

PRESS RELEASE

Aspen Institute CE Recognized Young Aspiring Professionals

The award will now hold the name of Madeleine K. Albright.

Prague, December 1, 2022 - Following this year's circumstances, **Aspen Institute CE** executives announced a change in the name of the award, which has recognized young emerging professionals with outstanding achievements. The Aspen Central Europe Leadership Award has been bestowed annually since 2019.

We cannot be more proud that as of 2022, the Award will carry the name of the United States Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, being renamed to the **Aspen CE Madeleine K. Albright Leadership Award**. The Award is bestowed annually on young emerging professionals with outstanding achievements in the active promotion of responsible citizenship, values-based leadership, and the development of innovative policies with positive societal impact in Central Europe. With the Award, we recognize representatives of this generation who demonstrate great leadership early in their careers, show extraordinary potential to inspire others and impact Central European society positively. The Award serves as a great encouragement to the Laureates, inspiring their further commitment to values-based leadership, morality and courage.

We are delighted to announce two laureates who received the award from **Miloš Vystrčil**, President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, and **Pavel Řehák**, President of the of the Board of Directors of Aspen Institute CE.

*"We are pleased that from now on, this important award will be carrying the name of the former Secretary of State **Madeleine K. Albright**, a native of Prague and a great supporter of Aspen CE, and that we will continue with this award to honor her lifelong mission to educate and inspire young people, to promote the values of leadership and contribute to the growth of society,"* said **Milan Vašina**, Executive Director of Aspen Institute CE.

This year's first laureate is **Jana Hlaváčová**, a patient advocate, co-founder of a patient involvement agenda at the Ministry of Health, as well as a civil servant, devoted to democratic principles and innovation in public policies. As a law-graduate, starting her professional career in the Association for International Affairs, she took several positions in the human rights sector. After being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, aged 24, she became active in patient advocacy, volunteering for patient organizations on the national and international level. In 2016, she joined the Ministry of Health, Czechia, to establish a patient

involvement agenda. With a team, she co-founded a new unit and a complex system of patient participation and support of patient organizations, to ensure that patients take part in shaping healthcare policies. During the COVID-19 pandemics, among volunteers within the Ministry, she was part of emergency response teams, most importantly on the strategy of vaccination against COVID-19. Shortly after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, she coordinated the establishment of a system providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine in medicinal products. she currently works as the interim CEO of the European Multiple Sclerosis Platform in Brussels, gaining more experience in supporting patient empowerment as well as the potential of using real world data and patient reported outcomes for better healthcare systems.

The second laureate is **Zuzanna Krz̄at̄ala**. She received her MA in Liberal Studies from The New School for Social Research. Through her fieldwork with the International Rescue Committee in Jordan and Lesbos, she focused on initiatives that empowered refugee women. As Project Coordinator at Humanity in Action Poland, she leads an educational mentorship program for young activists from Poland, Ukraine, Germany and the U.S. On her podcast, CALL TO ACTION!, Zuzanna speaks to activists on how to best use their resources and avoid burnout. During the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, she has been assisting refugees in Poland by hosting a Ukrainian family, setting up and running a shelter for women and children, and organizing transport and accommodation abroad. Zuzanna is also a Sustainability Project Manager at Vogue Poland, where she is responsible for the annual Business Fashion Environment Summit in Warsaw.

About Aspen Institute Central Europe

The Aspen Institute Central Europe serves as a non-partisan platform where politicians and representatives of business, as well as leading artists, athletes, scientists, and journalists can meet and interact. The Institute facilitates interdisciplinary and regional cooperation, and supports young Central European leaders in their development.

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