

A close-up portrait of a young girl with voluminous, curly red hair. She is looking directly at the camera with a gentle smile. She is wearing a white collared shirt under a grey textured jacket. At the bottom of the frame, the top edges of an open book are visible, suggesting she is reading. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be a bookshelf.

ANNUAL REPORT

Via Comenia Foundation Fund

2023



VIA Comenia Foundation Fund
Výškovická 2559/84, Zábřeh, 70030 Ostrava
Company ID: 119 14 149
Registered at the Regional Court in Ostrava, N 1390
www.viacomenia.cz
dmouchova@viacomenia.cz

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Introduction

Dear Friends,

Comenius emphasized that true education helps to know good, to will good, and to do good even even when no one is looking. We are excited to play our part in bringing hope to society through encouraging education that shapes character, transforming the whole life of both educators and students for the better. This emphasis is not just good for individuals, it opens up new opportunities for the betterment of the whole of society – from our local communities to our national governments and international relations.

In the third year of our foundation's existence, we are pleased to see how the programs and projects we support are developing and have good reasons to be optimistic about the future. We effectively made transitions in our board leadership that set a healthy precedent for future growth and change. We have clarified our strategic plans, and have started the steps necessary to ensure the long-term effectualness of Via Comenia as an organization. We are convinced that it is not simply education, but good and effective education that enables young people to develop as whole persons that is vital to the future of the Czech Republic and beyond. The Stories of Humanity project is growing, and in 2023 it had tremendous positive impact on many communities across the Czech Republic. We are pleased with how our support for classroom teachers was able to continue to include educators in Ukraine, some who pursue their task under extremely difficult conditions. While we are encouraged by what is happening, there is still much more that needs to be accomplished.

Thank you for helping us transform society for better through applying the ways of Comenius.

Andrew Funka

Board member

TRUE EDUCATION IS
TO KNOW WHAT IS GOOD, TO WANT WHAT IS GOOD, TO DO WHAT IS GOOD,
AND TO DO SO EVEN WHEN NO ONE IS WATCHING.

John A. Comenius

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The History of NF VIA COMENIA

The Via Comenia Foundation was established on October 18, 2021, and continued the activities of the Comenius School Donor Fund, which began on April 7, 2017, under the F-foundation. The fund organized collections for two projects: School with a Whole Heart and The Research of Filip Kachniče. Another area of support was projects focused on Spiritual Heritage: Centuries-Old Roots and Comenius - Stories of Humanity (formerly Comenius 2020). Under the F-foundation, we financed and managed the donor fund to support teacher education and a mentoring program for the guidance of instructors.

From November 2019, the Comenius Fund was managed by seven board members who cared about the development and support of Comenius Schools in the Czech Republic. In 2021, we decided to establish an independent foundation focused on transforming the younger generation through education.

The founders' names are: Jan Kuklínek, Vít Pospíšil, Richard Váňa, Boris Váňa, Curt Mobley, and Bohdan Čančík.

Composition of the Board of Trustees

Jan Kuklínek	Chairman, Head of the School for Life KAM Department
Andrew Funka	Secretary, Project Worker at ČEA
Ján Viktorin	Vice Chairman, Entrepreneur and Philanthropist
Ilona Urbanová	Founder of BMA High School in Frýdlant nad Ostravicí and Fishnet Language School, Mentor

Auditor

Richard Váňa	Director of the Church School ZŠ Cesta
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Director

Denisa Moučková	Head of Lecturer Work, School for Life KAM
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Overview of Programs and Projects

The Via Comenia programs have long supported the education of teachers and the creation of educational materials.

A. Scholarships for Education

The goal is to financially support further education. This is suitable for teachers and instructors who choose a course based on their preferences or recommendations.

B. Mentoring Program

Great educators need someone to guide them through the process of learning and applying new approaches that reflect the Comenius path, which links knowledge with character and values.

Mentoring focuses on supporting teachers in developing selected skills under supervision, helping them with specific areas of development.

Currently, we offer the mentoring program in two formats: group sessions and individual sessions. Educators and instructors can progress through three levels:

- 1. Training and support for beginners with teaching methods.**
- 2. Expanding the scope of the educator's work.**
- 3. Support for professional educators.**

C. Dmytro Čyževskyi Program - Education and Support for Ukrainian Teachers

This program supports education in values, character, and personal growth for Ukrainian teachers. Educational events in 2023 took place in three locations in Ukraine, in the Carpathians and near Lviv. In total, 117 teachers attended these 3- day events, and 4 Ukrainian teachers participated in a week-long educational event in the Czech Republic, with 2 teachers attending a similar event in Portugal.

Total foundation contributions: **261.951 CZK**

Why Dmytro Čyževskyi?

In 1934 (on Christmas Eve), the Ukrainian philosopher and Slavist Dmytro Čyževskyi found the Porada (Consultation) by J.A. Comenius in the archive of the Francke Orphanage in Halle, after a long period of focused and systematic research. Thanks to his discovery, the manuscript came under the care of Comenius scholars and was first published in Latin in 1966 in Prague. The Czech translation reached readers in 1992. In 2019, České studny published a selection titled The Best of Comenius' Consultation on the Restoration of Human Affairs.



Daniel Weekend 2023 - Education for Ukrainian Educators

Mentoring Support since 2018
46 supported educators,
519.000 CZK

Scholarships for Education since 2014
125 supported educators,
516.770 CZK

Support for Ukrainian Teachers since 2022, 7 educational events,
132 supported educators,
326.755 CZK

In the public fundraising for programs and projects, donations totaling 78.371.47 CZK were distributed to cooperating organizations to support:

- **Lessons on mental health** for children and youth at primary and secondary schools in the Czech Republic
- **Transformation projects** where students carry out "good deeds" in their surroundings and communities
- Support for the education of Ukrainian teachers

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Via Comenia Projects are time-limited initiatives that support the creation, development, expansion, and education of organizations, schools, and their projects.

1. Comenius - Stories of Humanity Project



The purpose of this project is to answer Comenius' question: What is wrong with us humans, and what could be done to set things right

prof. PhDr. Jan Hábl, Ph.D.

The project is implemented by the Ethical and Character Education Foundation, and in 2023, it organized the 3rd nationwide competition Changing the World for the Better. A total of 62 teams participated in this competition, and 20 of them were awarded prizes totaling 370,000 CZK. From 2020 to 2023, 852 interactive programs and project days were held for 15,904 primary and secondary school students.

Thanks to support amounting to **71,872 CZK**, the **Project Days Minus to Plus with Amos** were realized.

The goal of this program is to strengthen students' mental resilience and help them find strategies for coping with difficult life situations, based on the life story of Comenius. Through experiential activities, the lesson also promotes team bonding within the class. A unique application to life is the challenge to a team Transformation Project, with which students can participate in the nationwide competition Changing the World for the Better.

In the first part, students are introduced to the key stages of Jan Amos Comenius' life in an engaging and interactive manner. His personal story, especially his ability to persevere in difficult life situations, is inspiring for today's young people. The second part includes the experiential team-building game Labyrinth, where students practically experience what steps are needed to transform negatives into positives in their own lives.

At the end, they also learn about Comenius' lifelong desire for the transformation of humanity, which is not possible without transforming the individual.

Feedback from Schools

The educational program was excellently prepared, and the activities were adapted to the students' age. The children were guided throughout the program to open communication and critical thinking. I appreciate the calm and cultured presentation of the instructor, as well as the emphasis on basic human values. Given the focus of the program, we will continue to work with the theme going forward. Thank you.

Class teacher, 5th grade, Primary School

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I highly evaluate the overall content of the program. A significant advantage was that the students had the opportunity to reflect on their lives so far, to find its positives and negatives, and to share their key moments in smaller groups.

Class teacher, 2nd year, Secondary School



For more information, visit: www.komensky2020.cz and on social media platforms: FB, IG, and YouTube - Video of the 2023 Celebration

2. Support for Youth Education Activities and Leisure Pedagogy

In 2023, the work of Libor Osouch in Maximládeži was supported with a grant of **12,000 CZK**, and the Infuze - Youth Education event received **40,000 CZK** in funding. The goal of Infuze is: education and training for youth leaders, youth teams, and new youth leaders. The investment focuses on 25 young youth leaders in 5 areas of leadership: discipleship, teaching, counseling, crisis intervention, and service.



Infuze - Educational Event for Young Leaders

3. Loan for BMA High School in Frýdlant nad Ostravicí

The loan to BMA - BESKYDY MOUNTAIN ACADEMY. BMA is a private four-year high school with an extended language curriculum and a Christian orientation. Studying at BMA High School has become the goal for many primary school students, mainly due to its approach to education, which is based on three core values: family, creativity, and quality. The school cares deeply about all students, and their personal development is highly important. During their studies, students have the opportunity to participate in trips to the USA, the UK, or India, as well as weekend events organized by the school and various interesting projects. In the past nine years, the number of students has grown to the point where the school cannot accept all applicants due to capacity limitations. Therefore, they decided to carry out a reconstruction that began in May 2021, and Via Comenia was able to help facilitate an increase in capacity from 100 to 200 students starting in the 2022/23 school year by providing a loan of 500,000 CZK. The loan was repaid early at the end of 2023, and the school is now enjoying an increased number of students.

More information at www.gymnaziumbma.edupage.org

Tenders

In 2023, ongoing tenders were announced for the Mentorship Program and the Scholarship for Education Program, which serves educators and instructors. The approved support in the Mentorship Program: 30,000 CZK. The approved support in the Scholarship for Education Program: 30,900 CZK.

A total of **60,900 CZK** was approved,
and a total of **106,400 CZK** was paid out.

Mentorship support:

5 instructors from the instructor organization H4K:

Ing. Elena Gramel, BA, Vratimov
Miroslav Hrůza, Šluknov
Luboš Filip, Plzeň
Mgr. et Mgr. Marie Ilčíková, Mutěnice
Mgr. Helena Ešnerová, Ústí nad Labem

1 instructor from the instructor organization KAM:

Ján Kučera

Scholarships for Education:

Roman Brzezina
Bára Aliza Klečková
Kateřina Sochorová
Evženie Čermáková
Klára Literová
Radek Hejret
Silvie Říčanová
Barbora Soukupová

Paid Contributions

12.000 CZK: Support for the work of Libor Osouch in Maximládeži

40.000 CZK: Infuze - Education Scholarships

71,872 CZK: Support for the project: Comenius - Stories of Humanity

278,083 CZK: Support for Ukrainian teachers - Educator training

13,862 CZK: Scholarship Program for Education

415,817 CZK: Total paid contributions

Financial Report

Income - Expenses

Costs:

Foundation management: 92,756 CZK



Website and foundation presentation: 11,844 CZK



Accounting: 16,356 CZK



Taxes on interest and other fees: 6,320.28 CZK



Foundation contributions: 415,817.26 CZK



Total costs: 543,093.54 CZK

Revenue:

Interest: 17,475.46 CZK



Donations received from the Czech Republic - individuals: 37,230.70 CZK



Donations received from the Czech Republic - churches, congregations: 48,672.00 CZK



Donations received from the Czech Republic - companies, foundations: 439,808.84 CZK



Total revenue: 543,187.00 CZK

Audit Report 2023

As part of the audit, the management and use of financial resources of the Via Comenia Foundation for the year 2023 was reviewed.

The following documents were checked during the audit: Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement, Costs and Revenues, ITEM DOCUMENTS, Tax Return for 2023 + ATTACHMENT in the simplified financial statement (for the period of January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023).

Main financial operations of the Via Comenia Foundation in 2023:

- Received donations amounting to 525,712 CZK
- 196,000 CZK was transferred to funds for later use
- Received an early total loan repayment of 500,000 CZK from BMA High School
- Received an annual loan repayment of 100,000 CZK from MŠ and ZŠ Noe - Pardubice
- Paid out a total of 415,405 CZK in foundation contributions as part of programs and projects
- Operating costs amounted to 127,689 CZK

Total costs for 2023: 543,094 CZK

Total revenue for 2023: 543,187 CZK

As of December 31, 2023, the foundation has receivables amounting to 400,000 CZK (1 loan). The balance in the foundation's accounts as of December 31, 2023, is 1,279,959 CZK.

Conclusion:

The annual report for 2023 and the attached financial statement accurately reflect the financial situation of the Via Comenia Foundation.

All income and expenses are in accordance with the submitted accounting documents. The management of the foundation is conducted in accordance with the Accounting Act and relevant regulations of the Czech Republic.

Opinion: Unqualified opinion

In Písek, on March 12, 2023

Ing.
Richard
Váňa

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podepsal Ing.
Richard Váňa
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