



Background document: report on the state of protection of the audiovisual heritage in Slovak republic

Slovak republic considers the field of audiovisual heritage as very important in both cultural but also economic terms. This is reflected also in **priorities of the Ministry of Culture** of Slovak republic, where audiovisual heritage play an important role and there has been a lot of work done in the recent years.

One of the most important changes in the last years was the ratification of the **Convention** on audiovisual heritage in 2007, and its entry into force in the year 2008. This was complemented by the re-actment of the **law No. 343/2007** so called audiovisual law, which effectively implements the principles of the convention and the details of the protection of audiovisual heritage in the Slovak republic. It also specifies the role and function of the **Slovak film institute** as the main institution responsible for the audiovisual heritage and which is overseen by the ministry. The budget of this institution was in 2010 3,7 mil Euros, out of which more than 2,9 was provided by the ministry.

It this basic legal framework that makes it possible to implement various activities and projects benefitting the audiovisual heritage. One of the most important is the **Project of systematic restoration of the audiovisual heritage**, which has been in place since 2006 and is planned until the year 2020. The amount that is annually provided by the Ministry to the Slovak film institute for the restoration of the important parts of the audiovisual heritage is approximately **1,5 mil. Euros**. With this amount it was possible to restore 15 feature films and 272 documentaries and other works. Currently the ministry is working on an actualization of the project, which takes place every 3 years. This process makes it possible to adapt the project to new developments.

The volume of audiovisual heritage that is stored in the **Slovak audiovisual film archive**, as a part of the Slovak film institute is extensive. As of the 1st January 2011 there was in terms of length of works stored in the archives 3,6 mil. meters of film material, which represented together more than 16,5 mil. meters of film material, out of with 1,6 mil. meters were new acquisitions. This shows not only the extent of the archives but also the rapid increase of its volume.

On the most important recent developments is the use of structural funds in the process of digitization of cultural heritage, including the audiovisual heritage in the **Operational Programme Informatisation of Society**. As a part of the national project Nr. 5 the SFU and the public broadcaster Radio and television of Slovak Republic, will be able to digitize together 58 700 audiovisual objects for the budget of more than **24 mil. Euros**. This will certainly enable to intensify the digitization of audiovisual heritage already in progress. But still there will be a long way to go towards the digitization of all audiovisual heritage, since for example in terms of the archives of the public broadcaster the number of digitized objects will present only 1/5 of the total number of objects.

Another very important project of an integrated informational system **SK CINEMA** created in 2002, which is a systematic platform for the categorization of the objects of audiovisual heritage of Slovak republic, including ancillary materials, and for the complex processing of the metadata. This database will be made available to public in near future together with selected copies of digitized works. Currently the database holds more than 200 thousand entries, and the rate of its growth is annually more than 10 % and in 2010 it was 15 %.

The Slovak film institute is also active in the field of making of the audiovisual works in its archives **available to the public**. This activity is strongly connected to the above mentioned project of systematic restoration, because the works that are restored and digitized are than made available to public in various ways. There are 35 mm and DCP copies of these works distributed in the cinemas, numerous editions of most important works on DVDs (for example the widely popular editions of the Slovak film from 80s, 70s, 60s, 50s and 40s, which consist already of more than 40 most important works). All the DVDs published since 2002 contain of course minimally English subtitles, and a lot of these titles also include audiocommentaries for visually impaired people. But these activities are not only limited to the domestic territory, but Slovak film institute was able in cooperation with the French publisher Maladiva for the first time to publish a selection of Slovak archive works in France, Belgium and Switzerland. These are only some of examples of the possible opportunities for audiovisual heritage in a digital era.

I am also happy to inform you that since September 2011 the public will be able to benefit from the existence of a dedicated archive cinema, witch was opened as a part of a four screen **Art house cinema** operated by the Slovak film institute.

In my opinion all of the examples of activities in the area of audiovisual heritage in Slovak republic, that were mentioned in this brief report, prove that in Slovak republic we try our best to preserve and make availably all those great works that create the rich history of Slovak cinema.

The state of protection of the audiovisual heritage in Slovak Republic

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Audiovisual heritage

- very important in cultural/economic terms,
- **priority of the Ministry**
- systematic approach since 2006

Convention in Slovakia

- Signature (2003), ratification (2007), entry **into force (2008)**,
- 2007 - adoption of the law No. 343/2007 - Audiovisual law:
 - implements the principles of the convention,
 - details of the protection of audiovisual heritage,
 - the role/function of **Slovak Film Institute subordinated to the Ministry**,
 - **budget of EUR 3,7 mil.** (2,9 provided by the Ministry) in 2010.



Project of Systematic Restoration of Audiovisual Heritage

- since 2006 - planned until 2020,
- renewed every 3 years, next period 2012 – 2014.
- annually apx. EUR1,5 mil.(provided by the Ministry),
- implemented by the Slovak film institute
- in 2010 restoration of 15 feature films and 272 other works.

Slovak film archive

- Extensive, mainly works from period before 1991,
 - in 2011 in terms of length of works 3,6 mil. meters,
 - together more than **16,5 mil. meters of film material**,
 - in 2010 **1,6 mil. meters new acquisitions.**



Structural funds

- **Operational Programme Informatization of Society,**
 - Slovak Film Institute and the public broadcaster digitize together **58 700 audiovisual objects**, SFU – 1000 objects
 - budget apx. **EUR 24 mil.**,
 - for all objects in the project (not only audiovisual) apx. **EUR 129 mil. for 3,1 mil. objects**,
 - acceleration of the digitization,
 - public broadcaster still only 1/5 of the total number of objects.



SK CINEMA - database

- created in 2002
- systematic platform for the categorization of the objects of audiovisual heritage
- including ancillary materials
- in 2011 more than **200 thousand entries**
- **annual rate of growth 10 %** (15 % in 2010)
- will be available to public in near future
(including selected copies of digitized works)

Availability to public

- connected to the project of restoration,
- restored/digitized works - **35 mm and DCP copies, DVDs,**
- extensive **DVD** edition of **40 most important Slovak films** (80s, 70s, 60s, 50s and 40s),
- all the DVDs at least **English subtitles** (also voice commentaries for visually disabled people),
- archive works at domestic/foreign festivals,
- for the first time in **2011 also in France, Belgium and Switzerland.**

Other activities

- since Sept. 2011 cinema dedicated to archive works,
- part of the 4 screen cinema of Slovak film institute



**Thank you for your
attention**



**MINISTERSTVO KULTÚRY
SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY**