



ČESKÁ CENTRA
CZECH CENTRES

Czech Culture Worldwide



Looking Back at the Czech Presidency
of the Council of the European Union 2022

CZECH CENTRES

CZ PRES

CZECH PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE CZECH CENTRES WORLDWIDE

Welcome to the latest issue of the Czech Centres' Newsletter! This time we take a look back at the past six months which were devoted to the Czech EU Presidency (CZ PRES). To mark the occasion, the Czech Centres have launched a wide range of projects and events. Under the **Visions for Europe** motto, the members of our worldwide network introduced **10 major projects** that formed the backbone of the past season's exciting programme.

One of the most popular projects was a series of international conferences **The Václav Havel European Dialogues**. The Czech Centres also worked with **The Artmat**, an established Czech project presenting contemporary Czech art, to launch a special sustainability-focused edition. Our two projects promoting the Sustainable Development Goals – **The Future Lab** and the **SDGs: Innovations for a Sustainable Future** exhibition – were also a great success.

The European Literature Night, which we brought outside Europe, too – to Israel, Egypt and the US – attracted a lot of international attention. We also introduced Czech visual artists in the public space worldwide via the **Street Meets (Mural) Art** project. **The Europe I Want to Live in: Europe 2050** art competition asked the young generation what they would like Europe to look like in thirty years. We also showcased the incredible skills of Czech glassmakers in the **CZECH IN** exhibition. Last but not least, we encouraged people to put on their running and walking shoes and start **Moving Towards the Future** with us.

There were, of course, far more events, exhibitions, readings and debates and you can learn all about them in our **articles and interviews with the Directors of the Czech Centres**. How will they remember the Czech EU Presidency? Which moments would they like to revisit? What did the CZ PRES mean to them personally?

The Czech Centres Team

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JAN LIPAVSKÝ
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Dear Friends,

The last half year was marked by the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU which we assumed for the second time in history after thirteen years. I am proud of how much work we have done and how much we have contributed to the strong and united position of the EU in the world. I consider cultural diplomacy to be an integral and significant part of our international presentation. During the Presidency, cultural diplomacy was even more important.

The network of the Czech Centres presented 10 projects that resonated very well in Europe as well as overseas. In terms of content, they were based on three main pillars: “Art and Creativity”, “Science, Technology, Innovation”, “Sustainable Development and Human Rights”. I consider all of these areas to be highly topical. I would like to emphasize that our focus on values concerning the environment and fundamental human rights and freedoms is absolutely crucial for the general functioning of society. It was my great pleasure to participate in an international debate in Brussels entitled “The Václav Havel European Dialogues” organized by the Václav Havel Library together with the Czech Centres in European as well as non-European cities. Being one of the participants, I had the opportunity to join the “Visions for Europe” project, an electronic platform through which dozens of Czech as well as international personalities shared their visions of the future Europe.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues from the entire Czech Centres network for their active, outstanding and visible involvement in the presentation of our country at home and abroad. At the same time, I appreciate the cooperation with our diplomatic missions in the world and last but not least, I would like to thank our partners and institutions who were instrumental in the delivery of the attractive programme.

All the best for the next year!

OPENING
WORD



Street Meets (Mural) Art / Nikola Logosová © Czech Centre Athens

LUCIE KULIGOVÁ DIRECTOR

During the Presidency, the Czech Centre Athens presented Czechia throughout Greece. We covered a wide range of thematic areas and are one of the most active cultural institutes in Greece. We participated in several major festivals, organized a number of interesting events and visited various cities and Greek islands. In all of these locations, Czechia was presented as a modern, dynamic and innovative country which prides itself on its traditions and is always open to international cooperation.

HOW DID YOU START THE CZECH PRESIDENCY IN ATHENS?

We had the honour to open a significant organ music festival on Syros Island with a concert consisting exclusively of works by Czech composers. The concert was a phenomenal success.

BUT THAT IS NOT EVERYTHING, IS IT?

Not at all! The Czech Centres also presented other projects in Greece on the occasion of the Czech Presidency. I would like to mention at least two of them: the “SDGs: Innovations for a Sustainable Future” exhibition at the Greek Science Festival and the “Street Meets (Mural) Art” project – young Czech artists created two amazing murals in the Athens City Park.

WHICH TOPICS RESONATED MOST?

Regarding the fact that Czechia focuses on human rights, we presented documentaries made by students of the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. It is a huge success that we were able to present this topic to the Greek audience. Their response was incredibly positive. However, other events should also be mentioned: “Czech Graphic Arts” was admired by the Greek audience at an exhibition organized by the Hollar Association, outstanding Czech poets represented three generations of poetry at the International Poetry Festival, in the Museum of Greek Folk Art an exhibition about the Czech blueprint tradition was opened, Václav Havel’s bench played a major role in several cultural events and became a popular place in the centre of Athens.

HOW WOULD YOU ASSESS THE PAST SIX MONTHS?

These were an intense six months that we will never forget. I believe that we made an indelible mark and showed that our small country is a strong partner and an important place in the centre of Europe that has a lot to offer and can be a model in many respects.

ATHENS

JIŘÍ ROSENKRANZ DIRECTOR

The Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU was received positively in Germany. The beginning was defined by the effort to maintain the unity of the EU to ensure joint support for Ukraine. Both the media and the general public often assessed the position of Czechia. The programme of the Czech Centre Berlin attracted the attention of many and resonated very well in the context of the Presidency. According to *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, Czechia got rid of the label of a member of the “Constant Opponents Club” and improved its image in Germany.

BERLIN STARTED THE PRESIDENCY WITH MUSIC.

Yes, together with the Diplomatic Mission, we organized an opening concert of the works by the Czech composer Miloslav Kabeláč while other events followed. In August, we held an Open Day and presented the “Europe as a Task” exhibition in the premises of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

WHICH OF THE PRESIDENCY PROJECTS DO YOU THINK WAS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL?

Surely the architecture exhibition “Raumschiff Enterprise” dedicated to the famous brutalist building of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Berlin designed by the architects Vladimír and Věra Machonin. As part of the accompanying programme, a series of tours of the representative premises of the Embassy was organized. At the end of September, we were the partner (and the host venue) of the 5th year of the prestigious architecture conference “Triennale der Moderne”.

DURING THE PREVIOUS PERIOD YOU HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET A NUMBER OF PERSONALITIES. WHO WAS THE MOST APPEALING?

Šimon Pánek. The humility and yet the great effort and energy with which he and his team help suffering people not only in Ukraine has left a deep impression upon me. Together with the non-profit organization People in Need, we organized the exhibition “When War Comes Home”.

IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT DID THE GERMANS THINK ABOUT THE CZECH PRESIDENCY?

During the Presidency, we held discussions and a larger conference focused on Czech-German relations. After many years, a positive transformation was visible in the perception of Czechia which also means that we have become more predictable for the German society.



BERLIN



Bratislava Design Week / "CZECH IN" exhibition © Peter Korček

MONIKA KOBLEROVÁ DIRECTOR OF THE CZECH CENTRE AND CZECH HOUSE

The period of the Czech Presidency was quite intensive for the Czech Centre Bratislava. It was filled with a rich programme across genres, not only in Bratislava but also in other parts of Slovakia. The network projects, cultural events linked with the Czech House and individual programmes resonated in the public and in the Slovak media. We managed to connect the Czech Presidency with presiding over the local EUNIC cluster (European Union National Institutes for Culture) which was positively reflected in an international context.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE CZECH PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EU?

The Czech Presidency was very successful, it significantly strengthened the credit of Czechia in the world. In the area of cultural diplomacy, we were prepared as an organization with network projects and a well-thought-out programme that involved activities of the Czech Centre Bratislava all over Slovakia.

THE PROGRAMME WAS APPARENTLY FULL OF EVENTS.

Yes, it was a very intensive programme. We approached a wide Slovak audience, touched most genres and participated in major cultural festivals. The "White Night" festival presented an exhibition of the works by Benedikt Tolar

and welcomed over 3,000 spectators over one weekend. "Europe 2050", sports exhibitions and projects for the anniversary of Emil Zátopek, "The Literature Night", all of this took place under our leadership. At the "Month of Photography" festival we presented the works by Antonín Kratochvíl "Eyes to Eyes", at the Bibliotheca festival we presented the "SDGs: Innovations for a Sustainable Future" exhibition. We became the general partner of the Bratislava Design Week which began with the exhibitions "CZECH IN" and "Narcis" by Jakub Berdych in the Czech House Bratislava and "The Future Lab" in the Mirbach Palace. I am delighted with the EU project for Ukrainian female artists "Freedom Through the Eyes of Artists". We initiated the project and received an EU grant. Eventually, we collected more than 80 unique graphic works on the theme of "Freedom".

WERE THE PROGRAMMES DELIVERED IN OTHER REGIONS?

The programmes were spread throughout Slovakia in cooperation with a number of partners. In Košice, for example, we participated in a project called the "Month of Czech Culture". „The Literature Night“ took place in 18 cities.

BRAATISLAVA



Imagine me © Marcela Juříčková

JITKA PÁNEK JURKOVÁ DIRECTOR

The Czech Centre Brussels was at the forefront of attention as the local institutions and the public watch how different countries present themselves outside meeting rooms. The cultural programme is understood as an advert of each presiding country and as something that complements the flow of information when it comes to political negotiations. The Czech Centre Brussels presented the Czech art scene as an important stream of European creativity and we succeeded. The Czech cultural programme in Brussels made its mark and became competitive among other large European countries. Watch the [video!](#)

THE PROGRAMME WAS RICH.

We prepared a programme for diplomats and the public. I was delighted with Focus on Czechia in BOZAR. In this prestigious gallery, we presented Czechia in an exhaustive way, including visual arts, contemporary jazz and the Czech contribution of artificial intelligence.

THE FILM ZÁTOPEK RECEIVED A STANDING OVATION.

Not only that. Emil Zátopek broke the 10 km world record and has thousands of fans here. We organized the Opening Presidency Run for the general public in July during which our Permanent Representative to the EU Edita Hrdá took over the Presidency from France.

THE SCHUMAN DISTRICT WAS ALSO VERY LIVELY.

In the summer, a lot of flags flew here made by artists who paraphrased the Czech or European flags. The somewhat tedious neighbourhood of Brussels was suddenly full of movement, colours and varied aesthetics. The flags were created by Lucie Jindrák Skřivánková, the graphic artist Aleš Najbrt and to other foreign stars, such as Adrian Paci.

WAS UKRAINE INCLUDED?

Yes. Ukraine was the key issue of the Czech Presidency on a political level. I saw the symbolic space we had available as our responsibility in this area.

THE PROGRAMME OF CCB WAS HIGHLY APPRECIATED.

It was a great honour to be part of it. The implementation of such an extensive programme was possible only thanks to our partners – Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Brussels, Representation of the Capital City of Prague, South Moravian Region, Pilsen Region and the Czech Liaison Office for Education and Research.

BRUSSELS

ROBIN UJFALUŠI DIRECTOR

The Czech Centre Bucharest introduced new themes and formats with a strong emphasis on young audiences and local partners.

“The Václav Havel European Dialogues” linked 6 local universities to discuss the current social challenges; “The Europe I Want to Live in: Europe 2050” worked with secondary school teams on their visions of Europe. The key creative projects included the presentation of contemporary Czech sustainable design and the thematization of public space – Maria Makeeva made her mural in Sibiu and Osamu Okamura presented his concept “City for Everyone”.

PERHAPS THE CZECH PRESIDENCY HELPED TO IMPROVE ROMANIAN-CZECH RELATIONS...

Exactly. It allowed the introduction of new themes and programming formats in Romania and new partnerships were established. One of the projects was the “The Václav Havel European Dialogues” which was aimed at undergraduate students and involved six universities across Romania. Another successful project was “The Europe I Want to Live in: Europe 2050”. Romanian secondary school students reflected on how they imagined Europe in 30 years. Thanks to our partnership with the Representation of the European Commission and the local educational organization Bloc Zero, students were offered high-quality training for the preparation of audio-visual materials.

HOW DID YOU REFLECT ON UKRAINE?

Wherever it was possible during the year, we included a Ukrainian element in our plans – whether it be film and documentary screenings, fund-raising or the voices of Ukrainian poets on the occasion of the International Day of Human Rights.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE GREATEST SUCCESS OF THE CZECH CENTRE BUCHAREST IN THIS PERIOD?

I think it is the way and extent to which we interactively involved the young generation in our projects – in the case of the “Europe 2050” project, a total of 10 secondary school teams from all over Romania were involved.

THE PRESIDENCY IS OVER BUT THE LIFE OF THE CENTRE CONTINUES. WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS?

There are many of them. For example, we have focused on film projects and the public space for a long time. However, now we are considering which Presidency projects should be maintained for the upcoming year.



The Future Lab / Opening of the exhibition with the curator Veronika Pařízková © Vladu Dinu

BUCHAREST

ADÉLA GÁLOVÁ DIRECTOR

During the six months of the Presidency, the Czech Centre Budapest became visible in Budapest as well as other regions thanks to a wide range of cultural events from all areas, including literature, visual arts and language education. One of the areas was sport; yoga sessions were held for a month in the centre of Budapest on Margaret Island. A significant event was a conference dedicated to Václav Havel's legacy and in the context of the current international events, attention was on Ukraine.

In Hungary, the Czech Presidency started with a concert of the mixed children's choir Mendík organized in cooperation with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Budapest. In the following days, various events were held including a presentation of Czech design, a separate exhibition of the works of the glassmaker Lukáš Jabůrek and a joint concert of Czech and Hungarian jazz musicians. However, this was by far not the end of the programme. During the holidays, we travelled to Lake Balaton with a mural made by a young illustrator Jakub Bachorík which in a humorous way reflects the link between Czechia and Hungary using well-known cultural icons.

In the summer, the general Hungarian public had the opportunity to join our free outdoor yoga sessions which became extremely popular. The Hungarians also appreciated "The Future Lab" exhibition focused on sustainable design. The event was held in Deák Square in the centre of Budapest.

In the autumn, we organized a concert by the legendary group Plastic People of the Universe at the Central European University which took place on the occasion of "The Václav Havel European Dialogues" conference. Large-format photographs of destroyed Ukrainian monuments were installed in one of the central squares to draw attention to the devastating horrors of the war. In addition, we organized a public collection to help the victims from war-torn Ukraine. I am pleased



Moving Towards the Future / outdoor yoga session © Czech Centre Budapest

that our Ukrainian colleagues joined the EUNIC cluster as these activities helped highlight the topic of Ukraine. Moreover, we created an original format of an online war poetry series written by Ukrainian authors living in Czechia.

BUDAPEST



The Literature Night in Cairo © Magdalena Dubnová

TEREZA SVÁŠKOVÁ DIRECTOR

The Czech Centre Cairo contributed to the Czech Presidency with several events, always in close cooperation with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Cairo. The Cairo Opera House hosted a concert of Czech and European classical music performed by Marek Švejkar and Lenka Korecká. The conductor Nayer Nagui joined the project “Visions for Europe”. “The Literature Night” in the Cairo district of Dokki was a great success. A great number of students found their way to “The Václav Havel European Dialogues” as well as the screening of the document “Citizen Havel”.

The programme presented as part of the Czech Presidency was varied in terms of genres and attracted both the diplomatic and academic community as well as the general public. For example, the programme included musical performances, film screenings, a scientific conference and public readings of literary works.

Cairo is a metropolis with a great demand for cultural events, including Czech ones. The response so far has been positive and makes me feel optimistic. I look forward to promoting Czech culture also outside the capital. In November, a very successful event was “The Literature Night” which involved a higher number of reading locations. The greatest challenge was the logistics. Finally, thanks to our great partners, we managed to place all readings at a pleasant distance which was greatly appreciated by the audience. Most visitors even attended all of the three reading venues. The Czech novel “Deathmaiden” by Lucie Faulerová received a strong response despite its difficult central theme. Another success was the Václav Havel conference “The Power of Dialogue” at Ain Shams University attracting vast numbers of students and the exhibition focused on the fascinating journey of Czech Egyptology. The exhibition is still in place behind the walls of the Czech Embassy and passers-by often stop and some of them take photos of themselves with some of the panels. I cannot imagine a better interaction with Czech culture.

CAIRO

ROBERT MIKOLÁŠ DIRECTOR

The Czech Centre Tel Aviv and the Czech House Jerusalem contributed significantly to the successful presentation of Czechia in Israel, one of the non-European countries. We started with an exhibition on the history of our country from the Velvet Revolution to the present, at which the EU flag was symbolically handed over by the French Ambassador to the Czech Ambassador to Israel Martin Stropnický. This was followed by a rich six-month programme with a grand finale – „The European Literature Night“.

THE ISRAELIS – ARE THEY A DEMANDING AUDIENCE?

Very much indeed. You need to catch their attention as much as possible and because life in Tel Aviv also takes place on the beach, we started right there. An impressive show by Matěj Kodeš, a concert by TAM TAM BATUCADA at sunset above the Mediterranean Sea and their grand finale with Israeli drummers made the beach dance.

THIS IS THE SEASIDE. WHAT ABOUT THE CITY?

In the very city centre, we presented photographs documenting the journey of Czechia from 1989 to the present. They included the pictures of the Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala visiting Kyiv and his meeting with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

WHICH EVENTS WOULD YOU POINT OUT?

Certainly, the “Water and Civilization” exhibition under the curatorship of Miroslav Bárta as well as the events prepared in cooperation with the Hradec Králové and Pardubice Regions, including an exhibition of photographs documenting the saving of Jewish monuments in Eastern Bohemia and a performance of Drak Theatre in Jerusalem. And eventually “The European Literature Night”.

THIS WAS ALSO POPULAR BACK HOME...

It was truly a megaproject that we started within the EUNIC at the beginning of 2022. A year before that, we organized the first ever and very successful “Czech Literature Night”. We also thought that the Czech

Presidency of the Council of the EU gave us a chance to start the tradition of “The European Literature Nights”.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

To present contemporary European literature. We are Europeans, let’s bring a European project to Israel. At that time, we didn’t know that we would attract a total of 13 European countries.

WHAT DO YOU PERSONALLY APPRECIATE?

That Czechia was seen and heard in Israel. And that the events included Israeli people and the logo of the Czech Presidency was seen in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa. We have a solid base to build on in the years to come.



Opening of CZ PRES on Jerusalem Beach © Dana Keren

JERUSALEM & TEL AVIV

RADKA RUBILINA DIRECTOR

The plans for the Presidency changed overnight as a result of the war but the Czech Centre Kyiv did not stop its activities. First of all, we focused on concrete help to our colleagues and their families, partner institutions as well as artists in Kyiv. The new programmes dedicated to the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU that accentuated the need for peace and coexistence on a specific and symbolic levels could be launched later in September but these programmes gained an urgent, deep and human dimension in the context of the Russian aggression in Ukraine.

It was not an easy year at all. In the Czech Centre Kyiv, we went through moments of fear paralysis. We became a spot on the map that would or would not be hit by a missile. The preparation for the Presidency projects began a year and a half in advance but everything was smashed by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. We completely changed our programme activities. Until the summer, we focused on residential projects of Ukrainian partners and artists in Czechia while in September we began to launch projects directly in Ukraine. Several concerts of classical music were held in eastern Ukrainian cities, including musicians from local philharmonic orchestras and a Ukrainian conductor. We completed a large project “The Czech Footprints in Zakarpattia” mapping the Czech architectural heritage in Ukraine. The audio guide was recorded in a basement shelter during an emergency warning with candlelight.

In September, the “Berehynia” statue by the resident of the Czech Centre Kyiv Anna Naduda was installed in Prague. Anna began to create this strong symbol immediately after the war had begun. Deep in my soul, I see her work as a victory of hope and diligence over adversity. Anna’s energy is strong and positive, her strength is seen in the woman-tree statue with two children high in the crown. Although she is hurt by blows to the trunk and branches, she will not let her children go and the wounds cannot take her out of balance. She is powerful, strong and good. She is the protector – “Berehynia”.



“Berehynia” sculpture by Anna Naduda in Holešovice Market Hall © Anastasiia Artemyak

KYIV



Royal Philharmonic Orchestra / Cadogan Hall © Czech Centre London

PŘEMYSL PELA DIRECTOR

As a result of BREXIT, the presentation of the Czech Centre London focused on common European issues, the security and humanitarian situation in Ukraine and also emphasized the development of mutual cultural relations and cooperation. The flagship project was the multi-genre cultural festival “Made in Prague” which in cooperation with prestigious local institutions presented to more than 15,000 visitors musical, film, literary and artistic events and as a novelty, activities in the area of innovation, science and sustainability.

Despite the differences in opinions on BREXIT, the desire of the British people to be an existential part of the European cultural space is indisputable. The Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU provided the Czech Centre London with the opportunity to present our culture in the European context, often in cooperation with representatives of the British cultural, scientific and sports scene.

The Czech Presidency started with an exhibition project of the artists Böhm and Franta presented at the festivals KCAW (Kensington/Chelsea Art Week) and LFA (London Festival of Architecture) and continued on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Emil Zátopek with the establishment of a new tradition of a charity run bearing Zátopek's name.

An important achievement was the establishment of the first international Zátopek scholarship which in cooperation with one of the oldest English athletic clubs TVH (Thames Valley Harriers) promotes sports activities of young people. The area of human rights with a reference to Václav Havel and the war in Ukraine was addressed by symposia at universities in London and Cardiff. The areas of innovation and sustainability were addressed by projects in the Royal Institution, the European House of the EU Delegation and in the European Parliament where the interactive exhibition “SDGs: Innovations for a Sustainable Future” was presented.

The highlight was the multi-genre festival “Made in Prague” which was opened with a gala concert of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. In cooperation with important partners, such as TATE, Science Museum, Cadogan Hall, Royal Institution, RichMix and Prince Charles Cinema, thirty more events were presented. The finale took place on the banks of the Thames in the BFI Southbank where the film “Eroticon” was screened.

LONDON



Interviews with the Monster by the artist Eva Kořátková © Czech Centre Madrid

JANA POLÍVKOVÁ DIRECTOR

In Spain, the EU is received very well by the general public as well as the political representation. The need for a united Europe was further increased by the war in Ukraine. The projects carried out by the Czech Centre Madrid during the Czech Presidency included more European topics, such as involvement of schools in an arts project or a conference on European energy independence. However, the offer also included projects showing that Czechia is a world model in the glass craft and that contemporary art has something to offer.

HOW DID YOU OPEN THE CZECH PRESIDENCY IN THE CZECH CENTRE MADRID?

The Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU was opened in cooperation with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Madrid with the exhibition "Interviews with the Monster" by the artist Eva Kořátková in La Casa Encendida and the following day with the exhibition in the Royal Glass Factory of La Granja "CZECH IN" on innovations that Czechia brought to the world of glass production.

WHICH SPANISH PERSONALITY DID YOU MEET DURING THE COURSE OF THE PROGRAMME AND HOW DID THE PERSONALITY ENRICH YOU?

There were many of them but I would certainly like to mention one specific personality. An energetic woman, Ana Palacio, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Member of the European Parliament who was politically active during the era of Václav Havel and Madeleine Albright. She participated in "The Václav Havel European Dialogues" where she had a very interesting talk about contemporary Europe.

WHICH ACTIVITIES DO YOU CONSIDER THE MOST IMPORTANT?

In addition to the above projects, we initiated negotiations on exchange residential visits of artists between MeetFactory and Matadero Madrid, we started on-line courses of the Czech language and carried out activities after the beginning of the war in Ukraine that had not been planned but eventually showed how important freedom and solidarity were for our country.

WILL THE PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES FROM THE PRESIDENCY PERIOD CONTINUE IN 2023?

We are trying to make sure that our projects continue to develop. Thanks to the "The Europe I Want to Live in: Europe 2050" project, we established cooperation with schools. The mural by Přemysl Černý helped reestablish cooperation with the Casarrubuelos Municipality where the work was created.

FINALLY, WHAT SURPRISED YOU MOST?

The way the events of the last year brought us together.

MADRID

SIMONA CALBOLI DIRECTOR

The Czech Centre Milan organized cultural events and an accompanying programme to leave a Czech footprint in the north of Italy which would be visible not only during the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU but also after its completion. A total of six projects were implemented, one of them directly at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission in Ispra. Music, street art and workshops provided space for an open discussion about current European topics.



Street Meets (Mural) Art / David Strauzz © Czech Centre Milan

We approached the preparations for the Czech Presidency projects with respect. We were united by the vision, motivation and pride that our country took over the baton of European leadership at an extremely tense moment. The Presidency itself began with a concert performance by the renowned Czech ensemble “Collegium 1704”. The concert took place in the almost magical atmosphere of the Renaissance Church of Santa Maria della Passione in Milan.

Thanks to the Presidency, however, we started to look at the implementation of our projects from a different perspective. Rather than focusing on traditional projects, we decided on projects using state-of-the-art technology. In this context, I would like to mention the “Street Meets (Mural) Art” project which “breathes” and thus helps the environment. Visitors to Ispra can admire two murals which contain special pigments that convert carbon dioxide into oxygen. The author of these murals is the Czech-Canadian street artist David Strauzz who created the portraits of the writer Karel Čapek and the former Czech President Václav Havel in the Italian Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. Symbolically, both murals were completed on the 28th of October, the day that commemorates the establishment of the independent Czechoslovakia. The letters that appear in the murals are in fact codes. By decoding them you get a quote by Karel Čapek and Václav Havel. Havel’s quote is highly topical today I believe: “Work for something because it is good, not just because it stands a chance to succeed.”

MILAN

BLANKA NÁVRATOVÁ DIRECTOR

After a long time affected by the pandemic restrictions, the events organized by the Czech Centre Munich were a refreshing return to cultural life. The focus was on literary, musical and exhibition projects as well as discussions. The main topics of Czech-German relations in the European context included primarily the war in Ukraine, better knowledge of the neighbouring countries and teaching the Czech language in the Bavarian border regions.

We started the Presidency with the first ever live event of the Munich EUNIC cluster “The Literature Night” entitled “Europe in Original”. The works were read in the original language. Together with the Czech writer Dora Kaprálová and guests invited by four other cultural institutes, the event presented the Ukrainian writer Lyubov Yakimchuk and beginning authors from Munich who applied in an open call.

In September and October, we presented the “Europe as a Task” exhibition at the Academy for Political Education in Tutzing. This venue also hosted a two-day conference on contemporary Czech-German relations in the European context accompanied by a successful exhibition of photographs and ideas of Václav Havel. After all, Havel’s legacy was the starting point of a workshop held within the “The Václav Havel European Dialogues” intended for secondary school students. More than a hundred young people addressed topical issues, including the environment and fake news. The discussion was hosted by a 19-year-old student of political science, climate activist and German UN Youth delegate Joshua Steib, who together with the guests managed to create an impressive and friendly atmosphere in the historic meeting room of the Old Town Hall in Munich. During the debate, the audience asked one question after another. The meeting with Joshua Steib will remain one of the most positive memories of the Presidency events in Munich.



The Václav Havel European Dialogues © Czech Centre Munich

MUNICH

MIROSLAV KONVALINA DIRECTOR

To mark the Czech EU Presidency, the Czech Center New York team organized events that brought European culture to the US and promoted openness to dialogue. We invited prominent personalities to participate in our projects across the US and offered programmes intended for diverse audiences. Highlights included “The European Literature Night”, the international conference “Havel and Our Crisis” and the exhibition “SDGs: Innovations for a Sustainable Future”.

After several covid-impacted years, the US audiences were excited to be able to attend live events and explore Václav Havel’s ideas in new contexts. We welcomed Professor Milan Babík’s idea to organize a Havel-focused conference at Colby College, Maine. Leading experts from the US and Europe, such as Timothy Snyder, Marci Shore, Paul Wilson, Michael Žantovský, Jacques Rupnik and Martin C. Putna, gathered in the auditorium to speak to students and academics.

The main theme of the conference organized in cooperation with the Václav Havel Library was the current crisis of values, freedom, democracy and peace. The speakers focused on various issues that threaten the sustainability of a free civil society, particularly the crisis of language, the crisis of truth and the crisis of kindness, while also seeking answers to existing challenges, such as inequality, injustice, the suppression of civil liberties and the abuse of the democratic order as such.

The Havel conference was followed by “The European Literature Night” in New York. The annual celebration of contemporary European literature, jointly organized by the Czech Center New York and EUNIC New York and this time also by the Ukrainian Institute of America featured 11 European authors. The event offered a series of live readings and discussions with the authors. The main panel discussion “Peace and Literature” was hosted by Andrew Singer from the Trafika Europe Radio.

The third project, the “SDGs: Innovations for a Sustainable Future” exhibition, highlighted the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals as seen by scientists and research institutes and emphasized the role of innovations in creating a sustainable future for us all. We will continue to return to these themes in 2023.



JIŘÍ HNILICA DIRECTOR

The half year of the Presidency gave France the opportunity to highlight the culture of Czechia and its present through the Czech Centre Paris. Thanks to our partnership, we carried out a number of projects covering the areas of film, literature, visual art and music. Moreover, this is not an isolated half year as the joint discussions crystallized into long-term achievements (residential visits) even outside Paris in French regions. The unique opportunity of Czech-French relations has been fully exploited.

DID THE HANDOVER OF THE PRESIDENCY SUPPORT CZECH-FRENCH RELATIONS IN GENERAL?

Yes, for Paris, 2022 can be regarded as a joint French-Czech European cultural project. The handover of the symbolic baton between the two countries initiated a number of bilateral projects in which the Czech Centre Paris was actively involved.

CAN YOU MENTION THE MOST IMPORTANT ONES?

First of all, it is the special year of the MOVE Festival with an emphasis on contemporary and performance art, jointly organized by the National Gallery and Centre Pompidou. Another project was the largest show of silent film by the National Film Archive and Fondation Jérôme Seydoux Pathé.

HOW DID THE PROGRAMME OF THE CZECH CENTRE PARIS DIFFER COMPARED WITH THE PAST?

Especially in the interconnectedness of our programme agenda. In Paris, we emphasized a broad cultural presentation ranging from classical music, jazz and dance to visual art, photography, literature and theatre, including a puppet theatre.

BUT YOU HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN UKRAINE...

Of course not! We offered new premises to Ukrainian artists. But above all, in cooperation with the Beaux Arts School in Paris, we held two major charity auctions where works of art worth more than EUR 30,000 were sold. This is only a drop

in the ocean which shows that muses do not always remain silent in the war.

THE CZECH PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EU IS OVER. IF YOU COULD RETURN TIME AND RELIVE ONE MOMENT, WHICH ONE WOULD IT BE?

The dignity and responsibility with which Czechia assumed its Presidency and maintained it for the six months. Dignity underlined by two concerts of spiritual music in St. Eustache and St. Sulpice churches. This is a feeling I like to return to.



Lukáš Hofmann, Sospiri / MOVE Festival, Centre Pompidou © Hervé Véronèse

PARIS

PETRA BŘEZÁČKOVÁ DIRECTOR

The Czech Centre Rome celebrated important personalities of Czech history and present across various fields, including architecture, literature, theatre, visual art and science. Events were held not only in Italian regions but also in Malta and the Vatican. The Czech Centre Rome implemented two significant projects of the Roman and Neapolitan cluster of the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC). In cooperation with the Diplomatic Missions of the Czech Republic in Rome and the Holy See, Czechia was presented as a creative country of talent.

HOW WAS THE PRESIDENCY ECHOED IN ITALY?

Italy, being an EU member country, perceived the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU really intensively. We prepared several large projects from our own production focusing on cooperation with the Roman and Neapolitan EUNIC clusters.

WHAT WERE THE PROJECTS?

“Quartieri di Vita 2022”. Originally it was a regional project which spread over time and became an international social theatre festival aimed at helping disadvantaged groups of people in the southern Italian region of Campania. It included seven theatre workshops led by seven European theatre directors, including Jana Svobodová from the Archa Theatre in Prague, who created a unique performance „Perché non io?“ with Neapolitan teenagers. This performance also opened the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of the Italian Cultural Institute in Prague. One of the other projects was the exhibition “Under the Sign of Freedom” dedicated to the dreams of young prisoners.

AN UNUSUAL TOPIC...

Yes, it was created with a specific goal: we wanted to give voice to these groups, linking their ideas with the reflections of the founding fathers of Europe on freedom and dignity of punishment. The project was carried out in cooperation with Italian government representatives, including the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Justice, Government Commissioner Silvia Costa and the Representation of the European Commission in Italy.

THE CZECH CENTRE ROME WAS ALSO VISIBLE IN MALTA...

Yes. As part of the Malta International Film Festival, we screened the Czech film by Pavel Borecký “Living Water” which together with the festival highlighted the issue of sustainability and the environment.

WHICH OF THE PROJECTS WILL YOU NOT FORGET?

The traditional New Year’s Eve “Atleticom We Run Rome” was joined by 8,000 runners and is one of the most beautiful runs in the world.



ROME

HANA SCHENKOVÁ DIRECTOR

The Czech Centre Rotterdam aimed to prepare a programme that would resonate also beyond the Presidency. The most visible project was Patrik Antczak's mural. In cooperation with Leiden University, "The Václav Havel European Dialogues" were held. The Presidency finished with a Christmas concert. Other events included an exhibition of photographs, screening of Czech films at local festivals, a sports challenge and filming of the contributions for "Visions for Europe". Czech Christmas decorations created a pleasant atmosphere in three Dutch cities.

The preparations for the Presidency started already in 2021. The flagship project was "Street Meets (Mural) Art". Our goal was to make it a meaningful and well-prepared project that would be part of the local context. Right at the beginning we faced a big challenge because we needed a wall. It proved to be very important to cooperate with Blind Walls Gallery in Breda, a renowned gallery of murals, which prides itself on over a hundred successful projects. Its director Dennis Elbers went to Czechia on a curator visit. For the work in Breda, the illustrator Patrik Antczak was chosen. From the beginning, the project included students from the local grammar school under leadership of the arts teacher Willy Duffhues,

whose enthusiasm and energy were contagious. The students helped Patrik with the research of themes and the painting. The fact that the unveiling ceremony was attended by the Mayor of Breda Paul Depla and the Czech Ambassador Kateřina Sequensová is a proof of the importance of the event. The mural shows an imaginary café visited by the historical figures John Amos Comenius, Mayor of Breda Antonius Guljé, Kazimir Malevič, Pallas Athena and Čapek's robot. Patrik's painting is located near the grammar school in the city centre and is part of a hiking and cycling trail. A lot of meetings and conversations took place at the mural and the project attracted many young people. Patrik will soon return to Breda. At the end of January, he will pass on his experience with the creation of the mural to the students of the Academy of Art and will present his illustration works to the students from the grammar school.



Street Meets (Mural) Art – Breda / Patrik Antczak © Rosa Meininger

ROTTERDAM



Gala Concert at the Seoul Arts Center © Czech Center Seoul

MICHAL EMANOVSKÝ DIRECTOR

The concept of the Presidency is little known in Korea and therefore, in the implementation of the programmes, the Czech Center Seoul also communicated through its website and social networks. An attractive gallery of young Czech artists was accessible online but we did not forget live events, such as an exhibition on Emil Zátpek's 100th anniversary and a presentation of Czech books and Moravian folk costumes. The Czech Presidency was finished with a gala concert at the Seoul Arts Center.

The attitude of the Koreans to our country is positive although our culture and history generally differ. Still there are some similarities. Many times in its history, Korea (just as Czechia) could not decide on its fate. Korea was occupied by Japan, while we have a similar experience with Russian occupation. The Koreans also had to fight for their sovereignty, so there are certain parallels. Nevertheless, the Presidency model is very remote for the majority of the general public and it is not something they would engage in.

Presenting the Czech Presidency here was not an easy task but thanks to the attractive programme offer, we managed to lure thousands of people, also using social networks and the internet. We launched a web-based project entitled New Perspectives – Young Talents in Czech Art which introduced young Czech artists in the form of a web gallery under the curatorship of Nikola Ivanov.

As far as live events are concerned, I like to remember the G-Line Book Street project. In a complex of buildings (former railway yard, nowadays a park) we organized an exhibition of Czech books (one of the exhibits was the original Czech comic book Čtyřlístek) and a presentation of Moravian folk costumes.

We presented the Czech Heroines exhibition in Pyeongtaek and an exhibition of photographs by David Těšínský in Yeosu.

We finished the Presidency on the 31st of December with a gala concert at the Seoul Arts Center where the Korean listeners were informed about the handover of the Presidency of the Council of the EU to Sweden.

Our main idea was to present a high-quality content and the best of our culture, art and science to the Korean audience.

SEOUL



Václav Havel European Dialogues © Hristo Georgiev

SOFIA

DAGMAR OSTŘANSKÁ DIRECTOR

Not surprisingly, the past six months in the Czech Centre Sofia were extremely intense. One of the priorities of all of our activities was to leave a Czech footprint in the territory. The Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU is an exceptional opportunity that Czechia had for the second time in its history after 13 years. The Czech Centre Sofia managed to involve 13 business partners who supported the selected projects financially and materially. In this respect, important cooperation was established with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Sofia.

Within the framework of the Czech Presidency 2022, we implemented our own projects and presented the following three major ones: “Literature Night”, which was started in Bulgaria by the Czech Centre 12 years ago, “Street Meets (Mural) Art”, which involved cooperation with the artist Tomáš Starý and “The Václav Havel European Dialogues”. Our own projects included the following: international human rights festival “Sofia DocuMental”, “CLAYPAUSE” (an exhibition of works by the ceramist and designer Roman Šedina), “The Story of the Vase” (the final works of the students of the Department of Ceramics and Porcelain, Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague under the leadership of Milan Pekař and Tereza Sluková), “Out of the Black Shadow” (an exhibition of works by Lenka Klodová

and curator Vjera Borozan, Museum of Contemporary Art in Hradec Králové), “Christmas Design?!” (an exhibition of works by the curator Adéla Pomothy from the North Bohemian Museum in Liberec in cooperation with the Liberec Region) and the exhibition “Christmas Treasure” by the curators Dagmar Havlíčková and Petr Nový from the Museum of Glass and Jewellery in Jablonec nad Nisou).

The “Czech Day” event was a novelty in our programme – a one-day open air event which took place in the central park of Sofia. Despite the stormy afternoon, the event was a great success. Throughout the whole period of the Presidency, we focused on Ukraine. We organized debates, exhibitions and film screenings in cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine in Bulgaria.

The last half-year was certainly the most intense period in my five-year mandate. We wanted to “show off in the territory” and at the same time were happy about how the reputation of Czechia was spread across Bulgaria.

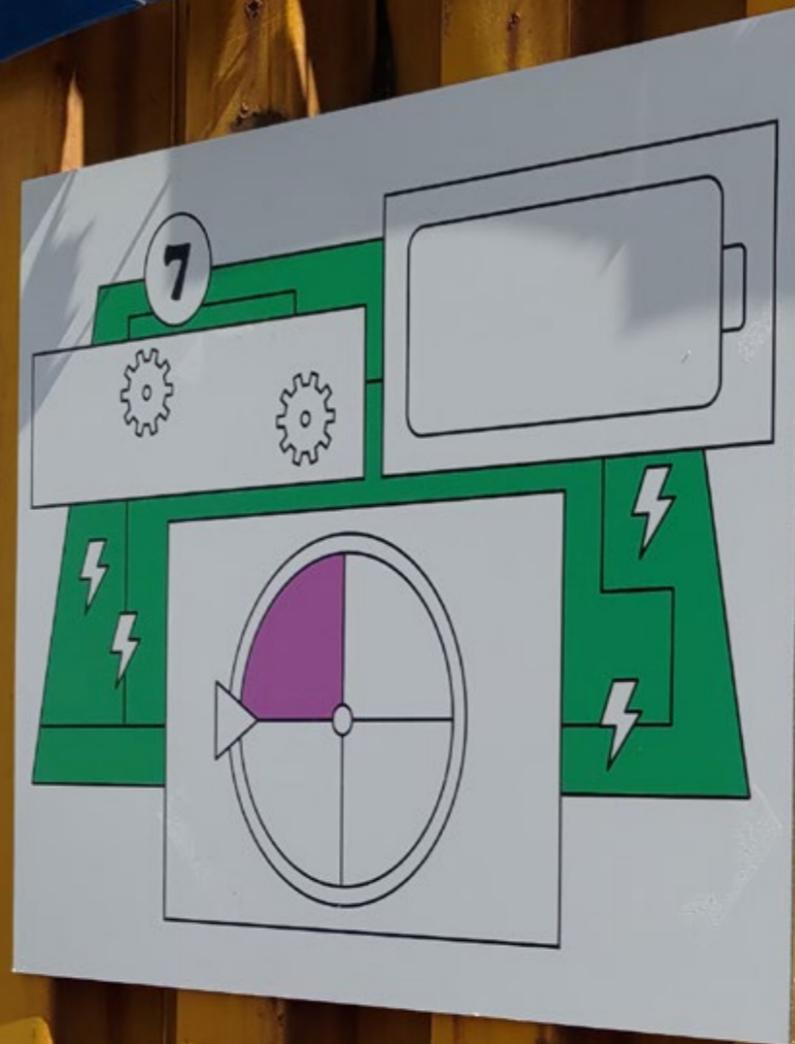
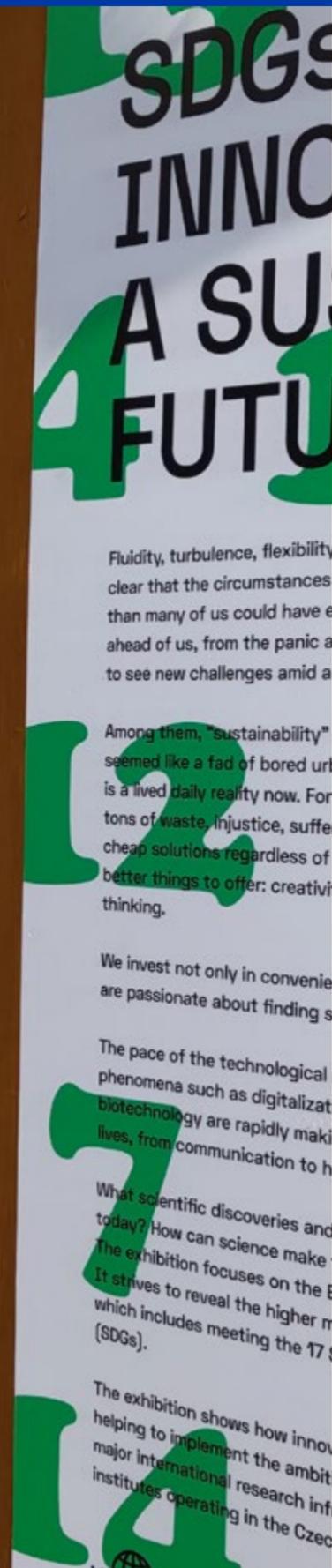
STOCKHOLM

MICHAL BRENNER DIRECTOR

Although the programme of cultural activities held under the auspices of the Czech Centre Stockholm covered traditional formats, such as musical performances, film screenings, literary meetings and exhibitions, one remains certain: the larger part of the programme focused on topics related to sustainability and the future. It is no coincidence that exhibitions, such as “SDGs: Innovations for a Sustainable Future” or “Eco? The Future Lab” were in the sights of the public and are still being discussed today during the Swedish Presidency.

Sweden is the third largest country in the EU with a relatively different culture but still there are several aspects that unite the Swedes: interest in social policy, a healthy lifestyle and emphasis on freedom. These aspects became the cornerstones in the planning of the Presidency programmes, with a special emphasis on sustainability and ecology. The outdoor venue where everything took place was chosen to reflect on these topics. Finally, the Frihamnstorget Community Centre in Stockholm (Free Haven Square) was selected. An alternative venue was a group of discarded transport containers in the port of the city operated by the non-profit organization Blivande, which is dedicated to sustainability and innovation in the area of ecology and design. Through panel discussions, workshops and fashion shows we brought life to the place for the whole summer. Naturally, we did not forget the presentations of more extensive thematic projects, such as “SDGs: Innovations for a Sustainable Future” and “Eco? The Future Lab”. The former was aimed at awareness about sustainable development goals through illustrations by Pavel Fuksa and the moving AR applications by the Czech startup VR Musashi, while the latter addressed the issue of ecology and sustainable products.

There were many more events but I think these were the most important ones because they helped open dialogue with our partners, engage in themes that are important not only to Czechia and Scandinavia but to the whole EU and last but not least, present to the Swedish public an interesting augmented reality project.



IVANA BURSÍKOVÁ DIRECTOR

Georgia is not an EU member state and it might seem that the Presidency would be ignored but in fact the opposite is true. Thanks to the Czech Centre Tbilisi, Czechia made itself heard and was talked about. The greatest attention in the country strongly influenced by the war in Ukraine was aroused by a large conference on the legacy of Václav Havel. Successful events were, for example, the “Ora et Lege” exhibition and the “Artmat” project. The end of the year glittered with Christmas decorations manufactured by Rautis.

WHICH EVENT DO YOU THINK WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT?

Definitely the conference on the so-called “fair society” which addressed the future of EU-Georgia relations as part of “The Václav Havel European Dialogues” project. This year, the event is followed by discussions with students.

WHAT ABOUT THE EXHIBITION PROGRAMME?

I like to remember the “Orga et Lege” exhibition on the intergenerational dialogue of poets, the “Iconic Ruins” exhibition that commemorated the buildings created under socialism in the territory of the Eastern Bloc and also “Artmat”.

THAT SOUNDS INTERESTING! CAN YOU GIVE MORE DETAILS?

The Czech Centres invited Artmat which focuses on the presentation of Czech visual art in the public space through the works of especially young authors on refurbished vending machines. Under supervision of the curators Josefína Frýbová and Petra Widžová, a special edition on sustainability was prepared. The vending machine was located near the frequently visited Café Mziuri and this year will be moved to the community Café Sling in the centre of Tbilisi.

HOW DID THE GEORGIANS REACT?

Generally, the Georgians have a sense of humour and art, while at the same time they were really impressed by this idea!

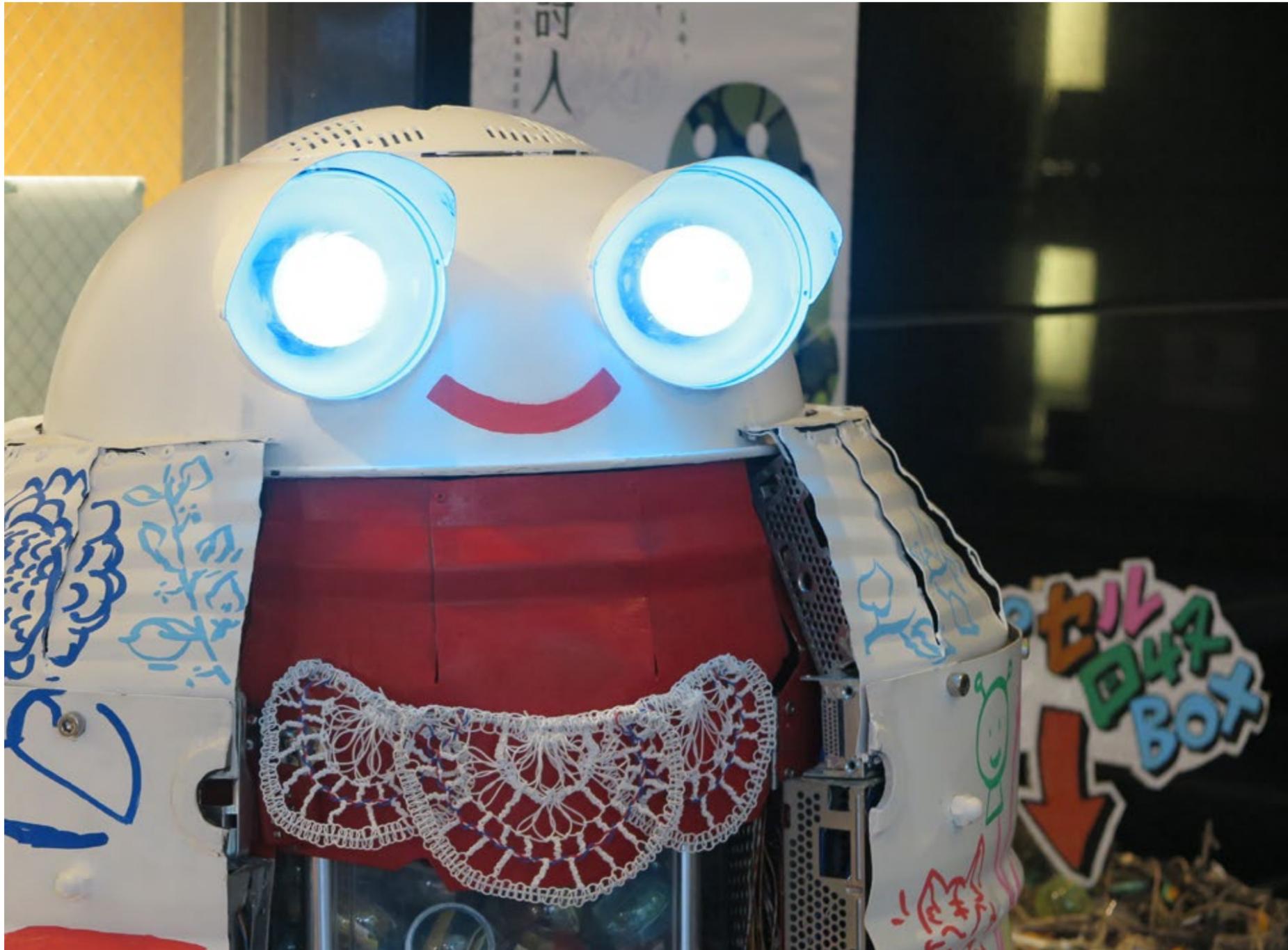
DID THE EVENTS ALSO TAKE PLACE OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL?

Mostly yes. In addition to Tbilisi, we presented Czechia in the seaside Kobuleti or in the easternmost tip of Georgia, in Dedoplistskaro.

HOW DID YOU REFLECT ON CHRISTMAS?

As part of the festival of traditional crafts “Ethnofest”, we organized the first non-European workshop on the manufacture of glass bead decorations led by Barbora and Marek Kulhavý from Rautis, Poniklá. The Georgians and the Czechs have the same attitude to these decorations. Thousands of them visited the stand and the decorations reminded them of their childhood.





Robot Poet © Jakub Válek

EVA TAKAMINE DIRECTOR

For the Czech Centre Tokyo, the Czech Presidency was a challenge mainly because in the process of planning the Presidency projects, we had to take into account the rather low interest of the Japanese public in European institutions. On the other hand, regarding their limited experience with the EU, the Japanese acknowledged the Czech Presidency without prejudice. The CC Tokyo presented Czechia as a country whose values are firmly embedded in the wider European framework and as a country that can face the social, environmental and political problems of today.

The awareness of the ordinary Japanese population about European institutions, including the Council of the EU and its Presidency, is very low. Therefore, our aim was to draw attention to the Presidency in an accessible form – an appeal for shared values and their importance in the current world.

We started the Presidency in Japan with the exhibition “Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi and his vision of the unification of Europe”. In the 1920s, the Czechoslovak citizen Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi, whose mother Mitsuko was Japanese, became the founder of a pan-European movement which is considered one of the ideological sources of European unification.

The last year of the Czech Festival, which is the largest regular event in Japan, was dedicated to the Czech Presidency and the programme included, for example, a presentation to celebrate the European Day of Languages. Today, however, the event is held not only in Tokyo but also in Sakai and on Okinawa Island.

I think one of the interesting projects was “Robot Poet”: after turning the knob on the robot’s chest, a capsule with a linden seed falls out together with a Czech poem on the topic of ecology, sustainability and humanism in the era of digitization. I also like to remember the presentation of the Czech puppet theatre. The Japanese love Czech puppets as confirmed by the extremely successful tour of the puppet theatre Alfa with the performance “Watch out, Zorro!” which was co-organized by the Czech Centre Tokyo and attracted over 10,000 spectators!

The Japanese often have distorted ideas about Europe but I still believe they look at Europe with respect for its history, culture and value system, which is strongly reflected in addressing social and ecological problems.

TOKYO

MOJMÍR JEŘÁBEK DIRECTOR

The Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU was extremely successful in Austria in the diplomatic, social and cultural domains. The Czech Centre Vienna prepared an attractive programme. Very successful was the exhibition referring to Charter 77, “The Literature Night” project and the musical performance of the Czech opera singer Adam Plachetka who together with the conductor Roman Válek presented a new musical piece “Molieri”.

DOES CULTURAL DIPLOMACY IN AUSTRIA HAVE ANY SPECIFIC FEATURES?

Certainly. In terms of culture, Vienna is one of the world’s top cultural cities. The Czech-Austrian relations are based on our common cultural heritage. This was demonstrated, for example, by the great interest in the Brno-Pilsen exhibition about Adolf Loos. It presented the less known aspects of the generally famous personality.

WHAT ABOUT LITERATURE?

Reading was one of the features of the Presidency. A successful project was “The Literature Night” involving nine foreign cultural institutes and embassies. The biggest star of the evening was Jaroslav Rudiš, while the biggest discovery was the Maltese Adrian Grima. The Maltese language and literature are not very well known.

IN NOVEMBER YOU HAD A SIGNIFICANT MUSICAL GUEST...

Yes, Adam Plachetka presented his new “Molieri” project. The work includes opera arias by Mozart and Salieri. The two giants are not presented as enemies but rather as distinctive artists.

HOW DID YOU OPEN THE PRESIDENCY?

The “Vienna in Fine Arts” exhibition presented works of three visual artists who had been active around Charter 77 and was accompanied by the “Jan Patočka – Philosopher and Enemy of the State” project. Part of the exhibition was installed in the cellar with a chilling and yet impressive atmosphere of the philosopher’s funeral with the photo documentation made by the state security service and the roar of motorcycles which was supposed to drown out the moment of reverence.

WHY THIS EXHIBITION?

The theme of Charter 77 still strongly resonates in Austria. The name Patočka logically attracts attention. The positive approach to our Presidency was thus linked with the best tradition of our relations.

CZECHS AND AUSTRIANS. WHAT DO THEY HAVE IN COMMON AND HOW DO THEY DIFFER?

I will answer with a quote by Jiří Gruša: “We are one nation that differs in languages.”



Writer Jaroslav Rudiš at the Literature Night © Kristýna Jordánová

VIENNA



Mural in Komuna – Warsaw / Petra Dočekalová © Rafał Motyl

WARSAW

TAŤJANA LANGÁŠKOVÁ DIRECTOR

The Presidency was a convenient opportunity to organize various events in order to present to the broadest possible audience an example of contemporary Czech art and a reflection on social issues. Warsaw, Opole, Poznań, Kamienna Góra, Wrocław, Białystok and Rzeszów enjoyed a year of rich cultural programme: Diplomat Run, two open air concerts by Police Symphony Orchestra, festivals, meetings with authors, discussions, competition for schools, murals in 3 destinations and exhibitions (Aerobics, The Future Lab, Zátpek, CZECH IN, Nomad, Empathy Returning Machine, Here and Now, SDGs: Innovations for a Sustainable Future).

HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT THE CZECH PRESIDENCY?

For me, the Presidency was an opportunity to present Czechia across the great Polish territory as an open progressive country with a strong cultural potential and at the same time to express solidarity with Ukraine.

CAN YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC?

As part of the “Czech Weekend” project, a mural was created in Ukrainian colours in the centre of Warsaw. At the beginning of the Czech Presidency, we organized a run and a collection for Ukraine, which we openly support.

WHAT WAS THE “DIPLOMAT RUN” ABOUT?

A friendly run to support Ukraine.

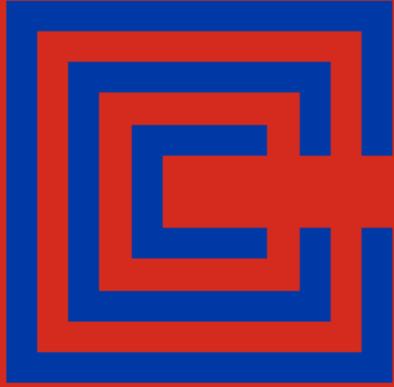
It was a great success. The idea for the run originated in synergy with a colleague from the Diplomatic Mission who joined the run with a number of other diplomats. There were more sports events, exhibitions, film screenings and aerobics lessons.

WHICH PROJECT WAS THE MOST CHALLENGING?

In terms of cooperation and logistics, definitely the “Czech Day” in Parade Square. This was the official opening of the Czech Presidency for the general Polish public. We had fine-tuned the programme for months and almost had to cancel the main concert. And when we managed to arrange for everything, including transport and accommodation for 60 musicians, the weather let us down.

IF YOU WERE TO SUMMARIZE THE PREVIOUS PERIOD IN THREE SENTENCES, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

The whole year of 2022 was very intense for us. We are pleased about the successful programme. Big thanks to the team at the Czech Centre Warsaw as well as our partners and colleagues from the headquarters and the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Warsaw.



The Czech Centres are a cultural institute established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Their main mission is to promote the reputation of Czechia abroad and to strengthen cultural relations among countries. The Czech Centres currently operate in 26 foreign destinations on 4 continents.

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CZ PRES



SDGs: Innovations for a Sustainable Future

Thank you to all partners,
institutions, artists and visitors
for being a part of it!