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The Institute was incorporated into the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in 1953, and is the successor to the State Institute of Geophysics founded in

1920. Pursuant to Act No. 341/2005 Coll., the Institute became a public research institution as of 1 January 2007.

It carries out basic research into the physics of the Earth. Its main programme consists of scientific studies carried out on a regional basis, whose aim is to contribute to the elucidation of the crustal and lithosphere structure, geodynamic evolution and the physical properties of the Earth and its environment. This work is based on the study of the distribution of geophysical fields in space and time in connection with laboratory research on selected rock parameters under corresponding pressure and temperature conditions. The work of the Institute is aimed at obtaining information that can be used in prospecting, prediction and prevention of natural catastrophes and reducing their harmful impact on human beings and their activities.

The Institute publishes the foreign-language journal *Studia geophysica et geodetica*.

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.ig.cas.cz>