

## **THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN PRAGUE – 75 YEARS OF PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF THE NATION**

In November 1925 the National Institute of Public Health was ceremoniously opened in Prague. The tasks of the Institute were given by law and complied with what were then the latest concepts of prevention of widespread diseases, particularly those of an infectious nature and those caused by inadequate nutrition or occupational factors. Among other activities performed at the Institute were control of drinking water quality, living conditions and pharmaceutical products. Particularly important duties comprised microbiological diagnostics and the production of vaccines. In addition, the Institute served as a centre for health education of the population, postgraduate training of health professionals and research in the fields of hygiene, epidemiology and microbiology.

Today, it is a noteworthy and admirable fact that this original concept has remained valid and, with certain amendments, it is compatible with current ideas defining the role of the public health in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. On the sunrise of the new century the National Institute of Public Health is the pivotal point within the health sector for achieving the goals outlined by the European Health for All strategy and for approaching standards set by the European Union. Among the main contemporary activities conducted at the Institute we can number research into the relationship between living/occupational conditions and health, creation and participation in disease prevention programmes, specialist aid in state administration and the public and private sectors, reference services for the public health service, health promotion including health education and audiovisual productions and, finally, participation in the postgraduate training of health professionals in preventive disciplines.

It is our pleasure to remind our readers of this important jubilee.

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