

H.E. Ing Jan Fischer, CSc
Prime Minister of the Czech Republic
Edward Benes Embankment, 4
118 01 Prague 1
Czech Republic

August 7, 2009

Dear Sir,

As representatives of the International Association of Teachers of Czech, we would like to address to you our concerns regarding the proposed reduction in state funding to the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. As a Czech language association with international membership, we are especially concerned about the effects of these cuts on the activities of the Czech Language Institute and the Institute of Czech Literature.

Linguistic research conducted at the Czech Language Institute has put Czech linguistics in a leading position in international scholarship for the past century. In addition, both the Czech public and our members have benefited considerably over many years from work done at the Czech Language Institute on dictionaries, textbooks, and manuals, as well as online resources such as the online grammar of Czech and the Jazykova poradna. The Institute of Czech Literature has similarly supported the promotion of Czech studies through the Ceska elektronicka knihovna, Bibliografie ceske literatury, Slovník ceske literatury, and other projects. All of these resources are accessible to the general public, and although some are partially funded by grants and contracts, they would be unthinkable without the basic government research funding that secures the functioning of the institutes.

While these institutes are integral to both domestic Czech cultural life and the promotion of Czech studies at an international level, both would be severely impacted by financial metrics that place high priority on patents, new technologies, and other income-producing parameters. We hope that when determining budgetary policy, you will take into consideration the broader intellectual impact that these institutes carry, and support the maintenance of their international reputations accordingly.

With best regards,

Dr. Craig Cravens
Dr. Susan Kresin
Co-presidents, International Association of Teachers of Czech
<http://www.czechlanguageassociation.org/iatc/home.html>

cc. Prof. Jiri Drahos, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic