

PROMĚNY FOUNDATION AGAIN OFFERS ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOL GARDENS

(2 November 2015) Prague – **Starting today, kindergartens from Prague and from the South Bohemian and Pilsen Regions are eligible to apply for a grant of up to 800 thousand crowns from the Proměny Foundation. Offered under the foundation's Playful Garden program, the assistance is intended for projects involving an overall transformation of school gardens. The application deadline is on 31 March 2015. Successful applicants will be selected in the fall of next year. Useful information can be obtained at the 2016 Playful Garden Conference that will take place at the beginning of February.**

Through the Playful Garden program, the Proměny Foundation aims to **improve school gardens** to ensure that they serve for the healthy and multifaceted development of children. **Applications under the 2015 Call for Applications** can be submitted by **kindergartens** located in the **South Bohemian and Pilsen Regions and in the city of Prague**, provided that they are included in the official network of schools, preschool establishments, and school establishments, as defined in the law. **The detailed conditions of the call for proposals** as well as application forms are available on [the foundation's website](#).

"We are looking for kindergartens that want to transform their garden into a useful assistant in their everyday work with children. As opposed to an instant solution, we provide finances, methodology, and consulting so that schools can themselves, with the aid of invited specialists, transform their gardens to suit their specific needs, education programs, and, most importantly, children. At the beginning, applicants must convince us that they have a clear idea of how their garden will function following transformation," summarizes the main principles of the grant scheme the **Director of Proměny Foundation Jitka Přerovská**.

Important information for applicants will be presented at the **2016 Playful Garden Conference** that will be held **in Prague on 2 February 2016**. The program of the event will include an exchange of experiences relating to garden transformation projects with representatives of schools that received a grant under the previous call for proposals. The conference is a suitable opportunity for any person who wants to find out how to take full advantage of the potential of school gardens and local communities and how to develop children's awareness of architecture and the natural world.

Applications can be submitted until **the end of March**. Based on a three-round evaluation process, the foundation will select no more than **five kindergartens** in the fall of next year. The execution of their projects will last approximately two years and will be divided into **two stages**. The first will be dedicated to **project preparation**. It will consist of the preparation of architectural design and project documents with the participation of all users of the garden. The second stage will consist of **construction work** itself.

The **grant** is divided into two parts as well. Successful applicants will receive CZK 150 and CZK 650

The Proměny Foundation is a private nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the development of the urban environment in the Czech Republic and to promote public awareness of architecture, landscaping, and the impact of the environment on people. The foundation disburses grants and provides consultations and technical support for the execution of projects, organizes educational events for children and adults, and runs a thematic website for the general public. The Proměny Foundation was established by and receives long-term support from Karel Komárek.

thousand for project preparation and the execution stage, respectively. In total, the foundation will distribute as much as four million crowns to the selected kindergartens. **Technical support** will include joint seminars, individual consultations, and free access to the foundation's training program. Grant recipients are not required to provide partial funding for projects. Nonetheless, the use of other resources, such as partnerships with the local community, the founder, or volunteers, is included **among positively rated criteria**. In addition, such cooperation creates conditions for the long-term sustainability and future development of school gardens.

"The Playful Garden concept is based on the fact that everyone participates in projects, including teachers, children, parents, and other people from the local community. This way, the garden transformation process is a part of the education process: children learn the principles of developing the public space and are able to participate in the transformation and creation process, which strengthens their relationship to the locality where they live. Consequently, transformation takes place both in school gardens and in the minds of their principal users," adds **Přerovská**.

Methodology usable in the preparation of grant applications and in the actual execution of projects can be found on the **thematic website** www.promenyproskoly.cz, which has been maintained by the foundation since 2013. Apart from the February conference, the Proměny Foundation is also preparing a **spring excursion to good examples of school gardens**. Schools can also use the foundation's offer of [educational workshops for children](#).

The Playful Garden program has received the **Eduína 2013** award for innovation in education and the **Right to Play Award 2014** – an international prize for promoting the children's right to play. Moreover, the Proměny Foundation is a long-term supporter of **the integration of architecture into all levels of the Czech education system**.

Established by Karel Komárek, the Proměny Foundation is financed from private sources. Grants **supporting the development of school gardens** disbursed to date alone amount to **nearly CZK 8 million**.

Additional information available upon request.

Contact Information:

Petra Hrubošová

+420 277 006 276

+420 775 654 314

petra.hrubosova@nadace-promeny.cz

The Proměny Foundation is a private nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the development of the urban environment in the Czech Republic and to promote public awareness of architecture, landscaping, and the impact of the environment on people. The foundation disburses grants and provides consultations and technical support for the execution of projects, organizes educational events for children and adults, and runs a thematic website for the general public. The Proměny Foundation was established by and receives long-term support from Karel Komárek.

Video:

- **Environment for children according to specialists**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_LaZbDck&list=PLs9b0l8tNS_Y5dKMfPhvVcKWpYgxpKPb3&index=1

Attached illustrative photo:

- The garden of the Arabská Kindergarten (Proměny Foundation archive)
- The garden of the Vodnická Kindergarten (Proměny Foundation archive)

The Proměny Foundation is a private nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the development of the urban environment in the Czech Republic and to promote public awareness of architecture, landscaping, and the impact of the environment on people. The foundation disburses grants and provides consultations and technical support for the execution of projects, organizes educational events for children and adults, and runs a thematic website for the general public. The Proměny Foundation was established by and receives long-term support from Karel Komárek.