



WIKIMEDIA
ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA

ANNUAL REPORT
2008

Introduction

Wikimedia Česká republika is a public association supporting and promoting creation of free cultural works in the Czech Republic with a view of Wikipedia and other Wikimedia Foundation projects. It organizes events, helps different subjects with solving problems regarding free licences, mediates communication with the authors of free works and mediates communication of the Czech Republic citizens with the Wikimedia Foundation.

The Association was founded by registration at the Interior Ministry of the Czech Republic on March 6, 2008. Since its foundation, it has grossed the number of its members up twice and it is one of the middle-sized Wikimedia chapters. The financial conditions of the association were stable.

Four-member board elected at the general meeting May 31, 2008 led the association with following members: Petr Novák (chairman), Miroslav Langer (vice-chairman), Vojtěch Hála (treasurer) and Jan Urbánek. Its work was supervised by the audit committee composed of Pavel Hrdlička (chairman) and Stanislav Jelen. The board held 12 meetings through the year.

The activities of the association were clued by the indicative program of activities approved by the general meeting. Out of ten tasks obliged to the board seven were realized in 2008, two more at the beginning of the 2009 year, only one was not realized due to reasons out of the competence of the association.

Besides the completed tasks necessary to the organisation assurance of operations of association with a stable financial background, the publication of the press release, active participation in the creation of free works, initiation of the direct support of the Wikimedia projects and of the creation of free works and finding partners needed for this support were the main successes of the association's activities.

In the first year of its existence, the association paid attention mostly to its own full establishment, however it already stepped up to active promotion of Wikipedia, other Wikimedia projects and creation of free works in general.

Foundation of Association

The Wikimedia Česká republika was founded thanks to efforts of small number of individuals lasting several months. They formed the official preparative committee that in accordance with the Wikimeia Foundation elaborated the wording of the Bylaws. The Bylaws and the request for registration were sent to the Interior Ministry of the Czech Republic on March 3, 2008 and the association was registered on March 6, 2008.

The preparative committee then called the general meeting of the association.

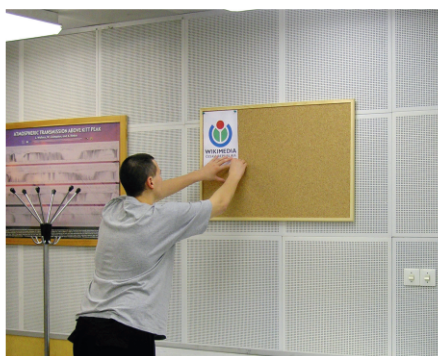


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General Meeting 2008

The foundation general meeting took place in the auditorium of the Astronomical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in Ondřejov on May 31, 2008. 14 of 18 members of the association took part. The association elected its first management to the four-member board led by chairman Petr Novák. The general meeting approved an indicative budget and an indicative plan of activities, that served as a guidance for the activities and economy of the association in 2008.

Partners of Association

At the end of the 2008 year, the association found its first partners to provide it important services needed for effective operations of the projects. The Active 24 company provides the association the registration of web domains and webhosting for the .cz domains of the projects. Council Koutná & Slušná law office provides law consultancy not only in the questions of the association's activities, but through the association, its help is available to the Wikimedia projects contributors.

The association established ties with the Czech association representing the open-source community OSS Alliance and it supposes further active cooperation with it.

External Communication

Wikimedia Česká republika published the official press release regarding the breaking of the 100.000 articles horizon by the Czech Wikipedia. This release, published on June 20, 2008, was taken over by many media, like:



- Czech Press Agency ČTK
(http://www.ceskenoviny.cz/zpravy/index_view.php?id=319196);
- Technet iDNES
(http://technet.idnes.cz/ceskawikipedie-slavi-100-000-hesel-d32-sw_internet.asp?c=A080620_095642_sw_internet_vse);
- Lidové noviny daily
(http://www.lidovky.cz/ceskawikipedie-ma-pres-100-000-clanku-drz-/lnsvet-techniky.asp?c=A080622_115101_lnsvettechniky_poh);
- Týden magazine
(http://www.tyden.cz/rubriky/media/ceskawikipedie-zlomila-magickou-hranicista-tisic-clanku_66697.html);
- Czech Television ČT24 web
(<http://www.ct24.cz/media/19386-ceskawikipedie-prekonala-hranici-100-000-clanku/>);
- Hospodářské noviny daily Digiweb
(http://digiweb.ihned.cz/c6-10053280-25610810-100000_d-ceska-verze-wikipedie-uzma-sto-tisic-clanku).

In most of the media, that wrote about this event, Wikimedia Česká republika was also mentioned.

The association used its provisional official web at Wikimedia Meta-wiki (http://meta.wikimedia.org/w/Wikimedia_Česká_republika) while it worked on taking the wikimedia.cz domain over and on establishing the official web on that address.

Public Discussion on Free Works Creation

Wikimedia Česká republika took part in the public discussion on the free works creation twice in 2008 with its tribute to the European Commission Green Paper on Copyright in Knowledge Economy and with its remarks on the Czech localisation of the Creative Commons licences.

The Green Paper on Copyright in Knowledge Economy is a document that European Commission elaborated to stimulate the discussion on the role of the copyright protection with regards to the dissemination of knowledge in the areas of research, science and education. Wikimedia Česká republika worked out the official letter that brought the view of authors of free works into the discussion, it emphasised especially the demands on eliminating the obstacles that copyright law in the European Union and its member states set ahead of the authors of the free works, especially in the area of free licencing.

The localisation of the Creative Commons free licences is realized by the Creative Commons Czech Republic initiative. The goal of the process was not only to create the Czech translation of the licences, but to prepare such a Czech text that is in full conformity with the Czech copyright law. Wikimedia Česká republika contributed with its remarks, many of them were included in the final text published at the beginning of the 2009 year.

The association took active part in the process because the Wikimedia Foundation proceeded to a decision making process that should determine whether the Wikimedia projects will offer its content under the Creative Commons licence besides the existing GFDL licence policies.

Direct Support of Wikimedia Projects

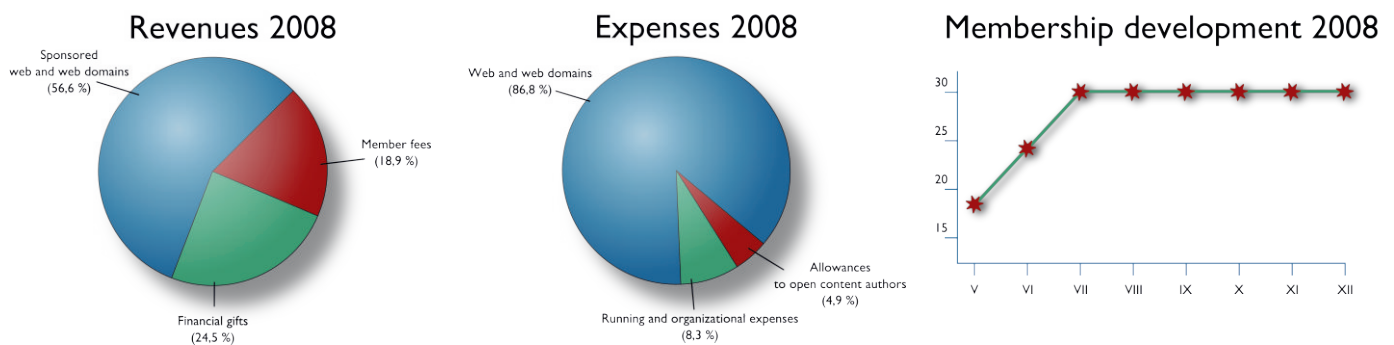
The board elaborated rules for brokering the access to publicly inaccessible places from where the Wikimedia projects contributors would want to compile materials. Although the board was provoked to this step by the association members, the announced procedure has not been exploited yet.

The association acquired most of the Czech internet domains with the names of the Wikimedia projects, where it plans running of special portals for searching in these projects.

Exhibitions

The board decided at the end of the 2008 year not to take part at the Invex fair due to expected disproportion between the participation cost and the public reception. Due to the overall loss of interest and to the changes in the market, the Invex fair was organized for the last time in 2008.

The association was preparing the promotion of its activities and the Wikimedia projects on exhibition during the 2008 year, which paid off at the beginning of the 2009 year.



Economy

The financial conditions of the association was stable through the 2008 year. The indicative budget approved by the general meeting was overpassed on the side of donations (material as well as financial) and on the side of member fees. The running costs of the association were CZK 300 lower than the budget expected. The association ended the year with the surplus of CZK 10,837.51.

Members of Association

The number of the regular members of the association was rising up from 18 at the time of the general meeting in May 2008 to 30 at the end of the year. The regular members paid member fees of CZK 200, members under 18 years of age paid CZK 100. About half of members live in Prague, however the member base covers eight Czech regions. One member lived abroad on a long-term basis. Men represented over 80 % of the members.

The age of the members varied from 17 to 60 years, 31 years on average.

Association had no honorary or sympathizing members in 2008.

Internal Activities of Association

Association Seat

The Board Games Club Paluba in Prague-Smíchov served as a seat of the association. It suited to the needs of the association in regards of activities run in 2008, but with the further extension of activities the association will have to solve the issue of the seat sufficiency.

Board

The board held twelve meetings in 2008 and was quorate in all cases. Seven of them were held through the IRC chat, five meetings were held in person (excluding one exception all were held in the association's seat). Besides the activities described elsewhere in this report, the board also pursued all the operations connected to the administration of the association.

Internal Communication

The association uses internal mail-list for the internal communication. It informed of the board and association activities through it. The private web with access available for all association members was the other mean of internal communication.

Foreign Chapters Contacts

Preparative committee and later the board established the first contacts with the foreign Wikimedia chapters, especially with the Wikimedia Polska, as well as with the Wikimedia Foundation. Due to ongoing preparation of the new chapters agreement, the association did not manage to sign the agreement, which is the only unredeemed task from the plan of activities approved at the 2008 general meeting.

Association's Activities at the Beginning of 2009

The mostly administrative and preparative activities of the board and the association members operated in 2008 became the basis of the advanced degree of activities at the beginning of the 2009 year. It reflects the extended plan of activities for 2009 approved by members in a mail vote together with the corresponding balanced budget.



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In the first months of the new year, the association promoted itself in the LinuxExpo exhibition. For this purpose it published two leaflets about Wikipedia and the association, while more than ten more different leaflets are planned to be published in the future. Participation in other similar events is being prepared for the near future.

Thanks to its member Pavel Hrdlička, the association started a series of lectures named “Wikipedia: Can I trust it? Can I help it?”. The event planned originally as the one-time event and negotiated with the Astronomical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in Ondřejov met with interest of other institutions and broke up into unclosed series of lectures in all Czech Republic.

In the area of inter-chapter relations, the participation of the Wikimedia Česká republika at the Wikimedia Foundation chapters meeting in Berlin played a key role. They established personal contacts with the representatives of other chapters and the foundation, they negotiated the possible financial support of future activities of the association and settled the release of the wikimedia.cz domain to the association.

The association participated in the project of the Wikimedia Foundation grants, it prepared eight requests as one of the most active chapters. The projects are:

- Acquiring scientific and specialized pictures
- Camera
- Czech municipalities photographs
- Digitalization equipment
- Exhibition presentation
- Photo workshop
- Technical support for WMF's projects
- Wikimedia Czech Republic Office

The first photo workshop serving to improve the Wikimedia Commons photographers skills took place in the association's seat under the association's auspices.

At the beginning of the year, the basic presentation of the association was placed on the official web <http://www.wikimedia.cz> and the board prepares full version of the presentation.

The members of the association met in Prague in March at their first meeting where they discussed further future of the association.

Wikimedia Česká republika

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BIC: RZBCCZPP

The Wikipedia, open encyclopaedia and other Wikimedia projects represent the tip of the iceberg of wide area of creation of free works, that is realized on a non-commercial basis. Wikipedia and its sister projects themselves are run by the non-profit Wikimedia Foundation and the non-profit association Wikimedia Česká republika represents its interests.

Our activities are dependent upon a financial or material donations. Support our efforts and help us to develop Wikipedia.

Thank You for Your help.



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