

Evaluation of research and professional activity of research-oriented institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences for the period 2015–2019

Final Report

Name of the Institute: Institute of History of the CAS, v. v. i.

Evaluated teams and their leaders:

1. Department of Medieval History (Eva Doležalová)
2. Department of Early Modern History (Martin Holý)
3. Department of 19th Century History (Milan Hlavačka)
4. Department of 20th Century History (Jan Němeček)

Part A: Evaluation of the institute

Strengths:

- Rich and versatile expertise of the Institute's fellows;
- The Institute as a whole has traditionally had a significant position in the Czech Republic and, even with increasing activities abroad, maintains the necessary balances between its domestic and international orientations and in addressing both the domestic scholarly community and the broader public;
- Successful cooperation with the CISH/ICHS world congresses of historical sciences;
- Transfer of the research results into the educational process;
- Fundamental source editions;
- Work in digital humanities (historical geography, medieval studies);
- High participation in 'traditional' international networks (bilateral historical commissions in particular);
- Successful obtaining of domestic grants;
- Good age and gender balance, stable structure;
- Strong personalities;
- Close cooperation with universities.

Weaknesses:

- Failure to obtain international, especially European, grants;
- Relatively low international visibility;
- Lack of digitalization of vital segments of source editions (i.e. history of diplomacy);

Opportunities:

- Smooth generational exchange;
- Further development of digital editions;
- New, relatively young management could bring new directions into the research.

Threats:

- Too high a dependence on publishing in a limited number of house-published journals;
- Methodological conservatism;
- Limited space in the building could be a threat for staff development of the Institute.

Main criterion: 1. Quality of results (H1.1-H1.5)

H1.1	Quality of selected outputs of Phase I
Among the 87 selected outputs that were evaluated in Phase I, 20 outputs are in the highest rank 1, 36 in rank 2, 28 in rank 3, 3 in rank 4 and none in rank 5. The quality of evaluated outputs is high.	
H1.2	Contribution of workers on the outputs reached
The participation of individual teams and of their workers in completed outputs is relatively equal and balanced	
H1.3	Quality of all outputs and results

The quality level is at the average among the archaeological and historical institutes. Compared to the past, publishing activity in foreign publishing houses increased. Many of the outputs are significant in the national context.	
H1.4	The most valuable discoveries and findings in the fields, their importance for the field
The most important results can be considered to be the publishing of entire series of documents from the Middle Ages to the 20th century. The importance of these editions would increase even more if they could be transformed into digital form. Significant also is the participation of the Institute in the prestigious International Congresses of Historical Sciences and the publishing of some top works, particularly monographs, on socio-cultural aspects of the evolution of Czech society in the context of the modernisation processes of the 19 th and 20 th centuries within European comparisons.	
H1.5	Contribution of the participation of the authors in large collaborations
Not applicable to this Institute.	

Main criterion: 2. Societal relevance (H2.1-H2.5)

H2.1	Societal relevance of outputs and results pursuant to CAS and institute mission
The Institute enjoys high societal prestige while its outputs affect the formation of popular historical consciousness in the Czech Republic. The expertise of the Institute's members is in demand by the mass media and wider audiences. Historical exhibitions form an important part of such activities. Perhaps above all, the Institute staff engages in university education.	
H2.2	System functionality for knowledge transfer into practise, its usefulness for society. The impact of the institute's activity on proper practice in society in the area of social sciences and humanities
The Institute is not achieving its full potential in terms of knowledge transfer and societal impact. The Institute fellows' media appearances often occur at the initiative of the media and coincide with historical anniversaries.	
H2.3	Relation to practice
Not indicated, beyond the Institute's participation in commemorations.	
H2.4	Participation in AV21 strategy
The Institute is active within the strategy, being involved in various ways in as many as five of its programmes.	
H2.5	Cooperation with regions of the Czech Republic
The Institute contributes to local knowledge through studies of landscape transformation and historical geography as well as through lectures and travelling exhibitions related to various topics. Long-term research links members of the 19 th century team in Brno with the Masaryk University in Brno and with other institutions in work on the history of Moravia and Austrian Silesia. Furthermore, the Institute leads a joint research centre for early modern studies with the University of Southern Bohemia in České Budějovice (Centre for Early Modern Studies).	

Further criterion: 1. Position in international and national context (D1.1-D1.3)

D1.1	Comparison of the teams and the institute with similar international and national institutes
The Institute has several top historians who play a leading role at the national level and cooperate closely with foreign institutions. At the national level, the Institute has a central position and cooperates with other academic and university institutions. There is a meaningful division of work between the Department of Medieval History and the Centre of Medieval Studies at the Institute of Philosophy CAS and between the 20th century department and the Institute of Contemporary History. From the international point of view, there is significant cooperation with the International Committee of Historical Sciences (CISH/ICHS).	
D1.2	Scope and quality of international and national cooperation and the role of the institute in such cooperation; engagement in broad international cooperation
Wide cooperation at the national and international levels takes place primarily through five individual research centres of the IH. Each centre has a rich cooperation with 10 – 15 various institutions at the national and international levels.	
D1.3	Participation of the workers in scientific community activities (organizing of conferences and workshops, invited lectures, awards)
The Institute staff is active in organizing scientific events. In the period examined, staff members gave 9 invited lectures abroad and 3 national prizes and 1 international prize were awarded to the workers of IH.	

Further criterion: 2. Vitality, sustainability and strategy (D2.1-D2.9)

D2.1	Direction in line with the perspective of the planned research directions
The Institute's direction in its principal goals is in accordance with the planned research directions.	
D2.2	Assessment of the previous research objectives and their achievement
In 2017 a change occurred in the management of the institute when Martin Holý became the new director. In principle, the new management has adopted the research intentions of its predecessor and complemented them by strengthening some of the new research directions, mostly in line with the recommendations of the previous evaluation, including more emphasis on the development of the history of historiography and historical methodology and the broader use of trans-disciplinary and comparative approaches. These new research directions have already begun to be realized, and significant results should be achieved in the following period.	
D2.3	Assessment of implementation of recommendations from past evaluation
The main recommendations of the previous evaluation were in principle fulfilled. A greater concentration of research topics and closer cooperation with other academic workplaces (e.g., the Institute of Philosophy, the Institute for Contemporary History, the Masaryk Institute and Archives) were achieved. The Institute has international projects and has published to a greater extent with foreign publishing houses. It has lacked participation in larger European projects, however. PhD students and post-doctoral fellows participated to a greater extent on the research than previously.	

D2.4	Success in receiving grants
The IH was successful in receiving grants. It received 32 grants (21 from the GAČR). For most of them, the institute is the recipient and principal investigator.	
D2.5	Adequacy of instrumental equipment
Instrumental equipment is adequate to the needs of the institute. The working environment, however, is a significant problem. In the reconstructed building, there is only a limited amount of office space.	
D2.6	Effectiveness of management
The institute management is effective. A new, relatively young director can bring new impulses and new dynamics into the institute and its research.	
D2.7	Assessment of professional structure, development strategy and the strategy of keeping best scientists, age structure, career and qualification growth
The age and professional structures are well balanced. The combination of older experienced historians and young colleagues under 35 with a strong intermediate generation is very advantageous for producing quality research. Qualifications of the staff are systematically rising.	
D2.8	Creating work-life balance conditions, assessment of approach towards possible gender issues
The IH is successful in creating a sound work-life balance within the institute. The gender ratio could be considered more or less in reasonable balance (38% women, 62% men), but it could be further improved.	
D2.9	Relation of the institute with regard to the integration, development and sustainability of the research centre funded by the National Programme of Sustainability II.
Not applicable to this institute	

Further criterion: 3. Cooperation with universities and participation in education (D3.1-D3.6)

D3.1	Scope of cooperation with universities on national and international level
All departments are well integrated into the university education system; some researchers are perhaps slightly overburdened with university obligations.	
D3.2	Effectiveness of joint research centres
All research centers have been active in publishing highly valued collections of sources and organizing conferences both nationally and internationally.	
D3.3	Success rate in supervision of PhD students
The success rate has been high with a particularly high number of students supervised in contemporary history.	
D3.4	Participation of PhD students in the outputs
The participation of PhD students has been high, with the exception of in the 19th century department.	

D3.5	Participation of the institute in master or bachelor studies
The Institute has had very intense and varied participation in degree programs throughout the Republic.	
D3.6	Assessment of cooperation intensity with universities in the form of teaching
Teaching is not the primary aim of the CAS and should be carefully balanced with other academic activities of this institute. A proper balance has been mostly achieved here, although some individual researchers are overloaded with teaching duties, which potentially can make their research activities suffer.	

Further criterion: 4. Outreach activities (D4.1-D4.3)

D4.1	Sufficiency of media strategy and activities in the area of research popularisation
The Institute's activity in this field is particularly visible in connection to anniversaries. Members of the Institute have fulfilled this task more than sufficiently with numerous articles, public lectures, interviews and expert papers as well as historical exhibitions.	
D4.2	Publishing activities and its quality
The institute has rich publishing activity for scientific publications as well as in the field of popularization. In addition to book publications by the CAS Academia publishing house and other domestic publishers, production in foreign publishing houses has also increased recently.	
D4.3	Participation in professional organisations in the area of research and development
Besides wide participation in research centers and councils at various Czech universities, the institute's fellows participate in numerous Czech and foreign commissions.	

Other comments of the commission:

The Commission recommends the following:

- In the interest of further development of the institute, the problem of its seriously cramped office space should be solved;
- the Institute should increase its international visibility and recognition through publications in high-quality international journals and book publishing houses;
- PhD students and post-docs should participate more intensively in research projects (especially in the department of the 19th century);
- to digitalize and make accessible online editions of documents and to distribute more evenly the Institute's digitalizing efforts among the departments;
- to overcome methodological conservatism and to innovate research in the direction of digital humanities;
- to decrease dependence on house-edited journals and to diversify these journals' editing teams by incorporating editors representing other institutions, including international ones. While the support of the Institute is vital for the journals' continuation, they should do more to accentuate their independence and attachment to the principle of objectivity;

- to strengthen research on the Early Middle Ages and the 18th century;
- to reconsider the position of historical geography (currently part of the Department of Medieval History) within the Institute's structure to the benefit of the whole Institute. Creating an independent unit without assigning it to a particular epoch may encourage innovative research based on cooperation with each of the other departments.

Part B: Evaluation of teams

1. Department of Medieval History

The Team No.1, led by Eva Doležalová, consists of 13 researchers in 2021 (the average aggregate FTE, including the average of 2,5 FTE PhD students) and grew from 10 during the previous evaluation in 2014 and 11 in 2019. It focuses on a wide variety of topics including the formation of state structures, courts and residences in the Middle Ages and the ecclesiastical and religious history of the Middle Ages in East Central Europe with a focus on Bohemia and Moravia, as well as the history of Jewish settlement in Bohemia and Moravia prior to the mid-16th century. Besides these thematic divisions, Team No. 1 is active in producing source editions on medieval Czech history and historico-geographical and historico-cartographic studies.

Strengths:

The team's productivity and academic level are very good with well-developed special skills in digital humanities and historical cartography. These interests are accompanied by deeper studies in the methodology of historical geography and digital humanities. The team cooperates widely both internationally and on the national level, and it provides important services to the interested public by editing and publishing conventionally and digitally sources for the history of Bohemia and Moravia.

Weaknesses:

The broad and, at times, disparate topics studied by the members of the team may dilute its coherence. Notably, studies in historical geography frequently depart from the core medieval interests of the team. The team would benefit from strengthening its early medieval section. The journals which are edited solely or nearly solely by the members of the team might profit from a wider opening and international cooperation. The team members publish rather rarely in prestigious foreign journals.

Opportunities:

The team's expertise in editions of historical sources, both traditional and digital, is exceptional and worth strengthening through continuation and the application to new subjects such as Jewish history or the history of towns. Projects in digital humanities may play a role in making this research accessible to a wider public and are socially relevant. A vital issue is to make these strengths more visible internationally through publishing in prestigious journals abroad.

Threats:

The coherence of the team may suffer from the independent development of the theme of historical geography. The extremely close connection between the department and its two journals may result in 'provincializing' (in-breeding) of those titles. Failure to publish team members' research more internationally may well reduce the possibilities of making the team's accomplishments more visible and impactful.

Main criterion: 1. Quality of results (H1.1-H1.5)

H1.1	Quality of selected outputs of Phase I
Total number of outputs during the four-year period: 184, with 20 outputs evaluated during the Phase 1, including 5 in quality group 1, 10 in quality group 2, 5 in quality group 3, none in quality groups 4 and 5. (with a total of 72 chapters in professional books, 46 professional books, 49 articles in journals without impact factor, 11 contributions to proceedings).	
H1.2	Contribution of workers on the outputs reached
Department members participate (in most cases as principal investigators) in 9 research grants with a clear majority within the field of historical geography.	
H1.3	Quality of all outputs and results
The team had valuable publications, especially in the fields of source editions, historical geography, and digital humanities. There were only a few publications in internationally recognized journals.	
H1.4	The most valuable discoveries and findings in the fields, their importance for the field
Among the most valuable accomplishments were the production of traditional source editions (Regesta Bohemiae et Moraviae...), accompanied by original research into digital techniques; the continuation of important synthetic works (such as Do tří korun – poslední rozmach Přemyslovců by Josef Žemlička); and important work on the history of Bohemian Jewry and courtly culture.	
H1.5	Contribution of the participation of the authors in large collaborations
Members of the team collaborate, both nationally and internationally, and both within the epochal framework of mediaeval studies and beyond. Large collaborations include notably research into courtly culture, Jewish inhabitants of the Bohemian Kingdom and historical geography (including a leading role in producing the Český historický atlas).	

Main criterion: 2. Societal relevance (H2.1-H2.5)

H2.1	Societal relevance of outputs and results pursuant to CAS and institute mission
The team's members take part in public discussions in similar fashion as other staff members of the Institute. The team has also played a role in the organization of historical exhibitions.	
H2.2	System functionality for knowledge transfer into practise, its usefulness for society. The impact of the team's activity on proper practice in society in the area of social sciences and humanities
[Not applicable to the work of this team.]	
H2.3	Relation to practice
The team's expertise in historical geography and source editions has translated into the production of specialized digital maps and software devoted to historical sources.	

H2.4	Participation in AV21 strategy
Nearly all team members are active within the frame of the program with research projects, exhibitions, and editions.	
H2.5	Cooperation with regions of the Czech Republic
The team greatly contributes to local knowledge through its studies in landscape transformation and historical geography.	

Further criterion: 1. Position in international and national context (D1.1-D1.3)

D1.1	Comparison of the team with similar international and national institutes
The team's strengths lay predominantly in the medieval history of Bohemia and Moravia. In this field, the Centre for Medieval Studies (Institute of Philosophy) is both a partner and an object for comparison. The team's structure appears to have less interconnectedness among its research topics, which is related, at least partly, to its traditional structure. On the international level, the placing of medieval studies and historical geography within the same research unit is rather unusual and may be seen as a potential threat to the cohesion of the team.	
D1.2	Scope and quality of international and national cooperation and the role of the team in such cooperation; engagement in broad international cooperation
The team traditionally collaborates with universities in Munich and Düsseldorf and some other institutions throughout Western and East-Central Europe. Department members participated and/or co-organized sessions at international congresses in relevant subfields (such as the 17th World Congress of Jewish Studies; the 11th Congress of the European Association for Jewish Studies; International Medieval Congresses; and the 17th International Conference of Historical Geographers).	
D1.3	Participation of the workers in scientific community activities (organizing of conferences and workshops, invited lectures, awards)
The Department had a strong role in the Czech scientific community with members presenting papers at over 20 conferences (international and national), giving several invited lectures, and winning four academic awards. Extremely numerous memberships in academic bodies, journal editing committees, commissions, and associations reflect the high professional status of some of the team members.	

Further criterion: 2. Vitality, sustainability and strategy (D2.1-D2.9)

D2.1	Direct*ion in line with the perspective of the planned research directions
The Department's work is organized around long-time thematic specialties with a focus on source editions and connected research. As such it is well structured and develops gradually according to the plans.	
D2.2	Assessment of the previous research objectives and their achievement
All previous research objectives were met. In addition, the team members devoted much attention to the methodology of their research topics.	

D2.3	Assessment of implementation of recommendations from past evaluation
The past recommendations included three elements: 1) strengthening research into the High Middle Ages; 2) control of the tendency toward topical fragmentation within the Team; and 3) a precise delimitation of interests between those of the Department and those of the CMS. (Ad 1) in the meantime the team management's decision was to strengthen its Early Medieval section instead; (ad 2) due to the closure of some of the projects the variety of topics dealt with by the team members has been slightly reduced; (ad 3) the Department has chosen the path of close collaboration with the CMS. In sum, all the recommendations have been addressed, though not always in a manner suggested by the previous evaluation commission.	
D2.4	Success in receiving grants
Despite repeated failures in obtaining EU grants, the department remains the most efficient within the Institute and compares well on a national and regional level.	
D2.5	Adequacy of instrumental equipment
Sustaining the digital databases and other resources after the initial period may be problematic.	
D2.6	Effectiveness of management
The effectiveness was particularly good in terms of team building and in accordance with the general rules of the Institute's research quality control.	
D2.7	Assessment of professional structure, development strategy and the strategy of keeping best scientists, age structure, career and qualification growth
The team is well-balanced in terms of age structure and gender balance as well as the ratio between experienced and young scholars. The department recruited a foreign staff member in a newly- obtained position, a two-year post-doctoral fellowship.	
D2.8	Creating work-life balance conditions, assessment of approach towards possible gender issues
Within the means available to the management, the work-life balance conditions may be considered fair.	
D2.9	Relation of the team with regard to the integration, development and sustainability of the research centre funded by the National Programme of Sustainability II.
Not applicable to this department	

Further criterion: 3. Cooperation with universities and participation in education (D3.1-D3.6)

D3.1	Scope of cooperation with universities on national and international level
Team members are sufficiently active in teaching and supervising students, with the Charles University and the University of Hradec Králové as the centers of their educational activity.	
D3.2	Effectiveness of joint research centres

All research centers, including the newest Research Centre for Ecclesiastical and Religious History, have been active in publishing and presenting papers at conferences, both national and international.	
D3.3	Success rate in supervision of PhD students
Four doctoral dissertations were defended in the period under scrutiny with a total of nine students supervised.	
D3.4	Participation of PhD students in the outputs
The doctoral students associated with the department are fully integrated into the team's scientific work including managerial and editing tasks.	
D3.5	Participation of the team in masters or bachelor studies
Team members gave 24 bachelor-level courses and 17 masters level courses in the period under scrutiny. They supervised 17 bachelor's students with 13 of these defended in 2015-19; and they supervised 11 master's students, with 10 of these defended.	
D3.6	Assessment of cooperation intensity with universities in the form of teaching
Teaching is not the primary aim of the CAS and should be carefully balanced with other academic activities of the team. The proper balance was achieved in the evaluated period.	

Further criterion: 4. Outreach activities (D4.1-D4.3)

D4.1	Sufficiency of media strategy and activities in the area of research popularisation
The Department's activity in this field occurs notably in connection to anniversaries. This task has been fulfilled more than sufficiently by the team members.	
D4.2	Publishing activities and its quality
The team members continued to publish on historical topics in the country's main newspapers, gave comments in radio and television shows, and participated in the popularizing activities of the Institute. Their role as prominent experts in medieval studies makes such activities appropriate. The dissemination of professional knowledge is channeled primarily through two specialized journals published by the Institute with closest links to the department: <i>Mediaevalia Historica Bohemica</i> , and <i>Historická geografie</i> , the first of which has been accepted into the Scopus database. The vast majority of individual publications come from either the Institute-run publishing house or other Czech academic publishers. Of particular note is the interdisciplinary cooperation connected to the team's research in historical geography. This widens the outreach potential of the department. According to the Phase I report, the quality of the team's publications is relatively high measured against the whole Institute with a high proportion of source collections rated among the high ranking publications.	
D4.3	Participation in professional organisations in the area of research and development
Besides wide participation (as follows) in the CMS and research councils at various Czech universities, the members of the team participate in the Commission for Historical Geography and Commission internationale pour l'histoire des villes.	

Other comments of the commission:

See the recommendations for the institute as a whole at the end of Part A.

2. Department of Early Modern History

Strengths:

- Well balanced team in terms of levels of quality achieved and professional experience, age, and gender, with experienced researchers at one end of the spectrum and a dynamic young generation at the other end;
- Particularly good and wide cooperation with universities. Significant participation of team members in teaching at the bachelor's and master's levels and in supervising PhD students;
- Success in obtaining grants from domestic resources, but also participation in foreign grants;
- Rich cooperation with partners abroad, numerous joint publications in foreign languages;
- Some experienced team members are internationally respected personalities; Several are members of various international organizations and scientific boards. The department of Early Modern History is highly visible in the scientific community at home and abroad.

Weaknesses:

- Failure to acquire European grants;
- Foreign publications are in the main not published by major publishing houses;
- Despite the recommendation of the last evaluation for increasing study of the 18th century, this period is still insufficiently represented;
- Lingering difficulties caused by obtaining only short-term grants for funding long-term tasks (document editions, completion and development of databases).

Opportunities:

- The good age composition of the team can facilitate young researchers in asserting themselves in the European Research Area;
- Through generational turnover it would be possible to strengthen research on the still neglected 18th century.

Threats:

- Excessive thematic fragmentation.

Main criterion: 1. Quality of results (H1.1-H1.5)

H1.1	Quality of selected outputs of Phase I
23 outputs were evaluated in the first phase of the evaluation. 7 of these outputs were judged to be in the first qualitative category, 6 in the second. Among teams in history and archaeology, this department is slightly above the overall average.	
H1.2	Contribution of workers on the outputs reached
For all outputs produced in the period 2015-2019, this department's workers were involved fairly evenly.	
H1.3	Quality of all outputs and results

In recent years, innovative topics such as the comparative history of towns were elaborated in cooperation with foreign partners, primarily in Germany and Austria. These outcomes are also published by foreign publishers. Compared to the last evaluation, the share of such innovative outcomes increased.	
H1.4	The most valuable discoveries and findings in the fields, their importance for the field
The composition of ongoing grants is noteworthy, with growing emphasis on new, innovative topics. These works would also deserve publication by prestigious foreign publishing houses.	
H1.5	Contribution of the participation of the authors in large collaborations
Not applicable to most research in this discipline	

Main criterion: 2. Societal relevance (H2.1-H2.5)

H2.1	Societal relevance of outputs and results pursuant to CAS and institute mission
Some publications written by members of the team attracted the interest of a broader public. Team members also contributed to historical knowledge in the wider society as well by giving public lectures (30 lectures for the period 2015-2019), by participating in exhibitions (8), and by regular cooperation in organizing an international secondary school history competition held in Cheb.	
H2.2	System functionality for knowledge transfer into practise, its usefulness for society. The impact of the team's activity on proper practice in society in the area of social sciences and humanities
Team activities towards social practice are aimed at expanding historical knowledge, debunking of historical myths, and developing critical thinking about history. There are rich team activities in this, but their impact on societal consciousness is difficult to measure.	
H2.3	Relation to practice
[Not applicable to this research team]	
H2.4	Participation in AV21 strategy
The team participated in the AV21 strategy programme: Forms and Functions of Communication. The program has been completed successfully.	
H2.5	Cooperation with regions of the Czech Republic
Team cooperation with regions in the Czech Republic is mainly based on cooperation with universities in Brno, Olomouc, České Budějovice and Ústí nad Labem. With the University of Southern Bohemia in České Budějovice, the Institute of History operates a joint Centre for Early Modern Studies in which researchers from the Department of Early Modern History are engaged. There is also cooperation with regions with respect to lecture activities of team members in several towns of the Czech Republic.	

Further criterion: 1. Position in international and national context (D1.1-D1.3)

D1.1	Comparison of the team with similar international and national institutes
At the national level, this department's team ranks as the strongest in numbers and in quality, with particular strength in the area of publication of documents and also in organizing conferences and workshops.	
D1.2	Scope and quality of international and national cooperation and the role of the team in such cooperation; engagement in broad international cooperation
International cooperation is quite wide. It is primarily focused on bilateral projects with foreign institutions. Among the partners, German and Austrian institutions predominate, but to a lesser extent there is also cooperation with institutions in the US, France, Italy and Poland. So far, participation in wider European projects is lacking.	
D1.3	Participation of the workers in scientific community activities (organizing of conferences and workshops, invited lectures, awards)
In scientific activities members of the department participated as members of the scientific councils at universities and in museums and as members of the editorial boards of journals. J. Pánek is a member of the Learned Society of the Czech Republic and a member of the Collegium Carolinum in Munich. He also received from the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic the Medal of Honour for Merit in the Development of Science, Education and Culture. The organization of scientific conferences should be considered as significant. In 2015-2019 the team organized 6 domestic and as many as 17 international conferences.	

Further criterion: 2. Vitality, sustainability and strategy (D2.1-D2.9)

D2.1	Direction in line with the perspective of the planned research directions
The direction mostly conforms with the planned research directions.	
D2.2	Assessment of the previous research objectives and their achievement
In the period 2015-2019, the team continued to conduct research on subjects of long-term interest, led by scholars who are already established in the domestic scholarly community and also in international circles. Under the impulse of the previous evaluation, the team has modified the diffuse and excessively heterogeneous character of its previous research program and concentrated its efforts in 5 major thematic areas. This concentration resulted in the creation within the department of smaller teams, which were then able to attract researchers from other institutions.	
D2.3	Assessment of implementation of recommendations from past evaluation
Besides the above-mentioned reduction of themes, the evaluation commission in 2015 recommended that the department should employ more doctoral and post-doctoral researchers. Since then the department received in reality from the Academy two new post-doctoral positions (the second one starting in 2020). A further recommendation urged developing international cooperation, extending to countries beyond Germany and Austria and publishing more with distinguished foreign publishing houses. In the most recent five years, the department's research outputs were published with some interesting foreign publishing houses such as Böhlau Verlag, Brepols, Brill, Harrasowitz Verlag, Leipziger	

Universitätsverlag, Lit Verlag and others, but the majority of foreign publications are still in the German language.	
D2.4	Success in receiving grants
The department was successful in obtaining grants. Members of the team have won most of their grants from the GAČR (7), but they were also successful in receiving grants from the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic. In Austria they participated in a grant from the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Austrian Wissenschaftsfond (FWF).	
D2.5	Adequacy of instrumental equipment
Instrumental equipment is appropriate to the needs of the department.	
D2.6	Effectiveness of management
The department management is effective. Because the team leader is simultaneously director of the Institute, it would perhaps be appropriate to change the team leader.	
D2.7	Assessment of professional structure, development strategy and the strategy of keeping best scientists, age structure, career and qualification growth
The age structure of the department is well balanced and promising for the future. 4 members of the team are over 50 and 4 are young (up to 35 years). This will assure good generational turnover and stability for the research basis. There was also progress in team members achieving more advanced qualifications with one member of the department to achieve professorial rank and another in the habilitation process. In the most recent five-year period 2 PhD students defended their dissertations. The advance in qualifications over this last five-year period is positive compared to the previous period.	
D2.8	Creating work-life balance conditions, assessment of approach towards possible gender issues
Among 20 team members there are 8 women and 12 men. Regarding gender issues, this can be considered as balanced. The total FTE of the department is only 11.70. It is due to teaching activities of the team members.	
D2.9	Relation of the team with regard to the integration, development and sustainability of the research centre funded by the National Programme of Sustainability II.
Not applicable to this department	

Further criterion: 3. Cooperation with universities and participation in education (D3.1-D3.6)

D3.1	Scope of cooperation with universities on national and international level
Team cooperation with universities is very extensive. With a team that has 20 members, scientific and educational cooperation with 8 foreign and 7 domestic universities can be considered extraordinary. The quality of cooperation is documented by the common scientific outputs as well.	
D3.2	Effectiveness of joint research centres
This department is the main participant on behalf of the Institute of History in the Centre for Early Modern Studies, which is a joint research centre of the IH and the Faculty of Arts, South Bohemian University in České Budějovice. The main function of the Centre is work on editions of substantive historical sources on Early Modern Czech and Central European	

history. Three extraordinarily demanding editions of documents published during the evaluated period is a particularly good result in view of the challenges of this editorial work.	
D3.3	Success rate in supervision of PhD students
4 members of the team were supervisors (5 consultants), and 5 theses were defended. This could be considered a success.	
D3.4	Participation of PhD students in the outputs
All PhD students participated in research and in outputs of the department.	
D3.5	Participation of the team in master or bachelor studies
Participation of team members in master's and bachelor studies is very intensive. 9 of 20 team members lead courses at 7 different universities.	
D3.6	Assessment of cooperation intensity with universities in the form of teaching
The intensity of cooperation with universities is particularly good.	

Further criterion: 4. Outreach activities (D4.1-D4.3)

D4.1	Sufficiency of media strategy and activities in the area of research popularisation
Compared to the departments of the 19th and 20th centuries, the Department of Early Modern History does not have topics of similar attractiveness for the media and popularization, but it still has had intense activity and included all areas from film production and television to articles in newspapers and public lectures.	
D4.2	Publishing activities and its quality
The team has very rich and high-quality publishing activity in the field of its research. Perhaps it would be desirable for team members to publish in addition books for popularization.	
D4.3	Participation in professional organisations in the area of research and development
Several of the team staff are members of editorial boards of scientific periodicals and scientific boards of various universities and museums, not only in the Czech Republic, but also abroad.	

Other comments of the commission:

See the recommendations for the institute as a whole at the end of Part A.

3. Department of 19th Century History

Strengths:

- Team stability, long-term continuous development in research on individual topics;
- Topical innovativeness in 19th century research, an interdisciplinary approach to research;
- Team balance, favourable age, gender and qualification structures of the team;
- A leading position in the Czech Republic for research in field of the history of the 19th century;
- The team was successful in obtaining domestic grants.

Weaknesses:

- Not quite pronounced position in international networking of historical research on the 19th century;
- Failure to obtain international, especially European, grants;
- Insufficient participation of PhD students in the team's research even though team members are teaching at universities.

Opportunities:

- The possibility of using good personal contacts of older generation members for greater research collaboration on the national and international levels.

Threats:

- The limited participation of PhD students and post-docs in research can lead to a generational gap between the currently strong middle generation and younger colleagues.

Main criterion: 1. Quality of results (H1.1-H1.5)

H1.1	Quality of selected outputs of Phase I
The selected outputs evaluated in Phase I are slightly above the average for all outputs evaluated in fields of History and Archaeology.	
H1.2	Contribution of workers on the outputs reached
The contribution of individual workers is quite balanced with above-average shares produced by the Brno branch and the team which concentrates on the modernisation and homogenisation of society.	
H1.3	Quality of all outputs and results
The results of the department are innovative within the Institute and also in comparison with other historical institutions in the Czech Republic. They are based on the application of some concepts and analysis from sociology and cultural and social anthropology.	
H1.4	The most valuable discoveries and findings in the fields, their importance for the field
In view of the current trends in historiography and the state of knowledge in modern history, significant outcomes must be mainly in the published results and in organizing international conferences.	

H1.5	Contribution of the participation of the authors in large collaborations
Not applicable to this research team]	

Main criterion: 2. Societal relevance (H2.1-H2.5)

H2.1	Societal relevance of outputs and results pursuant to CAS and institute mission
The outputs of the department affect the formation of the historical consciousness of society in the Czech Republic. They contribute in that the results help strengthen historical consciousness with a wider European dimension, introduce new topics and new views about the past and aid in the forming of civil society.	
H2.2	System functionality for knowledge transfer into practise, its usefulness for society. The impact of the team's activity on proper practice in society in the area of social sciences and humanities
Members of the department have a proven way to communicate with the public through publishing professional and popular works, through the media and by their participation in the pedagogical process.	
H2.3	Relation to practice
The department was active in relation to the general public mainly in connection with the observances for the one hundredth anniversary of the end of World War I and the founding of Czechoslovakia in 1918 and by designing war monuments.	
H2.4	Participation in AV21 strategy
In the pursuit of the AV21 strategy, the team does not coordinate any project, but it participates in two: 1. Memory in the Digital Area; 2. Europe and the State. Between Barbarism and Civilisation.	
H2.5	Cooperation with regions of the Czech Republic
This team cooperates with regions in the Czech Republic mainly through team members in Brno, who in turn collaborate with the Masaryk University in Brno and with other institutions in elaborating the history of Moravia and the Austrian Silesia. The regional dimension also includes research on the history of family businesses as well as on sites of memory.	

Further criterion: 1. Position in international and national context (D1.1-D1.3)

D1.1	Comparison of the team with similar international and national institutes
This team has a leading position in research on the history of the long 19th century at the national level and cooperates closely with universities, museums and archives in the Czech Republic. International cooperation is based on the individual cooperation of team members with foreign institutions and on the participation of individual researchers in international projects.	
D1.2	Scope and quality of international and national cooperation and the role of the team in such cooperation; engagement in broad international cooperation

The team cooperates with domestic and foreign institutions mostly through long-term individual partnerships. This cooperation takes the form of conference presentations and joint publications. Unfortunately, this cooperation has not yet resulted in participation in a joint international project that would be financed by the European Union or by international foundations.	
D1.3	Participation of the workers in scientific community activities (organizing of conferences and workshops, invited lectures, awards)
This team organizes regular workshops in cooperation with the Institute of Philosophy. With the Institute of Ethnology, the team organized the workshop, “Central Europe and Balkan Muslims” (2017) and was co-organizer of regular Congresses of Czech-Polish studies and Balkan studies. For the centenary of the founding of the Czechoslovak state, the team initiated and co-organized two international scholarly conferences. Participation of the team in scientific community activities is intensive.	

Further criterion: 2. Vitality, sustainability and strategy (D2.1-D2.9)

D2.1	Direction in line with the perspective of the planned research directions
The planned research directions are systematically followed by the team.	
D2.2	Assessment of the previous research objectives and their achievement
The team has been working on "their" topics for a long time, and the team members have become not only highly influential, but also inspiring scientific personalities for the next generation. Especially in the field of social history, this team has become an innovator of new interdisciplinary dimensions of historical research. In the previous period, this team provided the main authors for a significant synthesis of the history of the Czech lands in the 19th century. At the same time, this synthesis showed where there are still untouched topics in this field. The current and future research plans of the team are also based on this knowledge.	
D2.3	Assessment of implementation of recommendations from past evaluation
In the last evaluation, the commission recommended that the department should involve PhD students more in its research and in the organization of scholarly events. This recommendation was fulfilled only partly, and the department still does not sufficiently use its capacity to train its doctoral students. The department did increase its activities in organizing international conferences and congresses. The team was also successful in publishing monographs with prestigious foreign publishing houses. Although two such publications were published only after 2019, their preparation took place in the evaluated period of 2015 – 2019.	
D2.4	Success in receiving grants
The team was successful in obtaining national grants. Obtaining 6 grants from the GA ČR and one grant in the GA ČR excellence program is a success for a 15-member team. Unfortunately, for a long time the team has not been able to obtain international grants.	
D2.5	Adequacy of instrumental equipment
The equipment is adequate for the needs of the team.	
D2.6	Effectiveness of management

Since the team is divided into Prague and Brno branches, the task of management is more demanding. Nonetheless, the team leader seems not to have serious problems.	
D2.7	Assessment of professional structure, development strategy and the strategy of keeping best scientists, age structure, career and qualification growth
The team structure is balanced in terms of professional qualifications, and team members are advancing in their qualifications. The head of the department is a professor at Charles University, and two team members submitted their habilitation works at universities during the evaluated period. Even younger workers are already experienced researchers with robust publication activity. At present the team's age structure is balanced, but the department needs to involve more PhD students in its research.	
D2.8	Creating work-life balance conditions, assessment of approach towards possible gender issues
The team has the advantage of stability in the long term and a good gender balance issue.	
D2.9	Relation of the team with regard to the integration, development and sustainability of the research centre funded by the National Programme of Sustainability II.
Not applicable to this research team	

Further criterion: 3. Cooperation with universities and participation in education (D3.1-D3.6)

D3.1	Scope of cooperation with universities on national and international level
Cooperation with universities is strong enough, although limited only to two universities: Charles University in Prague and Masaryk University in Brno. Abroad the team has good cooperation with the University of Sarajevo.	
D3.2	Effectiveness of joint research centres
The team participated in two joint research centres, and the joint research centres are effective. One of them is in the centres of excellence program, and both are successful as regards outputs into practice and publication outputs.	
D3.3	Success rate in supervision of PhD students
Six out of eleven team members acted as supervisors of PhD students. In the period 2015 – 2019 four PhD students defended their dissertations.	
D3.4	Participation of PhD students in the outputs
At present, only one PhD student participates in the team's research outputs. The team would do well to increase this number in the future. It can be assumed that regarding the professional quality of the team, PhD students could benefit from participating in the team's research work.	
D3.5	Participation of the team in master or bachelor studies
Six out of eleven department members participated in bachelor's and master's degree programs, predominantly at Charles University in Prague and Masaryk University in Brno. In addition, one team member teaches abroad at the University of Sarajevo.	

D3.6	Assessment of cooperation intensity with universities in the form of teaching
Overall, the intensity of the team's cooperation with universities in teaching is sufficient, with three team members (M. Hlavačka, L. Hladký, F. Šístek) having extremely high engagement.	

Further criterion: 4. Outreach activities (D4.1-D4.3)

D4.1	Sufficiency of media strategy and activities in the area of research popularisation
All team members participated in popularisation of their research results. The popularization activities were built on two principles. On the one hand, department staff responded to the interest of the media, and on the other hand, they also initiated actions by proposing exhibitions and radio and television sessions.	
D4.2	Publishing activities and its quality
The publishing activities of the team are at a high level quantitatively and qualitatively. Many outputs are published by prestigious, high quality publishing houses. Several of the team's scholarly publications have attractive topics appropriate to a broad audience. Going forward, some attractive themes from the research in social history would be appropriate for publication in the form of popular books.	
D4.3	Participation in professional organisations in the area of research and development
Three team members are in the commission of the Czech Science Foundation, the head of the department, Milan Hlavačka, is a corresponding foreign member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and is a member of three academic councils of Czech university faculties. Other members of the team are active in societies for Slavic and Balkan studies.	

Other comments of the commission:

See the recommendations for the institute as a whole at the end of Part A.

4. Department of 20th Century History

11,60 FTE, 14 researchers (previously 10 researchers and 2 PhD students), led by Jan Němeček. Main research fields at present: 1) Czechoslovakia – part of European and global politics; 2) Czechoslovak society between democracy and modern dictatorships; 3) The struggle of Czechs and Slovaks for the democratic ideals of Europe; 4) Forced migration – consequences of economic and political problems of Europe; 5) Editorial activities (a reduction of two fields since the past evaluation).

Strengths:

The editing of important source documents concerning the political and diplomatic history of Czechoslovakia traditionally represents one of the most valuable parts of the varied activities of the team. Furthermore, this team possesses expertise in many fields of recent history including – to a greater extent than the remaining departments of the Institute – international history. The wide engagement in public history is an asset for further development in the future.

Weaknesses:

The department's publication strategy, especially given the international character of its interests, could be more international with better representation of articles in respected foreign journals. Perhaps too large a fraction of the team's output appears in the two journals co-edited by the department. This clearly diminishes chances for greater visibility of the team's research. Source editions, which generally represent the most valuable element of the team's output, deserve sustained effort and a digitalizing strategy to make them more widely accessible.

Opportunities:

The team's involvement with major historical anniversaries consumes time and energy but, at the same time, offers unique opportunities to reach a wider audience. Digitalization of the most important source editions can be both a valuable enrichment of Czech history and a source of additional funds.

Threats:

The dependence on publishing in the two journals co-edited by the department can reduce the circulation of the team's output and endanger its quality. In addition, constant involvement with matters of current political interest may result in self-censorship. This threat is illustrated in the department's articulating the theme of "The struggle of Czechs and Slovaks for the democratic ideals of Europe" without having any balancing element within the research program devoted to such phenomena as collaboration with undemocratic regimes or outright rejection of democratic order. Twentieth-century history is inherently a politically freighted field, and historical experts need to do their best to secure their academic independence and their freedom of research initiative when dealing with sensitive matters.

Main criterion: 1. Quality of results (H1.1-H1.5)

H1.1	Quality of selected outputs of Phase I
The overall number of publications in the four-year period was 240, with 22 outputs submitted for evaluation in Phase1: 4 in quality group 1, 9 in quality group 2, 9 in quality group 3, none in quality group 4 and 5.	

H1.2	Contribution of workers on the outputs reached
Department members obtained six research grants in the period under scrutiny. The interconnection between the department team and the editorial and authorial teams for the journals <i>Slovanský Přehled</i> and <i>Moderní dějiny</i> can be seen as a danger to the openness and quality guarantees of these teams.	
H1.3	Quality of all outputs and results
The majority of the publications deal with the political history of Czechoslovakia and international relations, fields in which the team has an established position on the national level. The most important publications are the editions of diplomatic documents.	
H1.4	The most valuable discoveries and findings in the fields, their importance for the field
The fundamental editions of diplomatic documents and synthetic works on the history of Czechoslovakia (<i>Československo. Dějiny státu</i>) constitute the most important outputs of this team.	
H1.5	Contribution of the participation of the authors in large collaborations
The engagement of this team in larger collaborations has been limited: <i>Český historický atlas</i> ; <i>Kapitoly z dějin 20. století</i> .	

Main criterion: 2. Societal relevance (H2.1-H2.5)

H2.1	Societal relevance of outputs and results pursuant to CAS and institute mission
The team's members take part in public discussions and debate on similar terms and in similar fashion as other researchers of the Institute as a whole This team also plays a role in the organization of historical exhibitions.	
H2.2	System functionality for knowledge transfer into practise, its usefulness for society. The impact of the team's activity on proper practice in society in the area of social sciences and humanities
There are rich team activities in the public arena, but their impact on societal consciousness is difficult to measure.	
H2.3	Relation to practice
Not indicated.	
H2.4	Participation in AV21 strategy
This department has had significant participation, particularly in the program, "Europe and the State: Between Barbarism and Civilization."	
H2.5	Cooperation with regions of the Czech Republic
This department has had a limited number of local activities, predominantly local and travelling exhibitions.	

Further criterion: 1. Position in international and national context (D1.1-D1.3)

D1.1	Comparison of the team with similar international and national institutes
This team has a strong position, particularly in the field of the source editions devoted to the foreign policy of Czechoslovakia. As such, it is widely recognized. The team's weaknesses in publishing in international venues and, more broadly, in carrying out individual monographic projects make its position less impressive in comparison with some Czech historical research institutes such as the Masaryk Institute and Archives and the Institute for Contemporary History.	
D1.2	Scope and quality of international and national cooperation and the role of the team in such cooperation; engagement in broad international cooperation
This team traditionally plays an important role in the functioning of bilateral commissions, in particular with the former Eastern Bloc countries. Such long-term cooperation binds together historical institutes in the academies of science in these countries. Such academic cooperation and exchange remain an important and well-functioning mechanism.	
D1.3	Participation of the workers in scientific community activities (organizing of conferences and workshops, invited lectures, awards)
Organizing 6 national and 7 international conferences as well as giving a number of invited lectures, delivered either in the Czech Republic or at Czech diplomatic representations, suggests that perhaps more weight could be put into presenting the team's outputs internationally. The Department members serve in scientific commissions, councils, and editorial boards mainly in the Czech Republic and, less frequently, internationally.	

Further criterion: 2. Vitality, sustainability and strategy (D2.1-D2.9)

D2.1	Direction in line with the perspective of the planned research directions
The department's stated research objectives centered upon the commemoration of historical anniversaries, obtaining research grants, and further internationalization of the team's research.	
D2.2	Assessment of the previous research objectives and their achievement
In general, the research objectives for the five-year period have been met. They centered upon the commemoration of historical anniversaries, winning research grants, and further internationalization of the team's research. The first and second tasks were fulfilled to an extent that they seem to have overshadowed the third one, as work on the projects supported by the received grants and commemorations have occupied large portions of the attention and time of the team members.	
D2.3	Assessment of implementation of recommendations from past evaluation
The past evaluation's recommendations aimed at strengthening research on social history within the team and achieving closer cooperation with the Institute for Contemporary History. The first objective motivated the hiring of an already renowned and highly active specialist in the field while the other culminated in the joint project on Czechoslovak participants in the Spanish Civil War. The department succeeded in increasing the number of doctoral students and – to a lesser degree – in strengthening its international cooperations.	

D2.4	Success in receiving grants
With 6 grants during the evaluated period, the department ranks last among the four teams under scrutiny within the Institute.	
D2.5	Adequacy of instrumental equipment
The team would benefit from structural support in digitalizing its projects.	
D2.6	Effectiveness of management
The management successfully supplemented the team with a most urgently needed specialist in social history.	
D2.7	Assessment of professional structure, development strategy and the strategy of keeping best scientists, age structure, career and qualification growth
The team is balanced in terms of age and qualifications. All programmatic themes are sufficiently covered with specialists.	
D2.8	Creating work-life balance conditions, assessment of approach towards possible gender issues
The department creates favorable work-life balance conditions. The gender balance of the team is uneven (11 men and 3 women).	
D2.9	Relation of the team with regard to the integration, development and sustainability of the research centre funded by the National Programme of Sustainability II.
The team members closely cooperate with the Centre for Legal Historical Studies and the Research Centre for Ecclesiastical and Religious History.	

Further criterion: 3. Cooperation with universities and participation in education (D3.1-D3.6)

D3.1	Scope of cooperation with universities on national and international level
This team has extremely rich activities throughout the Republic with a particularly broad range of topics but still a strong representation of the history of international relations.	
D3.2	Effectiveness of joint research centres
This team's engagement in joint research centres is highly effective. Of particular note here are source studies on Czechoslovak history and the expulsion of the German minority, edited and published by the Centre for Legal Historical Studies.	
D3.3	Success rate in supervision of PhD students
Members of this team supervised 19 PhD students, among whom 6 defended their dissertations within the period under scrutiny.	
D3.4	Participation of PhD students in the outputs
Doctoral students are well integrated into the activities of the team both in research efforts and organizational matters. Two have been included in the team as full-time members.	

D3.5	Participation of the team in master or bachelor studies
Team members supervised 28 bachelor's students (27 defended) and 15 master's students (17 defended) within the period under scrutiny.	
D3.6	Assessment of cooperation intensity with universities in the form of teaching
In comparative terms, there was a particularly strong representation of members of this team in teaching efforts in several universities, reflecting their broad interests and expertise. Otherwise, if added to the public outreach activities and the work on time-consuming grant-funded research, the intensive teaching contributes to the overloading of the team members and potentially makes more difficult the achievement of their other programmatic goals.	

Further criterion: 4. Outreach activities (D4.1-D4.3)

D4.1	Sufficiency of media strategy and activities in the area of research popularisation
Current activities in this field are mostly connected to historical anniversaries which generate public interest. In this connection members of the team deliver numerous newspaper and journal articles, public lectures, interviews and expert papers. The team was particularly active in the preparation of historical exhibitions.	
D4.2	Publishing activities and its quality
The team excels in cooperation with the newspaper press. Some of the numerous newspaper series published by the team members are being collected and published in book form, a clear sign of their quality and public impact. The professional publishing fora are mainly two of the Institute-operated journals: <i>Slovanský přehled</i> and <i>Moderní dějiny</i> , the first of which is indexed by the Scopus database. Individual book publications appear with multiple, mostly Czech, publishing houses, particularly Academia. Non-Czech publishing activities are, in turn, much less numerous and less prestigious. According to the Phase I report, the quality of the team's submitted publications is relatively somewhat low compared to the average for the whole Institute. Among the team's achievements, the monumental <i>Československo. Dějiny státu</i> deserves special mention.	
D4.3	Participation in professional organisations in the area of research and development
Members of the team participate in the activities of many national and international scientific organizations including the Executive Committee of the International Council on Central and East European Studies and bilateral historical commissions. In addition, they are well represented on the boards of numerous Czech universities and among the editors of journals in history and neighboring disciplines.	

Other comments of the commission:

See the recommendations for the institute as a whole at the end of Part A.

Commission 10 - History and archaeology
Evaluated teams No.: 1, 2, 3, 4

Commission Chair: Prof. Gary B. Cohen

Commission Deputy Chair: Pavel Vařeka

Commission Members:

Peter Bugge

Alessandro Catalano

Maciej Gorny

Anthony Harding

Barbara Horejs

Dušan Kováč

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