



Mission:

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

Annual Report 2010

Ladies and gentlemen,

You are holding the annual report of the Association for Democracy Assistance and Human Rights DEMAS. This annual report contains an account of the 2nd year of the Association's activities during which their spectrum broadened, the capacity of the Secretariat was increased and the cooperation between the Secretariat and member organizations – as well as among member organizations themselves – intensified.

The activities of DEMAS Secretariat and individual thematic working groups were focused on three major goals. The three goals are: to lobby for interests of DEMAS member organizations in the Czech Republic and in the European Union; to enhance the capacity of DEMAS and its member organizations to fulfill their missions in an efficient and successful way; and also, to extend DEMAS activities to new regions via networking.

In order to meet the goals in an efficient way, thematic working groups of the Association began more intensive work, which helped to successfully implement three projects with a specific territorial focus (Russia and the Eastern Partnership countries). DEMAS also became a member of the Brussels NGO platform Human Rights and Democracy Network; this platform helps the Association to promote its views on priorities and implementation of EU policies in the field of democracy assistance and human rights.

DEMAS was also successful in attracting new grants which will allow extending the scope of activities and the capacities of the Association in 2011 and in the future. The grants make it possible to add a Policy Officer to DEMAS Secretariat, share Czech experience in the field of transformation cooperation, diversify resources and improve financial independence of the Association.

Vladimír Bartovic, Chairman of the Board
Sabina Dvořáková, Executive Director

Activities during the 2nd year of existence

The activities were primarily focused on capacity building of the developing platform of Czech NGOs focused on democracy assistance and human rights in third countries, as well as their promotion in the Czech Republic and the EU countries.

The internal structures of the platform were created already during the first year of its existence. In the second year, they became better established and internal mechanisms were tested and implemented. For example, individual member organizations cooperate together with the Secretariat within working groups focused on specific regions. Working groups were established for the regions of Russia, Eastern partnership countries, West Balkan states and the European Union. The platform kept developing and the cooperation between the Secretariat and member organizations improved especially in terms of international cooperation (especially within the European Union and the post-Soviet space) and implementation of joint grant projects. Accession to international structures proved crucial. New contacts helped to strengthen the position of DEMAS among NGOs and European institutions in Brussels. On 1st April 2010, the absolute majority of member organizations voted (per rollam) for accepting Central Moravia Centre for Community Organizing and Open Society; for the following year, both organiza-

tions will join the Association as observers in accordance with DEMAS Statute.

Conferences, seminars and lectures

On 17–18th February, DEMAS organized an international seminar called [Stepping Back from the End of History: Post-Socialist States and Societies at the 20th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall](#) in cooperation with Carnegie Research Centre from Moscow. The goal of the two-day seminar in Prague was to map the Eastern European space after the fall of the Iron Curtain. Representatives of the civil and academic sector from the majority of post-Soviet countries participated in the seminar.

In 2010, DEMAS repeatedly participated in the NGO Market, which is a traditional spring event organized by the Association's member organization Forum 2000 Foundation. During the Fair, numerous individuals and, mostly, organizations visited DEMAS stand to enquire about cooperation in the field of transition. In the afternoon, DEMAS organized a public debate called [How NGOs Function in Russia](#) during which the audience could ask their questions to be answered by three Russian NGO workers.

On 30th April, the European House hosted the **Round Table on the European Neighbourhood Policy**, a debate with L. Rouček, J. Chmiel



NGO Market – debate: From the left: A. Koss, E. Šachova, A. Orlova and S. Dvořáková

and Š. Füle on the Neighbourhood Policy and possibilities of further enlargement of the EU (Eastern Partnership, EUROMED). V. Bartovic from EUROPEA represented the expert standpoint of DEMAS in the debate.

DEMAS organized the panel *The Role of Transition Policy in Czech Foreign Policy* during the Czech Foreign Policy symposium organized by the Institute of International Relations on 4th May with the topic of transition policy. The platform was represented by experts from member organizations: V. Bartovic (EUROPEUM): Implementation of Transition Support Projects in Western Balkans, P. Holcová (People in Need): The Island of Freedom Hostages – Implementation of Projects Aimed at Supporting Cuban Civil Society, and Z. Vágnerová (Association for International Affairs): Implementation of Transition Support Projects in Ukraine.

On Friday, 12th November, V. Bartovic (EUROPEUM) represented DEMAS at a panel discussion *On the Road to EU Enlargement* featuring Štefan Füle and Libor Rouček.

On the Human Rights Day, Thursday, 9th December, DEMAS in cooperation with the Czech Forum for Development Cooperation and the UN Information Centre organized a discussion panel *How Can I Help Promote Human Rights in the World?* DEMAS was represented by I. Buršiková (Agora CE) and J. Klepal (Forum 2000).

DEMAS – together with its member organizations – focused on debates with both experts and the general public. Throughout the year, the Association held several meetings with representatives of public administration including Members of Parliament, Senators, as well as with representatives of different departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. DEMAS also tried to attract attention of young people to the issues of democracy and human rights in the world by opening an



Discussion panel *How Can I Help Promote Human Rights in the World?*

accredited one-term course *Introduction into Democracy and Human Rights* taught at the Faculty of Humanities, Charles University in Prague. In the cycle of lectures and debates, eleven member organizations one by one gave an introduction on both general topics and specific issues and methods involved in transition support.

Joint declarations and opinions

Due to the fact that many member organizations of DEMAS worked in Eastern Europe in 2010, we were concerned about the report of our Polish colleagues *Changes in Visa Policies of the EU Member States. New monitoring Report* (Stefan Batory Foundation, Warsaw, May 2009). For this reason, DEMAS addressed an *open letter* to Karel Schwarzenberg, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. Consulates of different EU countries in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova were analyzed, and consulates of the Czech Republic received the worst evaluation in terms of conditions for visa applicants. The following issues were rated as the most problematic: the length of the visa procedure, the number of visits necessary for obtaining a visa, quality of online information

and queues in front of the consulate. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic decided to investigate the matter and officials from the Consular Policy and Methodology Department met with representatives of DEMAS Secretariat and its member organizations, discussed the comments of the latter and promised to take necessary steps to improve the situation.

To commemorate the International Democracy Day set by the UN on 15th September in 2007, the Association published a short reflection on the contribution of Czech transition policy authored by I. Blažević and J. Klepal under the title *Czech NGOs and Democracy Support*.

In 2010, DEMAS Secretariat continued to publish its newsletter in order to inform both experts and the general public about the developments of Czech transition support. Five issues were published in the course of the year; they are accessible free of charge on the website of the Association www.demas.cz under News.

Projects

In 2010, DEMAS Secretariat in cooperation with member organizations implemented five grant projects; four projects were new and one continued from the previous year. All objectives of the projects were met: coordination of activities of Czech NGOs working in the field of democracy support and human rights in the world, mutual exchange of information and experience, raising awareness and involvement in the field of human rights support and democratization in the Czech Republic and abroad, and cooperation with NGOs with a similar focus internationally (mainly projects financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic), an international seminar (in cooperation with Carnegie Moscow), mapping work of Russian NGOs (NED project) and exchange of experience in the area of cross-border cooperation with colleagues from Norway.



Panel Discussion *“On the Road to EU Enlargement”*

In cooperation with Carnegie Research Center Moscow, DEMAS organized a two-day international seminar [Stepping Back from the End of History: Post-Socialist States and Societies at the 20th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall](#) in Prague on 17–18th February; the topic of the seminar was transformation in post-communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The objective of the meeting between representatives of NGOs, public administration and academic sphere was to analyze and compare political, economic and social changes which took place in the post-Soviet world after the fall of the Berlin Wall. The seminar received financial support from the Open Society Fund.

The second grant received by the Association came from the Technical Assistance Fund (the so-called Norwegian funds) with the title **Czech and Norwegian Democracy Assistance and Transition Promotion in Russia and Eastern Partnership Countries**. The project was implemented by the Secretariat and partly by Eastern Partnership and Russia working groups. Member organizations of DEMAS, as well as representatives of several Norwegian NGOs, the Embassy of Norway in Prague and several departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic took part in a joint Czech-Norwegian seminar which resulted in a joint policy paper on cross-border cooperation in the regions mentioned above from Czech and Norwegian point of view.

Similarly to the previous year, DEMAS Secretariat together with its member organizations focused on establishing cooperation with Russian nongovernmental non-for-profit organizations. A project funded by the National Endowment for Democracy allowed representatives of Czech and Russian NGOs establish new contacts, learn about each other's work better, participate in joint events and concentrate on future project-based cooperation.

Support related to the operation of the Secretariat, support for member organizations, establishing new contacts and advocacy activities of DEMAS was provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, namely by the Department for Human Rights and Transformation Policy and the Development Cooperation Department. From the very beginning, the most important initiative for networking and advocacy is the membership of DEMAS in the Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN), which coordinates joint policy of NGOs with regard to EU institutions. The

membership in the HRDN is crucial for DEMAS because it allows the Association to unite its efforts together with established NGOs in Brussels and try to lobby for its interests in a wider context. Important issues in which DEMAS has been involved within the HRDN include the debates about the establishment and activities of the European External Action Service and full support to the establishment of the Human Rights Directorate, as well as the debate about keeping EIDHR as an instrument of support exclusively to democracy and human rights. As a part of both grant projects of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, the Association created a specialized library equipped with core publications and DVDs on democracy and human rights. The library is located on the premises of the Secretariat and is accessible to member organizations (book loans) as well as to non-member experts and the general public (reading room).

Funding

DEMAS received four new grants in 2010 and one grant continued from 2009. The Association received funding from the following sources during this period: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic (MFA CR), namely from the Transition Promotion Program (TPP)

and the Program of Development Cooperation (PDC), the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), Open Society Fund (OSF) and the Technical Assistance Fund (so-called Norwegian funds, FTA).

TPP: CZK 600,000
PDC: CZK 570,000
OSF: CZK 248,918
NED: CZK 659,235.85
FTA: CZK 313,109.12

All costs were non-investment by nature and could be grouped within budgets of individual grants as mainly HR and travel costs, assistance to target groups, services and operational costs.

Cost structure:

HR costs: CZK 660 thous.
Services: CZK 1,428 thous.
Consumed material: CZK 17 thous.
Other costs: CZK 23 thous.
Allocated funds: CZK 284 thous.
Total costs: CZK 2,412 thous.

Annual membership fees in the amount of CZK 5,000 were paid by member organizations in accordance with DEMAS Statute in 2010. A total sum of CZK 55,000 was collected in membership fees.

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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Agora Central Europe
Ano pro Evropu
Asociace pro mezinárodní otázky
Centrum pro komunitní práci
Centrum pro studium demokracie a kultury
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TRANSITION
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic



**National Endowment
for Democracy**
Supporting freedom around the world