



EUROPEAN
HABITAT



LOOK BACK

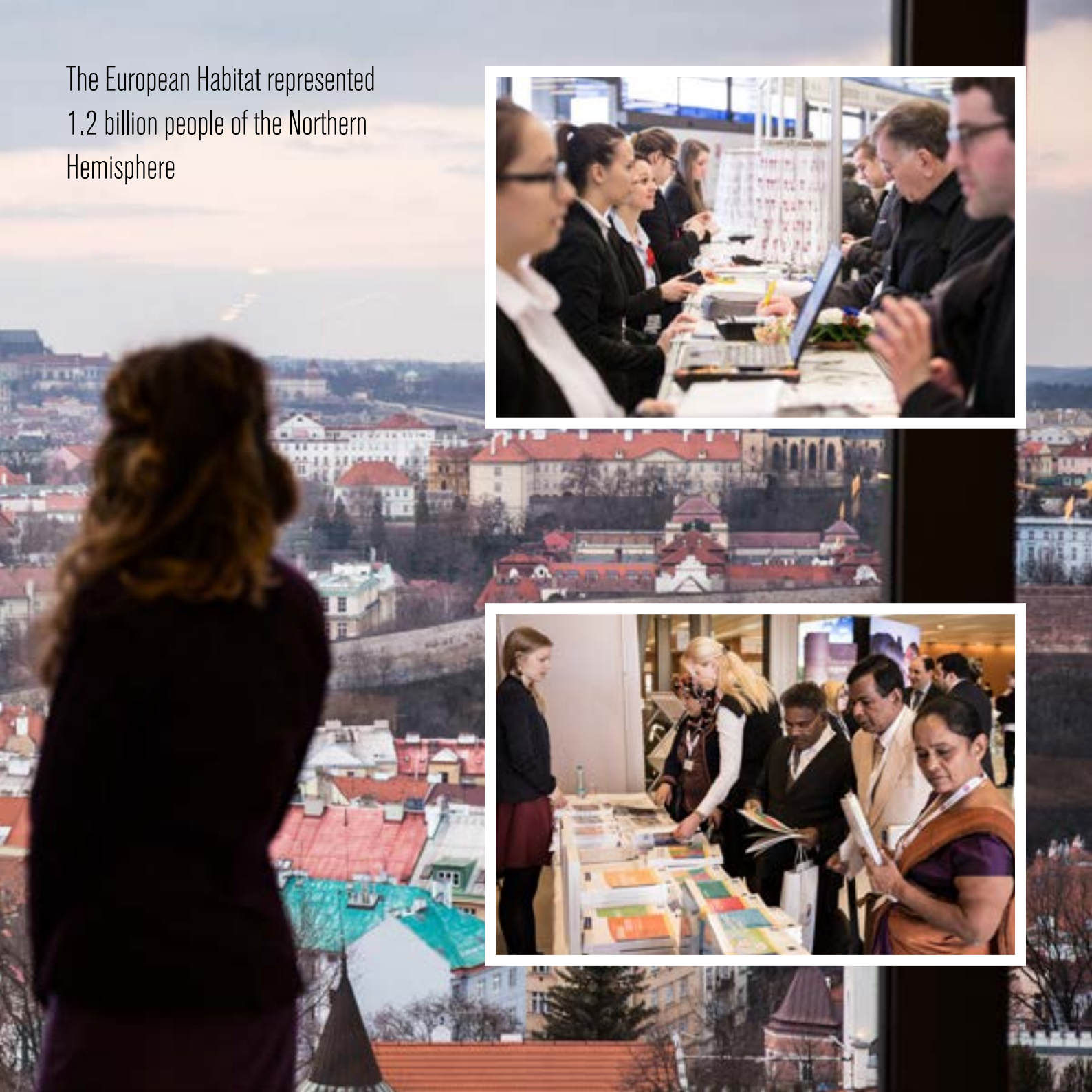
Prague hosted representatives of 56 member states

The Prague European Habitat was part of preparations for the Third Global UN Summit on Housing and Urban Development which is organized once in **20 years**. It will take place in October 2016 in Ecuador. The Prague regional meeting gathered ideas for the global summit and articulated urban theses summarized in the Prague Declaration.

More than **70%** of inhabitants of the industrial North live in cities today and **in 50 years it will be nearly 100%**. The central idea of the conference was to gather the best urban planners, architects, sociologists and other experts to discuss future cities – so that they are liveable, meet the needs of people and are good places to live for the children of our children...



The European Habitat represented
1.2 billion people of the Northern
Hemisphere



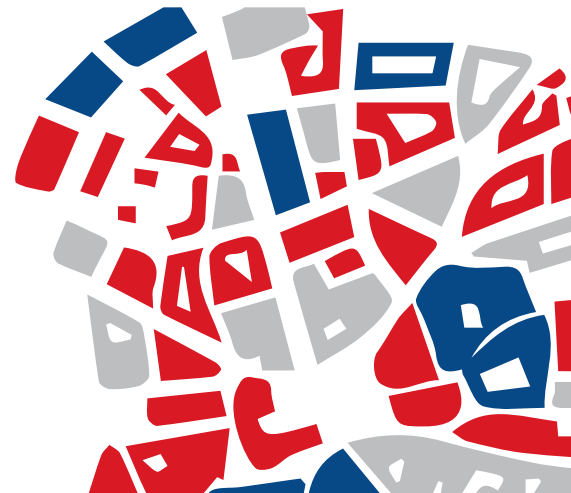


150 persons headed by Minister Karla Šlechtová contributed to the conference preparation



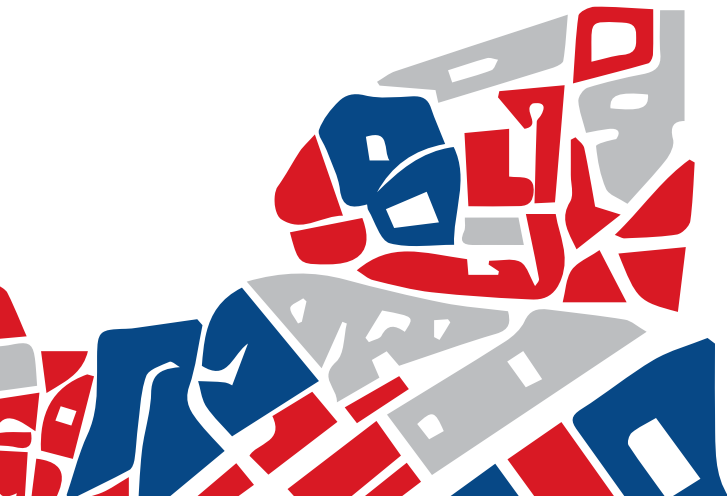
The Habitat preparations start

The conference was prepared and organized by **150 persons** dedicated to this task for several months. The largest congress centre in Prague was selected as its venue. More than **11,000 m of cabling** were installed within an area of **42,000 m²**. Security was provided by dozens of policemen, including plain-clothes policemen located on individual floors. Side events took place also in other parts of Prague. It was incredible that only a few errors and mistakes occurred in the babel of almost **4,000 people**...



The conference was attended by 4,000 people

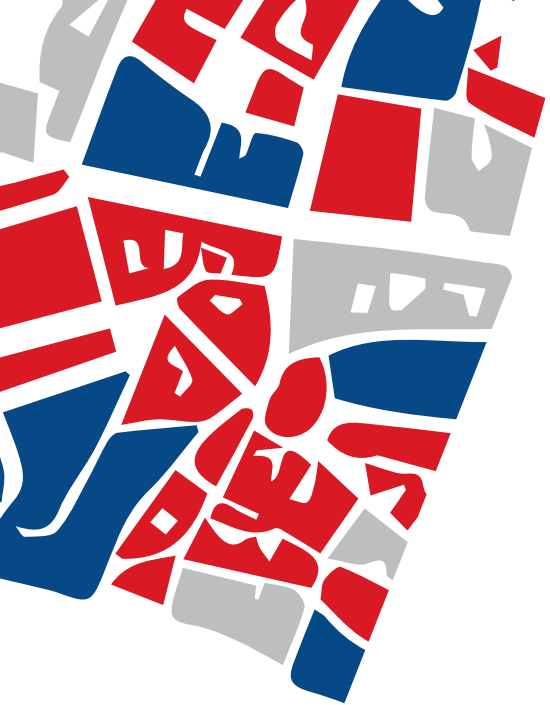
The Congress Centre hosted dozens of stands with thousands of photos and around **100 student projects** – 3D models of designed buildings. More events could be experienced all around Prague. It was interesting to witness exciting and enthusiastic discussions of people of various nations, races and languages. They shared a common topic – **how to build liveable cities...**



People go where other people are.
(Scandinavian saying)







The European Habitat was opened

Solution to the issue of housing estates and the need of municipal integration. These were the key outcomes of the UN European Habitat conference for the Czech Republic. The main conference guests included:

Karla Šlechtová

Politician and economist, Minister of Regional Development of the Czech Republic.



Joan Clos

Secretary General of the Habitat III, former Mayor of Barcelona, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Trade. Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, (UN-HABITAT), and Under Secretary General of the United Nations.



Jan Gehl

Danish architect and urban design consultant based in Copenhagen whose career has focused on improving the quality of urban life by re-orienting city design towards pedestrians and cyclists.



Eglantina Gjermeni

Albanian minister for Urban Development. Head of the Centre of the Gender Balance for Development.

Markku Markkula

Finnish politician and the President of the European Committee of the Regions. Member of the Board of the Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council and former Chairman of the Espoo City Planning Board.



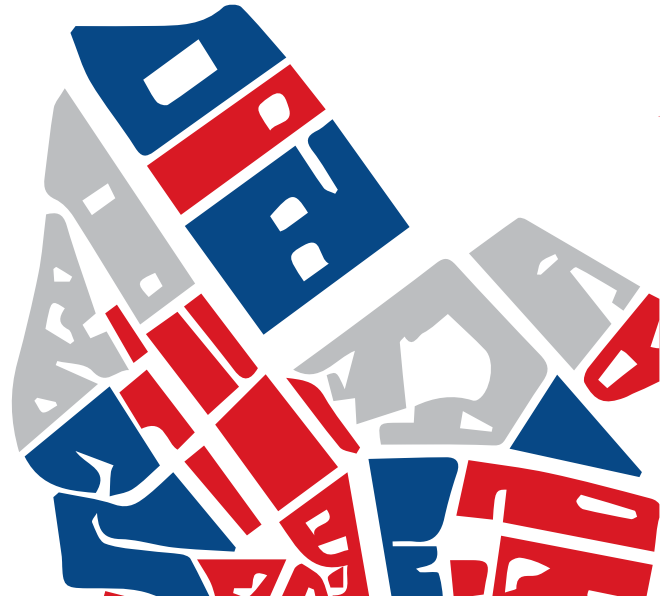
Christian Friis Bach

Danish politician. Minister for Development Cooperation of Denmark in the Cabinet of Helle Thorning-Schmidt and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.



Side events

There were **96 separate events** organized within the conference as well as dozens of bilateral meetings focusing e.g. on future urban visions or urban management. In total, there were over **300 hours** of expert discussions with more than **50 expert speakers**. All participants radiated interest and excitement...



The conference was not a single event but many diverse events in one



Prague Declaration

The Prague Declaration was the key output of the conference and its final wording was drafted in three days by an international Advisory Board. The Declaration outlined a number of key topics for further elaboration in Ecuador:

Urban poverty

Lack of affordable housing and homelessness, lack of accessible basic public facilities and services, lack of safe transport and isolation of communities significantly and adversely affects the quality of urban life and inhibits economic growth.

Demographic changes

Population ageing and migration which took place in the last decades need to be addressed by planning adequate housing and accessible infrastructure for these disadvantaged population groups.

Climate change and disaster risk

Cities are major sources of dangerous GHG emissions. Our primary focus should be therefore put on energy efficient buildings and increased utilization of renewable sources.

Urban sprawl

Sustainable use of the landscape can be achieved only through polycentric and balanced territorial development with efficient and safe multi-modal transport systems.

Coordination and urban development

Cooperation in urban planning and governance among different levels of governments, communities, local NGOs and the private sector should be encouraged.

Urban regeneration

Cities must be created for humans, not for machines. Urban regeneration means mainly social cohesion. Local planning creates vibrant communities and liveable cities.

Use of digital technologies

Urban systems generate petabytes of data, which must be effectively used. This requires educating urban managers, decision-makers and also inhabitants.





The last day culminated by the adoption of the Prague Declaration





See you next time!

"I am proud that we have mastered this important conference so well. I would like to thank all of the presenters, participants in the debates, visitors and organizers for helping us create such an inspiring environment.

It is encouraging for all of us to see that apart from experienced professionals the European Habitat was attended also by many students – those who will have the future of this planet in their hands. They attended the conference not only as guests but also as active participants – they contributed to exhibitions, lectures, discussions, prepared architectural studies and made movies. I am sure that the future is in good hands."

The Habitat conference has ended; the tired but excited participants are saying goodbye...



Karla Šlechtová,
Minister of Regional Development
of the Czech Republic



16 – 18 March 2016
Prague Congress Centre
Prague, Czech Republic

Find out more:

www.europeanhabitat.com



United Nations



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