



Dear friends,

We are pleased to send you the eleventh issue of the Ostrava 2015 Newsletter, which regularly brings you news relating to Ostrava's candidacy for the title of European Capital of Culture 2015.

Ostrava 2015

Katowice 2016 welcomed Ostrava 2015

The Ostrava 2015 project team hasn't forgotten about the European dimension of the competition even in the final phase of the battle for the title of ECOC 2015. On 25 August team members set off to visit their counterparts in the Polish city of [Katowice](#), which together with ten other cities is competing for the title of ECOC 2016. Tuesday 31 August was the deadline for submitting its application for the first, pre-selection round. As our team member Markéta Volná wrote after her return: *"The whole event had a very pleasant informal atmosphere."* Our team members said the meeting was *"interesting and stimulating exchange of experiences of both candidate cities."*

The Šlapeta Villa opened to the public for the first time

Thanks to the candidacy project, the general public was provided with its first opportunity to [view](#) one of four national cultural monuments in Ostrava – the Functionalist Šlapeta Villa, also known as the Liska Villa, in Silesian Ostrava. Its owners decided to take this step in order to directly support Ostrava's candidacy. Tours were given on two Saturdays – on 21 August, led and with commentary by architectural historian Martin Strakoš, and on 28 August, with commentary by architecture professor Vladimír Šlapeta.

Launch of the book Viktor Kolář OSTRAVA

On Thursday 2 September, simultaneous [book launches](#) were held at Prague's Mánes exhibition hall and at Ostrava's Old Arena for the new photography publication by the world-renowned Ostrava photographer **Viktor Kolář**. In Prague, it was launched to the gentle tones of Jiří Stivín's flute, and in Ostrava to the light of photographers' flashes. The book is being issued in part to mark the photographer's upcoming 70th birthday and partly as an event of Ostrava's candidacy. Kolář's book of photographs is equally a collection of affecting images and also a statement on the human condition itself. As photographer Dita Pepe said at the Old Arena: *"If people want to learn something about themselves, they can do this through the photographs of Viktor Kolář."*

Cinema in the Moonlight

At the end of September and the beginning of October, the second annual Ostrava Camera Eye international film festival, which focuses on cinematography, takes place. As a kind of appetizer, Ostrava audiences could [view](#) outdoor screenings at the end of the summer vacation period with the distinctive name Cinema in the Moonlight. Screenings were held in different places throughout the city – on Prokeš Square, in Ostrava-Poruba, at the swimming pool in Hlučín, in Ostrava-Mariánské Hory and in Ostrava-Hrabůvka.

Relay Run 2015: With Emil at your heels

Culture isn't only about art, but also, for example, about sport. The Ostrava 2015 team therefore [organized](#) a two-day relay run leading through all 23 municipal districts and

historical parts of the city. Around four thousand runners participated in the relay altogether! The Relay Run was designed for everyone, for figures of Ostrava cultural, social and political life as well as the general public. Ostravans joined forces to run for two days "with Emil at their heels" a total of 120 kilometres.

Theatre on the Bridge

The creative team associated with the Old Arena produced for the Summer Theatre Stage the famous farce by Václav Kliment Klicpera **Comedy on the Bridge**. Ostrava audiences had the chance to watch it on three different days. In the leading roles were Ostrava student actors, students at Prague's DAMU, and also professional actors such as Mirek Liška from the Těšín Theatre, **Jiří Krupica** from the Polárka Theatre and Pavla Beretová from the National Theatre – all under the direction of Martin Františák.

PechaKucha Night Ostrava

Ostrava became only the third city in the Czech Republic, after Prague and Brno, to obtain a license to organize the special presentation format **PechaKucha**: 20x20, which is 20 images per presentation and 20 seconds per image. The first Ostrava PechaKucha Night was held at The Factory in the Hlubina Mine on 21 August. Giving presentations were twenty Czech and Slovak designers, graphic artists and architects. The Ostrava 2015 team was represented by Petr **Sedláček**, who showed and told the audience about the objectives of the Ostrava candidacy project and about the genesis of its logo – Daniel, the son of the artist Jiří David, whose face is blackened in the photo.

Theme: Film Festival Ostrava Kamera Oko

From Thursday 23 September to Sunday 3 October, the second annual international **film festival** focusing on cinematography and also films connected with Ostrava will take place in the city. The survey opens with the 2010 Palme d'Or winner, **Uncle Boonme**, which became a sensation at this year's Cannes film festival.

The official section of the festival offers an international competition for the best cinematography in a feature film and a national competition for the best cinematography in a short film. Viewers can also look forward to such sections as Ostrava in Film, Works in Progress, a marathon of the TV series "Sanitka" (Ambulance), and tributes to the cinematographer **Juraj Šajmovič** and the recently deceased William Lubtchansky. Film screenings will take place at the Vesmír, Luna, Art and Minikino cinemas as well as in Old Arena and in more unusual locations, such as Lower Vítkovice, the riverside near the Sýkora Bridge, and the Hlubina Mine.

The film survey will be supplemented with a series of concerts, photography and multimedia exhibitions, technical seminars, moderated debates, and discussions with filmmakers.

Interview

For the occasion of the opening of the Functionalist Šlapeta Villa, its current owner, **Mrs Drahoslava Doležilková**, gave an interview to our website. In it, she talked about how it feels to live in a place that is put on a par with the Charles Bridge, Karlštejn and the Bohemian Crown Jewels.

The vice chairman of the Society for Culture and Art in Ostrava, **Filip Jedelský**, spoke with us about his relationship to Ostrava, and especially about why he decided to add three concerts to this year's Folklore Without Borders festival to support Ostrava's candidacy.

"I ty přijď 8. září podpořit Ostravu!" (Come on 8 September to support Ostrava!) is the name of an initiative set up on the Facebook social network by **Jiří Hruška**, an Ostrava cultural organizer, executive of the Educa24 agency and secondary school teacher. In an interview for our website, he explains the origin of the whole initiative and also hints at the programme for the planned cultural happening set for 8 September on Masaryk Square.

An example of another completely spontaneous support for Ostrava's candidacy is the act of two youths who in the dead of night covered Masaryk Square with sheets of white paper arranged to read Ostrava 2015. We spoke with one of the pair, **Petr Rubáček**, about how

the idea arose and about the difficulties in its implementation.

An interview was also provided to our website by [Natalie Bernard](#), the founder of the **Schůdky (Little Steps) civic association**, which carries out projects and lectures that have the goal of overcoming barriers between the Roma minority and majority society.

Events at the Old Arena - Club for culture and information 2015

The date that is looming large not only for members of our team but hopefully also for most Ostravans is 8 September – the day when a thirteen-member commission decides which of the two candidate cities earns the title of European Capital of Culture 2015. Join us at the Old Arena on Wednesday at 4 pm to watch the live broadcast of the competition's outcome.

For the entire month of September at the Old Arena, a cycle of lectures title Proportion and Scale is taking place, organized by the Old Arena team together with the Projektstudio architecture studio. The main themes of the lectures are architecture and Egyptology, and visitors can look forward to hearing such speakers as Radovan Lipus, **Hana Benešová, Petr Hurník, Petr Hruša** and Josef Pleskot.

A detailed listing of lectures together with the September programme for the Old Arena can be found [here](#).

Ostrava 2015 recommends

The Landek International Sculptors' Symposium 2010 [continues](#) until 10 September in the complex of the Landek Mining Museum. Participants are six sculptors from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Georgia, China and Japan. Head off to have a look at how sculptures are being created on Landek, soak in the unique atmosphere of creative and cultural interconnection, and let them perhaps inspire you to your own artistic creation.

www.ostrava2015.cz

Our website has a [new section](#), which is specially dedicated to all those who have in whatever way supported the Ostrava 2015 project and also to all those who love Ostrava. The section You are cheering for us recalls spontaneous acts in support of the candidacy and you can also read what others have said about Ostrava and its project.

Mentions in the media

The owners of the Šlapeta Villa supported Ostrava's candidacy by opening the doors to the famous Functionalist building to the public twice in August. Reportage from a tour of the Šlapeta Villa was done by the daily newspaper [Moravskoslezský deník](#) and [Czech Television](#). (in Czech only)

A tour of the "Café Ostrava" exhibition in Prague, which is part of the nearly four-month "Ostrava in Prague" cultural survey, was prepared by editors of the [Kultura.cz](#) programme on Czech Television. Editors of the daily newspaper [Lidové noviny](#) also headed out to this exceptional show at the Mánes exhibition hall. A review of the "Ostrava Kiss" exhibition, which ran from 20 July to 7 August on the riverbanks below the Rašín Embankment, was published on the [Houser.cz](#) internet server. (in Czech only)

The daily newspaper [Moravskoslezský deník](#) is currently offering a survey of articles dedicated to Ostrava's candidacy for the ECOC 2015 title. (in Czech only)

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