

INTRODUCTION



INTRODUCTION

The Yearbook PRAGUE – THE ENVIRONMENT is a periodic publication whose objective is to provide comprehensive information on the state of the environment in the City of Prague. It is devoted not just to authorities of public administration and municipal administration yet also to the wide professional as well as general public. The Yearbook 2007 is already the eighteenth book in the series of publications that have been issued since 1989 as the output of the Prague Environmental Information System (IOŽIP).

The publication contents and structure is based on principles, which have been applied in making of alike publications abroad as well as in the Czech Republic. The scheme reflects the effect – state – response, used internationally in classification of environmental indicators, for example. Information acquired over periods of couple years are given as conditions allow.

Chapter A – GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS, CAUSES, AND FACTORS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES includes, except for basic data on Prague, first of all data processed in co-operation with the Czech Statistical Office – population, houses and housing, data on finances, employment, production and consumption. Data on energy and transportation are given separately aside from the production and consumption data.

The voluminous Chapter B – STATE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPARTMENTS retains the common thematic division of data, i.e. air (meteorology, pollution sources, results of measurement and modelling), water, landscape, waste, and noise.

Chapter C – HEALTH contains basic data of medical statistics and from the monitoring systems, which should illustrate the conditions in Prague even though the data may not be necessary results of the worse quality of the environment.

The closing Chapter D – AMENDMENTS gives an overview of basic acts, decrees, and ordinances applied in the environmental care in Prague, basic information on conceptual environmental documents of the City of Prague, and on documents on the City development planning, data on EIA procedures and data on measures for integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC), information on issues of Local Agenda 21 and on environmental education, bring-up and awareness in the City of Prague, and, furthermore, on the City projects and international cooperation in environmental informatics, overview of information sources on the Internet, etc. In the Chapter there is an overview of environmental indicators included as well.

Providing environmental information on the City forms a part of the overall development of public information services and the efforts to open the public administration towards the citizens. The use of the Internet, for these purposes, has already become a common matter. The City of Prague not merely complies, by issuing this publication and other information outputs, with requirements of the Act No. 123/1998 Code, on the right for the environmental information, and the Act No. 106/1999 Code, on the right for free access to information, yet also develops further the long-term tradition in this field. Series of printed publications are accompanied with information accessible on the web pages of the City in the section The Environment (envis.praha-mesto.cz), where there are not just the complete series of the Yearbooks since 1992 yet also numerous set of maps in the form of the Atlas of the Environment, or up-to-date data on air quality in the City measured in the network of stations of the Automated Immission Monitoring System. Prague has become more and more intensive participating in the international co-operation, especially within the structures of the European Union. Therefore the Czech and English character of the publication has become an ordinary matter.

The authors believe that, as in the previous years, all the interested in the environmental issues of the City of Prague will appreciate this offer of a wide range of information processed into the publication.