

EDITORIAL

We respectfully greet the reader on the occasion of the publication of the fifth issue of our scientific periodical, the Central European Papers (C.E.P.). The first four issues were the results of the fruitful cooperation of the Silesian University in Opava (Czech Republic) and the János Kodolányi University of Applied Sciences in Székesfehérvár (Hungary). This institutional cooperation was finished in December 2014, but the Central European perspective of our journal has been preserved. The main aims of the editors have not changed: to explore the past and present of the Central European countries, the cultural, political and social problems of this region and the cultivation of an idea of Central European cooperation. The national, regional, local, confessional, political and other particular identities are also interesting for us.

This is the first issue, which was prepared by the reconstructed team of editors. This issue is dedicated to the celebration of Professor Mečislav Borák, who has the 70th anniversary of his birth. Professor Borák is the former researcher of the Silesian Institute in Opava and currently he is recognized professor of the Silesian University.

The present issue of the Central European Papers reflects different aspects of Central European topics. Among the articles the reader can find several papers related to the complicated history of minorities in our region (including the situation of the Hungarian minority in post-war and socialist Czechoslovakia, history of Czech and Slovak diasporas in Vienna and the problems of Jews in Silesia before 1939). Another important topic of this issue is the idea of the Central European cooperation in the context of foreign policy of the Visegrad countries during the period of post-communist transition. The editors would like to continue this research. The present volume contains also a sociological article about the current social problems of northern region in the Czech Republic. The majority of book reviews reflects the topics of identity, regional cooperation and diasporas too.

The authors of the current volume are recognized scholars from the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia. Readers can find among the authors the former Foreign Minister of Hungary, several historians from Slovakia, the Czech colleagues of Professor Borák from Opava and also his former Ph.D. student.

We hope that this issue of Central European Papers will be useful not only for scholars but also for graduate and undergraduate students as well as for non-professional readers. Problems of identity and minorities are the permanently recurrent topics in our Central European life, not to mention the inter-ethnic tensions and big social problems. The research of these topics is always necessary.

Last but not least we would like to inform you, that Central European Papers Journal is now included in ERIH PLUS database.

Iván HALÁSZ
Editor in Chief