

## **Reply by the Czech Republic to the questionnaire on implementation of the Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 November 2005 on film heritage and the competitiveness of related industrial activities**

In the Czech Republic the tasks referred to in the Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on film heritage are performed by the National Film Archive (Národní filmový archiv - NFA), which was founded by a decision of the Czech Ministry of Culture on 1 July 1992.

Specific points:

### **1. Collection**

The NFA collects two new, unused, high-quality copies of cinematographic works on the basis of Act No 273/1993 Coll. (mandatory offer).

- This obligation covers all works.
- Technical quality is guaranteed by means of a double check – in the film laboratories which select the copy for the NFA, and in the NFA through technical monitoring of the copies accepted.
- Under the Act, a cinematographic work must be offered within six months of its first public showing.

### **2. Cataloguing and creation of databases**

The NFA systematically catalogues archived cinematographic works in accordance with the FIAF (International Federation of Film Archives) standard. The NFA publishes the *Filmový přehled – měsíčník pro film a video* (Film Revue Monthly for Film and Video), which contains detailed information on films released for distribution in the Czech Republic. This monthly is also published in electronic form. The NFA also issues a bilingual (Czech/English) Film Yearbook giving a synopsis of works, events, grants, distribution, film exports, awards for films and personalities, film publications and periodicals and cinematographic institutions, as well as *in memorium* awards for the year in question. Scholarly Czech/English filmographies of Czech feature films are published at three-yearly intervals (hitherto five volumes covering the years 1898—1980).

- The NFA is participating in the three-year MIDAS project (Moving Image Database for Access and Re-use of European film collections) together with  
Deutsches Filminstitut — DIF  
British Film Institute BFI  
Cineteca del Comune di Bologna  
Defa Stiftung

Cinémathèque Royale de Belgique  
Deutsche Kinematik  
Fondazione Cineteca Italiana  
IWF Knowledge and Media  
La Cineteca del Friuli  
Lichtspiel — Kinemathek Bern  
Magyar Nemzeti Filmarchivum  
Nederlands Filmmuseum  
Norsk filminstitutt  
Slovenska Kinoteka — Ljubljana  
Tainiothiki tis Ellados — Greek Film Archive

- The NFA allows archived films to be classified according to broader parameters.

### 3. **Preservation**

The Czech Republic has adopted a national heritage preservation programme for the period 2007-13. In the context of this programme the archive centre is to be supplemented by a building to accommodate colour film materials. A new investment plan for the building has been proposed at the Ministry of Culture.

- The film archives affiliated to the FIAF know that the best means of preserving films is to store them in scientifically defined conditions which will prevent their physical deterioration.
- The NFA archives projection equipment for different types of film and media.

### 4. **Restoration**

- The reconstruction and restoration of archive films and documentary materials (film posters, photography) are among the tasks of the NFA. Two restoration teams work at the NFA, systematically restoring cinematographic works. The resources for this activity form part of the NFA budget.

### 5. **Making works accessible**

- Act No 273/1993 Coll. allows a fund of cinematographic works to be disseminated, on the basis of agreements with right-holders, for educational and cultural purposes.
- Act No 216/2006 Coll., Section 38, paragraph 1 allows reproductions of works to be disseminated exclusively for the requirements of handicapped persons (several DVDs for the visually handicapped have been disseminated).

### 6. **Professional training and media literacy**

- The NFA is already holding its third annual two-semester film history course for secondary school students.
- In cooperation with Czech Television, it shows the series *Hledání ztraceného času* (The search for lost time) on the history of Czechoslovakia.
- Czech Television presents classic European films in its film club programme.
- The NFA is preparing a publication to assist with film education in schools (film analysis, director profiles).

## 7. Deposit

- A system for the mandatory deposit of ancillary and publicity material related to cinematographic works is incorporated in a legislative amendment which is in the pipeline.
- A system for the voluntary deposit of cinematographic works forming part of the national audiovisual heritage is incorporated in a legislative amendment which is in the pipeline.
- A system for the mandatory deposit of moving-image material other than cinematographic works has been introduced.
- A system for the mandatory deposit of cinematographic works from the past has been in place for 60 years.

## 8. Cooperation between designated bodies

- The NFA, as a member of the *Association des Cinemathèques Européennes*, cooperates in European MIDAS projects.
- It participates in the release of DVDs in a minimum of three European Union languages.