



NÁRODNÍ
PAMÁTKOVÝ
ÚSTAV

ÚZEMNÍ PAMÁTKOVÁ SPRÁVA
V ČESKÝCH BUDĚJOVICÍCH



PRESS RELEASE

Český Krumlov announces opening of international study centre

České Budějovice, 16th April 2015

The National Heritage Institute has launched a unique new project; to establish a multi-disciplinary study centre, within the Český Krumlov State Castle. The castle's Column Hall will be re-developed into a mix of lecture halls and accommodation for participants of a number of intensive study programmes, from both domestic and international universities. The project, supported and partially funded by the Financial Mechanisms of the European Economic Area 2009-2014 and EEA Grant: Program CZ06- Cultural Heritage and Contemporary Art, is due to be completed in April 2016.

"The project's aim is not only the restoration of an unused, historically valuable building and monument, but also the attractive revitalisation of the area, for science, research and study. The building itself, listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, should not just be seen as a tourist attraction or business opportunity, but rather be recognised, studied and cared for", explains Pavel Slavko, the Site Supervisor, summarising the essential task of the project. The study and research potential of the Centre is seen as a sought-after and appropriate counterweight to mass tourism, with the potential to attract a diverse range of fields of study, and can therefore benefit from all that Český Krumlov region has to offer," adds Petr Pavelec, the Director of the Regional Historic Sites Management at the National Heritage Institute, České Budějovice.

The project received a grant from the EEA Financial Mechanisms 2009-2014 in Priority axis: Conservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage. The cost of the Centre will be total 32,070,840 CZK. "80 percent will be funded by the EEA grant and the remaining 20 percent provided from the state budget," describes Josef Masaryk, the Project Administrator and Head of the Department of Administration of Cultural Property at the National Heritage Institute, České Budějovice.

The concept of the Centre will be focused on the governance, reconstruction and development of the UNESCO site, as well as on matters related to rural areas and their cultural significance in the Czech Republic and Central Europe. "These topics are appealing for a number of local art schools as well as domestic and foreign universities, which have been seeking the possibility of cognitive studies within a rural area for a number of years," explains Pavel Slavko. A collection of foreign universities will be participating in the project: HLB - Norwegian University College of Agriculture and Rural Development, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in Dalhousie University in Canada, as well as domestic universities: Czech Technical University- Faculty of Architecture; Charles University in Prague- Environment Center; Academy of Performing Arts in Prague- Department of Dance and Faculty of Music and Dance; University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice-Faculty of Philosophy, followed by the City of Český Krumlov and the Baroque Theatre Foundation.

Thanks to the partnership with the Norwegian University, it will become the first official Central European Centre for the study of rural development. This will also strengthen the existing 10-year collaboration with the prestigious Canadian Dalhousie University in the field of Cultural Central European Studies. These will follow up on already established courses that have been taking place in the castle library, archives, depository and the Baroque theatre.

The future study focus of the Centre will correspond with the interests of the Environmental Department within Charles University, Prague. Its students are engaged in environmental issues, regional development and the support of small and medium-sized communities. The Czech Technical University's Faculty of Architecture together with the Faculty of Arts at the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, will use its long proven curriculum of study to contribute to the centre's study programme. "The Centre will offer the opportunity to attend lectures and seminars focusing on the fields of Heritage Restoration, UNESCO Heritage Site Monitoring, Research and practice of Baroque theatrical culture, including seminars with practical exercises,

comprising of period sources from the castle library and archives," anticipates the Project Supervisor Pavel Slavko.

The Column Hall, the focal point of the restoration, is located in the foremost courtyard, to the left of the Red Gate. In the 16th century stables were constructed there, which served their purpose, until 1938. At that time, the building was converted to an office space, creating the ground of the Column Hall. The hall most recently served as an exhibition space.

More information is available on the website: <http://www.npu-cb.eu/projekt-centrum-studijnich-pobytu> nebo <http://www.npu.cz/ups-cb/centrum-studijnich-pobytu>.

National Heritage Institute, the Regional Historic Sites Management in České Budějovice is one of four departments dealing with the administration of buildings in the National Heritage Institute's possession. NHI is the largest funded organisation of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic. It manages and cares for public access to more than a hundred protected monuments, holding a collection of approximately three quarters of a million objects. It also manages the historic parks and gardens surrounding the castles and chateaus in its care. Of the numerous sites within the NHI's administration, seven are World Heritage UNESCO Sites. NHI in Ceske Budejovice manages 30 heritage sites in Southern Bohemia, Pilsen Region and Highlands Counties. This includes castles; Červená Lhota, Český Krumlov, Dačice, Hluboká, Jindřichův Hradec, Kratochvíle, Landštejn, Nové Hrady, Rožmberk, Třeboň with tomb Domanín, Vimperk, Zvíkov, Červené Poříčí, Gutštejn, Horšovský Týn, Kozel, Manětín, Nebílovy, Přimda, Rabí, Švihov, Velhartice, Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou, Lipnice, Náměšť nad Oslavou a Telč, Kladruby monastery complex, Plasy and Zlatá Koruna; the and folk architecture (homestead "U Matoušů" in Plzeň-Bolevec). For more information, please visit www.npu.cz.

Contacts:

PhDr. Pavel Slavko, the Site Manager of the Castle Český Krumlov and Project Supervisor, 607 559 430, slavko.pavel@npu.cz

Mgr. Petr Pavelec, Ph.D., the Director of the Regional Historic Sites Management at the National Heritage Institute, České Budějovice and Project Manager, 607 661 967, pavelec.petr@npu.cz

Ing. Josef Masaryk, the Project Administrator and Head of the Department of Administration of Cultural Property at the National Heritage Institute, České Budějovice, 606 541 090, masaryk.josef@npu.cz

Mgr. Jitka Skořepová, public relations of the Regional Historic Sites Management at the National Heritage Institute, České Budějovice, tel. 386 356 921, 602 626 736, skorepova.jitka@npu.cz