

## Whole City Award

Community Name: **City of Tabor, Czech Republic**, Population: **35,000**

Category: B, Average Daytime Population: 20,001 – 75,000

History and present. Nature and the urban conservation area. Culture and sport. Quiet and living. Locals and tourists... You will find all that in Tabor in mutual symbiosis. And creating unique environment, where the living is good. Tabor is a town with population of 35 thousand, existing for 6 centuries in the picturesque landscape of South Bohemia, in the middle of Europe.

### 1. Enhancement of the Natural and Built Landscapes

The original medieval base of Hussies rebels has been remarkably expanded and modernized, yet it has also preserved its unique genius loci - centres of both the old and the new town are surrounded by greenery, dam and river with bio-corridor.

There are 120 hectares of green areas in the town, of which 9.5 ha are parks, with 7,600 solitary trees and 6,900 square metres of flower beds. The Town is typical for an unusual concept of its roundabouts.

There is a major bird island – rooks in the Hus's Park, one of just three similar rook colonies in South Bohemia. Revitalization of forest park Pintovka – regional bio centre of area 65 ha is ongoing.

Basic document is the Public Green General Plan, updated twice a year, source material for the maintenance of woody species and lawns and further development of green areas. Another important document is the Public Green Maintenance Plan that includes felling schedule etc.

### 2. Arts, Culture and Heritage

Rich history of Tabor, its preserved historic centre and the surrounding belt of green valleys with Lužnice River, Tismenický creek and Jordán Lake create unique genius loci the builds upon. The cultural-historic importance was acknowledged by the state in 1961, when the historic core was made urban conservation area. We are celebrating the 50th anniversary of this major event this year. The municipality is preparing number of events to commemorate the round anniversary and its legacy for the future generations.

Because of the fact that the Hussies movement, which was born in Tabor in 14<sup>th</sup> century, is a significant part of the Czech history since 1420, more than 65,000 visitors from the Czech Republic and abroad come yearly visit our town to see round number of historical places, buildings and exhibitions (Statistics from the information center).

### 3. Environmental Best Practice

Tabor has taken responsibility for the quality of its air, and prepared Emission Reduction Program. The Town of Tabor also pays great attention to the clean water. Repairs of the entire sewerage system are being completed this year. As a follow-up to the reconstruction of the sewerage system Intensification of phosphor cleaning in the water treatment plant project Na Mělké is being developed. Elimination of silt and construction of lower drain of Jordán Lake is a half-billion project that will protect the Town in the event of flood. Waste management area can serve as another proof of the conceptual thinking. Children in kindergartens and elementary schools are spontaneously educated in ecological thinking.

In cooperation with the Charles University and the Academy of Sciences we are preparing evaluation of the Environmental imprint of the Town under the national

Sustainable development strategy. As a member of international association Healthy towns, Tábor regularly participates in the campaigns Car Free Day, Earth Day and Health Days. Sustainable development principles' introduction into practice with respect to local problems is based on Local Agenda program (MA21).

#### **4. Community Participation and Empowerment**



Communication with the citizens is one of the main priorities of the local government in Tábor. Active approach is confirmed by the activities and awareness of local population, but also by a number of awards - e.g. the first prize in the national contest "About the people with the people" for innovative marketing strategy, or the success in the international finals of Viszegrad Group. The Town operates interactive website with public inquiries and printed newsletter is published every month. About twenty meetings with citizens are organized every year.

Healthy Town Forum takes place every year in Tábor - people themselves with the assistance of specialists define their most pressing problems. The output of this exercise is a list of the biggest problems called TOP 10 P.

As part of the update of the Community Social Services Plan of Tábor social-demographic analysis, analysis of resources, business attitude survey and priorities of development, objectives and measures are compiled.

#### **5. Healthy Lifestyle**



Healthy lifestyle is one of the basic priorities emphasized by the Town of Tábor. Only healthy, active citizens can together create a place good for living. Therefore the Town has been supporting activities and campaigns resulting in a healthier lifestyle.

The Town of Tábor has been regular member of the National Network of Healthy Cities of CR (under UN WHO), and implements the Healthy Town (PZM) and Local Agenda 21 (MA21) projects.

The Town of Tábor has newly developed Health Care Plan since 2010 on the basis of the Analysis of health condition of the local population. So-called Healthy Town Fund has been consequently introduced, whose priorities are: Healthier lifestyles, Healthy start in life, Health of the youth, Healthy ageing, Reduction of contagious diseases, Healthy and safe environment, Healthy conditions of local life and others.

One of the basic components of a healthy lifestyle is regular exercise. The Town pays great attention to the cycling paths, jogging tracks and paths for walking - in this respect completion of relaxation zone Komora plays major role.

The low crime rate is also due to the urban preventive programs, close cooperation with the Police, and in particular the activities of the Town police.

#### **6. Strategic Planning**



The Town of Tábor disposes of a set of strategies and plans, developed and created in order to establish a consistent system. Fundamental and key strategic materials of Tábor, or Táborsko Micro region are the Strategic Plan and Integrated Plan of Urban Development.

Regarding transport Public transport strategy and Parking policy are of key significance.

Municipal Master Plan is the fundament of development efforts. Some ideas and comments result in new or modified concept materials, such as "Revitalization of road network in the landscape" or "Revitalization of suburban areas".

Further development of not just social issues is arranged in the Community Social Services Plan of Tábor.



Aerial view of the historical city center 2010



Night view through the Renaissance fountain of the historic Town Hall building



Decorated ceiling of the Gothic hall in the historic Town Hall building



*David Feltán, 2011*

International jazz festival Bohemia Jazz Fest 2011 in the city of Tabor