

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 Ethnology of the CAS, v. v. i.

Fields, in which the Institute registered its teams:

Arts (arts, history of arts, performing arts, music), Other humanities

Observer representing the Academy Council of the CAS: Lenka Vostrá

Observer representing the Institute: Luděk Brož, substitute observer Jana Nosková

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 - Historical ethnology; No. 2 - Ethnomusicology; No. 3 - Ethnic Studies; No. 4 - Branch
Brno; No. 5 - Department of Music History*

A. Evaluation of the Institute as a whole

1. Introduction

The Institute of Ethnology covers a broad disciplinary spectrum that reaches from ethnology and related scientific disciplines (ethnography, folklore studies, social and cultural anthropology) to musicology. The work includes both basic and applied research and addresses the historical as well as the contemporary, Central European as well as global issues. The Institute is one of the oldest existing in the framework of the AVČR, dating back to the year 1905. The three research Departments (Historical Ethnology, Ethnic Studies, Ethnomusicology) of the Institute are complemented by a Department of scientific information; this structure is mirrored on a somewhat smaller scale by the research unit in Brno. The Department (Cabinet) of Music History is also part of the Institute.

The topical and methodological variety of the current research in ethnology and cultural anthropology is reflected by the list of projects, reaching from *Ethnographical atlas of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia* to *The Analysis for the State Integration Program for Recognized Refugees*. The list also includes international projects such as *Etnofolk – Folk Cultural heritage* and *Social and Cultural Change in Contemporary Central Europe*. The output of the Department of Music History reflects its specific, disciplinarily autonomous position within the Institute.

Three journals are published by the Institute: *Český lid/Etnologický časopis*, *Historická demografie* (Historical demography), and *Hudební věda* (Musicology).

2. Strengths and Opportunities

The strength of the Institute is suggested convincingly by the tradition, continuity of journal publishing (the two first mentioned are among the best in the country), conference activities (e.g. the recent EASA AGM event October 14-15, also attended by Professor Okely), and publications. Publishing of monographs – e.g., the “Ethnographical Atlas” of the Czech Republic, a quality publication summarizing traditional folk culture in the region – demonstrates the ability to do long-term research in times of predominantly short-term research funding. Also some other important topics are researched systematically – e.g. the Vietnamese and Roma in the Czech Republic and in the East-Central European region. In what regards ethnomusicology and music history in particular, the institution runs several in-depth projects that investigate the especially rich heritage of art and folk music in the Czech lands, with internationally leading work done for example on Dvořák and Mozart.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

The research of the Institute, to a large extent oriented towards the “traditional” *Volkskunde* tradition of Central Europe and German speaking countries. It could be enhanced in value by integrating itself more explicitly with modern interpretative perspectives, placing the items and practices in wider historical and changing contemporary contexts.

It is unfortunate that the emphasis on short-term project funding and quantity of output appears partially to determine the Institute's output. A strategy to achieve some long-term funding, subject to opportunities available, would allow the researchers to do more basic fieldwork.

In addition to research activities, many members of the Institute are engaged in excessive demands of teaching at universities. Though teaching is an important part of the scientific work, wherever possible the CAS researchers should concentrate on graduate and Ph.D. courses.

4. Recommendations

The team members should be encouraged to concentrate more strongly on long-term projects including extensive field research. The interest towards contemporary developments in social anthropology, and more contemporary projects – namely how do people live nowadays? – should be integrated further with the urgent work on historical cultural formations now rapidly disappearing; they also could be further highlighted in outreach activities.

The commission encourages the Institute's quest for a re-formulation of its conceptual framework that concisely describes its scope, its specific composition and innovative research agendas.

Building larger research teams and communication with the international research communities should be supported – e.g. teachers' visits, lectures by foreign researchers, staff movement, conferences, etc., cooperation with departments from other cities and students elsewhere.

5. Detailed evaluations

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

The output of the Institute includes a great many publications of high relevance in terms of Czech culture and its past, but also of the self-understanding of the modern Czech society. There are also some excellent contributions to the international discourse in specific areas of research. The range of topics is very wide. The evaluation of the individual departments contains further comments.

Declaration on the involvement of students in research

Most researchers are teaching at universities and the students are participating in the research (cooperation with the Masaryk University in qualitative field research, source research in music history). The Institute is involved in running two doctoral programmes, one of them simultaneously in English and in Czech. It would be advisable to let the Institute independently accredit its own doctoral study programmes in future.

Declaration on societal relevance

This is generally very good, with conferences, journals, video and audio documentaries and the public debate on the use of public space (see one of the projects). Preserving cultural heritage, e.g. "Ethnographical Atlas", is of high societal relevance, too. The unique expertise of the Institute's teams, e.g. that of Ethnic Studies, within the Czech Republic is also very important in light of the new challenges of migration.

Declaration on the position in the international and national context

Some research projects in ethnology are of primary importance for the Czech culture, its "memory" and self-understanding. Others – e.g. the projects of the Departments of Ethnic Studies and of Music History – are important and widely shared contributions to international research. Some researchers have a high degree of international recognition and do publish in English and other world languages, and there are many, especially young, researchers who have the potential to join them.

Declaration on the vitality and sustainability

The departments have their own profile and the further existence of each of them is justified. The composition of the Institute has grown historically, but it also seems to be an efficient basis for the future development. The position of the Department of Music History is specific and it enjoys autonomy which should be maintained regarding the different research field, methods and means.

Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future

The departments' plans – based on tradition and previous research – are ambitious and feasible. However, it would be advisable to build larger project teams in future and to focus more strongly on strategic long-term projects that could strengthen the scientific profile of the departments and of the Institute as a whole.

B. Evaluation of the individual teams

Evaluation of the Team No. 1: Historical ethnology

1. Introduction

The Institute of Historical Ethnology is a well-established research-team that pursues studies both in the ethnology of the Czech lands and abroad – with a special focus on Europe and Siberia. This situation also allows for comparative research. The main focus of research is on rural cultures being transformed due to the exposure to and participation in modernity, on the survival or change of pre-industrial ways of life, on folk-religion and customs. The scope of research includes almost all aspects of everyday life, from manners and beliefs to everything material, encompassing phenomena as diverse as food culture and architecture. The team excels in ethnocartography and produces a steady flow of publications.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

The Department provides a systematic mapping of the traditional folk culture of the Czech Republic and the wider region, especially in the ex-Soviet Bloc (e.g. Slovakia, Poland, Romania, Siberia). The study of folk architecture and the attempt to systematize the outcomes in the encyclopaedic form (e.g. *Ethnographic Atlas*) are valuable.

The team members are leading experts in their research fields; as a result they are in highly sought after by as teachers on various study programmes in Czech universities. Though the bulk of the researchers work on Czech culture, they do have international contacts and collaborations. For example, they have led the international project “Etnofolk”, an ambitious interdisciplinary project supported by the European Union.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

The Department has ties to other departments of the Institute, collaborating with them on common projects such as *Velké dějiny zemí koruny české. Lidová kultura* [The Great History of Czech/Bohemian Lands. Folk Culture].

The team's research is focused primarily on historical forms of culture and their continuation until today. This research interest it partly pursues in the methodological wake of *Volkskunde*, partly using the full range of ethnographic methods for cross-cultural as well as more localised research. It might be advisable to actively and

openly engage the classical basic research with the increasing criticism directed at the discipline's history in the international research community, even more so as its high levels of expertise in the field put it into a position from where it can demonstrate the value and salience of their approach and position their work in relation to international discourse.

Given the demise of “traditional agrarian societies”, in today's Europe, the team should likewise put some effort in investigating how traditions are re-created, re-interpreted and re-vitalized in contemporary societies

There is insufficient funding for activities that might internationalize the team's outreach such as English language editions and digitization of the cartographic work.

4. Recommendations

Beside the further work on existing individual and collective research projects, the researchers could focus more strongly on the contemporary world, or at least on the 2nd half of the 20th century. The team could make use of a unique position within Central Europe, the changing experiences of socialism, knowledge of local languages, etc. A more focused strategy would help in the promotion of a stronger line of original research.

Linking the anthropological/ethnographic conceptual framework to digital humanities would help to improve the interpretation of the emergent data.

The Department should also continue recruiting and training young researchers to accomplish the sustainability of the research culture without significant risk to quality.

5. Detailed evaluations

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

Both quantity and quality of publications are very high. They represent a wide range from scientific papers and books to quite extensive popularization activities. The range of research fields and methods is illustrated by publications such as *Ethnographic Atlas*, *Catalogue of “shopkeeper's prints”*, a monograph on “anthropology of narrativity” in Czech fairy tales and the book about the *national minorities policy in the former Soviet Union*. In view of the high standard and – partly – comparative character of their research, the team members could publish more in foreign languages (English) and in international journals and conference proceedings.

Declaration on the involvement of students in research

Members of the research team participate in teaching at different universities, as well as in supervising theses at different levels. That seems to be due to their prominent position in their research fields, but also due to a lack of specialists at the universities. The students participate in departmental activities, although the extent of their involvement has not been specified in the report. The role of the team members in educating young scholars should be better acknowledged and given greater visibility.

Declaration on societal relevance

There is an impact on the wider society in the form of publishing encyclopaedic types of publications summarizing the traditional folk culture of the region. A lot of the popularizing output is published in the regions of Czech Republic. That is justified. However, in the future a stronger presence in the mass media such as TV and an involvement in digital humanities would represent an even more effective way to make the research of the Department visible to the public.

Declaration on the position in the international and national context

The members of the Department have positions on various committees and editorial boards of Czech ethnographic journals, as well as in advisory bodies of the Czech Government. Participation in international activities is less extensive, although the team members do collaborate with foreign colleagues in their fields and some of them are doing comparative research based also on field research abroad.

Declaration on the vitality and sustainability

The Department's individual projects and activities are highly relevant and have to be continued. Besides them it will be good to strengthen the cooperation among individual researchers. The management of the Department seems to be aware of this, because it plans to continue the work on the *Ethnographic Atlas* and has also announced a new long-time research project concerning the history of ethnography and folklore studies in the years 1945–1989.

Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future

The necessity of balance between individual and common projects, and of strengthening the common ones, has already been mentioned. The strategy should also include promotion of the Department's further collaboration with other departments of the Institute on large projects such as *Velké dějiny zemí koruny české*. On the other side, the specific role of the Department of Historical Ethnology is clearly defined and needs to be continued as historical ethnology, which is of prime value for the self-reflection of any society.

Evaluation of the Team No. 2: Ethnomusicology

1. Introduction

The Department of Ethnomusicology studies a very wide range of topics in both ethnomusicology and ethnochoreology. It runs large folk music and dance archives, and publishes historical sources of folk music and dance. The team members undertake both structural and anthropological studies of music and dance, and deal with phenomena of today's music and dance culture. The astonishingly wide range of topics and methods relates to the leading position of the Department's team in Czech ethnomusicology and ethnochoreology.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

The unique archives – among them a folk song collection of towering value – represent one of the strengths of the Department. The team members conduct long term projects making the ethnomusicological and ethnochoreological sources in Czech lands accessible to both the Czech public and the international community of researchers (the monumental *Průvodce po pramenech lidových písní, hudby a tanců v Čechách* recently appeared). They continue collecting sources not just in the Czech Republic but also abroad. The increasing application of new methodological approaches – anthropological studies of traditional music and dance culture and research of the traditional culture in the 20th century and today – also increase both the national and the international relevance of the Department.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

The team is very small. With respect to the workload and the quality and quantity of the output it would be advisable to strengthen and enlarge the Department in the near future. This would also help to ensure the continuity of research in the face of the existing generation gap. In the future it will also be beneficial to intensify international scientific exchange.

4. Recommendations

The running and developing the folk music and dance archives as well as source editing as long-term activities, in which the Department is simply irreplaceable, need long-term funding. The team should not be forced to cover them with short-term project money. In the future this would enable source and database publications to be made accessible online. Video and audio documentaries should be recognized as excellent outputs in ethnology in terms of scientometrics.

5. Detailed evaluations

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

The output of the small team is really imposing. Resisting the existing pressure on quantity and rapidness of output, the team succeeds to conduct and finalize extremely demanding and time-consuming long-term projects such as *Průvodce*. On the other hand there are special studies, often using interdisciplinary approaches, which enable the team members to take part in the international scientific discourse.

Declaration on the involvement of students in research

The pedagogical activities of the team members at several universities correspond to the national and international position of the Department. They are supervising mainly graduate theses and dissertations. It is necessary to highlight Dr Daniela Stávělová's teaching in the field of dance anthropology.

Declaration on societal relevance

From the point of view of societal relevance the Department is unique and irreplaceable in terms of the cultural self-understanding of the Czech society. The team members are successful in popularising the Czech cultural heritage in European context. On the other hand, they help the public to understand its past under totalitarian rule in 20th century, which often manipulated and instrumentalized the folk culture.

Declaration on the position in the international and national context

The Department is a leading actor at the national level both in terms of publications and other research activities. It is the main partner in the Czech Republic for international research networks and projects in the fields of ethnomusicology, music anthropology and ethnochoreology.

Declaration on the vitality and sustainability

The Department is a dynamic unit with a clear scientific program. It will remain a great advantage that it can collaborate on certain projects with other departments of the Institute of Ethnology: ethnologists as well as music historians (e.g. in hymnology). An issue to address in the near future will be the extension of the very small team.

Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future

The strategy comprises a balance between the two main methodological approaches. This is symbolically communicated through two mail projects run now by the Department: *Bohemian folk music – typological characteristics* (Tyllner and Vejvoda) and *Weight and weightlessness of the folklore* (Stavělová). It is comprehensible and justified that the Department intends to continue source research as well as studies in music and dance anthropology and actual music and dance culture.

Evaluation of the Team No. 3: Ethnic Studies

1. Introduction

The research activity of the Department is focused primarily on studies of contemporary urbanized and transforming societies, issues of migration, identities, minorities and immigrant communities in Czech society as well as the topic of Czech outmigration and expatriate communities abroad. The Department also conducts applied research commissioned by both domestic and international institutions on topics of migration, asylum, the labour market and socially excluded groups.

The team members conduct continuous research on ethnic minorities in the Czech Republic.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

The Department is involved in collaboration with a wide range of bodies, scientific (universities, UNESCO, Research Institute of Labour and Social Affairs, European Association for Social Anthropology), political (Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic), voluntary/NGOs (Prague House of National Minorities). Members of the Department are successful in gaining grants/funding.

The publication activity is impressive, if we consider the small number of researchers (FTE from 2,31 to 3,8).

The age structure of the Department is suitable for sustaining a stable and coherent research group.

The Department conducts long-term research on selected topics (e.g. Czechs abroad, ethnic minorities in the Czech Republic, migration in the Central/Eastern European context).

3. Weaknesses and Threats

The team declares that: «The umbrella research theme of the Ethnic Studies team is *migration and mobilities*». This is the broad framework embracing the bulk of the scientific output of the Department. However, the commission acknowledges and approves that every member of the team enjoys the freedom to focus on his/her own specific topic. Continues care should be spent on specifying the contribution the individual topics make to the common effort.

4. Recommendations

The team should perhaps cooperate in finding stronger unifying topics. The team should continue following contemporary topics (e.g. the Russian presence in the Czech Republic/European Union).

Publication activity in foreign journals/publishing houses could be increased. Perhaps the Department should increase the proportion of publications in English and/or other widespread languages. This would give wider international publicity and recognition. There is scope for emphasis on long-term projects.

5. Detailed evaluations

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

The main activities are in the area of Czechs abroad. The Department is doing valuable research on Vietnamese and other minorities in the Czech Republic. There are some extremely productive team members, while others could increase their activity. Publishing more in English would significantly improve the dissemination and reception of the results on an international circuit.

Declaration on the involvement of students in research

Some of the staff members (Brouček, Brož, Červinková, Grygar, Uherek) of the Department are involved in teaching at all levels of University education (from pre-graduate to postgraduate, including lifelong learning courses) at universities throughout the Czech Republic and in Poland (Červinková), within various study programs (sociology, ethnology, social sciences, Roma studies). However – involvement of their students in the Department's own research is not specified.

Declaration on societal relevance

The Department communicates with the public via the mass media, and organises lectures for the public. In 2013 and 2014, together with the Prague municipality, they organized conferences for minority members in Prague. They are annually co-organizers of the Countrymen's days; they cooperate with the media for Czech compatriots and contribute to their web pages. The important popularization effort of the team lies in its co-operation with the Commission, for Czechs abroad, of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. The Department also participates in applied research, supplying field data to other institutions and evaluating and contextualizing data.

Declaration on the position in the international and national context

Thanks to their academic/publishing activities, members of the Department have a high degree of international recognition (especially Červinková, Uherek, Brož).

The Department aims to play some role in initiating activities in a national as well as international context (co-organizing of seminars, workshops, conferences). These activities should be encouraged and receive necessary funding.

Perhaps the largest international impact of the Department is in the area of "Czechs abroad".

Declaration on the vitality and sustainability

The age structure is acceptable and fair. The research agenda allows for good prospects in the future; external funding on migration topics will be internationally available. The obvious societal relevance of the work the team has taken upon itself, the high intensity of academic and outreach activity and the potential of international visibility make this team an especially important part of the Institute.

Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future

The Department has ambitious scientific/research plans for the future: It will continue to work on research of 1) migrations, 2) national minorities in the Czech Republic, 3) Czechs abroad, 4) the city and public space. The output indicates a gradual shift towards comparative studies

of ethnicity and migration as well as towards urban anthropology. The Department intends to continue to cooperate on international and interdisciplinary projects, e.g. in the framework the Strategy AV 21. Members of the Department will continue lecturing at universities.

Evaluation of the Team No. 4: Branch Brno

1. Introduction

The research activity of the Department is focused mainly on studies of folk culture of Moravia and Silesia and adjacent regions. The core research projects deal with folklore and everyday life in urban and rural context, ethnic minorities, interethnic relations, and Czech groups abroad. The team members focus on the phenomenon of memory, on changes in public spaces, on issues of collective and local identity and migration, including the ethnologic-historical analysis of social processes in South-East Europe. The most projects are based on field research; on the other hand, processing of archival sources represents an important part of the Department's agenda. The Department's own archives contain, among other materials, more than 73 000 handwritten records of folk songs spanning the last 150 years, which constitutes the most valuable folk song archive in Czech Republic.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

Among the strengths of the Department are: preserving the local traditions, exploring and publishing of sources from the unique archives of the Department, as well as continuing field research and tracing the metamorphoses of the traditional folk culture in the 20th century (with the main focus on Moravia and Silesia, but also including Slovakia and other Central and East European countries).

The team members are also strong in historical urban ethnology, reconstructing the multilingual and multiethnic past of Moravia and Silesia - e.g. the Czech Germans, Czech "return migrants" from abroad. The team members continue the tradition of communication with the German-speaking world (publishing in German, regional networking).

3. Weaknesses and Threats

It will be necessary to continue training and recruiting young scholars; a more systematic involvement of students in the research could be helpful in this respect. Besides individual projects and cooperation with other departments of Institute, there might be also a large long-term project unifying the members of the Brno Branch and manifesting the specific profile and position of the Department.

In their extensive teaching activities, the team members could concentrate on graduate (MA) and Ph.D. students and theses in future. Their involvement in teaching should be acknowledged as an integral part of their scholarly activity.

4. Recommendations

Besides the research of the folk tradition, also research in urban ethnology could be intensified, as well as research focused on the socialist period (as stated in the Department's strategy) and post-socialism, including the latest developments in the broader society (after the 1989 period). A precondition for that is the promotion of long-term projects including long-term funding possibilities.

5. Detailed evaluations

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

The list of scientific outputs deserves praise, and includes excellent outputs of international relevance. The edition and precise scientific exploration of Leoš Janáček's phonographic recordings *As Recorded by the Phonograph* is one of them, as well as the book *Childhood in Brno*, which explores from both historical and ethnological point of view the unique multilingual and multiethnic past of the Moravian capital, and the long-term project *Christmas in Europe in Traditions of Folk Culture*. The book reviews could have been identified more consistently in the list of outputs.

Declaration on the involvement of students in research

The team is relatively active in teaching at universities. A number of research team members teach at the Institute of European Ethnology, Masaryk University. There was involvement of students in a conference about qualitative data and the subsequent publication. The involvement of students in research might be more systematic.

Declaration on societal relevance

There is lot of activity in the public domain (public lectures in museums, schools. etc.), and in the TV and radio broadcast. The Department reveals excellent results in informing and lecturing on the German presence in the region during the pre-war periods. The focus on documentary films also has a public impact (e.g., participation in festivals of documentary films, etc.). This activity may be enhanced by the increasing level of familiarity with visual media experience on the part of the general public, who are thus open to additional expertise offered by the departmental specialists.

Declaration on the position in the international and national context

The departmental position in the national context is unique – not just because of its tradition and archives, but also considering the quantity and quality of its current output. There are continuous contacts with institutions in South-East Europe and in German speaking countries, according to the research focus of the Department.

Declaration on the vitality and sustainability

The research plan of the team for 2015–2019 ensures the vitality and sustainability of the Department. The team members continue to make the cultural heritage accessible (editions, catalogues, databases), and at the same time they are active in researching everyday life, the relation between town and countryside, motivation and identity of the tradition bearers, organized folklore movement and other actual issues. There is a possibility for future development in cooperation with strong regional foreign institutions.

Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future

The plans are very ambitious. They involve cooperation with the local institutions (Brno City Archive) and the other departments of the Institute of Ethnology. All the activities planned are justified and the team members are qualified to fulfill them. It could be beneficial to have also a common project of the Brno Branch members as a kind of “flagship” project.

Evaluation of the Team No. 5: Department of Music History

1. Introduction

Since 1999, under the direction of Ivan Vojtěch, Jarmila Gabrielová and Jarmila Procházková, the Department of Music History, former Institute of Musicology, has been strengthening its orientation toward high-level research and intense international cooperation in music history. The incorporation of the former Musicological Institute into the Institute of Ethnology has proven beneficial for the musicological research, opening possibilities for collaboration with other departments of the Institute and not restricting the Department's scientific autonomy.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

The team of the Department has today a very good age structure. The young members – recruited not just from the Musicological Institute of Charles University, which is of course the closest university partner of the Department – are very productive and successful in joining scientific networks. The main research fields of the Department are connected to chapters of Czech/Bohemian music history that are highly relevant in the European context. Due to this fact also the involvement of the most team members in international scientific collaboration is intense.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

The lack of long-term funding is alarming. It is necessary to conclude the negotiations concerning the Antonín Dvořák Complete Edition and the disadvantageous publishing contract stipulated in the past. The accentuation of excellent individual projects is understandable, but there is a need to develop also collective and interdisciplinary projects in order to strengthen the position of the Department in the existing scientific environment.

4. Recommendations

The interdisciplinary project has already been mentioned; in the end, the Department is already participating such projects in the framework of Strategie AV21. The management of the prestigious Dvořák project and the regularity of publishing of individual editions will be important. In this regard, however, the long-term funding by the Academy of Sciences and the Department's scientific autonomy within the Institute are crucial.

5. Detailed evaluations

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

The Department produces world-leading or internationally excellent output that enjoys international reputation and has good national visibility. The publications on Dvořák, Janáček, Mozart and the Czech lands, hymnology, medieval music, etc., allow the authors to participate in high-level international scientific networks. The Czech/Bohemian music has never been explored from such consequently European point of view.

Declaration on the involvement of students in research

The involvement of students is adequate. Students of musicology at Charles University have been collaborating on several specific projects, which provides invaluable work experience for them. The recruiting process could be also open to students from other universities in the Czech Republic. The pedagogical activities of the team members correspond to the position of the Department. They mainly supervise dissertations.

Declaration on societal relevance

The Department plays a crucial role in sustaining the collective memory of Czech society in the field of music. The Department members are very active in terms of popularization and music journalism. They thus ensure the direct transfer of the newest scientific knowledge to the public and refute myths which are part of the nationalist understanding of music culture.

Declaration on the position in the international and national context

The Department is a highly esteemed partner of Europe's leading musicological institutions. The *Hudební věda* journal is one of very few Central European musicological periodicals listed in Thomson Reuters Master Journal List. The international music bibliography RILM (its Czech national committee is a part of the Department) is another important basis for scientific exchange. The prestige of the Department rests also on the recognition of individual researchers, e.g. Milada Jonášová's membership of the Committee of the "Akademie für Mozart-Forschung", Salzburg.

Declaration on the vitality and sustainability

From the point of view of the age structure and output, the present state of the Department is very good and really promising due to the high percentage of young team members. It will be important to maintain the current quality of output, which is in humanities much more important than scientometric values.

Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future

The Department's strategy envisages a balance of research on ancient music history based on music philology and research on music of 19th and 20th centuries using various (e.g. sociological and semiotic) methodological approaches. In addition to the Department's core activities, contributions to the interdisciplinary projects in the framework of Strategie AV21 are planned. These plans seem to be a good basis for the further development of the Department.

Date: February 10, 2016

Commission Chair: Prof. Alessandro Ferrara Ph.D.