

# INCREASING QUALITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES ON LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL



Společně hájíme zájmy měst a obcí!

**Union of Towns and Municipalities**  
**Together we represent the interests of**  
**Towns and Municipalities!**

Mgr. Pavel Drahovzal  
výkonný ředitel SMO

# HEALTH CARE SERVICES

- Situation is critical at local level – lack of doctors and nurses not only in the rural areas but also in the large cities (lack of health care personnel in the hospitals)
- Municipalities have pro-active approach – they motivate doctors to open medical facilities by providing equipped doctor's offices, offering lower or none rent, better prices for the purchase of building land, providing financial contribution to the purchase of tyres etc.
- Despite all efforts, there is a lack of doctors as well as nurses in municipalities



# SOCIAL SERVICES

- Municipalities have pro-active approach in providing social care services to their citizens – support for family life, care of the elderly etc.
- There is a lack of social workers to provide residential care activities mainly for elderly in small municipalities
- There is a pressure on return payment of social benefits (i.e. on housing) back under municipal responsibilities – municipalities would be aware of their citizens



# CULTURE

- Towns and municipalities are aware that there is a need to support community and neighborhood life. Main support is targeted at municipal libraries which are often the only center for citizens to meet.
- In bigger towns - cultural centers for children as well as for elderly and newly for mothers with children exist.
- Towns also establish cultural facilities, such as museums, galleries, theatres, orchestra that demonstrate improvement of quality of provided services.



# EDUCATION SERVICES 1

- According to the law, municipalities and towns are responsible for providing pre-school and basic education in 3 different ways:
  - They establish schools and they cover operational and investment costs from municipal budget,
  - They contract another municipalities to ensure provision of education services for their citizens,
  - They can establish common schools in frame of Voluntary association of municipalities (DSO)
- Salaries of teachers are covered from the state budget, the State also sets educational content
- Since 1. 9. 2017 – pre-school education for 5 year old children is obligatory, pre-school facilities are obliged to place children from age of 4 years
- Since 1.9. 2018 obligation for pre-school facilities to place children from age of 3 years, and since 1.9.2020 to place children from age of 2
- Insufficient capacities in pre-school facilities and in the primary schools (on the 2nd stage) - need for large investments but municipal budgets are limited



# EDUCATION SERVICES 2

- There is a large number of primary schools with low number of pupils mainly in the rural areas - many of them provide education only at 1st stage of primary school or they offer education in the composite classes (i.e. children from two or more grade levels are in the same class) – there is problem to finance these schools from municipal budget as current system is based on financial contribution related to the number of pupils attending the school; some municipalities pay the salaries of the teachers from municipal budget (it could be 1/3 of their budget)
- Change in financing of the schools since 1.1.2019 - greater support for schools in rural areas – is it chance for maintaining existing number of schools?
- Preservation of schools is the highest priority for municipalities – it maintains the link between children, their parents and life in the municipality → centre of community
- Where school ceases to exist, young generation gradually moves away to the large cities, the links are teared.

According to the Czech school inspection, small rural schools are of very good quality; thanks to their „family“ approach they meet the quality standards and even have advantage over schools in large towns which are mostly better materially equipped!



# POSTAL SERVICES

- An essential component of services provided in the rural areas
- Postal items / mail
- Payments for services provided to the citizens (SIPO)
- Newspapers, magazines
- Transition processes has been going on in the Czech Post in the last few years
- Post Partner – possible alternative how to improve postal services and tailor them to citizens



# PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES

- An essential component of services provided to the citizens - providing transport to the schools, public administration offices, work, health-care institutions, cultural and social institutions etc.
- Scope of the provided services is influenced by the financial resources available in the public budgets
- It is necessary ensuring optimal financing, mainly in the rural areas





# Centres of common services

Strengthening the administrative capacity of municipalities  
based on municipal cooperation

## **Objective of the project**

Improvement of quality, efficiency and availability of public  
services and public administration.







# Impact:

# 2 016 247 inhabitants



# The most often activities of the centres

Consultancy provided to the mayors and municipalities

Realization of common projects of municipalities

Consultancy on funding and grant management

Promotion of the regions

Common purchases

Public procurements



# Contributions

**Financial savings up to 100 mil. CZK a year**

**Better services**

**Coordinated and shared approach to the territorial development**

**Educated professionals in the regions**

**Mutual sharing of experiences**

**Intensified communication among mayors**



# Implementation

2/2016-7/2019

## Budget

394 mil. CZK - most of the financing goes to the voluntary associations of municipalities (DSO)