



Asociace pro podporu demokracie a lidských práv  
/ Association for Democracy Assistance and Human Rights

## Visegrad advocacy know-how sharing

### Prague Workshop

Date: **June 19 - 20, 2021**

Venue: „Minuta“ Room, 2nd Floor, [Staroměstské náměstí 4/1](#) (Old Town Sq.), Prague 1

#### June 19, 2021

15:30 - 16:00 Welcome/Registration/Introduction

16:00 - 18:00 **Panel I: Shrinking spaces across the V4 states: state politics, policies, and NGO advocacy practices**

The aim of the panel is to discuss current challenges facing the V4 CSOs and the ways in which these can strengthen their resilience vis-a-vis the attempts to restrict their operation, visible also in the spread of 'uncivil' actors.

- Which recent patterns, traits, or particular steps of restraining CSOs worth sharing might be found across the V4 countries?
- Which good (or bad) advocacy practices might be found across the V4 countries?
- Which ways of operation have been established across the V4 in relation to state representatives, or political stakeholders in general? Which ways of cooperation are (not) working and worth mentioning?
- What impact has had CSO cooperation on platform(s) level, if any?
- Which models of state-CSO cooperation and established partnership may be found in the region, and what are their strengths and weaknesses?
- Are there examples worth studying in how to deal with “uncivil” NGOs and anti-democratic grassroots?

18:00 - 18:30 Transfer to the restaurant

18:30 - 20:30 Dinner, venue to be confirmed. Dress code: casual

- Guests: [František Kopřiva](#), Czech Pirate Party, Member of Parliament; [Mikuláš Peksa](#), Czech Pirate Party, Member of European Parliament

#### June 20, 2021

08:30 - 08:45 Beginning/Coffee

08:45 - 10:15 **Panel II: Bottom-up mobilization, campaigns, local authorities, and public trust: partnerships in the making?**

The issues of public trust, participation, organizing constituencies, and cooperation on the local level, which might be key to the future civil society developments, lie in the focus of the second panel.

- What role have played public attitudes in the V4 CSOs' daily work? How have the public attitudes towards CSOs changed over the past years? Are there examples when CSO actively shaped (or missed a chance to do so) public attitudes towards themselves?
- How have the trends in public participation changed over the past years? Which recent issues related to constituency-building could we have witnessed?
- Which public trust-deepening and public participation-enhancing strategies and practices adopted can we mention? Which takeaways can be drawn from these constituency building strategies and practices?
- Which ways of developing cooperation on the local level are to be mentioned? What are their potentials and lessons to be learned?
- What role might play the involvement of (non-state) actors other than CSOs in developing the participatory trends?
- What are the pros and cons of public campaigns? Are they a waste of time or a challenge worth enduring? Which kind of changes were brought by public campaigns or protests, if not political/policy?

10:15 - 10:30 Break

10:30 - 12:00 **Panel III: Advocacy at the EU level - an opportunity yet to be fully used?**

During the panel, possibilities of CSO cooperation and advocacy on the EU level, also in the context of recent initiatives such as the Rights and Values program, are to be reviewed and further explored.

- How have developed relations of the CSOs towards both, elected and unelected EU stakeholders in the past years?
  - What ways of cooperation at the EU level have been (not) working? Which examples of cooperation(s) might be mentioned?
  - Are there any opportunities for further development of regional CSOs' EU-focused cooperation?
  - How should the EU (or international) advocacy opportunities be utilized without exacerbating attacks against a lack of domestic embeddedness and legitimacy?
  - How to better fine-tune the relationship between the EU and European civil society? What are the missing links, opportunities, and limitations for a striving model of cooperation?
- Guest: Roman Haken, delegate and former member of the [Economic and Social Committee](#)

12:00 - 12:45 Lunch

## 12:45 - 14:15 **Panel IV: Role of resources and knowledge in advocacy: resource scarcity or abundance?**

Role of resources – financial, personal, but also that of knowledge – will be discussed in the last panel. Its aim is to explore the potentials and limits of CSO cooperation with the private/business sector as well as the academia/think-tanks. The key question is which good (and bad) ways of advocacy can we think of with regard to the use of various resources and its possible outcomes.

- What ways of cooperation of the non-governmental sphere with the business sector are working? Which strategies and techniques have CSOs adopted to influence the business actors' involvement? What potential can be seen in coalition-building with regard to business involvement?
  - In which ways has been the business sphere supporting the non-profit sector and its resilience? What are the limitations of such support?
  - How have the ways of business and private donors' involvement changed during the pandemics? How can these be developed further?
  - Which strategies have CSOs adopted to reach out to other stakeholders or donors in the face of lowering willingness to cooperate on the side of the business sector? To what extent is it a sustainable strategy?
  - Where can lie the potentials and limits of CSO-academia/think-tanks cooperation?
  - Where do lie the potentials and limits of CSO knowledge-centered cooperation with the private sector?
  - Which channels, topics, or practices can we find in the use of knowledge as a resource? Which platforms or existing projects can be mentioned?
  - What are the possible outputs and outcomes of knowledge-centered cooperation across the sectors?
- Guest: Eva Pavlíková, [Česko.Digital](#)

14:15 - 14:30 Break

14:30 - 15:30 **Conclusion**

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