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The Institute was established on 1 April 1993. It continues some of the research activities of the former Institute of Systematic and Ecological Biology, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (CSAS) in Brno, and the Institute of Landscape Ecology, CSAS, in České Budějovice. In accordance with the reevaluation of its scientific orientation, the Institute was renamed the Institute of Systems Biology and Ecology, ASCR, in July 2005. Pursuant to Act No. 341/2005 Coll., the Institute became a public research institution as of 1 January 2007.

Research is focused on the analysis of natural systems, which are characterised by spatial and functional dynamics. It is possible to observe this dynamic, at a certain level of simplification, on the basis of the analysis of the energy, mass and information fluxes through the given system. The scientific activity of the Institute is oriented mainly to a system approach, which is significantly related to the methodological content of the wider special field concept of systems biology and ecology. This approach makes it possible to develop and compile huge data sets through the use of mathematical methods.

Joint Research Centre

Academy and University Centre Nové Hrady is a joint centre together with the Institute of Physical Biology, and the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice

The Institute co-publishes the journal *Ekológia*. *Ecology* in Bratislava.

More detailed information about the organisational structure of the Institute and its research and specialised units can be found at the following URL:

http://www.usbe.cas.cz