



Thursday, July 3, 2025

Palacký University Olomouc  
Faculty of Science  
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Czech Republic

Prof. Martin Kubala  
Dean of Faculty of Science  
Palacký University Olomouc

**Re: Letter of Recommendation for Associate Professor Jiri Panek's Promotion to Full Professor**

Dear Professor Kubala,

It is with enthusiasm that I write in support of Associate Professor Jiri Panek's application for promotion to Full Professor at the Faculty of Science, Palacký University Olomouc. Having followed his career and collaborated with him on several important projects, including the formation of the Participatory Mapping Working Group of the International Cartographic Society and the collaboration on a successful grant application to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, I am confident in stating that Dr. Panek represents the qualities of an internationally recognized scholar, an inspiring educator, and a leader in academic service and outreach.

Dr. Panek's academic trajectory is marked by a solid combination of interdisciplinary breadth and scientific depth. Since earning his PhD in International Development Studies at Palacký University in 2015, he has established himself as a leading figure in geography, geoinformatics, and participatory mapping. His research is published in relevant and significant peer-reviewed journals such as *Cities*, *GeoHeritage*, *Environmental and Sustainability Indicators*, and *European Planning Studies*; this reflects both the quality and importance of his scholarship.

His work is distinguished by its innovative integration of geoinformatics with applied development studies, urban research, and cartography. Notably, Dr. Panek's leadership in participatory mapping, well represented by the platform *PocitoveMapy.cz*, has had demonstrable impact across four continents, and has supported over 200 projects in more than ten countries. This outreach bridges academic research and societal needs, highlighting his commitment to socially engaged science and positioning the relevance of post-secondary educational institutions in the minds of the public.

Dr. Panek's research is international in scope. He has completed extended research stays in India, South Africa, and the United States, including as a Fulbright-Masaryk Visiting Scholar at North Carolina State University, and has led or participated in collaborative projects with partners in Norway, Canada, and across Europe. These experiences have not only broadened his scientific perspective but have also enhanced the global visibility of Palacký University.



His ability to secure competitive grant funding is excellent. As principal investigator and co-investigator, he has successfully led Czech Science Foundation (GAČR) and Technology Agency (TAČR) projects, as well as multiple Erasmus+ partnerships. His project leadership is characterized by strategic vision, effective coordination of interdisciplinary teams, and a consistent record of high-quality outputs.

Dr. Panek has demonstrated a clear dedication to teaching and student mentorship at all levels. Since joining the Department of Development and Environmental Studies in 2011, he has progressed through the academic ranks and now serves as the programme guarantor for the BSc in Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development. His teaching portfolio is further enriched by his annual intensive GIS course at the University Centre of the Westfjords in Iceland, which is highly regarded by students for its rigor and practical relevance.

His supervision record is outstanding; he has guided 55 undergraduate and master's theses and one PhD dissertation to completion, with several more in progress. His mentorship extends internationally, with current supervision of graduate students at the University of Pretoria, the University Centre of the Westfjords, and the Technical University of Vienna. This type of commitment to student development is a hallmark of academic leadership.

Dr. Panek's service to the academic community is extensive. He is an active member of the Czech Geographical Society and currently chairs the new Participatory Mapping Working Group of the International Cartographic Association. His contributions to academic boards and editorial activities further reflect his standing in the field.

In all areas of academic life, research, teaching, service, and outreach, Dr. Jiri Panek has not only met but consistently exceeds the standards expected of a Full Professor. His international reputation, innovative research, dedication to student success, and leadership in applied and scholarly communities make him an outstanding candidate for promotion.

I offer my strong recommendation for his appointment as Full Professor at Palacký University Olomouc. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Jon Corbett PhD

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