

# Annual Report 2018



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

## Summary

The year 2018 was mostly dedicated to activities for our NETWORLD project on preserving First World War (WWI) heritage. As part of these activities, we hosted the conference Borders as a Result of War, and established a new monument for soldiers from the Nove Hradý region fallen during WWI.

Visitor numbers to our two visitor centres stayed on comparable levels as before. The Society was able to employ seven persons on short and long term contracts.

One sad notification; Matej, our last goat who has been a visitor flag-ship attraction for eight years, died in November 2018 of old age.

## I. Introduction

The Rozmberk Society (hereafter the Society) was established in 1998 as a public benefit corporation. Its mission is heritage preservation combined with regional development. Our main operating area covers most of the Trebon Basin and Novohradska foothills in the eastern part of South Bohemia, Czech Republic.

The Society runs projects and operates two visitor centres. Since 2001, the Society operates the [Peasant and Emigration Museum](#) in the former school in the village of Kojakovice. The museum focuses village life and emigration to America in the period 1850 – 1918. Since 2004, we also run the historic blacksmith workshop (the Smithy) in Nove Hradý.

The Rozmberk Society has no permanent employees. The director is on a long-term unpaid appointment and the co-director is a permanent volunteer. Additional employees (mostly 4 – 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 to help cover the main visitor period of the year.

## II. Events and ongoing activities

### Kojakovice Peasant and Emigration Museum

The Museum was open full-time only from mid-June through mid-September. About 600 visitors (adults, seniors and children) went through, including some US and other foreign groups. Most foreigners came to the museum through the [Greenways Travel Club](#) or through visiting our [Czech Emigration Museum](#) website. The museum was opened outside those dates upon request.



*Cyclists and American tourists in our museum.*



## **Nove Hradý Historic Blacksmith Workshop**

From May till October, the Smithy was open for visitors. Apprentice blacksmiths demonstrated occasionally during the summer season. The apprentices also used the Smithy outside the season for accommodation and training while continuing their blacksmith education with master blacksmith [Daniel Cerny](#).

We also did special demonstrations events for schools, groups, and disabled people. During most of these events, children were also active in other crafts and activities such as baking decorative breads on the historical oven, egg decoration techniques, and gingerbread painting.



*Explaining old equipment and doing activities with school groups*

## **Traditional annual events**

The Smithy hosts three traditional one-day cultural events: Easter, Potato-day, and Devil's Forging. These events provide 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 alike.



*Easter: inside painting eggs, outside learning how to braid the traditional Easter whips from twigs.*





*Potato day, celebrating the potato harvest and using the Autumn leaves and nuts to make pictures*



*December 6: St Nicolas day, with Devil's Forging.*



*Letting kids try their hand at forging is always part of our events.*



Since 2001, the Society helps with the logistics and finances of the week-long summer camp at the Nakolice fish pond. Around 60 children of the Jílovice primary school and other children from the region and 8 adult supervisors attended this thematic camp.

### III. Projects

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

The NETWORLD project ran its second year. Its main objectives are to increase the awareness of WWI heritage and to use this heritage to develop transnational quality cultural tourism. More information on the project background can be found at the [DTP NETWORLD site](#).

The municipality of Nove Hradý did not have a functional and public assessable WWI Monument. As part of the project, the Society realized a new monument in a suitable location, close to the WWII monuments at the municipal cemetery. The design was by blacksmith Daniel Cerny, the realization was carried out by Daniel Cerny with help of apprentice blacksmiths of the Secondary Vocational School in Trhové Sviny. On May 5, the monument was unveiled during a dedication ceremony.



*LtR: students working on the monument. Laying of a wreath and salute shot during the dedication.*

On May 3-5, the Society also hosted the NETWORLD conference Borders as a Result of War in Nove Hradý. Forty adults and four youths signed up for the conference. Adult participants included Network Project Partners, Associated Partners and history and educational professionals from Austria (1), Bulgaria (3), Hungary (2), Slovenia (5), and the Czech Republic (29). Two of the youths were from the regional school for vocational education involved in constructing the new WW I memorial as part of the Networld project.

The focus of the conference was on how WWI impacted the soldiers at the front and in particular the civilians along the front but also in the homelands. Attention was given also how matters changed after the end of the war with the new independent states.



*Networld conference: Society director Robert Dulfer delivering a speech to the participants, and the group picture.*

In September, staff participated in the NETWORLD study visit to Ypres, Belgium. There we visited heritage sites of the Western Front and learned how the *In Flanders Field* museum develops WWI educational material and cultural tourism and exhibitions.



Ypres study visit: participating in a special honor service for a fallen UK soldier  
Directors Robert Dulfer (Society) and Piet Chielens (In Flanders Field Museum) exchanging information material.

#### **IV. Other activities – Memberships**

##### **LAG Ruze**

Since the LAG was established, the Society has been a member of the Local Action Group [MAS Sdružení Ruže](#). 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 Hradky (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 Hradky on the Board. In addition, the Society is hosting and managing the [Newcastles Conferences](#) website and the [Newcastles Forum](#) website.

#### **V. Miscellaneous**

##### **Matej**

Since 2010, we had goats on the Smithy premises, as part of interest for visitors. Initially, there were one male and two females, with young goats in the spring. Since the death of the last female two years ago, our male goat Matej had been alone. Visitors enjoyed his impressive presence and locals, both adults and children, often came to look or bring some old bread or vegetables for him. In November this year, he died of old age.

#### **VI Human Resources**

In 2018, the Society employed six people on long- and short-term contracts.

Society's co-directors Robert Dulfer and Olga Cerna were hired within the NETWORLD project. The Society also received funding from the regional Labour Office to hire four persons from economically disadvantaged groups on short-term contracts as support staff for running the visitor centres.



## **VII Future plans**

In 2019, we will continue with the final six months of the NETWORLD project. The main event of that period will be the Czech Youth Exchange to Slovenia, which we are now preparing.

In 2019, we will also participate in a VISEGRAD project.

In the first decade of the millennium, the Society was active in working with Ecomuseums. At that time, we did not manage to establish a real “museum without walls” with a high local participation. We are now trying to restart these efforts as part of a new international group. In 2019, we will host a project meeting on this and start efforts to raise funds.

We are also participating in several transnational applications for Interreg projects and other project funding. The results of these applications will come in 2019.

## **VIII. Summary Financial Year 2018**

The financial year 2018 ended with a small net negative result for income and expenditure. The balance sheet and more detailed financial information over the year 2018 can be found on our [website](#).

### **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. 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 2018 was 53 715 €. The Progress Reports for Period 2 (1.7.2017-31.12.2017) and Period 3 (1.1.2018-30.6.2018) were approved by Czech and EU controllers the repayments received in 2018.

### **Local grants**

Additional funding was received from the Region of South Bohemia (800 €), Town of Nove Hradý (2 200 €) and the Waldviertel Sparkasse (WSPK, our bank, 200 €)

### **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, and overhead were covered by the contribution of the children. No income was derived from this.

## **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.  
Jílovce 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)  
[KovarnaNoveHrady.com](http://KovarnaNoveHrady.com)

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

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