

# **Evaluation of the Research and Professional Activity of the Institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS) for the period 2010–2014**

## **Final Report on the Evaluation of the Institute**

**Name of the Institute:** Institute of State and Law of the CAS, v. v. i.

**Fields, in which the Institute registered its teams:**

Law

Observer representing the Academy Council of the CAS: Pavel Janoušek

Observer representing the Institute: Jan Malíř, substitute observer Michal Šejvl

### **Commission No. 10: Social sciences**

Chair: doc. JUDr., PhD., LL.M. Kristian Csach

Date(s) of the visit of the Institute: October 19 - October 23, 2015

Programme of the visit of the Institute: see attached Minutes from the visit

Evaluated research teams:

*No. 1 - Department of Public Law; No. 2 - Department of Private Law; No. 3 - Department of Legal Theory*

## **A. Evaluation of the Institute as a whole**

### **1. Introduction**

The Institute focuses on basic research in legal science. The three evaluated teams within the Institute of State and Law are more interactive and coherent than other evaluated teams and institutes. The recent structural and personal changes within the institute actually underline the interaction between the teams (the fluent transfer of researchers from one team into another). This leads to same strengths and weaknesses across the teams.

### **2. Strengths and Opportunities**

The Institute provides an extensive support for the legislation and public policy decision process. Moreover, the Institute (all teams) played a key-role in the recodification process and in the process of the implementation of the new civil law, which was and still is one of the most complicated tasks for lawyers ever. The team and knowledge gathered within this process might represent the fundament for top level legal research in Czech Republic.

The Institute undergoes a deep-going generation change combined with the changes in administrative structure and editorial activities (i.e. reforming of the inhouse journal “Právník” and starting the only journal published only in English in the Czech and Slovak legal area) and the results shall be visible in mid-term.

The concept of CeLaPa provides a good testing ground for future semi-institutional research bases.

### **3. Weaknesses and Threats**

The current level of collaboration particularly between the three CAS institutes - Sociology, Economy and the State and Law - is lagging behind and does not match common expectations and if effectively pursued it might bring interesting results and innovative research outputs.

The notion of legal science as a national (or locally) relevant science with publishing activities somehow limited to national level and a national audience might be detrimental if the general trend of sociometric evaluation decreases the relevance of national journals compared to international.

#### **4. Recommendations**

The research teams are strong and enthusiastic, their goals are ambitious. The teams work in innovative fields of multidisciplinary research. The team leaders are promising and a positive development may be expected. The internal cooperation among the departments and with other institutes of the CAS (e.g. Sociology, Economics) should be intensified and put on a regular basis (joint seminars).

A comprehensive internationalisation strategy is needed. The strategy should build on the CeLAPA platform and other contacts (TMC Asser Institute et al). CeLAPA could indeed serve as the nucleus for the future internationalisation and it deserves great attention. It is an international and inter-/multidisciplinary platform fostering high level debates on legal issues and public affairs, across disciplines.

The stimulating atmosphere must not be lost. Now is the time to intensify cooperation, to initiate besides multidisciplinary (doctoral) seminars, peer-reviewed English (German or French) publications and to use European funding opportunities for (collaborative) research projects. The strategic search for further appropriate partners is indispensable.

Increasing systematically the teams engagement in high-level international comparative studies within the research areas of the Institute is recommended since it would further enhance international networking supporting research activities and international publishing in high-level journals and publishing venues.

In this context, a European funding strategy (with a focus on the Horizon 2020 excellence pillar) should complement future plans. Marie Skłodowska Curie Individual Fellowships could be a perfect starting point, having in mind, though that more ambitious ERC Grant applications should follow.

International peer-reviewed journal publications should be high on the agenda, too. International partners should be invited as members of the Board of inhouse journals and to the Scientific Advisory Board. The establishment of an „international incoming professorship“ for a year could initiate a real snowball effect in many ways (mentoring, publication strategy, doctoral training, collaborative projects,...).

#### **5. Detailed evaluations**

##### **Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition**

Based on the information provided to Commission 10 in Phase II of the evaluation it is in general not feasible to assess the quality of concrete results of the research carried out. The documents do not disclose details about the research programmes,

underlying methodologies, outcome and impact of findings. The large number of publications is available in Czech only. So far, international cooperation seemed to merely consist of conference and workshop participation.

### **Declaration on societal relevance**

All three departments create works integrating views from other disciplines, thus having an impact on the development of society as a whole and with a considerable potential to innovative findings. Know-how in medical law and bioethics, skills at the crossroads of technology & law, law & linguistics, expertise in Islamic law and transsexuality are unique assets to be cultivated and strengthened.

The staff seems very much engaged in teaching activities all over the country. The question arises to what extent teaching covers basic courses and to what extent research findings enter teaching curricula (also of other disciplines e.g. medical studies). Further education for the employees should cover language courses, specialised training and foster other skills needed in science.

Collaboration with undertakings, e.g. medical firms or with the IT sector and even joint doctoral programmes could be considered in the future.

Outreach activities cover presence in national Science Week, interviews (for local radio and domestic newspapers/tv), popular articles and specifically targeted events. Additional outreach activities for kids (schools) would foster interest in research at an early stage.

Editorial activities seem already extremely time consuming. Board members from international universities/research institutions should be invited, too.

It would have been interesting to know details about the library and to explore the electronic legal dictionary (PES), developed in cooperation with the Faculty of Informatics (MUB) and the Institute of Czech language (CAS) during the on-site visit. However, as the Commission did not ask for the access to them they were not made available.

### **Declaration on the involvement of students in research**

Seemingly, students could be integrated more actively in international research projects. It is not clear how the supervision of students looks like, and what teaching methods are applied. What offers do they enjoy in terms of early stage career training? How to attract more women to research? A mentoring programme is missing. The age structure of the Institute shows that presently established researchers (around 45) are underrepresented.

### **Declaration on the position in the international and national context**

National visibility and scientific reputation is a fact. The focus of current cooperation is mainly on Višegrad (CORECEL). The efforts now should clearly be focused on the elaboration of an explicit internationalisation strategy of the Institute and a dual publication strategy covering international impact journals besides serving the Czech readers.

The Commission welcomes initiatives regarding the Weyr Fellowship, Kelsen annual lectures and other venues inviting the internationally most distinguished academic and legal scholars. For instance, the fact that the Institute hosted Robert Alexy and Christian Joerges is unique not only in the Czech but also within Central European context.

Regarding the ability to attract foreign researchers, CeLAPA has been successful since its establishment in 2013 to attract foreign researchers for lectures and participation in workshops and seminars. What is missing, though is a sustainable cooperation and a consistent involvement of the institute in European projects.

The establishment of an „Incoming-professorship“ could serve as the beginning for structured cooperation. Besides fellowships under the Marie Skłodowska Curie funding scheme offer on the one hand opportunities to attract international experienced researchers and on the other they provide for outgoing fellowships and later on a reintegration phase when the know-how acquired elsewhere is brought back to the Institute for State and Law.

The Institute is the only (non-university) research institution in the field of legal studies in the Czech Republic and thus it enjoys a unique position. Most of its researchers are involved in lecturing at various Czech universities. Universities due to teaching obligations have less capacity for research. The government, parliament and other Czech institutions frequently seek for the expertise of the Institute's personnel.

### **Declaration on the vitality and sustainability**

The Institute is very active and successful in acquiring funds (for two years periods) from the Czech Science foundation. The results of these projects are mainly published in Czech language. Future funding strategies should clearly also focus on European funding schemes, especially in the excellence pillar of Horizon 2020. The demand for legal expertise as a cross-cutting issue appears in other funding schemes, too.

The Institute is heavily involved in providing policy advice to the Czech government. Engaging citizens in science would be desirable, too.

The methods of hiring personnel seems not fully in conformity with the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. The Academy's Career Code and career development plan are not known in detail to the Commission. Setting up an International Scientific Advisory Board would be desirable.

The age structure discloses a gap in the generation of 45 year old scholars. International mobility should be supported and intensified (Marie Skłodowska Curie fellowship programmes).

The establishment of an "Incoming Professorship" could prove fruitful for a sustainable international cooperation.

It is particularly welcome that one of the recently established department heads is a very active and internationally oriented woman with clear and ambitious objectives and a strong sense for encouraging early stage researchers. The recruitment and employment policy should especially encourage female participation

### **Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future**

The mid-term research programme should identify the prospects of the research fields on the agenda. Innovative scientific ideas, methods and the development of new theories and creative minds should be encouraged and supported. Multi- and transdisciplinary work is essential to understand and master the current challenges of our society. Legal scholars can contribute substantially.

Engaging civil society and more focused outreach activities are desirable.

Transparency in government counseling is a must, policy advisory reports should be distinguished from basic research projects and need clear guidelines. The Commission welcomes the introduction of Institute's Rules of Procedure regulating also the drafting of policy advisory reports. Any possible bias of the policy reports drafters and the following of the procedural rules are to be monitored by the Institute.

The Institute should further work on its internationalization. The invitations of leading researchers are indeed a good way forward and a necessary step in order to make the Institute a top research body.

## **B. Evaluation of the individual teams**

### **Evaluation of the Team No. 1: Department of Public Law**

#### **1. Introduction**

The largest and „least compact“ department within the Institute – according to the research report of the team (Appendix 3.5, p. 1) presents indeed diverse activities. The Research focuses on Constitutional Law, Human Rights (HR to Environment), Environmental Law, the reform of the public administration, considering the impacts of international law and the Czech Civil Code on public law.

Two relatively independent research units were created in the Department of Public Law in the evaluated period. In 2011 the Research Unit for Medical Law and Bioethics and in 2013 the Centre for Law and Public Affairs (CeLAPA) were founded.

#### **2. Strengths and Opportunities**

Young and ambitious team.

Cooperation with universities (*Graduate Colloquim*)

CeLAPA could indeed serve as the nucleus for the future internationalisation and it deserves great attention.

The research unit for medical law and bioethics established in 2011 works multidisciplinary. It contributed to the AV 21 strategy „Effective Public Policy and Current Society“, and thus responds to actual societal challenges. It is a small unit but may generate a strong innovative potential and, considering activities of the team, including participation in world conferences one may expect under the guidance of the impressive new head of department promising results in the future notwithstanding the structural changes that are currently in progress at the Institute.

The inhouse and open access online *Journal of Medical Law and Bioethics* should consider also opening a section in English in order to attract international authors, too. The Commission welcomes the publication of *The Lawyer* quarterly, published in English.

#### **3. Weaknesses and Threats**

The majority of publications are in Czech language, though. The institute issues the journals *Právník* and *The Lawyer Quaterly* – both of them are peer-reviewed non-impact (the law journals in Europe are in general neither indexed nor is their IF calculated). The editorial boards deserve international participation and indeed

English, German or French publications should be encouraged.

The Europeanisation of domestic public law seems to matter in a few publications but in general deserves more attention in the future, since today hardly any legal question can be resolved without considering the influence of European Law. This is also reflected in the Research Plan 2015-2019.

#### **4. Recommendations**

The research teams are strong and enthusiastic, their goals are ambitious. The teams work in innovative fields of multidisciplinary research. The team leaders are promising and a positive development may be expected. The internal cooperation among the departments and with other institutes of the CAS (e.g. Sociology, Economics) should be intensified and put on a regular basis (joint seminars).

Some of the activities of the Department might definitely gain more scientific significance if embedded in international cooperations and in a publication strategy with a focus on impact journals. The Research Plan for the upcoming period 2015-2019 provides for a strengthening of institutionalised cooperation with partners in particular in the Višegrad region.

A comprehensive internationalisation strategy is needed. The strategy should build on the CeLAPA platform and other contacts (TMC Asser Institute et al). CeLAPA could indeed serve as the nucleus for the future internationalisation. The stimulating atmosphere must not be lost. Now is the time to intensify cooperation, to initiate besides multidisciplinary (doctoral) seminars, peer-reviewed English, German or French publications and to use European funding opportunities for (collaborative) research projects. The strategic search for further appropriate partners is indispensable.

Increasing systematically the teams engagement in high-level international comparative studies within the research areas of the Institute is recommended since it would further enhance international networking supporting research activities and international publishing in high-level journals and publishing venues.

In this context, a European funding strategy (with a focus on the Horizon 2020 excellence pillar) should complement future plans. Marie Skłodowska Curie Individual Fellowships could be a perfect starting point, having in mind, though that more ambitious ERC Grant applications should follow.

International peer-reviewed journal publications should be high on the agenda, too. International partners should be invited as members of the Board of inhouse journals and to the Scientific Advisory Board. The establishment of an „international incoming



professorship“ for a year could initiate a real snowball effect in many ways (mentoring, publication strategy, doctoral training, collaborative projects,...).

## **5. Detailed evaluations**

### **Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition**

Based on the information provided to Commission 10 in Phase II of the evaluation it is in general not feasible to assess the quality of concrete results of the research carried out. The documents do not disclose details about the research programmes, underlying methodologies, outcome and impact of findings. The large number of publications is available in Czech only. So far, international cooperation seemed to merely consist of conference and workshop participation.

As the number of publications listed for the evaluation is limited, it is not possible to draw far reaching conclusions on the shares of the team compared to the summary output. The department of public law has a higher percentage in publications in the third quality group while having an almost equal share as other departments in other quality groups.

### **Declaration on societal relevance**

All three departments create works integrating views from other disciplines, thus having an impact on the development of society as a whole and with a considerable potential to innovative findings. Know-how in medical law and bioethics, skills at the crossroads of technology & law, law & linguistics, expertise in Islamic law and transsexuality are unique assets to be cultivated and strengthened.

The staff seems very much engaged in teaching activities all over the country. The question arises to what extent teaching covers basic courses and to what extent research findings enter teaching curricula (also of other disciplines e.g. medical studies). Further education for the employees should cover language courses, specialised training and foster other skills needed in science.

### **Declaration on the involvement of students in research**

Seemingly, students could be integrated more actively in both national and international research projects. It is not clear how the supervision of students looks like, and what teaching methods are applied.

The age structure of the Institute shows that presently established researchers (around 45) are underrepresented.

The Commission welcomes the initiative *Graduate Colloquim* (in cooperation with the Faculty of Law of Charles University and the Faculty of Law of Masaryk University) – a series of doctoral seminars for the students of Czech universities with foreign guests who visit the Institute.

### **Declaration on the position in the international and national context**

National visibility and scientific reputation is a fact. The focus of current cooperation is mainly on Višegrad (CORECEL). The efforts now should clearly be focused on the elaboration of an explicit internationalisation strategy of the Institute and a dual publication strategy covering international impact journals besides serving the Czech readers.

The Commission welcomes initiatives regarding the Weyr Fellowship, Kelsen annual lectures and other venues inviting the internationally most distinguished academic and legal scholars.

Regarding the ability to attract foreign researchers, CeLAPA has been successful since its establishment in 2013 to attract foreign researchers for lectures and participation in workshops and seminars. What is missing, though is a sustainable cooperation and a consistent involvement of the institute in European projects.

### **Declaration on the vitality and sustainability**

The Evaluated team is very active and successful in acquiring funds (for two years periods) from the Czech Science foundation. Future funding strategies should clearly also focus on European funding schemes, especially in the excellence pillar of Horizon 2020. The demand for legal expertise as a cross-cutting issue appears in other funding schemes, too.

The Institute is heavily involved in providing policy advice to the Czech government. Engaging citizens in science would be desirable, too.

The age structure discloses a gap in the generation of 45 year old scholars. International mobility should be supported and intensified (Marie Skłodowska Curie fellowship programmes).

The establishment of an "Incoming Professorship" could prove fruitful for a sustainable international cooperation.

It is particularly welcome that the recently established department head is a very active and internationally oriented woman with clear and ambitious objectives and a

strong sense for encouraging early stage researchers. The recruitment and employment policy should especially encourage female participation

**Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future**

The mid-term research programme should identify the prospects of the research fields on the agenda. Innovative scientific ideas, methods and the development of new theories and creative minds should be encouraged and supported. Multi- and transdisciplinary work is essential to understand and master the current challenges of our society. Legal scholars can contribute substantially.

Engaging civil society and more focused outreach activities are desirable.

Transparency in government counseling is a must, policy advisory reports should be distinguished from basic research projects and need clear guidelines. The Commission welcomes the introduction of Institute's Rules of Procedure regulating also the drafting of policy advisory reports. Any possible bias of the policy reports drafters and the following of the procedural rules are to be monitored by the Institute.

The Institute should further work on its internationalization. The invitations of leading researchers are indeed a good way forward and a necessary step in order to make the Institute a top research body. The Commission welcomes the plan for joint grant applications and cooperation in the organization of doctoral study programs with foreign partners.



## **Evaluation of the Team No. 2: Department of Private Law**

### **1. Introduction**

The Department of Private Law is a smaller department that performed a systematic and long-term impact analysis of the synthesis of private law recodification as well as an analysis of related private law topics and proposals. Its members contributed largely to the Codification of the New Civil Code in terms of its preparation, partial conceptual evaluation – incl. a systematic and long-term impact analysis. The impact of EU law on selected issues of Czech private law has been studied as well.

### **2. Strengths and Opportunities**

The Institute provides an extensive support for the legislation and public policy decision process.

The team consists of researchers who contributed largely to the Codification of the New Civil Code. This knowledge is unique not only in national but on a global level and is a solid base to build upon further top level research.

The export of the knowledge on codification

Interaction with business sector

### **3. Weaknesses and Threats**

Bias in research resulting from the interaction with business sector

Universities and the demands of teaching activities

### **4. Recommendations**

The evaluated team is predominantly focused on private law which is still a rather national field of legal regulation and legal science. The Europeanization of private law is also in focus. However, the outcome should lead to more English, German or French publications, too. This would not only contribute to more international visibility of the team members but also would the international community be interested in gaining an insight in the Europeanisation of Czech private law and developing comparative ideas would certainly benefit from an internationalised publication strategy of the group. New interdisciplinary research was carried out in the fields of medical (ethics) law, sports law, and IT law. Existing international cooperation i.a. with the Max Planck Institute in Munich and T.M.C. Asser Institute should be deepened. Genuine international, collaborative and transdisciplinary research

projects would be the logical next step now, and this would place the working group under new leadership on an internationally more competitive level in the future.

## **5. Detailed evaluations**

### **Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition**

Based on the information provided to Commission 10 in Phase II of the evaluation it is in general not feasible to assess the quality of concrete results of the research carried out. The documents do not disclose details about the research programmes, underlying methodologies, outcome and impact of findings. The large number of publications is available in Czech only. So far, international cooperation seemed to merely consist of conference and workshop participation.

As the number of publications listed for the evaluation is limited, it is not possible to draw far reaching conclusions on the shares of the team compared to the summary output. The department of private law has an almost equal share as other departments in the second and fourth quality groups but somehow lower in the third one.

### **Declaration on societal relevance**

All three departments create works integrating views from other disciplines, thus having an impact on the development of society as a whole and with a considerable potential to innovative findings. Know-how in medical law and bioethics, skills at the crossroads of technology & law, law & linguistics, expertise in Islamic law and transsexuality are unique assets to be cultivated and strengthened.

The staff seems very much engaged in teaching activities all over the country. In the evaluated period 2010 – 2014 members of the Department of Private Law were carrying out pedagogical activities in all public universities within the field of law in the Czech Republic, namely at the Faculty of Law of Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Law of Masaryk University in Brno, Faculty of Law of Palacký University in Olomouc, Faculty of Law of University of West Bohemia in Pilsen and also the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University in Prague.

The question arises to what extent teaching covers basic courses and to what extent research findings enter teaching curricula (also of other disciplines e.g. medical studies). Further education for the employees should cover language courses, specialised training and foster other skills needed in science.

### **Declaration on the involvement of students in research**

Seemingly, students could be integrated more actively in research projects.

Alike in other Institutes it is not clear how the supervision of students looks like, and what teaching methods are applied

The age structure of the Institute shows that presently established researchers (45-55) are lacking.

#### **Declaration on the position in the international and national context**

National visibility and scientific reputation is a fact. The focus of current cooperation is mainly on Višegrad (CORECEL). The efforts now should clearly be focused on the elaboration of an explicit internationalisation strategy of the Institute and a dual publication strategy covering international impact journals besides serving the Czech readers.

The Commission welcomes initiatives regarding the Weyr Fellowship, Kelsen annual lectures and other venues inviting the internationally most distinguished academic and legal scholars.

#### **Declaration on the vitality and sustainability**

The Evaluated team is very active and successful in acquiring funds (for two years periods) from the Czech Science foundation. Future funding strategies should clearly also focus on European funding schemes, especially in the excellence pillar of Horizon 2020. The demand for legal expertise as a cross-cutting issue appears in other funding schemes, too.

The Institute is heavily involved in providing policy advice to third parties.

The age structure discloses a gap in the generation of 45 year old scholars. International mobility should be supported and intensified (Marie Skłodowska Curie fellowship programmes).

The establishment of an "Incoming Professorship" could prove fruitful for a sustainable international cooperation.

The recruitment and employment policy should especially encourage female participation

#### **Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future**

The mid-term research programme should identify the prospects of the research fields on the agenda. Innovative scientific ideas, methods and the development of new theories and creative minds should be encouraged and supported. Multi- and transdisciplinary work is essential to understand and master the current challenges of our society. Legal scholars can contribute substantially.

Engaging civil society and more focused outreach activities are desirable.

Transparency in government and business counseling is a must, policy advisory reports and opinions should be distinguished from basic research projects and need clear guidelines. The Commission welcomes the introduction of Institute's Rules of Procedure regulating also the drafting of policy advisory reports. Any possible bias of the policy reports drafters and the following of the procedural rules are to be monitored by the Institute.

The Institute should further work on its internationalization. The invitations of leading researchers are indeed a good way forward and a necessary step in order to make the Institute a top research body. The Commission welcomes the plan for joint grant applications and cooperation in the organization of doctoral study programs with foreign partners.



## **Evaluation of the Team No. 3: Department of Legal Theory**

### **1. Introduction**

The transdisciplinary work of the small department covers legal informatics and linguistics, legal philosophy, general theories of law. Research on the legal discourse in inter-cultural perspectives - with a focus of Islamic law - and transgender issues seem to be particularly interesting. The researchers are paving new ground in these areas in the Czech Republic and have an enormous potential in developing unique expertise. The Department head is refreshing, visionary and will support his team in promoting innovative research. The recent changes within the Institute's structure and the transfer of particular researchers into the Legal Theory department makes it more organically linked with CeLaPa and thus provides a good basis for future joint research.

### **2. Strengths and Opportunities**

Young and ambitious team

Interesting topics

Internationalization including the internal working process

Cooperation with CeLaPa

### **3. Weaknesses and Threats**

Heterogeneous research topics of the team members – questionable synergy

A more demanding involvement in teaching process is a threat to the research output

### **4. Recommendations**

The evaluated team should concentrate on more English, German or French publications. This would contribute to more international visibility of the team members. The evaluated team could provide a methodological knowhow to other teams and might cover multi-disciplinary seminars with other teams' members.

### **5. Detailed evaluations**

#### **Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition**

Based on the information provided to Commission 10 in Phase II of the evaluation it is in general not feasible to assess the quality of concrete results of the research carried out. The documents do not disclose details about the research programmes,

underlying methodologies, outcome and impact of findings. The large number of publications is available in Czech only. So far, international cooperation seemed to merely consist of conference and workshop participation.

As the number of publications listed for the evaluation is limited, it is not possible to draw far reaching conclusions on the shares of the team compared to the summary output. The department of legal theory is underrepresented in the first quality group of publications. This might be attributed also to the fact that most of the publication is in Czech.

### **Declaration on societal relevance**

All three departments create works integrating views from other disciplines, thus having an impact on the development of society as a whole and with a considerable potential to innovative findings.

The staff seems very much engaged in teaching activities all over the country. The question arises to what extent teaching covers basic courses and to what extent research findings enter teaching curricula (also of other disciplines e.g. medical studies). Further education for the employees should cover language courses, specialised training and foster other skills needed in science.

Because of their research focus, the team is not giving many policy papers to stakeholders (public nor private).

### **Declaration on the involvement of students in research**

Seemingly, students could be integrated more actively in research projects.

Alike in other Institutes it is not clear how the supervision of students looks like, and what teaching methods are applied. What offers do they enjoy in terms of early stage career training?

The age structure of the Institute shows that presently established researchers (45-55) are lacking.

### **Declaration on the position in the international and national context**

National visibility and scientific reputation is a fact. The focus of current cooperation is mainly on Višegrad (CORECEL). The efforts now should clearly be focused on the elaboration of an explicit internationalisation strategy of the Institute and a dual publication strategy covering international impact journals besides serving the Czech readers.

The Commission welcomes initiatives regarding the Weyr Fellowship, Kelsen annual lectures and other venues inviting the internationally most distinguished academic and legal scholars.

### **Declaration on the vitality and sustainability**

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The Institute is heavily involved in providing policy advice to third parties.

The age structure discloses a gap in the generation of 45 year old scholars. International mobility should be supported and intensified (Marie Skłodowska Curie fellowship programmes).

The establishment of an "Incoming Professorship" could prove fruitful for a sustainable international cooperation.

The recruitment and employment policy should especially encourage female participation

### **Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future**

The research activities at the Department of Legal Theory is based on the previous period, focusing mainly on legal informatics and linguistics, legal philosophy and general theory of law. The mid-term research programme should however identify the prospects of the research fields on the agenda. Innovative scientific ideas, methods and the development of new theories and creative minds should be encouraged and supported. Multi- and transdisciplinary work is essential to understand and master the current challenges of our society. Legal scholars can contribute substantially.

The Institute should further work on its internationalization. The invitations of leading researchers are indeed a good way forward and a necessary step in order to make the Institute a top research body. The Commission welcomes the plan for joint grant applications and cooperation in the organization of doctoral study programs with foreign partners.

**Date:** February 23, 2016

**Commission Chair:** doc. JUDr., PhD., LL.M. Kristian Csach