

RECON Midterm Conference – Practical information

Prague, 9-10 October 2009

Organised by:



Institute of Sociology
Academy of Sciences of the
Czech Republic

and



ARENA – Centre for
European Studies University
of Oslo

Accommodation and conference venue

Hotel Diplomat ****

Evropská 15, Prague 6

Tel: +420 296 559 111

E-mail: info@diplomathotel.cz

Web: www.diplomathotel.cz/en/

Hotel Diplomat is located near the Prague Castle and can be easily reached from the city centre by metro (line A, *Dejvická*, last stop) or in 20 minutes by car or bus from the airport.

Prague attractions close to Hotel Diplomat

Lion Courtyard, the Prague Castle Riding Hall, Garden on the Terrace of the Riding Hall, New World, Church of St. John of Nepomuk, Capuchin Monastery, Cernin Garden, etc.



Parking (supervised)

- a) Underground garage: 50 CZK per hour / 500 CZK per day
- b) Outside parking lot (smaller): 35 CZK per hour / 300 CZK per day

How to get to the hotel from the airport

Prague Airport (*Letiště Ruzyně*) is located about 15 km from the city centre. It takes approx. 15 minutes to reach the hotel by car and approx. 20 minutes by bus.

Public transport – Bus no. 119

This provides the cheapest and easiest way of getting to the hotel. The bus stops in front of Terminal 1 and 2 at the Airport (Schengen countries) and drops you off in front of Hotel Diplomat, at *Dejvická station* (the last stop). It is easy to use, reliable and runs frequently (usually every 5 minutes during workdays). Tickets are sold at tobacco stalls, yellow ticket machines or by the bus driver and cost 26 CZK.

Taxi

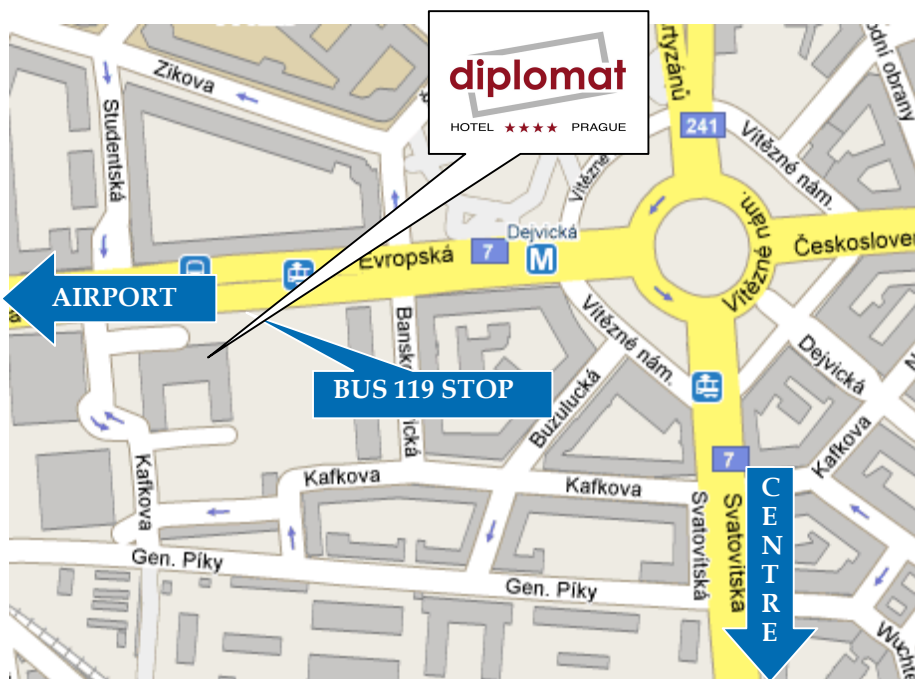
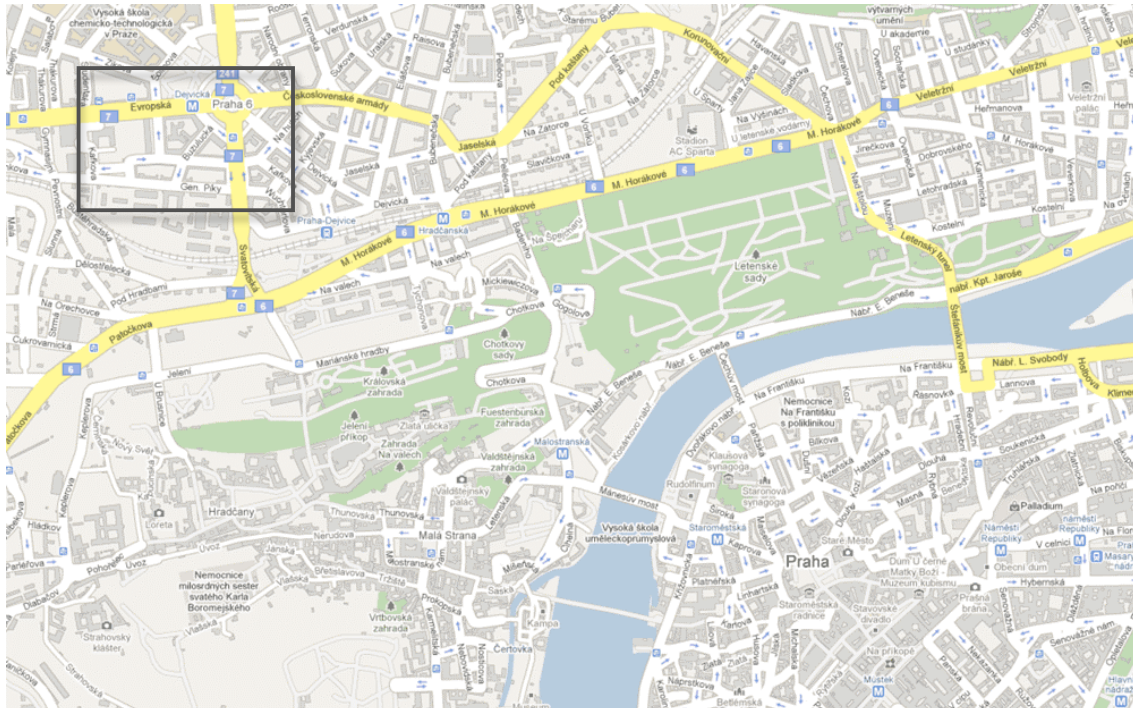
We recommend you to use the services of AAA *RadioTaxi* as they offer services in English and standard prices, and are the official company serving the Prague Airport. The price from the airport to Hotel Diplomat is around 360 CZK. The company has its staff at the

airport, which are able to assist you in English. You can alternatively order a taxi by dialling 00420-14014, sending a text message on 00420/606 999 069 or online. Web: www.aataxi.cz/index.php?xSET=lang&xLANG=2

Shuttle

There are numerous shuttle companies, such as *Prague Airport Shuttle* (www.shuttlepragueairport.com) or *Prague Airport Transfers* (www.prague-airport-transfers.co.uk). The use of their services is more convenient for a larger group.

Location of Hotel Diplomat:



Conference venue

Plenary sessions

Friday 9:00-18:00 and Saturday 15:30-17:00

Belvedere I-V, and I-III respectively

Parallel WP sessions

Saturday 9:00-15:00

Vienna (WP 2, WP 9, WP 1)

Prague D (WP 6, WP 3, WP 4)

Prague C (WP 7, WP 8, WP 5)

Lunch

Friday and Saturday 12:30-13:30

Loreta I

Welcome drink

Thursday 20:00

Foyer Loreta

Scientific Advisory Committee meeting

Saturday 17:15-19:00

Vienna

Gender Assessment Panel meeting

Saturday 17:15-19:00

Prague D

Hotel Diplomat conference rooms:



Prague public transport system

The Prague transport system consists of buses, trams and metro.

There are two types of tickets, which can be bought at any station, in yellow vending machines, tobacco stalls called TRAFIKA and newsstands. To plan your travel, go to jizdnirady.idnes.cz/praha/spojeni and enter the point of departure and arrival, e.g. *Letiště Ruzyně* (airport) to *Dejvická* (Hotel Diplomat). If you want to go to the centre, take a metro from *Dejvická* (right track) towards *Malostranská* (Little Quarter), *Staroměstská* (Old Town Square) or *Můstek* (St. Wenceslas Square).

Single ticket (for one use/short ride) 18 CZK

This ticket can only be used once on one type of transportation. It is valid for 20 minutes from validation on trams and buses or five stations on the metro, allowing transfers between stations (e.g. from line A to line B) for up to 30 minutes. This ticket is not valid on night trams and buses, on the *Petřín* funicular or on ferries.

Transfer ticket (for multiple uses/long ride) 26 CZK

This ticket can be used on any type of public transportation and allows transfers between lines and types of transport (subway, tram and bus) for up to 75 minutes from validation (90 minutes if purchased by SMS sending the text message 'DPT' to number 902 06 26).

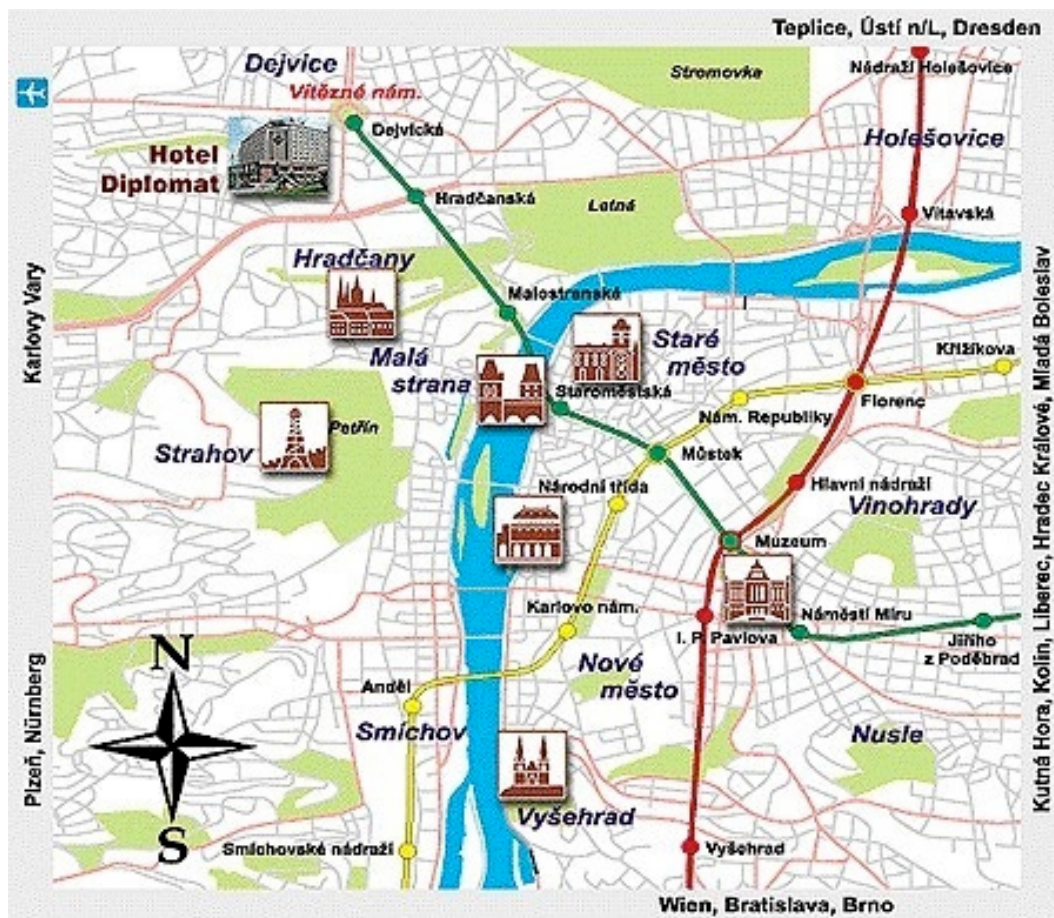
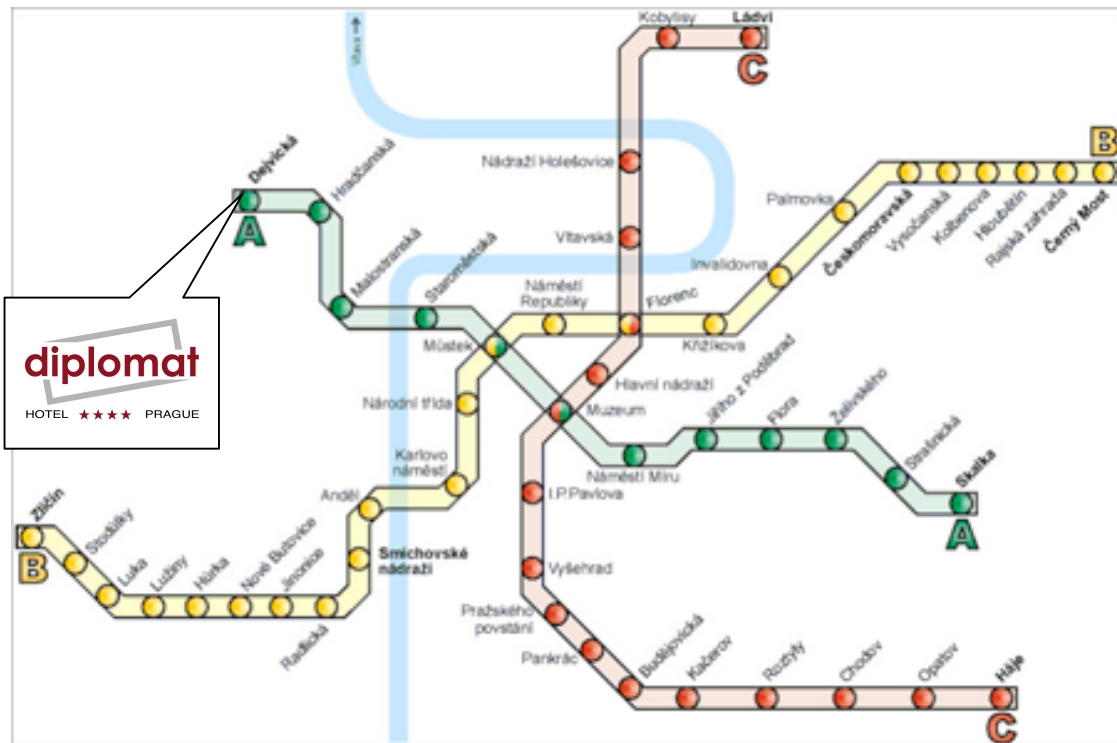
NOTE: Tickets must be validated at the entrance to the metro station and on the tram/bus to mark the start of the validation period.

Short-term (tourist) passes	24-hour pass:	100 CZK
	3-day pass (72 hours):	330 CZK
	5-day pass (120 hours):	500 CZK

NOTE: Short-term passes can be used on any type of Prague public transportation for the duration of the period for which the pass is valid. Children under 6 ride free. Short-term (tourist) passes are sold at ticket offices located at some metro stations and at tourist information centres.

Map: www.myczechrepublic.com/prague/prague_metro.html

Map of Prague metro:



Costs and practical information

The Czech crown

The *Koruna česká* (CZK or Kč) is divided into 100 hellers or *haléřů* (h). Banknotes come in denominations of 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1,000, 2,000 and 5,000 Kč; coins are one, two, five, 10, 20 and 50 Kč. Keep small change for use in public toilets and ticket machines, and try to keep some small notes for shops, cafés and bars. Getting change for the 2,000 Kč notes that ATMs often spit out can be a problem.

Tipping

In most tourist-area places the helpful message 'Tips Not Included', in English (hint, hint), is printed on the bill. The normal rate for tipping is 10% of the total.

Changing money

The easiest and cheapest way to carry money is in the form of a debit card from your bank, which you can use to withdraw cash either from an ATM or over the counter in a bank. Using an ATM will result in your home bank charging a fee (usually 1.5% to 2.5%), but you will get a good exchange rate and provided you make withdrawals of at least a couple of thousand CZK at a time, you will pay less than the assorted commissions on travellers cheques. Check with your bank about transaction fees and withdrawal limits.

The main Czech banks, *Komerční banka*, *Česká spořitelna*, *Československá obchodní banka* (ČSOB) and *Živnostenská banka*, are the best places to change cash. They charge 2% commission with a 50 CZK minimum (but always check, as commissions can vary from branch to branch). They will also provide a cash advance on Visa or Master Card without commission.

Hotels charge about 5% to 8% commission, while *Čedok* travel agencies and post offices charge 2% (similar rates to the banks).

We recommend you to avoid the many private exchange booths (*směnárna*) in central Prague – they lure tourists in with attractive-looking exchange rates that turn out to be 'sell' rates (but if you want to change foreign currency into Czech crowns, the 'buy' rate applies). They may also have an even worse rate for transactions under a certain amount, typically around € 500. Check the small print carefully, and ask exactly how much you will get before parting with any money.

Credit cards

Many midrange and top-end hotels and restaurants accept credit cards. You can use a credit card to get a cash advance in a bank or to withdraw money from ATMs, but charges will be higher than with a debit card.

You can report lost credit cards (or travellers cheques) to the following:

MasterCard, Eurocard, VISA: 272 771 111 / Amex: 222 800 222 / Diners Club: 267 197 450

Contact information

For any urgent matters or questions, please call:

Dr. Petra Guasti: 00420-777689320

Alzbeta Bernardyova: 00420-728884437

Conference dinners

For both dinners there will be common departure from the hotel reception at 19:30 and transportation back to the hotel after the dinner.

Friday 9 October, 20:00

Letenský zámek

Letenské sady 341, Praha 7

Tel: +420 233 378 208

Web: www.letenskyzamecek.cz/en



Letenský zámek/Chateau Letna

Saturday 10 October, 20:00

Plzeňská Restaurace

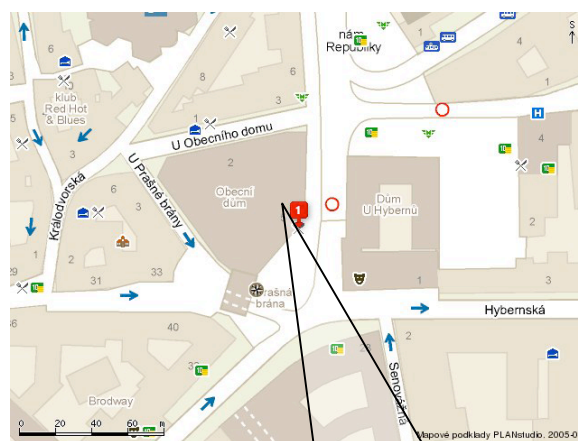
Pilsner Restaurant at the Municipal House

Náměstí Republiky 1090/5, Praha 1

Tel: +420 222 002 780

www.plzenskarestaurace.cz

(Czech language only)



Pilsner Restaurant at the Municipal House

Sunday activities

Note that the two Sunday trips are restricted to participants who have registered in advance. Please contact the organisers for any questions (recon@soc.cas.cz).



Guided walking tour of Prague

Time: Sunday 11 October, 9:00-12:00 (Approx. 3 hours)

Meeting point: Hotel lobby/main entrance at 8:45

The walking tour will take you to the most interesting parts of Prague, such as the Prague Castle, the cathedral of St. Vitus, Charles Bridge, the Old Town hall and the Old Town Square. Upon request other areas might be included, please notify the organisers in advance.



Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad)

Time: Sunday 11 October, 9:00-15:30
(Approx. 6-7 hours)

Meeting point: Hotel lobby/main entrance at 8:45

Karlovy Vary is a world famous spa city located in the Western Bohemia, a 1.5-hour bus ride outside Prague.

In the 19th century, Carlsbad became a popular tourist destination, especially for international celebrities visiting for spa treatment. The city is also known for the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival and the popular Czech liqueur *Karlovarská Becherovka*. The glass manufacturer Moser Glass is located in Carlsbad. The city has been used as the location for a number of film-shoots, including

the James Bond movie *Casino Royale*. Notable visitors include Peter I of Russia (who visited Karlovy Vary in 1711), Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1917), and Johann Wolfgang Goethe and Ludwig van Beethoven would take walks together, much to the delight of the people of Karlovy Vary.

