
Editorial

Unlike the previous, thematic issue, this issue of the *Czech Sociological Review* includes a variety of different topics. First, Sylke Nissen writes about the collective European identity, the impulse behind its formation and the difficulties associated with its assertion. Data from the EC Eurobarometer are used to create a typology of the positions countries have taken towards enlargement, and to open up discussion on the issue of the real popular support for enlargement among populations, in contrast with how it is outlined and accomplished by political elites. Given the approaching date of accession, it is a very timely issue indeed.

Three articles tackle work flexibility using the comparative survey carried out within the international Households, Work and Flexibility (HWF) project. The coordinator of the project, Claire Wallace, presents a broad picture of the results in eight countries, showing that non-standard arrangements need not be only 'bad jobs' but can also be 'good' ones. Maarten Keune compares standard and non-standard employment in the Czech Republic and Hungary in the context of its meanings, patterns and the specific post-socialist development in each country. Finally, Pavle Sicherl proposes a typology of work flexibility based on Slovenian data, followed by a comparison of eight countries and a specific Czech/Slovenian comparison of work arrangements.

The last section of articles stems from a Czech project dealing with the subject of changes in fertility and family behaviour in the Czech transformation process. Dana Hamplová uses a 'dynamic approach' to test the weight of education levels for the timing and other characteristics of first marriage and reaches a neutral conclusion. Simona Pikálková focuses on the probability of a third child in the family and reveals the considerable importance of education levels in this regard. In the discussion of family policies, the examples of France and Sweden are compared with the measures applied in the Czech Republic.

To balance the scholarly approach of the analytic articles, I have also included a selection of entries drawn from the 'dictionary of Czech culture' written by Andrew Roberts (the entire work will be published as a monograph). It is based on the author's intimate knowledge of the local lifestyle and his experience of 'inter-cultural encounters' with Czechs. The author mastered the Czech language while living in the Czech Republic for a couple of years and collected many of the bits and pieces of cultural references that nearly everybody in the country is familiar with but which sound rather exotic to foreigners. I believe it offers both interesting and amusing reading.

The information section contains a report on an important event – the meeting of the CSR Editorial Board on 27 May 2003 at Villa Lanna in Prague. Discussions at the meeting centred on four sets of questions:

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- What is the mission of the CSR – how realistic is it and how can it be met?
 - What have we done so far, what has failed and what succeeded?
 - Who are our readers and how can we address more people?
 - What are the vital problems for the future?

A summary of the vibrant discussion and lively debate on these issues is presented in the Information section. This is followed by a list of sociological journals published in English in the region – compiled for the meeting as a background document on regional co-operation and collaboration. In keeping with the meeting's suggestion to enlarge the Editorial Board, I invited Maarten Keune to join us and I am pleased to confirm his acceptance. Maarten was active in the preparation of this issue and is willing to help us in all our activities, especially in attracting and acquiring new articles and submissions. He has vast experience, particularly in the field of labour market research – which has been and remains an extremely hot issue in the CEE region.

The appeal of the CSR – cited in the Social Science Citation Index – is growing, but slowly. There are many journals out there, and indeed they testify to the size and richness of the sociological community in this region and beyond. But there are also an infinite number of issues to be analysed and described. Thus the main message of the Editorial Board meeting clearly stands – we need more interesting articles about more issues addressing more people.

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Editor-in-Chief