are not limited to:

- *stalking* – following a person or repeatedly sending them harassing messages;

- *physical violence* – kicking, pushing, hitting, or restricting a person’s movement;
- *psychological violence* – name-calling, insults, humiliation, ridicule, interrupting a person, deliberately excluding someone from communication;
- *economic violence* – preventing a person from having access to grants or to funding for work travel, for example, in contrast to their colleagues, or denying a person equipment, office space, or support from an assistant;
- *institutionalised violence* – trivialising, tolerating, or supporting violence against individuals on the part of the management of an institution and people in senior positions;
- *cyber violence* – sending or sharing intimidating or sexually explicit emails and other virtual content.

Bullying refers to deliberate, systematic, and recurring psychological abuse. It can be damaging both to individuals and to the entire collective. Where there is bullying in a workplace environment, employees are less committed to their work, spend less time at work, and the quality of their work declines. The result is decreased work productivity, increased employee frustration and turnover, and damage to the reputation of the institution.

The following types of behaviour are examples of bullying:

- *bossing* – the bullying of employees by superiors, which is a long-term and systematic form of pressure that can include defamation, lies, blackmail, the withholding of information, the falsification of documents, the refusal to cooperate, harassment, and inappropriate behaviour, including sexually oriented behaviour;
- *staffing* – the bullying of superiors by subordinates for the purpose of causing harm, the forms of which are the same as in the case of bossing;
- *mobbing* – the bullying of a person by their colleagues, which can take the form, for instance, of ridicule, disproportionate criticism, or purposely excluding a colleague from the group;
- *defamation* – defamation and damage to a person’s reputation caused, for example, by the spread of rumours for the purpose of obtaining a promotion at the expense of the person whose reputation was harmed (i.e. *chairing*);
- *silent treatment* – a specific type of bullying that is characterised by ignoring and excluding a person.

4. Gender-based violence

The Czech Academy of Sciences does not tolerate any form of *gender-based violence*, which means any kind of physical, sexual, psychological, economic, or other violence that targets women, men, and non-binary individuals on the grounds of their gender identity.² Gender-based violence includes inappropriate and unacceptable conduct ranging from less serious forms of harassment to very serious forms of sexual violence. It can assume many forms and can occur in either the physical environment or online.

² This definition is based on international legal documents such as the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, Strategy for the Equality of Women and Men 2021–2030).

Within the frame of this Code of Conduct gender-based violence refers mainly to the following forms of behaviour:³

- *gender-based harassment* – degrading comments aimed at demeaning the abilities of a person on the grounds of their being a woman, being a man, or being a person with a different gender identity;
- *sexual harassment* – sexually oriented remarks in reference to a person's appearance or unwanted touching;
- *sexual violence* – pressure for sexual activity or rape.

Gender-based violence can be connected to an institution's hierarchical structure. Hierarchy and the power inequalities it gives rise to can be abused on the grounds of gender difference or of shared gender or on the grounds of other characteristics such as age, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, family or living situation, care responsibilities, social class, or health status. Fear of potential repercussions and retaliation may lead to the non-reporting of cases of gender-based violence. Given its awareness of the potential for the abuse of power inequalities, the Czech Academy of Sciences declares that it is necessary to apply a trust-based approach to victims and whistleblowers and to refrain from assigning them with any blame.

Gender-based violence impacts the victims but it also affects bystanders. Both victims and bystanders may feel socially excluded, unsafe, or uncomfortable. Gender-based violence has serious effects on the mental health and work performance of those who experience it and of those who are exposed to it as bystanders. The institution as a whole can be damaged as a result and it can see a loss of talent and potential when people leave the workplace or are unable to fully pursue their creative work because of gender-based violence.

5. Integrity, accountability, and fairness

Where there is an awareness of the need for equal access to opportunities, space for individuals to fully apply their abilities and pursue their personal ambitions to the benefit of everyone, and confidence in the fairness with which individuals are assessed, employees are more satisfied and more motivated, and this improves the quality and productivity of work. Employees must act responsibly in how they manage material and energy resources in the course of their work.

In performing their work duties, employees will:

- protect and uphold the justified interests of their workplace;
- protect sensitive information in their workplace and prevent the abuse of such information;
- protect intellectual property and sensitive information connected with such property;
- be guided by objective facts and not personal preferences in the course of decision-making on work matters;
- support a cooperative environment and protect the transparency of any internal competition in the workplace;

³ These forms of gender-based violence were defined through prevalence research carried out in the European UniSAFE project: <https://unisafe-gbv.eu/the-project/gender-based-violence-unisafes-definition/>.

- endeavour to limit the climatic and environmental footprint of their activities.

6. Transparency and conflicts of interest

The Czech Academy of Sciences expects its employees to exercise personal accountability in matters of transparency and conflicts of interest. To ensure accountability it is expected that employees:

- will actively communicate information that is important and essential to workplace activities and will not deliberately withhold information;
- will not manipulate information for their own personal benefit;
- will not circumvent internal processes in the workplace in order to pursue their own interests;
- will not abuse their professional or academic position;
- will ensure that support (financial, professional, in terms of patronage, or otherwise) is not given to questionable or unchecked external entities and activities.

7. The special responsibility of people in senior positions

People who are in senior positions should understand their position as a service to the institution and not as a source of privilege. This service involves responsibility for subordinate colleagues, personal integrity in decision-making, and fairness and objectivity in conflict resolution and in the assessment of subordinate employees.

People in senior positions are expected to refrain from the following types of conduct:

- abuse of their position to obtain undue advantages for themselves or others, in particular through favouritism or nepotism, i.e. a situation where a person is appointed to a position on the basis of a family relationship;
- the obstruction of the professional and career growth of a subordinate employee;
- the creation and maintenance of power networks in order to be able to retain one's position or other advantages not on the grounds of ability but through relationships of power.

8. Summary

The Czech Academy of Sciences is committed to creating a *fair and safe working environment* for all. This starts with eliminating the taboos around and the trivialisation of such issues as *harassment*, *bullying*, and *gender-based violence*. Special importance is then ascribed to the behaviour of persons in senior positions and an emphasis is placed on preventing the emergence of both direct and indirect *discrimination*, which prevents employees from making full use of their creative potential. Sensitivity, trust, consideration for the needs, experiences, and feelings of victims, cultivating a sense of belonging, open communication, and *respect* for the uniqueness of each individual person are key principles for creating a safe environment and for solving problems. A *fair and safe working environment* is established through the everyday aspects of life, such as the ways in which an institution's culture is shaped, how much space is given to alternative views, the ways employees are able to become involved

in decision-making on issues relating to their work, and whether there is transparent and fair remuneration and a transparent definition of roles, responsibilities, and decision-making processes.

With reference to the above the Czech Academy of Sciences will not tolerate forms of conduct such as aggression, violence, coercion, intimidation, bullying, discrimination, sexual or gender-based harassment, or any other form of *unwanted behaviour* that constitutes a violation of this Code. The Czech Academy of Sciences as a whole will make every effort to put an end to any unwanted conduct that they become aware of and to appropriately protect whistleblowers and all persons affected by such conduct (bystanders, victims, and the accused). Employees are expected to ensure that they and others around them comply with the Code. Deliberately participating in a violation of the Code or overlooking a blatant violation of the Code or unwanted behaviour (as defined above) can also be considered action that contravenes the spirit and purpose of the Code. Reporting violations of the Code other than in good faith will not be tolerated.

9. Final provisions

This Code was approved by the Academy Council of the Czech Academy of Sciences on 30 April 2024 and comes into effect on 1 July 2024.