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The Institute was established under the name of the Institute of Law of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (CSAS) by a resolution of the fifth Assembly of the CSAS held on 16-17 November 1955. On 1 January 1956 it was merged with three other legal units of the CSAS. As of 1 January 1961, its name
was changed to the Institute of State and Law of the CSAS. The Institute became an entity of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic as of 31 December 1992. Pursuant to Act No. 341/2005 Coll., the Institute became a public research institution as of 1 January 2007.

The Institute performs basic scientific research in the fields of law and legal informatics, contributes to the improvement ofthe level ofknowledge and education and makes application of the results of scientific research; it collects, processes and disseminates scientific information, and provides scientific expert opinions, assessments and recommendations. The Institute develops international cooperation, organises conferences, seminars, etc., and co-operates with other institutions, primarily Universities. Together with the Faculty of Law, University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, it provides a doctoral study programme.

The Institute publishes, together with the Faculty of Law, University of West Bohemia, the journal Právník (Jurist), founded in 1861.

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.ilaw.cas.cz

