

# Evaluation of the Research and Professional Activity of the Institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS) for the period 2010–2014

## Final Report on the Evaluation of the Institute

**Name of the Institute: Institute for Contemporary History of the CAS, v. v. i.**

**Fields, in which the Institute registered its teams:**

History and archaeology

Observer representing the Academy Council of the CAS: Pavel Baran

Observer representing the Institute: Jiří Kocian

**Commission No. 11: History and archaeology**

Chair: Marie-Elizabeth Ducreux

Date(s) of the visit of the Institute: October 23, 2015

Programme of the visit of the Institute: see attached Minutes from the visit

Evaluated research teams:

*No. 1 - Global conflicts and its consequences; No. 2 - Forming of socialist man: society, ideology, culture, everyday life; No. 3 - Society and regime; No. 4 - Late- and post-socialism; No. 5 - History of sciences and humanities*

## **A. Evaluation of the Institute as a whole**

### **1. Introduction**

The Institute of Contemporary History is the main research centre for contemporary history in the Czech Republic. It was founded in 1990 by historians coming back from emigration and others from the dissidence and the so-called “grey-zone”, as a place for studying recent history, from the Second World War until the pivotal year 1989, and now even later. In the last two decades, it has undergone reorganisations and a number of conceptual changes, parallels to the general evolution of the field. The Institute of Contemporary History addresses subjects of prime importance for the understanding of the recent historical processes in Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic as well as in Europe. Besides issues from the field of Contemporary History and Current History, a special department, whose status however is currently provisory, is dealing with the History of Sciences.

To-day the institute includes 5 main teams, which are conceived more as directions for research than closed units. These 5 teams in turn encompass 4 departments (the Department of the Nazi Occupation and Building of Socialism, the Department of Real Socialism, the Department of Late-/Post-Socialism and the Centre for the History of Sciences and Humanities), and 8 centres and working groups (the Oral History Centre, the Centre for Studies of the Cold War and Its Consequences, the Centre for Minorities Studies, the History of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia group, the Czech Society 1938-1948 group, the Society and Regime 1948-1949 group, the History of Parliamentarianism group and the group for Contemporary Environmental History.

The Institute gathers a little more than 50 members (number converted into full time equivalents, the real number is larger). It has two subsidiaries outside of the main Institute building and a branch of the Institute in Brno. The Institute employs 3 foreign post-doc fellows in solving research grants, who are paid from grant funding (1 from Italy and 1 from Serbia, and 1 from Slovakia), and would like to employ more post-docs, but are financially limited.

-Sum of the FTE technical workers (AT 31 December 2015): 4,50, of administrative workers: 6,50.

The Institute maintains its own library and two important archives (for instance 1968 archives), it owns a publishing house for publishing and distributing books and edits 1 scientific journal (*Soudobé dějiny*, in Czech and in English).

The Institute of Contemporary History is performing in both of its scientific components, contemporary history as well as history of sciences: More than 40 books and monographs on important topics of contemporary history and an impressive amount of books and articles on the History of Sciences were published between 2010 and 2014.

Most of the evaluated publication outputs of the Institute of Contemporary History have obtained excellent or remarkable ranking in the Evaluation Phase 1.

### **2. Strengths and Opportunities**

- Acuteness and topicality of the researched themes and programmes;
- International visibility;
- Significant involvement in the conceptual development of the field, thus attractiveness for younger researchers;

- Stimulating organisation of the Institute, based on fluidity with interconnected scientific objects;
- Efficient directorial management;
- Ability to innovate, variety of approaches, methods, models, and assumptions;
- Good integration into the international scientific community dealing with contemporary and current history: About 50% of the articles published in foreign journals during the evaluated four-year period; 10 joint projects with external and foreign partners, EU projects (above all projects HERA and Horizon 2020);
- 6 international conferences organised, invitations of researchers in foreign research centres;
- Highly qualified researchers dealing with the History of Sciences and Humanities;
- English edition of the scientific journal of the Institute;
- Lecturing at the Czech universities and individual tutoring of students;
- Direct participation in education of university students, on the basis of two joint research units with the Charles University (the Institute of International Studies of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and the Centre of Oral History and Contemporary History at the Faculty of Humanities.
- 1 PhD Programme at the Silesian University in Opava and the University of Ustí nad Labem
- A broad involvement in popularisation activities and in the public discourse about important political and societal issues related to current history (including exhibitions of photographs and other items, production of computer games, TV programmes and films, participation in the ESF Project “Idea of University”, etc.).

### **3. Weaknesses and Threats**

- The financial structure: operating subsidy -thus research and above all PhD students' employment- depends on the amount of grant funding per year.
- In spite of the attractiveness of the teams and the themes, there is a crucial lack of resources for developing further the scientific activities of the present Institute.
- Competing in some issues with the Masaryk Institute and Archives of the CAS: the relationships of the two teams should be better clarified.
- As consequence of the overlapping research issues in these Institutes as well as of the short-time funding of the running projects: potential or real volatility of the researchers.
- The present temporary status of the Centre for History of Sciences and Humanities.

### **4. Recommendations**

- To maintain or even improve the good international reputation and visibility of the Institute above the 50 % of articles already published in foreign scientific journals with impact;
- To continue with employing post-doctoral younger researchers, from abroad and from the Czech Republic;

-To continue in the participation and co-organisation in larger European projects, to try to organise and house some of them.

-To solve the problem arising with the current interim and provisory status of the Centre for the History of Sciences and Humanities.

-To clarify the relationship with the Masaryk Institute and Archives of the CAS.

## 5. Detailed evaluations

### *Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition*

-The Institute of Contemporary History focuses on comprehensive research in History of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>th</sup> centuries and in history of sciences and humanities from a wide range of entry points and issues. It is the only institute of the CAS focusing on historical understanding of the recent past, and it plays an essential role in developing this field in the Czech Republic. It prefers non-descriptive approaches and addresses Current History by several methods, including oral history, non-directive interviews, social history of the all-day life, etc. It has about 50 researchers, some of them are involved in several research groups and some are also researchers at the Masaryk Institute and Archives of the CAS). Its 5 teams, 4 departments and 8 centres cover a wide range of topics, putting stress on societal processes and system changes and on their long-time effects, from Second World War (for a few themes also from First World War), Cold War and the Communist period to Late-Socialism and Post-Socialism. Such orientation is in touch with general trends in Europe and worldwide, where similar Institutes of Current History were first created after World War II and more generally from the 1960's, but after 1989 in the former socialist countries in East-Central Europe. Thus the Prague Institute finds its place in this large network and is internationally well acknowledged. Its researchers are invited worldwide for lecturing or semester stays and they are involved in international projects.

-Overall quality of publications from the results of the Phase 1: 1) quality outputs by journal: 1 in the 1<sup>st</sup> top quartile, 2 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> top quartile by AIS of journals; 5 in journals without AIS.

-Total number of outputs 670, Number of evaluated outputs 57; **17** outputs in Quality Group 1 (world-leading quality), **23** in Group 2 (internationally excellent), 12 in Group 3 (Quality recognised internationally), 1 in Group 4, none in Group 5; outputs for bibliometry 8.

### *Declaration on the involvement of students in research*

-Direct participation in students' formation: two joint research units with the Charles University (the Institute of International Studies of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and the Centre of Oral History and Contemporary History at the Faculty of Humanities).

-1 PhD Programme at the Silesian University in Opava and the University of Ustí nad Labem

-12 supervisors and 2 co-supervisors of PhD theses, 6 doctoral theses defended;

-Number of memberships in the field councils of doctoral studies oscillating between 7 to 13 in the period 2010-2014 (average: 9);

-Number of professors and associate professors from the institute collaborating with higher education institutions: oscillating between 20 and 24 from in the period 2010-2014 (average: 22);

*Declaration on societal relevance*

- Teaching and lecturing at 8 different faculties of 5 universities in the Czech Republic;
- Supervision of BA, MA and PhD theses: 13 supervisors and 5 co-supervisors of BA theses (90 defended theses); 17 supervisors and 5 co-supervisors of MA theses (130 defended theses); 12 supervisors and 2 co-supervisors of PhD theses, 6 doctoral dissertations were defended);
- Expertise and cooperation provided to state administrations, local governments and to the Government and the Parliament of the Czech Republic;
- Production of a series of educational computer simulations (NAKI programme), "Czechoslovakia 38-89" with a multimedia encyclopaedia, all destined for secondary students;
- TV programmes Historie.cz and others;
- Author contributions to several important exhibitions;
- 2 monographs awarded in the Magnesia Litera competition;
- Participation in the Week of Science and Technology:
- 2 libraries being continuously expanded (the Institute's library and the library of the Centre for the History of Sciences with 14,000 units, with approximately 500 visitors per year.
- Database of selected titles on contemporary history (as part of the Comprehensive Catalogue of the Academy of Sciences;
- Thematic bibliographies on the history of the Communist Party in Czechoslovakia and on other topics;

*Declaration on the position in the international and national context*

- Strong pedagogical activities at national as well as international level: involvement in Education projects for Czech teachers (accredited education programme for secondary school teachers, participation in the Summer school of education to Citizenship and Europeanisation for teachers, in the Summer school of Contemporary History; in the Summer School of History, in the Spring- and Summer Universities Prague, in the Summer School of Oral History, in a cycle of lectures funded by the Visegrad fund etc.,
- Semester residencies at foreign universities or Institutes (in Sweden, Germany, Latin America, Great-Britain etc.), 12 invited researchers of the Institute for lecturing at Harvard University, Temple University, Indiana University Bloomington, Stanford University, Sciences Po Dijon (France) and at many other renowned European and American universities.

- English edition of the Journal *Soudobé dějiny*

-Research on some topics seems carried out together with the Masaryk Institute of the CAS, or at least some researchers belong to both institutes.

-Important services for research; Library, databases implemented at the bibliographic department; 2 key collections of archives concerning 1968 and 1989, collection of interviews of Oral History (more than 2000), administration of specialised web pages (on Jewish History, German anti-fascism, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, the Prague Spring, etc.)

*Declaration on the vitality and sustainability*

-Remarkable success rate in obtaining grants: 39 grants obtained during the evaluated four-year period, for a total funding of 1 921 million CZK (21 from GAČR funding, 3 from the former GA AVČR, 2 from the Rothschild Foundation, 5 from the Czech Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Czech Ministry for Education and the Czech Ministry of Culture, 1 ERC project and 1 ESF project, 1 from the Visegrad Fund, other from different German or foreign foundations and others. 10 grant projects are still running in 2015-2017.

-In spite of this high success rate and the diversification of the funding provenience, the operating subsidy that depends much on external grant funding was oscillating and even diminished between 2010 and 2014: from 43 928 thousand of CZK in 2010 to 41 388 in 2014, but 50 852 in 2011 and even 37 852 in 2012. The revenue from own activities being low (about 270 thousand of CZK per year), given the nature of historical research.

-The attractiveness of the researched themes as well as the accurate methodological and epistemological approaches implemented in the Institute and the citation rate of some publications should place it at an outstanding position in the Czech Republic for competing in EU programmes and larger international projects. As it is the case in all European larger countries, success in ERC or Horizon 2020 programmes needs support for the setting-up of them.

-The age structure of the Institute reflects the renewal of generations as well as the attractiveness of the Institute: the largest age-group is between 35-40 and 40-45 (12 + 12), 1 in the 25-30 age group, 4 in the 30-35 (= 29 under 45 years old); 5 between 45-50, 3 between 50-55, 4 between 55-60, 8 between 60-65, 2 in the 65-70 age group, 3 over 70.

*Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future*

-To continue improving the integration of the institute into international research through joint projects and various forms of cooperation;

-To strengthen international and comparative approaches in contemporary history;

-To achieve this target, every research team or group dealing with a major research topic will try to be involved in at least one important international project such as HERA or Horizon 2020 programmes;

-To try to obtain support from the EU structural funds for comprehensive history of the Cold War and its consequences in Czechoslovakia;

-The Institute is involved in the Strategy AV 21 (programme “The society and the State, or the society vs. the State”, “Science as a communication tool” and others).

-To complete synthetical works on the history of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and on the resistance against the Communist regime;

-To publish the volume of the series “The Great History of the Czech Lands” concerning the post-1945 period.

-The solve the provisory situation of the Centre for the History of Sciences.

## **B. Evaluation of the individual teams**

### **Evaluation of the Team No. 1: Global conflicts and its consequences**

#### **1. Introduction**

During the evaluated period, the team has devoted itself to still less researched topics in the Czech historiography, namely the Second World War and the Cold War, putting stress on their effects and consequences for the population of the Czech lands, on the processes of societal and geopolitical changes, as well as on the role of Czechoslovakia, in cooperation with foreign partnering institutions. It had led also several innovative inquiries about the role of industrial workers and on their requirements during the war and after it until 1948, as well as on forced labour of the Czech population during the German protectorate. It has organised international conferences and published 140 articles, author books and collective monographs, book chapters and proceedings, often in English, German or other international languages.

It had 9 researchers between 2010 and the end of 2014, several being part-time (average aggregate FTE oscillating from 3, 50 to 6, 50) and besides employed PhD students (average aggregate FTE oscillating from 2, 58 in 2010 to 1, 50 in 2014). The majority of the team members are younger than 45 years old (2 in age group 39-35, 2 in age group 35-40, 3 in age group 40-45, 1 between 45-50 and 1 between 50-55).

#### **2. Strengths and Opportunities**

- Well balanced age structure with strong presence of young researchers;
- Employment of PhD students in research;
- International acknowledgement, invited stays at leading institutions (for instance the Europe Center of the Stanford University);
- Joint publications with leading foreign experts;
- Innovative approach of political and geopolitical issues.

#### **3. Weaknesses and Threats**

- Part-time employments of many workers,
- Insufficient financial resources; financial difficulty to retain grant funded young researchers after completion of the projects, the same scholars working at many places at the same time.
- The team had not supervised PhD students during the evaluated period. One of the reason of this situation is probably the fact that it addresses topics of political and geopolitical history and international relations, a field in competition with other university teachers, as well as with the Institute of History of the CAS and the Masaryk Institute and Archives of the CAS.
- Inability to educate its own Ph.D students (given by the law).

#### **- Recommendations**

- To continue researching innovative topics in comparative perspective;
- To increase participation in bigger European programmes
- To try to supervise Ph. D. candidates at the universities;

## 5. Detailed evaluations

### *Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition*

-The Team is divided into two major groups., the first one concentrating more on World War II and the Cold War (Global conflicts and the role of Czechoslovakia on the international scene between 1938 and 1989), and the second (Impacts of the global conflicts on the population of the Czech lands) dealing more with the social and socio-economics issues (minorities, population transfers and resettlements, inquiries on industrial workers, on forced labour during the war, the development of border regions of Czechoslovakia after 1945 and the formation of a new society in these regions between 1945 and 1960, the Holocaust in Czechoslovakia, the Jews in the border regions of Sudetes and Lower Silesia, etc.). Some publications of the team members are very significant and bring new materials and new interpretations. Such monographs as the following titles: *Imposing, Maintaining, and Tearing Open the Iron Curtain: The Cold War and East-Central Europe, 1945-1989*, or *Das Münchener Abkommen von 1938 in europäischer Perspektive*, may be undoubtedly ranking into the category “world leading”.

-Quality outputs from the Phase 1 of evaluation: Total number of outputs 140, evaluated outputs 11, outputs for bibliometry: 2, 4 outputs in Quality Group 1 (world-leading quality), 5 in Group 2 (internationally excellent), 2 in Group 3 (Quality recognised internationally), none in Groups 4 and 5-.

### *Declaration on the involvement of students in research*

-The team employs PhD students in research and in solving grant projects, but their number depends on the amount allowed by grant funding ((average aggregate FTE oscillating from 2, 58 in 2010 to 1, 50 in 2014). The team members teach at universities on contractual cooperation, what is substantial for involving the students and future researchers into the research in the field of contemporary history.

-No team member had supervised doctoral theses during the evaluated period, but there were 3 supervisors for BA and Master theses, and 15 BA and 39 MA theses were defended.

### *Declaration on societal relevance*

-Popularisation;

-Participation in the Week of Science and Technology Festival

-Other popularising activities (Bernard Bolzano Society Annual International Conference, Lectures at the Czechoslovak Legionnaires Association, at the Moravian Library in Brno), etc.

-Popularisation in medias: participation in the Historie.cz programme of the Czech TV, participation in the International Festival of Science Documentary Films (Olomouc)

-Preparation of exhibitions projects;

-Edition of popularising historical books.

-Pedagogical activities:

-Teaching at several universities, supervision of BA and MA theses;

### *Declaration on the position in the international and national context*

-Numerous joint projects with foreign partners,

- Participation in international projects,

-Organisation of international conferences, papers presented at 78 international conferences

- Co-edition of monographs with foreign research institutions
- Several researchers including the Team leader were invited for mid-term stays at foreign partner institutions in the USA, Germany, etc. and had 13 delivered lectures on invitation.

*Declaration on the vitality and sustainability*

- Favourable age structure: the majority of the team members are younger than 45 years old (2 in age group 39-35, 2 in age group 35-40, 3 in age group 40-45), nobody elder than 55.
- Attractiveness for young researchers
- Grant funded research.

*Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future*

- The team members will continue to research the two main areas of topics dealing with global conflicts in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, World War II and Cold War, the role of Czechoslovakia in them and their impact on society and population of the Czech lands, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, and others. A major place will be given to topics linked with European and global affairs.
- They will try to gain some important international grants.
- One forthcoming grant: *A Transnational Approach to Resistance in Europe, 1935-48*, will be solved in cooperation with Oxford University (application submitted to the English national grant-making foundation The Leverhulme Trust).
- Continuation of the grant-funded project *Industrial Workers in the Czech Lands between 1938 and 1948*;
- A new grant submitted to the GAČR will develop a transnational approach to the destinies of the Jewish population in Poland and Czechoslovakia in the post-war period, in cooperation with German and Polish partners and 2 Czech Ph.D. students.
- Participation in a Czech-Austrian education project;
- Reinforcement of the team by employing more Ph.D. students is planned, but depends on the success rate of grant applications.

## **Evaluation of the Team No. 2: Forming of socialist man: society, ideology, culture, everyday life**

### **1. Introduction**

This team focuses on the man in the so-called “real socialism” in the Czech and Slovak societies, by addressing and being structured around a broader transversal project linking together other groups, people and centres inside the Institute. It includes the Oral History Centre (also called The Centre for Oral History and Contemporary History in the general reports of the Institute), the Centre for Minority Studies and the working group analysing the Communist ideology. The team, and quite especially the Oral History Centre, has active cooperation with foreign institutions or groups dealing with the same topics either in the contexts of other former communist countries or more generally. It is firmly oriented within the trend for the story of everyday life, which prefers oral history of ordinary people instead of the history of elites. The Centre also addresses oral history-related theoretical and methodological themes and thus plays an important innovative role in the Czech Republic. It organizes an annual international conference on Oral History. It teaches Oral History courses at Charles University and organizes bi-annual Oral History courses at other Czech universities (Olomouc, Pilsen, etc.). It maintains the

repositories of the collection of Oral History archives at the Institute of Contemporary History.

The team employs 8 researchers (non-including 2 former researchers), and 4 other workers, often at part-time (see the average aggregate FTE). It had continuously employed PhD students between 2010 and 2014 (whose number, depending on the grant funding, was thus oscillating from 2,56 (in average aggregate FTE) in 2010 to 1,94 in 2014. But the graph of the age structure provided in Appendix 3.5 indicates 11 researchers, 2 of them between 25-35 years old, 2 in the 35-40 age group, 5 between 40-50 years old, 1 in the 50-55 age group, and the last one in the 60-65 one.

## **2. Strengths and Opportunities**

- The well balanced age structure;
- Involvement of Ph.D. students in research and projects;
- The flexible structure of the team, which is more alike a research direction or a stimulating internal network;
- The leading role of the team in implementing Oral History in the Czech Republic (including universities and secondary schools) as well as new research directions such as Environmental History;
- The great attractiveness of the field for students and younger researchers;
- Its accreditation for teaching oral history at secondary schools.

## **Weaknesses and Threats**

-Some researchers belong to or are making research activities in several Institutes (for instance at the Masaryk Institute and Archives of the CAS. It is not necessarily a weakness or a threat, but the links should be better clarified.

-The redaction of the report concerning this team was sometimes confusing, referring to two different appellations concerning the Centre for oral history, alternatively called Centre of Oral History and Contemporary History, designed as a joint work place with Charles University in the general report on the activities of the Institute, and as Oral History Centre in the specific report of the team.

## **-Recommendations**

-To try to initiate ERC projects on the everyday life under the “real socialism” with national and foreign partners.

## **5. Detailed evaluations**

*Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition*

-The team has developed a methodological alternative to more traditional historiographical trends. It concentrates its research on analysing societal, ideological, cultural as well as anthropological background of the life in the period of socialism in Czechoslovakia, within a comparative perspective with other countries of the so-called “real socialism”. It is composed from 4 groups: one dealing with the study of minorities and border regions viewed as a “periphery of the society”, one group dealing with

ideological issues, then the Centre for Oral History and a new group which specialises on environmental history. The Centre for Oral History is the leading group in the field in the Czech Republic. Its researchers are not only applying the methods and approaches of Oral History, but are also contributing to the theoretical elaboration of the field. Thus Oral History practiced by the team is not simply a collection of interviews and testimonies from various persons, but a scientific method combining testimonies with other historical sources, and implementing micro-historical approaches as well. Its international position is confirmed by the fact that the team was trusted with organising 16<sup>th</sup> International Oral History Association Conference in Prague. Other innovative approaches in Contemporary History are implemented in Environmental history and historical anthropology

-Quality outputs from the Phase 1 of evaluation: Total number of outputs 127, evaluated outputs 12, outputs for bibliometry<sup>1</sup>, 3 in Group 1 (world-leading quality), 6 in Group 2 (internationally excellent), 3 in Group 3 (Quality recognised internationally), none in Groups 4 and 5.

#### *Declaration on the involvement of students in research*

-During the years 2010-2014, the team has continuously employed Ph.D. students as members. The students participated in collecting data and by elaborating questionnaire surveys, and had as well the opportunity to enter into the process of evaluating the data and to formulate outcomes

#### *Declaration on societal relevance*

-The team is very active in education not only by delivering lectures and teaching at universities, but as well in education of the general public.  
-The team members participated in various TV and radio performances, they are very active by publishing popularising books and articles.  
-The Oral History Centre was awarded a certificate of accreditation by the Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic for teaching oral history at secondary schools.  
-The same Centre organises bi-annual courses of oral history on several universities in the Czech Republic.

#### *Declaration on the position in the international and national context*

-In the fields of oral history and everyday life history the team holds a leading position on the national level, and has an excellent reputation on the international level. It is also recognised in the field of minority studies.  
-Very substantial number of international cooperations, exchanges and partnerships with other Centres of Oral History in the world.  
-Organisation or co-organisation of the International Annual Conference of Oral History;  
-Participation in the 22<sup>nd</sup> International Congress of Historical Sciences in Jinan, China, in August 2015  
-Joint work-place for Oral History at the Charles University, accredited MA courses.

#### *Declaration on the vitality and sustainability*

-Favourable age structure, in line with the attractiveness of Oral History approaches and of the researched themes, with a strong proportion of young people;  
-The prospects for the future are ambitious but seem realistic;  
-Effectiveness in grant successes and in international networking and cooperation.

### *Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future*

-The team will continue research in its present topics which are still up to day and which can bring new relevant results. The most important fact is that the team seems well prepared to take part in new international projects, such as the project entitled “Dreaming of Europe – Living in Europe“, proposed for the HERA international programme as well as other projects on international and national level.

-It will be involved in Strategy AV 21;

-A project of digitalising the Oral History archives collections has been submitted to the NAKI programme of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic.

## **Evaluation of the Team No. 3: Society and regime**

### **1. Introduction**

The team deals mainly with post-war system changes between 1945 and 1989 in Czechoslovakia. During the evaluated period, it has undergone a conceptual and methodological swift from political history to a more comprehensive research, putting stress on the long-term impacts of the Communist regime on the Czech society, without abandoning political issues, whose proper analysis is crucial for understanding historical processes. The team has 7 researchers (almost all full-time workers; average aggregate FTE from 7,13 in 2010 to 6,57 in 2014), two former researchers having performed research during the evaluated four-year period, and 1 other full time worker. 4 belong to the age groups from 35-40 to 45-50, 2 to the age 55-60 group, 1 to the 60-65 age group and one researcher is older than 65.

### **2. Strengths and Opportunities**

- Good success rate in Research Grant projects funded by the GAČR;
- Good success rate in Applied research grants: integration within 2 projects of the Ministry of Culture;
- Ability to produce popularising and educational outputs;
- Strong international cooperation;
- Organisation of international conferences on major historical issues;
- Good management;
- Integration of 2 team members within a ERC programme, with co-responsibility of the Institute of Contemporary History.;
- Intense participation in 3 other international comparative Research projects.

### **3. Weaknesses and Threats**

- A relatively unfavourable age structure, in comparison with the other teams of the Institute;
- No employment of Ph.D students

### **4. Recommendations**

- To try to attract younger researchers and to involve more Ph.D students in the solving of grant projects

## 5. Detailed evaluations

### *Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition*

-The team “Society and Regime” deals with important issues of the Czechoslovak and Czech History between 1945 and 1989, which are distributed into 4 groups of topics: 1) Post-war system changes in Czechoslovakia; 2) Development and transformation of the Czech society during the Communist regime; 3) Cadre policy, screening and purges in Czechoslovakia between 1948 and 1989; 4) History of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. Besides, it is strongly involved as well in producing applied research outputs – in form of software simulations for the teaching of history of the Czech lands during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, together with experts from the faculty of Mathematics and Physics and the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University -, as in developing national and cultural identity projects on the formation of the contemporary memory, with the purpose by educating the historical consciousness. One member of the team (the current director of the Institute) has co-developed a ERC programme, part of which is housed in the team.

--Quality of the outputs from the results of the Phase 1: Total number of outputs 106, evaluated outputs 13, outputs for bibliometry 1, 3 outputs in Group 1 (world-leading quality), 5 in Group 2 (internationally excellent), 4 in Group 3 (Quality recognised internationally), 1 in Group 4 (Quality recognised nationally), none in Group 5;

### *Declaration on the involvement of students in research*

-The team members are teaching and tutoring students at universities but no Ph. D students have been employed (because of the existing law). The report makes not clear how many students have participated or not in solving grants or in basic research.

-Number of BA theses supervisors and co-supervisors: 3 and 1, of MA theses supervisors and co-supervisors: 4 and 2; of Doctoral theses supervisors: 3;

-Number of defended BA theses: 54; of defended MA theses: 25; of defended Ph. D dissertations: 2.

### *Declaration on societal relevance*

-All the team members are teaching and delivering lectures at several Czech universities on the basis of contractual cooperation and are providing individual tutoring on specialised topics.

-Popularisation:

-Production of software simulations for the teaching of history of the Czech lands (programme “Czechoslovakia 38-89”);

-“Production (still on-going) of the project “The Sites Stories. Topography of Contemporary National Memory”;

-Popularisations lectures at the Week of Science and Technology Festival, at various associations or Museums;

Production of textbooks, of texts for educational website, as well as of popularising papers;

-Involvement in the TV programme “Historie.cz”;

### *Declaration on the position in the international and national context*

-The team holds a strong position in international context and its members participate in important collaborative projects and programmes, such as *Villains of the Visegrad*

*Countries' National History in the Historiographical Reflections of Neighbours; Turning Points in 20th Century European History. Europe between War and Peace (1914–2004).*

-It participates in or co-organises international projects, including 1 ERC project and others housed at the University of Oxford, the Ludwig Boltzmann Institut für Kriegsfolgenforschung and various notorious institutions of the field.

-The team members are teaching at many universities on contractual basis.

-Membership in the Scientific Council of European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (Oldřich Tůma), in the Scientific Council of Hannah Arendt Institut für Totalitarismusforschung ((Oldřich Tůma).

#### *Declaration on the vitality and sustainability*

-The team deals with important themes in collaboration with the other teams and groups of the Institute. Though there are 2 groups of researchers, one middle-aged and one elder, it would be unfair to qualify the age structure as unsustainable, because its members are highly-trained and leading historians in the field and are very active and productive. They have demonstrated a much appreciated ability to develop or co-develop larger international projects and their contribution to applied research is extremely fruitful and valuable for educating citizens and school children in understanding recent historical processes in Czechoslovakia.

#### *Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future*

-The strategy is convincing. The team will continue to develop its main directions of research, focusing particularly on the history of the Czech society and Czechoslovakia from 1945 to 1989 in international comparative perspective. It will pursue its involvement in broader European and international programmes and participate in Strategy AV 21, and strengthen its international collaborations;

-One major grant funded by the GAČR is still running;

Its expected outputs are a series of publications and studies on selected topics as well as the final synthetic monograph;

-At least 3 other grant projects will be accomplished from 2016 on; others are prepared and applications will be submitted;

-Other planned outputs: comprehensive syntheses (3 volumes on the "Great History of the Lands of the Czech Crown" covering the 1946-1989 period, as well as a comprehensive history of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia).

## **Evaluation of the Team No. 4: Late- and post-socialism**

### **1. Introduction**

The topics pursued by the team No. 4, Late -and post socialism, follows up chronologically on those of the Team Society and Regime. It scrutinises the final period of the Communist regime in Czechoslovakia and carries on with the changes undergone in the post-1989 period. Its main theme is the making of collective political identities, which however is historicised (with going back to the second part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century). The team is innovative and some of its recently published monographs (see: Rozdělení minulosti. Vytváření politických identit v České republice po roku 1989, Praha 2011) have drawn attention and produced debates in daily media and specialised journals. The team has only 6 researchers, some of them as part-timers, and since 2013 another worker almost at full time job (2013: average aggregate FTE 0,98 and 2014: 1). All of them are young or relatively young (3 in the 35-40 age group, 3 in the 40-45, 1 in the 45-50).

## **2. Strengths and Opportunities**

- Attractiveness of the researched themes and of the approaches;
- Concentration on a little number of themes: intensiveness of the research.
- Ability to attract younger researchers;
- Strong reception of the outputs in the society and the historical milieu.
- Pedagogical activity

## **3. Weaknesses and Threats**

- Small number of researchers;
- A relative small number of publications;

## **4. Recommendations**

- To go on with the innovative topics and approaches;
- To try to increase the number of publications.

## **5. Detailed evaluations**

### *Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition*

Though the team is rather small and though the number of its outputs during the last four years is not extremely high (total number of outputs: 79), the quality of its publications is outstanding and innovative (4 are in the evaluation phase I. ranked as world leaders and 3 as internationally excellent). Many articles, papers and monographs were published in foreign languages, mostly in English and German. Besides its main topics, the formation of political cultures and memory, the team deals also with other issues of high societal relevance: continuities, dissidence and post-dissidence, expert cultures and technocracy in late socialism and early democratic period, Czech parliamentarism after 1989 etc. The carried out research make makes possible to compare the processes undergone in the Czech society before and after 1989. The team has obtained two grants from the GAČR.

- Quality of the outputs from the Phase 1 of evaluation: Total number of outputs 79, evaluated outputs 10, outputs for bibliometry 2, 4 outputs in Group 1 (world-leading quality), 3 in Group 2 (internationally excellent), 3 in Group 3 (Quality recognised internationally), none in Groups 4 and 5;

### *Declaration on the involvement of students in research*

- The team has no PhD students as team members, but it involves students in collecting data and interviews, for instance with the former Czech and Slovak post-November politicians.

### *Declaration on societal relevance*

- Pedagogical activities:

-The on-site visit has permitted to better clarify the point concerning the tutoring and supervision of BA and MA students by the team members, who are actively involved in it when teaching at the universities.

-Number of supervisors of BA theses: 1, for 4 defended theses; Number of supervisors of doctoral dissertations: 1, no defended dissertations during the four-year evaluated period .

-Popularisation:

-Participation in the “Europeana Awareness” campaign for enhancing the visibility of the pan-European platform of memory institutions (Five days organised in Prague , Pilsen, Hradec Králové, Opava and Ostrava) in cooperation with the National Museum ;

-Digitalizing of the exhibits (website [www.europeana1989.eu](http://www.europeana1989.eu)):

-Preparation of a travelling photo exhibition in cooperation with the head office of the Czech Centres;

-Various lectures for the broad public

-Interviews and contributions in media, popularising articles

-TV appearances;

-Membership in several national and international scientific councils;

-Membership in editorial boards of specialised historical journals;

-Membership in the Advisory Board of the Memorial of Jan Palach;

#### *Declaration on the position in the international and national context*

-The team is already well recognised abroad for its projects and its published outputs.

-The research project on parliamentarianism has become part of the European Information and Research Network on Parliamentary History;

-Membership in the Council of the Collegium Carolinum in Munich;

-Several publications at German or Anglosaxon leading Publishers;

-Numerous publications in foreign languages;

-Involvement in teaching on contractual basis in the Czech universities;

-Supervision of BA and doctoral students

#### *Declaration on the vitality and sustainability*

-All members of the team are in the age between 35 and 50 years, what gives it a very good perspective for the next years;

-2 new members joined the team in 2015;

-Improving qualification: the team head is currently qualifying himself for “habilitation”.

#### *Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future*

-Some team members will carry on the running project on Czech Parliamentarism and related issues to it, other will continue the research on the dissidence and post-dissidence and are involved in a prepared project for the Horizon 2020 Programme led by an institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

-The team had obtained 2 new grants, which will be solved in confrontation with relevant international research at international congresses of historical and social sciences at Valencia in 2016, and within a pre-agreed framework of cooperation with Sciences-Po Paris and the Zentrum für Zeit Geschichte in Postdam. First it will focus on the issues of expertise and technocratic governance during the Late socialism period and examine the hypothetic continuities in the post-communist transformation, on the basis of a new grant funded project; secondly,

-The 2 new members will focus on a still running grant junior project, whose theme is related to the previous project, "The Road to Technocratic Socialism: Concepts of Governance in Czechoslovakia 1953-1975".

## **Evaluation of the Team No. 5: History of sciences and humanities**

### **1. Introduction**

The team deals with all periods of the History of Science and Humanities, but a great part of its research is devoted to the relationship between the totalitarian regimes of the 20<sup>th</sup> century with science and scientific communities, including history of the exiled scholars from Czechoslovakia and of the Jewish disappeared elites, the abuse of science by the Nazi regime (euthanasia) but also eugenic sterilisation in pre-war Czechoslovakia and during the Nazi protectorate. Other researchers, often with an outstanding national and international reputation, are dealing with the development of natural sciences disciplines, such as the transmission of antique astronomy and its effects on mediaeval astronomy, research on Kepler's works, or on G. J. Mendel and his influence on later genetic research, medicine and biological science, the historical evolution of chemical sciences, as well as of physical and nuclear sciences and medical radiology in the Czech Lands, older history of meteorology, and selected issues of philosophy and history of natural sciences, but also the evolution of the social sciences and humanities and the history of scientific communication and the history of scientific institutions. It has now 4 researchers and 1 full-time other worker. It had until 2014 3 other full-time researchers, 2 of them being now retired. It has undergone a rejuvenating process: two of the present workers are 35-40 years old, 2 55-60 years old, and the last is between 60-65 years old. One of the new young researcher is funded from the Programme of support of perspective human resources for post-doctoral researchers of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

### **2. Strengths and Opportunities**

- The Centre is the leading place for the history of sciences and scientific disciplines in the Czech Republic
- International acknowledgement and active international cooperation;
- Outstanding level of several researchers;
- Attractiveness for young researchers;
- Participation to 1 European ESF project;
- Substantial activity of organising conferences;
- Outstanding number of publications;
- Interdisciplinarity.

### **3. Weaknesses and Threats**

- The small number of the team members, what is all the more worrying given the high level of erudition requirement necessary to carry out research on the history of sciences;
- The current provisory status of the Centre;
- Existence of another team for the History of Sciences at the Masaryk Institute and Archives of the CAS, headed by a member of the Institute of Contemporary History;

The cooperation between the two departments is good, but it is no sure that the institutionalisation of two groups involving professionally so close scholars might not be the best of solutions for the future and the point should be clarified.

-insufficient funding;

#### **4. Recommendations**

- To try to improve the number of the team members;
- To solve the problem of the interim status of the centre.

#### **5. Detailed evaluations**

##### *Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition*

-The team produces high-quality outputs (publications, exhibitions, conferences) on very demanding topics or topics of high societal and scientific relevance, alike to better educate and inform specialised scholars as well as non-specialists. It has published an impressive number of publication between 2010 and 2015, most of them being considered as excellent.

-Quality outputs from the results of the Phase 1: Total number of outputs 218, evaluated outputs 11, outputs for bibliometry 2, 3 outputs in Group 1 (world-leading quality), 4 in Group 2 (internationally excellent), 4 in Group 3 (Quality recognised internationally), none in Groups 4 and 5.

##### *Declaration on the involvement of students in research*

-All the team members have pedagogical activities at various universities, mostly at the Charles University Prague. M.A. and PhD students participated in some of the team's projects, doing research in archives, helping with organizational matters, or evaluating sources.

##### *Declaration on societal relevance*

- Teaching at several Czech universities, as well as cooperation with universities abroad;
- Supervision of BA, MA and doctoral theses;

##### *Declaration on the position in the international and national context*

-In the national context team co-operate with the team at Masaryk Institute and Archives of CAS. On the international level has team a good position as evidenced by entrusting with organizing the 7th International Conference of the European Society for the History of Science in Prague.

-Organisation or co-organisation of 5 national and 10 international conferences

-Participation to the European ESF project "The Idea of University"; (designed for education of the broad public), in collaboration with the University of Pardubice;

-Several popularising activities, such as the production of audiovisual series on prominent Czech scientist;

-TV film "Eugéniové" (Eugenic Minds), 76 mn, 2013°;

-cooperation with the Czech television (Historie.cz programme, Hyde Park civilisation programme, documentaries, appearances and interviews);

Participation in programmes of the Czech radio;

-Published interviews of the team members;

-Co-organisation of the ESHS Conference 2013 in Florence;

-Participation to other international important conferences on the field of the History of Sciences;

*Declaration on the vitality and sustainability*

-Good attractiveness of young researchers;

-Rejuvenated age structure

-One post-doc researcher is funded from the Programme of support of perspective human resources for post -doctoral researchers of the Czech Academy of Sciences

-Necessity to increase the number of the team members.

*Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future*

-For the next five years, the team will carry on research on its major current themes: the development of the scientific community in the Czech Lands during the two totalitarian regimes, and later, as well as the historical development of the scientific disciplines, especially Astronomy, Medical science and genetics, other biological and chemical disciplines, as well as social sciences and humanities. It intends to publish a synthesis on the development of the natural sciences in the Czech Lands.

-A new prepared project entitled "Science as a tool of communication" will analyse the interactions between science and society interactions within the framework of the Strategy AV 21 programme.

-The centre is stressing the necessity to redefine its interim position, either by strengthening its autonomy (for instance in form of a joint centre of several institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences) or to better coordinate its activities with the other teams of the Institute of Contemporary History. This point seems important to the Commission.

**Date:** December 31, 2015

**Commission Chair:** Prof. Dr. Marie-Elizabeth Ducreux