

Introduction – Key Issues

There are 480 museums, galleries and memorials with 290 branches in the Czech Republic, some of them are out of operation. When we talk about a branch we have in mind such out-station of a museum or gallery which is situated out of the seat of the museum or gallery but which integrates with the basic subject in an organisational entity. We understand as galleries these, which keep collection objects, then museums of fine arts, not selling galleries. Museums and galleries mostly operate several branches. Under the word “memorial” understand we such a room or object, where an exposition or an exhibition is installed.

The classification of museums and galleries according to the prevailing object of collections looks as follows: 64 of them were art, archaeology and history museums, 2 science and technology museums and ethnology museums and 383 other museums.

Museums are responsible for the protection of moveable cultural heritage. The amount of collection objects on 31st December 2007 was 27,302,633 pieces, 5,561,361 thereof were digitalized.

The Ministry of Culture constitutes the concept of museum activities. The government document about the care of the movable culture heritage in the Czech Republic for the years 2003 – 2008 postulated the following priorities:

- More efficient prevention of museum collections, in particular against the consequences of emergency situations
- Consolidation of juristic safety of the collection owners
- The expansion of acquisition activities
- Solving the space problems of museums
- Involving of museums into educational processes and information networks

The Ministry of Culture established six specialized museology-methodical workplaces for the branch of museology that provide information and services to the owners and curators of the collections with museum character and to the other interested people, workplaces that issue guidelines and texts and provide consultations. The workplaces are determined:

- For the issues of documentation and inventory of the collections with museum character, of the central collection register and of the export of collection objects abroad
- For the preservation and restoration of collection objects from the Czech museums
- For the testing and development of information technologies, mainly in documentation and register, but also in the protection and presentation of collection objects
- For communication of museums with children and youth (incl. handicapped people) and intermediate the access to the collections to this significant group of museum audience
- For the communication of museums with the audience, intermediation of collections, application of new technologies and methods for the collection presentation, for the virtual presentation of collections, for preparation of standards
- For the specialized museums of fine arts (galleries)

Museum-related Laws / Definition of a Museum

The new law No. 122/2000 Coll. about the preservation of the collections with museum character was adopted in 2000. There are definitions of the museum, the collection object, the public services provided by the museum, the problems of the central register of collections etc. there.

The collection with museum character is a collection that is in its whole important for the prehistory, history, art, literature, technology, natural or social sciences; it is composed by the set of collection objects (movable asset or immovable) that are collected by the human activity.

The museum is an institution that acquires and collects products of nature and human artefacts for the scientific and study purposes, that examines the original environment of such acquired products of nature and human artefacts, that creates collections of selected products of nature and human artefacts, that then preserves permanently these collections, registers them and expertly processes them, that enables utilization of them and makes them available by the way that guarantees equal access for all people without exception in their exploitation and accessibility through the providing of selected public services, whereas the main purpose of such an activity is not in principle achievement of the pecuniary gain. The gallery is a museum specialized to the fine arts collections.

The public services provided by the museum or gallery are services that serve to the satisfying the cultural, pedagogical, educational, and informational needs of the public. The public services are partly or in the whole funding by the public budgets. The museums and galleries that keep the collections that are registered in the central register of collections are the standardized public services providers.

The ministry registers the collections, whose owner is the Czech Republic or the territorial self-governing unit, into the central register. The collections of other owners are registered into the central register when is it the decision of the ministry based on the request of the collection owner.

Types and total output of Museums

There were 32 facilities established by state administration bodies in 2007, 19 of them by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic. Regions established 91 museums, municipalities and towns 233. Generally welfare societies, civic associations, churches and other entities established 38 facilities. 55 museums established entrepreneurial subjects and entrepreneurs.

Statistical survey is carried out once a year. The following items/data are examined: subject performance, number and extent of permanent exposition, number and characteristics of collections and temporary exhibitions, then extent of the exhibition areas, the range of opening hours, types of reduced entrance fee, number of days free of charge, the possibility of the purchase of tickets via internet, number of collection objects incl. data about acquisitions and losses, borrows and loans, information about the use of internet, the number of professional employees and their activity, number of other employees, economy of the museum or gallery, activity of the library incorporated in the museum or gallery.

The data about the classification of galleries and museums according to the prevailing type of objects in collections and exhibitions, the number of the visitors who paid reduced fee on the base of special passes, the number of days opened to the public and the number of the evidence numbers of the digitalized collection objects were included to the statistical statement on the museum and gallery for 2007 from the questionnaire Egmus.

Data about the educational programmes for the various visitors groups (children, ethnic minorities, seniors and handicapped) are collected too. The number of titles issued by the museum or gallery is monitored. The new data item is, whether the property where the museum or gallery acts or which is used on the base of the lease contract, is promulgated the National Culture Monument or not.

Statistical survey for 2007

It was prepared the new technological method of data collecting and processing for the data collection on the base of the newly created software for the electronic collection and processing of statistical data.

The expositions of galleries, museums and monuments (more than two-year installations of collection objects) noticed the increase in 2007. It was registered total 1,814 of them, 11.2 % more than in 2003. The similar development was registered by the exhibitions organized by museums and galleries. The number of them increased to 3,826 that is 10.3 % more compared to 2003. The total number of visitors of expositions and exhibitions (10,362,195) was the highest in last five years and increased by 18.4 % from 2003.

According to the last years the museums and galleries are one of the centres of cultural life of cities and municipalities. The number of cultural educational events (incl. lectures) that are organized by museum or gallery increased compared to the last year to 15,373; the number of their visitors was 1,273,511.

Museums and galleries issued total 566 non-periodical publications, 192 periodicals and 43 audiovisual products.

Examined institutions managed (or used them on the base of the lease agreement) 682 objects promulgated the Real Estate Culture Monument in 2007, 148 properties of which are the National Culture Monuments. The public accessible area was 772,837 m².

The data of economic character, e.g. number of employees and economy, provide unfortunately only such subjects that have government authorities as a founder. 5,576 employees, from those 2,901 were professionals, worked in total 394 of these institutions (+272 branches). Total income was CZK 620,713 thousands. Total non-investment expenditures were CZK 3,470,192 thousands, CZK 82,658 thousands of which was used for the purchase of collection objects. The total collected entrance fee was CZK 427,566,299.

252 libraries worked by the museums and galleries 204 of which were accessible to the public. The number of library units was 7,188,303 volumes.

The Ministry of Culture and/or National Information and Consulting Centre for Culture started to collaborate with the Association of Museums and Galleries in the Czech

Republic and prepared the new amended statistical statement for the statistical investigation for 2009. The museum classification is modified as follows:

- Fine Arts
- Other Art Fields
- Archaeology and History
- Nature History and Natural Science
- Science and Technology
- Ethnography and Anthropology
- General
- Open-air museums
- Other

The section about the total exhibition area in m² is extended to the dates about the area for the permanent exposition and barrier-free access area. At the exhibitions will be searched the number of installations of travelling exhibitions. The number of the services for the foreigners is indicated as addition to the number of visitors. In the category of cultural educational events will be searched the number of concerts, literary dramatic performances etc.

The requirements for the part “Economy” in the report were newly formulated in connection with the solving of the problems of cultural accounts.

Statistical Survey

The Ministry of Culture or its allowance organization NIPOS (National Information and Consulting Centre for Culture) examines in the frame of the government statistical service provided on the base of the law No. 89/1995 Coll. in wording of later regulations also the sphere of museums, monuments and galleries. The statistical survey in the field of museums and galleries is carried out once a year on the base of the statistical form that is upgraded every year by the requirements of Ministry of Culture, Czech Statistical Office, Eurostat and Egmus.

The processed outputs are passed to the Czech Statistical Office. NIPOS publishes the selected data every year together with the other data from the department culture statistics in the series “Statistics on Culture...” and in its Czech version. You can find the information also on www.nipos-mk.cz.