

At deep sorrow we shall notice to all friends, colleagues, and the public that

Prof. Iva Ritschelová
President of the Czech Statistical Office
passed away.



She deceased after a severe illness in late evening of 3rd December 2017 aged 53 years.

Prof. Iva Ritschelová was appointed to the title of the President of the Czech Statistical Office by the President of the Czech Republic, upon a proposal of the Government of the Czech Republic, on 1st September 2010. In her term of office, she promoted significant modernisation of statistics production processes, including the transition to the electronic data collection. She reduced total administrative burden on respondents by statistical surveys by over 35%. She also encouraged raising of statistical literacy of the general public.

As an active member of academic community she dealt with education and enlightenment. She had ample work experience from abroad. She was an author of tens of professional publications focused on environmental economy and environmental policy.

She was a patriot of North Bohemia region and a benefactor of the Children's Home in the City of Ústí nad Labem on the North Terrace.

Tribute to her memory!

With respect, Statistika journal editors.

Professor Lubomír Cyhelský has passed away

Richard Hindls¹ | *University of Economics, Prague, Czech Republic*

Professor Lubomír Cyhelský, doyen of the Czech statistics, died on 22 January 2018, at the age of 88. An exceptional and charismatic personality of the Czech academic milieu, tireless promoter of statistics and statistical science studies has gone. A man, who devoted his entire life to the development and propagation of statistics, has died.



The name of professor Cyhelský will always be connected mainly to the Department of Statistics at the University of Economics, Prague. He belonged to its founders and devoted the whole 50 years of his life to its development. He had been the head of the Department of Statistics of the University of Economics for almost 30 years (1962–1990) and he held the post with an empathic and human approach. Thanks to his managerial skills the department had gradually prepared a great number of excellent graduates who later left their imprints in the social life of the Czech Republic. Yet, he remained an unpretentious man full of humanity, humbleness to the university background and statistical science.

At the beginning of his professional career in 1951–1952 he worked at the former State Statistical Office, focusing on national economic balances. In the latter half of the 1960's he worked as a scientist in the Research Institute of Economic Planning, then in the Research Institute of Finance. In 1958, he got PhD in economic statistics at the University of Economics, Prague, and in 1961 he was awarded a degree of senior lecturer there. Seven years later he was appointed professor. In 1981, he became a Doctor of Science. He held also important academic posts at the university – in 1966–1970 he was a vice-dean at the Faculty of National Economy of the University of Economics, Prague, in 1976–1985 he was a vice-rector for pedagogy at the University of Economics, Prague.

In addition to his more than 60-year of pedagogic activity he contributed enormously to the development of the State Statistical Service. In 1965, professor Cyhelský co-initiated a two-year postgraduate statistical study for those who worked in the state and departmental statistics, later renamed to “Specialized statistical study” (which continues to exist). Professor Cyhelský also co-operated on and contributed to the birth and development of the *Statistika* journal and was a member of its editorial board. He also worked as a managing editor of eleven scientific journals of the Research Institute of Social Economic Information in Prague, called *Statistical Review*. He published over 200 works many of which contributed greatly to the successful promotion of statistics. He was reading his scientific lectures in the Czech Republic as well as abroad. He has become the first laureate ever awarded the Prize of the President of the Czech Statistical Office and of the rector of the University of Economics, Prague, for his contribution to statistics.

Professor Cyhelský's work was highly appreciated abroad, too. In 1979, he was elected a member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) and he actively participated in several congresses held by the Institute. He also helped to found the Czech Statistical Society (1990) and was a member of its first committee.

¹ Prof. Richard Hindls, dr. h. c., Head of the Department of Statistics and Probability, Faculty of Informatics and Statistics, W. Churchill Square 4, 130 67 Prague 3, Czech Republic. E-mail: hindls@vse.cz.

The life of professor Cyhelský came to an end and his work was finished. He left behind a long row of grateful graduates and colleagues, many outstanding works and human memories recalled by his followers. Words of gratitude cannot fill the gap his death left behind and all I can do is to express my appreciation and respect to his life work.

Thank you, professor!