

META Annual Report 2019

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We're coming to you with an overview of our 2019 activities in the practical form of a folder that you will surely be able to use further when you're done reading. If you know us, you are aware that this is a tradition of ours and you equally won't be surprised by the number of activities we are involved in. I don't want to jump too far too soon, so for now a simple outline of our usual activities that we also dedicated ourselves to in 2019 such as counselling, education, and publishing. Addressed to foreign families and students with a different mother tongue (DMT) as well as to their teachers and experts in the field. However, there were premieres in 2019 as well, such as the first publication of a Czech textbook or the preparation of a vast campaign.

The year 2019 was significant for us for multiple reasons. Thanks to the relocation into our new offices in Prague 3, all our services are situated under the same roof for the first time since the very beginning. They are now much more intensely connected. Not only among the different sections but also across the different sectors of services for foreigners and teachers. Our support for foreigners, children and students with a different mother is tongue as well as schools is therefore faster and much more efficient.

Aside from our address, we changed our visual side as well. We set aside the plectrum with a certain dose of nostalgia and adopted the visual component of diacritical marks which better reflect our focus (not only) on language support for students with a DMT as well as on the specifics of the Czech language which usually represents a real challenge for foreigners. Throughout the year, we were also focused on modifying our websites and other presentation materials.

In 2019, we focused a great amount of our attention on creating a larger concept of support for children and students with a DMT. During the conference in May, dedicated to educating our internal staff members as well as while reviewing the concept of the year-long preparatory course, we put more emphasis on the psychosocial wellbeing of the children and its support. We are pleasantly surprised by the immediate positive effect that this change brought to our preparatory course for future secondary school students.

The second half of 2019 and the perspective into the immediate future were very uncertain from a financial point of view. It's has been a long time since we've last faced such financial insecurity and for that reason throughout this year we concentrated our efforts on securing our services for the future. In the end our efforts lead to success and our present activities as well as the development of our services are financially covered until June 2022.

I would like to take this opportunity to express once more a huge amount of respect and a sincere thank you to all my colleagues especially to those who have remained faithful to META for years and every year they jump back in with determination to do a job that is like the never ending horizon. Newcomers also deserve a thank you, they inject us old broads with fresh drive and energy. This combo is what makes META a project that truly comes from the heart (confirmed by many sources 😊).

Recognition and gratitude also belong to our lecturers, regional cooperators and ambassadors, donors, partners from different institutions and organizations, supporters, and fans. A special thank you belongs to our volunteers without whom certain services would be unthinkable. And last but not least, thank you to all our clients through whose feedback we are constantly learning. It's a great way to learn to adapt to the neverending developments and changes in the world!

Enjoy your reading!
Kristýna Titěrová
Programme director

Services for foreigners

In 2019, we provided **counselling focusing on the support for integration and inclusion of children, pupils, and students with a different mother tongue into the Czech school system**. We created conditions encouraging the development of their potential and minimize the inequality stemming from the lack of knowledge of the source language at school. Simultaneously, we offered counselling focusing on solving situations regarding further education and integration in the job market of foreigners.

We provided clients and (for the most part) their legal guardians with information regarding the Czech education system, support while choosing a school, filling-in the application forms, facilitating communication (accompaniment, interpreting) with the school and other relevant institutions and organizations. Furthermore, clients needed our assistance during the recognition process of foreign education and qualifications, we transmitted information about additional services, courses and further education and job possibilities. Since September 2016, counselling is significantly influenced by the so-called inclusive amendment to the Education Act according to which children with a DMT need an Education Counselling Centre (ŠPZ, školské poradenské zařízení) recommendation in order for the school to be able to put certain measures in place (Czech language course at school, modified classes, etc.) Social workers inform about the different options regarding measures of support and communicate with the Guidance and Psychological Counselling Centre workers as well as with teachers.

Our **services of expert social counselling were used by 625 people**, in many cases in the form of long-term collaboration. We are being contacted by foreigners with all types of stay permits from different countries of origin. In 2019, among the most common ones we could find Ukraine, Vietnam, Russia, Syria, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania, Makedonia, Hungary, or China. Interesting fact: according to nationality, the fourth largest group of clients consists of Czech citizens with migration experience and a different mother tongue.

An important part of our services for foreigners consists of support from volunteers. In 2019, 46 volunteers of Czech and other nationalities joined our **accredited volunteer programme**. Volunteers are an essential part of META and they provide precious help and insight into the Czech education system for the children or adults pursuing an education in the Czech Republic while their mother tongue isn't Czech. Simultaneously, it represents an opportunity to meet, discover and mutually enrich each other's lives.

In 2019, 38 volunteers devoted their time to **individual tutoring** supporting altogether 48 clients. **Group classes** were in the hands of 4 volunteers. They were helping participants of our year-long preparatory pre-secondary school course with their basics in the English language. 5 volunteers have taken part in the organization of **leisure time activities within our club Čekuj!** (aka looking at Czech culture differently). The club regularly organizes events for the public in order to introduce the Czech culture and habits to foreigners in a fun way and at the same time provide a meeting spot. In 2019, **4 events** were organized and 48 people, including META members and the public were among the participants. One volunteer then helped create our new website.

In total, 213 people studied Czech with us, adults, and children (31 of them had already joined the class in 2018).

We put in place **4 one-semester courses for adults** and **2 one-semester courses for children**. The one-semester courses for adults consisted of 25 ninety-minute lessons and the one-semester courses for children consisted of 30 sixty-minute courses. The courses took place from February to April and from October to January twice a week.

In August, we organized **2 intensive summer courses for children** that joined a Czech school for the first time in September. The children took 2 weeks-worth of classes amounting to 50 hours of Czech language.

From February to June, **3 courses of Czech after school** for children from Prague elementary schools took place. Their scope was 36 sixty-minute lessons.

In total, 21 students finished the third run of **the year-long preparatory pre-secondary school course**. In September, additional 24 students in the 14 to 18 age group joined in the 4th run from different parts of the world.

During the school year, we pursued or initiated **4 intermediate courses** and **1 preparatory course for “maturita”** (secondary school diploma/A-levels) for secondary school students with a different mother tongue.

As every year, we took part in the **Schola Pragensis Secondary Education Fair**. META workers were available to not only future secondary school students and their parents but also to their teachers.

We put in place 2 runs of a one-day accredited course ***The Specifics of Social Work with Foreigners for Social Workers in Prague*** which was free of charge for participants thanks to the financial back-up of the Municipality of Prague.

We try to transmit our experience in other ways as well. That is why we prepared for our clients as well as for the professionals working in education with foreigners and people with a different mother tongue, well organized bilingual leaflets in 4 languages, with practical information related to the most frequent situations concerning the education of migrants in Czech Republic. In 2020 these leaflets will be available on our website under the following title: ***Practical Guide – Things not to Forget on Your Way to Education in the Czech Republic.***

Services for Teachers

The beginning of the year is narrowly linked to the celebratory launch of our **first textbook for Czech as a second language: *Levou zadní 1 (Easy as Pie 1)***. But in 2019, we did not back down from our efforts either as far as supporting schoolteachers of all levels that have children or students with a different mother tongue in their class. And this even though a lot of our projects were coming to an end and their future was very uncertain. We continued to invest in teachers' education, methodical support, and publishing activities.

We regularly organized **open seminars for teachers in Prague and Brno**, there were 40 of those in total (11 seminars for preschool, 25 for elementary school, 4 for secondary school teachers). But we also organized 36 seminars on request. In total, we had 840 preschool, elementary and secondary school teachers in our educational programme. Aside from accredited seminars (there were 27 of those in 2019) we offered 2 workshops for teachers trained in Czech as a second language (one for preschool and one for elementary school teachers) and a workshop on the topic of support plans. In 2019 two runs of the accredited educational programme for bilingual teaching assistants also took place and amounted to 63 hours. Altogether, we trained 23 bilingual assistants (BTA), their test runs took place at 10 different Prague schools. Four workshops on cooperation between teaching and assistance also took place. This led to the creation of two methodical videos about BTAs. At the very end of the year, we started preparing a long-term course for preschool and elementary school teachers focusing on teaching Czech as a second language.

We provided **methodical support and counselling** for teachers all over the Czech Republic and by doing so, we gave support to 347 teachers through 607 consultations. Aside from teachers, we were regularly contacted by the Guidance and Psychological Counselling Centre. That is why we published a so-called **Guide for Counsellors when Working with Children with a DMT**. The website www.inkluzivniskola.cz was being updated and by the end of the year it even changed its visual side (in accordance with the new visual identity). In 2019, the portal was even visited by more teachers than during the previous year, 140 403 in total (which is a 10% increase).

For 358 students from 5 elementary schools and 2 from secondary schools in Prague, we designed **19 workshops *Even J.A. Komensky went to school in a foreign country***. These workshops are primarily designed for Czech students who may or may not have a foreign classmate. During these workshops we focus on the topic of migration and inclusion of students with a DMT into Czech schools. By the end of the year we started preparing a way to rethink these workshops including training new lecturers.

In March, we opened a discussion together with secondary school teachers via a **panel** on the topic of ***Educating Students with a DMT at Secondary School aka It Doesn't End with Elementary School*** dealing with the necessity for support at secondary school level. In May we organized a conference with foreign guests ***The Support for Children and Students with a Different Mother Tongue in Schools: Game Changers***. Its aim was to introduce the topic from a wider perspective and point out the need for a complex support system for children and students with a DMT. Including psychosocial interventions.

We have also finally managed some much needed technical and graphical changes on the **e-learning site www.cestina2.cz**, which facilitated access to learning for users. In 2019, 601 new users visited the website.

Since the spring, we have been gradually preparing a new publication (with the internal title “cookbook”) for elementary school teachers. Our goal was to give teachers all the possible recipes (tips and tools) that we gathered over the last ten years of experience to give support to students with a DMT in elementary schools. By the end of the year we successfully finished work on the ***Guide to Integrating Students with a Different Mother Tongue to Elementary Schools***.

Advocacy and networking

The first half of the year was devoted to data collecting from a **survey** carried out in four regions of the Czech Republic regarding the situation of schools and their support and language training of students with a DMT. The survey was analyzed for us by colleagues from the Sociology department of the Czech Academy of Sciences. The results of the survey were then presented at a May conference *The Support for Children and Students with a Different Mother Tongue in Schools: Game Changers*. The conclusion from the survey was accompanied by a series of articles under the title: ***Talent and Hard Work Are Not Enough for Children with a DMT – They can’t do without Czech as a Second Language Courses***. We also published so-called infosheets on the website summing up the situation at elementary schools, secondary schools as well as the experience with teaching Czech as a foreign language and proposing legislation changes.

We repeatedly approached the MEYS with the **necessity for the language training at elementary schools to be optimized and rendered more efficient**, together with other important participants we sent a letter appealing to the urgent necessity to take action. We joined forces with the Public Defender of Rights and have been preparing the conference ***Is the Ignorance of the Language not an Excuse?!*** Its goal was to bring attention to the topic of language training (the conference took place in January 2020).

Another equally important topic was language training before joining secondary school and the support during secondary school studies as well as the prevention of premature abandonment of education because of insufficient knowledge of the language the classes are being held in. These topics were covered in the aforementioned panel discussion *Educating Students with a DMT at Secondary School aka It Doesn’t End with Elementary School* but also during several **negotiations with the representatives from the MEYS**. At the end of the year, we organized a smaller survey on this topic at the schools.

We contributed once more to the preparations of the **Action Plan of the Concept of the Capital City of Prague** for the field of the integration of foreigners. Several meetings also took place with the councilmen of Prague and clerks from the municipality of Prague about the necessity to make language training and support more systematic in the Prague zone. We even presented the need for the creation of a system in front of the board of the Prague Council for the field of the integration of foreigners. We continued to work with Prague 12 and 13 on municipality projects, newly, we started to cooperate with Prague 3 and 7 with whom we presented the common project *Our Neighborhood*.

At the very end of the year, we **contacted deputies and prepared propositions of legislation changes to the Education Act** which would greatly improve the situation of children and students with a DMT.

Annual Financial Report for 2019

BALANCE SHEET simplified version to 31st December 2019 (in thousands of CZK)

ASSETS

	situation at the first day of accounting period	situation at the last day of accounting period
FIXED ASSETS	0	0
SHORT TERM ASSETS	5 825	6149
monetary growth	76	55
receivables	360	96
short term financial assets	5389	5999
other assets	0	0
total assets	5825	6149

LIABILITIES

OWN RESSOURCES	2790	3341
property	2827	3380
economic results	-38	-39
OTHER RESSOURCES	3035	2808
reserves	0	0
long term obligations	0	0
short term obligations	3035	2808
other liabilities	0	0
total liabilities	5825	6149

STATEMENT OF PROFITS AND LOSSES simplified version to 31st December 2019 (in thousands of CZK)

COST

purchases and utilities in total (materials, rent, power, travel expenses, repairs, representation)	2957
personnel costs in total (wages, insurance, levy)	11 525
taxes and levy in total	0
other costs in total	15
given contributions in total	8
Total	14 507

INCOME

takings from services and goods in total	1488
other profits	49
accepted contributions (donations) in total	5853
operating endowment	7076
Total	14 467

Annual result	-39
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The consolidated version of the annual report and the auditor's report is available at the META office, Žerotínova 35, Prague 3.

Company bodies

Board

Tereza Günterová (chairwoman), Jan Walter, Monika Krkošková, Ivana Pauerová Miloševičová, Nina Numankadič, Lukáš Radostný (until 11th June), Hana Hniličková (from 11th June)

Supervisory Board

Kristýna Fantová (chairwoman), Petra Kozílková, Linda Tutterová

Founders

Tereza Günterová, Zuzana Papáčková, Linda Tutterová

Management

Zuzana Papáčková, Representative director

Kristýna Titěrová, Programme director

Linda Tutterová, Operational and financial director

Projects

REGISTERED SOCIAL SERVICE — PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL COUNSELLING

The service was financed by MPSV ((MoLSA) CR (Social services) and MHMP (Municipality of the City of Prague) (Social services). Realization: 1. 1. 2019 — 31. 12. 2019

META is a registered provider of social services – professional social counselling from 1. 11. 2006.

DON'T GIVE UP! — Vocational Education Support System for Young Migrants

The project is financed by the Danish company The Velux Foundations.

Realization: 1. 8. 2018 — 31. 7. 2022

The project is focusing on young migrants in the 14 to 25 age group with the goal of supporting their integration to secondary school and a successful completion at the end. Services provided: year-long preparatory course for secondary school studies, counselling, support of volunteers, intermediate Czech lessons, methodical support for teachers, teacher training, public events on the topic of educating students with a DMT at the elementary school level.

SUPPORT AND COUNSELLING IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATING FOREIGNERS AND STUDENTS WITH A DIFFERENT MOTHER TONGUE

A partial project of the Prague 12 project „Integration support for foreigners in Prague 12 - 2019“its goal being the integration of foreigners, co-financed by the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic.

Realization: 1. 1. 2019 — 31. 12. 2019

As part of this project we offered Prague 12 counselling and information support for parents of children and students with a DMT and methodical support for teachers. Offered services: methodical support for schools, counselling in education for foreigners.

INCLUSION FOR ALL

The project was co-financed by the EU as part of the Operational programme Prague — Growth Pole of the Czech Republic.

Realization: 1. 1. 2018 — 30. 6. 2019

project Registration number: CZ.07.4.68/0.0/0.0/16_037/0000351

The aim of the project was to support the inclusion tendencies of Prague preschools, elementary schools and secondary schools to facilitate the integration and education of disadvantaged children and students with a DMT in Prague. Offered services/activities: accredited seminars and methodical support for teachers, workshops for elementary school and secondary school students, counselling, tutoring and Czech courses for children and students with a DMT, networking of key players in the field of education of children and students with a DMT.

BILINGUAL ASSISTANTS IN SCHOOLS

The project was co-financed by the EU as part of the Operational programme Prague — Growth Pole of the Czech Republic.

Realization: 1. 9. 2018 — 31. 8. 2019

project Registration number: CZ.07.4.68/0.0/0.0/17_058/0000806

The goal of the project was the creation of a complex educational programme for bilingual teaching assistants and providing methodical support for teachers and school board which employ bilingual assistants (BTA) or are interested in employing them. Offered services: training programme for BTAs, methodical support for teachers, tandem workshops, intermediate Czech courses for BTAs, methodical videos.

CZECH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (CZECH²)!

The project is co-financed by the EU as part of the Operational Programme Prague — Growth Pole of the Czech Republic.

Realization: 1. 11. 2019 — 30. 6. 2022

Project registration number: CZ.07.4.68/0.0/0.0/19_069/0001413

The aim of the project is to train specialists which will help the school environment to be more inclusive from the perspective of bilingual teaching assistants (BTA) and Czech as a second language specialists. Offered services: complex education programme for BTAs and Czech as a second language specialist, further education, methodical support, website platform for sharing materials.

PROGRAMME FOR THE SUPPORT FOR TEACHERS WHILE WORKING WITH FOREIGN STUDENTS VIII

The project was financed as part of the national programme Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and from the budget of the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic.

Realization: 1. 1. 2017 — 30. 6. 2019

Project registration number: AMIF/7/03

The goal of the project was to support and strengthen intercultural competences of teachers of all school levels while working with children and students – foreigners from Third Countries and their inclusion into the Czech education system.

Services offered to teachers/events: accredited seminars, counselling and methodical support (locally mostly via our „multipliers“ and „ambassadors“), information portal www.inkluzivniskola.cz, newsletters for teachers, networking and cooperation with key actors in the field of education for children and students with a DMT in Prague, Central Bohemian Region, Ústí and Labem Region, Plzeň Region and Moravian-Silesian Region, final international conference.

PROGRAMME FOR THE SUPPORT FOR TEACHERS EDUCATING CHILDREN AND STUDENTS WITH A DMT

The project was co-financed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports as part of the initiative The Support for Integration Activities for Foreigners in the Czech Republic in 2019.

Realization: 1. 1. 2019 — 31. 12. 2019

The goal of the project was to give complex support to the development and reinforcement of competences by preschool, elementary school, and secondary school teachers from all over Czech Republic while educating children and students with a DMT. Services offered to teachers: accredited seminars, intensive specialized workshops, counselling, and methodical support (locally mostly through our „multipliers“, and „ambassadors“), information portal www.inkluzivniskola.cz, newsletters for teachers, e-learning for Czech as a second language www.inkluzivniskola.cz.

LIKE YOU

The project is financed as part of the national programme Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the budget of the Ministry of Interior of the Czech Republic.

Realization: 1. 11. 2019 — 30. 9. 2022

Project registration number: AMIF/22/11

The project is focusing on widening knowledge that the public has about the integration process of foreigners. The main focus is on teenagers from the general public as well as from the group of foreigners. Activities: the campaign Like You whose goal is to initiate curiosity and interest among Czech teenagers about their foreign classmates, creative and literary competition Czech is also my language, workshops for elementary and secondary school students, theatre of the oppressed, cultural and sport events.

SUPPORT FOR PRE-LITERACY IN PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

The project was co-financed by the EU as part of the Operational programme Research, Development, and Education.

Realization: 1. 1. 2017 — 31. 12. 2019

Project registration number: CZ.02.3.68/0.0/0.0/16_011/0000663

The goal of the project, which META was involved with as one of the partners, was to increase and develop, via the so-called fellowship of practice, professional competences of current and future teachers through a practical approach in the field of reading and math pre-literacy and didactics of preschool education. The research was headed by Charles University.

QUALITY INCREASE IN EDUCATION OF STUDENTS, DEVELOPMENT OF KEY COMPETENCES, FIELD OF EDUCATION AND LITERACY

The project was co-financed by the EU as part of the Operational programme Research, Development and Education.

Realization: 1. 1. 2017 — 31. 12. 2019

The goal of the project, which META was involved with as one of the partners, was to support the development of professional competences of teachers and university students of pedagogical disciplines as part of a so-called fellowship of practice. The research was headed by Charles University.

META, o.p.s.

Association for Young Migrant Opportunities

address: Ječná 2127/17, 120 00 Prague 2

services and courses: Žerotínova 35, 130 00 Prague 3

tel: 222 521 446, 773 304 464

e-mail: info@meta-ops.cz

CIN: 26982633

Account number: 230088404089/2010 (Fio banka)

www.meta-ops.cz

www.inkluzivniskola.cz

META, o. p. s. is a non-profit organization where we offer support to foreigners since 2004 with regards to equal approach to education and jobs. We provide methodical support, counselling, and education in the inclusion of children and students with a DMT for teachers and schools. We suggest measures which react conceptually, continually and in the appropriate amount to the educational needs of children and students with a DMT without sufficient knowledge of Czech. Through a large scope of different activities for the public we help facilitate an open dialogue and understanding between foreigners and the majority population.

META is a member of the Consortium of non-governmental organizations working with migrants, Czech professional association for inclusive education, Association of social responsibility and META employees are members of the Czech as A foreign Language Teachers' Association.