



MEDIA REPORT  
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**Welcome to the garden for all the senses  
Three years, three international partner organizations and three major outputs**

**Prague Botanical Garden focuses on making its expositions accessible not only to the general public, but also to visitors with special needs. This year, it successfully completed an international project funded by the European Erasmus+ programme called Botanical Garden: COME IN! VSTUPTE! KOM IN! WEJDŹ! GYERE BE! Within three years, the project created a traveling exhibition for all senses and a printed methodology with an online version in four languages. At the same time, a successful international conference was held this year with the foreword by Paul Smith, Secretary General of the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI).**

Prague Botanical Garden holds the Czech Red Cross Friendly Places certificate and its outdoor exhibition area is equipped with a unique information and navigation system for visitors with impaired sight. *“Making Prague Botanical Garden accessible to the public including visitors with special needs is an important topic, which we have focused on for more than 20 years. Since 2016, a team of our employees has been working on a project under the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union in cooperation with foreign partners. It received a positive response during its presentation both in the Czech Republic and abroad,”* says **Bohumil Černý, director of the Prague Botanical Garden**. The project was realized in cooperation with Gothenburg Botanical Garden in Sweden and the Polish Adam Mickiewicz University Botanical Garden in Poznań. Another partner organization was the Hungarian Association of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens, which represents about 45 institutions.

**Never alone: Reveal the secrets of symbiosis by touch and smell!**

Within a three-year international cooperation, a traveling exhibition for all senses was born with a symbolic theme of symbiosis. *“We have adapted the topic of collaboration between different organisms so that visitors can learn interesting information through touch, hearing and smell. The exhibition was accompanied by Czech-English captions, for visitors with visual impairment we prepared labels in Braille and an audio guide,”* explains **Jarmila Skružná, co-author of the exhibition for all senses and curator of the Prague Botanical Garden in Troja**.

Thanks to the Erasmus+ project, unique, professional models have been created for this exhibition, which the garden continues to use during a variety of educational activities and guided tours. The exhibition was open to visitors in autumn 2018, a year later it was held in

Poznań, Poland. In 2020/2021, it will also be presented in Gothenburg, Sweden, and will visit Hungary the following year. *“Our goal was to create an interactive exhibition that could be realized practically anywhere. We offer the exhibition package containing all texts and graphics, as well as practical advice on how to realize the exhibition. All of this is available online,”* adds **Jarmila Skružná**.

### **Come in – the garden is open for you**

Planning exhibitions for all the senses is also one of the topics of the new publication entitled *Botanical Garden: COME IN!* The methodology is intended primarily for educators from botanical gardens, ecological education centres and similar institutions. Thanks to the cooperation of all project partners, the methodology invites visitors to interesting gardens or museums not only in the Czech Republic, but also in Poland, Hungary and Sweden. The publication was published in English and was also translated into Polish, Swedish, Hungarian and Czech. An online version is available on the project website and on the website of Prague Botanical Garden. It is also available on request in printed form.

### **International conference interested attendants from as far away as Nigeria**

The staff of the botanical garden also participated in the international conference co-organized by colleagues in Poznan, Poland in June this year. *“A conference entitled Botanical Garden: Green World for Everyone! Educational activities for visitors with special needs initiated by our project attracted more than 100 participants from 64 institutions and 22 countries, including non-European. An introductory speech by BGCI Secretary General, Mr. Paul Smith, was a great honor for us and reassured us that our work makes sense. Mr. Smith appreciated the activities leading to better access to the botanical gardens,”* recalls **Eva Novozámská, educational manager of the Prague Botanical Garden**. In his opening speech, Paul Smith mentioned the social role of botanical gardens. He also highlighted that making the fascinating world of plants accessible to the widest possible spectrum of visitors is currently one of the essential tasks of botanical gardens. *“In addition to the presentation of thematic lectures and posters, we also organized workshops dedicated to engaging all the senses in garden education, communicating with visitors and writing simple texts. We are pleased that our work has inspired colleagues from many other institutions,”* adds **Eva Novozámská**.

### **What else can be expected in Prague Botanical Garden?**

With the end of the project, the work of the employees to make the garden accessible is not over. *“We are planning to innovate the discrete navigation system designed not only for visitors with special needs and we are continuing to build the Scent Trail. On October 3, 2020, we are preparing an event for the general public in the botanical garden, during which visitors will be able to discover the garden with all their senses and at the same time experience what it feels like if one of the senses does not work completely,”* says **Klára Lorencová, a curator of Prague Botanical Garden**.



**Botanical Garden: COME IN! VSTUPTE! KOM IN! WEJDŹ! GYERE BE!**  
**Erasmus+ programme**  
**Strategic Partnerships for adult education with intellectual outputs**

Prague Botanical Garden was the recipient of the grant. It has been dealing with the issue of its accessibility to people with special needs for more than twenty years. Since the 1990s, so-called “tactile exhibitions” have been held in the garden, presenting original botanical and ecological themes in a special way. Visitors to these exhibitions can use not only their eyes, but also involve touch, hearing, smell and taste. The events are also accessible to people with visual impairments who can fully enjoy them thanks to the audio guide and assisting staff.

Since 2008, the Prague Botanical Garden established a unique trail intended even for visitors with impaired sight. Thanks to more than eighty information columns with a description in Braille, the audio guide and tactile map of the area, people with visual impairment can learn a lot of interesting information about selected plants.

Using other senses during the tour of the garden in a playful way is supported by the emerging Scent Trail. The public can already experience three of its stops. This summer, an exhibition called “Garden by All Senses” was held in the forest exhibitions of the botanical garden, offering several interactive sites where visitors could get acquainted with plants by touch, smell and hearing. Due to great interest, the exhibition was prolonged, and some of its elements will remain here permanently.

Name of the project: Botanical Garden: COME IN! VSTUPTE! KOM IN! WEJDŹ! GYERE BE

Supported by the Erasmus+ programme

Partner organizations: Göteborgs botaniska trädgård, Sweden; Uniwersytet im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu, Ogród Botaniczny, Poland and Magyar Arborétumok és Botanikus kertek Szövetsége, Hungary

Website of the project: [garden-comein.com](http://garden-comein.com)

Main outputs: Exhibition for all senses: Never Alone: The Secrets of Symbiosis (2018); publication BOTANICKÁ ZAHRADA: VSTUPTE! Návštěvníci se specifickými potřebami v zahradách – metodika (2019), BOTANICAL GARDEN: COME IN! Visitors with Special Needs in Botanical Gardens – Methodology (2019); international conference: „Botanical garden: A green world for everyone! Educational activities for visitors with special needs in green spaces” (Poznan, 2019).

**A complete programme of Prague Botanical Garden and other news can be found at [www.botanicka.cz](http://www.botanicka.cz). Programme subject to change.**

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