

HEALTHY CITIES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

INTERVIEW



An interview with director of WHO Country Office Czech Republic Alena Šteflová, MD, PhD.

The Healthy Cities are Our Important Partners

The WHO Regional Office in Europe together with the Ministry of Health prepare a new collaboration contract for years 2008-9. Can you outline the main priorities that you would like to focus on together?

The collaboration contract for years 2008-2009 follows the previous Two-Year Contracts and also fulfils the medium-term priorities of collaboration with WHO for years 2008-2013. The priorities of the Ministry of Health are naturally reflected in the areas dealt with. Among the main subjects of collaboration with the Czech Republic for instance belongs the prevention and reduction of non-contagious diseases distribution or improvement in access to medical services etc. These areas will be fulfilled through realisation of particular projects and will be coordinated in common by our experts in collaboration with WHO advisors. One of priorities also contains an assignment for preparation of "health profiles" methodology at the local level in order to enforce health support, healthy ageing and solution of needs of vulnerable groups. Institutions of public health, the Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic as well as municipal offices as such serve as key partners for fulfilment of this task.

The Healthy Cities have been a long-term partner of Czech WHO Office. Are there areas in which you would like to collaborate with the Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic and its members also in the upcoming two-year period?

In addition to the already mentioned project we would like to collaborate further in the area of healthy ageing and injury prevention where the common collaboration proved very useful. The adoption of National Action Plan of Children's Injury Prevention for Years 2007-2017 gives us an opportunity to create such conditions for injury prevention that reflect a more complex and interdepartmental approach. Owing to concrete activities of Healthy Cities and Safe Communities, related in particular to traffic safety at the local level, the Czech Republic is perceived as one of most attractive within the framework of Central-European countries. Let us hope that improved injury-rate statistics will soon become the best feedback to the efforts made in this field.

During this year some of the Healthy Cities implemented so called city health plans as a piloting project. What has been your previous experience and how do you perceive this activity?

The Healthy Cities strive for increase in life quality and citizens' health support is an integral part of this process. Monitoring of citizens' health condition and of factors that influence it to the greatest extent is the objective of analytic health profiles and consequently of processed health plans that set specific targets and activities for their fulfilment in connection to Health 21. Monitoring of a set of indicators that measure inhabitants' health condition in cities or regions will enable their comparing in the long-term perspective. Knowledge of these data and information is essential for formulating and making decisions about activities that support healthy life in the given cities. I perceive very positively the fact that this tool has been created owing to an initiative of the Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic who have been systematically developing the approaches of strategic planning and management in the long run. Health plans and policies are an integral part of these approaches. Hereby I would also like to express my thanks to the participating cities.

TOPIC OF THE MONTH: "HEALTHY URBAN PLANNING"

Effective care for the health of inhabitants requires an active approach from the part of both the individuals and public institutions that deal with this area of human life. International institutions, such as the World Health Organisation, for instance assist the individual countries in processing their national health-care strategy and test



new procedures for control of diseases and medical care management. Local institutions such as State Health Institute or Ministry of Health also have their irreplaceable role in the health support. Exactly these organisations played an important part in creating of health plans and health profiles for several piloting Healthy Cities in the Czech Republic. Between the global and national institutions and individual citizens there may, however, emerge a barrier whose overcoming is often helped by wide activities of cities and municipalities and non-profit organisations that focus on support of physical and mental health and healthy lifestyle. Among the most important and extensive events of this type in the Czech Republic belongs the national Health Days Campaign, this year again joined by record-breaking number of 33 Healthy Cities, Municipalities and Regions.

In the last Bulletin issue of 2007 you will for instance find out about events prepared by member municipalities within the campaign framework or what cities joined the pilot creating of health plans and health profiles.

The following HCCZ members joined the Health Days Campaign this year:

Vysočina Region, Dražanská Vrchovina, Blansko, Bolatice, Brno, Chrudim, Hodonín, Jihlava, Jilemnice, Karlovy Vary, Karviná, Kopřivnice, Kostelec nad Orlicí, Kroměříž, Kuřim, Letovice, Litoměřice, Mladá Boleslav, Moravská Třebová, Orlová, Pelhřimov, Praha – Libuš and Písnice, Příbram, Prostějov, Strakonice, Světlá nad Sázavou, Štětí, Třebíč, Třeboň, Uherské Hradiště, Ústí nad Labem, Velké Meziříčí, Vsetín.

Summary information to activities of participating cities can be found at <http://www.nszm.cz/kampane>.

HEALTH PLANS OF CITIES AND REGIONS ARE BEING CREATED IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

One of key events of this year in the field of health support and planning for health is creating of health plans that are in case of some Healthy Cities created under the auspices of expert Working Group of Ministry of Health for Health Plans and Policies. In collaboration with medical institutions we also managed to complete the set of health indicators during this year, by means of which the cities can measure the basic areas of inhabitants' health condition and monitor their development.

The pilot testing and creating of health plans has been joined by the Healthy Cities of **Chrudim, Litoměřice, Vsetín** and **Ústí nad Labem**. The cities have been technically and methodologically supported not only by the Ministry of Health and the Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic (HCCZ), but also by the regionally related health institutions, regional Hygiene Stations and branches of Institute of Health Information and Statistics. The Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic also provide their information system DataPlan where the individual plans will be entered and interconnected with other development documents and values of measured indicators.

First of all, there were local expert working teams for the health plans subject appointed in the course of period between June to October of this year (with participation of pilot city representatives, specialised institutions and representatives from the ranks of Healthy Cities Committee). The first output of these teams was an **analysis of citizens' health condition** (utilising the monitored health condition indicators). Under the methodological guidance from the part of HCCZ there was consequently proposed the basic Health Plan structure in individual piloting cities, based on Health 21 objectives at the national and regional levels. Within the further course of action

in the upcoming months the participating cities will in particular deal with activities leading to fulfilment of determined health plans' objectives, to indicators monitoring fulfilment of these objectives and to guarantors responsible for individual areas. Preparation for discussing of Health Plans in municipal councils of individual cities will represent another important step. In case these Plans are officially adopted by the municipal political representatives, they will be incorporated into the HCCZ DataPlan and their objectives will be connected to municipal budgets.

On the basis of this pilot procedure, the working group of the Ministry of Health will prepare a simple **methodology of Health Plans creating** to be offered next year to another parties interested in this systematic approach to health support.

A similar activity also took place in the Healthy Region of **Vysočina**. In Vysočina they created a **"Program of Health 21 for the Vysočina Region"** as a product of collaboration among the municipal office, HCCZ and expert from regional health support institutions. The above stated programme, prepared under the auspices of special micro-team of Working group for the Healthy Region under the Regional Development Committee, is in its final phase and is prepared to be discussed at the municipal council meeting. The Programme is also connected to subjects for financing of individual events and activities related to priorities and problems specified in the afore-said plan.



Team work with participation from the part of municipal representatives as well as that of specialised institutions is one of important health plan creation aspects.

BEST PRACTICE

The Healthy Cities, Municipalities and Regions prepared for their citizens a rich mixture of events dedicated to the Health Days Campaign

This year's Health Days in the Healthy Cities were held under the sign of health education, physical activities or healthy diet. Healthy ageing and citizens' mental health were other important subjects of educational activities. The Health Days

Campaign was this year also joined by the Healthy Region of Vysočina who did so through a coordination of activities in the Healthy Cities of Jihlava, Třebíč, Pelhřimov, Velké Meziříčí, Telč and also in the cities of Havlíčkův Brod and Žďár nad Sázavou.

Inhabitants of the Healthy Cities, Municipalities and Regions had a traditional opportunity within the Healthy Days Campaign to obtain precious information from the area of prevention of various diseases and other health-related subjects. In the Healthy City of **Chrudim** there was an Information Fair in the museum area, where presentations of medical equipment and services of the Centre of Social Services and Assistance Chrudim took place as well as lectures about healthy diet and injury prevention. On 24th October Chrudim also organised a conference dedicated to the subject of "Domestic Violence" that formed a part of the long-term Safe Community Project.



Among the favourite activities offered within the framework of Health Days Campaign belongs the measuring of blood pressure or that of blood sugar level. These events are attended mostly by seniors, not only in Litoměřice.

As a part of Health Days' programme there were lectures held in the conference-room of the Healthy City of **Jihlava**. The experts dealt in their contributions with alimentary disorders, obesity and healthy diet but also with the issue of HIV virus and AIDS disease. In the local Health Institute branch of the Healthy City of **Příbram** they prepared for their visitors free consultancy services on travel medicine and vaccination, on correct diet or overcoming the addiction to smoking. In the Healthy City of **Pelhřimov** on 9th October there was a Day with CZ General Insurance Company (GIC) whose participants could have their blood pressure measured as well as level of cholesterol and sugar in blood. GIC workers also offered consultancy services. The next day there was the "Healthy Teeth Day" held in the Municipal Library. This event is an educational programme with an expert presentation dedicated to the issue of oral hygiene for invited guests of local kindergartens. An Open Day was prepared for the citizens in a local hospital of the Healthy City of **Strakonice**. Almost 800 visitors who arrived were allowed to enter selected departments and areas that usually are not accessible. Medics demonstrated modern equipment to those interested and consulted their medical problems. A part of the Health Days' programme in the Healthy City of **Litoměřice** consisted of Open Days in Salt Cave Na Valech and in Salt Cave on Okružní Street that offer a unique climate created by 19 tonnes of deep-sea rock salt from Dead Sea. The environment has a positive influence on the whole human organism. The activities for health in the Healthy City of **Uherské Hradiště** were a part of September European Mobility Week Campaign. Health Institute workplace of Uherské Hradiště with seat in Zlín offered consultancy services for health, preventive medicine, examination for cholesterol and other physical parameters or services of advisory centre for overcoming addictions.

The events within the Health Days Campaign remind the subject of mental health of both the children and adults as well as that of seniors

More than 10,000 visitors arrived to the event "Brno's Health days 2007" in the Healthy City of **Brno**. The visitors could choose from more than 65 events overall. One of them was a workshop for parents and expert public under the title "Parenthood of Hyperactive Children – Fate or Challenge", organised by the Centre for Family and Social Services. In the Gajdošova School there was a lecture for parents and pedagogues, dedicated to the subject of "Teaching without Stress", prepared by the Montessorri Educational Centre. In the Healthy City of **Vsetín** there was a forum held in the local Family and Maternal Club. The forum with psychologist had a title "Raising of Happy Children". "Weeks of Mental Health" took place in the Healthy City of **Mladá Boleslav** from 10th September until 10th October. Clients and employees of association for care for mentally ill Fokus Mladá Boleslav met at the steamer and there was a performance by jazz interpret Jana Koubková held in the Café Felicie situated in the House of Culture. The Focus Association also organised examples of zoo-therapy with cats and made one of their protected workshops accessible to the visitors. Within an Open Day in the Domeček Psycho-centre in the Healthy City of **Hodonín**, people had an opportunity to see the centre premises and try one of artherapeutic techniques, painting on silk. This technique is used in supporting group psycho-therapy and its sense is to express feelings and fantasy. On Open Day was organised in the Healthy City of **Třebíč** by the local Regional Charity that opened up the local stationary for mentally and physically challenged citizens – Smile, to visitors. Mental activity of senior people has been supported by Třebíč within the framework of Active Ageing Project, under the title "Internet with Assistance Service for Seniors". A specific event has been organised in the Healthy City of **Karlovy Vary**. Within the framework of Health Days campaign the students of Medical High School and School of Ceramics attended the 33rd year of Eco-Movie in city of České Budějovice. As a reward and for inspiration, the Society for Sustainable Development Karlovy Vary invited students who participate actively in environmental education and awareness-raising within the Karlovy Vary – Healthy City Project.



Connecting of generation and development of inter-generation understanding is also one of important functions of community campaigns. For instance a suitable opportunity for doing this can be represented by the sports events for all age groups prepared in this case for the Health Days in Brno.

Inhabitants of the Healthy Cities, Municipalities and Regions regularly participate in physical and sports activities

Traditional Swimming Competition of cities has been prepared by the Healthy City of **Orlová** in Doubravan indoor swimming pool. 274 citizens overall participated in the competition this year. In Orlová there was already the 9th year of the Terry Fox Run, which is a worldwide event dedicated to support of fight against cancer. The Terry Fox Run also took place in the Healthy City of **Světlá nad Sázavou**. The circuit of 1.6km in length could have been finished by running, walking, on a bike, everyone according to their capabilities. The Healthy City of **Bolatice** prepared for its citizens a "Walk to Health" in Chuchelenský Forest. On the 4th October the walk participants set out from the House of Culture for the educational track where various interesting tasks awaited the participants, such as descent to the precipice using a rope. In the conference room of the Healthy City of **Jilemnice** there was a lecture and practical demonstration of a new method for improvement of physical condition. A new concept of climate-therapy called Priessnitz Walking achieves a maximum healing effect through connection of physical activities of Nordic Walking rehabilitation walk with breathing exercise and partial cooling of extremities. Exercise for improvement of physical condition of seniors within the framework of the Healthy Ageing Project took place in the Healthy City of **Kostelec nad Orlicí** in collaboration with Health Institute Hradec Králové. Traditional sports activities could have been also pursued in the Healthy City of **Kopřivnice** within the framework of Health Days with Territorial Brotherly Office. Boy and girl teams in various categories took part in street ball and table tennis tournaments.



The Terry Fox Run this time also took place in a number of Healthy Cities and Municipalities. This competition is a popular event also for children and youth of Chrudim.

Citizens familiarise with principles of healthy diet also owing to popular tasting of healthy foodstuffs

A meeting titled "What BIO Tastes Like" connected with tasting of bio foodstuffs has been organised by the Healthy Micro-region **Drahanská Vrchovina** in the conference room of Podomí municipality.



A growing number of Healthy Cities and Municipalities try to use bio-fairs and gustations of healthy foodstuffs for better awareness of their inhabitants. This has also been the case in Letovice this year.

At this event, organised by the Ecological Advisory Centre Barvínek, the visitors had an opportunity to taste and have a first-hand experience of the difference between regular and bio-foodstuffs. Natural products were also presented at the Health fair that took place in the Healthy City of **Blansko**. For the visitors there was prepared a gustation and sale of bee products, curative herbs and teas, vitamins and food supplements. A part of the Spring Days' programme in the Healthy City of **Prostějov** that took place from 14th to 18th May in Prostějov's National House, consisted of lectures on natural herbal preparations or on products of goat farm Rozinka, connected with gustation of goat cheeses. A stand with healthy diet and exhibition of fruit and vegetables has been also organised in the Healthy City of **Moravská Třebová**. Visitors of the Spring Health Days also spoke highly of the offered midday menu consisting of bio-foods and well-balanced diet. Within the Health Day framework in the Health city of **Letovice** there was an exhibition and sale of bio-foodstuffs, herbal teas, products of honey, bakery products, milk products and other healthy foodstuffs. The event took place in the hall of local house of culture on 25th October. Healthy foodstuffs were also one of main subjects of Health Days in the Healthy City of **Velké Meziříčí**. Various bio-products or honey "goodies" were available in the hall of Jupiter Club. Within the project called World in a Shopping Basket an attention has been paid to fair-trade products. Sale of bio-foodstuffs connected with gustation also formed a part of Bio-fair that took place in the Healthy City District of **Praha-Libuš** and **Písnice**. The Health Days programme also contained a meeting with dietologist dedicated to the subject of "Why and What We Eat" that took place in the Senior Club area. The Health Day in the Healthy City of **Štětí** has been organised by the Regional Organisation of Diabetics' Association. Those interested in their health condition could have measured their blood pressure, level of cholesterol and sugar in blood. A part of the programme also consisted of gustation of vegetable salads and spreads prepared by the members of Diabetics' Association. The participants could also carry off recipes for these delicacies. In the Healthy City of **Třeboň** there was a conference held as a part of Health Days Campaign, dedicated to the subject "Nutrition – An Integral Part of Grave Illness Treatment". Experts also focused in their contributions on special cases of children's and handicapped citizens' nutrition.

Database
BEST PRACTICE

Examples of best practice from other areas can be found in Database BestPractice – <http://www.good-practice.eu>.

RECAP

A specialised seminar on the subject of social inclusion has brought new information

Under the auspices of Senator Božena Sekaninová and in collaboration with Ministry of Work and Social Affairs there was a specialised HCCZ seminar held on 2nd October under the title "Social Inclusion in Practice – Financing, Experience, Best Practice". The seminar was focused on up-to-date information from the observed area and examples of successful projects from Healthy Cities.

A seminar that forms a part of the **STOP to Social Exclusion** Project, whose bearer is the Information Centre of Non-profit Organisations (ICN), has been designed in particular for representatives from public administration, social sphere and non-profit organisations. Almost 50 participants from across the republic listened to expert contributions on practical approaches and inspiring solutions to the issue of social exclusion of various inhabitants' groups.



After the opening words by the representatives of department of work and social affairs, Senate and HCCZ, the participants for instance familiarised with prepared steps of the ministry in the area of financial support or examples of collaboration between the private and public sectors (so called PPP). "A large space concerning the covered areas and amount of finances available is opening for the cities, non-profit organisations and other interested institutions", stated Martin Žďárský, the director of MWSA social services department. The Ministry of work and social affairs prepares a novelty in a form of so called individual projects in collaboration with regions. "Through close collaboration we would like to achieve a more effective utilisation of subsidies and also adjust the services to regional specifics. The Regions themselves will be responsible for distribution of finances to be received from the ministry" added Žďárský.

The turn of particular examples from the area of social inclusion, presented by the representatives of Healthy Cities of **Hodonín**, **Litoměřice**, **Ústí nad Labem** and **Vsetín** came in the next part of the programme. These presentations, **including photo documentation and summary report can be found at <http://www.nszm.cz/mpsv>**.

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The opening words of specialised seminar at the MWSA have been presented by the Senator Božena Sekaninová, deputy minister of work and social affairs Marián Hošek, HCCZ chairman Petr Řezníček and HCCZ director Petr Švec.

The French Rennes hosted another meeting of Healthy Cities and National Networks

A four-day talks of representatives of Healthy Cities and individual national associations took place in the French Breton metropolis from 10th–13th October. The Healthy Cities, Municipalities and Regions of the CR have been represented by representatives of HCCZ Office and Healthy City of Brno.



EUROPE

The annual meeting of representatives of self-government that realise the WHO Healthy City Project this time took place in the Breton metropolis – Rennes. **Evaluation of the IV. phase of the WHO Healthy City Project and the outlook for the years of 2009-13** belonged among the main subjects of the whole conference. The main emphasis was put on the ability to present clear results of the Healthy City Projects (HCP), i.e. what has

been brought by this project to the municipalities and regions and what influence it has on the health of inhabitants or how the Healthy Municipalities can pass the obtained experience to their colleagues who do not participate in the HCP yet. In addition to the outputs, the processes as such are also important, as has been emphasised in a presentation by **Dr. Agis Tsouros**, director of the Centre for Urban Health WHO in Europe. "In this sense we are mostly interested in processes related to health policy at the local level through development of collaboration among various sectors and organisations, active inhabitants' participation, project management or network cooperation", stated Dr. Tsouros.

A part of the conference consisted of meeting of national coordinators who represented individual **national networks of Healthy Cities**. All-day discussion focused in particular on the possibilities of activating national associations and making their collaboration and sharing of experience more intensive. "For this purpose we have agreed on holding a special meeting of national networks as soon as in April next year, most probably in Vienna", introduced the plans **Mr. Richard Brattli**, the chairman of the steering committee of national associations.

The Healthy City of **Brno** also introduced its activities as a part of the programme. HCP coordinator Mrs. Ivana Drahlová presented in a parallel section the subject of "Healthy Ageing" activities through which the City of Brno motivates its seniors to care for their health and safety.



Dr. Agis Tsouros who is responsible for the Healthy City Project in Europe summarises the main subjects of this year's conference at the final plenary session.

HCCZ Autumn School this time in Vsetín

Almost 70 representatives of Healthy Cities, Municipalities and Regions met within the framework of another cycle of HCCZ School on 31.10.-2.11. in the Healthy City of **Vsetín**. The three-day training was opened by a national seminar "**Healthy City Project and Local Agenda 21 – Finances, Projects, Procedures**", that was focused on financing of activities connected with the Healthy City Project and Local Agenda 21 and also introduced successfully processed and realised projects from selected cities.

The initial seminar was followed in the next two days by the programme of Autumn HCCZ School, where the participants dealt with other actual and needed subjects – a practical training of **project preparation, control and evaluation** or discussion on approved procedures and suggestions to the issue of **strategic planning and management**, collaboration within an office or local specifics in the Healthy Municipalities and Regions.

In-depth information including photo documentation and presentations can be found at <http://www.nszm.cz/ps>.

Another HCCZ School section – Spring HCCZ School – will take place on 12th to 14th March 2008 in **Chrudim**. All interested parties are cordially welcome.



A part of HCCZ Autumn School consisted of practical training of project creating and management, led by experienced project managers P. Holý and M. Kršňáková from the Healthy Region of Vysočina.

Smart City – the main subject of the annual meeting of Healthy Cities

Quality development of cities, municipalities and regions and obtaining of financial resources have been the main subjects of the 14th national conference of Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic, attended in the Floret congress centre in Prague Průhonice by more than 160 participants. A presentation of the Common Subject "sustainable and safe transport", joined by self-governments with an objective to improve their traffic situation, has been also a part of the programme. The most successful members of the Healthy Cities for the year 2007 have been awarded during the programme.

The morning part of the programme was introduced by the opening word of HCCZ chairman Petr Řezníček who welcomed all participants. The first section of presentations started right afterwards

by those of top representatives of **departments of transport, regional development, interior and State Environmental Fund (SEF)** who familiarised the participants with up-to-date information on drawing of resources from EU funds. SEF will for instance provide to the self-governments and other applicants up to 150 mld. CZK during period of 2007-13.

The afternoon programme of the conference belonged to the **Common Subject of "sustainable and safe transportation"**. After the deputy minister of the environment Rut Bízková familiarised the participants with main priorities of this department, representatives of the Healthy Cities of **České Budějovice, Kroměříž, Prostějov and Desná** got the floor and introduced their successful projects in the transportation area such as traffic calming, public transport buses driven by natural gas or public recharging station for electromobiles and wheelchairs. The present had a chance to find out about how to finance the transport projects not only from state budget in a presentation of the Ministry of Transport (MT) and Partnership Foundation.

HCCZ annual prizes have been also awarded during the conference. The Micro-region **Drahanská Vrchovina** received a prize for **inspiring progress** according to the Healthy City Project and Local Agenda 21 methodologies at the micro-region levels. The Healthy City of **České Budějovice** received a prize for **exemplary demonstration of progress and for inspiration within the framework of Common Subject 2007 "Sustainable and Safe Transport"**. The Healthy City of Strakonice has been awarded for swift and efficient progress within the Healthy City and LA21 Projects.

Summary report from the event including photographs can be found at <http://www.nszm.cz/konference>.



Konference The Healthy Cities of České Budějovice, Strakonice and Healthy Micro-region of Drahanská Vrchovina ranked among the awarded this year.

The Healthy City of Chrudim scored at the world competition

This year in November, the Healthy City of Chrudim participated in a London's international competition "**The LivCom Awards**" where it compared favourably to the competition of almost three hundred cities and municipalities from across the world. In the category of cities from 20 to 75 thousand inhabitants it ranked third overall, in addition to this it won the so called **Gold Award**.

The competition evaluates cities from the point of view of their overall development. Within the competition framework it had to prove, for instance, that it can care for historical heritage, care for nature, actively support the healthy lifestyle of inhabitants etc. "*Besides*

these traditional areas we had to convince the commissars that we do all this through active and systematic collaboration with public of all generations and that our endeavours lead to strategic and long-term sustainable development, which was a subject of one of categories "planning for the future", calculates the **vice-mayor of Chrudim and HCCZ chairman Petr Řezníček**.

Another important evaluating factor was based on the balance of all monitored categories, carefully examined by the jurors. "We presented 93 slides for 40 minutes and then faced the commissars' questions. It was not easy, but the award was worth it", explains the defence progress Mrs. **Šárka Trunečková**, HCP and LA21 coordinator.

The success of Chrudim is not only a success of this city, but also of the **WHO Healthy City Project** and of the whole Czech Republic. It demonstrates that also in our country there are cities and municipalities where people have quality conditions for life, despite a number of problems. "I hope that owing to this award we will realise that we also do things appreciated by international institutions as well as by our colleagues from other cities of the world. It also confirms that the progress according to methodology of the Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic, of which I am the chairman, makes sense and contributes to a better quality of life in our municipalities", emphasises the vice-mayor Řezníček another dimension and meaning of this success.

Another Czech representative in this prestigious competition was the statutory City of **Kladno** that ranked first and also received the Gold Award.

The competition is organised under the auspices of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) since 1997 and its final rounds are always hosted by some of world metropolises.



The Healthy City of Chrudim was represented in London by the Chrudim's vice-mayor Petr Řezníček, HCP and LA21 coordinator Šárka Trunečková and interpreter Tamara Volejníková.

New members will reinforce the Healthy Cities, Municipalities and Regions with their experience

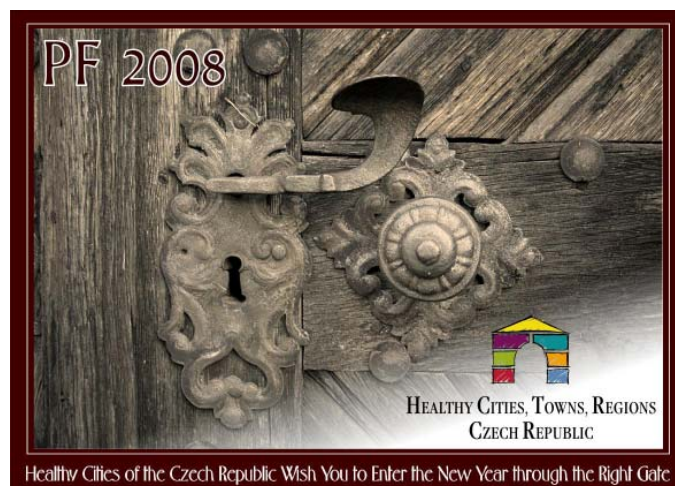
The Healthy Region Vysočina hosted in Jihlava on 28.11. 2007 the autumn HCCZ Annual Meeting, the highest statutory body of the Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic.

Representatives of municipalities met in a local authorities' conference room of the regional Office of the Healthy Region of Vysočina at their regular meeting where they discussed important questions connected with operation of the Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic. The association also discussed and approved the new HCCZ members, cities of **Adamov, Hlinsko, Hlučín, Jihlava** and municipality **Velký Beranov**. One of discussed points was also the new opportunity for **Local Action Groups** (so called LAG's) that can become HCCZ members since 2008 and therefore draw experience or further extend their best practices.

Another HCCZ Annual Meeting will be held in Jihlava on 16. 4. 2008.

Interesting information about the partners and financial resources related to the issue such as health, health prevention, planning for health and best practice can be also found in last year's issue of October HCCZ Bulletin at the address <http://www.nszm.cz/bulletin>.

All website references are generally in Czech language.



The Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic wish you many professional and private-life successes in the New Year 2008 and a successful way to healthy and sustainable Czech Republic.

CONTACTS

Healthy Cities CZ, Srobárova 48, 100 42 Prague 10, Czech Republic

T: +420 602 500 639 | E: info@nszm.cz | W: www.nszm.cz

Petr Svec, National Coordinator of the Healthy Cities Project
(The photographs were provided by the archives of HCCZ Office and member cities, municipalities and regions)



HEALTHY CITIES, TOWNS, REGIONS
CZECH REPUBLIC