

Progress report - IYPE - Czech Republic, 2007/2008



The Czech Republic officially launched the national geoscientific IYPE programme on the January 11, 2008. Following the programme outline from 2006, we proceeded with the pilot projects during 2007.

The pre-installation of the rowing exhibition "the Planet Earth Powerful and Vulnerable" was opened in the Czech Academy of Science, Prague, and next installations are prepared within the country. The pilot project "Geoscientists for Prague" has been prepared in a cooperation with the Municipality of Prague-Troja, ZOO and PBZ and the proposed concept of the "Barrandian Geopark". Ten promotional posters corresponding to the ten IYPE topics were created and provided for the universal purposes of IYPE-CZ (rowing exhibition, web page, educational outputs, regional thematic presentations and events).

During 2007, the active web page www.rokplanetyzeme.cz served to the outreach IYPE purposes. It provides all the information on IYPE-Cz events and promotions. The web is linked to the geological server of the Czech Geological Survey www.geology.cz and newly also to the educational server of the Czech Ministry of Education and Sports www.rvp.cz. One of popular events of 2007 was a painting contest for school kids "My piece of land" inspired by the Planet Earth/Gaia. Best drawings were used for a postcard and callender series by the CGS. Regional popular exhibitions follow the concept of IYPE, as well as local activities promoting geo-tourism. The Czech Geographical Society joined IYPE programme.

An animated 40'' TV spot for IYPE was funded by Czech Ministry of Environments and created by the artist Pavel Koutsky, who already contributed to IYPE-CZ brochures and posters. Regular series of documents and debates were prepared for the Czech TV24 and the Czech Radio Leonardo. The awards for the weekly TV series "The Planet Science" of the Czech TV24 consist of 52 "Stones with a story" - the unique mineral and rocks specimens with exciting history related to their creation, finding or usage. A new 60' TV document inspired by geosciences, landforms and local traditions was prepared. Number of popular geological books published or in preparation were ascribed to IYPE. Fifty Czech UNESCO schools accepted IYPE as a leading programme for 2008.

The national round of the students IYPE contest 2007 was organized by the IYPE-CZ national committee. Two student winners took part in the Paris IYPE GLE, and took a student video document of the Paris event. This document will be available on the Czech IYPE web page in April 2008. The coordinator of the IYPE CZ, V. Stedra, took part in the IYPE NC meetings in London and Viena (2007), and in the GLE in Paris.

In spite of the fact that all the IYPE CZ preparations were initiated in 2006 already, we have not been successful with any reasonable government- nor company-based funding. All the activities are voluntary based or supported by the means of "staff time" by geoscientific organizations, namely by the Czech Geological Survey.

There is a crucial message to our politicians from French Minister Mr. J.P.Jouyet:

There is many good reasons to pay attention to the geosciences in order to follow the European politics towards sustainability, especially when the Czech Republic is going to chair EU after France, in 2009.

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