

Vysočina Region



A Pocket Guide
to **Vysočina**

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Dear Fellow Residents and Visitors to the Vysočina Region,

Allow me a few words to sum up some basic information about our region. Every region has its particularities. Typical of our region are the shared geographical conditions contained in its very name – Vysočina is the Czech word for Highlands. Historically, it was even a unified ethno-graphic unit, known as Horácko (the Mountainous Region), with similar living conditions and cultural expressions throughout. It did not matter that one part of it belonged to Bohemia and another to Moravia. Political decisions divided this unit, but in the end, it was brought together again under the new name of the Vysočina Region.

I think that since its establishment the Region has earned itself a good reputation and the right to exist as a self-governing unit, and it has its place in the subconscious of its inhabitants as well as of people from other parts of our country. Our region is known for being rich in entrepreneurial activities and traditional agriculture, and developing industrial production and tourism. Vysočina is a magical word which encompasses a picturesque landscape to which our ancestors have for centuries added, with abundant historical monuments and uncountable documents of their lives. Our greatest assets, however, are people: industrious, direct, and warm-hearted towards each other and the visitors to their region.

In this modest overview, you can brush up on the basic facts about our region and about the functioning of its self-administration. Our main concern is to make sure that people find it good to live in Vysočina, that they feel at home here, and that they would know that we are among those who are honestly trying to contribute to that.

Jiří Běhounek

President of the Vysočina Region



Dear Friends!

I am glad that you are interested in a region that wraps around the edges of the Bohemian basin, straddling the Bohemian-Moravian border. That applies regardless of whether Vysočina is your home or you are coming to us to rest, to learn, to restore your health, or to work. You are all heartily welcome!

For all of you, the authorities of the Vysočina Region, together with the people here, strive to create a friendly and pleasant environment, safety, certainty, and a rich and high-quality selection of public services. The Regional President extends his greeting to you on behalf of the Regional Authority, as the self-governing authority for the region; I have the opportunity to greet you on behalf of the Regional Authority's administration. I assure you that our employees honestly strive for the region to develop in all dimensions and in a balanced fashion, to protect its natural beauties and the unusually valuable cultural assets. Our efforts are to contribute (and hopefully do significantly contribute) to the protection of the rights of decent, honest, and responsible people, and to ensure care for the dignified lives of the weaker, and for there being sufficient opportunities for the development and application of the talents and abilities of talented people.

Vysočina used to be called the region where bread ends and rock begins. Fortunately, that has not been true for some time. Honest, hard-working, and capable people have shown that extraordinary success can be achieved even in more demanding and rougher conditions, as today the region is one of the dynamically developing regions of our country.

Our region is a good place to live and an interesting place to visit. I hope you to be truly happy and satisfied in Vysočina!

Zdeněk Kadlec

Director of the Regional Authority of the Vysočina Region



Vysočina – Our Home

...YOU MAY ALREADY KNOW THAT

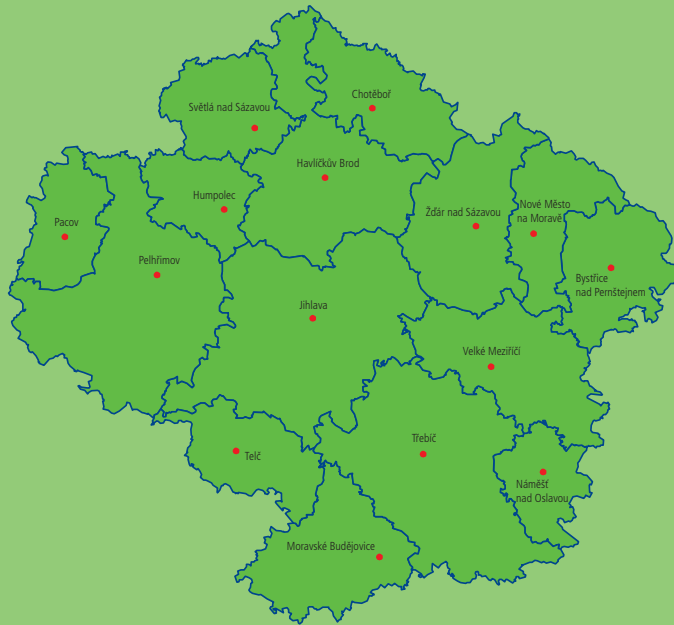
The region's name, "Vysočina" (the Highlands), is derived from the fact that this administrative unit occupies the vast majority of the Czech-Moravian Highlands, an upland area with rolling hills that rise up to over eight hundred meters above sea level.

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. Its highest point is Javořice Hill (837 m above sea level).

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, which is 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 514,470 inhabitants (as at 30 June 2008) 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 lands of the Bohemian crown, 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.



...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 men is the third highest, and of women the highest, of all of the regions in the country
- The average age of its inhabitants is 40.0 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 D1 Motorway, cuts through the Region
- Good transport infrastructure (a dense road network connecting its settlements)

Industry, Services, Development of Enterprise

- A high share of industry in the inhabitants' employment, with the strongest industries being: automobile, other machinery, woodworking, metal-working, food, and electro-technical

- The position of the regional capital, as the centre integrating the region's territory, has strengthened; the impact of the Brno and Prague agglomerations, as places to which local inhabitants commute for work, is still significant
- A sought-after region for large foreign investors (BOSCH DIESEL, Automotive Lighting, Futaba...)
- The region is home to a significant source of electricity generation – the Dukovany Nuclear Power Station, making Vysočina the second largest producer of electricity, in comparison with other regions

Largest Industrial Companies in the Vysočina Region (31 Dec. 2008)

Company name	Seat of the company	Industry	Number of employees
BOSCH DIESEL, s. r. o.	Jihlava	Automobile	5,716
ŽDAS, a. s.	Žďár n. S.	Metal-working	2,726
Kostelecké uzeniny, a. s.	Kostelec	Food	1,243
Automotive Lighting, s. r. o.	Jihlava	Automobile	1,436
AGROSTROJ Pelhřimov	Pelhřimov	Machinery	1,274
ČEZ, a. s., Jaderná elektrárna Dukovany	Prague	Electricity generation	1,133

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

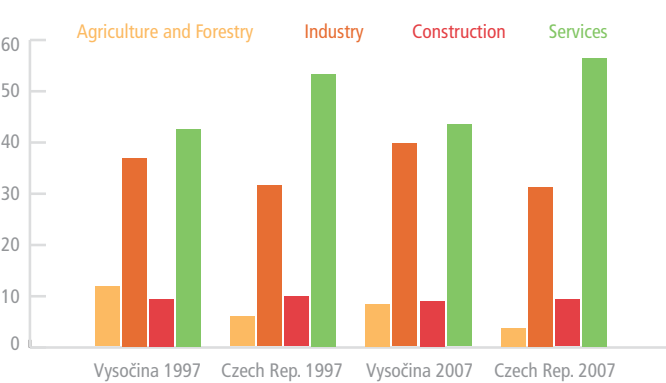
The Labour Market and Employment

- The unemployment rate is above the national average
- The average monthly wage is CZK 20,616; the Czech national average is CZK 23,542 (2008 figures)

Education

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

Employment in Various Sectors of the National Economy (%)



Number of Schools in the Vysočina Region (2008)

Kindergartens	336
Primary Schools	281
Secondary Schools and Gymnasias (Academic Secondary Schools)	68
Higher Specialised Schools	14 (parts of secondary schools)

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 2008, the Vysočina Fund grant programme known as International Projects 2008 supported a total of 22 projects for international co-operation with different focuses, in the aggregate amount of CZK 1.18 million. Since 2002, the Region has provided co-financing for projects implemented by schools or non-profit organisations as part of EU educational programmes (Life-long Learning, Leonardo da Vinci, Youth). To date, 150 projects have taken place with the region's support, with the total cost of their implementation exceeding CZK 55 million.

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- Polytechnic University Jihlava (public)
- West-Moravian University Třebíč (private)
- Satellite campuses: Czech Agricultural University Prague, University of

Chemistry and Technology in Prague, Palacký University in Olomouc, Masaryk University in Brno, Technical University Brno, Liberec Technical University, J. A. Comenius University Prague

Recreation and Tourism

- A broad array of tourist options
- 20 castles and chateaus open to the public, two monasteries, 37 nature trails, 2,700 kilometres of hiking trails, 2,400 kilometres of bike paths, 30 winter downhill ski facilities, 200 kilometres of maintained cross country ski tracks, five rope centres, 180 equestrian centres, and seven lookout towers
- The rivers Sázava, Jihlava, Oslava, Rokytná, Svratka, and others, offer good conditions for canoeists and kayakers
- Excellent conditions for active family vacations
- Significant sports events (the FIS Tour de Ski's Golden Ski, in Nové Město na Moravě; the Golden Horseshoe, in Humpolec; the Axis swimming competitions in Jihlava; the European Biathlon Cup in Nové Město na Moravě; the Vysočina Road Cycling Race and the Masters European Championship in Road Cycling)
- 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)

MAIN TOURIST DESTINATIONS IN THE VYSOČINA REGION

- UNESCO sights: Telč Square and Chateau; the Church of St. John of Nepomuk at Zelená Hora, near Žďár nad Sázavou; the St. Procopius' Basilica 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 170 protected areas, nine natural parks, and two protected landscape areas 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 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 document adopted by the Regional Assembly, 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-sized 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 healthcare 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 OF THE FUTURE

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



The Vysočina Fund

...HELPING THE RIGHT THINGS

The Vysočina Fund

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 that the Vysočina Region grants to various entities through grant programmes, in the form of subsidies, 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, tourism, the environment, education, and rural development. In 2002–2008, we expended more than CZK 440 million in supporting these activities. Other grant programmes are announced on an ongoing basis.



Selected 2008 Grant Programmes

ORGANIC WASTE

- Support for the development of a comprehensive system of organic waste management

SPORT FACILITIES

- Programme to support the construction and maintenance of sports and athletic facilities in the Vysočina Region



REGIONAL CULTURE

- Support for cultural activities in the sphere of non-professional art

A WEBSITE FOR EVERYONE

- Support focused on improving the content and the artistic, as well as the technological, level of existing websites
- Development of Small Enterprises in Selected Regions
- A programme for increasing the competitiveness of small companies in Vysočina focused on obtaining the technologies and production facilities or for expanding business premises

CRIME PREVENTION

- Support for specific crime-prevention programmes on the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels, primarily social prevention programmes, victimisation prevention, and programmes focused on helping victims of crime

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- Support for parts of municipalities and urban neighbourhoods, focused on the upgrading or repair of local roads

SUPPORTING TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

- A programme to support the development and upgrade of supporting tourism infrastructure



Vysočina – Our Responsibility

...THE REGION AND ITS SELF-GOVERNANCE

The Region

Region in the Czech Republic are defined by statute as higher territorial self-governing units. They are communities of citizens endowed with the right of self-governance. Such communities have the nature of incorporated public bodies – in legal relations, they act in their own name and bear the responsibility arising from those relations; and within their independent powers, they care for the overall development of their territory and for the needs of their inhabitants, and co-operate with municipalities (without interfering with their independent powers).

Regions, as they exist today in the Czech Republic, were established in 2000, and several powers that have thus far been vested with the State are gradually being transferred to them. Legislatively, this arrangement is regulated by Constitutional 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, in addition to 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 VYSOČINA REGION			
Zastupitelstvo kraje	Regional Council	President	Regional Authority
Regional Assembly Committees established by the Regional Assembly by law: Financial Committee Control Committee	Commissions established by the Regional Council: (e.g.: health commission, transport commission, security commission, etc.)		Department of the Regional Authority: (e.g.: Presidential Secretariat, Department of Regional Development, etc.) Department Sections: (e.g.: Office of the President, Strategic Planning Section)

The name of the Vysočina Region has been valid since 31 May 2001, when the region's original name was changed (from the "Jihlava Region").

Governing Institutions of the Vysočina Region

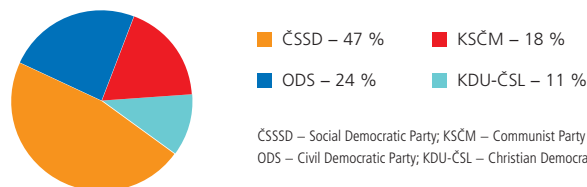
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

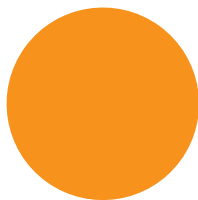
- The supreme self-governing body of the Region, with a four-year term
- In the Vysočina Region, it has 45 members
- Approves the region's budget and final accounts, elects and recalls the President and other Members of the Regional Council, establishes and abolishes committees, etc.
- Makes decisions concerning the handling of the region's real property
- Approves the region's development plans
- Decides on the establishment and winding down of organisations partially financed by state funds, including secondary schools
- Presents Bills to the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament

COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED BY THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

- Financial Committee
- Control Committee

Political Composition of the Vysočina Regional Assembly





Political Composition of the Regional Council

■ ČSSD – 9 members

- Committee for Education, Training, and Employment
- Committee for Regional Development
- Legislative Committee
- Committee for Awarding Vysočina Region Medals

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

COMMITTEES OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL

- Security
- Social and Drug Prevention Policy
- Transport
- Agriculture and the Environment
- Health
- Sport and Leisure Time
- Culture, Tourism, and External Relations
- Budget

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 vice-president

COMPOSITION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AS AT 14 NOVEMBER 2008



Jiří Běhounek
President
Healthcare



Vladimír Novotný
Vice-President
Financial and Grant Policy



Libor Joukl
Vice-President
Transport and Property



Bc. Martin Hyský
Regional Council Member
Regional Development



Marie Kružiková
Regional Council Member
Education



Tomáš Škaryd
Regional Council Member
Culture and Tourism



Josef Matějek
Regional Council Member
Agricultural, Forest, and Water
Management



Petr Krčál
Regional Council Member
Social Affairs



Zdeněk Ryšavý
Regional Council Member
Information Technologies, Environment,
Zoning

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

- Vysočina Regional Road Administration and Maintenance



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 Kámen Castle

EDUCATION

- 14 primary schools (formerly special schools), 52 secondary schools, 6 primary schools for the arts, 9 children's homes, 5 pedagogical-psychological counselling offices, 8 homes of children and youth, 1 youth home, and the organisation Vysočina Education – an educational facility for the further education of pedagogical workers and a school service centre

SOCIAL CARE

- Retirement homes, homes for seniors, social care institutions, the Diagnostic Institution of Social Care in Černovice, and the Psychocentrum – a marriage and family counselling office of the Vysočina Region

HEALTHCARE

Five hospitals, the Vysočina Medical Rescue Service, the Jihlava Children's Centre, and the Kamenice nad Lipou Children's Home

TOURISM

Vysočina Tourism, an organisation partially funded by the Region, devoted to the promotion of tourism in the Vysočina Region

A visible tool of external and internal communication of organizations established by the Vysočina Region is this symbol "Link to Founder."



Symbols of the Region

The Coat of Arms of the Vysočina Region

Vysočina's coat of arms is a rectangular quartered shield: the first, blue field, bears a silver and red chequy, gold-armed she-eagle with a golden crown; the second and third, silver fields, bear, respectively, the symbols of the red hedgehog, and red rowanberries on a green branch with two leaves; and the fourth, red field, bears a silver gold-armed lion wearing a golden crown.



SYMBOLIC MEANING

1st field – The Moravian she-eagle – symbolising the historical belonging of the region's eastern parts to the Moravian lands

2nd field – The hedgehog – symbolising the capital city of the Region (the so-called key is derived from the municipal coat of arms of the region's capital – Jihlava)

3rd field – A symbol of a part of the region's identity – the rowan tree is a typical Vysočina tree, representing the resilience and simple beauty of the region

4th field – The Bohemian lion – symbolising the historical belonging of the western part of the region to the lands of the Bohemian crown

The region's coat of arms was approved on 20 November 2001, by Vysočina's Regional Assembly.



Vysočina – A Place for Communication

The Logo of the Vysočina Region

The region's logo stems from the basic principles of the region's communication, such as activity, openness, and respect. The Region's logo comprises a pictorial symbol and a logotype. The graphic symbol, which also performs the role of an accent over one letter of the logotype, visually depicts the character of the landscape – the Highlands. The colour scheme of the logo – blue and green – evokes associations such as cleanliness, water, forests, air, and ecology. At the same time, the colour scheme supports the active character and the overall freshness of the appearance of the region's logo.



The logotype variant of Vysočina with the postscript OUR HOME (NÁŠ DOMOV) is used exclusively for communication inside the region. This variant is a characteristic component of a campaign to promote the cohesion of the Vysočina Region, and also, for example, in tourism.



...THE REGION'S OFFICIALS ARE HERE FOR YOU

Regional Authority

The Regional Authority ensures both the execution of state administration and self-governance. At the head of the Regional Authority (one of the Region's governing bodies) is the Director of the Regional Authority, who answers for the functioning of the Regional Authority to the Regional President. The Regional Authority is an important partner for the region's inhabitants as well for other institutions and public authorities.

The Regional Authority has three divisions, which are further divided into departments and separate sections. The organisational structure also includes units managed directly by the Director of the Regional Authority (two departments and one separate section).



DIRECTOR

Zdeněk Kadlec

Manages the operations 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.

INTERNAL AUDIT SECTION

Oversees all of the activities of the individual departments and separate sections of the Regional Authority, keeps a record of and analyses the

audit plans of the individual departments and separate sections of the Regional Authority, analyses the results of audit findings, and proposes systemic measures. Maintains a central register of grievances and petitions submitted to the region's bodies, and elaborates an annual report for the Regional Council and Director of the Regional Authority, concerning the grievances and petitions received in the previous period.

PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARIAT

• Section for Crisis Management and Safety

Coordinates activities in addressing crises, organises cooperation in crisis management between municipal authorities and other administrative authorities in the region and provides methodological assistance to them, cooperates with components of the Integrated Rescue System, and elaborates selected parts of the region's crisis plan. Manages and plans crime prevention in the region and the integration of foreigners.

• 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, uniform visual style, 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

• Human Resources Management 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.

• Administrative Activities Section

Executes state administration related to the acquisition and relinquishing of Czech citizenship; administers the section of the registry of births and deaths and of offences; maintains a register of the interest associations of legal entities and the 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 regulations, administers contracts and legal services for all bodies of the Region, represents the Authority in court, manages and co-ordinates the work of the municipal trade offices within its administrative district, maintains the trade register, and ensures the execution of state administration in matters pertaining to burials.

ECONOMY AND SUPPORT DIVISION

Includes primarily those departments that take care of financial and budgetary matters, as well as departments and sections that ensure the operation of the Regional Authority, its management, control, information and communication technologies, and data analyses.

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.

PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION SECTION

Takes care of the administration and operation of the buildings in which the Region has its head office, including the supply of office supplies, activities of the cash service, and the car fleet. It ensures the performance of the filing service, i.e., professional document administration and the operation of the mail room, including the electronic one. It provides for the operation of the Czech POINT public administration contact point and is responsible for matters concerning fine slips.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT

In the execution of devolved state administration, it is responsible for matters concerning public collections, stamps for gambling machines, and appeals in matters concerning local municipal fees. It processes travel orders.

- **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, and performs the financial settlement of subsidies vis-à-vis the state budget.

- **Accounting Section**

Keeps accounts of the region's finances, including those pertaining to European projects. Ensures all cashless payment relations. Checks and summarises data from the accounting of the Region, municipalities, associations of municipalities, and those organisations that are partially financed from public sources and which have been established by the Region and municipalities and forwards them to nationwide databases.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

- **Planning Section**

Supports, manages, and co-ordinates development projects in the information technology sector in the region, administers ICT grant programmes, and co-ordinates development activities with state authorities 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.

- **Database and Application Administration Section**

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

- **Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Administration Section**

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.

AUDIT DEPARTMENT

- **Public Administration Control Section**

Checks the use of public funds by partially financed organisations established by the Region, and carries out ex post facto public administrative 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.

ANALYTICAL DEPARTMENT

Processes extensive data, creates analytical outputs of the data, coordinates projects with respect to analytical tools, and participates in the

development of the region's information system. Ensures quality management at the Regional Authority.

THE DIVISION FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Includes primarily those departments that ensure the administration and development of the region and fund administration – the main processes.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

- **Financial-Administrative Section for Drawing EC Funds**

Responsible for public support issues, legal matters concerning Czech and European legislation, and financial matters related to the drawing of money from EU funds.

- **Strategic Planning Section**

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; administers support for housing development in the region, and analyses the sphere of tourism and elaborates a concept for tourism in the region

- **Regional Development Section**

Responsible for the selection of suitable locales, and the creation of the conditions for the development of enterprise and investment opportunities; communicates with businesses active in the region, communicates with non-governmental non-profit organisations in the region, and creates conditions for their sustainable development; ensures the implementation of local Agenda 21 and the conditions for the region's sustainable development.

- **Grant Programmes Section**

Acts as the intermediate body in the Operational Programme Education for Competitiveness, taking care of activities related to the implementation and administration of global grants, grant projects, and technical assistance projects in the Operational Programme Education for Competitiveness.

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE

- **Cultural Section**

Acts as the founder of museums, galleries, libraries, and theatres in the region; ensures and coordinates the elaboration of plans for the development of culture in the region; executes the obligations of the Region as the owner of museum-type items; monitors professional and non-profes-

sional 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.

- **Historical Heritage Section**

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 TRANSPORT AND ROAD MANAGEMENT

- **Transport Section**

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.

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.

- **Transport Serviceability Section**

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.



- **Road Administration Section**

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

- **Investment Section**

Ensures the preparation and implementation of all of the aspects of investment projects with respect to roads owned by the Region, including oversight and financial arrangements.

Processes and ensures the update of investment construction plans concerning roads owned by the Region.

- **Project Management Section**

In cooperation with the Property Department, ensures the planning, preparation, and execution of repairs, renovation, upgrades, and other construction modifications and technical improvements of the roads and road structures owned by the Region.

Ensures the preparation and financial coverage for individual road management projects, and their draw-down and evaluation.

DEPARTMENT OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

- **Property Administration Section**

Responsible for the administrative aspects of the management of the region's real property, insures the region's property, and ensures the preparation of investments into property.

- **Real Estate Management Section**

Ensures the physical administration of the region's real property, the preparation and implementation of investment construction in civil engineering, technical improvements, and large-scale repairs.

PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

Includes those departments that provide public services – the main processes and activities of the departments are directly or indirectly (through organisations partially financed from the public budgets that they manage) focused on external customers (the public).

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND WATER MANAGEMENT AND AGRICULTURE

- **Forest Management and Hunting Section**

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.

- **Agriculture Section**

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

- **Water Management Section**

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

- **Land Planning Section**

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.

Carries out tasks in establishing and winding down schools and educational institutions and making changes in the school registry.

Is comprehensively concerned with human resources development.

- **Youth and Sports Section**

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

- **Education Financing Section**

Assigns funds to pre-school institutions, schools, and educational 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. Drafts conceptual documents and processes statistical information (long-term education plan, regional development plan, and annual report), cooperates with partners on the regional and national level (Council for Human Resources Development).

ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

- **Section for the Protection of Natural Resources**

Responsible for the protection of Nature and landscape and protection of agricultural land; provides compensation for damage caused by selected, specially protected kinds of animals; registers animal specimens pursuant to the Act on Importing and Exporting Endangered Animal Species (the so-called CITES); and provides information about the environment.

- **Section for the Technical Protection of the Environment**

Responsible for waste management and air protection. Elaborates the region's waste management plan and a regional programme for reducing emissions, and provides for the lowering of the radon burden.

- **Section for Integrated Prevention and EIA**

Decides on the issuing of integrated permits for equipment and production technology, taking into account the intensity of environmental pollution. Assesses the environmental impact of selected buildings (so-called EIA and

SEA). Addresses mineral deposit protection. Regulates the handling of dangerous chemical substances, and establishes preventive measures against their effects on human health and the environment.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS

- **Section for 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, ensures the functioning of foster care facilities, and ensures methodological guidance in these matters and for probation officers for adults.

- **Social Services Section**

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.

Ensures the elaboration of a Medium-term Plan for Social Service Development. Ensures the provision of information about social services through the Social Portal, which constitutes a part of the region's website. Ensures the coordination of drug prevention and Roma advisors.

Carries out devolved powers in social service registration, and ensures inspections of the quality of social services.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE

- **Healthcare Section**

Acts in the capacity of the founder of hospitals, the Medical Rescue Service, the Children's Centre in Jihlava, and the Children's Home in Kamenice nad Lipou, which have been established by the Vysočina Region. Ensures the elaboration of the Region's Healthcare Plan. Ensures the provision of information about healthcare in the region through the Vysočina Health Portal, which constitutes a part of the region's website.

- **Health Administration Section**

Carries out devolved powers with respect to issuing registrations to non-state healthcare facilities, tenders for inclusion in the network of healthcare facilities, and the creation of a network of healthcare facilities, and pays for certain public services provided in healthcare. Deals with complaints concerning healthcare, makes decisions about proposals for reviewing medical certificates of health competence and in matters concerning work disability, ensures the execution of tasks prescribed by the Act on Addictive Substances, and convenes expert committees.



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 and 2006 – for information openness in public administration;

The Golden Semicolon 2004 – for the best state administration magazine, for the newspaper *Kraj Vysočina*, and a certificate of professional quality for the Regional Authority bulletin *Zpravodaj*. 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.

The Golden Semicolon 2005 – RATED award = a certificate for the professional level of the *Kraj Vysočina* newspaper and the Regional Authority's *Zpravodaj* bulletin

Geoaplikace 2005 – 1st place in category A - Geo-application for Tourism.

2005/2006 – Corporate Medium of the Year – 2nd place in the category Magazine for Non-profit Organisations and Organisations Partially and Fully Funded from Public Budgets in Public Administration – for the *Kraj Vysočina* newspaper

The 2006 National Quality Prize of the Czech Republic – the highest award in quality management.

2006 – The OPEN x CLOSED competition – 3rd place in the Open category

The Golden Semicolon 2006 – RATED award = a certificate for the professional level of the Regional Authority's *Zpravodaj* and the TOP RATED award = a certificate for the high professional level of the *Kraj Vysočina* newspaper.

The Regional Authority earned three awards for its Data Warehouse project: the **Prize of the Ministry of the Interior for Innovation in Public Administration for 2007**; 1st place in the **Smart Office 2007** competition; and an award for being a **successful participant of the IT Project 2007 competition**.

2007 – Holidayworld – 3rd place in the category **Best Exhibition of under 50 sq m**.

The Golden Semicolon 2007 – RATED award = a certificate for the professional level of the Regional Authority's *Zpravodaj* bulletin and for the *Kraj Vysočina* newspaper

In 2008, the Strategic Management Portal project of the Authority was awarded the Prize of the Ministry of the Interior for Innovation in Public Administration for 2008

In the **2008 Smart Office competition**, it won the special prize of Business World magazine

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.

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