

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

## **Final Report on the Evaluation of the Institute**

**Name of the Institute:** Institute of Philosophy of the CAS, v. v. i.

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

Philosophy, ethics and religious studies

Observer representing the Academy Council of the CAS: Lenka Vostrá

Observer representing the Institute: Tomáš Marvan, substitute observer Petr Kitzler

**Commission No. 13: Humanities excluding disciplines 6.1 and 6.2**

Chair: Prof. Alessandro Ferrara Ph.D.

Date(s) of the visit of the Institute: October 27 – October 30, 2015

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

Evaluated research teams:

*No. 1 - Department of Analytic Philosophy; No. 2 - Department of Logic; No. 3 - Department of Contemporary Continental Philosophy; No. 4 - Department of Moral and Political Philosophy + Centre of Global Studies; No. 5 - Department for the Study of Modern Rationality; No. 6 - Department for the Study of Ancient and Medieval Thought; No. 8 - Department for the Study of Modern Czech Philosophy; No. 9 - The Jan Patočka Archive; No. 12 - Centre for Science, Technology, and Society Studies*

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

### **1. Introduction**

The Institute of Philosophy consists of 12 research teams, the following nine of which were visited by Commission 13:

- 1 Department of Analytic Philosophy
- 2 Department of Logic
- 3 Department of Contemporary Continental Philosophy
- 4 Department of Moral and Political Philosophy and Centre of Global Studies
- 5 Department for the Study of Modern Rationality
- 6 Department for the Study of Ancient and Medieval Thought
- 8 Department for the Study of Modern Czech Philosophy
- 9 The Jan Patočka Archive
- 12 Centre for Science, Technology, and Society Studies

All Departments (in the following, the term "Department" is meant to subsume research teams 9 and 12 as well) have several tasks to deal with, namely

- (i) to produce research at the international top-level,
- (ii) to publish research outputs with both national and international publishing houses as well as in both national and international scientific journals
- (iii) to edit national and international journals in various philosophical subdisciplines,
- (iv) to teach university students and supervise bachelor, master and PhD theses,
- (v) to disseminate research results to a wider intellectual public,
- (vi) to preserve and continue the Czech intellectual heritage and tradition,
- (vii) to provide translations and editions of important philosophical works.

It is clear that the tasks place partially conflicting demands on the members of the research teams. The Departments of the Institute of Philosophy vary in the proportion of work which they devote to tasks (i) – (vii). But in general the commission has come to the opinion that all tasks are being addressed in an impressive way.

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

The Institute of Philosophy offers a lively and very active research environment with a research output that is very impressive in both quantitative and qualitative respects. The Institute has obtained a remarkable amount of external funding in the period 2010–2014 (69 projects with a total of 4,16 million EUR), mainly from national funding agencies. The individual Departments are not only anchored in particular research traditions, but each Department is characterized by a research area and a philosophical style of its own that has been reinforced by comparatively stable conditions over a significant stretch of time. The commission sees stability of the environment as a precondition for the success of long-term projects. It should be highlighted that a lot of members of the Institute of philosophy are leading scholars in their respective fields of philosophy and that the Institute engages the most promising

younger philosophers who will be leaders in future. Due to the diversity of the Departments it is difficult to give a more detailed summary evaluation of the strengths and opportunities of the Institute as a whole. (Some points applying quite generally to many Departments are addressed below, in Section 4, "Recommendations".)

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

There are a great number of young and talented researchers in the Czech Republic, but the commission feels that more amalgamation with the international research scene would be desirable. Researchers all over the world feel delighted and honoured to give talks at the CAS and to participate in the conferences organized by the CAS. However, it seems more difficult to attract researches for long-term visits or for jobs offered by the CAS. There are some notable exceptions (e.g., T. Childers, J. Hill) but in general it appears that the financial resources are insufficient to make the recruitment of foreign researchers a reality. The main threat thus seems to be provided by the economic and social environment in which the Institute as a whole has to pursue their research. Non-competitive salaries and underfinancing of science and research in the Czech Republic may threaten long-term projects. The commission therefore advises that the funding of the humanities institutes of the CAS from the Czech authorities be increased.

Another threat can be seen in the fact that the Institute is under a variety of pressures which are not entirely consistent: publication quality vs. increased popularization activities and emphasis on quantity. It is unfortunate that the number of output produced appears partially to determine the Institute's funding. Another pressure stems from the fact that, apart from doing research, many members of the Institute are engaged in excessive undergraduate teaching activities.

### **4. Recommendations**

There are several points in which the commission perceives possibilities for improvement. The commission recommends

- to reconsider the amount of undergraduate teaching that is being done by the members of the Institute; it feels that undergraduate teaching is the primary task of the universities and should not impair the main task of the researchers at CAS;
- to investigate the possibility of awarding PhD degrees jointly with university faculties;
- to develop a sound strategy for promoting gender equality (in line with, e.g., *Horizon 2020*'s ideas on promoting and integrating gender equality in research organizations, or with the ECU's *Athena SWAN Charter*); apart from being intrinsically questionable, the observed gender imbalance in a number of Departments may also have a negative impact on future funding applications for, e.g., European grants;
- to have a principled discussion about the direction in which some Departments should go; in some cases, the limited resources should be concentrated on selected topics that can be particularly fruitfully addressed, rather than on a broad coverage of a whole field;
- to intensify systematically the collaboration between the Departments of the Institute; some areas (e.g., phenomenology and moral and political

philosophy) are represented in several Departments, a fact that encourages and suggests closer cooperation.

## **5. Detailed evaluations**

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

It is immediately evident from the lists compiled (Appendices 3.8 of the Departments' reports) that the scientific output of the nine research teams is very significant in terms of the sheer quantity of publications. The results of the first phase of the evaluation have shown that by international standards, the quality of the scientific output is generally very good in terms of originality, significance and rigour (it can even be called outstanding for the Department of Logic). The commission recommends, however, to increase the proportion of publications in English (and perhaps in other main languages, too). This would significantly improve the international dissemination and reception of the results achieved by the members of the Institute of Philosophy. (NB: The quality-of-outputs statistics of the first phase of the evaluation should be adapted in such a way that they fit better the practice of the humanities; the present statistics regularly deliver results in the "not applicable" category.)

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

Almost all members of the Institute have been active in teaching at Czech universities, in particular at the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Humanities of Charles University. In 2010–2014, the members of the team supervised or co-supervised more than 350 Bachelor theses, 230 Master theses and 140 doctoral theses. It is thus clear that there is substantive interaction with students, and some of the best graduates have been integrated in the research teams of the Institute. Involving students into research teams is certainly an advisable strategy to take. The documents provided, however, give little explicit information about the extent to which, and the way in which, advanced students have contributed to the research activities of the Department.

### *Declaration on societal relevance*

The commission wishes to emphasize that research in the humanities is generally relevant for the society in that it helps preserving the cultural heritage and shaping the public intellectual situation of a country. More specifically, the wealth of critical editions and translations produced by the Institute of Philosophy is a great service to the national identity of the Czech Republic. Numerous highly regarded and well-attended international conferences, as well as publications in internationally notable journals and publishing houses make the CAS a recognized participant in European and world-wide debates. The Institute of Philosophy fulfils these tasks very well.

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

The importance of the Institute in the national context cannot be overestimated. Some of the teams have made essential contributions to various topics in their fields of competence, with results published in renowned outlets, especially in journals and with publishing houses of the international top-level. Concerning the placement of other Departments in the international context, the commission has seen some room for improvement. Publishing in English and other conference languages should be encouraged, as well as international collaboration with institutions and universities in Europe and all over the world.

### *Declaration on the vitality and sustainability*

The vitality of the Institute of Philosophy as a whole is testified by a large number of publications, research projects and other kinds of scientific activity. Its age structure appears

to be healthy, with a peak in the age category 35–40 and a substantive number of highly engaged younger members (though it has not been fully clear how much of the staff of the Institute is financed by doctoral grants or other external sources). It has to be noted that the evenly balanced age structure is not uniformly mirrored in all Departments. Some of them may face a significant staffing issue as senior staff retire. The sustainability of the research groups will depend on successful replacements and continued success in national and international funding bids. For long-term projects such as editions and translations of major philosophical works, the Institute needs extended periods of structural stability.

*Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future*

In general, the Departments of the Institute have specified clear and coherent strategies and plans for the future. The activities envisioned are numerous and varied, but the research plans typically focus on the core competences. The respective research teams intend to carry on with research projects or areas that have been successfully pursued in the past five years. Long-term projects should certainly be brought to completion. In some cases the commission thought that the strategies were not fully articulated or somewhat too conservative. The recommendations listed above are intended to help fostering the cooperation across the different Departments of the Institute.

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

### **Evaluation of the Team No. 1: Department of Analytic Philosophy**

#### **1. Introduction**

The Department delivers research in such areas of philosophy as: the philosophy of language and mind, epistemology and philosophy of science, metaphysics, ethics, aesthetics and history of philosophy. This research is undertaken not only in local, but also in international cooperation in long-term projects. The Department is extremely active in organizing many philosophical enterprises (conferences, workshops, visiting lectures) with active participation of worldwide-known philosophers. The development of the Department is mainly guided by the strengthening of the academic position of its staff members, by the prospect of an increased recognition of its internationally oriented research (including cooperation with reknown publishers and official agreements with philosophical departments abroad) and its offer of doctoral studies (also in cooperation with Charles University).

#### **2. Strengths and opportunities**

In contemporary philosophy, research in analytic philosophy, which is developed in a wider scientific context, belongs among the dominant sub-areas. An opportunity for the team is its competence not only in philosophical but also in some scientific disciplines (mathematics, physics, biology) on the one hand, and semiotics and linguistics on the other. Their competence in those latter disciplines allows the team to guarantee the high quality of research on “the interpretation of utterances in everyday communication” which is one of the main projects of the Department. In turn, the competence in scientific disciplines allows the team to develop interdisciplinary research, as it is the case with another main project “The theory of evolution and its philosophical implications”, which requires special competence in biology. The team, which is externally (abroad) recognized for its activity in analytic philosophy, has scientific potential for strengthening its presence on the market of publications of the highest quality and for intensifying its participation in international projects, also those awarded from the ERC.

#### **3. Weakness and Threats**

The weakness of the Department – affecting generally the whole Institute - is insufficient financial support, and uncompetitive salaries which makes it difficult to attract Western researchers to undertake their research at the Department (however, T. Childers is employed at the Department).

#### **4. Recommendation**

In the light of the above problems, it is worth enriching the scientific policy of the Department, which has already excellent achievements and very good scientific potential. The following proposals should be considered: (1) focusing more on a specific (unique, but important and attractive) topic that could distinguish the research done at the CAS. This does not mean isolation because that research could continue to be realized interdisciplinarily and in international collaboration; (2) making more efforts to gain external funds thanks to a wider cooperation with external units (if for instance the team’s research deals with communication, why not cooperate

with the mass media, and the media business in general?), (3) making more efforts to attract young researchers (including post-docs) and Czech researchers who are employed abroad. In this case the Department (and generally the Institute) requires stronger support on the part of the scientific policy of the CAS; it is in the strategy of the Department (see p. V). The CAS as well as the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport have special programs, i.e. J. E. Purkyně Fellowship (the CAS) and NAVRAT (the MEYS) to attract leading researchers from abroad.

## **5. Detailed evaluations**

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

The team is very active scientifically in delivering and attending the research projects on the local (for instance 10 joint projects of 15 Academy Institutes), national (mainly with Charles Univ.) and international level. The results of two main interdisciplinary and international projects are publications, which in addition to papers include 6 book-length monographs of international impact. The relatively large volume of high-quality output includes publications with renowned publishing houses as: Oxford Univ. Press, Springer, London College Publications).

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

The staff members of the Department are involved in the process of education, mainly at the level of doctoral studies in cooperation with Charles University. During the period under evaluation, 7 theses have been defended, and 15 are in the process of supervision (which proves a strong commitment of the Department to philosophical academic education, resulting to some extent in the involvement of students in research).

### *Declaration on societal relevance*

The Department is strongly involved in scientific actions for the local society, e.g. by organizing (every month, except summer holidays) open public lectures.

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

Some members of the Department (Kvasz, Kotatko, Thein, Childers) thanks to their academic activity (publications, membership in scientific committees, awards) have international recognition. The Department plays an important role not only in delivering research, but also in organizing philosophical activities in a wider (international and interdisciplinary) context. To name only the best-known events: The Prague Interpretation Colloquia, Czech-Slovak symposia on analytic philosophy.

### *Declaration on the vitality and sustainability*

The high number of publications, research projects and other kinds of scientific activities testifies to the vitality of a relatively small team (9 persons). The research projects are sustainable and the Department has ambitious scientific plans for the future.

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

The strategy of the Department for 2015-2019 is defined within the Strategy 21 of the CAS in the framework of which new posts for young researches as well as the higher academic positions of present staff members are warranted. The research plans of the team and individual researchers are carefully defined, including the team's long-term interdisciplinary projects on topical issues.

## **Evaluation of the Team No. 2: Department of Logic**

### **1. Introduction**

The Department of Logic, directed by Jaroslav Peregrin, has a leading position in research in logic in the Czech Republic and embodies a high international standard of research. The main areas of research are: the philosophy of logic and logic of natural language (esp. a certain kind of intensional logic). The range of topics also contains other areas of logic (as for instance deontic, epistemic, erotetic logic), mathematical aspects of logic, history of logic, applications of logical tools to analyses of language and thought, and other topics on the border of logic and philosophy. As a philosopher, Jaroslav Peregrin is well recognized in the field of contemporary American pragmatism (especially in reference to Rorty's and Brandom's views). He has been developing his own approach to Brandom's conception of inferentialism. The team is dynamic, involved in many research projects and international cooperation enterprises, the result of which are publications of international impact.

### **2. Strengths and opportunities**

A strength of the Department is its excellent young members and the high scientific position of its leader (in 2014 Jaroslav Peregrin was awarded the prestigious title Doctor Scientiarum from the CAS, i.e. the highest title in the Academy). The Department (also owing to its previous well-known researcher Pavel Tichý, whose system of so-called transparent intensional logic has been further elaborated by Pavel Materna) has already achieved a high position in the international circles of logicians. An excellent opportunity to enrich international contacts and present their own research will be the 16<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science, which takes place in Prague in 2019. This Department, together with the other departments of the Institute of Philosophy, is involved in the organization of this Congress.

### **3. Weakness and Threats**

If the Department remains committed to its current strategy and is backed up by a good scientific and personal policy of the Institute (and the CAS generally), then there are no special threats for the Department apart from those shared with other Departments deriving from insufficient financial support.

### **4. Recommendation**

In reference to above, the Department should have sufficient financial possibilities to employ researchers for full positions (at present 6) and, as it has been pointed out in the strategy of the Department, to apply for the prestigious international grants.

### **5. Detailed evaluations**

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

The quality of research of the team has a high international standard. During the period under evaluation the staff members of the Department published two important book monographs in English (one with Springer, another one with Palgrave Publishers in New York,) and numerous papers in international journals. They led or participated in 10 research



projects (all funded by the Czech Science Foundation). One of the main currently realized long-term (2013-2017) research projects deals with a very topical problem of normativity: The normative dimension of logic, language and the human mind. It is an interdisciplinary and international project realized in cooperation with Pittsburgh University and European academic institutions. An essential contribution to this project is research on inferentialism (originally elaborated by Peregrin on the basis of Brandom's theory: both philosophers take part in this project).

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

The staff members of the Department of Logic are also cooperating in the process of education with many Czech universities (11 theses supervised during the period under evaluation). A special significance for the Department has its cooperation with Charles University and its participation in the Centre "Logical Foundation of Semantics" for Doctoral Students. Some of the best doctoral students have been incorporated into the Department.

#### *Declaration on societal relevance*

The Department of Logic together with the Institute of Philosophy and Religious Studies of the Faculty of Arts of Charles University regularly organizes logico-philosophical seminars which are open to the public.

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

The Department has a leading position in the Czech Republic. The research of the team offers an essential contribution to many areas of logic (esp. to non-classical logic), and the domains in which logical tools are especially important (as in application to the philosophy of language and mind, in the theory of argumentation). Thus its results are published in renowned outlets, especially journals at the international level (36 papers have been published in journals of the Q1 and Q2 according to Scopus). The leader of the Department Jaroslav Peregrin and Pavel Materna are scholars of international recognition. Important scientific events of international range are the yearly "Logica" conferences organized by the department, and the publication of the "Logica Yearbooks" with College Publications, London. Another highlight will be the 16<sup>th</sup> Congress of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science. In the national context it is worth to notice the contribution of the Department to the Czech culture, including the first Czech translation (with commentary) of B. Bolzano's treatise on mathematical method.

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

Young staff members together with excellent scholars create a dynamic team of the Department which is very active in scientific research at international level. The long-term research projects are sustainable, and the Department has a proper strategy and ambitious scientific plans for the future.

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

The strategy of the Department and its plans for the future are to continue working towards internationally significant results of research, applying for the most prestigious grants, and integrating PhD-students in scientific work.

## **Evaluation of the Team No. 3: Department of Contemporary Continental Philosophy**

### **1. Introduction**

The Department addresses a wide spectrum of topics in the so-called “continental philosophy”. The main areas of interest include philosophy of the body and embodiment, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, and the Austrian (or Central-European) philosophical tradition. The research team consists of both Czech and foreign researchers, conducting both long-term and short-term research projects.

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

The so called “continental philosophy” is commonly identified with German idealism, German and French phenomenological tradition, and later developments such as hermeneutics, psychoanalysis, critical theory, structuralism and post-structuralism. The research projects pursued at the department basically cover all these topics, but beside this there is also a focus on a certain continental tradition that often tends to be overlooked and neglected. I mean here the so-called “Austrian”, or “Central-European” philosophy associated mainly with the Brentano-School. This important tradition is being investigated within the framework of the research-block entitled: “Gesture, Language and Thought in the Continental Philosophical Tradition”. A further development of this “Brentanian” tradition can build a very important strong point of the department and maybe in the long run even constitute its “uniqueness”. The department already succeeded in attracting good international researchers and organizing interesting conferences.

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

A weak point returning in the evaluation of all teams concerns serious financial shortcomings. There are problems with funding long term projects and the salaries are not competitive enough to attract a significant number of foreign researchers. However these shortcomings have more to do with the general economical situation and policy. In most cases the research institution cannot be blamed for it.

We have also some reservations about the strategy chosen by the Department. The research activities include many interesting and important historical and systematic topics. However, It may be worth considering whether or not limited resources should be concentrated on selected areas that are or may in the future be particularly fruitful. Finally, it would be important to develop a sound strategy for promoting gender equality. This is again the point that applies to almost all surveyed departments. Among other things, the observed gender inequalities can have negative impact on the future funding (like e.g. gaining European grants).

### **4. Recommendations**

As mentioned above, it would be very important to create a sound strategy for the future development of the department. One recommendation concerns the strengthening of the branch focused on the Austrian, Central-European, or Brentanian tradition. Here are the reasons:

First of all, as already mentioned, this tradition has been for a long time neglected. Therefore every substantial result will be important at least from the historical point of view. It will be also significantly easier to establish a strong Brentano-research

centre, than a similar centre focusing on such areas as phenomenology, post-modernism or German idealism.

Second, in the last years one can observe a growing interest in investigating this tradition. Therefore there is a chance to hit the target of increasing scientific importance and attractiveness.

Third, the Brentanian tradition is absolutely crucial to understanding the development of philosophy in the Central Europe (and thus also in the Czech Republic). Therefore the investigation of this tradition will secure one of the important tasks of the Czech Academy of Science.

Two things should be stressed here. First, research concerning the Brentanian tradition is well developed and successful. In light of this we think it would be sensible to consider its further strengthening. Second, we hasten to add that all these remarks should not be understood as a fundamental criticism. They are meant as a suggestion that can be taken into consideration or not. Certainly there can be sound reasons for retaining the present strategy of concentrating on many, not directly interconnected topics. In certain situations diversity can be more important than a strict concentration focused on the increasing of impact. We believe that it remains the responsibility of the head of the department and the board to make the final decision.

## **5. Detailed evaluation**

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

According to the results of the first phase of the evaluation, the quality of the scientific output is very good. Publishing more in English and other “congress-languages” would significantly improve the dissemination and reception of the results. Although some central directives emphasize the necessity of publishing in Czech language, and there are merits to this recommendation, maybe it would be possible to shift a little bit the proportions.

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

The members of the team are involved in teaching. In the period under evaluation, members of the team supervised 62 bachelor theses, 44 master theses and 29 PhD dissertations, which is very impressive. However, it is unclear whether requirement that the members of the Academy of Science – which was once defined as a centre of a purely scientific research – should be involved in so intensive teaching should be understood in such a strict sense.

### *Declaration on societal relevance*

Research in humanities always has a clear societal relevance, as it contributes to studying and understanding the intellectual heritage and development. Of course this relevance is not easy to estimate, as it typically has no direct economic or technological impact. Concerning the Department of Contemporary Continental Philosophy the importance should be stressed of studying the Brentanian tradition, which is absolutely crucial to the understanding of the intellectual and cultural development of philosophy in the Central Europe, and particularly in Czech Republic. As it is well known, Thomas Masaryk was a student of Brentano.

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

In the national context the team belongs without doubt to the leading research groups. To a reasonable extent it is also internationally recognized. Some good foreign researchers are already involved. The team is also active in organizing international conferences and workshops.

### *Declaration on the vitality and sustainability*

The team involves several distinguished experts. The age structure of the department is well balanced. The gender balance could be improved, but it isn't as skewed as in some other teams. Of course the overall sustainability of the program depends on funding. The most important elements would be long term projects and more competitive salaries.

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

The department's plans for the future apparently are to retain the actual research structure (consisting basically of 6 wide research areas / research groups). It is unclear whether this is the best strategy. It is advisable for the department to concentrate on certain topics that could be particularly fruitful for the department. For the reasons outlined above the concentration on the Brentanian tradition could significantly improve the chances of the department, to establish in the future an internationally important research centre.

## **Evaluation of the Team No. 4: Department of Moral and Political Philosophy + Centre of Global Studies**

### **1. Introduction**

The Department addresses contemporary issues of society, politics and culture in both their explanatory and normative aspects. The Centre of Global Studies is a significant part of the Department since it is centrally concerned with such developments in the context of globalization and its differentially distributed aspects and how globalization impinges on Europe more generally and on Czech Republic more specifically.

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

A particular strength of the Department is its engagement with empirical issues of society, politics and culture and the way such engagement extends political philosophy to include social philosophy. The Centre for Global Studies (and the Department more generally) is well-placed to secure research funding and its activities are at the core of European Research Policy. For example, Horizon 2020 includes a call for research towards an 'Empirically informed European Theory of Social Justice'. This call should influence other funders and also shape the intellectual agenda in which colleagues in this Department publish. This agenda will be important both for scholarly publications, but also in its contribution to democratic debate within European and Czech civil society.

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

The Department has a significant number of staff in the 60+ age group, and few members of staff under the age of 45, indicating potentially serious problems of succession planning. Also, the Department is particularly reliant on the Centre for Global Studies driving forward this succession, making it particularly dependent on an uncertain funding environment.

The main threat is provided by the economic and social environment in which the Department and the Institute as a whole have to pursue their research. Non-competitive salaries and underfinancing of science and research in the Czech

Republic may threaten long-term projects. The Department and the Institute also seem to have been provided with additional pressures which are not entirely consistent – publication quality, emphasis on quantity since number of items produced contributes to Departmental funding and increased popularization activities. The risk is that quantity may come in conflict with quality. It is noted that the teaching/supervision activities of the Department are strongly focused on undergraduate supervisions, with relatively few doctoral supervisions.

#### **4. Recommendations**

There is very good international collaboration but mostly directed toward conferences, workshops and joint publications. Some consideration might be given to collaborative bids for research funding. The Head of Department might consider targets for different aspects of the activities of the Department, not to increase publications, popularization, lectures conferences, etc, but to reduce them in order to place more emphasis on research activities. It is noted that the plans include funding applications to include PhD and post-doctoral support; this evaluation strongly endorses this plan. It is also recommended that there should be plans to increase the proportion of publications in the 1 / 2 categories.

#### **5. Detailed evaluation**

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

The members of the Department are publishing strongly and widely with outputs of high quality. It is noted that the evaluated outputs are evenly distributed between 1 / 2 and 3 / 4 scores. This suggests that the Department is perhaps stretched in terms of its other obligations – public lectures, dissemination, teaching. Nonetheless, the extent of international collaboration, including in publication, indicates that the members of this Department are highly-regarded.

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

This appears to be a little problematic when compared with other Departments. For example, a high proportion of supervised research is devoted to undergraduate projects and there seems to be a relatively low number of PhD students. It is noted that this is adequately addressed in the future plans of the Department.

##### *Declaration on societal relevance*

There is a very high degree of topicality in the research undertaken by the Department and a commendable commitment to practical engagement with issues of social justice within Czech society and globally. The involvement of the Centre in setting up a University in Sub-Saharan Africa is highly commendable and has rightly achieved a high degree of international recognition.

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

The Department has very impressive collaborations with professional associations and learned societies internationally, and with specific institutions and networks of individuals. The quality of these collaborations indicates very high esteem. The Centre for Global Studies is a pioneer within the Czech national context and provides a very clear and socially relevant focus for normative reflection of great significance for Czech civil society.

### *Declaration on the vitality and sustainability*

As indicated above, there are potential succession planning concerns that confront the department over the next 5-10 years. This is a particular concern in a very tight funding environment. However, the Department seems to be well-focused on these issues with good future plans, which should attract the commitment of the Academy.

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

Plans for the future are well-focused with strong intellectual justification. However, it would be useful to see the articulation of plans that would limit what can seem to be an 'over-stretched' department, delivering effectively across a range of activities, but, perhaps, over-committing to undergraduate teaching and popularizing activities that do not necessarily maximize engagement. As with other Departments, there is little use of open access and social media in dissemination.

## **Evaluation of the Team No. 5: Department for the Study of Modern Rationality**

### **1. Introduction**

The department studies a wide range of topics from early modern to contemporary philosophy. It represents a wide range of interests, with three subject areas standing out: (1) Kant and German idealism, (2) scepticism, relativism, self-understanding and consciousness, and (3) moral and political philosophy. Each of these subject areas is rather broad in itself. The team has 12 members, four of which are employed full-time, and six of which half-time. One of the main missions of the team is to provide scientifically reliable translations of seminal texts of modern European philosophy into the Czech language, thus serving not only the specialized philosophical community, but also a wider intellectual public. The department has been successful in obtaining grant funding from national sources.

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

The team conducts focused research on the philosophical thinking of the 17th to the 20th centuries. It covers an impressive list of major philosophers (Descartes, Montesquieu, Hume, Kant, Hegel, Wittgenstein, Heidegger, but also Frege, Russell and Quine), and it has been successful in publishing its results in international and national publishing houses and journals. It provides an invaluable service to the Czech society by taking care of many translations of important philosophers (the works of Kant, some works of Montesquieu, Hume and Wittgenstein). The team has obtained considerable national funding (with the biggest share for a companion on Wittgenstein's philosophy) and organized numerous highly visible international workshops that were attended by internationally renowned philosophers. The age structure of the department is suitable for sustaining a stable and coherent research group. The team members cooperate actively with relevant groups of national and international universities, and they contribute significantly to the teaching there. The team is able to establish close co-operation international philosophical institutions and departments and has chances of raising funds from European and other international sources.

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

The selection of works to be translated is not altogether transparent, an overall strategy behind the various translation activities should be stated. Only two members of the team are women, and only three members are less than 40 years old. This suggests that in the longer run, the department should aim at integrating more female and more junior members into the group.

### **4. Recommendations**

The team should check if the research plans of the different subgroups within the department can be made more relevant to each other. The subgroup on moral and political philosophy should consider exploring further possibilities to join forces in project applications with the ethics subgroup of team 1 (Analytic Philosophy), the subgroup dealing with intersubjectivity and ethics of team 3 (Contemporary Continental Philosophy), as well as with team 4 (Moral and Political Philosophy). The team should see whether it is feasible to make their translations and commentaries of seminal texts freely available online. The teaching duties taken over by the department, even by full-time staff and apparently for undergraduates, may take too much of the share of time available to the department members, and so may stand in the way of further research activities.

### **5. Detailed evaluation**

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

The team is active in publishing the results of the research conducted, and the list of scientific outputs is impressive. The proportion of translations is higher than in most other departments, and this for a very good reason. A significant amount of work has appeared with international publishers, in particular in Germany (Königshausen and Neumann, de Gruyter) and in the United Kingdom (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Continuum/Bloomsbury; Journal of Scottish Philosophy). This is a clear indication of the internationally acknowledged quality of the research produced by members of the Department.

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

Most of the members of the team have been active in teaching at Czech universities. In 2010-2014, the members of the team supervised 12 doctoral theses, four of which were defended. There is no explicit description of the extent to which, and the way in which, advanced students have contributed to the research activities of the Department.

#### *Declaration on societal relevance*

The most direct impact on the Czech public and society comes from the publication of high-quality translations of important philosophical texts into Czech. This helps establish the presence of philosophy in the society in the first place, and indirectly it fosters conceptual and argumentative skills in people on a larger scale. Apart from indirect effects on society as a whole, high-quality research makes this section of the Czech Academy of Sciences a much respected participant in the global philosophical discourse.

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

The position of the team in the national Czech context is unique. Due to its research output and also to the organization of eight major conferences (across all three subfields) the Department has been highly visible. There are international co-operations with the University of Jena and the University of Göttingen (H. Gutschmidt). The Department has managed to

secure the stable recruitment of James Hill, an internationally renowned scholar of early-modern philosophy from Descartes to Hume. The Department was frequently visited by leading philosophers giving lectures and attending conferences organized by the team, but it is unclear how many foreign scholars paid longer-term visits to the Department. A policy for selecting and supporting the visits of foreign scholars might be useful.

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

Several senior researchers of the Department are leading Czech scholars in their respective fields, and there are a number of young members that strengthen the team. A long-standing cooperation with Czech universities offers good prospects for future high-quality research and a sufficient supply of talented young philosophers. Financial support gained from Czech grant agencies has been successfully applied for, and the amount and the quality of outputs promises to remain very good in terms of originality, significance and rigour. As has been pointed out elsewhere, however, the long-term sustainability of the three strands of research in the sub-teams might be threatened by a shortage of full-time researchers (the Department is fairly small after all), and by an insufficient funding of conference trips or research visits to important institutions abroad.

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

The members of the Department have sketched the directions for the future work of the three subgroups as well as of the individual researchers. The Department has an established culture of publishing the most important original results with international publishing houses or in refereed journals. Czech translations of further central texts of modern philosophy are in preparation (Leibniz, Montesquieu, Kant, Constant, Hegel, Cassirer, Wittgenstein, Röd). It is to be expected that the team's plans will materialize in high-quality outputs. The results will surely be valuable for the national and international philosophical communities.

## **Evaluation of the Team No. 6: Department for the Study of Ancient and Medieval Thought**

### **1. Introduction**

The Department studies a wide range of topics pertaining to ancient and medieval thought – it covers philosophical, logical as well as theological issues relevant to the period. The team informally divides into four sub-teams (one of them is a joint research group established on the basis of co-operation with the Faculty of Arts, Charles University). The team comprises 17 members (approx. half of them have a part-time engagement), all of them being younger or middle-aged. The Department fulfills two main missions: it produces high quality original research and prepares Czech translations of important philosophical and theological texts. The Department is successful in obtaining both international and domestic grant funding.

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

1. The team undertakes a focused research into topical figures of ancient and medieval thought. Its results are summarized in comprehensive works published by international and domestic publishing houses and journals. 2. The team has been able to obtain international funding (the project on analytical theology is supported by John Templeton Foundation) and organized international workshops attended by world-known specialists. 3. The age structure of the Department promises long-term and stable research. 4. The members of the team have lively contacts with universities and are involved in teaching activities, shaping thus future researchers.



5. The team studies Czech scholastic thought; it is thus an indispensable part of studies devoted to national intellectual heritage.

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

1. The extensive involvement in teaching activities is not just a point of strength of the Department but also its weakness. For it results in a large number of part-time contracts with the Institute of Philosophy. 2. Apart from studying ancient philosophy, the Department is mainly devoted to western scholasticism and so it does not cover some other important strands such as the Byzantine, Arabic or Jewish philosophical tradition. 3. Despite organizing international workshops and receiving international grant support, not all sub-teams are involved in international co-operation (covered by inter-institutional agreements). 4. The Department is extremely gender unbalanced since there are no women researchers. 5. The main threat is provided by the economic and social environment in which the Department and the Institute as a whole have to pursue their research. Non-competitive salaries and underfinancing of science and research in the Czech Republic may threaten particularly long-term projects.

### **4. Recommendations**

1. Head of the Department should reconsider the policy of having such a considerable share of part-time employees. Part-time employees are usually involved in extensive undergraduate teaching activities and in doing research for universities, diminishing thus the amount of time devoted to top-grade research for the Institute. 2. It is recommended to find some means for changing the gender unbalanced research environment. 3. The team might also give some thought to the possibility of enriching its research activities, covering thus Byzantine, Arabic and/or Jewish medieval thought. 4. Creating the possibility for hosting long-term visiting scholars is also recommended to the Department.

### **5. Detailed evaluation**

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

The team is very active in studying topical figures of ancient philosophy (Heraclitus, Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics) and in studying and translating medieval philosophical and theological texts. Some of the results are published with renowned publishing houses. Unfortunately, the team quality profile resulting from Phase I is rather uninformative because in most cases the criteria which have been used in preparing the charts are declared to be not applicable to the scientific outputs of the team. Despite this fact, the list of scientific outputs is impressive. The team is doing also valuable research on the Czech medieval thought.

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

Virtually all members of the team are involved in teaching. In the period under evaluation, members of the team supervised five PhD. theses, one of them being already defended during the period. It is not, however, clear how the students are involved in the research promoted by the team (apart from attending workshops and conferences organized by the team). Obviously, teaching activities are undertaken at the universities and for the universities, so they do not fall within the jurisdiction of the evaluation committee.

#### *Declaration on societal relevance*

Research in humanities should not be expected to have direct economic, technological or business impact. Some of the research activities can be described as contributions to studying and preserving national intellectual heritage. The research undertaken by the team is relevant for the students of philosophical and theological faculties and its results are directly transferred into pedagogical activities of the team. Translations of crucial philosophical and theological texts is very important for society (researchers, students and general public as well). The team publishes a specialist journal (*Aither*) and launches the publication of another journal (*Vertigo*) which is expected to have a broader societal outreach. The members of the team are also very active in editing other scientific journals (*Filosofický časopis*, *Studia Neoaristotelica*, *Reflexe*).

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

From the national point of view, the team is a leader in its field. It co-operates with several universities, most notably University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice. The team has lively contacts with several institutes abroad (Cologne, Paris, Leipzig, Innsbruck, Lublin). The most important project is that on analytical theology; the team is a member of the cluster group coordinated from the University of Innsbruck. From the international point of view, the most important achievements are the studies on Heraclitus, Suárez, scholastic metaphysics, and semantic paradoxes in the middle ages. Unfortunately, in the time period under review, no foreign scholar paid long-term visit to the Department, though it was frequently visited by leading philosophers in the field giving lectures and attending conferences organized by the team.

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

The age structure of the team is one of its strongest assets. Middle-aged researchers belong to leading Czech scholars in the field while younger researchers are very talented future leaders. Well established cooperation with domestic institutes as well as institutes from abroad provide a solid basis for future high quality research. Financial support gained from grant agencies is effectively used and the amount and quality of outputs is adequate. Better travel funds would be welcome, though. As it has been pointed out previously, however, the overall sustainability of the research programs might be threatened by a considerable number of part-time researchers.

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

The team works on a number of important topics which will eventually lead to high quality outputs. The Department has elaborated a promising strategy of publishing the most important original results with international publishing houses (there are several interesting outputs planned for the years to come) and of preparing Czech translations of some crucial medieval texts. The original outputs will definitely enrich international research.

## **Evaluation of the Team No. 8: Department for the Study of Modern Czech Philosophy**

### **1. Introduction**

The Department is devoted to basic research on the history of Czech philosophy (from the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century through the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century). The aim is the rational reconstruction and evaluation of the conceptions present in the Czech philosophical thought and situating them within the broader context of European intellectual history. The research is structured into three main themes: (1) Marxist Philosophy in Czechoslovakia, (2) Philosophy of the Dissident Movement in

Czechoslovakia, and (3) Philosophical and Social Thought in the Czech Lands between 1800 and 1948. An important part of the research consists in publication of bibliographies and critical editions of texts.

## **2. Strengths and Opportunities**

Preserving and analyzing one's own intellectual history is without doubt a very important task. It is particularly important in the so-called "post-communist" countries where one can observe a dangerous tendency to dismiss all Marxist or socialist tradition without further ado, with the possible consequence of undermining critical resources that in many other European countries counterbalance and moderate the reception of neoliberal economic doctrines and moral conservatism. The Department for the Study of Modern Czech Philosophy can therefore play a very important role in mitigating such overreactions and rationalizing the political discourse.

## **3. Weaknesses and Threats**

There are some weak points returning in evaluation of all teams. One of them concerns the well-known financial shortcomings. There are problems with funding long term projects and the salaries are not competitive enough to attract a significant number of foreign researchers. However these shortcomings have more to do with the general economical situation and policy. In most cases the research institution cannot be blamed for it.

Another weak point, that also seems to apply generally to all surveyed Departments is the general lack of collaboration with other Departments.

It would be also important to develop a sound strategy for promoting gender equality. Another weak point is the fact that almost all publications of the Department for the Study of Modern Czech Philosophy are in Czech. Although there are some central directives concerning the necessity of publishing in Czech language and these directives possibly are even stronger forced in the Department devoted to the Study of Czech Philosophy, perhaps this strategy should be carefully rethought (see the following "recommendation"-section).

## **4. Recommendations**

The most important point that should be improved regards the internationalization of the research and its results. Particularly in the institutions concentrated on the national or local traditions one should do one's best to attract foreign researchers and to make the results available for the international discussion. The reason is not that the foreign researchers or research-centers are necessarily "better", but rather the fact that in investigating our own intellectual tradition we unavoidably tend to adopt very idiosyncratic points of view. So, paradoxically enough, the internationalization of the research has here even greater importance than in the case of other Departments.

## **5. Detailed evaluation**

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

According to the results of the first phase of the evaluation, the quality of the scientific output is good. The only recommendation is to publishing more in English and other "conference-languages". This would significantly improve the dissemination and reception of the results

and, as specified above, this would be particularly important for a Department concentrating on the Czech philosophy.

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

The members of the team are involved in teaching. Several members of the team taught at universities in the Czech Republic and abroad. Although there is a (formal or informal) requirement that the members of the Academy be involved in teaching, some rethinking of this directive is perhaps to be considered, in the direction of defining the Academy as a centre of a purely scientific research (with a possible exception of supervising a limited number of PhD students).

#### *Declaration on societal relevance*

There is no doubt that the research at the Department for the Study of Modern Czech Philosophy, concentrating in historical description and critical evaluation of the Czech intellectual heritage, has crucial relevance for the cultural and political self-understanding of the society.

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

The importance of the Department in the national context cannot be questioned. Concerning the international context there is some room for improvement. In the first place the necessity of publishing in English and other “conference-languages”, as well as the need of international collaboration, should be stressed.

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

The team involves several distinguished experts. The age structure of the Department is well balanced. But the gender balance leaves something to be desired, as the team consists exclusively of male researchers. Of course the overall sustainability of the program depends on funding. The most important would be long term projects and more competitive salaries.

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

The Department's plans for the future are to develop further the three main themes (Marxist Philosophy, Philosophy of the Dissident Movement, and Philosophical and Social Thought in the Czech Lands between 1800 and 1948), as well as the continuation of ambitious editorial projects (in particular the next volumes of the collected writings by Karel Kosík). It is a reasonable plan<sup>[JH1]</sup>, but there is a concern that little research is devoted to aspects of social thought concerned with issues of the family, hygiene, and other topics that were of concern to early feminists and with the contributions of those movements.

## **Evaluation of the Team No. 9: The Jan Patočka Archive**

### **1. Introduction**

The team undertakes two main missions. One of them consists mainly in handling, studying, editing and publishing the works of Jan Patočka; the main outcome is a long term project devoted to editing and publishing Patočka's collected works. The other one consists in pursuing research concerning the broader philosophical context in which Patočka had been working; in so doing, the team organizes conferences, workshops, etc., publishes its own original research on 20<sup>th</sup> century philosophy, and translates important philosophical works into Czech. Given the first mission, it should be admitted that the archive fulfils a unique and indispensable role in preserving and

developing national (as well as international) intellectual heritage. Given the results of Phase I, the published outcomes are of average quality.

## **2. Strengths and Opportunities**

1. The team has a stable, long term and well defined scientific profile framed by its duty to handle the works by Jan Patočka. 2. During the period under review, the archive hosted many foreign scholars who were permitted to pursue their own research using the archived documents and archival resources. So, the archive figures as a basis promoting international co-operation. 3. The team fosters international knowledge of Patočka's philosophy by enabling and encouraging translations into foreign languages. 4. The team has been able to obtain both domestic and international funding for its research activities. 5. The archive is the holder of copyrights for Patočka's works.

## **3. Weaknesses and Threats**

1. Editing and publishing Patočka's collected works is a long term project which will be successful only in the case it will obtain sufficient and stable funding for several decades. The main threat thus stems from the external environment and its willingness to finance such an extensive enterprise. 2. The team is a rather small one and approximately one third of its researchers approach pensionable age. 3. The team is gender unbalanced since all researchers are male. 4. Since the archive pursues also its own research into phenomenology and reception of Patočka's ideas, there is a considerable overlap in research programs with some other Departments.

## **4. Recommendations**

1. In view of the fact that several distinguished researchers are approaching retirement age, it is recommended to intensify raising a new generation of researchers (and motivate, e.g., PhD students in doing their theses on Patočka). 2. In connection with the previous point, it is also recommended to find some means for changing the gender unbalanced research environment. 3. The team should find some way how to present its own research to a wider audience. For it seems that the team is not very active in popularizing its activities.

## **5. Detailed evaluation**

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

The team is primarily devoted to studying and editing Patočka's philosophical work. Apart from this, some of its members pursue their own research programs. According to the team quality profile available on the basis of Phase I, their scientific results are of average quality, though there are also some exceptional publications issued by international publishing houses (Springer). Some of those works result from international co-operation in which the archive is involved (the edited volume *Jan Patočka and the Heritage of Phenomenology*). The research promoted by the team is transdisciplinary, crossing thus the boundaries of specific scientific branches (such as the edited volume *The Dispute Concerning the Natural World*).

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

Some members of the team regularly teach at the universities. It should be highlighted that three PhD students were directly involved into the research made by the archive in the time

period under evaluation. One of them was a member of a team pursuing a grant project at the Department while the other two were involved in editing, translating and digitizing archival materials. Apparently, no PhD theses were defended during the period under review.

#### *Declaration on societal relevance*

The archive is extremely important for the larger society because it preserves and edits the intellectual heritage of one of the most important Czech philosophers ever. Furthermore, it provides a basis for many scholars doing their research in philosophy who may use the archive's extensive collections and databases. The archive co-operates with a publishing house involved in publishing Patočka's collected papers. It is also involved in digitizing certain kinds of archival materials and aims at their preservation and availability to broader public. However, there are no records concerning activities in research popularization in the evaluation materials.

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

The archive is in a sense unique since it maintains manuscripts of Patočka's works. As a result, it is extensively visited by both national and international scholars. The team is very active in organizing conferences and workshops as well as in presenting its own results at various international platforms. The team is pursuing a valuable mission of making Patočka's philosophy internationally recognized.

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

The team involves several distinguished experts in Patočka's philosophy. The age structure of the Department is balanced but involvement of younger researches might appear necessary in future. What is important is that PhD students are directly involved in research activities of the team which is very promising for future sustainability of the research program. As it has been claimed previously, however, the overall sustainability of the program depends on long term funding.

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

The team has a stable research program. There are several volumes of Patočka's works in preparation. It is expected that they will appear in years to come. The team also plans publishing several monographs on Patočka and phenomenology as well as preparing translations of some key philosophical texts. All three kinds of activities are adequate in view of the overall research program and it can be anticipated that they will enrich Czech philosophy.

## **Evaluation of the Team No. 12: Centre for Science, Technology, and Society Studies**

### **1. Introduction**

The Centre is an interdisciplinary centre for the study of science and technology focused on their empirical study and philosophical reflection on changes in the role of knowledge within society. As such, the Centre has mirrored international developments in the field of science and technology studies to be increasingly concerned with the production and distribution of knowledge(s) within society and less concerned with classic questions of epistemology and the philosophical reconstruction of (natural) science (which tends to be found in the Departments of Analytical Philosophy and of Logic).

## **2. Strengths and Opportunities**

The Centre has a strong reputation and considerable achievement in understanding disciplinary formation, and the changing role of knowledge in society. These are crucial issues; contemporary societies are knowledge societies and increasingly that means enhanced reflexivity about knowledge as an object and the means of representation and communication. The Centre also has a very extensive involvement in funded-projects from both national and international funding sources. This is indicative of an effective team and a relatively health funding environment that should remain such in the future. It is significant that successful funding bids are well-distributed across the team and that a good stream of funding has been achieved

## **3. Weaknesses and Threats**

The Department has a significant number of staff in the 60+ age group, and few members of staff under the age of 45, indicating potentially serious problems of succession planning.

The main threat is provided by the economic and social environment in which the Department and the Institute as a whole have to pursue their research. Non-competitive salaries and underfinancing of science and research in the Czech Republic may threaten long-term projects. The Department and the Institute also seem to have been provided with additional pressures which are not entirely consistent – publication quality, emphasis on quantity since number of items produced contributes to departmental funding and increased popularization activities. The risk is that quantity is in conflict with quality. As with other Departments, there is a significant gender imbalance.

## **4. Recommendations**

There is very good international collaboration and it is noted that it is well-focused toward longer term collaborations that may bear fruit in joint funding bids. Attention needs to be paid to succession management and ensuring the replacement of members of staff likely to retire in the foreseeable future. The Centre also has the opportunity to develop its journal, *Theory of Science* as a hybrid Czech/English open access journal, thereby making both it and the Centre highly visible in the new international environment of international publishing (while also serving its Czech audiences).

## **5. Detailed evaluation**

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

The Centre publishes very effectively research of international significance. It is noted that all of its evaluated outputs fall into the 'international' quality group. All members of the team contribute effectively to the Centre

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

Given its size, and age structure, the Centre is very effective in engaging Masters and Doctoral students in its work. As with other Departments, it is noted that the Centre does not have direct recognition for its supervision of doctoral students, but they do seem to be effective in contributing to the research and developing the intellectual agenda of the Centre.

*Declaration on societal relevance*

Issues of the knowledge economy and the organization and distribution of knowledge are vital questions of a high degree of societal relevance. They are matters of interest to policy makers but also to wider publics which need to be able to understand the nature of expertise and how it is claimed within the polity.

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

The publications of the Centre, as noted, are strongly endorsed as being of international quality. The Centre also has excellent international collaborations which include conference and workshop events but also collaborative funding for research projects. The Centre is the only designated interdisciplinary research centre addressing science and technology in the Czech Republic.

*Declaration on the vitality and sustainability*

The Centre has a strong record of funding and an effective publication strategy. It also has a highly engaged younger cohort of staff. However, it will face a significant staffing issue as senior staff retire. The sustainability of the Centre will depend on replacement and maintaining success in funding bids.

*Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future*

As with other Departments, this is a strong Centre, but its small size represents a possible problem especially in an uncertain funding environment. The Centre has made the right steps to manage these risks and has a positive future strategy, but delivery of that strategy is largely outside the agency of the Centre itself.

**Date:** February 10, 2016

**Commission Chair:** Prof. Alessandro Ferrara Ph.D.