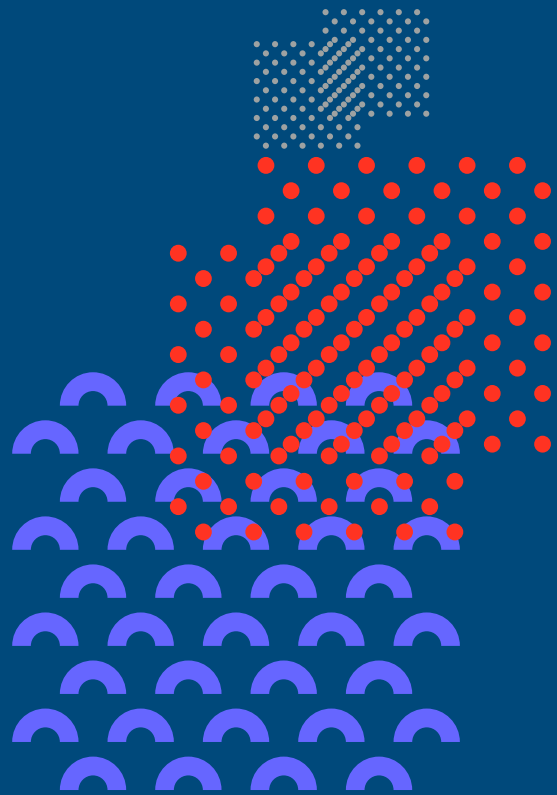
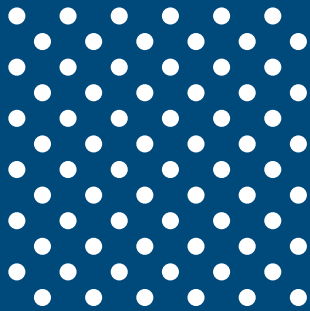




Annual Report 2023



Ideas Impacting Society

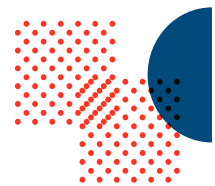
We connect and inspire people committed to improving society and fostering trust within it. By providing an open, interdisciplinary platform in Central Europe, we facilitate meaningful public and policy dialogues and encourage leadership grounded in democratic principles.

“We are very pleased that Aspen Institute brings together individuals who positively influence Central European society. We strive to support strategic thinking that goes beyond local and sector-related boundaries. By hosting interdisciplinary policy and public discussions, the Institute contributes to open dialogue that explores topics relevant to current society and its advancement. Specifically, we focus on the priorities of Values-based Leadership, Education, Transatlantic and EU activities, Technology, Innovation and Quality of Governance: Effectiveness of Civil Service. Through our programs, we also aim to encourage young leaders to further develop leadership based on values such as honesty, morality and respect.

In 2023, we remained true to our program priorities, transforming them into tangible actions. Over the course of the year, we organized over thirty events and participated, presented, or were featured as partners in many others. A cornerstone of our activities, the Aspen Annual Conference, highlighted all our program themes within debates based on expert reports. Our dedicated team succeeded in elevating the quality and experience of our initiatives once again.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our partners for their support and commitment to improving society and fostering trust within it. Of particular interest is the fact that our topics are gaining traction in public discourse. The diverse involvement of stakeholders from various backgrounds in insightful dialogues helps us in fostering an open society and democratic values.

We would like to thank and praise the work of the entire team, as well as our partners and supporters. Special thanks also go to the members of our Aspen Young Leaders Alumni Network, who represent values-based leadership in their professional and personal lives.”



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Milan Vašina".

MILAN VAŠINA
Executive Director



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pavel Řehák".

PAVEL ŘEHÁK
President of Aspen Institute
Central Europe

About Aspen Institute Central Europe

Open Dialogue, Multiple Points of View

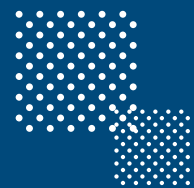
Aspen Institute Central Europe is an independent platform that mediates interdisciplinary and regional cooperation and supports young Central European leaders. It serves as a politically and ideologically neutral platform for democratic discussions about global, political, economic and social issues to promote the functioning and development of democratic values. Aspen Institute Central Europe fosters values-based leadership with the belief that it is essential for a free, just and equitable society. With the participation of experts from politics, business and public institutions as well as personalities from the arts, sports and science, the Institute organizes public conferences, seminars, workshops and expert discussions.



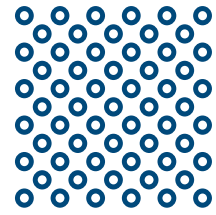
Data regarding Aspen Institute Central Europe as of January 2024.

Aspen Institute Global Network

Founded in 1950 in the United States, Aspen Institute is headquartered in Washington, D.C., with the independent network of offices in the Central Europe (Czech Republic and Poland), Colombia, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Romania, Spain, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. The Institute in Prague was established in 2012 as a public benefit company and serves the entire Central European region, primarily operating in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. In 2023, Aspen Institute Central Europe opened a new office in Warsaw.



Our Core Pillars



Leadership

MULTIPLYING THE POTENTIAL OF LEADERS

The Leadership Programs convene exceptional leaders across various fields and disciplines from Central Europe in order to step away from the daily routine to reflect upon various aspects of values-based leadership. The Alumni become part of an international informal group with the objective of promoting professional ties with one another and triggering possible further cooperation.

Policies

LOOKING FOR EFFECTIVE POLICIES TO CURRENT CHALLENGES

Aspen Institute Central Europe serves as a nonpartisan forum for policy programs that allows for a multifaceted dialogue among policymakers, influential businesses, and public figures. They address themes that reflect education, the effectiveness of civil service, the impact of innovation and technology on the development of society, democracy and quality of life. Global issues, transatlantic relations and the problems that Europe and the Central European region are facing are also discussed.

Public interest

HIGHLIGHTING TOPICS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

The Public Programs aim to actively involve a large number of participants in debates, conferences and analyses related to current Central European issues and opportunities for regional development. The Institute organizes these events for a broader audience of interested individuals who wish to discuss fresh ideas and look at a wide range of social, political and economic issues from a new perspective. The highlight of the public program is the Aspen Annual Conference where the results of the year-round work of expert groups are presented.



What They Have Said About Us

The Aspen Network is the cornerstone of Aspen Institute. People who join discussions within our platform come from a diverse range of backgrounds helping us lead a rounded and multi-faceted dialogue.



“I have confidence that Aspen CE will grow into a true region-wide platform promoting civil discourse and informed discussion, something we so desperately need in this day and age.”

MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT
Honorary Co/Chair of the US Aspen Board



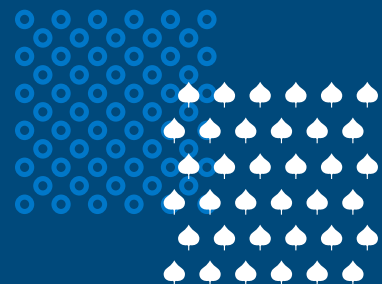
“The Aspen initiative is based on the best European thought traditions. The Aspen activities help us maintain social cohesion and bridge the gap between our divisions.”

PETR PAVEL
President of the Czech Republic



“We are often asked – how are we holding on? It's therefore not surprising that I started this conversation with values. Yes, that's what keeps us going. The same thing that keeps you and your community going – interaction and mutual understanding.”

OLENA ZELENSKA
First Lady of Ukraine





“It’s such an enriching experience to be part of this community. I love the fact that it’s a place where we share opinions in such an insightful and honest way with the sole goal of helping each other grow and make the world a better place.”

PAVLÍNA LOUŽENSKÁ

Founder and Chief of the Board at #HolkyzMarketingu



“When I was invited to join the Aspen network, it was one of the turning points of my life. I got to know a lot of different kinds of people with very similar struggles, and I imagined better what I wanted to achieve in my life.”

YEMI A.D.

Multidisciplinary Creator



“Although today’s world is marred by unpredictable forces, the one certainty is that participating in the Aspen Institute Central Europe’s Alumni Network events always leaves me inspired, stimulates my curiosity and empowers me to act in a way that promotes civic responsibility and is beneficial to communities around us.”

ZUZANA VUOVÁ

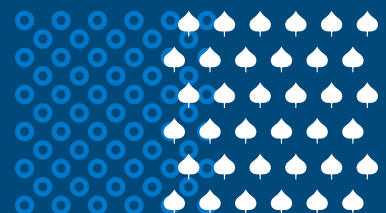
Program Management Officer at the United Nations



“For me, Aspen Institute Central Europe is a great place to get out of my professional bubble, to meet distinguished people and to confront my ideas and perspectives with people from different businesses and different countries. It’s a unique way to stop, to reflect on what drives you in your professional and personal life.”

ŁUKASZ PAWŁOWSKI

Co-founder at Podkast amerykański in Poland



Aspen Annual Conference 2023



Aspen Annual
Conference

Values: A New Trend of the Digital Era?

The annual goal of the conference is to provide an overview of political, economic and social development. The panel discussions are based on expert studies and, in addition to analyzing the state of the region, they highlight the most significant problems in the observed areas and offer concrete recommendations for improvement. Business experts, members of the academic and non-profit sectors are traditionally invited to the conference panels together with members of the government.

At the Aspen Annual Conference 2023, the morning international discussions focused on topics such as Values-based Leadership and Defense of Values in the Digital Age, addressing the pressure exerted on these values in our Central European region due to the influence of the digital era. The afternoon panels addressed current challenges for the Czech economy and society, and the conditions we create for our citizens and businesses. Discussions were based on expert studies focused on the transition of the Czech Republic to a green economy, the digitalization of Czech micro- and small enterprises, and the education topic covering the cooperation between school principals and statutory authorities.

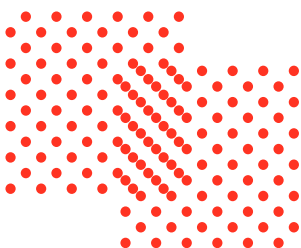
The foundation for the panel discussions was set by expert studies prepared exclusively under the auspices of Aspen Institute Central Europe in cooperation with Boston Consulting Group, Daniel Košťoval, Global Arena Research Institute, and PAQ Research and discussed within the expert groups of Aspen Institute Central Europe.



Gala Dinner & Aspen CE Madeleine K. Albright Leadership Award

The Gala Dinner is held annually on the occasion of the Aspen Annual Conference. At the Gala Dinner, the Institute bestows the Aspen CE Madeleine K. Albright Leadership Award on young upcoming professionals – emerging stars – who have a positive impact on society in Central Europe. We are looking for lesser known stories that deserve encouragement and recognition for their contribution to society.

In 2023, the Award was presented to Vladimíra Petráková, a prominent physicist and Czech science ambassador worldwide, Founder of Czexpats In Science, and to Julian Gerhart, Founder of the Slovak educational portal Zmudri.sk – an educational project for tens of thousands of young people to develop their skills.



Aspen^{CE}
Madeleine
K. Albright
Leadership
Award

The Warsaw Office

In 2023, Aspen Institute Central Europe also stepped up its presence internationally and opened a new office in Warsaw. The aim is to become a major platform in the region engaged in transatlantic policy dialogue and to foster additional topics that are critical both locally and regionally for further development of society while supporting trust within it.

Key activities in Poland 2023:

REGIONAL ASPEN CE ALUMNI MEETING

A networking meeting of the Polish Alumni community in 2023 organized with the purpose of announcing the stepping up of the programmatic presence in Poland.

REFLECTION UPON POLISH ELECTION EVENT

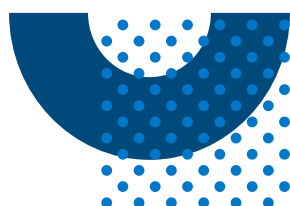
A new format focusing on the outcomes of the parliamentary elections in Poland and featuring participation from representatives of embassies, foreign press outlets, political circles and alumni. The debriefing, conducted by Łukasz Pawłowski of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and Andrzej Bobiński, an acclaimed journalist and Head of Polityka Insight, was attended by more than 20 diplomats and over 10 correspondents.

CATALYZING THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND FOSTERING TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGES IN CIVIC ACTIVISM, STATESMANSHIP AND GEOPOLITICAL STRATEGY IN POLAND

An expert meeting convening leaders from the business sector and NGOs to discuss the future of transatlantic relations with the participation and under the auspices of H.E. Mr. Mark Brzezinski, Ambassador of the US Embassy in Warsaw.

PRESENCE AT MAJOR CONFERENCES

In 2023, the Aspen Institute Central Europe's Warsaw Office significantly enhanced its activities in Poland and among international partners through active participation in major conferences and events. These included the ImpactCEE Forum in Poznań, the Economic Forum in Karpacz, and the Freedom Games in Łódź, where Aspen representatives took on key roles as speakers, moderators, or partners of these events.



Program Priorities

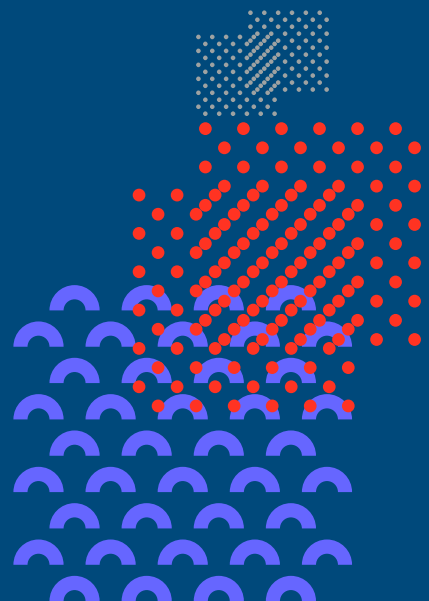
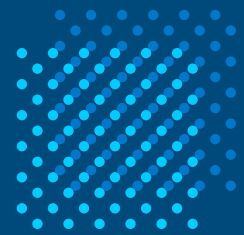
1. Values-based Leadership

2. Education

3. Transatlantic & EU Topics

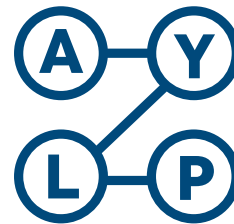
4. Technology & Innovation

5. Quality of Governance:
Effectiveness of Civil Service



Aspen Young Leaders Program 2023

Two editions of four-day intensive seminars were held in 2023, with a total of 65 participants from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.

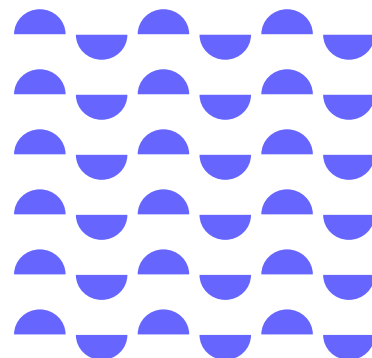


#AYLP

Aspen Young Leaders Program (AYLP) offers emerging young leaders the opportunity to improve their personal and professional skills as well as expand their private network in the region while reflecting on what it means to be a good leader in today's world. This involves introspection on core values in our professional paths in decision-making, navigating our teams, and leading with self-knowledge, authenticity and integrity.



The uniqueness of the Program is defined by the strong emphasis on the quality and diversity of speakers coming from business, arts, academia, politics, science, sports or the non-profit sector, and the broad array of topics and open conversations.



Other Leadership Activities

ALUMNI NETWORK MEETING

In 2023, 46 people attended the Annual Network Meeting for the AYLP Alumni community that connects individuals across their fields and countries, supporting their professional and personal ties. The Alumni are invited to remain involved in our activities and are further supported by the Institute.

SOCRATES SEMINAR

Socrates Seminars bring together executive and accomplished leaders to discover new perspectives on contemporary issues in relation to leadership in a moderated dialogue. They are for those who realize that one cannot lead others without leading oneself first. It is an opportunity to understand tensions between ideas and goods competing in a globalized world and discover how our choices and decisions are shaped.

ASPEN INSTITUTE CENTRAL EUROPE'S ANNIVERSARY

The eleventh anniversary of the Institute was held in June 2023 as a reception under the kind auspices of H.E. Mr. Bijan Sabet, U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic.

2. Education

Aspen Institute Central Europe's priorities include Educational Leadership, with a focus on school principals and upskilling. In cooperation with experts from various fields, the Institute conducts studies, organizes public debates and expert roundtables to develop specific recommendations. These recommendations are then distributed among relevant policymakers and stakeholders.

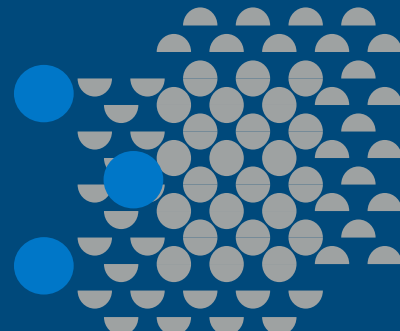
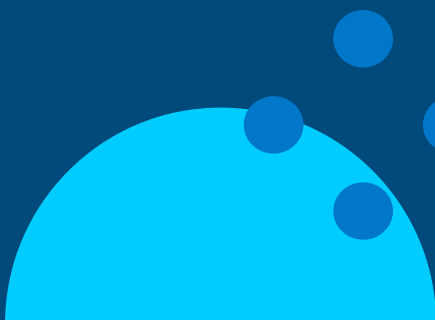
SERIES OF REGIONAL DEBATES FOCUSED ON SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

Following our study *To Heat and Shine Is No Longer Enough* (in CZ only), we organized a series of three regional debates and one conference in cooperation with Učitel Naživo. The debates focused on best practices between school principals and statutory authorities in several specific regions. We presented the findings of the survey, which were further discussed with relevant stakeholders in different regions.

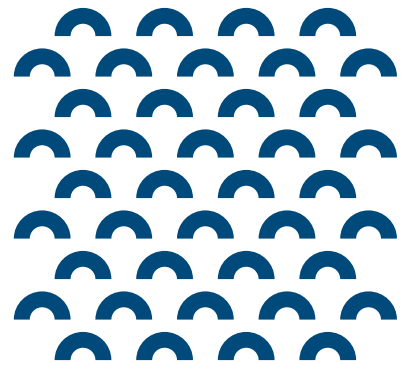
- What is the Practice in the South Moravian Region? **Brno, March**
- How Do They Cooperate in the Vysočina Region? **Jihlava, April**
- How to Achieve Quality Schools That Put Children First? **Prague, May**
- What is Going Well in the Ústí Region? **Ústí nad Labem, September**

FUTURE EDU: THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION IN NEW FORMS

Aspen Institute Central Europe was again a partner of the conference Future Edu this year focused on lifelong learning and non-formal education, where, among other things, the outputs of the study *The Future of the Czech Labor Market* by Boston Consulting Group and Aspen Institute Central Europe were presented.



3. Transatlantic & EU Topics



Public debates that include cross-sectoral and in-opinion varied panelists on geopolitical, geo-economic and democratic questions, are organized to challenge the audience with contrasting perspectives, support open dialogue and democratic values.

Key activities 2023

DISINFORMATION AND THE ROLE OF SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCERS IN TIMES OF CRISES, CONFLICTS AND WARS

A joint year-long project with Aspen Institute Germany as a lead partner, focused on a group of 20 influencers and content creators from Germany, Ukraine, Romania, the Baltics, and Central Europe to provide a [list of recommendations](#) to relevant national and European institutions.



INFORMATION INTEGRITY IN THE AI ERA: A (CENTRAL) EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE

Together with Aspen Digital, we organized a half day conference to discuss AI and its impact on the news. There was participation from:

- London School of Economics and Political Science
- European Commission
- Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty
- Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford



The Conference was chaired by Vivian Schiller, Executive Director, Aspen Digital.



4. Technology & Innovation

In the program priority Tech and Innovation, Aspen Institute Central Europe focuses on the topics of Artificial Intelligence, Digitalization, Digital Economy, or the impact that technologies have on today's society. The Institute organizes public discussions and closed roundtables in cooperation with experts and organizations from Central Europe. An essential aspect of our activities is conducting expert studies in cooperation with renowned consulting companies or independent professionals.

Key activities 2023

DIALOGUE ON THE DIGITAL ECONOMY IN CZECHIA

Two educational expert seminars took place in the past year with the aim of providing a platform for representatives of the digital economy and the civil service to share experiences and formulate those needs of the state that are essential for its further development. This year's series opened up with the topics of Cloud Solutions and Security in the Transatlantic Area in February and Creators Economy in June.

THE CZECH PATH TO NET ZERO

A Press Conference was held in June 2023 related to the newly published expert study *The Czech Path to Net Zero: A Challenge or an Opportunity for Our Economy?* by Boston Consulting Group and Aspen Institute Central Europe.

SOCIETY 4.0: AI AND US

For the sixth year running, the social impact of new technologies has been the subject of debates in the Society 4.0 series, organized by Aspen Institute Central Europe in cooperation with Opero and the Neuron Endowment Fund. The event took place in May, focused on the topic of Chat GPT and the overall impact of artificial intelligence on society.

STRIVE LEARNING NETWORK

Closed expert meetings within the Strive Czechia program were held in a group of experts from government, business, and other relevant organizations and associations providing recommendations while helping to shape the content of the study *Micro and Small Enterprises in the Czech Republic on the Path to a Digital Future* by Aspen Institute Central Europe and Global Arena Research Institute.



5. Quality of Governance: Effectiveness of Civil Service

Aspen Institute Central Europe has been focused over the long-term on four pillars that form the cornerstones of effective civil service:

- Focus on outcomes and their measurement
- Flexibility in the organization of public administration
- Attracting and developing the most capable talents
- Digitalization and data-driven decision-making

The regular expert meetings are held during the year in cooperation with different stakeholders and partners to support public dialogue on the topic of quality of governance and effectiveness of civil service aimed at increasing trust in it, focusing on delivery of strategic priorities and providing specific recommendations based on expert studies.

An effective civil service is one that can manage the administration of partial tasks as well as the preparation and implementation of long-term goals. It can respond flexibly to current challenges and is an attractive employer offering an innovative, developing and goal-oriented work environment led by quality managers.

YOU GOVERN WELL WHEN YOU:



Know those
you govern



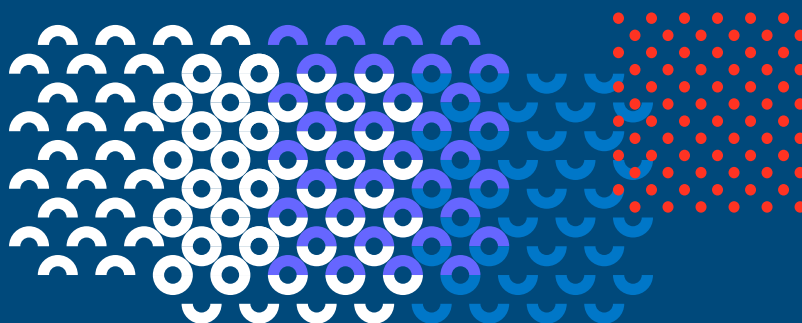
Include those
you govern



Unite those
you govern



Defend those
you govern



Expert Reports 2023

Aspen Institute Central Europe cooperates with leading experts and consulting companies on studies that serve as a basis for panel discussions at the Aspen Annual Conferences. Specific recommendations arising from the studies are then addressed to political representatives and civil servants.

THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE FACED BY THE WEST: IT IS ESSENTIAL TO INVEST IN SECURITY AND DEFENSE CAPABILITY IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO SAFEGUARD OUR INDEPENDENCE

Aspen Institute Central Europe and Daniel Košťoval (The Prague Centre for Transatlantic Relations)

Recommendations:

- Investments in security and defense: specifically, investments in critical infrastructure resilience, cybersecurity and national defense
- Investments in access to raw materials and energy security to maximize self-sufficiency
- Developing effective organizations and instruments to ensure a unified Western effort
- Formulating a policy that creates a real basis for independent and sustainable development in Africa, Asia and Latin America
- Investing in technical education, innovation, new technologies, and ensuring awareness and education about the political value system

THE CZECH PATH TO NET ZERO: A CHALLENGE OR AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR ECONOMY?

Aspen Institute Central Europe and Boston Consulting Group



Recommendations:

- Support the transition of the economy to green technologies
- Introduce strong regulations and subsidies to support the decarbonization of industry and services, including setting targets for carbon reduction
- Prepare a comprehensive action plan to accelerate the deployment of new renewable energy sources
- Establish a national carbon neutrality coordination center at the government level to coordinate actions across sectors
- Submit a national decarbonization strategy, incorporate it into legislation, and launch positive communication campaigns



EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES NEED TO BE ADDRESSED WITHIN A SINGLE TEAM COMPRISED OF THE STATUTORY AUTHORITIES, SCHOOL PRINCIPALS AND OTHER SERVICES

Aspen Institute Central Europe and PAQ Research

Recommendations:

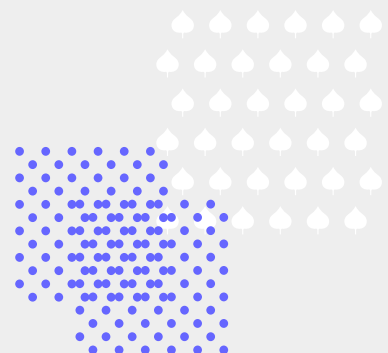
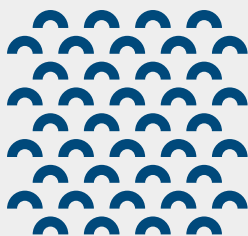
- Introduce a system of affordable housing based on the gradual expansion of the city housing stock and setting incentive criteria for tenants
- Involve the authorities in the coordination of groups of bodies (schools, NGOs, city departments, social services) for regular information sharing
- Support the improvement of material conditions for children and provide administrative assistance with projects such as free lunches or the establishment of immediate material assistance benefits
- Select and evaluate school principals based on their focus on the pedagogical work of teachers
- Reduce the administrative burden on school principals and share the capacity of administrative staff with school principals, especially in project management

MICRO AND SMALL ENTERPRISES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC ON THE PATH TO A DIGITAL FUTURE

Aspen Institute Central Europe and the Global Arena Research Institute

Recommendations:

- Involving MSEs in local development plans in cooperation with municipalities and identifying priority MSEs that have the greatest impact in the region
- Promoting motivation for entrepreneurship and sharing examples of good practice, helping to develop a plan
- Promoting cooperation between the commercial sector and the educational environment in terms of research, development and human resources
- Upskilling employees in digital technologies and providing financial support to small businesses for projects related to the introduction and use of digital technologies
- Facilitating the resolution of problems with the implementation of digital technologies and reducing the disadvantage of MSEs when looking for partners/suppliers
- Supporting women in MSE leadership - finding ways to address barriers for women in MSE leadership and supporting them in acquiring and use of digital skills

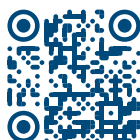
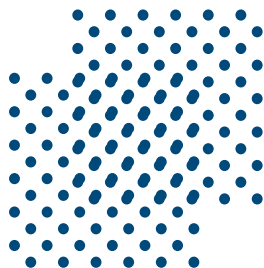


Aspen Review 2023

On a bi-weekly basis, Aspen Review publishes online articles, analyses, interviews, and commentaries by world-renowned Central European public figures, journalists, scientists and academics. The latest annual issue, featuring selected articles, was printed on the occasion of the Aspen Annual Conference 2023.

The articles published in 2023 covered topics such as "Is the Free Media in Central Europe Under Threat?" by Václav Štětka; "Elections in Slovakia, or Russian Roulette" by Łukasz Grzesiczak; "The Future of the Silk Road" by Marcin Kaczmarek, among many others.

The archive of articles, including the option to download the annual issue, is available at: www.aspeninstitutece.org/aspen-review/



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NEWSLETTERS WITH NEW ARTICLES
AND EVENT INVITATIONS



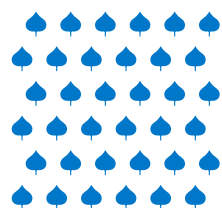
Activities Overview in 2023

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
January – December	Aspen Review	Every second week, a new article of Aspen Review is published online, which provides analyses, interviews and commentaries by world-renowned and Central European public figures, journalists, scientists and academics. Once a year, the annual issue with selected articles is published in the printed version on the occasion of the Aspen Annual Conference.
February – November Prague and Online	Effectiveness of Civil Service: Expert Group	Regular meetings of the Expert Group on Efficiency of Civil Administration, contributing to strengthening trust in institutions.
February 28 Prague	Dialogue on the Digital Economy in Czechia: Cloud Solutions and Security in the Transatlantic Space	The third educational workshop in a series of closed seminars for representatives. It is designated for the state administration with the aim of educating and bringing closer the needs of the digital economy. It will specifically focus on the topic of clouds and their importance in the future, security aspects of cloud solutions and the transatlantic space, while taking into account the role of DIA in this issue.
March 23 – 26 Hnanice	Aspen Young Leaders Program	The thirteenth edition of the leadership program for emerging Central-European leaders from different fields focused on values-based leadership. The participants are challenged to explore their core values and engage in dialogue about complex issues critical for society's development.
March 28 Brno	School Principals and Statutory Authorities: What Is the Practice in the South Moravian Region?	The first regional debate was organized on the basis of data collection using the example of good practice between elementary school principals and statutory authorities. The debate was based on the Aspen Institute Central Europe's study <i>To Heat and Shine Is No Longer Enough</i> .
April 20 Jihlava	School Principals and Statutory Authorities: How Do They Cooperate in the Vysočina Region?	The second regional debate was organized on the basis of data collection using the example of good practice between elementary school principals and statutory authorities. The debate was based on the Aspen Institute Central Europe's study <i>To Heat and Shine Is No Longer Enough</i> .
May 2 online	Disinformation and the Role of Social Media Influencers in Times of Crises, Conflicts, and Wars	A joint project with Aspen Institute Germany as a lead partner focused on a group of influencers and content creators from Germany, Ukraine, Romania, the Baltics, and Central Europe who took part in a series of closed events to explore the possibilities, responsibilities & limits they have in a new era when disinformation on the web has become a growing issue worldwide.
May 11 Prague	Society 4.0: AI and Us	A public debate held in the series Society 4.0 organized in cooperation with Opero, ABRA Software and the Neuron Endowment Fund on the topic of ChatGPT.

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
May 17 Prague	School Principals and Statutory Authorities: How to Achieve Quality Schools that Put Children First?	A public conference was organized in cooperation with Učitel naživo. The conference is part of the series of debates “School Principals and Statutory Authorities”, which focuses on the relationship between the two bodies and was based on a study by Aspen Institute Central Europe entitled <i>To Heat and Shine Is No Longer Enough</i> .
May 24 Prague	Round Tables: Evaluation of the Czech National Strategy for AI	Two expert round tables to evaluate national strategy for AI (NAIS) in cooperation with prg.ai and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic. The event was moderated by Mária Bieliková from KInIT, Slovakia. The goal was to formulate recommendations to the Ministry itself.
May 26-28 Frenštát pod Radhoštěm	Alumni Network Meeting	Informal network meeting for alumni of the Aspen Young Leaders Program.
June 6-8 Berlin	Disinformation and the Role of Social Media Influencers in Times of Crises, Conflicts, and Wars	The next session in a joint project with Aspen Institute Germany as the lead partner focused on an international group of influencers and content creators exploring the possibilities, responsibilities & limits they have in a new era when disinformation on the web has become a growing issue worldwide.
June 8 Prague	Aspen Institute Central Europe's 11th Anniversary	Closed networking event organized on the occasion of the Institute's anniversary under the kind auspices of H.E. Mr. Bijan Sabet, U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic.
June 14 Prague	Dialogue on Digital Economy in Czechia: Creators' Economy	The fourth in a series of closed educational workshops to identify the needs of digital economy businesses from the civil service to further develop and optimize processes related to the state. The event was focused this time on creators' economy and their contribution to the Czech economy and the labor market.
June 15 Prague	The Czech Path to Net Zero: A Challenge or an Opportunity for our Economy?	A press conference presenting Aspen Institute Central Europe and Boston Consulting Group's new expert study <i>The Czech Path to Net Zero: A Challenge or an Opportunity for our Economy?</i> .
June 16 Warsaw	Regional Aspen CE Alumni Meeting	A networking meeting of the Polish alumni community in 2023 organized with the purpose of announcing the stepping up of the programmatic presence in Poland.
June 22 Prague	Strive Learning Network Meeting	First closed expert group meeting within the Strive Czechia project in cooperation with CARE Czech Republic and with the support of the Mastercard Centre for Inclusive Growth.
September 5-7 Karpacz	Economic Forum in Karpacz	This panel discussion on geopolitics, hosted at the largest political-economic conference in Poland, was convened under the auspices of Aspen Institute Central Europe and was presented among other official partners.
September 13 Prague	Strive Learning Network Meeting	The second closed expert group meeting within the Strive Czechia project in cooperation with CARE Czech Republic and with the support of the Mastercard Centre for Inclusive Growth.
September 15-17 Łódź	Igrzyska Wolności (Freedom Games) Conference	Aspen Institute Central Europe participated in the Freedom Games, contributing to the panel discussion on technological cooperation within the transatlantic sphere.

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
September 19 Prague	FutureEdu: The Future of Education in New Forms	The third year of the conference aims to reach a broad professional public and individual stakeholders, politicians and young people. This year's theme was informal education, which contributes to the acquisition of the necessary skills important for successful management of the challenges that our time brings. The study <i>The Future of the Czech Labour Market</i> was presented.
September 25 Ústí nad Labem	School Principals and Statutory Authorities: How Do They Cooperate in the Ústí nad Labem Region?	The third regional debate was organized on the basis of data collection using the example of good practice between elementary school principals and statutory authorities. The debate was based on Aspen Institute Central Europe's study <i>To Heat and Shine It's No Longer Enough</i> .
September 26 Prague	Information Integrity in the AI Era: (Central) European Perspective	A public conference in cooperation with Aspen Digital on the societal impact of digital technologies on information integrity through the lens of artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies. This public event followed up on the successful 2022 conference <i>The Future of the Free Press in Central and Eastern Europe</i> .
October 4 Prague	School as a Meeting Place	A conference organized by "Řízení školy" in which Aspen Institute Central Europe participated with the presentation of the study <i>To Heat and Shine is No Longer Enough</i> focused on the relationship between School Principals and Statutory Authorities.
October 4 Online	Disinformation and the Role of Social Media Influencers in Times of Crises, Conflicts, and Wars	The next session in a joint project with Aspen Institute Germany as the lead partner focused on an international group of influencers and content creators exploring the possibilities, responsibilities & limits they have in a new era when disinformation on the web has become a growing issue worldwide.
October 10 Bratislava	Regional Alumni Network Dinner	Informal network meeting for Slovak alumni of the Aspen Young Leaders Program.
October 11 Budapest	Regional Alumni Network Dinner	Informal network meeting for Hungarian alumni of the Aspen Young Leaders Program.
October 12-15 Hnanice	Aspen Young Leaders Program	The fourteenth edition of the leadership program for emerging Central-European leaders from different fields focused on values-based leadership. The participants are challenged to explore their core values and engage in dialogue about complex issues critical for society's development.
October 17 Warsaw	Reflection upon Polish Election Event	The first public event in Poland focused on the outcomes of the parliamentary elections in Poland with the participation of representatives from embassies, foreign press outlets, politics and alumni.
October 25 Warsaw	CEO Roundtable on Transatlantic Affairs	An expert meeting convening leaders from the business sector and NGOs to discuss the future of transatlantic relations with the participation and under the auspices of H.E. Mr. Mark Brzezinski, Ambassador of the US Embassy in Warsaw.
November 16 Prague and online	Aspen Annual Conference 2023	The Aspen Annual Conference provided an overview of the political, economic, and societal development of the Central European region and the Czech Republic.

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
November 16 Prague	Aspen Annual Gala Dinner and the Aspen CE Madeleine K. Albright Leadership Award	Gala dinner is held on the occasion of the Aspen Annual Conference. An annual award is bestowed on a successful young professional. Since 2022, the award carries the name Aspen CE Madeleine K. Albright Leadership Award.
December 5 Online	Strive Learning Network Meeting	Third closed expert group meeting within the Strive Czechia project in cooperation with CARE Czech Republic and with the support of the Mastercard Centre for Inclusive Growth.
December 6-8 Prague	Disinformation and the Role of Social Media Influencers in Times of Crises, Conflicts, and Wars	Final session in the joint project with Aspen Institute Germany as the lead partner focused on an international group of influencers and content creators exploring the possibilities, responsibilities & limits they have in a new era, when disinformation on the web has become a growing issue worldwide.





Support for our Activities

The Central European branch is financially independent and strives for variety in its own funding. This includes contributions from foundations, corporate and individual donations, commercial partnerships, as well as public support.

THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES AND INSTITUTIONS SUPPORTED THE EFFORTS OF OUR ORGANIZATION BY DONATING GIFTS IN 2023:

- Bakala Foundation
- Direct pojišťovna, a.s.
- Home Credit International a.s.
- Nadace ČEZ
- Nadace Direct
- Nadace PPF
- Pale Fire Capital SE
- Škoda Auto a.s.
- The Boston Consulting Group, s.r.o.
- T-Mobile Czech Republic a.s.
- VIGO Investments a.s.

THE INSTITUTE RECEIVED DONATIONS FROM THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL DONORS IN 2023:

- Jan Barta

THE COMPANIES AND INSTITUTIONS WHO SUPPORTED US ARE LISTED BELOW:

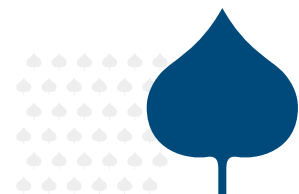
1. Corporate partnerships:

- ABB s.r.o.
- AT&T Global Network Services Czech Republic s.r.o.
- Erste Group Bank AG
- Google Czech Republic, s.r.o.
- Deloitte Audit s.r.o.

2. Grants, institutional, in-kind support or cooperation on projects:

- Aspen Institute Germany
- Aspen Institute
- Bubeník Partners
- Czech Television
- Economia, a.s

In 2023, the company's total revenues amounted to CZK 18.681 ths. and total expenses to CZK 19.044 ths. The types of income and expenses arising from such income and expenditure are shown in the profit and loss account.



Organizational bodies

Board of Directors

PAVEL ŘEHÁK

President of Aspen Institute Central Europe,
Chair of the Board at Direct pojišťovna, a.s.

ENDRE ASCSILLÁN

Vice-President, GE Hungary

DITA CHARANZOVÁ

Vice-Chair of the European Parliament

JAN FARSKÝ

Vice-Chair of the STAN political party

URŠULA KRÁLOVÁ

Chief People Officer, Bloomreach

TANIA LE MOIGNE

Managing Director CEE, Google Czechia, Hungary,
Romania & Slovakia

WIKTOR NAMYSŁ

General Partner of Orbit Capital (from June 2023)

MAREK PROCHÁZKA

Founding Partner, PRK Partners, attorneys at law

TOMÁŠ SALOMON

CEO and Chairman of the Board, Česká spořitelna

TANJA VAINIO

Country President Switzerland, Schneider Electric

TOMASZ WARDYŃSKI

Founding Partner, Wardyński & Partners

MARTIN ZÁKLASNÍK

Member of the Board, German-Czech Chamber of Industry
and Commerce (until December 2023)

Supervisory Board

IVAN HODÁČ

Chair of the Supervisory Board,
Aspen Institute Central Europe

MICHAELA BAKALA

Entrepreneur and Philanthropist

ZDENĚK TŮMA

Chair of the Supervisory Board of ČSOB, a.s.

Honorary Member of the Board

MICHAEL ŽANTOVSKÝ

Director, Václav Havel Library

Founders

IVAN HODÁČ

Chair of the Supervisory Board, Aspen Institute Central Europe

PAVEL ŘEHÁK

Chair of the Board at Direct pojišťovna, a.s.

Executive Team

MILAN VAŠINA

Executive Director

KATEŘINA POLANSKÁ

Deputy Executive Director

TOMÁŠ FRIDRICH

Program Manager

OLGA JANŽUROVÁ

PR and Communications Manager (from October 2023)

PAVLA LOSOVÁ

Program Manager

JOSEF MÜLLER

Deputy Executive Director (from September 2022 parental leave)

KRISTÝNA OMEJKOVÁ

Program Manager (from September 2023 on parental leave)

JITKA RAŠKOVÁ

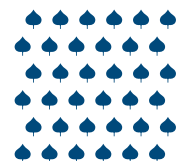
PR and Communications Manager (until September 2023),
Program Manager (from September 2023)

MILANA SEMENOVÁ

Office Manager (until November 2023)

KRISTÝNA URBANÍKOVÁ

Office Manager (from November 2023)



Financial statements

(in CZK thousand)

Balance sheets

IDENT.	ASSETS	LINE	ACCOUNTING PERIOD	
			BALANCE AT THE FIRST DAY	BALANCE AT THE LAST DAY
A.	Fixed assets	1	10	0
A. I.	Intangible assets	2	185	185
A. I. 1.	Research and development	3		
2.	Software	4		
3.	Valuable rights (patents, copyrights, trademarks and brands)	5		
4.	Low-value intangible fixed assets	6		
5.	Other intangibles	7	185	185
6.	Intangible assets under construction	8		
7.	Advances for intangible assets Intangible assets	9		
A. II.	Tangible fixed assets	10		
A. II. 1.	Land	11		
2.	Artworks and collections	12		
3.	Buildings and structures	13		
4.	Machinery, equipment, vehicles, fixtures and fittings	14		
5.	Orchards and vineyards	15		
6.	Livestock (herd and draught animals)	16		
7.	Low-value fixed assets	17		
8.	Other tangible fixed assets	18		
9.	Tangible fixed assets under construction	19		
10.	Advances for tangible fixed assets	20		
A. III.	Financial assets	21		
A. III. 1.	Investments in subsidiaries	22		
2.	Investments in associates	23		
3.	Bonds, debentures and similar securities held until maturity	24		
4.	Loans to organisations teams	25		
5.	Other long-term loans	26		
6.	Other financial assets	27		

IDENT.	ASSETS	LINE	ACCOUNTING PERIOD	
			BALANCE AT THE FIRST DAY	BALANCE AT THE LAST DAY
A. IV.	Accumulated depreciations of long term property total	28	-175	-185
A. IV. 1.	Depreciations to immaterial results of sciene survey	29		
2.	Accumulated depreciations of software	30		
3.	Accumulated depreciations of valuable rights	31		
4.	Accumulated depreciations of long - term immaterial property	32		
5.	Accumulated depreciations of other long - term property	33	-175	-185
6.	Accumulated depreciations of buildings	34		
7.	Accumulated depreciations of movable assets and sets of movable assets	35		
8.	Accumulated depreciations of cultivated areas	36		
9.	Accumulated depreciations of livestock	37		
10.	Accumulated depreciations of small long - term property	38		
11.	Accumulated depreciations of other long term property	39		
B.	Short-term property total	40	6 604	5 198
B. I.	Inventory	41		
B. I. 1.	Materials in store	42		
2.	Materials in transit	43		
3.	Work-in-progress	44		
4.	Semi-finished products	45		
5.	Finished products	46		
6.	Livestock (herd and draught animals)	47		
7.	Merchandise in store	48		
8.	Merchandise in transit	49		
9.	Advance payments for inventory	50		
B. II.	Receivables total	51	1 343	132
B. II. 1.	Customers	52	998	129
2.	Bills of exchange to be collected	53		
3.	Receivables for discounted securities	54		
4.	Advance payments made	55	280	1
5.	Other receivables	56		
6.	Receivables from employees	57		2

IDENT.	ASSETS	LINE	ACCOUNTING PERIOD	
			BALANCE AT THE FIRST DAY	BALANCE AT THE LAST DAY
7.	Receivables from social security and health insurance institutions	58		
8.	Income taxes	59		
9.	Other direct taxes	60		
10.	Value added tax	61	65	
11.	Other taxes and fees	62		
12.	Subsidies receivable from state budget	63		
13.	Subsidies receivable from self-governing local area's budgets	64		
14.	Receivables from participants in an association	65		
15.	Receivables from fixed-term financial transactions	66		
16.	Receivables from issued bonds	67		
17.	Sundry receivables	68		
18.	Estimated receivables	69		
19.	Depreciations to receivables	70		
B. III.	Short-term financial assets total	71	5 253	5 031
B. III. 1.	Cash on hand	72	13	16
2.	Stamps and vouchers	73		
3.	Bank accounts	74	5 240	5 015
4.	Shares and similar securities for trading	75		
5.	Bonds, debentures and similar securities for trading	76		
6.	Other bonds, debentures and securities	77		
7.	Cash in transit	78		
B. IV.	Other assets total	79	8	35
B. IV. 1.	Deferred expenses	80	8	35
2.	Accrued revenue	81		
	TOTAL ASSETS		6 614	5 198

IDENT.	LIABILITIES	LINE	ACCOUNTING PERIOD	
			BALANCE AT THE FIRST DAY	BALANCE AT THE LAST DAY
A.	Own resources	1	5 306	2 844
A. I.	Equity	2	5 306	2 844
A. I. 1.	Own equity	3		
2.	Funds	4	5 306	2 844
3.	Gains or losses from revaluation of assets and liabilities	5		
A. II.	Profit or loss	6	0	0
A. II. 1.	Profit and loss account	7	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	0
2.	Profit or loss to be approved	8		XXXXXXXXXXXXXX
3.	Retained earnings, accumulated losses from previous years	9		
B.	Not-own capital total	10	1 308	2 354
B. I.	Reserves Total	11		
B. I. 1.	Reserves	12		
B. II.	Long - term payables total	13		
B. II. 1.	Long-term bank loans	14		
2.	Own bonds issued	15		
3.	Payables of lease	16		
4.	Long-term advances received	17		
5.	Long-term bills of exchange to be paid	18		
6.	Estimated payables	19		
7.	Other long-term payables	20		
B. III.	Short-term payables	21	942	1 092
B. III. 1.	Suppliers	22	156	111
2.	Bills of exchange to be paid	23		
3.	Advance payments received	24		
4.	Other payables	25	8	
5.	Employees	26	330	349
6.	Other payables to employees	27	9	
7.	Payables to social security and health insurance	28	175	180
8.	Income taxes	29	28	43
9.	Other direct taxes	30	56	40
10.	Value added tax	31		
11.	Other taxes and fees	32		42
12.	Payables to state budget	33		
13.	Payables to self-government local area's budgets	34		

IDENT.	LIABILITIES	LINE	ACCOUNTING PERIOD	
			BALANCE AT THE FIRST DAY	BALANCE AT THE LAST DAY
14.	Payables for unpaid subscribed shares and participations	35		
15.	Payables to participants in association	36		
16.	Payables to fixed-term financial transactions	37		
17.	Sundry payables	38		
18.	Short-term bank loans	39		
19.	Credits for discounted securities	40		
20.	Short-term bonds issued	41		
21.	Own bonds issued	42		
22.	Estimated payables	43	180	327
23.	Other short-term financial assistance	44		
B. IV.	Other liabilities	45	366	1 262
B. IV. 1.	Accrued expenses	46		
2.	Deferred revenue	47	366	1 262
	TOTAL LIABILITIES		6 614	5 198

Profit and loss statement

IDENT.	PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT	LINE	ACCOUNTING PERIOD		
			MAIN	BUSINESS	TOTAL
A.	Expenses	1	18 988		18 988
A. I.	Consumed spendings total	2	11 509		11 509
A. I. 1.	Consumed materials, energy consumption, consumption of other non-inventory items	3	333		333
	2. Merchandise sold	4			
	3. Repairs and maintenance	5	6		6
	4. Travelling expenses	6	661		661
	5. Representation expenses	7	2 273		2 273
	6. Other services	8	8 236		8 236
A. II.	Change in work-in-progress and activation	9			
A. II. 7.	Change in work-in-progress	10			
	8. Aktivation of material, goods and internal services	11			
	9. Aktivation of intangibles	12			
A. III.	Personal expenses total	13	7 316		7 316
A. III. 10.	Wages and salaries	14	5 420		5 420
	11. Legal social insurance	15	1 758		1 758
	12. Other social insurance	16			
	13. Legal social security expenses	17	138		138
	14. Other social security expenses	18			
A. IV.	Taxes total	19			
A. IV. 15.	Taxes total	20			
A. V.	Other expenses total	21	110		110
A. V. 16.	Contractual fines, interest on late payments, other fines and penalties	22			
	17. Write-off of receivables	23			
	18. Interest expense	24			
	19. Foreign exchange losses	25	77		77
	20. Gifts	26	1		1
	21. Shortages and damage	27			
	22. Other expenses	28	32		32
A. VI.	Depreciations, sold property, aditions to reserves total	29	10		10
A. VI. 23.	Depreciation expenses of intangible and tangible fixed assets	30	10		10

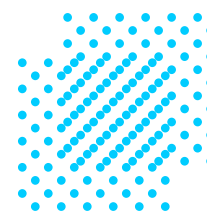
IDENT.	PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT	LINE	ACCOUNTING PERIOD		
			MAIN	BUSINESS	TOTAL
24.	Net book value of intangible and tangible fixed assets sold	31			
25.	Shares and ownership interests sold	32			
26.	Materials sold	33			
27.	Additions to reserves and provisions	34			
A. VII.	Membership fees total	35			
A. VII. 28.	Membership fees and operating contributions paid to branch	36			
A. VIII.	Income tax	37	43		43
A. VIII. 29.	Income tax	38	43		43
	Expenses Total	39	18 988		18 988
B.	Revenues	40	17 558	1 430	18 988
B. I.	Operating subsidies	41			
B. I. 1.	Operating subsidies	42			
B. II.	Accepted contributions total	43			
B. II. 2.	Received operating contributions	44			
3.	Received donations	45			
4.	Received membership fees	46			
B. III.	Revenues from own efficient	47	1 095	1 430	2 525
B. IV.	Other revenues total	48	16 463		16 463
B. IV. 5.	Contractual fines, interest on late payments and other fines and penalties	49			
6.	Revenue from written-off receivables	50			
7.	Interest	51			
8.	Foreign exchange gains	52	216		216
9.	Accounting for funds	53	16 244		16 244
10.	Other revenues	54	3		3
B. V.	Revenues from sales of property	55			
B. V. 11.	Revenues from sales of intangible and tangible fixed assets	56			
12.	Revenues from sale of shares and ownership interests	57			
13.	Revenues from sales of materials	58			
14.	Revenues from short-term financial assets	59			
15.	Revenues from long-term financial assets	60			
	Total revenues	61	17 558	1 430	18 988
C.	Profit (loss) before taxation (r. 63 - 33)	62	-1 387	1 430	43
D.	Profit (loss) after taxation	63	-1 430	1 430	0

Notes to the Financial Statements

Aspen Institute Central Europe o.p.s.

Year ended December 31, 2023

(in CZK thousand)



1. Characteristics and primary activities

ESTABLISHMENT AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ORGANIZATION

Aspen Institute Central Europe o.p.s. (“the organization”) was established on July 11, 2012.

The main purpose for setting up the organization is to provide the general public with a politically and ideologically neutral platform for democratic discussions about global political, economic and social issues, in the form of seminars, conferences, and educational, cultural and other social events. Through conferences and seminars intended for the general public, pertaining especially to civic engagement to support, the functioning of and development of democratic values and an open society. It also aims to financially support the involvement of talented individuals, especially in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, excelling in their profession, be it in the humanities or the natural sciences, through international conferences, seminars and professional educational internships.

REGISTERED OFFICE

Aspen Institute Central Europe o.p.s.
Palackého 740/1, Nové Město
110 00 Prague 1
Czech Republic

REGISTRATION NUMBER

242 47 073

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

MAREK PROCHÁZKA
TAŤÁNA LE MOIGNE
PAVEL ŘEHÁK
DITA CHARANZOVÁ

JAN FARSKÝ
TOMASZ WARDYŃSKI
TOMÁŠ SALOMON
TANJA VAINIO

ENDRE ASCSILLAN
URŠULA KRÁĽOVÁ
WIKTOR NAMYSL

STATUTORY BODY AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

Milan Vašina – Executive Director

MEMBERS OF THE SUPERVISORY BOARD AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023

MICHAELA BAKALA

ZDENĚK TŮMA

IVAN HODÁČ

ORGANIZATION FOUNDERS

IVAN HODÁČ

PAVEL ŘEHÁK

CHANGES IN THE REGISTER OF PUBLIC BENEFIT COMPANIES

During 2023, the following changes in the Supervisory Board took place:

On July 16, 2023, Mr. Wiktor Namysl became a new member of the Board of Directors. This change was registered in the Register of Non-Profit Organizations on August 25, 2023. On December 1, the membership of Mr. Martin Zaklasnik on the Board of Directors expired. This change was registered in the Register of Non-Profit Organizations on March 9, 2024.

2. Basic accounting procedures used by the organization

The organization's accounting is maintained and the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Act No. 563/1991 Coll., on Accounting, as amended, Decree No. 504/2002 Coll., which implements some provisions of Act No. 563/1991 Coll., on Accounting, for reporting entities, which are not principally engaged in doing business, if they keep the double-entry bookkeeping records, as amended, and in accordance with Czech Accounting Standards for these accounting entities, as amended.

The accounting follows generally accepted accounting principles, in particular the historical cost principle (unless stated otherwise below), the principle of material and chronological context, and the principle of prudence and the assumption of the entity's ability to continue in its activities.

The company's financial statements have been prepared as of the balance sheet date of December 31, 2023, for the accounting period from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, the comparable period is the accounting period from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022.

Financial data in these financial statements are expressed in thousands of Czech crowns (CZK), unless stated otherwise.

A) THE METHOD OF PROCESSING THE ACCOUNTING RECORDS AND THE METHOD AND PLACE OF THEIR STORAGE.

Accounting is kept externally by VGD, s.r.o. in the Byznys B6 system. Accounting documents are stored at the address of this company.

B) FIXED ASSETS

Fixed tangible and intangible assets are recorded at their acquisition price. Fixed tangible assets with the acquisition price of up to CZK 40 ths and fixed intangible assets up to CZK 60 ths are not recorded in the balance sheet and are charged to expenses in the year of acquisition. Other fixed intangible assets (webpages) are depreciated on a straight-line basis over a period of 72 months.

C) FOREIGN CURRENCY CONVERSION

The organization uses the Czech National Bank's daily exchange rate to convert transactions in foreign currencies. During the course of the year, the organization only accounts for realized foreign exchange gains and losses.

Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are converted as of the balance sheet date according to the foreign exchange rates promulgated by the Czech National Bank. Realized foreign exchange profits and losses are recorded in the balance sheet.

D) RECEIVED AND PROVIDED DONATIONS

The organization accounts for funds received based on donation agreements to the Funds account from which these received funds are accounted for according to the nature of their use as follows:

- to the profit and loss account against the Utilization of Funds account up to the amount of the costs spent on various projects (cost centers) or operations in the accounting period in question;
- against the Bank account in case of the provision of funds to third-party projects that were selected as part of the organization's various projects.

3. Fixed assets

Intangible fixed assets

OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS	TOTAL 2023	TOTAL 2022
Acquisition cost		
Balance as of January 1	185	185
Additions	--	--
Disposals	--	--
Transfers	--	--
Balance as of December 31	185	185
Depreciation		
Balance as of January 1	175	144
Depreciations	10	31
Accumulated depreciation	--	--
Transfers	--	--
Balance as of December 31	185	175
Net book value as of January 1	10	41
Net book value as of December 31	0	10

The organization owns no tangible fixed assets.

4. Off-balance sheet tangible and intangible fixed assets

In accordance with Note 2(b) of basic accounting procedures, the organization recorded part of its tangible and intangible assets into expenses in the year of their acquisition. The overall cumulative acquisition price of these tangible and intangible assets that are still in use is as follows:

BALANCE AS OF DECEMBER 31	2023	2022
Tangible fixed assets	--	--
Intangible fixed assets (software)	--	10
Total	--	10

5. Bank accounts

The funds are held in current accounts in the currency of CZK, EUR, and USD. The balance in the bank accounts as of December 31, 2023 amounts to CZK 5 015 ths (2022 - CZK 5 240 ths).

6. Receivables and payables

A) RECEIVABLES

Receivables total CZK 132 ths (2022 – CZK 1 343 ths), of which CZK 97 ths (2022 – CZK 274 ths) is overdue. These receivables had been paid by the date of the financial statements compilation.

The organization does not have receivables with a due date longer than 5 years.

B) PAYABLES

Short-term payables total CZK 1 092 ths (2022 – CZK 942 ths), of which CZK 0 ths (2022 – CZK 6 ths) is overdue.

The organization does not have payables with a due date longer than 5 years.

7. Deferred expenses

Deferred expenses amount to CZK 35 ths (2022 – CZK 8 ths) and represent mainly the deferrals for domain registration and insurance.

8. Equity

	FUNDS	PROFIT / -LOSS OF THE CURRENT PERIOD	TOTAL
Balance as of January 1, 2022	6 682	149	6 831
Received donations	13 321	--	13 321
Utilization of funds	-14 846	--	-14 846
Result of 2022	149	-149	--
Balance as of January 1, 2023	5 306	0	5 306
Received donations	13 782	--	13 782
Utilization of funds	-16 244	--	- 16 244
Result of 2023	--	--	--
Balance as of December 31, 2023	2 844	--	2 844

THE MOST IMPORTANT DONORS INCLUDE:

- The Bakala Foundation
- Direct pojišťovna, a.s.
- Pale Fire Capital

A complete list of donors is included in the annual report.

9. Employees and executives

Average numbers of employees and executives, and personnel expenses for 2023:

2023	AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	WAGE EXPENSES	SOCIAL SECURITY AND HEALTH INSURANCE EXPENSES	SOCIAL EXPENSES
Total employees (including the Executive Director)	7	5 420	1 758	138

Average numbers of employees and executives, and personnel expenses 2022:

2022	AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	WAGE EXPENSES	SOCIAL SECURITY AND HEALTH INSURANCE EXPENSES	SOCIAL EXPENSES
Total employees (including the Executive Director)	6	4 809	1 585	136

10. Remuneration and loans to members of Board of Directors and Supervisory Board

During 2023 and 2022, no remuneration or loans were paid out to the members of the Board of Directors or the Supervisory Board. Also, no contracts were concluded binding the organization to pay out any benefits in the case of terminating the activities of individual members of the Board of Directors or the Supervisory Board of the organization.

11. Social security and health insurance payables

Social security and health insurance payables amount to CZK 180 ths (2022 – CZK 175 ths), of which CZK 126 ths (2022 – CZK 122 ths) represent social security payables and CZK 54 ths (2022 – CZK 53 ths) health insurance payables. None of these payables are overdue.

12. Other direct taxes

Tax payables arising from other direct taxes amount to CZK 40 ths (2022 – CZK 56 ths) and represent payables from income tax from employees in the amount of CZK 39 ths (2022 – CZK 40 ths) and payables from withholding tax in amount of CZK 1 ths (2022 – CZK 16 ths). None of these payables are overdue.

13. Subsidies and grants

The organization did not receive any subsidies in 2023 and in 2022.

14. Deferred revenues

Deferred revenues amount to CZK 1 262 ths (2022 – CZK 366 ths) and represent accrued income from promotional activities.

15. Information about the organization's projects

During 2023 and 2022, the organization split its activities into three main areas, namely into Leadership, Policy and Public programs.

All the projects are described in detail in the Annual Report of the organization. The list of donors is included in the report as well.

16. Income tax

In 2023, the organization reported a tax liability in the amount of CZK 43 ths (2022 – CZK 28 ths). In the calculation of the corporate tax base, a deduction under Section 20 (7) of the Income Tax Act was used in the amount of CZK 300 ths (2022 – CZK 300 ths).

17. Administrative expenses

The organization's administrative expenses for 2023 amounted to CZK 2 986 ths. Their structure is as follows:

2023	TOTAL EXPENSES	OF WHICH ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES
Consumed purchases and services	11 509	835
Personnel expenses	7 316	2 082
Taxes and fees	--	--
Other expenses	110	16
Depreciation, assets sold, creation of provisions and adjustments	10	10
Income Tax	43	43
Total	18 988	2 986

The organization's administrative expenses for 2022 amounted to CZK 3 108 ths. Their structure is as follows:

2022	TOTAL EXPENSES	OF WHICH ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES
Consumed purchases and services	11 679	938
Personnel expenses	6 530	2 076
Taxes and fees	2	--
Other expenses	122	35
Depreciation, assets sold, creation of provisions and adjustments	31	31
Income tax	28	28
Total	18 392	3 108

18. Revenues from sales of services

For the year 2023, revenues from sales of services amounted to CZK 2 525 ths (2022 – CZK 3 458 ths). The organization classifies the part of the revenues that does not directly relate to the main activity of the organization and arises rather from the purpose of a public benefit company as economic activity. Revenues from this economic activity amounted to CZK 1 430 ths (2022 – CZK 1 745 ths) in 2023 and were derived mainly from promotional activities.

19. Material subsequent events

As of the date of preparing the financial statements, the management of the company is aware of the following significant subsequent events:

On February 15, 2024, the executive director of the company, Mr. Milan Vašina, tendered his resignation. Pending the election of a new executive director, Ms. Kateřina Polanská was entrusted with the company's management. She terminated her employment on April 30, 2024, and a portion of her company management responsibilities transitioned to Pavla Losová and Pavel Řehák.

On April 5, 2024, Mr. Jakub Landovský was elected as the new Executive Director, effective from August 2024.

The financial statements, which include the balance sheet, profit and loss statement and notes to the financial statements, were prepared on 15 May 2024.

SIGNATURE OF THE STATUTORY BODY OR NATURAL PERSON THAT IS THE ACCOUNTING ENTITY

MAY 15, 2024


PAVEL ŘEHÁK
Director

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Deloitte.

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Aspen Institute Central Europe o.p.s. (hereinafter also the “Company”) prepared on the basis of accounting regulations applicable in the Czech Republic, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2023 and the profit and loss account for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Aspen Institute Central Europe o.p.s. as at 31 December 2023, and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with accounting regulations applicable in the Czech Republic.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Act on Auditors and Auditing Standards of the Chamber of Auditors of the Czech Republic, which are International Standards on Auditing (ISAs), as amended by the related application guidelines. Our responsibilities under this law and regulation are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the Act on Auditors and the Code of Ethics adopted by the Chamber of Auditors of the Czech Republic and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information in the Annual Report

In compliance with Section 2(b) of the Act on Auditors, the other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and 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. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. In addition, we assess whether the other information has been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with applicable law or regulation, in particular, whether the other information complies with law or regulation in terms of formal requirements and procedure for preparing the other information in the context of materiality, i.e. whether any non-compliance with these requirements could influence judgments made on the basis of the other information.

Based on the procedures performed, to the extent we are able to assess it, we report that:

- The other information describing the facts that are also presented in the financial statements is, in all material respects, consistent with the financial statements; and
- The other information is prepared in compliance with applicable law or regulation.

In addition, our responsibility is to report, based on the knowledge and understanding of the Company obtained in the audit, on whether the other information contains any material misstatement of fact. Based on the procedures we have performed on the other information obtained, we have not identified any material misstatement of fact.

Responsibilities of the Company's Statutory Body and Supervisory Board for the Financial Statements

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

In preparing the financial statements, the Statutory Body is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Statutory Body either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Supervisory Board is responsible for the process of financial reporting in the Company.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the above law or regulation, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Company's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Statutory Body.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Statutory Body's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Statutory Body and the Supervisory Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

IN PRAGUE ON 15 MAY 2024

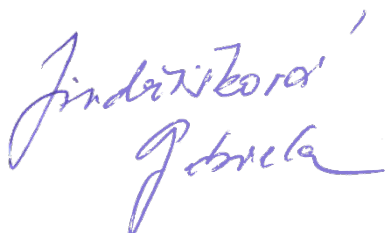
AUDIT FIRM:

Deloitte Audit s.r.o.
registration no. 079

The logo for Deloitte, featuring the word "Deloitte" in a stylized, cursive script.

STATUTORY AUDITOR:

Gabriela Jindřišková
registration no. 2486

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jindřišková Gabriela".

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The company is registered in the Register of Public Benefit Companies maintained by the Municipal Court in Prague, Section O, File 954. The Aspen Institute Prague changed its name to the Aspen Institute Central Europe on 27 December 2016.

ID No.: 242 47 073

Tax ID No.: CZ 242 47 073