



Annual Report 2023

Agora CE, o.p.s.
Headquarters: Petra Rezka 12, 140 00
Praha 4
Office: 5 Wenzigova Street, 120 00 Prague 2
www.agorace.cz

CONTENTS

1. About us
2. Statutory bodies and team of the organisation
3. Word from a board member: Agora CE in 2023
4. Involving citizens in decision-making
5. Educational projects
6. Foreign projects
7. Partners, donors
8. Our clients
9. Financial report

1. ABOUT US

Mission of Agora CE

The main focus of its activities is to support democratic processes with the aim of improving communication and cooperation between citizens and town halls, to arouse citizens' interest in public affairs, to broaden the civic awareness of young people and lead them to active civic attitudes, to support the development of democracy and to contribute to the increase of political culture in the Czech Republic and abroad.

Agora wants:

- support the development of local democracy in the Czech Republic and
- abroad contribute to the increase of political culture in the Czech Republic
- improve communication and cooperation between citizens and town halls
- expanding the ability of town halls to plan and decide openly and with citizen participation to awaken
- citizens' interest in municipal issues
- to improve the debating and civic competences and skills of students and adults to
- educate young people in civic competences in innovative ways
- to share their methods and experience with other organisations in the Czech Republic and abroad

2. STATUTORY BODIES AND TEAM OF THE ORGANISATION

Founders:

RNDr. Ivana Bursíková
PhDr. Ing Pavel Mička

Director/Statutory Body:

Mgr. Kristýna Fantová

Board of Directors:

Mgr. Vojtěch Ripka PhD
Mgr. František Havlín
Mgr. Vojtěch Černý

Supervisory Board:

JUDr. Helena Chudomelová
Ing. Věra Slezáková
Tereza Štysová

In 2023, the company's activities involved:

Jiří Axman, sociologist, researcher

Daniela Hranaiová, from 15.3.2023, coordinator, expert

Sára Buryšová, web and social media editor from 1 September 2022, lecturer

Vojtěch Černý, deputy director, consultant in the field of public participation in decision-making, participatory budgeting, management of participatory processes, lecturer, moderator and facilitator

Monika Durajová, manager of the Agora project in schools, methodologist, lecturer

Kristýna Fantová, director, project manager, supervisor

Tomáš Gardelka, UX web designer

Markéta Hlaváčková, lecturer

Jan Jebavý, network administration and IT support

Lenka Jůnová, financial manager

Tereza Karousová, lecturer

Tereza Konrádová, coordinator, lecturer and facilitator from 1.4. 2022

Lída Nepustilová, coordinator of the project Creative learning for active citizenship and office manager until 30.9.2023

Magda Podsedníková, expert of the project Media education through libraries from 1.5. 2022

Ondřej Ryboň, political scientist, researcher, coordinator of the project About Us with Us, lecturer, facilitator, until 30.9.2023

Martin Orešanský, programmer

Jan Sturm, web administration

Štěpán Svoboda, coordinator and lecturer

Filip Timingeriu, methodologist of the Agora project in schools, lecturer until 31.12.2023

Cyril Vacek, lecturer

Dominik Voráč, methodologist of the project Media Education through Libraries, until 31.12.2023

They also collaborated externally:

Viktorie Benešová, Martina Čečotková, Lucie Černická, Matěj Damian, Jakub Hájíček, Zdena Honsová

Filípková, Daniel Justiz, Ondřej Kohout, Jaryna Kozak, Pavel Linzer, Petr Lukeš, Tijana Milosavjevič-

Čajetinac, Pavel Namyslo, Jana Nosková, Vojtěch Matějička, Eva Nečasová, Jiří Pánek, Aleš Pištora, Daniela

Trávníčková - graphic designer, Andrea Vedralová - methodologist, Jitka Vlčinská, Magdalena Wolfová -

sociologist, Robert Žamboch - graphic designer

Lecturers - artists of the creative education project Richard Fahrner, sculptor and sound designer,

Barbora Chalupová, filmmaker, Martin Janas, photographer, Hana Kokšalová, dancer and performer, Filip Novák,

actor, Tomáš Roček, multimedia artist, Klára Samcová, sculpture student, Martin Vlček, visual artist.

We have used the services of the following companies:

JR EU Partners, s.r.o. - accountant, Pavlína Turbová Koutníková - auditor

3. THE WORD OF A BOARD MEMBER: AGORA CE AND THE WORLD IN 2023

Agora CE underwent major changes in 2023. In the area of content, it mostly continued in the directions already set out. Let's summarize both of these aspects of an organization that has been expanding the space for citizen involvement in public affairs in the Czech Republic and abroad for the past twenty-five years.

After more than two and a half years of successful directorship, Kristýna Fantová has decided to resign as director in December 2023, given her time and capacity.

For her contribution to the development of the organization, she deserves recognition, and not only from the Board of Directors. Kristýna continues to stay in Agora, working on the development of the organisation, fundraising and project management. After a discussion on the new management structure, Lenka Jůnová was appointed as the new director of Agora. On behalf of the Board, I thank Lenka for her willingness to lead the organization. I also wish her, who is now the most experienced Agora employee, the best of luck in leading the organisation. Lenka will retain most of her current responsibilities in the financial management of the organisation. Therefore, I believe that together with Vojtech Černý, the continuing deputy director, Monika Durajová, the head of educational projects, and with the help of Kristýna Fantová, Lence will manage the organisation strategically.

In connection with the end of the Digital Agora project in Český Brod (September 2023), Agora in Schools (October 2023) and Media Education through Libraries (December 2023), the teams of these projects could not be maintained for further activities - Ondřej Ryboň is leaving Agora after three years and Filip Timingeriu after two years. On behalf of the Board, I also thank them for their effective management of the projects. The organisation continues to count on both of them as freelancers. The content of Agora focused mainly on its long-standing priority areas: participation and education. These activities again took place both at home and abroad (especially in Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina).

Herzegovina, Georgia and Armenia), in person and digitally, and now for all ages.

In the participatory section, Agora continued its cooperation with the town of Český Brod. Thanks to this event, it was possible to test and put into operation a new web template for citizen participation in the development of strategic plans. This digital tool has joined our ecosystem of templates and tools for digital participation www.digitalniagora.cz.

The use of digital tools has accompanied most of our other projects. Without digital tools, our training and consultation activities would not have had the impact they have.

This year, we also followed up on a series of webinars that were attended by dozens of participants interested in the topic of civic participation.

Thanks to the support from the Active Citizens programme and the support of the Ministry for Regional Development, we were able to go personally to other town halls in the Czech Republic and together with a number of representatives of town halls help to prepare more qualitative conditions for citizen participation.

In the educational area, the organization successfully completed a two-year project Agora in Schools, in which we developed a new informal civic education program for primary and secondary school students in cooperation with six Prague schools. Now other teachers can try it out in their classrooms - the project has created a methodology of the most proven activities and tips on how to promote a democratic climate in schools. Agora also supported civic activism in cooperation with artists. The successful project Creative Education for Active Citizenship continued, in which eight Czech artists, with our support, helped young people in a number of schools across the Czech Republic to use art to improve public space. The project was supported by a grant for its continuation in the second half of 2023.

Last but not least, Agora has also been working with youth within the framework of Erasmus+ projects. In the spring, a three-day school of active citizenship took place in Prague, offering young people theoretical and practical experience on how to plan and implement their own civic activities. The GLOW project, aimed at supporting the leadership skills of young Czech and Georgian women, also continued. Especially the situation in the spring of 2024 suggests that the importance of these activities may grow significantly in Georgia.

In a new project called The Escape Game: what would happen if the Global North stopped providing development aid to the Global South, a new innovative escape game on foreign development cooperation has been developed in collaboration with a professional game studio. It was tested in several schools in the Czech Republic last year.

The highly successful pro-

The Media Education through Books project aimed to increase the media literacy of seniors and thus strengthen their ability to defend themselves against misinformation and media threats. The interest in these activities is confirmed by the fact that last year Agora expanded the target groups of our projects in Agora's statutes to include this target group.

The activities of Agora CE o.p.s can also be summarized by a few figures:

- over 300 public administration representatives have been involved in our training projects
- more than 6,500 citizens have actively participated in participatory budgets or different types of planning projects
- we have worked in 20 municipalities across the Czech Republic

Vojtěch Ripka, PhD.

4. CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

Participatory budgeting

Guarantor: Vojtěch Černý

Supported by: the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic, individual municipalities
Number of actively involved citizens: over 4 500. 40 representatives of public administration trained.

Over the last 8 years, participatory budgeting has become an established tool for citizen involvement in local decision-making. The vast majority of cities still use the model, which we established in the Czech Republic in 2015 with a methodology developed thanks to Norway Grants. It is positive that this tool is being used in the Czech Republic without additional support or legislative regulations from the central level based on the interest of municipal leadership.

On the other hand, our assumption that municipalities will start to use participatory deliberation in other variations to facilitate the involvement of different groups of citizens or decision-making topics is only partially fulfilled. One of the ways in which this is happening is through the already established educational workshop "Students Make the City", which helps cities to involve young people in participatory budgeting.

In 2023, we built on previous cooperation in 10 municipalities. Specifically in České Brod, Děčín, Hostivice, Hustopeče, Cheb, Milotice, Mníšek pod Brdy, Prague-Troja, Prague 11, Zbraslav. We have newly introduced participatory budgeting in Kolín and Lovosice. In a number of municipalities we acted as consultants on partial issues of participatory budgeting. We were contacted by another ten municipalities where we conducted an introductory seminar to help municipalities assess whether it is beneficial to introduce participatory budgeting in their municipality and in what form.

Such a level of consultation was found mainly thanks to the project "Scaling up appropriate digital and traditional participation tools at municipal level" financially supported by the Ministry of Regional Development. As the name of the project suggests, most of the municipalities also used our web-based template for participatory budgeting.

Also worth mentioning in the field of participatory budgeting is the thorough evaluation of the participatory budgeting process in Kolín. Thanks to the above-mentioned project, the evaluation could be carried out in a really thorough way and its conclusions will serve the city of Kolín in particular. For us, it was particularly valuable to find out the reasons for the success of the involvement of young people in the participatory budgeting process.

Participatory planning for the development of the municipality of Lety

Guarantor: Vojtěch Černý

Contracting authority: the municipality of Lety

Population: approx. 240

After four years, we returned to the village of Lety, where the re-elected mayor Barbora Tesarova followed up on the previous term and wanted to discuss and plan projects for the next term together with her neighbours. As in the previous project, we used a combination of a discussion planning evening with active citizens, followed by a questionnaire survey to confirm the direction. In this project, we were able to make use of a digital tool - a web-based strategic planning platform, which we were already completing at the time as part of the Digital Agora project). Through it, we were able to confirm the baseline opinion of about 240 inhabitants of the municipality. More information at flights.digitalniagora.cz.

Revitalisation of the Vyšší Brod housing estate

Guarantor: Vojtěch Černý

Contracting authority: the town
of Vyšší Brod

number of actively involved citizens: approx. 70

The former management of the town of Vyšší Brod commissioned a study of the revitalization of the public spaces of the housing estate. The public was consulted on the assignment of the study. However, the results of the meeting and the way of their incorporation are not available. Thanks to our assistance, the town and the public were able to plan the future shape of these spaces.

Over the course of the short three-month project, we implemented a series of activities that engaged citizens in planning both in person and online. During the initial community mapping, we conducted our own field survey

housing estates connected with a workshop with representatives of the city. We followed up with five semi-structured interviews with parents and seniors.

The following survey was conducted using our own public survey tool and the website is available at <https://vyssibrod.digitalniagora.cz/>. 67 residents of the estate participated over a 3 week period. The culmination of the whole participation process was a moderated participatory meeting on 13 May 2023 in the form of a walk through the estate with the landscape architect, representatives of the city and technical services and the public, which was attended by about 10 residents.



Revitalization of the Humpolecká housing estate courtyard in the Zelená Liška housing estate

Guarantor: Vojtěch Černý

Contracting authority: the
Municipal District of Prague 4

number of actively involved citizens: approx. 150

The Green Fox housing estate is an urban complex from the 1930s - 1960s 20th century, valued especially for its generous green areas, some of which function as publicly accessible courtyards. The city district of Prague 4 decided to revitalise the courtyard in Humpolecká Street. This was done through individual interviews and especially at a planning stand in the courtyard, where we received input from more than 150 people.

The outputs, which will form one of the briefs for the landscape study, suggest that the study should support the current funke of the park such as local ga herings and children's play.



Discussion on the commissioning of the modification of the facilities for recreational and sporting activities in Tisá

Guarantor: Vojtěch Černý
Contracting authority:
municipality Tisá
number of actively involved citizens: 27

A relatively small village located on the edge of the climbing paradise of the Tisza Walls is specific for its active community represented in several committees. At the same time, the municipality has a number of development projects and tries both to grasp them conceptually, but also to involve other citizens in their commissioning or implementation. The Community Development Committee tries in cooperation with the municipal leadership. The same was the case with the formulation of the terms of reference for the study on the revitalisation of the public spaces around the Kačák pond, where a series of cultural events for locals and non-locals are held, combined with a presentation and discussion of the study on the revitalisation of the local multi-purpose field.

Our role was mainly to prepare the meeting programme so that we could make the opinion and wishes of several dozen citizens on the adaptation of key public spaces of the municipality known to the municipality and the representatives of the study developer (DMJNK architectural studio).



Public participation in the commissioning of the new municipal library project

Guarantor: Vojtěch Černý
Contracting authority: the municipality of Mníšek pod Brdy
number of actively involved citizens: more than 400

Nová knihovna pro 21. století

Příprava zadání

Kde a jaký objekt by měl vzniknout? Podívejte se na záznam veřejné diskuze a výsledek ankety.

Záznam diskuze

Výsledek ankety



The municipal library in Mníšek pod Brdy has been in operation for more than 100 years. Its premises, however, are no longer sufficient to meet contemporary expectations of what a library should be used for - not only for lending services, but above all as a cultural and -the educational centre of the village and the whole region. The town management is interested in investing in a new, modern library building.

with sufficient space for cultural and educational events.

The citizen consultation process focused on answering two main questions. Where should the new library be located (3 locations were considered)? The second key question was what supporting functions should the building perform? The whole participatory process was initiated and accompanied by a working group made up of representatives from the library, the school, the community of interest and local opposition. It enabled us to check at the beginning that the process was well set up and also helped us afterwards in promoting the various events to the public.

These were individual interviews with representatives of target groups (library visitors, parents, residents at potential affected sites, opposition). Thanks to these and the workshop with the members of the working group, we had a good basis for reaching the general public through a simple electronic survey accompanied, of course, by a printed version.

The conclusion of this initial part of the project preparation for the new library will be a public meeting planned for 2024, during which we will jointly consider the criteria for selecting the various sites, specifically with regard to the desired functions of the new facility.

V project We are we used the results of project Digital Agora a for full project website www.novaknihovna.cz .was created

Digital Agora (not only) in Český Brod

Guarantor: Vojtěch Černý

Supported by Active Citizens Fund, the town of Český Brod

Number of actively involved citizens: 1051

Number of public administration officials trained: 180

In Český Brod, we worked on public participation in strategic planning for the first time in 2003, when it was creating its strategy until 2024. Thanks to the significant financial support of the ActiveCitizens programme, we were able to test an innovative approach in participatory planning from 2022 onwards in the creation of a new development strategy until 2032.

The project will continue in 2023, starting with the completion of the strategic plan in Český Brod and the evaluation of the process. This will be followed by a conference for local politicians and officials from all over the Czech Republic, at which we will present the whole process and the used participatory tools. And finally, by creating a methodology and especially a web template, Digital Agora, which we will continue to use in our cooperation with municipalities.

The innovation of the strategic planning process was twofold. The first was that the whole process

was available in digital form but also took place physically. The second specificity was that we communicated the strategy to the public primarily through key development projects. In selected examples, the public was able to actively participate in the development of these projects.

The pilot also included a thorough evaluation of our innovative approach. The combination of digital and traditional tools proved to be beneficial. Depending on the topic at hand, it is good to favour one or the other form. At the same time, the evaluation showed that public attention should be focused on 1 main topic at a time and participatory planning should focus on one specific topic at a time.

On the basis of the pilot and its evaluation, we were able to create a universal digital template for public participation in city development planning, which we are presenting on the new website www.digitalniagora.cz together with other tools to facilitate public participation

At the same time, we have translated our experience from the preparation of the strategic plan into a new participatory planning methodology, which presents in particular our new approach for selecting projects that make sense to involve the public in planning important urban investments.

The pilot phase of the project also culminated in a conference on strategic planning and the use of digital tools. The conference was a hybrid event with around 60 participants, including our Icelandic partner Citizens Foundation, which is the creator of its own digital platform for participation, rated as one of the best in the world. At the conference, we shared our experiences with other smaller and medium-sized cities, where we then also went on a series of workshops. Together with 40 other representatives of 8 Czech cities, we were able to audit the participation on the spot and plan our own public participation campaign with regard to the use of digital tools.



Agora TV

Guarantor: Ondřej Ryboň+ Vojtěch Černý

Supported by Active Citizens Fund, Ministry for Regional Development of the
Czech Republic Number of trained public administration representatives: 260+

We have been spreading the idea of public participation in decision-making in municipalities for the second year in the form of real online seminars on various participatory topics. We have chosen an interactive format of interviews and moderated discussions. The seminars are open to a variety of audiences, but we mostly target municipal politicians and officials, or the professional public. All webinars are recorded on our YouTube profile in the AgoraTV playlist.

This year's episodes focused on topics such as:

vol 1. Strategic planning - the example of Mnichovo Hradiště

vol 2. How to involve youth in decision-making in municipalities

vol 3. Digital tool for participation - Your priorities

vol 4. How to create public spaces in cooperation with citizens

Vol 5. How the Digital Agora works - a new platform for citizen engagement in strategic planning vol 6. How to decide on pressing issues through citizen deliberation

5. EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

Agora in schools - developing young people's democratic competences

Guarantor: Monika Durajová

Supported by ESIF - OP Prague - Growth Pole

In 2023, the two-year project Agora in Schools - Development of Democratic Competences of Young People, which was financially supported by the European Social Fund and implemented under the Operational Programme Prague - Growth Pole of the Czech Republic, reached its successful conclusion. The main objective of the project was to develop democratic competences of secondary and primary school pupils aged 12 to 19, which are necessary for the functioning of a democratic society.

In 2023, the project focused on completing the cooperation with the 6 Prague schools involved and finalizing the project activities within the framework of two educational programmes, which were used as a basis for the emerging methodology. Thus, a series of project days and classes were held at the schools, in which students were introduced to the issues of active citizenship and participation, as well as communication and critical thinking, using innovative informal methods.

Thanks to Agora's long-term involvement, the project days and classes have created a coherent set of activities on the themes of active citizenship and participation, communication and critical thinking, which build on each other and which teachers across the country can use as a yearly or half-yearly curriculum, or choose specific activities from it to enrich their teaching. A great added value was the involvement of a variety of schools in Prague, ranging from public and private grammar schools, to a municipal academy, as well as a vocational school and an alternative secondary Scio school. The methodology is thus truly inclusive and reflects the needs of different groups of young people. The developed methodology is freely available on the Agora website.

Last but not least, the project team focused on the dissemination of project outputs among teachers. A series of workshops were held in the participating schools on how to use the methodology and the project team also created a set of tips for teachers and school principals on how to increase the democratic climate in their schools.

About us

Guarantor:

Ondřej Ryboň Supported
by Erasmus+

In 2023, the project "About us with us - planning the future with young people" also ended. This almost two-year project, co-funded by the European Union under the Erasmus+ programme, focused on strengthening young people's civic skills and engagement through a range of informal methods.

In its last part, the project built on previous activities that monitored the needs of young people in the field of active citizenship and interviews with young people who are already active in their communities. The implementation team organised a spring school of active citizenship where selected young people from all over the country tried to plan and prepare a project on their own. At the end of the project, an awareness-raising campaign on Agora's social networks was also carried out, which introduced young people to the types and ways of getting involved in public affairs in a playful and understandable way. The project also produced a final summary report of the research on opportunities and barriers to youth engagement, which is available on Agora's website.

ARTISTS AND ARTISTS: Creative learning for active citizenship

Guarantor: Lída Nepustilová, Tereza Konrádová

Seconded by: Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic from the National Fund for Restoration



A total of 8 artists and 4 high school classes from Děčín, Mladá Boleslav and Sedlčany participated in a pilot civic education project in 2023, in which a class under the patronage of artists transformed a public space around the school.

The artists involved have worked in photography, multimedia, writing, film, sculpture and painting. There were 2 artists in each class, allowing students to experience a wide range of artistic techniques. Each class also had an experienced Agora CE tribal instructor who structured the program appropriately and supplemented it with reflective techniques and activities to improve the classroom climate.

The artists met with the class once a month and had a full morning available. Under their patronage, the classes planned, designed, researched and finally implemented the entire transformation of the chosen public space. All the while, they engaged artistic techniques, interdisciplinary and creative thinking. At the end of the project, they organised a school or public performance of their work in the form of an opening or mini-festival. You can see video medleys from each school and a documentary made by one of the classes as part of the project [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gP8kGBk-QbM). (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gP8kGBk-QbM) At the end of 2023, a follow-up project, Artists and Street People II, began its continuation. It again involved 4 high school classes, the this time from Litoměřice, Mladá Boleslav, Nymburk and Poděbrady. The artistic teams are composed of artists who already have experience from the first year and of "junior" artists who are students or recent graduates of art schools.



Media education through libraries

Guarantor: Kristýna Fantová

Supported by EEA/Norway Funds 2014 - 2021, Home Affairs Programme

Project partners: the Regional Scientific Library in Liberec, the Hradec Králové Study and Research Library



MEDIÁLNÍ VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ DOSPĚLÝCH

The main goal of the project was to increase the media literacy of the target group of adults 65+ and thus strengthen their ability to defend themselves against misinformation and media threats in the public space, which are skills that are necessary for life and active participation in democratic life of society. A guide to navigating the media maze and an e-learning course on Understanding the Media have been developed.

We organized 29 educational workshops for seniors, which were attended by 310 seniors. Over 21,000 people watched a series of four educational videos. We created and distributed educational materials of high professional quality. The materials are available for free download on the agorace.cz website, on the websites of partner libraries, and on the methodological portal for libraries, knihovna.cz. A methodology for educational workshops for the elderly with presentations and worksheets was created. A total of 42 people participated in the workshops for librarians who will continue to act as lecturers.

The project was very successful. The cooperation with the regional libraries in Liberec and Hradec Králové was perfect. Our assumption that they are centres of lifelong non-formal education has been proven. We continue the project from other sources and organize media literacy workshops for seniors in local libraries.



GLOW

Guarantor: Monika Durajová

Supported by Erasmus+

In 2023, the GLOW project - Supporting civic leadership skills of young women in the Czech Republic and Georgia, which is co-funded by the European Union under the Erasmus+ programme, also got into full swing. The year and a half-long project, whose main objective is to promote young people's awareness of gender equality, their active participation in society and public affairs, and to facilitate intercultural cooperation between Czech and Georgian youth, was implemented in parallel in both the Czech Republic and Georgia. The Georgian non-profit organisation GLOW Georgia also cooperates with Agora CE on the project.

In the first year of the project, ten Czech and ten Georgian participants were selected to participate in an introductory workshop in their respective countries. The project also included two exchanges in 2023, with the Georgian group coming to Prague and the Czech group coming to Tbilisi. In both cases, the young participants were treated to a series of interactive workshops, meetings with inspiring women in leadership positions and a cultural programme. In the Czech programme, for example, both the young Czech and Georgian women were given a tour of Prague from the perspective of the history of the Czech women's movement and introduced the Georgian participants to Moravian folk dancing and Czech gastronomy.

At the end of the year, the participants also started working on another part of the project, which is their own community activity. Each of the young Czech and Georgian women involved had to prepare their own local project on any topic. Thus, by the end of the year, a lecture with women in science at Masaryk University or a climate action to promote environmental protection took place.

The project will continue in 2024 and the participants will complete their own community projects, prepare a book with stories of local prominent Czech and Georgian women and a final event where the book will be christened and the participants will share their own experiences with the project.

Global Escape

Guarantor: Daniela Hranaiová, Monika Durajová Supported

by: ČRA

Last year, he also launched a project called The Escape Game - What would happen if countries in the Global North stopped providing development aid to countries in the Global South. The project, supported by the Czech Republic through the Czech Development Agency, lasts for a year and a half and aims to use an innovative escape game to raise awareness of foreign development cooperation and humanitarian aid among secondary school students and to provide educators with an interesting tool and tips on how to incorporate global issues into their teaching.

In 2023, a project team with an external contractor created an escape game that took the form of escape boxes. These consist of a series of interlocking tasks against which the story of an Ethiopian girl unfolds, introducing pupils to the basic concepts of foreign development cooperation, but also to global issues such as humanitarian crises, wars, gender inequality and refugees and migration. A follow-up discussion methodology and teacher materials were also developed for the escape boxes.

In the first year of the project there were also pilot workshops in 4 schools. The project continues in 2024.

2023 BE HEuRO! Come to the polls

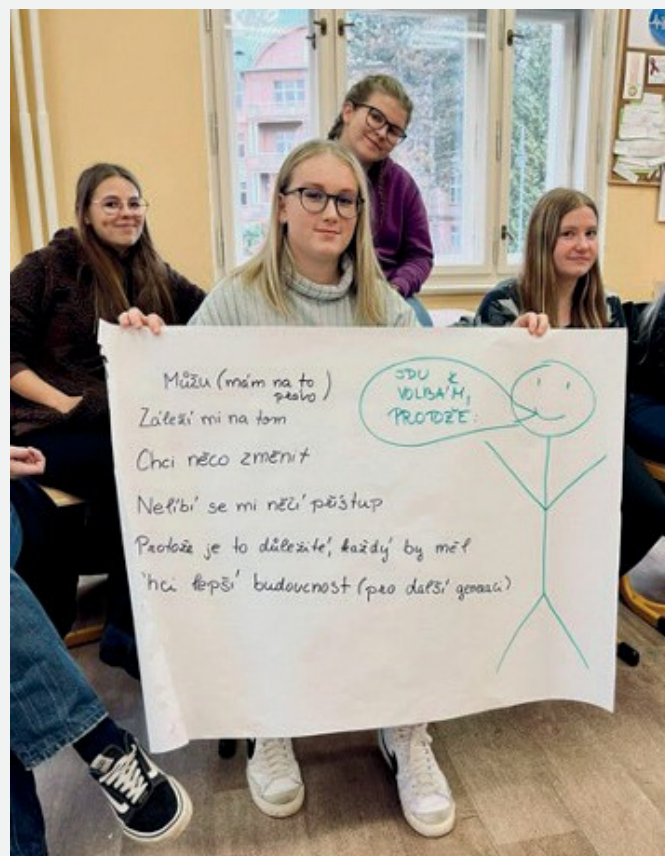
Guarantor: Magda Podsedníková

Supported by Erasmus+

The project aims to motivate students to think and debate about the European Union, its advantages and disadvantages. It aims to motivate them to become active citizens, which includes taking part in the elections. It focuses on non-grammar secondary schools in the Praděd, Elbe and Egrensis Euroregions. It consists of three parts:

Workshops in schools lasting 3 lessons took place from May to pro- since. Students played a dystopian escape game with themes of the break-up of the European Union and debated aspects of membership of the European Union and active citizenship. 11 workshops were held in 2023.

In the year 2024 will be followed by regional meetings as a platform for connecting active participants workshops from among students with representatives of regional and local politics. The project will culminate in a thematic excursion to Brussels. A creative competition will be launched to share experiences and impressions of their own participation in the elections before the European Parliament elections in June 2024. The five authors of the most inspiring entries will be able to go on an excursion to Brussels.



6. FOREIGN PROJECTS

2023: Young Heroes - empowering young men and women at local level in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Guarantor: Magda Podsedníková

Partner: Association of Election Officials Bosnia and Herzegovina (AEOBiH) Supported by:
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

The project responds to the low participation of young people in public life in Bosnia and Herzegovina, their lack of trust in politics and their doubts that they can make a difference. In the field of education, it responds to the insufficient and overly theoretical education and the persistent low contact between decision-makers and the youth in the country.

The project involved 200 students from 10 schools and 40 decision-makers from municipalities and cities. Teachers and students were trained in school-community linkages, civic participation opportunities, project management and campaigning. Groups of students in each village mapped the needs of the community. Based on the mapping, they designed student projects that would not only benefit them and their school, but would benefit other people in the community.

The students not only experienced communication with different groups of residents, but also with representatives of municipalities - people with decision-making power. The project team from both countries will continuously consult in person and online about the project, the implementation of education and mapping of community needs.

Eight adult project participants came to Prague in October for a study trip (4 high school teachers, 2 municipal representatives and 2 project partner staff). The programme consisted of visits and discussions with staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Bosnian Embassy, the high school in Kutná Hora and Prague 6. The situation of education in the Czech Republic and Bosnia and Herzegovina and the participation of citizens, especially young people, in public life were discussed. The project will result in 10 student projects for the benefit of the community. The projects will be documented by means of videos and at the end a campaign will take place both in the 10 municipalities and centrally in Sarajevo. The aim is high publicity and spreading awareness about the possibilities and benefits of youth participation at the local level and changes in formal education. At the local level, local communities will be strengthened and at the national level, democracy and democratic principles and values will be promoted as the project will involve diverse groups of people across ethnic, religious, age and social groups, strengthening the principle of tolerance across society.



Promotion of sustainable forestry in Aragvi MPA (Georgia) 2021 - 2024

Guarantor: Vojtěch Černý

Contracting authority: the Institute for Forest Management

Financing: the CRA

The aim of the project is to implement sustainable management in the forests of the Aragvi protected area that will fully and permanently provide for the needs of the local population towards the forest while maintaining the ecological stability, functional potential and natural development of forest ecosystems, including nature conservation.



Public demonstration of the workshop results charcoal production

The project is being implemented by the Institute for Forest Management as part of a comprehensive programme for the development of this area.

Agora CE's role in the project is to mediate communication with the local population, who were basically confronted with the creation of the protected area as a matter of course. This year, we have implemented an open day in the newly built wood warehouse, which should give the local population access to quality processed wood harvested in a sustainable way, or products made from it.

Professionalization and expansion of activities in the priority countries of the Czech Republic: strengthening Agora's evaluation and fundraising capacities

Guarantor: Kristýna Fantová

The intention of the project was to develop a multi-year strategy for Agora CE's activities in selected priority countries based on a previous external evaluation and thus contribute to a more systematic, targeted and qualitative implementation of foreign development cooperation in line with the strategies of other stakeholders. The project had three objectives: (1) To develop an impact evaluation of Agora CE and partners' activities in Georgia, Moldova and Bosnia; (2) To develop a strategy for Agora CE's activities in the field of foreign development for the next 5 years and to start preparing new projects; (3) The evaluation report, strategy and concepts for new projects were prepared by consultant Hana Bendova. The evaluation report is available on the website, as well as presentations from workshops on commissioning evaluations and fundraising from non-European sources, which were also attended by representatives of other NGOs operating abroad. The lecturer of the workshop on fundraising was Marco Boaria from the European networking organisation ALDA, of which we are also a member.

<https://www.agorace.cz/vzdelavani/mezinarodni-projekty/profesionalizace-a-rozsireni-pusobeni-in-priority-countries-zrs-cr/>

The outputs of the project were shared with other foreign development cooperation actors, especially through the FoRS and DEMAS networks.

More transparent and inclusive budgeting in Moldova

Guarantor: Vojtěch Černý

In the project, we aim to strengthen the creation of transparent budgets in the municipalities of Moldau and to motivate their young and adult citizens to become active in this process. Agora CE, together with its Moldovan partner organisation IDIS, will help young people from three municipalities (Ialoveni, Straseneni and Budești) to become more involved in local budgeting. These three municipalities implemented a participatory budgeting process similar to the one Agora is also implementing in the Czech Republic. The specificity here was the massive involvement of local young people. We prepared workshops for local school students aged 14+. During the training, students learned about the principles of local government. Following this, they discussed and suggested ways to improve the conditions for living here. With the support of trainers and local officials, they then proposed changes that could be implemented within the framework of a participatory budget. 419 local students participated in the youth workshops and submitted 24 project proposals to their municipalities' participatory budgets.



In total, 34 proposals were submitted through our digital platform for participatory budgeting, which were subsequently voted on by 2,543 citizens. Of these, 582 voters were under the age of 18. This approach shows how effective youth involvement in public decision-making on development issues can be using our approach. Individual municipalities are undergoing a detailed evaluation that will inform the development of case studies. These will be used in the next year in disseminating the methods for youth engagement. In addition to citizen engagement, the project also promotes transparency and citizen control over the budget management of these municipalities. Local informal leaders were trained on how to engage in budget processes and actively participated in the control of their municipality's budget. They will share their knowledge with their fellow citizens through awareness campaigns they are preparing for early 2024.

We participate in:

Accelerator in the fight against disinformation

Guarantor: Magda Podsedníková

We are part of the Anti-Disinformation Accelerator project, which is run by the VIA Association together with TechSoup Europe with the support of Google.org. The programme is aimed at increasing the resilience of non-profit organisations to the impact of disinformation. We have attended seminars on countering disinformation and cybersecurity principles. We have developed a development plan that includes the development of a cybersecurity policy, a digital audit, and a site security audit. The plan also includes workshops on communication and positive narratives and the use of digital tools.

We have received a grant of CZK 125,000 from the programme, which will enable us to continue workshops on media literacy for seniors in libraries in 2024. It also includes the technical security of the websites and web applications that Agora operates.

7. PARTNERS AND DONORS



MINISTERSTVO
KULTURY



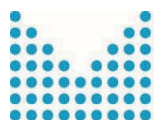
Národní
plán
obnovy



Financováno
Evropskou unií
NextGenerationEU



Norway
grants



MINISTERSTVO VNITRA
ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY



CZECH
AID

TRANSITION
Transition Promotion Program



techsoup
ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA
NEJLEVNĚJŠÍ SOFTWARE
PRO NEZISKOVKY...



Co-funded by
from the European Union's
Erasmus+ programme

8. OUR CLIENTS

Český Brod
Děčín
Hostivice
Hradištko
Hustopeče u Brna Cheb
Cologne
Flights near
Prague Lovosice
Melník
Municipal district of Prague -
Troja Municipal district of Prague
- Zbraslav

Municipal district of Prague 4
Municipal district of Prague Libuš
Milotice
Mníšek pod Brdy Odry
Ova South
Planá u Mariánských lázně Slaný
Tisá
Vyšší Brod

Ministry of the Environment

9. FINANCIAL REPORT

No remuneration was paid to the members of the Management Board or the Supervisory Board.

Contact: Agora CE, Petra Rezka 12/12, 140 00, Prague 4
Email: info@agorace.cz
Web: www.agorace.cz
www.participativni-rozpocet.cz
www.digitalniagora.cz

BALANCE SHEET
in full extent

as of 2023-12-31
(in whole thousands CZK)

Commercial name and registre
and legal form of the accounting

AGORA CE OPS
Petra Rezka 12
Praha 4
140 00

Accounting unit shall deliver:
to the relevant tax office (1x)

identification number
27885348

Specification	ASSETS	row no.	Status of the first day of the accounting	Status of the last day of the accounting
a	b	c	1	2
B.	Short-term assets - totalTotal B.I. to B.IV.	41	3 167	3 457
B. I.	Inventories - totalTotal B.I.1. to B.I.9.	51	20	54
B. I. 9.	Poskytnuté zálohy na zásoby(314)	50	20	54
B. II.	Receivables - totalTotal B.II.1. to B.II.19.	71	175	1 501
B. II. 1.	Customer(311)	52	55	41
B. II. 5.	Other receivables,(315)	56		6
B. II. 9.	Other direct taxes,(342)	60	8	6
B. II. 18.	Accrued assets,(388)	69	112	1 448
B. III.	Short-term financial assets - totalTotal B.III.1. to B.III.7.	80	2 970	1 899
B. III. 1.	Cash in hand,(211)	72	129	178
B. III. 3.	Cash at bank,(221)	74	2 841	1 721
B. IV.	Other assets - totalTotal B.IV.1. to B.IV.2.	84	2	3
B. IV. 1.	Prepaid expenses,(381)	81	2	3
	Total assetsTotal A. to B.	85	3 167	3 457

specification	LIABILITIES	row no.	Status of the first day of	Status of the last day of	
a	b	c	3	4	
A.	Own resources - total	Total A.I. to A.II.	86	624	374
A. II.	Economic result - total	Total A.II.1 to A.II.3.	94	624	374
A. II. 1.	Profit and loss account	(963)	91	x	-250
A. II. 2.	Profit or loss in approval process,	(931)	92	86	x
A. II. 3.	Retained earnings, accumulated losses from previous years	(932)	93	538	624
B.	External resources - total	Total B.I. to B.IV.	95	2 543	3 083
B. II.	Long-term payables - total	Total B.II.1. to B.II.7.	105		45
B. II. 6.	Accrued liabilities,	(389)	103		45
B. III.	Short-term payables - total	Total B.III.1. to B.III.23.	129	197	268
B. III. 1.	Suppliers	(321)	106	52	5
B. III. 4.	Other liabilities,	(325)	109		-3
B. III. 10.	Value added tax,	(343)	115	140	68
B. III. 11.	Other taxes and fees,	(345)	116	5	5
B. III. 12.	Payables to the national budget	(346)	117		193
B. IV.	Other liabilities - total	Total B.IV.1. to B.IV.2.	133	2 346	2 770
B. IV. 2.	Deferred revenues,	(384)	131	2 346	2 770
	Liabilities - total	Total A. to B.	134	3 167	3 457

Compiled as of: 30.04.2025		Specimen signature of statutory body of accounting unit or specimen signature of natural person who is an accounting unit	
Legal form of the accounting entity	Scope of business podpora demokracie	Note:	

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT
in full extent

as of 2023-12-31
(in whole thousands CZK)

Commercial name and registre
of the accounting entity

AGORA CE OPS
Petra Rezka 12
Praha 4
140 00

Accounting unit shall deliver:
to the relevant tax office (1x)

Identification number
27885348

Specification	TEXT	row no.	Activities		
			Main	Economic	Total
			5	6	7
A. I.	Consumed purchases and services purchased Total A.I.1. to A.I.6.	2	8 333		8 333
A. I. 1.	Consumption of material, energy and other non-stocked supplies	3	324		324
A. I. 3.	Repairs and maintenance,	5	1		1
A. I. 4.	Travel costs	6	465		465
A. I. 5.	Representation expenses,	7	13		13
A. I. 6.	Other services,	8	7 530		7 530
A. III.	Personal costs Total A.III.10. to A.III.14.	13	5 972		5 972
A. III. 10.	Wage costs,	14	4 688		4 688
A. III. 11.	Statutory social insurance,	15	1 284		1 284
A. V.	Other costs Total A.V.16. to A.V.22.	21	74		74
A. V. 19.	Exchange rate losses	25	35		35
A. V. 22.	Other different costs	28	39		39
	Expenses - total Total A.I. to A.VIII.	39	14 379		14 379
B. I.	Operating subsidies Value B.I.1.	41	13 275		13 275
B. I. 1.	Operating subsidies	42	13 275		13 275
B. II.	Received contributions Total B.II.2. to B.II.4.	43	165		165
B. II. 3.	Received contributions (gifts)	45	165		165
B. III.	Revenues from own performance and goods	47	612		612
B. IV.	Other revenues Total B.IV.5. to B.IV.10.	48	77		77
B. IV. 8.	Exchange rate gains	52	45		45
B. IV. 10.	Other different revenues	54	32		32
	Revenues - total Total B.I. to B.V.	61	14 129		14 129
C.	Profit before tax r. 61 - (r. 39 - r.37)	62	-250		-250
D.	Profit after tax r. 62 - r. 37	63	-250		-250

Compiled as of: 2025-04-30		Specimen signature of statutory body of accounting unit or specimen signature of natural person who is an accounting unit
Legal form of the accounting entity	Scope of business podpora demokracie	Note:

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

of audit Financial Statements

as of December 31, 2023

of the company

Agora CE o.p.s.

Identification data:

Business firm: Agora CE o.p.s.

Seat: Praha 4, Petra Rezka 12

Register. No: 278 85 348

Responsible auditor: Pavlína Turková Koutníková
Certificate of the Chamber of Auditors of the Czech
Republic No. 2386

Verified period: calendar year 2023
(12 month)

Date of preparation report: April 30th, 2025

Sort of auditor's report: without reserves

Appendix:

- Annual Report of the Company Agora CE o.p.s. for the year ended December 31, 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

on the Financial Statements

To the Partner of Agora CE o.p.s.

Having its registered office at: Praha 4, Petra Rezka 12
Identification number: 278 85 348

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Agora CE o.p.s., which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2023, and the profit and loss account.

Statutory Body's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Statutory Body of Agora CE o.p.s. is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting regulations applicable in the Czech Republic, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with the Act on Auditors and International Standards on Auditing and the related application guidelines issued by the Chamber of Auditors of the Czech Republic. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

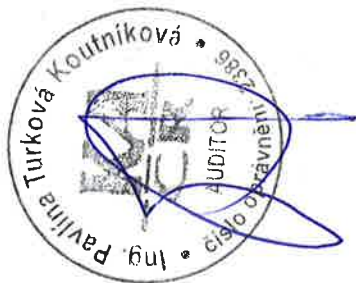
In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Agora CE o.p.s. as at 31 December 2023.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Statutory Body is responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of opinion thereon. However, in connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether the other information is not materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, the annual report has been prepared in accordance with the applicable legal requirements, or the other information does not otherwise appear to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that the above is not true, we are required to report such facts.

Based on the work we have performed, we have nothing to report in this regard.



In Prague on April 30th 2025

Statutory auditor:

Pavlína Turková Koutníková
certificate no. 2386

BALANCE SHEET **in full extent**

as of 2023-12-31
(in whole thousands CZK)

Commercial name and registre
and legal form of the accounting

AGORA CE OPS
Petra Rezka 12
Praha 4
140 00


Accounting unit shall deliver:
to the relevant tax office (1x)

identification number

27885348

specification	ASSETS		row no.	Status of the first day of the accounting	Status of the last day of the accounting
a	b		c	1	2
B.	Short-term assets - total	Total B.I. to B.IV.	41	3 167	3 457
B. I.	Inventories - total	Total B.I.1. to B.I.9.	51	20	54
B. I. 9.	Poskytnuté zálohy na zásoby	(314)	50	20	54
B. II.	Receivables - total	Total B.II.1. to B.II.19.	71	175	1 501
B. II. 1.	Customer	(311)	52	55	41
B. II. 5.	Other receivables,	(315)	56		6
B. II. 9.	Other direct taxes,	(342)	60	8	6
B. II. 18.	Accrued assets,	(388)	69	112	1 448
B. III.	Short-term financial assets - total	Total B.III.1. to B.III.7.	80	2 970	1 899
B. III. 1.	Cash in hand,	(211)	72	129	178
B. III. 3.	Cash at bank,	(221)	74	2 841	1 721
B. IV.	Other assets - total	Total B.IV.1. to B.IV.2.	84	2	3
B. IV. 1.	Prepaid expenses,	(381)	81	2	3
	Total assets	Total A. to B.	85	3 167	3 457

specification	LIABILITIES		row no.	Status of the first day of	Status of the last day of
a	b		c	3	4
A.	Own resources - total	Total A.I. to A.II.	86	624	374
A. II.	Economic result - total	Total A.II.1 to A.II.3.	94	624	374
A. II. 1.	Profit and loss account	(963)	91	x	-250
A. II. 2.	Profit or loss in approval process,	(931)	92	86	x
A. II. 3.	Retained earnings, accumulated losses from previous years	(932)	93	538	624
B.	External resources - total	Total B.I. to B.IV.	95	2 543	3 083
B. II.	Long-term payables - total	Total B.II.1. to B.II.7.	105		45
B. II. 6.	Accrued liabilities,	(389)	103		45
B. III.	Short-term payables - total	Total B.III.1. to B.III.23.	129	197	268
B. III. 1.	Suppliers	(321)	106	52	5
B. III. 4.	Other liabilities,	(325)	109		-3
B. III. 10.	Value added tax,	(343)	115	140	68
B. III. 11.	Other taxes and fees,	(345)	116	5	5
B. III. 12.	Payables to the national budget	(346)	117		193
B. IV.	Other liabilities - total	Total B.IV.1. to B.IV.2.	133	2 346	2 770
B. IV. 2.	Deferred revenues,	(384)	131	2 346	2 770
	Liabilities - total	Total A. to B.	134	3 167	3 457

Compiled as of: 30.04.2025 		Specimen signature of statutory body of accounting unit or specimen signature of natural person who is an accounting unit	
Legal form of the accounting entity	Scope of business podpora demokracie		Note:

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT in full extent

as of 2023-12-31
(in whole thousands CZK)

Commercial name and registre
of the accounting entity

AGORA CE OPS
Petra Rezka 12
Praha 4
140 00

Accounting unit shall deliver:
to the relevant tax office (1x)

identification number

27885348

Specification	TEXT	row no.	Activities		
			Main	Economic	Total
			5	6	7
A. I.	Consumed purchases and services purchased Total A.I.1. to A.I.6.	2	8 333		8 333
A. I. 1.	Consumption of material, energy and other non-stocked supplies	3	324		324
A. I. 3.	Repairs and maintenance,	5	1		1
A. I. 4.	Travel costs	6	465		465
A. I. 5.	Representation expenses,	7	13		13
A. I. 6.	Other services,	8	7 530		7 530
A. III.	Personal costs Total A.III.10. to A.III.14.	13	5 972		5 972
A. III. 10.	Wage costs,	14	4 688		4 688
A. III. 11.	Statutory social insurance,	15	1 284		1 284
A. V.	Other costs Total A.V.16. to A.V.22.	21	74		74
A. V. 19.	Exchange rate losses	25	35		35
A. V. 22.	Other different costs	28	39		39
	Expenses - total Total A.I. to A.VIII.	39	14 379		14 379
B. I.	Operating subsidies Value B.I.1.	41	13 275		13 275
B. I. 1.	Operating subsidies	42	13 275		13 275
B. II.	Received contributions Total B.II.2. to B.II.4.	43	165		165
B. II. 3.	Received contributions (gifts)	45	165		165
B. III.	Revenues from own performance and goods	47	612		612
B. IV.	Other revenues Total B.IV.5. to B.IV.10.	48	77		77
B. IV. 8.	Exchange rate gains	52	45		45
B. IV. 10.	Other different revenues	54	32		32
	Revenues - total Total B.I. to B.V.	61	14 129		14 129
C.	Profit before tax r. 61 - (r. 39 - r.37)	62	-250		-250
D.	Profit after tax r. 62 - r. 37	63	-250		-250

Compiled as of: 2025-04-30	Specimen signature of statutory body of accounting unit or specimen signature of natural person who is an accounting unit	
Legal form of the accounting entity	Scope of business podpora demokracie	Note:

