

## A Short Presentation of the CEFRES' Activities

The French Research Center in Social Sciences (CEFRES), located on the third floor of the Emauzy abbey in Prague, was created in late 1991. It stands at the same time as a research institute and as a mediating place of scientific contacts between French, Czech, Slovak and other researchers and academics. Its activity covers all fields of social and human sciences (history, sociology, economy, political science, anthropology, ethnology, philosophy, and so on.)

CEFRES has a specialized library, open to researchers and students. It subscribes at the moment to eighty-four French reviews in the social and human sciences' field and has a collection of approximately 3,000 books.

During its first two years of existence, CEFRES' action mainly took the form of work seminars, round tables, and colloquiums. Two series of lectures have taken place in the course of the year 1992, one of them on the political and economic transition in the Central and East-European countries (including three round tables, one seminar and one colloquium) and the other on the cultural history (including a series of twelve half-day seminars, with the French historians Jacques Le Goff, Jacques Revel, André Burguiere, Marc Funaroli, Bartolomé Bennassar, Jean-Claude Schmitt, Jérôme Baschet and Krzysztof Pomian.) In 1991 and 1992, CEFRES and the School of Post-Graduate Studies in Social Sciences (EHESS) in Paris have organized and led a monthly workshop dedicated to *State of the Art of the Social Sciences*, with the historians Francois Hartog and Bernard Lepetit, the art historian Louis Marin, the sociologist Daniel Pécaut, the philosopher Jacques Derrida, the

anthropologist Jean Bazin, and the linguist Oswald Ducrot.

In 1993, CEFRES has organized lectures within the Prague University, along with the different institutes of the Academy of Science (some of those lectures, for instance from the sociologists Louis Pinto and Daniel Bertaix, took place at the Sociology Institute and at the Social Sciences' Faculty.) Furthermore, a series of meetings on the theme *State, Nation, Ethnicity* has gathered together historians, anthropologists and political scientists of the School of Post-Graduate Studies in Social Sciences (R. Descimon, A. Guéry, J. Bazin, F. Dubet.) Two round tables have been organized at the CEFRES in January and March. The first one, *Ante- and Post-Modernism* was introduced by Petr Král, Petr Wittlich and V. Lahoda. The second one brought together for two days French, Czech and Slovak historians who are currently studying the relationship between memory and history, basing their work on the analysis and perception of the resistance and collaboration movements in the different countries involved in the study. A third round table will take place in June on the theme of the agricultural decollectivization in Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

CEFRES has also organized in February 1993, along with the French Institute, a colloquium on the subject of *Revolution and Intelligence* notably with the sociologist Michel Crozier.

CEFRES brings out in French and in Czech a *Bulletin* and a thematic *Journal*, on an irregular basis.

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## Supporting Reconstruction of the Social Safety Net: A Working Group Searches for Programmatic Responses to Unemployment in Central Europe

### The Problem:

In nearly every country public policy-makers are caught in a three-way squeeze: global competition to produce efficiently is eliminating jobs; low rates of economic growth, high interest rates and global recession are slowing job creation; and increasing claims