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**The Association of the Physically
Disabled in the Czech Republic**

20th Anniversary of the Founding of the Organization

1990 – 2010



Karlínské náměstí 12, 186 00 Praha 8, Czech Republic

CONTENTS

HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC	3
1st Congress of the Association of the Physically Disabled in the Czech Republic	3
2nd Congress of the Association	3
3rd Congress of the Association	4
4th Congress of the Association	4
5th Congress of the Association	4
Extraordinary congress of the Association	4
THE PRESENT OF THE ASSOCIATION - BASIC INFORMATION	5
Current activities of the organization, its mission and goals	5
The target group	5
Current organizational structure of the Association	5
Information on the organizational units	5
Contact information	6
SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC	7
Social counseling	7
Lending offices of compensation aids	7
Instructive and educative events	7
Reconditioning and rehabilitative stays	8
Recovery stays for children and young people with physical disabilities	8
Rehabilitation and sports	9
Support of employment of people with disabilities	9
Handicraft clubs	9
Other social activation services for senior citizens and people with disabilities	9
Transportation of citizens with disabilities	9
The barrier-free Březejc health center	10
Distribution of Eurokeys	10
Social events	10
Granting loans from the special-purpose assets of the Association	11
Other social services	11
OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC	12
PROJECTS CO-FINANCED FROM THE EU FUNDS	13
Lending Offices with Compensation Aids of Association of Physically Handicapped People in the Czech Republic (IOP)	13
Increasing Employability of Handicapped Citizens (HREOP)	13
Living Roundly (SPD 3)	13
Social services and supporting the employment of the physically disabled citizens in the South Moravian Region (JROP)	14
Social services and supporting the employment of the physically disabled citizens in the Central Bohemian Region (JROP)	14
FUNDING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION	15
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	17

HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The foundation of The Association of the Physically Disabled in the Czech Republic dates back to 1990 when the dissolution of the Union of the Handicapped, an organization joining all disabled people together without regard to the type of their disability, and an establishment of its legal successor was being determined.

The Association of the Handicapped in the Czech Republic became the legal successor of the Union of the Handicapped. This association integrated newly established organizations, i.e.

- The Association of the Deaf and Hearing-Impaired in the Czech Republic
- The Association of People Afflicted by Diseases of Affluence in the Czech Republic
- The United Organization of the Blind in the Czech Republic
- The Association of the Physically Disabled in the Czech Republic

Between 2nd and 4th April 1990 a national conference of the newly developing Association of the Physically Disabled in Czech Republic took place in Hodonín near Kunštát. The conference addressed issues of the Association's new statutes, organizational issues and the factual content of the upcoming 1st congress of the Association of the Physically Disabled in Czech Republic.

On 8th May 1990 the Association's statutes were registered by the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic. On this day the Association of the Physically Disabled in the Czech Republic was legally established.

1st Congress of the Association of the Physically Disabled in the Czech Republic

The congress took place on 26th to 28th October 1990 in Hodonín near Kunštát. The organizational structure and the authority of the Association were approved during the congress. At the time the membership was approximately 71 000 members. Mr. Jiří Beneš was elected chairman.

The main objective of the policy statement that was accepted during the congress was ensuring the physically disabled members' long-term awareness of their legal claims and services resulting from the generally binding laws and regulations.

After a discussion with government authorities, the Association of the Physically Disabled in the Czech Republic was, as a newly established organization, promised financial resources to implement socially rehabilitative programs. Therefore, one of the first assignments of the newly established organizational units of the Association, i.e. the regional committees, was a technical and organizational arrangement of events in the area of social rehabilitation for the year 1991, i.e. courses, classes and lectures on social issues.

An awareness survey among the beneficiaries of the disability pension showed that only 15 % of them knew what benefits and services they may request from the relevant government authorities.

By these actions the newly established Association of the Physically Disabled in the Czech Republic commenced its activity.

2nd Congress of the Association

The congress was held between 30th September and 2nd October 1994 in Benešov. Mr. Jan Skopec was elected chairman of the organization.

After the second congress the tasks and goals of the Association of the Physically Disabled in the Czech Republic were based on practical experience gained during the previous four-year period of the Association's operation. Securing medical and occupational rehabilitation for the physically disabled became one of the priorities. Besides the implementation of recovery stays, the goal was to assist the

physically disabled in coping with their disability, developing their work capacity, attaining the required expertise and habits and acquiring an employment, if possible.

Among other tasks established by the second congress were e.g. involving the Association in the construction of special needs housing, exerting pressure on government authorities concerning an increase of the incapacity benefit, and representation of the Association in the Government Committee for the Disabled.

3rd Congress of the Association

Held between 25th and 27th September 1998; the priority of this congress was the issue of granting and utilization of state subsidies since the conditions for their granting and usage had become stricter. The subsidies were granted mainly by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Health.

A positive trend was observed in the employment of the physically disabled. Lending offices of compensation aids were established in district towns; twelve new lending offices were added to the already existing one in Prague and their assortment of compensation aids was being expanded.

The membership increased to 83 000 members. Mr. Jan Skopec was again elected chairman.

4th Congress of the Association

The congress was held on 20th to 22nd September 2002. Among the discussed issues were adjustments to statutes concerning the legal identity of the lower organizational units and the priorities for the next term (these included mainly the provision of social and legal counseling, expansion of lending offices of compensation aids within the republic and professionalization on all managing levels of the center and organizational units). Mrs. Helena Klasnová was elected chairwoman.

5th Congress of the Association

The congress took place on 30th September to 2nd October 2006. The issues of the professionalization of all the Association's managing bodies were discussed as well as a change of authority in the redistribution of financial resources from the central to the regional state bodies. Further, a change was approved on this congress, which added an abbreviation for "civic association" to the name of the organization in Czech.

The acquisition of financial resources by implementing projects co-financed by the European Union and changes in the funding and providing of social services as related to the new law on social services (Act No. 108/2006 Sb.) were the primary issues; the congress recommended that organizational units, as independent legal entities, should register as a provider of social services in relation to this law.

Extraordinary congress of the Association

In relation to the arrangement and funding of activities and services provided by the Association to lower organizational units, the issue of a management change on the central level came to the fore. In February 2008 a collective conference of the chairpersons of the district, municipal and regional organizations under the Association was assembled; the objective of it was to acquaint the organizations with the upcoming personnel changes and changes of statutes.

The preceding activities lead to the calling of an extraordinary congress of the Association, which was held during the 27th and 28th June 2008. New regulations in management and professionalization were adopted during this congress. Our organization follows this path to the present day.



THE PRESENT OF THE ASSOCIATION – BASIC INFORMATION

Current activities of the organization, its mission and goals

The Association of the Physically Disabled in the Czech Republic is an organization with a nationwide sphere of activity and a rich history in the universal support of the needs and interests of the physically disabled citizens.

The mission of the Association of the Physically Disabled in the Czech Republic is to assist in improving the life of the disabled and senior citizens and to support their integration into the society.

The primary objective of our association is to provide social and medical services, including care for the physically disabled citizens on a nationwide as well as local level (by means of our organizational units).

The goal of the Association's staff is to support our clients in overcoming barriers and helping them to cope with problems related to their situation.

The services are provided on a professional level to all clients who express interest in them.

The target group

The Association of the Physically Disabled in the Czech Republic provides services to people with disabilities (even temporary ones) and senior citizens living or working in the Czech Republic regardless of the type and extent of their disability, without age restrictions and disregarding their membership status in the Association.

Current organizational structure of the Association

Board of Directors

Chairwoman: Helena Klasnová

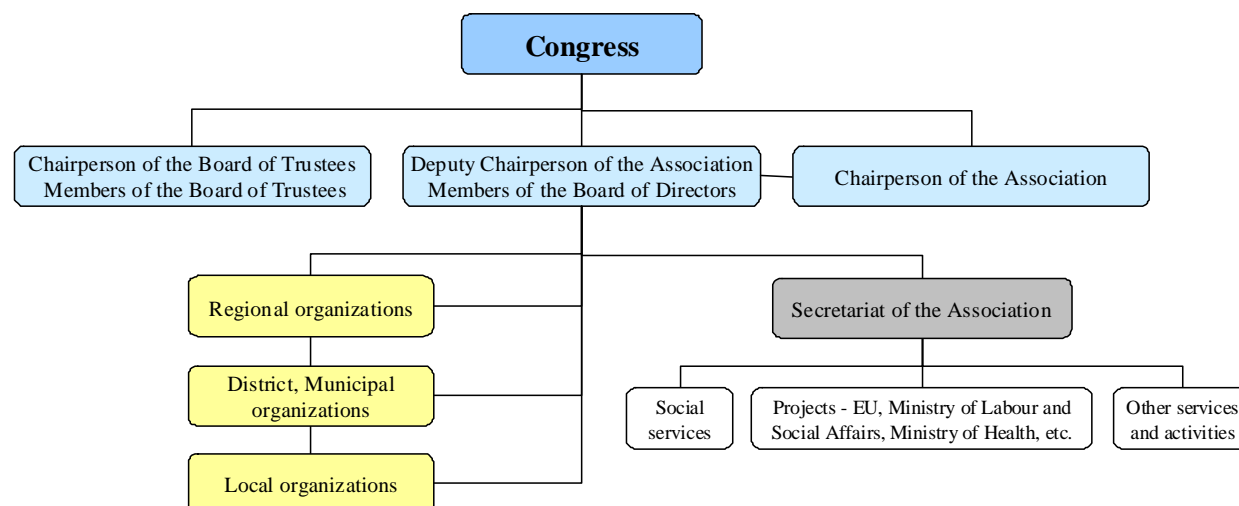
Deputy Chairman: Vlastimil Birčák

Members: Alena Bělovská, Oleg Brückler, Zdenka Hlavatá, Alena Říhová, Karla Zbořilová

Board of Trustees

Chairman: Dušan Přikryl

Members: Jaroslava Koukalová, Vlastimil Luňák



Information on the organizational units

The Association of the Physically Disabled in the Czech Republic is the founder of the organizational units which implement the mission and goals of the Association on a regional level. These organizational units associate individual members, natural and legal persons.

On the 31st December 2009 the Association of the Physically Disabled in the Czech Republic had 369 local organizations, 76 municipal or district organizations and 13 regional organizations. The total number of members in these organizational units surpassed 46 000.

Contact information

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Organization Identification Number: 00536334

VAT identification number: CZ00536334

Registration: VSP/1-131/90-R (change of statutes: 7th July 2008)

Bank account number: 15538081/0100

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Over the years the range of our activities and services for persons with disabilities has changed. Besides the services we provide today, our organization also used to implement the following projects and services: e.g. day care for the severely disabled (1998 - 2004), psycho-rehabilitative stays for parents with physically disabled children (1998), educative rehabilitative stays for citizens with a lower limb amputation (1998 - 1999), a gallery for artists with disabilities (1999 - 2003), the Moravian exhibition of art works (2001).

The range and type of the offered services has always depended on the conditions for the provision of specific services, the clients' interest and last but not least the funds received for the provision of services. The development of some of our services is represented in the graphs seen in the following overview of current services.

At present our organization provides social, medical, educative and other services to persons with disabilities and other groups of citizens in cooperation with our organizational units. Our core services include:

Social counseling

Counseling is provided in the area of social services, the social system and others. We ensure support in integrating the disabled into the society and help in dealing with unfavorable life situations. The counseling service also includes e.g. accompaniment to the authorities, assistance in dealing with personal matters, assistance with requests for benefits in unfavorable social situations, providing information on the possibilities of social security benefits, on compensation aids, assistance in dealing with psychological, medical, social and economic consequences of the clients' disabilities, providing information on the scope of official authority, assistance in exercising the rights and interests of clients, etc.

Lending offices of compensation aids

In the lending offices of compensation aids persons with a permanent or temporal disability may rent assistive devices to reduce the consequences of their disabilities (e.g. wheelchairs, adjustable beds, stairlifts, etc.). The device is provided until the time the client acquires a device for permanent usage or during the time his or her device is in repair. Further, compensation aids are provided to persons with a temporary disability in need of prompt aid during acute injuries. We rent compensation tools to hotels and other accommodation facilities for their clients' usage and also to inadequately equipped schools or organizations to use during recovery stays for children with disabilities. The rental of the device includes instructions and counseling on manipulation, controlling and technical parameters of the device. By providing compensation and rehabilitative technology we help people with disabilities overcome the problems of everyday life.



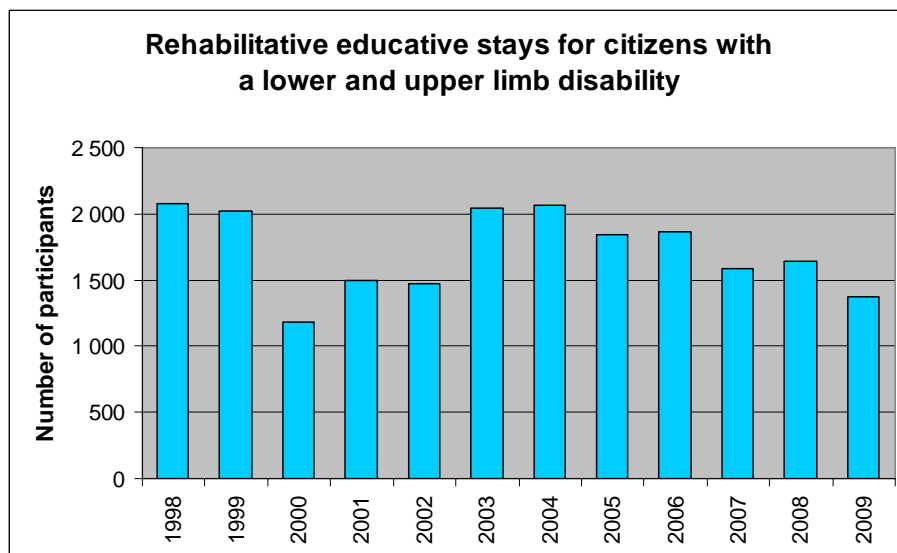
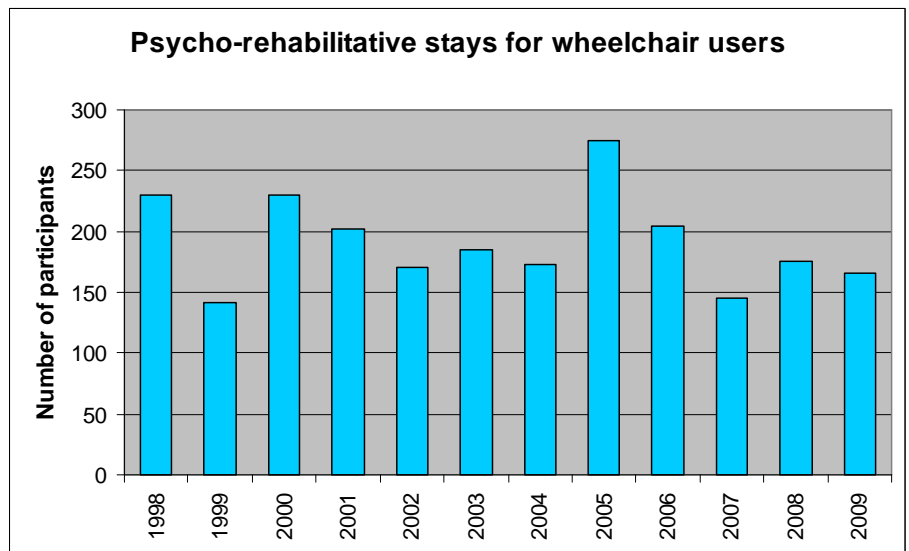
Instructive and educative events

Most frequently we offer courses in computer skills focused on commonly used programs which the clients can use at work, when searching for information, for communication, etc. The purpose of the courses is to enable and support the integration and independence of the participants. Other courses we organize are focused e.g. on social, medical, occupational or legal areas.



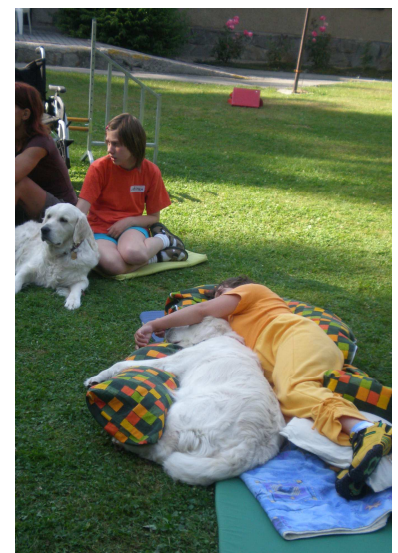
Reconditioning and rehabilitative stays

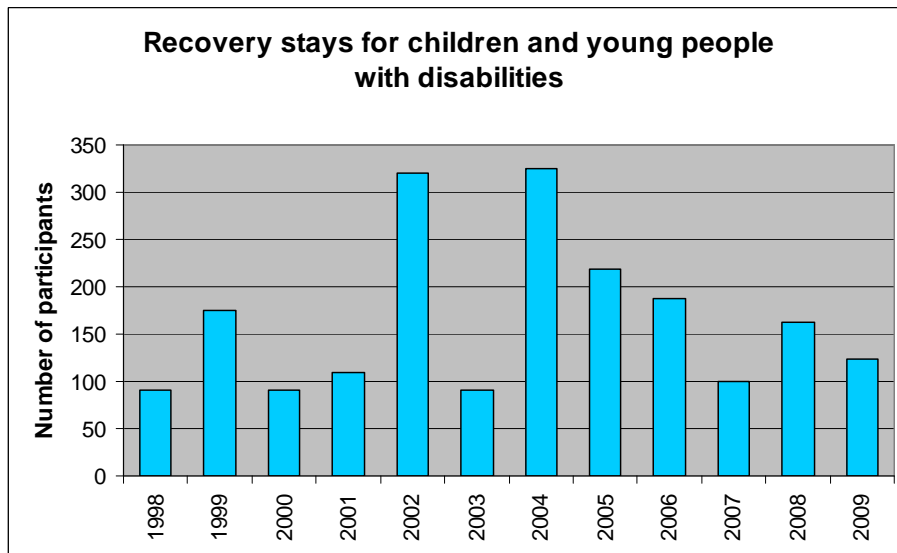
The stays are intended for citizens with a lower and upper limb disability and wheelchair users. Their program includes professional exercises, rehabilitation, training and social events for the participants. The fundamental goal is to improve the health and mental state of the participants. The activities also support independence, self-care (in post-traumatic and post-operative conditions), the development of physical activities as well as increasing awareness and helping the physically disabled to live a full life.



Recovery stays for children and young people with physical disabilities

These events are the only ones that are focused on disabled and severely disabled children and young people. These stays take the form of summer holiday camps for children and young people from the whole country. The recovery stays are focused on sports activities with regard to the capabilities and specific skills of the given group of children. All sessions take place in a wheelchair accessible environment. The programs of the recovery stays include activities related to personality development of the participants, rehabilitation, self-knowledge and practicing self-care. Young people have the opportunity to gain information about the possibilities and means of implementing their own plans in the contemporary society. Collective social events such as trips, competitions, lectures on appealing topics are held. Here, children make new friends and learn to treat their similarly disabled peers with tact and consideration. The stays greatly benefit children and young people with disabilities medically as well as socially.





Rehabilitation and sports

These activities are focused on sports rehabilitation and improving or maintaining the health condition of the disabled and severely disabled citizens in the course of the whole year. Swimming and exercise are the main sports activities.

Support of employment of people with disabilities

We help interested clients in their integration to the labor market and in improving their social situation. The service includes assistance in searching for job vacancies, contacting employers, negotiating the conditions of employment, accompanying the clients to the meetings with employers, assistance in creating their curriculum vitae and other documentation, contacting the authorities, etc. An integral part of this service is the cooperation of our organization with the state authorities, with employers and other non-profit organizations. We also motivate employers to employ persons with disabilities and provide information on barrier-free workplace modifications, compensation aids and benefits for the employment of people with disabilities.

Handicraft clubs

The aim is to enable the participants to interact with the social environment, to stimulate their abilities and skills, support self-confidence, develop motor abilities and last but not least to enjoy creating a beautiful hand-crafted product. Clients create decoration and small utility goods such as greeting cards, Easter and Christmas decorations, giftware, products from paper, fabric or natural materials, Advent wreaths, etc.

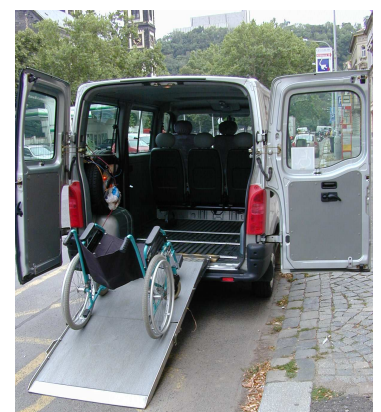


Other social activation services for senior citizens and people with disabilities

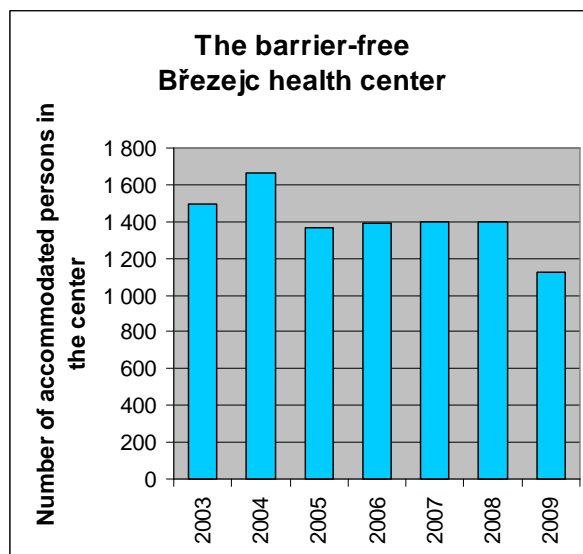
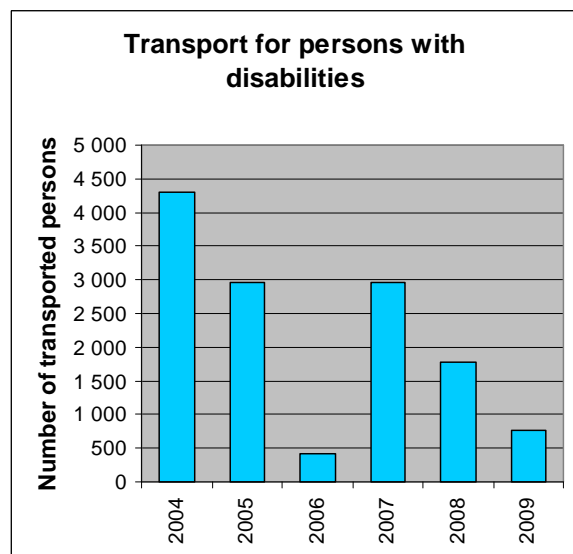
These services enable people with disabilities and senior citizens to integrate into the society and develop their abilities and social skills. Memory training or courses rank among the most favorite activities.

Transportation of citizens with disabilities

We provide transportation by means of specially modified cars equipped with a lifting mechanism and a fastening device for the transportation of



wheelchair users on electric or mechanical wheelchairs. The service is used by clients for transportation to their workplace, to health care facilities, recovery stays, spas, airports, cultural events, transporting children to schools, etc. For many of the severely disabled and for wheelchair users mainly public transport is difficult to access; our service is very often the only possibility for this group of clients.



The barrier-free Březejc health center

Recovery stays for disabled children from the whole country are organized in the Březejc children's health center. Further, we provide stays for parents with children in the summer season, outdoor education, reconditioning stays, psycho-rehabilitative and other courses. Training courses for the supervisors of children and young people with disabilities take place here, focused on extracurricular activities. Accommodation and catering are provided on the premises, as well as an outdoor swimming pool, the LOPED tricycles, bicycles and ninepins. A gymnasium, fitness center and a common room are all available in the basement of the pavilion.



Distribution of Eurokeys

Since 1995 the Association distributes Eurokeys to the disabled throughout the Czech Republic. The Eurokeys are universal keys that are mainly used to access public sanitary facilities (WC) and technical assistive devices (elevators, platform lifts, etc.). The keys are usable not only in the Czech Republic but mainly during travels in the states of the EU, where the possibility of their usage is significantly higher. The opportunity to own a Eurokey removes uncertainty and many psychological barriers; as such it strengthens independence and self-reliance of persons with reduced mobility in everyday life.



Social events

During the year various social events and leisure time activities are organized for members and other interested people by the individual organizational units. These include tours, excursions, holidays, visits to the theatre, concerts, balls, sports games, events for children with disabilities, regular meetings of members, etc.



Granting loans from the special-purpose assets of the Association

Our organization grants loans from our special-purpose assets to our members. These loans are granted for the purpose of buying household equipment in a state of disrepair (e.g. for the purchase of appliances), to facilitate a difficult life situation, for the repair of an automobile, for construction changes of an apartment (e.g. barrier-free access, heating), for the purchase of rehabilitative or compensation aids, etc. Individual loan applications are assessed by a committee and the granting of a specific loan is approved by the board of directors.

Other social services

Regional organizational units of the Association also provide further social services, which include personal assistance, a daily service center, a day care center and respite services.

Personal assistance is provided in a natural social environment to persons with disabilities and senior citizens whose situation requires help of another person. The service mainly includes assistance with managing common self-care activities such as personal hygiene, cooking, and household management.

Respite services are field, ambulatory or residential services provided to persons with lowered self-sufficiency who are otherwise taken care of in their natural social environment. The aim of the service is to provide the caring individual with necessary respite. The service is comprised mainly of these activities: assistance with common daily self-care actions, assistance with personal hygiene or providing the conditions for personal hygiene, providing food or aid with its provision, providing accommodations in the case of a residential service, arranging contact with the social environment, social therapeutic activities.

In the daily service centers persons with lowered self-sufficiency whose situation requires help of another person are provided with ambulatory services. The service mainly includes assistance with personal hygiene or providing the conditions for personal hygiene, providing food or assisting with its provision, educative, instructional and stimulating activities, arranging contact with the social environment, social therapeutic activities, assistance with exercising the client's rights and interests, and attending to personal matters.

The day care centers provide ambulatory services to clients whose situation requires regular help of another person. The service includes mainly assistance with common self-care activities, assistance with personal hygiene or providing the conditions for personal hygiene, provision of food, educative, instructional and stimulating activities, arranging contact with the social environment and social therapeutic activities.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE PHYSICALLY DISABLED IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

In addition to providing services to its clients and members, the Association of the Physically Disabled in the Czech Republic is also active in the sphere of public awareness and the support and protection of rights and interests of the disabled. The Association also engages in projects that are beneficial to persons with disabilities.



This area includes:

- **participation in fairs, exhibitions and conferences** focused on people with disabilities
- **cooperation and exchange of information with foreign and international organizations**
- monitoring and cooperation during the **consultation of legislative changes and measures**
- **involvement in projects** focused on various aspects of life of people with disabilities (e.g. sports)



The Association is a member of these organizations:

- The Czech National Disability Council
- The Czech Humanitarian Organizations Council
- The Association of the Physically Disabled in the Czech Republic is a charter member of the Association of the Handicapped in the Czech Republic
- The Association is a charter member of the Centers for the Disabled

PROJECTS CO-FINANCED FROM THE EU FUNDS

The Association of the Physically Disabled in the Czech Republic utilizes EU programs to support the activities that are focused primarily on the employment and social integration of the disabled. The following projects have been implemented within the IOP, HREOP (OPLZZ), JROP (SROP) and SPD (JPD 3) programs with contribution from the EU funds.

Lending Offices with Compensation Aids of Association of Physically Handicapped People in the Czech Republic (IOP)

In the years 2009 and 2010 the project was implemented within the Integrated Operational Program, co-financed by the European Union from the European Regional Development Fund.



EVROPSKÁ UNIE
EVROPSKÝ FOND PRO REGIONÁLNÍ ROZVOJ
ŠANCE PRO VÁŠ ROZVOJ



The subject of this project was to create a cooperating, well-equipped network lending offices of compensation aids for the physically disabled in eight regions of the Czech Republic.

The project's primary objective was to create a tool for preventing health risks for people with disabilities resulting from the inaccessibility of compensation aids. Further, the lending offices will enable the client to rent or try out specific, complementary or unfamiliar devices. Eight new lending offices were established and the assortment of the fourteen existing lending offices was expanded. The total cost of the project was 9 754 000 CZK.

Activities: management of the competitive tendering, equipping the lending offices, publicity, management and coordination of the project. The project was in progress between 15th December 2009 and 31st August 2010.

Increasing Employability of Handicapped Citizens (HREOP)

The project, financed by the European Social Fund and the state budget of the Czech Republic, was in progress from 1st May 2010 to 29th February 2012 in seven regions of the Czech Republic.



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The project was focused on increasing the employability of people with disabilities. The target group was assisted in acquiring and maintaining an employment. The project included courses on practical topics concerned with seeking an employment and maintaining it. We also offered counseling, an assessment of a client's occupational abilities and opportunities, an increase of the client's qualification by retraining programs and access to the PC in the premises of the project's implementation. By further activities the client was informed and supported in his or her job search and employers were motivated to employ people with disabilities.

Living Roundly (SPD 3)

The project was co-financed by the Czech Republic budget, the budget of the City of Prague and the European Social Fund.



evropský sociální fond v ČR



It was focused on the social integration of the physically handicapped citizens living in Prague into the society and labor market. Activities: counseling, educative courses, lessons, pre-work rehabilitation, arranging employment. The project was implemented from 1st September 2006 to 30th June 2008. The total cost of the project was 3 854 000 CZK.

Social services and supporting the employment of the physically disabled citizens in the South Moravian Region (JROP)

The project was co-financed by the European Union, the state budget of the Czech Republic and the budget of the South Moravian Region. The project is further funded from the Association's own resources, within sustainability.



The main objective of the project was to assist the disabled and severely disabled citizen living in the South Moravian Region in their integration to the society and the labor market. Activities: counseling, educative courses, lessons, arranging employment. The project was in progress from 1st September 2006 to 31st January 2008. The total cost of the project was 4 532 000 CZK. Within the sustainability we continue to implement activities in a limited range.

Social services and supporting the employment of the physically disabled citizens in the Central Bohemian Region (JROP)

The project was co-financed by the European Union, the state budget of the Czech Republic and the budget of the Central Bohemian Region. The project is further funded from the Association's own resources, within sustainability.



The project was implemented from 1st January 2006 to 30th June 2007 with the total cost of 5 601 000 CZK. Activities: motivation and raising awareness, educative courses, searching for employers, barrier-free workplace modifications, publicity. Within the sustainability we continue to implement activities in a limited range.

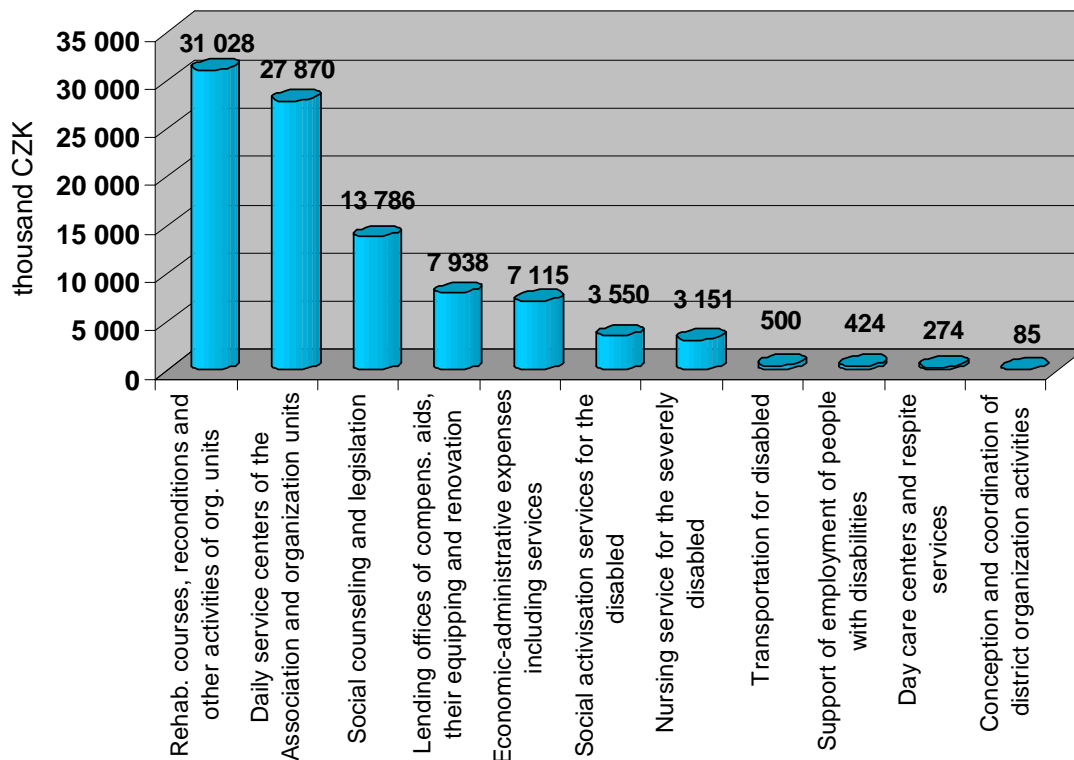
FUNDING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The funding of the Association, as a non-state non-profit organization, is a constant effort to gain sufficient resources for maintaining the quality and range of services and to ensure the organization's operation and existence. We are pleased that we are still successful in justifying our position and that our supporters consider our activities and services worthy of sponsorship.

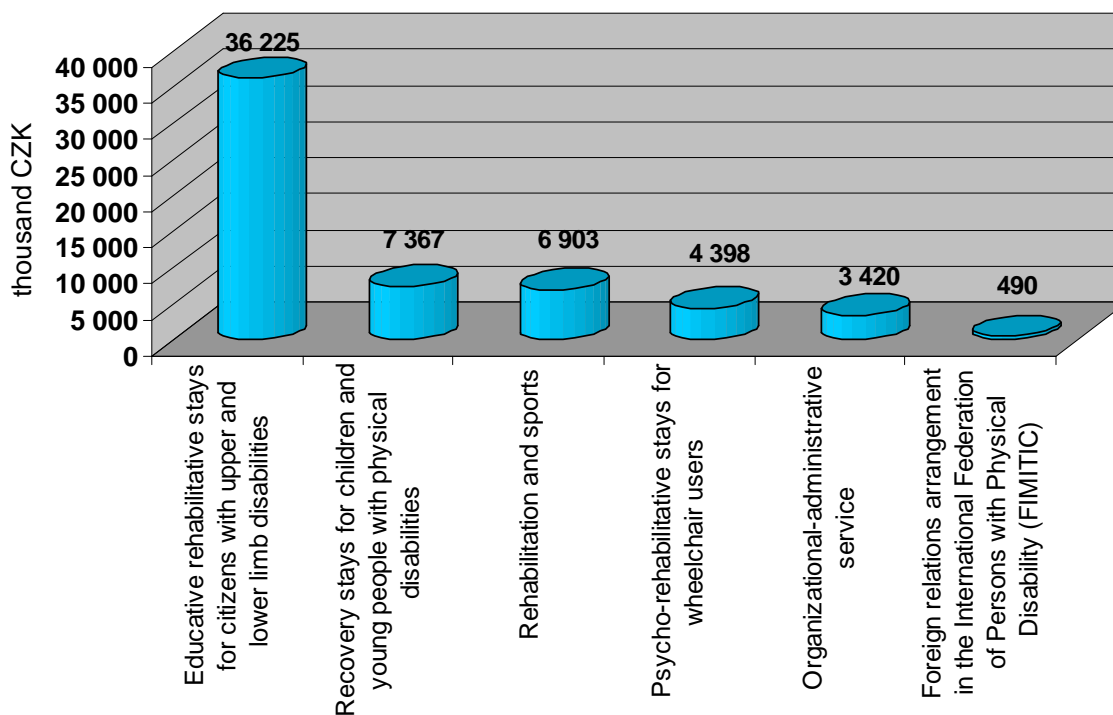
The following graphs demonstrate the primary financial resources drawn from the state budget via central government administration bodies (Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Health) and resources from the EU funds. These resources constitute only a part of our budget; we also obtain financial support e.g. from the public authorities on regional, municipal and local levels, from individual sponsors, foundations, membership contributions, etc.

The data in the graphs are a sum of resources allocated to all the organizational units of the Association.

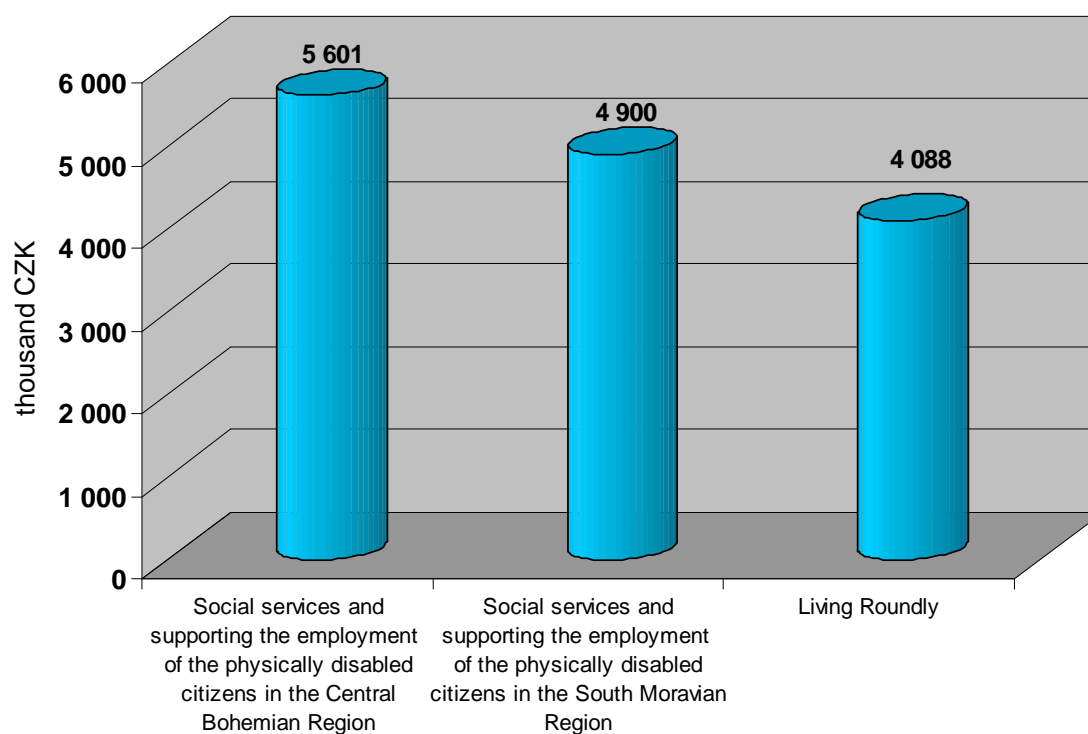
Grants from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in 1998-2009



Grants from the Ministry of Health in 1998-2009



Allocated funds from the EU in 2006 - 2009



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to thank all supporting donors, organizations and institutions. On a nationwide scale our thanks for a long-term support belongs mainly to these institutions (in alphabetical order):

European Regional Development Fund
European Social Fund
Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic

Sincere gratitude also belongs to all other donors.

Many thanks to the staff of the Association of the Physically Disabled in the Czech Republic, volunteers and the members of regional organizational units.