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**Coordination Board CAS**

Evaluation of the Research and Professional  
Activities of the Institutes of the Czech  
Academy of Sciences for 2010–2014

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Ref. UGN/2016/174

Subject:

**Statement from the director of the institute on the course of the evaluation and the final evaluation report - Commission no. 10, Social sciences**

We thank the Commission 10 for its work, its external view on the institute activities and provided recommendations.

The Commission evaluated the team of Human Geography, which differs in its subject substantially from other five institute teams evaluated in the fields of mathematics, geosciences and engineering. The team of Human Geography arose by splitting the Department of Environmental Geography into two teams, Physical and Human Geography evaluated by Commissions 5 (Earth and related environmental Sciences) and 10 (Social sciences), respectively. This splitting was not positively accepted, especially by Commission 5 and it seems that this splitting also misrepresented the view on the teams. Joining the teams, as it is in fact done by working in one department, should remove e.g. objections of too small size of the team or of an unbalanced age structure.

For explanation, it is necessary to express that the splitting of the Department of Environmental Geography resulted from the instructions provided for this evaluation. These instructions put Physical Geography explicitly into the competences of Commission 5, whereas Social and economic geography was within competences of Commission 10. The recommendation of both Commissions for strong collaboration of both geography teams just strengthened our own opinion of advantage of coexistence of both teams in one department.

The Commission 10 somewhat oversimplified the structure of the Institute of Geonics into just Physical and Human Geography. Nevertheless, it is important that the Commission points out a lack of stable institutional funding, which leads to project dependent financing that is not convenient for long and mid-term plans and basic research in general.

The Commission appreciated progress done from the last evaluation as well as cooperation among geography teams, other departments as well as other institutes (e.g. involvement in the project Natural threads within strategy AV21 programme).

The recommendation for including senior foreign researchers into the research project applications has been already partly realized by including Dr. Van der Horst to a past EU financed project ENGELA and a newly successful project within National Grant Agency for period 2016-2018, where Van der Horst is the main coordinator of the research activities. The activity of the team is also positively influenced by a permanent contact with Prof. Bryn Greer-Wooten from York University, Toronto, Canada who is also the chief editor of the international journal published by the institute in cooperation with DeGruyter publisher. This journal, Moravian Geographical Report, with the managing editors from the Human geography team, is indexed in Web of Science database, with growing impact factor (IF 0,872 in 2014 and about 1,0 in 2015). The team is also developing cooperation with US geographers (e.g. Prof. Pasqualetti, Univ. Arizona in Phoenix) and Dr. Martinát is going to participate at 6 month scientific exchange in USA in 2016 supported by the Fulbright Commission.

The team was also very successful in obtaining both national and international 7th FP and Horizon 2020 programme projects. But the recommendation from the Commission for being leader of e.g. Horizon 2020 project goes a bit beyond the personal capacity of the institute if one considers the typical extent of H2020 projects.

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director of the Institute