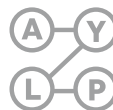


Aspen Young Leaders Program 2021 August

AUGUST 22 - 25
HNANICE, CZECH REPUBLIC



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DEAR PARTICIPANT,

Welcome to the Aspen Young Leaders Program 2021. 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 vineyards of South Moravia, the Program is consistent with the basic Aspen idea to step away from the daily routine and reflect on various aspects of leadership and underlying societal values. Its uniqueness is defined by a strong emphasis on the quality and diversity of speakers, a 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 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 the non-profit sector, will guarantee provocative perspectives, and trigger further cooperation among those who take part in the Program.

We would like to therefore invite you to actively engage throughout the entire 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 will venture home with new friends, a rejuvenated mind and lots of new ideas.

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

**THE ASPEN INSTITUTE
CENTRAL EUROPE**

Program

Sunday, August 22

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|---------------|--|
| 15:00 – 18:00 | Arrivals
<i>(Hotel Happy Star)</i> |
| 17:30 – 19:00 | Dinner
<i>(Restaurant)</i> |
| 19:00 – 19:30 | Welcome Address and Introduction

Pavel Řehák
Vice-President of the Aspen Institute CE,
Founder of Direct Pojišťovna
<i>(Conference Room)</i> |
| 19:30 – 21:00 | Getting to Know Each Other

Milan Vašina
Executive Director, Aspen Institute CE

Uršula Králová
CPO, Bloomreach |
| from 21:00 | Informal Networking
<i>(Wine bar)</i> |

Monday, August 23

9:00 – 10:30	Session 1: Values-Based Leadership Discussion <i>(Conference Room)</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:30	Session 2: Leadership in Business & Society Speaker: Pavel Řehák Vice-President of the Aspen Institute CE, Founder of Direct Pojišťovna
12:30 – 14:30	Lunch & Free Time <i>(Restaurant)</i>
14:30 – 17:30	Session 3: Workshop on AI by Sara Polak & Tomáš Mikolov <i>(Big Lounge)</i>
17:30 – 18:00	Reflection of the Day
18:00 – 19:00	Dinner <i>(Restaurant)</i>
19:00 – 21:30	Session 4: Documentary/Movie Screening and Discussion <i>(Conference Room)</i>
from 21:30	Informal Networking <i>(Wine bar)</i>

Tuesday, August 24

9:00 – 11:00	Session 5: Leadership in Politics Speaker: Andrej Kiska former President of the Slovak Republic, entrepreneur and philanthropist <i>(Conference Room)</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Break
11:30 – 12:30	Session 6: Reading Seminar Session
12:30 – 15:00	Lunch & Free Time <i>(Restaurant)</i>
15:00 – 17:00	Session 7: Developing the Values-based Leader Within Yourself Speakers: Andrea Basilová , Co-Founder of Sensoneo Veronika Munk , Editor In Chief at Telex.hu Tomáš Mikolov , Senior Researcher at CIIRC CTU <i>(Conference Room)</i>
17:00 – 17:30	Break
17:30 – 19:00	Session 8: Personal Story: A Clash of Values and Decision-Making Speaker: Radek Banga , leader of the band Gipsy.cz
19:00 – 19:30	Reflection of the Day
19:30 – 20:30	Dinner <i>(Restaurant)</i>
20:30 – 22:00	Wine tasting <i>(Wine bar)</i>
from 22:00	Informal Networking

Wednesday, August 25

9:00 – 11:00

Session 9: Workshop on Mental Health

Speaker:

Anna Kågström

Researcher at the National Institute of Mental Health
(Conference Room)

11:00 – 11:30

Break

11:30 – 12:30

Session 10: Final Evaluation and Program Outcomes

from 12:30

Lunch & departures
(Restaurant)

Moderators



URŠULA KRÁLOVÁ is a senior executive with over 20 years of experience with leading companies including McKinsey and T-Mobile. She managed both top line and cost and led 100+ people teams. She is passionate about customers, people and performance improvement. Uršula has lived and worked on three continents (Europe, North America and Asia). Currently she is a Chief People Officer at Bloomreach and a Board Member of Aspen Institute Central Europe. In the past, she helped a Slovak start-up, Expo-nea, to scale up for over a year. She has contributed to a number of initiatives as a volunteer or on a pro-bono basis. She has an MBA from Kellogg School of Management and a BA from Comenius University. Uršula lives with her family in Bratislava, Slovakia.



MILAN VAŠINA has been Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Central Europe since 2020. He spent most of his professional career in telecommunications. He remained loyal to his employer for more than two decades, as Marketing Director and later as CEO of Slovak Telekom. From 2011, Milan served as CEO of T-Mobile Czech Republic, and from 2016, CEO of both markets - T-Mobile Czech Republic and Slovak Telekom. Since leaving top management in 2018, he has worked as a consultant and coach. Currently, Milan also serves as Senior Adviser at Rockaway Capital, member of the Board of Directors of the Dobrý anděl (Good Angel) Foundation and member of the Science Council at the Faculty of Business Administration of the University of Economics in Prague (VŠE).

Speakers



RADEK BANGA, leader of the band Gipsy.cz, has been active on the Czech music scene since the age of thirteen. Since then, he has released many successful recordings, won numerous awards and performed around the world. He recently published an autobiographical book (Ne)pošli to dál (Don't) Send It On. He also released his first solo album Věci jinak (Things Different). The album and the book are his personal confessions and are thematically related. In the book, Radek reflects on the events that happened throughout his life, including sharing his own experience with domestic violence. By showing his example of success, Radek attempts to motivate his readers and teaches that it is possible to get out of any kind of problem.



ANDREA BASILOVÁ is Co-Founder of Sensoneo - a Slovak technology company that facilitates data-driven waste management and helps cities and businesses cope with the biggest challenges of today's world in waste management: lack of efficiency and transparency. Sensoneo has attracted cities and businesses worldwide and the solution is installed in more than 60 countries around the world. Andrea takes care of Sensoneo's business development, builds and uncovers new business streams and strategic partnerships. Her goal is to make Sensoneo a strong brand recognized across the global smart waste management market and a leader in smart waste management innovations. She also holds a Master's Degree in Translation and Interpretation of French.



ANNA KÅGSTRÖM received her bachelor's degree in Psychology from California State University, Sacramento, and her master's in Global Mental Health in a joint program at the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College London, and the London School of Hygiene and Medicine. She is currently a research program lead and project coordinator at the National Institute of Mental Health, Czech Republic focusing on child and adolescent mental health in the department of Public Mental Health. Anna is also a researcher in a project preventing mental disorders at Charles University. In the past, Anna was a consultant at the WHO Office in the EU and currently leads implementation projects teaching mental health literacy and collaborates with WHO on the evaluation of mental health care quality and coverage across Europe.



ANDREJ KISKA is the former President of the Slovak Republic. He studied at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering of the Slovak University of Technology. After graduating and spending a year and a half in the USA, he returned to Slovakia where he co-founded the company Tatracredit, s.r.o. in 1996 which implemented the catalogue installment systems Triangel and later Quatro which have become the largest installment systems in Slovakia. In 2005, VÚB bank bought these companies and merged them under the name Consumer Finance Holding, where Andrej Kiska served until 2007 as a member of the Board of Directors. In 2006, he co-founded a non-profit charitable organization called Dobrý anjel, in which donors help families that have found themselves in a difficult financial situation as a result of a family member contracting a serious disease (such as cancer). From 2014 to 2019, Andrej Kiska served as the Slovak President. Currently, he is very active in the fields of business as well as philanthropy.



TOMÁŠ MIKOLOV is a Czech computer scientist working in the field of machine learning. He is currently a senior researcher at the Czech Institute of Informatics, Robotics and Cybernetics. In the past, he worked as a research scientist at Facebook AI Research. Prior to joining Facebook in 2014, he worked as a researcher at Johns Hopkins University, Université de Montréal, Microsoft and Google. Tomáš has been a member of the Google Brain team, where he developed efficient algorithms for computing distributed representations of words (word2vec project). He obtained his PhD for work on recurrent neural network-based language models (RNNLM). His long-term research goal is to develop intelligent machines capable of communicating with people using natural language. In 2018, Tomáš received the Neuron Award for a Major Scientific Discovery in Artificial Intelligence in Computer Science.



VERONIKA MUNK is an award-winning Hungarian journalist with 20 years of experience, and founder and co-Editor-in-Chief of the Hungarian independent online news daily, Telex. She was the Deputy Editor-in-Chief at Index, Hungary's largest online news daily from where she and her 80+ colleagues resigned in July 2020 due to external political influence on the newspaper. They launched Telex in October 2020, nine weeks after their mass resignation. Today around 6-700,000 people read Telex every day. Telex is the market-leading crowdfunding online news daily in Hungary with a 70-strong newsroom that was built with the idea of creating a fully independent media product in a country where the free press is in bad shape. Veronika has a media studies PhD and teaches courses on journalism at ELTE University, the largest Hungarian university.



SARA POLAK is an Oxford-educated archaeologist and cognitive & evolutionary anthropologist, who spent the last 8 years working in technology startups in London and the USA. After almost a decade in the UK, she returned back to her home country to work in the local startup, innovation and AI scene. Sara's core discipline is the popularization of AI and driving the concept of cloud societies. She founded the Paioneers AI lab at Paralelni Polis, teaches the nationwide free AI course Elements of AI with prg.ai, and works on other projects like the Astronaut Job Camp, czech.global and is currently writing a book on memes and history. She is an AYL alumna as well as a Bakala Scholar. Her dream is to popularize and digest big, heavy tech topics for the general public as well as create a cloud society and achieve a new form of global social functioning that does not rely on the concept of a nation state.



PAVEL ŘEHÁK studied international relations at the University of Economics in Prague and an MBA at Northwestern University. In the past, he worked as a consultant at McKinsey & Company for seven years, worked as an adviser to Česká pojišťovna, where he eventually joined and worked for seven years, of which three years as CEO. In 2013, Pavel left Česká pojišťovna and founded the investment company Vigo Investments with former colleagues from McKinsey. In 2014, together with his partners, he bought the Czech branch of the loss-making Slovenian insurance company Triglav and the Direct pojišťovna brand to establish a completely new Direct pojišťovna. Direct is now the fastest growing insurer and largest Czech-owned player on the market. In 2020, Pavel helped the Czech government cope with the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic while creating a mathematical model for the spread of the coronavirus disease.

Participants



SIMON BARCZI is a Slovak-born Hungarian living in Czechia. He is currently establishing a new AgTech startup that should enable the revolutionizing of the agriculture sector, bring added value to Czechia and hopefully attract the attention of global investors. He is currently competing with this project in the Idea of the Year competition. Simon is not a newcomer to the fast paced startup environment. He was previously the founding member and shareholder of Bolt, a ride hailing provider. He has also worked for the European Commission, ŠKODA Auto and for various consultancy companies as a freelancer. He graduated from the University of Economics in Prague and Korean Development Institute in Seoul, South Korea. Simon is also a member of the Pirate Party transportation expert team. In his spare time, he is working at lifting his home region in the western part of Czechia from the bottom of the socio-economic ranking list.



RAFAL FABIANOWICZ is a PhD student in political science in the framework of the PhD Scholarship of the Hungarian State at Andrásy University Budapest. Mr Fabianowicz writes a dissertation about the interplay of democracy and efforts to better climate protection in Central and Eastern Europe. He puts knowledge into practice by co-lecturing European Governance with a focus on EU environmental and climate governance. Beyond academia, he works as a research fellow for the European Democracy Lab in Berlin. Furthermore, he engages as an external relations officer for V4SDG – Visegrád for Sustainability in Budapest and as a freelance coach for the EIT-Climate KIC Network of Coaches. His hobbies are basketball, hiking, travelling, and he likes to challenge himself with occasional extreme sports experiences.



TATIANA GREGOR BRZOBOHATÁ

has been Miss World 2006, a Czech top model, a philanthropist and an influencer. She is the founder and chairwoman of the board of directors of Beauty of HELP Foundation. Tatiana is an internationally known personality and the only Miss World, who has for almost 13 years consistently been engaged in helping elderly people and raising awareness about population aging and demographic challenges. Since 2015, she has been actively cooperating with the United Nations. She became an ambassador for Sustainable Development Goals and also represents the Czech non-profit sector at the United Nations. She has attended and spoken at a number of important UN conferences, such as the High level political forum of ECOSOC 2017, Youth Forum 2018, UN Women CSW and Commissions for Social Development (2018,2019). She was also named a member of the Council of Prominent Women Leaders by the WNYLE and was announced as one of the Top Young Entrepreneurs of the Forbes Under 30' in 2014.



MARTINA HERDOVÁ is an elementary school teacher with extensive experience in History, German and English education. She holds a master's degree from University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava and is an alumna of a postgraduate program at Comenius University in Bratislava. Martina serves as the German Language Education Lead in her institution in Nové Mesto nad Váhom. She focuses on innovative educational methodology and under her leadership, the curriculum has seen fundamental changes leading to increased student engagement. Her passion is teaching history in a way which stimulates her students to apply the lessons learned from history to current geopolitical challenges. She volunteers with Christian Family Movement and organizes nationwide support workshops for couples.



VAVŘINEC HRADILEK is a Czech slalom kayaker competing in the K1 category. He has enjoyed sports since his childhood. As he progressed through the junior and U23 category with multiple medals from international competitions, kayaking became his main focus. Vavřinec quickly established himself among the top ranked world senior athletes. Taking gold in his first ever senior level World Cup in 2007 put him in the spotlight of kayaking. In 2012, Vavřinec qualified for the London Olympics where he won silver in water slalom. He became World Champion on the domestic course in Prague in 2013 and European Vice-Champion in 2016. Vavřinec played the lead role in the movie *Tenkrát v ráji* (That Time in Paradise) in 2016 when he also opened his own Kayak Beach Bar on the Prague embankment. In 2019, he took first place at the European Canoe Slalom Championship in France and won gold at the ICF CSL World Cup in Slovakia.



JOANNA ZOFIA JASIŃSKA is the Head of Operations at VCLeaders, an educational initiative for venture capital professionals, as well as an Associate at Cobin Angels, the biggest professional club for business angels in Poland. Her pro bono activities include serving as the Vice Curator of the Global Shapers Warsaw Hub (World Economic Forum initiative) and volunteering at the Bator Tabor Foundation. Previously, Joanna worked as an English language reporter at the Polish Press Agency and The First News. She began her professional career at the European Academy of Diplomacy (EAD), with which she still cooperates as a trainer. At the EAD, she worked as the Head of the Visegrád School of Political Studies – part of the Council of Europe network. Joanna designed and organized educational programs for young leaders from the V4 countries, Eastern Partnership, Western Balkans, Russia and others.



KATARÍNA KERTÝSOVÁ is a Policy Fellow at the European Leadership Network and a Wilson Center Global Fellow. Her work at the ELN focuses on conventional arms control, Russia-West relations, Arctic security, and the climate-security nexus. Besides, she coordinates the ELN's Contact Group on Russia-West Relations. Katarína's previous research experience includes work conducted for the UNDP, the Carnegie Moscow Centre, the GLOBSEC Policy Institute, the Clingendael International Energy Programme, and The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies. After having obtained a degree from the University of St Andrews, Katarína pursued Security Studies at Sciences Po Paris, and the Moscow State Institute of International Relations. Among other, she is a member of the NATO 2030 Young Leaders and the Younger Generation Leaders Network on Euro-Atlantic Security.



VIKTOR MACH is a graduate of UWC Japan who is currently based in London but originally hails from Slovakia. Following a shorter work engagement in Singapore, Viktor embarked on a BA in Politics and Law at UCL with an integrated year at Humboldt University in Berlin. During this time, he has developed a passion for international cyber law, data privacy and ethical use of AI. Alongside his academic activities, Viktor has had the exciting opportunity to develop his career in tech at a fast-growing international scale-up where he has explored various roles across the client services, partnerships and product departments. He currently serves as the youngest-ever manager at Bloomreach, heading the global client education team. In the future, Viktor would like to merge his interest in the frameworks of international cyber law with his hands-on experience developing an AI-powered marketing automation software.



VERONIKA MARČEKOVÁ works on the further development of ŠKODA CSR strategy for the Czech market and takes care of their and partner projects within two major CSR priorities: mobility without barriers and technical education support. She develops stakeholder dialogue and coordinates social sponsoring and employees' engagement within more than 10 CSR projects. Veronika is a graduate of the University of Economics - International Trade and her passion is playing board games, tennis and snowboarding. In the past, Veronika operated the portal Chcikupon.cz with online coupons for discounts and worked in the ŠKODA sales support department with the goal of helping growth fleet and target group sales. Part of the job was the sales concept's transformation and management of a program created for handicapped clients.



HANA MARTÍNKOVÁ is a podcaster and a political adviser focused on foreign affairs and international relations. Her main project is the Za Humny podcast that she co-created with the Respekt journalist Barbora Chaloupková. In monthly episodes, the podcast provides context and theoretical tools for understanding important topics in international relations and politics, ranging from nuclear weapons and populism to universal basic income, the financial crisis or sand. She works in the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic. Hana has degrees in international relations and economics and focuses in her research on weapons of mass destruction. In her free time, she likes to read, look at paintings and watch YouTube videos about astronomy.



MÁTÉ MESTER is driving policy-making and strategy in the fields of connectivity, information technology and the Internet. During his career, he designed and supported various projects of major industry actors: he was directly involved in EU policy-making, helped telco companies to provide or launch new services in 20+ CEE countries, contributed to government strategies in Hungary and advised providers on infrastructure development and spectrum, thus enabling inter alia Gigabit, 5G, IoT and drone services in the region. As a regulatory expert, he is active in policy-making groups and is passionate about technological awareness raising for the younger generations. Máté has recently received a Ministerial Award for his 10+ years of professional work from the Hungarian government. He is currently leading MSpire | MLaw, a group of regulatory and strategy consultants and project managers tackling complex challenges of the industry.



SUE NGUYEN works as Press Secretary of the Czech Senate, the upper chamber of the Parliament. She is the first woman of color to serve in this position. Her professional background is in PR & communications, development and public diplomacy. Having worked for a number of organizations such as the United Nations, Democracy 21 and British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, she is keen to explore new ways of leadership which promote learning and innovation, facilitate effective team collaboration and value diversity at the workplace. She holds a degree in Politics from Charles University in Prague and SOAS, University of London.



BORIS NOVORKA has been a Group Head of Learning and Talent Development and a member of the Group Management Team at Home Credit Group since 2018. Currently, he manages 12 entities in 10 countries. Boris used to work at UniCredit Bank for several years which gave him the opportunity to gain work experience in different countries such as Germany, Austria and Italy. Boris has skills in business-, people-, project-, and operation- management with multilingual skills (he is fluent in English, German and Italian). He is a PhD graduate of Comenius University in Bratislava, focusing on organizational behavior in different sectors.



MARIE ODEHNALOVÁ works as the Head of Sales and the Project Support team at ABB Motion Czech Republic. She is responsible in this role for complex supporting processes to purchase and supply, taking into account B2B specifics and is in charge of the Quality and Process excellence area. Marie joined ABB in 2011 as part of the Internal Audit team for Central Europe. Later as a Country Project manager, she helped successfully implement the CRM tool Salesforce at ABB in the Czech Republic and in Slovakia. In the past, she worked as a project manager in the field of rolling stock branch at Siemens. Marie holds a PhD in Management from the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague. In her free time, she devotes herself to her family and enjoys sports.



MARTIN ORGONÍK has worked in telecommunications on leading cases and projects for more than 10 years. Currently, he heads the regulatory department of T-Mobile. He has earned experience from "both sides" - large telecoms (Vodafone, Deutsche Telekom) and state authorities, including UK's OFCOM, the European Commission or the Czech competition watchdog in Brno. He likes to get to the bottom of the complex investment business cases from a legal perspective to ensure the company stays safe. With a background in legal and economic studies, Martin's tasks vary from competition law analyses, new legislation to negotiation with regulators. His desire is to make a proper decision over a big deal in telecoms, where you need to be a little bit of a technician, a bit of an economist, a bit of a lawyer and a big part of a strategist.



LUCIE OTTINGEROVÁ Four years ago, Lucie was working in a large law firm and saw herself as a litigator. This all changed when, two weeks before she graduated from Columbia, she was offered a job in a legal tech startup that wanted to create an AI contract lawyer. For the first time, she was working on a truly disruptive thing. This feeling proved addictive. When Lucie moved back to Prague, she co-founded Women in Law, the first ever community of female legal professionals in the Czech Republic, and Unpunished, a non-profit organization that fights for a better justice system for survivors of sexual violence. She's also heading growth initiatives for a progressive law/legal tech company in the CEE space. In short, Lucie is a lawyer turned creator.



MICHAELA POBUDOVÁ completed her BA and MA at the Faculty of War Studies at King's College London, UK. She trained as a policy analyst at The Hague Center for Strategic Studies in the Netherlands and collaborated with the Amman-based Arab Institute for Security Studies. Following her return to Slovakia, she worked in the area of international security and development before joining an initiative to resettle refugee families from Syria and Iraq in 2015. As a result of this engagement, she co-founded and became the director of a civic association Mareena which assists refugees and migrants in the integration process and raises awareness about migration and integration. Her interests lie in designing and implementing programs that strengthen social cohesion.



KAROLÍNA PRESOVÁ is a founder of Replug me, the first project in the Czech Republic, focusing on the impact of digital technologies and social media on our lives and society. She graduated from Masaryk University and during her studies spent almost two years in Southeast Asia working on community development and kicked-off the first digital addiction campaign in Jakarta. With her team of psychologists, they help kids at schools find a healthy balance in a digital world and support them in issues of mental health affected by digital media. The complexity of their work lies in the education of kids, parents, teachers, and research mapping of the topic. They are also partners to companies in healthy digitization processes and help employees find a digital balance in their professional and family life.



DANIEL RYŠÁVKA has recently joined the National Development Bank (ČMZRB) where he has been charged to tackle infrastructure projects financing. These projects aim to help with green recovery and infrastructure development in the country, while supporting local economic needs. With his previous experiences from the Brussels liaison office of Erste Bank, Daniel immerses himself into the Czech business environment with his exceptional negotiation skills. His educational excellence includes a degree in philosophy, science of religions and a French-Czech double degree in public and business administration from Masaryk University. He also completed his field of study as a graduate from the master's degree program of Public Administration at Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA) in Strasbourg. During his diverse career, which encompassed the public and private spheres, he acquired multidimensional and international experience in Paris, Prague and Brussels.



PETR SALABA is an award winning documentary filmmaker and science communicator. His film about artificial intelligence entitled IIIIIIIIIIIIIIII won the main award for the Best Czech and Slovak science popularization film at AFO 2018. Since September 2020, he works at the Laboratory of Chronorobotics (Artificial Intelligence Center, FEE CTU) where he facilitates interdisciplinary research between the CTU and the National Institute of Mental Health, focusing on the analysis of periodicity of sleep patterns and seasonal mood changes. As a winner of the New Worlds screenwriting competition, held by the European Space Agency, he is currently developing a documentary film about ESA's investigation of storms in the upper atmosphere.



EVA SAMKOVÁ is a Czech snowboard cross athlete. She started skiing at the age of two and switched to snowboarding once she was seven. Since 2011, she has been steadily among the top racers in the world. She won the Olympic gold in Sochi in 2014, thereby winning the first gold medal for the Czech team and the historically fifth Czech individual gold from the Winter Games, within the Czechoslovak and Czech teams. In 2018, she won a bronze medal in snowboard cross at the Winter Olympics in Pyongyang. Since 2019, she has been World Champion and 3 times all over World Cup winner. Apart from her career in sports, she is engaged in various activities, such as horseback riding, surfing, trail biking, exploring and protecting nature, promoting a sustainable lifestyle and enjoying life.



PATRIK SOBEK started a freelance 3D career in 2010 in a Safety Drive e-learning project in Slovakia. A year later, he won the prize for the best packaging for Plzensky Prazdroj and decided to move to Prague to pursue his designer career. He later co-created the CGI studio Zuckmantel with clients such as ŠKODA Auto, Hilton, Angry Birds, etc. In 2016, he co-founded an IoT startup Locaid.me, which was later renamed to Spaceti. As its Creative Director, he has developed and supervised the overall product design and visual branding. With Spaceti, he took part in the 30 UNDER 30 event in Boston. Verdantix has chosen Spaceti as one of the 21 most prominent workplace software platforms available. In 2020, Patrik also established the fundamentals for the design company Molki Vision. As part of it, he also develops a health-care startup with a mission to improve people's dental hygiene worldwide.



BEDŘICH SYNEK is responsible for the retail sales at the Direct Insurance company. On a daily basis, he efficiently supports his team of key account managers and retail branches. Bedřich with his team is focused on customer satisfaction and experience. They help their fans (as they call their customers) and business partners get the best service, the best product and the best experience. Most of the time, Bedřich and his team cross the line of their comfort zone to bring something extraordinary, such as always opening the branch door 10 minutes before the opening hours to make everyone feel at home or to make our business partner always happy and satisfied.



DAVID ŠAFÁŘ has been with E.ON since 2009, when he started as a project manager and then spent 1.5 years in Germany at E.ON Metering. In 2012, he took the first leading position in the Asset Strategy and Projects department and was consequently head of Strategic Projects focused on national and international projects in distribution. When he was head of Strategic Projects and Technical Development, he also focused on energy solutions, e-mobility, battery storage and renewable resources. He was head of the department of Management Grid and Strategic projects, he led a team of 110 employees, focused on the development of the electricity and gas distribution network and new business opportunities. From 1 January 2020, as a member of the Bof and CTO of EG.D, a.s., he deals with key topics for strategic development, preparing the company for the future: Strategy 2030, Digitization, Smart Asset Management.



JAN ŠMIDT has over 12 years experience in digital sales, marketing & e-commerce within middle-size companies, corporations, agencies and his own business. He is happy that he had the chance to work with companies like Vodafone, Oodji, Actum, Mall.cz, Allianz, Wüstenrot, Global Payments, etc. Jan likes to learn how things work, get it into a routine and then improve it. He focuses on customer experience because it has the largest impact on business results at the end of the day. When customers are satisfied, they are willing to spend more (no matter the pricing policy). He also believes that nowadays every company needs to face digitalization and automation and that cannot happen without a knowledge of internal processes; the solution tools are available but you need to know what you need to automate.



JAROSLAV ŠNAJDR is a Principal Partner in Boston Consulting Group, a global management consulting firm and the world's leading adviser on business strategy. He works with some of the largest private equity investors across the world providing buy-side and sell-side due diligence support with a focus on software industry across industry verticals. Jaroslav is based in Prague but divides his time between Central Europe, London and Amsterdam. His assignments have taken him to different countries across Europe, Middle East and North America where he temporarily relocated and spent 2 years working for BCG's New York office. Before BCG, Jaroslav worked at the European Commission in Brussels. He holds an MPhil degree in Economics from the University of Cambridge.



MICHAL TARNOWSKI was involved, during his studies at the University of Oxford, in student community building as the Oxford University Polish Society president. He also worked on improving access to higher education as the director of Project Access Poland – an NGO that provides pro bono educational consulting to Polish high school students from underprivileged backgrounds. After completing his studies, he co-founded two educational platforms: Nativated and Nauczni.pl. Using his previous experience, he is currently developing Akademia Wiedzy Obywatelskiej – an NGO which aims at transforming civic education in Poland. Michal and his team are currently running a nationwide project "WOS Masterclass" within which they invite top Polish politicians, academics and public sector professionals to act as teachers and prepare online classes for teenagers, which they distribute among 500 schools.



MICHAL TRS was born in 1983 in Karlovy Vary, but grew up in Prague, where he now lives. He graduated in 2008 from the Czech Technical University in Prague. He joined Avast in 2006 as a part-time malware analyst and has been growing with Avast ever since, holding leadership positions in both the Viruslab and B2B engineering organizations. Since Dec 2020, he is overseeing teams responsible for systems related to Avast customers as the VP Engineering, Customer Management. Michal loves outdoor activities, namely mountain biking, alpine skiing and traveling. During university, he made several bike-packing trips to the Alps, Turkey, Morocco, Norway and other locations with friends. His three kids are among his greatest sources of happiness, and he loves to watch them grow. Since 2015, he has been actively promoting men's health through the Movember movement, leading the Avast team to raise tens of thousands of dollars for cancer research and prevention.



KAMIL TYLIŃSKI holds a MSc degree in International Finance, a Master of Laws degree, and also graduated with a MSc degree in Business Analytics from University College London. Kamil has extensive experience working in finance and advanced analytics from Luxembourg, Poland and the United Kingdom. He is currently working at Mishcon de Reya LLP as a Data Science Manager and at UCL School of Management in a research and teaching capacity. He has been nominated as a member of World Economic Forum's Global Shapers Community and has received awards from National Bank of Poland, European Commission and the Lord Mayor of London. Kamil is passionate about machine learning applications in healthcare and legal industries.



JAN VÁCHA's background lies in education policy and advocacy. He studies education at the Institute of Education, University College London. Throughout his professional beginnings, he has led a student union in Czechia, co-developed a comprehensive leadership program for school principals Lead Live (Ředitel naživo), co-developed a strategy of system-wide improvement of Czech education for Teach Live (Učitel naživo) and Česká spořitelna Foundation, advised a senator on education policy and helped set up the design of a regional pilot of school improvement in Kutná Hora led by the Eduzměna Endowment Fund. Jan has recently been involved in work for a Czech-Zambian start-up, figuring out how to design a sustainable digital tool that would help Zambian locals reduce human error in the management of their community savings.



PAVEL ZEDNÍČEK is currently working as finance and operations manager at the Institute for Circular Economy (INCIEN). Pavel studied at the University of Chemistry and Technology in Prague (VŠCHT) and completed his master's degree at Utrecht University in the Netherlands in the field of Sustainable Business and Innovations. He completed an exchange study at the Swiss university ETH Zurich, focusing on material flows and climate models. Pavel participated in projects or internships abroad, including France, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and Shanghai. In the Czech Republic, he co-founded the Czech EIT Climate-KIC Hub, which focuses on supporting (technological) innovations that mitigate climate impacts. Its main focus at INCIEN is currently the potential of a circular economy to achieve climate goals in heavy industry, where industrial symbiosis plays an important role.

Observers



IVA BARANOVÁ is an attorney at law with fourteen years of experience focused on banking & finance and the capital market. She has worked at one of the Big4 companies where she was responsible for legal services to clients in the financial sector. She was also a member of the international banking team for the CEE region at an international law firm. She received her master's degree in Law from Palacký University in Olomouc in 2007 and was admitted as an attorney at law of the Czech Bar Association in 2011. She also completed study programs in law at the Law Faculty of the University of Salzburg in Austria and at the George Washington University Law School in the US. She recently changed her career track and is now working in the non-profit sector as a philanthropy manager.



MAREK PROCHÁZKA is the founding and senior partner at PRK Partners, attorneys at law, and a Board Member of the Aspen Institute CE. Admitted as attorney-at-law in Switzerland and the Czech Republic, he focuses on corporate governance and legal aspects of sustainable development and is usually working on cases that are complex and mostly international. He is also involved in licencing and merchandising of the most famous Czech children figure The Little Mole. He is the President of the Chamber of Commerce Switzerland – Czech Republic and a member of the European Advisory Board of the Georgetown University Law Center. He graduated from the University of Bern and earned his LL.M. degree from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. In 2019 Marek obtained a Masters Degree in Philosophy with the focus on business Ethics at the Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich, Germany.



SOŇA MORAWITZOVÁ's entire professional career has been intertwined with activities that overlap with helping professions. She has worked both in direct and coordinated care for the elderly in institutions and at home. She created the concept of a social enterprise to support older employees. As part of her practice, she also engaged in consulting services and teaching activities. Establishing partnerships and communication with other organizations from various fields has always been an essential part of her work - from the private and public sector, but also with non-profit organizations. Before taking up the position of director at Beauty of Help Foundation (Nadace Krása pomoci), Soňa set up and led Golden Work (Zlatá práce) project, which is dedicated to supporting people 50+ on the labor market.

Team



PAVLA LOSOVÁ works at the Aspen Institute CE as Program Manager. She is mainly responsible for the Aspen Young Leaders Program as well as other leadership and networking activities. Pavla has been with AICE since 2012 (with a break due to maternity leave) while assisting the founding of the Institute and its establishment in the Central Europe as Office & Event Manager. Before joining the Aspen Institute, Pavla worked at the Admin & Consular section of the Embassy of Canada in Prague, where she provided support to Canadians living in the Czech Republic as well as covered the event and HR agenda. She holds a master's degree from the University of Economics in Prague (VŠE) in the field of International Politics and Diplomacy. She also spent part of her studies at the Sciences Po in Paris.



KATEŘINA POLANSKÁ has been the Program Manager at the Aspen Institute Central Europe since 2018. She is primarily responsible for the values-based leadership and transatlantic programs as well as engagement with the alumni of Institute's leadership programs, the international community and the partners of the Institute. Her background is in conflict transformation, dialogue and encounter work, and she is mainly interested in the impact of values in conflict. Currently, she is also involved as a lecturer and methodology specialist of a project focused on conflict resolution at schools held under the Ministry of Regional Development. Previously, she worked at a peace and reconciliation organization in Northern Ireland. Kateřina is trained as a mediator, and studied English, Conflict Transformation, International Relations, and Economics in the Czech Republic, the USA and France.



JOSEF MÜLLER has been Deputy Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Central Europe since 2021. He spent most of his professional career in the field of education and non-profit management. He started his business career in the automotive sector. From 2007, he served as CEO of JA Czech, a non-profit educational organization founded by Tomas J. Bata as the Czech office of Junior Achievement. In 2018, Josef joined GrowJOB Institute as its Executive Director. In 2019, Josef was selected to join the Aspen Young Leaders Program which allowed him to get to know the mission and people behind AICE. In 2020, he became a registered mediator and worked as a consultant. Josef holds a master's degree in International Business from the University of Economics in Prague and a bachelor's degree in Comparative Law from the University of Wales.



KRISTÝNA OMEKOVÁ joined the Aspen Institute Central Europe in July 2020 as a Program Manager. She is responsible for the programs regarding Education and Technologies. Kristýna also organizes the annual conference, The Shape of (Central) Europe. This year, she has been involved in the Moonshot series by Aspen CE conferences. Kristýna studied education in the Czech Republic. She received her master's degree from the University of Turku in Finland. Previously, she gained experience in a variety of projects in the Czech Republic as well as abroad. In Finland, she was involved with activities regarding education and entrepreneurship.



JIŘÍ BERAN 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 International Territorial Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University in 2019. He gained his experience working as a carer, teacher and a customer services manager.



JITKA RAŠKOVÁ joined the Aspen Institute CE team in the middle of August 2021 and will be responsible for marketing and communication. An enthusiastic marketing professional with over 20 years of experience in marketing communications, event management and project management in the ICT industry. A proud mother of two who used to live in Singapore where she has found a new passion in helping a non-profit organization with main focus on igniting interest and awareness about data science, business intelligence & data analytics via free events, seminars and workshops.



ONDŘEJ BESPÉRÁT 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.

Notes

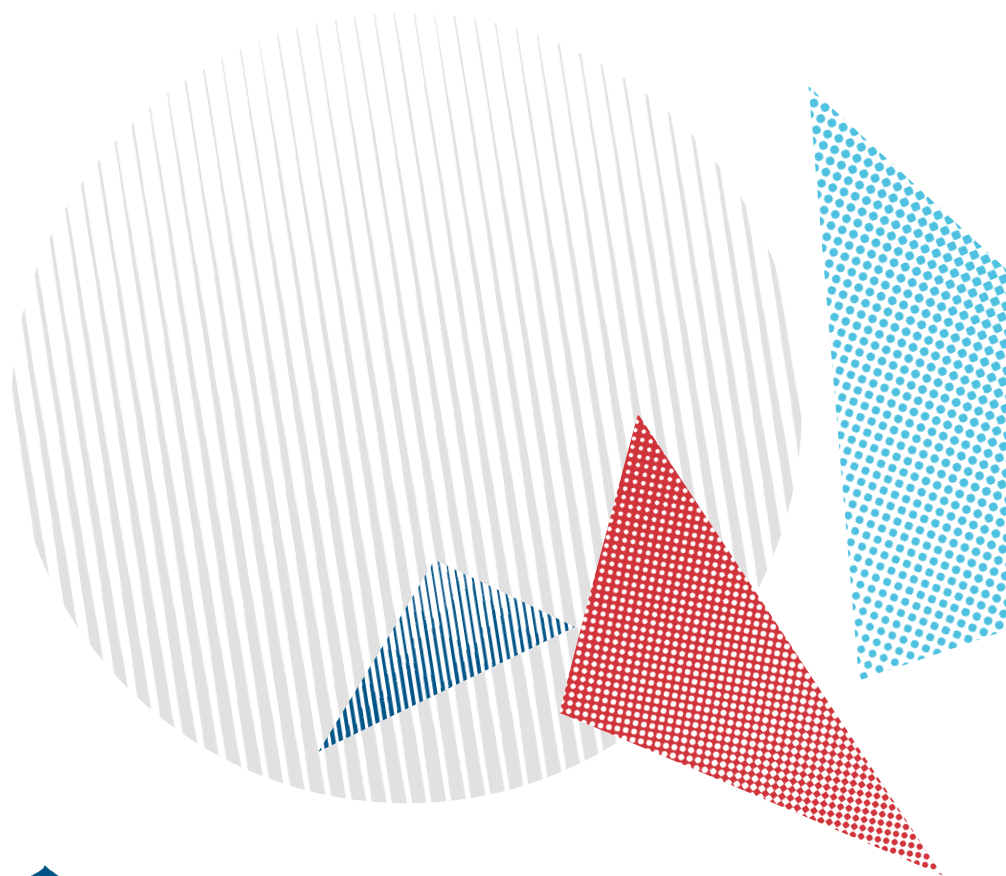
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PARTNERS



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