




Environmental Expertise Fund

Projects supporting development and life in your region

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Ministerstvo životního prostředí



The Environmental Expertise Fund is a grant scheme of the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic under the Swiss-Czech Cooperation Programme, which supported 33 environmental protection and sustainable development projects between 2012 and 2016.



Environmental Expertise Fund / Projects supporting development and life in your region

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H. E. Markus-Alexander Antonietti

*Ambassador of Switzerland
to the Czech Republic*

Dear readers,

What has the monitoring of swifts and bats in Uherské Hradiště in common with the environmentally friendly and efficient management of rainwater in Prague? The «Environmental Expertise Fund» (EEF), a project of the Swiss contribution to the Czech Republic, supports both activities.

Since 2008, Switzerland has been participating in various projects designed to reduce the economic and social disparities in an enlarged EU, with CHF 1.302 billion. In 2006, the Swiss population voted in favor of financial support aimed at reducing economic and social disparities in the enlarged EU. Switzerland thus also makes its contribution to improved security, stability and prosperity in Europe. The Swiss contribution to the Czech Republic amounts to CHF 110 million. The EEF precisely meets the sense and spirit of the enlargement contribution. This as «protecting the environment» and



«strengthening civil society» are two of five specific objectives of the Swiss Contribution.

The goals of the EEF were to enhance planning capacities of the public administration in selected environmental areas, to increase experience and knowledge of Czech environmental-organizations and to use new methods in promoting environmental protection and sustainable development. The EEF, supported by Switzerland with CHF 2 million, clearly corresponded to a need of Czech NGOs and municipalities. No Czech subsidy-mechanism financed small projects aiming at specific and relevant approaches to environmental protection and sustainable development. The EEF supported 33 small projects, but many more grants could have been provided.

Switzerland considers the Environmental Expertise Fund in the Czech Republic a success. Among other things, the excellent collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and

the Ministry of the Environment contributed to this success.

With this brochure, I hope that we will disseminate some of the experiences and best practices gained during the course of the project's implementation. I wish you an enjoyable and interesting read.

H. E. Markus-Alexander Antonietti
Ambassador of Switzerland to the Czech
Republic



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Ing. Jan Kříž

*Deputy Minister for the Section
of EU Funds, Financial and Voluntary
Instruments*

Dear readers,

I give me great pleasure to present one of the instruments through which the Ministry of the Environment successfully implemented a number of highly interesting and beneficial projects supporting environmental protection and sustainable development in the previous couple of years – the Environmental Expertise Fund, one of the projects running under the Swiss-Czech Cooperation Programme.

The aim of the Swiss-Czech Cooperation Programme is to facilitate a reduction in economic and social disparities within the enlarged European Union. For this purpose, the Swiss Confederation provided CHF 1.3 billion to the thirteen countries who joined the EU in 2004. Besides environment and infrastructure, the programme also supported projects focusing on human resources, social development,



security, stability, reforms, as well as other key areas of society.

The key goals for environment and infrastructure (allocation CHF 31.5 million) were to:

- support services linked to infrastructure on the municipal level to improve the quality of life and foster economic development
- increase energy efficiency and improve air quality (to reduce greenhouse gases and other hazardous emissions)
- improve the management, safety, and reliability of communal/regional public transport systems
- support planning capacities in public administration and ensure knowledge transfer under the Environmental Expertise Fund.

The first projects from the Environmental Expertise Fund were launched at the beginning of 2012 (first call), and the last ones were completed in autumn 2016 (second call). A varied range of projects was implemented that were targeted at activities and

goals covering a broad spectrum of areas related to the environment and sustainable development, including Local Agenda 21, water management, waste management, wetlands protection, energy management, etc. Grants were distributed among a broad range of applicants with an evenly balanced support for municipalities, communities, and various types of non-governmental organisations including civic associations, charities, and foundations.

This booklet provides detailed information on some of the most interesting projects that can serve as an inspiration for any activities supporting the development of your own community or organisation.

Ing. Jan Kříž
Deputy Minister for the Section
of EU Funds, Financial and Voluntary
Instruments



Grant recipient: **Centrum pro středoevropskou architekturu**
(Centre for Central European Architecture)

Metamorphosis of Urban planning: The Negrelli Viaduct

In the future, the Negrelli Viaduct in Prague should transform into a busy public facility with cafés, shops, bars, and galleries. Spaces in the niches under the arches of the viaduct, currently just full of dust, dirt, derelict garages and unsightly parking lots, could come back to life with the planned reconstruction of this historic railway structure. The area under Prague's second oldest bridge could become a harbour for creative people and a public space with leisure and relaxation zones.

The vision of this attractive site is currently being prepared by the Centre for Central European Architecture (CCEA), which acts as a mediator between individual stakeholders and owners involved in this idea.

The project of the Metamorphosis of Urban Planning involved a number of activ-

ities aimed at carrying out the Negrelli Viaduct transformation as soon as possible,

including the Summer under Negrelli Viaduct event, during which people enjoyed volleyball courts, an outdoor cinema, a dance floor and various concerts. The aim of the project is to present the potential of this space to the public and to encourage discussion about its future form and use.





Project activities

1/ Symposium “Negrelli Viaduct – An opportunity for a creative city”

The symposium was launched through public workshops aiming to prepare the task assignments for an architectural study in the first phase, and to present the semi-finished study to the public in the second phase. Europe’s most famous viaduct transformation project – Le Viaduc Des Arts in Paris – and the concept of its creative use were presented to participants as an inspiration. Other examples of alternative viaduct uses were presented by architects from Vienna.



An architectural and urban-planning study of a new use for the space under the viaduct was presented through an exhibition and lecture by experts from CCEA MOBA.

2/ Architectural design project for the areas under and around the viaduct

An architectural study was carried out after the formulation of the task assignment; it involved the key urban-planning aspects and projects that initiate the public and private sectors in the neighbourhood closest to the viaduct. The assignment for the study stemmed from the public workshops, and among other conditions, the architectural and urban-planning design project included a request for traffic and parking limitation in the vicinity of the viaduct.

3/ Study trips to Zurich

The purpose of the study trip was to experience the actual transformation of the IM Viaduct and its surroundings, which recently underwent comprehensive reconstruction. The programme also covered visits



to creative incubators, which have been actively evolving in Zurich over the past few years, and which already belong to the city’s sustainable structures that are crucial for its development.

4/ Publication

A bilingual handbook was published: *Měníme kilometr. Příběh pražského viaduktu* (*Changing a Kilometre. The Story of the Prague Viaduct*). It is written as a practical manual to inspire similar projects and it also documents the process of gradual changes taking place on the viaduct.



5/ Exhibition

The project for the architectural solution of the spaces under and around the viaduct was presented through an exhibition which was officially opened at the symposium. The exhibition was then installed at the Centre for Central European Architecture and opened to the public for one month.

6/ Test operation

The area that formerly served just as an illegal car park was transformed into a fully-fledged public space visited by people who work or live there, as well as by other



people from Prague and tourists. These first tangible steps – a volleyball court, a bistro, basketball hoop, stage for cultural and entertainment activities, and mainly a relaxation zone with a comfortable seating area – informally demonstrated the potential of the transformation in real life. This experience formed an invaluable argument for further continuation of the project, and not just for CCEA.

7/ Project management

As this project stemmed from a several-years-long series of activities focusing on the future of the Negrelli Viaduct

reconstruction, it was launched without an official project manager. The primary goal was to initiate Activity 6 – test operation – in time. After the launch of Summer under Viaduct 2016 the team approached several potential project managers with experience in organising sports or cultural events.

8/ Project promotion

The promotion of the project was very intensive and attracted over 5,000 visitors to the Summer under Viaduct 2016 event (test operation), and most of all, brought the topic of the Negrelli Viaduct reconstruction to the attention of the media and kept it permanently visible.





Grant recipient: **Centrum environmentálních projektů**
(Centre for Environmental Projects)

Natural Heritage of the Brno Region – Play to Learn

Project activities

1/ Environmental education consultant

A consultant employed through the project supported the implementation of all project outcomes, coordinated the production of learning tools and aids for pre-school children, elementary school pupils and secondary school students.

2/ Environmental education tools and aids for pre-school children

A year-round outdoor nature playground and a sensory path were built at Sýkorka nature kindergarten. The playground includes a small workshop, outdoor kitchen, a nest, burrows, water attractions and an outdoor nature laboratory. The sensory path is used

during walks in the forest and for outdoor learning activities. The concept of the equipment was presented to other nature kindergarten facilities in the Czech Republic.

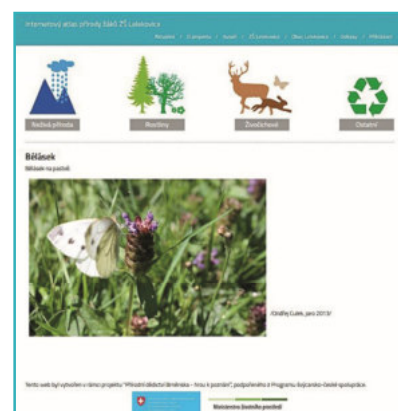




3/ Environmental education tools and aids for elementary schools

The key activity was a year-round student competition; during school lessons and in their leisure time the students documented various places of natural interest within their community and took photographs for an online natural history encyclopaedia. The best photos were used on panels displayed along an educational trail. The project also involved the construction of the "Pěšina" trail with ten information panels presenting local areas of natural interest, such as

the Ponávka stream, local fauna and flora, as well as other topics including hunting or game-keeping. Seats were installed along the trail with objects and tools allowing visitors to perceive the sounds of nature in various new ways. The Pěšina educational trail and the virtual natural history encyclopaedia were presented to three other elementary schools.



4/ Environmental education tools and aids for secondary schools

Texts and images were prepared for a DVD presenting information on areas of special natural interest and individual species in the districts of Brno and Blansko. Each of the districts was represented by 20 sites of special interest, 50 plants, and 50 animal species. The most interesting attractions were marked with 100 beetaggs and 100 QR codes.



Grant recipient: **Čmelák v.o.s.**

Wetlands in the city: developing a future together

Wetlands in Jablonné v Podještědí represent one of the areas of special interest that Čmelák has been revitalising since 2005. A derelict area with illegal waste dumps was transformed into a wonderful place – now a habitat for rare plants, insects and animals, and at the same time a popular recreation area for the public. The wetlands comprise eight ponds, wooden walkways, benches, information panels and many other features. Thanks to the Čmelák association, the wetlands in Jablonné now serve both nature and people.

Project activities

1/ Support for long-term management

The output from this activity included project documentation with a proposal for revitalising the remaining parts of the wetland

area. Expert statements were carried out as baseline documentation for the plan of further nature management of the wetlands park. Besides experts, representatives of local authorities and the public were actively





involved in the planning of the area's future development.

2/ Environmental education

Environmental education covered selected elements of the visitor infrastructure and the information system, including links to the environment and tourism in Jablonné v Podještědí and its surroundings. Three field education programmes were prepared: for kindergartens, elementary schools and secondary schools, complete with teacher and lecturer manuals and original teaching aids; a model excursion was prepared for the public, including an unusual hands-on experience programme taking place at the wetlands.

3/ Related awareness-raising activities

The public was involved in practical nature conservation with the aim to revive the wetlands. Educational and awareness-raising activities allowed for systematic communication with the local community. Various events and competitions were organised for all age groups of citizens, including children



and seniors. The public got involved in voluntary work on the care and maintenance of the wetlands. The project was widely publicised and promotional products were distributed.

4/ Dissemination and transfer of implemented good practice

A study trip covering various inspiring examples of good practice, the distribution of educational outputs to schools and other organisations within the region and outside it, presentations at seminars and excursions,

support for teachers and other educational professionals within the broader scope of the municipality – these were the practical activities in nature protection, education, awareness-raising, and sustainable recreation within an urbanised area.

Some ideas are listed below on how the topic of wetlands could be used for education, awareness-raising and involvement of the local community:

a/ Outdoor educational programmes

The activity *Education about water in the landscape* included the preparation of educational programmes for kindergartens, elementary and secondary schools. Three methodologies of field programmes were created and tested with a total of 6 pilot events taking place. A list of activities offered to teachers was also prepared as an auxiliary output.

b/ Year-round theme-based competitions

A photography competition was organised in collaboration with the municipal library (54 participants submitted 137 photographs).



An art competition was organised for children from kindergartens and elementary schools in Jablonné v Podještědí. The competition results were announced at the Jablonné Wetlands Open Day. The last of the competitions was organised around the site and the topic of wetlands at the local elementary school, which held a *Great class competition*.

c/ Educational puzzle and audio guide around the town

A new educational and inspirational puzzle was published: it presents an overview of general principles of establishing and managing wetlands. The authors' aim was



to explain some of the most common misconceptions about wetlands. In collaboration with a local "audio team" the wetlands were linked to an audio trail through the town and its surroundings.

d/ Model excursion and hands-on programme for tourists

An outline of a hands-on experience excursion was prepared and performed in three pilot events. The lecturers used manuals created upon projects implemented previously.

e/ Map of areas of natural interest within the town and around it

A map of natural interest areas was drawn, covering the town and its surroundings, describing sites of natural, historical, geological, and landscape significance, and based on a standard 1:50,000 tourist map.

f/ Theme-based public events

Joint planning of future development of the wetlands with experts, *Jablonné Wetlands Open Day*, and an outdoor seminar about life in the wetlands – these were the theme-based events for the public.



g/ Volunteering days

Citizens of Jablonné help the wetlands – volunteering days were organised for the public, including children.

h/ Outdoor workshop for teachers

An outdoor seminar based on experience from previously organised programmes was held, presenting concrete activities and offering a theoretical basis for other potential programmes in similar areas.



Grant recipient: **ESTER z.s.**

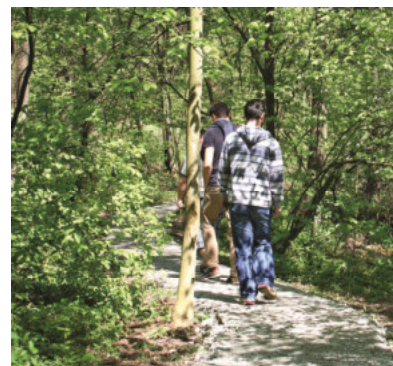
Rychleby Questing Trail

Environmental Centre Rychleby is a modern educational complex in the unique landscape of the Rychlebské hory mountains. Thanks to its position and sophisticated solution it offers perfect conditions for educational and leisure activities for various target groups. The project of the



Rychleby Questing Trail was created as one of its activities aimed at an attractive form of leisure activity. The kilometre-long trail from Environmental Centre Rychleby to Komářův Dolina was designed mainly for families with children. Part standard educational trail, part outdoor adventure, it leads visitors through five stops and tells stories about Rychlebské hory, the landscape, local people and their history. Visitors can perform various tasks and decipher secret messages.

The Rychleby questing trail is designed predominantly for children, but parents have a lot of fun as well. If they are active people with an interest in nature, stories and details of the places they are visiting, they will also have a great time exploring together with their children. The questing trail allows visitors to use all their senses to experience the forest – quietly watching



and searching, looking for details, touching various surfaces, challenging their eyesight in a dark tunnel, or testing their balance on outdoor obstacles.

Project activities

1/ Trail building project

A project design study was created for the questing trail to use a maximum of natural materials and enable easy maintenance after the project is over. The activity was performed with the support of



professionals from the project partner – Forests of the Czech Republic.

2/ Construction of 1 km long trail

The questing trail was built using natural materials. Its construction required thinning of forest stands, small-scale earthworks and reinforcing the trail's edges. Many of the works were carried out manually to respect nature and the setting. An added value of this activity was the fact that most of these works were performed by clients of the ESTER civic association as a part of their work therapy.

3/ Preparation and implementation of questing instruments

Five questing instruments were made of natural materials – they are sustainable and beneficial in terms of education for schools, families with children, and individuals. The five questing stops cover: barefoot trail with various natural materials to walk on, a totem depicting regional crafts, tunnels and a revolving panel to learn about plants,

a balance pole for perceiving nature and its balance, and animal panels to learn about wildlife. Each of the stops has its own story accompanied by the "quest" task written in a secret forest language.

The entire trail and all the stories are covered in a Guidebook, which can be downloaded from www.questingrychleby.cz

4/ Preparation and implementation of an educational programme

An educational programme and methodological handbook for the Rychleby Questing



Trail were prepared to stem from the current Framework Educational Programme and meet the defined parameters in terms of target group, character of the trail, and the questing tools. The handbook was distributed in printed and online versions.

5/ Project management

The project was managed and administered by a project coordinator, who observed all the set goals and budgets, communicated with the entire team, and supervised the due publicity.



Grant recipient: **Chrudim municipality**

Local Agenda 21 and strategic management towards sustainable development principles and enhancing the quality of life in Chrudim

The municipality of Chrudim is well aware that the public needs to be actively involved in the development of the town to avoid potential misconceptions, adverse reactions to newly proposed plans and projects, petitioning, and complaints. Through their active involvement in municipal development activities, the citizens form close relations to the place where they live, work and spend their leisure time.

Through its implemented project *Healthy municipality and Local Agenda 21*, Chrudim allows its citizens to continuously participate in local development. Citizens are encouraged to openly present their wishes and comments, which are then considered

during the preparation of individual projects.

Public discussions are a popular method of activating and involving the public. Every year, the municipality holds a public discussion on *Ten issues in Chrudim*. This kind of meeting produces a list of the greatest





problems the town is facing in the view of its citizens. People can discuss the issues and possible solutions with the mayor, his deputies, and other workers of the municipal authority. The municipality presents the current condition of the issues defined in the previous year. Comments and suggestions raised by citizens during the meetings are recorded and handed over to the respective departments; many of the citizens' ideas are also used as a source of inspiration for the preparation of an Action Plan under the 2015–2030 Strategic Plan for the Sustainable Development of Chrudim. After a public consensus at



the end of the meeting, the *Ten issues in Chrudim* are defined for the next year. Before being submitted to the municipal council meeting, these issues are always confronted by the broader public through an open poll.

Round tables are also commonly used in collaborative planning involving the public. It is an interactive form of public

involvement where active discussion is expected and encouraged.

Chrudim also uses some passive forms of communication with the public, such as questionnaires, interviews, polls, sociological surveys, etc. These forms of communication are typically used to confirm the defined *Ten issues of Chrudim* or to inquire about the citizens' satisfaction with the local community.



Approximately 25 meetings are prepared per year to actively invite the local public in Chrudim; it was necessary therefore to specifically train those municipality workers who are in daily contact with the public.

Other project activities

1/ Municipal waste management plan

Chrudim has been working in the Local Agenda 21 system on a long-term basis. The municipality runs a system of environmental management known as "EMAS". Since 2009 Chrudim has been publishing *Environmental statements*, which cover the "Environmental policy". This statement sees waste management as one of the key environmental aspects; a reduction in dumped waste and increasing the volume of sorted waste are among the major goals.

The municipality decided to carry out a new *Waste management plan for Chrudim*. This plan takes into account the comments and suggestions of Chrudim citizens



recorded at some of the previous public discussions about the *Ten issues in Chrudim*. The new waste management plan was approved by the Chrudim municipal council and became a part of the town's key planning documents. The plan specifies and develops the environmental topic in the 2015–2030 Strategic Plan for the Sustainable Development of Chrudim.

2/ Safety helmets for bikers

The aim of this campaign was to highlight the importance of wearing safety helmets and reflective materials on bikes. The

campaign was performed in collaboration with the Chrudim Municipal Police, Police of the Czech Republic, TyfloCentrum, the Czech Red Cross, kindergartens and elementary schools, and BESIP – the road safety authority. An instructive event was held at the municipal park traffic playground.

3/ Public discussions with Chrudim Municipal Police officers

A series of discussions with Chrudim Municipal Police officers was held for first to fourth grade elementary school pupils. The officers and the children talked about the principles





of safely crossing roads, basic traffic signs and the use of reflective materials on bags and clothing. The police officers also warned the children about some particularly dangerous areas near the schools.

4/ Collaboration on educational events

Active collaboration between the public, private, and non-governmental sectors is a standard practice in Chrudim. Such collaboration is mainly seen in larger educational campaigns, such as the *Earth Day*, *Health Days*, or *Chrudim Fair Trade Week*. In these events the municipality of Chrudim, representing the public sector, provides facilities where the events are held, arranges all the necessary approvals, lends equipment and furniture, and participates in the media promotion and communication. Non-governmental and private subjects enter the event upon their expertise – e.g., by providing environmental consultations, performing folk crafts or ensuring the provision of first aid measures.



5/ Global responsibility and environmental education

Educating the public in global responsibility and the environment is one of the priorities of the Chrudim municipality. Elementary and secondary schools, municipal officers as well as the public can take

part in seminars focusing on Local Agenda 21, sustainable development, or global responsibility. A pilot project was prepared in collaboration with Chrudim Municipal Forests to improve environmental education and awareness-raising at schools in Chrudim.



Grant recipient: **Jilemnice municipality**

Jilemnice – Sustainable. Urban development vision of Jilemnice

Increasing awareness of the local politicians and citizens about the topics of sustainable

development, providing information for the politicians' responsible decision-making that



relates to the local dimension – these were the main goals of the project entitled *Jilemnice – Sustainable*. The project target group consisted of politicians, authority workers, experts, local citizens, children, and youth. The main outputs from the project were an urban development vision for Jilemnice and an urban development study for the Spořilov housing estate area, which shall facilitate effective management of the municipality in the future. Both documents raised great interest among the lay public, which confirms that the project activities were well defined and prepared..

Project activities

1/ General urban development vision for Jilemnice

The vision was carried out by architectural studio Atelier L Hradec Králové with the aim to ensure long-term sustainability of the built-up parts of the town. It also highlighted new topics, such as the impacts of climate change on the municipality,



including strategies for their mitigation. The key issue was storm water management and new approaches to retaining water in the landscape. The vision also covered the topic of sustainable energy and the relation between the energy consumption of buildings and the position and orientation of the site. Workshops were organised to confront and discuss the task assignment, the actual work on the vision and its final form with the public. Citizens' comments were then



incorporated into the final vision to ensure a higher quality and the satisfaction of both parties with the planning process.

2/ Urban development study for the Spořilov housing estate area

The study was carried out by a partner of the project, Centrum kvality bydlení (*Centre for Quality Housing, civic association*) as a pilot project highlighting the habitability and clarity of the area. It was performed as a continuation of an international project entitled *Sídlíště jak dál? (How to develop*

housing estates). The partner could practically test its theoretical knowledge within the territory of the Spořilov housing estate in Jilemnice. Workshops were organised to confront and discuss the task assignment, the actual work on the study and its final form with the public. Most of the proposed urban development changes were positively accepted at the public meetings, there were several comments on the study, straightforward and technical. The project became an example of the successful popularisation of the term "sustainable development" through



public participation in strategic materials of the Jilemnice municipality – urban development vision and study for the Spořilov housing estate with the local authority and local citizens. The project was performed in perfect collaboration with its partners – CI2, o.p.s. (the organisation performed an ECI indicator survey and organised the final conference) and Centre for Quality Housing, o.s.

(the association carried out the urban planning study with a research extension, covering the Spořilov housing estate area). The project demonstrated that strategic documents such as urban planning visions or studies are worthwhile also for smaller municipalities if there is a good partnership between different sectors, and especially if the local public is actively involved.

3/ Education campaign

The campaign was aimed at increasing the local citizens' awareness of sustainable development and impacts on Jilemnice. Five lectures and four workshops were held, several articles were published in the local paper (*Jilemnický zpravodaj*), two printed colour brochures were published (*General urban development vision for Jilemnice and*





Urban development study for the Spořilov housing estate) and a competition was organised for children and youth. The project climaxed in a conference on sustainable development in Jilemnice with experts



from other municipalities and local citizens participating.

4/ ECI indicator survey

The survey stemmed from the actual planning works. The partner organisation CI2 o.p.s. carried out a questionnaire survey among the local people, focusing on satisfaction with their life in the town, issues of urban development, housing, and sustainable transport. The survey also covered specific topics confronted by people living in the housing estate (providing baseline data for the urban development study). Jilemnice municipality has been monitoring the



indicators since 2010 and therefore it was possible to use the survey data to derive development trends.



Grant recipient: **Koniklec ZO ČSOP**
(Koniklec, basic unit of the Czech Union for Nature Conservation)

We Count on Water II

The project We Count on Water I and II implemented activities towards enhanced awareness of measures for retaining storm water in the landscape and a simulation of natural runoff conditions of an area prior to urban development. The project stemmed from a number of previous activities of the organisation that supported the introduction of storm water management systems based on building features helping to return the water regime of the landscape as close to its natural state as possible. The project focused mainly on providing information to state and public authorities and citizens. Representatives of state and public authorities could use expert consultation services, participate in seminars on storm water management, and go on a study trip to see good practice examples in Germany and Switzerland.

A book was published: "Hospodaření s dešťovou vodou v ČR" (*Storm water management*

in the Czech Republic) and a conference was organised: "Hospodaření s dešťovou vodou jako nástroj udržitelného rozvoje" (*Storm water management as an instrument of sustainable development*). The citizens could use

the expert consulting and take part in all the above events.

Project activities

1/ Expert consulting – free online advisory for professionals and the lay public

Collaborating experts answered questions relating to storm water and its role in urban development. Nearly 500 questions were





answered. The advisory remains partially active even after the project – it was taken over by the environmental advisory services of Koniklec.

2/ Storm water management seminars

The project included 2 cycles of seminars with experts, taking place in all regional capitals of the Czech Republic. Each cycle consisted of 8 seminars and more than 500 persons participated in total. The small scale of the seminars allowed for a live discussion on the topics that the participants had raised and their personal confrontation with leading Czech experts in storm water management.

3/ Study trip to see good practice examples in Germany and Switzerland

This activity was aimed at drawing inspiration from those countries that are more experienced in storm water management. The excursions took place in 2014 and 2015, always with approximately 50 professionals from public authorities, non-governmental



organisations, businesses, academics, and students. The participants visited the Munich suburb of Riem, the Swiss cantons of Appenzell Innerhoden and Ausserhoden, and the community of Ostfildern near Stuttgart.

The major part of the excursion took place in Appenzell – the area is characterised by heavy annual rainfall, a location near the mountains, and a scattered housing pattern. The Swiss approach to storm water



management is unique in its complexity – location-fitting solutions are developed by everyone – builders, owners of properties, planners, experts, and authorities. The solutions were presented by local guides – authority workers and planners who had designed the current storm water management systems.

4/ International conference We Count on Water

The conference was an expert meeting on storm water management enabling international knowledge exchange. The topics: drought and flood prevention, urban micro-climate, green infrastructure, climate change, good practice examples, etc. The conference included a number of presentations by experts from the Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland, and Slovakia.

5/ Building a garden pond at Montessori elementary school in Prague 12

The construction took place in collaboration with the teachers and pupils of the elementary school and kindergarten at Na Beránku, Prague 12. An instructive manual was created

upon the project that may be used as a practical guide for anyone else interested in building a pond.

6/ Building the first demonstration and educational vertical garden, School of horticulture in Prague-Komořany

The green wall covers an area of approximately 7.5 square metres on the eastern wall of the school and is used by the pupils as an auxiliary planting surface. It also allows them



to learn how to manage this new innovative type of urban greenery. The public could take part in the planting process as well. A workshop was organised to practically demonstrate how to plant a vertical garden.

Main project outputs

a/ The *Storm water management in the Czech Republic* book is based on currently valid Czech legislation and may be used by water management authorities and planners when considering the best measures for good storm water management.

b/ Map of good practice examples – an online database of good storm water management examples in the Czech Republic.

c/ Online guide through decision making – a series of questions guides the reader through the process of good planning design for storm water drainage measures respecting the principles of good storm water management.

d/ Online information portal *pocitamesvodou.cz* providing essential knowledge and experience in storm water management.



Grant recipient: **Nadace Partnerství**
(internationally known as *Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation – CEPF*)

Open garden for people and nature in the city



Project activities

KA1 – Programmes for professionals

1/ Interpretation of data on the functioning of a passive building

A second brochure was published on the topic of green buildings: *Zelené budovy – chytré energie (Green Buildings – Smart Energies)* and was distributed to 8476 addresses; a third brochure was distributed to 7681 addresses. According to the response from the municipality workers the distribution was received very positively, specifically by mayors of smaller communities who expressed a keen interest in potential savings.

2/ Workshops for technology makers and their innovators

The workshops focused on the passive buildings at 33 Údolní Street in Brno, innovative online consumption measuring techniques and experiences with running passive houses.



3/ Water saving workshop

A meeting predominantly for professionals from companies based in Brno and in South Moravia, a presentation of various energy-saving technologies.

4/ Inspiraterra

The first interdisciplinary conference with the main topic being energies and energy-saving measures in business companies. The second conference focused on photovoltaic energy

and historic heritage zones. The outputs from both conferences were published on the website and the individual presentations were distributed to interested professionals.

KA2 – Support for local cultivation and consumption

1/ Agricultural-working training programme

Six elementary schools took part in the spring pilot programme, which stemmed from the autumn pilots to educate children





about agriculture and plant cultivation throughout the year. The journey of the plant from seed to crop, harvest, and processing was presented to the children through programmes that took place in all the seasons. Due to the age of the target group it proved very important to motivate the children with stories and play activities focusing on the given topic.

The agricultural programme for adults was open to a number of experts. We are listing 11 organised volunteer groups with a total of 95 persons. Other volunteers entered the gardening club.

2/ Vegetables and herbs training programme

This programme was performed in two modules: individual visits to kindergartens and multiple visits to one class. The programme was very successful, enjoyed by the children and teachers, who requested further continuation. The manual for the children's programme is entitled "Magical Herbs". The defined goal was to teach the children to



identify six herbs, which corresponded well with the scope of the course and provided sufficient space for activities related to growing, harvesting and processing herbs in the garden. The public could participate in the vegetable and herb growing programme. A total of 37 participants were involved in the three courses; the time was divided

between learning the plants, working with herb materials and producing natural cosmetics to test three different course types – winter, early spring, and late spring.

3/ Beekeeping education programme and course

The programme was organised for a total of 127 children from 7 kindergartens.



Preschool children enjoyed a playful programme educating them about bees, their life and their function in the ecosystem. The manual for this children's programme is entitled "The Kingdom of Bees".

Two pilot courses for the public were performed with a total of 27 participants. Those who already owned bees expressed their satisfaction with the high quality of

the theoretical and practical parts of the course.

4/ Environmentally-friendly kitchen – educational programme

A total of 7 pilot programmes were organised for elementary schools. Children could also cook, but it proved quite complicated given the age group, so most of the time

was spent preparing the meals. The manual of the programme is entitled "Cooking with the Elf and Fairy". The course was designed to teach the participants to utilize plants that are not traditionally used in cooking. The core part of the programme is entitled "Ten principles of an environmentally-friendly kitchen", which summarizes the principles of sustainable consumption.

5/ Reissue of Plants in the Open Garden book

Due to the fact that many new plants are continuously being added to the Open Garden, the author had to rework the brochure and map of the plants. A full reissue of the booklet was published to reflect the actual state of the garden.

KA3 – EKOPOP

1/ Spring and autumn festival

The spring festival was very successful in terms of visitor numbers as well as the response to the activities from the broad





public, all with an environmental content. Due to the interim state of the individual programmes the festival was used to promote these programmes – the individual stands and activities presented our agricultural, herb, and beekeeping programmes. School and preschool children could enjoy various educational games and tasks.

2/ Interactive environmental game

A questing game for older children and adults within the premises of the Open Garden was tested in pilot operation, went through several stages of adjustments, and was made ready for publishing. Tasks were prepared for six stops in the garden, linking to energy-saving

technologies and water-saving measures within the facility.

KA4 – Training for our team of workers

1/ A cycle of expert consultations

Our team of workers visited Sluňákov – the Olomouc centre for ecological activities.

2/ Education for our team of workers

Our team methodologist received a certificate in School Systemic Constellations. Our PR team took part in a course of creative writing. The broader team participated in a first aid course.





Grant recipient: **Národní síť Zdravých měst ČR (Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic)**

Udrzitelne-mesto.cz: Gallery of sustainable development topics for experts and the public

Local Agenda 21 is a progressive method and instrument for quality management in public governance. It helps municipalities, communities and regions to practically implement principles of sustainable development on the local and regional level. It aims to collaborate with the public and local partners towards quality development of the given area for better and more efficient services that the authorities provide to their citizens. The agenda acts inwardly, to the authority, as well as outwardly (systematic involvement of the public, continuous communication, open sharing of experience, etc.). LA21 can be applied to all types of authorities – from small villages through municipalities to large cities, micro-regions, regions or local action groups.

The Healthy Cities of the Czech Republic is a national network associating most of the advanced implementers of LA21 and provides continuous methodological and

implementation support to municipalities, communities, and regions. Under the project *Udrzitelne-mesto.cz* the network created a gallery of sustainable development topics for experts and the public – a new and easy-to-navigate website.

Project activities

1/ Popularisation of sustainable development and Local Agenda 21 through online Gallery of topics

1.1/ Development of the Gallery of sustainable development topics website

A new website was developed covering 11 sections of the defined sustainable development topics. The sections are laid out in an identical structure, showing examples of good practice and various inspirations from the given area, including important links and sources of information. The website was designed to be clear and concise, easy-to-navigate with attractive graphics, and user-friendly. The aim was to make it available to experts as well as the broadest public.





1.2/ Promotional materials for the Gallery of sustainable development topics

The material was completed and distributed at project-related events as well as on other occasions organised by the grant recipient, and was also offered to expert partners. The promotion of the website and distribution of the material continues even after the completion of the project

2/ Innovative instruments and methodologies for LA21 implementers

2.1/ Database tool for performing sustainable development audits and for benchmarking

An electronic tool for performing sustainable development audits was completed in the full extent. Advanced municipalities can currently perform their audits directly in this environment, it is not necessary to re-send and adjust DOC tables anymore. After processing, the audit data are clearly visible immediately on the website and can be compared with other municipalities. This tool can also be used for municipality benchmarking.

In general – this database instrument facilitates the audit processing work, clearly visualises the key data and supports other municipalities in producing their own assessments.

2.2/ Detailed instructions for LA21 Criteria

This publication allows LA21 implementers to find clearly listed basic information on the LA21 method, methodological instructions, etc.

3/ Supportive consulting and project events in the Czech Republic and in Switzerland, project publicity

3.1/ Consulting project activities and related events in the Czech Republic, including publicity

During the preparation, project outputs and instruments were consulted and tested with the end users, especially local governance representatives. Two workshops – so-called Schools of Healthy Cities – to present the prepared instruments and outputs from the project. A national conference was organised that presented the outputs from the project



and gathered inspiration. The most advanced municipalities presented their activities and sustainable development audits.

3.2/ Consulting project activities and events with the Swiss partner

A study trip by Czech experts to Switzerland, during which the participants exchanged experience from implementing sustainable development principles in the practical life of municipalities and regions. A meeting in Prague summarised the mutual collaboration and presented the project methodologies and outputs.



Grant recipient: **Prachatice municipality**

Organic Waste Solved Together

The *Organic Waste Solved Together* project focused its information campaigns on a range of target groups. Kindergarten and elementary school children took part in seminars where they learned how to sort waste, what organic waste is and how to deal with it, what compost is, what it is made of, and how to compost waste.

Parents, grandparents and children could visit a composting plant during an excursion in Písek, where the visitors learned about the waste management system in the town. They found out everything about the composting plant, the methods and technologies used for composting waste, and uses of compost in the municipality. They also visited a waste yard and a facility where disused electrical appliances are deposited and could take a look into the waste containers and compare what people from Písek were dumping compared to waste at the Prachatice waste yard.

Majolenka the Fairy and Oscar the Mule accompanied the families from Prachatice

throughout 2016 as the characters in a special waste sorting calendar. The illustrations for the calendar were drawn by Zdeňka Študlarová, each of the pictures is an original and each of them appears on postcards that are incorporated into the calendar.





36 visitors came to build their own vermicomposting bin during the *Worms in action!* practical workshop. One of the vermicomposters was installed in the corridor of the municipal environmental department. Children helped make the bins, decorated plant pots and played various environment-inspired games. People could take their vermicomposting bins home along with a fresh starting “dose” of worms, some compost, plus lots of information and practical

instructions on how to care for their worm composting bin.

The project also included the development of strategic documents for municipal waste management, such as the *Generally binding regulation on waste management*, *Municipal waste management plan*, and *Motivating waste sorting system*.

Other project activities

1/ Organic waste solutions with the citizens

The Prachatice municipality has been actively applying Local Agenda 21 as a method of quality and involves the public in the related decision-making processes. The system of collaborative management involving the public and local partnership (in line with LA21 principles) was also applied to the *Organic Waste Solved Together* project, which resulted in a functional waste management system with the broad public and local businesses. The project consisted of two key activities:

a/ Waste management plan for the Prachatice municipality

The Waste management plan for the Prachatice municipality (Plan) respects the legislative conditions, current changes in the municipal waste management system, and identifies priorities and goals for future periods until year 2020 with a view to 2025. The author created the Plan in line with the legislation and methodology based on knowledge sourced through community planning means in working groups with the active involvement of selected target groups.

b/ Project of financial motivation of citizens towards better sorting

The project team assessed objective criteria and different instruments available for motivating citizens towards better and more effective sorting of waste. The Healthy Municipality Forum initiated the discussion of the project in an expert group, with the public, and eventually with the municipal authority. After the involvement of the Prachatice citizens in these activities a public



opinion survey was selected as the best way to source information. The survey took place at the *Healthy Municipality Forum*. The comments and ideas gained from the public were tested in a follow-up poll.

2/ Waste Days and Healthy Municipality Forum

The newly established waste yard and composting plant were open to the public for two days. The Prachatice municipality actively implements the principles of Local Agenda 21 and open days represent an important method of collaboration that develops relations between the public and local governance bodies. The event was organised mainly for elementary school pupils, who visited the waste yard and compost plant, an exhibition and instructive display about waste sorting, composting, and composting with worms at home. The event was visited by approximately 220 children from all elementary schools in Prachatice. The waste management facilities were also visited by the broad public.



3/ Healthy Municipality Forum 2016

Almost one hundred participants in the *Healthy Municipality Forum* held discussions at nine round tables and developed a list of the most acute issues and priorities. The event was organised by the Prachatice municipality in collaboration with the South Bohemian Economic Chamber, which presented household vermicomposting. The list of problem issues was further tested by means of an online voting poll.

4/ Raising awareness about organic waste

The lay public generally has poor knowledge of sorting and composting organic waste. The Prachatice municipality therefore decided to organise meetings with the citizens and school pupils, mainly through popular practical workshops modified to the age of the target groups. This included, for instance, meetings with beekeepers and gardeners. Three educational meetings were held in allotment garden areas. The visitors to *Municipal festivals* could visit a full-day workshop put on by the Vivat Kompostela theatre from the Ekodomov civic association. A cycle of three practical workshops attracted mainly women: the first one involved an outdoor walk with an instructive lesson on *How Mother Nature makes her compost*, the second one focused on the use of organic waste in households. The last meeting, called *Worms in action!* attracted 36 people including children who came to make a vermicomposter for their home.



Grant recipient: **Uherské Hradiště municipality**

Together for sustainable development II. Protecting key urban greenery

The Uherské Hradiště municipality focused its project activities on protecting key urban greenery areas, which involved an inventory of deciduous and coniferous trees growing at the Štěpnice housing estate area. The tree inventory included the determination of the botanic species as defined in the *Flora of the Czech Republic* – trunk diameter measured 130 cm above ground, tree height, crown diameter, lower crown diameter, physiological age of the tree (depending on the development phase of each individual – newly planted, established new planting, young tree, mature tree, old tree).

The condition of the individual trees was assessed visually and all significant stability defects were recorded. The result was a decision on whether each of the trees

meets the requirements for being left in its place including a proposal for potential

stabilizing interventions. The future perspective of the tree in its current position was assessed along with its stability, health, vitality, and proposed maintenance technology.

The output from the inventory was a written final report evaluating the condition of the trees, which was published on a publicly





accessible website used by the municipal greenery management. This report was then used as a source of baseline data for the remediation of any hazardous trees, their stabilisation, or removal.

The outputs from the tree inventory were presented to the Štěpnice housing estate during a meeting held with the report authors from the SAFE TREES enterprise that carried out the inventory. During

the survey the municipality approved a plan for further revitalisation of greenery within this area, aiming to use external resources. The next step was to process project documentation and the presentation of a final report.

Other project activities

1/ Reporting failures or suggestions for improvements

Involving the public in decision making is one of the key steps in Local Agenda 21. Activities focusing on public collaboration and involvement are essential, relatively inexpensive, and important for the projects' sustainability.

The common tools for public involvement in decision-making processes include public discussion forums, meetings open to the public, round tables, and various presentations. It is always necessary to select an interesting topic, ideally one that is already being worked on. Every municipality or



community has its own communication channels but it is still difficult to address and motivate potential participants to involve them in the decision-making process. This project therefore covered modern means of communication with the public, including feedback, through “municipal interventions” activity. A mobile and web application was developed for the citizens to report any breakdowns anywhere in the town, as well as to send their own ideas and suggestions for a concrete solution. All they need to do is fill out a simple interactive form in their web browser. The submitted report becomes visible on the online map after it is processed by the application administrator and permanent service at the Uherké Hradiště Municipal Police through the *Improve your town* application.

2/ Park Rochus – a living textbook

The purpose of this activity was to develop the generally beneficial services of the Park Rochus civic association in environmental education, inform the public about the

results of completed regeneration projects and those under way, and to extend the information system installed at the Rochus Park.

Manual, teaching aids, programmes, and information materials were produced under this activity. From the very beginning, all the project efforts focused on the natural complex of the Rochus Park.

In previous years, three successful education programmes were created for elementary schools, secondary schools and lycées, highlighting the main benefits and interests of the Rochus site, the outcome of the management interventions performed in the park, fauna and flora research activities, as well as traditional sustainable farming and landscape management.





Education and training, as one of the key activities of the *Education in Rochus Park* partial project, is not a synthetically developed product but a sum of tried-and-tested practical information based

on actual field surveys. Experience shows that outdoor education with direct practical examples and demonstrations is the easiest and most effective method of teaching.



An education programme entitled *Do not just throw things away* informed the students and pupils on how to live more environmentally-friendly lives.

The second of the programmes, *All about bees*, stemmed from the practical bee-keeping activities at Rochus and informed the students about the main benefits of bees in relation to fruit farming and livestock grazing.

An information system was installed in a previously planted orchard with heirloom fruit trees – approximately 130 trees with 70 heirloom varieties including local rowan.

The last product of the “living textbook” was a virtual tour. This attractive method of presenting interesting nature areas and habitats presented Rochus as an ideal place for sports, leisure, and education. The virtual tour became a part of the Rochus Park web with links to other websites. This method of visualisation is not just an educational feature but also another means of supporting soft tourism in Rochus Park as well as the entire Uherské Hradiště municipality.



Grant recipient: **Sdružení pro interpretaci místního dědictví ČR, z.s.**
(*Association for Interpretation of Local Heritage*)

Increasing expert capacity in interpretation as an instrument for nature protection and public education

Interpretation of local heritage focuses on methods of presenting natural, cultural and historical heritage to the public to influence people's attitude and their relation to local



heritage while ensuring the lowest possible negative impact on the surrounding environment. In English- and German-speaking countries, methodologies aiming to



achieve the best quality of interpretation have been developed since the 1950s and gradually improved upon recent findings in psychology, communication theory, marketing, and evaluation research that uses feedback to verify the functionality of various approaches and methods of interpretation.

Only a few experts are currently focusing on interpretation and its quality in the Czech Republic – a fact that stands in sharp contrast to the amounts of money invested in information panels, educational trails, exhibitions, brochures, bee-tags, quests, and other means of local



heritage interpretation. In general, our country is way behind in this field. In practice, this leads to repeated applications of those methods and means of interpretation that have already proved inefficient in many foreign countries.

However, we are learning to plan interpretation step by step. And this project was intended to provide much needed support. The aim was to make sure that some of the project outputs would be in use for many years to encourage the training and education of new clients



ordering interpretation concepts, qualified authors creating them, and happy recipients using them.

practical interpretation training. The interpretation planning workshops took place in protected nature areas where interpretation plans were created at the same time.

Project activities

1/ Education of professional and voluntary interpretation workers

1.1/ Training professional and voluntary interpretation for nature and environment

This activity included six workshops on interpretation planning and one

1.2/ Summer school of interpretation

The summer school took place in collaboration with the European network organisation Interpret Europe and offered a study in certified courses for guides and guide trainers (CIG – Certified Interpretive Guide



and CIGT – Certified Interpretive Guide Trainer). The school was a great opportunity to share experience and start collaboration with colleagues from sixteen European countries.

2/ Development of a methodological support system

2.1/ Expert website

In collaboration with a contractor we prepared and tested a website that publishes articles and various texts from



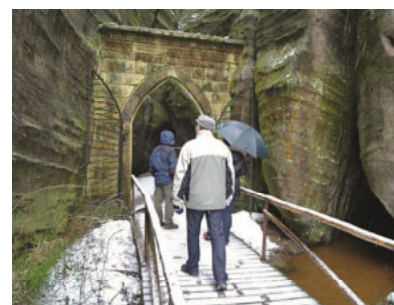
methodological materials and examples of good practice.

2.2/ Specialised library

This activity allowed us to build a library with key titles on interpretation made available to all professionals and volunteers interested in interpretation.

2.3/ Interpretation textbook

The textbook lists selected key titles on local heritage interpretation. Reviewers were appointed for each of the titles and



their reviews were published on the expert website in the Czech language.

2.4/ Model interpretation plans

A model interpretation plan was created for a nature area (Protected Landscape Area Brdy) and for a House of Nature (Broumov region). Stemming from the prepared plans, a seminar on planning and developing interpretation and interpretation planning workshops were organised in the target areas. The plans were then published as methodological materials on the expert website.



Grant recipient: **Sluňákov – centrum ekologických aktivit města Olomouce, o.p.s.**
(**Sluňákov – the Olomouc centre for ecological activities, o.p.s.**)

Seven Gateways to the Nature of Litovelské Pomoraví

The basic idea of this project was to prepare and create activities that will enable schools and the public, especially families with children, to learn about the unique atmosphere of natural areas in the Haná region through non-traditional methods. The Seven Gateways to Nature project made learning about nature at the Sluňákov environmental centre even more attractive thanks to newly created interactive materials. Activity books, information booklets and programme packages for schools accompanied by instructional outdoor installations offered the public a sensible and easily comprehensible set of materials on this site of special nature designation. The materials also encouraged gradual discovering and learning about various forms

of the local landscape without the need for a lecturer or educator.

The visitors received an activity book and walked along a trail of their choice. Through the activities and theme games they studied the nature of Litovelské Pomoraví from an entirely new perspective. They could choose from seven gateways leading to local





nature – the gateway of fire, sun, poetry, pilgrimage, wind, water, or mud.

The activity books were supported by an online application that provided extra information through QR codes upon the actual position of the visitor. Interactive installations were located along the trails – a beaver chute, transparent beehives, interior equipment of the information centre, and a children's play area. Educational aids were available as well – two tablets for outdoor use and two field microscopes.

The project included the creation of self-service programme packages "Beaver and echo" and "Mystery of trees around us"

for pupils and students walking along the Sluňákov complex. Five information booklets were made available to the public, teachers, and school groups.

A successful information campaign was launched during the project, informing the public all over the country about the Seven Gateways project and serving as an invitation to the complex.

Project outputs

1. Interactive features – eight activity books, interactive installations, educational aids and online application.



2. Programme packages for schools – two programme packages were created for teachers and their classes with a simple teacher manual including maps and routes of their programme and descriptions of the activities for each of the stops.

3. Publishing and awareness-raising – the newly created information brochures covering each of the topics were made available to visitors at the tourist information centre in the main building of Sluňákov.



Grant recipient: **ZO ČSOP Veronica**
(ZO ČSOP Veronica, basic unit of the Czech Union for Nature Conservation)

Interpretation of natural heritage adjusted to the needs of senior citizens, the disabled, and families with chronically sick members

Centre Veronica in Hostětín is an environmental educational centre in the White Carpathians which focuses on environmental education, training, and awareness-raising for various age groups from pre-school children to senior citizens, experts and the lay public. Great attention is paid to the development of soft forms of tourism in the White Carpathians. As such, the site is literally predestined to be a place where people live in harmony with nature. The centre offers lectured walks and excursions, experience outings, hands-on craft workshops in the natural garden, and stays in the Garden of the Senses. The activities are also suitable for physically or

mentally challenged visitors, including blind people or visitors in wheelchairs.

The activities of the Interpretation of natural heritage adjusted to the needs of senior citizens, the disabled, and families with chronically sick members project were based upon this mission of Centre Veronica.

Project activities

1/ Analysis of the target groups' needs and of the region's capacity to accommodate these needs

The project began with the Analysis of the target groups' needs and of the region's capacity to accommodate these needs.

A meeting of Centre Veronica staff and other soft tourism providers from the White Carpathians was held in advance to confront the needs of some specific groups of disabled – the blind and purblind, wheelchair-bound citizens – to seek and find out the needs of these handicapped groups when travelling to the region and around it, and to challenge the capacity of Centre Veronica to satisfy those needs. Selected organisations working with handicapped people were addressed as well to find out as much as possible about





the needs of their clients and prepare programmes that would accommodate all that they needed.

2/ Modification of Centre Veronica facilities to accommodate the needs of handicapped citizens, seniors, and families with chronically sick members

This activity involved the design proposal for equipment for the Garden of Senses and the kitchen garden, as well as the text for the



Garden Guide. Volunteers helped with building raised beds, which are ideal for seniors and persons with limited mobility. Interactive features, a water system and a sound system for the garden were designed. A special positioning bed and other equipment were purchased for the barrier-free room. A relaxation space with reclining lounge chairs was created in the garden. 13 different programmes were prepared for various target groups with handicapped people, and a set of musical instruments was purchased to perform musical therapy sessions.

3/ The White Carpathians Experience. Interpretation of local heritage for handicapped and senior citizens.

In collaboration with the Education and Information Centre of the White Carpathians, Protected Nature Area White Carpathians Authority and the information centres of the Zlín and South Moravian Regions, this activity produced the Interpretation Plan of the White Carpathians for the handicapped, which was further distributed to information



centres and other institutions focusing on tourism in the White Carpathians. The activity also included trainings for lecturers, seminars, and workshops. Three guided excursion scenarios and two quests were developed and prepared.

4/ Dissemination examples of good practice, collaboration and promotion

The purpose of this activity was to use the internet, social networks, and media outputs for the continued supply of information to the representatives of organisations working with the project target groups and to the broad public.



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