



WIKIMEDIA
ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA

ANNUAL REPORT
2009

Introduction

Wikimedia Czech Republic has been active in the Czech Republic since 2008. It supports creation of free cultural works, promotes Wikipedia and other Wikimedia Foundation projects and assists at their development.

The board led by chairman Petr Novák, vice-chairman Miroslav Langer and treasurer Vojtěch Hála headed the association. The activity plan endorsed by members in a mail vote determined the outlines of the activities for 2009. Most of the tasks set up by the plan have been fulfilled. The financial situation of the association has been stable thanks to the support of the donors and of the Wikimedia Foundation and thanks to membership fees.

First Czech Wikiconference was one of the most important projects organized by the association. Wikimedia Czech Republic actively promoted Wikipedia, Wikimedia projects and its own activities at exhibitions and fairs throughout the Czech Republic, it coordinated the projects supported by the Wikimedia Foundation grants and pursued own media activities. At the second half of the year, the association succeeded in organizing the Awards for Development of Czech Wikipedia project.

Wikiconference

On Saturday, December 5, the first Czech conference about Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects called Wikiconference took place in the central building of the Municipal Library in Prague. The non-binding topic of the conference was set up by its motto: Wikipedia and its sources, Wikipedia as a source.

The conference program was opened by a guest of the conference, Milan Šmíd of the Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University Prague, and his paper about general sources on internet. Other

two invited guests and noted Wikimedians, astronautics specialist Antonín Vítek and philosopher Jan Sokol, engaged in a free discussion. Other papers were presented by Wikimedians.

The Municipal Library Great Hall was filled by up to 60 visitors. The conference was promoted especially on the Internet including Wikipedia; the Municipal Library used its usual ways of promoting its program.

Wikiconference served for Wikipedia promotion not only among the visitors, but it also made Wikipedia visible for media. The media interest persisted for several weeks after the conference.

Exhibitions

Four exhibitions and fairs were selected to promote Wikimedia projects during 2009. After mid-April conference and exhibition LinuxExpo 2009, the book fair Svět knihy a month later was the top event of this kind. Because of a high attendance and a great interest in the Wikimedia Czech Republic kiosk, the participation at this event was highly appreciated. The association also used a special lecture to present itself in front of many listeners.

In autumn, the association took part in the autumn book fair Podzimní knižní veletrh in Havlíčkův Brod (October) and in a book fair Libri in Olomouc.

The kiosk, supplemented with more equipment step by step, served for the presentation. The BONO Art company contributed valuably with its presentation instruments. Also the Microsoft Surface table, a unique type of computer interface capable of operating by a large multi-touch-detecting display, was a big attraction. The demonstration applications used by the Microsoft Surface



Photo by Petr Novák, CC-BY-SA.



Wikimedia Česká republika at the autumn book fair in Havlíčkův Brod. Photo by Petr Novák, CC-BY-SA.

took advantage of the materials from Wikipedia and file storage Wikimedia Commons as well.

To provide the visitors with proper information, three new leaflets (Wikimedia Commons, Wikimedia projects and a short Wikipedia manual) were added to the first set of two leaflets (Wikipedia and Wikimedia Czech Republic). Its printout was financed partially by the Wikimedia Foundation subsidy.

Lectures

Besides the lectures and presentations that were parts of the Wikimedia Czech Republic exhibition activities, the association member Pavel Hrdlička passed a series of lectures about Wikipedia on different places in the Czech Republic. The suggestion to organize such event originated from the Astronomical Society of the Czech Republic, which sites represented the majority of the venues of the lectures. The American Centre in Prague or the

Department of Theoretical Physics and Astrophysics of Masaryk University in Brno were other hosts of the series.

The idea of the lectures is summarized with their name Wikipedia: Can I believe it? Can I help it? The concept was slightly modified for a particular audience when needed. Altogether more than one hundred of visitors attended the series. The main goal of the lectures was to provide the people with information how the Wikipedia articles are made and how Wikipedia works. At the end, the visitor should have been able to take its own view of how much he can believe Wikipedia articles, or how he can identify reliable articles.



Wikimedia lecture in Most. Photo Wikimedia Česká republika, CC-BY-SA.

Free Travel Shirt in Prague

Wikimedia Czech Republic also took a possibility of using the Free Travel Shirt visit in Prague as a tool for promoting Wikipedia. The Shirt, a symbol of free culture works, visited Prague on October 19 to 21. The visit at the Municipal Library director Tomáš Řehák was organized; he added his signature among the ones of other important personalities. The nation-wide public service television channel ČT24 aired a short report about this event. Some of the association members and ordinary Wikimedians met with German Wikimedian Ukko, who had brought the shirt from Germany to the Czech Republic.



The Municipal Library Prague director Tomáš Řehák and Wikimedians pose with Free Travel Shirt. Photo Miroslav Langer, CC-BY-SA.

Direct Wikimedia Projects Support

The legal aid, some activities financed by the Wikimedia Foundation grants and the Awards for Development of Czech Wikipedia were the main activities in the area of direct Wikimedia projects support. The legal aid was served on request by law firm Koutná & Slušná.

Wikimedia Foundation Grants

Six of eight projects that Wikimedia Czech Republic applied for the Wikimedia Foundation grants program with were accepted:

- Czech municipalities' photographs
- Digitalization equipment
- Exhibition presentation
- Camera
- Photo workshop
- Acquiring scientific and specialized pictures

As the program runs parallel with the Wikimedia Foundation fiscal year (July 2009 to June 2010),



Church in Petrov, photographed in the project Czech municipalities' photographs. Photo by Mercy from Wikimedia Commons. CC-BY-SA

the execution of some projects was postponed to 2010 for various reasons. However, some projects already produced results before the end of 2009.

The contribution of the Czech municipalities' photographs project was the most outstanding. Until the end of 2009, 1,930 photographs were uploaded to the Wikimedia Commons; they depict Czech Republic places not covered by free available photos before. It exceeded the goal of the project by far.

Awards for Development of Czech Wikipedia

In the second half of the year, Wikimedia Czech Republic started cooperation with Česká spořitelna company to prepare the first run of the Awards for Development of Czech Wikipedia. In general, they were inspired by a similar competition that traditionally takes place at German Wikipedia. The awards were officially announced at the Wikiconference and shortly after they were presented at

Wikipedia. The goal of the awards was to let emerge or develop articles about so far unmaintained important topics from areas of social science and arts, natural science and math, economics and law.

Despite the primary Wikipedia reaction, where a part of community did not fully agreed to the awards, the success of the event proved itself with a major improvement of a vast majority of articles that were included in the project. The jury composed of experienced Wikimedians will evaluate the articles and announce the winners; the authors of articles that went through the most important improvement will be awarded with netbooks and other presents.

Public Communication

Internet

The association opened its web at <http://www.wikimedia.cz>. The role of the presentation at the Wikimedia Meta (http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Czech_Republic) changed at the same time. The official web contains so far the basic information; the plans of its further development into a full-featured presentation are ready.

In April, the official blog was founded at <http://blog.wikimedia.cz>. Within nine months, together seventeen blog posts were published informing about the events in association and the worldwide Wikimedia community.

In October, Wikimedia Czech Republic also entered the Twitter and Facebook social networks. Its page on Facebook (<http://facebook.wikimedia.cz>) got a more than a hundred of fans during a few days, later their inflow slowed down. The association members participate in actualization of the Czech Wikipedia Facebook page which has more than 1,500 fans. The communication through Twitter (<http://twitter.wikimedia.cz>) is less popular so far, but the special nature of this channel properly complements the service for the people interested in the association.

Wikimedium

In early September, the first issue of the Wikimedium journal was published. On 14 pages, it contained an interview, Wikimedia Commons presentation, gallery of the best pictures of the Wikimedia Commons in 2008, various news and a fun page with a quiz. The journal was published only in digital form.

Also the second, autumn number had a similar content. It was printed out in a limited edition and was at the disposal of the visitors of Wikiconference. The journal had 12 pages and it contained the report of the 2009 Wikimania and of the Free Travel Shirt visit to Prague and the poll about the attitude of Czech Wikimedia projects to a limited-free content.

Wikimedia Deutschland journal Wikimedium was a model for the Czech Wikimedium, the name of the journal is used after a mutual agreement. The last number as well as the archive is available at the <http://www.wikimedium.cz>.



Title page of the second number of Wikimedium

Press Releases

In 2009, Wikimedia Foundation published five press releases.

In April, the first inforamatory release was published that contained data about an activity plan for 2009 and about the started lecture tour.

In June, the GNU FDL and Creative Commons double-licensing of Wikipedia was approved. The association informed about this revolutionary event in Wikipedia history with another press release. Websites like Science World, PC World, ABC Linuxu, Linux Expres and others drew on this press release.

In October, Wikimedia Czech Republic informed about the Free Travel Shirt visit to Prague. The release was accompanied by first information about Wikiconference and also by a description of association's info channels like Wikimedium, web, blog and Facebook page. Webs PC World and Lupa.cz utilized the release.

The last two press releases followed in December. The first one invited people to Wikiconference in the Municipal Library in Prague, the second one informed about the conference, about the announcement of the Awards for development of Czech Wikipedia and it also reacted to a misunderstanding of Wikipedia research data that led to news of an alleged decline of Wikipedia contributors number. The last part of the release was adopted by the Lupa and Science World websites, however other media did not pay attention to an offered possibility to correct the previously published inaccurate information.

Media Activities

Wikimedia Czech Republic members were addressed by media several times to react to events that were related to Wikipedia and Wikimedia, like the political manipulation cases regarding articles of Michael Kocáb and Milan Jančík and the December Wikiconference.

At the end of the year, Wikipedia was mentioned frequently in the public-service nation-wide Czech Television: in the Milénium show, which was devoted as a whole to Wikipedia future on October 27, in the news December 5 (Wikiconference), in the culture news show called Události v kultu e on December 14 and in the media-related discussion program Média a sv t on December 20. Wikimedia Czech Republic representatives talked about Wikipedia in all these shows.

Wikipedia was a topic of a discussion aired by the nation-wide public service Czech Radio as well, first time on the Leonardo channel on February 21 and May 11, and then on the Rádio eško on December 5.



Wikimedian Ukko talks about German Wikipedia in Czech Television' report of a Free Travel Shirt visit to Prague.

Partners of Association

The association had several partners in 2009, especially law firm Counsel Koutná & Slušná for the area of legal aid and Active24 for the area of web and server services. At the end of the year, the Česká spořitelna and Microsoft companies helped Wikimedia Czech Republic in organizing the Awards for development of Czech Wikipedia. Ongoing cooperation is expected in a frame of all of these collaborations.

In organizing Wikiconference, the Municipal Library in Prague served as a partner with a series of three lectures in the Municipal Library at the beginning of 2010 being a part of the mutual agreement.

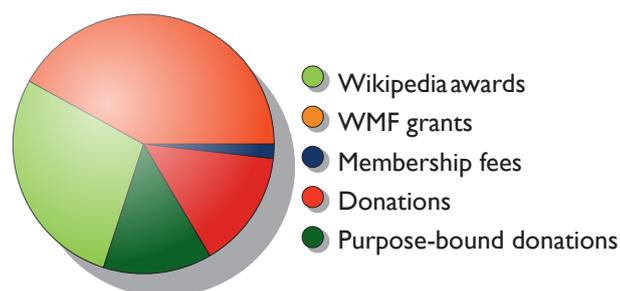
Other agreements were accepted for various purposes with other companies like BONO Art, Libertas printing house or Knihovnička.cz.

Financial State of Association

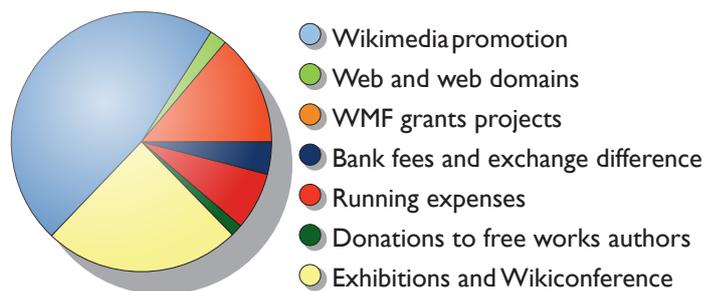
The financial state of the association was stable throughout 2009. Besides membership fees, money obtained from the Wikimedia Foundation, from the association's partners and from donations were the base of the association's operations' funding.

In the second half of 2009, Wikimedia Czech Republic engaged in negotiations with the Wikimedia Foundation about a participation in the worldwide Wikimedia fundraising campaign. Due to the deadlines set by Czech law, the association was unable to meet the needs of the campaign before its start and only it supported the campaign on its blog. The fundraising however helped with an increase of donations offered directly to the association at the end of the year.

2009 Incomes



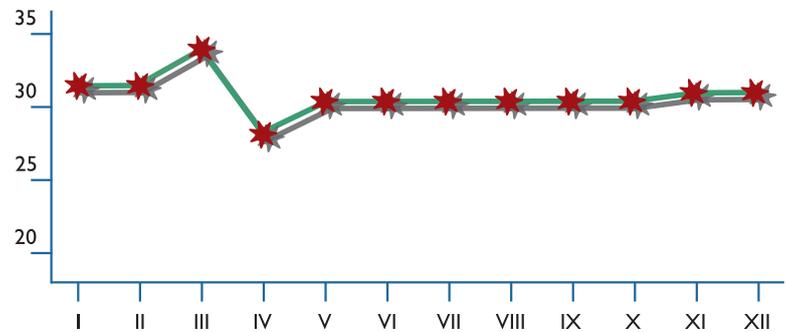
2009 Expenditures



Members

The number of regular members varied around thirty in 2009, altogether 41 people were members for at least a part of the year. The regular members paid membership fee of CZK 200 for 2009, members younger than 18 years paid CZK 100. The rate of male members rose to 94 per cent at the end of the year. The association had no supporting or honorary members.

Regular members in 2009



Internal Activities

Mail Vote on Activity Plan

The board prepared the activity plan and the budget at the beginning of 2009. The mail vote on internal wiki was run between February 25 and March 11, accompanied by a vote about several changes of Rules of Procedure. Eighteen of 32 members took part in the vote on the activity plan and the budget and both documents were approved by a large majority of votes.

Members Meetup

The members meetup with a discussion about a future of the association took place March 14 at the Klub deskových her Paluba club in Prague. The board members presented their ideas about a future development and about the main activities.

General Assembly

The general assembly took place April 25 at the Klub deskových her Paluba club in Prague. At the beginning, 14 of 28 regular members were present. The general assembly approved the Annual Report, the financial report and the revision commission report and it changed the regulations of the association to ensure its improved organizational capabilities. The assembly also elected Matěj Bařha, Danny B. and Milda into the board. Two of them did not publish their personal data, that was made able with the previously approved change of the Rules of Procedure.

Association Seat

The Klub deskových her Paluba club in Prague remained the seat of the association in 2009. The extended range of activities however required an intensive pursuit for a new, independent office, that however was not successful. Finding the office that is suitable for the association's activities will be one of the priorities for the next period.

Board

The board met 29 times in 2009, all but eight sessions was held through the IRC chat. Except the other activities, the board also administered the finances and holdings of the association and the management of the members.

Jan Urbánek resigned from the board March 16. The general assembly added Matěj Bat'ha, Danny B. and Milda into the board on April 29, and Matěj Bat'ha resigned on November 12.

Communication with Members

The association has two basic tools for internal communication: a close mail-list that regularly informs about the board's and other activities, and a close wiki-web accessible for all members.

Contacts with Foreign Chapters

The members of the association took part at the Wikimedia Chapters meeting in Berlin in April and they created ties for future cooperation. The association later participated in the selection process of the chapters representatives in the Wikimedia Foundation board and it supported Arne Klempert and Michael Snow who were eventually given the posts.

The Wikimedia Czech Republic board observed the preparation of the new agreement between chapters and Wikimedia Foundation, but the process has not been finished before the end of 2009.

In summer, the world meeting of Wikimedians called Wikimania took place in Buenos Aires. Although the association expected participation of the Wikimedia Czech Republic representative there, the costly operation was cancelled at the end due to financial and organizational reasons.

Conclusion

In the first full year of its existence, Wikimedia Czech Republic reached a lot of successes that attracted attention to Wikipedia and sometimes they helped its development themselves. The results of the activities and the management represent a stable base for the future activities in 2010.

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Partners:



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