

## Memorandum of the Jury

The competitive examination confirmed that Černá louka (Black Meadow) is not just a backup area for the extension of the Ostrava city historical center, but that it is the space into which it is worth to add more urban and architectural values, because in a short time it can become the social and cultural center of the whole of Ostrava.

In the past the Černá louka territory was an intensively used open land lying between the historic city and the Ostravice river. In the south part of this territory the important old Vítkovická Route cut through leading to one of the three city gates – the Vítkovická Gate. It has always been a territory attacked by the many influences and there have been a large number of suburban, historical and natural phenomena; cattle trade took place there and it was also a territory of safe leveling of the Ostravice river.

With the progressive industrialization of Ostrava, there began to appear hardly penetrable barriers. Černá louka became the dumping area with waste heaps and storages, in short, an industrial zone that for a long time separated the city from its river and countryside.

In recent decades the Černá louka barriers have been quite naturally disposed of. For some time part of it became a fenced area for exhibitions, shows and many other occasional activities.

Although Černá louka began to form again as a unique urban space within the rehabilitation of the city center image, many barriers still remained.

The unique importance of Černá louka within the whole city was what the participants of the "Ostrava – the 2015 European Capital of Culture" project bet on. They defined it as a potential cultural cluster and initiated an ideological urban competition the main tasks of which was to confirm its unthought-of uniqueness, to find the perfect way of opening it up to the whole city and its inhabitants, and to create a place with a specific atmosphere, which will demonstrate to Europe the spirit of the original city and of the whole region, of which it is a part.

The competitive proposals that could achieve the set values the most convincingly advanced to the final round of assessments. These were proposals which showed that all expectations can be met. They showed absolutely and undoubtedly that the Černá louka area can be completely transformed and for a long time become Ostrava's place of focused intense social power, which can safely place the most significant urban houses, such as a concert hall, exhibition halls and other.

The winning proposal also showed that it is possible to create a completely affable original urban landscape on Černá louka, or some contemporary park, which will become a magnet with the force to possibly unite the entire city.

The jury recommends that the city politicians recognize the quality of the winning proposal and allow its authors to influence the emergence of the regional urban study, which must consequently be developed by the city. Furthermore, we recommend to support, strengthen and develop the implementation of the proposal, and thus create the **"place for a happy life"** for the citizens of the city.

The results of the competition certainly vindicated the city representatives' decision to organize the competition within the unusually above standard parameters.