UNESCO Philosophy Day/Night 2016[1]

This year World Philosophy Day was celebrated immediately after International Tolerance Day. This proximity was notable because of the interconnection between tolerance and philosophy. Philosophy is indicative of understanding and respect towards a variety of opinions, views and cultures that can enrich people's lives. Equally, as with tolerance, philosophy also stands for the ability to live next to each other with appropriate respect for the rights and values of other individuals. It is the ability to see the world through a critical eye, to be aware of opinions and views of other people, to enhance the freedom of thought, conscience and faith.

UNESCO Philosophy Night 2016 was a night-time event where philosophy and art met the general public. The Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Boková, stated that "[...] philosophy is more than just an academic subject; it is a day-to-day practice which helps people to live a better life by exercising and applying humanity in everyday situations". One should start learning how to do it at the earliest age and, gradually, perfect oneself. In her view, philosophy can also be understood as an important key to an inspirational public discussion, defending humanity, troubled by violence and tension in the world. In this context, it needs to be stated that philosophy does not offer any immediate, ready solutions, but merely the eternal task to doubt the world and try and make it a better place to live. In the course of this journey, tolerance serves as a moral virtue and a useful tool for dialogue. It has

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nothing to do with naive relativism which claims that everything is equally valid; listening is an individual imperative, as it is based on the decisive commitment to fight for general principles of dignity and freedom.

In 2016, UNESCO celebrated the posthumous birthdays of two significant philosophers, Aristotle and Leibniz, who contributed to the development of metaphysics and science, logic and ethics. They both, several centuries apart and in greatly differing cultural contexts, placed philosophy at the heart of public life as the peak of a free and dignified life. It was in this spirit that this entire significant event took place and opened space for free, open and tolerant thoughts. Based on this dialogue it could be assumed that a lasting cooperation between citizens, societies and countries, as a basis of permanent peace, can be built.

UNESCO Philosophy Night 2016, organised within the World Philosophy Day, set the goal to create conditions for philosophy and art to meet the general public. This event has been organised in the Paris UNESCO seat for the seventh time in cooperation with the French National Commission for UNESCO and lasted from the evening of November 18th, 2016 until the early morning of November 19th, 2016.

This event was based on a successful conception of events that preceded it, held by the French philosopher and theatre director Meriam Korichi in Paris, London, Berlin, New York and Helsinki. The night presentations in their standard format were open to the general public and were truly well supported and received. A great number of philosophers offered an overview of contemporary philosophy, as well as new views of UNESCO's mission. Special attention within the programme was paid to the posthumous birthdays of Aristotle and Leibniz, as well as the umbrella topic of tolerance.

The event made full use of the premises of the UNESCO headquarters, providing traditional lectures on philosophy and many innovative activities, such as art installations, live performances, films and video viewings, presenting philosophy in a creative, aesthetic, playful and provoking way. The aim of the event was to encourage each participant to actively think about the contemporary world.

The event offered a great number of interesting presentations dedicated to such personalities as Nietzsche (Hamed Fouladvind), Kierkegaard (Sharon Krishek), as well as to topics such as tolerance (Rainer Forst), moral relativism (Paul Boghossian), building of civil society (Islah Jad), diversity in philosophy (Nele Goutier, Lianne Tijhaar), freedom and safety (Regina Kreide), Buddhist and Confucianist ethics (Eun-su Cho, Wei Xiao), etc. For the very first time, the worldwide

event held in the Paris UNESCO headquarters was attended by philosophers from Slovakia who, in their presentations, talked about Augustín Doležal (Vasil Gluchman), fiction and reality (Martin Vacek), as well as virtual reality (Jozef Sivák).

The UNESCO Chair in Bioethics at the University of Prešov which is a leading institution in bioethics in the Central Europe (Doričová & Pazdera 2015, 233-235; Gluchman 2012, 5-8) also joined the framework of the worldwide events organised by UNESCO on World philosophy Day and, together with the Institute of Ethics and Bioethics and the Institute of Philosophy (both at the Faculty of Arts, University of Prešov), for the very first time in Slovakia, organised an event as part of UNESCO Philosophy Day/Night, which took place in Prešov on November 10th, 2016. The aim was to emphasise and honour the contribution of philosophy to the formation of human thought and culture, as well as appreciate its irreplaceable role in the process of personal individual growth. The common topic of lectures, text-based seminars and workshops organised within UNESCO Philosophy Day/Night 2016 in Prešov was the history of philosophy and ethics.

As part of this day, the organisers prepared for specialists as well as the lay public a series of concurrent lectures, text-based seminars and student workshops. The cycle of lectures began with the topic *Models of philosophical ethics (Aristotle, Kant)*, in which Viera Bilasová presented two essential models of a theoretical approach to ethics – Aristotelian and Kantian. At the core of the contribution was an explanation of the dual concept of practical rationality through the optics of Kantian deontology and Aristotelian ethics of virtue. In the lecture that followed, *Notes on Gabriel Marcel's philosophy: Philosophy of hope,* Marián Palenčár presented the life and work of the above French philosopher, focusing on a number of interesting details from his academic, as well as non-academic, activities.

In the evening-time block of lectures, Vasil Gluchman gave a paper entitled *John Stuart Mill: The art of life*. He introduced to the listeners the broader context of Mill's thought as a representative of classical (non-Benthamian) utilitarianism with regard to the art of life (or its attributes of quality). The follow-up discussion with the audience was directed at an examination of quantitative and qualitative orientations of classical utilitarianism.

In the lecture *Philosophy of history of Scottish and German Enlightenment*, Sandra Zákutná provided an outline of the influence of the German Enlightenment on the formation of contemporary Scottish thinkers. At the same time, she pointed to historical contexts of the given mutual intersections of thought by means of philosophy of history. The block of evening-time lectures was concluded by Pavol

Suchárek's paper entitled *The other as different in the philosophy of Emmanuel Lévinas*, in which he, in detail, explained the basic principles of Lévinas' ethics and metaphysics, mainly with regard to his understanding of difference, transcendence and obligation.

Concurrently with the above lectures, text-based seminars took place focused on the reading and interpretation of (selected extracts from) classical philosophical source works. These were chaired by senior assistants and doctoral students from participating institutes at the Faculty of Arts, University of Prešov. By means of these, the listeners had a chance to familiarise themselves and learn how to work with challenging philosophical texts. In the block of text-based seminars, the first extract came from Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*. The seminar was dedicated to the first volume of the above work and was chaired by Katarína Komenská. Its primary aim was to comprehend Aristotle's understanding of good, based on his critiques of Plato's definition. The second seminar was aimed at Martin Heidegger's, *Being and time*. In spite of its rather challenging nature, thanks to the professional chairing by Stanislav Olejár, the listeners were able to work with the given text. In the text-based seminar aimed at Baruch Spinoza's *Ethics*, co-chaired by Ján Kalajtzidis and Michaela Joppová, the participants analysed Spinoza's critique of anthropomorphism with regard to nature and religion. The final text-based seminar, chaired by Pavol Suchárek, worked with Emmanuel Lévinas' work *Totality and infinity*. The main topic of this seminar was the chapter entitled *Ethics and the face*.

Ethics-related workshops were an important part of the event; prepared by students (under the leadership of their tutors) in the final year of their Master degree at the Faculty of Arts, University of Prešov. The block included the following: a workshop entitled *Homophobia from the viewpoint of moral philosophy* lead by Štefan Oreško, and a workshop on *Morality and forms of hedonism* co-lead by the students Marek Regenda and Tomáš Talpaš. The audience could familiarise themselves with not only philosophical thought in the past but also contemporary philosophical-ethical issues – homophobia and postmodern hedonism. Participants at the workshops could practise their critical thinking and argumentation skills in the context of the above up-to-date topics.

UNESCO Philosophy Day/Night 2016 was full of intellectual input and efforts for critical reflection in a popular form which, we would like to hope, could motivate, in a great number of people, an interest in philosophy not only as cultural heritage but also a dynamic and constantly developing sphere of thought which is no less relevant at present than it was in the past. It could, thus, be concluded that,

in the true sense, the event was a celebration of philosophy and human thought in a complex form.

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Two Conferences on Logic Held in Bochum[1]

Two interesting and well-organized conferences on logic took place at the Ruhr-University of Bochum at the beginning of May. The first of them, *PhDs in Logic IX* (2 – 4 May 2017) was the ninth edition of annual conferences for graduate students working in the field of (mathematical, philosophical, computational) logic, this year organized by Christopher Badura, AnneMarie Borg, Jesse Heyninck, and Daniel Skurt. The second one, *Logic in Bochum III* (5 – 6 May 2017) was the workshop organized by the *Research Group for Non-Monotonic Logic and Formal Argumentation* (AnneMarie Borg, Christian Straßer, Dunja Šešelja, Jesse Heyninck and Pere Pardo). To the delight of the author of this report, the latter conference especially focused on deontic logic this year.

The former conference hosted six (!) brilliant keynote speakers, who presented tutorials related to various areas of logic. Christian Straßer gave a tutorial on *Nonmonotonic logic*, keeping the talk gentle and touching deep issues in the nonmonotonic logics at the same time. María Manzano gave tutorials *Leon Henkin on Completeness* and *Identity, Equality, Nameability and Completeness*. The former tutorial was concerned with Henkin's proofs of Completeness (for type theory, first

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