

During the so called First Republic local societies were integral part of life of most of the citizens. An active participation in their work determined and, at the same time, reflected social position of a concrete person. That was also the case of interwar Benešov. More than hundred of different societies and groups worked in the town, covering all areas of people's activity. They were led by town's elite and it was absolutely common that its important personalities were involved in a number of the local societies at the same time.

Especially membership in the Gymnastic Union Sokol, whose branch was also active in Benešov, was very prestigious. Along with sport and support of national idea it looked after an education of their members and contributed to a cultural life of the town; it set up its own library and a theatre department as well as it ran a cinema in the local Sokol house. The same supraregional overlap had the Municipal volunteer fire brigade in Benešov. Its creation and functioning were led by practical reasons, but its sphere of activity wasn't limited only on fire extinguishing in the town and its neighbourhood. The fire fighters regularly cooperated with other fire squads in the republic, took part in various celebrations and meetings as well as in cultural life in Benešov, though, in this case their presence resulted from their duty to watch over the places, where lot of people gathered such as theatre halls or cinemas.

On the contrary, activities of the Woman's society, concentrating on help to poor women and children, were restricted mainly on Benešov. Unlike other mentioned local societies this one offered place for women even in leading positions. Although its main aim was charity, it was also active in educational a cultural work as well as Academic club Benešov. Its members could be only graduated citizens and students of last two grades of local secondary schools.