

## INCREASING OF AWARENESS AND PROPAGATION OF THE FUNCTIONS OF FORESTS IN LANDSCAPE AND NATURE-CLOSE WATER COURSES IN URBAN AREAS AS A PART OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES OF RIVER BASIN

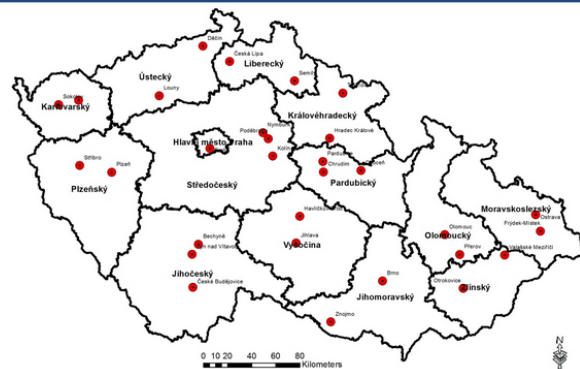
**Project number:** EHP-CZ02-OV-1-032-2015

**Granting institution:** Grants of European Economic Area (EEA)

**Programme and Programme area:** CZ02 - Biodiversity and ecosystem services/Monitoring and integrated planning and control in environment/Adaptation to climate change. PA 2 - Biodiversity and ecosystem services

**A brief project content:** The project focuses on public education about the value of selected components of ecosystem services of the drainage basin. The result and outcomes of the project present recreation significance of near-nature and revitalised river beds of water courses in intravilan, complementing their water management and ecosystem effect.

The project deals with a terrain mapping of recreation potential of rivers in 30 towns in the Czech Republic. The research results will be by a field research well-founded national representative overviews of the river courses in intravilan and suburban recreation zones with significant synergistic water management, ecological and recreation effects.



### Rivers in the cities

#### The examples of a good quality landscaping of water courses in towns of Liberec and Ústí nad Labem regions

**Semily (Jizera river)** - The town underwent all phases of modern development, some affecting also alluvial plain of Jizera river. Semily was active in industry, primarily in textile production, with Jizera river playing a key role in it. The evidence can now be seen in preserved and still being used water management constructions (leads, etc.). One of these encloses a new free-time area Ostrov (Island) situated between the Jizera river basin and the water lead. This area represent an example of regeneration of water course and adjacent area which was incorporated into intravilan of the town. In the context of development of relations between local governments and inhabitants, Semily is a town with a proactive approach towards the development of its inhabitants' lives and their quality. In this case, one of the impulses is Jizera river which is an integral part of Semily, as proved for example by a study Semilské doteky vody (Semily water touches). Owing to long-term use of the river and surrounding plain mainly in its middle part, Jizera river in Semily is partly regulated, however, it still keeps its pleasant, sometimes even natural course.



**Sokolov (Ohře river)** - Significant revitalisation landscaping of Ohře river was realised in two towns of Karlove Vary region, Cheb and Sokolov. Left river bank of Ohře was revitalised in Sokolov. 1.5 km long river basin of a fouled abandoned meander was cleaned and its banks were landscaped. The river bed was partially dredged and the material was used for surrounding banks. The banks were stabilised by oak wood palisades which should maintain in water for several decades. Several pools were projected along the river course which are slowly becoming habitats for various types of plants and animals. A left river bank of Ohře was significantly landscaped in Cheb. The right river bank had been landscaped before, with positive feedback from public. The most important part of the landscaping was that the area was cleared and together with new infrastructure it became an attractive place for relax. The project included new infrastructure, objects for tourism and active relax, including sport, and revitalisation of river scape in this locality. It has to be noted that revitalisation here included a complex change of a wider area of river scape with its left bank as well.

