

Walks for inspiration

Introduction

Prague is a space where we can discover many sources of inspiration for discussing the rules of social life. We invite you to participate in two short walks, thanks to which it will be easier for us to start a discussion about the social space. We want to inspire participants from different countries to share their knowledge, experiences, and opinions. Visiting places together can inspire us to express ourselves and compare them to other places we know. We can also think about other good or bad examples we know and the influence of places on us and our actions.

We suggest looking for answers to two questions:

How to create common spaces? and How do places shape social life?

24th of November 2022 (Thursday)

15.00 – 16.00 – Walk for inspiration no 1 - COMMON SPACES

(starting point in front of Charles Univ. building Celetna 562/20)

Moderators/guides: Jaroslava Swoboda, Dorota Bazuń, Mariusz Kwiatkowski, Magdalena Pokrzyńska

The city is an arena of struggle for space. Continuous decisions are made regarding

- the proportion between private and public space,
- places available for different categories of users: drivers, cyclists, pedestrians, persons with disabilities,
- the presence of religious objects and symbols in the urban space.

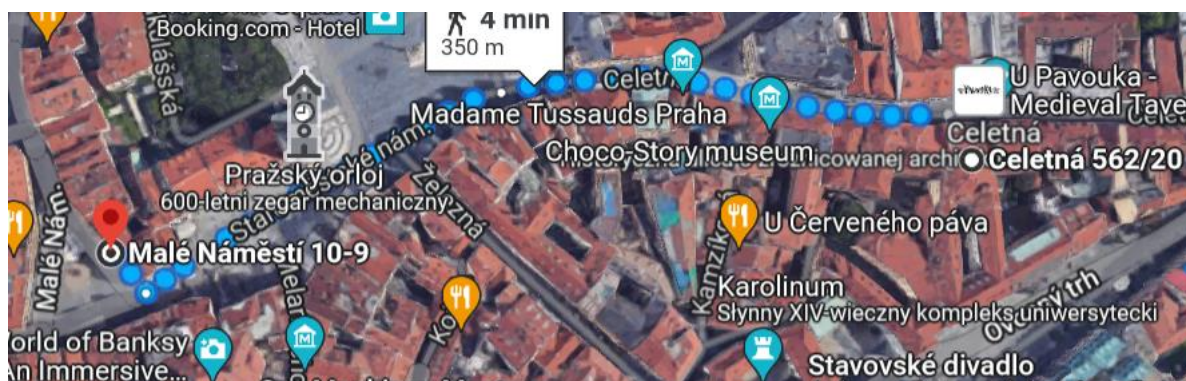
How are these dilemmas resolved in Prague? During the walk, we will see two places where this type of struggle took place (Starometske Namesty and Creative Centre). We will tell you the stories of these places as a reference to discuss similar problems in your countries and cities.

We want to discuss the conflict regarding the reconstruction of the monument dedicated to St. Mary in front of the Tyński church.

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Most of the time, however, we want to spend in the Creative Centre, located next to the town hall. It is a place made available by the Prague authorities to civic organizations, including social enterprises.

We will appreciate your comments during the walk, and there is a short discussion planned after both walks on Friday.



Accessibility information: walking time approximately 10 minutes there and 10 minutes back. Disturbance in the form of stairs, elevators available, but both facilities are old and not all corners of the buildings are accessible to wheelchair users. No essential amenities for visually impaired or blind people. Assistance from other meeting participants is possible.

25th of November 2022 (Friday)

What is the "power of the powerless"?

Moderators/guides: Jaroslava Swoboda, Dorota Bazuń, Mariusz Kwiatkowski

(starting point: in front of the National Museum building at Vaclavske Namesti)

9:30-10:30 POWER OF THE POWERLESS. Walk for inspirations no 2

Prague is a city that had to face two totalitarian systems. The Communist rule here lasted for many years and caused many restrictions on civil rights. The relation between the totalitarian system victims and opponents was called by Vaclav Havel "the power of the powerless." It is possible to see the past and, in a way contemporary struggle for freedom and democracy.

- What was this strength, and how was it manifested?
- Which forms of civil rebellion have been observed in Prague?

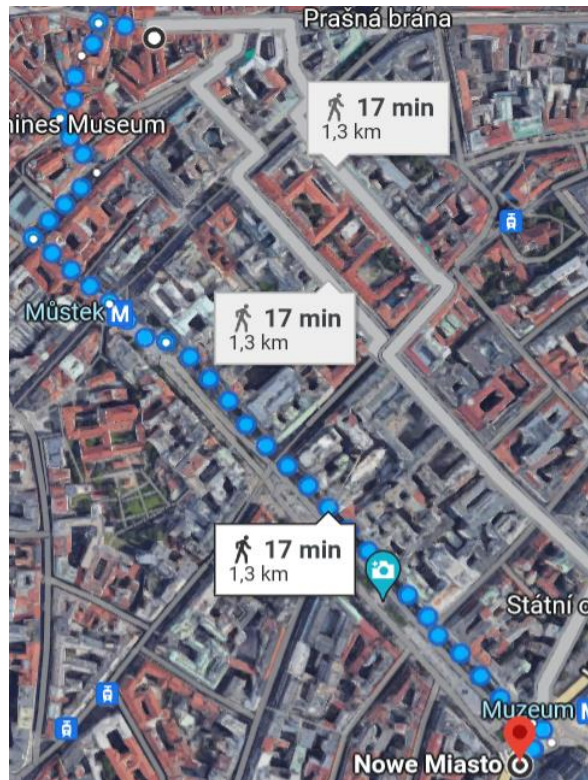
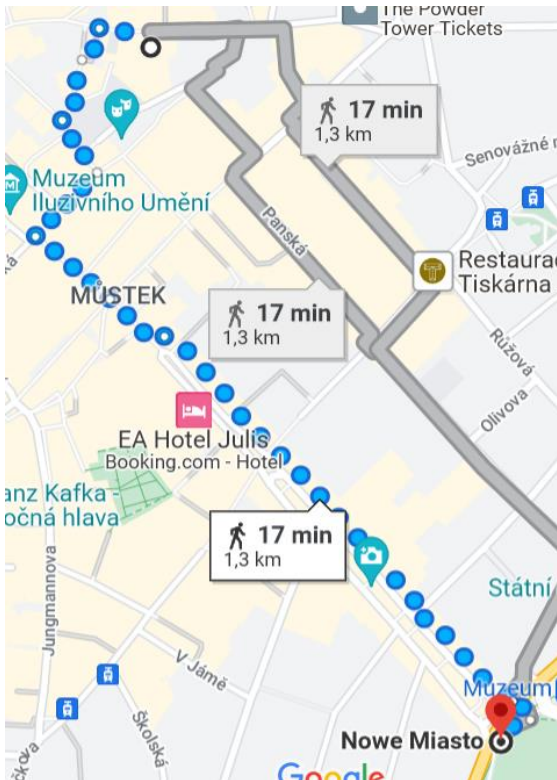
To get inspiration for a discussion on this topic, we will visit Vaclavske Namesty and look at the monuments. And then, we will discuss the similarities and differences in our countries' fight against oppressive systems.

- What forms of civil disobedience and resistance do we know?
- What manifestations of this can we observe today?
- What forms of resistance seem right and effective to us?
- Is the idea of "the power of the powerless" still valid?

During this walk, we want to visit three points: the statue of Jan Palach, the statue of St. Venceslas, and a balcony from which the leader of the Velvet Revolution spoke (and Karel Kryl sang with Karel Gott).

Better for a citizen of the Czech Republic to tell this story than we do.

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On the 2nd day of our meeting we will have the special session to discuss the walks.

Friday 25^h of November: 12:10-13:00 - Reflection on the walks for inspiration – moderators: J.Swoboda, M.Kwiatkowski