

## Whole City Awards

### City of Kladno, Czech Republic

Kladno, with the population of 67,428 inhabitants, is the largest municipality of Central Bohemia.

The first mentions of Kladno date back to the beginning of 14<sup>th</sup> century. More than 150 years ago we were radically influenced by industrial revolution whose rapid arrival we helped to enforce in the whole Central Europe. Already non-existing coal and steel had labelled us as “Black Kladno”, but together with the heritage of totality we managed to get rid of it. The words of Kladno as a city of dynamics, advanced industrial technologies, greenery, sport and modern life style find their use in our community without any exaggeration. More often we have focused on more current practical issues – decrease of energy and operating costs, new environmental procedures in city life, support of new production methods. We turn to youth, elderly people and the disabled. We consider education to be the main pillar of modern society. We create conditions for active leisure time of all ages.



*Kladno at present*

#### **Enhancement of the Natural and Built Landscapes:**

Kladno provides environmental education.

In 2010 a low-energy building of the Centre of Environmental Education was open to the public. In terms of one out of two most prestigious architectural competitions in the Czech Republic, the building was nominated for the title “Building of the Year 2010” and was awarded a golden award for its energy saving. The Centre provides environmental education not only for children but also the representatives of non-profit organizations and subjects from industry, agriculture and building industry. Kladno city hall focuses on enhancement of the greenery in the city. It was renewed on selected areas with the emphasis to find the compromises between reasonable maintenance and steady or higher biodiversity on revitalised areas.

From one of the most remarkable projects in the field of the renewal of public spaces let's mention

the project of the revitalization of the largest Kladno housing estate, which was built in Communist period between the 1950s and 1980s. It is going to be a residential quarter of a high quality meeting modern requirements of living and leisure time including all the aesthetic, social and economic aspects.

### **Arts, Culture and Heritage:**

Arts and culture have a unique role for life in Kladno. That is the reason why the city initiated the reconstruction of its two historical theatres.

The Lampion Puppet Theatre was open after the reconstruction to the young spectators and their parents in spring 2009. A non-conventional reconstruction of the Municipal Theatre building is going to be initiated at the beginning of autumn this year. Both theatres are going to fulfil all the demanding requirements of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Kladno respects its cultural heritage in a way of reminding of significant celebrities, too. Apart from the popularisation of re-discovered architect Antonin Raymond, a Kladno native and a founder of Japanese architecture, who worked in Japan and in the USA, we announced a student architectural contest having the name of this architect.

The city hall pays attention also to the preservation of industrial heritage by means of regular participation in the project "Biennale of Industrial Trail", which concerns architectural monuments of industrial revolution.

### **Environmental Best Practices:**

One of the current issues in Kladno is the recovery of the area affected by huge old ecological burdens that have caused deteriorating former huge technological buildings and soil pollution. The main presumption for the recovery and the start of a new utilization of the area is to carry out a risk analysis, chart the ecological load of the area and set further practices. In terms of a pilot project we have worked out a risk analysis of the area of former coking plants. In 2012 the redevelopment of this area will be initiated.

Public transport is a service provided by municipalities. Buses with high consumption and emissions dominated in Kladno. That is the reason why several changes have occurred also in this field, such as new fleet of buses and absolute news – natural gas buses that save 7% costs compared to diesel buses.

Missing sewerage system in Kladno-Švermov Quarter was another problem of the city hall. That is the reason why the city initiated a project, the most demanding so far – a building of sewerage system in this part of Kladno. The drainage of rainfall and underground water that had burdened the sewerage system has been minimalized.

### **Community Participation and Improvement:**

Kladno tries to involve physically and mentally handicapped people or people with no qualifications into the community participation, e.g. by means of projects in cooperation with civic associations to provide city maintenance with hand cleaning, involves long-termed unemployed into the working process and regularly purchases several products from non-profit organisations, where a working therapy is one of the activities of disabled citizens.

Another initiative of the city hall is to keep active partnerships with French Vitry sur Seine, Bellevue from USA and unofficially, but intensively, with German Aachen. Essential is also the cooperation and activities of lots of volunteers in NGOs – French-Czech Club Kladno, Kladno Sister Cities Association, Kiwanis Club Kladno etc.

The city hall is active also within the reconstruction of public areas in terms of the revitalization of Kladno-Kročehlavy housing estate. There was a campaign informing the public about their intentions and appealed to citizens for the participation in the whole project. Moreover, in terms of

the recovery of blocks of flats we offered private proprietors to get the financial resources out of the European funds including help with an uneasy administration process.

Kladno city hall is aware of a unique role of non-profit sector and civic activities for the city development. Therefore, by means of dotations, we support the field of sport, leisure time, education, culture, environment, social issues, health and family policy.

### **Healthy Lifestyle:**

Kladno is considered to be a city of modern life style and sport. To be what it is, we pay huge attention to sport possibilities for its citizens. In the past the city hall massively invested into halls, swimming pools, gyms and school sport facilities. At present we turn our attention to make them accessible to wide public and build other ones, already designed in terms of the "Open Playground Program".

The city hall is open to new sport trends and opened a specialized in-line circuit for all age categories in Municipal Stadium Sletiště. It was further followed by a track running through a suburban forest Lapák, the track is suitable also for cyclists, hikers, mothers with their children, seniors and others.

Present time brings new sport and leisure activities. The city hall supports also clubs of mushers, majorettes, hockey ball, floorball, aikido, darters and plenty of others - either by financial dotations or enables to do their activities in the municipal sport facilities.

Also Kladno follows the trend of advanced countries; the life expectancy of its citizens is growing. The city follows the trend and works to create better conditions for the life of seniors. It is done on the basis of the approved strategic document Community Plan of Social Services, which deals also with the issues of our retired citizens.

### **Strategic Planning:**

Kladno prepares plenty of projects dealing with the city development. One of them is the revitalisation of Podprůhon, a typical area, originally full of working-class houses, established in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The locality has been neglected for a long time and has lacked the investment, mainly in infrastructure and communication.

Kladno with its forthcoming attitude to the education supported the reconstruction of the Technical College building in Kladno-Vrapice including heat cladding and new technologies and innovations in education, going to be accomplished at the end of this year. Another important project is to work out a new Ground Plan, since the present one comes from 1997 and has been updated more than ten times so far in the last years and does not already cover the legislative changes and new needs of the city. All the public, entrepreneurs and public service institutions join the discussions. It is going to be a strategic document of Kladno development for several decades ahead.

The most painful issue of current Kladno is the area of old industrial zones. These vast areas suffer from land fragmentation, old ecological burdens and devastation. Nevertheless, this area involves the biggest future potential for the city development. The city hall has carried out several pilot projects to be the basis for future utilization of these valuable areas. The document entitled "Identification of the Strategic Objectives to Revitalize Industrial Zones of Poldi in relation to the City Development", has become an important instrument for the utilization of "the old Poldi". This main conception is followed by further steps, mainly risk analysis of the area with its continuous revitalization.