



Mission:

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

Annual Report 2021

Ladies and gentlemen, you are about to read the Association's Annual Report for 2021. All 14 member organizations of DEMAS participate in the Association's activities and cooperation, either as full-fledged members or as observers. DEMAS remains the only platform that brings together Czech organizations working in the field of human rights and democracy.

Since the October parliamentary elections, transition policy focused on promoting fundamental human rights, democracy, civil society, free media, and good governance has once again become a foreign policy priority included in the new government's Policy Statement. On the other hand, by the end of 2021, the Russian invasion of Ukraine was already looming on the horizon, steering the world towards danger and uncertainty. This is where interaction of organizations that can help in the field of transition cooperation, including specific assistance to individuals and forces defending democratic principles across countries, becomes crucial. DEMAS can build upon its long-established mechanisms and contribute to making the Czech response to the unprecedented challenges that have – and will – arise as effective as possible.

*Marek Svoboda, Chairman of the Board
Sabina Malcová, Executive Director*

The Platform's activities

In 2021, the number of organized united within the Platform did not change, remaining a total of fourteen as of 31 December, including eleven full members and three members with a permanent observer status.

During 2021, two meetings of the entire platform, including a General Assembly on 14 September, and three meetings of the Board of Directors took place, during which internal affairs of the Platform were discussed and joint activities were planned. The driving force behind the joint work is, by its nature, the Secretariat. The direction of the Platform is determined by the General Assembly of the Platform, and the implementation of the tasks is supervised by the Board of Directors. At the

September Board meeting, L. Argüell resigned as a member for personal reasons. At the same meeting, M. Svoboda was elected Chairman and V. Dostál was elected Vice-Chairman. As in previous years, the activities of the Association were split into several working groups covering both geographical and thematic areas primarily corresponding to the priorities of Czech foreign policy. The working groups met six times.

In 2021, DEMAS also closely cooperated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic on issues related to priority countries and topics of Czech foreign policy. This cooperation included several thematic meetings. Representatives of the Platform participated in regular consultations with the Ministry's top officials and staff of relevant departments. DEMAS regularly prepares suggestions for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic concerning practical support for political human rights; these are used to draft the Foreign Minister's address to the [UN Human Rights Council in Geneva and the Universal Periodic Review](#). The Association also cooperated with Members of Parliament and Senators the Secretariat of the Government Council for NGOs (Working Group on Participation Methodology) and other representatives of political parties and the professional and lay public on various topics addressed by Czech foreign policy. DEMAS is also a member of the expert group for non-governmental non-profit organizations which provides expert support to the office of Jitka Seitlová, Deputy President of the Senate.

As in previous years, DEMAS has been actively involved in the activities of the [Human Rights and Democracy Network](#) (HRDN) or the Czech NGO [Neon](#) initiative. The main benefit of participation in both interdisciplinary platforms is maintaining overall awareness of current events and direct contact with Czech and international organizations working primarily in the field of transition and development policy. There was also a strong cooperation with Visegrad NGOs, which culminated in a two-day seminar in Prague focused on cooperation with public administration.

In the long term, the Secretariat also provides a constant flow of new information for its members. This was done through a regular weekly newsletter with information on current events,

open grant calls, invitations to important events and new publications with a geographical focus on certain areas. As in previous years, DEMAS Secretariat provided capacity building through training allowances or travel grants to its members. Their purpose was, for example, to participate in conferences and present papers and to undertake research trips. At the end of the year, member organizations participated in two full-day training sessions. The first one reflected the need to improve the promotion of NGOs and marketing (1 December, presented by D. Ratajová), the second training was focused on HR management in the non-profit sector (6 December, presented by H. Janíková).

Conferences, seminars, and lectures

Due to the pandemic, the NGO Market was cancelled and replaced with the [Week for the Non-profit Sector](#). S. Malcová from DEMAS participated as a panelist in the online debate entitled *How to Promote Good? Effective lobbying in the non-profit sector*, which took place on 20 April. The panel was dedicated to the methods of NGOs lobbying at the national and EU level.

On 11 October, the [annual Forum 2000 conference](#) held a closed debate on the issue of transition policy and its anchoring in the Czech foreign policy post the 2021 elections. One of the questions posed to a group of senators, MPs, business representatives, MFA staff and NGOs was the possible linking of support for transition policy, especially support for good governance, rule of law and governance, with economic diplomacy and trade promotion in countries with semi/undemocratic regimes. There was a clear consensus that the promotion of human rights was in no way in conflict with the promotion of foreign trade. Investors also appreciate the principle-based approach to the rule of law and investment protection, as their investments cannot be safe in countries where the rule of law does not prevail.

During the fall, DEMAS delivered lectures for the university course entitled Political and Geographical Processes in Developing Regions, conducted in Czech and English for Czech and



Debate at the Forum 2000 conference. Photo by O. Besperát.

foreign students at [the Department of Development and Environmental Studies](#) of the Faculty of Science of Palacký University in Olomouc for the fourth time. Lectures by experts from the field complemented theory and gave students an insight into specific, practical problems. The cooperation of municipalities and citizens on the preparation of participatory budgets (Agora CE), the issue of contemporary political and social transformation in Ukraine (People in Need), the issue of political corruption in relation to good governance (Transparency Int.), the issue of authoritarian regimes (CEEI Inst.) and transition cooperation in practice (DEMAS) were presented in five case studies. A half-day workshop on the increasingly important topic of manipulation with information (AMO) and the professionalization of NGO work (DEMAS) was organized as part of the English course for inter-

national students of the GLODEP [Global Development Policy Program](#). Two more interactive lectures for young people were organized in the fall as part of the Democracy Festival at Forum 2000 and at Gymnázium Tanvald high school.

Statements and position papers

In 2021, DEMAS joined a total of seven position papers or open letters. These included, for instance, an [open letter](#) and a position paper entitled *Občankáři* and written by professional and expert organizations in education concerning the Ministry of Education's approach to the revision of the social studies framework curriculum, or the *Open Letter on the Consultation of Civil Society on the Programming of the Citizens, Equality, Rights & Values (CERV) Program*:

calling on the Commissioners to organize a consultation with NGO representatives and other stakeholders on the thematic focus and modalities of the CERV program aimed at protecting values and the rule of law in the EU. All position papers are regularly published on the Association's website under [K přechzení / prohlášení a stanoviska \(For reading / statements and position papers\)](#).

The Association continued to publish its [Newsletter](#), four issues of which came out in 2021. The Newsletter is one of the tools through which DEMAS communicates with the outside world. All issues are available on the regularly updated website www.demas.cz under Novinky (News) and Zpravodaj (Newsletter), as well as on Facebook.

Projects

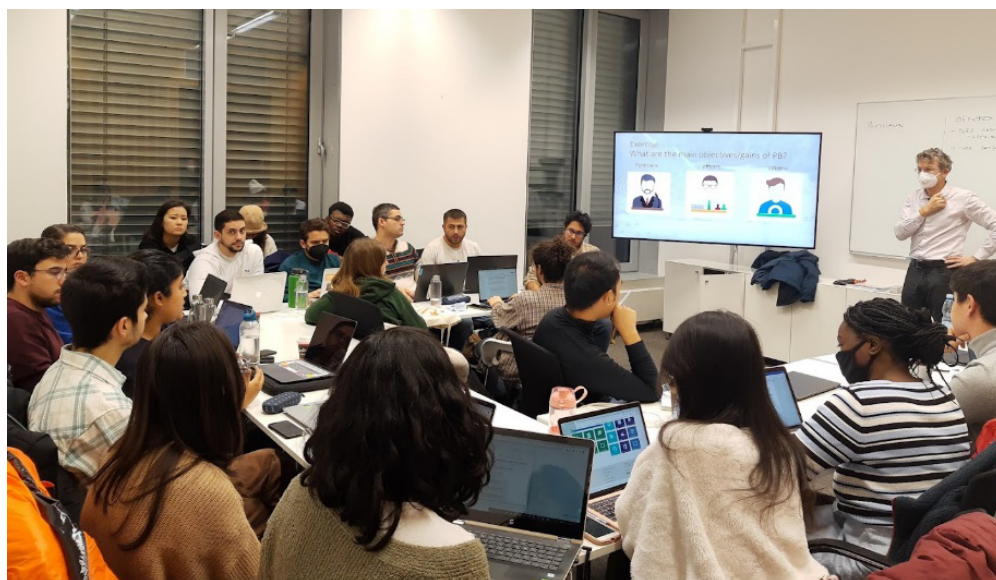
Similarly to previous years, the [Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Transition Cooperation Program](#) supported a three-year project for 2019–2021 entitled *Supporting DEMAS*, which focuses on strengthening the Platform's capacity, networking, information sharing and informing the general public and experts on Czech transition policy issues. The project also focused on supporting advocacy activities and cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and other government entities.

The project entitled *Strengthening NGO Resilience and Democracy Advocacy* for October 2019 – September 2020 was extended until August 2021 and drew on funding provided by the [National Endowment for Democracy](#). Its main objective was to support the advocacy activities of DEMAS and NGO cooperation in the Visegrad countries. The NED project was compatible with the MFA project and served as its co-financing.

A consortium of the OSF Foundation, the Open Society Foundation, the NIOK Foundation and Glopolis think-tank supported the project entitled *Strengthening Value-Oriented Czech Foreign Policy*. The project was implemented from September 2020 to December 2021 as part of the [Stronger Roots](#) program, which aims to support the resilience and stability of civil society organizations in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia and help them gain a stronger position in society.

Funding

As we already mentioned in the Projects section, DEMAS implemented three projects as subsidized activities.



Lecture for UPOL students. Photo by L. Dušková.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Czech Republic: 877 thousand.
NED: 257 thousand.

OSF: 253 thousand.

All expenditures were of a non-investment nature and were allocated within the budgets of the individual subsidies, mainly involving personnel costs and services.

Total purchases consumed: 356 thousand

Material consumption: 4 thousand

Representation costs: 2 thousand

Other services: 350 thousand

Total personnel costs: 955 thousand

Labour costs: 723 thousand

Mandatory social insurance: 229 thousand

Mandatory social costs: 3 thousand

Total other costs: 2 thousand

Miscellaneous other costs: 2 thousand

Total contributions made: 83 thousand

Membership fees paid: 83 thousand

Total costs: 1396 thousand

Total operating subsidies: 877 thousand

Operating subsidies: 877 thousand

Total contributions received: 603 thousand

Contributions (donations) received: 490 thousand

Membership fees received: 113 thousand

Total revenue from own performance and

total revenue from goods: 13 thousand

Total revenue: 1493 thousand

Profit before and after tax: 97 thousand

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.

DEMAS

Association for Democracy Assistance
and Human Rights

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Vít Dostál (Vice-Chairman)

Jakub Klepal

Marek Svoboda (Chairman)

Šimon Zajíček

Secretariat:

Sabina Malcová (Executive Director)

Hana Votradsocová (Project Manager)

Member Organizations:

Agora Central Europe

Asociace pro mezinárodní otázky

CEELI Institute

Centrum pro komunitní práci

CEVRO

Člověk v tísni

EUROPEUM

Nadace Forum 2000

Občanské Bělorusko

Transitions

Transparency International Česká republika

Observers:

Arcidiecézní charita Praha

Amnesty International

Centrum pro lidská práva a demokracii

TRANSITION
Transition Promotion Program



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

| **Nadace OSF**