

SUMMARY

The National Information and Consulting Centre for Culture (NIPOS) is a government non-profit organization established by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic in 1991. It deals in particular with:

- Collection and interpretation of data concerning the culture area, especially in the locations and regions with the stress on non-professional arts
- State statistical services in the resort of culture
- Organizing of national festivals and competitions in various branches of non-professional art
- Support of further training and special education for professionals and volunteers
- Publishing of special literature incl. special-purpose journals
- Expert activity for the Ministry of Culture and other subjects of state administration and local government
- Research in the fields of the NIPOS activities
- Professional consultations for subjects active in the culture
- Part of agenda connecting with the state representation of non-professional arts abroad (delegates abroad and hosting of subjects at various events in the Czech Republic)

Following departments constitute the organizational structure of NIPOS:

- **ARTAMA** – non-professional art of children, youth and adults (22 specializations)
- **Centre for Information and Statistics on Culture /CIK/** - collecting, processing and interpreting of information, statistics; running the public library
- **REGIS** – professional consultation service in the field of culture
- **Místní kultura (Local Culture)** – editorial office of web periodical
- **Economic Department** - Building Service and Maintenance Department
- **ICT** – Information and Communication Technologies Department

61 employees worked on average at NIPOS in 2009. Total allowance from the Ministry of Culture for activities of NIPOS was CZK 36 625 400 in 2009.

The institution fulfils its mission in co-ordination (or partnership) with the range of subjects. In the first place are they non-profit organizations, subjects of local government, culture institutions established by the public authorities etc. NIPOS prepares expert statements on various documents and other statements on various professional issues for the Ministry of Culture.

The organization worked both on projects of new web applications and on statistic surveys, as well as on projects concerning directly non-professional artistic activities.

- **Benchmarking of cultural institutions – libraries, museums and galleries**

NIPOS In cooperation with the National library continued the work on the benchmarking of libraries project inspired by the German benchmarking of libraries Bibliotheksindex BIX (www.bix-bibliotheksindex.de). The software application “The Benchmarking of Libraries” developed by NIPOS uses data acquired through the electronic collection of library statistics which NIPOS organises annually. Currently 113 public libraries are integrated into the project and their number rises every year. The project “The Benchmarking of Libraries and Galleries” came into existence in 2009 on the base of the collaboration NIPOS and the Association of museums and galleries in the Czech Republic. The pilot web application was created.

- **IOP project preparation /Integrated Operational Programme/**

The work on the IOP project of the knowledge, methodical and information centre for the culture continued. The subject of the project is the arranging of the specialized analytic and information service for the territorial self-governing units and non-government non-profit organizations in the field of culture. In 2010 the application for the subsidy of the project from the Integrated Operational Programme Smart Administration will be submitted.

- **Cultural Events Cycle – Bohuslav Martinů anniversary**

2009 was the 50th death anniversary of the famous Czech composer Bohuslav Martinů. The range of events was organized under the heading “The Martinů Year” – the creative atelier of the choral production of B. Martinů was a part of the 52nd Festival of Choral Art Jihlava, the cycle of four concerts “The Tribute to B. Martinů” was held in the frame of the National Festival of Chamber and Symphonic Music in various cities in the Czech Republic, folk culture elements in B. Martinů’s works were presented in the unique dance-music performance The Image of Home.

- **79th Jiráskův Hronov Festival**

The Jiráskův Hronov Festival is the harvest of best amateur theatre performances from 2009. It is the national interspecific festival with the participation from abroad, the integral part of which is the educational programme. There were 53 theatre groups participating in this Festival (53 performances in 101 productions), 6 exhibitions in accompanying programme and 15 eight-day thematic workshops in educational programme with 282 individual participants. The workshop led by the Cuban tutor Guillermo Horta Betancourt on dance and movement theatre and the TIP workshop on pantomime, movement and acrobatics led by Michal Hecht (with 20 participants from abroad) belonged to the most successful workshops there.

- **The database of the Czech amateur theatre (www.amaterskedivadlo.cz)**

The Database of the Czech amateur theatre is one of three sub-projects of the joint project of NIPOS and Theatre Institute called “Conservation and Presentation of the Cultural Heritage of the Czech and World Theatre” that obtained the prestigious European grant from so called Financial Mechanisms EEA/Norway. The open and via web accessible encyclopaedic database collects information about the history and present of amateur theatrical activities in the area of the Czech Republic. The work in 2009 was very intensive and it was digitalized more than 26 thousands new items. The system obtained several important technical improvements: the comprehensive interactive map that enables that visitors can search in the theatre past and present in almost nine thousands of cities and municipalities. It is also possible to obtain abstracts of active groups in specific region(s). The groups can present even ten-minute video samples from their performances in the database at their text entries. It is also possible to access the information web page of the whole project www.theatre-heritage.cz from the introductory web page of the database.

International cooperation

The employees of NIPOS represent the Czech Republic in the OMC Expert working group on developing synergies with education, especially arts education. NIPOS became member organization of the newly established international non-governmental organization AMATEO dealing with the collaboration in the field of the non-professional arts. We provide for the support of the part of international contacts (journeys of individuals and acceptance of groups and individuals in the Czech Republic). We take an active part in the work of EGMUS (the international group for the museum statistics). Our organization contributed the fact that the Czech Republic presented itself as a successful implementor of big international projects. E. g. in 2009 we organized (first time in the Czech Republic) the European championship in playing of the Czech and Moravian brass music and the international creative workshop for young theatre makers.

NIPOS is a member of Czech national centres and committees AITA/IATA (International Amateur Theatre Association), CISM (Confédération Internationale des Sociétés musicales), CIOFF (Conseil International des Organisations des Festivals de Folklore et d’Arts Traditionnels). It is an individual member of IFCM (International Federation for Choral Music). By agreement with the other member subjects performs NIPOS the position of the secretariat of the Czech national centre of AITA/IATA and CISM. It is also the member of the international organization of institutions worked in the field of methodical service for amateur arts - Amateo.

In 2009 NIPOS became the platform for support of the selected international contacts in the field of the non-professional arts (journeys of individuals and acceptance of groups and individuals) from public funds.

The total amount assigned for the support of this area was CZK 450,000. The committee decided about the distribution of this amount that came together three times in 2009 in the regular meeting and once in the extraordinary session. Total 28 agreements concluded for the acceptance of individuals, 9 agreements for the acceptance of groups and 15 agreements for the journeys of individuals.

Web pages operated by NIPOS

www.nipos-mk.cz

NIPOS's home website. The presentation of individual departments and fields of work, an offer of periodic and non-periodic publications, calendar of events, public library on-line, directories, selected outputs from R&D etc.

www.mistnikultura.cz

Internet magazine for the culture life in specific locations and regions.

www.amaterskedivadlo.cz

The Czech Amateur Theatre Database is an extensive generously structured work with encyclopaedic character that processes gradually more than two-hundred year history and present of the Czech amateur theatre through the form of dictionary entries of groups, personalities, locations where the theatre has been played, festivals and their years. The entries are linked together and accompanied by visual and text documentation, bibliography and references to archives where more materials is stored.

www.amaterskascena.cz

Website of Amatérská scény (Amateur Stage) brings the electronic form and addendum of the printed bimonthly magazine for matter of amateur theatre and artistic recitation.

www.vytvarneprehlidky.cz

Internet presentation of annual national festival of fine arts of children and youth organized by authorization of the Ministry of Culture. There is an archive of participated works and projects at visitor's disposal.