ACTION PLAN

Case number: 2020CZ477972

Name Organisation under review: Institute of Atmospheric Physics of the Czech Academy of

Sciences

Organisation's contact details: Boční II 1401, 141 00 Prague 4, Czech Republic

SUBMISSION DATE: 6.1.2021

1. Organisational Information

Please provide a limited number of key figures for your organisation. Figures marked * are compulsory.

STAFF & STUDENTS	FTE
Total researchers = staff, fellowship holders, bursary holders, PhD. students either full-time or part-time involved in research	64,55
Of whom are international (i.e. foreign nationality)	5,15
Of whom are externally funded (i.e. for whom the organisation is host organisation)	0
Of whom are women	19,45
Of whom are stage R3 or R4 = Researchers with a large degree of autonomy, typically holding the status of Principal Investigator or Professor.	42,30
Of whom are stage R2 = in most organisations corresponding with postdoctoral level	8,25
Of whom are stage R1 = in most organisations corresponding with doctoral level	14,0
Total number of students (if relevant)	-
Total number of staff (including management, administrative, teaching and research staff)	86,55
RESEARCH FUNDING (figures for most recent fiscal year)	€
Total annual organisational budget	4 158 356
Annual organisational direct government funding (designated for research)	2 678 808
Annual competitive government-sourced funding (designated for research, obtained in competition with other organisations – including EU funding)	1 371 562
Annual funding from private, non-government sources, designated for research	91 235

ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE (a very brief description of your organisation, max. 100 words)

The Institute of Atmospheric Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences (IAP) belongs to the foremost national research institutions. The subject of its activities is scientific investigation of the atmosphere in its whole vertical extent, its interactions with other geospheres and with the society, the investigation of the magnetosphere and the cosmic space with focus on the solar system, monitoring and special measurements, data evaluation and their transfer into worldwide data networks, and the development of special apparatuses.

IAP is divided into five research departments and the Technical and Economic Management. In addition to this, the Institute runs 5 observatories.

2. STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE CURRENT PRACTICE:

Please provide an overview of the organisation in terms of the current strengths and weaknesses of the current practice under the four thematic headings of the Charter and Code at your organization.

Thematic heading of the Charter and Code	STRENGTHS and WEAKNESSES
Ethical and professional aspects	Strengths
	- IAP provides sufficient research freedom to its employees
	- Ethical principles are fully implemented in accordance with the Code of Ethics for Researchers of the CAS
	- IAP's employees observe all conditions of professional approach to the work on projects
	-IAP's internal documentation encompasses all legislative requirements regarding the activities of a public research institution
	- IAP has qualified administrative staff to support researchers
	- The issues of discrimination and equal opportunities are dealt with in the internal rules which are in harmony with national regulations, and the researches do not perceive this principle as a problem one
	Weaknesses
	- An all-Institute documents on the Institute's long/tern strategic aims is missing
	- Systematically performed and unified outward presentation of the Institute is missing
	- The presentation of research results to lay public is not solved systematically and is based on the individual approach of each researcher or department
	- The procedures for possible cooperation with the commercial sector are not formally set
	- The majority of important internal documents are not available in English

- There is no unified system of annual appraisal of employees by their superiors which would motivate them and thus influence their work performance
- Managerial abilities of the heads of departments need strengthening
- The agenda for sharing information across the individual departments is missing; no unified form of communication strategy is set (it depends on individuals; support from the Institute is low)

Recruitment and selection

Strengths

- The recruitment process is in harmony with the Labour Code
- The recruitment process is comparable to that of similar organizations in the Czech Republic and abroad
- Applicants for jobs at IAP are not discriminated on the basis of age, sex, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, disability, political opinions, or economic background
- IAP is able to recruit and train the necessary number of researchers and administrative and technical staff members for its operation
- An interruption of an applicant's career does not influence his/her evaluation; the applicant's qualities are evaluated according to his/her professional history and performance
- Mobility experience is considered to be an important benefit to researcher's career, foreign experience is perceived as a possibility for strengthening international cooperation and the competitive ability of work teams
- The recognition of qualification is sufficiently transparent; every newly hires researcher is made acquainted with Board Certification and Career Development Rules of the CAS
- Low employee fluctuation
- A new position of the personnel specialist who will assist in choosing new employees

Weaknesses

- There is no unified document to sum up recruitment rules and selection and adaptation procedure across the individual departments

- Vacancies are not always published in the international form (EURAXESS)
- The number of employees depends, to a large degree, on grants obtained and projects, that's why it is difficult to plan it from the long-term point of view
- Job/qualification description is usually missing, including clearly defined competences
- Feedback is not always provided to applicants for job
- There are no separate career development rules of IAP
- Absence of HR strategy (partially due to the fact that the success rate of grant projects cannot be foreseen, as well as due to lack of applicants with the required qualification and education at labour market)

Working conditions

Strengths

- The observance of working conditions is guaranteed by the Czech legislation and by CAS Career Development Rules; they are also defined by the Collective Agreement
- The researchers are provided with equipment comparable to international standards
- IAP's employees are offered the possibility of working part-time
- IAP supports women involvement in senior positions, and enables to harmonize family and career by offering part-time jobs, home office and flexible working hours
- IAP's employees are offered the possibility of home office if they are interested in it and their position enables it
- Researchers from V4 level up have indefinite contracts, which increases employment stability
- A new, fully electronic financial system for handing on and administration of financial documents and travel expense reports
- Teaching at universities is perceived as an important part of researchers' job; IAP enables its employees teaching at universities thanks to the possibility of organizing one's working hours as needed
- The Electoral Regulations of Institute Board guarantees that any researcher from V3 level up may vote and be elected to Institute

Board, which assures the participation of everybody in the decision-making process

Weaknesses

- Well-arranged and comprehensive Career Development Rules are missing
- Grant and project sources are too an important part of the salary compared to the guaranteed salaries, which may influence the stability of work teams
- Information on mobility project invitations is not spread systematically and effectively
- The complaint filing procedure is not defined; no impartial ombudsman is appointed to solve disputes and complaints
- No standardized process of passing on information for newly hired employees is in place; a manual for newly hired employees to include both legislative norms and good practice examples (co-authorship, methods of handling the results of scientific research etc.) is missing
- The Working environment at IAP is not fully bilingual; English courses are lacking, especially for administrative and technical staff

Training and development

Strengths

- A functional system of specialized seminars for sharing of results of research work
- Regular meetings to solve current problems within the top management (director of the Institute + heads of departments + scientific secretary + deputy director + a trade unions representative) Board of Directors

Weaknesses

- A comprehensive system of further professional development, connected to internal appraisal of employees, is missing
- An official position of mentor for newly hired researchers is lacking, especially at lower levels of researcher's classification
- Systematic regular employee appraisal so as to strengthen feedback is missing

- The possibility of professional trainings is missing, and/or information of their existence is not spread systematically (team management, managerial competences, time management, presentation skills for popularization etc.)
- Deficiencies in the sphere of senior staff's managerial abilities are obvious

3. Actions

The Action Plan and HRS4R strategy must be published on an easily accessible location of the organisation's website.

Please provide the web link to the organisation's HR Strategy dedicated webpage(s):

*URL: www.ufa.cas.cz/en/zakladni-informace-o-ustavu-en/hr-project/

Please fill in a sum up list of all individual actions to be undertaken in your organisation's HRS4R to address the weaknesses or strengths identified in the Gap-Analysis:

Proposed ACTIONS	GAP Principle(s)	Timing (at least by year's quarter/semester)	Responsible Unit	Indicator(s) / Target(s)
Free text -100 words max	Retrieved from the GAP Analysis			
1) Setting of the Institute's strategy (divided into several parts — research strategy, international cooperation strategy, HR management strategy etc.) Defining visions, IAP's mission	4	2Q/2022	The institution's management-the Director in cooperation with the heads of departments and the Technical and Economic Management	Document (integrated conception) published on the website, information to all employees at the regular assembly in October 2021, ongoing information on the work progress to the steering committee (and through its members to the individual departments)
2) Setting and unification of internal communication a) Agenda for sharing of information on	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 25, 32, 34, 36, 37	a) 2Q/2021 b) 2Q/2021 c) 3Q/2021 d) 4Q/2021	a) Project Department (Technical and Economic Management) in cooperation with scientific	a) Section on the Institute's internal website, information sent to employees by email and communicated at the regular assembly in October 2021

projects and subsidy/grant possibilities – creation of a section on the internal webpage where information will be published and archived b) Description of conflict solving process and its publication c) Setting of the management / leadership system (unification of the minimum frequency of meetings within the whole institution, information sharing, preventing problems and solving their escalation etc.) d) Raising the awareness of researchers in the field of ethics of scientific work and protection of intellectual property so that this field is properly understood by all researchers			b) Personnel specialist together with the Institute's management and the trade union c) The director with the heads of departments d) Personnel specialist together with the heads of departments	b) Document published on the institution's internal website, information about the document at the regular assembly in October 2021 c) Internal regulation which sets the minimum frequency of meetings of individual departments once a month, sent to all employees via e-mail and published on the institution's internal website d) publication of the Code of Ethics of the Czech Academy of Sciences on the internal website, basic information on the ethics of scientific work and protection of intellectual property given in Manual for newly hired employees (see point 4d of the Action Plan) and regularly updated, inclusion of the topic in regular meetings of individual departments at least once a year
3) Modification of the internal appraisal system, including	11, 26, 28, 33, 36, 40	a) 4Q/2021 b) 1Q/2021	a) Heads of departments together with personnel specialist	a) Electronic form for attestation procedure, internal regulation on regular appraisal of other employees,
unification of the remuneration system a) Modification of the unified appraisal system of researchers (attestation procedure) —		c) 3Q/2021	b) Personnel specialist in cooperation with Technical and Economic Management	annual appraisal summary sent by the heads of departments for the director, recommendations for appraisal officers, information on the new system sent via e-mail to all employees and

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introduction of an			c) The director	published on the
electronic form,			in cooperation with heads of	institution's internal website
better / more detailed			departments	website
feedback for the				b) Result of the
appraised employees;				questionnaire survey
''				from the meetings of
creation of a unified				individual departments
annual appraisal				 final decision in the minutes of the working
system of other				group meeting, an
employees				extract from the Career
h) IAD Caroor				Rules placed on the institution's internal
b) IAP Career				website and
Development Rules –				information about it at
questionnaire survey,				the regular assembly in October 2021
whether the need of a				October 2021
separate career				
development rules is				c) Internal document –
perceived.				recommendations for
A synopsis of the CAS				the heads of departments,
Career Development				publication of the
				document on the
Rules should be made				institution's internal
available to the				website, informing the
employees on the				heads of departments at the Board of
intranet.				at the Board of Directors and
				subsequently all
c) Distribution of				employees at the
bonuses – creation of				meetings of individual
a list of activities				departments
which should be				
reflected by the				
bonus (in the form of				
recommendation for				
the heads of				
departments)				
4) Processing of the	4, 12, 13, 14,	a) 2Q/2021	a) Personnel	a) Internal regulation
recruitment and	15, 16, 17, 18,		specialist in	describing the
adaptation	21, 30, 40	b) 1Q/2021	cooperation	recruitment and
•		c) 3Q/2021	with heads of departments	selection process, including templates for
procedure		0,00,2021	acpartificitis	publication of
a) Standardization of		d) 2Q/2021	b) Personnel	advertising for
rules for the			specialist	vacancies, published on
recruitment process			a) Daws	the institution's
			c) Personnel specialist	internal website and sent to all employees
b) Information on			Specialist	by e-mail, relevant
vacancies on the			d) Personnel	employees confirm
website of the			specialist in	their understanding of
•			cooperation	internal regulation by
Institute, the CAS, and			with working group	signing the minutes of the selection process
at Euraxess,			group	the selection process
·	-			·

possibility of making use of social networks c) Training in recruitment – training of all department heads and other relevant recruitment staff d) Manual for newly hired employees published in Czech and English language				b) Published vacancies in the archive, regular annual recruitment reports c) Courses in progress, attendance list, number of trained employees d) Manual published on the institution's internal website and handed over to each new employee, monitoring feedback from new employees
5) Setting of a unified outward presentation a) Creation and publication of communication and marketing strategy b) Creation and publication of popularization strategy c) Acquisition of new equipment for the popularization of research outputs and its use for popularization purposes	8, 9	a) and b) 4Q/2021 c) 2Q/2021	a) Working group — popularisers in cooperation with Technical and Economic Management b) Working group — popularisers in cooperation with Technical and Economic Management c) Working group — popularisers in cooperation with Technical and Economic Management	a) Document – strategy – published on the website of the institute, acquaintance of employees with the document in progress at the regular assembly in October 2021 and sending the link to the final version by e-mail to all employees b) Document – strategy – published on the website of the institute, acquaintance of employees with the document in progress at the regular assembly in October 2021 and sending the link to the final version by e-mail to all employees c) Planeterrella device, retrofitting the lecture theatre at the Milešovka meteorological observatory, number of organized
6) Interconnection with the commercial sector - drawing up rules for the cooperation with the commercial sector	8	2Q/2022	The Technical and Economic Management Department in cooperation with the director and the heads of departments	presentations/lectures per year Document — internal regulation — sent to all employees by e-mail and published on the institution's internal website

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7) Proposing the	30, 37, 38, 39	a) 2Q/2021	a) Working group	a) Document – spheres of training – part of the
possibilities of		b) 2Q/2021	group	Manual for newly hired
further education of			b) Financial	employees (see point
researchers,			preparation of	4d of the Action Plan)
including career			the Technical and Economic	b) Internal regulation
development			Management	introducing the
a) Making up a list of			Department	distribution of funds for
trainings, spheres				training into individual departments,
that can be passed				information on the
through, possibilities				possibility of drawing
of internships,				funds for training sent by e-mail to all
summer schools etc.				employees, number of
relevant for each				supported trainings per
department				year
b) Earmarking of resources for funding – formation of an "education fund" for each department according to the interests and needs of each employee; the head of department will be the guarantor of suitability and usefulness				
8) Bilingual	10, 24	a) 1Q/2021	a) Technical and	a) Publication of the
institution		b) 3Q/2021	Economic Management,	translated documents on the institution's
a) Translation of		b) 3Q/2021	working group	internal website, a
internal documents		c) 2Q/2021		bilingual version of the
into English			b) Technical and Economic	newly created internal documents published
			Management,	on the institution's
b) Language courses			a) 14/a/a magasta m	internal website
for the administrative			c) Webmaster	b) Courses in progress,
staff				attendance lists,
				number of participants
c) Bilingual Czech-				and number of course hours
English website and				
its regular updating				c) Link to the English version of the
				webpage, regular
				updating of its content
				and checking the availability of
				information in both
				Czech and English
				language

The establishment of an Open Recruitment Policy is a key element in the HRS4R strategy. Please also indicate how your organisation will use the Open, Transparent and Merit-Based Recruitment Toolkit and how you intend to implement/are implementing the principles of Open, Transparent and Merit-Based Recruitment. Although there may be some overlap with a range of actions listed above, please provide a short commentary demonstrating this implementation. If the case, please make the link between the OTM-R checklist and the overall action plan.

In 2019, the new position of a personnel specialist was filled. In previous years, these activities were performed very unsystematically, and the recruitment process has not been treated and recorded anywhere in a way that a unified procedure may be given for all the departments of the institution. The recruitment has followed the requirements of the CAS. Within the Open Recruitment Policy setting (action no. 4), we shall create a description of the recruitment procedure, binding instructions for the recruitment of new employees, we shall provide the possibility of professional trainings for members of selection committees, and we shall set rules for the publication of new open vacancies both on webpages of the institution and other scientific websites and on the Euraxess web portal, both in Czech and in English. A synoptic manual for newly hired employees will be created to contain all necessary information, which the employees will be given upon commencement of employment, both general administrative information and information necessary for the activities of a researcher. Both the recruitment procedure and the manual for new employees will be published, in Czech and in English, on the institution's webpage, so as to provide information to the applicants for jobs as well as to newly hired and existing employees.

As stated in OTM-R Checklist, many principles of OTM-R policy have already been practised in the institution, though without being recorded and codified anywhere. We would like to cover this undescribed field and to include these procedures in the new recruitment instructions within action no. 4 of the Action Plan.

If your organisation already has a recruitment strategy which implements the principles of Open, Transparent and Merit-Based Recruitment, please provide the web link where this strategy can be found on your organisation's website:

URL:			

4. IMPLEMENTATION

General overview of the expected implementation process:

Within GAP analysis, 8 spheres were identified which our institution must focus on during the following period so as to fulfil the principles of the Charter and the Code and to implement the HRS4R standards. These 8 spheres can be divided into main actions and supporting actions.

The output of the main actions is strategic documents and internal rules and regulations. That's why each of these outputs shall be discussed and approved by the Institute Board. The majority of main actions encompass several partial tasks which thematically belong to the main sphere. These are the following actions:

- 1) Setting of the Institute's strategy
- 2) Setting and unification of internal communication
- 3) Modification of an internal appraisal system
- 4) Processing of the recruitment and adaptation procedure
- 5) Setting of a unified outward presentation
- 6) Interconnection with the commercial sector drawing up rules for the cooperation with the commercial sector

The supporting actions serve to remedy minor deficiencies identified in the GAP analysis, especially as to the possibilities of employees' development by means of trainings and courses. The supporting actions are:

- 7) Proposing the possibilities of further education of researchers
- 8) Bilingual institution

Implementation process:

Actions of the Action Plan will be implemented by the working group having the same composition as during the first phase of the project, supplemented by the director of the institution and his deputy and also by two beginning researchers so that all 4 categories of researchers R1-R4 are represented in. A coordinator from the working group will be assigned to every action to take care of it and to manage its realization. The working group will meet every month (by attendance or online) to evaluate the progress of each activity, to consult problems related to the implementation, and to set tasks for the following period.

Composition of the working group for the implementation phase:

Mgr. Alena Nováková, Project Coordinator

Bc. Zuzana Gutierrez, Personnel Specialist

Ing. Marta Arazimová, Head of Economic Department

Ing. Karolína Severová, International Cooperation Coordinator

Mgr. Romana Beranová, Ph.D., Researcher (R3)

RNDr. Vojtěch Bližňák, Ph.D., Researcher (R3)

RNDr. Kateřina Podolská, Ph.D., Researcher (R3)

Ing. Štěpán Štverák, Ph.D., Researcher (R3)

RNDr. David Píša, Ph. D., Researcher (R3)

Mgr. Zbyšek Mošna, Ph. D., Researcher (R3)

Mgr. Miroslav Hanzelka, Researcher (R1)

RNDr. Zuzana Rulfová, Ph.D., Researcher (R2)

doc. RNDr. Radan Huth, DrSc., Director of IAP (R4)

Ing. Dalia Obrazová, CSc., Statutory Deputy Director (R4)

The steering committee, whose functions will be carried out by the Board of Directors during the implementation phase, will monitor the progress of the project and supervise that obligations are met. The steering committee will be informed about the activities of the working group by means of a report of the project coordinator at the end of every month.

If feedback is needed, the entities involved will be addressed directly; the researchers and other employees of the institution will be informed about the outputs of the project both by each department's representatives in the working group and on the (internal) website, in the section designated for the project.

Implementation schedule:

A coordinator will be assigned to each action, and a detailed plan of the individual actions will be prepared to manage the implementation. The implementation of most actions can run independently on the remaining ones, except for action no. 1, Setting of the Institute's strategy, as this action is tied up to previous events and actions. The most important of them is the start of the new director of the institution in 1Q/2021. The new director will fix the strategic orientation of the Institute in the following years, and thus item no. 1 of the Action Plan will be fully within the scope of his powers. Also, the creation of the institution's general strategy will be preceded by the elaboration of its parts (HR management strategy, communication and marketing strategy, popularization strategy).

The Action Plan has been created for the period of 2 years (1Q/2021 - 4Q/2022), and its implementation is supported by the subsidy project of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, Project Number: CZ.02.2.69/0.0/0.0/18_054/0014500. The main aim of this project is the development of the scientific institution in accord with the provisions of the European Charter and Code for Researchers.

Make sure you also cover all the aspects highlighted in the checklist below, which you will need to describe in detail:

Checklist	*Detailed description and duly justification
How will the implementation committee and/or steering group regularly oversee progress?	The position of the steering committee, during the implementation period, will be held by the Board of Directors (consisting of the director + heads of departments + scientific secretary + deputy director and a trade unions representative) which meets regularly every month. Before its meeting every month, the steering committee will receive the output from the working group from the project coordinator, and the conclusions and recommendations from the meeting of the Board of Directors will be then passed on to the project coordinator. The steering committee will review and assess the key activities and supervise the implementation process. Documents which will be created within the project and be applicable to the whole Institute will be discussed and approved by the Institute Board, either at its regular meetings, or per rollam if necessary.
How do you intend to involve the research community, your main stakeholders, in the implementation process?	Researchers will be informed about the main milestones of the project by e-mail, on the institution's webpage, and by working group's representatives directly at the meetings of each department. Every year, information on the main outputs of the project will also be passed on at the regular assembly of employees. All information published on the (internal) website will be provided in Czech and in English. If feedback from the researchers is necessary in any of the issues solved, it will have the form of a questionnaire survey with the possibility of using controlled interviews, like during the preparatory stage.
How do you proceed with the alignment of organisational policies with the HRS4R? Make sure the HRS4R is recognized in the organisation's research strategy, as the overarching HR policy.	In the letter of accession to the European Charter and Code for Researchers, we pledged to observe the principles contained in these documents and to implement HRS4R. A large part of HRS4R principles have already been fully applied in the institution and the remaining ones are applied at least

	partially. Every month, a report of the progress of the project will be submitted to the Board of Directors, which holds the position of the steering committee in the project. All mains parts of the implementation will be discussed and approved by the Institute Board.
How will you ensure that the proposed actions are implemented?	The working group will meet regularly every month to monitor the implementation process continuously, making it more accurate on the basis of a detailed plan of each action. It will present its results to the steering committee by means of monthly reports. The steering committee will supervise the whole process and suggest adjustments if necessary. A coordinator responsible for implementation from the working group will be assigned to each action.
How will you monitor progress (timeline)?	A schedule for each action will be prepared, and the working group will be responsible for the monitoring of the progress of work in each activity. The progress in the implementation will be contained in monthly reports which will be submitted by the project support manager to the steering committee. Also, the implementation of HRS4R is part of the subsidy project of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, where the elaboration of a detailed monitoring report is required every six months. These reports will also serve as the basis for schedule update and for the monitoring of the progress of implementation.
How will you measure progress (indicators) in view of the next assessment?	Every action in the Action Plan has indicators determined so as to observe progress of the implementation. Progress will be assessed in relation to the original findings as summed up in GAP analysis. Progress will be measured using the same methods as the original GAP analysis, i.e. a questionnaire survey and controlled interviews.

Additional remarks/comments about the proposed implementation process:

The work on the implementation of some points (e.g. translations of a part of the internal documents, new webpages of the institution) has already begun during 2020 while GAP

analysis and the Action Plan were being prepared. The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the implementation in the sphere of working conditions; for this reason, the process of offering the possibility of home office and the related legislative measure (amendment to the employment contract) were expedited.

In 1Q of 2021, there will be change in the position of the institution's director. We suppose that the new director will assume the obligations resulting from this Action Plan, and the creation of the main lines of the strategic heading in the following years in accordance with item no. 1 will fall fully within his authority.