

120th Anniversary of Founding the Land Statistical Office of the Bohemian Kingdom

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Abstract

In the Habsburg monarchy demographic and economic statistics was concentrated mainly in Vienna offices. The agricultural statistics was the only one that was consequently developed in Bohemia (already from year 1770) by Patriotic-Economic Society, that in the years 1856–1858 created its own miniature statistical office. That became after long negotiations the base of the Land Statistical Office that started its operation 120 years ago (year 1898). The Czechoslovak State Statistical Office like today's Czech Statistical Office are its direct followers. Founders of statistical service in Bohemia were Karel Kořistka and Dobroslav Krejčí. Similar statistical office was set up in Moravia in the year 1899. A remarkable achievement here was an approval of the Land Act, which sets the reporting obligation for land statistics actions.

Keywords

History of statistics, Patriotic-Economic Society, Land Statistical Office, Karel Kořistka, Dobroslav Krejčí

JEL code

B16, B23, B31

INTRODUCTION

Establishment of the Land Statistical Office in Bohemia (LSO) 120 years ago was a significant milestone in the development of official statistics in our country. This issue has already been dealt at the occasion of various anniversary events in the past, e. g. by Krejčí (1925), Závodský (1997b), etc. The circumstances of origin of LSO are also described in several publications focused on the history of statistical service at the Czechoslovak territory – e. g. Podzimek (1974), 70 let (1989), etc. Our contribution is to bring a somewhat new look at the events which happened 120 years ago, to describe in more detail the development leading to the establishment of LSO and correct some mistaken proclamations that appears in existing literature.

1 STATE STATISTICS IN AUSTRIA–HUNGARY

First, let us briefly describe the situation of state statistics in the Habsburg monarchy in the last decade of the 19th century. Both parts of the empire had their own, completely independent statistical service,

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organized differently in many aspects. In the Austrian part of the monarchy, all most important branches of statistics (with the exception of agriculture) were concentrated in Vienna. It was mainly Imperial-Royal (I. r.) Central Statistical Commission (K. k. statistische Zentralkommission), classified under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Education.

The Central Statistical Commission fulfilled (since the year 1884) the function of the body with acting and executive powers. The significant modernization of this office and its position has been accomplished on scientific foundations thanks to Karl Theodor von Inama–Sternegg (1843–1908), who had been at the forefront of Austrian statistical services for nearly a quarter of a century (1881–1905).³ The Central Statistical Commission published many source works (mainly *Österreichische Statistik* and yearbook *Österreichisches statistisches Handbuch*) and also a monthly published journal *Statistische Monatschrift*.⁴ The Commission did not have any territorial authorities or subsidiaries in the individual countries of the monarchy.

Central statistics was decentralized to a large extent in Austrian part of monarchy, many ministries had their own statistical offices or bureaus. In particular, the Ministry of Commerce's statistical service, which had the competence of statistics of industry, trade, foreign trade and "inter-trade" (i.e. trade between the Austrian and Hungarian parts of the monarchy), could compete with the Central Statistical Commission. This Labour Office also established the Labour Statistical Office that was dealing with the social conditions of workers in 1898.

The General Intelligence Obligation in the Habsburg Monarchy was not enacted, only in four cases it was laid down by special legal standards. This refers to the Population Census (law from 29th March 1869, RGBl. Nr. 67/1869) that took place in the years 1869, 1880 and then within a ten-year period. Then, it was census of agricultural and business trades (law from 25th March 1902, RGBl. Nr. 56/1902 – happening only once in the year 1902), statistics of foreign trade (law from 26th June 1890, RGBl. Nr. 132/1890) and statistics of inter-trade (imperial order of 21st September 1899, RGBl. Nr. 176/1899). In all other cases, Vienna's offices could delegate the administration to regional offices of district governments and municipal or town councils.

2 THE BEGINNINGS OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN BOHEMIA

In this section, we briefly describe the emergence and gradual development of agricultural statistics in Bohemia. Based on the decree by Maria Theresia from July 1767 I. r. Patriotic-Economic Society (K. k. patriotisch–ökonomische Gesellschaft im Königreich Böhmen) (PES)⁵ was founded and started to act in 1770. The aim of the Society was to provide a comprehensive care for the development and modernization of agricultural production in the country, including vocational training at all levels, education, etc. PES was financially supported, but also controlled by Vienna offices and gubernium.

PES issued, in addition to various popular-scientific publications, calendars etc., also scientific journals, the list of which is shown References. Already in the 1st volume of *Abhandlungen* (1797, pp. 53–98), the former secretary of PES, Franz Fuss (1745–1805), published a very successful statistical survey of agriculture in Bohemia, mostly in the form of tables and balance sheets comparing the calculated need for grain, meat, wood, etc. with their actual production. Since the very beginning PES cooperated with the Prague gubernium during various censuses – of cattle, bee colonies, fruit trees, and even maples (during the Napoleonic wars they were used to produce a sugar substitute).

³ He was called to Vienna from Prague, where he lectured at the University on political economy. In 1899 he was elected president of the International Institute of Statistics (ISI).

⁴ *Geschichte* (1979, pp. 57–70).

⁵ This definitive name of the company was only since year 1788.

Publication of F. Fuss had not found any follower for a long time. After nearly twenty years of interruption, in 1825 PES began to issue a new scientific journal *Neue Schriften* (until 1847 – 10 volumes per 2 issues were issued). The journal regularly published extensive statistical tables of meteorological observations as well as their analysis – various (even multi-annual) averages of temperatures, precipitation, atmospheric pressure, and average wind direction, calculated according to the complicated formula (e. g. in the year 1828, an average for the whole Bohemia was 53° 52', which meant roughly southwest).⁶ Interesting is also the frequent demonstration of different dependencies between the variables, e. g. the dependence of the average temperature on the altitude of the meteorological station, etc. Gradually, the tables of yields of different crops per unit area, tables of average prices of individual crops in different cities, and other analyses and accompanying comments had been expanded and improved.

Since 1850 PES had issued a weekly journal *Centralblatt* (see References) with regular statistical section. An increased interest in actual data about agriculture in Bohemia in a new changed political environment after 1848 raised the question of establishing a statistical department within PES. Antonín J. Oppelt (1789–1864), a landowner and one of the most active PES representatives, was a person who at the management meeting held on 2nd and 9th January 1853,⁷ proposed the establishment of a special section on agricultural and forestry statistics. The proposal was unanimously adopted, and a three-member drafting committee was set up. Its member, prof. G. N. Schnabel, failed to prepare the promised program of activities, the proposal of prof. Peter Mischler was found hardly feasible.

The principles of how the PES should organize agricultural and forestry statistics was finally proposed by a member of the Committee of the Society Antonín E. Komers (1814–1893) in the year 1855. Negotiations continued with the support of Governor's Office and the plenary meeting of PES on 20th April 1856 decided to establish the Central Committee on Statistics of Agriculture and Forestry (Central-Comité für die Land- und Forstwirtschaftliche Statistik Böhmens), which had its first meeting on 30th November 1856.⁸ The Central Committee had originally 6 members, including the chairman. One of them was professor of statistics at Prague University Eberhard A. Jonák (1820–1879). He was the author of the action plan of the Central Committee and of the Statistical Chair (miniature office). The plan was approved in the year 1857. The following year the Statistical Chair started its activity under the leadership of prof. Jonák. At the beginning it only employed 2 persons and the number of the staff grew only moderately.

The establishment of the decision-making body (the Central Committee) and the Statistical Chair as an executive body took place at the recommendation on the 2nd International Statistical Congress in Paris (1855) according to the example of Quêtelet from Brussel.⁹ For the data collection, a system of unpaid delegates (i.e., reporters, two of each political district) and sub-delegates (for smaller territorial units) – economic officials, landowners, foresters, pastors, etc., was gradually developed. Activities of the Statistical Chair were financed mainly from the land budgets, partly by Governor's Office.

The result of the Statistical Chair's activities, in particular the summary tables, were presented by Governor's Office of Vienna's offices and usually published in the journals of PES (*Centralblatt* and *Verhandlungen* – see References). These were mainly the results of harvesting of individual crops and the structure of soil. The summary table report about crop yield results according to a new modern pattern was, at the request of the Viennese Department of Agriculture, processed annually, starting with data for the year 1868.

⁶ *Neue Schriften*, Bd. II, H. 1, p. 183.

⁷ *Verhandlungen*, 1853, Nr. 9, pp. 68–69. Former authors report incorrectly a year 1842 (*Zpráva o činnosti 1867*, p. 6), or 1852 – Krejčí (1905, p. XIII) etc.

⁸ This date is mistakenly referred to as “the beginning of organized statistics in Bohemia” – Podzimek (1974, p. 28 and elsewhere). The Industrial Unity in Bohemia set up its statistical chair already in year 1841, see Závodský (1992, p. 98).

⁹ See also *Zpráva o činnosti 1867*, p. 12.

In addition to news in journals of PES the Central Committee with its Statistical Chair started to issue in the year 1861 a thirteen-volume sources work *Tafeln zur Statistik der Land- und Forstwirtschaft des Königreiches Böhmen* (12 books of about 160 pages devoted to individual regions had been published in the years 1861–1872, last one in year 1881). For individual municipalities and summary for the districts and the whole region the data about the soil, its distribution according to property conditions,

Figure 1 Karel Kořistka in year 1881¹⁰



agricultural use, population numbers and cattle states can be found there. Remarkable is a range of calculated proportional numbers. When publishing this work, it was considered to indicate the individual volumes by characterizing the geographic conditions of the respective region. The Central Committee turned to a leading specialist in this field in Bohemia, Karel Kořistka (1825–1906), professor of Prague Polytechnic (predecessor of today's Czech Technical University – CTU).

The consequences of this step were unexpected – all volumes were finally released without planned geographic introduction, but prof. Kořistka was pulled into the statistical work which became his main occupation for the next four decades. In addition to his work on Technique, he processed various expertise reports, e. g. for the reorganization of high technical education in the monarchy etc. In the year 1864 Kořistka became a member of the Central Committee and after the resignation of prof. Jonák (at the end of 1867) on the insistence of the entire committee, he accepted the head position of the Statistical Chair. This Chair under his leadership, despite its modest staffing and financial

security, carried out agile activities, which were not limited only to the issues of agriculture and forestry. Since the year 1867 the Central Committee published annually both Czech and German reports on its activities.¹¹ They included an overview of activities in the previous year and table surveys of agricultural production in Bohemia as well as verbal analyses of the examined facts.

Statistical Chair was located in the basement of PES at the Wenceslas square No. 799/II (opposite the today's hotel Jalta). Beside prof. Kořistka the recognised expert and author of many reports and analysis, was JUDr. Josef Bernat (1834–1907), who worked for Statistical Chair in years 1866–1904.

Unlike the vast majority of former (and later) representatives of statistics in Bohemia and whole monarchy, Kořistka was not a graduated lawyer, but mathematician and surveyor. He has become (among others) a pioneer in using modern statistical charts. Already in *Zpráva o činnosti 1868* he published six colourful cartograms. He made similar charts also for some other issues of the *Zprávy...* showing not only the yields of different crops by district, but also the distribution of damage due to natural disasters, the intensity of afforestation of individual districts, the ratio of the number of beef cattle to 100 inhabitants etc.

Starting with *Zprávy* for the year 1872, Kořistka published in some annual issues the graphical charts showing long-term time series, most often the price development of various agricultural commodities.

¹⁰ Photo by J. N. Langhans, Bibliothèque nationale de France [online]. (<http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b8450251f/fl.item>).

¹¹ The reports were always published in Czech and German versions; in References we named the Czech volumes only.

Kořistka recommended to show price development for several different products in one graph that on vertical axis is a logarithmic scale better reflecting the relatively faster rise in price of cheaper commodities (e. g. potatoes) against a relatively slower rise in price of more expensive commodities (e. g. wheat).¹²

Figure 2 House No. 799/II on Wenceslas square (today's state)¹³



¹² *Zprávy kanceláře... for year 1872*, Iss. II, pp. LXII-LXIV.

¹³ Photo by V. Puci.

Let us return to the question of collecting crop data through a network of delegates (see above). The amount of the harvest was estimated on the basis of an estimate of sowing area (here it was possible to rely on solid data from the cadastral maps) and an estimate of the yield of the crop in the given year. Estimates of yields of individual crops were then confronted with results from other municipalities and districts. To put such control on a solid foundation, Kořistka divided the entire territory of Bohemia into 11 so-called natural landscapes, that always included several judicial districts with similar conditions for agriculture (terrain altitude and shape, soil conditions, climate and the most frequently cultivated crops). This division of Bohemia allowed, among other things, for one or two districts to take into account the results of all the districts of the same "landscape". The division that Kořistka described in *Zpráva o činnosti* for the year 1871 (pp. VII–XIX) became an example for similar division of other monarchy countries. In Bohemia it has been for over half a century and was revised based on changes of the situation only in the year 1923.¹⁴

When the PES with all its components was officially dissolved in the spring of 1872 after 102 years of Governor's Office for political reasons, the Statistical Chair was preserved and continued its activities, the Central Committee on Statistics of agriculture and forestry was shut down. The Vienna government established The Agricultural Council for Bohemian Kingdom the following year and a Statistical Chair was attached to it. The Agricultural Council was then divided into the Czech and German departments with the Centre for Joint Matters in 1891. The office was subordinated to them as the Statistical Chair of the Agricultural Council for Bohemian Kingdom.

In the 50s of 19th century it began, based on the initiative of the famous Belgian statistician A. Quêtelet, to develop international cooperation of statisticians. Prof. Jonák took part already in the 2nd International Statistical Congress in Paris (1855). On the 3rd Congress in Vienna (1857) prof. Kořistka worked in the graphic display section of statistics and attracted the attention to his proposal on unification of large city plans (other participants were: prof. Jonák and L. Brdiczka, predecessor of J. Bernat as Secretary of the Statistical Chair). Kořistka participated in meetings of other congresses – in the Hague (1869 – referred to agricultural statistics in Bohemia), in St. Petersburg (1872) and in Budapest (1876 – here he successfully demonstrated forest statistics in Bohemia and its own methodology of statistical graphs). He also presented the success of Bohemian land statistics as a member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI – since year 1889), especially at sessions held in Christiania (today's Oslo – 1899) and in Budapest (1901).

3 FOUNDING OF LAND STATISTICAL OFFICE IN BOHEMIA

To understand lengthy negotiations about the origin of Land Statistical Office, let us briefly remind some facts about government and administration in Bohemia in last quarter of the 19th century. The decisive power was still in hands of Vienna's offices and their extended hand – Governor's Office in Prague. Beside them, in Bohemia there existed (like in other countries of the monarchy) the Landtag with very limited powers. It consisted of 242 deputies, of which 236 were elected in three curies; there was no general or equal voting right.¹⁵ The election period was six years (unless the Landtag was dissolved earlier). The administrative and executive body of the Landtag consisted of the 9-member Provincial Committee. The Landtag met in the former Thun Palace at Malá Strana (Lesser Town) in Prague, today's seat of the Chamber of Deputies, the appearance of the conference hall has not changed much since then – see Figure 3.

¹⁴ See Závodský (1997a, pp. 101–102).

¹⁵ E.g. during the election in 1895, 7.68% of the Czech population had the right to vote. See *Zprávy zemského ...* Vol. I, Iss. I, Prague, 1899, p. XLI.

Figure 3 Conference Hall of the Landtag in Bohemia (perhaps in the year 1898)¹⁶



The Provincial Committee occasionally organized various statistical surveys, sometimes directly requested by the Landtag. The survey related work was entrusted to their own non-specialized officials. Given that the Agricultural Council's Statistical Chair was partly financed from the Land budget, the Landtag sometimes asked the chair to carry out some statistical surveys (e. g. about the finances of the districts and municipalities in Bohemia in year 1883 etc.). Already around the year 1870 the calls for the establishment of the Land Statistical Office, were recorded, or better to say, the opinions requiring that the statistical chair of PES (later the Agricultural Council) should be taken over by the Provincial Committee appeared.

This issue had been discussed in the end by the four Landtags for two decades. It was for the first time that the Landtag approved the takeover of the Statistical Chair directly by the provincial administration in year 1878. It was only three years when it was decided to postpone the matter. The same proposal, which was presented and thoroughly reasoned at the meeting on 11th January 1886 by the Czech national economist and deputy prof. Albín Bráf,¹⁷ was adopted again by the Landtag, but not implemented.

¹⁷ The Landtag of the Kingdom of Bohemia 1883–1889, 3rd meeting, 19th session. In: *Společná česko-slovenská digitální parlamentní knihovna – stenoprotokoly*.

The situation slowly improved in the 90s when Karel Adámek (1840–1918) took the initiative. He was an extremely agile National Liberal Party deputy.¹⁸ The proposal for the establishment of Land Statistical Office (similar to an earlier proposal by prof. Bráf) was submitted on behalf of the Group of Deputies on 21st March 1892, again on 10th April 1893. At the meeting held on 2nd May 1893, he made a substantiated statement of his draft, emphasized the need for proper statistics for the preparation of administrative reforms and for other decisions of the assembly.¹⁹ Adámek's proposal was joined by member of Landtag – Masaryk already in the year 1892, who originally planned to present a similar proposal.²⁰

Figure 4 Karel Adámek (perhaps in the year 1895)²²



On 2nd May 1893, the Landtag discussed the proposal of Adámek on the 1st reading and forwarded it to the Budget Committee. The same procedure took place one year later, and only on 12th January 1895, after the third and last reading the matter started to move.

The recommendation of the Conference on Land Statistics was a drive. At the beginning of the year 1894 the Landtags in Silesia and Moravia suggested, that the representatives of the individual provincial authorities of the Austrian part of the monarchy should convene, together with the Central Statistical Commission in Vienna, a conference, in order to discuss the unification of methodology in statistical surveys in different countries, as well as the possibilities of co-operation of land statistics with the Central Statistical Commission.

In November 1894, the gathering took place in Vienna chaired by the head of the Central Statistics Commission Inama-Sternegg, inaugurating his twenty-year activity at the Conference on Land Statistics (Konferenz für Landesstatistik).²¹

This conference, where knight Kořistka²³ regularly took part as a deputy of Bohemia, used to hold its meetings in Vienna in the beginning, (since year 1904 it changed places and was held in various countries of Austrian part of the empire (e.g. in 1907 the 9th meeting took place in Brno)). Already at the meeting in year 1895 the participants agreed on some unified tables, according to which statistical surveys should be held in all countries since year 1897. In the following years, the conference recommended a gradual increase in the scale of land self-government statistics according to the agreed single consensus.

¹⁸ Karel Adámek, landowner and autodidact, was a politician National Liberal Party (Mladočeši) and a journalist, member of Landtag continuously in years 1881–1913. From a long series of his publications (often popularly learned) we can name a 98-page brochure *O statistice (About Statistics)* – Adámek (1899), where the author explains the importance of statistics for science and, in particular, state and provincial administrations, describes a long way, leading eventually to the formation of the Land Statistical Office, explains the conditions of its operation etc.

¹⁹ See *Společná česko-slovenská digitální parlamentní knihovna – stenoprotokoly*.

²⁰ An undated handwritten draft of Masaryk printed in publication by Herben (1926), p. 176a. Masaryk spoke about the need for the Land Statistical Office in his speech (on another matter) on 7th April 1892. T. G. Masaryk was a member of Landtag since December 1891 until September 1893.

²¹ See Berthold (1909).

²² *Zlatá Praha*, 1895, Vol. XII, Iss. 28, p. 328.

²³ Prof. Kořistka was nobilitated by the emperor in year 1879.

The resolution of the conference was an important impetus for the establishment of statistical offices in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia. In the years 1900–1918, thanks to Vienna's Central Statistical Commission, the total of 14 volumes of statistical yearbook of land self-governments (*Statistisches Jahrbuch der autonomen Landesverwaltung in den im Reichsrathe vertretenen Königreichen und Ländern*) were published. Statistical offices in the Czech lands were among the most active contributors.

Figure 5 Adámek's proposal from 21st March, 1892²⁴

III. výr. zasedání
českého sněmu z r. 1889.

III. Jahresession
des böhm. Landtages v. J. 1889.

Tisk
Druck CXXXV.

Číslo 353 sněm.

No. 353 Stgt.

Návrh

poslance Karla Adámka a soudruhů
na zřízení statistické kanceláře pro
království České.

Slavný sněme!

račičž se usněsti:

Zemskému výboru se ukládá, aby v nejbližší příští zasedání sněmu předložil návrh zřízení statistické kanceláře pro království České.

Ve formálním ohledu se navrhuje, aby návrh tento byl odkázán ku poradě a podání zprávy komisi rozpočtové.

V Praze, dne 21. března 1892.

Antrag

des Abgeordneten Karl Adámek und Genossen betreffend die Errichtung eines statistischen Bureaus für das Königreich Böhmen.

Hoher Landtag!

wolle beschließen:

Dem Landesauschüsse wird aufgetragen, in der nächsten Landtagsession einen Antrag, betreffend die Errichtung eines statistischen Bureaus für das Königreich Böhmen vorzulegen.

In formaler Beziehung wird beantragt, diesen Antrag der Budget-Commission zur Berathung und Berichterstattung zuzumeisen.

Prag, am 21. März 1892.

Karel Adámek,

Jos. Černý, Hájek, Dr. G. Blažek, Dr. Šil, König, Dr. A. Zeman, Dr. Trojan, Fr. Tilšer, Karel Tůma, Václav Krumbholz, Dr. Julius Grégr, Dr. Bedřich Pacák, Formánek, Dr. Herold, Dr. Engel, Doležal, Dr. Podlipný, Dr. Josef Žalud, E. Špindler, Dr. H. Lang, M. Štěpán, K. Loula, Jan Bataj, Jos. Horák, V. Teklý, Dr. Dyk, V. Janda, Hovorka, Dr. Alois Koldánský, Dr. hr. Kounice, Masaryk, Dr. J. Kučera, Jos. Brdlík.

Druck von Heiar. Mery in Prag.

²⁴ IIIrd Annual Meeting of the Landtag (1891–1892), press CXXXV.

Kořistka submitted to the Provincial Committee in December 1895 a report on the recommendations of the first two Viennese sessions as well as the rationale for the proposal on establishment of the Land Statistical Office. On the 14th February 1896 the Landtag²⁵ discussed Adámek's proposal and based on the recommendation of the Trade Commission to the Landtag it was approved at the second reading. The Provincial Committee was required to submit an outline of the organizational statute of the Land Statistical Office. Kořistka then drafted a detailed proposal of the statute and submitted it to the provincial committee. The provincial committee submitted it to the Landtag on 6th February 1897. Following the approval by the Budget Committee, the proposal was discussed at the meeting of the Landtag on 6th March 1897. Adámek again briefly justified the need to set up an LSO, which will be capable to conduct proper data collection and, in particular, a qualitative data analysis, he presented the success of similar offices in Styria and Galicia and expressed the belief that in the future the LSO's competencies and program of activities will expand. Establishment of Land Statistical Office, its statute and funding were finally approved by the Landtag on 6th March 1897.

Land Statistical Office consisted (according to the proven Quëletlet's pattern) of the Land Statistical Commission and the Land Statistical Bureau. Statistical Commission was an advisory body (to the Provincial Committee) and decisive on the Land Statistical Bureau (as the executive body). In a 10-member Statistical Commission, headed by an elected representative of the Land Committee by the earl Vojtěch Schönborn,²⁶ was made by deputies of Governor's Office, Agricultural Council, member of Provincial Committee Adámek, economists from both Prague universities (prof. Bráf and prof. Ulbrich), Head of the Land Statistical Bureau Kořistka etc. The Commission usually met once or twice a year.

The staff of the Statistical Bureau, taken from the Agricultural Council, was joined by a young lawyer JUDr. Dobroslav Krejčí (1869–1936) and three other officers, i.e. 8 employees plus chief in total. The Bureau was seated in the House of Agricultural Council at Wenceslas square, that had been partly rebuilt at that time. Statement of the publication of the Czech Statistical Office *Statistics: From history to present* (2006, p. 10) "This was the first centralisation of all statistical units that had functioned within the different ministries and other institutions so far."²⁷ is a complete nonsense.²⁸

The Land Statistical Office was given according to § 1 of its statute the quest "to cultivate statistics in all matters governed by the laws of the land in force." D. Krejčí said: "It was limited in its competencies to mere leftovers after the state statistics."²⁹ It cannot obtain other competencies due to the law. At the beginning of 20th century it was considered the extension of the authority of the provincial self-government, but with regard to the old emperor's mentality and conflicting relations in the Imperial Council, this has never been the case.

In Section 2 of the Status of LSO there is a limited scope of the office activities exhaustively named. LSO should deal with statistics of:

1. agriculture and forestry,
2. public buildings carried out by the cost of the country (roads, railways, water structures, etc.),
3. medical and charitable institutes, subsidized by land resources,
4. schools, artistic and scientific institutions, held in full or in part by land resources,
5. land, district and municipal finances,
6. land banks, saving banks and saving institutions,

²⁵ It was again a new assembly, elected in November 1895.

²⁶ He was the head of the Land Statistical Commission throughout its functioning.

²⁷ Similarly, in the Czech version *Statistika: Od historie po současnost* (2006, p. 10). There are many mistakes in the quoted text. In the same paragraph, for example, the mother tongue is mistaken.

²⁸ Even an ordinary high school student knows that there were no ministries in Prague during the period of Austro-Hungarian Empire.

²⁹ Krejčí (1920, p. 84).

7. election to Landtag,
8. police matter under the jurisdiction of the country,
9. military matters (if they were under the authority of the provincial authorities).

Provincial Committee as a superior body of LSO could request other statistical surveys “in the interest of the country”. The statute did not exclude statistical work for the state authorities, subject to the approval of the Provincial Committee and the reimbursement of costs by the contracting authority.

Figure 6 Statute Land Statistical Office approved by the Landtag on 6th March 1897 (p. 1)³⁰

Příloha 2/2. XXI. sezení 1896/97. 33	XXI. Sitzung 1896/97. Beilage 2/2.
<p>Statut statistického zemského úřadu pro království České.</p>	<p>Statut des statistischen Landesamtes für das Königreich Böhmen.</p>
<p>I. Úkol a složení.</p>	<p>I. Aufgabe und Gliederung.</p>
<p>§ 1.</p>	<p>§ 1.</p>
<p>Statistický úřad zemský má za úkol, aby pěstoval statistiku ve všech záležitostech, které samosprávě zemské platnými zákony jsou přikázány. Podřízen jest výboru zemskému.</p>	<p>Das statistische Landesamt hat die Aufgabe, die Statistik in allen jenen Angelegenheiten zu pflegen, welche der autonomen Verwaltung des Landes durch die bestehenden Gesetze zugewiesen sind. Dasselbe untersteht dem Landesauschusse.</p>
<p>§ 2.</p>	<p>§ 2.</p>
<p>K záležitostem těmto náležejí tudíž:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Veškeré zemědělství (polní a lesní hospodářství, pozemkový majetek, hospodářská výroba, hospodářský úvěr a spolčování). 2. Veřejné stavby podnikané nákladem zemským (stavby vodní, silnice, mosty a železnice). 3. Z peněz zemských nadané ústavy dobročinné (nemocnice a ústavy humanitní, nadace pro ně, opatrování chudých). 4. Z peněz zemských zcela neb z části vydržované ústavy vyučovací, dále ústavy pro umění a vědu, musea, knihovny atd. 5. Daně a finance zemské, okresní a obecní (přírážky). 6. Zemské úvěrnictví (zemská banka, hypoteční banka, záložny). 7. Volby do sněmu zemského. 8. Policejní záležitosti (postrk, stravovny, donucovací pracovní a polepšovny). 9. Vojenské záležitosti (ubytování, vojenské nadace). <p>Mimo to může výbor zemský statistickému úřadu zemskému uložit také jiná statistická</p>	<p>Zu diesen Angelegenheiten gehören demnach:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Die gesammte Landeskultur (land- und forswirtschaftlicher Grundbesitz, landwirthschaftliche Production, landwirthschaftliches Credit- und Vereinswesen). 2. Die öffentlichen Bauten aus Landesmitteln (Wasserbauten, Straßen, Brücken und Eisenbahnen). 3. Die aus Landesmitteln dotirten Wohlthätigkeitsanstalten (Kranken- und Humanitätsanstalten, Stiftungen für dieselben, Armenpflege). 4. Die aus Landesmitteln ganz oder zum Theile erhaltenen Unterrichtsanstalten, dann Anstalten für Kunst und Wissenschaft, Museen, Bibliotheken u. s. w. 5. Die Besteuerung und die Finanzen des Landes, der Bezirke und Gemeinden (Zuschläge). 6. Das Landescreditwesen (Landesbank, Hypothekbank, Vorschußkassen). 7. Landtagewahlen. 8. Polizeiangelegenheiten (Schubwesen, Naturalverpflegungstationen, Zwangsarbeit- und Befestigungsanstalten). 9. Militäranglegenheiten (Einquartirung, Militärstiftungen). <p>Außerdem kann der Landesauschuss das statistische Landesamt auch mit anderen statistischen</p>

³⁰ The negotiating memorandum drafted at the 21st meeting of the IInd Annual Meeting of the Bohemian Kingdom from the year 1895, p. 33.

4 LAND STATISTICAL OFFICE IN BOHEMIA 1898–1918

The Land Statistical Bureau started operations at the beginning of the year 1898 under the proved supervision of head knight Kořistka and secretary JUDr. Bernat. The main focus of the work was agricultural statistics (including a brief analysis of meteorological observations in the reference year). Detailed analysis of election results in the Landtag (1895 and 1901) was added, the same as the overviews of land finances, education etc. Starting with the year 1899 the Statistical Bureau annually published in Czech and German the *Zprávy Zemského statistického úřadu království Českého* (News of the Land Statistical Office of Bohemian Kingdom; usually one volume in two issues).

Figure 7 Dobroslav Krejčí (in 20s)³¹



In the following years, the management of the statistical chair changed. At the end of the year 1904 J. Bernat died after a long sickness and one year later also the head K. Kořistka (80 years old at that time). The management of the Bureau was taken over by D. Krejčí, newly were accepted new officials dealing with conceptual matters JUDr. Karel Engliš (1880–1961, in LSO 1904–1908), JUDr. Vilibald Mildschuh (1878–1939, in LSO 1904–1917) and JUDr. Jan Auerhan (1880–1942, in LSO 1906–1919).

It is worth mentioning that there was no statistical study at that time in the monarchy. Universal qualifications for such officials in various state and provincial offices was graduation from the law faculty. Statistics was a marginal subject and had the reputation of a very boring discipline, the lectures rather avoided listeners, the methods of statistical work were not lectured.³² The above-mentioned persons entered the LSO practically with zero knowledge of statistical work. Theoretical knowledge was complemented by an individual study of literature, especially in German.

D. Krejčí after joining the LSO passed the internship from the Central Statistical Commission in Vienna (Inama-Sternegg was still the head) and at the Land Statistical Office in Styria Graz, (led by Prof. Mischler).³³

In the following years, the number of the staff of the statistical Bureau continued to increase – to 29 in 1909 and 37 at the time of the greatest development before World War I. Mainly as a result of national disputes in Bohemia, also the problems grown in the last ten years before the outbreak of the war. The personality of the knight Kořistka, an emeritus professor of the German Technical University, was acceptable to both nationalities, while the Czech patriot D. Krejčí not. No compromise was reached – the place of the head of the Statistical Bureau remained permanently vacant, and Krejčí managed the office as the deputy head and secretary. Many German districts and municipalities have explicitly refused to provide data until the German was promoted as a head (the reporting duty here, as already mentioned, did not exist). National disputed and obstructions blocked for a long time also the Landtag, and since

³¹ Weyr (1937, p. 1).

³² Lecturers who did not have statistics as major specialization usually read out various aggregate data, particularly about the population and economy in the monarchy and abroad.

³³ Prague native Ernst Mischler (1857–1912), son of prof. Peter Mischler, referred in § 2, studied law in Prague and later lectured here. From 1911 to 1912 he was then the President of the Central Statistical Commission in Vienna.

1913 not meeting of the Land Statistical Commission had been held. Krejčí himself did not contribute to the moderation of national disputes, as he promoted conceptual officials, persons of indisputable qualification and perspective, but only of Czech nationality. Newly it was: JUDr. Josef Mráz (1882–1934, in LSO 1909–1919) and JUDr. František Weyr (1879–1951, in LSO 1909–1912), the only exception was Wilhelm Winkler (1884–1984, in LSO 1909–1914).

In 1905, the Land Statistical Bureau moved from the seat of the Agricultural Council to Malá Strana (Lesser Town) to the rent house on Dražický Sq. No 10/65. In 1912 it rented the premises in the new building in Šeříková Street No. 4/618 (Malá Strana).

The Land Statistical Bureau at that time showed ever more extensive activity, publishing included. Each year, several, often very large workbooks appeared in both language versions: *Zprávy Zemského statistického úřadu* (News of Land Statistical Office). Processing of agricultural statistics was taken by D. Krejčí and W. Winkler after Kořistka. J. Auerhan was specialized particularly in statistics of the inhabitants and self-government in land, K. Engliš focused mainly on education and social care, V. Mildschuh and J. Mráz on economic and financial statistics etc.

Two issues were of utmost importance: *Statistická příručka království Českého* (Statistical handbooks of Bohemian Kingdom) (1909 – 499 p.; 1913 – 540 p.), publishing in hundreds of tables various available data on Bohemia, for comparison often with similar data from Moravia, Silesia and the entire Austrian part of the monarchy. In many cases, comparable older data were also published.

Land Statistical Bureau continued its activities to a somewhat limited extent during the World War I., as the Vienna authorities were particularly interested in statistics on agriculture and food production. These data in a small number were also published in the printed *Zprávy* (Reports), the last editions were issued only after 1918, when the Land Statistical Bureau was taken over by the new State Statistical Office.

5 LAND STATISTICS IN MORAVIA AND SILESIA

Let's look briefly at the statistical service of the Land Self-Government in Moravia, which existed for only 15 years and its activity was weaker. Agricultural statistics in Moravia in 19th century was made by historical–statistical section of Economic society, the agricultural council was only established here only in the year 1897. It took over the harvest statistics, which received a flat-rate contribution from the Viennese Department of Agriculture. At that time, the issue of establishment of the Land Statistical Office was discussed and the Landtag initiated a meeting in Vienna on the unification of the autonomous statistical service methodology in individual countries (Conference on Land Statistics – see above).

Representatives of the Provincial Committee visited in the years 1897–1898 the Land Statistical Offices in Styria and in Bohemia and after further negotiations the Landtag decided to establish the Statistical Office of the Moravian Margraviate on 24th March 1899.³⁴ The announcement was sent on 4th May 1899 to the representatives of all municipalities in the country with the bilingual list of the High Representative of the Land Self-government, by the Landeshauptmann earl Vetter z Lilie (see Figure 8).³⁵

The Office started its activity on 16th April 1899. The Provincial Committee appointed Albert Bervid, who has already been involved in the preparation for the establishment of the LSO in previous years. The initial status of four officials increased gradually in the following years, with a maximum of 10. The Office moved several times to various buildings around the Chamber of Deputies in Joštova street (the Constitutional Court is housed here today). LSO eventually released only three statistical publications – bilingual on credit institutions in Moravia (1902) and two large-format publications on election results in year 1906 – in Czech on the election of Czech deputies and in German on the election of German deputies (1907). Other publishing plans have failed due to a lack of finance and qualified staff.

³⁴ The usually stated year 1893 is wrong – see Podzimek (1974, p. 53) and elsewhere.

³⁵ See Závodský (2004), where are also citations from the Moravian Regional archives.

Figure 8 Announcement to the Moravian municipalities about the origin of Land Statistical Office and on the obligations of municipalities towards to it³⁶

Mährischer Landesauschuss.

Moravský výbor zemský.

B. 25446 ai 1899.

Čís. 25446 r. 1899.

An die Gemeindevorstände der sämtlichen Gemeinden in Mähren und in den mähr. Enclaven in Schlesien.

Představenstvům veškerých obcí na Moravě a v mor. obvodech ve Slezsku.

Folgende Beschlusses des mähr. Landtages vom 24. März 1899 wurde behufs systematischer Führung der Landesstatistik ein eigenes Amt in Brünn unter dem Titel „Statistisches Landesamt der Markgrafschaft Mähren“ errichtet. Die Aufgabe dieses Amtes ergibt sich:

1. aus der Sammlung und Verarbeitung landesstatistischer Daten in dem Umfange und nach der Methode, wie diese durch die Beschlüsse der Wiener Konferenzen für Landesstatistik jeweilig festgestellt werden;

2. aus besonderen Aufträgen des m. Landesauschusses, und

3. aus dem Umkreise der sich durch die sonstigen, in den Tabellen der Wiener Konferenzen nicht inbegriffenen Landesangelegenheiten bestimmenden „Landesstatistik“.

Die Erhebungen und Arbeiten des statistischen Landesamtes werden zum großen Theile verschiedene Gemeindeangelegenheiten zum Gegenstande haben (z. B. Armenwesen, Sanitätspflege, Humanitätsanstalten, Stiftungen, Schulen, Gemeindefinanzen u. s. w.) und es werden bezüglich eines jeden in die Erhebung einbezogenen Gegenstandes besondere Fragebögen seitens des statistischen Landesamtes versendet werden.

Hievon werden die Gemeindevorstände aller Gemeinden Mährens und der mähr. Enclavgemeinden Schlesiens mit dem Auftrage verständigt, die ihnen seitens des statistischen Landesamtes von Fall zu Fall zugesendeten Fragebögen stets gewissenhaft auszufüllen und so rasch als möglich abzuliefern.

Brünn, am 4. Mai 1899.

Der Landeshauptmann:

Felix Graf Vetter von der Lilie.

Následkem usnesení sněmu markrabství Moravského ze dne 24. března 1899 zřízen byl v Brně pro soustavné vedení zemské statistiky vlastní úřad s titulem „Statistický zemský úřad markrabství Moravského“. Úloha tohoto úřadu záleží:

1. ze sbírání a zpracování zemských statistických dat v tom rozsahu a dle té metody, jak to usneseními vídeňských konferencí pro zemskou statistiku obecně bude určováno;

2. ze zvláštních, na rozkaz zemského výboru konaných šetření;

3. z oboru „zemské statistiky“, vyplývající z ostatních záležitostí, jež nejsou v tabelách vídeňských konferencí obsaženy.

Vyšetřování a práce statistického zemského úřadu budou se z velké části vztahovali také na záležitosti obecní (ku př. chudinství, zdravotnictví, humanitní ústavy, nadace, školy, obecní finance atd.) a budou statistickým zemským úřadem v přičině každého předmětu, o němž vyšetřování konali se bude, dodány obecnímu představenstvu zvláštní dotazníky.

O tom dává se obecním představenstvům všech obcí na Moravě a v obvodech obcí Slezska vědět a nařizuje se, aby dotazníky, které od případu k případu statistickým zemským úřadem jim budou dodány, vždy svědomitě vyplněny a co nejdříve odeslány byly.

V Brně, dne 4. května 1899.

Zemský hejtmán:

Felix hrabě Vetter z Lilie.

Hope to improve the state of affairs emerged after the election to the Landtag in June 1913. One of the new deputies was JUDr. Karel Engliš (1880–1961), at that time an extraordinary professor of the national economy and statistics at the Czech Technical University in Brno. On 3rd February 1914 Engliš

³⁶ *Moravský zemský archiv* (Moravian Regional archive), carton 178.

passed with the other deputies to the Landtag a draft of statistical law for Moravia. It established (for the first time in the territory of the Czech Lands) a general reporting obligation for all investigations ordered or approved by the Provincial Committee. This obligation applied to municipalities and District Road Committees.³⁷ Engliš's proposal was approved with a slight change both by the Landtag and by the emperor. It was published in the land code on 18th December. However, the practical consequences of this law were none, because at the same time with the outbreak of the World War, the Landtag and Land Statistical Office were closed. Another Engliš's proposal on issuing new LSO statute could not have been discussed.

Even the smallest of the countries of Cisleithania – Silesia has established its own statistical service. The first proposal in this regard came from the Member of the Landtag, Baron Spens von Boden, who already in 1887 proposed the establishment of the Land Statistical Service and the annual publication of the land statistical yearbook. The Landtag approved this proposal in principle, but for many years there was discussion about the legal and organizational classification of the Land Statistical Service, its relation to the Vienna Central Statistical Commission, etc. As mentioned above, the initiative of the Silesian and Moravian Landtag of January 1894 led to the Conference on Land Statistics.

Establishment of the Land Statistical Service (Landesstatistischer Dienst) in Opava was approved by Landtag on 26th January 1898 and this service started on 1st May that year. From the beginning it was headed by Dr. Karl Berthold (has been formally appointed by the Provincial Committee on 6th February 1900). Initially, the office had only two workers, later one more was accepted. On 20th February 1907, its office became an independent part of the Provincial Office as the Land Statistical Office (Landesstatistisches Amt).³⁸

The Office had been carrying out various surveys since 1898, both according to the recommendations of the Conference on Land Statistics and on the instructions of the Provincial Committee. It was also preparing the publication of the Silesian statistical handbook, which began to be published in 1899 – until 1905 every year, then only irregularly. In total, 10 volumes were published (the last one after the formation of Czechoslovakia in 1919) under the name *Statistisches Handbuch für die Selbstverwaltung in Schlesien*. All publications of Silesian statistics were published in German only up to year 1918.

The small Silesian statistical office continued its work after the birth of Czechoslovakia, cooperating on statistical data for negotiations on the new border also with Poland (division of Teschen land). It published two more extensive works on the population of Silesia on the basis of the Population Census of 1921 and on the development and up-to-date status of education in Silesia. When it turned out that the new Czechoslovak statistical office did not count with any out-of-Prague branches, the Land Statistical Office of Silesia was closed down in June 1925. K. Berthold was then an active member of the State Statistical Council and Czechoslovakian statistical society.

CONCLUSION

In Bohemia, the Land Statistical Office existed for 21 years. The activities of its Statistical Bureau were limited by competencies, allocated funds and difficulties due to the national disputes. Nevertheless, this activity can be considered as successful.

The Land Statistical Office under the leadership of K. Kořistka and mainly of D. Krejčí elaborated a number of proper statistical analyses, and published, in addition to a long series of (often very extensive) workbooks *Zprávy (Reports)*, also two issues of *Statistická příručka království Českého (Statistical handbook*

³⁷ Unlike in Bohemia, in Moravia the autonomous authorities at the district level did not exist. There were only district road committees, organizing only the construction and management of district roads.

³⁸ See Závodský (2004, pp. 298–299).

of the Kingdom of Bohemia). Future university professors (K. Engliš, V. Mildschuh, F. Weyr and W. Winkler) as well as representatives of the Czechoslovak State Statistics (F. Weyr, J. Auerhan and Josef Mráz) went through the statistical practice here.

Czech statisticians in January 2019 will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the State Statistical Office of the new Czechoslovak Republic by the law, which was prepared by D. Krejčí and K. Engliš. The Land Statistical Office in Prague, with a number of experienced staff (including facilities and library), has become the basis for building a new office, whose direct successor is today's Czech Statistical Office. We are planning another historic treatise on that anniversary.

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Zprávy výboru pro statistiku polního a lesního hospodářství v království Českém za rok ... (1874–1891).

Zprávy statistické kanceláře zemědělské rady pro království České za léta... (1893–1897).

Zprávy Zemského statistického úřadu království Českého, sv. I–XXVI (1899–1923).

³⁹ Beginning with the *Report of 1867*, all volumes were published in Czech and German versions.