

PRESS RELEASE

March 2011

World Health Organisation praises three LivCom winning cities

LivCom has received the acknowledgement of the World Health Organisation (WHO) after The WHO European Healthy Cities Network praised the efforts of three Czech “Healthy Cities”, Chrudim, Mladá Boleslav and Tábor, all winners at the 2010 Livcom Awards.

The International Livcom Awards are endorsed by the UN and recognizes cities for their achievements in the field of environmental protection and cultural heritage, sustainable development of the communities, healthy lifestyle or strategic planning. The competition's criteria focus on assessment of the quality of inhabitants' life and enforcement of sustainable development principles and its three pillars - economic, social and environmental.

The three winning cities to win praise from the WHO are all members of the National Healthy Cities Network of the Czech Republic.

The WHO Healthy Cities project is a global movement. It engages local governments in health development through a process of political commitment, institutional change, capacity-building, partnership-based planning and innovative projects. About 90 cities are members of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, and 30 national Healthy Cities networks across the WHO European Region have more than 1400 cities and towns as members.

The primary goal of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network is to put health high on the social, economic and political agenda of city governments. Health is the business of all sectors, and local

governments are in a unique leadership position, with power to protect and promote their citizens' health and well-being.

Endorsed by the United Nations Environment Programme the LivCom awards are the world's only awards recognising excellence in the sustainable development of cities.

Finalists from some of the world's largest, oldest, newest, richest and poorest communities take part each year in the awards to share knowledge, ideas and support for establishing a global network of communities committed to respecting the environment, actively protecting and enhancing it, actively engaging in the future planning of their communities and living healthy lifestyles.

The 2011 International Awards for Liveable Communities will take place in Songpa, Seoul in October. Communities must register entries by 31st May and submit a written report by 30th June, which is assessed by an independent panel of judges in July. The Judges invite a number of communities to attend the finals of LivCom, where they will be required to make a verbal presentation to the judges, with other delegates observing the presentation, and to answer a series of questions from the judges. There are three sections to the awards – Whole City, Sustainable Projects and a Bursary Award to the value of £10,000.

There is no community registration fee, and a number of delegates from each community may attend the Finals without the payment of any fee.

ENDS