



## Meaning of Solidarity

A Central European Seminar on overcoming barriers between „new“ and „old“  
EU Member States in the field of refugee protection  
Prague, 23 May 2018, venue European House, Jungmannova 24, Prague 1

### **Introduction:**

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the independent Czech and Czechoslovak state is a great opportunity to reflect on basic values of the Czech and Central European states and basic values, which the European Union was founded on. One of the key EU and modern states' values is the value of solidarity, which has been often mentioned since the refugee „crisis“ started in 2015 but not always understood in the same way in Europe. With the generous support of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, we are able to bring to Prague experts on asylum issues from Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Czechia with the goal to discuss the different views on solidarity and different meanings of solidarity in current Europe. Our goal is to find common understanding and possible directions of the future Common European Asylum System. The seminar is organised by the Organisation for Aid to Refugees (OPU) in cooperation with member agencies of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) and UNHCR. We are grateful to the Representation of the European Commission in Prague for hosting this event.

### **Program: starting at 12.30 pm, ending at 5.00 pm**

Foreword: Martin Rozumek, OPU Director, and Thomas Oellermann, FES Prag

- a) Different meanings of solidarity with refugees in Central Europe
  - Czech financial and technical solidarity during and after the refugee crisis (Czech Ministry of Interior, Dept. for Asylum and Migration Policies)
  - Swiss solidarity during and after the refugee crisis (Adriana Romer, OSAR)
  - Slovak solidarity during and after the refugee crisis (Zuzana Številová, HRL)
  - Germany's "wir schaffen das" - the reality of integrating refugees in Germany (Bernward Ostrop, Caritas Berlin)
- b) EU solidarity or „solidarity“ with states at EU borders and behind
  - European solidarity: new coalition of the willing (Karl Kopp, Pro Asyl, Frankfurt)
  - the Polish solidarity with refugees nowadays (Ewa Ostaszewska - Żuk, HFHR)
  - a look to Mediterranean and Africa on impacts of externalisation of refugee protection (Nagette Belgacem, UNHCR)

Solidarity as one of the key values in the Treaty of the EU and its Member States Gesine Schwan – German politologist, Humboldt-Viadrina Governance Platform

- c) Panel debate on the future Common European Asylum System and solidarity: with participation of Gesine Schwan, UNHCR, ECRE, experts from Austria and other Central European countries

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