Doctoral Thesis Themes 2025/2026
Study programme: **REGIONAL AND PUBLIC ECONOMICS**

Supervisor: Prof. Petr Hájek, Ph.D. (petr.hajek@upce.cz)
1. Modelling Dynamics of Regional Innovation Systems
The aim of the dissertation is to evaluate current approaches to modelling dynamics in regional innovation systems, to define the elements of regional innovation systems and its environment, to propose a suitable model, to simulate the development of regional innovation systems and assess the impact of public policies, and to compare the simulation results with the actual situation.

2. Impact of Interregional Cooperation on Regional Economic Development
The aim of the dissertation is to summarize current knowledge on the determinants of regional economic development with a focus on spillover effects, to propose ways of measuring interregional cooperation, to obtain relevant spatial data and to assess the impact of the proposed measures on the economic development of selected regions).

3. Towards Business Model Innovation for a Circular Economy
The aim of the dissertation is to summarize existing business models in the area of circular economy, to choose a suitable application domain, to propose a framework for evaluating the innovation of business models in this domain, to evaluate its impact on business performance, and to discuss implications for the development of circular economy.

Supervisor: Prof. Jan Stejskal, Ph.D. (jan.stejskal@upce.cz)
1. Regional Innovation Systems in Terms of Sustainability and Resilience
Regional innovation systems form a basic platform for the implementation of innovation processes in a defined space (usually a region), when applying the triple-helix approach. These systems have already been established in a number of regions and are supported by public policies, including financial support. The question of the effectiveness (sustainability and resilience) will be a research problem in the future. This requirement is gaining importance especially in the European area. Therefore, Ph.D. student should analyze the determinants and aspects influencing (or forming) regional innovation systems, analyze their importance for the innovation system and evaluate how they contribute to efficiency and sustainability.

Applicants can propose their own themes of dissertation theses. Such themes will be accepted upon agreement of a supervisor and advisory board of a particular study programme.