

Czech Republic

Report by Jana Radová, Jaroslav Novák

National Information and Consulting centre for Culture, Czech statistical Office

Statistics of museums, art galleries and memorials 2011

The Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic authorized NIPOS by the mandatory agreement from 2002 by the providing of the state statistic service for the culture area, so for museums as well. NIPOS cooperates with the systematic competent department of the Ministry of Culture, with the Czech Statistical Office and with Museums and Art Galleries Association.

The object of the statistical survey are museums, art galleries (museums of art) and memorials (hereinafter museums). *The number of the active and statistically recorded museums* was 477 (without affiliates) in 2011. It indicates, with the consideration to statistical data from past years, that the boom of establishing of new museums, which was evident in the nineties of 20th century and on the beginning of the 21st century, is probably the past from 2008.

The museums structure according to the establisher: the government establishes 31 museums, the regions 94, municipalities and cities 248 museum institutions; 104 museums are private owned (i.e. 21% from the whole). 58 museums from that are operated by natural persons and corporate bodies (entrepreneurial subjects) and 46 by civic associations, foundations, churches et al. societies. It is necessary to notice that in practice they are many of other museum institutions belonging to the private sector that are not statistically recorded; mostly they don't appear even in the standard professional address lists. There is not known how many they are. Despite of it can be stated that the focus of the museum network in the Czech Republic from the point of view of number of them and performance consist in the museums established by the government and self-governing regions. Even the *structure in orientation and specialization of museum* institutions didn't change fundamentally in the museum network. The most numerous are the multidisciplinary (general) museums, i.e. homeland museums (approx. 60%). The most numerous specialized museums are art museums (art galleries) and arts and crafts museums (15%). The solitary memorials aimed at personalities, events or localities are represented in bigger amount as well (10%). The important group consists from museums aimed at the industry, science and technology as well (6%).

The significant indicator of the museums activity is the **extent** of their **collections and the maintenance about them**. In 2011 22,576 thousands of registration numbers were recorded. 96% of collection from that number was kept in the museums established by the government and self-governing regions.

As for the *acquisitions*, they were mostly small gifts and the result of the field research. The purchasing of acquisitions (which is important e.g. at the collections of art, art & craft, numismatics, and many more) was even more limited in 2011 than in the last year. The museums invested less than 2,080 thousands EUR for this purchasing, which was 5% less than in 2010.

During 2011 museums provided *the conservation, preparation and preservation* of 448 thousands collecting items in total, so 14% less than in 2010 but more than in 2009. They were smaller treatments made by the own means of museums (84% from the recorded volume of conservation, preparation and preservation). The museums were able to spend approximately one half of resources as compared with 2010 for more exacting conservation, preparation and in particular preservation made by suppliers (less than 1,960 thousands EUR).

The essential feature of the Czech museum system is the fact that *most of museums operate in objects that are registered cultural or registered national cultural landmarks or objects* and almost all of them have to been built for another function. The operation of those objects is not (on objective grounds) very economical, they demand substantially higher costs for the maintenance; they are limits here for using of effective and modern museum operation technology. On the other hand, the allocation of museum in those objects is often one of the most optimal possibilities how to make best of those objects. In 2011 the museums used 712 of such objects.

From the point of view of the outputs of the museum activities for public the most important form is their **exhibition activity** namely through the short-time casual exhibitions or through long-time (“permanent”) expositions. The museums had for disposal for their exhibition activities approximately 923 thousand square meters, 78% of that is the area of permanent expositions and the rest (205 thousand square meters) is determined for casual exhibitions. The tendency of the increase of the exhibition area determined for the permanent expositions is obvious. In 2011 the exhibition area with barrier-free access redoubled (476 thousand square meters now).

Museums made accessible to the public 1,868 *permanent expositions* in 2011, i.e. 40 more than in 2010. The changes in their thematic structure appeared. According to the more detailed analysis 22 expositions were abandoned and 62 of new ones were established. Most of them were in the area of science and technology (29) and of various historical topics (11).

The museums in the Czech Republic organized 3,974 *exhibitions*, e.g. 127 more than in 2010 and in long-term monitoring it is the top till now. The increase of the number of exhibitions doesn't have always adequate response in the growing of the visit rate of museums. For visitors' rating it the quality of the offered exhibition events is decisive, not the quantity. In this sense the exhibitions of arts and other artistic branches dominate.

The visit rate of expositions and exhibitions in museums in 2011 was 10,018 thousand persons, which is 10.8 visitor per one square meter and a year.

The increase of the number of *accompanying programmes* to exhibitions and expositions is evident in the statistics of the visit rate as well. 587 thousands visitors went through them (6% from the total number of visitors) in 24 thousands of presentations; the most of them were school visits (19 thousands) in specialized programmes prepared for them by museums themselves.

Aside from the exhibition the museums prepare other **cultural educational programmes** for the public. It was 11,740 events in 2011. The total visit rate in those cultural educational events of museums was 1,515 thousand persons in 2011; it is 1,5% less than in 2010.

Museums organized 586 **professional conferences and seminars** as well, substantially more as in the last year. There were 26 thousands of participants. The museums took part in the **publishing activities** as well. They publish 456 titles of publications and 158 titles of periodical magazines and similar printed matters and 23 audio-visual works.

The museums offers **services for research workers**: the loans of collections for the study purposes, offering of the professional consultations, elaborated recherche and expertizes et al. There were 78 thousands of them in 2011. They are not statistically recorded research works of museums offered to the public via internet till now. By estimation it is possible to speak about 400 thousands of occurrences from the available data.

The overwhelming majority of museums have its own www site already and the extent of the collection presentation via internet is increasing constantly. Indeed it is true that the on-line catalogues of the museum collections on internet are still very little. There is accessible just 1.7% of registration numbers of collection objects. There are 17.3% of ***digitized collection objects*** of the total amount of collecting objects. The museums in the Czech Republic are here evidently behind the foreign one.

From the total of 477 museums 41% of them have as a part of their organization structure **the professional library** accessible to the public. Those 205 museum libraries have 8,735 library units that are not a part of the museum collections.

The museums of the Czech Republic showed in total 5,659 **employees in recalculation to the full time employees** in 2011. It was 362 employees less than in 2010. The decrease of the employees concerns first of all the category of the professional workers.