



Udruženje građana češkog porijekla
Spolek občanů českého původu

česká beseda

Sarajevo

BULLETIN No. 1/2008

for the period from 1 January 2008 to 30 June 2008

Dear members!

We started 2008 with a working meeting. The members of the Association gladly responded to this invitation and during the meeting which took place in the premises of the Franciscan Monastery of St. Anthony in a pleasant atmosphere, they agreed on the activities for the coming period. We were supposed to organize and host the Fifth friendship gathering and we also had to select a candidate for the Czech language course in Dobruška. We also had to prepare projects for 2009 and to organize a course of the Czech language for students who applied for scholarships at the Universities in the Czech Republic. Bulletin No. 2 for 2007, which included a calendar for the next year with the illustration by Jiri Trnka: Z loutkového filmu "Špaliček", was distributed to the members of the Association.

General conclusion was that we really needed premises for our work and that it would be much more convenient for the members of Beseda if we had some space at our disposal.

The Czech language course lasted five months. It started in January and ended in June. Ms. Jadranka Šuster gave lessons in the Czech language grammar this year too, while the lessons in conversation were given by Ms. Libuša Peškova and Mr. Aleksandr Götz. The interest shown was remarkable. It should be stressed that the course was attended not only by students, but also by secondary school pupils. The award of certificates was attended by consul of the Czech Republic to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ms. Jana Stara, who talked to the course takers only in the Czech language. She commended the students for the knowledge acquired on this course.

The establishing of the instructorship in the Czech language was announced for the school year 2008/009 at the Faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo. The instructor will come from the Czech Republic.

Preparations for the Fifth friendship gathering were very demanding, but I believe that we were good hosts and that this gathering justified its goal. I hope that it was a wonderful experience for all guests, that they enjoyed their visit and that they will always remember the weekend they spent in Sarajevo. We distributed our magazine ALMANAC for 2007

among our guests. Ms. Leona Sabolek prepared a more detailed article on the gathering. Ms. Grozdana Dosegović, a member of Česka beseda from Zagreb, who was our guest at the Gathering, wrote an article in the Czech language which was published in Jednota, a magazine issued by the Alliance of the Czechs in the Republic of Croatia. We shall publish the text in our Almanac for 2008.

Regarding this activity of our Association, I have to say that we could not carry it out without the financial support awarded to us for this project by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Department for compatriots. Our attempt to make the City of Sarajevo a sponsor of the Gathering failed, and nobody from the City authorities responded to our invitation to participate in the Gathering. I am mentioning this just for the comparison with the last year Gathering that took place in Banja Luka. It was hosted by Česka beseda Banja Luka and held under the auspices of the City of Banja Luka.

In June 2007 the City authorities announced a Public invitation for co-financing of projects of minority associations. We applied for four projects, but due to unestablished methodology of work of the City authorities, the funds were awarded to us as late as February 2008, for three projects only. The funds for co-financing the project "Recovery of the statue of angel" at St. Michael's cemetery were not approved.

I hope sincerely that the local authorities will recognize the real values of our Association in the period to come, as well as the values of similar associations and that the financing will take a more favourable course.

The Federation Ministry of Culture announced a similar Public Invitation too, but it related to co-financing of projects for 2008 to which we applied with two projects. We hope that the Federation Ministry of Culture will select our projects in their procedure of approving and awarding the funds for co-financing.

The last-year exhibition, organized by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Sarajevo, in cooperation with the State Museum of BiH, dedicated to the work of Karlo Paržik, representing the key projects of this architect which significantly contributed to the architectural heritage of BiH, was opened in Mostar in the gallery of the Serb Educational and Cultural

Association "Prosvjeta" in April 2008. The exhibition had already been successfully shown in Sarajevo, Zenica and Tuzla. It is planned to present it in Prijedor and Banja Luka too.

On 16 June 2008 the members of Česka beseda will lay flowers to the grave of Karlo Paržik on the occasion of the 66th anniversary of his death.

Events that we attended

The Embassy of the Czech Republic continued film showings which take place in the premises of the Franciscan Monastery of St. Anthony in Sarajevo once a month. The members are regularly informed on them. In the past period you could see the following Czech movies: "Wild Bees" directed by Bohdan Slama, "Accumulator 1", directed by Jan Sverak, "Returnable Bottles" ("Deposit for Bottles") by Zdenek Sverak and Jan Sverak, as well as the movie "Beauty in Distress" by Jan Hrebejk. Along with these movies (the movies can be hired in the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Sarajevo), regular showings of animated stories on Pat and Mat were presented for children. These are movies without verbal dialogue.

In the period from 2 June to 6 June 2008, the days of the Czech movies for children were held in Sarajevo, and then in Banja Luka, Zenica and Mostar, in the organization of the Czech Embassy.

Czech artists performed also within the Sarajevo Winter.

On 4 March, in the National theatre in Sarajevo, the Theatre Jovial Steps from Prague presented itself with a comedy "Baby Box", and on 9. March in the Bosniak Institute a concert of Katarina Eglichova (harp) and Vilem Veverka (oboe) took place. In the premises of Colegium Artisticum an exhibition was opened under the title "The Prague Spring '68", dedicated to Alexander Dubček, one of the leading persons in the Prague Spring and one of the most important politicians in the history of former Czechoslovakia.

On 20 April 2008, Dušan Karpatski's exhibition was opened in the Bosniak Institute under the name "One Czech friend of Bosnia and Herzegovina". Having finished his studies of the Czech and Serbo-Croatian languages at the Faculty of Philology at the Charles University in Prague, he mostly engaged during his fifty-year activity in bringing closer the Czech (and Slovak) literature with the literatures of the Yugoslav nations.

Yours Jovanka Manzalović Šalaka

Council of national minorities of BiH

The Law on protection of the rights of national minorities was adopted as early as 2003, and Article 21 of this Law stipulates that the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH shall establish a Council of national minorities of BiH, as a special advisory body, which will be constituted by the members of national minorities.

In June 2007 the Commission for human rights, rights of child, for the young ones, immigration, refugees, asylum and ethics of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH announced a public invitation with the task to choose one representative from each national minority in order to form the Council of national minorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Representatives of Česka besedas from Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Prijedor proposed their candidates. Our Beseda submitted to the Commission in written form its support to the candidate Vladimir Blaha from Česka beseda Banja Luka. However, on a meeting of the Commission and the candidates that took place in September 2007, Vladimir Blaha suggested that the representative of Česka beseda Sarajevo, Jovanka Manzalović Šalaka should be a member of the Council. His suggestion was supported by Tomislav Blaha from Česka beseda Prijedor. The work of the Commission as well as the election of candidates was attended by members of the International community in BiH, Christine Astrig Mardirossian and Gregory Fabian on behalf of the OSCE, and Jasmila Pašić on behalf of the Center for civil initiatives.

At the end of January 2008, the competent institutions of BiH rendered a Decision on appointment of members of the Council of national minorities of BiH. The BiH Helsinki Committee wrote about it in its magazine as follows:

"Following a months-long conduct of procedure the Parliamentary Commission decided on the names of ten candidates out of totally 17 representatives which is the supposed number in the Council of national minorities. It was proposed that the following persons should be appointed as members in the Council of national minorities of BiH: Halil Bicaj (the Albanians), Jovanka Manzalović Šalaka (the Czechs), Tihomir Knežiček (the Italians), Jakov Finci (the Jews), Vasilija Ibrahimagić (the Macedonians), Nedžad Jusić (the Romanies), Andrija Stavok (the Ukrainians), Irena Milivojević (the Hungarians), Darko Kovač (the Poles) and Marija Grbić (the Slovenians)"

In April 2008 the Council of national minorities was constituted at the Parliament of BiH. Nedžad Jusić was appointed a Chairman of the Council and Marija Grbić and Vasilija Ibrahimagić as his deputies. On the session of the Council held in June 2008, the

Rules of Procedure of the Council and the Work Plan till the end of 2008 were adopted.

We shall be informing about the work of the Council in the forthcoming period too.

Member of the Council: Jovanka Manžalović Šalaka

Fifth friendship gathering

On 31 May and 1 June 2008 the Fifth friendship gathering organized by "Česka beseda" Sarajevo took place in Sarajevo. This honour was bestowed on our Beseda because the year 2008 is a jubilee year for several reasons: it marks the 130th anniversary of a large-scale arrival of the Czechs to Bosnia and Herzegovina, 80th anniversary of birth of Jan Beran, 10th anniversary of resumption of work of "Česka beseda" and 5th anniversary of the existence of the National Minorities Home in Banja Luka, as well as 5th anniversary of the Friendship Gatherings initiated by Vladimir Blaha.

The working part of the Gathering started with playing the national anthems in the Grand Hotel on 31 May. It was opened by the president of "Česka beseda" Sarajevo, Jovanka Manžalović Šalaka. She greeted the guests: Ms. Jana Stara, Consul of the Czech Republic Embassy, Mr. Vladimir Blaha from "Česka beseda" Banja Luka, Ms. Žana Stajčićova from the Association of the Slovaks "Janošik" Banja Luka, Ms. Vesna Golubović from the Association of friendship of the Yugoslavs, Czechs and Slovaks Belgrade and Mr. Dubravko Dosegović from "Česka beseda" Zagreb.

Vice-president of "Česka beseda" Sarajevo, Tomislav Krzyk, pointed out the good cooperation with the Embassy, but also stressed the problems related to the organization of activities due to uncertain financing, lack of premises and money for incidental expenses.

President of "Česka beseda" Banja Luka, Vladimir Blaha, spoke about his idea of associating the Czechs and Slovaks in the territory of former Yugoslavia, on positive experiences of the National Minorities Home in Banja Luka and its relations with the National Minorities Home in Prague. President of the Association of the Slovaks, Žana Stajčićova, emphasized the support that they receive from both the city and the Embassy.

President of the Association of friendship of the Yugoslavs, Czechs and Slovaks from Belgrade, Vesna Golubović, said that their Association is not a minority one, but the association of citizens because of a small number of the Czechs in Belgrade. Still a Czech teacher visits them from Romania, they organize purposeful visits to the Czech Republic, and in this year they will mark 40th anniversary of the Czech Spring.

Stefana Paunović, the Slovak language assistant at the Philological Faculty in Belgrade, mentioned that the Slovak language is studied as a foreign language, while in Vojvodina it is studied as a mother tongue. They attract young people by attractive programmes. The oldest "Česka beseda" which has existed in Zagreb for 135 years, was represented by its Vice-president Dubravko Dosegović. 10 years ago they were given back their premises which require a lot of investment as they were used as a radio station. They have a choir and a folk-dancing group, and a school that is within the educational system. He handed over a present to our Beseda and expressed a desire to hold the next meeting in Zagreb.

Consul, Ms. Jana Stará, spoke of the problem of 2 million people of the Czech origin who are taken care of by the Institute of Commissioners for fellow countrymen. However much money is allocated, it can never be enough because 170 associations from 45 countries address the Institute for its support. She promised that she would convey the problem of financing, particularly for the premises. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic organizes a course of the Czech language in Dobruška, educational stays at the universities, sends the Czech teachers. At the courses the methodology of teaching the Czech language as well as the instructorship are taught for all those who are interested. A two-month magazine "Welcome to the Heart of Europe" is published as well as an electronic magazine on the Internet. A page of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also on the Internet as well as a portal of the Czech Radio. At the end she commended her cooperation with Vladimir Blaha, Jovanka Manžalović Šalaka and Tomislav Krzyk. Her address to the present guests and hosts was interpreted by Anna Bašić.

During the working part a tourist film on Sarajevo was shown, followed by a sightseeing tour of Sarajevo.

During the dinner, presents were exchanged and a film was shown about the 4th Friendship gathering that took place in Banja Luka last year. On that occasion an agreement on cooperation of the Associations was signed, joined by our Beseda as well. The rest of the evening passed in socializing and informal, but useful, exchange of experience.

On 1 June 2008, the guests and the hosts visited the springs of the Bosnia and made another sightseeing tour of Sarajevo.

The 5th Friendship gathering will be fondly remembered by everyone. Cooperation in supporting the work of each signatory was also agreed. Till the next gathering!

Leona Sabolek

**Activities of the Association
planned for the period
from 1 July 2008 to 31 December 2008**

1. Celebration of St. Vaclav's Day will be marked by a one-day excursion to Kraljeva Sutjeska. Coordinator is the Management Board of "Česka beseda" Sarajevo
2. Establishment of cooperation with the city municipalities
Coordinator of the Project is the Management Board of "Česka beseda" Sarajevo
3. A visit to Prague and establishment of cooperation with the National Minorities Home
Coordinator of the Project is the Management Board of "Česka beseda" Sarajevo
4. Celebration of the Christmas and New Year holidays
5. Digitalization of Česka beseda magazines – issues from 1/1997 to double issue 45-46/2006
6. Organization of the 5th Friendship gathering Working group
7. Continuation of activities concerning recovery of monuments
Coordinator of the project is Tomislav Krzyk
8. Bulletin No. 2/2008

***Important note:** Assistance in realization of the above mentioned activities by all interested members of the Association is most welcome.*

**This issue of the BULLETIN is accompanied by "PRESIDENTS"
taken from the magazine "Vítá Vás srdce Evropy", issue 3/2008**

Sarajevo, 1 July 2008

Management Board of Česka beseda Sarajevo

Summary statistics of visits to the web site www.ceskabesedasa.ba

Summary by Month										
Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
June 2008	193	166	17	6	190	33084	207	520	4980	5808
May 2008	160	132	13	7	203	27220	224	406	4094	4963
April 2008	223	205	17	5	207	37366	176	529	6150	6712
Mart 2008	186	142	23	6	193	31920	187	727	4420	5795
Febuary 2008	279	216	21	5	159	44317	171	630	6283	8108
January 2008	322	212	19	6	188	48371	213	598	6602	9986
Totals					222278	1178	3410	32529	41372	

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