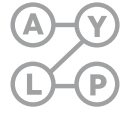
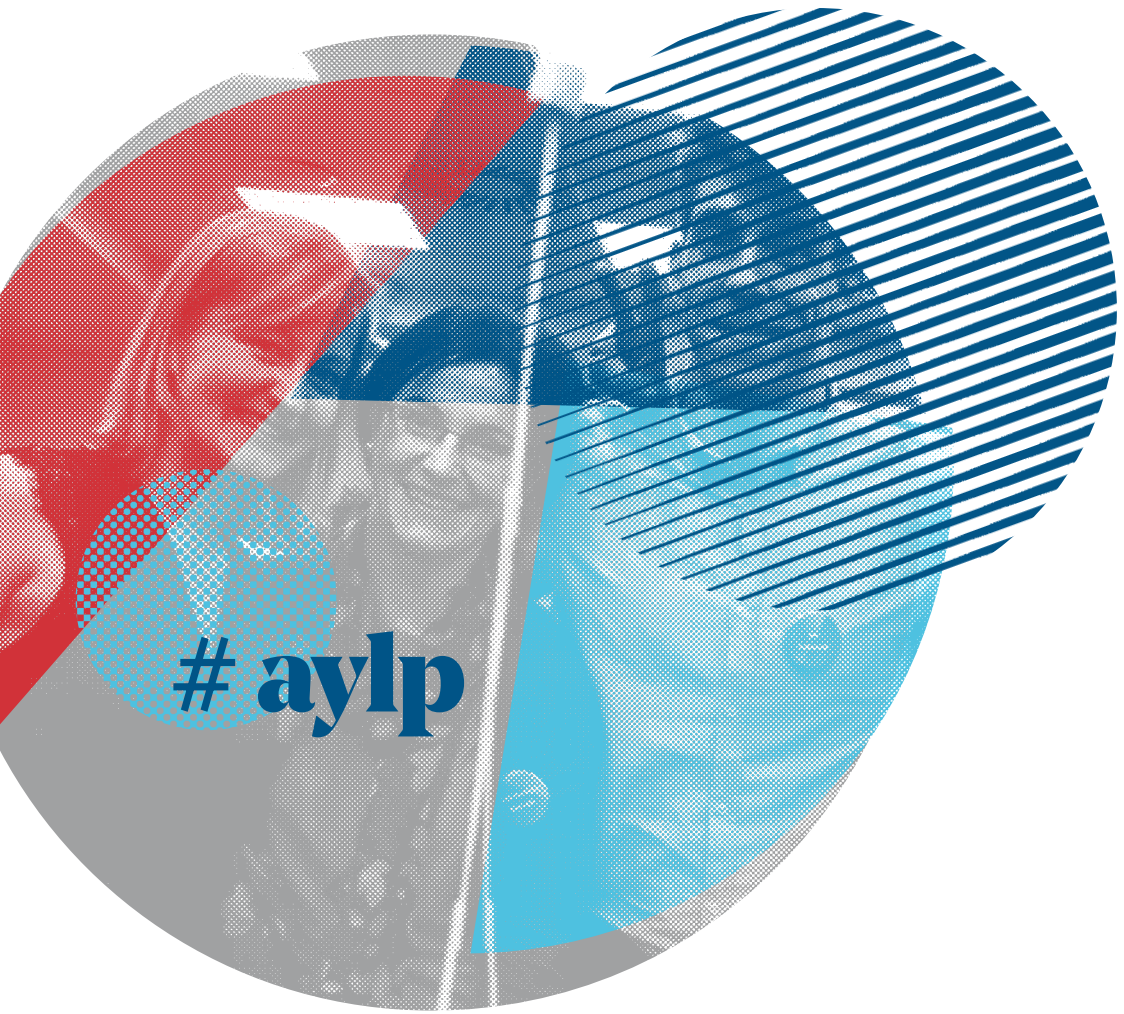


Aspen Young Leaders Program 2017



OCTOBER 15-18, 2017
TÁLE - SLOVAKIA



#aylp

DEAR PARTICIPANT,

Welcome to the Aspen Young Leaders Program 2017. Thank you for joining us for four days of talks, lectures, workshops and informal activities that we hope will stimulate, provoke and inspire.

Taking place in the remote reaches of the Tatra Mountains, the Program is consistent with the basic Aspen idea to step away from daily routine and reflect on various aspects of leadership and underlying societal values. Its uniqueness is defined by a strong emphasis on quality and diversity of speakers, broad array of topics and open conversations. In this way the Program creates a setting conducive to sharing ideas, learning and networking.

We have invited outstanding professionals from Central and Eastern Europe, who will debate the role of leaders and issues critical for the region's development. A balanced mix of personalities, coming from

business, politics, academia and non-profit sector, will surely guarantee provocative perspectives, and trigger further cooperation among those who take part in the Program.

Therefore we invite you to actively engage throughout the whole Program, including its informal parts as they cement the participants network. We truly hope the agenda we have prepared will surpass your expectations and – when it's time to leave, you venture home with new friends, a rejuvenated mind and lots of new ideas.

After completing the Program, you are becoming part of the Aspen Institute alumni network and you are welcome to stay involved in development of the Institute's future activities.

**ASPEN INSTITUTE
CENTRAL EUROPE**

Program

Sunday October 15

- 15:00 - 18:30 **Arrivals and Dinner**
(Hotel Stupka)
- 19:00 - 19:30 **Welcome Address and Introduction**
(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)
Ivan Hodáč, Founder and President
@Aspen Institute Central Europe
Jiří Schneider, Executive Director
@Aspen Institute Central Europe
- 19:30 - 20:30 **Getting to Know Each Other**
(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)
Ivan Hodáč, Founder and President
@Aspen Institute Central Europe
Pavel Řehák, CEO @Vigo Investments
- 20:30 - 24:00 **Informal Networking**
(Koliba Restaurant)

Monday October 16

- 8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 - 10:30 **Ethical Leadership in Politics**
(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)
Rastislav Káčer, Ambassador of Slovakia to Hungary
- 10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00 - 12:30 **Leadership and Teamwork in Sport**
(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)
Adam Ondra, Climber
- 12:30 - 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 - 15:30 **Leaders and Followers: Issues of Citizenship, Democracy and Power**
(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)
György Schöpflin, MEP for Hungary (Fidesz)
- 15:30 - 16:00 Coffee Break
- 16:00 - 17:30 **Shaping the Future of Education**
(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)
Branislav Kleskeň, Director @LEAF
- 18:00 - 19:30 Dinner
- 19:30 - 21:00 **Creative Approach to Leadership**
(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)
Yemi A.D., Choreographer, Director, and Dancer
- 21:00 - 24:00 **Informal Networking**
(Koliba Restaurant)

Tuesday October 17

8:00 - 9:00	Breakfast
9:30 - 11:00	Business Leadership - Technology & Innovation <i>(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)</i> Juraj Vaculík, CEO and Co-Founder @AeroMobil
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 - 13:00	Workshop - Participants' Projects <i>(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)</i>
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 16:30	Free Time / Group Leisure Activities Wellness <i>(Hotel Stupka)</i> Short hike
16:30 - 17:00	Coffee Break
17:00 - 20:00	Conflict Resolution through Theatre <i>(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)</i> Martina Čurdová, Founder @Theatre of Oppressed Lab
20:00 - 21:00	Dinner <i>(Hotel Stupka)</i>
21:00 - 24:00	Informal Networking <i>(Koliba Restaurant)</i>

Wednesday October 18

8:00 - 9:00	Breakfast
9:30 - 11:00	Challenges of Migration - Lessons from Balkans <i>(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)</i> Zuzana Lenhartová, Coordinator @PLNU Adéla Al Sharua, Founder @Freedom of Choice
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 - 12:30	Final Evaluation & Program Outcomes <i>(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)</i>
12:30	Check-out
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch and Departure

Speakers



YEMI A.D. has evolved during his professional career from a dancer to a choreographer, director and producer. Today he is one of the most wanted creative authors. He had worked for several years with the American superstar Kanye West, with whom he created dozens of concerts and tours around the world. He founded and now leads creative agency JAD Productions, with which he works not only for clients such as Adidas Group, O2 or AVON, but also produces his own projects (Teniskology, Ynspirology). JAD Productions was awarded Best Event Agency in the Czech Republic in 2014, 2015 and 2016 and got European Best Event Award (EuBea) in 2015 and 2016.

 [@YemiAlchemist](#)



ADÉLA AL SHARUA has been working with refugees fleeing war and leaving their homelands because of an unstable economic situation in Balkans since 2015. As a human, she seeks to understand how refugees are affected by the arduous conditions they have to cope with - living without electricity, hot water, in a tent in the middle of nowhere - how all these circumstances affect their mental health. Together with her friends, she decided to improve these circumstances and provide a dignified form of aid distribution to refugees in Balkans. Through the Balkan route - Greece to Turkey - she has seen happiness and pain, hope and frustration, good and evil. Despite everything, she firmly believes that we are all humans at the core and we need to help one another.



MARTINA ČURDOVÁ is a theatre director, performer and lecturer. She studied Creative Drama and Alternative Theatre at Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, Czech Republic. Then she explored Theatre of the Oppressed studying in Centre Cívic Drassanes in Barcelona and at CTO in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She has been working with excluded communities in Latin America and Spain. She now directs various projects in the Czech Republic and abroad, applying theatre as a tool of personal liberation and social transformation. Martina works mainly with communities, using diverse techniques ranging from documentary devised theatre to new circus.



IVAN HODÁČ is the founder and president of Aspen Institute Central Europe. He completed his education at the University of Copenhagen and the College of Europe in Bruges. He was the secretary-general of the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) from 2001 until October 2013. Before joining ACEA, Ivan Hodáč was a senior vice-president and the head of the Time Warner Corporate office for Europe. Previously he was also the secretary-general of the trade organization IFMA/IMACE, senior economist at Didier & Associates and an assistant professor at the College of Europe, Bruges. Financial Times recently listed him among the most influential personalities in the Brussels politics.

 [@IvanHodac](#)



RASTISLAV KÁČER is the Ambassador of Slovakia to Hungary since 2013. He has served as President and Chairman of the Slovak Atlantic Commission starting from 2008, after completion of his five-year term in Washington D.C. as the Ambassador of Slovakia to the United States. Prior to this, Rastislav served at different decision-making levels for 16 years. Rastislav began his career as at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Between 1994 and 1998 he served at NATO Headquarters in Brussels and on this return from Brussels became head of Policy Planning Staff and the Director General for Security Policy and Multilateral Affairs at the Ministry. In 2001, he became the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defense responsible for the negotiation and accession process of Slovakia to NATO. He is widely recognized as an expert on U.S. domestic and foreign policy, transatlantic relations, defense and security issues.



BRANISLAV KLESKEŇ leads LEAF, a non-profit organization focusing on the development of young individuals with the potential to grow into shapers of Slovakia who will demonstrate moral character, excellence, entrepreneurial leadership and civic engagement; regardless of their socio-economic background. The activities of LEAF serve individuals from about 15 to 35 years of age and cover the areas of world-class education for high school students, mitigation of “brain drain” and development of young professionals. Formerly a partner at McKinsey & Company, Braňo has experience from several continents in improving corporate performance, building new businesses and improving education. He holds an MBA degree from Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University.



ZUZANA LENHARTOVÁ is a founder and leader of Pomáháme lidem na útěku (Czech Refugee Aid), a volunteer organization helping refugees on the so-called Balkan route. Volunteers provide various kinds of humanitarian aid - distribute food, water and warm clothes and care for hygiene. They also used to help states with providing safe passage for refugees and distribute the stock of material aid to camps in Northern Greece. She personally has been five times to Hungary, Greece and Serbia. Zuzana also works as a researcher at Institute for Research in Inclusive Education at Faculty of Education, Masaryk University. She is involved in several civic initiatives promoting human rights and fighting against inequality, xenophobia and racism. Zuzana studied sociology, psychology and media studies.



ADAM ONDRA is a 24-year-old professional rock climber from the Czech Republic and one of the best climbers in the world. He started climbing at about the same time he learned to walk and has not stopped since. He onsighted his first 7b+ at 8, at age 13 he climbed his first 9a. He won his first lead Climbing World Cup, and ended up second in lead Climbing World Championships when he was 16. So far he has 3 gold medals from World Championships. In 2012 he climbed Change, the first route to receive a proposed grade of 9b+. Altogether Adam has redpointed three routes at this grade. In 2016, Adam repeated the legendary Dawn Wall in a very short time of 8 days. So far, Adam has climbed thousands of routes, 140 at the grade of 9a and higher. He just finished his project in Norway of the world's first 9c.



PAVEL ŘEHÁK is a member of the Board of Directors of the Aspen Institute Central Europe. He graduated from the University of Economics in Prague with a degree in international trade and received an MBA at Northwestern University. He has been active in the business sphere for more than 20 years. In 1999 he joined McKinsey & Company where he specialized in banking, insurance, and consumer goods in the EU and the US. He held the position of Marketing and Sales Practice Leader in the company's Prague Office. Between 2006 and 2013 he was part of the top management of Česká pojišťovna. Under his leadership, the company achieved a significant increase in customer satisfaction, sales acceleration, and profitability turnaround. In 2013 he co-founded VIGO Investments where he serves as a CEO and Partner.

 @rehak_pavel



GYÖRGY SCHÖPFLIN is a Hungarian politician for Fidesz, and since 2004 also a Member of the European Parliament (MEP), where he is affiliated with the European People's Party (Christian Democrats). He serves as a full member on the European Parliament's Committee on Constitutional Affairs (where he is EPP Coordinator) and is a substitute member of the Foreign Affairs and Cultural Committees. In addition, he takes part in the Reconciliation of European Histories Group of the European Parliament. Formerly, Dr Schöpflin was Jean Monnet Professor of Politics at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at University College London and has published extensively on questions of nationhood, identity and political power.

 @schopflinMEP



JIRÍ SCHNEIDER is the executive director of the Aspen Institute Central Europe. He graduated from Czech Technical University and obtained a Diploma in Religious Studies from University of Cambridge. He was elected to the Czechoslovak Parliament in 1990 and 1992. In 1993 he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and held various positions at the Czech diplomatic service. Most prominently he served as ambassador to Israel and as the first deputy foreign minister of the Czech Republic. He also lectured at various universities in the Czech Republic. He was closely associated with the Prague Security Studies Institute (PSSI), a leading Czech security think tank.

 @JiriSchneider



JURAJ VACULÍK is a co-founder and CEO of AeroMobil, an advanced company founded in 2010 that is commercializing a flying car. Starting with a first commercial product now the ultimate vision is to offer Mobility as a Service using the best from the combination of the car, the plane and the computer. He has over 20 years experience as a leader from political revolution to founding his own successful companies. During Velvet Revolution in 1989, he was one of the key persons in Student Movement. In 1992 he started his career as a creative director for major global ad agencies. In 1996, he founded MADE BY VACULIK, one of the leading independent ad agencies in the CEE. He acts as an angel investor in Europe & USA. He also supports and sits on a board of a number of non-profit organizations.

 @jurajvaculik

Participants



PETER BARTALOŠ is a sales operations professional with multi-year ICT industry expertise. He is promoting liberalism and market-driven systems to ensure the steady continuation of the journey of the CE region, taking into account the local/global trends and tensions. On the technology front, he is excited about the evolution turning to revolution, expected to have a thorough impact on everyone's life in the next decades - especially in education, transportation and healthcare. Graduate of University of Economics in Bratislava, Peter has held various sales support and sales operations roles in the telco sector, supporting geographically spread teams. Peter is currently aspiring for a broader business operations role to support the rapid change of a leading customer-facing support organization.



LUKASZ BLUSZCZ is a documentary director and producer, and a co-owner of Warsaw-based Vision House Productions. Lukasz works with global TV networks, such as BBC, Discovery Channel, Al Jazeera English or NHK. He produces news pieces and series on current political, cultural and social situation in Poland. In 2017, he directed *The Tipping Point* - the first Polish feature documentary on climate change, awarded at Docs Against Gravity. In the last years he wrote documentaries for BBC World and Al Jazeera, covered Smolensk plane crash story for Al Jazeera English, Euro 2012 for BBC, abortion stories for BNN, gang wars for Discovery UK, prison life in Poland for Channel 5. Lukasz studied sociology in Warsaw, Poland and Urbino, Italy.



EVA BORDOS is currently the director of DemNet, one of the largest and oldest development NGOs in Hungary. She is a member of the board of the Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development and Humanitarian Aid (HAND), and is actively involved in numerous pan-European development networks, such as CONCORD (European Confederation of Relief and Development NGOs) and Eurodad (European Network on Debt and Development). She has also worked for the British Embassy in Budapest, OSCE, UNICEF and the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC). She holds a master's degree in political science from the Central European University (CEU) and a master's degree in law from Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest (ELTE).



JAN DELONG works as a librarian in Library Třinec, which is considered to be one of the most progressive libraries in the Czech Republic. Jan's main responsibilities at Library Třinec is to coordinate and organize cultural events, community projects, marketing and service design. He studies Information Science and Librarianship at Masaryk University in Brno. Jan is also part of a team that is working on a project focusing on social innovation in Czech libraries. You can find his story and profile in the book *O městech a lidech*. He is a member of the library team that earned the title Library of the Year in 2015. He published a collection of poems called *Dušinec* in 2014.

 @JanDelong



BARBORA DORIČKOVÁ is the head of EU Affairs Department at the Slovak Ministry of Environment. After a seven-year experience of managing international relationships in the judicial sector she decided to change the field and applied for a temporary task-based position at the Ministry of Environment. Her task was to lead the coordination of the historically first EU Council Presidency of the Slovak Republic in 2016 from the perspective of the environmental policy. This included preparation and coordination of EU high-level and expert meetings in Slovakia as well as around the world (Mexico, Rwanda, Morocco, South-Africa, etc.). After getting in close touch with “green” projects, she became a dedicated promoter of green ideas and decided to stay since she believes there is so much to fight for in the environment.



KAROLÍNA DVOŘÁKOVÁ is a sustainability coordinator in Shikun & Binui Real Estate Development, a development company focusing on residential projects. Her main responsibility is integrating sustainability principles into company’s operations in Central and Eastern Europe, where she oversees development of building projects according to green building standards. She obtained her master’s degree in Architecture, Urbanism and Building Sciences at TU Delft in the Netherlands. During her studies she gained experience and skills as a member of a coordination team in EU-funded FP7 program TRANSFORM dealing with energy transition of cities under Smart City concepts. She also co-founded the student club ŠTUK at CTU in Prague or worked as an interior designer.

 @Dvorak_Karolina



ANDREA GARAIOVÁ is a researcher and consultant in the fields of post-conflict reconciliation, democratization, EU integration and civil society development in Kosovo. She currently serves as Senior Project Manager/Grant Writer at Open Data Kosovo. Andrea gained experience working with international organizations (Council of Europe, European Parliament), government administration in Slovakia and think tanks in Kosovo. She holds a Master of Public Policy degree from the University of Oxford, an MA in International Peace and Security from King’s College London and a BA in Political Science from Sciences Po Paris.



MATEUSZ GAWAŁKIEWICZ is an investment professional at C2C Capital – a South African private equity company where he focuses on transactions in the consumer, pharmaceutical and manufacturing sectors. He is involved in several non-profit initiatives, one of the most prominent being the Transatlantic Future Leaders Forum, an education NGO that helps talented students from Poland to undertake internships at the United States Congress and United Kingdom Parliament. His past professional experience covers law practice, private equity investing and management consulting with institutions like McKinsey, the United Nations, the Supreme Court of Israel and the US House of Representatives. He holds a Master of Laws degree from Harvard Law School and a MA in Law (summa cum laude) from the University of Warsaw.



JAN JAKUB CHROMIEC is an affiliate fellow at the Jacques Delors Institut – Berlin. After studying flute, linguistics, management and public policy in Łódź, Mainz, Rotterdam and Berlin, he worked as a project manager at the Bertelsmann Stiftung. At the foundation he was involved in setting up an international rating agency and oversaw a project on the innovativeness of the German economy. Jan Jakub is currently writing his PhD on the impact of eurozone membership on negotiations in the Council of Ministers at the Hertie School of Governance. He is an alumnus of the German National Academic Foundation and of the Foundation of German Business.

 @jjchromiec



MAGDALENA JAGIEŁO works as Head of Business Development at Startup Poland. She is leading Startup Connectors, which organizes business meetings that build valuable relations between startups, international corporations and investors. Together with department heads, she develops company strategies for collaboration with innovators. She is also responsible for promoting Polish innovative entrepreneurs on the local and foreign industry events. Magda studied Marketing and Management at Warsaw University and is also a mentor in UPC Digital Imagination Challenge for social entrepreneurs.



SOŇA JONÁŠOVÁ is the founder and director of the Circular Economy Institute (INCIEN). She has been the director of INCIEN since 2015 and is actively involved in the transition from a linear to a circular economic system in the Czech Republic. Within INCIEN, she is responsible for the development of activities and co-operation with the key interested parties in the Czech Republic and abroad. The main field she concentrates on within INCIEN is the closure of biological and technical cycles within corporate sustainable development - an area encompassing agriculture, the development of new economies, waste management and eco-innovation. Her own motto is: “The changes we want to see around us have to begin with ourselves.” She is interested in sustainable development, agriculture, circular economy and networking.

 @sona_jonasova



MARTA KOKOSZKA is a member of the CEE Public Policy and Government Relations team at Google, covering primarily Growth Engine program and focusing on the economic impact of the Internet. Marta previously worked as an expert on foreign direct investments at the Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency and was responsible for servicing investors interested in starting their businesses in Poland. She is a graduate of the Institute of International Relations, Centre for East European Studies at the University of Warsaw and PhD studies in international economics at the Warsaw School of Economics. In the past she was a visiting student at Universität Regensburg and Saint Petersburg State University.



CHRISTINE KOVAŘÍKOVÁ joined the Czech Office of the Government to focus on issues concerning EU economics and finance after finishing her studies in Prague, Paris and Bruges. Drawn to all things intercultural, she embraces the opportunities this role affords, travelling widely, meeting inspiring people and exchanging ideas. Building upon her experience working at one of the key institutions of German policy making, the Bundestag, Christine also works to develop Czech-German strategic cooperation at the Government Office. Overall, she is living a caffeine-fueled, book-dependent existence and takes on any sporting challenge that comes her way!



MARTIN KRÁL is an experienced Principal (Junior Partner / Senior Manager) at the Boston Consulting Group with a 10+ years demonstrated history of working in the management consulting industry. He co-leads a financial services and insurance practice and marketing in Prague. He supports top clients in the region on a wide range of topics including strategy, sales and distribution and transformation (digital, agile, IT architecture). Martin holds an MBA degree with distinction from INSEAD, the #1 MBA program globally, and a master's degree in Information Technologies with distinction from the University of Economics in Prague.



JAROSLAV KRAMER is b2b magazines manager in Economia media house. He is responsible for business development and content supervision of five magazines (*Marketing & Media*, *Moderní řízení*, *Logistika*, *Právní rádce* and *Business Spotlight*), including key projects - Forum Media, HR Meeting and Innovative Legal Services Forum. Jaroslav is also editor in chief in a monthly magazine *Právní rádce*. He is involved in developing legal content of the Economia media house, especially in *Hospodářské noviny* and *Ekonom*. As a student at Charles University in Prague (Faculty of Law), he has worked as a reporter for the Czech Television and as an editor in Epravo.cz network. Jaroslav also worked as a journalist in *Lidové noviny*. In 2007, Jaroslav received Křesadlo Award for his volunteer activity.

 @JardaKramer



NORBERT KUSTÁNCZI is a 38-year-old journalist and the proud father of three beautiful baby girls. He was born in Pécs and started his career as a professional journalist there. He became senior editor of the foreign politics news site Kitekinto.hu, meanwhile he also worked for the local television first as a reporter, then as the managing editor of the daily news program. After he moved to Budapest, he started working for one of the leading media companies (Sanoma Hungary), where he landed a job as a reporter for an online news site. Two years later he became editor-in-chief of 24.hu (pka Hir24.hu). As of this summer he's been working as an online media consultant, and he is also putting in motion an online media project targeting the millennial generation.

 @kustanczi



PETRA LAUEROVÁ stands for all things auto-moto, she has spent five years with ŠKODA AUTO where she stamped her feet in anything from Brand Management and Sales to External Affairs. By participating in ŠKODA Brand Management and Strategy at VW Group China, Petra became a Beijing expat, contributing to an adaptation of WeLoveCycling platform in China. At the moment, she is fully responsible for execution of ŠKODA CSR strategy. Her alma mater is Prague University of Economics (International Business and Marketing), topped up with master's program at Johannes Kepler University Linz and Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich. Petra manages her life beyond ŠKODA at fast pace, too, being a kettlebell instructor and triathlete. As a true iron woman, she believes in the power of strength.

 @petra_lauer



TIVADAR LIMBACHER is a startup entrepreneur, a motivational speaker and a non-profit activist. He started his career with the European Commission but soon left Brussels to found startup projects in his hometown, Budapest. His current company, Ma este Színház / Tonight Theatre is an online ticketing platform for last-minute ticket sales. With this he helped more than 500 000 people to access cultural events and performances at affordable prices. He is the co-founder and Executive Board Member of the non-profit Mentorship, which offers free mentoring for young entrepreneurs. He is a business mentor at the largest Hungarian venture capital firm Hiventures. He is a frequent keynote speaker at conferences and a lecturer at International Business School and at Corvinus University Budapest.



LUKÁŠ (BOB) MARVAN is a board member of Association of UX and a board member of Association of International Affairs. His main occupation in professional life is Senior User Experience Designer at MSD. Previously he worked for AVG Technologies and Seznam.cz. Meanwhile he founded and in cooperation with Czechdesign.cz organized the educative exhibition about Digital design #zapixely which visited couple of Czech cities. BoB has a master's degree in Marketing Communications and is interested in paragliding, hiking and photography. In the past, he was also Chief Coordinator of the Prague Model United Nations and a paramedic at children's summer camps.

 @BoBMarvan



BARBORA MIČKOVÁ focuses mainly on transportation regulation in fast-paced digital environment to make it more customer-oriented, competitive and efficient. She is lobbying for strategic change in regulation and institutional mind-set. Barbora is responsible for competition issues and public and institutional affairs of LEO Express on CEE and EU level, also representing its interests in ALLRAIL, Europe's new rail association based in Brussels and in various working groups of European Commission. She likes identification and application of behavioral economy and policy nudges in both private and public agenda-setting. Barbora studied in the Czech Republic, France and Switzerland and she holds a degree in Law, Media and Marketing & PR.

 @Barbora_Mickova



MELINDA MIKLOS is the CEO of WeAreOpen diversity initiative founded by Google, Prezi and espell, currently a community of over 1,000 diversity advocate companies and organizations, including global brands and local SMEs in Hungary. WeAreOpen's mission is to raise public awareness about the fact that diversity is of value for organizations and to give companies tools to become more open workplaces. The almost 20 campaigns that WeAreOpen has already run for example include their 100+ CEOs to Pride campaign, the 150 public commitments from companies about how they will improve gender equality in the coming year, and OPEN Conference, the international diversity conference for business leaders. Previously Melinda had been the Press Officer for Google as their external colleague for six years.

 @mmlinn



ANDREJ PANCIK is a co-founder of Represent, an online e-commerce platform for selling custom merchandise without any up-front costs. Previously, he co-founded Prizeo which raised over \$20M for charity with one of the most efficient ways of fundraising using influencers. Prior to founding Represent and Prizeo, Andrej had roles at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), UBS and Microsoft. He also attended the prestigious Y Combinator accelerator in Silicon Valley. Andrej holds a degree in Computer Science from Masaryk University, and attended the University of Oxford and Harvard Business School.

 @AndrejPancik



EVA PETERKOVÁ works at Liftago, where she helps the Czech startup expand into new markets and grow in the B2B segment. Prior to joining Liftago, Eva worked as a consultant at Deloitte and at the European Commission in Brussels. At the age of 15, Eva co-founded the non-profit Together Czech Republic and led the organization for 11 years. Through her work at Together, she helped thousands of young people participate in international youth exchanges focused on informal education. In 2012, Eva became the "Youth Peace Ambassador" for the Council of Europe and was awarded the title of "Youth Ambassador" by the European Commission a year later. Eva graduated from the London School of Economics with a master's degree focused on EU politics. At this very moment, she is training for a month-long hike in Patagonia during the upcoming Christmas holidays.

 @EvaPeterkova



VLADIMÍR PÍCHA is currently a project manager for business development at Direct insurance company. Since he is eager for learning, he went through a number of junior roles in both commercial and non-profit sector. He worked for the Czech Indian Chamber of Commerce, and he trained his patience and decision-making ability while having been a futures trader for almost three years. He is an alumnus of Political Science at Masaryk University. Vladimír also graduated from Mendel University in Brno with master's degree in Finance and Investment Management. His scholarly interest in unconventional monetary policy led to the Dean's award and published research. He dedicates his spare time to running and travelling.

 @VladimirPicha



TOMAS POSPISIL is a co-founder and CEO of Český spotřebitel, a company running three projects that are on the border between NGO and business sphere. The most prominent project is Exekutor ma smulu.cz (Bailiff in Trouble) whose main objective is the suspension of unlawful property seizures (distrains, “exekuce” in Czech) that were ordered based on arbitrary findings. So far, we have suspended distrains worth 200 million CZK (no state subsidies taken). Before starting his own business, he was working for EY, Prague in Performance Improvement Department. In 2014, Tomas was awarded a Ph.D. in International Political Relations at the University of Economics, Prague. Recently, he has been interested in modern technologies (e.g. AI) and their impacts on International Relations.

 @xpost09



ANNA POVEJŠILOVÁ is Associate Specialist in the Impressionist & Modern Art department at Christie’s London where she has been working for over five years. Having experienced the challenges of getting into the art world first-hand, Anna is committed to mentoring those junior to her and advising them on succeeding within the industry, both informally on a personal level and more formally under the Easel London Initiative. Besides the questions of social mobility, Anna is also interested in art collecting in countries formerly behind the Iron Curtain and the re-establishment of collecting cultures disrupted by decades of life under communist governments.



MICHAL ŘEZNÍČEK is Partner at VIGO Investments and Member of the Board at Direct insurance company. Michal worked as Head of Sales for external distribution channels at Česká Pojišťovna from 2010 to 2014 and from 2006 to 2010 as Director Regional specialized for SME business. He has more than ten years of experience from sales positions in insurance including internal as well as external distribution channels. He has also experience at managing large teams. Michal is a graduate from talent program organized for companies of PPF Group in 2005 and from Program for Talents for CEE region countries organized by Generali Holding in 2013. Michal holds a master’s degree from University of Pittsburgh (MBA) and he holds a diploma from Higher Professional School in Olomouc (DiS degree).



RAFAL SARNIUK is an experienced business professional with over seven years of experience in IT & Consulting markets in Sales, Channels and Business Development. He is currently working at Cisco Systems where he leads distribution channel in Poland with a special focus on cyber security, collaboration technologies, and software. He graduated from Wrocław University of Economics in Computer Science and Econometrics. Rafal also studied at the University of Padua, Italy, at the faculty of Economics and Business Administration including Jean Monnet course on “Globalization, Intercultural dialogue, and Inclusiveness in the EU.” He lived and worked in multiple countries including Hungary, the Czech Republic, the USA and Canada. Rafal is passionate about the new ways technology is helping to drive sustainability.

 @sarniuk



KATARZYNA SWIETOCHOWSKA is a cultural producer, classically-trained cellist, currently working for the Julian Cochran Foundation on projects linking classical music with technology, (eg. the ONSTAGE mobile application). From 2011 to 2016 she was involved in two Adam Mickiewicz Institute's projects: I, CULTURE Orchestra - an ensemble of young musicians from Poland and Eastern Partnership Countries; and the Polska Music program which supports performances of Polish classical music worldwide. Kasia is one of the founders of the Automatophone Foundation where she currently participates in creating a project involving deaf community in Warsaw, an initiative culminating with the premiere of "Opera for the Deaf" in Studio Theatre, Warsaw.



KLÁRA ŠANDOVÁ works for Česká spořitelna insurance company, member of Erste Group, as the "cooperation with the universities coordinator." She is responsible for promoting Česká spořitelna's brand among students and during TEDx events in the Czech Republic. Klara helps students to participate in Česká spořitelna's projects and ensures that such cooperation is advantageous for both sides. Klara believes that the interconnection between the worlds of universities, start-ups and corporations brings much to all and with this idea she has started and manages cooperation between Česká spořitelna and universities' business incubators. Klara graduated from Charles University with master's degree in Aesthetics. She also has experience with organization of cultural events and acted as a manager of several Czech music bands.

 @KlaaraCora



IVANA ŠENITKOVÁ mission is to assist young people in broadening their horizons and finding their passion and sense in life. All this through her own passion in organizing inspirational and educational initiatives which challenge the current views and help with personal development. She combines her skills, experience and network at StarLift.org where she's building a community of IT students, academics and professionals, and at event-organizing at Nexteria.sk that focuses on the professional development of university students. She is an addicted "TEDxer" and the main organizer of TEDx-Youth@Prague for five years. Ivka likes to challenge herself too - she loves to solo-travel and couch-surf, mainly in the Eastern world, she is fascinated by discovering different cultures and meeting new people. She also plays beach volley and teaches aero yoga.



LUCIA VLČKOVÁ is a policy advisor at the Ministry of Environment. It might sound boring... But! Together with the rest of the team, they organize events in order to raise awareness of civil society, private sector and others on the issue of climate change, circular economy and environmental protection. During the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU, Lucia organized many events abroad to promote Slovak nature, its rich biodiversity and to highlight its necessary protection. Having studied international relations in Bratislava, Paris and Bangkok, she is persuaded that we need to fight for better environment and, most importantly, raise public awareness about new emerging environmental challenges.

Team



IVAN HODÁČ
President & Founder

Ivan is the founder and President of Aspen Institute Central Europe. He completed his education at the University of Copenhagen and the College of Europe in Bruges. He was the secretary-general of the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) from 2001 until October 2013. Before joining ACEA, Ivan Hodáč was a senior vice-president and the head of the Time Warner Corporate office for Europe. Previously he was also the secretary-general of the trade organization IFMA/IMACE, senior economist at Didier & Associates and an assistant professor at the College of Europe, Bruges. Financial Times recently listed him among the most influential personalities in the Brussels politics.

 @IvanHodac



JIŘÍ SCHNEIDER
Executive Director

Jiří is Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Central Europe. He graduated from Czech Technical University and obtained a Diploma in Religious Studies from University of Cambridge. He was elected to the Czechoslovak Parliament in 1990 and 1992. In 1993 he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and held various positions at the Czech diplomatic service. Most prominently he served as ambassador to Israel and as the first deputy foreign minister of the Czech Republic. He also lectured at various universities in the Czech Republic. He was closely associated with the Prague Security Studies Institute (PSSI), a leading Czech security think tank.

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MICHAL KOŘAN
Deputy Executive Director

Michal is Deputy Director of the Aspen Institute Central Europe and Assistant Professor at Masaryk University in Brno and served as Head of Research Department and Deputy Director of the Institute of International Relations in Prague. He is also a co-founder and the national co-coordinator of the Think Visegrad Platform. Michal holds a PhD in International Relations and in his research, focuses on foreign policy of the Central European countries, Visegrad cooperation, security and Trans-Atlantic Relations. Recently, he is interested in the interlinkage between globalization, technological changes and democracy. Michal spent a year as Research Fellow at the WCFIA, Harvard University and has delivered numerous invited speeches, at Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, Wilson Centre and University of Pennsylvania among others.

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LENKA OLEJNÍKOVÁ
Program Manager

Lenka has recently joined the Aspen Institute Central Europe. She has several years of experience in program management and administration from the private as well as the non-profit sector and has been involved in several volunteer programs focusing on minority/refugee rights and social inclusion in both the Czech Republic and Turkey. Lenka is also Guest Researcher at Gender and Women's Studies Research Centre at Kadir Has University in Istanbul where she works on developing an index for gender equality assessment at Turkish universities. She served as a local expert on violence against women for the recent project of the World Bank Group - Women, Business and the Law. She holds a BA in Political Science and International Relations and an MSc in Peace and Conflict Studies.

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ŠÁRKA PRINCOVÁ MAROUŠKOVÁ
Program Manager

Šárka has worked mainly in the cultural sector with the focus on PR and communication before joining the Aspen Institute Central Europe. She worked for one of the biggest art houses in Prague, MeetFactory, for two years where she was responsible for developing the entire communication and marketing strategy. Previously, she collaborated with Experimental Space NoD, the Alfred ve dvoře theatre, and One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival. Šárka also works as a lecturer for INEX-SDA, an association for voluntary activities. She is an alumna of the GLEN program which gave her the opportunity to work at a community school in Hpa-an, Myanmar. Šárka holds a master's degree from Culture Studies from Charles University, Prague.

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JENDA ŽÁČEK
Communication & PR Manager

Jenda is a consultant and lecturer in strategy, communications, development and NGOs. He joined the Aspen Institute in 2016 and was responsible for overall communications and the rebranding in 2017. As the Publishing Editor of the Aspen Review CE he managed the magazine redesign and the launch of the Aspen Review website. Jenda acted as the Spokesperson on behalf of more than 50.000 people organized in Junák - Czech Scouting. In 2011, he became the Head of PR department and Spokesperson of the Czech Ministry of Agriculture. From 2013, he was the Head of Communication and Spokesperson at the Czech Green Party, where he helped to raise the amount of local green representatives by more than 20% and contributed to obtaining four Senate seats for the Party. He graduated at the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Charles University.

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KAMILA RYCHECKÁ
Office Manager

Kamila holds a master's degree in Andragogy from J. A. Komenský University in Prague. Before joining the Aspen Institute, Kamila was working as an e-learning consultant in learn2grow, s. r. o. where she was responsible for preparation of custom-made e-learning programs. Her job history includes several positions in Johnson & Johnson, McKinsey & Company, and Czech Airlines. At the Aspen Institute Central Europe, Kamila is responsible above all for office management, providing support to the director as well as performing organizational and logistical tasks related to the Institute's events and activities.

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PAVLA LOSOVÁ
Project Coordinator

Pavla joined the Aspen Institute Central Europe in 2012 as Office & Event Manager and assisted the establishment of the Institute. Currently, she works part-time as Project Coordinator while being on maternity leave. She is mainly responsible for project organization and implementation. Before joining Aspen, Pavla worked at the Embassy of Canada in Prague as Administrative and Consular Assistant. She holds a master's degree from the University of Economics in Prague (VŠE) in International Politics and Diplomacy and also studied at Sciences Po in Paris as part of the EU exchange study program, Erasmus.

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ONDŘEJ BEZPERÁT
Photographer

Ondřej has worked as a reporter for Hospodářské noviny daily newspaper, online news Aktuálně.cz and the regional project Naše adresa. He has been freelance since 2011. He works with, amongst others, Forum 2000 and the Aspen Institute Central Europe. He studied photography at Ithaca College in the USA. Ondřej likes to travel, drive busses and used to dance on stage in musicals. At the moment, he enjoys raising his two sons, Tonda and Franta.



KIRILL ŠČEBLYKIN
AYLP Social Media

Kirill studies Law and Eastern European studies at the Charles University in Prague. Two years ago, when he realized, that he doesn't want to be a lawyer, he started to contribute for a student media outlet The Student Times that cooperates with a Czech business daily E15. He covered mostly education, media and international affairs. In 2016, he had an internship at the international desk of a Czech economic daily Hospodářské noviny covering mostly Central and Eastern Europe. This year, he and his colleague Filip Zajíček received Journalism Award granted by Open Society Fund Prague for the best written interview in 2016.

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