

## **Accreditation of the Institute of Political Science SAS**

**January 1, 2012 - December 31, 2015**

On October 13, 2016, a meeting of the Academic Community of the Institute of Political Science of the Slovak Academy of Sciences took place with representatives of the Accreditation Panel for the Social Sciences and Humanities Institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (Section 3 of SAS), as part of the foreign pan-academic Meta-Panel. The accreditation meeting yielded the Evaluation Report of 20 January 2017, *which concluded as follows:*

*"- Overall rating: D*

*"- The research is not solid or is repetitive, or it is flawed in the scientific or technical approaches."*

The Institute of Political Science received an accompanying letter of the SAS Presidium – No. Ú SAV - 0363/2017 of 10 February 2017 with the same wording. The letter also included information about the option of writing an appeal letter.

\*\*\*

Following a thorough analysis of the Meta-Panel Assessment Report penned by the Evaluation Panel, the IPS SAS took a decision to file an appeal against the overall Institute's assessment. What has led us to make this move in particular was the finding that the international Evaluation Panel made a number of factual errors in the evaluation of the "*Accreditation Questionnaire of IPS SAS*" regarding the Institute's activities in an international context. This clearly harmed the Institute's reputation, especially when its position in an international arena was deliberately pointed out.

As regards the other reservations expressed in the Appeal against Meta-Panel's Assessment Report, we deem it necessary to draw attention to the case of the scientific project titled "Leading personalities in Slovak politics". Its results, documented by book publications, were merely rated by the Evaluation Panel as "dissemination of public information", a statement that the Institute clearly rejected.

\*\*\*

The Panel presented its position on the Appeal of IPS SAS in its Response of 19 June 2017. Among other points, it stated the following: "*With regard to the*

*concrete objections listed in the appeal, we observe that one point of the assessment needs amendment and another one needs clarification.*

*- IPS was, indeed, part of two EC applications. Still, in the assessment period, the European Commission had various schemes and calls in FP7 and H2020 that could have been applied for: ERC, Societal Challenges, COST, Marie-Curie etc.*

*- Regarding the numbers of employees, the Questionnaire contains different tables. The Panel based calculations on Table 2.8.1..."* The Response concludes as follows:

*"The panel finds no reason to change the assessment, the recommendations, the sub-rankings and the overall ranking."*

While the Response to the Institute's Appeal showed that the Panel did admit some of the mistakes they had made in the Evaluation Report, they still ignored others listed in IPS SAS's Appeal. What is more, the Panel made the same mistake in its Response, stating that the IPS SAS should have applied for a grant under the Horizon 2020, even though Accreditation Questionnaire clearly stated that the Institute had, indeed, applied for such a grant.

\*\*\*

The SAS Presidium reviewed the entire accreditation process at its extraordinary session on July 20, 2017. It dismissed IPS SAS's Appeal while failing to mention in its Resolution the factual errors made and admitted by the Evaluation Panel itself.

\*\*\*

Based on the above facts, the Institute of Political Science SAS has decided to post - in the annexes to this document – complete documentation for the accreditation process on the Institute's website. This has been done with the intention of making the accreditation assessment of IPS SAS known to the general public, which could then form their own opinion on the issue.

Bratislava, 13 October 2017

PhDr. Miroslav Pekník, CSc.

Head of IPS SAS



SLOVENSKÁ AKADEMIA VIED  
Ústav politických vied  
Dúbravská cesta č.9  
841 04 BRATISLAVA