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***Excellency and Transformation of the Institutes of
the ASCR to Public Research Institutions****

Abstract

The year 2007 brought significant changes to the inner structure of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (ASCR) and its institutes. From January 1 2007, the institutes of the ASCR were transformed from contributory organizations to public research institutions and began working under new legal, economic and organizational conditions. How excellence in science did influence these changes and how did it affect individual institutes? The present contribution discusses some aspects of this transformation.

* The paper is a Power point presentation delivered at the Conference.

Two Types of National Academies

Learned Societies (LS)

- They bring together the country's scientific, literary and artistic elites and enable them to work together
- The fellowship is elected, on the basis of **excellency**, by existing fellows
- The number of fellows is restricted
- The governance of the academy is democratic and "bottom up". The fellowship is the ultimate source of the academy's authority
- The academy is independent of government, industry and professional associations

Learned Societies in the CR

- Learned Society of the CR: 98 Fellows, 38 Hon. Members
- Engineering Academy of the CR: 163 Members
- Czech Medical Academy: 65 Members
- Czech Academy of Agricultural Sciences: 635 M + 93 HM

Public Non-University Research Institutions (PRI)

Excellency through excellent scientific research

- **CNR - Italy, CNRS - France, CSIC - Spain**
Max Planck Society - Germany
Academies of Science CZ, HU, PL, RU, ...
- **Most important PRI in the CR:**
Academy of Sciences of the CR
53 Institutes, 3 Divisions, 9 Sections, ~7000 employees

Role of excellency in LS and PRI

- Excellency in research (PRI): importance of transformation from SCO to PRI in the CR
- Excellency of researchers (PRI)
- Excellency of fellows (LS)
- Excellency in science-based advisory activities (LS+PRI): national vs. European level (e.g. publications by EASAC)
- Excellency in bringing the scientific problems closer to the society (LS+PRI): e.g. scientific education vs. education towards science – very successful are e.g. Royal Society (UK) or NAS (US)
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ASCR – History and excellence

- 1784 – Royal Czech Society of Sciences covering natural sciences, history, humanities, with J.E. Purkyne (Purkinje's cells, vesicle,...)
- 1890 – The Emperors Franz Joseph Czech Academy of Sciences, Letters, and Arts
- 1918 – Czech Academy of Sciences and Art with J. Heyrovsky as a Nobel Prize laureate (polarography)
- 1952 – Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences till 1992, with O. Wichterle (soft contact lenses)
- 1993 – Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, with A. Holy (drugs for treatment of AIDS, cancer, hepatitis B, etc.)



State Contributory Organisations

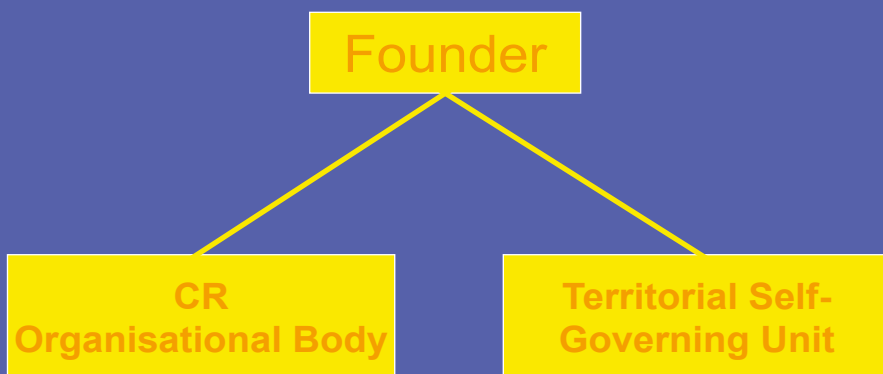
(SCO: form having no analogy in the EU)

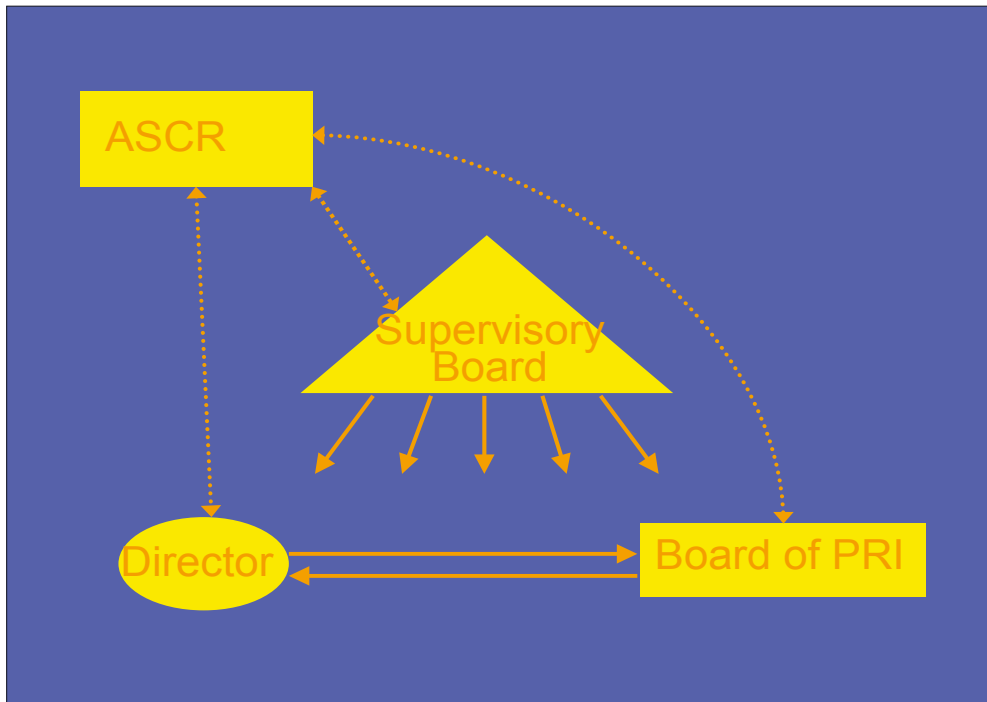
- Problems:
 - Rigid structure (ASCR was exception!)
 - Restricted legal subjectivity: SCO could not own assets and thus cannot guarantee their obligations
 - Problems in cooperation with public universities, private sector and partners abroad
 - Effective utilisation of allotted funds and assets

Public Research Institutions

- New form of legal entity in the Czech legal order: principal activity is research including the provision of an infrastructure for research
- PRI can own assets and use it (however with some restrictions)
- PRI can establish another legal entity or participate using its property in activities of another legal entity

Public Research Institution





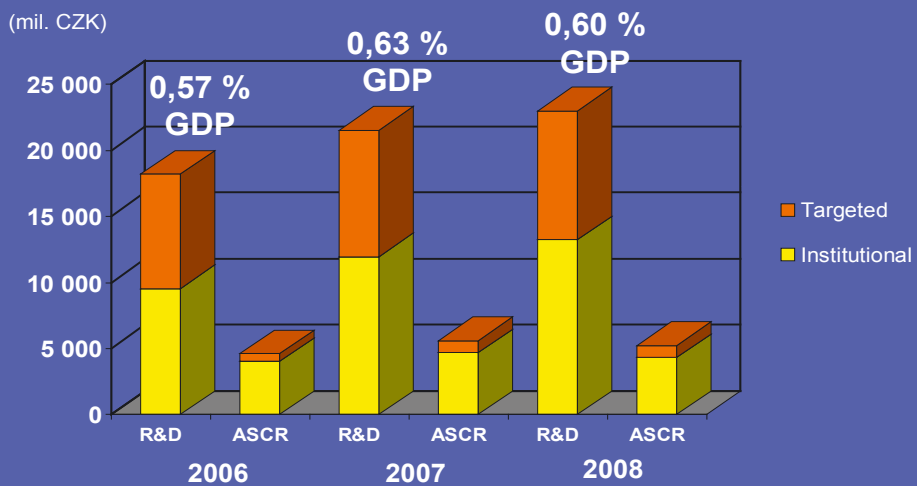
Transformation: conclusions

- Transformation created a suitable basis and a legal plus economic framework for a further development of the Institutes.
- To achieve actual goals, it will be necessary to add the dedicated efforts of the entire Academy community, including Academy Institutes and Academy bodies.
- Aims: **excellency** and efficacy of scientific work; to combine initiative and entrepreneurship with a sense of scientific and economic achievement.

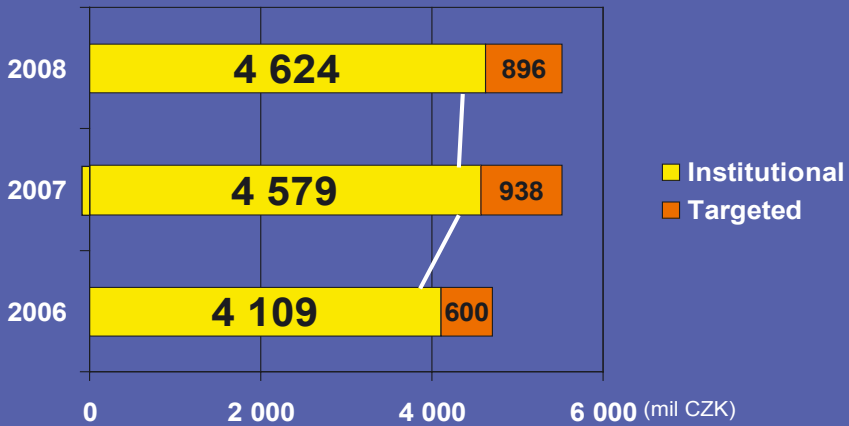
ASCR: Structure of Budget 2008

Podgorica 2008

R&D expenditure 2006-2008

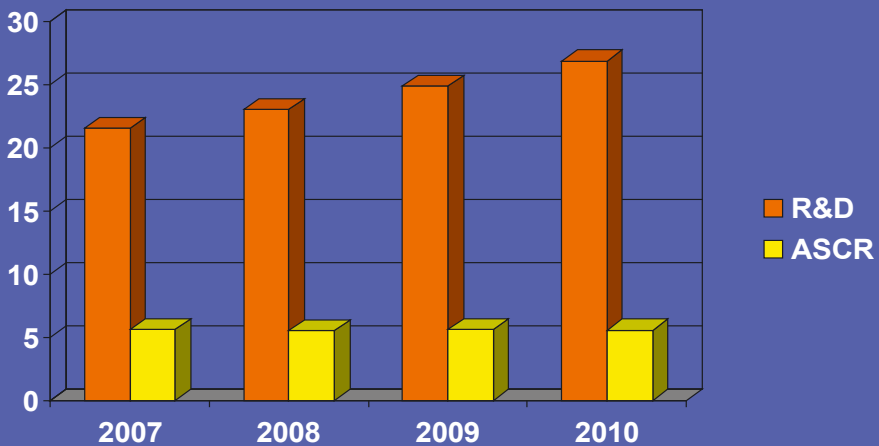


ASCR budget 2006-2008



State budget expenditure: mid-term outlook 2007 - 2010

(mld CZK)



Academy and Youth

