



Mission:

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

Annual Report 2016

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

You are reading the annual report of DEMAS for 2016 documenting its eighth year of existence. During the monitored period, the work of the platform was mainly focused on advocacy efforts, just as it did in the previous years. At the same time, the Secretariat was taking care of its member organizations trying to balance out activities aimed both at its external and internal environment.

The goal of all our joint efforts is to maintain a functioning platform which can bring its member organizations together, nurture their work and endorse shared interest.

Pavel Pšejša, Chair of the Board of Directors
Sabina Malcová, Executive Director

Platform in its eighth year of existence

As of December 31st, 2016, DEMAS had eleven regular members and four members with permanent observer status. In September, DEMAS was joined by two new members. During the General Meeting, CASLA Institute and CEVRO were voted in as new members with observer status. [CASLA Institute](#) mission is to analyze issues related to democracy support, the rule of law, economic, social and institutional development and human rights support in Latin America. [CEVRO](#) offers programs of political education, democracy support and increasing the role of democratic leaders, political parties and NGOs all around the world.

Two meetings of the whole platform and seven meetings of the Board of Directors took place during 2016; the agenda of the meetings featured both internal affairs and program discussions on joint activities of the platform. The Secretariat is, by definition, the driving force behind joint efforts of the platform. New direction was set by a new Board of Directors: Sylva Horáková, Jakub Klepal, Pavel Pšejša (Chair), Marek Svoboda (Vice Chair) and Vladka Votavová. Individual member organizations set up their meetings based on their needs and topics of their activities. As in the previous years, the platform's activities were split

into several working groups covering both geographical areas, primarily, the post-Soviet region, and topics, such as advocacy. Two meetings of the working groups took place during the monitored period: on advocacy, where advocacy efforts of the platform and its individual members were discussed, and on Ukraine, focused on specific projects of individual member organizations in Ukraine.

Traditionally, DEMAS has been actively involved in the [Human Rights and Democracy Network](#) (HRDN); the platform participated in three meetings and was engaged in sharing materials and protocols amongst its members, including participation in joint declarations and HRDN surveys (see below).

[Měj se k světu](#) initiative was another informal professional group joined by DEMAS. As a part of this initiative, we participated in reviewing and debating [Česko 2030](#) (Czechia 2030) – a strategic document prepared by the government. Czech Republic 2030 is a strategic framework laying down priorities for long-term development of the Czech Republic aimed at improving quality of life for generations of today and tomorrow. Under this initiative, several other meetings with representatives of different departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of the Czech Republic and other governmental authorities took place.

All year round, there were meetings with government officials, political parties, experts and citizens to awareness about transformation policy. It was also important to review the list of recipient countries under MFA's transformational cooperation program.

The Secretariat's role also includes getting of steady flow of new information to its members. In our regular weekly newsletter, we provided information on the developments in different regions, on grant calls, on invitations to important events and on new publications.

Conferences, seminars and lectures

On April 27th, 2016, DEMAS participated in the NGO Market which took place in Karlín Forum, Prague. Several hundred NGOs presented their activities on this fair. The fair had a full-day program for NGOs and citizens. NGOs had an opportunity to present their activities to citizens, to establish new partnerships, to attract and approach volunteers and sponsors, and to acquire new knowledge vital for successful organizational management. DEMAS and its member organizations also presented their work there. For more information on NGO Market click [here](#).



NGO Market.



Debate in the European House.

Together with the Representation of the European Commission in the Czech Republic and the Association for International Affairs, our association organized the fourth edition of afternoon debates included in the cycle on human rights, democracy and civil society support in third countries through the value prism of joint EU foreign and security policy; the event took place on June 24th, 2016. This event, hosted by the European House in Prague, included two consecutive debates. The theme of the first debate was *How to Endorse Human Rights Agenda In Russia*; the second debate raised the question *Is the Czech Republic Still Amongst the Leaders of EU Human Rights Policy*. The outcome of the debates can be found [here](#). A blog written by one of the moderators who facilitated the debate on Russia, Ondřej Soukup, can be found [here](#).

DEMAs traditionally organized a facilitated debate with representatives of political parties during Forum 2000 conference. We observed the tradition in 2016 bringing Pavel Bělobrádek (KDU-ČSL), Ivana Dobešová (ANO), Adéla Kadlecová (ODS) and Marek Ženišek (TOP 09) to the discussion table. The debate had a provocative title: *Czechia in International Rela-*

tions: A Leader, a Follower or a Slacker? And it took place during Democracy Festival of the 20th edition of Forum 2000. More information can be found in the article by Institute for European EUROPEUM, whose president Vladimír Bartovic [hosted](#) the debate.

One-day training on Critical Thinking and Argumentation took place on December 12th. Trainers from the Academy for Critical Thinking focused both on theory and on its practical application.

Declarations and Opinions

HRDN letter to EP President M. Schulz: DEMAs signed the joint letter written by members of the Brussels network HRDN addressed to M. Schulz, President of the European Parliament; in this letter, HRDN welcomed EP's decision to include human rights abuse, democracy and the role of law in its debates. The full text of the letter can be found [here](#).

Through HRDN, DEMAs participated in the making and subsequent distribution of *Do's and Don't's for European Parliament*. This material is a guide for European Parliament and its mem-

bers laying down basic rules for public diplomacy for working with human rights defenders.

DEMAs position on the open letter on relations between the Czech Republic and China: DEMAs published its position in response to the open letter by President, Prime Ministers and Chairmen of both chambers of Czech Parliament on the relations between the Czech Republic and China, in which they reacted to the meeting between His Holiness Dalai Lama and some members of the cabinet. DEMAs position was further endorsed by organizations *Češi Tibet podporují*, *Potala and Lungta*. This position we published received wide coverage both in Czech and international media.

These joint positions were complemented by endorsement of Mustafa Dzhemilev, the leader of Crimean Tatars, nomination for Václav Havel Human Rights Award; however, his nomination was rejected because at that time he was Member of Ukrainian Parliament.

The Platform continued to publish its Newsletter; during the reported period, four issues came out. This Newsletter is one of the tools DEMAs uses for communicating with the outside world. All issues are available at our regularly updated website www.demas.cz in the News section. In the final quarter, the website was revised and updated.

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 about Czech transformational policy among experts. The project was also aimed at supporting advocacy efforts and cooperation with the MFA of the Czech Republic.

Cooperation with the **Representation of the European Commission and European Parliament in the Czech Republic** (ECR) resulted in one afternoon debate dedicated to transformation policy with the output in the form of two blogs with universal validity.

One of the goals of **Měj se k světu** initiative in 2016 was reviewing Czechia 2030 Strategy.

Financing

As we already mentioned in the part entitled Projects, DEMAs implemented one project in 2016 as part of subsidized operations. The project implemented in cooperation with ECR was invoiced as required by the partner, and so was the small amount received for participation in *Měj se k světu* platform.



Debate at Forum 2000.

MFA CR: 600 thous.

ECR: 25 thous.

Měj se k světu: 3 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: 12 thous.

Material consumption: 12 thous.

Total services: 211 thous.

Travel expenses: 26 thous.

Costs of representation: 2 thous.

Other services: 171 thous.

Total personnel costs: 394 thous.

Wages: 326 thous.

Social security tax: 67 thous.

Cost related to statutory social security: 1 thous.

Total contributions provided: 64 thous.

Membership fees paid: 64 thous.

Total costs: 670 thous.

Total revenue from own operations and from the sale of goods: 28 thous.

Total contributions received: 65 thous.

Membership fees collected: 65 thous.

Total operational subsidies: 600 thous.

Operational subsidies: 600 thous.

Total income: 693 thous.

Profit before and after tax: 23 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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Marek Svoboda (Vice-Chair)
Vlaďka Votavová

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:

Arcidiecézní charita Praha
Amnesty International
CASLA
CEVRO

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