

November 17, 2017

Dear Friends,

Today marks the 28th anniversary of the Czech Republic's Velvet Revolution. Even as we commemorate the end of totalitarianism in our country, we are reminded by current events worldwide that democracy needs to be continually nurtured. We believe that a key element in a strong democracy is citizen engagement in local communities - which has been at the core of our work since our founding in 1997.

Yes, this year Via Foundation turned 20! We took a look at what that means in numbers:

4,331

supported projects

CZK 320,000,000 (\$13 million)

Awarded in grants

CZK 130,000,000 (\$5 million)

Invested in education and development

CZK 95,000,000 (\$3,950,000)

In online gifts through Darujme.cz

That's right - we provided funding to **4,331** community, philanthropy and development initiatives in the Czech Republic and other Central and Eastern Europe countries in a total amount of **CZK 320 million (\$13 million)**.

We invested another **CZK 130 million (\$5 million)** into the education and development of people working in non-profit organizations and social enterprises and development of philanthropy among children and young people. In tandem with this funding we provided thousands of hours of inspiration, consultations, mentoring and customized training.

Last but definitely not least, we helped Czech non-profit organizations raise **CZK 95 million (\$3,950,000)** in online gifts through the Darujme.cz online giving portal.

HUNDREDS

of volunteers

None of this would have been possible without the help of **hundreds** of volunteers who shared their expertise as members of juries, advisory committees and fundraising ambassador groups.



CZK 545,000,000 (\$22 million)

...or without the support of generous donors like you. Since 1997 we have received a total of **CZK 545 million (\$22 million)** in gifts from individuals, companies and foundations.

THANK YOU!



Of course, our work is about far more than numbers. It's about the people we support and the dedication and creativity they pour into making their communities better places to live. One of them is **Dijana Šabić**, a participant in our [ViabilityNet](#) program. As you may know, our ViabilityNet program reaches beyond the Czech Republic, bringing together community leaders from diverse Central and Eastern European countries, sharing what Via has learned and continues to offer to Czech organizations about successful community development projects.

Dijana is from Croatia. When she was a little girl, Dijana lost her father during the Croatian War of Independence. Although she and her mother and brother left their home in Pučišća and moved to Split, Dijana never forgot her hometown on the Croatian island of Brač.

She had spent many childhood holidays at her grandparents' house there and always felt the urge to give her community back what it had given her: happiness. After college she decided to move back to Pučišća. With the help of government funding and the ViabilityNet program, she has become a community leader there. We invite you to read an interview with Dijana [here](#).



Above: The new community map in Pučišća

We would like to thank you for helping us support communities during our first 20 years and we look forward to working together during our next 20!

Thank you for joining us in making a difference.

Kind regards,
Carol Hochman
Friends of Via

Helen Lenda
Via Foundation

