

# Annual Report 2015

Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Social Sciences,  
Center for Social and Economic Strategies





# Our Mission

The Center for Social and Economic Strategies is an interdisciplinary research and education unit developing the theory, methodology and practice of investigating possible futures, and applying forecasts in decision making. For this purpose, CESES:

- ⇒ identifies key problems and development priorities for the Czech Republic in the contexts of globalization and European integration;
- ⇒ produces partial as well as comprehensive analyses, scenarios, visions and strategies of the social, political, economic, environmental and political development of the Czech Republic in a European and global context;
- ⇒ creates cognitive and methodological prerequisites for improving the strategic governance of the country;
- ⇒ promotes dialogue with experts, politicians, civil servants, civic sector actors, and citizens.

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# Introductory Word from the Head

Dear Friends of Good Future,



In the year 2015 we counted fifteen years since the establishment of CESES—a kind of milestone on our journey. We organized a number of events to mark the anniversary and at the same time to celebrate the 25th birthday of the Faculty of Social Sciences. A critical debate on “Visions and Reality” confronted our first publication from the year 2001, “Visions for the Development of the Czech Republic till 2015”, with actual development of our country. A high number of participants attended the subsequent symposium on “Visions for the Development of the Czech Republic till 2030”, which aimed to revive public debate about the developmental threats, developmental opportunities, visions and strategic choices for the Czech Republic in the next fifteen years. As the final item on the agenda, we hosted a cocktail party and launched a poster exhibition on “15 Years of CESES”.

The following pages of this Annual Report provide structured information about projects and scholarly events that we conducted over the last year. I also dare to believe that my appointment as chairman of the Czech government’s Expert Committee on Pension Reform<sup>1</sup> arose from the recognition CESES as a whole enjoys for its long-term record of high-quality work.

Over the course of the year we said goodbye to our colleagues from the Center for Security Policy as they joined the Institute of Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences.

I am sure the expert outputs of the CESES provide our political leaders and officials in charge with ample inspiration for thinking about the country’s possible futures, searching for adequate priorities, and laying down effective ways to meeting those priorities. This is how we understood and continue to understand our work: as a challenge to investigate the prospective problems of our country openly, participatively, and based on solid analysis and the most robust methods possible.

**Prof. PhDr. Martin Potůček, CSC., MSc.**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.duchodova-komise.cz>

# Research Projects

## Social Sciences in Challenges of the New Era (P17)

The CESES participates in the implementation of the Charles University Programme of Development of Scientific Disciplines (PRVOUK) by managing sub-programme P17 which aims at the development and application of sciences on society, politics and media as reflected in contemporary challenges.

Principal Investigator at the CESES: Martin Potůček

## Innovating Economic Study Programs in line with the Demands of Knowledge Economy (CZ.1.07./2.2.00/28.0227)

Funded from the Education for Competitiveness Operational Programme, the project brings together the CESES and the Department of Public and Social Policy, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague, as partners of the Lead Beneficiary, the Faculty of Economics and Administration, Masaryk University in Brno (FEA MU). It aims is to advance graduate and doctoral study programmes in economic disciplines at the FEA by innovating the study standards in line with those of prestigious international economic universities and, ultimately, to better adapt students to the demands of the labour market and practice. The project envisages that domestic and international social science experts will collaborate and FEA students will obtain an excellent study environment.



Principal Investigator: Martin Potůček

## Extending Working Lives - Health and Well Being Implications and Facilitators

Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (UK), the key focus of this international and interdisciplinary programme of research is to provide insights into how to promote longer and healthier working lives which are resilient to the pressures of globalised, intensified and highly competitive labour markets. The study is divided into four work strands which examine macro, meso and micro levels and are unified by a focus on the maintenance of health and wellbeing among older workers.

Principal Investigator: Martin Nekola

## **Totalitarianism and the Non-Banality of Evil**

Funded by the Czech Science Foundation, the project aims to develop a political-sociological theoretical model that explains how totalitarianism is possible and especially why people under totalitarian regimes seem so willing to commit “evil” acts, such as murder and torture.

Principal Investigator: Steven Saxonberg

## **Study on Czech Citizens’ Attitudes and Actions with Regard to their Old-Age Security**

Commissioned by the Department of Social Insurance, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the study aims to review existing evidence on Czech citizens’ attitudes to old-age security and how they are interrelated with citizens’ actions with regard to pensions and old-age security.

Principal Investigator: Pavol Frič

**Information on projects that have been implemented at CESES in recent years can be found on CESES website: <http://ceses.cuni.cz/>**



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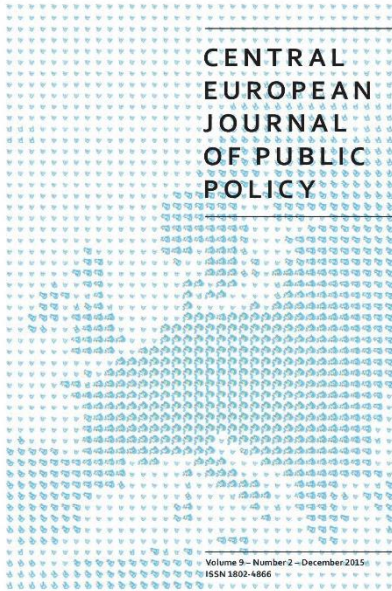
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The year 2015 saw continued publication of the **Central European Journal for Public Policy (CEJPP)** which seeks to disseminate latest theoretical and methodological empirical evidence among researchers and experts from different fields of public policy. As a peer-reviewed scholarly journal in English, the CEJPP covers a multitude of policy areas, including civil society, social services and health care, environmental protection, education, labour market, immigration, security, public finance and budgeting, administrative reforms, performance measurement and governance. Its broad coverage commits the journal to taking a multidisciplinary approach and to striving for a balance between policy description, explanation and evaluation through a wide array of quantitative and qualitative social science methodologies.

The journal's operations in 2015 were funded by the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague, and the Education for Competitiveness Operational Programme.

Two regular issues of Volume 9 were published.

## 1/2015

Author	Article title
Vilém Novotný	Czech Study of Public Policy in the Perspective of Three Dominant Approaches
Arnošt Veselý, Anna Zelinková	Public Policy Programmes and Policy Analysis Instruction in the Czech Republic
David Špaček	E-government Policy and its Implementation in the Czech Republic: Selected Shortcomings
Juraj Nemec, Marek Pavlík, Ivan Malý, Zuzana Kotherová	Health policy in the Czech Republic: General character and selected interesting aspects
Václav Švec, Aleš Vlk, Šimon Stiburek	Dropout Policy in Czech Higher Education: Can Universities Serve Several Masters?
Miriám Kotrusová, Klára Výborná	A policy fiasco: The institutional (non-)reform of Czech public employment services in 2011
Martin Potůček, Veronika Rudolfová	Czech pension reform: how to reconcile equivalence with fiscal discipline
Zuzana Špačková	Laboratory Experiments in Teaching Public Economics and Policy

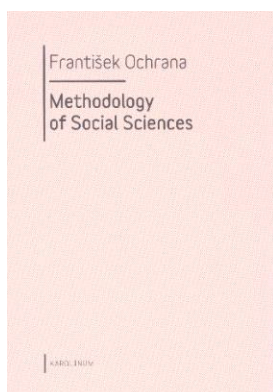


2/2015

Author	Article title
Michal Sedlačko, Katarína Staroňová	From Knowledge Utilization to Building Knowledge Networks
Michal Sedlačko, Katarína Staroňová	An Overview of Discourses on Knowledge in Policy: Thinking Knowledge, Policy and Conflict Together
Antje Witting	Measuring The Use of Knowledge in Policy Development
Andrej Findor	Moral Foundations of Welfare Attitudes: The Role of Moral Intuition and Reasoning in Pursuing Social Justice
Anna Longhini	Institutionalization of Foreign Policy Think Tanks in Italy and in the UK: An Explanatory Framework
Jaime R. S. Fonseca, Rosária M. P. Ramos, Ana M. P. Santos, Ana P. S. S. Fonseca	Policy Effects on the Quality of Public Health Care: Evaluating Portuguese Public Hospitals' Quality through Customers' Views
Vera - Karin Brazova	Response of Central European Civil Security Systems to the Economic Crisis
Magdalena Mouralová, Eva Hejzlarová, Anna Jeřábková, Rudolf Holík, Miroslav Hubáček	What Do Diploma Theses Unveil about Academic Public Policy in the Czech Republic?
Jakub Popelka	Providing Public Sport Facilities in Post-Socialist Times: The Case of the Czech Republic

## Publications

**František Ochrana: Methodology of Social Sciences**  
Karolinum Press, 2015, Prague



The methodology of science is of a crucial importance for the building of science as a whole as well as for the forming of the different scientific branches. That is, it seeks to find out what is the nature of the „scientific image of the world,“ what is the substance of the „scientific law,“ what methods and procedures could and should be used within scientific research. In the field of social sciences, these issues are also associated with the question of the nature of clarifying statements that social sciences provide. Are the statements of social sciences similar to the explanations from natural sciences, or is it rather a revelation of the meaning and understanding of social phenomena based on a clarification of the system of rules?

# Significant Events

Seminars, conferences, round tables and presentations of research results are important components of CESES activities. They serve as tools in promoting dialogue with experts, politicians, civil servants, civic sector actors, and members of the general public.

## Discourses in Futurology

**February to October 2015**

The Civic Society for Futurology joined CESES to organize a series of “Discourses in Futurology”. From February to October five seminars were held on the following topics: “Global Crisis and Anticipative Governance”, “The End of the World as We Know It”, “How to Survive the Next 15 Years?”, “Financialization of the World”, “Geoethics and Futurology”, and “R. Buckminster Fuller and his Vision of the World in Future”.

## Fogarty International Training Conference

**May 27–30, 2015**

In May 2015, the CESES and the School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley, organized a conference in Prague to conclude the project on “Socio-Economics of Mental Health Delivery in South Eastern Europe” (2012–2015). This was the final event of their fifteen years of collaboration – of a series of three projects on socio-economic aspects of mental health care in the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe and on the reforms undertaken in the field since 1989.

In the course of the conference, Richard M. Scheffler, Professor of Health Economics and Public Policy at School of Public Health, UCB, who had served as principal investigator throughout the course of the research programme, was awarded Charles University Gold Medal for advancing research and instruction in the fields of economics and health policy in cooperation with Charles University.

## Fifteen Years of CESES

**November 3–4, 2015**

To celebrate the 25th birthday of the Faculty of Social Sciences and the 15th birthday of CESES, we organized a critical debate entitled, “Visions and Reality”, reviewing our publication from the year 2001, “Visions for the Development of the Czech Republic till 2015”. We also launched a poster exhibition on “15 Years of CESES” and organized a symposium on “Visions for the Development of the Czech Republic till 2030”. The goal of the symposium was to promote public debate about the developmental threats, developmental opportunities, visions and strategic choices for the Czech Republic in the following fifteen years. A number of distinguished guests delivered speeches on topics as diverse as foreign and domestic policy, law, welfare state, economics, education and environmental protection. The symposium was attended by a total of 95 participants.



Pavol Frič, František Ochrana and Jan Příklad about to start their critical debate (3 November 2015)

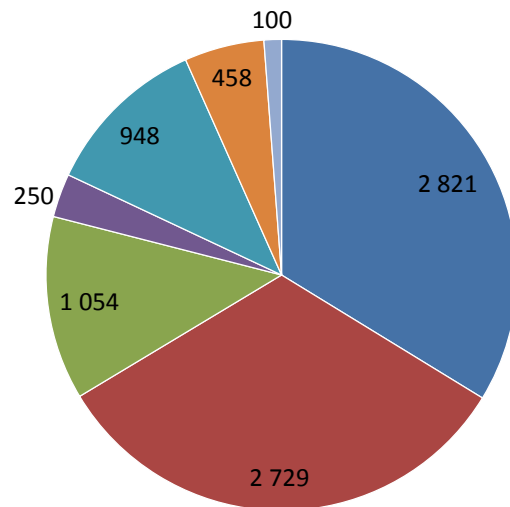


The symposium on “Visions for the Development of the Czech Republic till 2030” (4 November 2015)



The symposium panel on “Visions for the Czech Republic till 2030 from the Perspective of Young People” (4 November 2015)

# Funding



- Sciences on society, politics and media as reflected in contemporary challenges (P17), Charles University Programme of Development of Scientific Disciplines, Ministry of Education
- Innovating Economic Study Programs in line with the Demands of Knowledge Economy (reg. no. CZ.1.07/2.2.00/28.0227), OPVK, Ministry of Education
- Educational activity, Ministry of Education
- Institutional Developmental Plan of the Faculty of Social Sciences 2015, Charles University in Prague
- Totalitarianism and the Non-Banality of Evil (reg. no. 15-16107S), Czech Science Foundation
- Extending Working Lives - Health and Well Being Implications and Facilitators (reg. no. ES/L002884/1), Economic and Social Research Council
- Other Sources

**CESES activity was covered by various grant funds and institutional funds of Ministry of Education.  
The total annual budget amounted to 8 360 TCZK.**

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