

ICP – Active Role in Family Relocation

Michaela Frydrychová

International contact point | VSB | Czechia

Marek Siwy

International contact point | VSB | Czechia







ICP – Active Role in Family Relocation

Supporting Researchers and their Families at VSB-Technical University of Ostrava

Michaela Frydrychová & Marek Siwy







Why Family Matters in Internationalisation

- International researchers bring prestige and innovation
- Family well-being plays a key role in researchers' decision to stay or leave
- Real integration happens outside the office







About VSB-Technical University of Ostrava

- 170+ years of academic tradition
- Almost 12,000 students, 1,500+ International
- One of the largest campuses in the Czech Republic
- Strong cooperation with city and region

VSB TECHNICAL

| UNIVERSITY
OF OSTRAVA















The International Contact Point (ICP)

- Welcome office, meeting space, consultation centre
- Personal support and guidance for students, researchers, and their

families

Connecting internationals with local institutions and the community







Family Relocation Services

- Visa and residence procedures for family reunification
- Support with schools and kindergartens
- Healthcare orientation (for adults and children)
- Insurance guidance
- Housing support
- Basic career guidance for partners (limited capacities)







Visa and Residence Procedures

- Purpose of Family Reunification, Family Purposes or other
- Basic information and checklist for visa and residence applications
- Arriving with a Family or Family Joining at a Later Stage
- Key documents required: marriage certificate, criminal records, often requiring apostille or superlegalization
- Challenges due to overloaded embassies causing delays in processing
- Lengthy visa processes, combined with coordination across university departments
 for staff onboarding
- After Arrival: Visa Check, Appointment Scheduling, and Assistance with Migration
 Office







Support with Schools and Kindergartens

- Private vs. Public Schools
- Collaboration with Poruba District: Coordination with local authorities to place children in schools and kindergartens.
- Registration Support: Accompaniment during the registration process to ensure smooth enrollment.







Healthcare Orientation

- A challenging topic
- General healthcare advice and local resources

Insurance guidance

Guidance on health insurance registration







Housing

- Support through Real Estate Agent
- Self-search with ICP Support
- Explaining and assisting with understanding rental contracts.
- Guidance on Czech cultural practices related to renting







Cooperation Beyond the Campus

Collaboration with city authorities, the Poruba district, expat
 centres, labour office, healthcare facilities

Standard vs. Tailored Support

- Standard: guidance, forms, appointments, document checks
- Tailored: accompaniment, case-by-case solutions, emergency support







Challenges and Risks

- Bureaucratic complexity
- Cultural and language barriers
- Limited pediatric doctors in Ostrava
- Limited healthcare services in Ostrava
- Schooling for non-Czech speaking kids
- Time and emotional load for ICP staff







Stories

Real stories from our daily work

Successes, challenges, and lessons learned









Future Outlook

- Building a family-friendly university
- Expanding local partnerships: doctors, educational facilities
- Incorporating feedback for continuous improvement







Support for families = support for research

Marek Siwy marek.siwy@vsb.cz +420 597 323 718 Michaela Frydrychová michaela.frydrychova@vsb.cz +420 597 324 222



