



Dear friends,  
We are pleased to send you the second issue of the Ostrava 2015 Newsletter.

The newsletter will regularly bring you news relating to Ostrava's candidacy for the title of European Capital of Culture 2015.

## The Ostrava 2015 project

Ostrava is currently in the second selection phase of the competition for the prestigious title of **European Capital of Culture 2015**. The Ostrava 2015 team is now working on a second, expanded version of the application in which we incorporate the suggestions given to us by the commissioners after the first round of the competition. You can read about Ostrava's candidacy project [here](#). The decision as to which Czech city will become a European Capital of Culture in 2015 will be made on 8 September 2010.

### We have a new video clip

A new video clip that originated as part of Ostrava's candidacy for the title of European Capital of Culture has met with a [great public response](#). Its author is the documentary filmmaker **Petra Všelichová**, who is the director of the excellent film *The Crime Named Katyn*, and she worked on the television series "Secret Activities of the StB", "Strictly Secret Murders" and a number of other documentary films. You can view the video clip for the Ostrava 2015 project on [our website](#).

### Ostrava wide open!!!

On Saturday **24 April** there was an open house at many Ostrava institutions. The Ostrava 2015 project was [presented to the general public](#) on Prokeš Square (Prokešovo náměstí) and also at the Old Arena – club for culture and information 2015. A programme prepared for children met with great success. On Prokeš Square, young visitors could have their faces blackened and be photographed as Daniel – the logo of Ostrava's candidacy; they could also run through a jumping race course, paint pictures of Daniel, and throw balls through the holes in a cardboard Daniel. Awaiting them at the Old Arena were a fairy tale and an interactive workshop. The day-long event ended with an evening projection of the most recent feature film by the Polish director, screenwriter and playwright Maciej Wojtyczko, *Louise's Garden*. We thank everyone for their interest and we look forward to next time.

### Soft Factors in Development Conference

The Ostrava 2015 team, in cooperation with the Department of Social Geography and Regional Development at the University of Ostrava, is preparing an **international conference** titled [Soft Factors in Regional Development](#). The conference, which will take place **24–25 June 2010** at the Old Arena, will emphasize culture, creativity and innovation.

### A Month of Authors' Readings

**A Month of Authors' Readings** is the biggest literary festival in the Czech Republic. Thanks to Ostrava's candidacy for the title of European Capital of Culture 2015, in July of this year the festival will take place not only in Brno but also in Ostrava. You can learn more about the festival on [our website](#) or on the festival's official [website](#).

## Ostrava 2015 – a place for education in the area of cultural management

### €uroprojects educational seminar

In May, the Old Arena – club for culture and information 2015 will become a centre for management education in the area of culture and art. The Ostrava 2015 project is holding several seminars and conferences focusing on the utilization of European Union programmes and funds and also on cultural policy, planning and multiculturalism. Taking place on **5 May** is the [€uroprojects educational seminar](#), led by **Eva Žáková** of the Art Institute and the Czech office of the Culture programme.

### Future City Game

On Friday **7 May**, Ostrava 2015, in cooperation with the ProCulture company and the British Council, is organizing the interactive game [Future City Game](#) on the theme "**Ostrava 2015 – city of cultural diversity**". We welcome all interested members of the professional public who work with the theme of multiculturalism or have something to say on the topics of cultural diversity or ethnic minorities living in the Ostrava area based on their own experience.

### Art, Cultural Diversity and Social Inclusion symposium

On 13–15 May, the Old Arena will host [the symposium Art, Cultural Diversity and Social Inclusion](#) with the subtitle *Precondition for Development and Creativity*. Appearing at the symposium will be leading British experts **Colin Mercer** and **Lia Ghilardi**, who will present working methods which are little known or not yet utilized in the Czech Republic but are conducive to more effective cultural planning. We cordially invite all organizers of festivals and cultural events, managers, architects, urban planners and people working in local administration, not only from Ostrava but also from other Czech cities, to participate in the symposium.

## Interview

Ostrava 2015 supports the [Migrating Books](#) project. Thanks to this project, people can find mysterious books in transparent sacks in the most varied places around Ostrava (in cafés, in trees, on benches, in pubs). If they borrow one of these books, they should leave another one at a different spot. The project was conceived by Tereza Kovářová, an 18-year-old student at a languages high school in Ostrava. [You will find an interview with her on our website](#).

## Events at the Old Arena – club for culture and information 2015

### Ryuzo Fukuhara - Japanese butoh dancer

At the Old Arena – club for culture and information 2015 a unique performance takes place on **27 April**. In connection with the "Labyrinth 23" exhibition currently running at the House of Art (Dům umění), the Japanese butoh dancer **Ryuzo Fukuhara** will perform at 7 pm. Then at 8 pm the Swedish avant-garde saxophonist **Martin Küchen** will play.

### Third Evening of Ostrava Arrivals

Evenings of Ostrava Arrivals regularly take place once a month. They are part of the [Ostrava Arrivals](#) project, which is trying to map the roots of today's Ostravans based on the personal stories of direct witnesses. The third evening takes place on Thursday **29 April** starting at 6 pm at the Old Arena on Masaryk Square (Masarykovo náměstí). The theme will be arrivals who are leading physicians. Appearing as guests will be Zdeněk Crkvenjaš, the head of the Burn Unit at the University Hospital Ostrava, and David Feltl, chief of the Oncology Clinic at the same hospital. Appearing as a special guest will be soprano Eva Dřívogová. We are still gathering stories of arrivals. It pleases us that various schools, such as the Wichterle High School and the Ivan Sekanina Elementary School in Ostrava–Poruba, have become actively involved in this project.

### Children's events

On the weekends, the Old Arena thinks mainly about children. On **8 May** at 3 pm, as part of the Fairy Tale Saturday cycle, there will be a theatrical performance of **The Wolf and Hunger** by **Jakub Folvarčný**, a graduate of DAMU, the Theatre Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague.

### Duhovna

The Ostrava 2015 team supports a clean Ostrava. With coloured spray paints in hand, we are setting out on Sunday **9 May** at 3 pm to beautify Ostrava lawns. We will paint dog excrement – as an admonition to all irresponsible dog owners.

### Comic Monday with Miloš Knor

On **10 May** at 7 pm, the Old Arena welcomes the legendary stand-up comic **Miloš Knor**, whom you may know from the television programme "Stand Up" (Na stojáka).

Have a look at other events at the [Old Arena – club for culture and information 2015](#) or check for news on the [Facebook page of the Old Arena](#).

## Ostrava 2015 recommends

Students at the University of Ostrava support Ostrava's candidacy for the title of **European Capital of Culture 2015**, and Ostrava 2015 is a fan of this traditional student celebration of the coming summer. During the Majáles celebrations, students will roll out an interactive tarp with the Ostrava 2015 logo. On this tarp, anyone can write their opinions, thoughts and messages for the team organizing the project with which Ostrava is competing for the title of European Capital of Culture 2015. The [University of Ostrava's Majáles](#), which takes place on **28 April**, traditionally includes a masked procession, theatrical performances, exhibitions and concerts at the **Silesian Ostrava Castle**.

## Get involved

### Dance Day with Daniel

On Thursday **29 April** beginning at 2 pm you can celebrate **International Dance Day** with Daniel – a living logo and the face of Ostrava's candidacy for the title of European Capital of Culture 2015. The happening takes place on Masaryk Square (Masarykovo náměstí), and anyone for whom dance is a profession, a hobby, a necessity or a necessity of life can participate.

### Migrating Books

Ostrava 2015 supports the project **Migrating Books**. You, too, can [get involved](#): All you need to do is leave a bundled book at the **Old Arena**, the **Fiducia antiquarian bookshop**, the **Minikinokavárna** or the bar of the **Petr Bezruč Theatre**. Let's release books into the world so that they will return to us again.

### The Academia bookshop in Ostrava is closing

After seven years, this bookshop and café on Zámecká Street in the centre of Ostrava is closing. Ostrava 2015 supports the **Academia** bookshop, and you can support it, too, by signing a petition against its closure at the Old Arena and having yourself photographed with a banner that has a logo and picture of the bookshop. You can also read an [interview with the manager of the Ostrava shop, Eva Holečková Karafiátová](#).

People like to have their photographs taken with our **Daniel** logo. Have a look at [photos](#) of those who have already expressed support for the Ostrava 2015 project.

## Reports in the media

### The New York Times devoted an article to Ostrava

The famous newspaper **The New York Times** focused on Ostrava on 4 April in its travel section. The Moravian-Silesian metropolis is painted in the [article](#) as a former mining city blighted by heavy industry which is looking for its new face. Of course Ostrava doesn't want to disengage itself from its past, because it would then lose its gritty charm. On the contrary, it wants to mine the maximum from its industrial heritage.

### Lidové noviny writes about The White Book

The editor of the culture section of the daily newspaper Lidové noviny (the People's Newspaper), **Jiří Peňás**, devotes an article on 15 April to [Ostrava and The White Book of Ostrava Culture](#). The book was published as part of Ostrava's candidacy for the title of European Capital of Culture 2015. (Only in Czech)

### The Ostrava phenomenon

On Thursday 21 April, in the weekly **DNES Magazine** of the daily newspaper MF Dnes, **Scarlett Wilková** devoted an article to the [Ostrava phenomenon](#). Why do they speak fast and crudely here? In what way is Ostrava different from other Czech cities? What is behind the individuality of its inhabitants? Those are some of the questions to which the author tried to find answers. (Only in Czech)

## What's new with us

### Ostrava 2015 on bikes

Members of the Ostrava 2015 team enthusiastically participated in the [spring bike ride](#) organized by an informal group of [Ostrava bike riders](#) who support bicycle transportation in Ostrava. Environmentalism is one of the building blocks of Ostrava's candidacy for the title of European Capital of Culture 2015, and members of the preparatory team for Ostrava 2015 who are concerned about the ecological situation of the city couldn't miss out on this event.

### Ostrava blogs

Team member **Lucie Křížková** has started to blog. She will write about the activities of the Ostrava 2015 team from a slightly different perspective: what we do, how we do it, and perhaps even why we do it. You can get to know us a little better [our blog](#).

## Join us!

Choose a way to find out the latest news about Ostrava's candidacy for the title of European Capital of Culture 2015.

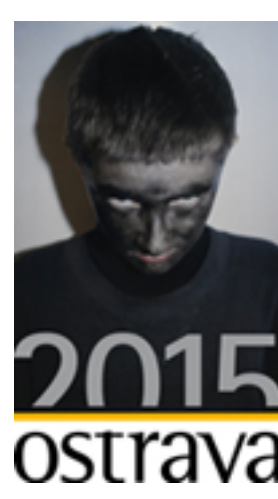
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