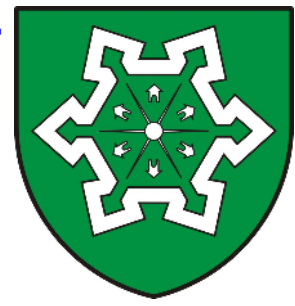
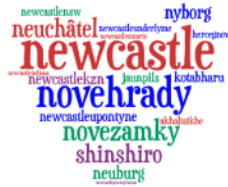


Our name brought us together



A joint future binds us

NewCastles of the World Conference 2023

Six days of meeting old and new friends



Celebrating 25 years of the Alliance

Forging new partnerships going forward together



October 12-17, Nové Hradky, Czech Republic.

Co-organised by Nové Hradky, Czech Republic, and Nové Zámky, Slovakia

Hoping to see you all in Nové Hradky this October.

Newcastles of the World.

<https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/>

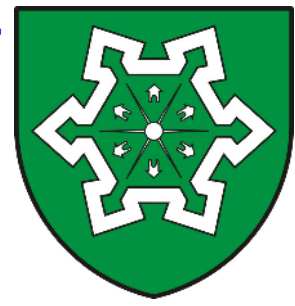
Individual registration: <https://forms.gle/jQXCNWpDUUpQHfDy6>

Conference Contact: Robert Dulfer, dulfer@rozberk.org





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A joint future binds us Mission Statement

In 1998, Shinshiro City was the first town with the name Newcastle to host a summit of Newcastle towns from around the world. Out of that summit grew our current Newcastles of the World Alliance.

Since 2012, associated Newcastle towns have tried to give more depth to this Alliance. The motivation was to go beyond learning about each other and sharing best practice into an Alliance active in bi- and multi-lateral cooperation projects and youth projects.

Under the guidance of our Newcastles Secretariat (in particular David Faulkner and Zelig Guerin), several initiatives were started and new ways of cooperation explored.

We celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Alliance in Shinshiro, hoping that this would mark a next step in this development. Unfortunately, the still not completely resolved COVID pandemic and the ongoing War in Ukraine had and still have severe impacts on our daily life. Many Newcastle activities and our conferences had to be cancelled or put on hold as well. However, some activities continued online.

The 2023 Conference will celebrate 25 years of the Alliance

When you think of it, this is one amazing fact to be really proud of. During that period, at least five mayoral elections have taken place. Several of the older people who were there in the beginning already have retired, new people have taken over their places. Yet a core of 17 Newcastle communities stayed committed, and many other communities expressed interest and follow us.

When we discussed the future of the Alliance in the coming years, the executive board was clear in its opinion that the Alliance was something special. We definitely should continue and even increase our numbers and activities.

Both COVID and the War in Ukraine stress how important it is that we know about each other, respect and support each other, and cooperate on all levels. The Alliance provides us a unique and non-political platform to build on.

It is our mission that this year we will strengthen our Alliance, not only by meeting once again in person to celebrate, but more important with taking concrete steps in strengthening practical cooperation between our towns. Examples of this are youth exchanges on cultural activities, international school cooperation, traditional craft workshops etc. Some of these activities already exist, like the recent online chess competition, language learning courses, our tourism "passport", photographic exhibitions, and sharing information and best practice through our newsletter.

More ideas about this we will present in the coming months before the summer. We hope others will do the same. In this way, the 2023 Conference should not be just a start for considering options, but a platform for finalizing joint projects and getting others on board as well.

Robert Dulfer

David Faulkner

Newcastles of the World.

<https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/>

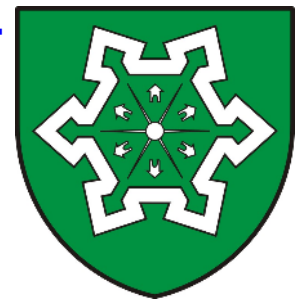
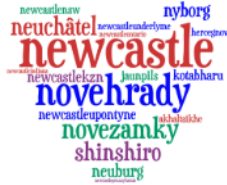
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Preliminary Conference Itinerary

Wednesday 11.10.

Arrival of participants.

Thursday 12.10. Venue: the New Castle Conference Centre in Nové Hradce

09:00 – 11:00 Start registration including coffee break, setting up posters^{1 2}

11:00 – 12:00 Opening ceremony: Speakers:
Robert Dulfer, as Conference Coordinator
David Faulkner, on-line, Departing Coordinator NotW Association
Vladimir Hokr, Mayor Nové Hradce
Otokar Klein, Mayor of Nové Zámky
Daniel Veuve, Neuchatel, Chair NotW Executive Board
Others – to be decided (TBD)

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch in Hotel May (across the street from the Venue)

13:30 – 15:00 Plenary working sessions
Topic: Overview over 25 years NotW, objectives achieved and lessons learned, impact of youth inclusion.
Moderator: to be decided (TBD).

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 – 17:30 Plenary working session
Topic: Future of the NotW Association.
Including future of youth inclusion, and discussion on how to include youth representative(s) in the executive board or as youth council.
Moderator: TBD

19:00 Icebreaker buffet in Hotel May with music or concert (details TBD)³

¹ Each Newcastle is expected to make two or three posters (size A0 – max 84x118 cm) giving information about their Newcastle, about important social projects, youth activities, and most important, how they want to cooperate in projects with other Newcastles (bi-lateral, joint EU projects, special grant programs, school exchanges etc).

² Two English speaking staff and one English-Japanese speaker from the Rozmberk Society will run the registration and are on standby during the entire conference. Help of students with the registration is needed.

³ Dinners mostly will be offered as walking buffets, to encourage mingling. This is not a high level diplomatic formal Conference, but a meeting of friends and “family” after a long time. When and how to include concerts, casual music or other cultural events will be decided later.

Newcastles of the World.

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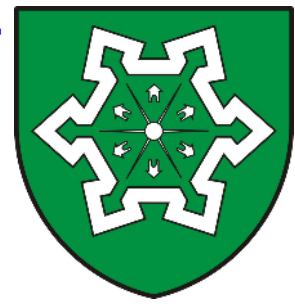
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Friday 13.10. Venue Adults: the New Castle Conference Centre in Nové Hradky
Venue Youth: Statky (above Nové Hradky Museum), separate program

- 09:00 – 10:30 Working sessions:
Topic: How have we all brought life and prosperity back to our towns since COVID-19 brought things to a halt. What about the effects of long-Covid and children having problems to readjust or get back to normal after Covid.
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00 – 12:30 Working sessions
Topic: To Be Decided (TBD)
- 12:30 – 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 – 16:00 Poster session including coffee break
- 16:00 – 17:30 Working session – wrap-up and conclusions first two days
Moderator: Robert Dulfer
- 19:00 Dinner in Hotel May

Saturday 14.10.

- 10:00 – 12:00 Free morning and preparing market event. This is also a time for guided town walks or visiting the town museum and historic smithy.
- 12:00 – 13:00 Lunch; weather depending on the square or in Hotel May
- 13:00 – 17:00 Market Event on the Town Square (like in 2014): Newcastles presenting Newcastles. Details will be announced later.
- 19:00 Dinner. Weather and program depended with Czech and Slovak music on the Town square.

Sunday 15.10. Venue Adults: the New Castle Conference Centre in Nové Hradky

Moderator. Mgr. Katarína Hozlárová, Nové Zamky

Venue Youth: Statky

- 09:30 – 10:30 Sunday coffee, looking at posters etc. No early morning session.
- 10:30 – 12:00 1 - 4x 10-minute presentations + 5-minute discussion
Topic: Assistance to Ukraine
Subtheme: Supporting, integrating and valuing new community members in our towns, with special contribution from Shinshiro on its work
- 12:00 – 13:30 Lunch Hotel May

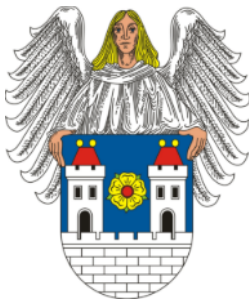
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13:30 – 15:00

Session 2 - 4x 10-minute presentations + 5-minute discussion

Topic: Volunteering - How do we encourage people to volunteer their time and skills?

With examples from our Newcastles to include firefighters, foodbank volunteers, library volunteers, and volunteers helping non-profit activities.

15:00 – 15:30

Coffee break

15:30 – 17:00

TBD: next session on international cooperation or visit of local historical highlights.

Monday 16.10 Venue Adults: the New Castle Conference Centre in Nové Hradky

Venue Youth: Statky (only until the first coffee break)

09:00 – 10:30

Last separate sessions. Youth (in Statky) and Adults (main Venue) summarize results of the previous working sessions.

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee Break, youths will join adults, all sessions from now on are in the main venue.

11:00 – 12:30

Plenary session: reporting on youth and adults results.

12:30 – 13:00

Decision on how to continue with the Association and format-schedule of conferences.
Voting for which towns will be new executive board.
Voting on how to include Youths in the Executive Board.

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch Hotel May

14:30 – 15:30

Working Session on Cooperation: tell us your proposals for Newcastle cooperation projects and meet with each other to discuss this.

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee break

16:00 – 18:00

Break-out meetings on cooperation inside practical projects, or just do whatever you want, talk with people.

17:30 – 18:00

Meeting of the Executive Board

19:00 - 22:00

Farewell dinner: walking buffet in Hotel May with Czech and Slovak background music.

Tuesday 17.10. Venue: the New Castle Conference Centre in Nové Hradky

9:00 – 11:00

Final words and closing of the conference: announcement next conference location.
Moderator: Robert Dulfer

Speakers:

Vladimir Hokr and Otokar Klein as hosting Mayors

David Faulkner (online) and Robert Dulfer as NotW coordinating-communication team

Youth representative for Executive Board

Mayor of the next Conference host

Robert Dulfer for final words and practical points

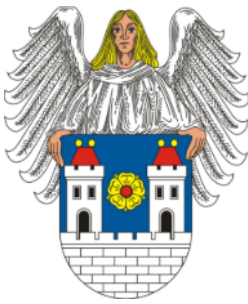
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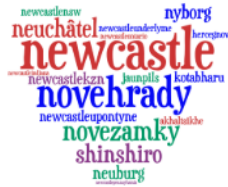
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Conference Contact: Robert Dulfer, dulfer@rozberk.org





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11:30 - 13:00 Lunch and transfers to the airport

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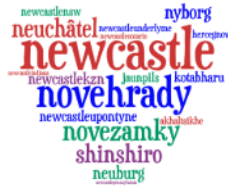
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Venue

The main Venue is the restored Buquoy Chateau. This 19th century Napoleonic chateau is now the property of the Czech Academy of Sciences and houses the innovative **Academy and University Center of Nové Hradky**.



The Chateau has excellent facilities including all modern techniques, free internet room, bar, in-house accommodation with internet connections, etc.



The Entrance Hall has a lot of space for registration and coffee breaks (left). The Theatre Hall (middle and right) doubles as main venue room. It can be used for theatre plays, but once the curtains are opened, there also is a full-size fixed projection screen. High quality projectors and high speed internet allow for hybrid meetings with running presentations and zoom meetings simultaneously.



The circular Blue Room (left) can be used for coffee breaks and poster presentations. The Mirror Room (middle and left) is mostly used for poster sessions, breakout sessions or group working.

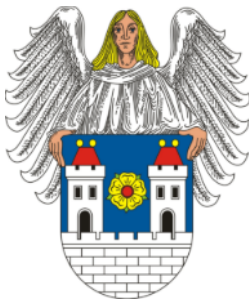
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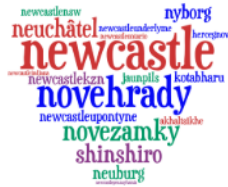
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Price packages: accommodation including registration fee

The Conference has **SIX** price packages, luxe, standard or budget in single or double room versions. Fees have to be paid through invoices or simple bank transfers, details of which will be provided after registration.

All the price packages include:

- ✓ Registration fee.
- ✓ Selected accommodation from Wednesday afternoon October 11 until Tuesday October 17.
- ✓ Double rooms really have to be occupied with **TWO** people!
- ✓ Breakfast on all days, details see accommodation packages.
- ✓ Lunch: Thursday October 12 to Tuesday October 17.
- ✓ Dinner: Thursday October 12 to Monday October 17.
- ✓ Coffee breaks (coffee, tea, sweets, fruits, waters) during Conference sessions on Tuesday, Friday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday.
- ✓ All cultural events during the conference.

Not included in the package:

- ✚ Drinks during lunches and dinners are **NOT** included in the price and should be paid by participants individually, unless mentioned differently.
- ✚ Transport from airport Vienna or Prague to Nové Hradce and return will be facilitated by us but will have to be paid separately by the participants at fixed rates, to be announced soon.

Room package and prices

Luxe Single Room	total
Single room in Hotel Residence, incl. wellness access, breakfast in the hotel	860 €
Luxe double room	
Double room in Hotel Residence, incl. wellness access, breakfast in the hotel	830 €
Standard single room	
Single room in Buquoy Palace (venue), breakfast in Hotel May	720 €
Standard double room	
Double room in Buquoy Palace (venue), breakfast in Hotel May	654 €
Budget single room with shared facilities	
Single room with shared facilities in Buquoy Palace (venue) or Hotel May, breakfast in Hotel May. Very limited number of rooms, first come first serve	600 €
Budget double – triple room with shared facilities	
Double/triple rooms with shared facilities in Venue or Hotel May, breakfast in hotel May	540 €

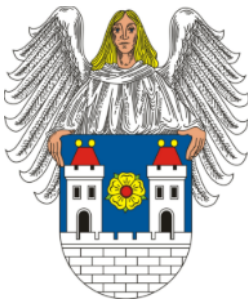
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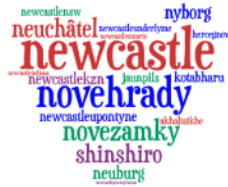
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Other general information

Which Nové Hradky

Beware: there are TWO towns called Nové Hradky in the Czech Republic.

Our Nové Hradky is in South Bohemia, the other one is 200 km northeast of us, in the Pardubice region.

Conference airport transport

Please beware: transport from and to airports is **NOT** included in the conference fee.

Depending on the participants travel schedule, one or more full-size busses will pick up participants from Vienna Airport or Prague Airport, In addition, mini-busses and other transport are on standby to pick up participants from other locations. More details will be provided later.

Money

The Czech Republic is part of the European Union and part of the barrier-free Schengen agreement, but is **NOT a EURO country**. The Czech Republic still is using the Czech Koruna (CZK, symbol Kc).

The best thing to do is to **bring your credit card and take money from the ATM – Teller machine here in Nové Hradky** (there are two). Changing money in your own country or withdrawing money from airport ATMs is almost always more expensive than withdrawing money in-country at the local ATM.

When using ATMs or paying by credit card, you sometimes get the option “pay in local currency or in your own currency”. **ALWAYS use the “local currency” option**. The other option is a rip-off.

Dress Code and weather

Best described as “casual”. We try to keep this as informal and casual as possible. So some people might dress up for the opening ceremony, but it is NOT obligatory. For all events and sessions, whatever people are comfortable in, regardless if jeans or suit and tie; as long as you feel OK in them.

Weather is unpredictable at that time. It can still be nice and mostly dry, but more in line will be around 10-15 degrees Celsius. Take a raincoat and warm sweater to be sure.

Market event

On Saturday October 14th, we will organize a market event on the town square. This will be a larger regional public event. For our conference, there will be a party tent with tables inside. In wooden stalls, participating countries can display examples of their local information material (native language and English) and some simple local products. These things are not to give away but as examples to look at. We will display some of the posters from the conference here as well (for example the town introduction poster). Czech and Slovak students and others fluent in English and Czech will help explaining the displays to the Czech visitors. More details will be given after arrival.

Visa

Participants from some countries need a visa for entering the Czech Republic. Please ask for this in time. If you need a Letter of Invitation, let us know and we will provide one.

More information will be provided later through our websites and mailings.

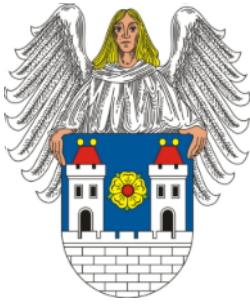
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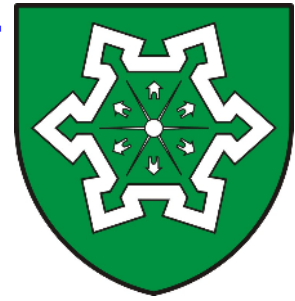
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Preliminary Conference Itinerary

Wednesday 11.10.

Arrival of participants.

Thursday 12.10.

Venue: the New Castle Conference Centre in Nové Hradky

- 09:00 – 11:00 Start registration including coffee break, setting up posters ¹
- 11:00 – 12:00 Opening ceremony: Speakers:
Robert Dulfer, as Conference Coordinator
David Faulkner, on-line, Departing Coordinator NotW Association
Vladimir Hokr, Mayor Nové Hradky
Otokar Klein, Mayor of Nové Zamky
Daniel Veuve, Neuchatel, Chair NotW Executive Board
Others – to be decided (TBD)
- 12:00 – 13:30 Lunch in Hotel May (across the street from the Venue)
- 13:30 – 15:00 Plenary working sessions
Topic: Overview over 25 years NotW, objectives achieved and lessons learned, impact of youth inclusion.
Moderator: to be decided (TBD).
- 15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break
- 15:30 – 17:30 Plenary working session
Topic: Future of the NotW Association.
Including future of youth inclusion, and discussion on how to include youth representative(s) in the executive board or as youth council.
Moderator: TBD
- 19:00 Icebreaker buffet in Hotel May with music or concert (details TBD)²

¹ Two English speaking staff and one English-Japanese speaker from the Rozmberk Society will run the registration and are on standby during the entire conference. Help of students with the registration is needed.

² Dinners mostly will be offered as walking buffets, to encourage mingling. This is not a high level diplomatic formal Conference, but a meeting of friends and “family” after a long time. When and how to include concerts, casual music or other cultural events will be decided later.

Newcastles of the World.

<https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/>

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Conference Contact: Robert Dulfer, newcastles2023@rozmbek.org



NewCastles of the World

Conference 2023

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Venue Youth: Statky (above Nové Hradý Museum), separate program

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- 10:00 – 12:00 Free morning and preparing market event. This is also a time for guided town walks or visiting the town museum and historic smithy.
- 12:00 – 13:00 Lunch; weather depending on the square or in Hotel May
- 13:00 – 17:00 Market Event on the Town Square (like in 2014): Newcastles presenting Newcastles. Details will be announced later.
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Sunday 15.10

Venue Adults: the New Castle Conference Centre in Nové Hradý

Moderator. Mgr. Katarína Hozlárová, Nové Zamky

Venue Youth: Statky

- 09:30 – 10:30 Sunday coffee, looking at posters etc. No early morning session.
- 10:30 – 12:00 1 - 4x 10-minute presentations + 5-minute discussion
Topic: Assistance to Ukraine
Subtheme: Supporting, integrating and valuing new community members in our towns, with special contribution from Shinshiro on its work
- 12:00 – 13:30 Lunch Hotel May
- 13:30 – 15:00 Session 2 - 4x 10-minute presentations + 5-minute discussion
Topic: Volunteering - How do we encourage people to volunteer their time and skills?

Conference Contact: Robert Dulfer, newcastles2023@rozmbek.org

Individual registration: <https://forms.gle/jQXCNWpDUUpQHFdY6>

NewCastles of the World

Conference 2023

With examples from our Newcastles to include firefighters, foodbank volunteers, library volunteers, and volunteers helping non-profit activities.

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 – 17:00 TBD: next session on international cooperation or visit of local historical highlights.

Monday 16.10

Venue Adults: the New Castle Conference Centre in Nové Hradý

Venue Youth: Statky (only until the first coffee break)

- 09:00 – 10:30 Last separate sessions. Youth (in Statky) and Adults (main Venue) summarize results of the previous working sessions.
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break, youths will join adults, all sessions from now on are in the main venue.
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- 14:30 – 15:30 Working Session on Cooperation: tell us your proposals for Newcastle cooperation projects and meet with each other to discuss this.
- 15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break
- 16:00 – 18:00 Break-out meetings on cooperation inside practical projects, or just do whatever you want, talk with people.
- 17:30 – 18:00 Meeting of the Executive Board
- 19:00 - 22:00 Farewell dinner: walking buffet in Hotel May with Czech and Slovak background music.

Tuesday 17.10.

Venue: the New Castle Conference Centre in Nové Hradý

- 9:00 – 11:00 Final words and closing of the conference: announcement next conference location.
Moderator: Robert Dulfer
- Speakers:
Vladimir Hokr and Otokar Klein as hosting Mayors
David Faulkner (online) and Robert Dulfer as NotW coordinating-communication team
Youth representative for Executive Board
Mayor of the next Conference host
Robert Dulfer for final words and practical points
- 11:30 - 13:00 Lunch and transfers to the airport

NewCastles of the World

Conference 2023

Posters

Each Newcastle is expected to make at least two, better three posters (size A0 – max 84x118 cm).

The most important poster is your poster on Newcastle cooperation options. How do your town and its schools, universities, civic associations, and individual citizens would like to cooperate with other Newcastles. Does your town or regional authorities provide funding for such cooperation projects? Which projects you offer to run in your Newcastle, people who would like to visit other Newcastles and join projects abroad etc etc.

What about on-line chess competitions between our citizens (not much funds needed). Or annual youth exchanges which a different Newcastle hosting the exchange each year. Maybe your town has a school or university interested in joining or setting up a cooperation network. There are several EU and other non-EU organisations providing grants for that. Another example our Nové Hradý is already active in are craft exchanges, workshops or meetings. WE already organized several for example blacksmith workshops, courses or meetings linked to larger national or international blacksmith meetings.

The other poster(s) is about your Newcastle. Think important social projects or youth activities you would like to show. Where possible, include QR codes so people can easily link or connect to it.

Please remember, most information about your Newcastle is available online already. Also check out our Newcastles website and give us updates and new images. Therefore, it's better to have a very extensive poster on cooperation, and only a small A4 poster with one picture and several QR codes than a very nice poster about your Newcastle, but nothing about cooperation. The best, off course, is covering both.

Venue

The main Venue is the restored Buquoy Chateau. This 19th century Napoleonic chateau is now the property of the Czech Academy of Sciences and houses the innovative **Academy and University Center of Nové Hradý**.



NewCastles of the World

Conference 2023

The Chateau has excellent facilities including all modern techniques, free internet room, bar, in-house accommodation with internet connections, etc.



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The circular Blue Room (left) can be used for coffee breaks and poster presentations. The Mirror Room (middle and right) is mostly used for poster sessions, breakout sessions or group working.

Accommodation

Accommodation will be offered as part of the Conference fee.

Prime accommodation (Luxe) will be available at the Wellness Hotel Residence on the Town Square. The hotel offers high quality rooms including access to wellness area and swimming pool and a very extensive continental breakfast.

Standard and budget accommodation is offered in the Venue itself. The rooms are nice and good, but the breakfast is across the street in Hotel May (about 50 meters). Additional budget accommodation with shared facilities is also offered at hotel May.

Price packages: accommodation including registration fee

The Conference has **SIX** price packages, luxe, standard or budget in single or double room versions. Fees have to be paid through invoices or simple bank transfers, details of which will be provided after registration.

All the price packages include:

- ✓ Registration fee.
- ✓ Selected accommodation from Wednesday afternoon October 11 until Tuesday October 17.

NewCastles of the World

Conference 2023

- ✓ Double rooms really have to be occupied with **TWO** people!
- ✓ Breakfast on all days, details see accommodation packages.
- ✓ Lunch: Thursday October 12 to Tuesday October 17.
- ✓ Dinner: Thursday October 12 to Monday October 17.
- ✓ Coffee breaks (coffee, tea, sweets, fruits, waters) during Conference sessions on Tuesday, Friday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday.
- ✓ All cultural events during the conference.

Not included in the package:

- ✚ Drinks during lunches and dinners are **NOT** included in the price and should be paid by participants individually, unless mentioned differently.
- ✚ Transport from airport Vienna or Prague to Nové Hradky and return will be facilitated by us but will have to be paid separately by the participants at fixed rates, to be announced soon.

Room package and prices

	total
Luxe Single Room	
Single room in Hotel Rezidence, incl. wellness access, breakfast in the hotel	860 €
Luxe double room	
Double room in Hotel Rezidence, incl. wellness access, breakfast in the hotel	830 €
Standard single room	
Single room in Buquoy Palace (venue), breakfast in Hotel May	720 €
Standard double room	
Double room in Buquoy Palace (venue), breakfast in Hotel May	654 €
Budget single room with shared facilities	
Single room with shared facilities in Buquoy Palace (venue) or Hotel May, breakfast in Hotel May. Very limited number of rooms, first come first serve	600 €
Budget double – triple room with shared facilities	
Double/triple rooms with shared facilities in Venue or Hotel May, breakfast in hotel May	540 €

Registration

Newcastle municipalities will get a separate delegation registration form covering all delegates in one form.

People who want to join the conference but **are not part of an official delegation** can do so using the [online registration form](#). (please do NOT use this form when part of an official delegation)

Payment details will be sent to you after we received the registration and have confirmed your accommodation preference with the providers.

The prices mentioned above are the same regardless if you are part of the official delegation or an individual participant.

For more information or questions, please contact Robert Dulfer at newcastles2023@rozemberk.org

NewCastles of the World

Conference 2023

Other general information

Which Nové Hradý

Beware: there are TWO towns called Nové Hradý in the Czech Republic.

Our Nové Hradý is in South Bohemia, the other one is 200 km northeast of us, in the Pardubice region.

Conference airport transport

Please beware: transport from and to airports is **NOT** included in the conference fee.

Depending on the participants travel schedule, one or more full-size busses will pick up participants from Vienna Airport or Prague Airport, In addition, mini-busses and other transport are on standby to pick up participants from other locations. More details will be provided later.

Money

The Czech Republic is part of the European Union and part of the barrier-free Schengen agreement, but is **NOT a EURO country**. The Czech Republic still is using the Czech Koruna (CZK, symbol Kc).

The best thing to do is to **bring your credit card and take money from the ATM – Teller machine here in Nové Hradý** (there are two). Changing money in your own country or withdrawing money from airport ATMs is almost always more expensive than withdrawing money in-country at the local ATM.

When using ATMs or paying by credit card, you sometimes get the option “pay in local currency or in your own currency”. **ALWAYS use the “local currency” option**. The other option is a rip-off.

Dress Code and weather

Best described as “casual”. We try to keep this as informal and casual as possible. So some people might dress up for the opening ceremony, but it is NOT obligatory. For all events and sessions, whatever people are comfortable in, regardless if jeans or suit and tie; as long as you feel OK in them.

Weather is unpredictable at that time. It can still be nice and mostly dry, but more in line will be around 10-15 degrees Celsius. Take a raincoat and warm sweater to be sure.

Market event

On Saturday October 14th, we will organize a market event on the town square. This will be a larger regional public event. For our conference, there will be a party tent with tables inside. In wooden stalls, participating countries can display examples of their local information material (native language and English) and some simple local products. These things are not to give away but as examples to look at. We will display some of the posters from the conference here as well (for example the town introduction poster). Czech and Slovak students and others fluent in English and Czech will help explaining the displays to the Czech visitors. More details will be given after arrival.

Visa

Participants from some countries need a visa for entering the Czech Republic. Please ask for this in time. If you need a Letter of Invitation, let us know and we will provide one.

More information will be provided later through our websites and mailings.