

At present, the Institute has remote terminals to the ACC. The Institute also coordinates the academic license for major statistical software (SPSS) and provides consultation to users from other research institutes.

In the spring of 1991 the Institute received a significant grant from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund to establish a Center for Environmental and Social Studies (CESS), which is functioning within the Institute in close cooperation with Institute's library and study center.

III. Educational Activity and Publications

The Institute is also taking part in the reconstruction of sociological education which includes: 1. the building of a continuing system of sociological education in the form of post-graduate study; and 2. cooperation with institutions of higher education in the form of pedagogic activity by Institute staff at these schools, the participation of students in the Institute is research projects and cooperation in the preparation of textbooks and other written educational materials.

The Czechoslovak Sociological Review (Sociologický časopis) has been the major journal of Czechoslovak sociologists since 1965, when it was established. It is published bimonthly with typically 140 pages per issue. Since 1990 it has been published exclusively by the Institute of Sociology, which receives significant financial support for its publishing activities from the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. All articles have an abstract and summary in English. The profile and content of the journal have changed significantly since 1989 under the new editorial leadership of Jiří Večerník. The last few volumes have been devoted to the major problems of the

transformation of Czechoslovak society (social stratification, poverty and social policy, elections and political culture, etc.). Beginning in 1992 the Institute will publish two special issues of this journal per year in English.

In the fall of 1989 the Institute began producing two series of working papers, one in Czech, one in English. Working papers are distributed free on request. In the fall of 1991 the Institute began publishing a bulletin, "Data & Facts", in which the most important results from new sociological surveys are presented. The bulletin is sent to professionals in the press, media and state institutions.

IV. Organizational Structure of the Institute

The Institute employs about fifty people, of which about 35 are scholars engaged in research (these figures describe the situation in the spring of 1992). The scientific work of the Institute is organized in temporary research teams. The teams are formed with the purpose of taking part in specific research projects of a limited duration, usually two to three years. Projects and team members are selected via an open interview process. Teams have considerable independence in selecting work methods and tools. Since the spring of 1989, several research projects have been financed through the internal grant system of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences.

With the director of the Institute, the Institute's scientific board, which selects a chairman from its members, decides fundamental principles related to the Institute's scientific activities and its organizational matters.

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General Information

The Institute of Social and Political Sciences was reestablished in 1990 after a twenty-year interruption as a part of the new Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University, Prague. Institute members are engaged in

quantitative and qualitative research about the transformation of Czechoslovak society, the mapping of social and political trends, and social policy. Institute members collaborate extensively with many institutions and research units in Czechoslovakia and abroad. The institute established the foundation Film and Sociology.

Research activities

Within the research project "The Transformation of the Social Structure of Czechoslovak Society", these topics are presently being investigated:

- theoretical questions of social structure and mobility development;
- the social characteristics of labor, professional structure and mobility, labor-market formation, employment and unemployment questions;
- the national and international contexts of transformation processes;
- the standard of living, social context of consumption and the formation of consumer behavior; and
- prognostic concepts.

The questions of life style and value orientation are being investigated with the assistance of external researchers.

Connected to the above-mentioned project, the research project "The Youth in the Transformation Process", covering a population of 16-18 year-olds (about 3000 respondents), has been carried out.

The research team is participating (together with the Institute of Sociology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences) in the extensive international research project entitled "Social Stratification and Mobility in Eastern Europe after 1989".

Another of our research projects, "The Labor Market Formation in the Process of the Transformation of Czechoslovak Society", is being carried out with the support of a grant from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic. This project is compatible with the project "Employment in Britain" being coordinated by prof. D. Gallie (Nuffield College, Oxford).

Czechoslovak society is a unique model situation for the study of relations between biographies, generations and history. A

historical and particularly generational continuity and discontinuity became the focus of the project "History - Generations - Biographies". The spiritual father of this project, Josef Alan (director of the institute) helped create the set of biographical studies. Its first result is the project "Who We Are". The work should progress through a step by step layering of genealogical data, personal stories and family histories. The material obtained will be discussed and interpreted continuously. The project "Who We Are" is a kind of perpetual "work-shop" that has the character of methodological and interpretational practice. It is evident that the special character of this research demands minutely detailed internal rules for the chronological order of individual stages, for the handling of the data (the research can clearly not be considered "anonymous"), etc.

The progressive thematization of further partial tasks utilizes the process of collecting biographical materials. Some themes have already been worked into the form of projects (Us and the Germans, The Germans and Us, Opposition Movements in the Czech Republic after 1948: The Role of Personalities and Communities, The Rebirth of the Czech Entrepreneur: Restitution - the Revolution in Family Life), others rather as outlines for research themes (the phenomenon of poverty, destinies of the intellectual élite, lifestyle and its transmission, forming of generations, new political élites). The research will converge into a communicative and interesting statement about this society, about the world of today and about the time spent with each other.

The political research unit, with only a few full-time senior research fellows, is basically oriented towards selected issues from the domestic political scene. The backbone of its current research activity is a project covering this year's parliamentary elections, which are understood as an important, and perhaps crucial, political event within the tangled, shifting development toward the stabilization of the new democracies of Central Europe.

This main collective research project is focused on the analysis of all the substantial

socio-political aspects connected with political background, electoral law, political parties and their programs, candidates, voting patterns, election campaigns and their outcomes, post-election scenarios, citizens' reflections, media influence, role of polls, etc. The research field is systematized according to the two cross-section criteria of state arrangements (federal or other) and economic reform. The project "Election Czechoslovakia 1992" is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year and the results published shortly afterwards.

Among the preliminary research now under way - which stems from the personal

political science interests of individual unit members, the studies of political élites in post-communist countries (including empirical surveys of the domestic scene), the study of the forms of participatory democracy, and introductory comparative studies of policy-making systems should be mentioned. These topics provide an initial choice for later, more comprehensive projects, conditioned by consistent information exchange and requires an inevitable strengthening of the unit's research staff.

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About the department

The department was founded in 1923 by professor I. A. Bláha, a disciple of Emile Durkheim, as a department of sociology with a strong orientation towards social problems. Closed in 1939 by then Nazis, it was reopened in 1945 by Bláha, closed in 1949 after the Communist coup d'état, reopened in 1964, closed in 1969 after the Russian invasion, and finally reopened again in 1973.

In 1990 the former Department of Sociology was enlarged, becoming the Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work, and started to offer not only a M.A. degree in sociology (a five-year course) but also a B.A. in social work (a three-year course).

The department's reputation both for research and teaching is outstanding in Czechoslovakia. The research orientation follows a relatively long sociological tradition in Brno, started by the founder of the Sociology Department professor Bláha, whose stress on the necessity of field-work resulted in the "Brno Sociological School". The Department of Sociology, after its re-

establishment in 1964, set up a research unit, The Laboratory of Sociological Research, which conducts at least three social surveys annually. Some of the research topics are based on the demands of various institutions (local government, industry, cultural and health institutions), but the majority of them are conducted in the context of the research interests of the academic staff. Thus, topics researched recently include the areas of family sociology (Czech paths to marriage, non-marital cohabitation), the sociology of social change (social and cultural aspects of Czechoslovakia's transformation), social problems (teen-age pregnancy and marriage, social determinants of abortion), the sociology of work and unemployment and social ecology. Results have often been presented at international conferences in Brno, organized bi-annually from 1982. The department has good contacts with various foreign universities and department members often lecture abroad and take part in international conferences. Some of the teaching activities in the sphere of social policy and social work programs will hopefully be funded by TEMPUS, in which we will co-operate with Dutch and British colleges. The aim of the department is to become an organic part of the international sociological community.