



Udruženje građana češkog porijekla
Spolek občanů českého původu

česká beseda

Sarajevo

INFORMATOR No. 2/2010. from 1 July to 31 December 2010

Dear members!

As in the previous years in the second half of 2010 the Association prioritized the marking of the Saint Vaclav's Day (28 September) which was also the Day of Česka Beseda. Leona Sabolek, the Vice-president for Culture reports on that.

You may find the lecture which was given on that occasion by Tomislav Krzyk on our web-page. You may also find there a new column titled *Word for Beseda* aimed at presentation of our members and their opinions about the Association.

In this issue of Informator you may learn more about the work of the Council of National Minorities on the level of FBiH, as well as about one of the current projects in our country, funded by the OSCE Mission to BiH.

Jovanka Manžalović Šalaka

CELEBRATION OF St. VACLAV'S DAY

The 28 September, St. Vaclav's Day and the day of renewal of the work of Sarajevo Česka Beseda was formally marked on 29 September 2010 by appropriate program and a party in the St. Anthony's Franciscan Monastery in Bistrik. The celebration was graced by the presence of the Ambassador of the Czech Republic Mr. Tomáš Szunyog. In the very beginning President Jovanka Manžalović Šalaka announced a clip from the RTV Vogošća show *We are BiH, too!* where a group of Beseda members performed *Pisnička Česka*, an anthem of Česka Beseda in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The clip was posted on You Tube. This was followed by a promised lecture by Co-president Tomislav Krzyk on Czech castles accompanied by original slides filmed during his study visit to Dobrušci. The get-together continued with Czech songs.

Leona Sabolek

CZECH FILM WEEK IN SARAJEVO (16 – 22 December 2010)

In the UNITIC cinema hall in Sarajevu, Ambassador of the Czech Republic Tomáš Szunyog and the UNITIC Director, Mirsad Kurtović opened the Czech Film Week which had taken place in Sarajevo six times. While in the previous years old and new films were presented, as well as the films by one author only, Jiří Menzl, this time latest films were on the program:

Kawasaki Rose (Kawasakiho růže), directed by Jan Hřebejk, 2009, *Protector* directed by Marek Najbrt, 2009, *Children of the Night* (Děti noci) directed by Michaela Pavlátová, 2008, *Desperados* (Zoufalci) directed by Jitka Rudolfová, 2009, *Czech Peace* (Český mír) directed by Vít Klusák, Filip Remunda, documentary film 2010, *The Greatest among the Czechs* (Největší z Čechů), directed by Robert Sedláček, 2010, *Bread* (Krug) portrait of a demonstrator, directed by Tereza Reichová, documentary film, 2009, *Alda* (Aida), directed by Viera Čákányová, documentary film, 2009.

In early December the films were presented in Banja Luka.

Jadranka Šuster

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE RESIDENCE

On 17 December 2010 Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Bosnia and Herzegovina Mr. Tomáš Szunyog organized a Christmas party with his compatriots in his residence. Members of *Česka Beseda* Sarajevo, Banjaluka, Mačino Brdo, Prijedor and Nova Ves, as well as members of the Association

of Bosnia and Czech friendship *Snješka* responded to his invitation. The party was also attended by the Lady Consul Mrs. Jana Stará and other staff of the Czech Embassy.

In his opening speech Mr. Tomáš Szunyog expressed his gratitude for such good response of his compatriots, wishing them all the best for coming holidays, promising that such gatherings would become traditional. Mr. and Mrs. Boček from Mačino Mrdo started singing first. Verses were read out and presents were exchanged. President of *Česka Beseda* Sarajevo Jovanka Manžalović-Šalaka presented Ambassador Szunyog with a reprint of *Czech Folk Songs* with an appropriate greeting.

Leona Sabolek

NATIONAL MINORITIES IN THE FEDERATION OF BiH

When in 1990 Bosnia and Herzegovina became an independent state, the state of three constituent peoples, a lot of people remained nationally undefined. The normative acts on all levels classified the constitutently undefined people in the category of **the others**. Since 1996 the idea emerged that those who did not belong to the constituent peoples should organize themselves into non-governmental organizations, that is, national minority associations. The Convention on Human Rights, signed by BiH, also stipulates the right of **national minority**.

In **2003** the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the Law on Protection of Rights of National Minorities. This Law stipulates that Bosnia and Herzegovina protects the position and equality of members of 17 national minorities, such as: Albanians, Montenegrins, Czechs, Italians, Jews, Hungarians, Macedonians, Germans, Poles, Romanies, Romanians, Russians, Ruthenians, Slovaks, Slovenians, Turks and Ukrainians. Any form of discrimination is prohibited on a national, ethnic, racial and language basis against the persons which belong to national minorities in BiH. The authorities should respect and protect, preserve and develop ethnic, cultural, language and religious identity of each member of the national minority who is a citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In **2008** the Parliament of the Federation of BiH adopted the Law on Protection of Rights of National Minorities in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Aiming to protect the rights of national minorities, the Law established the Council of National Minorities of the Federation of BiH as an advisory body to the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In November **2009**, following the public announcement, the Decision was made on establishment of the advisory body to the Parliament of the Federation of BiH, the Council of National Minorities of F BiH. Based on the Decision, the Council was composed of 11 members of national minorities, and as representatives of all minorities have not been included, they are expected to consequently join the Council.

At the inaugural conference held on 15 February 2010, the Council elected the President and two deputies, passed the Statute, Rules of Procedure and appointed standing working bodies:

- Committee for Drafting and Implementation of the Council's Activity Program,
- Committee for Constitutional and L Affairs and Development and Protection of Rights of Members of National Minorities,
- Committee for Protection, Preservation and Development of Cultural, Educational and Language Identity of Members of National Minorities.

Both houses of the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina should approve the documents of the Council. The House of Representatives endorsed it, however, without any explanation the House of Peoples failed to do so, thus the work of the National Minority Council of F BiH was legally contested. The establishment of the Government based on the parliamentary elections has not been finished for four months after the elections, therefore the documents of National Minority Council have not been approved yet. The Council still does not have its premises, or basic financial resources for work (e.g. to cover travel expenses of representatives who are not from Sarajevo). The technicalities related to organization of the Council's sessions are done by the Commission for Human Rights and Freedoms with the Houses of the Parliament of F BiH.

In spite of all legal, financial and technical problems, the Council nevertheless held 7 sessions during 2010. We do hope that new legislative authorities will show more understanding and be open towards the European requirements regarding the respect of human rights and prevention of discrimination. We also hope that they will approve the Statute, Rules of Procedure and financial plan of the Council of National Minorities in F BiH, and resolve technical and other problems of the Council of National Minorities, and thereby facilitate its work.

Representatives of Czechs in the Council:
Tomislav Krzyk

CALEIDOSCOPE

Caleidoscope is a school project which was intended to encourage schools in BiH to explore culture, history and tradition of 17 national minorities in BiH.

On 8 December 2010 the OSCE Mission to BiH announced the winners of the school competition about the national minorities.

The students from V to IX grade took part in the school competition titled *Caleidoscope* to which the schools applied with their projects about national minorities and joint heritage of the country. More than 100 projects were submitted to the competition from 1 April to 19 November 2010.

The representatives of 17 schools, students and teachers received awards for the projects about different approaches to learning about the national minorities. The number of winners symbolizes the number of national minorities recognized in BiH, that is 17.

The students of Second Primary School from Živinice took the first place, winning the award in the amount of 2000 EUR. The Sokolje Primary School from Sarajevo and the Branko Ćopić Primary School from Prijedor took the second and the third place, winning the awards in the amount of 1500 and 1000 EUR, respectively.

The Head of OSCE Mission to BiH, Ambassador Gary D. Robbins, stated at the awards presentation that all participants in the competition had learnt a

lot about their country. "By their participation and engagement in the school projects, you all learnt something new, developed your awareness and understanding of how rich and diverse in your communities are as well as this country" said Ambassador Robbins.

The representatives of the Ministry of Education, Pedagogic Institutes, embassies and associations of national minorities attended this event.

The *Caleidoscope* school competition, supported also by the High Commissioner for National Minorities of OSCE, will further encourage the schools to keep exploring the culture, history and tradition of 17 national minorities living in BiH.

During 2011 the total of 17 awarded projects will be presented across the country to demonstrate talent and creativity of students, and to encourage others to explore the rich diversity of BiH.

The members of the Panel for Selection of Caleidoscope projects, and for selection of three best works, were a member of the Council of the National Minorities with the Parliament of BiH, Jovanka Manžalović Šalaka, Leonard Vlentá – the author of "Manual for national Minorities in BiH" and Aida Premilovac from OSCE.

**Activity Plan
from 1 January to 30 June 2011**

1. Meeting of the Managing Board of the Association;
2. Informator No.2/2010.
3. Working meeting of the Association members;
4. Continuation of work on the documentary film *Awake Puppets*;
5. Continuation of work on the monograph *Czechs in Sarajevo*;
6. Opening of the Czech Corner – the Association library;
7. Rehearsals and get-togethers with "česka lidovkas";
8. Regular Association Assembly;
9. Outing of the Association members;

Note: *Any assistance of Association members interested in the implementation of the aforementioned activities is always more than welcome.*

Attachment to this issue of INFORMATORA: "Let's sing together – písničky!"

Sarajevo, 1 January 2011

Managing Board of Česka Beseda Sarajevo

Statistics of visits of WEB-stranice **www.ceskabesedasa.ba**

July – December 2010.

Sum per month										
Month	Daily average				Total number of visits per month					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Dec 2010	354	287	37	13	362	186671	420	1177	8899	10975
Nov 2010	398	281	36	14	309	165528	430	1095	8449	11956
Oct 2010	415	304	30	11	361	215983	358	957	9433	12893
Sep 2010	364	226	51	13	331	91650	403	1539	6796	10929
Aug 2010	256	178	43	12	284	104814	372	1352	5532	7956
Jul 2010	255	167	56	12	283	125043	400	1760	5181	7930
Total					889689	2383	7880	44290	62639	

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