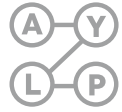


# Aspen Young Leaders Program 2019

MARCH 21-24  
TÁLE - SLOVAKIA

The background features two large circular halftone images. The left circle is in shades of grey and shows a man with glasses. The right circle is in shades of blue and shows a woman. A red halftone circle is partially visible on the left edge.

# aylp



## DEAR PARTICIPANT,

Welcome to the Aspen Young Leaders Program 2019. 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 21

- 15:00 - 18:30     **Arrivals and Dinner**  
*(Hotel Stupka)*
- 19:00 - 19:15     **Welcome Address and Introduction**  
*(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)*  
Jiří Schneider,  
Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Central Europe
- 19:30 - 20:30     **Getting to Know Each Other**  
*(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)*  
Pavel Řehák, Vice President of the Aspen Institute Central Europe, CEO at Vigo Investments  
Pepper de Callier, Founder and Chair of the Supervisory Board at Aspen Institute Central Europe
- 20:30             **Informal Networking, Games**  
*(Koliba Restaurant)*

## Friday March 22

8:00 - 9:00	Breakfast
9:00 - 10:30	<b>Tomáš Salomon, CEO of Česká Spořitelna</b> <i>(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)</i> Banking: Back to the Roots and Beyond
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:30	<b>Šárka Kinclová</b> <i>(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)</i> Crossroads
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 16:00	Free time
16:00 - 18:00	<b>Miky Škoda, Founder of LowCost Race and LeapMakers</b> <i>(Hotel Stupka Conference Room + Outdoors)</i> Next step: Failure (Workshop)
18:00 - 19:00	Dinner
19:00 - 21:00	<b>Visit to a Steel Mill (Group 1)</b>
20:00 - 22:00	<b>Visit to a Steel Mill (Group 2)</b>
21:00 - 24:00	<b>Informal Networking</b> <i>(Koliba Restaurant)</i>

## Saturday March 23

8:00 - 9:00	Breakfast
9:00 - 10:30	<b>Gen. (Ret) Petr Pavel</b> <i>(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)</i> Leadership in the Military, Personal Story
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:30	<b>Igor Blažević, Prague Civil Society Centre</b> <i>(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)</i> Dilemmas of Supporting Democracy and Human Rights Abroad in Current Times
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 15:30	Free Time
15:30 - 17:00	<b>Martina Dlabajová, Member of the European Parliament</b> <i>(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)</i> Europe: Vision after the Elections
17:00 - 18:00	Dinner
18:00 - 19:30	<b>Participants Workshop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5 groups of participants' projects</li><li>• Discussions and recommendations</li></ul>
19:30 - 24:00	<b>Informal Networking</b>

## Sunday March 24

8:00 - 9:00	Breakfast + Check Out (12:00)
9:00 - 11:00	<b>YEMI A.D., Founder &amp; CEO of JAD Productions</b> <i>(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)</i> The Future of Creativity
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 - 12:30	<b>Final Evaluation and Program Outcomes</b> <i>(Hotel Stupka Conference Room)</i>
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch and Departure

# Speakers



**TOMÁŠ SALOMON** At the beginnings of Česká spořitelna (ČS), the idea was to teach people to manage financially and guide them to prosperity. We have grown from a small building society into the largest bank on the market. “Being at the head of the largest and oldest bank in the Czech Republic is an honor and challenge for me.” Tomáš has been at the head of ČS since 2016. He has worked for most of his life in the financial sector. He was a member of the Board of Directors of Slovenská spořitelňa, and co-founder of the company Mopet CZ. As CEO and Managing Director, he ran GE Capital Multiservis, the retail bank of GE Capital Bank, and Poštová banka in Slovakia. He has also devoted himself to private investment projects and among other achievements initiated the creation of a platform which implemented mobile payments.



**MIKY ŠKODA** made his first journey abroad at the age of 17 and soon started climbing the highest peaks in Europe. He established his first company, a team-building agency with 40 instructors, at the age of 22. Today, the main vision of his projects and activities is to give Czechs more self-confidence, and raise their trust in other people. He started LowCost Race which later received the biggest Czech media coverage. He also established LeapMakers, a non-profit helping secondary school and university students achieve their dreams. He co-hosts a podcast about life success and happiness. He is also the author of “Můžeš (po)dělat cokoliv”, regularly speaks at business conferences, helps companies with leadership, and organizes workshops focused on getting out of the comfort zone.





**PETR PAVEL** served as Chairman of the NATO Military Committee in 2015-2018. Since graduating from the Army College in Vyškov (CZE) in 1983, General Pavel has held a wide range of positions, the most prominent being Commander of the Czech Special Forces, National Military Representative to the US Central Command and to SHAPE in Belgium, and Chief of the General Staff of the Czech Armed Forces (2012-2015). General Pavel also studied at Camberley Staff College and the Royal College of Defence Studies and obtained an MA in International Relations from King's College.



**ŠÁRKA KINCLOVÁ** believes that traveling makes us broader minded and more understanding. She is a member of the Traveler's Century Club. She joined IBM in 1999, where she held several positions in IBM CEMEA in Vienna and IBM EMEA in Paris. She started working for Apple Europe in London in 2008, focusing on the education segment in CEE. She led the EU Accessibility initiative, advancing the use of technology for people with special needs. She currently teaches and consults on the use of digital disruptive technology and the liberal arts. She has an MBA from Henley Management College and at VSE/Jean Moulin III and took a semester of Psychology and Int. Relations at Harvard University. She is currently studying History of Design. She has visited 150 countries and autonomous territories and all 68 in Europe.



**MARTINA DLABAJOVÁ** has been a member of the European Parliament since 2014. She is a member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and Vice-Chair of the Committee on Budgetary Control where she is focused on budgetary spending, cost effectiveness and future of the EU budget. In her work, she deals with youth employment, labor mobility and free movement of workers. The European Parliament adopted her report on matching skills and jobs. Martina Dlabajová was also the rapporteur for the report on New Skills Agenda for Europe, which focuses on development of the skills needed for future employment in the labor market. She is the author of the project of motivational traineeships for young people “PročByNe?” which offers young people the opportunity to fulfill their professional dreams.



**IGOR BLAŽEVIĆ** is the founder and longtime director of One World, Europe’s largest human rights documentary film festival. Igor has been involved in the activities of People in Need (Člověk v tísni) since 1992. At the beginning, he participated in humanitarian missions in Bosnia and in Chechnya. He developed the People in Need Information and Communication Department and was later head of the Human Rights and Democracy Department. After ten years at the helm of the One World festival, Igor handed over his responsibilities to a new generation and moved to Thailand and Burma where he organized comparative political science courses for former political prisoners. Igor is currently a Program Director at the Prague Civil Society Centre focusing on the East European region, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

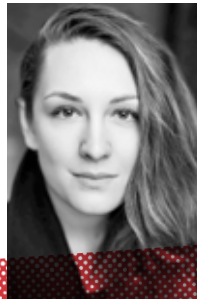


**Yemi A.D.** is an art director and producer, one of the most wanted creative authors. He has worked for several years with the American rapper and superstar Kanye West and has created shows, music videos and choreography for artists around the world. Yemi founded and leads JAD Productions agency, with which he works not only for clients such as Google, T-Mobile, or Coca-Cola, but also produces his own projects. JAD Productions was awarded the Best Event Agency in the Czech Republic in 2014, 2015 & 2016, and received the World Best Event Award (BEA) in 2015, 2016 & 2018. Most recently, he appeared as one of the international judges on the American TV show *The World's Best* aired on CBS. He is a featured speaker of Aspen Institute CE and is newly a member of the 2019 Class of Henry Crown Fellowship within the Aspen Global Leadership Network.

# Participants



**CHARLOTA BLUNÁROVÁ** is a designer creating innovative products and services for organizations around the globe. She works as a Sr. Designer at IDEO, a global design firm that helps companies such as Ford, Google, IKEA, and others create change through design. Her past work includes projects with clients from healthcare, mobility, retail, education and finTech. Charlota's passion for design and technology intersect with a curiosity about futurism, entrepreneurship and sustainability. She is also always happy to chat about sci-fi books, graphic design, or how we shape technology and how it shapes us. Charlota holds a degree in Industrial Design from Brno University of Technology, and has received several design awards, such as the 3M Design Innovation Award or The Learned Society of the Czech Republic Award.



**SARA BOUTALL** holds 5 degrees including a double doctorate. She has worked with dynamic technology startups in London, LA, New Zealand, and worked with clients all over the world, from Singapore to Albania. She loves big dogs, British comedy, her family and cooking. She is an Oxford-educated archaeologist and anthropologist, who has recently set up her own technology strategy company and works on a range of projects with AI, big data, political technology, and technological consulting all over the world and aims to answer one core question: what is the point of having cutting-edge tech if it is not being utilized properly? Her mission is to bridge the gap between humans and technology to ensure that real world problems are solved as effectively as possible.



**MONIKA ČERNÍKOVÁ** is a Project Leader in Boston Consulting Group, a global management consulting firm and the world's leading advisor on business strategy. Her clients include some of the most well-known world retailers, whom she has supported on topics ranging from strategy, defining new store formats to private labels. She is based in Prague but divides her time between Central Europe and the rest of the world. Her assignments have taken her to different countries across Europe, Australia and the Middle East, where she temporarily relocated and spent 2 years working for BCG's Dubai office. Before BCG, Monika worked at Barclays Investment Bank in London. She holds an MSc in European Public Policy from University College London and a BA in History & International Relations from Royal Holloway.



**MATEUSZ GAWALKIEWICZ** is an investment professional at C2C Capital – a global private equity company. He is co-founder and Vice-chair of the Board of Transatlantic Future Leaders Forum, a non-profit organization that allows the brightest Polish students to undertake summer internships at the United States Congress. He is engaged in several startup initiatives on an executive and advisory level. His past professional experience covers investing in public and private assets, law practice and management consulting with institutions such as McKinsey and Company, the United Nations, the Supreme Court of Israel, the United States Congress and law firms in the United States and France. He holds a Master of Laws degree (LL.M.) from Harvard Law School and an MA in Law summa cum laude from the University of Warsaw.



**JUDIT GELLER** is a human rights lawyer working at PILnet: The Global Network for Public Interest Law, where she is engaged in developing pro bono legal practice around the world with the view of using law to bring social change. Prior to joining PILnet, Judit worked as a senior lawyer for the European Roma Rights Centre an international NGO where she has been leading various pieces of litigation and legal advocacy before national and international courts challenging discrimination against Roma in Europe. Her work is focused in particular on advancing equality and justice for women and children. Judit received her law degree and her LLM in Children's Rights from ELTE University Budapest. Her interests include social justice, children's rights, women's rights and intersectional justice.



**MARTIN HALUŠ** graduated from Comenius University Bratislava in 2010. With a genuine interest in public policy, he began working at the Institute for Financial Policy at the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic as an environmental and energy analyst. He received his second Master's in specialized economic analysis from Barcelona Graduate School of Economics in 2013. As an ad-hoc consultant for OECD, he worked on the regional disparities of the Slovak economy and its resource efficiency. In 2016, he became chief economist and director of the Institute for Environmental Policy, a newly established analytical unit at the Ministry of Environment. With a small team of dedicated economists, he is building the capacity to promote evidence based policy-making in Slovakia.



**MIROSLAV KAUFMAN** is a business professional with 10+ years of experience in banking and consulting, with 6 years working for Home Credit International. He is currently leading projects to introduce new technologies such as bots, AI and smart assistants into business. He was previously Group Head of Business Optimization where he worked on bringing new products and improving business on Asian markets with a special focus on China and India. He was also at the beginning of Airbank, where he was responsible for creating a product that received several awards. He was later head of the business planning department and worked in risk departments across Europe during the financial crisis of 2007-2008. Miroslav's biggest enjoyment is creating new things or thinking about how to improve the current ones.



**HONZA KEPRŤA** is a Czech tech enthusiast and has worked at Google since 2014. He is currently based in London as an Associate Product Marketing Manager leading marketing for Google Store across Europe, the Middle East and Africa. He previously launched fin-tech products in Central and Eastern Europe as well as digital safety education programs in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. One of his key interests is inclusive marketing in the tech industry. He has a Bachelor's degree in Finance and a Master's degree in International Management. His studies involved placements in the Netherlands, Iceland, and finally the USA for which he was awarded the Paul Robitschek Scholarship. His leisure pursuits include architecture, design and embracing the outdoors.





**LUCIA KLINCOVÁ** serves as the Director of Foreign Direct Investment at the British Embassy in Prague where she supports local businesses interested in expanding their activities to the United Kingdom. Her background is in consulting and global mobility but she has always been interested in International Relations. She studied at Charles University and completed programs at Georgetown University, ULB and George Mason University. She also hosts a monthly talk show focused on personal growth and female empowerment. In her free time, she enjoys long-distance running, swimming and cinema. She was a competitive dancer for 17 years.



**PETER KOLOSSA** is Manager at the EU and Public Sector Advisory division of Deloitte Hungary. With more than 12 years of professional experience in EU and international development policy, his consulting experience includes the ex-ante evaluation of Hungary's transport operational program for 2014–2020, the ex-post evaluation of investments in urban development and social infrastructure in 2007–2013, as well as the operational evaluation of the Danube Transnational Program. He has worked extensively for the benefit of a broad range of government organizations as well as major corporations. He is bilingual in English and Hungarian, and proficient in German.





**JOANNA KOPER** is a psychologist, facilitator and trainer with over 7 years of work experience in education and business. She is passionate about mentoring and career counselling. She is a board member of Mentors4Starters Foundation - the largest mentoring initiative in Poland [www.mentors4starters.pl](http://www.mentors4starters.pl), a Global Shaper (an organization for young leaders established by the World Economic Forum) and former curator of Global Shapers Warsaw Hub. She is currently working as head of the Perspektywy Women in Tech Summit (a tech-related conference for over 2,500 participants). She is the author of the Integrated Development Model - an assessment tool used in career counselling. She is a Scrum and Design Thinking enthusiast with an extensive knowledge of project management and creative problem-solving techniques.



**LADISLAV KUČERA** joined ŠKODA AUTO as the project coordinator and is in charge of its regional development program with the ŠKODA Endowment Fund which aims to increase the attractiveness of the Mladá Boleslav region in the next 3 years via development projects with an allocation of 30 ml. EUR. Ladislav is experienced with Czech and European environmental, regional and social development projects, notably he played a part in the cohesion policy as the Head of the EU Fund Unit at the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, a program assistant in the European Commission during the negotiation of the new programming period of EU funds in Slovakia and the Head of the EU Funds Unit at the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs where he was in charge of restructuring the Operational program Food and Material Assistance.



**VALENTINA LACOVICH** is a postdoctoral researcher in the Translational Neuroscience and Aging Program (TAP) at FNUSA-ICRC, Brno. Her main research interest are to uncover the connection between traumatic brain injury and the subsequent onset of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease later in life. She is also the co-founder of NERVtech, a high-tech R&D company specializing in vehicle simulator technologies in the fields of biometric and cognitive driver evaluation, deep machine learning and data integration. Valentina completed her studies at the University of Trieste, Italy and received her PhD at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. In 2017 she was awarded the New Investigator Award, offered by the Neuropsychiatric Syndromes in Neurodegenerative diseases PIA at the AAIC in London.



**JAN LAŠTŮVKA** is the Co-founder & CEO of MonkeyData - an eCommerce analytics startup, with 100,000 users in 30+ countries. His role is to actively push global growth. He is an international speaker focused on eCommerce, Data, AI technology, and entrepreneurship and has spoken at events such as eCommerce Expo in Berlin and Athens, etc. Jan's philosophy is the global democratization of eCommerce data. Before entering eCommerce, Jan founded and led a successful digital agency and several startups. He is a member of the board of Centrum Pant, a non-profit organization with a focus on Modern History and Politics. As part of the NGO activities, Jan founded the platform entitled "Future Education Initiative", which helps teachers in Ostrava gain access to the world's best courses and teaching methods.



**IVAN LESAY** studied political science at Central European University and received a doctorate in economics at the Slovak Academy of Sciences. He served as an advisor to the Slovak Minister of Finance and as the State Secretary at the Ministry of Finance (MoF). He focused on economic policies of the EU and the euro area and served as a member of the Board of Directors in the European Financial Stability Facility and the European Stability Mechanism. He was responsible for the preparation of the MoF for the Presidency of the SR in the EU Council and, on behalf of the EU Council, for negotiating with the European Parliament concerning the EU budget for 2017. He is currently also a member of the Board of Directors of the European Investment Bank.



**PAWEL MALON** is a private equity investment professional currently working as a Principal at Compass Partners in London. At Compass, Pawel has been focusing on executing and monitoring private equity investments in Europe and the US across a variety of sectors. Pawel previously worked as an M&A banker at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. Having called Poland, Hungary, China, the Netherlands and the UK his home, Pawel is passionate about the impact of intercultural dynamics on international business and globalisation. In his free time, Pawel enjoys mentoring aspiring Polish start-ups on business development and product commercialization. Pawel holds a B.Eng. in Materials Engineering from Loughborough University and an M.Phil in Technology Policy from University of Cambridge.



**KRISTINA MARGETINOVÁ** joined Shell Slovakia in 2008 and is a Sales professional with over 12 years of experience. During her career, she has managed and developed the portfolio of B2B customers mainly from the Commercial Road Transport segment, making a significant impact on growing the business. Kristina has had experience both with direct and indirect sales channels, and also in coaching sales team members. Active in participating in continuous improvement projects, she has demonstrated strong collaboration with other departments. She has a good knowledge of the product with a demonstrated history of working in the oil & energy industry. Kristina lives in Bratislava in Slovakia, where she was born. In her free time, she loves reading books, enjoys walks in the nature and is a dog-lover.



**JOSEF MÜLLER** started his business career as a Škoda car salesman when he was 15 years old and studying at the English College in Prague. At 21 he joined Volkswagen Group as the VIP and Fleet Manager for SEAT. At 22 he became Czech CEO of Junior Achievement, the world's largest provider of entrepreneurship, financial literacy and work-readiness education programs to youth. JA Czech was founded in 1992 by Tomas J. Bata. Since 2018 he works as Executive Director of GrowJOB Institute that provides workshops, organizes conferences and stands behind the popular book *The End of Procrastination* & global project Procrastination.com. He also leads "Lepší Senior" Foundation that aims to improve the lives of Czech seniors and bring optimism, happiness and critical thinking to their daily routine.



**WERONIKA SARNOWSKA** is a political activist and a business consultant. She is a graduate of European Social and Political Studies from University College London. She started her career in technology advisory at KPMG, where she conducted projects for the British public administration. She currently works as a service designer in innovation consultancy, helping banks and insurance companies become more user-centric. She is interested in the social and political dimensions of new technologies; working in the past at the Centrum Cyfrowe (Digital Centre) think-tank and mentoring the participants of a hackathon run by the Warsaw National Museum. Apart from her professional pursuits, Weronika is a member of the Razem political party, where she oversees the party's activity at the local level as a member of the party's Warsaw district board.



**VALERY SENICHEV** is a psychologist and career consultant. He is co-founder & partner of Jobs 2030, a consultancy company focused on getting people and companies ready for the changes of work which come hand-in-hand with new technologies. He is also a co-founder of Educamp.cz, a platform focused on training and consultancy in professional development and meaningful jobs. Valery gained experience in international organizations and associations with a focus on training, CSR and diversity and an NGO with a focus on startups, volunteering and community work. Valery holds a BA in Gender Studies and Psychology and an MA in Psychology from Masaryk University, he also holds a Ph.D. in Economics and Management from Brno University of Technology.



**DANIEL SERAFÍN** has worked for the global company ABB from 2011. He began as a Shared Financial Services Accountant. Over several years he pursued his career development and began to do business as a Production Controller. He has worked on several improvement projects in the factory environment and his position was deeply connected with lean and cost out processes. Over a short time he became Business Controller for the new formed unit in ABB Power Grids High Voltage Service and Country role as Power Grids Division Marketing & Sales Controller. He currently works on a major project entitled Joint Venture which should transfer the ABB Power Grids Division in the Czech Republic to the new owner Hitachi.



**VIKTORIA SKŘIVÁNKOVÁ** serves as the head of the program at LEAF, a Slovak NGO that develops young talent. Her goal is to build a knowledge economy through leveraging the Slovak diaspora. With her team she designs and implements activities that attempt to turn the brain drain to brain circulation. Before returning to Slovakia, she trained at the Office of the European Ombudsman in Brussels and Strasbourg, providing legal advice on good public administration and transparency to EU institutions, building upon the knowledge she gained while she pursued studies in law, human rights and EU law in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Apart from the world of migration, nationality and citizenship policies, she is fascinated by the science behind learning and teaching languages.





**ROBERT SOVÍK** leads a company which helps with the academic development of student athletes with the goal of attending top educational institutions. Robert spent his young life as a hockey player, but later realised that he would have to give up playing hockey or postpone college. He found an answer in America, where he studied economics and played hockey. He later worked in the finance industry in NYC, but realized that his passion was to open the same doors to other students who were not willing to compromise. USA Sport & Study was born, followed by CAAN (Czech-American Alumni Network) a company which connects those who have experience of living in both America and the Czech Republic. Robert is currently listed on 2019's Forbes CZ 30 Under 30 and is also working on other exciting projects.



**ALEXANDRA STŘELCOVÁ** is a co-founder of Hænke, a Prague-based initiative that promotes plant research and its potential in tackling global issues related to health, medicine as well as design or architecture. She studied Marketing Communications and Public Relations at Charles University in Prague and holds a Master's degree in Creative and Cultural Entrepreneurship from Goldsmiths College, University of London. While in London, she worked as a communications consultant for classical music artists and launched a non-profit incubator, NX Creative Lab that was aimed at advising young start ups within creative industries. Since 2016, she has been working for El Sistema Greece, a community project – a member of UNHCR's With Refugees campaign - that provides free music education to children living in Greece.



**ANDREA STUDIHRADOVÁ** has been working at Česká spořitelna since 2012. She is currently a member of the Press Centre and is also creating the new CSR strategy project, which gives people the tools they need to make a difference where it matters most to them – in their neighborhoods and communities. She started her career as an editor and PR specialist, and later became executive director of the Czech Association for Mental Health and brought to life some of the innovative programs there. After more than 5 years fully dedicated to NGO, she decided to go into the unknown again. She joined GE Money Bank as an assistant and left that company as head of internal communication. She has been a member of the board of directors of Green Doors for a number of years.



**ZEA SZEBENI** recently started her PhD in social psychology at the University of Helsinki. Her interests include societal changes and the effects and challenges that we will face due to disinformation in the online sphere. She is also associated with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences as a research assistant. Prior to this, she worked for a Hungarian NGO, where she was in charge of a project with the aim of integrating people - who are at risk of social exclusion - into the job market. During her Master's studies, she was the president of the Youth Section of the Hungarian Psychological Association, where one of her main objectives was to encourage members to think critically about psychology and take into account not only the individual but their societal situation as well.





**MARKÉTA ŠETINOVÁ** is a sociologist and a psychotherapist, specializing in romantic relationships. Markéta studied sociology at the University of Oxford and is currently a PhD candidate at Charles University focused on sociology of love. In cooperation with the Institute of Sociology at the Czech Academy of Sciences, her research looks at technology in dating and at millennials' approach towards romantic relationships. As a psychotherapist, Markéta runs a private practice in Prague. Her clients are mainly millennials navigating the challenges of finding love and managing their relationships. Markéta also leads educational workshops aimed at relationship skills, writes a blog about dating and regularly speaks at both academic and non-academic events.



**VÁCLAV ŠVUB** was a good cross-country athlete in his young age. He then decided to focus on education and a career outside the field of sport. Václav joined ABB during his studies at Brno Technical University as SAP developer and later on, after a few further career steps, he was responsible for IS applications in Eastern Europe. Under his leadership, the team tripled its size and extended the geographical scope. Early this year he was offered to take over responsibility for ABB Digital Portfolio and become Country Digital Lead for the Czech Republic and Slovakia. His main focus is to help ABB customers start and execute their digital transformation. In his free time, he enjoys his family the most, playing golf or gardening.



**NIKOL TÁBORSKÁ** began her career path in Mastercard in 2015 and became part of the Working student program, receiving the first internship in the local office. In her current position as Loyalty and Digital payments Manager, she is trying to go beyond payments focusing on innovations within the loyalty schemes and working on several projects regarding local loyalty platform. Nikol has a Master's degree from the University of Economics in Prague with a focus on International Trade and Commercial languages as her secondary specialization. Nikol has developed a great interest in technology in payments and digitalization in recent years. Her hobbies include travelling, learning new languages, reading and peculiar sports activities.



**FRANTIŠEK TRÖSTER** While studying at university, Frantisek had the experience of being an entrepreneur and co-founder of a small software company. The company shifted from custom software development to world-wide distributed software and continues operating to these days. Based on his experience during the financial crisis years, he realized his stress levels were way above his comfort zone. This led to moving to a passive role in the company and joining AVG security software company in 2010. In 2016 he continued in Avast after the acquisition of AVG. His role shifted from software development to leading product delivery teams. He is currently working on a fast growing family of VPN products which are part of the Avast privacy products portfolio.



**RAFAL TUZIAK** is an investment professional in the TMT area. His areas of specialization are online comparison platforms, FinTech, marketplaces, online marketing solutions, B2B services, classifieds, online video and new media in CEE, Benelux, Scandinavia, Italy and Spain. He is responsible for all stages of the investment process from origination to execution and value creation for portfolio assets. He is also engaged in several start-up initiatives and is a member of the non-profit organization Global Shapers Warsaw Hub. He graduated from Philosophy and Finance after studies in Poland (Warsaw School of Economics) and China (Tsinghua University). He is currently a PhD candidate in Finance, interested in pro-bono projects in the areas of migration and digital inclusion.



**JAN VAŠIČEK** is currently working in Direct pojistovna as a online manager. Over the years, he has developed his experience in various agencies (Triad Advertising, H1.cz, Adexpres) and companies (O2, Home Credit) with a focus on digital marketing. Although his passion is digital, his ambition is to come up with end to end communication with a 100% customer oriented solution. He joined Direct after a year of experience in Home Credit in a new position in the CRM department with the goal of enhancing customer experience and providing digital ideas. The moment of truth for Honza occurred several years ago when he experienced burnout and went to Australia. He recommends this kind of vacation for everyone.



**ZUZANA VUOVÁ** is a program management officer at UN-Habitat in Nairobi. She is one of the youngest international civil servants at the United Nations, focused on capacity building activities in the area of sustainable urbanization. Previously, she was posted in Beirut, where she worked on social protection and the rights of persons with disabilities in the Arab region. Between 2016-2017, Zuzana served as the historically first Czech UN Youth Delegate, representing the rights and interests of young Czechs in global intergovernmental processes. She was featured as a prominent millennial in the Top Women of the Czech Republic magazine in 2019. Zuzana has lived in 7 countries and speaks Czech, English, French, Spanish, Vietnamese and is studying Arabic.



**JAGODA ZAKRZEWSKA** is the founder and president of the Laboratory of Innovation, Culture and Education Foundation which manages the American Center Warsaw, a priority American Space in the region, appointed as so by the U.S. Department of State. Jagoda is a graduate of the Faculty of Applied Social Sciences of the University of Warsaw and the Warsaw School of Economics. She has worked on Polish Radio as a producer and a reporter and later on television, co-producing one of the daily social and lifestyle programs broadcast live. Since 2011, she has specialized in project management. She has collaborated on educational, cultural projects with governmental and non-governmental institutions. She cooperated with the Embassy of the United States carrying out a number of projects related to cultural, educational and defense initiatives.



**ANNA ZAMEJC** is a freelance journalist and advocacy specialist. She was a 2013 Fulbright and International Peace Scholarship recipient, which allowed her to complete a Master's degree in Peace and Justice Studies at the University of San Diego, California. Anna has worked as a correspondent with the Azerbaijani Service of Radio Free Europe and has contributed to various other media outlets. As a freelance journalist, she concentrates on the post-Soviet space and conflict reporting. Since 2014, Anna has been working with a Czech NGO People in Need. In 2017, she won a Tom Lantos fellowship at the U.S. Congress and spent several months working for the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. On a more personal note, Anna is an avid beach volleyball player and loves riding hoverboards.

# Guests



**IVAN HODÁČ**

President and Founder  
Aspen Institute Central Europe

He was Secretary-General of the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) from 2001 until 2013. He was among other a member of a special Advisory Group of experts, which was advising the European Commission in negotiation of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership with the United States (TTIP), and an advisor to the Czech Government on European issues. He is also a Senior advisor at Teneo CabinetDN. The Financial Times listed him among the most influential personalities in Brussels politics. Before joining ACEA, he was Senior Vice-President and Head of the Time Warner Corporate office for Europe. Previously he was Secretary-General of the trade organization IFMA/IMACE, Senior Economist at Didier & Associates, and Assistant Professor at the College of Europe, Bruges. He completed his education in economics and political science at the University of Copenhagen and the College of Europe in Bruges (European studies).

 @IvanHodac



**PAVEL ŘEHÁK**

Vice President  
Aspen Institute Central Europe

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



### **PEPPER DE CALLIER**

**Chair of Supervisory Board & Founder  
Aspen Institute Central Europe**

Pepper is a bestselling author of three books on leadership and personal development, a newspaper columnist, senior-executive coach, and Founder and Executive Director of Prague Leadership Institute. He was voted Top Corporate Leadership Coach in Europe—2015 by the London-based AI Media. Pepper has devoted his career to understanding, counseling, and coaching leaders globally. He assisted in the design and launch of, as well as being a mentor in, the Odyssey Program for the Vodafone Foundation, a mentoring program for women executives. Pepper also assisted in the formation of Manageria, a Slovak NGO, focused on the development of ethical, holistic business leaders.



### **MAREK PROCHÁZKA**

**Board Member  
Aspen Institute Central Europe**

Marek Procházka is the founding partner at PRK Partners, attorneys at law. Admitted as attorney-at-law in Switzerland and the Czech Republic, he has been practising in both countries. He specializes in the areas of dispute resolution, white collar crime, general corporate law and banking law. He is the President of the Chamber of Commerce Switzerland - Czech Republic, while also being a member of the ICC Arbitration Commission and the ICC Czech Republic. Before founding PRK Partners, Marek Procházka worked as Associate at White & Case LLP and Research Assistant at the University of Bern Law School in Switzerland. He graduated from the University of Bern and earned his LL.M. degree from the Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.




# Team



**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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**DANA BASCHOVÁ**  
Deputy Executive Director

Dana Baschová 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. Between 1998 and 2006, she was a member of various OSCE Election or EU Monitoring Missions to the Balkans and Latin America. Dana Baschová graduated from the Faculty of Social Sciences (Charles University Prague) with a master's degree in International Area Studies/German and Austrian Studies.

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### **MARTINA NÁDVOŘNÍKOVÁ**

Program Manager

Martina has 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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### **JIŘÍ BERAN**

Office Manager

Jiří works at the Aspen Institute Central Europe and is mainly responsible for office management, providing support to the director as well as performing organizational and logistical tasks related to the Institute's events and activities. He is interested in current relations between the West, represented mainly by NATO and the European Union and Russia. Jiří completed his studies of education in 2006 at Charles University and is now studying International Territorial Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University. He gained his experience working as a carer, teacher and a customer services manager.

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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**

PR & 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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### **LUKÁŠ LUKAČOVIČ**

Program Manager

Lukáš is mainly responsible for coordination of expert groups and organization of run-up events to the Aspen Institute's Annual Conference. Previously, he worked at the Prague Security Studies Institute as an IRSEC Hub Manager. He has gained experience in development cooperation at the European Commission and the Czech Development Agency. He was also involved in the Regional Academy on the United Nations (RAUN), a mobile interdisciplinary academy, and assisted in preparations for the GLOBSEC conference in 2016. During his studies, he was active in the student organization Junior Diplomat Initiative. He received his Master's Degree in International Politics and Diplomacy from the University of Economics, Prague.

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### **KATEŘINA POLANSKÁ**

Program Manager

Kateřina works at the Aspen Institute Central Europe as a Program Manager. She is responsible for the program implementation and other organizational and logistical tasks related to the Institute's programs. Previously, she worked at a reconciliation organization in Northern Ireland, facilitating and organizing international programs focused on conflict resolution. In the Czech Republic, she gained experience in the education sector as a facilitator and instructor as well as an intern at the Gender Equality Unit of the Government of the Czech Republic. Kateřina trained as a mediator and is interested in learning and development with a focus on conflict resolution, experiential learning and gender issues. She studied English, International Relations, European Studies and Economics in the Czech Republic, the USA and France.

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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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# Notes

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PROGRAM PARTNERS



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