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ANNUAL REPORT

2024

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Preface



Dear readers,

It is my privilege, for the first time as Director, to introduce Glopolis's annual report. In its pages we set out, as faithfully and factually as we can, what we do, why we do it and how successful we were over the past year in pursuing our vision of a cooperative society and a supportive hub for its development.

The sentence "The world is

changing dramatically and facing many complex challenges" is as true in 2025 as it was a year ago, yet it now feels more alarming. Few could have been prepared for the pace and unpredictability of the upheavals that have shaken the foundations of the democratic, multilateral order. Meanwhile, long running trends are accelerating: the urgent task of averting climate chaos is falling behind; behind the smoke screen of culture wars, groups are being denied their human rights; freedom of speech is being held hostage to "the right to an opinion"; on social media, human dignity and truth are under siege from incivility and disinformation; and across Europe civic space is shrinking under calls for greater security and protection from foreign influence. In Czech society there is a sense of dislocation between West and East, a dissatisfaction and a thirst for change even at the cost of democratic principles. The Czech Republic remains one of only 29 liberal democracies, yet 2025 could be the year that trend reverses.

Where do we stand? For twenty years Glopolis, under the leadership of its founder, Petr Lebeda, has analysed complex global events, related them to Czech realities and articulated how we - a small country in the heart of Europe - can share responsibility for global challenges and actively help solve them. The "global polis" is more than a reference in our name. The oft-heralded end of globalisation does not mean we have ceased to be part of the global space. We cannot hide from the populist and nationalist tsunamis rolling from continent to continent, from one EU Member State to another, from one political extreme to the next. There is an expression: move the needle - a small shift that can have a big effect. We are a small organisation without a magic wand, yet we work tirelessly to move the needle of cooperation. In our view, viable and sustainable solutions can arise only from democratic dialogue and collective effort across bubbles, sectors and regions - a task that becomes ever more urgent as the world we have been building begins to crumble.

I would like to thank everyone with whom we have worked in the past year and with whom we can continue our efforts - my colleagues in the Glopolis team, members of the Board of Directors and the Supervisory Board, representatives of networks and their members in the Czech Republic and Europe, donors, partners from the Government Office, Ministries and the business community. We are energised by their diverse expertise, open mind and responsible approach that strengthens the courage to turn visions into positive change. Collaboration is always based on concrete people, trust and relationships. I look forward to continuing collaboration together with you at different levels to strengthen democracy, civil society and sustainability. At the same time, I wish us all more perspective, hope and awareness of the roots that connect us.

Yours sincerely

Jana Miléřová, Executive Director of Glopolis, o. p. s.

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Who we are

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STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY, THE ART OF CO-OPERATION

We strengthen networks of civil-society organisations (CSOs) and foster collaboration across the civic ecosystem.

We are a Czech civil-society organisation committed to building a cohesive, co-operative society. We champion favourable conditions for the non-profit sector. We connect CSOs into effective networks. We develop their knowledge and skills so they can work better with government, business and other partners at local, national and European level. Since 2004, we have been providing expertise, background and resources for this purpose.

You can also follow us on LinkedIn and Facebook.









Our vision

is a collaborative society in which parties work together in the public interest, supported by an environment that enables such co-operation.

Our mission

is to connect people and organisations so they can work together for a sustainable democracy. We identify and expand the common ground shared by CSOs, public officials, politicians and businesses, and engage them in tackling society's challenges.

We are members of:









NeoN - Network of Networks

Eurodad - Evropská síť pro oddlužení a rozvoj

FoRS – České fórum pro rozvojovou spolupráci Klimatická koalice







Síť k ochraně demokracie

Zelený kruh

Rekonstrukce státu (do 14. 1. 2025)

We are fully committed to our

Safeguarding Policy for Children and Vulnerable Groups, ensuring their protection in all our activities.

WHY DO WE FOCUS ON NETWORKS, COALITIONS, UMBRELLA ORGANISATIONS?

Because they have a key role to play in addressing interconnected societal challenges:

- 1. Networks arise when several organisations discover a common interest. By uniting to pursue it, they create democratic structures and clear rules for collaboration and decision making.
- 2. It is far more effective to build links, trust and lasting relationships among the diverse people who already gather in organizations around that shared interest.
- 3. Networks are better placed to tackle interlinked economic, social and environmental challenges: they pool information from their members, view obstacles and threats from multiple perspectives, and leverage collective intelligence, know-how and resources.

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What we do

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS AND THE CIVIC-SECTOR ENVIRONMENT

ProCivic

Within the ProCivic programme we act as catalysts of co-operation both inside the civic sector and between the sector and the state.

At the same time, we work to secure favourable conditions for CSOs in three key areas: the regulatory framework, participation in public decision-making, and access to funding.

We foster collaboration through the NeoN network, which links disciplines and diverse types of organisations to promote pluralistic democracy, resilient civil society and sustainable living. We advance the goals of the Strategy for Co-operation between Public Administration and Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations 2021-2030 by serving on the Government Council for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations (GCNNO) and its committees and expert groups. We strengthen CSOs involvement in shaping and implementing public policies and in making use of EU funds. Finally, we monitor the civic-space environment and work to reinforce it as an integral element of the rule of law.

Why We Do This

Democracy and freedom thrive when a well functioning state, an active civil society and sustainable business work together. Public decision making should rest on evidence, meaningful citizen engagement and trust in public institutions. CSOs – together with their umbrella bodies and networks – are vital partners: they help meet people's needs and ensure that public policy is designed transparently and implemented effectively, with a focus on upholding human rights and reducing inequality.

To play this role, CSOs require the rule of law and an open civic space to be safeguarded and promoted by government. These are fundamental guarantees of democracy, rights and freedoms in both the Czech Republic and the European Union.

We coordinate a NeoN network

For NeoN, we arrange regular coordination meetings, strategic planning and results evaluation, fundraising, communications and expert support. We steer joint advocacy and, for selected priorities, negotiations at government level. Together with member organisations we advance specific agendas that arise from our shared deliberations. Issues that surface in discussions with public authorities are brought back to the network so we can develop collective follow up actions.



About NeoN network:

From nine founding networks in 2018, NeoN (Network of Networks) has grown into platform of 20 networks and organisations, representing more than 1,000 CSOs across the Czech Republic. It fosters co-operation among CSOs, with the state and with partners from the business sector. NeoN advocates for a responsible state that upholds democratic principles, provides favourable conditions for the civic sector and works in partnership with it. At the same time, it seeks to build a civil sector able to solve problems collectively across disciplines. To that end it develops a shared understanding of societal issues, shares contacts and knowledge, and builds trust, relationships and the capacity to work together both within the sector and with external partners.

Follow NeoN on LinkedIn and visit website www.neon-cooperation.org.



















































What did we achieve with NeoN in 2024?



Advanced more than 20 priority agendas - among them the Government Strategy for Co-operation between Public Administration and Non-Governmental Non-profit Organizations 2021-2030, systemic reforms in funding, the draft lobbying regulation, implementation of the National Recovery Plan, amendments to the Media Act and reform of Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA).



Deepened co-operation with public authorities, notably the Department for Co-operation with Civil Society and other units within the Office of the Government, as well as several ministries. A highlight was the round table "The Role of Civil Society in Strengthening Democracy".



Contributed to the EU Rule of Law Review and, for the fifth consecutive year, partnered with the European Commission Representation in the Czech Republic to host the national dialogue



Amplified each other's initiatives - NeoN organisations jointly endorsed the We Are Europe declaration marking 20 years of Czech EU membership, signed a collective call supporting amendments to the Media Act, and backed the Affordable Housing Bill.



Strengthened ties with Slovakia's Platform for Democracy, supporting Slovak civil society in the face of attacks on its operations and on fundamental democratic principles.

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Key outputs delivered through NeoN co-operation:

- **Evaluation report** Better Participation for Better Co-operation: State-Non Profit Sector Partnership in the Czech Republic 2022–2023.
- Civic Space Watch 2024 Czech Republic chapter, published within the European Civic Forum's EU wide assessment of civil society.
- Joint submission to the European Commission's public consultation for the EU Rule of Law Report, followed by an open letter urging the Czech Government to use the recommendations to bolster democratic safeguards.
- Recommendations to the European Commission drafted with the Stefan Batory Foundation and other EU partners — on improving the effectiveness of the EU Rule of Law Report, plus guidance for CSOs and the European Economic and Social Committee on opportunities to engage in the report's preparation.
- Joint appeal from 14 CSOs calling on legislators to amend problematic provisions in the draft Lobbying Regulation Act.
- Workshop "Decision Making Closer to the People: Involving Civil Society in Public Decision Making".
- Launch of neon-cooperation.org, which attracted more than 7,000 visits in its first year.
- **NeoN email newsletter**, offering practical information for anyone keen to improve the CSO environment and strengthen partnership with the state.

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Eszter Szücs, Lead Programme Manager, Civic Power & Media Programme, Civitates:

Your efforts in strengthening civil society representation in government advisory bodies, enhancing coordination between organizations, and improving communication within your network are commendable. The development of resources like the Civic Space Watch, various policy papers and your contribution to and organized event around the Rule of Law report has played a crucial role in advancing civil society's voice and impact in policy debates.



Daniel Vondrouš, Coordinator for Co-operation with the Non Profit Sector, Analytical Department, Office of the Minister of the Environment:

Public administration cannot function properly without co-operation with an active public and without up to date information. Its partnership with the NeoN network, which brings together the umbrella organisations of the most active civic associations, helps not only to improve the quality of state institutions but also to build mutual trust between the state and citizens.





Improving Partnerships for the Effective Use of EU Funds

In 2024 we launched PART, a two-year project designed to improve the co-ordination and professional capacity so that the non profit sector can engage more effectively in European policy making and in the use of EU funds in the Czech Republic. Working with the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, the EU Committee of the Government Council for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations (GCNNO) and the Ministry of Regional Development, we focus on: strengthening the partnership principle; putting transparent, systematic co-operation in place between the public authorities and NGOs; and sharing information with other organisations so EU funds can be used to greater effect.

What did we achieve in 2024?



We boosted the awareness and skills of **46 civil-sector representatives on 36 monitoring committees and platforms for EU funds**, through tailored trainings, joint meetings and a dedicated newsletter.



Our **survey** showed that those 46 representatives are largely satisfied with the basic information supplied by ministries but cannot gauge their real influence on decision making and need clearer rules for their roles (e.g. confidentiality, conflicts of interest).



In the newly established **Cohesion 28+ working group** of the GCNNO's EU Committee, we are **coordinating sixteen experts** to draw up a common position on Czech priorities for EU cohesion policy after 2028.



We increased the knowledge of **more than sixty additional CSO experts** about ways to engage in EU funds implementation and in formulating Czech positions on European policies.

The project PART - Support for co-ordination and professional capacities for the involvement of non-governmental non-profit organisations in the implementation of EU funds 2021–2027 CZ.07.01.01/00/22_005/0000193 is financed by the European Union.



Director, Centre for Community Work; project expert at the Department for Co-operation with Civil Society, Office of the Government (Human Rights & Minorities Section):

I welcome the co-operation with the Glopolis team on projects that improve communication between civil society and public administration at national level in EU funds and that set standards for future co-operation. The civil sector's capacity for such partnerships is severely under resourced, so targeted support is essential.



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Jana Pospíšilová Maussen, Project Manager, Centre for Transport and Energy, Green Circle representative in the Cohesion 28+ working group, Ministry of Regional Development:

I value the PART project's co-ordinating role in the debate among CSOs on the future of cohesion policy. Glopolis has long played a key part in strengthening that sector wide discussion.



Lenka Vonka Černá, Chair, National Association of Volunteering, representative of the Government Council for NGOs in the Cohesion 28+ working group, Director of the Volunteer Centre Ústí nad Labem:

Thanks to the PART project, Glopolis is becoming a driving force for linking civil society – promoting volunteering as a tool for active citizenship, building a network of co-operating organisations and involving new actors in our joint efforts for a fairer, more democratic society.



Project launch meeting for PART in co-operation with the Czech Government Office at Prague's Straka Academy, 6 June 2024.





Strengthening the Civic Sector and Organisational Resilience

Within the new two year **PROSECO** project, together with our partners — Síť k ochraně demokracie, Malý Berlín, CROSOL and the Peace Institute — we bolster the resilience and co-operation of civil society organisations in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia and Slovenia. We are enhancing monitoring of civic space and fostering collaboration among networks that defend civic space and the rule of law across Europe.

What did we achieve in 2024?



We drew up a methodology and defined six key areas and 19 monitoring indicators, enabling us to track and assess the conditions for civil society — and to strengthen its resilience — in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia and Slovenia with far greater precision.



With sixty key European stakeholders concerned with civic space and facilitated by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), we evaluated existing EU civic space monitoring initiatives and helped craft recommendations on how they can communicate their findings more effectively and contribute to measures that support civic space and protect organisations and activists across Europe.



We produced a range of **civic space status reports** for Civic Space Watch and for the EU Rule of Law Report.



We facilitated **the exchange of good practice** among partners to strengthen networks and involve civil society organisations from the regions.

The "Empowering Ecosystems of Civil Society Organisations in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia and Slovenia" project is co financed under the European Commission's Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme.



Tjaša Turnšek, Project Manager, Peace Institute, Slovenia:

In my view, the PROSECO project strengthens and empowers civil society organizations and networks in a broader European context by facilitating the exchange of best practices of resilience – something civil society urgently needs in times of democratic backsliding. It has enabled the Peace Institute, particularly through the organization of an event on attacks on media, to engage in exchange and networking with journalists and activists from other countries. This has fostered trust-building and collaboration.



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Kristijan Kovačič, Advocacy Expert, CROSOL, Croatia:

PROSECO project has enabled CROSOL to facilitate better engagement with other Croatian CSOs, which was helpful for us during the process of writing the submission for the European Commission's rule of law report. We have also been able to include our local CSO partners in the Ljubljana workshop on civil society resilience, which will create a multiplier effect in developing stronger networks on a national level.



Photo from the project launch and the first coordination meeting of partners from the Czech Republic, Croatia, Slovakia and Slovenia, Prague, 9 April 2024



STRATEGICALLY DEVELOPING NGO NETWORKS



Within the Stronger Roots programme, we help networks of CSOs from the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia to strengthen their resilience and boost the impact of their work.

Thanks to grants, expert consultations, training sessions, workshops and peer to peer sharing opportunities, the participating platforms, coalitions and other CSOs networks can more easily establish – or deepen – co-operation with diverse stakeholders who may hold different ideological views or live in more distant regions, yet are vital for achieving the networks' strategic goals.

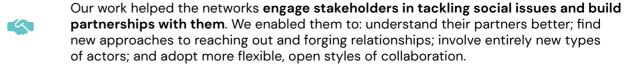
Why do we do it?

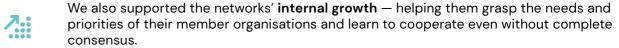
We run the programme in response to growing social divisions, weakened trust in institutions and the fragmentation of the civic sector. As social, cultural and political differences widen, civil society faces challenges linked to polarisation, echo chambers and a limited ability to reach people beyond its own supporter base. At the same time, deeper connections are missing both among non profit organisations themselves and across sectors – for example with public administration.

That is why we seek to reinforce the resilience of civil society organisations and their networks, to strengthen their relationships with diverse groups of the public, and to foster cross sector collaboration – all with the aim of building a more cohesive and democratic society.

What did we achieve in 2024?

- We provided continuous assistance to **16 CSOs networks** taking part in the Stronger Roots programme in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia.
- We brokered **54 hours of one to one consultations** with specialists from a range of fields, tailored to each network's needs.
- We organised **eight** training sessions, workshops and discussion events for **144 participants**. Several were open to a broader audience of CSO representatives through the **Stronger Roots Academy**. In 2024 we focused on network functions and mission, motivating and activating member organisations, evaluating internal operations, communication strategies and ways of involving civil society in public policy making.







First international meeting of the second cohort of Stronger Roots grantees, Prague



Petra Keprtová, Director, Permanent Conference of Education Associations, Czech Republic:

The Stronger Roots programme has injected fresh energy into our project, prompted us to discover new ways of collaborating with public administration and inspired truly *out of the box* solutions.



Alena Domoráková, Project Manager, Climate Coalition, Slovakia:

On every subject — how to welcome new members, involve them more in our activities, and work with different actors — the Stronger Roots workshop provided plenty of tips and tools for effective communication. We are pleased to say that we have already integrated most of them into our work.



Adrienn Zubek, Director, Egalipe, Hungary:

The first meeting for networks in Prague was particularly rich in knowledge and experience sharing with our network coordinator, which helped us to think together in a network structure.



We implement the Stronger Roots programme with

Partners:

Donors:

Nadace **OSF**











GLOPOLIS CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF CZECH EU MEMBERSHIP AND ITS OWN 20TH ANNIVERSARY

To mark two decades since the Czech Republic joined the European Union, we organised a **Forum of the Non-Profit Sector and Its Partners**.

More than one hundred representatives of civil society, business and public administration gathered for a **packed programme**. They reflected on how co-operation with the civic sector has driven systemic change, assessed the imprint Czech civil society is leaving on Europe and the wider world, and identified the key tasks that lie ahead to deepen collaboration between the civic, business and public sectors.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all the event partners, the inspiring speakers and our distinguished guests for creating such a unique atmosphere.









Two decades after founding Glopolis, its founder Petr Lebeda handed over the post of Executive Director to his long standing deputy, Jana Miléřová.



Libor Winkler, Managing Partner, RSJ Investments, philanthropist:

The key to a partnership between philanthropists and the non-profit sector is a personal, long term relationship, together with transparency — and a shared, long term aim: a well functioning state.



Thank you to our event partners:

Martin Hudeček Peter Foglar Libor Winkler



LIVESPORT











Acknowledgements

THOSE BEHIND GLOPOLIS

Board of Trustees

Ladislav Červenka (Chair), Martin Ehl, Martin Hudeček, Ondřej Kopečný, Lukáš Pokorný, Kateřina Churtajeva (until June 2024)

Supervisory Board

Tomáš Bílý (Chair), Jan Kára, Jaroslava Riley (from April 2025)

Glopolis Team

Jana Miléřová, Jitka Hausenblasová, Kateřina Hájková, Zbyněk Machát, Pavlína Müllerová, Marek Trošok, Petr Lebeda, David Ondráčka, Jakub Varvařovský, Petr Bartoň, Ingrid Dečmanová

FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT







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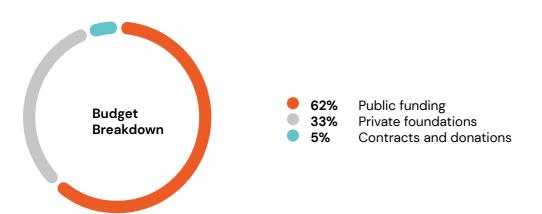
Financial Overview

Condensed Statement of Profit and Loss – amounts in CZK '000

Expenses	7 817
Consumed purchases and purchased services	2 894
Staff costs	4 798
Other expenses	125
Income	8 020
Operating grants	7 498
Sales of own products and goods	417
Other income and donations	105
Operating result	203

Condensed Balance Sheet - amounts in CZK '000

Assets	11 707
Receivables	1 243
Short-term financial assets	10 436
Other assets	28
Liabilities	11 707
Equity	10 925
Short-term payables	750
Other liabilities	32



Overview of Grants Received – amounts in CZK '000

European Commission	3 565
Civitates	1 379
Ministry of Regional Development	1294
Open Society Foundations	964
OSF Prague	251
Total grants received	7 453

Contacts

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, OR IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN CO-OPERATION, PLEASE CONTACT:



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