

### Environmental education in the town of Strakonice year by year or “Pilgrimage through the Contemplative Landscape”, Municipality of Strakonice

The nominated educational project of the town of Strakonice is a set of inter-related one-year thematic cycles focusing on the landscapes of the Strakonice, Blatná and Vodňany districts. Each sub-project demonstrates the uniqueness of the landscape in a natural, cultural and historical context and the way to read and understand the history of the region. In the complex approach of sustainable development it explains the need for protection and functional management of landscapes as a mutually interlinked and influenced setting. Through its comprehensive nature, the project increases general awareness about the South Bohemia region and helps people to gain a healthy self-confidence and respect for the place where they were born and where they live. Every thematic cycle is accompanied by a quotation from the book “The Contemplative Landscape” (*Země zamyšlená*), written by a local artist Ladislav Stehlík (1st edition, 1947). Comparisons between this text, which is over 50 years old, and the situation today provide an inspirational view of the development of the landscapes of South Bohemia.



The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe recognised the great value of the project. The environmental education project of the town of Strakonice, a national pilot project, is an on-going process of an enduring nature, one which takes account of previous management. It brings all generations together through a series of “thematic cycles” referring to the intangible values of the places concerned (history and legend, poetry, painting, folk arts...) in order to give a better description of the landscape and “give it a soul”. The growing awareness of the sense of belonging to a “European” landscape is interesting. Active public participation in the restoration and maintenance of “small” heritage was appreciated.