



Supported using public funding  
by Slovak Arts Council



**THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC FESTIVAL OF NON-PROFESSIONAL  
FOLK ENSEMBLES  
(Academic Nitra 2020)**

**Statute of the International Academic Festival of Non-Professional  
Folk Ensembles  
Academic Nitra 2020**

**I. Introductory provisions**

- The International Academic Festival of Non-Professional Folk Ensembles (hereinafter referred as “Academic Nitra“ or “AN“) is one of the most significant international traditional folk culture festivals in Slovakia.
- AN takes place every two years most often in the first week of July, depending on when the folk festival Východná is scheduled.
- AN 2020 is organized by Constantine the Philosopher University (hereinafter referred to as “CPU“) in Nitra.

**II. Aims and position of the festival**

AN 2020 is a contest festival for non-professional academic folk ensembles. It has been organized under the statutory authority of the education ministry since 1970. The festival aims to foster students' positive attitudes to their respective national traditions; to allow students to spend their free time meaningfully and creatively; to further encourage the lively communities of student non-professional folk ensembles; to represent Slovak folk culture; to bring together folk culture-inspired artistic hobbies and creative outlets; to allow Slovak ensembles to get to know ensembles from abroad, foster friendships, and help them discover the lives of young people in other parts of the world. The festival also aims to help implement the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris 1972), the UNESCO Recommendation on the Safeguarding of Traditional Culture and Folklore (Paris 1989), the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Paris 2003), and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (Paris 2005).

The festival is one of the most significant international traditional folk culture festivals in Slovakia, and it is the only contest exhibition for academic non-professional folk ensembles in Europe. By presenting Slovak folk ensembles to international audiences, the festival is also a

major contribution to other professional and non-professional local folklore initiatives. Since 1992 it has also been a member of the International Organization of Folk Art (IOV) and is featured in its Festival Calendar.

### **III. Statutory authority**

The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic holds statutory authority over AN 2020.

### **IV. AN 2020 management and organization**

- As authorized by the Ministry of Education SR, Academic Nitra 2020 will be organized by the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and will receive state or other funding.
- The City of Nitra or other organizations co-financed by the state and dealing with traditional and folk culture may co-organize the festival.

### **V. Festival organization principles**

#### **1. Form and content of the festival**

AN 2020 is a contest festival for non-professional academic folk ensembles. It aims to promote the artistic expression of non-professional academic folk ensembles and to promote the traditional folk culture of Slovakia and other nations whose representatives give performances at the festival. Events accompanying the festival will attract thousands of the region's inhabitants. Such events include promotional performances of the competing ensembles, workshops, a dance house, a parade of folk costumes, and many others.

The contest performances of the non-professional academic folk ensembles will be held in public at two evening contests. The jury will evaluate these performances on the basis of the scoring system and announce the Laureate(s) of the Festival. Each of the competing ensembles will also perform parts of their program (agreed upon beforehand) at a gala evening which will take place at the end of the festival.

#### **2. Contestants**

AN 2020 is open to all Slovak and international non-professional academic folk ensembles presenting traditional folk culture which have successfully completed the application process. International contestants will be chosen by the AN 2020 Organizational Committee, and their number is dependent on the budget of the festival. All contestants must agree to guidelines of the festival and confirm that their contest performance will be original content. By applying they also agree to perform at accompanying events (as directed by the organizers). The number of members (performers and directors) per ensemble must not exceed 35.

### **3. Date of the festival**

AN 2020 will take place from **5 to 11 July 2020**. These dates have been chosen so as not to overlap with other important Slovak folk festivals (namely the ones in Východná and Detva) which also feature academic folk ensembles.

## **VI. AN 2020 financing principles**

### **6.1 Budgeting**

The festival budget comes from the following resources:

- funding from the Ministry of Education SR for which CPU in Nitra applies as part of its budget chapter on sports and culture
- financial contributions and grants for which CPU in Nitra applies to be used specifically for AN 2020 (for example from the Slovak Arts Council) or funding from the City of Nitra and the Nitra Self-Governing Region
- contributions from sponsors or finances obtained from marketing activities connected to the festival
- financial resources of CPU in Nitra

### **6.2 Budget organization**

The festival budget proposal is compiled by the AN 2020 President in cooperation with the Program Board Director and the heads of the organizational, finance, and public relations sections of the festival by June 2019. The budgeting is based on the planned scope and theme of the event. The proposal must be approved by the rector of the university organizing the festival. After approving the proposal, the rector shall present it to the Ministry of Education SR.

The revenue of the budget is subject to the approval processes of the Ministry of Education SR, the approval of relevant commissions of funds and foundations, or the approval of other financial contributors (see above). The Organizational Committee is responsible for obtaining contributions from sponsors and from advertising contracts. The deadline for finalizing the budget is 30 April 2020.

When finalizing the budget, the Organizational Committee shall determine the final scope and program of the festival and allocate financial resources to its individual working groups and to the particular events taking place at the festival.

The budget organization and festival financing must be planned in accordance with the general rules and internal directives governing the university's economic activities.

### **6.3 Budget approval**

As the revenue section of the budget is subject to the approval processes of the Ministry of Education SR, the approval of relevant commissions of funds and foundations, the approval of other financial contributors (see above), and on the activities of the Organizational Committee, the budget must be finalized by 30 April 2020.

When finalizing the budget, the Organizational Committee shall determine the final scope and program of the festival.

## VII. Organizational Committee

The AN 2020 Organizational Committee, whose elected members are responsible for completing the tasks within the scope of powers delegated to them, consists of the following sections:

- **The President of Academic Nitra 2020** (hereinafter referred to as “President“) is appointed by the Rector of CPU in Nitra. The President coordinates the AN 2020 Committee, the Program Board, the organizational, financial, and public relations sections. The AN 2020 festival budget proposal is compiled by the President in cooperation with the Program Board Director and the heads of the organizational, finance, and public relations sections of the festival. The President also represents the festival and promotes it in the public and in the media. The President is also responsible for finding sponsors for the festival.
- **The Secretary of Academic Nitra 2020** (hereinafter referred to as “Secretary“) is a direct subordinate to the President. The Secretary is responsible for dealing with and keeping records of documentation, sending invitations to AN Committee meetings, and for the preparation and timely delivery of dossiers pertaining to cooperation agreements. The Secretary also deals with communication with guests to the festival, sending invitations, thank-you letters, and keeping records thereof. The Secretary works in close collaboration with the Committee, the Program Board, and the organizational section as directed by the President.
- **The Academic Nitra Committee** (hereinafter referred to as “Committee“), that is the President, the Program Board Director, and the heads of the organizational, finance, and public relations sections, is appointed by the Rector of CPU in Nitra. Work meetings are called in writing and presided over by the President when festival matters require it or any of the Committee members requests such a meeting.
- **The Academic Nitra 2020 Program Board** (hereinafter referred to as “Program Board“) is a body of experts responsible for the artistic matters pertaining to the preparation and realization of the AN 2020 performances. The Program Board performs its duties in accordance with the dramaturgical conception of the festival. This is prepared by the Program Board Director and approved by the Program Board members. Members of the Program Board are appointed by the Rector of CPU in Nitra. The Program Board members are directors of the individual evening contests and the gala evening who are established, well educated professionals and who have experience with directing performances at important Slovak folk festivals (like the ones in Východná or Myjava) and also directors not involved in the planned festival performances, workshop trainers, and other art professionals. The Program Board Director collaborates with the heads of the organizational, finance, and public relations sections as well as with the Secretary. The Program Board Director is a direct subordinate to the President and is in charge of the Program Board. Work meetings of the Program Board are called in writing and presided over by the Director when festival matters require it or any of the Board members requests such a meeting.
- **The organizational section** is responsible for all matters pertaining to the organization and production of the festival. The section communicates with the heads of the Program Board, Committee, the public relations sections, and the representatives of the festival’s co-organizers. The technical staff consists of the

following sections: medical, community, information, transport, organizational support, catering and accommodation for participants and authors, and assistance to ensembles.

Each of the sections has their own head in charge of the other members. The organizational section head is a direct subordinate to the President and is in charge of the section. The organizational section head collaborates with the Program Board Director, the heads of the finance, and public relations sections as well as with the Secretary. Organizational section work meetings are called in writing or via phone and presided over by its head when festival matters require it or any of the Program Board members requests such a meeting.

The organizational section cooperates with stage managers and assists all Slovak and foreign ensembles with accommodation at the festival. It is also runs the offices of the organizational staff, deals with the logistics, the jury, distribution of promotional materials, and the preparation of awards.

- **The finance section** with its head are directly subordinated to the AN 2020 President and are responsible for supervising whether the spending is coherent with the budget. It manages the appropriate carrying out of transactions during the preparation and realization of the festival as well as all financial settlements after the festival. It collaborates with the Program Board Director and the heads of the personal relations and organizational sections when applying for grants and preparing tender documentation. It also monitors the coherence and execution of contracts and agreements.
- **The public relations section** deals with the promotion of the festival in audiovisual and print media as well as online. It manages press conferences, advertising, interviews, and all other matters related to the promotion of the festival. In collaboration with the Program Board Director, the section is also responsible for video and photo coverage of the festival. The head of the public relations section works together with the heads of the organization and finance sections. The public relations section head is a subordinate to the AN 2020 President.

**The Office of the President** carries out tasks connected with the competences of the rector and is directly subordinated to the President.

- If needed, the position of the **Honorary Festival President** may be created. This President is appointed by the rector. The Honorary President represents the festival and promotes it in the public and in the media.
- A notable cultural, scientific, political, or social personality may agree to take the festival **under their auspices** if asked to do so by the rector.

After AN 2020 ends, an overall evaluation of the organization and finances shall take place by end of the same year.

## VIII. AN 2020 Guidelines

The festival Academic Nitra 2020 is organized by Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra and the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic. **The President of the Slovak Republic, Ms. Zuzana Čaputová, has agreed to take the festival under her auspices.**

The festival, which will be held from 5 to 11 July 2020 at the Andrej Bagar Theater in Nitra, on the premises of CPU in Nitra, in the city of Nitra and its surrounding areas, is one of the

most notable folk events in Slovakia. Over the years it has become an important part of Slovak cultural life, and it has also attracted many contestants and visitors from abroad.

AN 2020 is a contest exhibition for Slovak and foreign non-professional academic folk ensembles. The organizers do not prescribe or limit particular subject matters for the contest exhibitions. The contest exhibition does not include categories. Only non-professional academic folk ensembles from Slovakia and abroad may apply for the contest. International applicants shall be chosen by the AN 2020 Program Board.

AN 2020 aims to promote the artistic expression of non-professional academic folk ensembles and to promote the traditional folk culture of Slovakia and other nations whose representatives give performances at the festival. Events accompanying the festival will attract thousands of the region's inhabitants. Such events include promotional performances of the competing ensembles, workshops, a dance house, a parade of folk costumes and many others.

The contest performances of the non-professional academic folk ensembles will be held at the Andrej Bagar Theater. The jury will evaluate these performances on the basis of the scoring system and announce the laureate(s) and awards of the festival. Each of the competing ensembles will also perform parts of their program at a gala evening which will take place at the end of the festival.

#### **CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE FESTIVAL**

- Slovak non-professional academic folk ensembles and chosen non-professional academic folk ensembles from abroad may enter the contest with their own performance block. Only performances created no earlier than 5 years prior to AN 2020 and not presented at earlier instances of the festival will be accepted.
- Ensembles apply for the contest by sending the filled in application form signed by their statutory authority. The application must be sent by no later than **28 February 2020**. The statutory authority of each ensemble is solely responsible for the artistic quality and originality of the program presented at the festival.
- The ensembles shall prepare contest performances (or “contest blocks“) lasting between 10 and 15 minutes. Apart from the contest blocks, the ensembles will prepare blocks for presentations at events accompanying the festival. Ensembles from abroad will prepare one 10-minute and one 45 minute block; Slovak ensembles will prepare one block between 5 to 10 minutes or one choreography. The presentation blocks must proportionally balance dance, singing, and music.
- All travel expenses to and from the festival shall be the sole responsibility of the participants. As provided for by the relevant international conventions, the organizer of AN 2020 shall cover the foreign participants' fuel costs during the festival (for transportation at the events as well as for the arrival and departure) on Slovak soil. As required and justified by the AN 2020 Organizational Committee, the organizer of shall cover the travel costs of Slovak ensembles and the necessary transport of persons and material.
- The organizer shall cover the ensembles' meals and accommodation at the festival venue.
- The **maximum number of participants** within one folk ensemble is **35** (including directors, musicians, and bus drivers).

#### **EVALUATION OF THE FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE**

The contest performance of each folk ensemble (**lasting between 10 to 15 minutes, and the organizers kindly ask to respect the length**) will be evaluated by members of an

international jury (consisting of experts in choreography, dance theory, ethnology, ethnochoreology, ethnomusicology, and dance pedagogy). The work-related activities of the jurors or their collaboration with the participating ensembles do not constitute conflicts of interest. The jury is appointed by the Rector of CPU in Nitra on the recommendation of the Program Board Director. The jury consist of at least 7 members who elect one of them as their chairperson.

The contest will be evaluated by a scoring system which will be published in the Annex to the Guidelines of AN 2020. If requested by the ensemble directors, the overall scores will be made publicly available after the contest. The jury will award the title “Laureate of the Festival“ to the highest-scoring ensemble(s).

The individual prizes will be awarded to the chosen ensembles, parts of ensembles or individuals.

### **Evaluation criteria for contestants**

- **Artistic qualities:** choreography, direction, appropriate expression of regional specificity; proportional representation of the musical, singing, and dance components within the block; systematic use of visual artistic means to further enhance the impression from the performance.
- **Choice, adaptation, and interpretation of the music – Folk music:** respecting and properly mastering the local and regional stylistic means of the ensemble performance; quality and depth of the performance; intonation and harmony in the group musical performance; mastering the individual musical instruments; appropriate choice of instruments in relation to the (local regional) specifics of the adapted music. **Singing:** quality (timbre, range); harmony in group singing; intonation; balance and proportionality of the individual voices within the harmonious group singing performance; respecting the stylistically dominant features typical for the particular localities or regions (appropriate use of voice leading, manner of tone creation, chanting, or hollers).
- **Choice, adaptation, and interpretation of the dancing:** respecting the form, content, and pertinent stylistic features of the dance typical for the locality or region, the technical and interpretative quality in line with the choreography. Respecting the features and functions of the traditional occasion (humorous, ritual, celebratory repertoire, lore material, etc.).
- **Visual artistic means:** appropriateness of the visual, scenography, lighting, functional use of traditional garments, shoes, and props in line with the choreography.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS**

It is necessary that the ensembles have the buses by which they traveled to the festival at their disposal throughout their stay at AN 2020.

Each ensemble will participate in the following events and activities:

- contest performance with one block (we kindly ask to respect the length of 10 to 15 min. max)
- performance at the gala evening with a selected part of their performance block (as determined by the director of the gala after prior consultation with the ensembles’ artistic directors)
- performance at the Saints Cyril and Methodius celebration on 5 July 2020
- performance at an accompanying event in Nitra, as planned in the festival schedule

- by prior agreement, selected international ensembles shall participate in a full-length (about 90 min.) evening program in Nitra

As attachments to their application, all ensembles shall submit the following materials: written characteristics of the ensemble; overview of notable performances at contests and festivals; promotional materials, photos, the ensemble bulletin(s), or posters. (More details on the technical aspects of the attachments to be provided by the AN 2020 public relations sections.) It is possible for each ensemble to state in the application form any special technical or organizational requirements they may have (special sounds, lighting, props, storage, etc.). The ensembles must also inform the AN 2020 organizers about the final number of their members and staff and their arrival and departure dates.

By agreeing to participate in the contest in the manner determined by the organizers, **the participants give their consents to the processing of their personal data** within the scope necessary for the organization of the contest. The processing of the personal data is governed by the provisions of this Statute and the festival Guidelines.

By applying to the contest, the contestants acknowledge that **they have dealt with all legal matters pertaining to the presented work, primarily copyright**, and that their presentation shall violate no rights of third parties.

By applying to the contest, **the ensemble agrees that CPU in Nitra may use their artistic performance** in the manner stated in the relevant provisions of the Copyright Law, **mainly pertaining to originals and copies of performance recordings, the public broadcasting of the performances, and making recordings available to the public**. The contestants also agree to the organizers using their images for promotional purposes.

The planned date of arrival for ensembles is **4 July 2020**.

**Registration of ensembles:**

**AN 2020 organizational staff: ŠD UKF Zobor dormitory, Dražovská cesta 2, 949 74 Nitra**

**Coordinates of ŠD Zobor:**

48.321739, 18.095065

**Contact persons and phone numbers:**

**Folk ensembles from abroad:** Ing. Anita Garajová, PhD., e-mail: [agarajova@ukf.sk](mailto:agarajova@ukf.sk), tel.: +421 905 462 072 (Monday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Wednesday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm)

**Slovak folk ensembles:** director of the AN 2020 Program Board, Mgr. art. Agáta Krausová, ArtD., e-mail: [akrausova@ukf.sk](mailto:akrausova@ukf.sk), tel.: +421 905 567 306 (Monday 1 pm – 4 pm, Wednesday 1 pm – 4 pm, Friday 1 pm – 4 pm)

**Organizational matters:** head of the AN 2020 Organizational section: doc. PaedDr. Jana Depešová, PhD., e-mail: [jdepesova@ukf.sk](mailto:jdepesova@ukf.sk), tel.: +421 903 227 470 (Monday 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Wednesday 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Friday 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm)

**This Statute is derived from the “Statute of the International Academic Folk Festival Academic Nitra, Academic Zvolen” and is based on general binding rules and the internal rules and conditions of the university organizing the event. The statute comes into effect after approval by the Rector of CPU in Nitra.**



Nitra, 22 January 2020

doc. PaedDr. Miroslav Tvrdoň, PhD.  
AN 2020 President