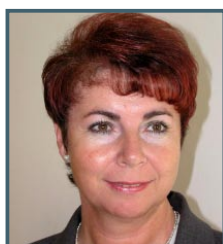




HEALTHY CITIES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

INTERVIEW



Interview with 1. HCCZ vice-chairman, deputy sheriff of the Healthy region of Vysočina, Mrs. Marie Černá.

The past year was a successful one

The end of year is drawing near and balancing often comes along with it. How would you, from the perspective of first HCCZ vice-chairman, evaluate the past year?

I think that the 2006 was a good year for the association, which is also proven by the growing number of our new members. It was also an election year, even in the connection to HCCZ, as the majority of its members are municipalities and cities that local authority elections took place in, which naturally entails alteration in the ranks of representatives and councillors. The forthcoming period is, for me personally, full of expectations and I look forward to collaboration with new colleagues who will overtake the auspices over Healthy Cities, Municipalities and Regions. This however also means that I will not be meeting anymore, or at least will not be meeting so often, a number of my colleagues I was meeting in the past four years. It is proper to thank at this place all those who worked for Healthy Cities and their citizens and wish them good luck.

Vysočina has been recently awarded in the competition *About People with People* for the support of democracy and collaboration with NGOs. Does it mean that close collaboration with public and non-profit organisations pays off?

We are very pleased by the awards. I consider it one of partial outputs of our systematic work that we basically started right after the creation of Vysočina Region and appointment of its leadership and other bodies, in the process of which the position of non-profit sector coordinator has been established. This approach now pays off to us. Representatives of non-profit organisations are members of a number of Regional Council advisory bodies, they are also represented in Working Group for the Healthy Region and Local Agenda 21. They help us as soon as in the process of formulating individual priorities and objectives, which also facilitates their consecutive practical realisation, as a number of these organisations has built great authority and

respect in the region. This whole "mixture" then supports the ability of the region and local self-administrations in drawing EU resources. Collaboration with non-profit sector therefore pays off in all respects, as also proven by this award.

The topic of the last double issue is also sustainable building. Does the Vysočina Region support its municipalities and cities e.g. in the field of energy saving or revitalisation of brownfields?

The region does not provide direct support in this area yet, but there exist a number of forms of indirect support. In the first place, we have an analysis of surfaces within areas suitable for revitalization (brownfields) processed in the area of the region and we actively offer industrial areas for further use in collaboration with cities and municipalities, namely including offers at various investment fairs home and abroad. Doing so, we will stop land use and will free our region of a number of unsightly and often derelict places. In case of other areas that are not suitable for business purposes, we also help with setting-up of the Regional Operational Programme so that on its basis our self-administrations could draw EU finances for these purposes.

Vysočina Agency for Energy operates in our region. The Agency has done, over the course of several years of its existence, a great deal of work in the field of renewable energy resources and helped to realise a number of projects in the area of energy saving.

As the end of year approaches inexorably, which I still cannot believe, I would also like to wish all Healthy Cities, Municipalities and Regions and their partners, a peaceful and merry Christmas. And because I represent the association of Healthy Cities, I may only wish you one thing to the new year - health in the broadest sense of word, i.e. besides the health as such also the feeling of peace, satisfaction from work, good family background and friends.

Marie Černá

Regions:
Kraj Vysočina, Zlímský kraj

Micro-regions:

mg. Dražanská Vrchovina, mg. Chropos, mg. Kroměřížsko, mg. Kušimka, mg. Letovicko, mg. Novoměstsko, mg. Pádraltsko, mg. Prácheňsko, mg. Sdružení Ašsko, mg. Sdružení Rýje, mg. Střední Vostínsko, mg. Svazek obcí regionu Třebíčsko, mg. Sumava - Západ, mg. Telčsko, mg. Třebíčsko, mg. Třemšín, mg. Urbanická bráda, mg. Valašskomejiříšsko-Kelčsko, mg. Velkomejiříšsko-Břešsko

Cities and municipalities:

Blansko, Boletice, Borovany, Borkovice, Brno, České Budějovice, Desná, Hadomín, Hradec Králové, Humpolec, Olbramovice, Jilemnice, Kanišov, Kopřivnice, Kostelec nad Orlicí, Kouřim, Kroměříž, Křižánky, Kušim, Letovice, Litoměřice, Litomyšl, Mladá Boleslav, Mokrý-Horákov, Moravská Třebíč, Nové Město na Moravě, Oslov, Pelhřimov, Poděbrady, Praha-Libuš a Písnice, Prostějov, Přeborn, Rojmital pod Třemšínem, Rojnov pod Radhoštěm, Říčany, Skotnice, Slaný, Strakonice, Stráns, Strážek, Světlá nad Sázavou, Šternberk, Štětí, Telč, Třebíč, Třebíč, Uherské Hradiště, Uherský Brod, Ústí nad Labem, Valašské Meziříčí, Velké Meziříčí, Vošice, Votín, Zlaté Hory, Zlín



HEALTHY CITIES, TOWNS, REGIONS
CZECH REPUBLIC

PF2007



TOPIC OF THE MONTH: “SUSTAINABLE BUILDING”

Building, as a wide sphere of human activity, has in its consequences a decisive influence on living environment and quality of life of citizens in cities and in the country. According to OECD report, buildings have a 40% share of total energy consumption and produce 30% of all CO₂ emissions. Building industry moreover creates approximately 40% of all human-produced waste. Also in the building industry, technologies have been gradually applied that reduce the negative impacts on living environment. Building in accordance with principles of sustainable development requires in particular a lower energy demands in the course of energy building and operation, reasonable selection and consumption of material or more considerate handling with wastes, another significant aspect is also barrier-free structure of buildings and other structures. Consistent evaluation of social and ecological risks related to building and gradual inclusion of these risks into the building costs comprises one of basic objectives of sustainable building. Sustainable development in building also includes, besides the environmental and socio-economic points of view, the cultural aspect. The aesthetic form of human settlements, but also their social and ecological stability can be significantly influenced in the process of landscape planning.

Modern urbanism, as an effective tool for enforcement of sustainable development of cities and municipalities can prevent such undesirable phenomena, as for instance uncontrolled housing of precious areas leading to their permanent degradation. A well prepared planning scheme, its observance and evaluation significantly contribute to improvement in quality of life of inhabitants in cities and municipalities. The principles of sustainable building are therefore an integral part of development not only in Healthy Cities, Municipalities and Regions.

TOPIC HOME AND ABROAD

Building in the world and home directs to sustainable forms

A significant share of building industry in the overall pollution of planet is a weighty reason for searching for sustainable alternatives in this traditional branch. Successful examples of low-energy buildings may serve as an example to developers from the ranks of cities, municipalities and regions, but also to their inhabitants. Precisely the energy consumption is a subject of a number of international documents and scope of activity of a number of organisations.

The subject of building is, broadly speaking, being dealt with even by the basic documents dealing with the issue of sustainable development. One of the first integral interpretations of **Agenda 21** for specific issues of building and housing is represented by the **Agenda HABITAT II**, a document approved by UN member states at the international human rights conference in Istanbul of 1996. As a reaction to general documents, there was **Agenda 21 for Sustainable Building** approved by an international community of construction specialists in 1999. The Agenda was processed by the CIB organisation. The agenda in particular takes into account the issue of energy and material savings where emphasis is put on recycling and minimisation of waste, but it also deals with saving of water and ground, i.e. estates that are included in the category of resources here. Among others the Agenda also deals with sustainable development of town agglomerations and connected social, economic and cultural questions. As soon as in 1994 the representatives of European cities and municipalities approved

the so called **Aalborg Chart** leading to sustainable development that reflected the growing environmental aspect of urbanism. It has been consequently incorporated into the principles of urban planning, contained in the **New Athens Chart** of 1998. The **evaluation of environmental risks** that has been gradually implemented in the Czech Republic, is also based on European regulations and building practice, namely from the scope of strategic concept evaluation (SEA), over the evaluation of particular projects' influence on living environment (EIA) to evaluation of life-cycle of individual products (LCA). The issue of sustainable building in the Czech Republic on a more general level is being dealt with by the **State Environmental Policy**, a document approved in 2004 for the years of 2004-2010. Within the framework of **Governmental Council for Sustainable Development** the sustainable building is dealt with by the **Working Group for Sustainable Production and Consumption**. In the near future it should prepare an independent programme "Sustainable Building".

The European Landscape Convention has been also ratified by the Czech Republic.

One of the most important treaties on international level that directly affects relationship of human and his impact on landscape is undoubtedly the **European Landscape Convention**. The Czech Republic ratified this treaty, whose aim is to support landscape protection, management and planning and organise European collaboration in this area, as soon as in 2004. Despite this fact it has not been well known by the public (can be downloaded at [http://www.vukoz.cz/_C1256D3B006880D8.nsf/\\$pid/VUKITF1CW0SZ/\\$FILE/vukoz-umluva_%20o_%20krajine-20031008.pdf](http://www.vukoz.cz/_C1256D3B006880D8.nsf/$pid/VUKITF1CW0SZ/$FILE/vukoz-umluva_%20o_%20krajine-20031008.pdf)).

In addition to international documents and policies there is fortunately a whole range of institutions that deal with their practical realisation. The issue of sustainable building and its energetic connections are in the CR dealt with by a number of non-governmental organisations, among others for instance by **SEVEN** (more at <http://www.seven.cz>), **EkoWATT** (more at <http://www.ekowatt.cz>) or **Veronica** Environmental Institute (more at <http://www.veronica.cz>). The organisation of **League of Ecological Alternatives** this year organises the third year of competition called **Solar League** (more at <http://www.lea.ecn.cz> and <http://www.solarniliga.cz>), that appreciates successful projects utilising the solar energy. Promotion of low-energy building is dealt with by the Brno's citizens' organisation **Passive House Centre**. More information about sustainable building can be also obtained at the information portal <http://www.substance.cz>, which is operated by the field specialists of Prague **Faculty of Civil Engineering of Czech Technical University**. Further important organisations can also be found in the Partners column.

HCCZ partners

We also find partners for sustainable building abroad

The Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic has been currently collaborating with a number of expert partners both from the CR and abroad. Among the most significant foreign partners belongs the international **Energie Cités** organisation that focuses on the issue of sustainable energy policies (savings and utilisation of renewable energy resources). Together with HCCZ and other organisations and European cities it has been preparing e.g. a two-year project Display Plus (more in column *Projects*). The Czech company **Porsenna** has also been a long-term partner. The company enforces principles of sustainable development in common life, especially in the areas of sustainable building, energy saving, utilisation of renewable resources, and economy. The company **SEVEN** is also an expert partner in the field



of energetics, as it is, among others, a guarantor to the Green Light Project in the CR (more in column *Projects*). Among similarly focused HCCZ partners also belongs the company **EkoWATT, Centre for Renewable Resources and Efficient Energy Utilisation**, that belongs among leading Czech consulting companies in the field of energetics, economics and environment. It primarily focuses on energetic self-sufficiency of buildings, municipalities and regions and also of production units and other energy systems.

With respect to the common issue of Healthy Cities, Municipalities and Regions of Governmental Council for Sustainable Development, which is in 2008 going to be the **Sustainable Energetics**, HCCZ establish a partnership with other subjects, such as e.g. company **Knauf Insulation**.

BEST PRACTICE

What is meant by “sustainable” building?

Particular results of sustainable building are mostly represented by buildings termed as **low-energy houses**, alternatively as **passive houses**, which is a term expressing even lower energy demands of a building operation. Energy savings in the area of sustainable building can nevertheless include for instance also minimisation of requirements on transportation in the course of building or structure removal. Materials close to nature, such as wood, that can be easily recycled or suitably disposed of and reduce thus the amount of waste, are most



Modern solar panels can coexist quietly even in historical parts of cities and municipalities, which is also proven by the example of the Healthy City of Litoměřice.

suitable within the framework of sustainable building. **Maximum utilisation of renewable energy resources** is anticipated, for instance in a form of solar panels for hot-water heating, heat pumps or heating by a wood-based fuel. Low-energy houses produce a minimum amount of CO₂ emissions or other harmful substances, which is given among others by employment of effective heating and air handling equipment.

According to experts' estimates **the increase in costs for low-energy house design amount to mere 5-15% of the total costs.**

According to data of the international non-governmental organisation ISES (International Solar Energy Society), there was 1300 housing units built in a standard of passive house in Europe (mostly in German speaking countries) in 2003, in 2004 it was already 4000 housing units and in 2010 the estimate says 60000 housing units. In the Czech Republic there has been a relatively low number of passive houses built so far, nevertheless, the trend of energy savings has been enforced here also, in connection with growing energy prices. In accordance with European regulations, **tightening of the standard specifying thermally-technical construction requirements** in the CR took place in 2002.

Healthy cities, municipalities and regions, fulfilling the principles of sustainable development, may prefer sustainable solutions as developers. In case of existing buildings it is suitable to have an energy-audit performed and carry out possible measures leading to reduction of energy consumption, such as additional external insulation, installation of solar panels for water heating or, for instance, utilisation of renewable fuels for house heating. In case of new constructions there offers the possibility to realise new buildings as low-energy ones, possibly even as passive houses. Such a solution may involve mild increase in costs, but external subsidies can be obtained for some measures and successful result may serve well for presentation of best practices in city, municipality or region. Subsidies for local inhabitants who decide for low-energy building solutions, also presents one of alternatives of how the city, municipality or region can support sustainable building in its area.

What Healthy Cities, Municipalities and Regions excel at

A number of member municipalities have long-term experience in the field of sustainable building and have also been awarded in many competitions for their endeavours. The Healthy City of **Litoměřice** has been a pioneer in the field of renewable energy resources utilisation and systematic support. The holder of the **Czech Solar Award** from 2001 supports implementation of renewable energy resources in three areas. The city itself uses solar collectors at public buildings for service water heating e.g. at the building of Children's Home or at the Na Valech basic school. The municipal office or indoor swimming pool obtain heat owing to the technology of heat pumps, and parking meters at the Mírové Square need no cables for their operation – the required electric energy is supplied by the Sun. Litoměřice annually support from its budget installations in the amount of 520 thousand CZK (19 thousand EUR). In Litoměřice they would like to rely more on geothermal energy and electricity from small hydraulic power plants in the near future. Exploratory drillings currently take place in this area, with an aim of verifying the possibility of utilising the unique **Hot Dry Rock** technology, which enables obtaining of thermal energy hidden 5 kilometres under the surface of Earth.

Solar energy is also used e.g. in the Healthy City of **Letovice**. In Letovice they placed solar collectors at the Centre of Social Services and the obtained clean energy is used for heating of service water, which significantly reduces the municipal operating costs for this building. The city also takes steps to expand these activities by other sound technologies – heat pumps with possible utilisation of ground water from the nearby river of Svitava – that may serve for heating the whole Letovice municipal office building.

Biomass as a renewable resource of energy is a common topic of the Healthy Cities of **Třebíč** and **Telčsko** Micro-Region. A unique example of central heat supply solution can be found in Třebíč. In this case they



The photographs depict installation of a new biomass boiler in Třebíč's heating plant with an output of 3 MWts that have been serving straight since 2002 (author the TTS company).

succeeded in following up with the existing system and managed to extend it gradually to almost the entire town - even despite its considerable complexity. Biomass in a form of forest chips and saw dust is used as the source of energy. Purpose-cultivated energy-crops are to be used in the future. In June this year they also launched a new type of co-generating source, based on biomass combustion and on generating energy by means of cutting-edge technologies.

Owing to the project called **Support of Development in Biomass Utilisation in the Telč Region**, the municipalities in this micro-region will be given an opportunity to become independent of external heat supplies. Within the framework of the project, almost in every municipality of Telč micro-region there will be a sample biomass-boiler installed and in the early stage the fuel will be supplied by the Vysočina Energy Agency. The project leads to establishment of a large and self-sufficient system of utilisation of renewable energy resources whose part would be growing of energy plants by local farmers, processing of bio-fuel directly in the municipality and direct provision of inhabitants with this fuel.

An aspect of sustainable building underestimated so far is recycling of building material (especially from old buildings destined for demolition) or energy savings (e.g. in a form of external insulation of buildings). But also in this respect things are looking up. For instance in the Healthy City of **Vsetín** they consider warming up the municipal office building with an employment of solar panel. This example will hopefully also serve for greater spreading of the issue of sustainable building, not only in the area of environment friendly energetics into other Healthy Cities, Municipalities and Regions.

Database BEST PRACTICE

Examples of best practice from other areas can be found in **Database BestPractice** - <http://www.dobrapraxe.cz>.

RESOURCES AND PROJECTS

A number of grant and subsidy resources is applicable to the area of sustainable building. This involves both the "European" money and resources of Czech origin.

The European funds offer a number of alternatives for the programming period of 2007-13. In the first place, the building priorities of individual Regional Operational Programmes (ROP) can be recommended. Subsidies are provided for both the civil facilities as well as for tourist infrastructure. The Programme of Rural Development CR 2007-13 (<http://www.mze.cz>) comes into question for municipalities under 2000 inhabitants. A specific opportunity is represented by the so called Integrated Operational Programme (IOP) under gestion of Ministry for Regional Development. One of its priorities focuses on revitalisation of housing estates of prefabricated houses. From the point of view of energy savings, possibilities can be found in **Environment Operational Programme**, transportation infrastructure can be solved within the **Infrastructure Operational Programme** (large-scale investments). For the beginning and innovative entrepreneurs in the filed of building, opportunities in general arise in **business-supporting programmes** (e.g. Business OP). A special opportunity can be also found at the website of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (<http://www.ebrd.com>). Further information is available at <http://www.strukturalni-fondy.cz>.

Subsidies of individual ministries and other central bodies and budget organisations, as well as self-governments and non-profit organisations are traditional home resources. **The Ministry for**



Regional Development (<http://www.mmr.cz>) offers finances e.g. for sanitation of flooding damage and within the framework of the PANEL Programme it helps with revitalisation of prefabricated house housing estates. **The State Fund for Housing Development** (<http://www.sfrb.cz>) provides subsidies for support of building of new houses and flats, while **Ministry of Transport** and **State Fund for Transportation Infrastructure** (<http://www.mdcz.cz>, <http://www.sfdi.cz>) focus their support on solutions and building of transportation infrastructure. **Ministry of Industry and Trade** and **Agency CzechInvest** (<http://www.mpo.cz>, <http://www.czechinvest.cz>) provide finances for reconstructions and building of industrial parks and lease objects including sanitation of so called brownfields. **Ministry of Culture** (<http://www.mkcz.cz>) has subsidy titles prepared for restoration, maintenance and reconstruction of listed buildings. **The Czech Energy Agency** offers possibilities to obtain subsidies for energetic modifications of buildings and for reduction of energy demands.

Individual **Regional offices** offer various grant proceedings, e.g. for restoration of historic sights or general support of enterprise. Financial means can be however also obtained e.g. within the framework of various competitions, such as e.g. the **Solar League** - a competition of cities and municipalities in application of solar equipment and energy savings with a financial reward, or **architectural competition** that also considers aspects of sustainable development (<http://www.e-architekt.cz/index.php?Strid=1&KatId=27>).

Display and Display Plus inform about consumption of electricity and other media in buildings

The Project Display belongs among successful European campaigns leading to reduction of climatic load and reduction of so called global

warming. The Display encourages European cities and municipalities in publishing the consumption of electricity, water and other media and production of so called greenhouse gases in their buildings, thus informing the public. This campaign uses the motif of **labels**, notifying customers of **energetic demands** of buildings, namely by a very illustrative example, in a way similar to that known from shops e.g. on washing machines or refrigerators. In very simple manner anyone can see at a monitoring panel e.g. the volume of el. energy consumed by the building of municipal office, the amount of CO₂ emissions produced and the consumption of water and enables comparison of these figures with those of similar buildings. One can also find out, whether this condition improves or not. A part of the "labelling" process is not only information about actual consumption and emissions, but also about possibilities and measures that will be implemented in favour of energy savings. In this manner the project wants to change attitude of people and motivate them to more economical behaviour. The European Committee will decide about the success of the **Display Plus** Project, whose partner is also HCCZ, this year. More information can be found at <http://www.display-campaign.org> (only in English language).



The **GreenLight** Programme is a voluntary initiative of the European Committee, focused on energy saving support. The GreenLight Programme motivates electricity consumers (cities, public and private organisations) to above-standard obligations in a form of installation of saving lighting technologies in their facilities. The basic criterion of this is the economic efficiency of implementing such measures (i.e. provable saving of energy) and at the same time maintenance or improvement in the quality of lighting. The programme can be also joined by organisations that realised energetically saving reconstruction or construction of new areas in the period of past 3 years. Find out more information at <http://www.seven.cz>.

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EVENTS

Best practice has been the main subject of the annual conference of Healthy Cities, Municipalities and Regions

Demonstration examples of projects and programmes of HCCZ member municipalities have been the main subject of 13. annual conference of the Healthy Cities of the main CR, that took place on December 6th under the auspices of Minister of the Environment in Prague - Průhonice.

More than 140 conference attendees have been greeted in the area of convention centre FLORET by the HCCZ director Petr Švec. The opening presentations of departments of Ministry of Environment (MoE) and the Interior (MoI) introduced approaches to modern public administration and Local Agenda 21 (LA21) as one of methods of its evaluation. "Our aim is a quality service to citizen, performed by effective and economical public administration", stated Martina Jalovecká of MoI. "We have been implementing, for instance, the programme of 20% administrative load reduction until 2010 and we also want to apply methods of quality management in other bodies of public administration. Since this year



HCCZ annual conference was attended by more than 140 guests from the ranks of public administration, non-profit organisations, academic sphere and others.

we have also included LA21 into evaluating quality methods" added Jalovecká. "The LA21 Programme is considered an important part of local administration development, and not only in connection to environment. MoE therefore supports these activities by a whole range of financial tools, be it from own subsidies or from EU funds", said Jakub Kašpar who also substituted the absent minister Petr J. Kalaš.

Visitors have been also greeted by the current HCCZ Chairman and senator Jiří Čunek. Jiří Čunek among others emphasised the need of network collaboration and sharing of best practices. "It is pointless to invent what had been invented and tested, it is important to learn from those who are better at something than us. This purpose will be served exactly by the GoodPractice Database. Nonetheless essential is being able to measure the quality of our work. Without this ability, public finances cannot be managed effectively, neither can subsidies be distributed well to cities and municipalities", said Jiří Čunek. One of possibilities of how to



The annual HCCZ prize has been received by representatives of the Healthy Cities of Chrudim and Ústí nad Labem from the hands of 1. HCCZ vice-chairman Marie Černá.

share best practice and exchange experience effectively, is joining the association of Healthy Cities. Its director, Petr Švec, introduced at the conference a project financed from resources of the European Social Fund and MoE, that aims to develop the network of local Agendas 21 in conditions of the Czech Republic and contributes thus to sustainable development in the CR. "What we are interested in is improvement of the quality of life, and this cannot be managed without quality public administration. The Healthy City must also have a "healthy" office and effectively working municipal hall. The international programme local Agenda 21 is one of ways of how to achieve such an office, namely with direct involvement of public", offered his vision Petr Švec.

Annual HCCZ awards have been also handed over within the conference framework. The Healthy City of **Chrudim** received an award for **interconnection of quality methods in public administration and their utilisation in office practice** and the healthy City of **Ústí**

nad Labem has been awarded the title of “**Jumper of the Year**” for its quick and effective progress within the framework of the Healthy City and LA21 Projects.

The afternoon programme brought particular examples of tools used by individual HCCZ members for their development and also introduced their practical results. Representatives of HCCZ office familiarised the present with new information tool for quality municipality management – **HCCZ DataPlan** and **GoodPractice Database** that serve all interested parties as a pool of good ideas and original solutions in a form of projects, programmes or partial activities (see more at <http://www.dobrapraxe.cz>).

The closing part of conference belonged to representatives of Healthy Cities of **Hodonín**, **Chrudim**, **Litoměřice** and **Ústí nad Labem**, who introduced their successful projects as an inspiration to others. Hodonín presented its project of **barrier-free cities**, Litoměřice familiarised the participants with a unique system of **renewable energy resources utilisation** and another North Bohemian representative, Ústí nad Labem, presented its long-term programme of **Mental Health Weeks**. The awarded Chrudim then concluded the whole conference by a presentation related to Chrudim’s **Healthy Schools** (an international WHO programme). The successful project of **Partnership for Vysočina** has been already introduced by representatives of the Healthy Region of **Vysočina** in the morning block.

More information including photo documentation can be found at <http://www.nszm.cz/konference>.

The supreme HCCZ body held a conference in Jihlava

HCCZ General Meeting (GM) took place on December 13th in Jihlava – Vysočina Region capital. The meeting of representatives of Healthy Cities, Municipalities and Regions has been divided into two parts. In the morning hours the Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic and their activities and services have been introduced to new members but also to those, whose political management underwent changes in municipal elections. In the afternoon hours the actual hearing of GM



The modern building of Vysočina Regional Office hosted this year's second HCCZ General Meeting. The meeting has been attended by more than 50 representatives of Healthy Cities, Municipalities and Regions.

took place under the management of 1. HCCZ vice-chairman, Mrs. Marie Černá. The association director Petr Švec spoke with participants in particular about association's projects and activities, he focused on services and consultations in connection to methods of improvement in efficiency of public administration and in the first place he focused on procedure according to international **local Agenda 21** Programme. GM participants also agreed upon the importance of HCCZ common issue, which is currently “**Sustainable and safe Transport**” and for the year of 2008 the “**Sustainable Energetics**” is planned.

Petr Švec also mentioned a record increase in the number of new members – HCCZ will finish this year with a total number of 77 members. The international WHO Healthy City Project thus extends its field of action to up to a quarter of inhabitants of the Czech Republic that belongs among the most successful countries that have been realising this project. The spring HCCZ General Meeting is going to take place on April 12th 2007.

HCCZ members have been successful also in the third year of competition for support of local democracy

The competition **About People with People – Prize for Support of Local Democracy and Collaboration with Non-Profit Organisations**, that has been put up by the Centre for Community Work (CfCW), was participated in by a total number of five projects from Healthy Cities, Municipalities and Regions, who thus comprised almost a third of competitors overall. The Healthy City of **Hodonín**, **Šternberk**, Healthy



The second place in competition About People with People and a study stay related to the award has been awarded to the Healthy Region of Vysočina. The award has been received in historical area of the CR Senate by HCP and LA21 coordinator Ms. Dita Tesařová.

Libuš and **Pisnice** and the Healthy Region of **Vysočina** (two projects) belonged among the participants. The Region of Vysočina advanced to the short list of finalists with its project “**Partnership for Vysočina**” and Šternberk with project “**A Housing Estate I Want to Live in**”. The former finally ranked second and was also awarded prize in a form of study stay in Japan for one person. Šternberk was rewarded for its endeavours in public involvement by a certificate of merit by minister of the environment P. J. Kalaš. The competition, financially supported by the Japanese Sasakawa Peace Foundation, has been taken part in by 17 projects from all over the CR. Find more information at <http://www.cpkp.cz/soutez/2006/soutez.htm>.

IN BRIEF

City reflections

HCCZ

The publication of **Best Practice as an Inspiration – demonstration examples and activities from cities, municipalities and regions** has been introduced at the 13th national HCCZ conference. The publication describes the area of so called best practice examples, their importance and possibilities of use. 9 particular examples from HCCZ

member municipalities form a part of this brochure. The publication is available for download free of charge at <http://dobrapraxe.cz/index.shtml?apc=jsA-5>.

HCCZ

The common subject of the Healthy Cities, Municipalities and Regions for the years 2006/7 is "**Safe and Sustainable Transportation**". Up to this moment, the realisation of particular projects, programmes or monitoring indicators have been joined by 21 HCCZ members. More information about possibilities of joining and offer of activities can be found at <http://www.nszm.cz/doprava>.

HCCZ

Another in a series of **HCCZ consultation meetings**, which are a regular event arranged by HCCZ office and which is open and offered to all HCCZ members, took place on November 21st. This is a meeting in a close circle of association members who are interested in solving particular procedural problems within the framework of the Healthy City and local Agenda 21 Projects.

Calendar of events

17.-19.1. - In Liberec there is going to take place already the third **National Conference of Quality in Public Administration**. Successful procedures of implementing methods enabling quality measurement in public administration will be introduced at the conference. Representatives of **HCCZ Office** will be active participants of this

conference, as they are going to introduce the DataPlan information tool, representatives of the Healthy City of **Vsetín** and others. More information can be found at http://www.vcvscr.cz/kurzy/seminar.php?var_symbol=0207200&pobocka=02&vs=a.

24.1. - Another **Regional Round Table** (RRT) related to update of Strategy of Sustainable Development of the CR is going to take place in Brno. The RRT is organised by the Committee for Communication by the Governmental Council for Sustainable Development (GCSD). RRT's should be directed towards formulation of problems that, according to opinion of regions and other regional subjects, accompany enforcement of sustainable development in the CR conditions. More information can be found at <http://www.udrzitelny-rozvoj.cz>.

29.1.-2.2. - The **European Sustainable Energy Week** is going to take place under the auspices of the General Management of the European Committee for Energy and Transportation. The "Week" should serve as a platform and opportunity for broad discussion about the issue of sustainable energy and its utilisation and development. More information can be found at <http://www.eusew.eu> (only in English language).

30.-31.1. - The Centre of Traffic Research organises a two-day training focused on **qualification improvement in the area of transportation**. The main subject of the seminar is going to be "**Transportation in Broader Context and Particulars of Non-motorized Transportation Planning in connection to the New Transportation Policy of the CR**". For representatives of HCCZ members the training is provided **free of charge** within the framework of partnership collaboration.

All website references are generally in Czech language.



The Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic wish you many successes at work and in private life to the year 2007, along with a successful way to a healthy and sustainable Czech Republic and Europe.

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

