

**Federation of European Philatelic Associations**  
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## **Best practices from Czech Federation**

Due to the restricted financial sources of many European philatelic federations, and their factual inability to organize valuable and selfstanding exhibitions on the FEPA level, I suggest to accept such saving measures that would not decrease the philatelic value of the exhibitions, nor the quality of the exhibits evaluation.

Leasing and running costs of the exhibition space, as well as the traffic of the exhibition frames and the exhibits manipulation belong to major costs of every exhibition.

The FIP exhibition LONDON 2010 is going to split the exhibits presentation into two following periods which represents an experiment in using only a half of the space and frames required for the whole exhibition.

### **1) SAFETY ROOM**

In the Czech Republic we use the so-called „Safety room“ (a secured room where a part of exhibits is stored, and where the space for the jury work is available). Due to the saving reasons only the first (first two) frame(s) is presented and the rest of the exhibit is being stored and evaluated by the exhibition jury in the Safety room.

Advantages:

- a) costs saving ca. 75% of the costs for
  - a. exhibition space, exhibition frames
  - b. heating, lighting, security service
  - c. assembly and dismantling of exhibits
- b) better conditions for the evaluation by the jury – no disturbing visitors
- c) higher attractivity for the public – the first exhibit frames usually present valuable material, which makes the exhibition smaller but more varied

### **2) PREMIERA**

For several years, we have organized national-wide PREMIERA, or FIRST CHANCE philatelic exhibitions.

Czech stamp collectors can use this chance to show in public their standard philatelic exhibits, never shown before, and to get some experience, or even better, to find out if they can qualify for a higher level of competitive exhibitions. This PREMIERA exhibitions should be, and are, a challenge for stamp collectors.

The latest one was held in Brno in August 2009 and attracted the attention of 37 “newcomers“ from the Czech Republic.

### **3) BAPTISING OF STAMPS**

In 1996, one of our local philatelic clubs initiated PRESENTATION and BAPTISING of the new Czech postage stamp picturing UNESCO monument. The presentation was held in a former Cistercian monastery in presence of the Mayor, distinguished guests, the designer and the engraver of the stamp. More than one hundred people were present, queuing for artists' signature. This initiative is now 13 years old and became a tradition.

Sometimes also the Czech Post takes part in it. Mostly local philatelic

clubs and societies, local governments, museums and art galleries are organisers or co-organisers.

Commemorative sheets with a postage stamp, cancelled by a special postmark, are issued by organisers, and people can get signatures (autographs) of artists and/or engravers; these commemorative sheets are very popular and make part of personal collections.