



Mission:

“Ready to serve the cause of democracy, human rights and civil society whenever and wherever the need arises.”

Annual Report 2015

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are honoured to draw your attention to the seventh annual report of DEMAS, the Association for Democracy Assistance and Human Rights.

In 2015, our platform mainly focused its efforts on advocacy in the form of reviewing relevant documents, meeting with representatives of political parties and state administration, and contributing to public debates with the goal of raising awareness about such issues as international democracy assistance and human rights, transformational policies and other related topics. These activities were also supported by several joint opinions. The Platform’s Secretariat was working to assist member organizations, engaging in capacity building activities and establishing new contacts.

For member organizations, work in professional platforms is something extra, something that requires additional time, but, at the same time, helps to preserve and sometimes even improve work environment in a given area. In our case, this is about bringing the non-for-profit sector to the next level of professionalism. DEMAS can be proud of one accomplishment – since its foundation, a specialized part of the Czech non-for-profit sector joined its forces benefiting from the Platform’s activities aimed at capacity building and advocacy. We believe that DEMAS’s activities are beneficial not only to its member organizations but also to the long-term focus of Czech foreign policy in the field of human rights and democracy support and civil society development in third countries.

*Jakub Klepal, Chair of the Board of Directors
Sabina Malcová, Executive Director*

Platform in its eighth year of existence

As of 31st Dec 2015, DEMAS had eleven regular members and two members with permanent observer status. Like in the previous years, the work of the Platform was split into four working groups covering the Eastern Partnership, Russia, West Balkans and the EU. The most



NGO Market 2015.

active group was the one following democracy and human rights support provided by the EU. This group’s activity has been related to DEMAS’s long-term participation in [Human Rights and Democracy Network](#), an advocacy platform based in Brussels (HRDN, see below).

In 2015, member organizations gathered at two joint meetings during which they discussed individual project activities (see below) and coordinated advocacy measures. The Secretariat is the hub where information can be obtained and where joint activities are coordinated. Implementation of the Platform’s activities was supervised by the Board of Directors comprising the following members: Jakub Klepal (Chairman), Pavel Pšeja, Rostislav Valvoda and Vlad’ka Votavová (Deputy Chair). Individual member organizations scheduled their meetings on the basis of their needs and topics of their activities.

Member organization support was also directed at establishing new contacts and researching project opportunities; for this purpose, the Secretariat provided financial support to five organizations for a trip abroad. The condition was that the funds would be spent on internal development of the member organization, not as top-up financing of an existing project. Therefore, this financial contribution was provided in order to fund activities which are not normally covered by donors because they cannot be attributed directly to a project; such activities include participation in a training, networking, meetings of transnational networks etc.



Screening of an introduction into authoritarian regimes by Chris Walker at FSS MU.



Panel on transition promotion from the Czech and the EU perspective in the European House in Prague.

Conferences, seminars and lectures

On Thursday, 23rd April, Forum Karlín hosted several hundred of NGOs presenting their activities. DEMAS and its members could not miss out! NGO Market was an opportunity for NGOs to present their work, establish new contacts or find inspiration in the work of others. For more information about the NGO Market click [here](#).

Together with the EU representation in the Czech Republic, DEMAS organized a cycle of debates on transformation policy, namely on democracy assistance, human rights and civil society in the EU context. The debates were held over three afternoons, each of them focused on specific examples of transition promotion, countries with the most severe totalitarian regimes etc. The first one, entitled *Alliance of World Democracies as a Counterweight of Authoritarian Regimes and Hard Case Countries* took place at the Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University, Brno, on Wednesday, 22nd April; the second one took place in the European House, Prague, on Tuesday, 28th April, and its title was *Transition Promotion from the Czech and the EU Perspective and Case Studies in Transition Promotion*. Outcomes from all four debates can be found [here](#).

DEMAS continued its cycle on transformational cooperation during the fall, as part of the international conference with the title Forum 2000. The debate afternoon took place on Monday, 14th September, in the European House. Panelists Ales Bialiatki, Pavel Pšejja, Mariya Sadouskaya-Komlach and Ivana Skálová

discussed various aspects of civil society education during the first panel. The second panel featuring representatives of leading Czech political parties represented in the Parliament – Petr Fiala, Karel Schwarzenberg, Pavel Svoboda and Pavel Telička – was dedicated to the issue of human rights in Czech and European foreign policy. For more information on both panels click [here](#).

An internal training for member organizations on advanced cyber security took place on 1st October. The training focused on encryption, security and using mobile devices and protection against wire tapping.



Petr Fiala, Karel Schwarzenberg and Vít Dostál, the host of the political panel, are discussing European transformational policy.

Declarations and Opinions

At the end of March, DEMAS became signatory to the open letter from the Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN), a Brussels-based platform (DEMAS is HRDN member) addressed to EU Commissioners for Trade and Better Regulation regarding the need to review the [Handbook for Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment](#) dating back from 2006, and subsequent consultations with the non-for-profit sector.

Do not overlook violation of basic human rights and freedoms and repressive measures enforced by authoritarian regimes and introduce human rights to the agenda of negotiations with their representatives – this was the core message of the appeal endorsed by over 50 Czech NGOs including DEMAS members entitled [Do Not Seek Friendship with A Dictator or Ten Commandments for a Democrat](#) supported by over 50 Czech NGOs including DEMAS members. This document summarizes basic principles which should be reflected by our constitutional representatives during their visits of countries with authoritarian regimes. For example, it includes meetings with dissidents and independent journalists or prudence in public appearances in order to avoid abuse by the propaganda.

In its advocacy efforts, DEMAS focused on both the EU institutions and the national level. With regard to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, we were focused on the foreign policy concept; with regard to the European Union, on the [European Neighbourhood](#)

[Policy](#) or on a [stronger role of the EU in democracy assistance and human rights](#).

Besides issuing joint opinions, we've endorsed the nomination of a Cuban activist called Dagoberto Valdes for Václav Havel's Human Rights Award nominated by People in Need.

The Platform continues to publish its Newsletter; during the reported period, four issues were produced. The Newsletter is one of the tools DEMAS uses for communicating with the outside world. All issues are available from the regularly updated website www.demas.cz under "Newsletter".

Projects

[Transition Promotion Program by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic](#) supported a project of DEMAS capacity building, networking, exchange of information and raising awareness among experts with regard to Czech transformational policy.

During the first months of 2015, DEMAS member organizations continued to share their e-learning materials within the framework of *Connecting the Dots: An E-learning Platform for Greater Civic Activism and Networking in Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova* implemented by Transitions and funded by UNDEF, NED and IVF. The purpose of the project was to create online study materials intended primarily for journalists.

Cooperation with the representation of the European Commission and the European Parliament in the Czech Republic (ECR) resulted in three afternoon debates dedicated to transformation policy with the output in the form of six reports with universal validity.

Financing

As we already mentioned in the part entitled Projects, DEMAS implemented 2 projects in 2015 as part of its subsidized operations. Project implemented with ECR had invoicing as a requirement from the project's partner. Furthermore, the Secretariat was doing project management, which generated the greater part of the Association's revenues.

MFA CR: 553 thous.
UNDEF: 23 thous.

All expenses were non-investment by nature, split into individual subsidized categories in accordance with the corresponding budgets; mostly, they were classified as personnel and traveling costs, aid to target groups, services and overhead costs.

Total consumed purchases: 7 thous.

Material consumption: 7 thous.

Total services: 212 thous.

Travel expenses: 18 thous.

Costs of representation: 2 thous.

Other services: 192 thous.

Total personnel costs: 355 thous.

Wages: 277 thous.

Social security tax: 77 thous.

Cost related to statutory social security: 1 thous.

Total contributions provided: 56 thous.

Membership fees paid: 56 thous.

Total costs: 630 thous.

Total revenue from own operations and from the sale of goods: 255 thous.

Revenue from sale of services: 255 thous.

Total contributions received: 58 thous.

Membership fees collected: 58 thous.

Total operational subsidies: 576 thous.

Operational subsidies: 576 thous.

Total income: 889 thous.

Profit before and after tax: 259 thous.

Imprint

The activities of DEMAS are determined independently and exclusively by the member organizations. DEMAS is politically non-partisan, and its actions reflect neither any political or ideological positions nor the interests of any other institution.

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Secretariat:

Sabina Malcová (Executive Director)
Marlene Breier (Project Coordinator)
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TRANSITION
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Member Organizations:

Agora Central Europe
Asociace pro mezinárodní otázky
CEELI Institute
Centrum pro komunitní práci
Centrum pro studium demokracie a kultury
Člověk v tísni
EUROPEUM
Nadace Forum 2000
Občanské Bělorusko
PASOS
Transitions

Observers:

Caritas of the Archdiocese of Prague
Amnesty International

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