

## **Final conference of the PDP1 and PDP2 projects**

On March 12, 2024, shortly after the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior Vít Rakušan, Police President Lt. Gen. Martin Vondrášek and the Chargé d'Affaires of the Kingdom of Norway in Prague Per Øystein Vatne symbolically cut the ribbon and thus, after the successful revitalization of the former Žižkov military barracks into a modern police training centre, the Kutná Hora Educational Facility officially began operations, the Final Conference of the PDP1 and PDP projects took place. Distinguished guests from the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway in Prague, the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic and the Czech Police gathered in Kutná Hora for this celebratory event.

As a part of the Internal Affairs Program, Program Area 20 "International Police Cooperation and the Fight against Crime", which is funded by Norway Grants for the period 2014-2021, two predefined projects were implemented, namely PDP1 - "Increasing police competence in preventing and combating crime, strengthening communication skills with the public and awareness of human rights" and PDP2, named "Modernization of the police training centre". The ultimate beneficiary of these projects is the Police Presidium of the Czech Republic, specifically the Police Education and Service Training Department.

The joint organization of the Final Conference of the PDP1 and PDP2 projects was logical. It is evident that both projects complement each other, and one without the other would not be complete. The main goal of the PDP1 project was to train police officers and civilian employees through educational courses and seminars, particularly in the areas of combating crime, ensuring security and protecting human rights. Considering that most specialized educational activities and necessary exchange of experience with colleagues from abroad were previously conducted in rented spaces, which is both economically and logistically demanding, it is clear that PDP2 project, the modernization of the former Žižkov military barracks in Kutná Hora into a police training centre, was a logical step. This will provide the Czech Police with appropriate conditions for implementing the PDP1 project.

All speakers who took the stage during the conference expressed their sincere thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to the implementation of both projects. Thanks to their great efforts, both projects were successfully completed.