

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CENTRAL LIBRARY

We are pleased to inform you about the upcoming reconstruction of the Central Library. The project is called "Open Library" (Otevřená knihovna), and will be financed by the European Union from the Integrated Regional Operational Program - "the 16th call of the IROP 2021–2027 LIBRARIES – SC 4.4 (ITI)" (6. výzva IROP 2021–2027 KNIHOVNY – SC 4.4 (ITI)). Pre-financing will be provided by the founder, that is the statutory city of Ostrava, and also from the Ostrava City Library's own resources. The total expenses are calculated at CZK 36,222,341.81. The project aims to create a modern and welcoming environment for all lovers of literature.

The renovation will include the expansion of the interiors, new interior additions and improvements, and upgrading of services. Construction modifications will affect all departments, including our specialized department, the Sound Library for the Blind and Visually Impaired, which will get more suitable and also barrier-free spaces after almost 20 years.

The Central Library will close in the second half of 2024 at the latest. The estimated duration of the reconstruction is up to 18 months. Naturally, we want to maintain the possibility of borrowing and returning books and other documents from the Central Library's collection. For this purpose we intend to use our own space, which is currently occupied by the teahouse. A temporary borrowing place will be set up there, opened six days a week. We understand that this will only be a short-term solution for the 7,500 monthly visitors of the Central Library. However, we will make every effort to maintain the widest possible variety of services.

Our top priority is creating a modern and comfortable environment for our visitors. We firmly believe that after the reconstruction, the Central Library will be an even more attractive place for its 92 thousands annual readers.