

# Vysočina Region



A Pocket Guide  
to **Vysočina**

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# Vysočina – A Place We Share



Dear Fellow Residents and Visitors,

For five years, Vysočina has existed as an independent regional unit. In that time, it has become firmly established on the map of the Czech Republic. Our region is positively perceived as one with rich entrepreneurial activities, traditional agriculture, and developing industrial production and tourism. It is characteristically seen to have the cleanest environment, cultural monuments, and an ever increasing array of educational, cultural, sporting, and other social opportunities.

We are publishing this brief handbook, entitled "A Pocket Guide to Vysočina," in order to enhance our mutual sense of belonging, to provide you with new information, or just to refresh your memory. I hope that these several pages will clearly show you that Vysočina is not only a beautiful and dynamic region, but also a friendly and open one.

This handbook is to serve as a small testament of these features of our Vysočina. Welcome to Vysočina, and enjoy its beauty!

**Miloš Vystrčil**

President of the Vysočina Region

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Miloš Vystrčil".

# We Are Here for You...



Dear Residents and Visitors of Vysočina!

I would like to assure you, on both my own behalf and that of all of my colleagues from the Regional Authority, that we do our work primarily for you. In principle, our everyday work has only one goal: to provide you with comprehensive support. No matter whether you live here, or come here for work or recreation, we have enough information to help you achieve your goals: we will guide you safely through all situations in which you may need to rely on state administration, but also give you tips for how and where to spend your leisure time in Vysočina. If we are not able to resolve your problem directly, we will help you find a place where the solution can be obtained. We will be happy if you make use of our services.

Welcome to Vysočina, and enjoy the achievements of its inhabitants.

**Simeona Zikmundová**

Director of the Regional Authority

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simeona'.

# Vysočina – Our Home

## *...a few facts you may already know*

The region's name, "Vysočina" (the Highlands), is derived from the fact that this administrative unit occupies the vast majority of the Czech-Moravian Highlands, an upland area with rolling hills that reach up to over eight hundred meters above sea level.

With its area of 6,796 sq. km, Vysočina is the fifth largest Region; its territory occupies 9% of the aggregate area of the Czech Republic.



The region's natural conditions have led to the establishment of more than one thousand settlements. For Vysočina, small villages are typical, not too distant from a local centre, usually a small town with three to ten thousand inhabitants. Only four towns have more than twenty thousand inhabitants, and the region's capital, Jihlava, has fifty thousand. There are 510,032 inhabitants (as at 30 June 2005) in the Region; the density of population – 75 inhabitants per sq. km – is the third lowest in the country.

Vysočina's regional capital is Jihlava, the oldest mining town in the Czech lands, which once was, during the medieval era, one of the richest cities in the Bohemian Kingdom, primarily due to its silver mines.

The Region divides further into 15, so-called, small districts (administrative regions of municipalities with extended powers), and 26 administrative districts of authorised municipal authorities. There are 704 municipalities in the Region, which is the second-highest number, among all of the 14 Regions of the Czech Republic.



*Municipalities with extended powers carry out most activities provided under devolved state administrative powers – meaning that they can render most administrative services to their citizens. Aside from these powers, they also exercise their independent powers.*

# Vysočina – A Place for Living

*...making use of our strengths*

## Inhabitants

- The Region affords its inhabitants the positive aspects of rural life, while making an urban centre easily accessible
- The lowest crime rate in the country
- The mean life expectancy of both men and women is the second longest of all of the Regions in the country
- The average age of its inhabitants is 39.2 years
- Statistically, people in Vysočina are among the healthiest in the country
- The lowest mortality rate, as compared with other Regions

## Strategic Location

- Advantageously situated, both nationally and in Europe, between Prague, Brno, and Vienna
- Easily accessible for transport – the country's main transport artery, the D-1 Motorway, cuts through the Region
- A dense road network connecting its settlements



# Industry, Services, Development of Enterprise

- Strong industrial production: wood-working, glass, machinery, metal-working, furniture, and the food industry
- Its economy in the eastern part is influenced by the proximity of the Brno agglomeration, and the north-western part of the Region falls within Prague’s catchment area
- A sought-after Region for foreign investors (BOSCH DIESEL, Automotive Lighting, Futaba...)
- 39 industrial zones

*Largest industrial companies in the Vysočina Region (2005)*

Company name	Seat of the company	Number of employees
BOSCH DIESEL s. r. o.	Jihlava	6,150
ŽDAS, a. s.	Žďár n. S.	3,000
Sklo Bohemia, a. s.	Světlá n. S.	1,600
Kostecké uzeniny a. s.	Kostelec	1,480
Automotive Lighting s. r. o.	Jihlava	1,615
ČEZ, a. s. – JE Dukovany	Dukovany	1,330





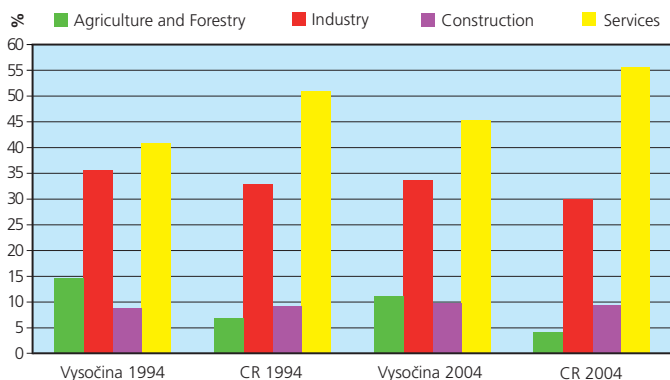
## Agriculture

- Exceptionally good conditions for the production of milk and potatoes (more than one third of all potatoes harvested in the Czech Republic come from Vysočina)
- More than 15% of the country's cattle is raised in Vysočina
- The highest forest production capacity of all Regions

## The Labour Market and Employment

- The unemployment rate is below the national average
- The average monthly wage is CZK 15,838; the CR national average is CZK 18,421 (data from QI – QIII 2005)

### Employment in various fields of the national economy (%)



## Education

- A broad range of industry-specific secondary schools
- Sufficient capacity of secondary schools
- Schools and educational facilities boasting modern equipment

### Number of schools in the Vysočina Region (2004)

Kindergartens	131
Elementary Schools	262
Gymnasias (Academic Secondary Schools)	18
Secondary Specialised Schools	43
Secondary Vocational Schools	33
Higher Specialised Schools	12

## INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- Polytechnic University Jihlava (public)
- West-Moravian University Třebíč (private)
- Eight remote branches of higher education institutions from other Regions – Czech Agricultural University Prague, University of Chemistry and Technology in Prague, Masaryk University in Brno, Technical University Brno, University of Hradec Králové, Palacký



University in Olomouc, J. A. Comenius University (Jihlava, Obrataň, Žďár nad Sázavou, Telč, Světlá nad Sázavou and Humpolec)

## **SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS**

Pupils and students from Vysočina engage in international activities as part of their school projects, or participate in activities offered through NGOs. The Region supports those activities financially, but also provides information, consulting, and methodological services.

In 2005, the Vysočina Fund grant programme known as International Projects 2005 supported a total of 25 projects for international co-operation with different focuses, in the aggregate amount of CZK 1.39 million. Since 2002, the Region has provided top-up financing for projects implemented by schools or non-profit organisations as part of EU educational programmes (Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci, Youth). To date, 40 projects have taken place with the region's support, with the total cost of their implementation exceeding CZK 13 million.



## Health Care and Social Services

- There are five hospitals established by the Region in the Vysočina Region (Jihlava, Třebíč, Pelhřimov, Havlíčkův Brod, and Nové Město na Moravě)
- Aside from hospitals established by the Region, Vysočina has other health care facilities, such as the Hospital of St. Zdislava in Mostiště, auxiliary hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, and psychiatric clinics
- An exceptional social institution is the Social Care Diagnostic Institute in Černovice, one of the most advanced facilities of its type in the country

## Recreation and Tourism

- A broad array of tourist options
- Approximately 2,900 km of marked hiking trails, and 2,250 km of bike trails
- Excellent conditions for active family vacations
- Significant sports events (the Golden Ski in Nové Město na Moravě)



Moravě, the Golden Horseshoe in Humpolec, the Axis swimming competitions in Jihlava, and the car races: Horácká Rally, Rally Vysočina, Autocross – Humpolec)

- Many cultural monuments and significant traditional cultural events (the Peter Dvorský International Music Festival in Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou; the International Festival of Documentary Film in Jihlava; Summer in Telč, a folk-music festival; or the Třebíč potato harvest festival)

## THE MAIN TOURIST DESTINATIONS IN THE VYSOČINA REGION

- UNESCO sights: Telč Square and Chateau; the Church of St. John Nepomuk at Zelená Hora, near Žďár nad Sázavou; the Basilica of St. Prokop and the Jewish Quarter in Třebíč
- Jihlava ZOO
- The Museum of Records and Curiosities in Pelhřimov
- The Chateau in Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou
- The Jihlava Catacombs

## The Environment

- Clean air – one of the cleanest Regions in the Czech Republic
- There are two protected landscape areas, another 170 small-scale protected areas, and nine natural parks in the Region
- Healthy forests not affected by emissions (Vysočina's average forestation is 29.9 %) with a plenitude of game
- Vysočina was the first Region in the Czech Republic to become a member of the National Network of Healthy Towns of the Czech Republic, an internationally certified association uniting towns, municipalities, and Regions, the goal of which is to support sustainable development, health, and quality of life in local conditions

### THE NATURAL RICHES OF THE REGION

- The protected landscape areas Žďárské vrchy and Železné hory (8.9 % of the region's aggregate area)
- The Mohelno Serpentine Step
- The Velké Dářko Water Reservoir (the so-called Sea of Vysočina)
- The valley of the River Doubrava
- Velký Špičák



# Vysočina – A Place of Promise

*...the future is in our hands*

## Regional Development Programme

The Regional Development Programme is a strategic plan for the Region, which defines the basic framework of development priorities for the deliberation of the region's self-governing bodies. We see our main development in the following areas:

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- To create better conditions for investment
- Support of small and medium enterprises
- Care for rural areas
- Support for tourism

### PEOPLE ARE OUR GREATEST ASSET

- Development of the system of education in the Region
- Support for housing construction
- Improvement of health care and social services
- Support for leisure-time activities and international cultural events

### TRAVEL AND COMMUNICATE ON A HIGH LEVEL

- Care for the road network in the Region, support for mass transport
- Development of telecommunication networks and IT technologies
- Development of energy and water lines

### WE ARE THINKING ABOUT OUR FUTURE

- Protection of Vysočina's natural riches
- Well-thought-out waste management
- Support for clean sources of energy
- Ecological education and support for healthy lifestyles

# The Vysočina Fund

*...helping the right things*

This independent, special-purpose development fund was established in 2002, as an instrument for implementing the regional policy of the Regional Development Programme.



The Fund concentrates a portion of the development funds which the Vysočina Region grants to various entities through grant programmes, in the form of subsidies and loans, pursuant to specific rules, and in line with approved priorities.

The Region uses the Vysočina Fund to support regional activities in sports and culture, the introduction of information technology, zoning, the environment, education, and agriculture. In 2002–2005, we expended more than CZK 240 million in supporting these activities. Other grant programmes are announced on an ongoing basis.

## Selected 2005 Grant Programmes

### A SYSTEM FOR WASTE COLLECTION AND SORTING

- Support for ecologically and economically efficient waste treatment

### SPORTS FACILITIES

- Support for the development of leisure-time activities, focusing on creating and renewing leisure-time facilities and the formation of civil society

### WE LIKE OUR LIBRARY

- Support for the development of culture and cultural heritage, and the protection and renovation of monuments

### PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET

- Improved opportunities for the public to access information through IT

## CRIME PREVENTION

- Increased standard of health care and social services, and the prevention of health and social risks, by way of maintaining and improving conditions in the sphere of social care, and by developing mechanisms for fighting the social marginalisation of at-risk groups of inhabitants

## PUBLIC PERSONAL TRANSPORT

- Support for the development of a supra-regional transport network, improving transport networks of regional significance, and focusing on stimulating mass transport

## RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Economic stabilisation of rural areas, with an emphasis on integrating economic activities with a multifunctional use of landscape (the renewal and development of rural settlements)

# Vysočina – Our Responsibility

## *...the Region and its Self-Governance*

### The Region

Act no. 129/2000 Coll., on Regions, defines the Regions in the Czech Republic as higher, territorial self-governing units. It is a territorial community of citizens endowed with the right of self-governance. This community is of the nature of a public corporation – in legal relations, it acts in its own name and bears the responsibility arising from those relations; and within its independent powers it cares for the overall development of its territory, and for the needs of its inhabitants, and co-operates with municipalities (not interfering with their independent powers). Regions, as they exist today in the Czech Republic, were established in 2000, and gradually several powers which have thus far vested with the State are being transferred to them. Legislatively, this arrangement is regulated by Con-

stitutional Act no. 347/1997 Coll., as amended. One of the main reasons for the reform of public administration was the attempt to improve and modernise the execution of public administration, and to make it more accessible to citizens. The main principle of the reform was the, so-called, Joint Public Administration Model, which means that self-governing bodies (regions and municipalities) also carry out, pursuant to special laws, aside from self-governance (the administration of matters concerning the interests of a municipality or Region, as a self-governing unit), state administration within devolved powers (municipal and regional authorities are authorised by the State to execute certain powers and matters, e.g., municipalities are responsible for paying out social benefits).

GOVERNING INSTITUTIONS OF THE REGION			
Regional Assembly	Regional Council	President	Regional Authority
Committees set up by the Regional Assembly by law:	Commissions set up by the Regional Council:  (e.g.: health commission, transport commission, security commission, etc.)		Departments of the Regional Authority: (e.g.: Presidential Secretariat, Department of Regional Development, etc.)
Control Committee			Department Sections: (e.g.: Office of the President, Tourism Section, etc.)
Committee for Education, Training, and Employment			
Financial Committee			

The name of the Vysočina Region is applicable as of 31 May 2001, when the region’s original name was changed (from the “Jihlava Region”).

## Governing Institutions of the Vysočina Region

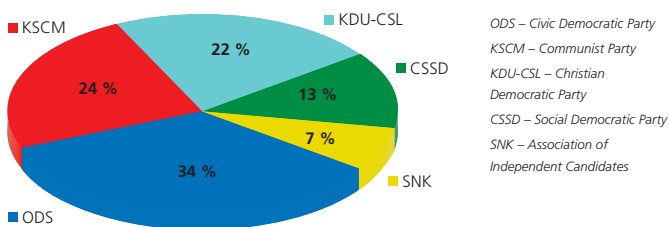
### REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

- The supreme self-governing body of the Region, with a four-year term

- In the Vysočina Region, it has 45 members
- Approves the region's budget and final accounts, elects and recalls the President and other Members of the Regional Council, sets up and winds down committees, etc.
- Makes decisions concerning the handling of the region's real property
- Approves the region's development plans
- Decides on the establishment and winding down of organisation's partially financed by state funds, including secondary schools
- Presents Bills to the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament

### COMMITTEES SET UP BY THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

- Financial Committee
- Control Committee
- Committee for Education, Training, and Employment
- Committee for Regional Development



*Political composition of the Vysočina Regional Assembly*

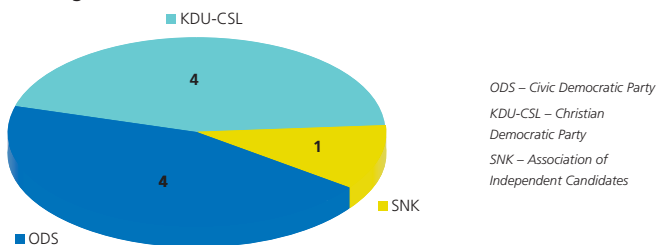
### REGIONAL COUNCIL

- The executive body of the Region, within its independent powers
- Has 9 members in the Vysočina Region
- Comprises the President, Vice-Presidents, and other Members of the Council
- Ensures financial management, in line with the approved budget; determines the number of employees of the Regional

Authority; deals with proposals, comments, and initiatives submitted by municipalities; and sets up Council Commissions, as initiating and advisory bodies of the Council

## COMMISSIONS OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL

- Security
- Social and Drug-prevention Policy
- Transport
- Agriculture and the Environment
- Health
- Sport and Leisure Time
- Culture and Heritage Care
- Tourism and External Relations
- Budget



*Political composition of the Vysočina Regional Council*

## PRESIDENT OF THE REGION

- Represents the Region
- Directs the Regional Council
- Answers to the Regional Assembly for the execution of his powers
- Signs the region's legal acts; with the consent of the Minister of the Interior, appoints and recalls the Director of the Regional Authority; is responsible for informing inhabitants about the work of the Region
- The President may be represented by a Vice-President; the Regional Assembly may elect more than one

## REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP, AS AT 29 NOVEMBER 2005



*Miloš Vystrčil*  
President



*Václav Kodet*  
Vice-President for Transport  
and Forest Management



*Marie Černá*  
Vice-President for Regional  
Development



*Pavel Hájek*  
Vice-President for the Environment  
and Health Care



*Martina Matějková*  
Regional Council Member,  
responsible for Education and Culture



*Jaroslav Hulák*  
Regional Council Member, responsible  
for Grant Policy, Land Planning,  
and Information Technology



*Miroslav Houška,*  
Regional Council Member, responsible  
for Finances and Assets



*Ivo Rohovský*  
Regional Council Member, responsible  
for Agriculture and Water Management



*Jiří Vondráček*  
Regional Council Member, responsible  
for Social Affairs, Community Planning, and NGOs

Within their powers, the governing institutions of the Region have set up many public-sector organisations, especially organisations partially financed by the Region.

## Organisations Established by the Vysočina Region

### TRANSPORT

- Local organisation of road administration and management

### CULTURE

- Vysočina Regional Library in Havlíčkův Brod, Horácká Gallery in Nové Město na Moravě, Art Gallery in Havlíčkův Brod, Vysočina Regional Gallery in Jihlava, Horácké Theatre in Jihlava, Museum of Vysočina in Havlíčkův Brod, Museum of Vysočina in Jihlava, Museum of Vysočina in Pelhřimov, Museum of Vysočina in Třebíč, and the Kámen Castle

### EDUCATION

- A network of secondary schools, including gymnasiums (i.e., academic secondary schools) and vocational centres, the Higher Specialised School in Jihlava, Houses of Children and Youth, Elementary Music Schools and special schools

### SOCIAL CARE

- Retirement homes and facilities for the mentally ill, the Social Care Diagnostic Institute in Černovice, the Children's Centre in Jihlava, and the Children's Home in Kamenice nad Lipou

### HEALTH CARE

- Since 1 January 2003, the Region has been the founder of five hospitals and of a medical emergency network

# Vysočina – A Place for Communication

*...the region's officials are here for you*

## Regional Authority

The Regional Authority performs tasks assigned to it by the region's elected bodies (Council and Assembly). The law refers to these tasks as the execution of independent powers. In addition, the law allows for the execution of powers devolved from the state administration. With respect to the execution of devolved powers, the Regional Authority is subordinate to central state administrative authorities (especially the various ministries), which assign tasks to the Regional Authority in the execution of state administration.

## Organisational Structure of the Regional Authority

The Authority, managed by a Director, consists of departments which are further divided into sections.



### DIRECTOR

■ JUDr. Simeona Zikmundová

Manages the operation and functioning of the Authority, represents it to third parties, rules on personnel matters and remuneration, and is responsible for the execution of state administration.

### ■ NUTS II Southeast Regional Council Secretariat

Provides administrative support to the NUTS II Southeast Regional Council in administering the Joint Regional Operation Programme, and participates in administering the Interreg IIIA CR-Austria Community Initiative.



## INTERNAL AUDIT DEPARTMENT

Carries out audit activities, in line with the Act on Financial Control and with internationally recognised standards; independently assesses the organisation's processes; measures and evaluates the adequacy of management and control mechanisms; and evaluates the efficiency and effectiveness of activities. On this basis, it proposes recommendations for improvement, and to prevent or mitigate these risks. It also provides consulting activities. The Analytical Section of the Department participates in creating an analytical environment, as background for the work of the Regional Authority, and builds a data warehouse, which forms part of the Authority's information system.

## PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARIAT

### ■ Section for Addressing Extraordinary Events

Manages and plans crime prevention in the Region, drug-prevention policy, the integration of foreigners and national minorities in the Region, co-ordinates activities in addressing crisis situations, organises co-operation in the sphere of crisis management between municipal authorities and other administrative authori-

ties in the Region, and provides them with methodological assistance, co-operates with components of the Integrated Rescue System, and elaborates the region's crisis plan.

#### ■ **External Relations Section**

Organises the press conferences of the Members of the Regional Assembly, co-operates with the media, provides information to the public about the work of the Region, prepares a plan for the development of relations with other Regions and other countries, and arranges for the region's marketing and promotion.

#### ■ **Office of the President**

Prepares the daily agendas for the Members of the Regional Council, organises work and social events, and co-ordinates the meetings of the Council and Assembly.

### SECRETARIAT OF THE DIRECTOR AND REGIONAL TRADE LICENCE OFFICE

#### ■ **Section for Facility Management**

Provides for the administration and operation of the region's head office, including the supply of technical and office equipment; performs economic analyses and proposes measures with respect to the budget of the Regional Authority, cash service, and car park; and administers matters concerning fine slips.

#### ■ **Organisational Section**

Describes, develops, and regulates processes related to the work of the Regional Authority; co-ordinates the activities of departments with respect to procedural matters; provides for a file service, the expert administration of documents, and the work of the mail room; and gathers statistical data.

#### ■ **Personnel Section**

Ensures the selection of new employees; administers employees' salaries and the remuneration of the Members of the Assembly; takes care of entering into, altering, and terminating employment relations; and forms and develops a plan for employee education and evaluation.

### ■ **Section for Administrative Activities**

Executes state administration related to the acquisition and losing of Czech citizenship; administers the section of the registry of births and deaths and of offences; maintains a register of interest associations of legal entities and of voluntary associations of municipalities; oversees the execution of municipalities' independent and devolved powers; and provides for the technical arrangements for the organisation of referenda and elections for representative bodies.

### ■ **Legal Section of the Regional Trade Licence Office**

Participates in the preparation of the region's legal regulation, administers contracts and legal services for all bodies of the State, represents the Authority in court, manages and co-ordinates the work of municipal trade offices within its administrative district, maintains the trade register, ensures the execution of state administration in matters pertaining to burial.

## FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT

### ■ **Section for the Budget and Financing**

Compiles the proposed budget and budgetary outlook of the Region, authors on-going reports on adherence to the region's planned income and expenses, elaborates the region's final accounts for the previous year, and divides the subventions for the execution of state administration, and other special-purpose subsidies, among municipalities.

### ■ **Accounting Section**

Keeps accounts of the region's finances, ensures cash-less payment relations, checks and summarises data from the accounting of municipalities, associations of municipalities and of those organisations which are partially financed by state funds, and which have been established by the Region and municipalities.

## ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

### ■ **Section for the Protection of Natural Resources**

Is responsible for the protection of Nature and landscape, pro-



tection of mineral deposits, and protection of agricultural land; compensates damage caused by selected, especially protected kinds of animals; registers animal species pursuant to the Act on Importing and Exporting Endangered Animal Species (the so-called CITES); assesses the environmental impact of selected buildings (so-called EIA and SEA); and provides information about the environment.

#### ■ **Section for Technical Protection of the Environment**

Elaborates the region's waste management plan and a regional programme for cutting down on emissions, provides for the lowering of the radon burden, regulates the handling of dangerous chemical substances, and establishes preventive measures against their effects on human health and the environment.

#### ■ **Section for Integrated Prevention**

Decides on the issuing of integrated permits for equipment and production technology, taking into account the intensity of environmental pollution.

## DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### ■ Section for Strategic Planning

Is responsible for elaborating a programme for the development of the region's territory, which it updates continuously; ensures and co-ordinates the elaboration of a long-term energy plan; co-ordinates the region's grant policy (the Vysočina Fund); administers the Programme for the Renewal of Vysočina's Rural Areas; and administers support for housing development in the Region.

### ■ Section for Regional Development

Responsible for the selection of suitable locales, and the creation of the conditions for the development of enterprise and investment opportunities, and communicates with businesses active in the Region.

### ■ Tourism Section

Elaborates a plan for the development of tourism in the Region, and is responsible for presenting what the Region has to offer.

## DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND WATER MANAGEMENT AND AGRICULTURE

### ■ Section of Forest Management and Hunting

Executes independent and devolved powers of state administration, pursuant to the Forest Act, the Act on Trade in Forest Woody Plant Reproduction Material, and the Hunting Act.

### ■ Section for Agriculture

Accepts applications for financial subventions for forest management, and monitors European Union structural funds as concerns agriculture.

### ■ Section of Water Management

Carries out independent and devolved powers of state administration pursuant to the Waters Act, the Act on Water and Sewage Lines for Public Use, and the Fishing Act; processes applications for subsidies for small water-management ecological work (the construction of sewage systems and waste water treatment stations in municipalities).

## DEPARTMENT OF LAND PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

### ■ Section for Land Planning

Monitors and evaluates the development needs of the Region, and elaborates the land plans of large territorial units.

### ■ Construction Section

Renders decisions in disputes arising from land planning and construction procedures.

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, YOUTH, AND SPORTS

### ■ Section for the Organisation of Education

Provides specialised and methodological assistance to schools and educational institutions of all types in the Region; reviews administrative decisions issued by the Principals and Directors of schools and educational institutions; appoints the Chairs of examination committees for matriculation examinations, final examinations, and school-leaving examinations; publishes a list of secondary schools, with information about the number of available places in each discipline and type of education; and takes measures on the basis of the results of the inspections of the Czech School Inspectorate in schools and educational institutions in the Region.

### ■ Section for the Concept of Education

Executes tasks in establishing and winding down schools and educational institutions and in making changes in the school register; elaborates conceptual documents and processes statistical information (long-term educational plan, regional development programme, annual report); prepares grant programmes (the Vysočina Fund, grant schemes under EU funds); supports entities in making use of EU structural funds; prepares projects; is comprehensively concerned with issues pertaining to the development of human resources; and co-operates with partners on the regional and national level (Human Resources Development Council).

### ■ Section of Youth and Sports

Monitors the work of organisations focusing on leisure-time activities for children and youth, including sports activities; pre-

pares grant programmes from the Vysočina Fund; organises and finances competitions, reviews, and Olympics for children and youth; arranges for EU educational programmes; and organises the primary prevention of socially undesirable phenomena in children and youth.

#### ■ **Section for the Financing of Education**

Assigns funds to pre-school institutions, schools, and education institutions established by municipalities and the Region, for covering their direct expenditures on education, and accounts for those funds; proposes operating budgets to regional schools, administers investment expenses for the acquisition of movable property, elaborates and presents an analysis of schools' financial management, and provides subsidies to private schools.

#### ■ **Office of the Head of the Department**

Ensures the internal operations of the department, as concerns the material, personnel, and legal aspects; and provides methodological help in safety and the protection of health at work, fire prevention, and civil defence.

### DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE

#### ■ **Section of Culture**

Acts as the founder of museums, galleries, libraries and theatres in the Region; elaborates a plan for the development of regional culture in the Region; executes the obligations of the Region, as the owner of museum-type items; monitors professional and



non-professional cultural activities in the Region, and proposes the conditions for their further development; administers the relevant Vysočina Fund grant programmes, concerning culture; and co-operates in organising cultural events in the Region.

#### ■ **Section of Historical Heritage**

Performs state heritage care in the Region, cares for national cultural monuments, co-ordinates the administration of local monuments, provides subventions for the maintenance of cultural monuments to their owners, and elaborates a plan for the development of state heritage care in the Region.

### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

#### ■ **Section of Social Benefits and the Social and Legal Protection of Children**

Carries out devolved powers of state administration, with respect to social support and social care benefits – appeal procedures, mediates foster care and meetings of foster families within the Region, and ensures the functioning of foster care facilities.

#### ■ **Section of Social Services**

Acts in the capacity of the founder of the social service facilities established by the Vysočina Region, ensures financial support for the provision of services by municipalities and NGOs, and guarantees the realisation of Vysočina Fund grant programmes, in the social sector.

#### ■ **Section of Health Administration**

Carries out devolved powers, with respect to issuing registrations to non-state health care facilities, and with respect to the creation of a network of health care facilities, and pays for certain public services provided in health care.

#### ■ **Section of Health Care**

Acts in the capacity of the founder of hospitals, the health emergency service, the Children's Centre in Jihlava, and the Children's Home in Kamenice nad Lipou, which have been established by the Vysočina Region.

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND ROAD MANAGEMENT

### ■ Section of Transport

Performs the role of state administration and specialised state supervision in road transport, and grants exceptions from a prohibition to drive pursuant to the rules of operation on roads.

### ■ Section of Transport Serviceability

Performs the role of state administration and specialised state supervision in scheduled passenger transport, transport serviceability by bus and rail passenger transport, and technical inspection stations.

### ■ Section of Road Management

Acts in the capacity of a road administration institution, and in the capacity of a special building authority, in matters concerning first-class roads; permits the special use of second and third-class roads, for the transport of especially heavy or sizeable items, if the route extends to more than one district and does not go beyond the limits of the Region; decides on classifying roads as second or third-class roads, and on making changes to these categories; and performs the role of state administration with respect to driver schools, and to prevention and the safety of road traffic.

### ■ Section of Road Administration

Ensures the administration of roads, their parts, accessories, and roadside vegetation owned by the Region; establishes organisations for the administration and maintenance of roads in the Region; and processes information about changes in the technical condition of roads.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

### ■ Planning Section

Supports, manages, and co-ordinates development projects in the information technology sector in the Region, administers ICT grant programmes, co-ordinates development activities with the institutions of the State and EU bodies.

### ■ **Network Management Section**

Creates and administers the Regional Authority's computer network, administers server technologies, and co-ordinates the construction of networks in the Region.

### ■ **Section of Database and Application Administration**

Administers the database and application systems of the Regional Authority, ensures the management of implementation projects, and designs and creates supplementary software.

### ■ **Section for the Administration of Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**

Creates and administers the region's GIS, processes background material for maps, and co-ordinates and integrates geo-data on the level of the Region.

## DEPARTMENT OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

### ■ **Property Administration Section**

Is responsible for the administrative aspects of the management of the region's real property, and for insuring the region's property.



### ■ **Real Estate Management Section**

Ensures the physical administration of the region's real property, projects for its technical appreciation and large-scale repairs.

### ■ **Investment Section**

Arranges for the region's investment construction and co-ordinates tendering.

## **AUDIT DEPARTMENT**

### ■ **Internal Audit Section**

Checks on the work of the Regional Authority, maintains a central register, and arranges for the processing of grievances and petitions submitted to the region's bodies.

### ■ **Section for Public Administration Control**

Checks the use of public funds by partially financed organisations established by the Region, carries out *ex post facto* public administration checks of the recipients of financial support from the region's budget.

### ■ **Section for Reviewing the Financial Management of Municipalities**

Reviews the financial management of municipalities and voluntary associations of municipalities in the Region.

Due to its accomplishments in public administration since its establishment, the Vysočina Region Regional Authority has obtained numerous prizes in various national and international competitions: the Golden Crest 2003 – for the best website and electronic services in the Region; Open 2003 – for information openness in public administration; the Golden Semicolon 2004 – the best state administration magazine for “Noviny Kraj Vysočina”; and a certificate of professional quality for the Regional Authority Newsletter.

In the Eurocrest competition, for the best website of a town, municipality, and Region in Europe, Vysočina's official website was among the main award-winning projects in 2004.

Information about the Vysočina Region will be provided to you gladly, by the employees of the Regional Authority of the Vysočina Region; you can also visit our website, which we update for you daily.

**Regional Authority of the Vysočina Region**

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