



Rozmberk Society

Society for heritage preservation and regional development

Annual Report 2015

Introduction

The Rozmberk Society was established in April 1998 as a public benefit corporation for heritage conservation combined with regional development. Our main operating area covers most of the Trebon Basin and Novohradaska hills, comprising the mostly flat, rural fishpond region in the eastern part of South Bohemia, Czech Republic.

I. Activities and Projects in 2015

1. Kojakovice Peasant and Emigration Museum

Since 2001, the Society operates a small museum in the former school of the protected village of Kojakovice. The Center was open in the months June through September. Our new staff member working here is very experienced in decorating gingerbreads and also helped with special actions educating children these techniques.

2. Nove Hradý Blacksmith Shop and Education Center

Since 2004, the Society operates the historic blacksmith workshop and house in Nove Hradý. During the summer season, the blacksmith workshop was open for public. Two apprentice blacksmiths who had worked with us earlier worked here during the summer season. They also worked with Daniel Cerny in his "Smithy in the Woods" to get further education and experience in blacksmithing.

Occasionally, visitors were allowed to try their hand on forging a nail. On request, we provided several special demonstrations - participation events for schools, companies, and groups (including disabled people).

3. Annual traditional actions

The Society again hosted the traditional end-of-season Apple-pie day in Kojakovice. The smithy saw the traditional Easter, Potato-day, and Devil's forging events with activities for children and adults and tasting of many types of South Bohemian sweet pies. All events were well visited by locals and visitors from the region.

Like each year, the Society organized a week-long summer camp next to the Nakolice fish pond. Over 50 children of the Jílovice basic school and other children from the surroundings attended this thematic camp.

4. Other activities

Staff participated in the kick-off meeting for the new Danube Transnational Programme in September in Budapest, Hungary. Thanks to contacts from that, the Society became partner in four larger applications for funding under this program. For one of the applications, Nove Hradý is the lead partner and we acted as main author for the application. All projects are 30-months projects and, if approved, the Society's participation will amount to on average 140 000 EUR. Decision on the projects will be made early 2016.



The Rozmberk Society

The State SZIF program until now did not reimburse the payments for the Active Smithy project (2012-2013). Thanks to this, the Society could not enter other projects because our funds are still caught up in the process. Hopefully early 2016 this will be settled.

5. Staff

Like last year, the Society employed unemployed people (long-term unemployed, school absolver, over 50, and mothers returning to work) with subsidy from the regional Labor Office. We give on-the-job training and encourage our temporary staff to use our employment as springboard to long-term employment elsewhere.

In 2015, we employed five people on 6-month contracts. One contract was ended early because the employee found other long-term employment.

II. Financial Year 2015

The full financial report over the year 2015 is published elsewhere on the web.

Funding came from donations from the Town of Nove Hradky, the WSPK bank, and through services provided.

The pre-financed SZIF project completed in 2013 still has not been reimbursed and will be carried over to 2016.

Income came also through our two visitors' centers.
