

2024

ANNUAL REPORT



Agora CE o.p.s.

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About us

Mission

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 a better political culture and improve communication between citizens and town halls.
- Expanding the ability of town halls to plan openly and make decisions with citizen participation.
- To awaken citizens' interest in municipal problems and their solutions.
- Promote the development of critical thinking and civic engagement, especially among young people.
- Raise awareness of global and social issues.
- Motivate young people to actively participate in public life and democratic processes.
- Develop creative and innovative forms of education linking theory with practice.
- Promote inclusive education across different types of schools and regions.
- Strengthen collaboration between schools, non-profit organizations and local stakeholders.
- Share methods and experiences with other organizations in the Czech Republic and abroad.

Statutory bodies and the organisation's team

Founders of

RNDr. Ivana Bursíková
PhDr. Ing Pavel Mička

Director/Statutory Authority

Mgr. Lenka Jůnová

Board of Directors

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

Supervisory Board

JUDr. Helena Chudomelová
Ing. Věra Slezáková
Tereza Štysová

In 2024, the activities involved:

Lenka Jůnová, Director
Vojtěch Černý, Deputy Director, consultant in the field of public participation in decision-making, participatory budgeting, management of participatory processes, lecturer, moderator and facilitator
Kristýna Fantová, Manager of Educational Projects, Organization Development
Monika Durajová, manager of educational projects until 31 August 2024
Magda Podsedníková, manager of educational projects and participation, facilitator
Tereza Konrádová, coordinator, lecturer and facilitator
Martina Orliczková, financial assistant, web editor and social media manager
Matěj Damián, lecturer
Tomáš Gardelka, UX web designer
Anna Girodová, lecturer
Markéta Hlaváčková, lecturer
Jan Jebavý, network administration and IT support
Daniel Justiz, lecturer
Barbora Krausová, lecturer
Jiří Axman, sociologist, researcher, moderator
Sára Buryšová, web and social media editor, lecturer until September 2024
Tijana Milosavljević-Čajetinac, lecturer
Cyril Vacek, lecturer
Hana Zobalová, lecturer
Natálie Roubalová, camerawoman and photographer
Jan Sturm, web administration

Lecturers - artists of the project Artists and Street

People: creative learning to active citizenship:

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,
artist.

We have used the services of the following companies:

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

They also collaborated externally:

Natallia Allen, Katerina Bezděkovská,
Martina Čechotková, Jakub Hájíček, Michal Kandler, Ondřej
Kohout, Pavel Linzer, Terezie Lokšová,
Petr Lukeš, Pavel Namyslo, Jiří Pánek, Aleš Pištora, Lucie
Radačovská, Ondřej Ryboň - moderator, Daniela
Trávníčková - graphic designer, Magdalena Wolfová -
sociologist, Hana Zobalová, Robert Žamboch - graphic
designer

A word from a member of the Management Board

Year 2024 was a successful one for our organisation. We were successful in promoting our goals in domestic and inter- national projects. We worked intensively with both main target groups - public administration and young people. Thousands of citizens participated in our seminars, workshops, meetings and various forms of participation.

It would seem that democracy and democratic values are taking deeper roots in the societies and communities where we operate. Municipalities are willing to engage in dialogue with citizens and there are many people in public administration who believe that the participatory approach is not just a question of inclusion but a rational form of democracy - as Robert Dahl wrote decades ago. Young people have the opportunity to have a say in what concerns them, to discuss their needs, to take an interest in what is happening beyond their community and to learn about other perspectives. All of this is good news from the places where we operate.

On the other hand, democracy is coming under increasing pressure. Unfortunately, it often only takes the efforts of a handful of people for the concept of polyarchic democracy to take a serious hit. Ordinary human decency is slowly being eroded - whether through manipulation, the flood of false and misleading information, or the fact that debate is increasingly being replaced by a sharp clash of opinions without a willingness to listen to the other side. In a kind of manic effort to "beat" the opponent with arguments and to get everything for oneself and one's group, the essence of democratic culture - discussion and respect for the other - is disappearing.

Unfortunately, we are also seeing this trend in the places where we operate. In Georgia, our activities can be blocked by individuals who, without critical thinking, believe the misinformation that foreign development aid is behind their problems. Even at home, we do not shy away from this erosion of trust and decency. Paradoxically, society and its institutions become more fragile in an environment without trust. The participatory process is open to anyone, but its inclusiveness can be abused - for example, by populists or manipulators pursuing short-term goals.

That is why our mission is not over after 26 years.

Vojtech Cerny
Member of the Management Board

Citizen involvement in decision-making

Streamlining the use of digital tools for effective communication with citizens

Guarantor: Vojtěch Černý

Supported by: the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic, individual municipalities

The aim of the project - to improve the quality of participation and increase the involvement of citizens in smaller and medium-sized municipalities in the Czech Republic - was achieved through a series of trainings and workshops followed by practical use of digital tools in various types of participatory projects.

In 2024, we conducted 10 comprehensive participation audit workshops that resulted in concrete citizen engagement plans for projects in different municipalities. In parallel, digital tools were deployed - e.g. participatory budgets in 12 towns or support for strategic planning in Krupka. In the form of workshops, we also helped to define the parameters of suitable online solutions in 7 other cities. There was a successful conference on cultural planning and two expert webinars that contributed to the dissemination of good practice. We reached more than 1800 municipal representatives with four waves of information campaigns. The activities also included five workshops in schools, where students were actively involved in developing proposals in the framework of participatory budgets.



The conference from "From the Drawer to the Streets: Cultural Strategies that Change Community Life" provided a unique opportunity to connect experts, municipal representatives and others interested in cultural planning

Photo: Natálie Roubalová

Participatory budgeting

Guarantor: Vojtěch Černý

Supported by: the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic, individual municipalities

Number of actively involved citizens: hundreds to thousands

Over the last 10 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 and citizens.

An interesting trend is that although the participation of citizens takes place directly in the final vote, the collection of ideas and proposals takes place, for example, in city commissions and settlement committees. This allows cities to prepare more complex projects with much needed certainty of future costs. Let's see where this trend takes us.

In 2024, we built on previous cooperation in 8 municipalities. Specifically, in České Brod, Děčín, Hostivice, Hustopeče, Milotice, Mníšek pod Brdy, Prague-Troja, Kolín, Plané, Bruntál and Cheb. Thanks to the support of the Ministry of Regional Development, we were able to operate a low-cost (from the point of view of municipalities) website for participatory budgeting. We have recently introduced participatory budgeting in Kaplice. In other municipalities we acted as consultants on partial issues of participatory budgeting.

Revitalisation of J. A. Alis Square in Příbram

Guarantor: Vojtěch Černý

Contracting authority: the City of Příbram

Number of actively involved citizens: 80+

The town of Příbram is revitalizing the historical square in its local part of Březové Hory. Already in 2021, we helped to prepare the specifications for the architectural competition for the design of the square. In 2022, the winning design was presented, and since then, it has been the subject of intense public debate. In 2024, we helped moderate it. It turns out that the architectural competition itself, or its outcome, is really just one milestone on the difficult path to a commonly respected solution. Only in this way can the beauty and effectiveness of the design be brought together, despite the differing opinions of architects, traffic engineers, visitors and residents in the near and distant surroundings. In the project we also used our universal web platform for AD HOC participatory projects <https://pribram.digitalniagora.cz/>.

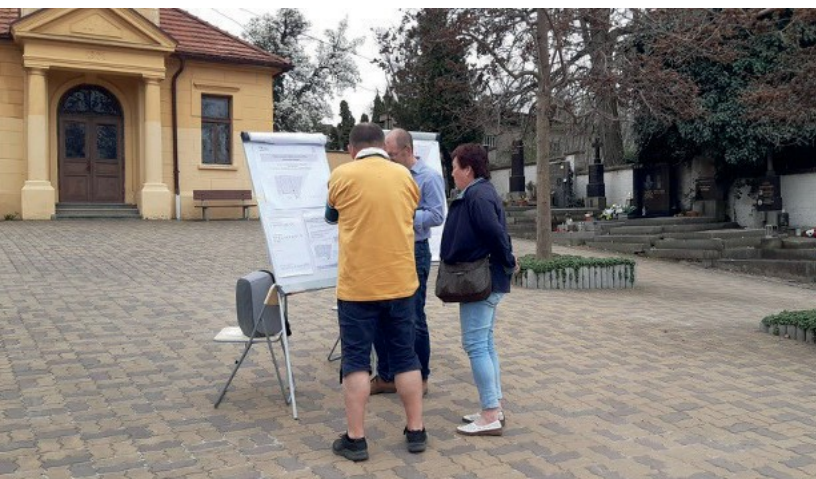
Revitalisation of Na Hanspaulce Street in Prague 6

Guarantor: Magda Podsedníková

Contracting authority: the Municipal District of Prague 6

Number of actively involved citizens: 42+

The street on Hanspulka is an important axis in the central part of Hanspulka. Its urban value is combined with its value to the local community, both through the location of the primary school and the wide green belt which is much used by the local community. For Prague 6, we prepared and implemented a public meeting on the draft study of the revitalisation of Na Hanspaulce Street. The public meeting was preceded by an information campaign in the local press, on the Prague 6 information channels and a presentation of the study on outdoor panels. The public meeting was held in the form of a facilitated group discussion. It was attended by 43 citizens and representatives of Prague 6 and the architectural studio.



Revitalisation of the Vršovice Cemetery in Prague 10

"Let's make the Vršovice cemetery a more pleasant place together"

Guarantor: Magda Podsedníková

Contracting authority: cemeteries and funeral services of the capital city of Prague

Number of actively involved citizens: 156

Vršovice Cemetery is located in Prague 10 in the area below Bohdalec. It is located between two busy streets U Vršovický hřbitova and Moskevská. Based on the demand

organization Cemeteries and funeral services of the capital city Prague, we implemented public participation in the preparation of the cemetery revitalization. Residents of the surrounding neighbourhood and users of the cemetery were able to express their opinions through a web and printed survey. During the Easter period, when the cemetery is heavily visited, we organised information stands where visitors could comment on the proposed changes. For more information visit <https://vrsovickyhrbitov.digitalniagora.cz/>.

Zoning study Vysočany

Guarantor: Vojtěch Černý

Contracting authority: the City of Prague

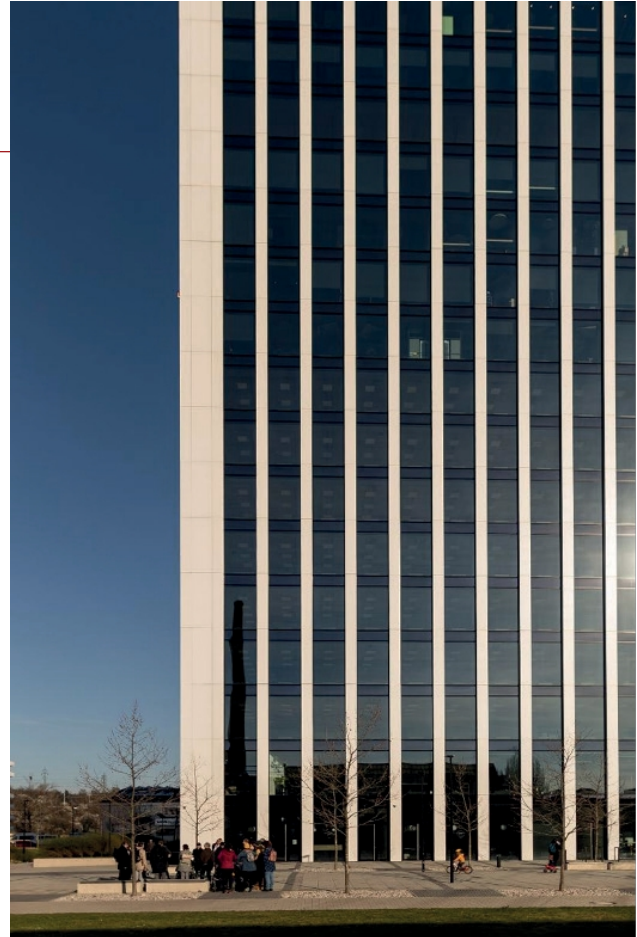
Number of actively involved citizens: hundreds more

A large part of the area is a former industrial area that is gradually being transformed into a residential area. In the environment of industrial and warehousing halls and unused brownfields, new housing and office buildings have been and are being built, often without communication. The Department of Spatial Development of the Capital City Municipality of Prague. The aim of the study is to design the future shape of the area - that is, to complete the area with a multifunctional urban structure, establish logical transport links, pedestrian connections and define public spaces.

Our aim was to involve local citizens in the whole process of the study. In the first phase, our main aim was to support the study developer in the preparation of the design part of the study. We conducted in-depth interviews with local community leaders, followed by a meet and greet and walk-through with the architects, and then a questionnaire survey. A total of 327 participants were involved in this phase.

The second phase was to present a working version of the draft study to the local community and solicit comments on it. This was done primarily through meetings with architects, planning stalls and online feedback collection. We met in person with over 700 residents and collected 195 submissions on the study. The video of the study presentation was viewed by approximately 1,500 viewers on YT.

Read more at <https://vysocany.praha.eu>



A group of citizens (bottom left) on a guided walk looking for a new and more appropriate scale for the further development of Vysočany

Česká Lípa - involvement of citizens in the preparation of the development strategy of the municipality of Česká Lípa

Guarantor: Vojtěch Černý

Client: Česká lípa

Number of actively involved citizens: 400+

The town of Česká Lípa was preparing its new strategy. It also invited the public to participate in the discussion on its form. We helped the town to prepare a simple procedure that would be good to follow with regard to the expected form of the document. The focus of our work became a large public meeting where dozens of citizens gathered over the main topics of interest in the municipality. This was then followed by a fairly extensive survey for each area of the strategy.

The results clearly confirmed fairly clear trends visible in other cities. The themes for citizens are mainly quality public spaces, transport infrastructure and here specifically also housing. In all aspects, the growing individualisation in society is evident.



Announcement of the Křivoklát

NP Guarantor: Vojtěch Černý

Contracting authority: the Central Bohemian Region

The Central Bohemian Region, as one of the key players in the process of declaring the Křivoklát NP, offered the municipalities concerned the opportunity to cooperate in the preparation of a joint development fund. The fund should enable the municipalities to harmonise their development with regard to the intention to declare a new form of nature and landscape protection in their territory. In this complex process, we helped to set up the most suitable format for a joint meeting of all mayors of the municipalities concerned with the regional council. As it turned out, the expected risks came true and most of the elected representatives of the municipalities were not interested in this discussion and largely stuck to the declaration to avoid the park at all costs. Only a few municipalities were willing to negotiate a compromise solution.

Agora TV

Guarantor: Magda Podsedníková+ Vojtěch Černý

Seconded by: Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic

Number of public administration officials trained: 42

Agora TV is slowly becoming a traditional tool to spread the idea of participation and to support those who are trying to engage the public, especially municipal politicians and officials. These are free online webinars in which several guests discuss a topic in the field of participation, offering several different perspectives and experiences. The webinars can also be watched from a recording on our YouTube profile in the AgoraTV playlist.

This time, based on a survey among the participants, we focused on two topics:

- 24.10.2024: NIMBY effect, i.e. "not in my back yard". The guests were Lucie Radačovská, coordinator of participation at the Jihlava City Hall, Kateřina Bezděkovská, architect from the Department of the City Architect of the Jihlava City Hall and Terezie Lokšová, urban sociologist from the Institute of Sociology of the CAS.
- 12/12/2024: Why engaging minority populations is beneficial and how to do it. Guests were Pavla Jenková, coordinator of the Broumov 2028+ project, Natallia Allen, co-founder and board member of MigAct and Michal Kandler, expert on community work and participation from the Agency for Social Inclusion.

Educational projects

In 2024, Agora focused on implementing educational projects that support the development of civic engagement, critical thinking and global awareness among young people. Through diverse activities such as workshops, simulation and escape games, discussions and creative art projects, we sought to strengthen active citizenship and understanding

complex social and global issues. The projects were implemented in collaboration with schools, professionals and local communities and aimed to promote dialogue, reflection and engagement of young people in public life. In total, about 1,200 people, mostly high school students, participated in our educational activities in 2024.

2023 BE HEuRO!

Guarantor: Magda Podsedníková

Supported by Erasmus+

Number of participating students: 431

The project motivated students to think and debate about the European Union, its advantages and disadvantages and active citizenship, which includes participation in elections. It focused on non-grammar secondary schools in the Praděd, Elbe and Egrensis Euroregions. We implemented the following activities:

Workshops in schools of 3 teaching hours. Students played a dystopian escape game on the theme of the break-up of the European Union and debated aspects of EU membership and active citizenship. 7 workshops were held in 2024.

The workshops were followed by Regional Meetings as a platform for connecting active participants of workshops from among students with representatives of regional and local politics. The students debated with them about what it means to be an active citizen, what issues they are passionate about and how to deal with them. They also tried out a world café debate activity, where they worked in groups to reflect on topics such as the ideal school, the ideal city, the climate and how politicians should communicate with young people.



Simulation game: we are one unit

Guarantor: Magda Podsedníková

Supported by the Czech Development

Agency Number of participating students: 41

The project aims to raise awareness of global issues and development cooperation among young people, teachers and the wider public. It uses a simulation game, discussions and talks with experts in development education. The aim is not only to contribute to the understanding of the global interconnectedness of the world and global issues, but also to motivate young people to take action and increase their engagement in the public space.

In 2024, in collaboration with a gaming expert, we developed the role-play game "Made in Cambodia", which allows players to take on different roles and actively participate in deciding the future of Cambodia and the world. In the game, learners become businesswomen, activists, farmers or greenfluencers and discuss and vote on the future direction of Cambodia. They have to decide between developing the textile industry, logging or supporting



fair farming. In addition to the game itself, we created a manual for follow-up discussions on global development topics.

Three test workshops were held in December, with 12 more planned for 2024.

ARTISTS AND STUDENTS II: Creative Learning for Active Citizenship

Guarantor: Tereza Konrádová

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

Number of participating students: 100

In 2024, we continued to develop creative learning through the follow-up project Artists and Utilitarians II. Again, 8 artists and 4 high school classes were involved, this time from Litoměřice, Mladá Boleslav, Nymburk and Poděbrady.

The artistic teams were composed of artists who had already had experience in their first year and "junior" artists who are students or recent graduates of art schools.



A class from Litoměřice High School at their work: a giant Wall-e robot near an industrial estate.

The artists involved have worked in photography, multimedia, film, sculpture, audio-design and original acting. Each classroom had 2 artists, allowing students to experience a variety of artistic techniques. Like last year, each class also had an experienced Agora CE tribal lecturer who structured the program appropriately and added reflective techniques and activities to improve the class climate.

The artists met with the class once a month and had a full morning available. Each pair met with their class a total of six times. Under their tutelage, the classes planned, designed, researched, and ultimately implemented the entire transformation of their 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. A class in Litoměřice built a robot Wall-e out of pallets to draw attention to pollution from a nearby industrial plant. In Mladá Boleslav, the project created a neighbourhood seating area between blocks of flats -

a bench, a flower bed and a mosaic decorated "bar" made of a concrete cellar vent. Students in Nymburk created a seating area from pallets on what was originally a neglected and overgrown hill. The creations in the form of texts or drawings, which were made during creative, often intuitive activities, were exhibited in the local library. In Poděbrady, the students set about creating a giant wind chime in the park and ended the project with a guided augmented reality walk.

Escape Game: what would happen if countries of the Global North stopped providing development aid to countries of the Global South?

Guarantor: Daniela Hranaiová, Monika Durajová

Supported by: the Czech Development Agency

Number of participating students: 979

In 2024, the global education project entered its main implementation phase through the escape game "2084 - what would happen if countries stopped cooperating with each other". We toured 10 schools with the game and conducted a total of 17 workshops with follow-up discussions that reinforced the knowledge gained during the game and deepened the learners' awareness of the global interconnectedness of the world. Some of the classes also had an online discussion with their peers from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia, for a total of 10 discussions.



As part of the project, we also organised discussions with experts in development cooperation in schools: Vlasta Hynková, a nurse who has worked for over 10 years with Doctors Without Borders, came to Karlovy Vary to visit the medical school. Kateřina Velíšková, Regional Manager for the Middle East at Charity Czech Republic, came to Prague's Gymnasium Na Vítězné pláni to debate. At another Prague school, the Fostra Gymnasium, Monika Durajová, the project coordinator and foreign journalist, discussed with the students. In Blovice, two debates were held at the local gymnasium. In one of them, Tomáš Kocian, the regional director for the Middle East of People in Need, debated with the students. The guest of the second discussion was Daniela Hranaiová, former project coordinator and also former project and financial manager of People in Need with one year experience in Congo. We also presented the escape game to the teachers at the first ever Development Day organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Foreign projects

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 under the Transition Programme

Number of participating students: 240

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 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 municipality mapped the needs of the community. Based on the mapping, they designed student projects that will not only benefit them and their school, but will benefit other people in the community.

The students not only tried to communicate 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 course of the project, the implementation of education and mapping the needs of the community.

The students, in cooperation with their teachers, implemented 10 small community projects. A presentation ceremony was held in all municipalities. All of them were subsequently presented at the final event of the project on 26 September 2024 in Sarajevo, which was also attended by the Ambassador of the Czech Republic in Sarajevo, Mrs. Jana

K. Lolić Šindelková.

The project has connected young people with the local community and municipal representatives, strengthening democratic principles and awareness.



EmpowerHer: Supporting local women politicians in Moldova

Guarantor: Kristýna Fantová

Partner: IDIS Viitorul

Seconded by: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic under the Transition Programme

Number of participants: 63+

The project aimed to strengthen the role of women in Moldovan politics by developing their leadership skills and increasing their visibility, thereby contributing to the promotion of democracy, gender equality and sustainable development at the local level. It focused on supporting newly elected women mayors, councillors and officials.

Key achievements include the EmpowerHer Leadership Academy, which held five workshops on topics such as political marketing, gender-based violence, communication strategies and public administration reform. These workshops were attended by 63 unique women participants who gained practical skills and valuable insights from experienced trainers. In addition, a study tour to the Czech Republic was organized where eight women from Moldova gained knowledge on best practices in good governance and citizen participation at the local level. Both the workshops, the study tour and the final conference were an exceptional opportunity for

mutual sharing of experiences and problem solving among participants.

In addition, the project launched experte.viitorul.org, a comprehensive database that highlights the expertise of Moldovan women in politics, public administration and civil society. By linking women experts with local and national stakeholders, the project is helping to advance gender equality and strengthen women's leadership in governance structures across Moldova. Indeed, the project has been highly appreciated by the participants and the project partners plan to continue working with this group of active women politicians.



EUth: Strengthening youth and democracy in Europe

Guarantor: Kristýna Fantová

Partners:

Association for the Development of Voluntary Work Novo Mesto, Slovenia

Association Euni Partners, Bulgaria

Consiglio Italiano del Movimento Europeo, Italy

Evropaiki Koinonia Politiki Ekfrasi Thesmoi (European Expression) Greece

Supported by Erasmus+

Number of participating students: 100+

The EUth project is a major European collaboration, involving five NGOs from different EU countries working with young people and supporting them to become active citizens. In addition to creating a common platform for these organisations, the project aims to develop young people's active citizenship and democratic values through a series of workshops in each of the participating countries.

Three coordinators' workshops were held to share knowledge, capacity building and innovation among the consortium partners. An initial meeting was held in Slovenia, followed by workshops and sharing of best practices in the Czech Republic and Greece. One international youth exchange took place in Prague. Twenty-one young people from five countries participated in the two-day training programme. The project includes the creation of an e-toolkit which is a methodological manual for youth workers. It will contain activities and good practice from all partners and will be shared with other youth work organisations in each of the five partner countries.

In 2024, a unified structure of contributions from all project partners has been established. Research on existing similar tools was carried out, and partners agreed on a process for the development of the e-toolkit. Completion is planned for August 2025.



The project will also include 25 in-country workshops. The workshops are aimed at strengthening young people's participation in democracy and addressing local and global issues. Five have been held so far. Two pilot workshops were held in Greece in June 2024, two in Bulgaria in October 2024 and one in Slovenia in October 2024. The project continues in 2025.

GLOW

Guarantor: Monika Durajová **Supported by** Erasmus+ **Number of participants:** 20+

The GLOW project - Supporting civic leadership skills of young women in the Czech Republic and Georgia, co-financed by the European Union under the Erasmus+ programme, continued in 2024. This year and a half long project, which aimed to promote young people's awareness of gender equality, their active participation in society and public affairs, as well as to facilitate intercultural cooperation between Czech and Georgian youth, was implemented in parallel in both the Czech Republic and Georgia. The Georgian non-profit organization GLOW Georgia cooperated with Agora CE on the project. 20 young women from Georgia and the Czech Republic actively participated in the project. Overall, the project had an impact on at least 200 other people who participated in the project activities.

In 2024, the participants completed their own community projects, which included debates on feminist issues, as well as sharing experiences of community or charity work. Participants also conducted interviews

A collection of these interviews in Czech and English is available on our website. <https://www.agorace.cz/participace/glow-podpora-zen-v-gruzii/> and is really worth reading.



Screening at the local school in Kithokhi Homestead. As one of the locals remarked "it's good that the Czechs are helping to protect nature, we need to protect from nature"

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

Guarantor: Vojtěch Černý

contracting authority: the Institute for Forest Management

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

Agora CE's role in the project is to mediate communication with the local population, who were essentially faced with a fait accompli before the creation of the protected area. This year we have carried out a series of public screenings of the so-called project document, which introduced the local people to the importance of the project. Here we met with a positive reception in discussion.

The final (ex post) public opinion study, which was supposed to give us a clear answer on how the local people perceive the programme, showed after several years how radicalised Georgian society is. And also how crucial good communication with the public is. Due to several excesses on the part of the locals towards our interviewers, we had to interrupt the interviews out of concern for their own reputation and safety. Resistance to legislative changes to the forest law, purely directed by the Georgian public administration, transformed into resistance to the existence of the Aragvi Protected Area or even the presence of Czechs there.

More transparent and inclusive budgeting in Moldova

Guarantor: Vojtěch Černý

Partner: IDIS Viitorul

Seconded by: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic under the Transition Programme

The project focused on improving the transparency of local budget processes and increasing the participation of citizens, especially young people, in public financial decision-making. In the municipalities of Budești, Strășeni and Ialoveni, we introduced participatory budgeting together with local governments, which represented a new form of cooperation between officials and residents.

Youth, who were previously often outside the normal decision-making mechanisms, were introduced to public financial management through a series of workshops and training sessions. The students learned how they can influence the allocation of resources in their municipalities and had the opportunity to submit their own project proposals, which were then taken into account in the municipal budgets.

At the same time, informal leaders have been involved in the process, receiving specialized training on transparency and effective management of public funds. Their work has enabled the creation of new communication channels and information materials that have introduced residents to the principles of participatory budgeting and specific ways in which they can actively participate in the decision-making process.

The experience gained in the pilot municipalities was subsequently reflected in the dissemination of the participatory budgeting methodology with the involvement of young people. This was transferred to other cities based on a thorough evaluation of the whole participatory budgeting process, an analysis of participatory budgets in all Moldovan municipalities and an extensive evaluation of the transparency of Moldovan public administration at local and regional level.

The project has resulted in several concrete investments in public space in these municipalities; the construction of a public facility in Budești, the creation of a children's space in Ialoveni and the modernisation of the theatre stage in Strășeni. These implementations have confirmed that the introduction of participatory mechanisms can lead to real change, and the approach has been transferred to other municipalities looking for ways to improve the management of their public finances.

The initiative thus contributed to raising awareness of the importance of transparency and civic engagement in local governance, with the main benefit being not only the implementation of specific projects, but also the transfer of experience and methods that can be used in other municipalities and regions.

We participate in:

Accelerator in the fight against disinformation

Guarantor: Magda Podsedníková

In 2024, we were part of the Anti-Disinformation Accelerator project, which was sponsored by the VIA Association together with TechSoup Europe with the support of Google.org. The programme was aimed at increasing the resilience of non-profit organisations to the impact of disinformation. We participated in workshops on countering disinformation and cybersecurity principles. Based on our needs, we received consultations on cybersecurity policies, digital audits and site security audits. There were also workshops on communication and positive narratives and the use of digital tools.

We received a grant of CZK 125,000 from the programme, through which we can implement workshops for seniors on the topic of media literacy and internet safety in 6 town libraries (Česká Lípa, Český Dub, Jablonec nad Nisou, Jilemnice, Děčín and Hukvaldy) in 2024. 64 seniors participated in the workshops.

Partners and donors



Our clients

Municipal district of Prague 6
Příbram
Central Bohemia Region
Prague City Hall Ministry for
Regional Development

Krupka
Český Brod
Česká Lípa
Mníšek pod Brdy
Hustopeče

Hostivice
Planá
Kolín

Financial report

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

BALANCE SHEET
in full extent

as of 2024-12-31
(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
A. II. 4.	Movable tangible assets and their sets, (022)	13		250
A. II. 9.	Incomplete long-term tangible assets, (042)	18		-250
B.	Short-term assets - total Total B.I. to B.IV.	41	3 457	3 442
B. I.	Inventories - total Total B.I.1. to B.I.9.	51	54	58
B. I. 9.	Poskytnuté zálohy na zásoby (314)	50	54	58
B. II.	Receivables - total Total B.II.1. to B.II.19.	71	1 501	265
B. II. 1.	Customer (311)	52	41	15
B. II. 5.	Other receivables, (315)	56	6	1
B. II. 9.	Other direct taxes, (342)	60	6	7
B. II. 18.	Accrued assets, (388)	69	1 448	242
B. III.	Short-term financial assets - total Total B.III.1. to B.III.7.	80	1 899	3 115
B. III. 1.	Cash in hand, (211)	72	178	50
B. III. 3.	Cash at bank, (221)	74	1 721	3 065
B. IV.	Other assets - total Total B.IV.1. to B.IV.2.	84	3	4
B. IV. 1.	Prepaid expenses, (381)	81	3	4
	Total assets Total A. to B.	85	3 457	3 442

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	374	645
A. II.	Economic result - total	Total A.II.1 to A.II.3.	94	374	645
A. II. 1.	Profit and loss account	(963)	91	x	271
A. II. 2.	Profit or loss in approval process,	(931)	92	-250	x
A. II. 3.	Retained earnings, accumulated losses from previous years	(932)	93	624	374
B.	External resources - total	Total B.I. to B.IV.	95	3 083	2 797
B. II.	Long-term payables - total	Total B.II.1. to B.II.7.	105	45	40
B. II. 6.	Accrued liabilities,	(389)	103	45	40
B. III.	Short-term payables - total	Total B.III.1. to B.III.23.	129	268	109
B. III. 1.	Suppliers	(321)	106	5	42
B. III. 4.	Other liabilities,	(325)	109	-3	
B. III. 10.	Value added tax,	(343)	115	68	
B. III. 11.	Other taxes and fees,	(345)	116	5	5
B. III. 12.	Payables to the national budget	(346)	117	193	62
B. IV.	Other liabilities - total	Total B.IV.1. to B.IV.2.	133	2 770	2 648
B. IV. 2.	Deferred revenues,	(384)	131	2 770	2 648
	Liabilities - total	Total A. to B.	134	3 457	3 442

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 2024-12-31
(in whole thousands CZK)

Commercial name and registre
of the accounting entity

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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	6 637	334	6 971
A. I. 1.	Consumption of material, energy and other non-stocked supplies	3	61	44	105
A. I. 4.	Travel costs	6	465	62	527
A. I. 5.	Representation expenses,	7	2	1	3
A. I. 6.	Other services,	8	6 109	227	6 336
A. III.	Personal costs Total A.III.10. to A.III.14.	13	2 418	15	2 433
A. III. 10.	Wage costs,	14	1 870	15	1 885
A. III. 11.	Statutory social insurance,	15	548		548
A. V.	Other costs Total A.V.16. to A.V.22.	21		61	61
A. V. 19.	Exchange rate losses	25		31	31
A. V. 22.	Other different costs	28		30	30
	Expenses - total Total A.I. to A.VIII.	39	9 055	410	9 465
B. I.	Operating subsidies Value B.I.1.	41	8 485		8 485
B. I. 1.	Operating subsidies	42	8 485		8 485
B. II.	Received contributions Total B.II.2. to B.II.4.	43	70		70
B. II. 3.	Received contributions (gifts)	45	70		70
B. III.	Revenues from own performance and goods	47	500	624	1 124
B. IV.	Other revenues Total B.IV.5. to B.IV.10.	48		57	57
B. IV. 8.	Exchange rate gains	52		51	51
B. IV. 10.	Other different revenues	54		6	6
	Revenues - total Total B.I. to B.V.	61	9 055	681	9 736
C.	Profit before tax r. 61 - (r. 39 - r.37)	62		271	271
D.	Profit after tax r. 62 - r. 37	63		271	271

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, 2024

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 2024
(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, 2024

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 2024, 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 2024.

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:

Pavčina Turková Koutníková
certificate no. 2386



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as of 2024-12-31
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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:



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

www.participativni-rozpocet.cz

<https://www.digitalniagora.cz/>