

# The Stronger Roots Program

## Stronger Roots Conference

May 11 – 13, 2022

Mama Shelter Hotel, Veletržní 1502/20, Prague 7

The conference will take place in the hotel ateliers (ground floor).

The conference is held on the occasion of the closing of the first round of an innovative Stronger Roots program which aims to increase the resilience of civil society organizations and their networks and strengthen their social capital. The Program has been implemented in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary by Open Society Fund Prague, the NIOK Foundation, Open Society Foundation Bratislava and Glopolis with the support from Porticus and the Open Society Initiative for Europe since 2019.

### Wednesday May 11, 2022

afternoon      Arrival of foreign guests

**19:00**      **Buffet Dinner in the Hotel and Welcome** (for accommodated guests)

### Thursday May 12, 2022

**9:00**      Welcome

**Robert Basch**, Executive Director, Open Society Fund Prague

**9:15-10:45**      Opening plenary session

#### **Civil Society in CEE: New Challenges, New Opportunities**

*What is the current state of affairs in CEE today and how does it influence civil society?*

*How is civil society in CEE countries doing, what is the internal situation?*

*How much has the situation changed or not changed compared to three years ago? What are the key challenges and opportunities?*

**Keynote Speech** (20 min)

**Goran Buldioski**, Managing Director for Europe and Eurasia, Open Society Foundations

Reflections from the participants (15 min)

**Panel Discussion** (50 min):

**Goran Buldioski**, Managing Director for Europe and Eurasia, Open Society Foundations

**Vendula Menšíková**, Project Manager, Network for Democracy Protection

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**Marcell Dénes Jávör**, Communications Manager, Transparency International Hungary

**Nina Spišiak**, Coordinator of Volunteers and Interpreting, Human Rights League  
Bratislava

*Moderator: Robert Basch, Executive Director, Open Society Fund Prague*

**10:45-11:00 Coffee Break**

**11:00-12:30** Session 2

## **Social Base Building: A New Approach for CSOs to Becoming Resilient and Impactful**

*How did social base building transform your CSO and what impact did it have on the people around it - how did your constituents change? What does the transformation mean for your organization for the future?*

*What do you think are the future challenges - is it about changing the paradigm or just spreading the concept? What prevents mainstreaming the social base building approach into civil society practice? What has been the most challenging thing for those who have already undergone the social base building process?*

### **Presentation of Social Base Building and Its Impact (25 min)**

**Zsófia Makádi**, Senior Program Manager, NIOK Foundation

**Marie Peřinová**, Stronger Roots Program Manager, OSF Prague

Reflections from the participants (15 min)

### **Panel Discussion (50 min):**

**Eszter Szűcs**, Senior Program Officer, Open Society Foundations

**Pavel Příklad**, Managing Director, Opero, Mentor

**Jana Krajčovičová**, Communication & Fundraising Manager, Nadácia DEDO

**Andrea Kolozs**, Engagement Coordinator, Amnesty International Hungary

*Moderator: Zsófia Makádi, Senior Program Manager, NIOK Foundation*

**12:30-13:30 Lunch**

**13:30-15:00** Session 3

## **Network Transversal Collaboration: Common Solutions despite Divergent Views**

*How did the transversal collaboration process change your network, business, state/public administration and/or other members/stakeholders?*

*What kind of future opportunities does transversal collaboration bring?*

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## **Presentation of the Stronger Roots Network Transversal Collaboration and Its Impact** (25 min)

**Petr Lebeda**, Executive Director, Glopolis

**Jitka Hausenblasová**, Program Manager, Glopolis

Reflections from the participants (15 min)

## **Panel Discussion** (50 min):

**Helen Lenda**, Community Development Program Manager, VIA Foundation

**Alexandra Strelková**, Executive Director, Association of Independent Producers

**Jana Smiggels Kavková**, Committee President, Association of Organizations Working in Penal Affairs

*Moderator: Petr Lebeda, Executive Director, Glopolis*

## **15:00-15:15 Coffee Break**

## **15:15-16:45 Session 4**

### **Experience Sharing and Networking at Campfire**

*Calling question: What are your best five recommendations to progress in the following topics?*

1. How to communicate about a difficult topic
2. How to use branding for greater outreach
3. How to transform from a service-oriented organization to an advocacy organization
4. How to reactivate “sleeping” constituencies
5. How to build corporate partnerships that are about more than just being a donor
6. How to collaborate with divergent public institutional partners (including those who do not wish to cooperate)

*Methodology: **Camp fire** is a 30-minute collaborative learning process during which the facilitator encourages participants to tell their stories related to the sub-session objective and at the end synthesizes the lessons learnt.*

## **16:45 - 17:00 Wrap up and closing of the day**

## **19:00 Dinner**

*The dinner will be held at **Lod' Pivovar** (The Ship Brewery - Dvořák riverbank next to Štěfánik bridge, Prague 1)*

## **The Power of Civil Society**

Keynote by Igor Blažević, Prague Civil Society Centre

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**Friday May 13, 2022**

**8:00-9:00**     **Donor's Breakfast** (By special invitation only)  
/ 9:30

**9.00-9:40**     **What may my contribution be as an individual person towards a less polarized society?**  
*What are the typical challenges why an organization does not have a strong connection to the people/partners/stakeholders and how to overcome them?*  
*What makes people active in society and what prevents them? What are the sociological trends?*

**Opening speech** (15 min):

**Pavel Pospěch**, sociologist, Department of Sociology, Masaryk University

*Moderator: Zuzana Čáčová, Senior Program Manager, OSF Bratislava*

Q & A

**9:40-10:15**     **Open space for your topics**  
*Calling question: What could we in the civil society sector do to build bridges between CSOs, other institutions and people and to make the fragmented society more democratic and cohesive?*

Feel free to propose your own question or topic for a 45-min session and invite others to join the discussion.

**11:00-11:15**     **Coffee Break**

**11:15-12:30**     **Open space for your topics - continuation**

**12:30-12:45**     **Conclusion, thank you and farewell**  
**Robert Basch**, Executive Director, Open Society Fund Prague  
**Martina Břeňová**, Board Chair, Open Society Fund Prague

**12:45-13:45**     **Lunch**