

Annual Report 2021

Kojákovice před 100 a více lety



*Vydáno 2021 u příležitosti tří významných výročí:
650 let od první písemné zmínky o obci
125 let od založení Sboru dobrovolných hasičů
a 20 let od založení Venkovského muzea Kojákovice*

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

Summary¹

The continuation of the COVID-19 Pandemic continued to severely influence our activities and future planning. At several occasions, we had to cancel events or close our visitor centres following the law and out of precaution for staff and visitors.

The one good point is that the lifting of most restrictions during summer allowed us to celebrate the 20th year of existence of our Kojákovice museum.

In coordination with the Municipality of Jílovice, we organized this event to coincide with the 650 year existence of the village of Kojákovice and also of 125 year Kojákovice Volunteer Fire Brigade.

As part of these celebration activities, our co-founder Olga Cerna finally finished and published her book on the history of Kojákovice.

I. Introduction

The Rozmberk Society (hereafter the Society) was established in 1998 as a public benefit corporation. Its mission is natural and cultural 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 for heritage preservation and cultural activities. Since 2001, the Society operates the [Peasant and Emigration Museum](#) in the former school in the village of Kojakovice. The museum focuses on village life and emigration to America in the period 1850 – 1918 and on WWI. Since 2004, we also run the [historic blacksmith workshop \(the Smithy\)](#) in Nove Hradky.

The Rozmberk Society has no permanent employees. The Director is also the Legal Representative of the Society and this is a long-term unpaid appointment. Employees (mostly 2 – 7 persons per year) are hired within the framework of grants and projects or with support of the regional Labour Office. When possible, the Society hires temporary employees from socially disadvantaged groups to help cover the main visitor period of the year. Volunteers work on the basis of needs and availability.

II. Events and ongoing activities

Kojakovice Peasant and Emigration Museum

The Museum was open only in July and August, and during that period also not permanently due to staff shortage as result of the pandemic and lack of support funding for staff. No foreigners visited the museum this year due to ongoing travel restrictions of the COVID pandemic.

On June 2, 2001, the Kojákovice Peasant Museum opened. The event was made as a Family Reunion for people from the village and their relatives and those who ever passed through the school. In the 19th century, many people from Kojákovice and surroundings emigrated to the USA to help settle the newly opened lands. Around 100 of them settled in the Town of Oxford Junction, Iowa, now a Sister City of Jílovice. Several of their descendants joined the opening event. At that time, the mayors and a youth of both municipalities signed the Sister City Agreement.

We planned to again invite people from Oxford Junction and they, and others, would love to come, but unfortunately, the COVID restrictions put a stop to that. Nevertheless, this combined event was a very successful day.

¹ Since most of the readers of the report are foreign, especially the funding organizations, the Annual Report is written only in English, as is allowed. The annual financial report is available on our website or upon request at our office.



*Left: Olga Cerna saying a few words, flanked by Jilovice mayor Beránková and Kojákovice vice-major Simanek, with firemen in attendance
Right: offering all kinds of apple pie to villagers and visitors used to be a now discontinued annual event. We did it again for this occasion*



*Right: the ancient and a new fire car, with the Volunteer Fire Brigade in full uniform.
Left: playing with water is always fun.*

Nove Hradky Historic Blacksmith Workshop

This year, the Smithy was open for visitors only from mid-June to the end of September. Just over 1700 visitors (adults, seniors, and children) passed through.

Apprentice blacksmiths demonstrated occasionally during the summer season. When possible and in line with COVID recommendations, the apprentices also used the Smithy outside the season for accommodation and training while continuing their blacksmith education with master blacksmith [Daniel Cerny](#).

Most special demonstration events for schools, groups, and disabled people were halted due to the pandemic.

Traditional annual events

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and lack of staff, the Easter event and Mikulas had to be cancelled.



Easter decoration outside the smithy for people to enjoy during a stroll through the town.

Our Potato Day event on the last Saturday of October took place as planned. The number of visitors was lower than pre-Covid, but that was to be expected.

Nakolice summer camp

Since 2001, the Society helps with the logistics and finances of the week-long summer camp at the Nakolice fish pond for children of the Jílovice primary school and other children from the region. Although more limited, the summer camp took place this year again.

III. Projects

Danube Transnational Programme project *NETWORLD*

The NETWORLD project was completed in 2019. However, as in 2020, we continued our research in the fate of soldiers from Kojákovice fallen abroad.

New project applications

As result of the ongoing COVID pandemic and still outstanding loans for co-financing of the Network project, the Society was not able to apply for larger projects needing substantial co-funding.

IV. Other activities – Memberships - Publication

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 Hrady (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 Hrady on the Board.

The 2020 Newcastles of the World Conference in Switzerland was cancelled due to the pandemic. The Association continues to monitor the possibilities, but all agreed that it was not possible to organizing a meeting this year either.

Publication

A long time in the making, Kojákovice-born Olga Cerna finally put all her collected material on the history of Kojákovice and its inhabitants together in the book “Kojákovice 100 and more years ago”.



The book shortly goes through the 650-year history of the village and describes many of the historic farms and their inhabitants. It also contains a section on our Kojákovice Museum including describing the 19th century emigration from Kojákovice and surroundings to America.

The publication was published with support of the Region of South Bohemia, Educa International o.p.s., the Municipality of Jílovice, and the Rozmberk Society.

V. Human Resources

In 2021, the Society employed only two people on short-term contracts. The Society received funding from the regional Labour Office covering 75% of wage costs.

In addition, three students and apprentice blacksmiths were hired under so-called DPP contracts which limit the maximum amount of money earned per month and the total amounts of working hours allowed.

Over the last twenty years, Society co-founders Robert Dulfer and Olga Cerna have donated a significant amount of their time to the Society, especially as mostly unpaid staff in our visitors centres during the holiday season.

This year, Olga Cerna was working as paid staff with support of the regional Labour Office.

Since November 2020, Society Director Robert Dulfer accepted a 50% employment at the Biology Center, Czech Academy of Sciences, as Grant Manager for the EU COST Action 19116 "Trace metal metabolism in plants - [PLANTMETALS](#)". This limited the time he has available to work as staff in the Nove Hradky Smithy.

Several aspects of this COST Action are in line with the objectives of our Society. Examples of this are how to apply data found through basic scientific research into daily practice and how to disseminate such information to the general public, including in our visitor centers.

VI. Future plans

At the time of writing this Annual Report, the Covid-19 pandemic and accompanying restrictions still have a large impact on normal life. Even with vaccination efforts now in full swing, it is not clear how the pandemic will develop further.

As such, our plans for 2022 and further are unclear until the full impact of the pandemic is known better, restrictions are fully lifted, and new rounds of funding become available.

We do plan to apply for an ERASMUS+ project connecting students and experts from different Ecomuseums specialized in crafts. The cooperation with the Heritage Craft Center in Italy and other partners is paused awaiting the end of the pandemic and new funding opportunities.

VII. Summary Financial Year 2021

The income through local and regional support was positive although the income through entrance fees from the visitor centres was below expectation. The still ongoing payments on the outstanding loan also continued to be a burden on our financial situation.

The balance sheet and more detailed financial information over the year 2021 are available on our website and upon request.

Outstanding loan for the NETWORLD project co-funding

The NETWORLD project ended in 2019, and the final instalment arrived in 2020. However, this covers only 85% of all expenditure. The Society had to arrange 15% co-funding. In addition, the project had to be fully pre-financed by the Society. For this, a bank loan was obtained through our bank WSPK (now Ceska Sportelna). In 2021, a significant amount of the 15% co-funding was still outstanding. Barring unexpected losses, this loan should be retired in full in the next fiscal year.

Other income

Support from the Labour Office this year amounted to approximately 9 600 €. Additional funding was received from the Town of Nove Hradý (cca 4 400 €) and other local or regional sources. We received about 4 800 € in the form of private donations

Additional income was also obtained through our two visitors' centres and through other services provided.

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