



SLOVENSKÁ VÝTVARNÁ ÚNIA

Dostojevského rad 2 - 811 09 Bratislava - Slovak Republic

tel/fax +421 2 5296 2402 tel +421 915 713 314 +421 915 713 315

www.svu.sk

SLOVAK UNION OF VISUAL ARTS

## Slovak NC Report 2017

General Assembly of IAA Europe Dublin, Ireland, September 14 - 16, 2017

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### Selection of events during the last 12 months

- During the year 2016 we collaborated in preparation of **the Second Annual Report of Slovak Republic on implementation of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions**.

- In the period November 2016 – March 2017 we celebrated **90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Gallery UMEĽKA**, the oldest gallery of contemporary art at Slovakia:

- we prepared big exhibition and 200 pages catalogue

- part of exhibition - A Tribute to Artists - represented works of art of personalities related to the gallery in the first period of its existence (after the year 1926)

- second part - A Tribute to UMEĽKA - represented works of art of contemporary Slovak artists

Original building of the former Slovak Artistic Union was built in 1925 – 1926, the Gallery is run by independent art association - Slovak Union of Visual Arts.

- November 14 – 16, 2016 Brussels, Andrea Kozarova attended the meeting of Board of Directors of European Coalition for Cultural Diversity focused on update on TTIP and other trade negotiations and update on the reforms of copyright.

- November 23, 2016, UMEĽKA Gallery: We organised (in cooperation with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Slovak Commission of UNESCO) a **Conference Slovakia and Cultural Diversity**, held on the occasion of the Slovak Presidency in the Council of the European Union, on Current Topics of the Implementation of UNESCO Conventions. The Conference was held under the auspices of the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs and the President of the Slovak Commission for UNESCO. From the agenda of the conference:

- Digital Single Market in the context of EU, Digitization of the Culture in Europe

- Culture Action Europe – presented by our guest speaker Alex Meszmer, Switzerland

- History of the UMEĽKA Gallery and its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - presented by Pavol Kral

- The participation of culture and art in the society development / The status of an artist in society - presented by Pavol Kral

- November / December, Suncheon, South Korea: Ms. Veronika Selingerova – member of SUVA participated at Environmental Art Festival: exhibition and Symposium, co-organized by IAA / AIAP Executive Committee and Suncheon Municipality, together with 20 IAA artists from 17 countries.

- December 13 – 15, 2016, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris: Pavol Kral, member of IGC UNESCO took part at the **10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions**. The main topics:

- The involvement of civil society in the implementation of the Convention and the working session with civil society organizations held prior to the session
- Acknowledging the tremendous challenges raised by digital technologies for the implementation of the Convention, the Secretariat introduced preliminary draft Operational Guidelines. The guidelines provide a strategic framework for understanding, interpreting, and implementing the Convention in a digital environment. The Committee adopted the draft Operational Guidelines and submitted the final document to the sixth ordinary session of the Conference of Parties in June 2017.

- January, 2017, Budapest, Hungary: Our representatives took part at the **Conference of Culture Action Europe (CAE): Beyond the Obvious – Quo Vadis Europe**.

- April 5 - 7, 2017, Paris, France: Coordinator for Europe Pavol Kral and Andrea Kozarova took part at the **EC meeting of IAA/AIAP**. The most important topic on the agenda: amendments to the Statutes of IAA.

- April 19 – 21, A Coruña, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Spain: Pavol Kral took part as a lecturer at the International Conference on Artists' Associations in the Contemporary Environment. Topic of his lecture: **Cooperation of artists and art associations in Europe: WHY / HOW / SUCCESSFUL STORIES / the OPPORTUNITIES generated by it**

## Our long-term activities

### Cooperation with the Ministry of Culture

**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.

**The Slovak Government Board for Culture:** SUVA and 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.

#### **Councils of the Slovak Government Board for Culture:**

- Council for the Art: SUVA and SCCD represents 2 members
- Media Council: SCCD represents 3 members

#### **Workgroups of The Slovak Government Board for Culture:**

- Workgroup for funding systems for culture in Slovakia: SUVA and SCCD represents 2 members
- Workgroup for the Status of the Artist: SUVA and SCCD represents 3 members

### Cooperation with the Ministry of Interior

- SUVA and SCCD is represented in **the Slovak Government Council for the NGOs** – 1 member

### Cooperation with Slovak Commission of UNESCO

#### IAA Card

Before the summer season we shared with you 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.

Please note that it is combination of official lists, experiences collected while travelling and statements from countries which are in the process of implementing the card and some details may vary during the year.

There is also Corel draw file - template with front and back side of card for those NCs which want to produce it in their countries - available upon request.

For those who need help with card, central card printing service is operated by IAA Office in Paris.

Important information coming from Mrs. Martine Pasquet working in IAA Headquarters in Paris - directive on using of word UNESCO on back side of card:

The best formula is: NGO, in official partnership with UNESCO

Or: UNESCO official Partner.

The most important is the word OFFICIAL.

We hope our guide will be helpful and number of "IAA card friendly" institutions will increase rapidly soon. 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.

**The World Art Day 2017:** event, organized by the Slovak Union of Visual Arts on Leonardo da Vinci's birthday. This event was organized within the 2011 initiative of International Association of Art which declared da Vinci's birthday a World Art Day. Two exhibition openings – one combined with performance ad followed with several action paintings and lectures and second one – introducing seven artists from Germany, caught the attention of the media, we have seen many responses and plan to celebrate this day also next year.

**Information for members:** 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](http://www.svu.sk) with new bookmark International Cooperation with reports from all IAA events since 2010 and the SCCD web page [www.skkd.sk](http://www.skkd.sk). We also communicate more informal news mapping gallery life on our social media profiles – Facebook and Instagram.

**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.

**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.

**International cooperation:** We continue in the co-operation with the IAA/AIAP (member of EC - Coordinator for Europe), IAA Europe, European Coalition for Cultural Diversity (Member of Board of

Directors - Vice-President) and International Federation of Coalition for Cultural Diversity (Member of the Board of Directors).

## 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.

**The Slovak Union of Visual Arts** and **the Slovak Coalition for Cultural Diversity** that are linked in the person of the President Pavol Kral, have gained a lot of acknowledgement and are now a well-respected organizations both at home and abroad. **The Slovak Union of Visual Arts** – Slovak NC - is the biggest association of professional visual artist in Slovakia. **Slovak Coalition for Cultural Diversity** represents actually more than 200 entities, associations from all fields of art - music, visual art, literature, theatre, TV, film, etc. Number of individual members of these bodies is about 10 000: SCCD is therefore the most representative and respected “spokesman” for artists in Slovakia actually. We have chance to initiate and comment proposal of law for culture. President of SUVA and SCCD is (since 2012) member of Board for culture of Slovak Government, Vice-Chairman of Committee of Ministry of Culture for Strategy of Development of Culture, he and also other representative of SUVA and SCCD are member of other committees and advisory bodies of Ministry of Culture.

Even though the Coalition has had no official financial support at its disposal and all people work for free (except for the membership fee grant from the Ministry of Culture), over a short period of time it has become a partner to major state authorities and has been able to attract media attention.

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 SUVA and the SCCD, as there exist many persistent legal issues that have not been solved for more than two decades.

On the other hand, **cooperation with Ministry of Culture already provides some results. If the government fulfil the objectives of the approved strategy it is really important for the development and better future of culture in Slovakia.**

One example - increase of the budget of **Fund for support of arts**:

- in 2016 and 2017, compared with 2015 **plus 50% more money to support the creation**
- in 2018, compared with 2015 **plus 100% more money to support the creation**

**The list of ASSOCIATIONS - members of Slovak Union of Visual Arts**

<http://www.svu.sk/index.php?rain=en/members>

**The list of members (unions, societies and associations) of Slovak Coalition for Cultural Diversity**

<http://www.skkd.sk/index.php?Itemid=81>

Bratislava, August 7, 2017

Pavol Kral

President of Slovak NC

Andrea Kozarova

Assistant of President