Croatia

In 2013, Hrvatska udrugama zičkih knjižnica, arhiva i dokumentacijskih centara (the Croatian Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (CAML)), the Croatian National Branch of IAML still has a modest number of members: 11 individual and 5 institutional, all from music libraries. Our administration consists of President Željka Radovinović (Library of the Academy of Music in Zagreb), Secretary Aleksandra Mežnarić Karafin (Library of the Academy of Music in Zagreb), and Treasurer Nada Bezić (Croatian Music Institute). Our website is at www.humkad.hr.

We held a general assembly, four “analogue” meetings, and numerous e-mail consultancies.

In a year of an increasingly harder recession, we have been very successful in our promotion activities for our web site on Franjo Ksaver Kuhač (www.kuhac.net) to Croatian media (TV and radio).

After writing-off a large quantity of sheet music, books on music, and music journals from the Academy of Music’s Library (before its move to the faculty’s new building), we organized an open fair where we shared unwanted material from several Croatian music libraries. The event was very successful and we are grateful to the numerous musical students, their professors, and music enthusiasts "from the street" who took nearly 3,000 items. The event was followed by Croatian media (TV and radio) and on social media (Facebook).

The member of HUMKAD, being a young mother, gave very successful presentation about the profession of the music-librarian for local kindergartens, beginning with the one that her children attend. This was quickly followed by requests from other pre-school institutions and in this bit of early-education outreach, we are optimistically certain that the future of our profession is by all means assured!
Despite our media attention and the attractiveness of our activities, we still face the problem of finding new members. It is even a problem for individual membership to pay their dues, even with a rate of less than 10 Euros!

Our plans for the future must remain dreams for the present because of the pressure of the collapsing state budget.

Our third application for funding for our next web-project: a guide to the music libraries, archives and documentation centres in Croatia, was not supported by the Ministry of Culture; private sponsorship was also unsuccessful.

We also planned a new web project similar to our first one on Kuhač, on the life and works of Ivan pl Zajc, a Croatian composer whose death centenary is approaching at the end of 2014. We are trying to develop it with the little funding we can find, but it remains difficult.

Our members were active in the IAML bibliographical projects RILM and RISM, and are contributors to the IAML journal Fontes Artis Musicae’s column ‘Recent Publications in Music’.

Despite the hard times for the Croatian economy, we are still hoping to be able to send a Croatian representative to the next annual meeting of IAML.

Željka Radovinović
President, IAML (Croatia)