



CZECH ROWING ASSOCIATION
ČESKÝ VESLAŘSKÝ SVAZ

**UNIQUE CZECH
OPPORTUNITIES
PRESENTED BY THE CURRENT
CHALLENGES FACING OUR SPORT.**





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SINCE **1884**



CZECH ROWING INTRODUCTION

Basic Statistics

- The Czech Rowing Association was founded in 1884, the first rowing club was founded in 1860
- **40** rowing clubs in CZE, **2** of them are focused on Para-rowers
- Cca **4.000** members (**1.800** of them are 11-18yrs)
- 3 high performance centres (Army, Police, Ministry)



CZECH ROWING INTRODUCTION

Basic Facts - pros

- 😊 Intl. successful compare to the other sports in CZE (OG, WCH, JWCH).
- 😊 Best CZE rowers are local celebrities like O. Synek, M. Knapková, V. Chalupa.
- 😊 Rowing in the Czech Republic is not an “upper class” sport.
- 😊 Federation and clubs are relatively well financially supported by the Ministry of Education & Sports, regional and local governments.



CZECH ROWING INTRODUCTION

Basic Facts – cons

- ☹️ Small number of clubs and rowers (in GER is 50x more).
- ☹️ No tradition in “rowing-for-all”, no specific non-competitive clubs.
- ☹️ No tradition in university rowing, no specific university clubs.
- ☹️ Almost all rowers are “competitive”, very small part are “hobby” rowers.



CZECH ROWING CHALLENGE

Rowing has new "enemies" like new sports, ageing of population, etc. and we must face them.

- Currently the facilities in CZE are at close to capacity so are becoming a limiting factor for future growth in competitive rowing.
- We recognize two main strategies for the widening of the CZE community rowing base.
 - Indoor rowing – we already have a separate development programme
 - **Non competitive & academic rowing – big challenge.**



CZECH ROWING CHALLENGE

NON-COMPETITIVE ROWING

Two examples of how to “cross the border”

- **Case study I. - New activity in a traditional boathouse**
TJ Bohemians Praha
- **Case study II. - Newly founded rowing club, but a “little different”**
VBK Lipno, Václav Chalupa



NEW ACTIVITY IN A TRADITIONAL CLUB

Case study I. – Basic facts

- A special department for **newcomers and hobby rowers** founded two members of TJ Bohemians Praha
- They started in **2011** with **6 rowers**, in **2018** they cater for about **60 rowers**
- **60%** of them are **women**, mostly 30-40yrs
- **two** full time coaches + helpers



NEW ACTIVITY IN A TRADITIONAL CLUB

Case study I. - Financial issues

- The project is not dependent on public funds.
- All sport activities of “hobby” group are covered by members themselves
- They pay 15 Euros / lesson, i.e. cca 100 – 150 Euros / month
- Facilities and boats they hire from the original rowing club - Bohemians.



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NEW ACTIVITY IN A TRADITIONAL CLUB

Case study I. - How to cross the border





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NEW ACTIVITY IN A TRADITIONAL CLUB

Case study I. - How to cross the border

Daniel Chalupa (*no relations with Václav*), head of the project:

*“The key to success was to show people that **rowing is not just about racing** and everyday hard training”*

*“They love to train **for fun**, to be part of group of similar people”*





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NEW ACTIVITY IN A TRADITIONAL CLUB

Case study I. - How to cross the border

Daniel Chalupa, *head of the project:*

*“Look at that inspiring man – **Aleš Nejedlo**. He is 53, he started to row just three years ago in our group of newcomers. He has no previous competitive sport experience. This year he was the **first** man who rowed **from Prague to Hamburg** in a single scull in 12 days!”*

“He is a great example for everyone, that rowing is the right choice, no matter how old are you.”





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NEW CLUB, BUT A LITTLE DIFFERENT

Case study II. - How to cross the border





NEW CLUB, BUT A LITTLE DIFFERENT

Case study II. - Basic Facts

- **Václav Chalupa** completely changed his mind and priorities. He relocated with his family from Račice to Lipno in 2016. *Lipno is the largest artificial lake in the CZE.*
- He built a new boathouse in cooperation with the mayor of Lipno city.
- He established the Rowing & Ice skating Club Lipno in 2017.
- Because of rough water and windy conditions he use mostly **coastal boats**.



NEW CLUB, BUT A LITTLE DIFFERENT

Case study II. - Financial issues

- They founded the club without a public money!
- The boathouse - racks, boats, oars and equipment was paid by Vaclav and the mayor of Lipno.
- They share the indoor facilities with Yacht club Lipno.
- Regular members pay 30 Euros for first 4 entry lessons, then 15 Euros monthly.
- Hobby rowers pay 20 Euros / hour including equipment.



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NEW CLUB, BUT LITTLE DIFFERENT

Case study II. - How to cross the border





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NEW CLUB, BUT LITTLE DIFFERENT

Case study II. - How to cross the border





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NEW CLUB, BUT LITTLE DIFFERENT

Case study II. - How to cross the border





NEW CLUB, BUT A LITTLE DIFFERENT

Case study II. - How to cross the border





CONCLUSION

From our experience, some recommendations for success.

- Find and choose the right people with a positive energy – 80% is done.
- Money is usually not the main barrier to go further.
- The role of the Federation is mainly to encourage and help rather than direct and control.



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

Dušan Macháček