

# A Brief Guide to the Institute of International Relations Prague

September 2015

ÚSTAV  
MEZINÁRODNÍCH VZTAHŮ  
PRAHA



INSTITUTE  
OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
PRAGUE

Published by the Institute of International Relations, Prague 2015

Author and graphic designer: Petr Manoušek

Edited by the External Services Department

Printed by Petr Dvořák — Tiskárna, Dobříš



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# 1. General Information

## *Who are we?*

The Institute of International Relations Prague (IIR) is an independent public research institution which conducts scholarly research in the area of international studies. It maintains a close relation with its founder, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, providing the Ministry with policy advice in the relevant areas.

## *What are our goals?*

- ▶ **to conduct internationally recognized, excellent research in the field of international studies**
- ▶ **to influence the formation and the conduct of the foreign policy of the Czech Republic**
- ▶ **to increase awareness of issues of international relations both among professionals and among the public**

## *Why are we unique?*

The IIR is the only Czech research institution in the area of international studies, forming a bridge between the academic world, the general public and the national and international practitioners. In the centre of our activities is basic as well as applied research, which is used to assist in the formation of foreign policy as well as to improve the public debate on foreign policy.

## *How did we develop?*

The Institute of International Relations was originally founded as the Institute of International Politics and Economics (IIPE) in 1957. In the course of the 1960s, a number of the Institute's researchers took part in the reform process which peaked during the Prague Spring of 1968. As a result, the IIPE was reorganised during the "normalization era" and on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1970 was renamed the Institute of International Relations (IIR).

A new era for the IIR started in 1989 with a thorough transformation of the Institute under the novel democratic circumstances of the time. The final step to the IIR's full autonomy was taken in 2007 when the legal form of the Institute changed into that of a public research institution (v.v.i.), in accordance with the then new Czech legislation.

## *How are we organised?*

The Institute is headed by the Director, who is responsible for its research, public activities as well as internal management. He or she is appointed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic based on a proposal of the IIR Board.



The current Director is Petr Kratochvíl.



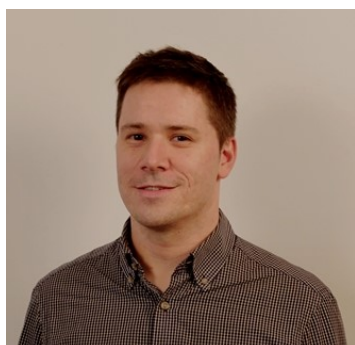
His Deputy Director is Michal Kořan.

The Institute's activities are developed and expanded over the long term in accordance with a strategic document (the current is valid until 2018). In addition to this, an annual evaluation report is published every year to publicly present our research outputs and internal processes.

*The IIR is divided into 3 departments:*

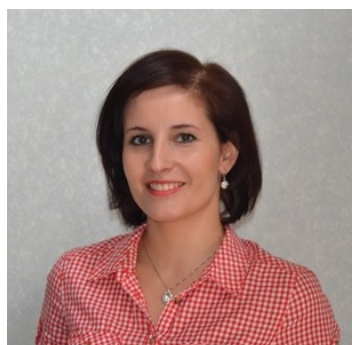
### **The Research Department**

concentrates on the IIR's core activity – achieving excellence in scholarly research. The head of the Research Department is Ondřej Horký-Hlucháň.



### **The External Services Department**

assists the researchers in promoting their work outside the IIR. Among the main tasks carried out are: event organization, publishing, and library management. Its head is Linda Bergerová.



### **The Internal Services Department**

is responsible for the internal operational management of the Institute. It includes HR, IT and other specialised units. Petr Kaňka is the head of this department.



### *What are the other directing bodies?*

The Institute's independence, non-partisanship and high quality research are ensured by other bodies that steer or support the activities of the Institute:

#### *The IIR Board*

The IIR Board is one of the main governing bodies of the Institute of International Relations as a public research institution. The rights and duties of the Board are laid out by the Public Research Institutions Act (341/2005), and its tasks comprise the following: maintaining the aim with which the IIR has been established; pursuing the public interest in the activities of the IIR and supervising its due management; outlining and directing the activities of the IIR according to the IIR Charter; deciding about the conception of the IIR's future development; adopting the IIR budget and its amendments as well as the mid-term financial plan; ratifying internal regulations of the IIR such as the election rules for the Board, rules for managing financial funds, etc.

The current president of the Board is Ondřej Císař, an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University.

#### *The IIR Supervisory Board*

The Supervisory Board is another body of the Institute of International Relations as a public research institution. Its rights and duties are laid out by the Public Research Institutions Act (341/2005 Sb.) and comprise the following: supervision of the activities and management of the public research institution, supervision of the handling of the property of the public research institution, etc.

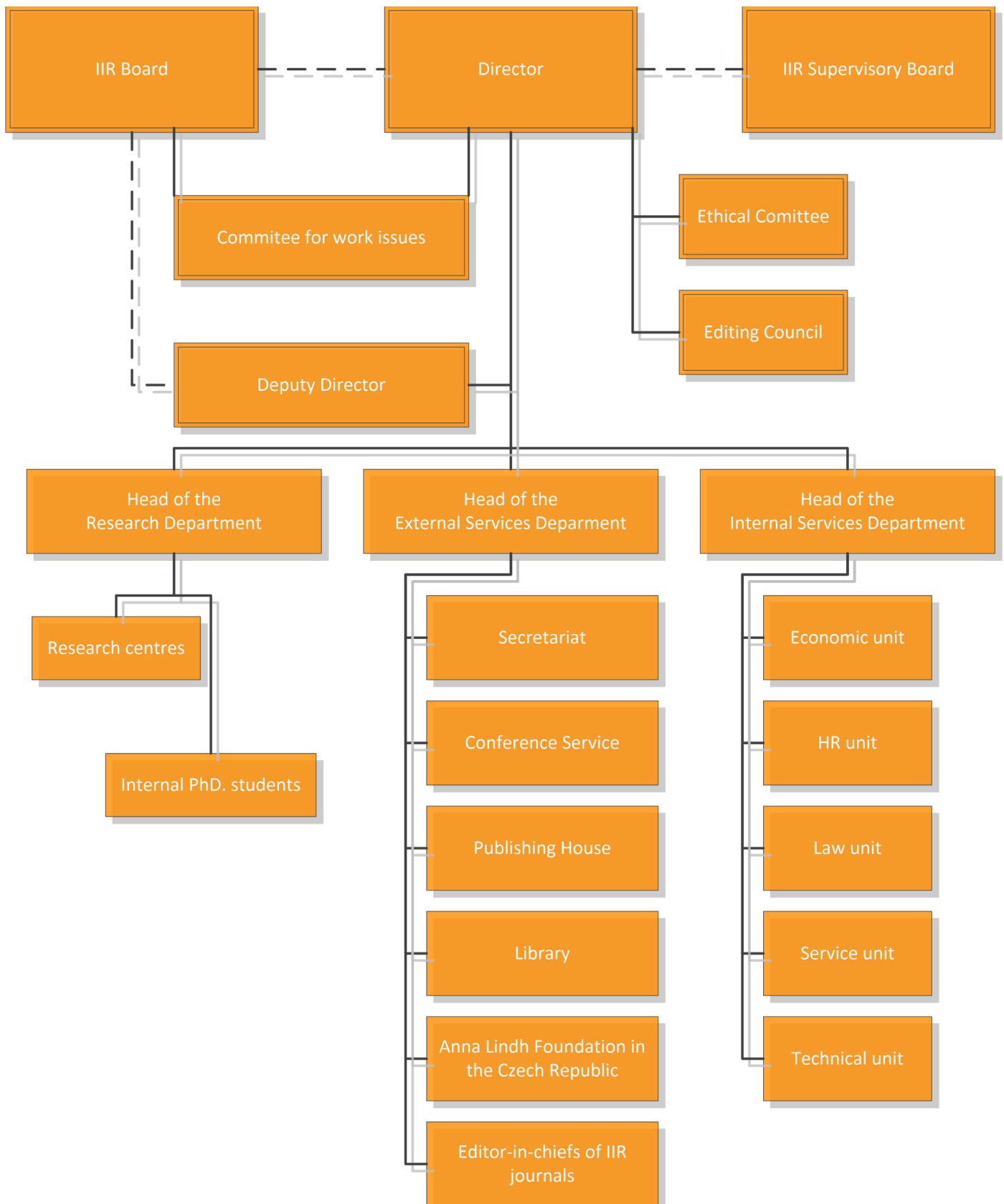
The current chairman of the Supervisory Board is David Král, Director of the Policy Planning Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic .

#### *Other bodies*

*The Ethical Committee's* constitution and activities are laid out by the IIR Research Ethics Code. It is the central body that assesses whether IIR employees adhere to the Code and deals with any issues relevant to its area of activity.

*The Committee for Labour Affairs* is appointed by the IIR Director and its members are chosen from the IIR Board. It deals with issues concerning the working conditions, etc.

### *The IIR's organisational chart*





## 2. Research

### *What type of research do we specialise in?*

The Institute of International Relations strives to be among the best research institutions in the field of international studies in Europe. The Institute engages in the complete research cycle, starting from identification of basic research trends and then moving on to theory formulation and empirical research as well as applied research. As a result, the IIR offers a wide variety of theoretical academic publications as well as policy oriented research papers and reports. Our researchers publish regularly in the most recognized publishing houses as well as in highly appraised impacted journals. The IIR is currently engaged in several international projects, two large projects of basic research funded by the Czech Science Foundation and in more than ten smaller applied research projects for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that are funded by the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic. The IIR also offers opportunities to visiting scholars who are seeking to join the IIR research community with their own research project as well as being open to partnerships in large European grant projects, such as Horizon 2020 and similar projects.

### *What are our research areas?*

- ▶ **European Integration**
- ▶ **Foreign Policy**
- ▶ **Territorial Studies**
- ▶ **International Security**
- ▶ **Global Issues**

### *How is our research organised?*

The research department is currently undergoing an important change in its internal management, as it is starting to rely more on concentrated and coordinated activities in the form of research centres which bring together scholars with similar research interests and also provide the necessary interdisciplinary approach.

#### *The Centre for European Security (CES)*

The need to explore the rapidly changing European security landscape led to the establishment of the Centre for European Security. The CES brings together different specialists in the fields of security and European studies, providing a powerful combination of regional and thematic expertise from the Central European perspective.



## *Who are the members of the Research Department?*



**Pavel Barša**

- ▶ Immigration policies and multiculturalism in Western countries
- ▶ Islam in Western Europe
- ▶ The Middle Eastern conflict
- ▶ American foreign policy



**Vít Beneš**

- ▶ EU enlargement
- ▶ European integration
- ▶ The European dimension of Czech foreign policy
- ▶ Turkey-EU relations
- ▶ IR theories
- ▶ Theories of European integration
- ▶ Methodology of IR research



**Veronika Bílková**

- ▶ International law
- ▶ International humanitarian law
- ▶ International criminal law
- ▶ Human rights
- ▶ Use of force in international relations
- ▶ Terrorism
- ▶ International sanctions



**Marek Čejka**

- ▶ The Middle East and Maghreb
- ▶ The Middle Eastern conflicts
- ▶ Israeli and Palestinian politics
- ▶ Zionism
- ▶ Arab nationalism
- ▶ Islamism and radical Islamism
- ▶ Christian fundamentalism
- ▶ Religion and politics
- ▶ Political and religious radicalism and terrorism (esp. in the Middle East)



**Jan Daniel**

- ▶ Global security governance, security governance on national and local levels
- ▶ Lebanon, Syria, Algeria, the Sahel region
- ▶ Armed non-state actors in int. politics; Insurgency and counterinsurgency
- ▶ Contemporary theories of int. relations – international political sociology, critical and post-structuralist approaches



**Tomáš Dopita**

- ▶ Security and emancipation in the Western Balkans
- ▶ Gender equality
- ▶ International institutions, regimes, and norms



**Ondřej Ditrych**

- ▶ EU external relations
- ▶ The EU CFSP
- ▶ The European Neighbourhood Policy
- ▶ Transatlantic relations
- ▶ US foreign policy
- ▶ Politics and security in the Caucasus
- ▶ Terrorism



**Jan Eichler**

- ▶ International security
- ▶ Transatlantic relations
- ▶ Strategic culture
- ▶ The military dimension of security
- ▶ Armed conflicts
- ▶ Wars in the contemporary world
- ▶ Terrorism



**Rudolf Fürst**

- ▶ China
- ▶ The Far East
- ▶ Czech-Chinese relations
- ▶ EU-Chinese relations
- ▶ Relations of Central and Eastern Europe with China
- ▶ Postcommunist transformation in Eastern Europe and East Asia
- ▶ Soft power in East-West relations



**Ondřej Horký-Hluchán**

- ▶ Global and international development and poverty; development of Africa, Asia, Latin America and East Europe
- ▶ Development and humanitarian aid, and international development cooperation
- ▶ Globalization and North-South relations
- ▶ Relations of the Czech Republic and the EU with Sub-Saharan Africa
- ▶ South Africa and Madagascar
- ▶ Gender in development and IR



**Vladimír Handl**

- ▶ Political and historical aspects of Czech-German relations
- ▶ The foreign policy positions of the Czech Communist Party
- ▶ German foreign and security policy
- ▶ German foreign and security policy and the Czech Republic
- ▶ Germany and its relations with the Visegrad states: long-term trends



**Michal Kořan**

- ▶ Czech foreign, European and security policy
- ▶ Politics of Central European states
- ▶ Foreign policy of Central Europe
- ▶ The Visegrad group cooperation
- ▶ Central European states in the context of European and global politics
- ▶ Central Europe in transatlantic relations
- ▶ EU foreign, security and defence policy
- ▶ Global government and theories of IR



**Petr Kratochvíl**

- ▶ Czech foreign policy
- ▶ European integration
- ▶ Institutional reform and the EU enlargement
- ▶ Russian foreign policy
- ▶ Political relations in the post-Soviet area
- ▶ The role of religion in IR
- ▶ The Catholic Church and international relations



**Tomáš Profant**

- ▶ North-South relations
- ▶ Postcolonial and postdevelopment approaches
- ▶ Political economy of the EU



**Miroslav Nožina**

- ▶ Political anthropology and anthropology of criminality / cultural criminology
- ▶ Organised crime and the international spread of antisocial phenomena
- ▶ Ethnicity / ethnic issues
- ▶ Drug issues
- ▶ Trends in continental Southeast Asia



**Michal Šimečka**

- ▶ The EU CFSP
- ▶ The European Neighbourhood Policy
- ▶ EU integration and enlargement
- ▶ Foreign policies of new EU members
- ▶ Politics of the post-Soviet region
- ▶ Theories of democracy and democratization





**Benjamin Tallis**

- ▶ European security
- ▶ Borders and the politics of bordering
- ▶ Critical geopolitics / political geography
- ▶ Central and East European politics
- ▶ Post-communism, politics of transition
- ▶ The EU Foreign & Security, Neighbourhood and JHA Policies
- ▶ Cultural politics, (esp. architectural and material politics of memory)
- ▶ Critical pragmatism and interpretive research methodology



**Lukáš Tichý**

- ▶ Energy security (Europe, Russia, Central Asia)
- ▶ Energy security of Africa (conflicts over resources, energy policy of global actors in Africa)
- ▶ Geopolitics of transport routes and EU-Russia relations
- ▶ Security and strategic culture of Russia
- ▶ Theories of international relations
- ▶ Discourse analysis

### ***Is the IIR's research done only by regular members of the research department?***

The IIR regularly cooperates with external researchers and associate research fellows who broaden the scope of its research. They work closely with the research department on their projects and make use of the IIR's facilities and support in the process.

For the most current list of the external researchers or to see the current openings for such positions see our website.

### ***Which international networks is the IIR included in?***

To maintain the high relevance of our research internationally, the IIR puts emphasis on its intensive collaboration among several selected research networks: the *CEEISA*, *EISA*, *TEPSA*, *EPIN*, *EADI*, *ECPR*, *EU Non-Proliferation Consortium* and *EuroMeSCo*. The IIR is also a proud member of the Think Visegrad network of research institutions and think-tanks.

### 3. Publications

Among the crucial activities of the Institute of International Relations also belong publication activities. The published texts include academic monographs, periodicals, policy papers and articles in scholarly journals as well as appearances by our researchers in the media. While we encourage our researchers to publish with international publishers and in prestigious academic journals published by other institutions, we have a number of publication outlets of our own, including the IIR publishing house, three journals and several series of policy briefs/policy papers. The newest addition to these outlets is the new European Security Spotlight, which is an innovative series of regular easy-to-read and policy-oriented briefs published online by the Center for European Security.

#### *What periodicals do we publish for English-speaking recipients?*

*New Perspectives* is our English language journal. This peer-reviewed journal is published



twice a year and has recently been revamped both in graphic terms and in terms of its contents. The journal's subtitle is "the Interdisciplinary Journal of Central & East European Politics and International Relations". *New Perspectives* seeks to encourage and publish original research that is methodologically systematic, rigorous and reflexive; theoretically innovative and compelling; or empirically ground-breaking. The borders of Central and Eastern Europe are interpreted broadly and can therefore include a larger selection of topics of interest. The journal is included in the leading international academic databases, i.e. Scopus, EBSCO, ProQuest, CIAO, IBSS, JSTOR etc. *New Perspectives* is also active in the public

sphere with its Twitter and Facebook accounts, as well as on its blog <http://ceenewperspectives.iir.cz/>.

#### *What other periodicals do we publish?*

The IIR is proud to publish the only journal completely devoted to the study of international relations in the Czech Republic – *Mezinárodní vztahy*. The journal, first issued by the IIR in 1966, concentrates on original research in the fields of international relations, European

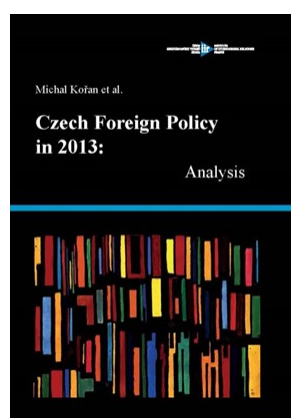
studies, international security, etc. The submissions are peer-reviewed in an anonymised review process.

### ***What books does the IIR publish?***

Every year, the IIR's researchers publish a number of their original works via the IIR's own publishing house or in cooperation with global publishing houses, such as Palgrave, Ashgate, etc. This way, the research department can measure its output on the global level.



Apart from individual monographs we also focus on long-term projects, the most important of which is the annual series of book-length assessments of Czech foreign policy. This defining yearbook titled *Czech Foreign Policy* has been issued in Czech every year since 2007 and is created from the research effort of our whole research department. Presenting an annual overall analysis of Czech foreign policy, this yearbook is regarded as the most complex and academically robust publication on the Czech foreign policy.



This year the Institute of International Relations published an English version of the yearbook titled *Czech Foreign Policy in 2013: Analysis*. The year 2013 was marked by a fragile and turbulent political context, the first-ever direct presidential elections of the Czech Republic, and early parliamentary elections. This book brings an insight into how this political milieu helped to shape Czech foreign policy during that year, and identifies its most important goals, ambitions, limits, successes and failures.

### ***How do we present our policy-related research?***

The IIR also produces a number of policy and discussion papers focusing on recent events in the international environment – from further enlargement of the European Union to the current relations of Central European countries with China. The emphasis is put on serious, relevant and realistic recommendation relying on the analytical skills of our researchers.

More information on our publications and books can be found on our website or by contacting us at [iir@iir.cz](mailto:iir@iir.cz).

## 4. Education

### *What kind of formal and theoretical education do we provide?*

The IIR and Metropolitan University Prague (MUP) jointly provide a prestigious PhD. programme in International Relations and European Studies, in both Czech and English formats. In this programme, students are incorporated in the regular work of the research department and are motivated to cultivate their own individual research projects, with the support of or under the guidance of our researchers. Apart from this, the programme's graduates must also pass several compulsory courses according to their specialisations. Our aim is to provide a PhD. programme on par with other similar programmes of world-leading universities, which requires us to internationalise the programme's efforts.

More information is available at: [www.mup.cz/en](http://www.mup.cz/en).

The Institute of International Relations also continually invites applicants to the position of a visiting scholar. It is an open call for all non-Czech senior or mid-career scholars or researchers regardless of their institutional or national affiliation.

### *What other experience can students gain at the IIR?*

Young people interested in gaining work experience both within the field of international relations and without are more than welcome to apply for several types of internship with the Institute of International Relations:

- ▶ Independent Researcher
- ▶ Research Assistant
- ▶ PR Assistant

#### *Independent Researcher*

As an independent research institution we primarily look for university students and graduates from both the Czech Republic and foreign countries to help them start their research careers. It is our voluntary service to furthering the cause of high-quality IR research in the country and beyond, so the programme is offered in Czech as well as English.

As an Independent Researcher the intern is first assigned a researcher-mentor who is responsible for the intern's personal development throughout the duration of the internship.



The intern then works on individual projects based on a submitted plan before the signing of the Internship Agreement. The internship's aim is to deliver publishable results of the intern's project which would meet our high research standards.

#### *Research Assistant*

With the Research Assistant internship the intern undertakes various tasks that are necessary to advance the IIR's ongoing projects. Mostly the intern supports the research department by aggregating research data or writing literature reviews. They also help with the coordination of public and closed events or assist researchers in other tasks.

#### *PR Assistant*

This practically-oriented internship aims to advance the interns' skills in marketing and event coordination. During the 2-semester (or longer) stay with IIR, the intern must flexibly support the Conference Service in its organising of public events presenting project outcomes as well as any other public presentations of the IIR. The target group for this programme is broad as the applicants' backgrounds range from talented young journalists to graphic designers.

#### *How does one apply for an internship?*

If you are interested in one of the internship programmes, please first refer to the relevant section of our website (in Czech or English), where the application process is detailed. At the IIR we prefer internships with longer durations (of at least 3 months, ideally of 1 or 2 whole academic semesters). Applications are accepted throughout the year but the starting date of the internship must be agreed upon with the IIR in correspondence to the actual demand for interns on the part of the research or external services departments.

*During 2014 we hosted around 60 interns as well as 3 internal PhD. students.*

*Here we would like to thank them for their perseverance and hard work.*

## 5. Events

The IIR's Conference Service organises around 50 public events and many closed ones every year. From seminars and workshops to top conferences, the IIR strives to open its research to the general public as well as the academic and expert community. The events are often recorded and uploaded to YouTube, many are live-tweeted.



The Great Hall in the Czernin Palace, the traditional venue for our main events where the plenary panels or keynote speeches take place.

### *What are the main annual events we organise?*

- ▶ The annual International Symposium on Czech Foreign Policy
- ▶ The Prague Agenda evaluating the nuclear disarmament progress
- ▶ The annual Czech-French expert conference organised in cooperation with our partner institutions CERI-SciencesPo and CEFRES
- ▶ Conferences with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland

### *What is the International Symposium on Czech Foreign Policy?*

This annual conference focusing on Czech foreign policy takes place in the Czernin Palace, the residence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Since the first such event in 2009, the series' aim has been to analyse diverse aspects of the Czech foreign policy from many viewpoints. Annually, experts, academics, politicians, the media and members of the general public gather together to participate in an exchange of opinions and assessments of the Czech foreign policy of the previous year. The Symposium has gained the respect of both the research community and the public for being a one-of-a-kind event in the Czech Republic met with international interest from the Central European region and beyond.



The 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium “Czech Foreign Policy” in 2014:  
the welcoming remarks delivered by Michal Kořan, the coordinator of the Symposium.



The logo of the 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium  
(author: Petra Poliaková, the IIR's PR intern, 2014)





The 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium “Czech Foreign Policy” in 2014:  
the keynote address by Lubomír Zaorálek, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.



The 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium “Czech Foreign Policy” in 2013.



### *Why is the Prague Agenda conference important in the global context?*

Since the US President Obama's 2009 announcement concerning his long-term nuclear disarmament vision in Prague and the 2010 signature of the US-Russia START Treaty, Prague has established itself as a venue for discussion of issues related to nuclear arms control, nuclear security, disarmament and non-proliferation. Today, more than ever, these issues cause concern across the globe, which emphasises the need to provide for an objective discussion and non-partial evaluation of the related efforts. We are therefore pleased that since 2011 the Prague Agenda has become an internationally well-known event which hosts some of the most distinguished speakers in the field, from both the academia and the political world. We are very happy that many of them return annually.



The Prague Agenda 2013.



The Prague Agenda 2014: the opening remarks by Petr Kratochvíl, the Director of the Institute of International Relations and the keynote speech by Rose Gottemoeller, the Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, the US Department of State.

### *What other events do we organise throughout the year?*

Many events are organised based on the demand on the part of the research department as well as the ongoing public debates. The most common types of IIR events are public seminars, workshops, presentations of publications and round-table discussions. Many of these are organised in cooperation with the foundations the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Prague, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Prague, or Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in the Czech Republic. Some other important partners of ours are the Faculty of Social Sciences (Charles University), Metropolitan University Prague and University of Economics, Prague. Recently, we also organised several events in cooperation with the Embassies of Poland, Korea, the Republic of Albania, Israel, and Portugal.

### *Where can you find the information on the IIR's events?*

Updated and detailed information about our upcoming as well as past events is available on our website and also on our Facebook and Twitter accounts. For many of the events we require the participants to register due to the limited capacity of the venues or sometimes for security reasons in place.

## 6. Social Media

We belong to the most progressive research institutes in the region in terms of the use of relatively new social media:

### *Facebook (IIR.Prague)*

The IIR's online communication with the general public is primarily provided via the social network Facebook, where all of the relevant information about the Institute's activities, from upcoming events to recent articles published by our researchers, is posted. The current number of IIR Facebook profile supporters has reached 4,000 and is growing steadily.

### *Twitter (IIR\_PRG)*

Our Twitter account has more than 700 followers. This number usually increases during times when IIR conferences and events are held and attending experts's quotes are tweeted. Our posts are often retweeted by some of the most honoured institutions in the region (for example the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IRSEC Hub – International Relations and Security Affairs Resource Hub, European Institute of the Mediterranean or US Embassy in Prague).

### *YouTube (UstavMV)*

The IIR currently continues in its posting of full-length videos on its Youtube channel, which statistically reaches more than 35,000 views. Almost every event organised by the IIR is recorded and later published online. This allows students, academics, and experts to use the full-length recordings in their research, tuition, and information gathering.

### *Storify (IIR\_Prague)*

This innovative tool is used to create conference reports in a very unusual and unexpected format of “stories”. Especially for those who do not have or do not want to have a profile on any of the social networks, Storify very conveniently allows one to find the best of our social networks' output related to our events in one place.



## 7. Library

The IIR library is the only library in the Czech Republic with a specific focus on the field of international relations and the related areas of study. Its aim is to ensure the highest possible availability of Czech and international reference books focusing on foreign policy, international relations, security studies and similar subjects. Its truly unique selection of books in the Czech Republic is bolstered by its ability to obtain books from other partner libraries, both Czech and international ones, such as members of the European Information Network on International Relations and Area Studies (EINIRAS).

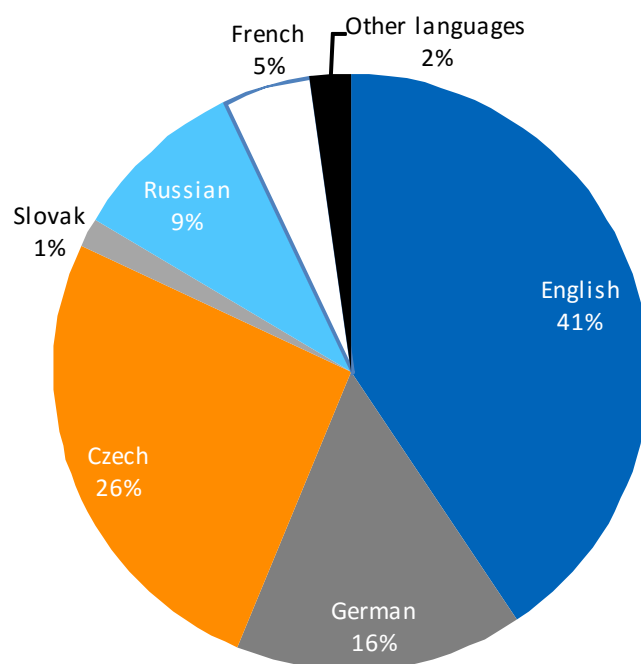


The IIR Library's study room

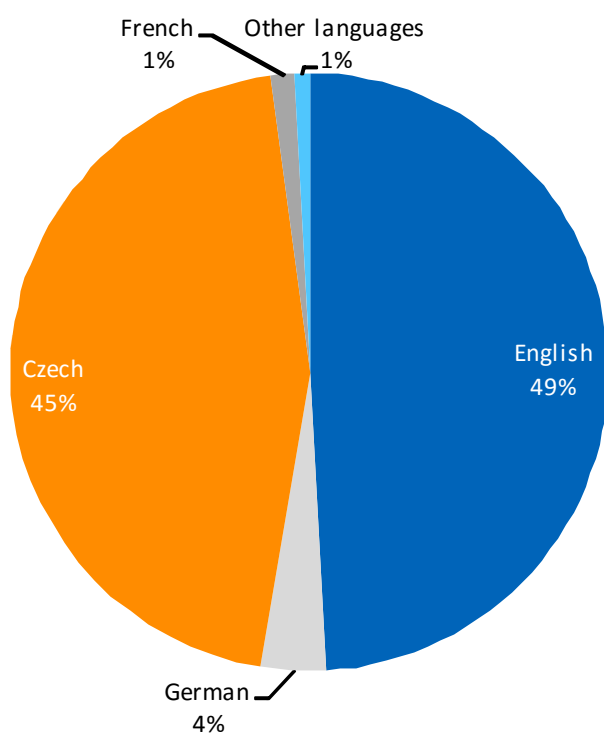
At the end of 2014 the library fund comprised 428 magazine titles and 53,499 records of books and yearbooks. The library can also provide the user with all of the IIR's publications as well as last week's news magazines and newspapers. The library also aims to support the usage of electronic informational sources and various forms of electronic communication by its users, as the library provides them with access to a number of external electronic databases in its study room.



### *The language structure of the library fund*



### *The language structure of the electronic sources*



## 8. Budgeting

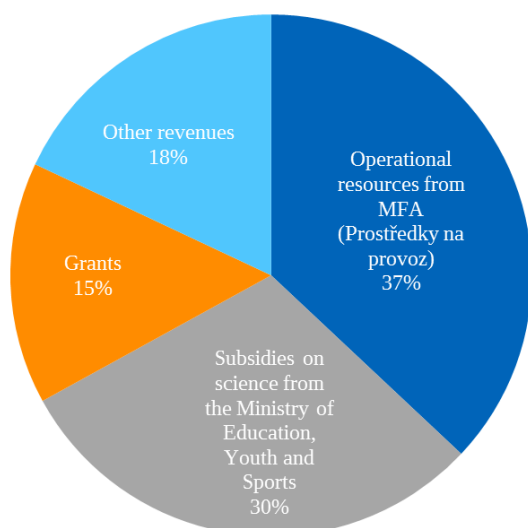
### *How is the IIR financed?*

The Institute of International Relations was transformed into a public research institution (v.v.i.) in accordance with a new Czech law in 2007. The key effect of this transformation was the change in the financing of our activities. As a public research institution, the IIR is a non-profit organization that focuses on research and its results. Since 2007, the work of our researchers is evaluated together with the work of other research institutions in a national research evaluation system, and the results of this evaluation affect the exact share of the financial resources are granted to the IIR.

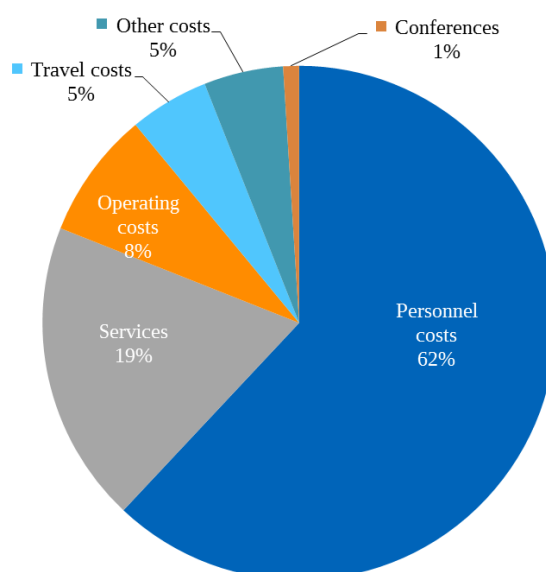
### *What is the structure of the IIR's financing?*

The government's financing of research and development and the particular support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs represent the two major sources for the IIR's budget. While the general Czech research and development support in the field of international relations is aimed at supporting the long term institutional development of the IIR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic provides highly appreciated intensive support for more policy-oriented research and related activities of the IIR.

***The structure of finances (2014)***



***The structure of costs (2014)***



Place for notes

This image shows a single page from a notebook or ledger. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal blue lines across its entire width. The lines are thin and consistent in color. There is no handwriting, printed text, or other markings on the page. The background is white, and the overall appearance is clean and unused.

## **Institute of International Relations**

Nerudova 3

118 50 Prague 1

Czech Republic

+420 241 108 111

[iir@iir.cz](mailto:iir@iir.cz)

[www.iir.cz](http://www.iir.cz)



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UstavMV

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