In mid-2006 a team from Charles University in Prague launched preparatory work on the Albertov Minicampus project. The project involves three of the University’s faculties – the Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, and the First Faculty of Medicine. Negotiations between representatives of these faculties, coordinated by the Rectorate, culminated in April 2008 with the release of a draft impact study proposing the addition of two new buildings to the University’s Albertov complex – a Biocentre and a Centre for the Study of Global Change. The project will link together different research centres, serving as a basis for Master’s and PhD studies. At the core of this complex there will be large shared laboratories and a number of smaller laboratories equipped with state-of-the-art technologies.

The impact study also addresses the affected sites, including existing buildings; it contains a heritage protection and zoning plan assessment, plans for traffic management and utility networks, and proposals for the volumes of both buildings based on the space requirements of the respective faculties. The planned development and the impact study for the Minicampus received a favourable assessment from the Department of Culture, Heritage and Tourism at Prague’s City Authority.

The Biocentre will be designed as:
1. a Centre of Excellence in the field of natural and medical sciences;
2. a Core Facility (a centre managing the University’s most sophisticated equipment and technologies), providing access to state-of-the-art advanced analytical technologies and serving all stakeholders (not only the founding faculties).

Research at the Biocentre will be focused on the study of living systems from the perspectives of human health, new biotechnologies and biodiversity protection.

The planned floor area is 34,000 m²; the enclosed space will be 139,000 m³. The rough cost estimate is CZK 2.2 bn (with construction costs of CZK 1.5 bn). The estimated duration of the project is 60 months (of which construction work will take 24 months).

The Centre for the Study of Global Change will be based on existing teams at the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics working in a range of environmental, biological, climatological, geochemical, geobiological, geophysical and geographical fields. The main focus of the Centre will be on the study of global change in relevant palaeological, palaeographical, evolutionary and historical contexts.

The planned floor area of the premises is 27,000 m²; the enclosed space will be 104,000 m³. The rough cost estimate is CZK 1.3 bn (construction cost CZK 1.1 bn). The estimated duration of the project is 54 months (of which construction work will take 24 months).

The impact study addresses the possibilities of the site with a view to the feasibility of the plan to develop the two University research centres (including sufficient reserve capacity). Due to the complexity of the foundation systems (caused by groundwater levels at the site), various options are currently being examined with respect to the number of underground floor levels in both buildings and the links between the Albertov complex and adjacent transport infrastructure routes.
Bio a Globcentrum