

Dear prof. Albert, dear National Coordinators, dear distinguished guests,

I am honored to address all of you on behalf of the UNESCO ASPnet in the Czech Republic.

First of all, let me really thank and appreciate the work and effort of the team of prof. Albert. In more than a year, they have incredibly elevated the level of knowledge about the world heritage among students in the Czech Republic. As you might know, three member schools of the UNESCO ASPnet in the Czech Republic took part in the Transboundary European World Heritage project in Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří Mining Region situated on the Czech – German border that was successfully inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in July this year.

I would like to shortly stress two benefits of the project. The first one regards the Secretariat of the ASPnet in the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. May be you know but the team of the International Coordinator of the UNESCO ASPnet is very small comprising of only few individuals. Their priority, regarding development of education stemming from SDG4, is thus obviously focused on the African not the European continent. What they rely on in the European case is a certain level of self-reliance. In addition, the transboundary project in Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří was exactly in this self-reliance mode as no human or financial resources burdened the team of the International Coordinator of the UNESCO ASPnet. Moreover, it has met all priorities of the UNESCO ASPnet so in my opinion the combination of the project independency on one hand and preserving the UNESCO ASPnet values on the other hand is something that has to be mentioned and appreciated.

In my second point, I would like to acknowledge the national impact of the project. I do not know how it was in the case of Poland, Germany and Denmark but at least in the case of three Czech participating schools, the awareness of the world heritage has been significantly raised. What do I mean? Based on my conversation with the students and teachers, I am sure that thanks to the experience they had undergone in the Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří Mining Region, they are aware that world heritage is not an object coming from the heaven but something that was passed on to our generation and has to be looked after by us so that we are capable of handing it over to the next generation. Furthermore, this knowledge was shared on the transboundary basis with our German partners. It means that the students learned that heritage is not restricted within borders but is shared internationally.

Dear colleagues,

Finally, let me once again thank the team of prof. Albert for this wonderful job. I hope we all find enough inspiration for creation of the final textbook about world heritage and transboundary cooperation as an expression of the entire effort.

Thank you.