



Mission:

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

## Annual Report 2019

Ladies and Gentlemen,

*you are about to read another annual report of DEMAS, where you will find a summary of the Association’s activities in 2019. Last year, the Association was involved in capacity building efforts for its members while, at the same time, it continued to work closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic as a relevant partner bringing a hands-on approach to transformation policy.*

*Transformation policy has been one of the key components of [Czech foreign policy](#) for over a quarter of a century. This long-term active support of transformation activities, to a great extent a hallmark of Czech foreign policy, has achieved international recognition. It is a set of unique knowledge and skills focused on providing comprehensive political and practical support, such as the promotion of fundamental (political) human rights, good governance, civil society, the rule of law and democratic values. By focusing on this area, the Czech Republic contributes to global security, stability and sustainable development.*

*With its activities, DEMAS also strives to continuously support this good reputation of the Czech Republic on the world stage and to fulfill the humanistic principles which have traditionally driven the Czech Republic and its foreign policy. Through its members, the Association offers experience, knowledge and know-how facilitating the effective implementation of transformation policy and promoting the reputation of the Czech Republic as a country dedicated to promoting solidarity and support.*

*Pavel Pšejja, Chair of the Board of Directors  
Sabina Malcová, Executive Director*

### Platform in its eleventh year of existence

On 10 September, the General Meeting cancelled CASLA membership in DEMAS due to the organization’s inactivity and failure to perform its member obligations. As of 31 December 2019, DEMAS had thirteen regular members and two members with the permanent observer status.

Two meetings of the entire platform and four meetings of the Board of Directors took place during 2019; the agenda of the meetings featured both internal affairs and program discussions on joint activities of the platform. By definition, the Secretariat is the driving force behind joint efforts of the platform. The Board of Directors elected at the General Meeting in September 2018 sets the platform’s strategy. On 26 September, P. Pšejja and J. Klepal were confirmed as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively. As in previous years, the work of the platform was carried out by several working groups covering both geographical and thematic areas, primarily corresponding to Czech foreign policy priorities. The working groups were organized mainly to reflect geographical priorities, but also topics such as civic education and advocacy activities.

Throughout 2019, the Association closely cooperated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic on topics related to prioritized countries and themes of Czech foreign policy; it organized several thematic meetings, and platform representatives participated in regular consultations with the Ministry’s leadership and representatives of relevant departments. In December, the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs T. Petříček, held public consultations on the objectives of Czech foreign policy for 2020. DEMAS became the expert guarantor of *Human Rights and Democracy Support* area. MFA CR was also the recipient of relevant information pertaining to practical support of political human rights which was later used for preparing materials for the address delivered by the Minister at a meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva and the Universal Periodic Review.

Throughout the year, there were meetings with Czech MPs, MEPs and other political representatives, experts and citizens, with the purpose of information exchange pertaining primarily to Czech foreign policy. DEMAS also participated in the work of an expert group for non-governmental non-for-profit organizations which provides support to Senator Miluše Horská, Vice-President of the Senate of the Czech Republic.

As in previous years, DEMAS was actively involved in the activities of [Human Rights and Democracy Network](#) (HRDN) and, partly,

[Měj se k světu](#) initiative which works within the [Infrastructure for cooperation across the non – profit sector](#) (Neon). The main benefit of joining the HRDN has been access to general information on current events and direct contact with European and international organizations active in the field of human rights and democracy support, as well as insight into the process of preparing EU strategic documents, such as the multiannual financial framework or the European budget for 2021–2027, summary reports such as the Human Rights and Democracy in the World Annual Report or the EU Fundamental Rights Report.

The Secretariat is also in charge of ensuring a steady flow of new information for its members. In our regular weekly newsletter, we provided information on the developments in different regions, grant calls, invitations to important events and new publications. Similarly to the previous years, DEMAS Secretariat continued to support capacity building of its members by providing travelling grants. One of their purposes was to enable participation in conferences, presenting professional contributions or research trips.

During its January meeting, the platform selected the topics for trainings organized by the Secretariat for the platform’s member organizations. Security of our work in countries with authoritarian regimes was one of the topics which were brought up often. For this reason, Thomas Kaye, a security analyst and trainer from Transparency International’s headquarters in Berlin and a top expert on this subject, was selected. The training took place on 14 March.

### Conferences, seminars and lectures

DEMAS presented its work and the work of its member organizations at the NGO Market which took place on 10 April in Karlín Forum. Throughout the day, several organizations and the Secretariat took turns at the joint booth to explain the purpose of Czech transformational cooperation. The Secretariat used this opportunity and organized an afternoon moderated debate with candidates in the European Parliament elections with the title [Civil Society in the](#)

**New European Parliament featuring** Zuzana Brzobohatá (ČSSD), Roman Haken (LES), Ondřej Krutílek (independent, running on ODS ticket), Radka Maxová (ANO), Mikuláš Peksa (Piráti) and Michaela Šojdrová (KDU-ČSL). This heated debate, moderated by Vladimír Bartovic from the Institute for European Policy EUROPEUM, focused not only on the functioning of the European Union as such, but also on the role of the Czech Republic in endorsing its own interests and bringing the role of the Czech Republic in the EU closer to ordinary citizens with their rather ambivalent position on common EU policy.



NGO Market.

One of the main topics of Czech foreign policy, transformation cooperation and democratization, remains largely unknown to the general public. This is the reason why DEMAS, together with experts from its member organizations, organized a series of debates on Czech foreign policy. One public debate took place on the occasion of the screening of a documentary film called *Kibera: Příběh slumu* (*Kibera: The Story of the Slum*) on 30 March, where Jan Mrkvička, Director of the Humanitarian and Develop-



Screening of *Kibera: Příběh slumu*. Jan Mrkvička.

ment Section of People in Need, spoke about the issue of poverty as part of the film festival One World in the Regions (Karlovy Vary). On 7 October, a discussion on the history, culture and political situation in Sudan entitled *Life Between Two Cultures* took place in the North Bohemian Scientific Library in Ústí nad Labem. The discussion was moderated by AMO analyst Tomáš Jungwirth, who also presented his view of the situation.

Lectures on transformation policy at the [Department of International Relations and European Studies](#) of the Faculty of Social Studies,

Ad for the talk in Ústí nad Labem.



Debate at the Tanvald secondary school.

Masaryk University in Brno, and the [Department of Development Studies](#) of the Faculty of Science, Palacký University in Olomouc, took place during the fall (winter) semester. Almost thirty foreign students involved in the [Global Development Policy](#) program at the Department of Development Studies at UPOL (GLO-DEP) from all over the world participated in a

one-day workshop in Prague. One lecture was also given at [Gymnázium a Obchodní akademie secondary school in Tanvald](#).

A panel discussion entitled *Czech Foreign Policy: Supporting Transformation Policy Across the Political Spectrum* took place in the European House on 14 October as a part of the anniversary Forum 2000 conference. The aim of this invitation-only round table was to discuss the basic concepts and principles of the functioning of support for democracy and human rights in third countries at a high level, based on many years of direct Czech experience with transformation policy. During the discussion which brought together representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, several MPs and senators from different political parties, and civil society representatives there was a general consensus on the need for further support for transformation policy. This has not only earned a traditionally good reputation for the Czech Republic abroad, but it especially contributed to the creation of a freer, prosperous and safer world. Participants in the panel discussion: J. Dienstbier (ČSSD), J. Lipavský (Piráti), V. Rakusan (STAN), Z. Stanjura (ODS), M. Ženíšek (TOP 09), M. Povejšil (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), P. Příbyl (FoRS), Š. Pánek, V. Mítková (both People in Need), V. Mušálková (AMO), M. Svoboda (CEELI); moderated by S. Malcová (DEMAS) and V. Bartovic (EUROPEUM). J. Bžoch (ANO) and M. Šojdrová (KDU-ČSL) offered their last moment apologies. J. Šnaidauf, D. Červenka (both Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and H. Votradovcová (DEMAS) participated as observers.

## Declarations and Opinions

In 2019, DEMAS supported [five opinions and one campaign](#) initiated by international organizations and platforms: These included recom-



Debate at Forum 2000.

recommendations for the new [EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy](#) and a statement on [the need to strengthen the role of the European Parliament](#) in the defense of human rights and democracy entitled *How to make the European Parliament a more visible, consistent and coherent actor in defending human rights and democracy worldwide*. DEMAS also participated in preparation and implementation of HRDN initiative entitled [Free and Fair Europe](#) with the purpose of addressing candidates in the European Parliament election campaign in the May elections. DEMAS also joined the call of [Human Rights Watch](#) demanding rejection of Venezuela's membership of the UN Human Rights Council which voted on its membership in October 2019; DEMAS also endorsed [5 Recommendations for EU leadership on Human Rights and democracy](#) calling for prioritization and specific steps to defend human rights and democracy in EU policies.

As part of its involvement in domestic and regional networks, DEMAS [endorsed candidates for the Council of the Czech Press Agency](#) and [Memorandum on restoring participation of the Russian delegation in the sessions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe](#). On 2 December, DEMAS and [FORS](#) published a joint position on three proposed amendments to the draft national budget for 2020 concerning transformation and development cooperation. Considerable attention was paid to the issue of the national budget, as it is usually not only about the financial side of the issue but the numbers also reflect the overall position of transformation policy as one of the long-term components of Czech foreign policy. Judging by reactions within the platform and from politicians themselves, this activity is received with approval.

The Association continued to publish its [Newsletter](#); four issues came out in 2019. The Newsletter is one of the tools DEMAS uses for external communication. All issues are available on our regularly updated website [www.demas.cz](#) in the News section.

## Projects

Similarly to the previous years, [Transition Promotion Program by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic](#) supported *Support of DEMAS Platform*, a three-year project for 2019–2021 aimed at DEMAS capacity building, networking, exchange of information and raising awareness among experts with regard to Czech transformation policy. The project was

also aimed at supporting advocacy efforts and cooperation with the MFA of the Czech Republic and other bodies of public administration.

The project entitled *Strengthening NGO Resilience and Democracy Advocacy* for the period from October 2019 until September 2020 was supported by the [National Endowment for Democracy](#). Its main goal is to support DEMAS advocacy activities and NGO cooperation in the Visegrád countries. The NED project was compatible with the project of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and was used as its co-financing.

## Financing

As we already mentioned in Projects section, DEMAS implemented two subsidized projects in 2019.

MFA CR: 900 thous.

NED: 97 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 costs, services and overhead costs.

**Total consumed purchases: 261 thous.**

Material consumption: 4 thous.

Travel expenses: 39 thous.

Costs of representation: 2 thous.

Other services: 216 thous.

**Total personnel costs: 828 thous.**

Wages: 634 thous.

Social security tax: 192 thous.

Cost related to statutory social security: 2 thous.

**Other costs total: 1 thous.**

Misc. other costs: 1 thous.

**Total contributions provided: 12 thous.**

Membership fees paid: 12 thous.

**Total costs: 1102 thous.**

**Total operational subsidies: 900 thous.**

Operational subsidies: 900 thous.

Total contributions received: 214 thous.

Total contributions received (donations): 97 thous.

Membership fees collected: 117 thous.

**Total revenue from own operations and from the sale of goods: 7 thous.**

**Total income: 1,121 thous.**

**Profit before and after tax: 19 thous.**

## Tiráž

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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*Observers:*  
Caritas of the Archdiocese of Prague  
Amnesty International

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**TRANSITION**  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic