

Czech Geographical Committee

Report of 2012-2016

Czech Geographical Committee was transformed on 15th January 2014 from a small body consisting of three members only to more representative body by incorporating most of heads of geographical, cartographical, demographic geo-informatic, and geomatic departments at the Czech academic institutions. The number of members increased to about 25.

The head of Czech Geographical Committee is Vít Vilímek (Department of Physical Geography of Faculty of Science at Charles University in Prague), the deputy-head is Tadeusz Siwek (Department of Human Geography and Regional Development of Science Faculty at University of Ostrava), the secondary deputy-head is Jaromír Kolejka (Department of Environmental Geography of Institute of Geonics, Czech Academy of Sciences, Brno Branch), the secretary is Mrs. Dr. Dana Fialová (Department of Human Geography of Faculty of Science at Charles University in Prague), The Committee are meeting once a year, usually on January.

Organizational aspects of geographical community in Czechia are managing by the Czech Geographical Society. The president of this nation-wide organization, established 1894, is Bohumír Janský (Department of Physical Geography of Faculty of Science at Charles University in Prague). Czech Geographical Society has 8 regional branches and 7 sections: Physical Geography section, Socio-economic Geography section, Regional Geography section, Cartography and Geoinformatics section, Geography Education section, Section for Historical Geography and Environmental History and Polar Section.

Number of members fluctuates between 450-480. Numbers of Czech geographers by education are several thousands. Many of them have jobs very far from studied discipline, some of them are even in the top of Czech policy. During period 2012-2016 three geographers occupied such top positions: first of them was Alexander Vondra, a Czech senator (2006-2012) and a minister of defence of the Czech Republic (2010-2012), the second was Tomáš Hudeček, a mayor of Prague, a Czech capital (2013-2014) and the third is Josef Postránecký, deputy minister of the interior for civil service, which is a head of all civil servants in Czechia (from 2015) .

The publishing activity of Czech geographers deserves a positive assessment. Two Czech journals are now indexed in the database of Web of Knowledge: *Geografie*, journal of Czech Geographical Society (issued from 1896 in Czech, now in Czech and English) and *Moravian Geographical Reports*, a journal of Institute of Geonics, Czech Academy of Science (issued from 1991 only in English). Some other journals are indexed in database Scopus, for example *Acta Geographica Universitatis Carolinae*. A journal *Geografické rozhledy* (issued from 1991 in Czech), serves to teachers of geography. All these journals represent solid national level of quality and they are visible also at the international scene.

Czech geographers have quite good position in Czech universities. Their formal position is the best in some smaller Czech universities: see two rectors of University of Jan Evangelista Purkyně in Ústí nad Labem, first René Wokoun (2011-2015) and second Martin Balej (from 2015 till now), next a dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Southern Bohemia in České Budějovice, Michal Vančura (from 2010 till now) and a dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of Ostrava, Jan Hradecký (from 2015 till now).

The position of Czech geography among other sciences in Czechia is not so strong as could be because of scientometric characteristics reached by many Czech geographers are not so high. Most of Czech geographers have been traditionally publishing predominantly books than papers in journals, especially in journals indexed at database Web of Knowledge. Structure of geographical publications is similar to publications in social sciences, but geography is placed among natural sciences in all Czech universities and it have to compete with chemistry, biology and physics. In spite of it there are emerging a positive turn in publication strategies of many younger geographers, because their results measured by scientometric tools are continually improving. We hope to decrease a gap between formal evaluation of Czech geography and other sciences in Czechia in a close future.

Czech geography is represented in the IGU structure by Ivan Bičík, former president of the Czech Geographical Society, which is a head of Commision 12.26 Land Use and Land Cover Change. The Czech representatives have been taking part in all events organized by IGU: 32nd geographical congress in Cologne (2012), regional conferences in Kyoto (2013), Kraków (2014) and Moscow (2015). They are regular attendants of events organized by association of European geographers EUGEO, like 5th EUGEO congress in Budapest (2015).

The Czech Geographical Committee bids a Czech capital Prague as a host city of IGU regional conference in 2018 but was beaten tightly by Québec. So Czech geographers decided to bid Prague as a host city of IGU congress in 2024.

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