

CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION OF A LOCAL PARK IS PLANNED BY 28 CZECH MUNICIPALITIES

(10 April 2017) Prague – **The two main types of projects for which grant applications have been made to the Karel Komárek Proměny Foundation under the current request for proposals involve renovating a park, a public garden, or a river embankment that no longer fulfils its function on the one hand, and building a brand new public area on the other. As many as 28 projects aimed at transforming the local public space have been proposed by applicants from all parts of the Czech Republic. The foundation's financial aid, which municipalities that have submitted applications aspire to receive, will cover a substantial part of project execution costs. The locality that will be revitalized with the assistance of the Proměny Foundation will be selected in the fall.**

The Proměny Foundation has been supporting transformation projects since its establishment in 2006. The aim of the Parks Program is to provide assistance for **conceptual renewal or construction of the public space in cooperation with specialists and with the involvement of people from the local community**. The foundation offers municipalities as much as CZK 25 million in grants, technical consultations, and communication support for multiyear transformation projects. In addition, contributions are paid for maintenance of the locality during three years after project completion.

Applications for financial aid have been submitted for as many as **28 projects**. The applications will now undergo **three rounds of evaluation**, where the second round will include a visit to the locality. **The winner will be announced this year in the fall**. An overview of all proposed projects is enclosed on the following page.

*"Although the evaluation process started only recently, we already have a rough idea about the projects," summed up **Karla Kupilíková** from the Proměny Foundation. "We were pleasantly surprised by the overall quality of projects proposed by microregions, as this is the foundation's first request for proposals where microregions are eligible to apply. Another positive factor is participation, which is an important criterion in the evaluation process. In this respect, projects proposed by municipalities are getting better with every request for proposals. Among other factors, applicants are starting to realize that it is important to involve not only people from the local community, but also stakeholders from municipal authorities and the central government. Another encouraging fact is that many towns now propose brownfield projects."*

The highest number of applications, seven, come from the Central Bohemian Region. All regions are represented in the selection of proposals, except the Liberec, South Moravian, and Zlín Regions. Seven of the proposed projects were submitted under the foundation's request for proposals in 2015. *"In the past two years, no significant advance has been achieved in most of the formerly submitted projects," Kupilíková revealed. "The problem mainly lies in how our obtaining assistance is perceived. Unfortunately, subsidy schemes in the Czech Republic often put greater emphasis on filling out applications correctly as opposed to proposing projects with high-quality content. We want municipal authorities to regard projects in a broader context and to consider such factors as sociological aspects and the long-term sustainability of the revitalized localities. It is necessary to get more specialists involved in the preparation of individual aspects of projects. An*

applicant who lacks experience, for example with the concept of participation which I mentioned earlier, should invite external specialists to provide assistance."

An example of a municipality that has succeeded in obtaining the foundation's assistance only after applying for a second time is Pilsen's Borough of Slovany. Reconstruction of the city's Jirásek Square and Convent Garden is the most recent addition to projects supported by the Proměny Foundation under the Parks Program. A part of the reason why the application was accepted in 2015 was **close cooperation with local partners**, which the city invited to take part in the planning of the project.

The Karel Komárek Proměny Foundation, which receives funding from private sources, **has to date disbursed close to 115 million crowns in grants for the development of municipal parks**. For instance, this year will see the end of a five-year project that has transformed **the embankment of the river Loučná in the city of Litomyšl**. The embankment will open to the public in a ceremony held at the beginning of June.

For details, visit www.nadace-promeny.cz.

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Photo: Jirásek's Orchard in Litoměřice underwent reconstruction that was completed in 2015 (Proměny Foundation Archive), Convent Garden in Pilsen – Slovany (Cultivate Space Association Archive, Tereza Šobrová) – **Download here:** http://www.nadace-promeny.cz/cz/novinky/461_obnovit-nebo-vybudovat-mestskey-park-chteji-na-28-mistech-v-republice.html

LIST OF APPLICANTS PARTICIPATING IN THE 2016 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS UNDER THE PARKS PROGRAM (in alphabetical order):

- City of **Benešov** / Klášterka (*Cloister Park*)
- City of **Hlučín** / Hlučín Municipal Orchard and Bio Center
- City of **Hostivice** / Hostivice Palace Orchard
- City of **Humpolec** / Reconstruction of the Stromovka Park in Humpolec
- City of **Jičín** / Cidlina Rest Area
- City of **Jílové** / Jílové Municipal Parks
- City of **Klatovy** / Christian Hill
- City of **Kolín** / Revitalization of Komenský Park
- City of **Mělník** / Na Podolí Park and Pšovka River Embankment
- City of **Moravské Budějovice** / Municipal Park and Open Air Cinema
- City of **Most** / Revitalization of Downtown Park in the City of Most
- City of **Ostrov** / Former Barracks Complex
- City of **Petřvald** / Regeneration of Public Space between New City Hall and Kulturní Street
- City of **Rakovník** / Jamka Wooded Park in Rakovník
- City of **Rokycany** / Hus Orchards (Stráň) and Rokycany Calvary
- City of **Slaný** / Háje Wooded Park
- City of **Vodňany** / V Zátíší Wooded Park – Phase 1

- City of **Vysoké Mýto** / Za Pivovarem Park – Vysoké Mýto
- Borough of **Prague 2** / Svatopluk Čech Orchards
- Borough of **Prague 3** / Pod Kapličkou Municipal Garden
- Borough of **Prague 7** / U Vody Area
- Borough of **Prague-Šeberov** / Hrnčíře Center
- District of **Ostrava-Poruba** / Palace Park
- Microregion **Loučná Association of Municipalities** / Mlynářka Park in Sezemice
- **Lidice Brook Valley** Microregion / Revitalization of the Surroundings of the Lower Pond and the Square
- Association of Municipalities in the **Javornicko** Microregion / Vlčice Palace Park
- Chartered City of **Děčín** / Pheasantry Wooded Park Revitalization
- Chartered City of **Chomutov** / Gerstner River Embankment

Karel Komárek's Proměny Foundation is a private nonprofit organization established in 2006 to support the development of the urban environment in the Czech Republic and to promote broad public awareness of the importance of architecture, landscaping, and quality environment for both individuals and society. The Foundation disburses grants and provides consulting services and technical support for projects targeting the public space and school gardens. Other activities include the organization of educational activities related to urban development for children and adults. The Proměny Foundation and its projects hold several awards from both specialized institutions and public organizations.

For more information visit: <http://www.nadace-promeny.cz/cz/o-nadaci/poslani.html>