

ČESKÁ CENTRA
CZECH CENTRES

2021

OPENING REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL



Ondřej Černý
© David Háva

Dear friends and partners of the Czech Centres,

the year of 2021 was fast-paced and different. The transformation of our society, the aftermath of the pandemic and economic issues as well as new expectations have been a sign of an upcoming challenging period. If you have been following us regularly, you will surely agree that the Czech Centres have offered many interesting events, captivating exhibitions and exciting programmes to their audiences. Our network **has organised a total of 1,714 events attended by nearly 7,5 million visitors. We have hosted 47 curators from 6 countries and presented more than 1,100 Czech people from all walks of life to the world.**

A part of our programme has remained in the cyber space even after the pandemic, while other events have returned to the real, three-dimensional world, such as exhibitions and network projects launched by multiple Czech Centres abroad. Let me share a few with you:

The Highlights from the National Gallery in Prague have introduced the key artworks from the Czech Republic's most renowned gallery via a series of 11 videos shared in multiple languages on social media. While the series is intended primarily for our international audience, it is of course accessible to Czech viewers too.

The literary translation competition for translators of Czech worldwide, **The Susanna Roth Award**, has been a staple in our programme as well as the now traditional literary festival **The Literature Night**. One of the 2021 literary highlights, however, was undoubtedly **the opening of the Czech Centre in a Paris library**, which had been closed to the public for many years.

Last but not least, our programme included **the Loos and Pilsen Exhibition**, launched to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of the well-known architect Adolf Loos.

The Czech language courses provided by the Czech Centres have been very successful, as well as our **online Czech Language Lectures** which have proved more popular than ever before.

Our programme also includes events promoting science, research and innovation. The professional public, institutions and tech companies have appreciated the **Global Science Café**, a series of debates on science and innovation.

The opening of the **Czech Centre Tbilisi** in Georgia is also worth mentioning, making Tbilisi the 26th member of our worldwide network.

2021 was a year of post-Covid hopes, new digital challenges and a year that had shifted many previously valid paradigms.

At the end of 2021, however, we had no idea that 2022 would have much more serious challenges in store and that the Russian aggression against

Ukraine would disrupt the certainties of our existence in the contemporary world. The European togetherness, mutual trust and partnership with both Czech and international institutions as well as individuals would, therefore, become even more important than in 2021.

My heartfelt thank you goes to all of you helping us **paint a colourful, multi-layered picture of the Czech Republic** abroad and most of all, for protecting the **European values** and making the world a better place.

PhDr. Ondřej Černý

Director General of the Czech Centres

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YEAR 2021 IN NUMBERS

1 714

EVENTS

7.4 MIL.

EVENT VISITS

4 450

MEDIA RESPONSES

235 000

FANS ON SOCIAL NETWORKS

2 315

STUDENTS OF CZECH

549 744

WEBSITE VISITS

1 130

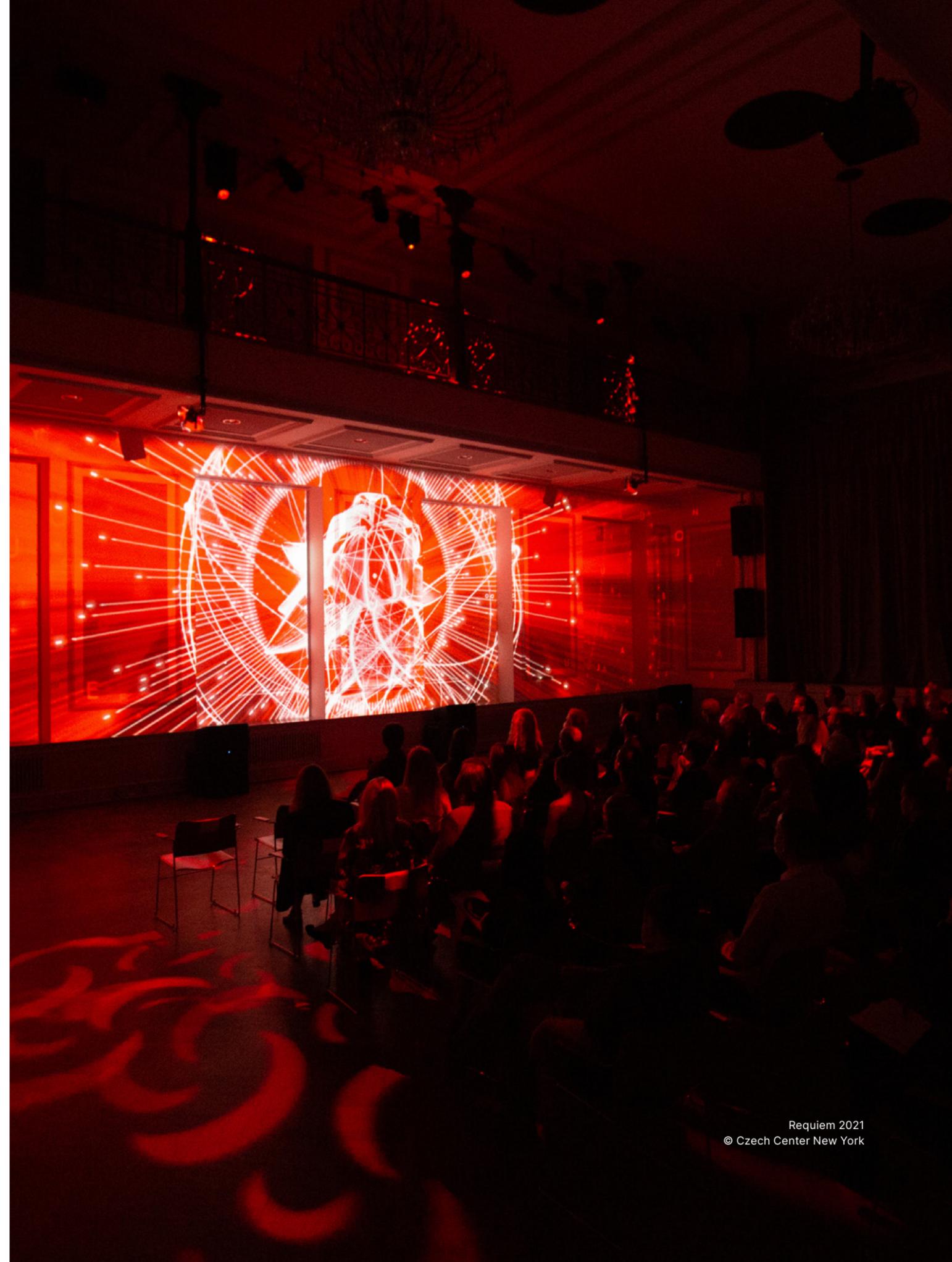
DELEGATES

47

CURATORS
FROM 16 COUNTRIES

10

COMPETITIONS
IN 7 AREAS



CZECH CENTRES AND CULTURAL DIPLOMACY



The Czech House in Bratislava lit up to celebrate the Foundation of the Independent Czechoslovak State Day
© Peter Korček

MISSION OF THE CZECH CENTRES

The Czech Centres are a contributory organization of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic**. The Czech Centres are an integral part of Czech foreign policy, promote the values of the Czech Republic and are a crucial instrument of **cultural diplomacy, forming a part of public diplomacy**, the mission of which is to spread and promote the **good reputation of the Czech Republic in the world**. By the nature of their activities, the Czech Centres are the key actor representing the Czech Republic abroad and the main institutional mediator of cultural interactions and building of relationships with international audiences. The Czech Centres **link significant actors of the Czech social and cultural life** with relevant partners in foreign countries. In various territorial contexts they address a broad range of target groups and are an open platform for **international cooperation and cultural dialogue**.

ACTIVITIES

The Czech Centres **promote the Czech cultural scene** (visual art, architecture, design, fashion, film, music, theatre, literature) in the world. The Czech Centres present the Czech Republic as a modern country with a rich cultural tradition. The programme strategy includes both global themes and the modern identity of the Czech Republic. In addition to a number of other activities, this includes the **strengthening of the Czech Republic's image as a modern and innovative country firmly embedded in European structures; a country that responds to the challenges of the current world**.

In the area of **education, science, research** and innovation, the Czech Centres cooperate with universities and specialized institutions and organize courses of Czech. Czech language courses and education in general are supported by methodological and quantitative development and preparation of new types of courses according to territorial specificities, promotion of the Czech language by means of cultural events and social ties and cooperation with Czech studies departments and universities in the Czech Republic and foreign territories.

In the area of **supporting external economic relations**, the Czech Centres link foreign cultural presentations with significant Czech export brands. They seek for export opportunities for Czech creative industries.

PRESENCE IN THE WORLD

The network of the Czech Centres as of 31st December 2021 included the headquarters in Prague and **26 foreign offices** (including Czech House Moscow, Czech House Jerusalem and Czech House Bratislava).

POSITION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CZECH INNOVATION STRATEGY

The Czech innovation strategy entitled **"Czech Republic: The Country for the Future"** focuses on building the image of the Czech Republic as a country with a high innovation potential, popularization of Czech science and research, including the cultivation of existing cultural capital aimed at innovations.

SDGs AND THE STRATEGY OF CZECH CENTRES

The Strategy of the Czech Centres for 2020–2023 includes the so-called UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDGs cover a total of 17 goals and 169 specific tasks. Although culture is explicitly mentioned only in some of them, it is implicitly reflected in many others. The goals are embedded not only in the programme offer but also in the corporate culture. Most of these themes have found a firm position within Czech Centres and resonate throughout the organization. In January 2021, the Czech Centres became member of the Association of Social Responsibility and officially joined the organizations that promote the Sustainable Development Goals. Our values, projects, programme structure and services reflect the SDGs in the following areas.



THE PRIORITIES OF THE CZECH CENTRES

SDG 3: HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE (PROMOTING HEALTH IN THE PROGRAMME STRATEGIES AS WELL AS IN ENSURING SAFE WORKING CONDITIONS FOR THE EMPLOYEES)

Internal support: Announcement of the so-called “Walking Challenge”. The event was attended by the employees of Czech Centres from the Czech Republic and 12 other countries.

External support: Sports programmes are very popular and therefore CCA include them on a regular basis. Czech Centre Athens regularly participates in Spartathlon; in Czech Center New York they walked through three states as part of the Easter March for compatriots in the three states and organized the traditional Sports Kids Day Up State NY.

SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION (TEACHING OF CZECH ABROAD, TEACHER TRAINING)

External education is consistent with the programme offer of Czech Centres.

- Teaching Czech is one of the priorities of Czech Centres. Projects that actively reflect the current times include on-line lectures on Czech and the International Zoom Conversation Club. Czech courses are both face-to-face and online.
- Supporting social-historical education – in cooperation with our partners, we create projects with an overlap in the social-historical area. A typical example is the Czech Heroines Exhibition presenting significant women in Czech history and present across various disciplines.
- Popularization of science and innovation – very popular recent projects include the Global Science Café Czech Centres and Czech Innovation Expo.
- European integration – a successful European project of the Prague Cluster EUNIC Idea’s Yard: Talking About Europe involves debates on various topics and links the theme of European identity.

- Internal education is aimed directly at the employees of Czech Centres.

SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY (EQUAL REPRESENTATION OF MEN AND WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS, ALSO IN TERMS OF PROGRAMME CONTENT)

The above-mentioned exhibition project Czech Heroines is a typical activity in the context of gender equality. Every year, the programme of almost all Czech Centres abroad includes film projections or discussions on a given topic.

- Czech Centre Stockholm specializes in events that reflect the SDG Agenda. The most famous projects include the Women’s Film Festival, The Science Festival: LEVEL UP WITH WOMEN POWER! or Stockholm Pride.

SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH (SAFE AND STABLE WORKING CONDITIONS FOR ALL EMPLOYEES WITHOUT DISTINCTION)

- This includes cooperation with partners from the artistic sphere, corporate culture, economic support, sustainable tourism (Czech Traces), supporting traditions and crafts (Czech Toy Exhibition/Mini Wonders, Christmas Treasure Exhibition), cooperation with Rautis from Poniklá, etc.

SDG 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Another priority for Czech Centres is to increase the quality of life and overall achievement of SDG 9 subgoals. This involves the entire activity of Czech Centres (for example: waste recycling, the use of environmentally friendly energy, an internal library, swap clothing, etc.) Across the network, our employees are trying to adhere to concepts such as:

- Consistent waste recycling
- Use of environmentally friendly energy

In their projects, Czech Centres abroad achieve this objective automatically and in addition, focus on problems in this sector in their territories.



Eduard Herrmann and Matěj Coufal on the festival Concentric
© Czech Centre Madrid

- An example of this SDG is Czech Center New York and its project Beach Cleanup in New York, Book Fair of Czech Centre Paris, Urban Talks: Per Grankvist organized by Czech Centre Stockholm or World Water Week Stockholm 2021 which was joined by our colleagues in Sweden. In this context, our activities are linked to SDG 13 – Climate Action.

SDG 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES (PROJECTS THAT GIVE A VOICE TO MINORITY GROUPS, PROMOTION OF AWARENESS RAISING)

The most visible initiatives especially include participation in film festivals, projections and discussion projects with guests who specialize in this issue or the Literature Night project.

- Last but not least, a highly relevant project in this context is Literature Night, which is joined by authors from minorities who live in our country. Through reading of excerpts from books written by representatives, for example, of the Roma community, Czech Centres increase their cultural inclusion and awareness of their culture and in this way, Czech Centres help fight inequality.

SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

One of the initiatives presented by Czech Centres in this area was the Iconic Ruins exhibition, mapping socialist urban architecture in V4 countries. The exhibition was part of the European project Shared Cities: Creative Momentum, the ambition of which was to show to city dwellers that their involvement and cooperation is indispensable in creating a pleasant and valuable urban environment.

SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION (PROMOTION OF A CULTURE BASED ON THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE)

Awareness is increased also through projects involving, for example, the projection of films and documentaries on ecology, climate and sustainability or organizing events aimed at sustainable design and fashion, DIY products, etc.

- Some of these projects are Nomad / Studio

Herrmann & Coufal, exhibition of Czech Centre Vienna FEST! FAST? SLOW FASHION SHOW: UPCYCLING, SUSTAINABLE DESIGN & ART PROTIS or Circular Design and Social Innovation for Sustainable Cities of Czech Centre Athens. The Headquarters of Czech Centres organized a debate as part of the project Idea's Yard: Talking About Europe on sustainable event management, which was part of a series of discussions within the Designblok Festival.

- The entire network chose an unconventional way of involvement by means of the above-mentioned Walking Challenge (see also SDG 9).

SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS (PROJECTS AIMED AT PROMOTING THE FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS: FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THE RIGHT TO CULTURE)

Organization of panel discussions involving activists and representatives of marginalized groups. Idea's Yard: Talking About Europe focuses on projects supporting the role of culture in the EU's internal and external relations. A new project supported as part of a charity collection was the Mathilda Endowment Fund with the aim of training guide dogs.

SDG 17: PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

Cooperation with companies that focus on traditional manufacture, such as glass making companies that produce traditional Christmas decorations or clothing companies with traditional textile manufacturing methods.

POSITION AMONG INSTITUTIONS

The Czech Centres are defined as a **cultural institute** and are active in the field of culture in the broadest sense of the sectors (art, cultural and creative industries, cultural heritage, education, language, human rights, science, innovations, sport, gastronomy, lifestyle). The Czech Centres organize Czech language courses abroad and participate in the organization of certified Czech language examinations.



Supporting The Inspiration Forum at the IDFF Ji.hlava via the Ideas Yard Programme, October 2021
© Jan Hromádko for IDFF Ji.hlava

EUNIC AND EUROPEAN PROJECTS

Since 2006, The Czech Centres have been firmly embedded in the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) and together with other cultural institutes are involved in the creation of a cooperative and inspiring environment within the network. Through membership in EUNIC, the Czech Republic not only strengthens its prestige in cultural diplomacy but primarily shares valuable experiences. The growing significance of EUNIC is confirmed by the increasing number of members which achieved 38 members in 2021.

The Headquarters of the Czech Centres in Prague acts as the local Focal Point within the EUNIC network and is responsible for close cooperation with EUNIC Global. As a Focal Point, the Czech Centres have the opportunity to authorize the Czech representative offices to act on behalf of the Czech Republic within the EUNIC network in locations where Czech Centres are not yet represented. In this way, Czech cultural diplomacy is involved in an increasing number of cultural projects around the globe.

EUNIC CLUSTER PROJECTS

Through their representatives in the EUNIC network, the Czech Centres actively participate in the formulation of the network's strategy, develop new project concepts and contribute to the activity of local EUNIC clusters. Last year, the network increased and now includes a total of 133 clusters. Although the clusters naturally differ in size, structure and focus, they have been increasingly able to fulfil their potential in recent years. The Czech Centres are represented in EUNIC clusters on three continents. During 2021, the directors of the Czech Centres participated in cluster leadership as presidents in Berlin, Brussels, London and Tokyo. In addition, other directors of the Czech Centres supported the clusters as vice-presidents.

IDEA'S YARD: TALKING ABOUT EUROPE

During 2021, the Prague Cluster continued the project "Idea's Yard: Talking About Europe" jointly organized by seven cultural institutes. The project included a series of debates and discussions on current topics related to Europe, its future and values. Thanks to the close cooperation with our partners (IDFF – Inspiration Forum, Designblok, Book World, Scouting Institute, etc.), the debate brought together important personalities, representatives of civil society and experts from various fields. Despite the continuing unfavourable epidemiological situation and the need to hold most of the events within the project online, a high-quality programme was implemented, reflecting the current topics including, for example, gender equality, circular economy, the role of culture in post-industrial cities or sustainable event management. The project was supported by the EUNIC Cluster Fund 2020.

EUROPEAN LITERATURE NIGHT

The project was launched in 2006 and is the longest EUNIC project initiated by the Czech Centres. Over the years, it has continued to grow and has become a cultural event with international outreach.

QUARTIERI DI VITA.

LIFE INFECTED WITH SOCIAL THEATER

The project was implemented in cooperation between clusters in Rome and Naples under the supervision of the director of Czech Centre Rome and supported by the EUNIC Cluster Fund 2020. The aim of the project was to promote social inclusion of disadvantaged groups of citizens in the southern Italian region of Campania. The project included several theatre workshops led by European theatre directors which connected European experts in the field of social theatre with the above-mentioned target group.

EUNICAST: MEET VISIONARY EUROPEANS

This is a podcast project initiated by Czech Centre London within the London Cluster. The project consists of seven interviews with prominent personalities of the European cultural scene hosted by the BBC presenter Joe Lyman. The podcast episodes are available on the main podcast platforms.

BABYLON EUROPA 2021

For several years, this has been the largest project of the Berlin Cluster. The project presents concert art shows with artists and performers from 12 European countries. The shows are presented at the prestigious Berlin stage TIPI am Kanzleramt. The project was supported by the EUNIC Cluster Fund 2020.

MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS FUNDED

BY EUROPEAN GRANT PROGRAMMES

Through international projects supported by the European Union, the Czech Centres strengthen cultural, artistic and knowledge exchange, thereby contributing to addressing the global challenges and supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. At present, two multi-year projects funded by the External Actions of the European Union are being implemented – in Ukraine (involving Moldova) and Georgia (involving Armenia). In the international consortia created as part of these projects, Czech Centres cooperate with other partners such as the Goethe-Institut, Danish Cultural Institute, British Council, French Institute, EUNIC and others.

HOUSE OF EUROPE (ENI/2019/405-075) has been carried out for three years and supports professional and creative exchange between Ukraine and EU countries. The project focuses on a number of professional areas: culture and creative industries, education, healthcare, social entrepreneurship, media and youth. In the project, participants have the opportunity to take part in educational programmes (total of 21), hackathons, digital laboratories, joint educational events and internships. The project also offers individual grants and/or mobility. So far, the project has included over 1,000 participants.

In the project, the Czech Centres are responsible for the healthcare sector and organize training, internships and work exchanges for Ukrainian doctors and other medical professionals.

In 2020 and 2021, the implementation of the project was significantly affected by the pandemic. Therefore, various online formats of the project were developed. The Czech Centres implemented two online seminars aimed at healthcare – neonatology. The aim was to present European experience in the rehabilitation of newborns and young children as well as the monitoring of children after discharge from hospital. A novelty was the new interactive online format of education, the so-called Digital Labs, which allows Ukrainian participants to discuss in real time a specific issue under the supervision of a mentor and facilitator. At the end of 2021, internships of two female Ukrainian doctors (a neonatologist and a paediatrician) were carried out in a Polish hospital focusing on the treatment of children (Children's Health Institute in Warsaw, Department of Paediatric Medicine, Nutrition and Metabolic Diseases). As part of the educational activities, networks of European professionals have been developed in the field of children's rehabilitation, neonatology, paediatrics and psychology. Through their expertise, they have supported their Ukrainian colleagues. Cooperation with European countries has been extended to include Belgium, Italy, Slovakia, Romania, Lithuania, Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

“EU4CULTURE” – PROMOTING CULTURE AND CREATIVITY AS AN ENGINE FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN EAP COUNTRIES (ENI/2020/417-654) was started in 2021.

The main objective of the project is to promote culture as the driving force of growth and social development throughout the EaP region through the promotion of cultural and creative industries with a focus on cities and municipalities in the Eastern Partnership countries (Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova).

The first phase of the project focused on the selection of larger cities outside the main metropolitan areas to help with the development of cultural strategies. The representatives of the partnership consortium participated in a weekly selection procedure in which they assessed each candidate according to predefined criteria. In the next phase, three cities were selected in each EaP country involved in the project.

In the project, the Czech Centres ensure cooperation of a Czech expert and local experts in the preparation of cultural strategies, including educational events. Just like the House of Europe project, the EU4Culture project had to be moved to the digital space due to the pandemic. In the autumn of 2021, an online international conference to launch the project was held. The conference was attended by EC representatives for the Eastern Partnership, a number of experts in the field of cultural and creative industries as well as members of local authorities of the cities and towns involved. In the winter of 2021, the Czech Centres carried out an online methodological training of persons who will continue to act as consultants of the cultural departments of local authorities to design their own grant-funded cultural strategies.



Babylon Europa in Berlin
© Anna Jakisch

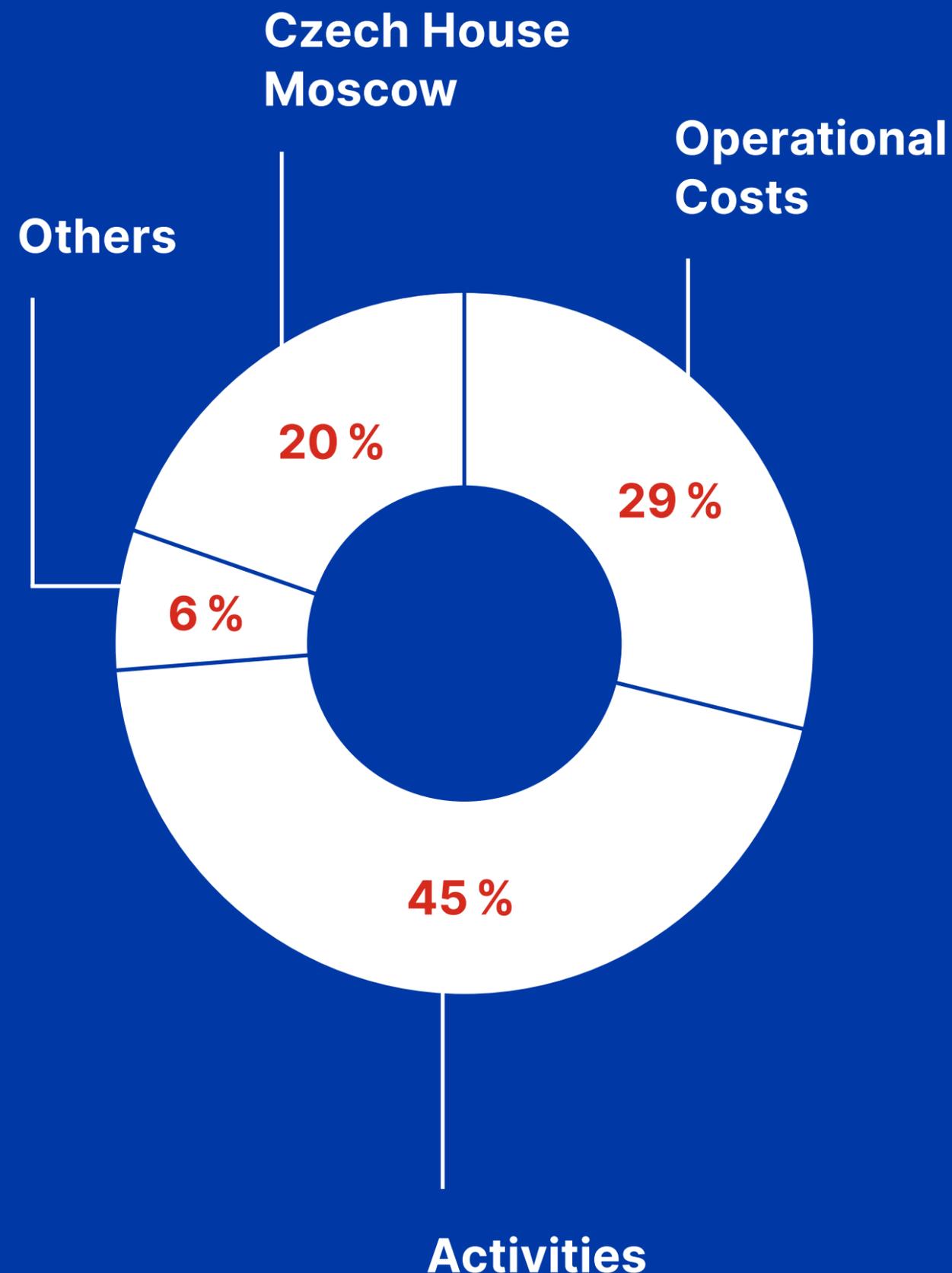
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY costs

246 294 070 CZK

Allocated costs for the operation of the Czech Centres Leases of permanent residential and non-residential premises and equipment	OPERATING COSTS	70 638 105
	of which Rent	15 010 897
	of which Salaries	26 248 074
Total allocated costs for the activities of CC abroad Rental of premises, equipment and technology for programme events Costs of seconded directors of the Czech Centres abroad Costs of local staff in the country	ACTIVITIES	111 344 442
	of which Rent	536 829
	of which Directors	47 344 069
	of which MS	42 036 663
	of which Other Activities	388 920
	OTHERS	15 115 113
	of which Depreciation	6 603 650
	of which Income Tax	1 558 734
Comprehensive costs of operation of CHM	CZECH HOUSE MOSCOW	49 196 410

Amounts are in CZK.

Total costs of the Czech Centres, including Czech House Moscow.



ECONOMIC ACTIVITY revenue 255 204 124 CZK

Comprehensive returns from the operation of Czech House Moscow

CZECH HOUSE MOSCOW 56 856 750

CONTRIBUTION OF THE FOUNDER 166 900 000

Activities and grant support

OTHER ACTIVITIES 31 447 374

of which Other Activities 429 069

Remuneration Fund 0

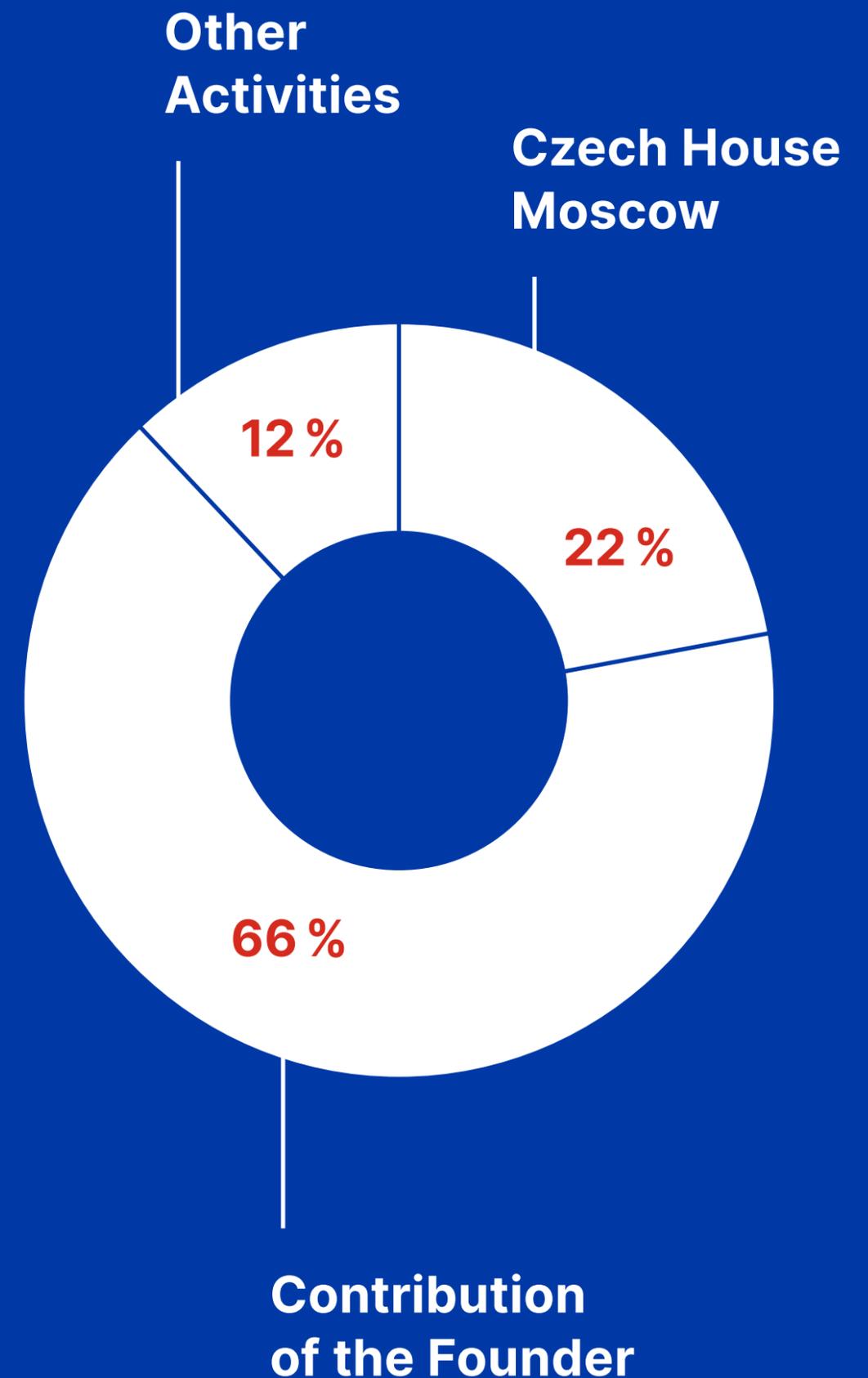
Reserve Fund 2 425 068

Reserve fund from other titles 8 035 603

Asset Recovery Fund 15 013 936

Cultural and Social Needs Fund 162 953

TOTAL FUNDS 25 637 560



Amounts are in CZK.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

**Deputy
Director
General**

**Director
General**

**Directors of the
Czech Centres
abroad, Director
of Czech
House Moscow**

Secretariat

Lawyer

**Department
of Cultural
Diplomacy**

**Department
of Internal
Administration
and Public
Procurement**

**Department
of Human
Resources**

**Economic
Department**

**Department
of Marketing
Communications
and ICT**

PROJECTS

New formats, projects and programme activities are an integral part of the content delivered by the Czech Centres. This chapter presents an overview of projects carried out in 2021. The projects are classified by disciplines.





Adolf Loos: The Brno and Plzeň Stories Exhibition
© Czech Centre Vienna

ARCHITECTURE

LOOS AND PILSEN

The commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Adolf Loos was reflected in the programme strategy especially in 2021. The Loos and Pilsen project focused mainly on interior design as part of Loos' long-term work in Pilsen. The project does not only show interiors from the perspective of architecture but also presents 20th century stories through the clients – families of Pilsen factory owners.

LAUNCH OF THE EXHIBITION

- Czech Center New York; accompanying events included an online conference attended by leading Czech and American experts, online concert of Pilsner Jazz Band directly in one of the interiors.
- Czech Centre Vienna; the exhibition was enriched with Brno realizations and models of Loos' villas from the University of Tokyo under the supervision of Mr. Sakurai.
- Czech Centre Paris; accompanying events included a lecture by the leading scientist Cecil Poulot and a screening of the film Loos Ornamental (directed by H. Emigholz).
- Czech Centre Tokyo; the exhibition included architectural models by young students from the University of Tokyo and a number of lectures.
- Czech Centre Rome; screening of the film Adolf Loos – Visionary and Provocateur (directed by R. Klingohr) and a lecture by Filip Šenk.



Adolf Loos: The Brno and Plzeň Stories Exhibition
© Czech Centre Vienna

VISUAL ART

CRISS-CROSS THROUGH THE NATIONAL GALLERY PRAGUE

The project was prepared in cooperation with the National Gallery Prague (NGP) and presented a series of 11 videos of selected works from the NGP collections. The cooperation was initiated by the Czech Centres; the aim was to find a visually strong online project with solid content in the area of visual art linked to Czech life and institutions. The NGP prepared a representative selection of works across its collections reflecting the richness and diversity of the artistic work by Czech authors as well as important works linked to the local cultural environment. The works were presented by the art historian Veronika Wolf. The project was prepared exclusively for social networks (FB, IG, YT) in several language versions and was presented both in the Czech Republic (headquarters of CC and NGP) and abroad.

LIST OF COUNTRIES INVOLVED

Austria, Belgium, Georgia, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA



Veronika Wolf
© Marco Chiodi, NGP



Gustav Klimt, The Maiden, 1913
© NGP

VISUAL ART

CZECH PHOTOGRAPHY MASTERCLASS

In 2021, the Czech Centres said goodbye to the Czech Photography Masterclass project, which, through short videos, introduced 11 Czech contemporary photographers on Instagram profiles of 12 Czech Centres across the continents. The project originated during the first quarantine in an effort to show that even ordinary moments can be captured in an extraordinary way. Some of the photographers were, for example, Libuše Jarcovjáčková, Ivan Pinkava and Marie Tomanová.

Each Masterclass had a specific focus, ranging from portraits, documentaries and artistic photography. Instagram users had the opportunity to upload their own photographs and get feedback from the professionals involved. The whole series can be seen [here](#).



Czech Photography Masterclass
© Kristina Reznik

VISUAL ART

VIRTUAL TOUR OF KATEŘINA ŠEDÁ'S EXHIBITION UNES-CO

Historically the first virtual tour from the production of the Czech Centres was created with the aim of making art accessible even when the traditional gallery spaces were closed. The project involved a total of 13 Czech Centres. The exhibition by the renowned artist Kateřina Šedá is conceived as a showroom of the international company UNES-CO, which addresses the negative effects of mass tourism on the historical centre of Český Krumlov. UNES-CO is trying to reverse one of the phenomena faced by UNESCO World Heritage cities – cities are becoming backdrops and their normal lives are disappearing. During the pandemic, the exhibition gained another dimension. The tour was created in the premises of Czech Centre Vienna, which also presented the exhibition live.



Visual style of the Virtual tour of
Kateřina Šedá's exhibition UNES-CO
© Czech Centres

SUSANNA ROTH AWARD

More than a hundred translators from 16 countries around Europe and Asia entered the 7th year of the international translation competition The Susanna Roth Award organized together with the Czech Literary Centre. The competition text was an excerpt from the book called Uranova by Lenka Elbe (ARGO, 2020) who later received Magnesia Litera for the best debut of the year. The highest number of translators traditionally came from Poland. The newest participants were from India and Slovakia.

LIST OF COUNTRIES INVOLVED

Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. The summer meeting of the laureates was moved to the spring of 2022 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

POSTPONED MEETING OF THE WINNING TRANSLATORS IN THE SUSANNA ROTH AWARD 2020

Between 22nd and 26th September 2021, the postponed meeting of the laureates of SRA 2020 took place in Prague. The programme included expert seminars, meetings with the author of the translated text Veronika Bendová (Vytěženej kraj, 2019, FRA), participation in the Book World 2021 Fair as well as educational activities associated with the Literature Night, National Gallery Prague and a literary tour of Prague mapping the personality of Franz Kafka.



SRA
© Pavel Růžička

COMICS VS. CORONA

The pandemic in comic books. The project presented the perspective of contemporary comic book authors of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and was based on the idea of interconnecting during isolation. The first part of the story is called The "O" which was created by the Czech comic book author and illustrator Václav Šlajch. His story was completed by authors from Japan (Miki Yamamoto), Greece (Apostolis Ioannou) and Belgium (Steven Dhondt). The project included a brochure containing all of the original comic works and the text of the comic theorist and curator Pavel Kořínek which will be published as an annex to the Aargh! magazine.



Project graphics: Václav Šlajch

MUSIC

PRAGUE SPRING ONLINE

The “Prague Spring into the World” was the name of selected concerts which spread to the world through the network of the Czech Centres and Czech representative offices. The broadcast took place via FB and the Prague Spring website.

INCLUDED CONCERTS

- Opening concert (Collegium 1704 – Bedřich Smetana, My Country)
- On the Wings of Dance (Prague Symphony Orchestra – G. Enescu, C. Saint-Saëns, I. Stravinskij)
- Prague Spring Debut (František Macek, a young Czech conductor)
- Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra (W. Lutoslawski, R. Schumann, J. Sibelius, A. Dvořák)
- Closing Concert (Czech Philharmonic – G. Mahler, B. Britten, L. van Beethoven)

MUSIC

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Online concert from Troja Château (Collegium 1704; Missa Corporis Domini; Universo 1704 Platform). Over the period of ten days, the concert was presented by the Czech Centres in various countries of the world according to liturgical and time circumstances.



Jan Dismas Zelenka:
Missa Corporis Domini
© Collegium 1704

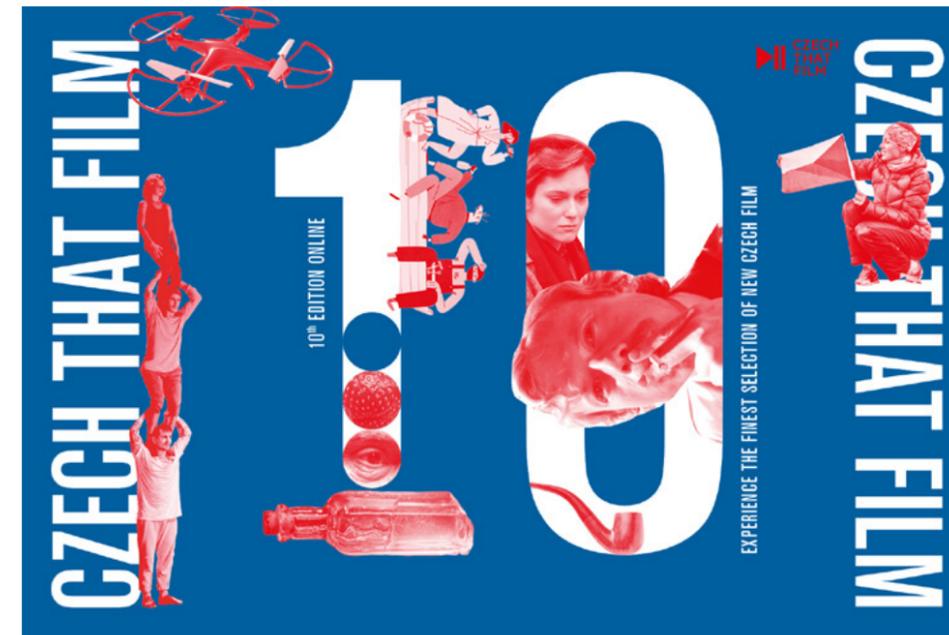
FILM

CZECH THAT FILM 2021 (10TH ANNIVERSARY)

Czech That Film is the largest festival show of contemporary Czech films in North America co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and the representative offices in the US and Canada.

The 10th year of the show was marked by a fundamental transformation of the new festival platform prepared by the partner of the project, the Czech company Artinii. All of the films were available to viewers in Canada and the USA for 10 days. The online presentation of the films was complemented by screenings in summer or drive-in cinemas which were reopened in some American cities as a result of the pandemic. Regarding the online environment, other film formats were also included: in the context of the new cooperation with the Finále Plzeň festival, feature films (Havel, Charlatan, 3Grapes, The Pack, Droneman) were accompanied with documentaries (Two Roads, Blood, Sweat and Tears, Athanor – The Alchemical Furnace, K2 My Way), TV and internet series (Actor, #martyisdead) and short students' films (Daughter, The Kite, Hide N Seek, Sh_t Happens and ZOO).

Selected films were complemented by pre-shot Q&A with film directors, which were available to viewers directly on the festival platform and on social networks. Some of the interviews were screened together with the films in cinemas.



Czech That Film
Graphic: Martin Poláček

FILM

DOCU-MONDAYS #2

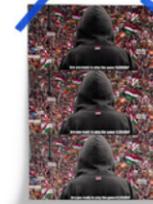
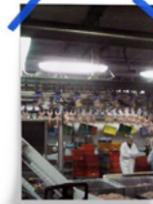
A SERIES OF FIVE DOCUMENTARIES DEDICATED TO FEMALE DOCUMENTARY MAKERS

Following the regular documentary series of selected CCA and Docu-Mondays #1, the Czech Centres organized an interesting film cycle in cooperation with the Institute of Documentary Film.

During five spring Mondays, a total of 5 documentaries were presented to the foreign audience in cooperation with the DAFilms platform. The films were complemented by online debates with the directors led by Ivana Formanová from IDF.

FILMS INCLUDED

- Talking About Adultery (2019, Bára K. Jíchová)
- Epidemic of Freedom (Tereza Reichová)
- Illusion (2018, Kateřina Turečková)
- Mallory (2015, Helena Třeščíková)
- Limits of Work (2017, Apolena Rychlíková)

		
 <p>MOVIE #1 Talking About Adultery online via DAFilms</p> <p>DATE & TIME 8 March / for 24 hours</p> <p>DEBATE guest Bára Jíchová Tyson, chaired by Ivana Formanová from Institute of Documentary Film on Facebook</p> <p>ORGANISED BY PARTNERS</p>	 <p>MOVIE #2 Epidemic of Freedom online via DAFilms</p> <p>DATE & TIME 22 March / for 24 hours</p> <p>DEBATE guest Tereza Reichová, chaired by Ivana Formanová from Institute of Documentary Film</p> <p>ORGANISED BY PARTNERS</p>	 <p>MOVIE #3 Illusion online via DAFilms</p> <p>DATE & TIME 5 April / for 24 hours</p> <p>DEBATE guest Kateřina Turečková, chaired by Ivana Formanová from Institute of Documentary Film</p> <p>ORGANISED BY PARTNERS</p>
 <p>MOVIE #4 Mallory online via DAFilms</p> <p>DATE & TIME 19 April / for 24 hours</p> <p>DEBATE guest Helena Třeščíková, chaired by Ivana Formanová from Institute of Documentary Film</p> <p>ORGANISED BY PARTNERS</p>	 <p>MOVIE #5 Limits of Work online via DAFilms</p> <p>DATE & TIME 3 May / for 24 hours</p> <p>DEBATE guest Apolena Rychlíková, chaired by Anna Puklová from Czech Centres</p> <p>ORGANISED BY PARTNERS</p>	

PERFORMING ARTS

AI: WHEN A ROBOT WRITES A PLAY

The Czech Centres became a partner of the foreign online launch of the first Czech play AI: When a Robot Writes a Play written by artificial intelligence, which was created as part of the research project THEaiTRE in cooperation between Švanda Theatre and the Institute of Formal and Applied Linguistics, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University. The project was supported by a research and innovation grant provided by the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic. The work on the joys and sorrows of a robot life was prepared by the director Daniel Hrbek and a team of scientists and theatre artists. The play premiered on 26th February 2021 on the occasion of the 100th commemoration of the launch of Karel Čapek's R.U.R and was cross-posted by most CCs abroad.

The media presentation of the project abroad was significantly supported by, for example, CC Bratislava through a moderated interview for Radio Devín or CC London, which created a comprehensive media concept and helped provide media coverage, reviews or debates with the authors in a number of the prominent local and national media – such as The Guardian, The Times, The Telegraph, A Younger Theatre, The Stage, the BBC World Service Digital Planet or the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

COMENIUS

John Amos Comenius is one of the personalities of Czech origin whose work is globally known and universally applicable. Last year, the Comenius legacy was commemorated by an exhibition called the Labyrinth of the World, which represented the author's Labyrinth of the World and Paradise of the Heart through collages made by the Czech graphic artist Miroslav Huptych. The exhibition was attended by visitors in Košice in Slovakia and Leszno in Poland.

READING HAVEL

The project was based on the original concept of the Václav Havel Library called Reading Havel and spread the idea abroad. This is a series of readings of Havel's texts presented by prominent Czech and foreign personalities. The reading took place online through the social media of the headquarters of the Czech Centres in Prague as well as foreign representations. Havel was read by Agnieszka Holland, Romano Prodi, Prokopis Pavlopoulos, Bessel Kok, Péter Nádas, Taťána Gregor Brzobohatá, Radka Denemarková, Aneta Langerová, Martha Issová, Tomáš Halík, Pavel Fischer, Patrik Hábl, Martin Šimečka and many other guests.

THE READING OF LETTERS TO OLGA AND A WORD ABOUT WORDS WAS JOINED BY THE CZECH CENTRES Rotterdam, Rome, Athens, Bratislava, Budapest, Seoul, Warsaw, Paris, New York and London

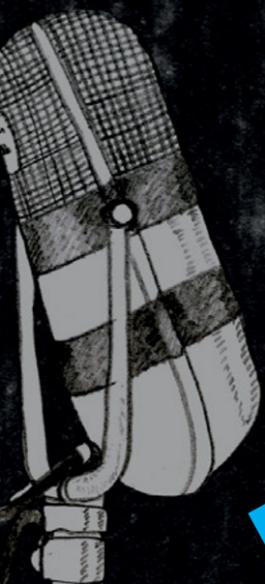


Left: Taťána Gregor Brzobohatá
Right: Aneta Langerová
© Johana Kratochvílová



(1901–1950)

Lawyer and prominent representative of the Czech women's movement. As a member of parliament of the Czechoslovak Socialist Party, from 1946 she opposed the communist government. In 1950 she was tried in a sham political trial for alleged treason and subsequently executed.



**Wilada
Horáková**



SOCIAL SCIENCE

CZECH HEROINES

Also in 2021, the following successful exhibition toured the world: **Czech Heroines. Significant Women in Czech History and Present**, which was made in 2020 in cooperation between Czech Centres and Ladislav Sutnar Faculty of Design and Art, University of West Bohemia in Pilsen. The illustrated portraits of 50 prominent female personalities seen through the eyes of the youngest generation of illustrators were presented in 2021 to viewers in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Luxembourg, Kosovo, Finland, Great Britain and even Japan.

Illustration: Julie Opletalová

CULTURE AND SOCIETY

CZECH NEXT WAVE

The continuation of a series of podcasts was created in cooperation with Radio Prague International and was hosted in English by Ian Willoughby. Through the podcasts, talented young Czechs presented to foreign listeners various professional directions including art, applied disciplines, science and innovation. The project was created in the autumn of 2020. Regarding its focus, the project currently has the character of a network project.

In 2021, the following 11 personalities were presented: Marie Tomanová (photography), Jiří Mádl (film), Kateřina Tučková (literature), Jakub Hruša (composing), Lenka Šimečková (comics), Jiří Havelka (theatre), Jakub Gemrot (gaming), Tereza Ondrová (dance), Lucie Koldová (design), Štěpán Hulík (film), Adam Plachetka (music), Herrman & Coufal (sustainable design).

CULTURE AND SOCIETY

OVERTHINKING – INTERVIEWS ON EUROPE, CULTURE AND OUR FUTURE

The Overthinking interviews were created as a series of the Czech Centres podcasts with prominent Czech personalities living abroad, reflecting social, economic and political changes during the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. The interviews are in English.

Personalities: Jen Kratochvíl, Libuše Černá, The Rodina, Denisa Šedivá and Jiří Šedivý and Jiří Přibáň.

The podcasts are available on Spotify and Soundcloud.



DESIGN

NOMAD STUDIO HERRMANN A COUFAL

In the second half of 2021, the NOMAD project was performed by the duo of designers Herrmann & Coufal. The authors presented the do-it-yourself phenomenon in order to prove that DIY does not need to always be considered as a low-cost alternative and tasteless solution but on the contrary – it emphasises its benefits for individuals as well as society. The first cooperation was a special project for the Spanish Concentrico Festival; Herrmann & Coufal introduced a special bench and table designed for a public space, of course manufactured by the DIY method.

The Nomad project was first launched in October as part of the Budapest Design Week (cooperation with Czech Centre Budapest); in an accompanying workshop, visitors had the opportunity to make a TeePee hanger. The launch in Budapest was followed by a December presentation of the project and the designers at Melba Design in Sofia, Bulgaria. The exhibition was installed in Czech Centre Sofia where visitors could make a beautiful Tension lamp at a workshop.



Nomad / Studio Herrmann
and Coufal
© Ivo Chupetlovski

TRADITIONS AND CRAFT

CHRISTMAS TREASURE

The exhibition of Czech Christmas glass decorations was created in cooperation with the Museum of Glass and Jewellery in Jablonec nad Nisou. A special part of the exhibition focused on pearl Christmas decorations from Poniklá.

LAUNCH OF THE EXHIBITION

The project was launched at the beginning of December in Czech Centre Paris, where the exhibition also opened the Year of Czech glass in France. A second parallel opening was organized by Czech Centre Rotterdam in the Dutch Museum of Glass in Leerdam. In addition, a workshop was held focusing on pearl Christmas decorations manufactured by Rautis.



A detail of the exhibition catalogue
© Jitka Smolřková



VÁNOČNÍ OZDOBY, DUV - DRUŽSTVO



OZDOBA CZ



GLOBAL SCIENCE CAFÉ 2021

The Global Science Café (GSC) is a series of popular scientific lectures and debates with the best Czech scientists, innovators and other prominent personalities. The series is shared within the network of the Czech Centres abroad. In 2021, these informal discussions about science took place four times, in English and in an online format. All of them were hosted by Michael Londesborough and were organized in cooperation with the Faculty of Electrical Engineering of the Czech Technical University in Prague.

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS WERE HELD AS PART OF GSC

- VIVIDBOOKS (30th March)
The fifth part of the GSC series brought a discussion on the use of modern technology in education and the future of education.
Guests: Petra Bakajsová & Vítek Škop
- ROBOT 100 (8th June)
The sixth part of the discussion offered various views of Čapek's work and his robots.
Guests: Jitka Čejková, Jana Horáková, Tomáš Mikolov, František Štěpánek
- INSPIRING WOMEN IN SCIENCE (5th October)
The seventh part of the cycle presented inspiring women in science. The debate focused on the personal stories of female scientists whose dreams came true in science.
Guests: sociologist Marcela Linková, biologist Kateřina Sam, polar ecologist Marie Šabacká
- FOOTWEAR DESIGNER OLDŘICH VOYTA (7th December)
The footwear designer and the winner of the national final of the FameLab 2021 scientific competition Oldřich Voyta spoke about the connection of art, beauty, craft, modern technology, aesthetics and comfort in creating new footwear collections.
Guest: Oldřich Voyta

All GSC parts can be viewed [here](#).

CZECH INNOVATION EXPO

From May to September 2021, the National Technical Museum presented a part of the Czech Centres project – the Czech Innovation Expo 2018 – dedicated to the history of Czech science and technology.

INTERNATIONAL ZOOM CHAT CLUB (IZCC)

The successful project was established in 2020 and continued in 2021 thanks to the experience with online teaching.

Through IZCC, a unique platform was opened every month for the networking of students of Czech from different Czech Centres abroad in a single virtual classroom. The aim of the club is to provide an opportunity to learn Czech and to connect students from different countries.

The topics are always based on Czech life and institutions.

TOPICS FOR 2021

- CZECH FOOD or Goulash with six dumplings
- LONG LIVE SPORT or How do Czechs do sports?
- HOW DO CZECHS LIVE or Do you also have a palm tree in your living room?
- CZECH TRACES IN THE WORLD or Do you wear contact lenses?
- CZECHS GO TO THE COTTAGE AT THE WEEKEND. Where do you go?
- CZECH HOLIDAY IN THE SHADOW OF COVID. There's no place like home.
- CZECHS ON THE ROAD: Let's go to the ZOO!
- WHAT DO CZECHS READ or Do you also have a Nordic crime fiction in your bookcase?
- CZECHS ON THE ROAD: The journey of a Czech from the maternity hospital to the crematorium.
- CZECH LITERATURE or Which Czech authors do we really read?
- CZECHS ON THE ROAD: Shall we go for a beer? Or what do Czechs drink...
- ARE CZECHS COLD IN WINTER? Or When it is freezing cold.

IZCC LECTURERS IN 2021

Petra Landergott, Petra Honzáková, Petra Huková, Markéta Dadáková

IZCC STUDENTS

The clubs traditionally have students of Czech from 18 countries around the world including Mexico and Kazakhstan. The first 20 chat clubs were joined by 631 students.

ONLINE LECTURES ABOUT THE CZECH LANGUAGE

In the area of supporting Czech studies abroad, the Czech Centres have organized a series of online lectures about the Czech language since 2020. Thanks to the high viewer ratings and positive feedback from the audience, the online lectures have been included in the permanent educational offer of CC and almost every month are available on the Facebook of the Czech Centres.

IN 2021, THE CZECH CENTRES ORGANIZED THE FOLLOWING 9 ONLINE LECTURES ABOUT THE CZECH LANGUAGE

- NO NEVIM NO ANEB DISKURZNÍ MARKERY V ČEŠTINĚ (Mgr. Lucie Jílková, Ph.D., Czech Language Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences)
- AHA, TAK TO JSEM NETUŠILA ANEB ZE ŽIVOTA JAZYKOVÉ PORADNY (Mgr. Martin Beneš, Ph.D., Czech Language Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences)
- ČESKÁ SIBIŘ A MORAVSKÝ KLONDIKE: SPOJENÍ TYPY ČESKÝ, MORAVSKÝ S CIZÍM ZEMĚPISNÝM JMÉNEM (Mgr. Martin Beneš, Ph.D., Czech Language Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences)
- A JSTE SI S TÍM JISTÍ? O JEDNÉ ZMĚNĚ V ČESKÉM PŘEDLOŽKOVÉM SYSTÉMU (Mgr. Hana Prokšová, Ph.D., Institute of Czech language and Theory of Communication, Faculty of Arts, Charles University)
- POLIB MI...! NĚKOLIK POZNÁMEK K LEXIKOGRAFICKÉMU ZPRACOVÁNÍ VULGARISMŮ (Mgr. Martin Šemelík, Ph.D., Czech Language Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences)
- PREDIKATIVA – JEDENÁCTÝ SLOVNÍ DRUH V ČEŠTINĚ? (Mgr. Barbora Štěpánková, Ph.D., Institute of Formal and Applied Linguistics, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University)
- JAK MLUVÍME SPOLU A JAK KAŽDÝ SÁM (PhDr. Marie Kopřivová, Ph.D., Institute of the Czech National Corpus, Faculty of Arts, Charles University)
- MÁTOVÉ, MENTOLOVÉ, NEBO PEPRMINTOVÉ ŠATY? ANEB POJMENOVÁNÍ BAREV V SOUČASNÉ ČEŠTINĚ (Mgr. Michaela Lišková, Ph.D., Czech Language Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences)
- NA SLYŠENOU, NA SHLEDANOU ANEB JAK SE LOUČÍME, KDYŽ SE NEVIDÍME (PhDr. Ondřej Dufek, Ph.D., Czech Language Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences)

PROJECT PARTNERS

Czech Language Institute CAS, Institute of Czech Literature CAS, Institute of the Czech National Corpus FA CU, Institute of Formal and Applied Linguistics FMP CU, Institute of Czech Language and Theory of Communication FA CU

about Czech and German entitled “Kdo se směje u Kozla, ten se směje nejlíp. Wie Sprichwörter und andere Phraseme Werbung machen” (Dr. phil. Kateřina Šichová, Bohemicum – Centre for Czech Studies, University of Regensburg).

In addition to the enriching themes presented in an interesting way, the listeners appreciated the international discussion and interaction between Czech Bohemists and lecturers of the Czech language from many countries around the world. In this way, CC strive to strengthen the community of people involved in the study or teaching of the Czech language as a second language in an international setting and thus strengthen the position of the Czech language abroad and promote the reputation of the science that examines the Czech language.

The audiences of the online lectures were composed of international Bohemists, students and lecturers of the Czech language as well as compatriots and other people interested in the Czech language from a total of 35 countries of the world. Each lecture had about 100–500 viewers and the records were seen by hundreds of people.

The records of all of the online lectures about the Czech language are available [here](#).



COMPETITION PARTNERSHIP AND RESIDENTIAL STAYS

In 2021, the Czech Centres were partners of 10 competitions in 7 areas. The winners of the Czech Centres Award received a weekly residential stay in the Czech Centres network.

AWARDS AND AREAS

AWARDS AND COMPETITIONS

Young Painting Critique Award

Czech Grand Design / Discovery of the Year 2020

Czech Dance Platform Awards

Best Prague Spring Participant Prize

Magnesia Litera – Debut of the Year

Muriel Awards – The Best Comic Book

Jazzfruit

Czech Centres Award for the development of international scientific cooperation (for a participant of the FameLab competition)

Master's Diploma Theses Exhibition, Czech Chamber of Architects

National Student Design Award

AREA

Visual art

Design

Performing arts

Music

Literature

Literature

Music

Science

Architecture

Design

AWARDS

Pavel Dušek

Lappa Studio

Markéta Vacovská

Matouš Zúkal

Lenka Elbe

Štěpánka Jislová

and Tereza Drahoňovská

Uthando

Kristýna Holanová

Sára Roeselová

Vojtěch Veverka

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CZECH CENTRES AND THE FAMELAB COMPETITION

FAMELAB 2021

FameLab is an international science communication competition which takes place in 23 countries of the world. Contestants have three minutes to explain a scientific topic of their choice without using a data projector. Permissible aids are those that they are able to carry with them on stage and take them away after the presentation. The Czech Centres have been a long-term partner of FameLab Czech Republic.

In September 2021, the national finals of FameLab Czech Republic 2021 took place.

The Czech Centres Award, a weekly residential stay in one of the Czech Centres in Europe was given to Kristýna Holanová from Czech Technical University in Prague for her presentation "Proteins are not just food".

The winner of FameLab CZ 2021 was Oldřich Voyta from Tomas Bata University in Zlín.



The FameLab Awards Ceremony at the CIIRC, ČVUT
Left to right: Vladka Coufalová, the Czech Centres;
Kristýna Holanová, CC/FameLab Award Winner
© Czech Centres

CURATOR AND JOURNALIST VISITS

In 2021, the Czech Centres brought 47 curators and 7 journalists from 16 countries to the Czech Republic. Curator and journalist visits are one of the key instruments of cultural diplomacy. This helps consolidate cultural contacts and contributes to strengthening the reputation of the Czech Republic in the world.

In an international context, the outcomes of these visits become visible after several years because the planning of festivals and exhibitions takes place well in advance. An example of successful curator visits in 2021 would be Quartieri di Vita – Life Infected with Social Theatre in Naples. A curator visit to Prague resulted in a meeting of the manager of Fondazione Campania dei Festival Brunella Fusco with the director Jana Svobodová from Archa Theatre. In December 2021, Jana Svobodová prepared a new production in Naples, in which young artists from the Nest Napoli Teatro shared their personal stories through video portraits and music.

The curator visit to the International Glass Symposium in Nový Bor is closely related to the presentation of Czech glass in Spain. In 2022, the exhibition Innovation in Glass CZECH-IN will be opened in the Royal Glass Factory in La Granja and Jitka Kolbe Růžičková will be presented at the MAVA Museum in Alcorcón. At the end of the year, an exhibition of glass pearl decorations will be held.

LIST OF ALL SUPPORTED GUESTS BY DISCIPLINES

DESIGN / ARCHITECTURE

Mouvo/ 31 August–2 September

UK: David Bailey, Head of UX in BBC; Thiago Maia, Cookie Studio; Alexa Sirbu & Lukas Vojir, XK Studio

Designblok/ 6–10 October

Romania: Maria Neneciu, Romanian Design Week, The Institute

Slovakia: Lubica Hustá, Bratislava Design Week; Tatiana Kollárová, DAAD Bratislava

Loos 151 Conference, Brno / 21–22 October

Austria: Elana Shapira, Universität für angewandte Kunst, Vienna; Timo Riess, Architekturerbe Österreich; Erich Hubmann, Akademie der bildenden Künste, Vienna; Ralf Bock, architekt; Andreas Vass, Akademie der bildenden Künste, Vienna

THEATRE / DANCE

Individual visit in the area of theatre + Festival Theatre Pilsen / 14–17 September

Italy: Brunella Fusco, Manager of Fondazione Campania dei Festival

Czech Dance Platform / 27–30 September

The Netherlands: Anita Van Dolen, Director of Julidans Festival Amsterdam

Bulgaria: Yassen Vasilev, Critic

FILM

Karlovy Vary International Film Festival / 20–28 August

Bulgaria: Katerina Lambrinova, Journalist, Kino Magazine

Romania: Teodora Leu, Journalist, Acoperisul de sticla, Films in Frame, Film Menu

Ji.hlava / 26–31 October

Poland: Urszula Lipinska, FilmPro Magazine, Magazyn SFP; Anna Shevchenko, Film New Europe

Romania: Flavia Dima, Films in Frame

France: Zoe Aiano, East European Film Bulletin

MUSIC

Reconnect SoundCzech / 15–17 September

Germany: Natasha Padabed, Music Manager; Tim Joppien, Berlin Music Commission

Lednice-Valtice Music Festival / 5–17 October

Austria: Robert Quitta, Journalist

Lunchmeat festival /

30 September–3 October

Sweden: Tommy Ose, Insomnia Festival, Tromsø; Ulf Eriksson, Inkonst Cultural Centre and Intonal Festival, Malmö

Greece: Ilias Chatzichristodoulou, Manager at the Athens Digital Arts Festival

LITERATURE

Individual visit in the area of literature / 5–25 July

France: Delphine Beccaria, Curator

Tabook / 2–4 September

France: Gérard Lo Monaco, Curator, Author of pop-up books

GLASS

International Glass Symposium

Nový Bor / 30 September–3 October

Portugal: Tania Rosa Martinho, Director of the Glass Museum in Marinha Grande

Spain: Paloma Pastor, Director of Museo Tecnológico del Vidrio; Maria Luisa Martinez, Director of MAVA

Italy/Spain: Gala Fernández, Curator and Designer

Italy: Francesca Giubilei, Co-founder of the Venice Design Biennial

VISUAL ART / PHOTOGRAPHY / ILLUSTRATION

Individual curator visit in the area of visual art / 16–19 September

Italy: Giorgio de Finis, Founder of Museo delle Periferie, Rome

Individual visit in the area of visual art / 20–24 September

Poland: Marianna Dobkowska, curator; Ika Siekiewicz-Nowacka, Curator

Photographer Festival / 21–24 September

Austria: Michael Kollmann, Ostlicht Curator

Germany: Stephanie Kiwitt

France: Sonia Voss, Curator of the Festival d'Arles

Greece: Athanasios Stavarakis, Athens World Photo

LUSTR/ 25–27 September

The Netherlands: Dennis Elbers, Director of the Graphic Matters Festival

Frame festival / 13–14 November

Belgium: Leticia Sere, Founder and Director of the Grafik Gallery

Individual visit in the area of visual art / 9–11 December

Luxembourg: Marie-Noelle Farcy, head of the MUDAM collection, Curator; Sarah Beaumont, Curator Assistant, MUDAM

PUBLIC SPACE

Different City Experience / 15–19 September

Romania: Alexandru Belenyi, Architect and Urbanist, BAZA Bucharest; Malina Duta, Project Manager, Timișoara University Library; Teodora Albiter, Fundatia comunitara Oradea

Moldova: Elena Russu, Oberliht Chișinău



MUDAM Luxembourg Curators Marie-Noëlle Farcy and Sarah Beaumont visiting DOX
Left to right: Anežka Horáčková, DOX; Vladka Coufalová, Czech Centres; Marie-Noëlle Farcy, Curator, MUDAM;
Alena Kopečná, Czech Centres; Sarah Beaumont, Assistant Curator, MUDAM
© Czech Centres

FEEDBACK FROM FOREIGN GUESTS

FESTIVAL THEATRE PILSEN 14-17 SEPTEMBER

**ITALY / Brunella Fusco, Manager
of Fondazione Campania dei Festival:**

“The purpose of my visit was to open up new forms of cultural cooperation between our countries. In Prague, I received a competent presentation of the cultural scene from the Czech Centres. I met Jana Burianová from Prague City Theatres who presented to me international projects and showed me around the theatres. In Pilsen, I took part in the Festival Theatre where I saw more than 10 performances. After returning to Prague, I met Jana Svobodová from Archa Theatre. Together, we’ll work on a project in Naples called Quartieri di Vita – Life Infected with Social Theatre! Jana is the leader in the field of social site-specific theatre and is known for her work with diverse communities across Europe.”

DIFFERENT CITY EXPERIENCE – PRAGUE 15-19 SEPTEMBER

**ROMANIA / Malina Duta, Project
Manager of Timișoara University
Library, social initiative LOGOS,
Timișoara:**

“My first contact with the Czech Centres couldn’t be better. The journey covered all of my professional interests. The strongest point was definitely the immersion in the socio-cultural life of Prague and meeting local communities which is a source of inspiration for me. I was inspired mainly by meetings with the representatives of Automat and Paměti města. During the Different City Experience event, I saw how non-profit cafés work, which inspired me to try out this concept in the LOGOS social organization where I work. LOGOS is also interested in future cooperation with Czech Centre Bucharest on joint social projects.”

INTERNATIONAL GLASS SYMPOSIUM NOVÝ BOR 30 SEPTEMBER – 3 OCTOBER

**ITALY / Francesca Giubilei, Co-founder
of Venice Art Factory and Venice
Design Biennial:**

“I was honoured to be part of the European delegation that came to the Czech Republic to the International Glass Symposium. It was inspiring to see the openness of the glassmakers as they shared their experience because in Murano it is quite difficult to get into glassworks. The way Czech glassmaking has achieved fame and how it has developed, not only in the past, but also today, should be an inspiration for Venice. I hope that these two exceptional glassmaking traditions will find a common ground, collaborate and exchange information in order to spread awareness about glass as a material suitable for contemporary design, architecture and art.”

CZECH LANGUAGE COURSES ABROAD

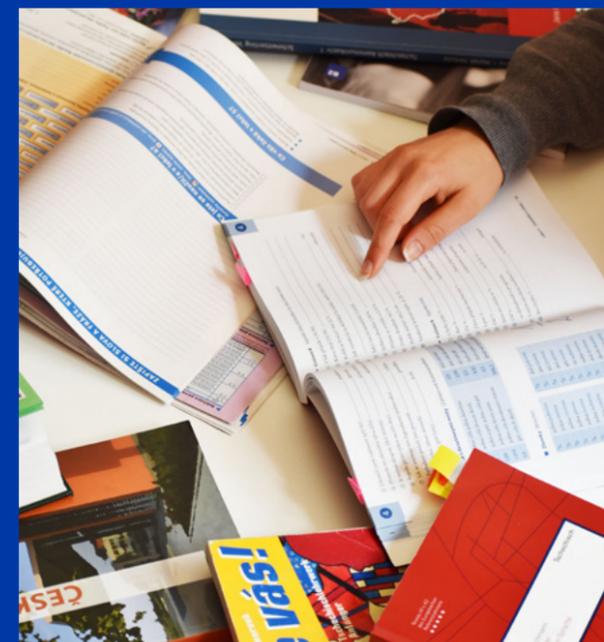
In the area of language courses within the CC network, 2021 was marked by standardization, consolidation and the improvement of online teaching. It is becoming a norm that Czech Centres abroad include online courses of Czech as a parallel to face-to-face courses. Since 2021, online courses have become an integral part of our offer. We continued immediate education and training of lecturers in the area of online courses including the effective use of teaching applications. Thanks to the new offer of online courses, we also presented our offer to potential learners of Czech outside the destinations where face-to-face courses normally take place.

CC courses were joined by more than 2,000 students, with less than 20 % of courses on a face-to-face basis. This was largely due to the pandemic situation in the world but also the increasing popularity of online language courses. Therefore, the concept of online courses will surely be maintained within CC after face-to-face education has been restored.

In 2021, Czech language courses were held in the following **16 Centres**: Berlin, Bratislava, Bucharest, Budapest, Kyiv, London, Milan, Moscow, Munich, New York, Paris, Sofia, Tokyo, Vienna, Warsaw and a new destination Stockholm.

Last year, the courses were joined by a total of **2,315 students**.

In 2021, the CCA network had a total of **83 lecturers** with CC Kyiv having the largest number of 37 lecturers. Some lecturers worked directly in a specific CCA, while others taught online from the Czech Republic. The levels and types of courses differed depending on demand.



CENTRE	TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN 2021
Berlin	175
Bratislava	1
Bucharest	34
Budapest	155
Kyiv	815
London	241
Milan	48
Moscow	204
Munich	112
New York	31
Paris	67
Sofia	55
Stockholm	8
Tokyo	244
Vienna	23
Warsaw	102

HYBRID CERTIFIED EXAMS ABROAD

In 2021, a breakthrough was made in the field of language examination. Due to the unpredictable development of the global Covid-19 pandemic, hybrid certified exams abroad were organized for the first time in Kyiv (May), Moscow (June), London (October) and Tokyo (November) in cooperation with the Institute for Language and Preparatory Studies, Charles University (ILPS CU). A total of 161 candidates from many different countries of the world passed a certified exam.

A team of ILPS CU examiners trained selected employees of the Czech Centres for them to be able to administer the written part of the exam under streamed supervision from Prague. The oral part was conducted online directly with the examiners from the Research and Test Centre of ILPS CU.

METHODOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM

In addition to methodological support, in 2021 CC lecturers joined the traditional METHODOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM ILPS CU-CC, which was attended online by 23 lecturers from 10 centres abroad – Bratislava, Bucharest, Kyiv, Milan, Moscow, Munich, Sofia, Tokyo, Vienna and Warsaw.

A regular part of CC support included individual and regional methodological training and supervision, which in 2021 took place purely online.

INTERNSHIPS AND TRAINING

INTERNSHIPS AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN CZECH CENTERS

CC have long cooperated with Czech universities in sending students abroad to practical internships in the field of cultural diplomacy. CC offer internships in the following specializations: administration-organization, graphics, translation, lecturing (teaching the Czech language) and promotion.

In 2021, despite the globally unfavourable epidemiological situation, a total of **188 practical internships** were organized in CCA. In some countries, the internships had to be held online.



Intern Tomáš Starý with the Director of CC Sofia Dagmar Ostřanská
© Czech Centres

TOMÁŠ STARÝ, a graphic artist, freelancer, graduate of a master's degree in DESIGN at the Ladislav Sutnar Faculty of Design and Art, University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, spent a total of eleven months in CC as part of the Erasmus+ programme for graduate interns:

“Already during my study there were regular offers of the Czech Centres internships and because I'm into culture (especially art, design and music), the choice was quite clear. I went through several competitions and I was selected for three destinations: Greece, Hungary, Bulgaria. I signed up for all of them at once. I completed all of them – one after another. Each internship was unique not only because of the people or work but also because of the position of the institutions based on tradition and historical context.”

By establishing cooperation with the Secondary School of Visual Arts in Hradec Králové, CC managed to involve students from Czech secondary schools in practical internships. As part of the Erasmus programme, 3 students (accompanied by teachers) completed a 14-day intensive internship in CC Vienna.

COOPERATION WITH UNIVERSITIES – INTERNSHIPS FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND ABROAD

- Possibility for students and graduates of Czech universities to gain experience in the Prague headquarters or internationally through internships in CC abroad;
- Lecturing internships (teaching Czech for foreigners) in Ukraine – due to the epidemiological measures, the lecturing internships in 2021 were performed online;
- Organization of seminars for university students on international internships;
- Presentation of CC activities in the academic environment;
- Presentation of CC activities in culture, education and public diplomacy to students;
- Support of Czech studies abroad and strengthening the community of people who study and teach Czech as a foreign language in an international environment.

PROMOTION OF CZECH UNIVERSITIES IN THE WORLD

As part of the implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Czech National Agency for International Education and Research and in accordance with the implementation of the Strategy for the Internationalisation of Higher Education for the period from 2021, CC organize events for foreign graduates from Czech universities.

As part of the Study in the Czech Republic Initiative (STUDY IN), which promotes Czech higher education among foreign applicants, the Ambassador & Czech Centres series was created.

Czech Centre Kyiv presented its activities as part

of Instagram Live Sessions in June 2021. Two interviews were held in Ukrainian between the coordinators from CC Kyiv and the ambassador Katerina Larina, who is currently studying in the Czech Republic. CC Kyiv presented courses of Czech and other cultural events that could be of interest to those who are planning to study in the Czech Republic.

The sessions were dedicated especially to young people living in Ukraine who are interested in higher education in the Czech Republic.

As part of Instagram Live Sessions, Czech Centre Tokyo participated in the Ambassador & Czech Centres series by organizing an interview with the ambassador Yuko Inaoka. CC Tokyo presented courses of Czech and other cultural events that could be of interest to those who are planning to study in the Czech Republic.

THE CZECH CENTRES AND THE ALUMNI PROGRAMME

Czech Centre Vienna was involved in the cultural programme during the online Alumni Meet Up Austria 2021, which took place at the beginning of October as part of the Alumni Programme.

SUPPORT OF CZECH STUDIES AND THE POPULARIZATION OF THE CZECH LANGUAGE

In the area of supporting Czech studies abroad, the Czech Centres have organized a series of online lectures about the Czech language since 2020. The lectures are intended for the general as well as professional community abroad and aim to present the Czech language in a popular form through topics presented by our leading Bohemists.

MEMORANDA OF COOPERATION

Memoranda of Cooperation are a strategic tool that helps intensify cooperation between institutions, facilitate the achievement of objectives and strengthen the relationships between the key actors. In the context of effective cooperation with partners in the Czech Republic, cooperation was developed with cultural and social institutions based on agreements and memoranda in order to support international presentation.

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION WITH THE MUSEUM OF CZECH LITERATURE (MCL)

The subject of the Memorandum is mutual cooperation in the promotion and presentation of Czech literature, book culture and design abroad, including fairs, festivals or other relevant events and industry opportunities or thematic projects in countries where Czech Centres are represented. It also defines CC's responsibilities in promoting MLC abroad, including the project The Most Beautiful Czech Books of the Year in the area of book design or the Czech-French Centre Petrkov. At the same time, the document addresses the basic aspects of cooperation. The detailed specification of the cooperation will be negotiated between the representatives of the parties and contractors.

Signed 22nd June 2021

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION WITH THE TECHNOLOGY AGENCY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The subject of the Memorandum is cooperation in joint scientific and popularization activities, media coverage of the results of research and innovation development, organization of thematic exhibitions, projects or other CC presentations (for example Vision for Innovative Europe). Other areas of cooperation include the promotion and presentation of the results of Czech research or cooperation in professional programmes, curator and journalist visits to the Czech Republic and other countries. The achievement of the objectives of the Memorandum is based on agreements that specify the content of cooperation and define the mutual rights and obligations.

Signed 15th September 2021



Signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between Czech Centres and the Museum of Czech Literature
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