

# International Institute of Political Science

## Annual Activity Report 2002

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In 2002, the International Institute for Political Studies (IIPS) continued to develop its traditional conference and publishing activities serving to enhance the quality of research, and to improve co-operation in political science and other social science centres in the Czech Republic. In 2002, the Institute carried out a wide variety of activities with the financial support of its main foreign partners, i.e. the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Germany) and the Het Parool (Netherlands).

### ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

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In March, IIPS organized the conference *Terrorism and Democracy* devoted to the current issues of political terrorism in the domestic and international political contexts. The seminar *The Schengen Treaty and the Ascension of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic to the EU* was held in the same month. The participants of the seminar, which involved social science specialists and highly-positioned representatives of the Ministries of Internal Affairs of the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic, evaluated the importance of the Schengen Treaty on the free movement of people in the context of the effort to join the EU.

In April, IIPS together with the Institute of Political Science of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University organized the seminar *What Kind of Democracy for the New Democracies?* devoted to the issues of “constitutional engineering” in the transformation countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe. A presentation of the book *What Kind of Democracy for the New Democracies?* was a part of the seminar.

Later in April, IIPS organized the two-day conference *Parliamentary Elections and Political Parties in the Czech Republic*. The conference was intentionally held a short time before the national elections for the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament in May. There were over 150 people in the audience. Papers and speeches were presented by important Czech political scientists (*Petr Fiala, Michal Klíma, Miroslav Novák, Maxmilián Štrmiska*, and others), as well as high ranking politicians (*Vladimír Špidla, Mirek Topolánek*).

In May, the international seminar *Common Security and Defence Policy Development Perspectives and Transatlantic Relations* was held. The seminar took the form of a panel discussion. The topics of strengthening common European security identity and the form and possible conceptions of common security and defence strategies of the EU were discussed. The workshop *Neoliberal Conservatism versus Christian Democracy: The EPP on a New “Third Way”* followed at the end of May. A workshop on the programme options and political strategies of EPP member parties (and this formation itself within the European Parliament) was held in English with the participation of teachers and post-graduate students of the Department of Political Science, School of Social Studies, MU. The key presenter was *Professor Peter Zervakis* from the Zentrum für Europäische Integrationsforschung (Germany).

The first IIPS autumn activity was the three-day international conference *EU Enlargement* held in September. The conference was organized concurrently with the Second Congress of the Warsaw University East Summer School Graduate Club and consisted of five panels. As a part of the conference, there was a lecture by American Ambassador of the Czech Republic *Craig R. Stapleton*. It was organized in co-operation with the MU Rector’s Office and took place in the lobby of the Faculty of

Law MU. More than 80 participants from 10 countries took active part in the conference. The significance of the event was evident from the presence of many specialists and the Czech Ambassador of Poland, *Bedřich Kopecký*, and the Polish Ambassador of the Czech Republic in 1995–2001, *Marek Pernal*. The conference was devoted to EU eastern enlargement in the context of the historical, cultural, and social changes in Central and Eastern Europe in the 20th century, particularly, in the period after 1989.

Between 18 September and 7 November, IIPS organized 14 one-day educational courses on NATO for secondary school teachers of social sciences and humanities. The course was of a nationwide character and took place all over the Czech Republic. The course was organized with the civic association Jagello 2000 under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. The aim of the course was to offer quality and reliable information concerning NATO history, its structures and functioning, and an evaluation of the political and legal aspects of Czech membership in NATO. The course also offered an interpretation of the importance of holding the NATO summit in Prague in November 2002, in the context of current development.

Between 4 October and 13 December, a long-term educational course on the Czech Republic and the EU was organized for City Council employees of the City of Brno. The aim of the course was to offer the City Council employees high quality information concerning EU development and its institutions, particular policies and issues of EU enlargement involving the Czech Republic and Central European countries.

The last conference of 2002 was devoted to *The Security of the Czech Republic – Legal Aspects in the Context of the Situation after the 11 September 2001*. The conference was organized in conjunction with the Department of Constitutional Law and Political Science of the Faculty of Law, MU.

## PUBLISHING ACTIVITIES

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In 2002, IIPS continued to publish the periodicals *Political Journal* and *Politics in the Czech Republic*. In October, a printed version of the internet journal *Central European Studies – Review* (2001/2002) was published.

In the Monograph series, the book by *Marek Čejka* *Judaism, Politics and the State of Israel* was published. In the Collection series, the *Vít Hloušek* and *Lubomír Kopeček* (ed.): *The Red and the Pink – The Transformation of The Communist Parties* was published. By *Petr Fiala, Jan Holzer, Maxmilián Strmiska et al*, *Political Parties in Central and Eastern Europe: Ideological and Political Profiles, Positions, and the Roles of Political Parties in Post-Communist Countries* was published. Another published collection was the *Břetislav Dančák* and *Vojtěch Šimíček* (ed.): *The Security of the Czech Republic – The Legal Aspects of the Situation after the 11th September 2001*.

In 2002, the *Konrad Adenauer Library for European Integration* acquired approximately 50 new publications. In 2002, thanks to the long-term co-operation between the co-founder of the IIPS Professor *Mojmír Povolný from the USA*, the *Library for International Relations of Mojmír Povolný*, which serves the needs of the international relations studies, also acquired valuable publications and various periodicals.

Thanks to its co-operation with Jagello 2000 (a civic association), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, and iDnes.cz (one of the largest information servers in the Czech Republic), the IIPS MU participated as a specialist editor in the creation of NATOaktual.cz (an Internet project). The web pages began their trial run in March 2002 and started providing specialists as well as the general public with clear information and analytical service of issues related to NATO and other security and political topics.

Two IIPS employees took part in the NATO summit in Prague, which only proves the fact that the IIPS is one of the most significant analytical political centres in the Czech Republic. Because of its continuous access to the general public, the institute has begun to acquire the position of opinion-maker of a kind. Such a position, along with the specialist background of IIPS, can improve the pres-

tige of Masaryk University by providing not only an academic education, but by thereby fulfilling one of the fundamental ideas of social education in its broadest terms.