

# International Research Co-operation

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UK Science and Innovation Network (SIN)

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- **UK Science and Innovation Network**
- Examples of our engagement
- How to identify and build new partnerships





Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

# UK Science and Innovation

## What is the Science and Innovation Network (SIN)?

SIN is a network of specialist officers based overseas whose primary purpose is to **build international partnerships, facilitate greater collaboration and promote the UK's strength in science on the global stage.**

With 102 officers active in 47 countries and territories, the network is a truly global and powerful resource.

## Why is SIN important?

We do our best science when we work together on an international scale. SIN builds the partnerships and networks to facilitate this work.

International collaboration is essential to

- a) tackling global science and innovation challenges and
- b) creating excellence in research, business and global growth.





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## How does SIN work?

SIN officers build strong networks in their host country across academia, policy-makers and industry. They focus on the core priorities set out below, seeking out and encouraging opportunities for collaboration and co-operation.

The network align both the UK and other countries' S&I priorities through horizon scanning, and through the analysis and reporting of international S&I policies.

***SIN...your doorway to UK Science and Innovation***





# SIN Priorities

Our network is primarily focused on the following four objectives:



**Future S&I Relationship**



**Sustainable world,  
cleantech and COP26**



**Research Culture**



**The Industrial Strategy  
and Grand Challenges**

- **AI and data**
- **Ageing society**
- **Clean growth**
- **Future mobility**



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# Prof. Richard Catlow in Prague, bilateral meeting at Czech Academy of Sciences, 17 January 2018



## Wednesday, 17 January 2018

- 12:30-13:45 Lunch with Alice Valkárová, Chair of the Czech Science Foundation and Petr Očko, Chair of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic in Café Imperial, Na Poříčí 1072/15
- 14:00-15:00 Meeting at Charles university (Three Vice-rectors: professor Jan Škrha, Professor Lenka Rovná and professor Jan Konvalinka; Head of International Office Dr. Lenka Škrábalová and her colleague Lenka Dostálková)
- 15:15-15:30 TV science interview of Professor Richard Catlow with Daniel Stach for public Czech TV Science News
- 15:30-16:00 Science Interview of Professor Richard Catlow - with Dr. Martin Rychlík from Lidové noviny, Czech daily (an equivalent of the Times)
- 16:00-17:00 Meeting at the Czech Academy of Sciences (Dr Hana Sychrová, Board member responsible for foreign co-operation; Prof. Jan Řídký - Vice-President of the Academia; Dr. Antonín Fejfar - Chair of the Scientific Board; Dr. Tatána Petrasová - Member of the Academic Board, Karolína Rachačová - Director of Division of International Cooperation and Jana Lokajíková from the same team)
- 18:30-20:30 Dinner at the Residence of the British Ambassador with Czech science contacts (Professor Jan Řídký and Dr. Antonín Fejfar from the Academy of Sciences and Vice-Rector Jan Škrha from Charles University, Professor Blanka Říhová, Vice-chair of the Czech Learned society; Prof. František Štěpánek - Senior researcher at the Institute of Chemical Technology and Imperial College; Ms. Denise Waddingham - Director of the British Council; Mr. Nick Archer - HMA Designate to the Czech Republic, and Dr. Otakar Fojt - Regional Science and Innovation Manager).



# Times Higher Education – Central European Summit, 24-26 April 2018



<https://thesummit2018.upol.cz/#c18579>



# Carlos Moedas visits Prague and gives a talk on Horizon Europe, 13 June 2018



<http://www.avcr.cz/cs/pro-media/aktuality/Eurokomisar-Moedas-navstivil-laserovou-mocnost-ELI-Beamlines/>  
<http://www.avcr.cz/cs/pro-media/aktuality/Prioritou-programu-Horizon-Europe-je-otevrenost/>

# HMA Nick Archer meeting Minister Robert Plaga, 24 July 2018





# SoS Greg Clark opened Czech nano days in London, 23 October 2018



[https://www.mzv.cz/london/en/trade\\_and\\_economy/czech\\_nano\\_day\\_2018\\_in\\_london.html](https://www.mzv.cz/london/en/trade_and_economy/czech_nano_day_2018_in_london.html)



## Chris Skidmore - Science Minister – Prague visit 20 February 2019







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# How to identify and build new partnerships?

- Formal MoU approaches do not work, it is important to engage directly with researchers
- Think about unique selling points of your organisation or research group – what can you offer to be interesting?
- The UK has open research environment – approach experts, write emails, be proactive – it is easy to start a conversation
- Use conferences to discuss student exchanges, potential lab cooperation, opportunities for data and knowledge sharing
- Invite UKI researchers to visit your labs – seeing is believing
- Identify small funding and mobility grants, these enable you to build first steps for larger research activities