



EU2022.CZ

The Czech Republic is entering into its historic second-ever **Presidency of the Council of the European Union**. Our summer edition reflects this in its content. Czech Centres have arranged an attractive programme which all 17 European Centres and 7 Centres outside Europe are involved in. We're bringing you a selection of fascinating events taking place abroad, we invite you to the Future Laboratory, and we'll be showcasing selected aspects of the programme. We hope you find this newsletter both rewarding and fun to read!



[subscribe
to newsletter](#)

CONTENTS

- **Foreword by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic**
- **Thank you from the Director General of Czech Centres**
- **Network projects of Czech Centres for the CZ PRES 2022**
- **Interview: (Not just) about Visions for Europe**
- **Czech EU Presidency kicks off with the Friendship Run**
- **Press Conference at Czernin Palace**
- **Czech Centres Prague Directors' Meeting**
- **About us**



FOREWORD BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC



Dear Friends

The Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU represents an important platform in terms of international presentation within political, trade and, last but not least, cultural affairs. Our country has the opportunity (perhaps to an even greater degree) to highlight its role as an active member of the EU, which depends on a successful shared future. This is a time when we can finally show with even greater impact that the Czech Republic is a developed democratic country open to international co-operation, and one which is not indifferent to consequential international issues. The world has changed drastically. We need to respond to these new challenges, and sometimes we also need to confront them head-on. The issues of European co-operation and sustainability have progressively become a priority for the European public. But Ukraine remains the topic most discussed, and here we emphasise aid, commonality and, above all, solidarity. These are all also the priorities for the CZ PRES.

In co-operation with the Czech Centres and our diplomatic missions around the world, an attractive project has been set up comprising a series of programmes united under the motto Visions for Europe. This concise and clear wording covers a lot, with people taking part in specific programmes using minute-long videos to present their personal vision for Europe and what they are contributing towards it. It's not about creating just a Czech programme, but rather a truly European one. Above all, it's about acknowledging one's responsibility for shared European issues, and endeavouring to contribute towards finding solutions.

I consider the Czech Centres to be an important partner which can (often at an informal level) represent our country to the world with dignity. Thanks to this co-operation, new contacts are made, and deeper connections with cultural institutions are established, which through interdisciplinary activities also go beyond pure cultural exchange, pushing co-operation to new heights.

JAN LIPAŤSKÝ
CZECH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



THANK YOU FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CZECH CENTRES



On Friday 1 July 2022, the six-month Czech Presidency of the EU Council begins: an event which has predetermined our programme plans to a huge degree. We've been working on setting up 10 network projects since early 2021. Their topics have emerged from many discussions, and are based on the priorities of the European Commission for this period, the priorities of Czech foreign policy and, last but not least, the Czech Centres Strategy for 2020–2023. We moulded these into a unique programme portfolio which has been applied across the entire network of Czech Centres for the period of our presidency. We've all expended our utmost effort on preparations – so our fervent desire is that our implementation of these “EU Presidency” projects is as successful as possible. This applies not just to the 10 network projects, but to all projects which our directors in their particular countries have arranged for this period, and includes our unique – and particularly magnificent – cultural presentation in Brussels itself.

We really appreciate being able to invite our diplomatic missions to co-operate with us in many cases.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks not just to them, but also to all our domestic and international partners. Without their assistance, such a wide-ranging portfolio could never have come about.

My colleagues in Prague and at our international centres also deserve many thanks, having put all their skills, energy and (over)time into their work.

I offer my personal – and supreme – thanks to Minister Jan Lipavský for his massive moral support. He very quickly saw the unique potential of our projects, and it is also thanks to him that Czech cultural diplomacy will speak with one voice abroad during the period of our Presidency.

Fingers crossed!

ONDŘEJ ČERNÝ
CZECH CENTRES DIRECTOR GENERAL



NETWORK PROJECTS OF CZECH CENTRES FOR THE CZ PRES 2022

The Czech Centres are launching a wide range of activities for the Czech EU Presidency 2022 (CZ PRES). The core of the programme consists of 10 projects that focus on the shared future of Europe. The projects follow three main themes – **innovation, sustainability and creativity**. The Czech Republic is presented as a modern, dynamic country that connects people and ideas across Europe for a shared dialogue.

Programme Vision

We are looking at the post-pandemic world that has changed our perception of life in many ways. It has revived the discussion about physical borders and exposed the vulnerability of the European community. Our day-to-day lives are affected by accelerating digitalization and climate crisis challenges. The Czech Centres – the main public diplomacy tool of Czech foreign policy – are launching their CZ PRES programme that aims to expose key issues of the future of Europe. We strive to show that the Czech Republic is not only historically linked to European values and traditions, but it is also ready to take shared responsibility for our common future, thanks, among other things, to its innovative and creative potential.

Such an understanding of culture and its spirit offers a unique space for international cooperation and the search for solutions. Our starting point is the belief that there are countless ideas and initiatives that can help make the world a better place to live in. It is not about presenting only Czech ideas and

personalities. We take on the role of a moderator and invite partners from the wider international community – artists, scientists, designers, intellectuals, students – to join in the discussion. We strive to provide a space for participation and accessibility to the widest possible audience. We work with modern technologies and we strive to be present in the public space as well as online.

The CZ PRES programme structure revolves around three main themes:

Sustainable Development and Human Rights / SUSTAINABLE

Focus on values related to the environment, fundamental human rights and freedoms and society in general.

Science, Technology and Innovation / INNOVATIVE

Focus on the dynamics of new technologies, scientific discoveries and innovations and their impact on the quality of human life, providing new possibilities for future generations.

Arts and Creativity / CREATIVE

Focus on tradition, creativity, imagination and ideas expressed through artistic, authorial and other forms of culture. Relation to the present and both the cultural and intellectual heritage. Introducing powerful stories, developing specific phenomena and positive stereotypes. Dialogue with the world in relation to European values and awareness of one's identity and roots.

More information



#1 Visions for Europe

#VisionsforEurope

A number of renowned personalities from both the Czech Republic and Europe are participating in the Czech Centres' upcoming projects launching on the occasion of the CZ PRES as co-authors or guests.

The projects have three core values – creativity, innovation and sustainability, and are all focused on the future of Europe.

The Visions for Europe project presents these personalities in short video statements (one minute long) in which they introduce their “Vision for Europe”, a specific idea relating to their areas of expertise with the aim of offering the best ways to move forward for our shared future.

For the statement videos, both Czech and local personalities included in the CZ PRES projects will be approached. The project aims to create a gallery of dozens of various visions.

www.visionsforeurope.cz

**VISIONS
FOR EUROPE**



#2 The Future Lab

#thefuturelab

A project encouraging interaction and discussion about sustainability, the environment and the impact of new trends on society and the economy.

[More information](#)



#3 SDGs: Innovations for a Sustainable Future

#SDGsFuture

An interactive exhibition with augmented reality features. Created in cooperation with the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic. The exhibition highlights key trends in science, innovation and new technologies and their contribution to society.

[More information](#)



#4 Václav Havel European Dialogues

#vhed

An international conference that aims to initiate and stimulate a discussion about issues determining the direction of contemporary Europe while referring to the European spiritual legacy of Václav Havel. In cooperation with the Václav Havel Library.

[More information](#)



#5 Literature Nights

#literaturenights

A traditional festival organised by the Czech Centres in a number of European countries, including the Czech Republic. It features public readings as well as an accompanying programme. The Literature Night presents major figures of both Czech and European literature and reflects on key contemporary issues.

[More information](#)



#6 Street Meets (Mural) Art

#mural

Interventions of Czech visual artists in the public space abroad (cities and regions). In cooperation with local partners (or artists), particularly through large-scale paintings and a joint commission that reflects on *Neighbourhood-Community-Reciprocity*. In cooperation with the Lustr Festival.

[More information](#)



#7 Europe 2050

#europe2050

A project that draws the youngest generation into the CZ PRES programme. Organised in cooperation with the Charles University, working with the network of European schools and creative competitions focused on the future of Europe. It emphasises the international and educational dimension and intergenerational dialogue.

[More information](#)



#8 Artmat & Czech Centres

#artmat

Making the works of selected artists accessible through repurposed vending machines to revive the public space. A selection of original works in limited numbers and miniature size on the theme of sustainability. Curated by Artmat. Will be available to the public abroad.

[More information](#)



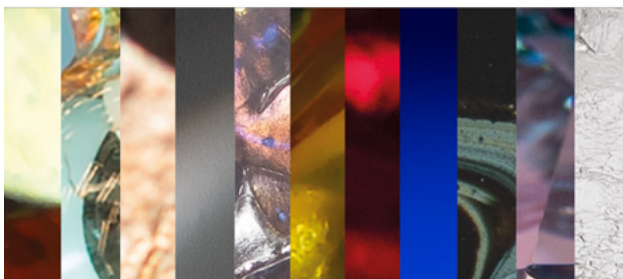
#9 Moving towards the Future

#movingtowardsthefuture

A project based on active participation in sports events. Highlighting the idea that it does not matter exactly how we move, but rather that we move forward in a healthy and democratic world. The project aims to inspire people to move, among other things, through a shared sports challenge.

[More information](#)

CZECH
IN



#10 CZECH IN

#CzechInExhibition

The exhibition features major innovative contributions to the global glass industry from the beginning to the present. It will contribute to the perception of Czech glassmaking as an innovative skill with a long tradition.

[More information](#)



INTERVIEW: (Not just) about Visions for Europe



Tomáš was Director of Czech Centre Berlin and carried out a number of fascinating projects in Germany. A few years later, he returned to Czech Centres' Prague headquarters as Deputy Director General. Since the start of 2021 he has been working with a team of colleagues on the Czech Centres' programme for the EU Presidency, a team he is leading. He is also the author of the **Visions for Europe** concept, which overarches the entire programme. How easy (or not) the vision is to implement, what managing 10 projects simultaneously all entails, and what it's like to work again in the Czech Republic – you'll find all this out in our interview with **Tomáš Sacher**, Head of the Czech Centres EU Presidency Programme.

The motto for the Czech Centres' EU Presidency Programme is Visions for Europe. Why did you choose this motto, and how did you go about setting up the whole programme?

We've been working on it since the start of 2021, and we already knew then that we didn't want to showcase purely Czech projects and people. The core idea was rather to embrace the ideas and challenges which we share in Europe with other nations.

What was your framework?

We set out three core strands – sustainability, creativity and innovation. It was on these that we set up our projects. At the same time, the entire programme is focused on the future, and it endeavours to find paths to make it the best it can be.



There are a total of 10 EU Presidency projects: how did you select them?

To begin with, we did research in a number of European countries, in which we tried to find the best and most successful past projects for inspiration. We came up with a broad range of topics and formats to consider. These were often entirely new ideas, but they were also often national projects already in existence which could be “promoted” to the European level.

It is a programme which is entirely unique, and it goes far beyond standard programme set-ups. What was most difficult?

Enthusing the entire network for a common cause. Each Czech Centre is specific, and its director has the best perspective of what topics and formats work best in their particular country.

In one of his interviews, Foreign Minister Jan Lipavský said that the Foreign Ministry perceives Czech Centres as an important partner which can operate well at an informal level.

For Czech Centres abroad, co-operation with embassies is crucial, and yes, we can often help in setting up contacts and new plans wherever an informal atmosphere works better. Our diplomatic missions also often help at our events, their presence giving them weight and importance.

You returned to Czech Centres headquarters as Deputy Director General recently, and you are currently the head of the CZ PRES project.

Yes, and I must say that I’m enjoying my day-to-day work here in the Czech Republic. Czech society has responded to the Ukrainian crisis in the best possible way, and in general I see that the people here are very open and motivated to get through this difficult situation together. I’m also enjoying much more intensive contact with living Czech culture.

What do you most appreciate?

The best possible outcome of our work on the EU Presidency, and here I don’t just mean our work, but the work of all who have come into contact with it or are following it in some way, would be if Czechs themselves could take the most possible out of it.

Thank you for the interview, and we look forward to continuing along the European path. The Visions for Europe project is being launched on 1 July 2022 on the website www.visionsforeurope.cz

Read the [full interview](#).

Author of the interview: Petra Jungwirthová

TOMÁŠ SACHER worked as a journalist for many years (Respekt, Reportér, CICERO), in which he focused on the EU, headed the economics section and regularly reported from Europe, as well as the Balkans, Ukraine, Russia, and elsewhere. He undertook a number of projects with international involvement, and moderated public debates and conferences focused on society, politics and economics, the EU and Czech-German relations – regularly, for example, at the Václav Havel Library. He was Director of the Czech Centre Berlin from 2016, and he also managed the EUNIC network of European cultural institutes in Berlin.

Since 2020, he has been the Deputy Director General of the Czech Centres and head of the Czech Centres programme for the CZ PRES, which represents the most extensive and most comprehensive series of events ever focused on one specific issue, with the involvement of all Directors of Czech Centres abroad.



CZECH EU PRESIDENCY KICKS OFF WITH THE FRIENDSHIP RUN



Emil Zátopek and Alain Mimoun at the Summer Olympics in Helsinki 1952
© Czech Olympic Committee

You can find a regularly updated programme on our website [here](#).

In 1954, Emil Zátopek broke the 10 km world record at the Trois Tilleuls stadium in Brussels. On 2 July, the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU kicks off at the same venue. The Friendship Race, run in pairs over 5 km, will also be a tribute to the friendship of two great rivals and running legends – Czech Emil Zátopek and Frenchman Alain Mimoun. That's because you need co-operation to reach success in sport just as you do in politics. The Friendship Run is taking place on 2 July in Brussels, organised by the Czech Centre Brussels with the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the EU, the Czech Olympic Committee and Czech Tourism Benelux.

It is followed by a wide range of sports activities taking place thanks to the Czech Centres and their partners abroad. Sports diplomacy is an issue which runs throughout the Czech Centres' programme activities across their network. Other sports events are taking place, for example, in Milan, Paris, London, Stockholm and Warsaw. The Czech Centre Bratislava has managed to get Czech sports diplomacy deep into Slovakia, specifically to Košice and Michalovce. The Czech Centres in Tel Aviv, Munich and Athens are also planning attractive programmes. Not only are Budapest and Kyiv also getting involved, but so are the cities of Tokyo and Seoul outside Europe. The guaranteed final event, and the culmination of the EU Presidency sports programme organised by the Czech Centres, is the Emil Zátopek Memorial Run in Rome on New Year's Eve, the final day of the Czech EU Presidency. This event is taking place as part of the renowned "Atleticom We Run Rome".



PRESS CONFERENCE AT CZERNIN PALACE

A Czech Centres press conference took place on Wednesday 1 June 2022 at Czernin Palace, the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the participation of Jan Lipavský, Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ondřej Černý, Czech Centres Director General, Jitka Pánek Jurková, Director of the Czech Centre Brussels, and Tomáš Sacher, head of the CZ PRES project.

The conference focused on showcasing the Czech Centres programme for the period of the Czech Presidency of the EU Council. Under the motto Visions for Europe, 10 network

projects are progressively introduced within a network of Czech cultural institutions in the EU and in destinations outside Europe, which are linked by a focus on Europe's shared future. The projects are based on three topical strands – sustainability, innovation and creativity, and they involve the engagement of major Czech and international figures. The programme came about with the support of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, alongside the Czech Centre branches abroad, Czech diplomatic missions were also involved. The directors of all Czech Centres abroad also took part in the press conference as guests.





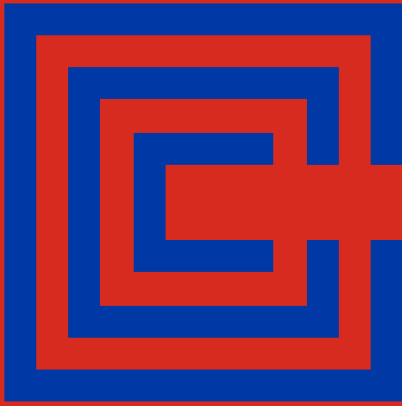
CZECH CENTRES PRAGUE DIRECTORS' MEETING

The annual meeting of Czech Centre Directors took place in Prague on 30 May to 3 June. Directors from 17 European cities and 7 cities outside Europe with Czech Centres met for a total of five days in the Czech Republic.

The programme covered issues related to conceptual issues for the Czech Centres cultural institute, and the CZ PRES programme and the issue of the EU Presidency were discussed. One section of the Directors' Meeting was focused on a presentation and assessment of the most important achievements which had been made in the different countries over

the previous period. The annual Czech Centres Directors' Meeting is a unique opportunity to evaluate the preceding year in the different countries, discuss the priorities of the upcoming year and share experiences and ideas. The Czech Centres network grew last year with the addition of Tbilisi, and the opening of a new Czech Centre Cairo is currently in the works. This reflects a growth in people and the issue of institutional dialogue.





The Czech Centres are a cultural institute established by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Their main mission is to promote and support the good name of the Czech Republic and to strengthen cultural relations among countries. The Czech Centres currently operate in 26 foreign destinations on 3 continents.

Fields of activities: Art, Architecture, Literature, Design and fashion, Film, Music, Theatre and dance, Science, Research and innovation, Czech courses, Support for trade and regional foreign cooperation

Editorial office: Department of Marketing Communication of Czech Centres

Contact: komunikace@czech.cz / www.czechcentres.cz/en/contact

If you no longer want to receive the Czech Centres newsletter, unsubscribe [here](#).