

teaching students of sociology at the Faculty of Social Sciences. He is a very popular teacher. Students are perhaps capable of recognising more quickly than others what kind of person is standing before them and they appreciate the personality of the teacher as well as the quality of the lectures themselves. We, the colleagues of Michal Illner who have had a chance to work with him for a longer period of time, can confirm the students' observations. We wish Michal Illner much professional and personal success in the years to come. We hope that we will have many opportunities to continue to meet with him as scientist, teacher or simply a human being. He is the sort of true gentleman that is quite rare nowadays.

Tomáš Kostecký

Czech-Slovak Sociology Days in Prague

Czech-Slovak Sociology Days was a three-day conference held in Prague on May 10–12 at the Vila Lanna and at the Library of Sociology of the Institute of Sociology AS CR. The organisers of the conference were the Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, the Institute for Sociology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, and the Masaryk Society of Czech Sociology. The aim of the conference was to contribute to strengthening Czech-Slovak co-operation in the social sciences. Several meetings ran simultaneously at the conference, including a meeting of sociological societies from both countries, a meeting of representatives from academic journals published in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia and a meeting at which scientific publications published by the research institutes and other materials were presented to participants. The event provided ample space for closer discussions between institutions from the two countries. The programme of the conference was structured as outlined below:

Thematic Blocks:

- Social Structure (chaired by Milan Tuček, SOÚ AV ČR)
- Infrastructure of Research (chaired by Jindřich Krejčí, SOÚ AV ČR)
- Regions and Local Politics (chaired by Peter Gajdoš, SÚ SAV)
- Family and Gender (chaired by Alena Křížková, SOÚ AV ČR)
- Public Policy (chaired by Zuzana Kusá, SÚ SAV)
- Citizenship (chaired by Monika Čambáliková, SÚ SAV)
- Which Methodology in Contemporary Sociology? (chaired by Hynek Jeřábek, FSV UK)
- Public Opinion Research (chaired by Adéla Seidlová, SOÚ AV ČR)
- Programme for the Future (chaired by Michal Illner, SOÚ AV ČR)

Other Items on the Programme Agenda:

- A meeting of the Masaryk Society of Czech Sociology and other sociological societies (chaired by Jiří Buriánek, FF UK)
- A meeting of doctoral students (chaired by Petra Rakušanová, SOÚ AV ČR)
- A meeting of departments (chaired by Jiří Buriánek, FF UK)
- A meeting of editorial personnel from the sociological journals (chaired by Marek Skovajsa, SOÚ AV ČR)

Abbreviations:

- FF UK – Faculty of Philosophy and Arts of Charles University, Prague
- FSV UK – Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University, Prague
- SOÚ AV ČR – Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
- SÚ SAV – Institute for Sociology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

The conference was met with considerable interest – the figure of 116 registered partici-

pants exceeded original expectations by the event organisers. In addition to researchers from the organising institutions others participating in the conference included researchers from the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts of Comenius University in Bratislava, the Faculty of Social Studies of Masaryk University in Brno, the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts and the Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University in Prague, the Faculty of the Humanities of Trnava University and members of other research and teaching institutions from both countries. In attendance were representatives from the boards of each of the two academies of science. There were also a large number of doctoral students at the conference.

The individual thematic blocks were allotted a relatively short period of time, between 1.5 and 2 hours, which made it impossible to focus on any particular study in great depth. But it met the aim of overcoming the barriers to communication between researchers. Although Czech and Slovak sociologists often know one another personally, their knowledge of one another's projects and research results rarely goes beyond the more narrowly defined area of the research interests of the individual. Although there exists a long tradition of joint research between the two countries, a similar institutional organisational structure and a similarity of languages, after the division of Czechoslovakia the amount of co-operation between Czech and Slovak researchers seriously waned, along with any interest in such co-operation. While colleagues from Czech and Slovak research institutes began then to meet one another in international projects, purely bilateral co-operation fell by the wayside.

The continuing transformation of the scientific sphere in both countries and the shared issues of integration into the European research space have now evoked a new wave of demand for Czech-Slovak co-operation. Shared interests are surfacing with increasing frequency. On both sides of the bor-

der similar problems are being addressed in the area of the institutional and financial infrastructure of research. Moreover, mutual support between Czech and Slovak researchers in participating in international research projects within the programmes of the European Union may present them with a significant advantage. Last but not least, the unique relationship shared by the two countries and their societies and its transformation over time represents a rich source of important research subjects for comparative study.

In all aspects indicated the conference produced a good deal of more or less concrete outcome. Among the results, for example, are intentions to organise future joint conferences, with plans of this type emerging in the thematic block on Family and Gender and in the meeting of the sociological societies. Agreements were also reached on exchanges of information about research projects, on an exchange of publications and published work, on establishing co-operation between departments in organising study programmes, and on organising student and teacher exchanges between the countries and for the purposes of organising lectures by guests from abroad. There were discussions and a sharing of experiences in relation to specific international projects within EU programmes which involve Czech and Slovak participation and in relation to projects that form part of the ISSP international comparative study and the European Social Survey.

Representatives from the *Polish Sociological Review*, *Sociológia/the Slovak Sociological Review*, *Sociologický časopis/the Czech Sociological Review* and from the Institute of Political Science of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences discussed the possibility of setting up a new, Central European review of sociology.

The meeting of doctoral students from various universities and research institutions in the field of sociology and other social sciences (e.g. political science, demography