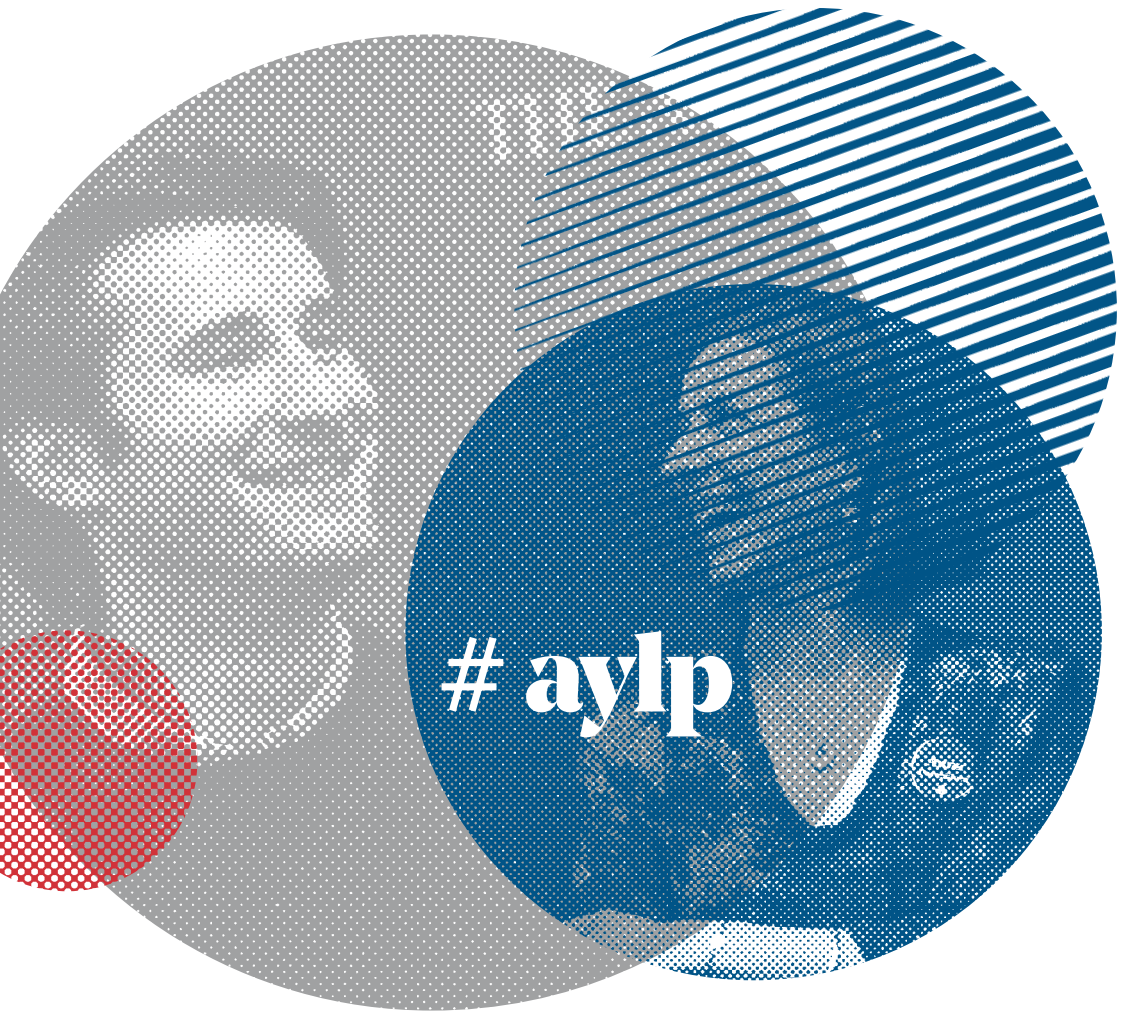
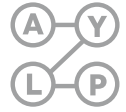


# Aspen Young Leaders Program 2018

MARCH 15-18  
TÁLE - SLOVAKIA



## DEAR PARTICIPANT,

Welcome to the Aspen Young Leaders Program 2018. Thank you for joining us for four days of talks, lectures, workshops and informal activities that we hope will stimulate, provoke and inspire you.

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, arts, 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

## Thursday March 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 **Informal Networking**  
*(Koliba Restaurant)*

## Friday March 16

- 8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 - 10:30 **Leadership in Business**  
*(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)*  
Tanja Vainio, Country Managing Director Czech Republic  
and Slovakia, ABB
- 10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00 - 12:30 **Tackling Populism and Extremism in Society**  
*(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)*  
Péter Krekó, Executive Director, Political Capital
- 12:30 - 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 - 15:30 **Leadership in (European) Politics**  
*(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)*  
Michał Boni, Member of European Parliament (Platforma  
Obywatelska/ Group of the European People's Party)
- 15:30 - 16:00 Coffee Break
- 16:00 - 18:00 **Leadership and Trust to be Led**  
*(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)*  
Miřenka Čechová, Director, Choreographer and Performer
- 18:00 - 19:00 Dinner
- 19:00 - 21:00 **Visit to a Steel Mill (Group 1)**
- 20:00 - 22:00 **Visit to a Steel Mill (Group 2)**
- 21:00 - 24:00 **Informal Networking**  
*(Koliba Restaurant)*

## Saturday March 17

8:00 - 9:00	Breakfast
9:00 - 10:30	<b>Opportunities and Risks of Artificial Intelligence</b> <i>(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)</i> James Pritts, Researcher, The Center for Machine Perception, Czech Technical University
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:30	<b>Inclusiveness and its Role in Society</b> <i>(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)</i> Martin Vavrinčík, Director of Social Integration Program, People in Need, Slovakia
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 15:30	<b>Free Time/Wellness</b> <i>(Hotel Stupka)</i>
15:30 - 17:00	<b>Future of Central European Economies</b> <i>(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)</i> Sergiu Manea, Chief Executive Officer, Banca Comerciala Romana (ERSTE)
17:00 - 18:00	<b>Dinner</b>
18:00 - 21:00	<b>Developing Leadership through Sharing</b> <i>(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)</i> Lukáš Rumlana, Senior Trainer, Centrum Dohody Tomáš Mertin, Psychologist, Centrum Dohody
21:00 - 24:00	<b>Informal Networking</b> <i>(Koliba Restaurant)</i>

## Sunday March 18

8:00 - 9:00	Breakfast
9:00 - 10:30	<b>Participants Workshop</b> <i>(Hotel Stupka)</i>
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:30	<b>Final Evaluation and Program Outcomes</b> <i>(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)</i>
12:30	Check-out
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch and Departure

# Speakers



**MÍŘENKA ČECHOVÁ** is a director, choreographer, performer and scholar. She is co-founder and director of two theatre companies: Spitfire Company and Tantehorse. She studied ballet at the Dance Conservatory in Prague and after she obtained two MA degrees in Theater and Nonverbal theatre respectively. She holds a PhD in Physical Theater Direction from the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, where she also served as a professor. She received many international awards, e.g. The Best of Contemporary Dance by Washington Post (2012), The Best of Overseas Production in South Africa (2013), etc. She directed more than 25 productions in Washington DC, New York or Prague. Ms Cechova was a Fulbright scholar teaching about theatre in many American universities, and in 2016, she spoke at TEDx Prague Women as Mckenzie Tomski, her artistic alter ego. Ms Cechova served as a programme director at the Czech Center New York.



**PÉTER KREKÓ** is the executive director of Political Capital Institute, a think-tank based in Budapest. He is a social psychologist and political scientist by his academic background. He teaches social and political psychology as the associate professor of ELTE University in Budapest. During 2016-2017 Péter worked as a Fulbright Visiting Professor in the US at the Central Eurasian Studies Department of Indiana University. He focuses on Russian 'soft power' policies and political populism and extremism in Europe. He was the co-chair of the PREVENT working group at the EU Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN), and is currently an expert member of the EU RAN Centre of Excellence. He wrote his PhD. thesis on the social psychology of conspiracy theories. He is a regular commentator in leading international media.

 @peterkreko



**JAMES PRITTS** currently works in the Visual Recognition Group at the Center for Machine Perception at Czech Technical University, where he is responsible for conducting novel research in computer vision and machine learning. He is pursuing his Ph.D. in computer science and his research focuses on modeling repeated content in images. Previously Mr. Pritts had an industry career in computer vision: He was a lead engineer at BAE Systems, where he contributed to several US Department of Defense computer-vision research efforts; at NASA, he created gesture-recognition software for remotely controlling the robotic arm of the International Space Station. Mr. Pritts received his B.Sc. in Mathematics at The University of North Texas and his M.Sc. in Computer Science from Czech Technical University.



**MARTIN VAVRINČÍK** is an expert on the issues of social exclusion and regional development. He had worked with socially excluded Roma communities since 2010, initially as the Head of Department at the Slovak Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family, later as the Program Director at ETP Slovakia and the director of the community centre. Since 2016, Martin works in People in Need, where he leads a section focused on social integration programmes. He was involved in Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Roma Integration and acted as an expert for the Council of Europe and the OSCE. After studying at the Law Faculty he worked for five years at Čechová & Partners law office, completing a bar exam in 2010. In 2016 he organized a civic campaign "A lot at stake" in a support of the electoral turnout.



**MICHAL BONI** is a member of the European Parliament since 2014, Vice-Chair of Delegation to the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Association Committee, Member of LIBE and AFCD Committees, and Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly, Substitute Member to ITRE Committee and Delegation to the EU-Ukraine Parliamentary Association Committee. In 2016 awarded a MEP award in research and innovation. He holds a PhD from the University of Warsaw where he lectured in the Department of Polish Culture. Involved in the 'Solidarity' underground movement since 1980, he served as Minister of Labour and Social Policy (1991), Secretary of State for labour market policy (1992/3), Chief Advisor to the Minister of Labour and Social Policy (1998-2000), Minister-Head of Strategic Advisors to the Prime Minister Donald Tusk (2008-11) and Minister of Administration and Digitisation of Poland (2011-13).

 @MichalBoni



**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



**PAVEL ŘEHÁK** 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. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Aspen Institute Central Europe.

 @rehak\_pavel



**JÍŘÍ 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



**LUKÁŠ RUMLENA** is a consultant, trainer and know-how manager at Centrum dohody, Consulting & Development, a Czech company providing leadership training for organisations such as Škoda Auto, Erste Group or innogy. Lukáš helps teams to work better together, through facilitating open discussion, easing tensions and having fun together. He uses his interest in modern board games to get new inspiration for design of team building activities. Another hobby that Lukáš uses professionally is author theatre (writing, directing, acting), when helping leaders to create and deliver impactful presentations with charismatic stage presence. As a cultural studies master, Lukáš loves getting to know various organization cultures and positively shaping them via rituals of experiential training.



**TOMÁŠ MERTIN** is a psychologist, consultant and coach at Centrum dohody, Consulting & Development. In the past 10 years, Tom has led a team of project managers developing corporations, but also institutions of primary and secondary education, and healthcare. Leadership, negotiation, and designing change are some of his favorite topics. As a former debater and coach of high school and university Debate League teams, he values critical thinking and constructive dialogue. He is also a Gestalt-trained psychotherapist working for various NGOs. Tom is currently interested in the area of palliative care – as a consultant for the Czech Center for Palliative Care, he helps creating successful multidisciplinary teams and promoting this topic in healthcare system.



**SERGIU MANEA** is the President of Banca Comerciala Romana and the first Romanian CEO appointed by the majority shareholder. Previously was Mr. Manea an Executive Vice-president of Corporates & Markets in BCR in the areas of corporate & commercial banking, investment banking, capital markets, transaction banking & trade finance. He sponsored BCR's involvement with financial education, sustainable development and social entrepreneurship. Mr. Manea was working over 15 years as an investment and commercial banking executive in global markets realm. Previously he was a Managing Partner at Ithuba Capital, a private investment firm in Vienna. He also acted as Managing Director at Bank Austria Creditanstalt and he had filled various roles in Financial Markets in ABN AMRO Bucharest and London. Sergiu Manea holds an MSc from Finance at DOFIN in Bucharest.



**TANJA VAINIO** is Country Managing Director at the ABB Czech Republic and Slovakia. She is an inspiring and engaging business leader with 20 years of leadership experience across the whole value chain of ABB, a pioneering technology leader and a Fortune 500 company. She has a unique blend of expertise across utility, industry, transportation and infrastructure segments. Tanja graduate in Mechanical Engineering at the Tampere University of Technology, she later obtained an MBA and MSc in Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Tanja is also a passionate advocate of sustainable development, new technologies and automation and an ambassador of gender equality. She has a great passion for people and technology - innovations, better future of our society and planet.

# Participants



**TOMÁŠ PRINC** (1985) is a freelance photographer, filmmaker and blogger who deals primarily with documentary and portrait genres. He graduated from College of Media and Journalism and Faculty of Humanities at Charles University. During his studies he was influenced by humanist approach of the Czech documentary filmmaker Jan Špáta and the qualitative research methods of cultural and visual anthropology. Through his work on blog called Humans of Prague, in which he shares stories of people whom he randomly approaches on the streets, he develops his interest in capturing personal testimonies of people. In October 2017, selected stories from the blog were published as a book of the same name. Princ is married and lives in Prague, Czech Republic.



**MARTIN NEDVĚD** runs the company behind [www.HudebniBanka.cz](http://www.HudebniBanka.cz) - the largest production music provider in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. His interest and experience in music, law and technology eventually led him to co-found the association of Czech independent labels and later to become the chairman of the board of INTERGRAM a collective management society in the Czech Republic. The common theme of Martin's projects and involvement is the transparency, fairness and effectiveness of the international music rights administration, especially in audio-visual setting (TV, VOD). His most recent project is helping musicians internationally to collect all the money they should receive for the use of their work.



**PAVOL KROSNÁČ** is a PhD. candidate based in Department of Political science of the Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic. He studied comparative religion studies in Bratislava and Oxford, focusing on new religious movements, Christianity, and Islam. He is interested especially in new and alternative religiosity, as well as overlaps between religion, ideology, violence and war. For the last three years, he studied motivations and value trees of foreign fighters and members of paramilitary organizations in Eastern Europe and Asia, and he has 3 years to go. He also occasionally works as a consultant and fieldworker for humanitarian organizations and universities, currently in Iraq and Thailand.



**DOMINIK VESELÝ** is a successful IT entrepreneur and technical lecturer. His alma mater is the Czech Technical University, the Faculty of Information Technology from which he graduated in 2014. Since then, he had remained at CTU as an external assistant. He co-founded the successful technological company Ackee, which after only 5 years of existence became one of the leading companies in custom software development, especially in the field of mobile. When he's not busy being the CTO of Ackee, Dominik can be found speaking at various technical conferences, where he is often invited to share his opinions on technical topics. Always up to date with the latest trends, he focuses on the areas of blockchain and other technology-disrupting fields, while simultaneously managing his software development team.

 [@dominikvesely](https://twitter.com/dominikvesely)





**ALŽBĚTA KRAUSOVÁ** is a legal researcher at the Department of Private Law of the Institute of State and Law of the Czech Academy of Sciences. Her research focuses on legal and interdisciplinary research in the area of intellectual property law and technology law, namely artificial intelligence, data protection law, biometrics and legal questions arising from technological developments and convergence of technologies. Currently, she is also a PhD student at the Institute of Law and Technology at Masaryk University's Faculty of Law. Her doctoral research focuses on legal issues related to new technologies, especially on merging technology with organic life. She is a public speaker and an external lecturer at the Czech Technical University and at the Charles University in Prague.



**ALEŠ WEISER** is a manager at Mars Chocolate UK Ltd. and also serves as president of the Bakala Scholars. He left home at the age of 18 to spend a year at a secondary school in the UK, from which he eventually graduated with A-levels and continued with a BA degree in Contemporary European studies and Chinese studies at the University of Nottingham. As a student, he lived in Canada, China and France and gained formative work experience as a logistics specialist at the Czech Pavilion at the EXPO 2010 in Shanghai and as an intern at the Czech Embassy in Malaysia. He gained his MA in East Asian studies at Stanford University in California between 2012 and 2014. His studies focused primarily on the role of China in global politics and US foreign policy towards North-East Asia.



**KATEŘINA PRŮCHOVÁ** is a Corporate Social Responsibility Project Manager for Česká Spořitelna insurance company, a member of the Erste Group. Her mission is to help students get experience from the company during their studies, attend lectures at partner universities, and promote Česká Spořitelna's brand. She is also responsible for communication with Alliance for Youth, where she helps other companies in organizing the "Big Step" project. As part of her work, she also supports university business incubators, where she organizes competitions and provides training on how to present one's business intentions. Her alma mater is Czech University of Life Sciences, and she holds a Master's degree in Project Management.



**MIŁOSZ WIATROWSKI** is a PhD student in History at the Yale University, where he works with professors Timothy Snyder and Marci Shore. In his project, he focuses on the intellectual history of neoliberalism in Europe in the 1980s, with emphasis on its diffusion among Polish intellectual milieu associated with Solidarność. Prior to starting his PhD, Miłosz worked as an academic assistant at the College of Europe (Natolin) and as a consultant for the Development Cooperation Directorate at the OECD, where he advised on infrastructure investments. He studied at Sciences Po (MA in International Economic Policy), at Universität St. Gallen (MA in International Affairs and Governance) and at the College of Europe (MA in European Economic Studies – European Law and Economic Analysis).

 @wmiłosz



**ANEŽKA ADAMÍKOVÁ** connects marketing, design and leadership topics. During her marketing and communication studies at Tomas Bata University in Zlín and at Aarhus University, she started to cooperate with designers and became passionate about design. She perceives design as a powerful tool that can positively affect how people feel, think and behave every day. Her internship at Helen Hamlyn Centre for Design Royal College of Art significantly influenced her approach to design. She works with CZECHDESIGN where she organized an educative exhibition in cooperation with UX designer Lukáš BoB Marvan and published a book about Digital design #zapixely. Thanks to Radka Dohnalová and her work for ATAIRU she learned about authentic leadership and its unique impact on people.

 @anezkaadamikova



**RADAN JANOŠ** is an attorney at law with the Czech and Slovak legal firm PRK Partners. Radan is focused mainly on foreign investments going in the Czech Republic and international business. Radan likes establishing new relations and this is luckily also a part of his job. After having studied, worked and travelled in a number of foreign countries, Radan believes that it makes sense to gather all the experience and knowledge and try to improve the environment back home. In his free time Radan plays tennis, goes hiking in the mountains and does any kind of activities with his beautiful family. Radan's goal for the next few years is to set up a fund or any other vehicle with a few like-minded friends which will help especially young athletes and coaches to effectively advance in their career.



**NATALIA KOBZA** is a co-founder of Cogito, a consulting company in Poland specializing in strategy development for the cities and companies in the area of smart solutions. She has already cooperated with several Polish cities, private companies, research institutes, as well as NGOs in the last 3 years. She is a holder of Mummert Scholarship "Executives of Tomorrow" (Bosch) at the University of Cologne. She did an internship at the UN ESCAP in Bangkok and she serves as a Director Delegation at the Young European Leadership. Natalia is also a member of ESTIEM (European Students of Industrial Engineering Management) where she currently develops a leadership summer school program "A world outside the box". Her biggest passions are theatre and volunteering. She has a slavic soul. Definitely.



**CSABA FAIX** is communications professional with 15+ years of experience in PR and broadcast journalism. He is the co-founder and head of creative services at Prompt Media, which gives media and presentation training to Hungarian and International clients and provides communication consultancy globally. In addition to its business clients, Prompt Media is helping various NGOs. In the past 4 years, Csaba was running Prezi's International communications, as the regional PR lead in the EMEA region. Previously, he worked nine years in broadcast journalism covering politics and International stories for Tv2, Hungary's national private channel. During his time, he reported from a variety of places, including Egypt during the Arab Spring or the 2008 US Presidential election.

 @csabafaix



**MARIA SKÓRA** studied sociology in Poland and Denmark and in 2015 received doctorate degree in economics. Before arriving in Germany, she divided her professional career between academia as a lecturer and the Polish Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. Since 2012 she also served as an expert for the All-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions and facilitated the activities of the United Nations Development Programme in Warsaw. In Germany, Maria first worked as program director at the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform. Today, she is Senior Project Manager at Das Progressive Zentrum, an independent think tank based in Berlin. Maria is responsible for developing expertise and activities of our organisation in topics related to Central and Eastern Europe.

 @MariaSkora



**MICHAEL KAŠPAR** has been the Deputy Mayor of the town of Kolin since 2014. Originally being a teacher at Grammar School, he still teaches a few lessons. His main responsibilities are in the field of National and EU Grants, Smart City Concept, Education, Culture, Sport and Environment. He succeeded in getting grants in the amount of about 250 million Czech Crowns – investment in National Heritage Sites, Traffic Terminal, School Buildings, etc. The concept of Smart City of Kolin (Kolin Smart Keycard, Parking Smart System, Smart Waste Containers, Kolin in Mobile application). The City of Kolin won The Smartest Town Hall Award in the Czech Republic, 2017 and IDC IoT Awards 2017. In his free time, he enjoys sport (running, tennis, cycling), culture, travelling, technology.

 @MichaelKaspar



**BARBORA CHVÁTALOVÁ** is the leader of the Destigmatization project, one of the main mental health care reform projects, run under the National Institute of Mental Health, CZ. She's also the founder and leader of Projekt SPOLU, the biggest project of Czech psychology and medicine students in the area of mental health, sending over 250 volunteers to psychiatric institutions across the country. She's interested in innovation of dysfunctional systems, treatment of first-episode psychosis, the effectivity of therapeutic approaches, holistic view of human health, psychology of indigenous cultures and consciousness research. As a former professional ski racer, she now holds the highest alpine ski teaching licence ISIA CARD. Barbora studied psychology at the Masaryk University and the University of Sunshine Coast.

 @Barbora\_CZE



**KATARZYNA KUBIAK** is a Transatlantic Post-Doc Fellow for International Relations and Security (TAPIR) at the Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies. Previously, she was an associate at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), research assistant at the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (IFSH), field researcher for the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (New START) and a fellow in the German Bundestag. Katarzyna holds a Master of Peace and Security (University of Hamburg) and an M.Sc. in International Economic Relations (University of Lodz). Following her PhD thesis on NATO nuclear deterrence (University of Hamburg), her research interests include ballistic missile defence, nuclear arms control and disarmament.

 @KatarzynaKubiak



**ADÉLA ZÁBRAŽNÁ** currently serves as the executive manager of The Slovak Alliance for Innovation Economy, the largest innovative alliance in Slovakia with 60+ members. She joined SAPIE in 2017 as a project manager for international cooperation. Prior to returning to Slovakia, she worked as a consultant for public sector projects at KPMG Czech Republic. She also worked as an analyst and a head of the working group on economy in the Prague-based think tank European Values. She completed her MSc. studies at Advanced Master of European Politics and Policies at KU Leuven and her master studies at the University of Economics in Prague and the University of Edinburgh. Her academic interests include future of work, digital economy, diversity and innovation in CEE.

 @AdelaZabrazna



**SYLWIA PIEKARSKA** works as a Public Policy Manager in Becton Dickinson (BD), a global medical technology company. She is in charge of managing stakeholders relations in Central and Eastern Europe. In this role, she addresses public burdens of high societal relevance in the field of Patient Safety and Women's Health and Cancer. Prior to that she managed a number of Public Affairs and Public Relations projects as a consultant and worked in public administration. She graduated from the University of Warsaw, Institute of Political Science (2013). Sylwia supports local initiatives that aim to strengthen civil society and civil society actors in Poland. She also explores Design Thinking method.



**LEVENTE JUHÁSZ** recently joined the CEE public policy team at Google. Previously, he spent five years at MOL Group where he worked in EU affairs, strategy & business development, and helped launch the company's first partnerships with startups. After witnessing the transformation in the energy sector, he is now humbled and fascinated to have a front seat to the policy debates about digital transformation. Levente studied political science and international relations in Budapest and Paris and interned for the European Commission. He is a devoted European and Atlanticist, passionate about democratic values, addressing climate change and the benefits that digitalization and technology can bring to our societies. His enthusiasm also extends to great food, great books and great conversations.

 @juhlev



**ZOFIA WANAT** is a Lenaic Fund for Quality Journalism fellow, currently working as a reporter for the regulatory newswire mLex, based in Brussels. Previously she worked for the Financial Times as a journalist in London, Paris and Warsaw. She has also published in various Polish and international media, including Polityka Insight, Visegrad Insight and fDI Magazine. She has mainly covered developments in central eastern Europe and European affairs. Zofia graduated from the College of Inter-Faculty Individual Studies in the Humanities at the University of Warsaw and from the College of Europe in Natolin. She is an alumna of the European Youth Parliament, a non-profit organisation which encourages European youth to actively engage in citizenship and cultural understanding.

 @ZosiaWas



**VÁCLAV PLÁTENÍK** has in less than a decade developed from a volunteer on a regional election campaign in the Czech Republic to the spokesman for one of the country's oldest parties. In the Czech Republic, Pláteník managed the efforts of the Christian Democrats, then a key part of the country's governing coalition. There he helped develop communication and research operations – some of the tools his party utilized for the first time. He also founded the Women's Campaign School in the Czech Republic. Pláteník was a vital part of the international team at a British consultancy BTP Advisers where he led campaigns and trainings from Europe to Africa. Vaclav now works as a Senior Policy Officer at the Embassy of the Netherlands in Prague decoding more Czech politics to our partners.

 @vaclavplatenik



**MARCELA ADAMOVÁ** is working for Healthy Regions, allowance organisation of the Ministry of Health in Slovakia, which mission is to develop and implement temporary compensatory measures in the field of health. Previously she worked for NHS and Oxfam in the UK. She is the founder of the first Roma NGO based in Glasgow (UK) Romano Lav which applies community development as a tool to achieve the advancement of citizenship of Roma communities by involving them in decision-making processes and increasing participation in community activities. Together with young Roma migrants, she organised the first public procession and the flash mob celebrating the International Roma Day in Scotland. Last year she completed a Master's degree in Public Administration at the Central European University in Budapest.



**ZUZANA ŠOTTOVÁ** is in charge of building an education platform at Hub-Hub, which aims to concentrate and develop talent in Central Europe. By connecting students, tech entrepreneurs and corporations, she is helping to create a 'one-stop-shop' for talent creation, sourcing and matching for CE. Previously she worked at Leaf, a non-profit focused on developing future generations of leaders in business and public sector. Her job at Leaf consisted of connecting Slovak students and professionals living abroad with exciting job opportunities in their homeland. Her experience in recruitment strategy and talent management was put to use at McKinsey, where she advised on matters regarding talent acquisition. She holds an MA degree in International Relations, having studied in the UK, France and Hungary.



**EMÍLIA SZABADOSOVÁ** currently works in M&A advisory, where she worked on some of the highest profile M&A transactions on the Czech market, both local and international. Moreover, she is a member of a regional Life sciences & Healthcare group. Besides her work, she is in the leadership of Prague Wall Street Club, where she educates students in Finance. Prior to joining the world of finance, Emilia graduated from Faculty of Science at Charles University, where she conducted the research on cancer cell invasiveness. The results of her research were published in a reputable international journal. As she says, her professional and personal views were shaped the most while living and working in Germany. Emilia is enthusiast into biotechnology and recently found a new passion in tennis.



**MICHAL GLOGER** after he finished his masters in robotics at VSB – the Technical University of Ostrava he started to be interested in medical technology, especially robotic rehabilitation and assistive technology for disabled and elderly people. He decided to move to Brazil where he was working on the development of powered exoskeleton for paraplegic people. From Brazil he moved to Japan where he strengthened his specialization in biorobotics and biomechanics while working on similar projects in Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute, department of Brain Robot Interface. In Japan, he finished his dissertation thesis about affordably powered exoskeletons and now he is back in EU, ready to run his own company in this field. He enjoys a healthy lifestyle and his anti-stress recipe is sport on daily basis.



**KRZYSZTOF DZIECIOLOWSKI** is an award-winning journalist, filmmaker, and founder of Vision House, an independent media production company based in Warsaw. His portfolio includes work with the BBC, Al Jazeera, CNN, CBC, NHK, The Guardian and others. Krzysztof's company Vision House is championing factual programming and the production of documentary series and films featured on BBC World and Al Jazeera. For Al Jazeera English Krzysztof has worked on Ukrainian war, Catalanian independence aspirations and refugee crisis; for the BBC he has worked on the EU enlargement, Orange Revolution of 2004, the death of John Paul II and others. He was a fellow at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, Oxford University, holds MA in Sociology from Warsaw University and pursues a PhD at the Cardiff University.

 @kdzieciol



**KATEŘINA KRIVÁNKOVÁ** is studying the Master degree in Political Science (specialization in political marketing and psychology) at Masaryk University, Czech Republic. She is a co-founder, event manager and from December 2018 also director of a student project Zvol si info. Zvol si info strives to encourage critical thinking and increase media literacy amongst Czech & Slovak youth, which is particularly targeted by disinformation waves. To reach this objective, we have created simple, user-friendly, toolkit called Surfer's Guide to the Internet. In 5 steps, we teach people how to be independent in recognizing what is a fact and what something else – opinion, hoax, fake news. So far, we have reached almost 5 000 students, organised more than 80 lectures, won Gratias Tibi Award and published a book.



**MARTIN KRÁL** is an experienced Principal (Junior Partner / Senior Manager) at the Boston Consulting Group with 10+ years demonstrated history of working in the management consulting industry. He co-leads 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 a Master of Business Administration degree with distinction from INSEAD, the leading MBA program globally, and a Master's Degree in Information Technologies with distinction from the University of Economics in Prague.



**JOHANA RIDZOŇOVÁ** is the Head of Chemical Manufacturing Control at Zentiva k.s. She is responsible for five sub-departments which communicate with Health Authorities and Ministries and ensure medicine safety for the European, US and Asian markets. Johana lived in several European countries; she has built an international view of the corporate and educational worlds. She is also acting as an adviser to the company in restructuring processes, following Zentiva's divorce from Sanofi. She is active in various projects in the medical and educational industries. Johana studied Psychology (BSc), Functional Neuroimaging (MSc), and Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuropsychology (MSc) in London. Previously she worked at Cerebrum institution as neuropsychology consultant for patients with cerebral lesions.



**EDITA KUDLÁČOVÁ** is currently leading the innovation team of Czech Radio – Creative HUB – as the Chief Creative Producer. Together with her team, she is looking for new ideas, creative people and ways to implement international media trends across the Czech Radio. The team has already achieved numerous successes at international competitions and festivals. Edita has been also active in the international cooperation of media experts under the European Broadcasting Union and is a member of the New Radio expert group focusing on the future of radio. Prior to this, she was the Head of International Relations of Czech Radio. Edita studied at the Faculty of Arts, Palacky University in Olomouc, and abroad. She has been a member of the Supervisory Board for the Society for Creativity in Education.



**LUKÁŠ FOLBRECHT** has been a coordinator of External Affairs in ŠKODA AUTO in the Czech Republic for almost 7 years, responsible for relations with Czech and EU institutions on issues such as automotive legislation. His key agenda, as well as a hobby, are alternative fuels, particularly e-mobility. He also helps with coordination of VIP visits to ŠKODA AUTO in Mladá Boleslav, including visits of ministers or ambassadors. Lukas is a Member of the Board of the Chamber of Commerce in Mladá Boleslav. He graduated from Charles University in Prague, studied and worked in the US, the UK and in Brussels. He also worked as a journalist and at the Office of the Government. He speaks English, German and French. Lukas enjoys jogging (long tracks 10 km and more), tennis and spending time with his lovely kids Luisa and Tobias.



**JIŘÍ VOJKOVSKÝ** set up the 1st quantitative finance oriented asset manager in the region, Richfox Capital, in 2014, quickly achieving high levels of performance and growth. The company has since expanded into a Dutch fund manager with the pan-European senior team, serving both HNW and institutional clients. He plans to set up a non-profit impact fund focused on cleantech in 2018 and dedicate most of his income to set up the Richfox Foundation in 2019 to structurally improve education in countries of V4. He studied law & economics, currently studies finance & banking at LSE. He enjoys trying to make some sense of the world, usually failing miserably, he'd love to actively participate in leaving the world a better place and in his spare time he plays chess, rides horses, sails yachts, all rather poorly.

 [@RichfoxCapital](https://twitter.com/RichfoxCapital)



**JANA HOLČAPKOVÁ'S** everyday life is affected by the social pedagogy, which she studied. She believes we are learning through our whole life. It is being proved by herself, children, adolescents, adults and seniors she meets in her work and personal life. She is very active in a local community and has many years of experience with volunteering. She tries and does her best to have a positive impact on her environment - because every little effort matters. Currently she is working with people with autistic spectrum disorders which allows her to look into others worlds and to realize how something which is obvious to one can be completely differently perceived by others. She is also big animals and yoga lover. Both helps her to calm down and find what feels good.

 @holcapkovajana



**ELIŠKA PODZIMKOVÁ** [25] is a young artist from Prague. She is a creative multimedia artist whose unique wit, a strong sense of design and technical skill have all contributed to her international reputation as a pioneering animator, illustrator, and digital artist. Her unusual technique of blending live-action photography and video with hand-drawn animation is universally appealing across genres. Whether applying her art to award-winning short films, music videos, collaborative photography projects, or marketing campaigns for such as clients as Jamie Oliver, Vogue Magazine, New York Film Academy, City of Prague, singer Tomáš Klus and many others. Now she is back in Prague working on projects like a collaboration with a foundation Můj Nový Život, working with kids fighting cancer.



**MARTIN JUREČEK** is a Data analysis director at the DIRECT insurance company. He is responsible for business architecture, business analysis, business reporting, business intelligence and data. After finishing his studies he worked for sales and risk department in Volksbank (now Sberbank) and GE Money bank (now Moneta Money bank) in the Czech Republic. Later he worked for Česká pojišťovna insurance company as Project Manager for projects in Operations, Claims and Sales support department. Martin studied Bank Institute in Prague, Silesian University in Opava and LIGS university in Prague. He graduated from Information technology, IT management and Strategic management. In 2015, he started to work for VIGO Investment Group.



# 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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**MARTINA NÁDVOŘNÍKOVÁ**  
Program Manager

Martina has recently joined Aspen Institute as a program manager for Aspen Young Leaders Program & Alumni network. She has professional experience from corporate as well as non-profit organisations, mainly in project management and administration. She was Project Coordinator with focus on sustainability in Danish NGO Crossing Borders, Assistant in Czech organisation Bezobalu which is focused on sustainable consumption, and Program Assistant for European Year of Development 2015 in Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague (CULS). Previously, she also cooperated with Language School Jipka, BDO and A.T.Kearney. She holds an MSc. Degree in Sustainable Rural Development from CULS, and studied two semesters at Wageningen University (the Netherlands). She is an active volunteer and future farmer.

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**DANA BASCHOVÁ**  
Senior Program Manager

Dana served for more than ten years at the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, most recently as Deputy Head of Mission to Austria (2014-2017), and as Deputy Head of Mission to Israel (2010-2013). She focused mainly on security policy and transatlantic relations, Central and Eastern Europe, and Visegrad Group cooperation. Furthermore, during her postings in Austria and Israel she developed and managed projects and cooperation in topics such as security, but also science, technology and innovation. Previously, she worked with People in Need Organization (2004-2005), one of the most influential NGOs in Central and Eastern Europe. She headed the Cuban Department of its Human Rights Section.

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**JENDA ŽÁČEK**  
Publishing Editor of Aspen Review

Jenda is a consultant, lecturer, communicator, and strategist. He helps others with development & company strategy, communications & PR, political marketing or 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 he managed the magazine redesign and the launch of the Aspen Review web. Now he handles the whole magazine. 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. He helped to raise the amount of local green representatives by more than 20% and contributed to obtaining four Senate seats for the party. Jenda Žáček is active in the topic of communication studies and media ownership. He graduated from the Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University in Prague in Marketing Communication & Public Relations.

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**ONDŘEJ BESPERÁT**  
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.



**ZUZANA KROUPOVÁ**  
Communication Manager

Zuzana joined the Aspen Institute Central Europe in January 2018 as a Communication Manager. Before that she had worked for the Newton Media as a Media Analyst for almost 15 years. She had been performing analyses for clients from business, telecommunication, banking, automotive, policy and non-profit sectors. Zuzana graduated from the Faculty of Humanities at the Charles University in Prague.

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**KATEŘINA POLANSKÁ**  
Office Manager

Kateřina works at the Aspen Institute Central Europe and 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. She is interested in learning and development with a focus on conflict resolution, facilitated dialogue and gender issues. She gained experience working in the oldest peace and reconciliation organization in Northern Ireland and with the Gender Equality Unit of the Government of the Czech Republic. Kateřina trained as a mediator and researches how to empower societies and individuals through education about conflict. She studied English, International Relations, European Studies and Economics in the Czech Republic, the USA and France.

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# Notes

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