

PRA HA
PRA GUE
PRA GA
PRA G

IPR

Prague Institute of Planning and Development

/ basic information

PRAGUE





- Introduction
- What IPR Prague does
- A New Approach / Openness and Conceptuality
- Strategic Planning
- Land Use Planning
- Public Space
- Projects and Competitions
- Infrastructure and the Landscape
- Geographical Data
- Communication and Participation
- European Projects
- Important Dates

Prague is at a developmental crossroads. Does it wish to be a living, dynamic city that actively prepares for future challenges, or will it forever only seek to profit from its famous past?

If Prague wishes to join the ranks of developed western metropolises, it requires first-rate development planning with an excellent knowledge and information base. The capital city needs an integrated and interconnected planning system at various levels: from visions and ideas to practical regulations and ordinances. This requires institutional support. The establishment of the Prague Institute of Planning and Development was, in fact, one of the first steps in this direction.

In a functioning democracy, a city's political administration changes from time to time, but the shared vision of the kind of city in which we would like to live should remain the same. All successful western cities have their own "IPR", i.e., an institution that is responsible for ensuring the continuity of efforts to fulfil the basic values and principles of a well-functioning city.

For every city, quality of life is the determining value, and this is closely related to a city's public space. Cultivating and actively using public spaces is a key theme for IPR Prague. Sharing common space usually leads to mutual respect among people and teaches them polite, cultured and sophisticated interaction. This is also why the level of public space is a litmus test for the state of democracy.

Logically set rules are another parameter of a well-functioning city. Rules need to be clear and comprehensible and should apply equally to everyone. IPR Prague is trying to create clear rules for building and for urban planning and development.

The capital city is undergoing important changes in the field of development and planning, and this is placing great demands on transparency and open communication with the public and the institutions affected by the change. The emphasis on openness and public scrutiny is one of the principles of IPR Prague.

This brochure is for those of you who are interested in our work.

What IPR Prague does

The Prague Institute of Planning and Development (IPR Prague) is the body in charge of developing the concept behind the city's architecture, urbanism, development and formation. It is an organisation funded by Prague and represents the city in spatial planning matters.

The institute chiefly drafts and coordinates documents in the following areas: strategic and spatial planning and development, public space, transport, technical matters, and landscape and economic infrastructure. Such documents include the recently completed Prague Building Regulations, the Prague Waterfront Concept and the Prague Public Space Design Manual. Creation of a new land use plan for Prague – the “Metropolitan Plan” – and updating of the Prague City Strategic Plan are key projects which are currently underway.

IPR Prague is also in charge of the important task of processing geographical data and information, both for applied research and for the creation of supporting documentation that is important for the development of the city (particularly the Prague Analytical Land Use Documentation). IPR Prague is the administrator of www.geoportalpraha.cz, which contains numerous maps of Prague available to the general public, and works with universities, scientific research institutions, and non-profit organisations, both nationally and internationally.

[Workshop with Mark Johnson at IPR Prague,
PHOTO: Jan Malý]





A New Approach / Openness and Conceptuality

In November 2013, transformation of the Prague City Development Authority (ÚRM) into the Prague Institute of Planning and Development (IPR Prague) was completed. The transformation aims to have Prague return to its rightful place among the most developed European metropolises. An emphasis on a conceptual approach in development planning is a prerequisite for this. An essential part of the transformation is expanding the organisation's scope of responsibility, which also means placing higher demands on the expertise of its staff. Only then will it be possible to guarantee the results that will allow IPR Prague to fulfil present demands on the quality of planning and development of the city.

In connection with the greater scope of responsibility, two new conceptual offices – the Metropolitan Planning Office and the Public Space Office – were set up in 2012. Their common objective is for city planning and management to focus once again on quality of life. Research and education efforts and utilisation of data, information and knowledge in applied research also belong among the primary activities of IPR Prague.

IPR Prague is changing the system of planning and developing the capital. It is drafting key documents concurrently, thus allowing for the creation of a new, integrated and cohesive system that will correspond to the needs of the metropolis in the 21st century.

An essential means to achieving first-rate urban planning and governance is open communication and active cooperation with the public and other stakeholders in the development of the city. For this purpose, the Communication and Presentation Office was created in 2013. This office has, for example, begun organising seminars and workshops for the various city districts as well as holding public lectures.

Strategic Planning

A crucial tool for strategic planning of city development is a realistic strategic plan formulating a shared vision for the city. It determines the primary direction development is to take in the medium- and long-term, and sets out the city's social and economic objectives and priorities. New fiscal and demographic analyses and recent discussions with experts, public administrations and other institutions form the basis for its creation.

Although a strategic plan is essential for a million-strong city, in Prague this was a much-neglected area – until recently. One of the main tasks of IPR Prague is to create a clear, practical and flexible strategic plan for which the public will be able to hold the city's representatives accountable.

Efforts to update the plan are based on the community method, which relies on the participation of a wide group of local actors and experts. A team of 250 experts have helped develop the plan. Work progress is presented regularly at public conferences and lectures as well as professional seminars, with over 4000 people having taken part so far.

Another essential area while searching for a decent new vision of Prague is promoting research, innovation and entrepreneurship. Therefore IPR Praha processes Regional Innovation Strategy and professionally guarantees innovative vouchers project. At the same time, the institute has joined the concept of Smart Cities, which seeks to apply innovative technology solutions in the cities.

MOBILITY

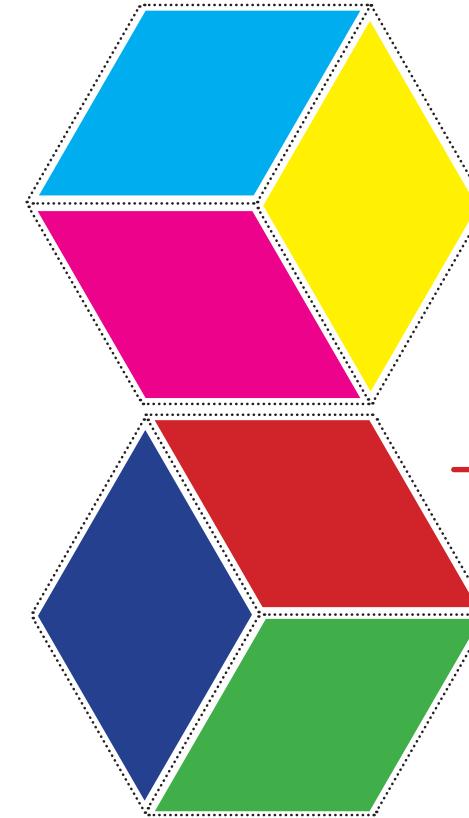
*A physically permeable,
accessible
and interconnected city*

CREATIVITY

*A living, cultural
and creative city*

PROSPERITY

A prospering city



SYSTEM/MANAGEMENT

*A wisely
and transparently
managed city*

PEOPLE

*An open
and cohesive city
that makes use
of its active
and educated
inhabitants'
potential*

ENVIRONMENT

*A highly functional and aesthetic
environment in the city*

Land Use Planning

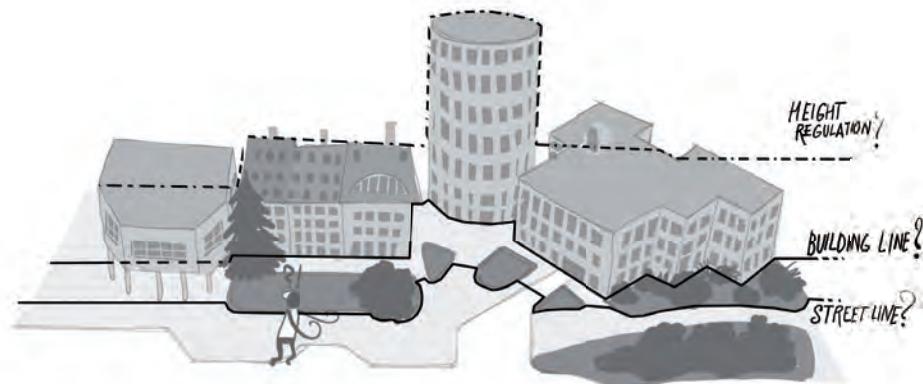
A common theme across all the land use planning documents is making use of the city's neglected potential. Prague would like to make use of its overgrown city "jungles" or brownfields instead of taking up free land at the outskirts of the city. The aim will be to create new parks, new buildings and places for leisure activities.



THE METROPOLITAN PLAN

The Metropolitan Plan is the new Prague Land Use Plan. Although it is not set to be completed until 2017, its methodology and the concept for its future form were already presented in spring 2014. So what is the purpose of the Metropolitan Plan? First of all, it should stop the uncontrolled expansion of developments into fields by defining clear borders between the city and the countryside. The creation of environmentally harmful and uneconomical urban sprawl on the city's outskirts should stop. Another element is the new basic unit of the land use plan: locality. It is defined by its position in the city, the prevailing character of built-up areas and landscape, and the cultural and economic conditions. The new plan aims to support the urban character of the various localities, i.e., different regulations will apply to different localities. These regulations will help to prevent the development of solitary high-rises in inappropriate locations, such as residential areas. Regulations setting building height limits across Prague will also help to maintain its character.





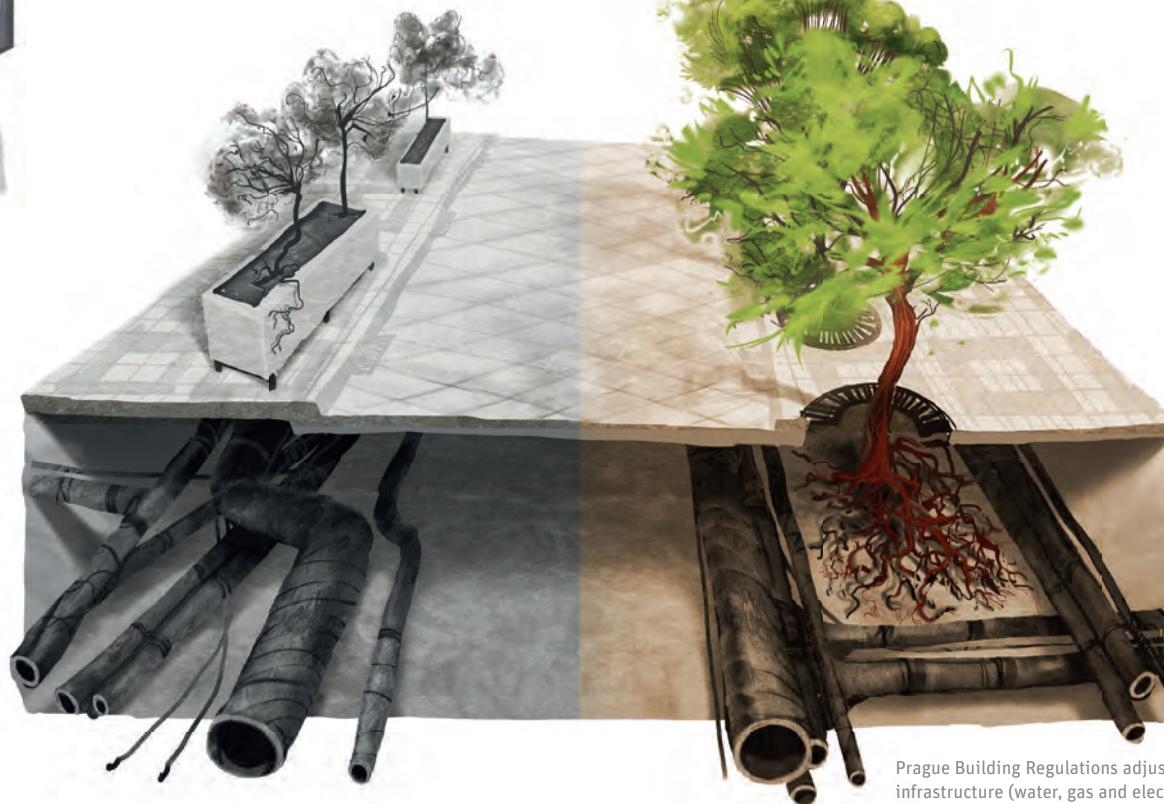
PRAGUE BUILDING REGULATIONS

Thanks to the Prague Building Regulations (PBR), which have been in effect since 1 October 2014, Prague's city-building principles are in line with those common in developed European metropolises. The new building regulations provide solutions to current problems, such as problems tied to the disintegration of the city structure and

Prague Building Regulations introduce requirements for new buildings based on the prevailing character of its surroundings.



Prague Building Regulations ban billboards larger than 6m² within the developable area of the city.



Prague Building Regulations adjust existing infrastructure (water, gas and electricity supply) in order to make room for pipes, cables as well as tree roots.

the economic, environment and social ramifications thereof. Unlike previous regulations, the new ones are based on the assumption that buildings are not solitary structures, but structures that lend the city its general appearance. They must, therefore, match the surroundings. The regulations set out new rules for the relationship between buildings, streets and squares. They also focus on the quality of public space and endorse the idea of a compact city with short distances and low demands on traffic and technical infrastructure. In addition to this, they amend certain technical requirements for new developments, as the previous conditions were too strict. The new regulations have been inspired by tried and tested building regulations of cities that regularly place at the top of life quality indexes, such as Vienna and Berlin.

[ILLUSTRATIONS: Michal Šlusar]



Public Space

Increasing the quality of life in the city is a theme that pervades all of the documents drafted at IPR Prague. The objective is to create places to spend and share one's free time thanks to first-rate public spaces.



PRAGUE PUBLIC SPACE DESIGN MANUAL

The objective of the Prague Public Space Design Manual, approved in June 2014, is to gradually transform Prague into a pleasant city that draws people out into public space. The manual contains rules and recommendations for achieving the stipulated objectives, and describes the optimal procedure for preparing and executing investments. What specifically is its purpose? An important issue is making the city pedestrian-friendly. In busy areas, the pavement should be wide enough to allow room for pedestrians, trees and front gardens. Tramway line poles or streetlamps should be grouped together so as to be as unobtrusive as possible. The movement of pedestrians should not be complicated by railings, overpasses and underpasses. The manual also focuses on the aesthetics of public space. It addresses the regulation of advertising and the design of street furniture. It also offers a balanced solution for all public space users: pedestrians, cyclists and drivers. The manual also aims to improve coordination, so that, for example, one street is not needlessly repaired several times a year. In addition to making public space more enjoyable, the manual will ensure cost and time savings in connection with the construction of such space.

[Pleasant environment of a street in Karlín offering space for pedestrians, café gardens, trees and parking for bikes and cars, PHOTO: Veronika Kučerová]

< www.iprpraha.cz/manual >





PRAGUE WATERFRONT CONCEPT

The river and its banks are an important city-forming element, and that is how they should be approached. Until now, Prague lacked a concept for developing the potential of the river and its environs. The Prague Waterfront Concept, approved in 2014, rectifies this situation. Many of the most attractive riverside localities have been neglected, poorly managed and inappropriately privatized. The new concept should coordinate the plans and investments made by public administration, the City of Prague and even private investors, so that the area around the river becomes a much sought-after public space. Both banks of the Vltava should thus be freely accessible along their entire length within Prague city limits. The newly appointed City Waterfront Manager is actively pursuing implementation of the concept, especially on Prague's riverfront.

Projects and Competitions

The Projects and Competitions Office was created at IPR Prague in spring 2014. The purpose of this new office is to ensure that the city's investments into public space are preceded by conceptual preparations, for example in the form of architectural competitions. This should result in a noticeable improvement in the overall quality of interventions in urban space.



MALOSTRANSKÉ NÁMĚSTÍ

One of the most beautiful parts of old Prague – Malostranské náměstí – today resembles a parking lot to a great degree. For this reason, IPR Prague, in cooperation with the City of Prague, announced an urban planning/architecture competition for a design concept for Malostranské náměstí. The winning concept by Martin Hájek, Václav Hájek and Petr Horský should be executed since 2016.

IPR Prague is planning up to 20 architecture and urban planning competitions, public space refurbishments, and other projects, including: Vinohradská Street, Revoluční Street, Táborská Street, Klapkova Street, Rašínovo Waterfront.

[Winning design concept for Malostranské náměstí,
AUTHORS: Ing. arch. Martin Hájek, Ing. arch. Václav Hájek, Ing. arch. Petr Horský]

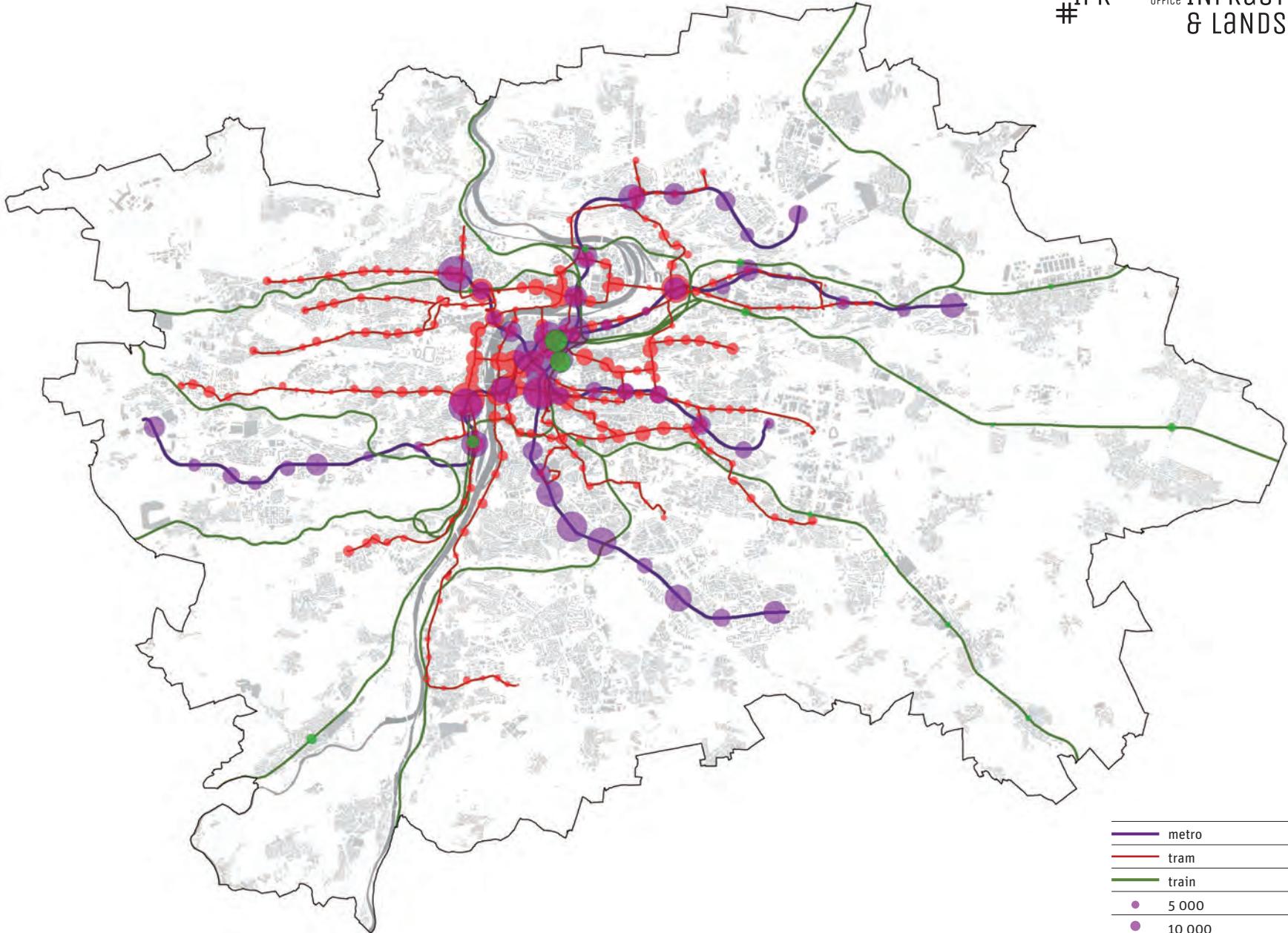
Infrastructure and the Landscape

IPR Prague strives to make Prague a physically permeable, accessible and interconnected city. To this end it will be necessary to shorten distances and travel times via new bridges, to support the development of Prague's Václav Havel Airport and to develop train transport, including suburban railways and the route to Kladno via the airport.

The key document that will lead to the implementation of these principles is Update No. 1 of the Spatial Development Principles drawn up by IPR Prague. This document also defines the corridor of the Prague Ring Road, addresses the high-speed railway corridor and the construction of a parallel line to Prague airport.

Greater attention will be paid to public transport as well as to bicycle and pedestrian traffic. The objective is thus to further integrate the transportation systems of Prague and the Central Bohemia Region and enable the construction of park and ride schemes on the outskirts of the city to allow visitors to Prague to transfer from cars to mass transit or bikes.

Furthermore, IPR Prague prepares analyses and proposals regarding transportation infrastructure, technical infrastructure and landscape infrastructure – for example, it performs comprehensive assessments of the influences on sustainable development for new concept documents.



[Number of travellers per day at Prague Integrated Transport stops, SOURCE: Spatial Information Section]

Geographical Data

The Prague Institute of Planning and Development develops and manages Prague's geographical data and performs spatial analyses of, for example, traffic accessibility, ownership relations within the city and the structure of built-up areas.

DIGITAL MAP OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OF PRAGUE

An important activity of IPR Prague is arranging for current [basic geographical data for all urban governance activities](#). The Digital Map of Public Administration of Prague includes the Technical Map, orthophoto maps, 3D models of Prague and a basic map of Prague at a scale of 1 : 25 000.

GEOPORTAL OF PRAGUE

Geoportal is a basic, publicly accessible, internet source of maps and information about Prague. The website offers more than thirty on-line maps of Prague – aerial photographs from different years, a noise map, and a map of the most photographed places.

< www.geoportalpraha.cz >

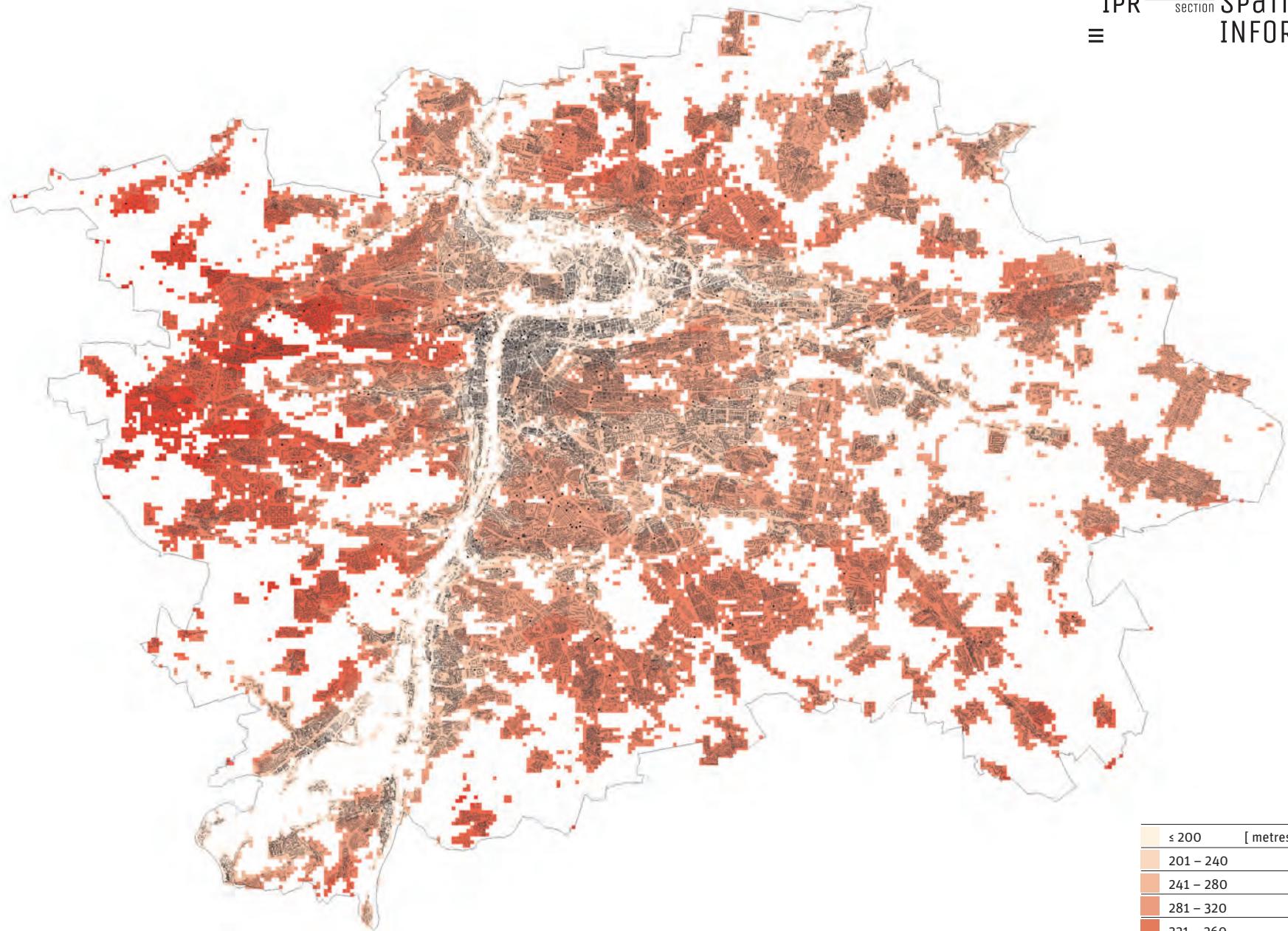


SPATIAL ANALYTICAL DOCUMENTATION

Over the last two years, all spatial analytical documentation serving as the basis for planning documentation has been updated – these documents describe the important values of the capital, as well as the limits, problems and development possibilities. The current version is the most detailed survey in existence of the state of the territory of Prague.

OPEN DATA

At this time, IPR provides access to data for equal and transparent sharing of spatial information. For this purpose, it is preparing the eVýdej service – a free-of-charge, electronic service for issuing spatial data and a system for direct access to open geographical data.



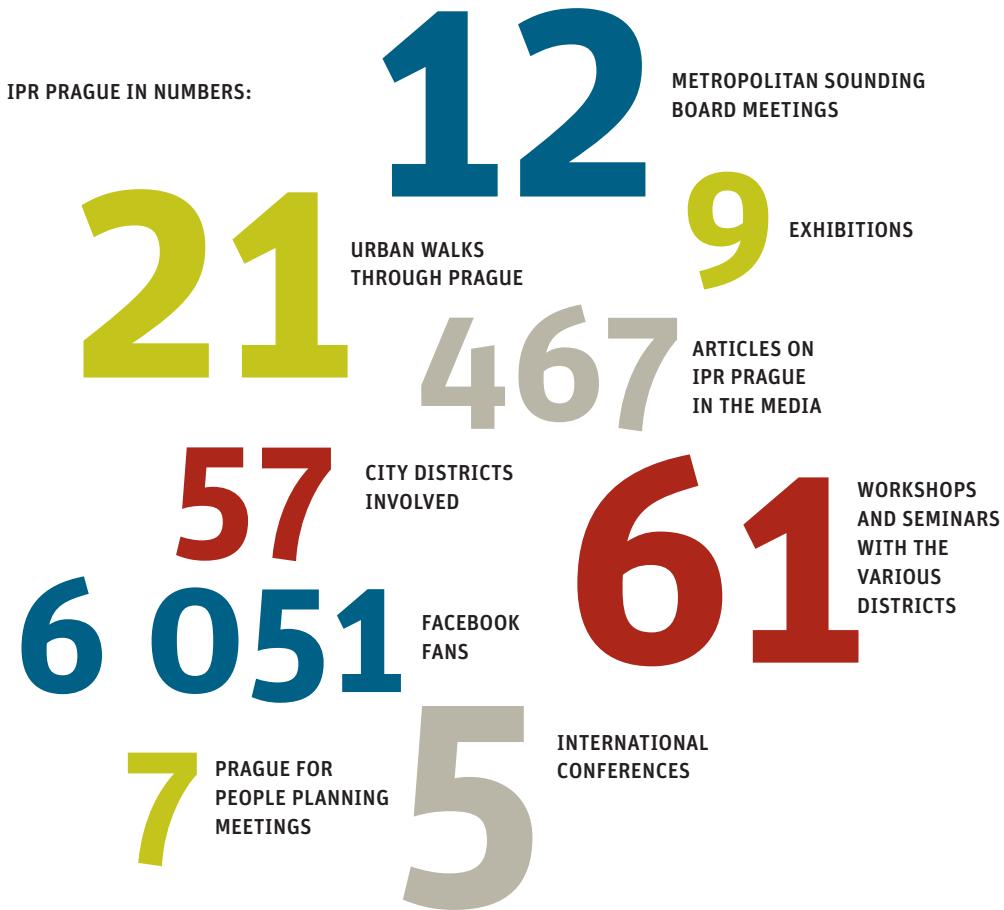
| | |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| ≤ 200 | [metres above sea level] |
| 201 – 240 | |
| 241 – 280 | |
| 281 – 320 | |
| 321 – 260 | |
| 361 ≥ | |

[Absolute elevations of built-up areas on a 100 x 100 m grid, SOURCE: Prague Analytical Land Use Documentation 2014.]

Communication and Participation

A living and functioning city cannot exist without communicating and cooperating with its inhabitants. For this reason, the Communications and Presentation Office was created in 2013. It organises numerous events for both the general public and professionals, communicates with media and manages on-line presentation of IPR Prague on official website and on social networking sites.

IPR PRAGUE IN NUMBERS:



[Urban walks with Prague Public Space Design Manual and Prague Building Regulations, PHOTO: Jan Malý; SPREAD → The Waterfront Lives!, PHOTO: Anna Šolcová; Metropolitan Sounding Board, PHOTO: Jan Malý]





European Projects

The Prague Institute of Planning and Development plays an important role in identifying and utilising grant opportunities, with Prague receiving a substantial amount of funding from these. In addition to the projects mentioned below, Prague, thanks to IPR Prague, is taking part in a number of prestigious innovative projects, such as Morgenstadt: City Lab, Triangulum and Invitation for Commitments.

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME PRAGUE – GROWTH POLE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Investments from Union funds will, thanks to OP Prague – Growth Pole of the Czech Republic, be directed at research, development and innovation, support for SMEs and the shift to a low-carbon economy, and promotion of education and equal opportunities.

SMART CITIES

The Smart Cities concept is the main trend in EU regional policy. It embodies the application of innovative technological solutions to an urban environment to reduce the environmental burden of cities. Once the 2014-2020 programming period ends, it will be possible to use resources from these programmes only; it is therefore necessary to monitor this trend and be at the forefront of development.

[Deputy Mayor of Vienna Maria Vassilakou at the Czech-Austrian Architecture Forum 2013, PHOTO: Anna Šolcová]

INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL STRATEGIES

Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) is a new tool for integrated implementation of territorial strategies that the European Commission has proposed for the 2014-2020 period. It will help Member States fulfil operational programme objectives and combine financial resources from a number of axes of one or more operational programmes. This tool helped Prague to set up an intense cooperation with the Central Bohemia Region in the field of European funds..

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

IPR Prague builds on active cooperation with foreign partners. The aim is to become inspired and introduce examples of good practice into this country. For this reason, IPR Prague organises seminars, workshops and conferences for both the general public and experts, and develops partnerships with European cities. Participation in the Eurocities network, the creation of an informal platform of four cities – Prague, Brno, Vienna and Bratislava – called 4CE, the organisation of the Prague-Vienna and Prague-Amsterdam urban planning conferences, and involvement in reSITE all testify to these efforts.



Important Dates

2012

28-04-2012
Metropolitan Sounding Board 1.1

07-06-2012
Decision to develop the Metropolitan Plan

03-09-2012
Creation of the Metropolitan Plan Office

25-10-2012
Discussion of the Prague Planning Analytical Materials

01-11-2012
Creation of the Public Space Office

14-11-2012
Publication of the Mapy on-line (Maps on-line) website

2013

31-05-2013
Resolution of the Prague City Council to commence efforts to update the Prague Strategic Plan

06-2013
Publication of the "Flood 2013 – operative support during the flood" on-line map

18-06-2013
Launch of the Ladíme Praha (We're Tuning Prague) campaign

07-2013
completion of field surveys of Prague

14-09-2013
Nábřeží žije!
Waterfront Lives!
Smetanovo nábřeží without cars

07-11-2013
Transformation of the Prague City Development Authority to the Prague Institute of Planning and Development

2014

18-02-2014
Creation of the Projects and Competitions Office

01-04-2014
Publication of the draft rationale for the Metropolitan Plan, Part I (Part 2 in September 2014)

04-02-2014
Approval of the Prague Waterfront Project by the Prague City Council

22-11-2013
Czech-Austrian Architecture Forum 2013: Central European Metropolises in the 21st Century conference

19-09-2013
Approval of the proposal to award the Metropolitan Plan

18-06-2014
Co-organisation of the reSITE conference on the topic Cities and Landscapes of the New Economy

24-06-2014
Approval of the Prague Public Space Design Manual and Prague Public Space Development Strategy

18-07-2014
Establishment of the IPR Prague General Council

03-11-2014
Prague/Amsterdam Forum

2015

04-10-2014
Metropolitní ozvučná deska (Metropolitan Sounding Board) 3.4

15-07-2014
Approval of the Prague Building Regulations effective 1. 10. 2014

19-06-2014
Announcement of an urban planning/architecture competition for Malostranské náměstí in Prague (design concept)

15-05-2014
Co-organiser of the Governance of Land Use in OECD Countries conference

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE:

DIRECTOR

+

GENERAL COUNCIL

SECTION COUNCIL

Communication and Presentation Office

Management and Administration Office

Strategy and Policy Section

Urban Planning Section

Urban Design Section

Spatial Information Section

Infrastructure and Landscape Office

[TITLE PAGE → Discussion about Prague maps,
Waterfront Lives!, PHOTO: Anna Šolcová;
INSIDE COVER → Debate on the strategic planning of Prague,
Waterfront Lives!, PHOTO: Anna Šolcová]

Prague Institute of Planning and Development,
Communications and Presentation Office,
Vyšehradská 57, 128 00 Prague 2

www.iprpraha.cz
kkp@ipr.praha.eu

PHOTO: IPR Prague Archive
TEXT: Communication and Presentation Office /IPR Prague

© 2015 Prague Institute of Planning and Development