

# **Institute for Sociology**

## **Slovak Academy of Sciences**

2012 – 2015 evaluation, October 13, 2016

# A brief history of the Institute

- 1965
  - Established as Institute of Sociology of Slovak Academy of Sciences
- 1975
  - Merged to form the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology
- 1990
  - Re-established as an autonomous research unit of Slovak Academy of Sciences
- 2015
  - 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Institute

# **R&D activity pursued by the institute during the assessment period**

## **Five areas of R&D activities:**

1. Participation in International Comparative Research: *International Social Survey Programme (ISSP), European Values Study (EVS) and development of the Slovak Archive of Social Data (SASD)*
2. Spatial Sociology, Regional Changes and Partnerships
3. Sociology of Public Issues: *Social, education, health etc. policies, citizenship, democracy, and participation*
4. Sociological Theory
5. Sociology of Work, Organization, and Change

# 1. Participation in International Comparative Research

Acknowledgment of the high methodological and professional competence of the Institute.

**International Social Survey Programme (ISSP)** (since 1995) annual research modules. In 2012 - 2015 four modules: Health, Family and Changing Gender Roles, National Identity, Citizenship. The most important output → the monograph *“How Slovak Society has been Changing”*.

**European Values Study (EVS)** (since 1999) 9 year-intervals; the Institute staff actively involved in preparation of the 2017 research wave. Funding secured from APVV (application prepared in 2015).

**Slovak Archive of Social Data (SASD)** (established 2004) member of CESSDA – Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (2013). In 2014 Slovakia became an observer and SASD the national service provider of the newly established pan-European data archive infrastructure CESSDA – ERIC. Since 2015 SASD supported by H2020 CESDA SaW project, aimed at strengthening and widening the CESSDA infrastructure.

## 2. Spatial Sociology, Regional Changes and Partnerships

**Locally relevant research with international collaborations** (e.g. CHUO University Tokyo, Japan).  
Traditionally a strong research area of the Institute.

Main research areas: social changes in settlements in Slovakia, small towns in Slovakia, migration, housing and home-care for elderly.

In 2012 – 2015 three grant projects supported by the VEGA grant agency, the SAS “Centre of Excellence”, one project supported by ERDF.

Most important outputs: research monographs, two articles in *European Societies* journal, review of innovative practices in elderly care, support of integrating local governance through synergy of local actors

### **3. Sociology of Public Issues: Policies, Citizenship, Democracy, and Participation**

**Research areas:** Voting behaviour, civil society, identities, participation, inclusive education, drug policy, gender policy, relations of policy-making processes and public and political discourse, impact of implemented policies on living conditions and prospects of inhabitants; effects of crisis and austerity,

In 2012 – 2015 supported by several domestic and European research agencies VEGA, APVV, Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship (researcher from UK), SASPRO (2 fellows: Greece and HU), International Visegrad Fund

Most important outputs: KRIVÝ, V. ed. Slovenské voľby '12 : čo im predchádzalo, postoje a výsledky. [Slovak elections '12: What happened before, positions and results] – Bratislava : Sociologický ústav SAV, 2012.

## 4. Sociological Theory and Reflection on the Development of Sociology

**Basic research** in sociological theory and current trends in sociology of religion and everyday life, research of sociological theories of Bourdieu, Habermas and Giddens; theoretical reflection of history of Slovak sociology and current trends in Slovak sociology.

In 2012 – 2015 supported by three projects funded by domestic research agency VEGA with intensive international collaboration (conferences, volumes)

Most important outputs: **Four monographs** focused on theories of Bourdieu, Habermas, sociology of everyday life and public role of religion in Slovakia.

## 5. Work, Organization, and Change

**Research areas:** changes in the content and organization of work in the age of globalisation and societies of late capitalism, working conditions and forms of employment, education and economic participation, processes of organization and reorganization, Europeanisation of Trade Unions.

Supported by two VEGA grants and one multilateral project.

Most important outputs: the most important outputs: one co-authored monograph published abroad, six chapters in monographs published abroad and three studies in Slovak journal covered by the Current Contents database.



# International relevance

- In comparison with the previous assessment period **number of publications in international journals** indexed in the Current Content database has **doubled**.
- National representative in international comparative research programmes ISSP (currently **Standing Committee member**) and EVS
- Project partner in the project Strengthening and widening the European infrastructure for social science data archives (CESSDA SaW). Funded via Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.
- Project partner in project ERDF: „Housing and Home-care for Elderly and Vulnerable People and Local Partnership Strategies in Central European Cities“.
- Hosting Marie Curie (UK) and SASPRO (GR, HU) fellowships
- Organisation of international conferences „Cross-border Migration and its Implications for the Central European Area“ (November 2014), The Critical Theory of Jürgen Habermas in Sociological Research (November 2012).
- Headquarters of the Slovak Committee UNESCO MOST (Management Of Social Transformation)
- Reviews for international journals, editorial board memberships, participation in assessment process of founding agencies.

# Collaborations

- About 50 % of research projects were carried out in cross-disciplinary and cross-institute collaborations, including research institutes in natural sciences (Institute of Zoology, Institute of Geography)
- The Institute took part in two intra SAS multidisciplinary centres (history, psychology, economy)
- Collaboration with the NGO Slovak Anti-Poverty Network (2009-2014) on preparation of conferences, publications, commenting bills and other public and political awareness raising activities

# PhD. study

- The Institute received in November 2015 (after more than 10 years) accreditation to provide internal and external PhD. study in Sociology
- The first three PhD. students were admitted in June 2016 and start their first year of study in September 2016.
- The main goal of PhD study is to provide high quality of study combined with internalization of the study – involvement in research projects, at least one semester in relevant research institutions abroad, attendance of international summer schools, invitation of renown experts...
- Participation in teaching activities (BA, MA, PhD.) in number of domestic and foreign public and private universities (e.g. Masaryk University Brno, Vienna university, Comenius University, Trnava University, Pan-European University, Danubius University,)

# Social impact

Forms	Areas	Target level
Assessment reports Consultations	Education and training of disadvantaged groups	European Commission – DG Employment
Membership in steering committees	Poverty and exclusion Housing	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family
Stakeholder conferences	Local development	Ministry of Construction and Transport
Commenting legislation	Civic participation	Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities
Public opinion articles in media	Mobilisation of local human capital Gender equality, social services for elderly and disabled	Local and regional governments

# Popularisation of Science

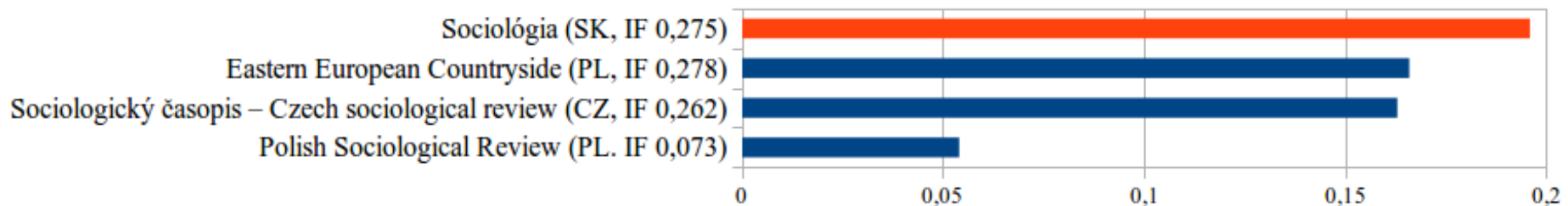
- At least one outreach activity (e.g. articles in press, appearances in telecommunication media, popularisation lectures) per working day
- Popularisation activities based on findings of current surveys provide journalists and wider public with new facts about various aspects and dimensions of the social phenomena and processes that attracted public attention.
- Popularisation has also drawn on theoretical knowledge of the various perspectives and scientific discourses about current phenomena and the resulting capability to interpret relations and consequences of these phenomena depending on the type of policy action.
- Popularisation activities contributed to cultivation of public opinion, its sensitivity to human rights and promoted critical thinking.



# Journal Sociológia – Slovak Sociological Review

- Regionally influential sociology journal
- Each volume with four Slovak and two English issues, **open access**
- The journal is one of three Slovak social science journals covered by the Current Contents database (2015 IF 0.275)
- **Share of domestic authors** from the Institute **is marginal**. In 2014 and 2015 only 13 of the 28 (11 out of 25 in 2015) published studies by authors with a Slovak affiliation, while only two (one in 2015) studies were authored or co-authored by employees of the Institute.

IF without journal self cites of journals in SSCI category SOCIOLOGY published in V4 countries, 2015





# Development plans

- Continue participation in international research consortiums / projects; secure funding via international and domestic funding agencies
  - One **ERC Starting Grant project proposal** submitted in current call
- Promote foreign fellowship exchange
- Further increase publication in relevant international sociological/social sciences journals
  - **Minimal publication standards** since 2013
- Personal growth and rejuvenating
  - 2012 – 2015: **growth from 20 to 23 research employees**
  - 2016: 3 x PhD. students, 1 x project based post-doctoral position
- Sustain flexibility in multi-disciplinary cooperation
- Keep social relevance



Thank you for your attention!

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