



NÁRODNÍ  
PAMÁTKOVÝ  
ÚSTAV

ÚZEMNÍ PAMÁTKOVÁ SPRÁVA  
V ČESKÝCH BUDĚJOVICÍCH



## PRESS RELEASE

# Celebration marks the official launch of the International Study Centre project in Český Krumlov

České Budějovice, 19 August 2015

---

**Work begins today on the International Study Centre project on the grounds of the Český Krumlov State Castle and Chateau. With the symbolic handover of keys to the construction and security firms, the National Heritage Institute launched its long-planned project, which will be financed with funds from the Financial Mechanisms of the European Economic Area 2009-2014. The lecture halls and accommodation facility will open to participants of intensive academic and recreational stays from domestic and foreign universities in April 2016.**

The former Hall of Columns on the grounds of the Český Krumlov Castle, which will become the core of the planned International Study Centre, was the scene of an historically important occasion today. With prominent guests such as the Deputy Ambassador of Norway Monica Stensland in attendance, National Heritage Institute General Director Naděžda Goryczková officially launched the project with the symbolic handover of keys to both contractors – Archatt památky spol. s r.o. Třebíč and Trade FIDES, a.s.

The project to build the International Study Centre was selected from two hundred additional entries as part of Programme Area No. 16 – Cultural Heritage, and along with twenty-five projects received a grant from the Financial Mechanisms of the European Economic Area 2009-2014 in the Preservation and Revitalisation of Cultural and Natural Heritage priority axis. Eighty percent of the total cost of the project (CZK 32,070,840) will be covered by the grant, with the remaining twenty percent to be paid from the state budget. 'The National Heritage Institute applied for financial assistance from EEA funds in both of the programme periods announced thus far (2004-2009 and 2009-2014). Two of the seven chosen projects concern Český Krumlov. The grand opening of the Castle Museum was celebrated in 2011, and the International Study Centre will be completed in 2016', said Naděžda Goryczková, commenting on this remarkable success.

'Over the past 25 years the grounds of the Český Krumlov State Castle and Chateau have undergone significant development, including the opening of sites to the public, the expansion of visitors' activities and overall renovation and restoration. The results of this work were acknowledged in 2002 and 2008 with the Europa Nostra prize, the most prestigious international heritage awards, said Petr Pavelec, director of the National Heritage Institute, Regional Historic Sites Management in České Budějovice. Nearly CZK 600 million has been invested to date on reconstruction on the castle grounds. 'The fact that Český Krumlov ranks among the top two visited heritage sites in the country, with over 300,000 paying visitors arriving each year, testifies to the long-term intensive care and effective monument management by castle warden Pavel Slavko over the past 28 years', said Director Pavelec.

### Work schedule for the International Study Centre

The first phase of project implementation will involve the conservation and renovation of the south facade and repairs to the roof, including the construction of historically documented dormers. Unsuitable interior walls and partitions that had been added over the years will be removed, and the floors on the first level will be returned to their original condition. 'This work will restore the original architecturally significant layout to both rooms of the Hall of Columns', explains Josef Masaryk, the project administrator and the head of the Department of Administration and Presentation of Cultural Assets of the National Heritage Institute, Regional Historic Sites Management in České Budějovice. 'These spaces will be used for lectures and social purposes by the International Study Centre', adds Masaryk. Accommodations for individuals staying at the International Study Centre will be created on the second and third floors. New electrical wiring, sanitary equipment and heating will also be installed.

The anticipated completion date for the work described above is the end of 2015. Work connected with the repair and restoration of the wooden floor, windows and doors, the repair of plastered surfaces and the overall preparation of interiors for furnishings will be performed in the winter.

## **Project objective and the mission of the International Study Centre**

In addition to the reconstruction and heritage restoration of the long unused and historically significant building of the former Hall of Columns, the project also involves attractive and functional renovation for entirely new research and educational purposes. From a thematic perspective, the International Study Centre is focussed on the issues surrounding the administration, restoration and development of UNESCO monuments as well as matters concerning culture and the countryside in Bohemia and Central Europe. Project partners include foreign universities (HLB – Norwegian University College of Agriculture and Rural Development; Dalhousie University, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences) as well as domestic institutions of higher education (Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Architecture; Charles University in Prague, Environment Center; Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, Dance Institute, Faculty of Music and Dance; University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, Faculty of Philosophy), the Town of Český Krumlov and the Baroque Theatre Foundation.

The Hall of Columns building is located in the 1<sup>st</sup> castle courtyard to the left of the Red Gate. The building served as horse stables from the sixteenth century until 1938, at which time it was converted to offices; the Hall of Columns was created on the ground floor. The Hall of Columns last served as an exhibition space.

More information is available at <http://www.npu-cb.eu/projekt-centrum-studijnich-pobytu> and <http://www.npu.cz/ups-cb/centrum-studijnich-pobytu>.

**The National Heritage Institute, Regional Heritage Administration in České Budějovice**, is one of four institutions dealing with the administration of listed buildings in the care of the National Heritage Institute. The National Heritage Institute, the largest state-funded organisation under the Czech Ministry of Culture, manages and welcomes the public to more than one-hundred landmarks. The Institute also cares for approximately three-quarters of a million collection items at these sites as well as typical features of castle and chateau grounds: historical parks and gardens. Seven of the landmarks under the administration of the National Heritage Institute are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The National Heritage Institute, Regional Historic Sites Management in České Budějovice, cares for 30 heritage sites in the South Bohemian, Plzeň and Vysočina regions, including the following castles and chateaux: Červená Lhota, Český Krumlov, Dačice, Hluboká, Jindřichův Hradec, Kratochvíle, Landštejn, Nové Hrady, Rožmberk, Třeboň with the Domanín tomb, Vimperk, Zvíkov, Červené Poříčí, Gutštejn, Horšovský Týn, Kozel, Manětín, Nebílovy, Přimda, Rabí, Švihov, Velhartice, Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou, Lipnice, Náměšť nad Oslavou and Telč. The Institute also manages the Kladruby, Plasy and Zlatá Koruna monasteries and landmarks of vernacular architecture (the U Matoušů homestead in Plzeň-Bolevec). More information is available at [www.npu.cz](http://www.npu.cz).

### **Contacts:**

**PhDr. Pavel Slavko**, Site Manager of the Český Krumlov State Castle and Chateau and Project Head, tel. 607 559 430, [slavko.pavel@npu.cz](mailto:slavko.pavel@npu.cz)

**Mgr. Petr Pavelec, Ph.D.**, Director of the National Heritage Institute, Regional Historic Sites Management in České Budějovice, and Project Manager, tel. 607 661 967, [pavelec.petr@npu.cz](mailto:pavelec.petr@npu.cz)

**Ing. Josef Masaryk**, Project Administrator and Head of the Department of Administration and Presentation of Cultural Assets of the National Heritage Institute, Regional Historic Sites Management in České Budějovice, tel. 606 541 090, [masaryk.josef@npu.cz](mailto:masaryk.josef@npu.cz)

**Mgr. Jitka Skořepová**, PR and Spokeswoman, National Heritage Institute, Regional Historic Sites Management in České Budějovice, tel. 386 356 921, 602 626 736, [skorepova.jitka@npu.cz](mailto:skorepova.jitka@npu.cz)