



UNIVERSITIES



OSTRAVA is an important centre of education. The city has two big universities – the Technical University VŠB and the University of Ostrava, whose Department of History – thanks to Professor Milan Myška – has been involved in researching economic and social history for over 50 years. In 2008 the Centre for Economic and Social History was set up as a centre of research excellence at the Faculty of Arts. The Centre is one of the Czech Republic's leading historical research institutes, with extensive contacts in various universities throughout Europe. Its main focus is on the phenomenon of modernization in the regions of North Moravia and Silesia in the broader context of developments in Europe and America.

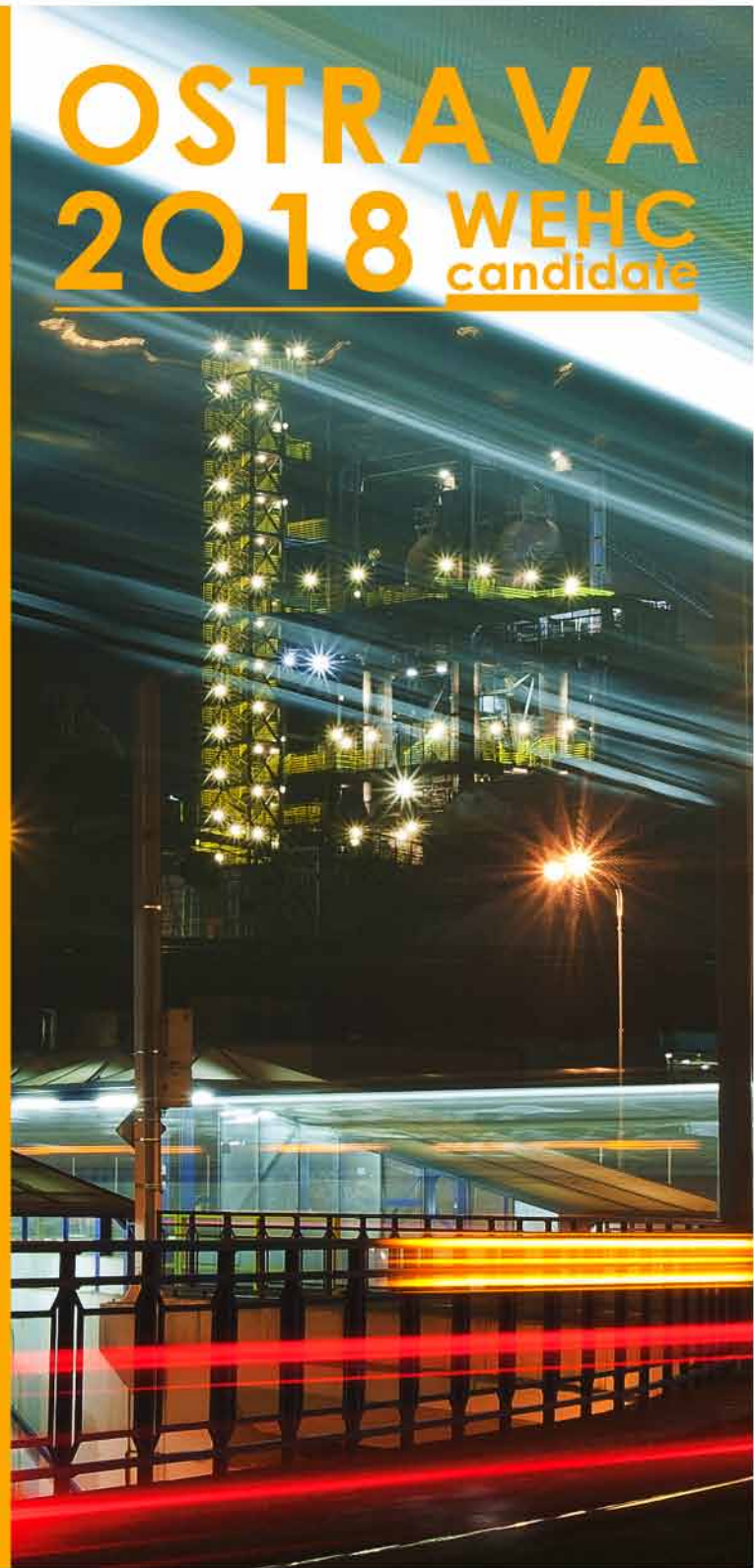


OSTRAVA 2018 WEHC candidate

OSTRAVA is also a city at the meeting point of three countries – the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia. It is a place where three cultures come together, a city that can boast many film, theatre and dance festivals. It is also close to the beautiful landscapes of the Beskydy mountains, and is surrounded by many picturesque historical small towns and villages.

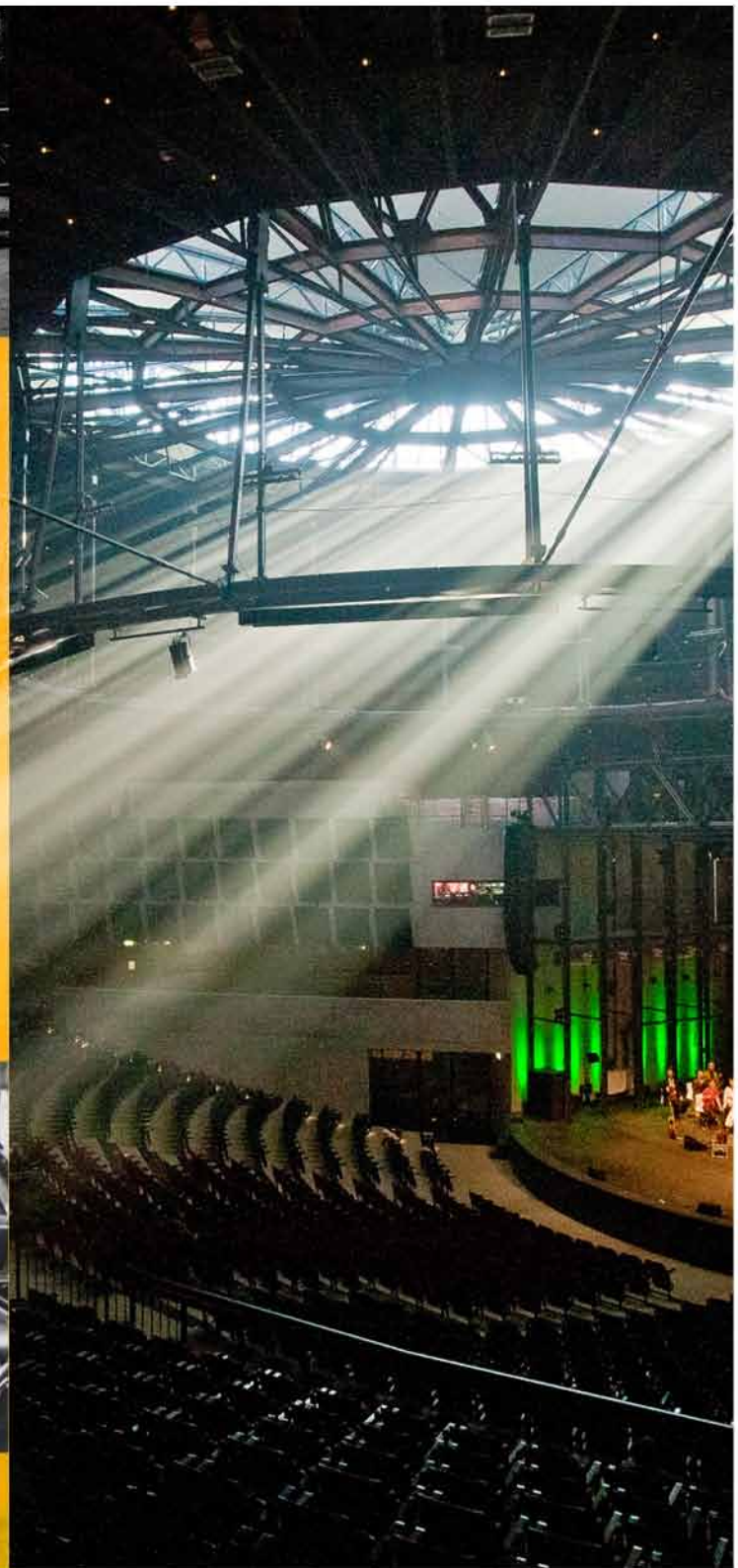
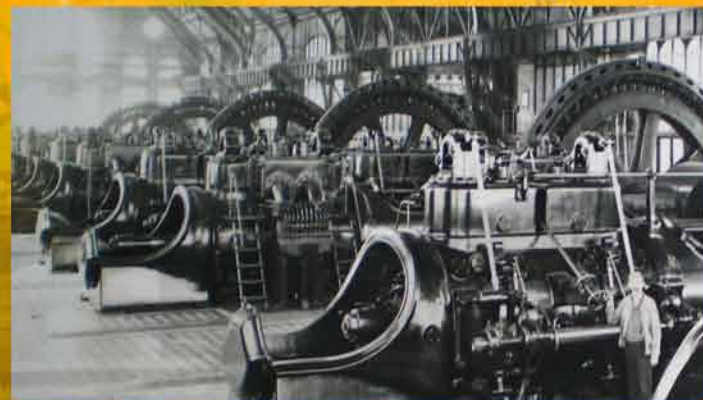
OSTRAVA offers a wide range of accommodation, encompassing hotels catering for high-end clients as well as more modest yet comfortable facilities in hotels, hostels and university halls of residence.

www.osu.cz/wehc.php





Given OSTRAVA's industrial past and present, it is not surprising that the city can boast many valuable industrial and technical heritage sites. The largest and most important of these is the Lower Vítkovice area, a unique industrial complex which is currently undergoing a wide-ranging programme of revitalization. A former big gas holder has been converted into a unique congress centre built around a main hall with a capacity of 1 600 visitors, plus a gallery and conference rooms, all equipped with state-of-the-art audiovisual technology. Near the gas holder, a historic former power plant now houses an interactive industrial museum with study rooms.



OSTRAVA – once the foremost steel-making centre of the Habsburg monarchy – now ranks among the Czech Republic's leading industrial conurbations. The 19th century brought a boom in coal mining and the iron and steel industries, and the Vítkovice ironworks soon grew to become one of Europe's biggest steelmakers – a position it retained even when Czechoslovakia was part of the Eastern bloc, with Vítkovice ranking among the continent's largest producers of steel and shipbuilding components. Although Ostrava's wealth and renown were built primarily on coal mining, no working mines remain within the city, which has re-focused its industrial capacity on engineering (particularly power engineering), metallurgy and high-tech sectors. Since the early 19th century, Ostrava's industrialization has been associated with the Rothschilds, a renowned family of financiers whose Vienna branch became the owners of the Vítkovice ironworks – the largest company of its type in Austria-Hungary – and many coal mines in the local area. Ostrava's Rothschild connection remained strong until it was violently severed by the Second World War.