

**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: Masaryk Institute and Archives 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: Rudolf Kučera, substitute observer Dagmar Hájková

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

Chair: Marie-Elizabeth Ducreux

Date(s) of the visit of the Institute: October 22, 2015

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

Evaluated research teams:

*No. 1 - Department for Research and Source Editions; No. 2 - Department for the History of the Academy of Sciences; No. 3 - Department for the Cataloguing and Study of Manuscripts*

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

### **1. Introduction**

The Masaryk Institute had to face important structural and institutional evolutions during its 20 years of existence, as well as a sharp personal change. As Masaryk Institute and Archives of the CAS, it has been created in 1995, when it replaced the former T. G. Masaryk's Institute founded in the 1990's, which was primarily devoted to the preservation of Masaryk's archives and to the development of new researches about action and heritage of the founder and first president of the Czechoslovak Republic. In 2006, the Masaryk Institute underwent another structural change, when it was joined by the Archives of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. Thereby it had to redefine its specific vocation taking in account the 2 other existing historical institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences. In this context, the four-year period 2010-2014 was a crucial one for institutional redefinition and scientific consolidation of the Institute. How its present direction and teams tried (and are still trying) to address this challenge was an important point to clarify during the on-site visit. All Commission members did not share the same opinion about the present structuration of the Masaryk Institute and Archives of the CAS. But all of them noticed striking results in all other fields and the productive and dynamic atmosphere existing in all teams.

### **Strengths and Opportunities**

-Reflexivity, comparison, inventiveness and interdisciplinarity are distinctive marks of most projects and programmes, where historians, literature historians, linguists, political scientists and others specialists are working together.

-Significant improvements in:

-Personal qualification (all researchers are now with PhD, instead of master degree);

- international collaboration (partnerships mostly with Austria, Germany and Poland, given the Central European specialization area of the Institute)
- number of successful grants
- participation in international inquiries
- shared publications with international partners
- number of published papers in impacted journals, especially abroad.

-High qualification of the archivists working at the Archive. This also applies for the Department for the Cataloguing and Study of Manuscripts, whose members are able to provide a unique service at the level of the whole Czech Republic in medieval codicology.

- Importance of the archival and edition work

-Good publication strategy (for instance: besides its own publication series, Masaryk Institute set an agreement with the Publishing House Lidové noviny for publishing its scientific results in a special collection (Ego); .

- Openness towards doctoral students and post-doctoral young researchers (annual course-training stage or Summer School, two foreign post-docs from Germany and other European States working at the Institute, Czech Students coming for a 2 or 3 months practice, doctoral candidates from several Czech universities participating in the Institute's research activities, some of them with standard employment contracts).

- Significant increase in the number of publications

- Due to the location of the Masaryk archives and of the Archives of the CAS at the Institute, good opportunity to combine archival and historical work.

- Dynamic and well-qualified Direction team.

- Modern building with all required facilities for Archive materials and work.

- A very fruitful collaboration with universities, especially with Charles University.

## **2. Weaknesses and Threats**

- Even if it represents an opportunity, the presence of several Archives integrated into the Institute also means the juxtaposition of two different professional groups – archivists and researchers-historians, which can bring contradictions and problems due to the internal structure and coherency.

- Problems in communication due to geographical location: The Masaryk Institute is still located in two different sites in Prague (Gabčíková street and Na Florenci 3). But in 2016-2017, the Archives of the Academy of Sciences has to be relocated at Gabčíková.

- Difficulties to attract well-trained co-workers in some narrowly specialized fields for financial motives (especially in Natural Sciences: non-attractive wages for Natural history scientists coming from faculties or Institutes of Natural Sciences).

- Necessity to reinforce Team 2 (Department for cataloguing and Study of Manuscripts) (4 researchers + 1 other worker, 2 between 40-50, 2 between 55-65, 1 over 70).

## **3. Recommendations**

- It seems necessary to continue improving the links and scientific proximity of the 3 departments. The present structure of the Masaryk Institute and Archives of CAS is not necessarily a weakness due to the juxtaposition of 2 units with different purposes: it may be also a strength, because it challenges here an innovative working style based on a voluntary strategy of internal communication. Taking this fact in account, the commission doesn't recommend a structural change, but would like to stress the importance of going on thinking about the difficulties caused by the coexistence of two different kinds of jobs (archival work and historical scientific research).

-Inside the Masaryk Institute and Archives of the CAS, the Department for the History of the Academy of Sciences might also try to develop a closer cooperation with the Department for Research and Sources Editions.

- Despite already impressive results in international scientific networking and cooperation, the commission recommends to keep on with efforts in this field and to increase the cooperation with existing national and international partners, or other ones (Horizon 2020, ERC, etc.). The Masaryk Institute and Archives of the CAS has now developed a good starting point for achieving this sort of projects.

-Although the quality of their work is unquestionable, the CAS should perhaps think about solving possible future problems coming from a too small number of employees in the 3<sup>rd</sup> team (Department for cataloguing and sources editions), perhaps with keeping in mind that the services delivered here concern all medievalist and Early modern historians in Prague (and in the Czech Republic

## Detailed evaluations

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

-Enlarging of the competence field of the Masaryk Institute from research on T.G. Masaryk and Beneš to Czech and Central European History from 1848 to 1948 (but still including a special attention to Beneš and Masaryk, due to the owning of their archive) proved to be a successful step in terms of dynamism, international cooperation, historical epistemology and interdisciplinarity. Despite that one of the Commission members would still prefer a more traditional definition and specialization narrowly based on research about T.G.M, other members did not share this opinion, because this change for a larger definition has permitted a significant improvement in the management and the research done here, with a turn from a traditional political history towards a cultural and social political history addressing transversal issues in comparative perspective. Thereby the researchers of the Department for Research and Source Editions (the main responsible for this change), began rethinking topics and bringing new insights on international relations, parliamentarism, social and cultural memory, gender, etc. As a result, a broader development of international cooperation underwent recently, and proved to be most successful in sharing common programmes and publications with Austrian and German Historians

-This is also partly the result of good politics in recruitment and a dynamical management style.

-Overview of project activities: currently more than 16 grant projects, a remarkable increase from the year 2012.

-Publications results (RIV): from 1500 points in 2009 to 4500 points in 2013; 76 books published 2010-2014;

-Place of the Department for research and source editions (Team 1) in phase I. of the evaluation: Evaluated outputs 26 (out of 228), 4 publications ranked into "world leading quality" (Quality Group outputs 1) and 17 into the "internationally excellent" category (group 2), only 2 in group 3, none in groups 4 and 5. This outstanding ranking is supported by relatively high citations level (for this field of research).

-Place of the Department for the History of the Academy of Sciences (Team 2) in phase 1 of the evaluation: Evaluated outputs 12 (out of 122), 1 into Group1, 3 into Group 2, 6 into Group 3, 2 into Group 4.

-Place of the Department for cataloguing and Study of Manuscripts (Team 3) in Phase 1 of the evaluation in terms of quality groups outputs: evaluated outputs 5 (out of 43), 3 items ranked into Group 1, 2 into Group 2.

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

The commission stresses the good politics of involvement of young scholars, whom are given great opportunities to improve their knowledge and abilities, including involvement in research projects. Even if the Masaryk Institute has not its own doctoral students, it is organising each year courses training for doctoral students and post-doctoral scholars, and the majority of its workers are teaching at universities. The Masaryk Institutes cooperates in exchange of students and the organization of such trainings with foreign Institutions like Collegium Carolinum in Munich.

#### *Declaration on societal relevance*

-Services for research:

-The Department for the History of the Academy of Sciences achieves a high level in the history of sciences. The Department for the Cataloguing and Study of Manuscripts provides a most valuable and unique service for medievalists and early modern historians, despite of the small number of its workers. .

-Open-access catalogues in the Archives of the CAS and the Masaryk Archives;

-A unique position of the two Archives in the Czech Republic, given to the societal and historical importance of their records (Masaryk's papers, Benes's papers, papers from important Czechoslovak politicians).

-Teaching:

-2 researchers working also as associate professors and full professors at the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University, 1 as an associate professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the CU, 1 as a full professor at the Faculty of Sciences, Humanities and Education of the Technical University of Liberec, and other employees were assistant professors in several universities. The Institute has a joint Research Center with the CEVRO Institute at Charles University, named the Center for Central European Studies, which organizes each year a conference and publishes its own book series together with a journal (academic studies in English, German and Czech).

-Supervision of Students: 4 Bachelors, 12 theses defended in 2010-2014; 6 Master Students, 7 theses defended in 2010-2014.

.-Activities in Popularization (lectures for seniors and members of learned societies, Regional administrations, history programs on public and private televisions and radios in the CR, Slovakia and Austria, involvement in popular exhibits, papers for the main Czech periodicals).

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

-Partnerships mostly with Austria, Germany and Poland, given the Central European specialization area of the Institute)

-Participation in international inquiries

-Common publications with national and international partners

-Significant number of published papers in impacted journals, especially abroad;

-Participation in programme Strategy AS 21: programme Memory in the Digital Age, with the Institute's director, PhDr. Luboš Velek, as Programme coordinator and PhDr Dagmar Hájková (Dpt. for Research and Sources Editions, Team 1) as responsible for topic

„Memory: its formation and transformation“; and Programme Forms and functions of communications (topic: Science as a form of communication, Martin Franc, Team 2). .

*Declaration on the vitality and sustainability*

-Team 1 (Department for Research and Source Editions): A good amount of younger researchers (post-docs) and experienced senior researchers. (20 researchers (18 from 30 to 45 years old) + 5 other workers; 2 between 40-50, 2 between 55-65, 1 over 70);

-Team 2 (Department for the History of the Academy of Sciences): 6 from 35 to 45, 3 from 50 to 60.

-Necessity to reinforce Team 3 (Department for the Cataloguing and Study of Manuscripts, with 4 researchers + 1 other worker.

-For hiring new employees, the Institute resort to 2 different ways: public advertising of vacancies (with recent rise of foreign interest), project positions funded through funding agencies (GAČR, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and others). There is an internal programme for the support of talented post-docs. All scholars are periodically submitted to internal evaluation.

*Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future*

-All the teams have developed satisfying and well-thought out projects and strategy for the future, taking into account past four-year improvement. (See their detailed evaluations below).

-The Institute is strongly involved in Programme Strategy AV 21( three programmes: “Memory in the Digital Age” (coordinator); “Forms and functions of communications”; and “The European State Between Barbarism and Civilization”).

-During the four-year period, the Masaryk Institute -and quite especially the Department for Research and Source Editions-, notwithstanding its small dimensions, became more successfully acquainted with current trends in the history of the 19th and 20th centuries. Thereby the Institute has produced not only valuable outputs, but has successfully cooperated with foreign partners. It is already a great achievement.

-The Masaryk Institute should think about deeper involvement in European research programmes (ERC or Marie Curie applications), with the help of the CAS.

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

### **Evaluation of the Team No. 1: Department for Research and Source Editions**

#### **1. Introduction**

The Department for research and source editions is the principal department of the Institute. During the past four-year period, it has successfully experimented a change in scientific definition and research contents. The good ranking of its members' publications during the Phase 1 of the Evaluation gives evidence of this positive turn. All evaluated publications are into groups 1 (world leading quality), 2 and 3.

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

- Reflexivity, comparison, inventiveness and a true interdisciplinarity are distinctive marks of projects and programmes, where historians, literature historians, linguists, political scientists and others specialists are working together.
- Ability to develop new insights in political history, excellent command of the newest paradigms in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Central European and Czech and Czechoslovak history
- Involvement in societal attractive themes such as memory making and rethinking of cultural heritage;
- A unique situation created by the keeping of T.G. Masaryk 's and Beneš 's archives and other papers from leading Czech politicians of the 1<sup>st</sup> Republic;
- International collaboration (partnerships mostly with Austria, Germany and Poland, given the Central European specialization area of the Institute)
- Number of successful grants
- Participation in international inquiries and projects, good success rate in national competition for grants;
- Shared publications with international partners
- Number of published papers in impacted journals, especially abroad.
- A balanced age structure with a large amount of younger researchers.

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

- The lack of internal own doctoral students, though a significant number of researchers are personally involved in university teaching.
- The structure of financial support

#### **4. Recommendations**

- To continue course-training of doctoral students;
- To continue and to improve the already successful integration in international projects and programmes and in national grants;
- To think about ERC, COST or Marie Curie Fellowships applications

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

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

- The phase I. of the evaluation ranked 4 publications into "world leading quality" and 17 into the "internationally excellent" category what is outstanding ranking and that ranking is

supported by relatively high (for this field of research) citations level. 2 other published papers are into Group 3, none in groups 4 and 5.

-The Department has 3 main areas of research: 1. The history of international relations, political culture and parliamentarism, 2. Cultural history and memory studies, 3. Gender history. The first one deals with traditional topics like diplomatic relationships, especially relations between Czechoslovakia and Austria, Germany and the Vatican, political situation in the inter-war Czechoslovakia and parliamentarism. The Department members were able to bring even in the “traditional” themes new approaches and broader and deeper knowledge in the given area. The next two areas are innovative, bringing as well new knowledge in a field which was less explored in the previous years. Worthy of attention is the fact that the department was able to publish 57 books, some of which are really quite an event in Czech and international historiography.

-The Department publishes its own journal in collaboration with the CEVRO Institute University, t, *Střed. Centre. Journal for Interdisciplinary Studies of Central Europe in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries*, which is indexed in national and international databases.

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

-The Department members teach regularly at various universities, mainly at Charles University in Prague. Remarkable is that PhD students are all along the monitored time members of the research team. But ex adverso the number of doctoral students is permanently decreasing (from six in 2010 to two in 2014)

#### *Declaration on societal relevance*

-Very successful publication policy, which could be presented as a model for other Historical Institutes,

-Active mentoring of Master Students; training courses for doctoral Students, together with international institutions.

-Participation to Strategy AV21 (Coordination of the Programme Memory in the Digital Age)

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

-The good position of the department in the international context is documented firstly by the broad co-operation with many foreign institutions and then the organisation of very well attended international conferences. The most important were perhaps: *Climax or Beginning? Modernity, Culture, Central Europe and the Great War; Lebenswelten von Abgeordneten in Europa 1860–1990; Different Images: Perceptions of Edvard Beneš in Czech and European Contexts.*

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

-The number of fellows in department has in the last 5 years increased from 9 to 15. The age structure is balanced. In department are elder, experienced and on the other side young perspective researchers.

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

-The Department will continue to research in the three above mentioned areas: The history of international relations, political culture and parliamentarism, cultural history and memory studies and gender history. Some of the topics are already covered by grants.



Plans for the future include re-evaluations of 1918 (end of World War I and creation of the new political order in Europe, and of Czechoslovakia) and publication of the Encyclopaedia of T. G. Masaryk's life and works.

-Involvement in Strategy AV 21: the director of the Institute, a member of this team, is the coordinator of one programme (Memory in the Digital Age). .

## **Evaluation of the Team No. 2: Department for the History of the Academy of Sciences**

### **Introduction**

The Department primarily concentrates its work on two main areas, the history of the Czech Academy of Sciences, its structural evolution, its institutes and its more prominent scholars, and on selected biographical issues concerning other scientific personalities. During the evaluated four-year period, it has produced studies on the institutions and the scholars that were active mostly, but not merely in the social sciences and humanities and reconstructed the political and social contexts of their activities (for instance the historians Milada Paulová and Josef Vítězslav Šimák, but also biologist Málek, sinologist Průšek, the founder of modern Czech plastic surgery Burian and others), or published critical editions of their correspondences with other scholars or politicians, in order to inform the links between political milieu and professional history (for instance: Chancellor Šamal's correspondence with historian Bidlo). It has paid much attention to the development of Czech historiography, but also of the theological studies in the Czech Lands (Czech and German). As a long term topic, it focuses also on German Scholars and scientific institutions in the Czech lands and Czechoslovakia and combines bio-bibliographical (prosopography) approaches with other approaches coming from social and cultural history, a way allowing a deeper analysis of the researched problems (for instance in the Nazi period and Protectorate).

### **1. Strengths and Opportunities**

-The seriousness of the research work carried out and its importance for the Czech society;

### **2. Weaknesses and Threats**

-The fact that main topics researched are only national or territorial, all concerning scholars and institutions being located in the actual Czech Republic

### **3. Recommendations**

-To enlarge the research frame for a better interaction with history of knowledge in other countries;

-To clarify the links with another team devoted to the History of Science and knowledge situated at the Institute for Contemporary History;

-If possible: more interactions with Team No. 1.

## 5. Detailed evaluations

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

-Place of the Department for the History of the Academy of Sciences (Team No. 2) in phase 1 of the evaluation: Evaluated outputs 12 (out of 122), 1 into Group 1, 3 into Group 2, 6 into Group 3, 2 into Group 4.

-In comparison with team No. 1 (Department for Research and Source editions) the results of the team No. 2 per capita are quantitatively a little bit more modest (but not qualitatively!). This is due to the main topics of the team which needs more study in archives and work with mostly original documents, because there is only a small literature on the themes elaborated by the team. The team has two main areas of research: it produces individual chapters of the social sciences and humanities in the interwar period, and the history of the Czech (Czechoslovak) Academy of Sciences. --The Department publishes its own Journal, *Práce z dějin Akademie věd* [Studies in the History of the Academy of Sciences].

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

-In the first years of the evaluated period the team had 3 PhD students integrated as its members, but none in the last two years (2013, 2014). The Team members have pedagogical activities, some of them are primarily employed at universities and are only part-time employees at the Institute.

### *Declaration on societal relevance*

-The nature of researched themes: a well- contextualised history of knowledge is of crucial importance for the self-reflexion of any European society. Here it is necessary to stress the quality production of the Team about the history of knowledge in former Czechoslovakia and the Czechs lands in comparative perspective.

-Participation in Strategy AV21 (Programme Forms and Functions of Communication)

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

-Participation in international projects and grants (i.e. Religiöse Kulturen in Europa des 19. und 20. Jahrhunderts, with LMU Munich, Charles University and Masaryk University Brno).

-Involvement in Strategy AV 21

### *Declaration on the vitality and sustainability*

-The Team has a well-balanced age structure and is recognized, just like Team 1 for socio-cultural and political history, as a solid partner in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century's Central European research history.

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

-Besides continual research and publication in the field of Czech science history in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the team will concentrate his effort on preparing the first two volumes of the History of Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (the years 1952 – 1969) which will be a contribution to the knowledge of the history of this important non-university research institution in Czechoslovakia. It will take place within a project of Strategy AS 21 –To Research in the Public Interest (Program Forms and Function of Communication). Other books are prepared too; a new project will investigate the

relationship between CAS and Charles University with regional centres of science in Czech Lands.

## **Evaluation of the Team No. 3: Department for the Cataloguing and Study of Manuscripts**

### **1. Introduction**

The Department for the Cataloguing and Study of Manuscripts provides an irreplaceable service for Czech researchers of Medieval history and History of the Early modern times. Thus its links with the themes and projects of the two other Departments are less closed than those existing between them. However, the Institute's direction has underlined its satisfaction about the integration of this Department in it.

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

- The high level of professionalism of the workers
- A unique service to medievalist and Early modern historians in the whole Czech Republic, especially in codicological expertise

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

- The small number of employees may represent a threat for the future, all the more so their highly qualified level in rare specialised fields as codicology is a required. This point together with low wages do not facilitate recruitments. The personal structure of the team should be soon reinforced.

### **4. Recommendations**

- To ensure that a sufficient number of employees will continue to carry out the work of the Department; the Commission noted that its personal structure has been reinforced in 2015, thus after the evaluated period. Its links with the Centre for Medieval Studies of the Philosophy might be increased.

### **5. Detailed evaluations**

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

- The team has a very special field of activity by working out the General Catalogue of Manuscripts Housed in the Czech Republic and Bohemian Manuscripts Abroad. All members of the small team (4 researchers, but only 2.25 FTE aggregated) are specialized in the field of codicology and are respected experts, helping medievalists and other historians. Their publications are of praiseworthy, sometimes even of outstanding quality and can be viewed as providing tools for a wide community of specialists of Czech history, at national and international level.

- Place of the Department for cataloguing and Study of Manuscripts (Team No. 3) in Phase 1 of the evaluation in terms of quality groups outputs: evaluated outputs 5 (out of 43), 3 items ranked into Group 1, 2 into Group 2.

-The Department publishes its own journal, „Studie o rukopisech [Manuscript Studies]“.

*Declaration on the involvement of students in research*

The team members teach at several universities, mainly Charles University in Prague. They teach very specialized courses like codicology, heraldry, genealogy, so they are not involved in supervising of thesis and dissertations.

*Declaration on societal relevance*

-The team provides a very valuable and unique service to medievalist and Early modern historians in the whole Czech Republic, especially in codicological expertise,

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

-Again: The team provides a very valuable and unique service to medievalist and Early modern historians in the whole Czech Republic, especially in codicological expertise.  
-Cooperation with foreign archives and libraries, publishes useful catalogues and databases dealing with national and international records.

*Declaration on the vitality and sustainability*

-The personal structure should be reinforced.

*Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future*

-The plan of the team is finishing work on ongoing grant projects and beginning work on the new grant project: *Illuminated Manuscripts in Czech Archives*.

-It will continue to augment the General Catalogue of Manuscripts.

**Date:** February 1, 2016

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