

IYPE Czech National Committee - Summary of achievements in 2006

The IYPE Czech National Committee was founded in June, 2006. The interest and the will to follow the IYPE ideas was declared by the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Chair of the IYPE Board Mr. Eduardo de Mulder and Veronika Stedra, the Coordinator of the Czech IYPE National Committee, in 2006. The Coordinator took part in the first meeting of the IYPE Board in London as a national representative and observer. The official version of the Czech IYPE logo was adopted.



The Czech IYPE NC consists of the representatives of the main Czech governmental geoscientific organisations in its executive core. A formation of three independent supporting subgroups of partners, regional contact persons and expert consultants representing a complete width of geosciences in Czechia will guarantee standards, thematic and regional coverage and progress of the implementation process. The main focus of the NC is concordant with the Outreach framework of the IYPE programme, as the main problem in Czechia is to bring geosciences closer to the public and to re-introduce them in the context of sustainability of natural resources and safety. It is preferred to act together with other scientific and environmental bodies through both basic and comprehensive education, multidisciplinary performances and cultural institutions rather than through scientific projects.

Action:

The IYPE-CZ NC activity is supported by the Czech Geological Survey. It benefits from the CGS facilities - web server and technical support, so that the IYPE CZ web page www.rokplanetyzeme.cz is fully functioning and serves to targets of the NC. The Czech website provides annotations and links to the crucial topics of the official IYPE site. It informs the Czech society on activities and proceedings of the IYPE-CZ implementation programme and offers interactive tools for mutual communication.

Founding members

So far, partnership has been established between IYPE-CZ NC and
the Czech Geological Survey
the Academy of Sciences (geological and geophysical institutes)
the Charles University, Prague
the Technical University, Ostrava
the Masaryk University, Brno
and the Czech Geological Society.

Support

The Czech IYPE NC and its programme is launched under auspices of the Ministry of Environments of the Czech Republic (written letter of support) and the Czech Commission for UNESCO (in progress).

Outline of the programme:

The implementation programme consists of three levels:

A-level is focused on pilot events substantially exceeding common practice. Two pilot projects were proposed, first of which was summarized in the Expression of Interest submitted to the IYPE Outreach Board in January 2007. This pilot project "*Geologists for Troya, Prague*" will stem from cooperation between geologists, botanists and zoologists and from the common target to present complete natural environment and biotopes including Earth materials and the geological processes involved. Geo-scientific information will be thus complemented to the established Prague ZOO Park and Botanic Garden.

The second pilot project - a mobile geological exhibition "*The Earth Powerfull and Vulnerable*" should describe the main natural environmental extremes of our planet, explain them in context of geology and sustainability, and let people touch the earth materials and processes. The exhibition should finally settle in a stable "Centre of Earth Sciences" close to a leisure activity region and offer an alternative to outdoor activities.

B-level is focused on the coordination, support and multiplication of the impact of geological popular outputs, items, publications, lectures and medial presentations of results of the Czech geo-scientific organizations. It should provide geoscientists with a wide informational basis, products exchange platform and the opportunity for the exchange of experience. One of targets is to motivate them and help them to publish results in common language by means of common media and publicly accessible spaces.

C-level under the name "*New approach to Earth's rock wealth and geology: touch the stone and understand environments of life*" should help to implement information on beauty, quality and importance of natural materials in everyday life. This third level stresses the role of local cells of geological enthusiasts (societies, clubs, schools, museums ...), activates their own popular initiatives, supports already initiated regional projects (e.g., the concept of geoparks and geosites) and enhances their impact and sustainability. Creates a network of coordinated accredited IYPE-CZ actions and produces printed, electronic and audio-video promotional materials. It guarantees the participation of front media in the campaign.

Lists of specific planned, accredited and scheduled IYPE-CZ activities will be added to the programme outlet on the IYPE-CZ website www.rokplanetyzeme.cz.

Finances:

With guarantees and help from the Ministry of Environments, UNESCO-CZ, Academy of Science and CGS, the IYPE-CZ NC raises governmental and private funds for its work. Economic department of the CGS kindly provides the economic know-how to the NC in order to fulfil the administrative and legal needs.

An international challenge:

The Czech NC seeks international partners especially for:

- the second pilot project (the exhibition, possibly to be linked with UNESCO events)
- recycling of geological knowledge in order to increase efficiency of the C-level IYPE-CZ activities.

On behalf of the Czech IYPE National Committee,
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