



BULLETIN

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HEALTHY CITIES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

INTERVIEW

“We already strive to conduct ourselves as a regular HCCZ member.”

An interview with Josef Malir, Deputy Mayor of Hradec Kralove

Hradec Kralove has been an associate member of HCCZ since 2003. What are the responsibilities of an associate member? How has the city benefited from its membership?

There are not many responsibilities; in effect, we only have to pay the membership fee, which is lower than with regular members. An associate member does not have to have an HCP coordinator and is not required to join HCCZ campaigns, such as the Earth Day or Health Days. On the other hand, associate membership offers a number of benefits, e.g. up-to-date information on new financing options, methodological assistance, or participation in seminars organised by HCCZ. The city council approved our associate membership in HCCZ for a trial period of two to three years. In practice, though, we already strive to actively conduct ourselves as a regular member. Collaborating with HCCZ, we organised a Project Incubator last year; together with local NGOs and other organisations active in the city, we identified projects that could be eligible for EU financing. Approval of associate membership by the council has substantially sped up various arrangements, for instance, for public transport to be free-of-charge on the Car Free Day, which used to require lengthy negotiations in the past.

Late in 2004, the councillors approved the Action Plan 2005 – 2006 for the City Development Strategic Plan until 2020. Would you tell us more about the two documents?

The Strategic Plan deals with long-term issues. In short, it tells us what Hradec Kralove should be like in 2020, which can be useful for potential investors, city residents or someone intending to move to the city. Using HCCZ methodology, we have encouraged the general public to become involved in the preparatory process. The key thing was to embody the strategic plan in the action plan, which – as a local administration tool – must clearly identify concrete steps to be taken in accordance with the long-term plan.

NEWS

Trebic: Children and Student Parliaments of Czech Healthy Cities Meet for the First Time

The first ever nation-wide meeting of children and student parliaments from Czech Healthy Cities took place in Trebic on February 10. The 120 participants included members of 11 student parliaments as well as Ministry of Education officials, senators and representatives of the Vysocina Region. The meeting was organised by Trebic's student parliament in collaboration with the Healthy City of Trebic and HCCZ under the auspices of Ms Alena Sterbova, Deputy Minister of Education, Youth and Physical Training



According to the organisers, the main objective of the meeting was to enable the student MPs to publicly present their activities, establish cooperation with their colleagues from other cities and discuss parliament-related problems and various options for collaboration with the respective city halls. Opening speeches were delivered by Radek Cihal, Deputy Mayor of Trebic and HCP politician, Eva Bartonova, Director of Youth Department at the Ministry of Education, Andrea Kozuchova, National Children and Student Parliament coordinator, Milos Vystrcil, Chairman of Vysocina Region, and HCCZ Secretary Petr Svec. The meeting continued with presentations of the individual parliaments. Students from **Brno, Chrudim, Letovice, Litomerice, Orlova, Prostějov, Vsetin** and the hosting city of **Trebic** proved their worth delivering excellent presentations of their activities.

Representatives of the **Trebic Student Parliament** were the first to take the floor, introducing a project entitled Community Planning of Free Time Children and Youth Activities. Launched at the beginning of this school year, the project wants to map the different ways young people spend their free time and to identify what they are missing in the city. On March 17, student MPs will present their suggestions, based on a questionnaire survey, to city officials, organisations working with children and representatives of Trebic schools. Together, they will then try to find new ways to improve the offer of free time activities in the city. Other ongoing projects of Trebic's student parliament include Map of Recycling Containers, Sit Down at the Desk, or Musical Chairs, or Bicycle Transport and Accessibility of the City to Paraplegics and Roller Skaters. They also want to re-run the successful Let the City Be Green competition; it took place last year in April on the Earth Day, with teams of pupils and students of Trebic basic and secondary schools and four teams of city hall officials and staff competing in picking up litter in public areas. The other student parliaments presented projects entitled You Should Know What You Are in For (Chrudim), A City Friendly Dog Owner (Litomerice), Safe Journey to School (Trebic, Kromeriz, Orlova), Second Hand Toy Market (Orlova), Playground (Vsetin), and Amateur Theatre Company (Letovice). The MPs often mentioned cooperation with the city halls in organising Healthy City campaigns (such as Health Days). In the audience, there were student MPs from **Trebon, Hodonin, Kromeriz, and Pelhrimov**. The morning program included several dance numbers performed by SPEED – DANCERS. In the afternoon, there were three discussion sections. Regular sessions of the parliaments, cooperation with city halls and communication among the MPs were often mentioned as highly beneficial for the functioning of the parliaments. The most frequent problems identified were the lack of finances, long project approval times and low public awareness. In the future, the parliaments want to further improve mutual cooperation through e-mail correspondence and more nationwide meetings. The meeting in Trebic opened this year's MCAP series. The next meeting is scheduled to take place after the HCCZ General Meeting in Koprivnice on March 31. The topic of the meeting will be Maternity Centres.

Vysocina: Healthy Region and HCCZ Inviting to Conference

Implementation of the European project JROP 3.3 "From All Perspectives" will be the main topic of Partnership for Vysocina, the 1st regional conference of the Vysocina Region. It will take place on March 2, followed by a thematic seminar Partnership for Countryside. Partnership for Vysocina is organised by Vysocina Region in collaboration with HCCZ.

The European project JROP 3.3 of the Vysocina Region focuses on building strong partnerships throughout the region. Of the thirteen Czech regions, Vysocina and Karlovarsko were the only two to have passed the first round of JROP projects evaluation by the Ministry for Local Development without any reservations. With regional administration and ministry officials present, the two-day event will provide information on future activities and partners on the regional level (Economic Chamber, Labour Office, Countryside Regeneration School, representatives of NGO umbrella body and others). Regional partners will be

invited to cooperate. The agenda of the conference will include presentations of JROP in the Czech Republic, partnerships established as part of the program and mistakes most frequently made by applicants for JROP support. In addition, there will be a list of approved projects and information on the 2007 program period. The aim is to encourage demand for concrete projects to be financed starting from 2007. As cross-sector partnership is one of the crucial requirements for the projects to be eligible for EU financing, the conference will also introduce local Agendas 21 as an effective way to partnership, as well as concrete well-functioning partnerships in the Vysocina Region. The conference will take place in the premises of Jupiter Club Velke Mezirici. For registration, just send a short SMS with contact details (above all, your mailing address) to: svatonova.m@kr-vysocina.cz, and you will receive a registration card. There is no conference fee, and accommodation and refreshment will be provided free-of-charge.

Boskovice: Orders of Children's Smile Awarded at Maternity Centre Celebration

On January 24, Maternity Centre (MC) Boskovice, a partner of the city hall in the implementation of HCP, celebrated its third anniversary. The celebration included an award ceremony of the Order of Children's Smile.

The Order of Children's Smile was first awarded in Boskovice in 2004 as part of a project created on the occasion of the international Year of the Family by MC staff members in collaboration with the Healthy City. The Order is awarded to those of Boskovice organisations that are friendly to families with children (such as by offering non-smoking environment or barrier-free access for prams). This time, the award went to seven organisations: Kalouskova Optician Shop; Dm drogerie markt; Castle Club Restaurant; Eldorado Restaurant; Fire-Fly Second Hand; and Herman Ungar Literary Tea Room. The city of Boskovice was nominated for the 2005 awards as a "Family-Friendly Company" in the category of public entities.



HCCZ: Methodology Seminar

At least once a year, HCCZ has been organising methodology seminars for the staff of Healthy Cities' city halls as well as for people from other cities, municipalities and regions. This time, the meeting took place in Velke Mezirici on February 9.

The seminar was attended by 32 representatives (mostly mayors and deputy mayors) of city halls from 20 cities, municipalities and regions. The opening speeches were delivered by Frantisek Bradac, Mayor of Velke Mezirici, Marie Cerna, Deputy Chair of Vysocina Region and Healthy Region politician, and Josef Novotny, Senator and Mayor of Bystrice pod Hostynem. In the morning debate hosted by lecturer Dalimil Vitek, participants discussed the vision and strategic priorities of HCCZ through 2015. The afternoon presentation of HCCZ Secretary Petr Svec on the state of HCCZ methodology confirmed that the methodology has not "fossilised", but continues to develop. Practical experience was presented by representatives of Healthy Cities and the region – Mayor and HCP politician Jiri Cunek for Vsetin, Deputy Mayor Josef Malir for Hradec Kralove, Deputy Mayor Ladislav Ambrozek for Hodonin and Deputy Chair Marie Cerna for Vysocina Region. All of the presentations are available at www.nszm.cz/ms05.

IN BRIEF

- On February 23, a working meeting of HCCZ members will take place at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs under the auspices of Minister Skromach. Representatives of city halls, their partners and professional organisations will deal with the topic of "Social Services and Non-Governmental Organisations." The meeting is open to everyone interested in the topic.
- HCCZ is preparing the Spring School of Czech Healthy Cities. This time, the regular training course for politicians and HCP coordinators will focus on methods and techniques used in working with the public and on communication skills. The course will take place in Moravska Trebova between March 7 and 9.
- HCCZ Spring General Meeting will take place in Koprivnice on March 31, preceded by an MCAP session devoted to Maternity Centres. The session will be open to everyone interested in the topic.

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