



**ŠKODA**  
SIMPLY CLEVER

# PRESS RELEASE

Page 1 of 3

## ŠKODA AUTO signs MoU to establish non-profit educational institute '42 Prague'

- › From summer 2022, the institute will be preparing up to 450 up-and-coming programmers for the jobs of the future
- › Strengthening the Czech Republic as an internationally recognised IT location
- › Unique training concept promotes lifelong learning and social skills

**Mladá Boleslav, 11 November 2021** – In collaboration with other partners, ŠKODA AUTO is supporting the establishment of a non-profit programming institute in Prague. ŠKODA AUTO Board Member for People & Culture, Maren Gräf, and Christian Schenk, Board Member for Finance and IT, signed a letter of intent along with Sophie Viger, CEO of 'École 42'. The unique teaching concept does not rely on professors or a fixed schedule of lectures but on practice-oriented learning and the 'principle of gamification and peer learning'.

Christian Schenk, Board Member for Finance and IT explains, "With the establishment of 42 Prague, ŠKODA AUTO is actively pursuing its transformation from a traditional car manufacturer to a software-oriented company. We are stepping up the pace of digitalisation and, with the non-profit educational institute 42 Prague, we are creating the ideal prerequisites for first-class training of top-motivated IT specialists."

Maren Gräf, ŠKODA AUTO Board Member for People & Culture, adds, "Comprehensive training in IT is one of the most important competencies for the success of the digital transformation. 42 Prague will offer practical, in-depth training that will enable us to develop highly qualified junior staff in the field of software. At the same time, as one of the largest private-sector employers in the country, we are committed to further strengthening the Czech Republic as an international high-tech location."

After "42 Wolfsburg" which was founded in May 2021, "42 Prague" will become the next branch member of the educational network of programmers "École 42", which will be associated with the Volkswagen Group.. The Czech IT training centre is scheduled to open as early as May 2022. Up to 450 future programmers will be trained there free of charge as they prepare for new careers and professional roles. Based on peer-to-peer feedback and gamification, the most important software programming languages will be taught practically, with an additional focus on continuous learning and strengthening social skills.

The École 42 network was founded in Paris in 2013 and has established itself worldwide as an authority in IT education. Around 12,000 students are now learning within the system at 35 locations in 22 countries. The schools train some of the finest IT professionals in the world, and 98 per cent of graduates receive an attractive job offer even before they graduate.

ŠKODA AUTO will be running the non-profit educational institute 42 Prague as founder and sponsor and with the support of numerous partners from the technology and education sectors. Students will be able to study without tuition fees and do not need a traditional school certificate or university degree. After passing a demanding online aptitude test, talent and motivation will be assessed during a four-week practical trial period and the most promising applicants will be



**ŠKODA**  
SIMPLY CLEVER

# PRESS RELEASE

Page 2 of 3

selected. The three- to five-year training also includes two internships within a flexible schedule, for example at ŠKODA AUTO.

The application process and enrolment are set to begin in May 2022, with the first semester starting in September 2022. The Prague campus will be open 24/7 and will be equipped with high-tech equipment to provide students with the best possible learning environment. The Head of the ŠKODA Academy, Alois Kauer, and the Head of ŠKODA IT, Klaus Blüm, are responsible for setting up the institute; they will be working with a cross-divisional project team and ŠKODA University to get the new software institute off the ground.

## Further information:

Tomáš Kotera  
Head of Corporate and  
Internal Communications  
T +420 326 811 773  
[tomas.kotera@skoda-auto.cz](mailto:tomas.kotera@skoda-auto.cz)

Kamila Biddle  
Spokesperson for Production, HR and Environment  
T +420 730 862 599  
[kamila.biddle@skoda-auto.cz](mailto:kamila.biddle@skoda-auto.cz)

## Media images:



### ŠKODA AUTO signs MoU to establish '42 Prague' non-profit programming institute

From left to right: Klaus Blüm, Head of Information Technology at ŠKODA AUTO, Maren Gräf, ŠKODA AUTO Board Member for People and Culture, Christian Schenk, ŠKODA AUTO Board Member for Finance and IT, Barbara Sichler, Head of Software Engineering at ŠKODA AUTO and Alois Kauer, Head of the ŠKODA Academy.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO

### Logo of "42 Prague"

Official logo of the non-profit programming institute  
"42 Prague"

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO





**ŠKODA**  
SIMPLY CLEVER

# PRESS RELEASE

Page 3 of 3

## ŠKODA AUTO

- › is successfully steering through the new decade with the NEXT LEVEL – ŠKODA STRATEGY 2030.
- › aims to be one of the five best-selling brands in Europe by 2030 with an attractive line-up in the entry-level segments and additional e-models.
- › is emerging as the leading European brand in India, Russia and North Africa.
- › currently offers its customers ten passenger-car series: the FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA and SUPERB as well as the KAMIQ, KAROQ, KODIAQ, ENYAQ iV and KUSHAQ.
- › delivered over one million vehicles to customers around the world in 2020.
- › has been a member of the Volkswagen Group for 30 years. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world.
- › independently manufactures and develops not only vehicles but also components such as engines and transmissions in association with the Group.
- › operates at three sites in the Czech Republic; manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia and India primarily through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine with a local partner.
- › employs more than 43,000 people globally and is active in over 100 markets.