

National report Slovakia 10/2017 – 10/2018

1/ We continue in our long-term effort to improve social status of artists in Slovakia. Active participation on preparing laws for culture in Slovakia:

- a/ Participation in Working group of Ministry of Culture for the Copyright Act - some of our comments have been accepted; a request to open a wider debate on the application of intellectual property protection in Slovakia
- b/ Preparation of analysis for Working group of Ministry of Culture for art in public buildings: a proposal to focus on and improve the law on art in public spaces
- c/ Initiating negotiation with Ministry of Culture on changes in the grant scheme for financing the creation
- d/ Preparation a draft of law to revive the art market: the proposal that the cost of purchasing works of art could be counted on reduction in the tax base
- e/ The Status of the Artist: we continue in the negotiations with the Ministry of Culture with the goal to open the way to the solutions of improvement of the present situation of artists.
- f/ The Slovak Government Board for Culture: SCCD represents its President Pavol Kral who continuously informs the members of the Board and individual members about the discussed materials including the appeals for the amendment procedure of the discussed materials.

2/ Edition of book: **Black sheep of Art? Art and Society: Myths and Facts**

Publication written and edited by Pavol Kral (President of Slovak Union of Visual Arts, President of Slovak Coalition for Cultural Diversity, Member of Slovak Government Board for Culture, Vice-President of IAA /AIAP, Vice-President of European Coalition for Cultural Diversity, Member of Intergovernmental Committee UNESCO on Cultural Diversity, Paris) summarizes current position of art in society, confronts myths with reality and aims to reply following questions:

What is the meaning of art? Do we really need it or could we exclude it from our lives? Can we afford art? Is it just fun or unnecessary luxury, or does it bring benefits to society? Does it affect development of our society? Can we make use of its potential?

On the other hand, what is the real life of those who actively work in art, those who create art? What are the conditions in which artists live in Slovakia, their social security? What has already been done and what could still be done to increase the chance for artists to make a living with their creative work? To compare - what are the conditions of artists in other countries? Is there some truth in myths about their comfortable life and exceptional standing? Or is everything different?

Book provides information for cultural workers and responsible representatives, with the ambition to facilitate their decision-making in dealing with specific cultural policy related issues. 200 pages include texts written by colleagues from IAA, IFCCD, NAVA and Slovakia (Werner Schaub - Germany, Grete Marstein - Norway, Marta Mabel Perez – Puerto Rico, Pontus Raud - Sweden, Charles Vallerand - Canada, Winikoff Tamara – Australia, Gang Li – China, Andrea Křístek Kozárová - Slovakia) and quoting statements of many other authors.



Content of the book

- 1 / Does the art contribute to the society development?
- 2 / What is the position of artists in the EU (Scotland, Sweden, Netherlands, Germany, Great Britain, Nordic Culture Point, Brussels, European Parliament) and Australia?
- 3 / Influence of economic development on the situation in culture and social status of artists in Slovakia
- 4 / Current issues of legislation for the arts in Slovakia: What has happened and what challenges we still face?
 - 4 / a Taxes
 - 4 / b Support for creation in grant system
 - 4 / c Increase of the share of Slovak domestic music production in the media
 - 4 / d Copyright Act and protection of intellectual property – current status and its consequences
 - 4 / e Statute of the artist: questions of the legal and social status of the artists
 - ... a few words at the beginning
 - ... UNESCO's Recommendation on the Statute of the Artist, 1980
 - ... development and current situation in Slovakia
 - ... FAQ
 - ... international analysis involving artists from several countries
 - ... in practice: practical information on registration
 - ... the preparation of UNESCO's Recommendation on the Status of a Professional Artist
 - 4 / f Artist Status and Collective Bargaining
 - 4 / g Art in the public space
 - 4 / h Is it possible to revive the art market?
 - 4 / i MU Agreement - successful Swedish model
 - 4 / j Supporting private investment in art - sponsorship law
 - 4 / k Inspiration: few positive examples from abroad
- 5 / Next steps in the culture development strategy: Questioning ourselves...
- 6 / "... I do not understand art"
 - Why does a significant part of society feel they do not understand the art? How to perceive art? Do we actually need art?

3/ We continue to discuss current art issues with the public:

a/ Charles Vallerand UNESCO expert presentation (10/2017)

Slovak Union of Visual Arts, in cooperation with the Embassy of Canada, the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, the Slovak Commission UNESCO and the Slovak Coalition for Cultural Diversity organized a lecture by UNESCO Expert Charles Vallerand on October 9, 2017 at the offices of the Embassy of Canada in Bratislava.

Topics:

- 1 / Implementation of the UNESCO Convention at National Level - Examples from Canada
- 2 / Cultural Diversity within the Slovak Context - Opportunities and Challenges

Presentation available here: <https://svu.sk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Implementation-of-the-UNESCO-convention-on-a-national-level.pdf>

b/ Series of workshops for artists and the public in various towns of Slovakia (Komárno, Trenčín, Bratislava) and for students at secondary art school and University and at our Gallery UMEĽKA

c/ The World Art Day every year since 2012. Exhibition Dialogues: artworks of French artists in Gallery UMEĽKA organized in cooperation with IAA partner and French National Committee CVFAP.

d/ White Night event with up to 9 500 visitors at our Gallery UMEĽKA September 29, 2018

4/ For Slovak NC members

a/ Information: In order to increase efficiency in sharing information with our members as well as with public, we use the Slovak Union of Visual Arts web page www.svu.sk with new bookmark International Cooperation with reports from all IAA events since 2010 and the SCCD web page www.skkd.sk. We also communicate more informal news mapping gallery life on our social media profiles – Facebook and Instagram – number of followers increase rapidly – we would recommend active use of these tools also for promotion of IAA Europe and IAA / AIAP.

b/ Consultations for our members applying for so called “status of artist” registration among professionals: This requires some administrative steps which might be complicated for artists and there is also registration fee 30 Euros. For our members we provide advisory hours, help them with papers and refund the fee.

c/ Exhibitions: We continue in organizing of exhibitions of visual art at national (about 25 - 30 / year) and also international level (exchange of exhibitions on principle of reciprocity). We accept proposals for such cooperation continuously, at least 2 years in advance due to necessity of applying for funds.

5/ International activities: We continue in the co-operation with international art association IAA/AIAP (member of EC - Vice-President) and IAA Europe, the European Coalition for Cultural Diversity (Vice-President) and International Federation of Coalition for Cultural Diversity (Member of the Board of Directors).

a/ IAA/AIAP: Andrea Křístek Kozarova and Pavol Kral took part at EC IAA meeting, Puerto Rico, March 2018 (two workshops for Latin American colleagues: status of an artist and IAA card)

b/ International Federation of Coalition for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD): Pavol Kral took part at GA and Board meeting at Montreal, Canada (Oct 2018)

c/ Culture Action Europe (CAE): Our representatives took part at the conference Beyond the Obvious – Quo Vadis Europe, Budapest, Hungary, 2017.

6/ International cooperation on exhibitions: we took part at event of V4 countries (Slovakia, Poland, Czech republik, Hungary) at Brussels (February 2018), event of 16 + 1 countries at Sophia, Bulgaria (July 2018), event of UNESCO Art Camp Andorra, July 2018. For 2019 cooperation with Romanian artists is being discussed.

7/ IAA Card for visual artists

We prepared for all members of IAA (spring 2018) updated list of institutions accepting the IAA card all around the world. There are still questions how to produce IAA card and where it is accepted or not and we have worked little bit with this issue.

Two documents are available now:

1/ PDF list of institutions all around the world - you can include it into your materials and add local differences (feel free to spread and publish on your websites).

2/PDF manual how we provide card in Slovakia and list of museums and galleries sent by individual NCs.

When explaining meaning of card to your authorities or galleries please remember that the card might be great tool for lifelong education of all professional visual artists (who are btw very good clients of gallery shops and their free entrance does not mean they will not spend money there :) and logical argument coming from Scandinavia - In Norway all institutions that get any sort of governmental funding also accept the IAA card, as a rule.

8/ Summary

A lot of work has been done. Board members specifically devoted a lot of time and energy to activities on the field of social and legal right of artists. A wide range of collaborating volunteers is also involved in the preparation of specific events and activities.

In spite of the partial successes we have achieved, there are tasks yet to be finished. The major issue is improving the legal and social status of artists in Slovakia. That remains to be the main goal of NC IAA Slovakia, as there exist many persistent legal issues that have not been solved for more than two decades.

Bratislava November 5, 2018

Pavol Kral,

Vice-president IAA/AIAP

Andrea Křístek Kozarova,

assistant to Vice-president