



# BULLETIN

No. 1/2003 - January 2003

## INTERVIEW



***"I see the results of the parliamentary elections as a major contribution to the Healthy Cities Project in the Czech Republic."***

**Interview with Vlasta Bohdalova, Vice-Chair of Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic and Deputy Mayor of the City of Ceske Budejovice:**

**Have there been any changes due to last year's local elections significant for the implementation of the Healthy Cities Project in Ceske Budejovice or other Czech Healthy Cities?**

*The results of the elections have definitely contributed to the development of the Healthy Cities Project. Political situation in Ceske Budejovice has stabilised after the elections, and the new City Council has a wider spectrum than before. Ceske Budejovice is very active in the Healthy Cities Project. Owing also to the results of the elections, I believe that we will soon be able to take another major step forward – adopt the Healthy Cities Project Declaration. As to the other Czech Healthy Cities, if you look at the HCCZ Council membership and the people in the local authorities and councils in the Czech Healthy Cities, you will see that they have remained virtually unchanged in most of the cities. This is why I think that the communal basis for the implementation of the Healthy Cities Project will not change and that the activities of the individual Healthy Cities will continue to expand. What I see as a major contribution to the Healthy Cities Project here in the Czech Republic are the results of the parliamentary elections.*

**Could you be more specific?**

*Following the parliamentary elections, new people were appointed to the institutions that are crucial for the Healthy Cities Project – the ministries of health, environment, and education, youth and sports; luckily, these were people who have always been interested in the Healthy Cities' projects. There has always been keen interest in the Healthy Cities Project on the local level, but communication with the central governmental bodies used to be rather difficult. Six months after the parliamentary elections, we can already see improvement in establishing contacts with the top executives. Ms. Souckova, Minister of Health, invited representatives of the Healthy Cities' councils and their partner organisations to meet at the Ministry of Health in Prague and discuss issues related to healthy lifestyle, prevention and medical services.*

*The meeting has taken place this week, with a representative of the Ministry having informed the participants about the possibility of obtaining subsidies from the Health Promotion Program. Similar working meetings should be taking place throughout the year at other ministries, too.*

## NEWS

**Ministers Invite Healthy Cities, Towns and Regions for Discussions**

***On January 21, 2003, the Czech Ministry of Health hosted a working meeting of representatives of the Healthy Cities' councils and their partner organisations. It was the first in a series of top level meetings to take place under the auspices of the respective ministers.***

Mayors of the Czech Healthy Cities were invited to the meeting by a personal letter from Ms. Souckova, Czech Minister of Health. Delegations from fifteen Healthy Cities as well as representatives of the Ministry of Health took part in the meeting. They discussed the areas of the City Health Development Plan closest to the Ministry of Health – healthy lifestyle, prevention and medical services. In the first part of the meeting, Dr. Jarmila Razova of the Ministry of Health explained to the participants the conditions for obtaining subsidies from the Health Promotion Program. In 2003, the Ministry plans to distribute a total of CZK 14 million to successful health promoting projects. Ivana Draholova, Healthy Cities Project coordinator from Brno, shared useful information on the preparations for the Brno Health Days. Similarly valuable was the presentation on the progress of the Safe Community project in the Healthy City of Kromeriz, delivered by Dr. Jarmila Cihalova of the Kromeriz Health Institute. The January meeting provided an opportunity not only for discussion among the representatives of the individual Healthy Cities, but also for contacts with expert partners at the national level, such as the Injury Prevention Centre or the State Health Institute. Seminars like this will be taking place monthly under the auspices of the individual ministries; the Minister of Environment has invited the Healthy Cities to meet on February 26.

## How the City Breathes – Calendar of Kromeriz Children

***Do you know how the city breathes? This question was put to the children of Kromeriz in a drawing contest organised by the local Healthy City Office. The children responded by nearly two hundred drawings.***



Healthy City of Kromeriz first published a school calendar illustrated by elementary school pupils last year. "We wanted to know what the children think about the life in Kromeriz, so we and the local elementary schools organised a drawing contest on the occasion of the Health Days; the topic of the contest was the "Healthy City". The best pictures were selected for this school year's calendar. We were pleased to see that the children undertook the task with such enthusiasm, and we decided to repeat the contest. We will be publishing another school calendar of the Healthy City children for the next school year. This time, we selected two topics: *Careful, Don't Get Hurt* and *How the City Breathes*," said Marie Pokorna, Healthy Cities Project coordinator in Kromeriz. Nearly two hundred drawings had been collected at the Kromeriz City Hall by late January. The jury, comprising representatives of the City Hall and the Healthy Cities Project partner organisations, is now in the process of selecting the best twelve pictures for the new school calendar. "It used to be a bit of a problem getting all members of the jury together at one time, so this year, we have come up with a new system. We exhibited the drawings and invited all members of the jury to visit the exhibition. Equipped with stick-on "points", they can come at any time during the two-week period and stick their "points" by the best pictures. Apart from the artistic quality, the jurors will be looking at how well the kids handled the topic and how imaginative the motifs are," added Marie Pokorna.

## I Write, You Write, We Write – Opinions of Chrudim Citizens

***Healthy Cities communicate with their people and consistently work to involve the public in the decision-making process. For the opinions of the public to get through to the politicians, the City Hall organises informal public meetings and discussions, opinion polls and competitions. One such competition is currently under way in the Healthy City of Chrudim. Any one of the inhabitants – from children to senior citizens – is invited to take part.***

"It is for a blank sheet of paper to fear you, not for you to fear a blank sheet of paper" – this is the motto of the literary competition "The Golden Quill of Chrudim", devoted to the topic of crime prevention in the Healthy City of Chrudim. "In today's world, all

generations are exposed to an unprecedented number of pitfalls and dangers. The situation will not improve until and unless we start openly talking about the problems. This is why we decided to organise a literary competition in Chrudim to broach the issues. We want to know how safe our citizens feel in the city and what changes they would like to see in this respect," said Sarka Truneckova, the Healthy Cities Project coordinator in Chrudim. "In less than a month, we have collected a number of interesting and stimulating works," comments crime prevention manager Radka Pochobradaska. "Both young and older citizens enter the competition. The rarity is the eighty-seven-years old Marta Brizova, who competed with her fourteen poems. The winners will be announced in June and the best works will be published as an anthology," concluded R. Pochobradaska.

## The Young in Litomerice Want to Have a Say – Children Board of Representatives

***Members of the children board of representatives of the Healthy City of Litomerice, established in December 2002, want to focus on the areas of environment, education and sports.***

This was the conclusion of an approximately two-hour discussion at the meeting of the board in the SEVER ecological centre on Tuesday, January 14, 2003. "The purpose of the children board of representatives is for the youth to have somewhere to discuss their problems and to have a say about the course of events in the city," said one of the board members, Rostislav Janata, a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student of the elementary school in Ladova Street. According to Janata, the board first wants to improve the quality of the current children playgrounds, particularly in terms of lighting. Since the success of their efforts will depend mainly on the co-operation with their adult counterparts, the children will meet with the representatives of the city, Ladislav Chlupac, Mayor of Litomerice, and Petr Hermann, Deputy Mayor and the Healthy Cities Project politician, in mid-February. "The views of the young of the events in the city are in many ways original. The City Hall is looking forward to communicating with them," appreciated the contribution of the children board of representatives Ivan Palan, Deputy Mayor of Litomerice.



## CONTACT

---

Petr Svec  
National Co-ordinator of the Healthy Cities Project

**Healthy Cities CZ**  
**Srobarova 48**  
**100 42 Prague 10**

**T: +420 602 500639**

**E: [praha@nszm.cz](mailto:praha@nszm.cz)**

**W: [www.gate.cz](http://www.gate.cz)**

*(The illustration photographs were provided by the archives  
of HCCZ member cities, towns and regions.)*