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Instead of an introduction or a statistical portrait of the Free/Slow University of Warsaw

The present and the first Volume is a recap on the 212 working days of the Free/Slow University of Warsaw during the first year of its activity. Internal diversity of the Volume corresponds to the mode of operation of our para-institution, which experiments with various avenues of knowledge production and exchange. Manifold textual forms, such as: interviews, lecture and debate transcripts, theoretical texts, lifestyle handbooks, philosophical and literary analyses, conform to the multiplicity and multiformity of organized activities - BarCamps, artistic actions and workshops, congresses, presentations, seminars, public debates and lectures. The publication contains only a mere fraction of the materials generated by almost one hundred people who ran classes at the FUW in the course of over 25 meetings. Yet, we do hope that the present selection gives a proper account of the tackled issues, launched debates and waged conflicts. The subject of the first edition of the Free/Slow University of Warsaw was "culture not for profit." We referred to the tradition of free education, with a focus on establishing an environment that would enable critical reflection not only on culture, but also on its social, political and economic background. We made an attempt at a theoretical and practical research of the conditions of knowledge and culture production in the late capitalism, an analysis of the life conditions of activists, artists and cultural operators as well as at exerting an impact on the cultural policy and participating in debates on the current and the future shape of our societies. The texts featured in the first Volume of the FUW are aimed at expanding and elaborating on all the above mentioned themes.

Instead of a (usually) unexciting introduction, we decided to deliver a report on the first year of the Free/Slow University's work. We regret to warn you that the document may be a little insipid. Similarly to a part of lives of the participants of the FUW's work. Instead of inviting our readers for a spellbinding ride on the discursive carousel packed with brilliant punch lines and astounding references, we resolved to build a home-made, lay planetarium. It features such perplexing constellations as the relation between the volume of generated documents and the paid and unpaid working time; it is a matter of deciphering the movement of numbers in order to indicate the moment where an average art worker lodges an application form and when she or he discovers her or his fate; what can also be examined are the trajectories that had to be covered by our guests, the bolides visiting the local set of references. This report may not captivate you. It seems a little dry - yet, it is completely the reverse, the artistic imagination of our readers that shall extract from these outwardly impersonal data the vivid course of conflicts, merry gatherings when our heads were burning with dazzling visions and we worked persistently, debating the praise of laziness or attempting to release ourselves from the shackles of labor. Let us not get dialectically far-fetched; though this handful of data also gives an account of the conditions of production that we happen to work in and of which we are part and parcel. Let it suffice as a commentary and offer a breeding ground for further reflection.

THE FREE/SLOW UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW 260% OF THE NORM - FREE BECAUSE SLOW

- Application form lodged on: 22nd February 2009
- Application form length: 15 pages, 5206 words, 41072 characters
- Proposed budget: 200 000 PLN
- Planned cycle of events: 10, including 5 artistic actions, 3 lectures, 2 seminars
- Planned number of class hosts: 16 persons, including 4 from Warsaw, 3 from other Polish cities, 9 from abroad
- Planned number of direct participants: 900 people
- Planned duration: 1st April - 31st December 2009
- Grant allocation announcement: 16th April 2009
- Allocated budget: 200 000 PLN
- Unofficial beginning of work: 30th May 2009
- Signing the agreement and official launch of the project: 2nd June 2009
- Official project duration: 212 days
- Real completion time (as percentage of the planned): 73%
- Additional time devoted to preparation and settlement: 120 days (ca. 30 days of conceptual preparation, 10 days of writing the application form, 60 days of organizational preparations, 20 days of project settlement)
- As percentage of the official project duration: 60%
- Number of days-off: - 60
- Number of organized events: 26, including 1 congress, 2 open conferences (BarCamps), 2 public debates, 3 workshops / artistic actions, 14 seminars, 4 presentations / lectures
- As percentage of the planned: 260%
- Number of man-hours spent on grant administration: ca. 100

- Number of agreements and annexes connected with running the project: ca. 200
- Payout of first remuneration: 22nd June 2009
- Prevailing form of employment: contract for a specific task
- Number of people involved in running the project: ca. 14 people
- Class hosts and BarCamp lecturers: ca. 95 people
- As percentage of the planned: 550%
- Including work on voluntary basis / unpaid work: 33 people (30%)
- Including males: ca. 55%
- Including females: ca. 45%
- Participants of the events: ca. 1050 people
- As percentage of the planned: 115%
- Participants to hosts ratio: 12 participants to 1 host
- Project cost per participant: ca. 200 PLN
- Number of kilometers travelled by hosts (incomplete data): over 56 000 km
- Including air travel: 15, over 45 000 km
- CO2 emission: over 7 tons
- Including rail travel: 16, over 12 000 km
- CO2 emission: ca. 1 ton
- Class hosts came from: Barcelona, Berlin, Bristol, Elbląg, Gdańsk, Copenhagen, Cracow, London, Moscow, Vienna, Wrocław, Zurich
- Number of written e-mails in connection with the FUW (project curator's site alone between 1st December 2009 and 29th December 2009: over 430 sent, over 610 received; in total: over 1040 e-mails
- Intensity of e-mail communication of the curator between 1st December 2009 and 29th December 2009: ca. 35 e-mails per day
- Entries at the HYPERLINK "<http://www.wuw2009.pl>" www.wuw2009.pl website
 - a) Polish version - number of entries: 63; number of characters: 178 284
 - b) English version - number of entries: 37; number of characters: 124 880
- Photos and images stored on the FUW server: 191 JPF files (27,5 MB), including 63% (17,3 MB; 105 JPG files) available from the website
- Learning props stored on the server: 34 PDF files (55 MB); including 100% available from the website
- Total length of audio and video recordings available from the website: 907 min 43 s
- Generated hyperlinks to other websites: 171
- Number of copies of books published during the FUW: 2000 copies
- Articles and texts published in the book Readers for Artworkers: 24
- Planned number of authors: 6 people
- Number of people involved in writing / preparation of texts: 25
- In the course of work on the book the authors were scattered in: Barcelona, Bristol, Berkeley (California), Berlin, Havana, Cracow, London, Los Angeles, Warsaw, Vienna, Zurich
- Number of materials published in the book: over 365 000 characters, ca. 200 pages of typescript
- Book preparation time: ca. 40 days
- Pace of book preparation: ca. 9000 characters per day