

NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR KINDERGARTENS AND THEIR GARDENS

(1 November 2017) Prague – **Starting today until the end of next March, kindergartens from the Karlovy Vary, Ústí nad Labem, Liberec, and Central Bohemian Regions and from the city of Prague can apply for up to 800 thousand crowns in a grant and for technical consulting support. The Karel Komárek Proměny Foundation and its Playful Garden grant program offer assistance with the restoration or construction of school gardens that help children develop in a healthy and multifaceted manner.**

"During the preschool age, children are open to new experiences, learn through playing and imitating adults, form their view of the world, and discover their abilities. Today, however, places where children can develop in an entirely uninhibited way are in a short supply. We believe that school gardens provide a great opportunity in this regard because they are visited by children practically every day," explained **Jitka Přerovská, Director of Karel Komárek Proměny Foundation.**

The main purpose of the Playful Garden program is to create a stimulating environment in the school setting, which offers children conditions conducive to their multifaceted development and which functions as a **useful aid for both teachers and parents**. In itself, already the transformation of a school garden is a part of the learning process. Projects are executed with the involvement of various stakeholders, including school officials, children, their parents, and people from the local community. Children are drawn into the community in a natural way, often encountering for the first time principles that govern the functioning of public space and civil society.

The current invitation for proposals under the Playful Garden program is open to kindergartens from the Karlovy Vary, Ústí nad Labem, Liberec, and Central Bohemian Regions and from the city of Prague. In a three-round evaluation procedure, the foundation will select **five kindergartens** to which **four million crowns** in grants will be distributed. The foundation's assistance is intended for preparing project plans, completing design documents, and performing landscaping work.

Beneficiaries will not be required to provide partial funding for projects. Nonetheless, the use of other resources, such as partnerships with the local community, the founder, or volunteers, will be included **among positively rated criteria**. In addition, such partnerships provide conditions conducive to the long-term sustainability and future development of school gardens. **Technical support** provided to schools together with grants will include joint seminars, individual consultations, and free-of-charge use of offerings from the foundation's education program.

Detailed conditions of the current invitation for proposals as well as the application form are available on [the foundation's website](#). **Applications can be submitted until the end of March 2018.**

Useful information will be provided to applicants at the **Playful Garden 2018 conference** next February. In addition, applicants from the ranks of kindergartens are invited to seek inspiration in numerous resources available for this purpose, such as the www.promenyproskoly.cz **Internet portal**.

Contact Information:

Petra Hrubošová / +420 225 010 276 / +420 775 654 314 / petra.hrubosova@nadace-promeny.cz

Illustrative photo: The garden of the Arabská Kindergarten in Prague 6, which offers specialized care (Source: the foundation's archive).

Karel Komárek 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 living. 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 Karel Komárek Proměny Foundation and its projects have received several awards from both specialized institutions and public organizations. For more information visit: <http://www.nadace-promeny.cz/cz/o-nadaci/poslani.html>

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. In September 2017, the Karel Komárek Proměny Foundation became a member of the International School Grounds Alliance (ISGA), a global network of organizations and professionals working to enrich children's learning and play by improving the way school gardens and playfields are designed and used.