



**ROK PRŮMYSLU
A TECHNICKÉHO
VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ**

Looking back at the Year of Industry and Technical Education in the Czech Republic

In cooperation with its partners and with the support of the Prime Minister, the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic (SP ČR – Svaz průmyslu a dopravy ČR) declared 2015 the Year of Industry and Technical Education. The outcomes of the Year of Industry and Technical Education include implementation of systemic changes, sectoral agreements in selected industries and more than 400 events.

The Confederation of Industry is the largest employers' association in the Czech Republic representing a substantial part of the Czech industry and transport (10,500 companies). Around 150 major subjects – including sectoral unions and associations, companies, schools, ministries, governmental organisations and even individual regions - contributed to the campaign of the Year of Industry and Technical Education. The relevance of this topic is easy to justify – the Czech Republic is a country with the highest proportion of persons employed in industrial sectors in the EU and thanks to its quality labour force, one of the investor-sought countries.

The organised events included over three dozen of entrepreneurial, technical, student and innovation competitions. Seven large discussions panels and over another three dozen professional events focusing on education, labour market and innovations took place in regional cities. These events were attended by ministers and regional officials. There were over fifty meetings of schools, companies and public administration in individual regions. Support was provided for more than four dozen visits of pupils of primary and secondary schools and students of higher education institutions to various trade fairs. And more than sixty open-door days were organised in companies and schools.

Parents represented an important target group of the activities implemented throughout the Year of Industry. They are the ones who decide to which secondary school their children will go to and they still, in their majority, view vocational schools as a secondary option. A new interactive electronic publication called *Almanac of Technical Education* has been developed for parents. It presents a range of almost 500 secondary schools providing education in technical fields, including 70 good practice examples of cooperation between schools and companies. The Almanac is available on www.RokPrumyslu.eu.

The Year of Industry and Technical Education was not only about information support and promotion of technical education. Also measures fostering important systemic changes were intensified within its framework. The most important of these changes include signing of the National Agreement on Human Resources Development, eight sectoral agreements for selected industries and thirteen regional sectoral agreements. These agreements shall improve cooperation among companies, schools and regional administration and also foster further use of the National Register of Qualifications and the National Register of Occupations.

By the end of the year, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports prepared a document called *Recommendations to ensure a uniform procedure for concluding contractual relationship between employers and students of tertiary professional or secondary schools*, which contains templates of the agreements on the provision of incentive allowance for under-aged or adult students and a description of the procedure for concluding contractual relationship between employers and students. Starting 2016, the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic (SP ČR) will have the option to comment on modifications related to capacity and study programmes of the schools.