

Annual Report Czech Centres 2020



Your Czech
Network

Contents

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Introduction from the Director General



© David Háva

Dear friends of Czech Centres,

2020 will remain forever in the memory of our lives and without a doubt, in the history of Czech Centres. We were struck by the Covid pandemic in March 2020. In response to the current situation, we substantially transformed our activities. Under the motto **Czech culture to the world** the twenty-five offices of the Czech Centres network moved most of their activities from real space for the online one. This internet “leap” was achieved in a very short period of time and we quickly reached the virtual environment on three continents – Europe, Asia and America. At the same time, we offered presentation possibilities to Czech artists, institutions and partners. We did not forget science and innovation, which is an area that we are increasingly focusing on.

The quarantine restrictions have strengthened our competences when it comes to internet programming, which will undoubtedly become a solid part of our creative work even in the post-pandemic period.

We have completed the work on the **Strategy for Czech Centres 2020–2023** which sets out the key instructions until the end of 2023 and formulates the **Mission of Czech Centres**.

The new strategy identifies our main objectives, including for example the integration of Agenda 2030, the environmental policy and the principles of sustainable development into our programme activities. It emphasizes the development of cultural relations on an international scale and the strengthening of the synergies of national authorities in foreign presentation of the Czech Republic on a domestic scale. It strengthens the European context of our work, the programme support for the Innovation Strategy of the Czech Republic and new forms of presentation of high-quality artistic content. It focuses on prominent Czech personalities in a global context (Comenius, Havel) and on “education and creativity for the future”. The implementation of the strategy should also induce “methodological and quantitative development of teaching the Czech language abroad”.

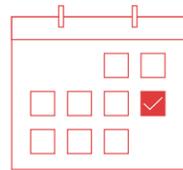
In their **mission**, Czech Centres are for the first time defined as a **cultural institute**. They have thus become part of the EUNIC network (European Union National Institutes for Culture) which includes for example the Goethe Institute, the French Institute, the Spanish Cervantes, the Swedish Institute or DutchCulture.

In 2020, our programme was dominated by **network online projects** implemented in many different formats across the Czech Centres network and in cooperation with many representative offices. I would like to mention at least three of them: the project **Adolf Loos – Pioneer of Modern Living** (on the life and work of the architect Loos), the exhibition **Czech Heroines** (a series of original graphic and text portrayals of famous women from Czech history and present times) and last but not least the attractive scientific series called **Global Science Café** which by means of video interviews or podcasts presents young and talented Czech scientists.

For Czech Centres, 2020 was a year of new content and formats, unusual themes as well as new and flexible dimensions of cultural diplomacy. The crisis we have all experienced has helped us achieve greater attractiveness, become more efficient and have faster communication. It has strengthened our project endeavours and our sense of belonging and identification with the **mission of Czech Centres**. For all of this, I would like to thank my colleagues abroad as well as those at the Prague headquarters, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, our principal authority, representative offices and other partners. Also, of course to all of you who have simply been with us.

PhDr. Ondřej Černý
Director General of Czech Centres

Czech Centres in Numbers



1 700
events

551 184
website visits



9 874 439
visits

195 000
social network fans
(35 000 new fans)



12
competitions in 7 areas

5 000+
#CzechCultureToTheWorld
hashtag entries



16
curators from
12 countries

5 584
media responses



2 687
students of Czech

Czech Centres and Cultural Diplomacy

Mission of Czech Centres

Czech Centres are a contributory organization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. They 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, they are the key actor representing the Czech Republic abroad and the main institutional mediator of cultural interactions and the building of relationships with international audiences. They link significant actors of 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 as well as cultural dialogue.

Activities

Czech Centres promote the Czech cultural scene (visual art, architecture, design, fashion, film, music, theatre, literature) in the world. They 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, Czech Centres cooperate with universities and specialized institutions. They organize language courses. Czech language courses and education in general are supported by methodological and quantitative development of the courses and the preparation of new types of courses according to territorial specificities, promotion of the Czech language by means of cultural events and social ties as well as cooperation with Czech studies departments and universities in the Czech Republic and foreign territories.

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

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 high innovation potential, popularization of Czech science and research, including the cultivation of existing cultural capital aimed at innovation.

Presence in the World

The network of Czech Centres as of 31 December 2020 included the headquarters in Prague, 25 foreign offices, Czech House Moscow, Czech House Jerusalem and Czech House Bratislava.

Position Among Institutions

Czech Centres are defined as a cultural institute. They are active in the field of culture in the broadest sense of the sectors involved (art, cultural and creative industries, cultural heritage, education, language, human rights, science, innovation, sport, gastronomy, lifestyle). They organize Czech language courses abroad and participate in the organization of certified language examinations. Czech Centres have been fully embedded in the EUNIC network (European Union National Institutes for Culture) since its establishment in 2006.

EUNIC and European Projects

Czech Centres are part of the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC). This membership not only strengthens the prestige of the Czech Republic in the area of cultural diplomacy, acquisition of information, exchange of expertise or access to funding within the network but it also supports the involvement in major international projects co-financed by the EC Creative Europe programme. Currently, Czech Centres are involved in the implementation of the House of Europe programme in Ukraine and other cultural projects of EUNIC clusters worldwide.

The Headquarters of Czech Centres in Prague operates as the Focal Point within the EUNIC network and is therefore the representative of the organization for close cooperation with the EUNIC administration. In addition, Czech Centres can appoint representative offices of the MFA CR as mandated EUNIC members in locations that so far do not have a Czech Centres Office. In this way, Czech cultural diplomacy is involved in an increasing number of cultural projects around the globe.

The representatives of Czech Centres are involved in formulating of the strategy of the entire EUNIC network and developing concepts for flagship projects. In the functions of presidents, they form the strategies of their own clusters and in the position of members of strategic groups they contribute to the development and links between international projects in the area of public diplomacy. Although the size and reach of the clusters differ, in recent years, this platform has been effective in delivering various activities.

In 2020, Czech Centres participated in the operation of a number of clusters on three different continents. Directors in Brussels, London, Rome and Berlin presided over their clusters as Cluster Presidents, while other directors acted as Vice Presidents.

House of Europe

A four-year project that promotes professional and creative exchange between Ukrainians and their colleagues in EU countries. The programme focuses on a number of professional areas: culture and creative industries, education, health-care, social entrepreneurship, media and youth. It includes more than 20 individual programme lines that allow the participants to take part in conferences, professional events, traineeships and networking opportunities in the EU or to apply for student visits, residences, trainings and other forms of support. The House of Europe finances cultural co-productions and cooperation between Ukrainian and European organizations along with the development of cultural infrastructure and artistic concepts for young people in Ukraine. In addition, the programme organizes youth camps and exchanges for university students in Ukraine.

The implementation of the project is supported by the Goethe-Institut, British Council, L'Institut français and Czech Centres. The role of Czech Centres is to organize seminars led by doctors from Europe directly in Ukraine as well as to initiate and organize professional traineeships for Ukrainian doctors and nurses



↑ Literature Night
© Anna Němcová

Ivan Trojan reads an excerpt from the book *Deník se sl. Inivkou* in Hus' House (Vršovice)

↗ Ideas Yard: Talking About Europe
© EUNIC Praha, Pavla Hradcová



in EU countries. Due to travel restrictions in 2020, Czech Centres launched two online courses for neonatologists prepared in collaboration with leading Czech and Polish doctors. The traineeships, seminars and online courses focus on neonatology, physiotherapy, rehabilitation and occupational therapy.

EUNIC Cluster Projects

EUROPEAN LITERATURE NIGHT

It is the longest-running EUNIC project initiated by Czech Centres. In 2020, despite the pandemic situation, the project was joined by 30 cities in the Czech Republic and five cities in Europe.

IDEAS YARD: TALKING ABOUT EUROPE

A series of discussions with the common theme of Europeanism. A project of the Prague EUNIC Cluster supported by the EUNIC Cluster Fund 2019. In 2020, three discussions on the following topics were held:

- Education Today: What Would Comenius Say?
- The Future of Sustainable Farming and Food Consumption in Europe
- Human Rights and Artistic Expression after Covid-19

The project continues in 2021.

REX ANIMATION FILM FESTIVAL

Exhibition of animated films made by European artists. A project of the Stockholm EUNIC Cluster supported by the EUNIC Cluster Fund 2019.

CINEMASCOP – MORE THAN A FILM FESTIVAL

A successful open-air film festival launched in 2018 that takes place in an abandoned summer cinema on the coast of the Black Sea. A project of the Bucharest Cluster again supported by the EUNIC Cluster Fund 2019.

INTERNATIONAL FORUM: SOCIAL DESIGN FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES

A conference, exhibition, debate forum, all of this is part of a project of the Warsaw EUNIC Cluster supported by the EUNIC Cluster Fund 2019.

BABYLON EUROPA 2020

A European show with live music, spoken word, videoart, dance and a real audience. The second year of a composed evening with artists from 13 EU countries organized by the Berlin EUNIC Cluster. Due to the pandemic measures, the whole show was streamed live on the internet.



↑ EUNIC European Literature Night © Margret Wibmer

Left to right: Pavla Horáková (on-line), Guido Snel, moderator, author, Paulus Hochgatterer, Austrian writer, Margot Dijkgraaf, moderator, literary critic



← IF: Social Design for Sustainable Cities
© EUNIC Warsaw

Opening of the exhibition at PROM Kultury Saska Kępa Gallery



Projects

In addition to specific online programmes, a number of other exhibition projects were prepared and presented also in the network of the Czech representative offices. The main projects included exhibitions organized in collaboration with our partners.

The large offer (see below) is divided by its nature and focus into **Long-Term Projects** and **Network and Online Projects**; Czech Centres responded to the pandemic by moving its activities online (see chapter **Network and Online Projects** on page 16 and chapter **Science, Research, Innovation** on page 25).

Long-term Projects

Long-term projects form an integral part of the activities of Czech Centres. In 2020, the most significant projects involved the following areas: Literature, Film, Culture and Society.

Literature

SUSANNA ROTH AWARD 2020

The international translation competition with the Susanna Roth Award is designed for beginning foreign translators from the Czech language aged 40 years and younger. This was the sixth year of the competition and fourth year co-organized by Czech Centres and Czech Literary Centre, Moravian Library in Brno. This is a long-term project to support the young generation of foreign Bohemists and translators. Another aim is to present the contemporary Czech literary creation. The prestigious award is given for the best translation of a prose text by a contemporary Czech author (from Czech to a world language).

The competition text representing the contemporary Czech prose was selected by a panel of experts including literary critics, translators and organizers of the competition. This was a passage from Veronika Bendová's *Vytěženej kraj* (Fra, 2019) nominated for Magnesia Litera, the annual book award.

In 2020, the competition brought together translations from a total of 104 participants from 13 European countries and Japan. The competition was of great interest in Poland, Russia, Germany and Ukraine. Thanks to the involvement of the selected representative offices of the Czech Republic, the competition was also held in Belarus (in cooperation with the CC Kyiv), Croatia, Lithuania and Northern Macedonia (in cooperation with the CC Sofia). However, probably also due to the Covid-19 pandemic, no contestants signed up in Belarus and North Macedonia. In Germany, the best translation was not announced but instead, two second places were awarded.

List of countries involved: Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

Culture and Society

CZECH NEXT WAVE

In September 2020, a long-term podcast project was launched in cooperation between CC and Radio Prague International (RPI). The project presents interviews with selected Czech personalities aged 40 years and younger in the field of culture, art or science whose inspirational professional portfolio has reached beyond the borders of the Czech Republic and is interesting for sharing in the context of an international audience. The selection and addressing of the guests is performed primarily by CC. The interviews are in English and are conducted by an RPI editor. The podcasts are published every three weeks and are available in online platforms including Spotify or iTunes as well as CC and RPI websites. Guests for 2020: Albert Černý (music), Michal Šimiček (science and research), Terezie R. Kladošová (fashion), Marek Šindelka (literature) and Sára Vondrášková aka Never Sol (music).

Film

CZECH THAT FILM 2020

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. In 2020, Czech That Film took place despite the coronavirus pandemic. The 9th year of the exhibition was marked by a fundamental transformation. All films were made gradually available to the American audience exclusively via the internet over a period of several weeks. The original twenty cities in the United States of America and Canada where the festival was supposed to take place was extended and the selection of six Czech films was available to viewers across North America.

In cooperation with the DAFilms VOD platform (www.czechthatfilm.com), each week one film from the selection was made available upon payment of a fee. The first film to be screened was Staříci (Old-Timers). The playlist also included the following films: Karel, já a ty (Karel, Me and You, directed by Bohdan Karásek), Klec (The Cage, directed by Jiří Strach), Na střeše (On the Roof, directed by Jiří Mádl), Přes prsty (Overfingers, directed by Petr Kolečko) and Hra (The Play, directed by Alejandro Fernández Almendras).

Regarding the pandemic restrictions, it was impossible to organize visits to the USA and Canada.

The films were complemented with pre-recorded Q&A with the directors Martin Dušek, Ondřej Provasník, Bohdan Karásek, Jiří Mádl and Petr Kolečko.



↑ Czech That Film 2020
© Česká centra

Left to right: Ondřej Provasník,
Anna Puklová, Martin Dušek

← Czech That Film 2020
© Martin Poláček

Network and Online Projects

Czech Centres abroad immediately responded to the pandemic crisis in March 2020. Intensive communication with the foreign audience took place via websites, social networks as well as the newly devised e-newsletters. In the area of the presentation of Czech culture, science and innovation or Czech language teaching, Czech Centres have not stopped their activities but continue in the form of separate or network online projects. In addition to sharing interesting projects, all kinds of new formats and online programmes have been prepared. In this chapter, network and online projects are grouped by the following areas: **Visual art, Literature, Performing Arts, Music, Film, Architecture, Science – Research – Innovation, Czech Language Teaching.**



Visual Art

STILL CITIES

Author of photographs for the CR: Karel Cudlín

A set of ten artistic photographs by Karel Cudlín which capture life in the Czech metropolis during the Covid-19 pandemic. Originally created for the exhibition of Czech Centre in Bratislava and exhibited at Hviezdoslav Square in Bratislava when people only started to return to the streets. The photographs were exhibited together with a selection of photographs taken by the Slovak photographer Peter Korček who captured the Slovak metropolis in a similar way.

After Bratislava, the project moved to New York and Tokyo. In New York, the exhibition was launched online on the internet and on social networks. In combination with five American photographers, the project reminds us of the atmosphere of the beginnings of the corona crisis as they saw it in Prague and New York. In Tokyo, the works were exhibited physically together with the photographs of eleven Japanese photographers. Despite their geographical distance, all photographs have a common denominator: silence and loneliness.

CZECH PHOTOGRAPHY MASTERCLASS

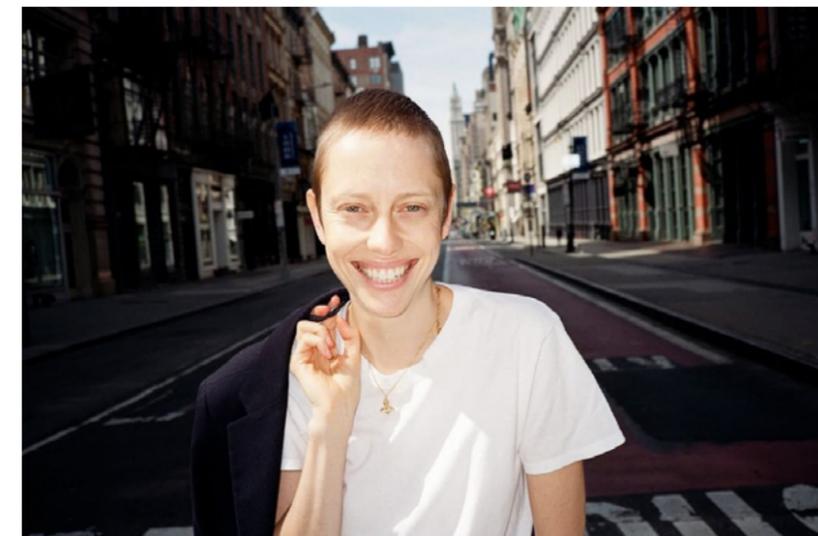
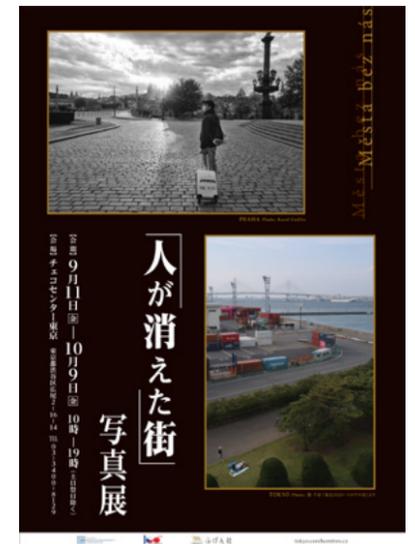
The original idea behind the Czech Photography Masterclass project was that a camera is a great companion in quarantine even if you are not a professional photographer. Therefore, Czech Centres asked leading Czech photographers to share and comment on their works and perspectives of contemporary photography on Instagram by means of posts and short videos and to advise their followers how they can capture fleeting moments, express emotions or show a new perspective when it comes to usual things which are around us through photographs. The Masterclass on

Instagram is open to everybody. In this way, the participants get valuable feedback from renowned personalities of Czech photography including Libuše Jarcovjáčková or Ivan Pinkava. In 2020, we introduced 6 photographers. In 2021, the project successfully continues. It includes Czech Centres on three continents, from New York through Berlin and on to Tokyo.

CZECH HEROINES: SIGNIFICANT WOMEN IN CZECH HISTORY AND PRESENT

The exhibition “Czech Heroines: Significant Women in Czech History and Present” was made in 2020 in cooperation between Czech Centres and the Ladislav Sutnar Faculty of Design and Art, University of West Bohemia in Pilsen.

The exhibition shows illustrated portraits of 50 prominent women viewed through the eyes of the youngest generation of illustrators. The project was inspired by the 100th anniversary of the suffrage act for Czechoslovak women in 1920 and the 200th anniversary of the birth of the writer Božena Němcová. The creation of the portraits was supervised by Renáta Fučíková; the authors of the accompanying



↑ Still Cities / A Town People Disappeared From, Tokyo

↩ Czech Photography Masterclass with Marie Tomanová © Marie Tomanová

← Czech Photography Masterclass with Ivan Pinkava © Ivan Pinkava

texts are the historian Lenka Křížová and the writer Kateřina Tučková. The exhibition project follows the publication of the book *Heroine* in autumn 2020 by Euromedia.

The opening of the public presentation of the exhibition coincided with the onset of the pandemic. The first exhibition in Jerusalem at the beginning of March 2020 was attended by visitors but it was also the last one due to the closure of exhibition venues. The exhibition was therefore quickly converted into an online format and presented on the social networks of Czech Centres and representative offices of the Czech Republic and thanks to our partnership, also on the Radio Prague International website in several language versions. With the gradual loosening of restrictions during the summer the exhibition gradually reached its visitors and was available (whether live or online) in almost twenty countries: Israel, Russia, USA, United Kingdom, Netherlands, France, Italy, Slovakia, Austria, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, Brazil, Pakistan, Germany, Switzerland, North Macedonia, Albania, Estonia.

CZECH ARTISTS WORLDWIDE – INSTAGRAM TAKEOVERS

One of the online Czech Centres projects is the so-called “takeovers”, a popular concept in which Czech artists for one day take over the Instagram account of the Czech Centre in the country they are linked to and present their creation by taking the followers into their studios. The project involves 12 Czech Centres and has already presented over a dozen artists including David Böhm, the winner of the Magnesia Litera Award for the best book for children and young people. Takeovers have their own hashtag **#CzechArtistsworldwide**.



→ Czech Artists Worldwide: Instagram Takeover with Kateřina Gabriel Konarovská managed by CC Rotterdam © Kateřina Gabriel Konarovská

CENTIPEDE

In 2020, Czech Centres for the first time joined the humanitarian activities of the On Own Feet Movement – CENTIPEDE with an arts competition organized in six Czech Centres abroad. Children from Japan, South Korea, UK, Greece, Austria and Israel made their artwork on the theme “Special Spring 2020”, thus having an opportunity to express how they perceived the changes brought to our lives by the coronavirus pandemic.

The winning artworks were exhibited in October and November at the Great Hall of the Pilsen Municipality. During 2021, they will also be exhibited at the Czech House in Jerusalem.

Literature

ANTHOLOGY OF STORIES: OBJECTS IN THE REAR-VIEW MIRROR ARE CLOSER THAN THEY APPEAR

The anthology of stories issued in cooperation between Czech Centres (CC) and Odeon was introduced on the Czech book market in December 2020. It contains 17 texts of selected Czech or Czech speaking authors linked to Czech Centres abroad. One of the initial creative contexts was the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic that was reflected in the final stories. The idea of authors' stories written exclusively for CC was born in Berlin from where it inspirationally spread on the network to other territories supported by the Prague Headquarters. The stories were also published as a book. This project involved CC in Israel, Japan, Germany, Austria, Greece and the USA while it addressed artists with a specific link to their territories – Martin Becker, Bianca Bellová, Pavel Brycz, Lucie Faulerová, Radek Fridrich, Jiří Janků, Jaromír Konečný, Iva Pekárková, Markéta Pilátová, Lída Rakušanová, Tomáš Ráliš, Jaroslav Rudiš, Tereza Semotamová, Marie Topolová, Kateřina Tučková and David Zábranský; one of the texts was also submitted by Robert Mikoláš, Director of CC in Israel.

The text was limited in extent and the authors had to be linked with the territory. With a few exceptions, the stories were written in Czech and were (or will be) translated into the languages of the countries of origin where they were also published (especially online) for the local general community.

HERE AND NOW. CONTEMPORARY CZECH COMIC

The new project to support the international presentation of contemporary Czech comic creation was prepared by the curators Pavel Kořínek (Institute of Czech Literature CAS) and Tomáš Prokůpek (Moravian Museum in Brno). The contemporary Czech comic scene was represented by the profiles of selected authors (Pavel Čech, Jiří Grus, Karel Jerie, Štěpánka Jislová, Lucie Lomová, Vojtěch Mašek, Karel Osoha, Marek Rubec, Lucie Šimečková and Jaromír “99” Švejdík), their key comic works as well as the most important themes and tendencies that define and characterize it in the best possible way. The exhibition is accompanied by a set of comic books and a collection of 20 original comics created for CC on topics defined by the project title. In addition to the authors presented at the exhibition, 10 more comic book creators were involved (Ondřej and Pavel Bláha, Kateřina Čupová, Jindřich Janiček, Tomáš Kučerovský, Ester Kuchynková, Nikkarin, Honza Smolík, Viktor Svoboda, Václav Šlajch and Renata Wilfling).

The project is freely linked to the previous modular exhibition *Meanwhile, Elsewhere. 100 Years of Czech Comics* and in 2020 was introduced (in a limited extent) only in Poland and Russia.

Performing Arts

In the area of performing arts a closer partnership was established with KoresponDance, an international festival of contemporary dance, physical theatre and new circus, Czech Dance Platform or 420PEOPLE, a contemporary dance group with the support of the international CLASH! project. The presentations always included a predetermined programme intended for the general or professional international audience, while it was delivered in an online format and involved a number of foreign Czech Centres.



↑ Book cover: *Objects in the Rear-View Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear* © Odeon Publishing

Music

DJIŘÍ STIVÍN DIVIDLO

25 April

Exclusive pilot live stream music revue "Jiří Stivín Dividlo"

In his Dividlo project, the musician, photographer and filmmaker Jiří Stivín presented known creations of the elites of Czech/Slovak film and music art. Music and visual arts were used for extraordinary improvisations directly on stage. This was a one man show, where one of the crucial elements was film projection. You could hear baroque music, improvisation, jazz, chanson and spoken word.

The Czech Centres FB profile brought this show to audiences around the globe from Athens, Brussels or Bucharest, via Moscow, Munich, New York, Paris, Rotterdam, Rome, to Tel Aviv or even Tokyo.

MUSICIANS TO SCIENTISTS: MAN, SCIENCE, ART, TOLERANCE

13 May

Main organizer of the event: CTU

In May, Lucerna Music Bar hosted a virtual music festival comprised of 9 groups and musicians who in this way thanked all professionals involved in the fight against the pandemic. The concert was organized in cooperation with Czech Centres and was also shared via the social networks of Czech Centres abroad.

PRAGUE SPRING ONLINE

"Prague Spring in your home" was the title of a selected series of musical performances of the 75th year of the festival. Due to the pandemic, the performance was live but just as any other cultural events in the spring, it was broadcast online. Thanks to cooperation with Czech Centres, some of the musical performances of the Prague Spring festival were also seen by international audiences from Asia and America. All 25 branches of the extensive network, including embassies and representative offices, helped share the contents and performances. The programme included selected concerts including for example the performance of Adam Plachetka or the global "tailored" premiere ordered directly by Prague Spring from Brno Contemporary Art. One of the partners of the online presentation was the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. The program shared and broadcast by Czech Centres culminated on 1 June 2020 with a ceremony led by the conductor Tomáš Braun (FOK).

Thanks to this event, the musical programme of Czech Centres has transformed into a more significant and comprehensive form. The directors of Czech Centres shared the performances on their social networks, cross-posted them or broadcast them on their websites. In cooperation with Prague Spring, they also helped present this unique musical event in their countries. Some of the performances were recorded and replayed, which was appreciated especially by classical music lovers in different time zones, for example, in Asia or America. However, most of the shows were broadcast live.

NEW WORLD SYMPHONY WAS HEARD BEYOND THE BORDERS

Czech Centres broadcast the record of the historical concert on the Czech National Day

The commemoration of the establishment of the independent Czechoslovak Republic is traditionally one of the most significant national holidays in the Czech Republic. On this occasion, Czech Centres prepared a stream for another musical event which was also joined by international audiences. Czech Centres streamed the record of Dvořák's New World Symphony conducted by Václav Neumann to the metropolises on three different continents.

CZECH CHRISTMAS MASS ONLINE

17 December

The Czech Christmas Mass by Jakub Jan Ryba performed by the Dvořák Chamber Orchestra and Kühn Choir of Prague was broadcast online by Czech Centres abroad. Since its first presentation in the Baroque Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross at Christmas in 1796, the mass has become the symbol of Czech Christmas. The mass was recorded in this very church performed by outstanding soloists led by the conductor Libor Pešek accompanied by the sound of the original baroque organ of 1750 which Jakub Jan Ryba played himself.



← Contemporary Czech Animation, UTB: How are you?

Film

In 2020, the Czech Centres Film Focus was aimed at animated films.

CONTEMPORARY CZECH ANIMATION

Czech Centres in cooperation with selected universities and film festivals launched a special programme of animated films, paying tribute to current Czech animations. Animation has always been one of the gems of Czech and Czechoslovak cinematography and continues to hold this position, as evidenced by the international attention and awards won by contemporary animation works. It was not forgotten that in 2020 we commemorated 120 years of the birth of Hermína Týrlová who largely contributed to the birth of Czechoslovak animated film.

Films were projected online via the DAFilms platform which has an international reach and professional reputation. The focus on current Czech animation was presented as one of the Programme Specials. From June to September, several series were introduced free of charge in the form of curator film selections of approximately one hour footage. Each series was available for ten days. The films were provided with English subtitles unless they were completely language-free.

The first series was presented by the Zlín Film Festival, an international festival of films for children and young people, which celebrated its 60th birthday in 2020 and is one of the oldest festivals of this kind in the world.

The Zlín Film Festival was followed by a selection of student animated films created at the Ladislav Sutnar Faculty of Design and Art in Pilsen, UMRUM, FAMU and Tomas Bata University in Zlín.

DOCU-MONDAYS #1

Following the regular documentaries of selected CC abroad, in June 2020 Czech Centres organized a series of documentary films called Docu-Mondays #1.

During five Mondays in June, the international audience was presented with five documentaries in cooperation with the DAFilms platform. The films were complemented by online debates with the directors and producers through the ZOOM platform.



→ Adolf Loos / Pioneer of Modern Living
© Department of Culture MMB

Architecture

ADOLF LOOS / PIONEER OF MODERN LIVING

Due to the pandemic, the programme commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth of the renowned architect Adolf Loos was online for the first time. The main platform was the social network Facebook. From 18 June to 31 December, the expert statuses of the curator Filip Šenk accompanied with Adolf Loos' quotations were presented. As part of the accompanying programme, a competition was announced for the best completion of the 3D postcard by Tereza Hradková (Porigami) with the motive of two Prague villas designed by Adolf Loos. An important part was the presentation of A. Loos' works in Bohemia. A successful stream for the London Festival of Architecture (prepared in cooperation with Mall TV and Adam Gebrian) presented the interiors of the Villa Winternitz. This was followed by a stream from the Bauer Chateau. The last two presentations were the premiere of subtitled parts intended for international audiences. (This was a part of the Pilsen Interiors by Mall TV, A. Gebrian's programme and another program by Z. Lukeš from TV Architect presenting the Villa Müller in Prague.)



← Loos and Pilsen

↓ Global Science Café at Czech Technical University of Prague (CTU) © CTU

LOOS AND PILSEN

The presentation of the work of the Moravian native Adolf Loos continued with another project. At the end of 2020, a project was launched aimed at Pilsen interiors: Loos and Pilsen. This multimedia exhibition designed in the form of touch screens and exhibition panels presented the most important findings of the experts from the West Bohemian Gallery in Pilsen led by the architect Petr Domanický since 2010. The purpose of the exhibition was to put Loos' works in Pilsen in a broader context in the field of architecture and present his contribution to the layout of the living space, which was then very novel and modern. At the same time, it pointed out the stories of individual families and their fate during the war period and after the confiscation of their property.

The exhibition premiered on 1 December 2020 at the Bauhaus Centre in Tel Aviv, Israel. In 2021, a launch is planned in New York, Vienna, Paris, Tokyo and other cities.

Main organizer: Czech Centres

Project co-organizer: West Bohemian Gallery in Pilsen

Main Partner: The City of Pilsen and Pilsen-Tourism (Adolf Loos Pilsen)

Science, Research, Innovation

GLOBAL SCIENCE CAFÉ (GSC) CZECH CENTRES

In cooperation with FEE CTU in Prague

GSC is a series of popular scientific lectures and debates with the best Czech scientists, innovators, economists and other prominent personalities organized by Czech Centres and shared across the network. This is an informal forum to discuss current scientific and social issues. In 2020, GSC was in English in an online format.

GSC Guests: Josef Průša (Průša Research), Doc. RNDr. Vojtěch Petráček, CSc. (Rector of CTU in Prague), David Miklas (Covid 19 Initiative), Šimon Walzel (CoroVent Team), Pavel Burget, PhD. (CIIRC in Prague), RNDr. Michal Šimíček, PhD. (4Medical Innovations Biomedical Centre), Vít Šisler and Jakub Gemrot (Charles Games, Charles University in Prague).

Presenters: Guy Borg, Petr Kaiser, Michael Londesborough.
A total of 5 GSC are planned for 2021.



Czech Language Teaching

ON-LINE LECTURES ABOUT THE CZECH LANGUAGE

Online lectures took place every month from May 2020 until the end of the year via the Zoom platform with a parallel live broadcast on the Facebook profile of CC.

The cycle was started by Mgr. Michaela Lišková, Ph.D. from the Institute of the Czech Language CAS with her presentation *Karoška, koronapád, rouškomat or Flexible stability in the Czech vocabulary*.

Other successful online lectures were: *Himbajs šůviks! WTF?! Or Czech interjections* by Mgr. Barbora Štěpánková, Ph.D. from the Institute of Formal and Applied Linguistics, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, CU, *Flawless Czech* by Mgr. Hana Prokšová, Ph.D. from the Institute of the Czech Language and Theory of Communication, FA CU, *Popular Czech phrases* by PhDr. Mgr. Marie Kopřivová, Ph.D. from the Institute of the Czech National Corpus, FA CU and *Tys tam nebyls or the enclitic -s in spontaneous Czech* by Mgr. Lucie Benešová from the Institute of the Czech National Corpus, FA CU. The audiences from 25 countries around the world comprised of international Bohemists, students and lecturers of the Czech language as well as compatriots and other people interested in the Czech language.

Each presentation had about 100–200 viewers and the records were seen by many hundreds of people. As a result of the high viewer ratings and enthusiastic feedback from the audience, the online lectures remain on the permanent educational offer of CC and every month are broadcast live on the Facebook profile of Czech Centres.

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.

INTERNATIONAL CC ZOOM CHAT CLUB

A unique platform 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 of Czech from different countries. The club takes place once a month.

Other new formats/online projects in the area of education: See the chapter *Czech Language Courses Abroad* and the chapter *Traineeships and Education*, p. 30 and 32.

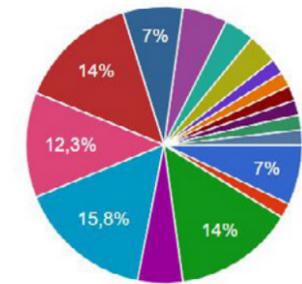


↑ Overview: participants of the #7 Zoom Conversation Club

→ Participants of an Online Lecture about Czech given by Michaela Lišková entitled "Karoška, koronapád, rouškomat or flexible stability in Czech Vocabulary"



#7 ZKK



- Berlin
- Budapešť
- Bukurešť
- Ukrajina
- Milán
- Mnichov
- Moskva
- Varšava
- Vídeň
- New York
- Sofie
- Sofia
- Sofia, Bulharsko
- Žádný. Mexiko
- Sofijska univerzita

Science, Research, Innovation

The SRI agenda is an integral part of the Czech Centres network programme and is implemented in compliance with the Czech Republic's Innovation Strategy 2019–2030. Through a wide range of activities, themes and formats undertaken in cooperation with a number of local and foreign partners and using state-of-the-art technologies, the Czech Republic is presented as a modern country with great technological potential. Through the popularization of Czech science, research and innovation as well as strengthening the innovative aspect of the Czech economy, CC aim to create adequate conditions for the establishment and expansion of international cooperation.

GLOBAL SCIENCE CAFÉ (GSC) CZECH CENTRES

In cooperation with FEE CTU in Prague (see the above chapter Network and online projects)

CZECH INNOVATION EXPO

In cooperation with the National Technical Museum in Prague

In the Czech Republic, this project contributes to increasing Czech national pride, while globally it is a good starting point for the presentation of the Czech Republic as a creative, modern and technologically advanced country. This unique project uses state-of-the-art technology and looks back at the hundred-year history of our country in the area of science, research and innovation. The project was presented from 2–6 September at Republic Square in Prague as part of Prague Design Week, where it received a special prize from PDW visitors for the most interesting endeavour of the year. For 2021, CIE events are planned in Warsaw, Sofia and Bucharest.

www.ciexpo.cz
www.praguedesignweek.cz

FAMELAB 2020

In cooperation with the British Council in Prague

In 2020, Czech Centres were the partner of the British international competition for the seventh time. In this way, Czech Centres support the presentation skills of young science communicators, popularize their work and institution (school, department, region), develop their international contacts and at the same time create a database of suitable candidates for meetings such as Science Café or Global Science Café. Each year, Czech Centres award one of the finalists of the national round with the Czech Centres Prize (a one-week stay within the European network). In 2020, the Czech Centres Prize was awarded to Annu Kala, a student in her third year at the Faculty of Medicine, Charles University in Pilsen. The final evening was held on 6 September 2020 at the CIIRC CTU in Prague.

In addition to Czech Centres, the main partners of FameLab are traditionally the Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Academy of Sciences, Tomas Bata Foundation and British Embassy Prague.
www.famelabcz.com



↑ Final performance of Annu Kala, FameLab 2020 © Tomáš Belloň

WEEK OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CAS

Cooperation on the CAS project

Czech Centres are a regular partner of the traditional popularization project of the Czech Academy of Sciences. However, in 2020 the project had to be cancelled for the first time (due to the pandemic situation). In 2021, the festival will probably take place online. The extent and form of involvement of Czech Centres is under negotiation.

Other long-term partnerships

Czech Centres × Athens Science Festival (Greece)

– after the successful installation of the Czech Innovation Expo, the Czech Republic has been a partner of the festival since 2019.

Czech Centres × Lazio region (LaziInnova project; Italy)

– cooperation in the area of gaming (game design), regular online meetings since 2020.

Czech Centres × University of Chemistry and Technology in Prague

– new cooperation established in 2020 concerning the ALIFE 2021 conference (artificial intelligence, July 2021).

Czech Centres × Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

– Research Job – provision of job opportunities to foreigners in Czech universities and in academic institutes (2021).

Competition Partnership and Residential Stays

In 2020 Czech Centres were partners of 12 competitions in 7 areas. Residential stays will take place as soon as the situation allows.

Awards and competitions	Area	Award Winners
Young Painting Critique Award	Visual art	Laura Limbourg
Czech Grand Design / Discovery of the Year 2019	Design	Vítek Škop
Magnesia Litera – Prose of the Year	Literature	Jiří Kratochvíl
Muriel Awards – The Best Comic Book	Literature	Ján Lastomírsky
Czech Centres Prize for the development of international scientific cooperation (for a participant of the FameLab competition)	Science	Annu Kala
Master's Diploma Theses Exhibition, Czech Chamber of Architects	Architecture	Tomáš Rain
Grand National Student Design Award	Design	Jan Buble
Jazzfruit	Music	Jay Delver
Věra Jirousová Award for young and beginning art critics	Visual art	Matěj Forejt

Czech Centres are partners of the following competitions:

CZECH DANCE PLATFORM

JINDŘICH CHALUPECKÝ AWARD

PRAGUE SPRING

Curator and Journalist Visits

The Czech Centres programme of curator and journalist visits is intended for foreign professionals from various artistic disciplines, ranging from theatre to visual arts, music, design and fashion, who in cooperation with Czech Centres and significant Czech cultural events come to the Czech Republic to establish contacts with the local artistic scene. Back in their home countries, the curators develop projects on the basis of their participation in the programme. Successful projects and feedback from last year's participants are shown below.

Although in 2020 the curator visits were affected by the coronavirus pandemic, the Czech Republic welcomed 16 curators from 12 countries.

CURATOR VISIT – CONTEMPORARY ART

9–15 January

France: Joël Riff, curator – Moly Sabata residence

Joël Riff has been in close contact with the Czech Republic since 2016 and publishes about Czech art in the French press. In 2020, Anna Hulačová, the winner of the Jindřich Chalupecký Award, was supposed to participate in the Moly Sabata residence programme. Due to the situation, the trip was moved to 2021. At the end of the stay an exhibition will be organized. The Moly Sabata residence under the patronage of J. Riff is one of the oldest artistic residences in France. Anna Hulačová will be the first Czech artist in this programme ever. During the visit, J. Riff met the artist as well as the organizers of the Jindřich Chalupecký Award and strengthened his ties with the personalities of the Czech visual art scene.

INDIVIDUAL VISIT – CONTEMPORARY ART

2–5 February

Russia: Anton Belov – director of the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art in Moscow

In September 2020, a workshop about Jindřich Chalupecký was planned in Garage in Moscow but eventually had to be postponed until the situation improves. Anton Belov had a successful lecture at DOX in Prague.

INDIVIDUAL VISIT – DESIGN

18–20 February

Hungary: Judith Horváth – Museum of Applied Arts Budapest

Judith Horváth, Head of Contemporary Design, Museum of Applied Arts in Budapest, visited the Czech DECHEMA Studio and in cooperation with the studio prepared an exhibition to be introduced in Budapest "In Circulation – DECHEMA Studio" and made a short film. As soon as possible, the exhibition will be launched with the participation of the authors Jakub Jandourek and Michaela Tomišková.

MALÁ INVENTURA

20–29 February

UK: Sharlit Deyzac – Director of Voila! Europe Festival, London

Sharlit Deyzac is the director of the multi-genre theatre festival Voila! Europe, which every year brings together the British and European theatres. At Malá

inventura festival, Sharlit saw eight performances and during her visit established cooperation with the Czech alternative theatre scene. When possible, her festival in London will introduce Tumour: carcinogenic romance by Dagmar Radová & T.I.T.S. At the same time, she is in contact with the Drama Label company which focuses on young Czech alternative theatre.

Overview of Supported Guests

DESIGN / FASHION

INDIVIDUAL VISIT – DESIGN

18–20 February

Hungary: Judith Horváth, Museum of Applied Arts Budapest, Head of Contemporary Design

MOUVO

21–22 February

UK/Portugal: Katie Menzies, Abel Reverter

UK: Ed Barrett, Jen Judd

Germany: Mate Steinforth

FILM

ONE WORLD

8–13 March

Bulgaria: Neda Milanova, The Balkan Documentary Center

Greece: Georges Ioannou, festival DocFest

EAST DOC PLATFORM

7–13 March

The Netherlands: Adriek van

Nieuwenhuijzen, International

Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam

VISUAL ART – INDIVIDUAL CURATOR VISITS

INDIVIDUAL VISIT – CONTEMPORARY ART

9–15 January

France: Joël Riff, curator, Moly Sabata residence

2–5 February

Russia: Anton Belov, director of the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art in Moscow

26–28 February

Italy: Domenico de Chirico, independent curator

LUSTER FESTIVAL

15–20 September

Germany/Austria: Lili Mossbauer, artistic group Babagoi

DANCE / THEATRE

MALÁ INVENTURA

20–29 February

Belarus: Svetlana Ulanovskaya, Theatre + Body, curator

Italy: David Sacco, Lunga Vita Festival

Greece: Sylvia Liouliou, Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center

UK: Sharlit Deyzac, Director of Voila! Theatre Festival

Czech Language Courses Abroad



2 687 students of Czech + **90** lecturers of Czech

↓ Students of Czech during a course at Czech Centre Moscow



The Czech language courses organized by Czech Centres are attended by more than 2,500 students. Due to the pandemic, in the second half of March 2020 the courses moved to the online environment and were delivered exclusively by means of the internet. The main priority was immediate education and training of lecturers in the area of online courses including the effective use of teaching applications. The vast majority of our lecturers and students succeeded in the transition to online education.

In 2020, Czech language courses (including online courses) took place in the following 15 centres: **Berlin, Bratislava, Budapest, Bucharest, Ukraine, London, Milan, Munich, Moscow, New York, Paris, Sofia, Tokyo, Warsaw and Vienna.** In these courses, a total of **2,687** students learned the Czech language. In 2020, due to the pandemic measures it was impossible to organize the international Czech Language Certificate Exam (CCE) in cooperation with the Institute for Language and Preparatory Studies, Charles University.

Number of Students at Czech Centres Abroad

Berlin – 267	Moscow – 548
Bratislava – 4	New York – 48
Budapest – 125	Paris – 31
Bucharest – 34	Sofia – 53
Kiev – 961	Tokyo – 145
London – 200	Warsaw – 81
Milan – 35	Vienna – 33
Munich – 122	Total – 2 687

The Czech courses abroad involved 55 permanent Czech language lecturers and a record number of lecturers (35) who led the distance courses for CC from the Czech Republic.

In addition, major online projects in the field of education were implemented. **Online Lectures About the Czech Language** and especially the **ZOOM Conversation Club** were extremely popular (see **Network and Online Projects**, p. 16).

Feedback from the Students of the ZOOM Conversation Club

“Thank you very much for the good offer and for the organization of the conversation club. I was happy to attend today. Monthly conversations in a group are surely good for improving knowledge. The worksheet was also great, there’s nothing to be critical about.”

Jörg, Munich

“I liked your online conversation course very much :-> You speak very clearly and explain everything in a very comprehensible manner :-> I consider the group conversations to be very encouraging :-> My Czech is not very good but I hope to improve!”

Carola, Vienna

Online Methodological Symposium ILPS CU-CC

To support their lecturers, Czech Centres organized two online methodological training sessions called “ONLINE METHODOLOGICAL SYMPOSIUM ILPS CU-CC”. The training was delivered by 24 lecturers from the foreign offices of Czech Centres (across continents). At the same time, several dozen methodological observations took place.

Feedback from the Participants of the Online Methodological Symposium

“I would certainly recommend this course not only to CC lecturers but all teachers of Czech abroad. This year’s experimental online format could be successfully used in the future! I would like to thank all of the organizers and participants for the inspiring atmosphere as well as helpful advice and tips for classes.”

“The symposium was very inspiring for me. As a lecturer but at the same time as a student of Czech I am pleased that all teachers are trying to improve the Czech language courses for foreigners. I would like to be one of those people who promote and spread the Czech culture and language. I will continue my efforts as a teacher.”

← One of the textbooks used by the Czech Centres in their Czech language courses

© Pavla Hradcová

Traineeships and Education



↑ The final educational webinar of Czech Centre Moscow for Russians interested in studying in the Czech Republic took place in January 2020

↓ Trainee Michaela Láničková teaches Czech during her teaching traineeship at Czech Centre Kiev



2020 was not an easy year for traineeships in the CC network in the area of cultural diplomacy. Many trainees had to terminate their visits prematurely and leave the territory or their traineeships were cancelled even before their departure. In some countries, traineeships were only possible in the online form (this applied to all lecturing traineeships in Ukraine and Russia and some administrative-organizational traineeships). Despite the bad epidemiological situation, in 2020 Czech Centres abroad managed to organize a total of **201 practical traineeships**.

Below is the experience of a lecturing trainee whose traineeship moved online during its course:

“My third and so far the last traineeship with CC in Zaporizhzhia in Eastern Ukraine. The city itself is very different from my previous destinations but this change wasn't too difficult for me and I liked it from the very first moment together and we're still in contact today. It's been a year of teaching online and I am grateful for this experience. I believe that in some situations this form is much better for the students.”

Michaela Láničková

Promotion of Czech Universities in the World

In 2020, CC Moscow hosted the last series of educational webinars where 11 Czech universities offered their courses to prospective Russian students.

Cooperation with universities – traineeships 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 traineeships in CC abroad;
- Lecturing traineeships (teaching Czech to foreigners) in 11 Ukrainian cities and in Moscow (during March, most of the lecturing traineeships moved online);
- Organization of seminars for university students on an international traineeship;
- Presentation of CC activities in an academic environment;
- Presentation of CC activities in culture, education and public diplomacy to students.

Support of Czech Studies and the Popularization of the Czech Language

After 2019 when CC organized in cooperation with the Institute of the Czech Language CAS a pilot series of popularization lectures about the Czech language for the general as well as professional community, a permanent offer was prepared for 2020. Regarding the restrictions which made it impossible to send lecturers abroad or organize physical educational events, CC flexibly responded to the international measures associated with the Covid-19 pandemic and prepared

a series of online lectures on the Czech language. For details see the chapter **Network and Online Projects**, p. 24.

Project partners: Institute of the Czech Language CAS, Institute of Czech Literature CAS, Institute of the Czech National Corpus, Institute of Formal and Applied Linguistics, Charles University, Palacký University, Masaryk University.

Online Lectures About the Czech Language

The courses took place every month from May 2020 until the end of the year via the ZOOM platform with a parallel live broadcast on the Facebook profile of CC. The cycle was started by Mgr. Michaela Lišková, Ph.D. from the Institute of the Czech Language CAS with her presentation *Karoška, koronápad, rouškomat* or *Flexible stability in the Czech vocabulary*. For details about these successful online lectures, see the chapter **Network and Online Projects**, p. 24.



© Pavla Hradcová

Feedback from Selected Professionals

“The online lecture using Zoom for foreign Bohemists was a premiere for me. It's not entirely comfortable, it's much nicer to speak with a live audience, you can respond to the current mood, laugh together, explain details, slow down the pace, etc. But I'm very happy that the telebridge took place, it belongs to the current situation. The audience was great. I was also pleased by the excellent promotion and I didn't expect the great interest of the audience.”

Mgr. Michaela Lišková, Ph.D. from the Institute of the Czech Language CAS who had the first online lecture of the Czech language

Memoranda of Cooperation

Memoranda of cooperation are strategic tools that help 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 presentations.

Framework Agreement Between Czech Centres and Václav Havel Library

The agreement sets out the details of future cooperation between the parties concerning the implementation, organization and promotion of joint projects and other activities in the Czech Republic as well as abroad in compliance with the core activities performed by both parties. 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 20 January 2020.

Memorandum of Cooperation Between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Czech Television and Czech Centres

The memorandum formulates the basic objectives and defines the principles and framework areas of future cooperation that will follow the memorandum.

The document is the framework for future agreements between MFA, CT and CC in order to achieve the common goals. The main objectives of cooperation are to strengthen public awareness concerning the fundamental issues of Czech foreign policy and the activities and functioning of the Czech foreign service while respecting the editorial independence of CT.

Signed 17 April 2020.

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