

ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE, 5 February 2024

Railway station in České Budějovice is a dominant feature of the city again

Passengers will start using the reconstructed station building in České Budějovice today. The listed building from the beginning of the last century has undergone the largest reconstruction in its history. Work has been underway since 2020, with builders renovating the roof, facade, and interiors. A multifunctional building was created with shops, services and modern offices, the necessary barrier-free access is provided by lifts. The renovation also resulted in a passage connecting the north tower with the main concourse. The total cost exceeds CZK 1 billion.

The railway station building in České Budějovice began to serve the public in 1908. Since then, it has undergone only minor repairs.

"The station building is listed as an immovable cultural monument for its architectural and heritage value. The builders returned it to the form it had when it was put into operation. All subsequent modifications have been removed," said Minister of Transport Martin Kupka.

The use of the renovated building will be multifunctional. In addition to publicly accessible areas with shops and services, it also consists of offices and rooms for railway transport employees. In the central part there is a new lift connecting the pedestrian underpass with platform 1, other lifts are in the north and south towers. The building also received a new orientation and information system for passengers. An interesting detail is the special fragrance added to the air conditioning, which gently scents the renovated spaces.

"The project also included the construction of a passage between the north tower and the main check-in hall. It is an imaginary connection with Lannova Avenue, which is the main link between the railway station and the centre of České Budějovice. By opening it, we will reduce the number of passengers heading to the pavement in front of the building along the busy Nádražní Street, this will increase their safety," described the Director General of Správa železnic Jiří Svoboda.

"The whole reconstruction was a demanding project, not only because it was carried out when the station was in full operation. We had to cope with increased groundwater level and much greater degradation of the original structures and load-bearing elements than the project had anticipated. An important part of the construction were also new transport offices and their equipment corresponding to the highest European standard of ensuring the safety of lines operation," said Jaroslav Heran, Director General of Metrostav, the contractor of the construction together with the companies Edikt and Avers.

Project *Reconstruction of the passenger building at the railway station České Budějovice hl. n.* is proposed for co-financing by the European Union under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) within the framework of the National Recovery Plan. The total cost amounts to CZK 1,053,000,000.

