



organization  
for aid to  
refugees



# Annual Report 2024



# Message from the Director

In 2024, our main focus was on **supporting Ukrainian refugees**, approximately 370,000 of whom have been living in the Czech Republic on a long-term basis. **We operate in more than five cities and six regions**, and our staff regularly visit all refugee camps and detention facilities.

We were **extremely active in the field** – in hostels, in our halfway houses in Prague and Brno, and in our offices in Prague, Plzeň, Brno, Ostrava, and Hradec Králové. It is there, where people in difficult life situations come every day, often falling through the cracks of inadequate state support and often lacking access to even basic social services.

Although the integration of Ukrainian refugees is generally very successful – more than 80% of those of working age are employed and communicate in Czech – our organization, **OPU, remains a key safety net for the most vulnerable**. We help people with disabilities, the seriously ill, cancer patients, unaccompanied minors, but also seniors who are completely outside the Czech social system and have specific needs.

For my colleagues at OPU, this work is often very demanding and mentally exhausting, especially when they see how slowly migration policy is changing and how often support from institutions is lacking. I appreciate their commitment and **would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank them**.

In 2024, we also continued our modest but meaningful **Gvirila project in Georgia**, which is open to all visitors and tourists.

**Finally, I would like to thank all our partners, donors, and supporters.** Without you, our work would not be possible, and thousands of people in the Czech Republic would be left without help. Thanks to you and OPU, refugees and foreigners are successfully integrating into Czech society and starting a new, often very promising life here. Thank you!

**Martin Rozumek, Director of OPU**

# 2024 in Numbers

## What did 2024 look like in numbers?



We have provided assistance to **more than 7,000 clients** through legal and social counseling.



We have supported thousands of people through field counseling. In Prague and the Central Bohemian Region alone, we regularly visited **32 locations**, where we had **2,452 contacts with clients**.



**We accompanied 1,636 foreigners** to government offices, schools and kindergartens, insurance companies, and other institutions, where we helped them with interpreting and social counseling.



The legal team visited **detention facilities 115 times** and **residential facilities 150 times**.



**135 volunteers** devoted over **2,376 hours** of assistance to foreigners.



**22 mentors** supported clients in integrating into everyday life in the Czech Republic.



We have supported more than **180 unaccompanied minors**.



**25 young foreigners** have found a home in our three halfway houses.



We organized **111 trips for children**, **20 art workshops**, and summer day camps.



The Ukrainian senior club met **40 times**, and we organized **7 meetings** with Czech senior citizens.



We organized **23 lectures** for **387 students**, provided training **three times** for OSPoD, trained teachers in Georgia, and students at Czech universities.



**14 LGBTQ+** refugees from asylum and accommodation facilities received targeted assistance with integration.

# Projects in 2024

**Facilitating effective access to asylum procedures and promoting legal equality, preventing statelessness and facilitating the integration of refugees and displaced persons**

**1. 1. 2024- 31. 12. 2024**

Funded by: UNHCR

As part of the project, OPU provides legal assistance to applicants for international protection, refugees from Ukraine, stateless persons, and those at risk of losing their citizenship. Legal advice is available at the Zastávka u Brna reception center, the Kostelec nad Orlicí residence center, and OPU offices in Prague, Brno, Ostrava, and Plzeň. A team of intercultural and social workers provides support to refugees from Ukraine in Prague. In Ostrava, leisure and integration activities are organized to support refugees and other displaced persons. The project also manages the iDobrovolník.cz database.

## **Home in a New Country III**

**1. 8. 2023 – 30. 6. 2025**

Funded by: Operational Program of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic

The project focuses on improving the situation of foreign minors who arrive in the Czech Republic unaccompanied by their parents or other relatives and are placed in specialized institutional facilities. Through professional counseling, educational and leisure activities, the project focuses on resolving the residence status of members of the target group, increasing their awareness and ability to integrate into society even after leaving the specialized facility.

## **Housing support for refugees in the South Moravian Region**

**1. 9. 2023 - 30. 6. 2026**

Funded by: European Union from the OPZ+ programme

Support for social housing, especially for people from Ukraine. The project aims to provide housing for temporary protection holders from Ukraine and international protection holders. As part of the project, 10 apartments will be provided in the South Moravian Region for highly vulnerable people, who will receive long-term social and other support.



## Field program in Prague 13

**1. 4. 2024 - 31. 12. 2024**

Funded by: Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, Prague City Hall, UNHCR, Prague 13 City District

Once a week, in cooperation with the Prague 13 district, we try to contact foreigners in the field, currently mainly from Ukraine. The project aims to prevent the social exclusion of people who would not think of turning to social services themselves, but who often face serious problems related to social isolation or a socially disadvantaged environment. We most often contact clients at hostels, but also directly in parks or in front of schools and government offices. Once we establish cooperation with a client, we offer accompaniment, interpretation, and social counseling.

## Integration of foreigners and refugees into the Czech labor market

**1. 9. 2023 - 31. 8. 2025**

Funded by: European Union, Employment Plus Programme

The project is intended for foreigners from third countries. The aim of the project is to equalize opportunities for integration into the labor market for 200 members of the target group through education, mentoring, coaching, individual counseling, and supplementary tools. We offer support in finding employment, educational activities in the form of Czech language courses, assistance in finding retraining courses, and assistance in the recognition of foreign qualifications. The project is implemented at branches in Prague, Plzeň, Hradec Králové, Ostrava, and Brno.



Children's Day at the Community Center

## **Providing legal advice and psycho-social support to unaccompanied and separated children and strengthening the capacities of the child protection system in the Czech Republic to protect refugee and migrant children**

**1. 7. 2022 – 31. 3. 2024**

Funded by: UNICEF

Support for unaccompanied minors: provision of legal and social counseling, psychological assistance, material assistance, leisure activities, and accommodation in a halfway house.

## **Supported housing for young refugees**

**1. 1. 2024 - 31. 12. 2024**

Funded by: Prague 14 City district, UNICEF, UNHCR

Providing educational activities (workshops) for clients, social services at the Halfway House in Prague 14, and social counseling for young refugees aged 16 to 26.

## **Legal advice for persons who do not meet the conditions for entry or residence in the Czech Republic**

**1. 3. 2024 – 30. 9. 2025**

Funded by: The grant recipient is the Consortium, and the project is being implemented jointly with partner organizations OPU and SIMI.

In March 2024, a consortium of non-governmental organizations working with migrants, in cooperation with the Organization for Refugee Assistance and the Association for Integration and Migration, launched a project providing free legal assistance in the return process to third-country nationals who (no longer) meet the conditions for entry or residence in the Czech Republic. The project also provides information on voluntary return options, increases the effectiveness of returns, contributes to the management of migration flows, and implements common asylum and immigration policies in compliance with the rights and principles of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. The main objective of the project is to ensure that third-country nationals and applicants for international protection are informed and receive qualified legal assistance if they are placed in a detention center and have been issued a decision to leave the territory.





A club of senior citizens from Ukraine cooks for Czechs

## Integration activities for foreigners

**1. 1. 2024 – 31. 12. 2026**

Funded by: European Union from the OPZ+ programme

Support for people with a migration background who live in the Czech Republic and struggle with a lack of knowledge of the Czech language, insufficient information about their rights and obligations, socio-cultural inadequacies, or ignorance of family and labor law regulations.

## Social counseling in the South Moravian Region

**1. 1. 2024 – 31. 12. 2024**

Funded by: Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Regional Authority of the South Moravian Region, Brno City Council

Providing of social services in the form of professional social and legal counseling to foreigners in the Czech Republic.

## Social services

**1. 1. 2024 - 31. 12. 2024**

Funded by: Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ostrava City Hall

Providing of social services nationwide: professional social counseling, social rehabilitation, field programs, halfway house.

## Second Home III.

**11. 3. 2023 – 29. 2. 2024**

Funded by: EP Corporate Group Foundation

A project focused on Czech language courses for children and adults, support for vulnerable individuals in the form of contributions towards basic living expenses, and support for students in the form of school supplies.

## We strive for a fair migration policy

**1. 3. 2020 – 29. 2. 2024**

Funded by: Norwegian funds

Advocacy activities in cooperation with SIMI and the Consortium of Non-Governmental Organizations Working with Migrants.

## Community activities for children from Ukraine

**1. 1. 2024 – 31.12. 2024**

Funded by: Česká spořitelna Foundation

Support for refugee children and young people from Ukraine through leisure activities, tutoring, and regular art and craft activities.

## Legal and social counseling for applicants for international protection

**1. 3. 2024 – 31. 3. 2026**

Funded by: The project is co-financed by the European Union. The grant recipient is the Consortium, and the project is being implemented in cooperation with partner organizations OPU and SIMI.

The project aims to provide free legal and social counseling to the target group, which consists of applicants for international protection and foreigners who are tolerated in the Czech Republic under Act No. 325/1999 Coll., with special attention to vulnerable persons. The project will enable the stable and regular operation of counseling centers in SUZ facilities and in the territory. Clients will be provided with legal counseling depending on their individual life situation.



## Direct Assistance to Victims of Torture among Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants

**1. 1. 2024 - 31. 12. 2024**

Funded by: UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

Legal, social, and psychological counseling for victims of torture, degrading, and inhumane treatment among foreigners, asylum seekers, and refugees.

## Social counseling in the field in Prague 14

**1. 1. 2024 - 31. 12. 2024**

Funded by: Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, Prague City Hall, UNHCR, Prague 14 Municipal District

The Social Counseling Project in Prague 14 is focused on providing professional social counseling directly in the field within the Prague 14 district.

## OPU support

**2024 - 2025**

Funded by: Sigrid Rausing Trust Foundation

Support for the development of OPU employees, support for OPU legal and social counseling, support for the Ukrainian senior citizens' club.



United for Arch event organized in collaboration with Koridor UA

## **Social services in the Pilsen Region – field programs and professional social counseling**

**1. 1. 2024 – 31. 12. 2024**

Funded by: Pilsen Region and Pilsen City Council

Provision of social services, outreach programs in the Plzeň Region, and professional social counseling.

## **Support for the employment of socially excluded persons in the city of Ostrava**

**1. 10. 2023 – 30. 9. 2026**

Funded by: Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, European Union - Employment Plus Programme

The project focuses on promoting the employability of socially excluded persons and foreigners at risk of social exclusion in the city of Ostrava.

## **Community Center for the Development of Foreigners VII.**

**1. 1. 2024 – 31. 12. 2024**

Funded by: Prague City Hall

A project focused on supporting foreign minors in the form of trips and supporting clients of the social service Halfway House in the form of leisure activities.

## **Integration of refugees from Ukraine in the capital city of Prague**

**1. 1. 2024 - 31. 12. 2024**

Funded by: Prague City Hall

The project focuses primarily on field social work in hostels in the capital city of Prague, where field social work involves working with clients at risk of social exclusion. As part of the project, clients are also provided with group information seminars (at hostels, schools, etc.) and psychological counseling, which is provided by our psychologist at the OPU Community Center.





Commemorative gathering in Ostrava on the occasion of the second anniversary of the start of the war in Ukraine

## OPU Volunteer Program

**1. 1. 2024 – 31. 12. 2024**

Funded by: Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, Prague City Hall

Long-term and one-time assistance to OPU clients focused on integration in their new place of residence and improvement of their psychosocial condition.

## Legal and social assistance for LGBTQI+ refugees and migrants

**1. 6. 2023 do 30. 5. 2024**

Funded by: U.S. Embassy

The aim of the project is to provide legal and social assistance to migrants and refugees from the LGBTQI\* community.

## Support for persons from Ukraine

**1. 4. 2024 - 30. 9. 2025**

Funded by: European Union - Employment Plus Programme

The project focuses on supporting the integration of foreigners, where through adaptation and community activities, as well as interpreting and volunteer services, we contribute to their better adaptation to different living conditions in the Czech Republic and prevent the development of crime, mental health problems, and loneliness among seniors, as well as adults' inability to cope with raising children. Through leisure activities and improving the communication skills of foreign children, we will also contribute to their easier adaptation and prevent the emergence of socially pathological phenomena.



## Operation of the Center for Foreigners in the South Moravian Region 2023–2025

**1. 8. 2023 - 31. 3. 2025**

Funded by: European Union, Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, Asylum and Migration Fund

Providing services aimed at improving the social, legal, linguistic, and cultural situation and status of foreigners in the South Moravian Region.

## Non-profit organizations 2024

**1. 5. 2024 - 31. 12. 2024**

Funded by: ČEZ Foundation

The purpose of the project is to maintain and raise the professional level of communication processes towards the public.

## Legal services for the most vulnerable refugees from Ukraine and other countries

**1. 12. 2022 - 30. 6. 2024**

Funded by: International rescue committee (IRC)

The aim of the project was to provide legal assistance to the most vulnerable refugees from Ukraine and other countries.



Family trip of the community center to Tábor

## Legal advice for foreigners in family law matters

**1. 1. 2024 - 30. 11. 2024**

Funded by: Municipal district Plzeň 3

Project objective: to support foreigners in the city of Pilsen and the Pilsen Region in family law matters, an area in which foreigners are particularly uncertain and vulnerable due to their lack of knowledge of the applicable legal system in the Czech Republic.

## Legal advice for foreigners in connection with violations of rights in employment IV.

**1. 1. 2024 - 30. 11. 2024**

Funded by: Municipal district Plzeň 3

The aim of the project was to increase foreigners' awareness of labor law regulations, communicate with their employers, and help them resolve labor law issues, including those related to changing employers within the framework of so-called employee cards. Although foreigners with labor law issues can turn to a lawyer, most of them do not have sufficient financial resources to do so.

## Integration of temporary protection holders in Plzeň

**1. 1. 2024 - 31. 12. 2024**

Funded by: Pilsen City Hall

Legal advice for persons under temporary protection.

## Bader Philanthropies

**1. 7. 2023 - 30. 6. 2024**

Specialized legal assistance for asylum seekers from selected countries.

# OPU Funding

In 2024, the organization was financed from the following sources:

## FINANCIAL RESOURCE

## AMOUNT IN CZK

Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)	12 765 498
European Social Fund (OPZ)	11 028 302
Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs	8 627 142
UN (UNHCR, UNICEF, UNVFT, IOM)	8 222 950
Sigrid Rausing Trust	6 097 305
Prague City Hall	3 888 779
Donations	2 202 174
Pilsen Region	2 005 504
EPCG Foundation	1 344 708
South Moravian Region	1 059 000
The International Rescue Committee	935 418
Our own activities	925 153
Česká spořitelna Foundation	800 000
Payments from clients and the Labor Office (Halfway House)	747 766
Interest	715 398
US Embassy	557 950
Prague 13 and 14 Municipal Districts	414 349
Pilsen City Hall and Pilsen 3 Municipal District	371 554
European Philanthropic Initiative for Migration	299 328
Brno City Council	259 000
Ostrava City Council	198 000
ČEZ Foundation	191 544
Other income (membership fees, etc.)	189 892
Open Society Fund	171 104
European Commission	149 637
Bader Philanthropies	133 977
Exchange rate gains	113 779
Fosfa	106 339
Ministry of the Interior	47 000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64 568 550</b>



# OPU Funding

## Revenues by source group:

### SOURCE GROUP

Foreign sources (EU, UN, EC, etc.)  
Foundations, funds  
Subsidies from the state budget  
Regions and municipalities  
Donations  
Other revenues  
Own activities  
Reimbursements Halfway House  
(Clients + Labor Office)

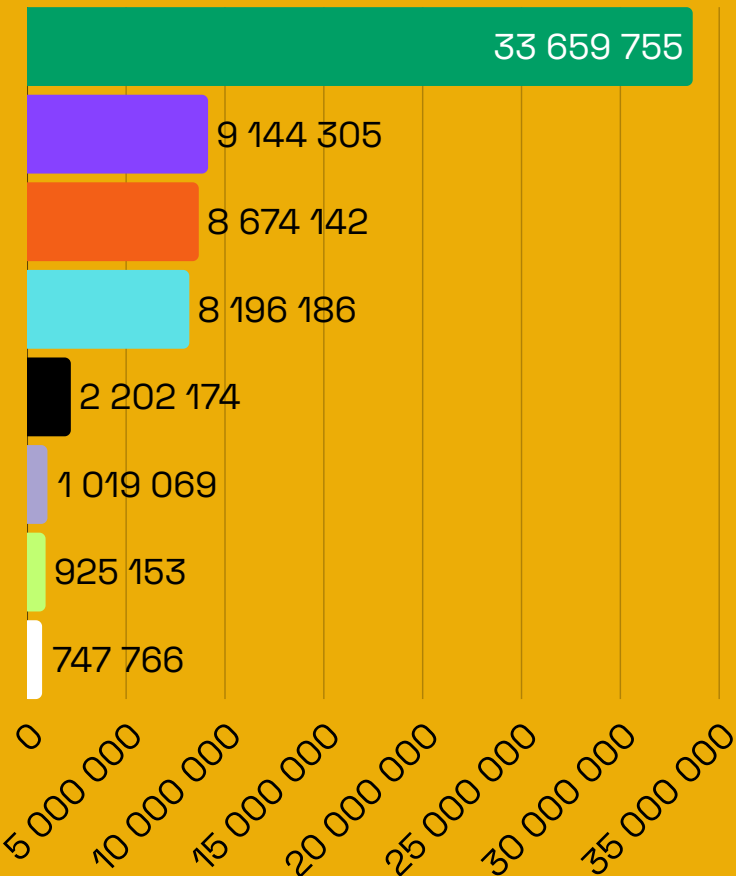
### TOTAL

### AMOUNT IN CZK

33 659 755  
9 144 305  
8 674 142  
8 196 186  
2 202 174  
1 019 069  
925 153  
747 766

**64 568 550**

Foreign sources (EU, UN, EC, etc.)  
Foundations, funds  
Subsidies from the state budget  
Regions and municipalities  
Donations  
Other revenues  
Own activities  
Reimbursements Halfway House



# Donors and supporters

jihomoravský kraj



Město Plzeň



OSTRAVA!!!



B | R | N | O |



# Donors and supporters

**OPEN SOCIETY  
FOUNDATIONS**

**Nadace  
EP Corporate Group**

**SIGRID RAUSING TRUST**



**Financováno  
Evropskou unií**



**Spolufinancováno  
Evropskou unií**



**FINANCOVÁNO EVROPSKOU UNIÍ  
AZYLOVÝ, MIGRAČNÍ A INTEGRAČNÍ FOND**



**EVROPSKÁ UNIE  
Evropské strukturální a investiční fondy  
Operační program Praha – pól růstu ČR**



**Evropská unie  
Evropský sociální fond  
Operační program Zaměstnanost**



**Erasmus+**



**Operační program  
Zaměstnanost plus**





**organization  
for aid to  
refugees**