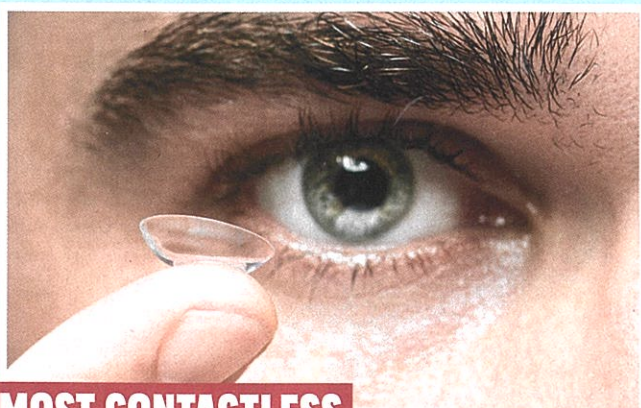


"SHARE YOUR SUPERLATIVE" WINNERS

For the whole of last school year, we were travelling the English-speaking world and searching for local superlatives. Finally, we stopped in Czechia to explore our own superlative nation. We also asked you to come up with more superlatives. Thank you for all your submissions! We learnt of things the country can be proud of, such as the unmatched quantity of libraries, as well as some less praiseworthy records, such as the quantity of beer Czechs consume. Here are some of our favourites; the authors will get small gifts from Bridge Publishing House.



MOST CONTACTLESS

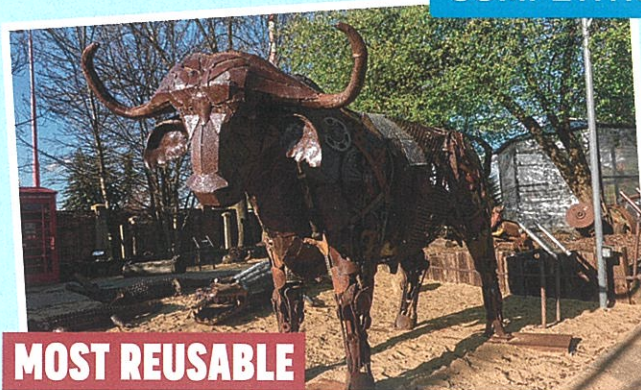
While many people associate contact lenses with recent innovations, it was the Czech chemist Otto Wichterle who invented the first soft contact lenses in the 1950s. He even made the first prototypes using a children's building kit and a bicycle dynamo! His invention revolutionised eye care and is used by millions around the world today.

Eliška Nesládková

MOST OUTWARD-LOOKING

With more than 400 lookout towers, the Czech Republic is the number one country for lookout towers per capita in the world. The tradition of building towers on the tops of hills from which to enjoy views of the landscape has been going strong for about 200 years, and our lookout towers are among the most popular hiking destinations for tourists. Sometimes you have to pay to enter, but many of them are free and open all day.

Kateřina Zrzavá



MOST REUSABLE

Almost all people love animals, but what about animals that are not alive? Located in Staré Město u Uherského Hradiště is Kovožoo, which is a zoo that houses steel animals. These animals are made of steel that was collected by the company Kovosteel and that would otherwise be trashed. The zoo shows that even things that seem useless can be reused and repurposed.

Jan Horák

MOST UNITED

As a Czech citizen, over the years I have noticed that the biggest way we differ is our unity. It feels like we're all one, especially when it comes to big things on the internet, such as our legendary internet memes, sports and events, things like Kazma's games and cultural jokes that only a Czech person would understand. Somehow, the whole republic gets involved! I think it shows how great it can be to be "small" – how it can connect people and make us feel like this is really our home.

Valerie Koutníková



MOST ATHEISTIC

Czechia is one of the most atheistic states, right behind China and Japan, with over 31% of people saying they have no religion. Many celebrate Christian holidays like Easter, Christmas, etc., but they don't care about the reason for these holidays. Christmas is seen as a time when the family is together rather than as a celebration of the birth of Jesus, and tradition takes priority over religious stuff. A lot of people go to churches, but only to admire their beauty. They don't pray to God.

Karolína Kučerová

The texts have been shortened and edited for publication.