

Editorial

As of the year 2002 the *Czech Sociological Review (CSR)* has an international board and has come under new editorship. Together with *Sociologický časopis* it comprises a single journal that is published every two months – four issues a year in Czech and two issues in English. Each language edition has its own editor and editorial board.

The mission of the CSR is to contribute to the 'comparative knowledge' on transformation and to an analysis of the journey the Central-East European (CEE) countries are undertaking towards the advanced world. Simultaneously, it should also monitor the stronger integration of Czech and 'regional' sociology into the international context.

We would therefore like to invite contributions from authors worldwide, whether from the CEE region or from the West, who are interested in 'transformation issues'. Our aim is also to introduce post-graduate students from abroad to the local and regional public, as many young foreign researchers remain unknown to the local public, in spite of the fact their work is well done and often covers new research fields. We consider the inclusion of the article by Jonathan A. Terra in this issue to be a good start in this direction.

Equally, we intend to inform the international community about social and political research under way in the Czech Republic and the CEE region. 'Regional' sociology is rich and certainly has much to offer. It could become richer still through the use of all possible channels to connect it with the 'world'. The CEE region itself continues to constitute a major social experiment and offers itself as a challenge to sociological methods and imagination.

Hence we are calling for articles that contribute to the study of CEE societies, preferably those revealing new dimensions and facets of transformation. While we intend to present empirical analyses, we also wish to remain attentive to the development of a particular 'transition' theory and methodology. The comparative perspective and the integration of sociological and political knowledge into an international context represent areas of particular interest.

In this space I would like to take the opportunity to introduce the new CSR Editorial Board. First, its international members:

- Professor Joseph S. Drew is, alongside his many other activities, the editor of the *Contemporary Civilization Review*. He is strongly linked to the region currently as the President of the *Anglo-American College*, a small but promising and expanding private university in Prague.
- Professor Georges Mink is a specialist in post-communist issues who teaches political science at the University Paris X-Nanterre. Currently he is the Director of *Centre français de recherche en sciences sociales (CEFRES)*, which is an establishment of the French government in Prague that hosts graduate students and organises conferences on various transitional topics (see the information in this issue).
- Professor Ivan Szélenyi is an outstanding researcher of the post-communist transformation and comparative social stratification (see the review article of Petr Matějů in this issue). He teaches sociology at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA)

and is at present very active in establishing sociological studies at the Central European University (CEU) in Budapest.

- Professor Georg Vobruba is a prominent scholar in the field of social policy, in particular in relation to EU integration and the globalisation process (the review of his most recent book in German will be published in our next issue). He is currently Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Leipzig. Several of his articles have already been published in *Sociologický časopis* (in Czech).

The 'Czech section' of the board includes my closest colleague, Petr Matějů, who was of great help to me when the CSR was launched in 1991 (I was the editor of both language versions until 1993). The other members of the board are Zdenka Mansfeldová, who is Deputy Director of the Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences (the official publisher of the CSR) and Marek Skovajsa who, also as of this year, is the editor of the Czech edition of the journal (*Sociologický časopis*).

We very much hope that with the help of outstanding foreign scholars and Czech colleagues we will succeed in enhancing the standards of the CSR and increasing its attractiveness to both authors and readers. The list of foreign members of the editorial board remains open, and we are searching for other prominent scholars who are active in transformation research, and are training advanced students, as potential and very welcome authors, in the field that forms the subject of our interest.

Jiří Večerník
Editor-in-Chief