



Mission:

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

Annual Report 2014

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Another year has passed and you are holding another annual report of DEMAS – Association for Democracy Assistance and Human Rights. This is our sixth annual report in which our activities from the previous year are broken down into several chapters.

Seen by the eyes of the Platform’s Secretariat, 2014 was an important year because the focus of our activities, which had been mainly on implementation of transition projects in third countries, and the on the organizations as such, moved to the domestic scene. The whole last year was marked by advocacy efforts aimed at both Czech and international actors, mainly at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. During the whole year, a debate on the new concept of Czech foreign policy proposed by the new government was taking place at the Ministry; this concept has a significant impact on Czech transition policy with regard to third countries. Promotion of democracy, human rights and civil society underwent several transformations over the course of 2014; they will continue in 2015.

We can but hope that the debate is always carried out in a constructive mode and is aimed at achieving the best possible results.

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

Activities of the platform in its seventh year

We have outlined the advantages of joining efforts under the umbrella of an association in our annual reports before. The experience of DEMAS and other similar platforms shows that there still are more advantages than disadvantages. Work under the umbrella of an association is beneficial both for the organization’s own activities and for the joint presentation of the association. This is especially true in the case of advocacy activities with external partners.

In 2014, DEMAS had ten regular members and red members with observer status. The two organizations with standing observer sta-

tus were joined in September by CEELI Institute, the activities of which are fully in line with the activities of DEMAS member organizations.

During 2014, member organizations had two joint meetings where they discussed activities within individual projects (see below) as well as joint advocacy measures. The Secretariat is the logical information hub and coordinator of joint activities. This joint work was supervised by the newly elected Board of Directors in the following composition: Jakub Klepal (Chairman), Pavel Pšeja, Rostislav Valvoda and Vladka Votavová (Vice-Chair). The Board of Directors was elected at the General Meeting on 10th September.

The work of the platform remains divided into four working groups covering Eastern Partnership, Russia, West Balkans and the EU. In response to the dramatic events in Ukraine, several coordination meetings of the Eastern Partnership group took place and the organizations which work in Ukraine agreed on how they would implement their projects. This working group also provided necessary information to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Senate.

Like in the previous years, DEMAS remained member of [Human Rights and Democracy Network](#) (HRDN) and [EU-Russia Civil Society Forum](#) (EU-RU CSF), through which DEMAS contributed to supporting civil society at the international level (see below).

Conferences, seminars and lectures

On 25th April, DEMAS participated in the [NGO Market](#), an annual NGO fair taking place in the National Technical Library in Prague; 204 charities were presenting their work to the visitors from the whole Czech Republic and abroad. DEMAS Policy Officer and representatives of individual organizations taking turn at DEMAS stand presented the activities of the Platform and its individual members. They spoke to the general public and to experts about the necessity of supporting human rights and democracy in third countries.

On 27th May, DEMAS Secretariat organized an internal workshop with the goal of identi-



DEMAS stand at NGO Market

fication of topics for joint work of think-tanks from the EU, Russia and the Eastern Partnership states. Detailed outcomes of the workshop are outlined in a survey with the title [Potential of Civil Society Actors’ Engagement in Different Aspects of EU-Russia Relations](#); the purpose of the survey is to identify topics for research and joint projects, and to help donors in selecting their program priorities.



Workshop Potential of Civil Society Actors’ Engagement in Different Aspects of EU-Russia Relations

As a part of Forum 2000 conference with the title [Democracy and Its Discontents: A Quarter Century after the Iron Curtain and Tiananmen](#) which took place on 12–15th October, DEMAS organized two debates which allowed not only to present relevant topics to the general public but also to have an open dialog with the stakeholders. The first debate had the title Human Rights in the Czech Transition and Development Cooperation: Challenges and Opportunities, and it was organized in cooperation with our



Panel Human Rights in the Czech Transition and Development Cooperation: Challenges and Opportunities

twin platform FoRS in Era World in Prague in the morning of 14th October; the panelists were Petr Drulák (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic), Šimon Pánek (People in Need), Ondřej Horký-Hlucháň (Institute for International Relations), Sabina Malcová (DEMAs) and Tomáš Bílý (NaZemi). The debate was hosted by Vladimír Bartovic (EUROPEUM/DEMAs). The summary from the debate can be found [here](#). The second debate had the title The Role of Human Rights in the Czech Foreign Policy and it took place that same day in the European House. The panel featured several prominent



Panel The Role of Human Rights in Czech Foreign Policy

Czech politicians such as Libor Rouček (ČSSD), Karel Schwarzenberg (TOP 09), Pavel Svoboda (KDU-ČSL) and Alexandr Vondra (ODS). This debate, which was attended by the highest number of people of all accompanying Forum 2000 events, was hosted by Vladka Votavová (AMO/DEMAs). The conclusions from the debate can be found [here](#).

The fall was also marked by the beginning of a new term at the Faculty of Social Studies of Masaryk University in Brno, where DEMAs participated in designing the content and provided some of the teachers for the course entitled [Czech Republic and Transition Cooperation](#); the course consisted of ten lectures on democratization and human rights support provided to third countries by the Czech Republic. Approx. seventy students signed up for this courses and took the final examination.

On 2nd December, DEMAs members could enjoy training on cyber security held by Petr Krčmář, editor-in-chief of root.cz. The training was focused on Internet security and the use of the new media for NGO workers whose activities due to the sensitive nature of their topic could imply the risk of being intercepted or become a target of a hacker attack. The training also touched on the following issues: encryption, email security, tapping, surveillance, principles of security etc.

During the second half of the year, a number of workshops were organized for our NGO colleagues from Azerbaijan and Burma who visited the Czech Republic on a capacity building tour organized by People in Need. Sabina Malcová was the trainer of a workshop called *Membership based organizations*.

Advocacy

Over the course of the year it became clear how important it is to join our efforts for advocacy both with regard to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, the EU and the general public. In the past year, DEMAs Secretariat together with representatives of its member organizations held a number of important meetings with representatives of various ministries, Czech Parliament, Embassies, donors and political parties. The purpose of the meetings was exchange of information about Czech foreign policy and the support of human rights and democracy around the world. Due to the preparation of the new Concept of Czech Foreign Policy and Concept of Human Rights and Transition Policy Support, the highest number of meetings took place in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where some of DEMAs members are engaged in external advisory working groups.

Declarations and opinions

Throughout 2014, DEMAs and its member organizations signed several declarations – some of them were initiated by DEMAs, some were initiated by other actors. On 10th February, it was an [Open Letter to President Miloš Zeman with regard to the visit of President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov](#) and on 2nd April it was an [Open Letter with regard to the visit of President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev](#), who was repeatedly invited to Prague by President Zeman. On 12th June, in the beginning of summer, DEMAs joined the initiative [to support Hungarian NGOs](#) who became target of attacks from Hun-

garian government (executed by the National Auditing Office) due to accepting grants from international funds (especially the Norwegian funds). DEMAs also joined joint opinions addressed to the European Commission, specifically, [Statement Two Year Anniversary of the EU Strategic Framework for Human Rights and Democracy](#) and the Statement with regard to the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) for 2014–2020, which was focused on program issues of the Instrument and its financing.

The platform continued to publish its Newsletter which was published four times during the reported period. The Newsletter is one of the tools which DEMAs uses to communicate with the world. All issues of the Newsletter are available at www.demas.cz in the News section.

Projects

The project with the title *Assisting Civil Society in Russia* funded by the [National Endowment for Democracy](#) (NED) was aimed at capacity building of the [EU-Russia Civil Society Forum](#) and identification of topics for joint work of think-tanks from the EU, Russia and the Eastern Partnership countries. The project was running from 2013 when it originally focused on the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum hosted by DEMAs Secretariat. In 2014, the project was focused on looking for topics of joint research and joint projects of think-tanks and on supporting donors in selecting program priorities related to work of think-tanks in Russia and the Eastern Partnership states. The project culminated in May when DEMAs organized a workshop (see above) and survey was prepared [Potential of Civil Society Actors' Engagement in Different Aspects of EU-Russia Relations](#).

During the first half of the year, DEMAs Secretariat and its member organization participated in implementation of the project with the title *Visegrad-Balkan Public Policy Fund: Young Researchers Programme* funded by the [International Visegrad Fund](#) (IVF). The project came to an end at 30th April and it was focused on supporting young professionals from the West Balkans. The project began by a study tour of a young journalist from Macedonia. In her work, she is focused on electronic media and investigative journalism.

[Transition Cooperation Program by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic](#) supported a project aimed at building capacities of DEMAs Secretariat and all of its thirteen member states, also at networking, information exchange and raising awareness

amongst experts and the general public with regard to Czech transition cooperation policy. Dialog with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic especially with regard to Czech human rights agenda.

During the second half of the year, DEMAS member organizations produced e-learning materials for the project entitled *Connecting the Dots: An E-learning Platform for Greater Civic Activism and Networking in Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova* with Transitions as its main implementing actor and funded by UNDEF, NED and IVF. This project is aimed at producing online study materials especially for journalists.

Funding

As we have already mentioned under Projects, DEMAS implemented a total of four grant projects over the course of 2014 with the following structure of funding:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic: 600 thous.
IVF 140 thous.
NED: 219 thous.
UNDEF: 0 thous.

All non-investment costs were distributed among individual items mainly as salaries and travel costs, aid to target groups, services and overhead costs.

Total consumed goods: 8 thous.
Material consumption: 8 thous.

Total services: 411 thous.
Travel expenses: 44 thous.
Representation costs: 3 thous.
Other services: 364 thous.

Total staff costs: 397 thous.
Wages: 308 thous.
Statutory social security tax: 88 thous.
Statutory social security costs: 1 thous.

Other costs: 25 thous. (main area of activity 4 thous., economic activity 21 thous.)
Other misc. costs: 4 thous.

Total contributions paid: 158 thous.
Total costs: 1,000 thous. (main area of activity 979 thous., economic activity 21 thous.)

Revenues from own activities and goods, total: 66 thous.

Sale of services: 66 thous.

Total contributions received: 19 thous.

Contributions received: -39 thous.

Membership fees collected: 58 thous.

Total operational subsidies: 959 thous.
Total revenues: 1,062 thous. (main area of activity 1,044 thous., economic activity 18 thous.)
Profit before tax and after tax: 62 thous. (main area of activity 65 thous., economic activity -3 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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Sabina Malcová (Executive Director)
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TRANSITION
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

Marlene Breier (Project Coordinator)
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Member Organizations:

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

Observers:

Amnesty International
Arcidiecézní charita Praha
CEELI-Institute

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