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## Editorial

With the dire consequences of the economic crisis likely to hover over Europe for a long time, and given the sombre demographic forecasts, the formidable challenges facing social policy systems in all European countries, the more and more volatile and unstable electoral results across the continent that reflect growing societal divisions, and many other disquieting social phenomena presenting themselves to us every day, it is evident that the need for the scholarly study of societies in Europe is as great today as ever before. *The Czech Sociological Review* is a journal that is striving to make a serious contribution to a better understanding of European societies. In this issue, the articles discuss topical subjects such as housing policy regimes in cross-national comparison, the nationalisation of voter support for political parties, the personality determinants of earnings inequalities, the de-standardisation of family trajectories, and the reporting of domestic violence cases to the police. Each of these issues forms an integral part of some serious social problem and, hence, the results of their systematic study are not just of scholarly, but also of practical-political interest.

Besides the full-length articles, this issue presents readers with a collection of book reviews that discuss recent publications on Central and Eastern Europe.

This year's first issue of the *Czech Sociological Review* is also the first to be published under the new editorial board and editor. It is no mere concession to the conventions of the situation for me to acknowledge the formidable achievement of my predecessor as editor of the CSR, Jiří Večerník, in creating and directing this journal over a very long period (1991–1993 and 2002–2009). It was under Jiří's editorship that the journal was born, reached adulthood, and firmly established itself as an important outlet for high-quality social science work in Central Europe. It will be no easy task to maintain the quality standard to which Jiří elevated the journal through his strong commitment, hard work, and intelligent leadership.

An indisputable asset in this new stage of the journal's history will be its exceptional editorial board composed of some of the world's most prominent social scientists of today (see the inside front cover for the board's current membership). While the task of making the journal as excellent as its board will prove too difficult for me to complete satisfactorily, I am extremely honoured to have so many illustrious collaborators to count on when editing and organising the journal. I am also confident that the board will be very helpful in building bridges between geographical regions, cultures, and generations. It brings together sociologists from the East and the West alike and includes both leading figures in the field of sociology and younger scholars.

One fact that makes my days as a journal editor more joyful and fills me with optimism when pondering the journal's future is that the role of the book reviews editor has again been taken up by Pieter Vanhuysse, who already served in this function in 2008 and 2009. His input into every issue has been and will remain essential. Every issue will feature a series of reviews discussing the most interesting recent additions to the literature on Central European societies and important new work in sociology in general.

There is one thing I want to emphasise right at the start. The adjective 'Czech' in the journal's English title (which, it should be noted, does not figure in its Czech title, which is simply the *Sociological Review*) indicates the journal's place of publication and the perspective taken by a significant proportion of the contributions, but not its overall scope or interests. The journal is published by a Czech sociological institution (the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences), but it aspires to be a part of world sociology. To be sure, it would be unfitting to claim this journal occupies a prominent place in the world concert of sociological journals. It should and will, nevertheless, strive for regional excellence and global visibility. It should and will work hard to achieve the highest standards of quality in providing its readers with excellent scholarship on Czech society and other Central European societies, and quite often also with contributions whose relevance goes far beyond the geographical scope suggested by the journal's name.

To conclude, I want to present the readers with a new statement of the journal's mission. It is my hope that the goals specified in it will be met successfully.

### **Mission statement of the *Czech Sociological Review***

*The Czech Sociological Review* is the flagship journal of the Czech sociological community. Supported by an international editorial board and published biannually, the journal is open to contributors from all around the world. It invites contributions from authors interested in the issues of transformation in Central and Eastern Europe and in the comparative study of social and political developments affecting CEE, but equally welcome is innovative theoretical and methodological work of a more general nature. The journal's scope extends to every area of sociology and it also accepts sociologically informed work from related social sciences, such as political science, history, economics, or social anthropology.

The journal invites scholars from anywhere in the world and of the most varied theoretical and methodological convictions to submit their manuscripts to the peer-review process. Also, the submission of work by advanced post-graduate and post-doctoral researchers is strongly encouraged.

On the regional level, the journal strives to support communication among national sociologies in Central Europe, increase the international visibility of Central European sociology, and develop this region's distinct identity by provid-

ing space for the publication of work produced by Central European researchers. Naturally, new research by Czech authors is published on the journal's pages and is thus made accessible to the regional and international community.

Besides original theoretical and empirical research, the journal also publishes review articles and reviews of books focusing on new developments in theoretical and empirical sociology in CEE countries and worldwide.

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