



## Slovak National Committee report 11 / 2018 – 11 / 2019

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**Slovak National Committee of IAA – Slovak Union of Visual Arts** is representative and respected “spokesman” of artists in Slovakia. We have chance to initiate and comment proposal of law for culture. President of SUVA is (since 2012) member of Board for Culture of Slovak Government, Vice-Chairman of Committee for strategy of development of culture, he and also other representative of SCCD are members of other committees and advisory bodies of Ministry of Culture. Cooperation with Ministry of Culture already provides some results; some proposals of law (that we initiated or cooperated on) were approved, some proposals are in the process actually.

### The most important results

#### in our long-term effort to improve social status of artists in Slovakia:

- We have been very intensively involved in the drafting of **the law supporting art in architecture**: in August 2019, the bill was submitted to Parliament for approval
- We have completely prepared a bill to revive the art market so that **spending on the purchase of works of art can be used to reduce the tax base**: we submitted the proposal to the Board of Government in June 2019, we have been discussing our proposal since August 2019 in the working group of the Board of Government for Culture, which already supported the proposal; now we continue in negotiation with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs – the analyses (19 pgs) for minister of finance has been completed this weekend
- We have prepared an extensive analysis and negotiated with competent institutions **to streamline and simplify the system of financial support of creation**
  - 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: Slovak NC represents its President Pavol Kral who continuously informs the members of the Board of SUVA and individual members about the discussed materials including the appeals for the amendment procedure of the discussed materials.

#### We continued in international cooperation:

We continue in the co-operation with the European Coalition for Cultural Diversity (Vice-President) and International Federation of Coalition for Cultural Diversity, IAA/AIAP (member of EC - Vice-President) and IAA Europe (member of EC - Vice-President) and Culture Action Europe.

- we took part at the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity General Meeting and IFCCD 5th Congress, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, October, 2018
- we took part at Belt and Road International Symposium on Cultural and Art Exchanges and Cooperation, Beihai, China, December 2018
- we took part at EC IAA Europe meetings, Berlin, January and June 2019
- we organized an exhibition at UNESCO Center Romania, March 2019
- we took part at EC IAA World meeting, Istanbul, April 2019
- we took part at the meeting of IFCCD, Civil Society Forum and UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee, Paris, June 2019
- we took part at the Regional Conference Pan-African perspectives for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions and the 6th IFCCD Congress, Lomé, Togo, October 9 and 10, 2019

- we took part at the Culture Action Europe (CAE) conference Beyond the Obvious Culture Crops, Konstanz/Kreuzlingen, October 2019
- we organize and host GA IAA Europe and conference Legal and social statutes of artists in Europe - 30 years after the Velvet Revolution: Focus on the Directive (EU) 2019/790 on Copyright in the digital Single Market, Bratislava, November 2019
- we organise – together with the Embassy of Canada in Slovakia and Club 89 – a panel discussion on anniversary of the Velvet revolution for the diplomatic community, 25 November 2019, Gallery Umelka

### **We continue to discuss current art issues with the public:**

- Series of workshops for artists and the public and for students at secondary art school and University and at our Gallery UMEĽKA  
The World Art Day every year since 2012: Exhibitions openings combined with performance and followed with lectures and activities for public caught the attention of the media, we have seen many responses and plan to celebrate this day also in the future.
- White Night event with up to 7 000 visitors at our Gallery UMEĽKA, September, 2019

### **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](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 – number of followers increase rapidly.

**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.

**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.

## **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 represents its President Pavol Kral who continuously prepares proposals and analyzes for the Board, 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

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

- Workgroup for funding systems for culture in Slovakia
- Workgroup for the Status of the Artist
- Workgroup for Copyright

**Cooperation with the Ministry of Interior:** SUVA is represented in the Slovak Government Council for the NGOs

**Cooperation with the Government Plenipotentiary for Civil Society** — 2 members

**Cooperation with UNESCO and Slovak Commission of UNESCO**

President of SUVA represented Slovakia for 4 years as a member of UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee on Cultural Diversity (2015-2019)

## 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** have gained a lot of acknowledgement and is a well-respected organizations both at home and abroad.

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

Pavol Kral,  
President of Slovak Union of Visual Arts