

# Annual Report 2017



**Společnost Rožmberk o.p.s.**  
**Rozmberk Society p.b.c.**

## Summary

The year 2017 was a very successful year. The Society is partner in the approved Interreg Danube co-funded [NETWORLD](#) project on preserving First World War (WWI) heritage and developing this heritage as a regional and transnational tool for niche tourism. The project started in January 2017 and will run for 30 months.

Visitor numbers to our two visitor centres during the season remained similar compared with previous years. The Society employed six persons on short and long term contracts.

## I. Introduction

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

Apart from non-profit activities, the Society also operates two visitor centres. Since 2001, the Society operates the [Peasant and Emigration Museum](#) in the former school of the protected village of Kojakovice. The museum focuses on the period 1850 – 1918, and in particular on village life and emigration to the USA. Since 2004, the Society also operates the [historic blacksmith workshop](#) (hereafter the Smithy) in Nove Hradky.

The Rozmberk Society has no permanent employees. The function of director/legal representative of the Society and board members are unpaid appointments. Employees (mostly 2 – 7 persons) are hired within the framework of grants and projects; volunteers work on the basis of needs and availability. When possible, the Society hires temporary employees from socially disadvantaged groups.

## II. Events and ongoing activities

### Kojakovice Peasant and Emigration Museum

The Museum was open in the months June through September. About 700 visitors (adults, seniors and children) went through, including several US and other foreign groups. Most foreigners mentioned they came to the museum through the [Greenways Travel Club](#) or through visiting our [Czech Emigration Museum](#) website.

### Nove Hradky Historic Blacksmith Workshop

From May till September, and on special occasions or prior arrangement, the Smithy was open for public. Blacksmith activities are done in cooperation with master blacksmith Daniel Cerny. On several occasions apprentice blacksmiths gave demonstrations. The apprentices also used the Smithy outside the season for accommodation and training while receiving further education and experience in blacksmithing with [Daniel Cerny in his Workshop in the Peatlands](#).

On request, we provided several special demonstrations - participation events for schools, companies, and groups (including disabled people).



### **Traditional annual events**

The Smithy saw the traditional one-day Easter, Potato-day, and Devil's Forging events with activities for children and adults like baking decorative breads on the historical oven, egg decoration techniques, gingerbread painting and weaving of the traditional Easter whips. During these events visitors can also taste many types of South Bohemian sweet pies. These three events were well visited (around hundred people on each occasion) by locals and visitors from the region.

Like each year, the Society organized a week-long summer camp next to the Nakolice fish pond. Around 50 children of the Jílovice primary school and other children from the region and 12 adult supervisors attended this thematic camp.

### **III. Projects**

#### **Danube Transnational Programme project NETWORLD**

On January 1, the NETWORLD project started. This project is co-funded by the EU (ERDF and IPA) through the Interreg – Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) and will run for 30 months.

The main objectives of the NETWORLD project are to increase the awareness of the First World War (WWI) heritage and to develop its sustainable use in quality cultural tourism.

More information on the project background can be found at the [DTP NETWORLD site](#)

We discussed possible preservation strategies with local stakeholders. Discussions also were started with interest group linked to the military activities of the 91<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment which fought on the eastern fronts. A second group we contacted is linked to the independent Czech Legion, which fought on the allied side. These contacts and the involvement of these groups are expected to be intensified during the project

The Society participated in developing a common communication strategy for the project and a transnational database on preservation and management of tangible WW I heritage. Common interview forms were translated into Czech and used to contact and interview target groups.

Our project team analysed the collected research data. This showed that in our region, local stakeholders are interested in cooperation on a local level. They mostly are taking very well care of small local monuments, and are not very much interested in large transnational cooperation or see the need of a large preservation strategy for such small village monuments.

Collected data on heritage sites were filled in the new [online WWI Heritage site database](#). This work will continue throughout the entire project duration.

In the end of the year, the focus shifted to early preparations for the capitalisation activities, large cultural educational events, and heritage site arranging which all will be realized in 2018.

Staff members attended the project meetings and conferences in Kosice (Slovakia, 14-15 Oct. 2017) and Bucharest (Romania, 27-28 Nov. 2017). In addition, Robert Dulfer and Olga Cerna participated in the 6th Annual Conference for Danube Strategy in Budapest (Hungary, 17-18 Oct. 2017).



## IV. Other activities – Memberships

### LAG Ruze

Since the LAG was established, the Society has been a member of the Local Action Group [MAS Sdružení Růžé](#). Society co-director Olga Cerna is active in the working group for social activities and is member of the Commission selecting projects for funding.

### Newcastles of the World

The town of Nove Hradý (South Bohemia) is a member of the governing board of the Newcastles of the World Alliance. Society Director Robert Dulfer together with the mayor Vladimir Hokr are the representatives for Nove Hradý on the Board. In addition, the Society is hosting and managing the [Newcastles Conferences](#) website and the [Newcastles Forum](#) website.

## V. Miscellaneous

### Maintenance

In 2017, the Society was able to complete the repairs and renovation of the wooden gothic-style picket rail fence around the enclosure for our goat. Society staff and volunteers were involved in the work, especially manually stripping the bark of the all the fence sticks.



## VI Human Resources

In 2017, the Society employed six people on long- and short-term contracts.

Society's director Robert Dulfer and vice-director Olga Cerna were hired within the NETWORLD project, with Martina Kourkova replacing Olga Cerna for six weeks of sick leave.

The Society also received funding from the regional Labour Office to hire three persons from economically disadvantaged groups on six-month contracts as support staff for running the Blacksmith workshop during the visitor season.

A Dutch-Portuguese student spent several weeks as a trainee with the Society to earn credits for his study on rural cultural tourism.

## VII. Summary Financial Year 2017

The financial year 2017 ended with a net negative result for income and expenditure. The full financial report over the year 2017 is available upon request.

### NETWORLD project funding

The NETWORLD project is co-funded (85%) by EUROPEAN UNION funds (ERDF and IPA). The Society has to arrange 15% co-funding. In addition, the project has to be fully prefinanced by the Society (causing our net result to be negative for the year). For this, a

bank loan has been obtained through our bank WSPK. The budget for the Society is 114 600 € for 30 months. The budget for the project year 2017 was 37 188 €. The Progress Report for the first six month has been approved by Czech and EU controllers and a first repayment of 9 543 € was received in December 2017.

### **Local grants**

Additional funding was received from the Town of Nove Hradky (2 250 €) and the Waldviertel Sparkasse (WSPK, our bank, 390 €)

### **Donations**

The Society received a gift of 5 000 € from a Dutch donor (Family of Society director Robert Dulfer).

### **Other income**

About 4,500 € was received as income through our two visitors' centres.

For the Summer Camp, all costs including renting the camp space and tents, transport for excursions, allowance for adults, material for games, were covered by the contribution of the children.

## **VIII. Last but not least**

The Society is constantly receiving very positive verbal comments from public and authorities on our work, but due to limited sources so far there is no written form of such a feedback. It is one of our aims in near future to establish some public online platform for gathering comments and recommendations.

We would like to thank to all who provided us with enormous moral and other support. We are looking forward continuing our work and good relations in next year.

## **Annual Report 2018**

Společnost Rožmberk o.p.s.  
Jílovice Kojákovice 80, 379 01

P.O Box 41, 379 01 Trebon  
Czech Republic

Email: rd1@rozemberk.org

Registration number (IČO): 251 74 541

Legal Representative and Director: Drs. Robert Dulfer

### **Websites**

[ruze.ekomuzeum.cz](http://ruze.ekomuzeum.cz)  
[KovarnaNoveHradky.com](http://KovarnaNoveHradky.com)

[CzechEmigrationMuseum.com](http://CzechEmigrationMuseum.com)  
[ForgottenFront.com](http://ForgottenFront.com)

[www.rozemberk.org](http://www.rozemberk.org)