

Ethnological Institute CAS, v. v. i.

Brno branch

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The Institute of Ethnology studies traditional folk culture and everyday culture of inhabitants of the Czech Republic in the context of Central Europe at present and in the past. The Brno branch is dedicated to investigation of spiritual and social culture, with territorial focus mainly on Moravia and Silesia. The investigations are focused on the culture of everyday life in rural areas and in the city, interethnic relations and culture of everyday Czech and German inhabitants of Brno, on ethnic minorities, on Czechs abroad and on the history of the field. Individual employees are oriented on musical, verbal and children's folklore, youth subcultures, rites, customs, community and social life. Its activities include field research with video documentation and dissemination and processing of scientific information in the field of ethnology and ethnomusicology, publishing monographs and studies, popularization of the field, organizing conferences and consulting.

Organizational structure

The institute is an integral part of the Institute of Ethnology CAS, based in Prague 1, Na Florenci 3.

Projects

The central research theme of the institute - Socio-cultural changes and their impact on ethno-cultural profile of human communities and their everyday life (2012 - 2016) is dealt with by investigating local, regional, national and minority cultures with a focus on contemporary ethnic and cultural traditions, as well as ethno-revitalizing processes in urban and rural environments. Other projects are devoted, for instance, to folklore works of Leoš Janáček, cultural and social transformations in Brno, Czech ethnic identity-forming processes in geographic-historical territory of the Romanian and Serbian Banat.

International cooperation

The branch staffers cooperate with colleagues in Germany, Poland, Austria, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Serbia. They participate in international projects and conferences, provide consultations and exchange knowledge and literature.

Cooperation with universities

The institute staffers teach at the Masaryk University, they lead, examine and consult diploma and doctoral theses, they are members of various committees. The institute is a partner of the Masaryk University Institute of European Ethnology in the Development and Upgrading of Research Competencies in the Network of Ethnological Institutions project funded from EU structural funds, which extends thematic and financial safeguarding of field research for students.

Public services

Documentation collection at the institute contains manuscripts, music, audiovisual and photographic documents. The song collection contains 80 thousand items and is the largest song fund in our country; it is also used by the public, especially college students and folklore ensembles. The library contains 15,000 volumes accessible to scientific and general public.

