

Annual report

2022



**SDRUŽENÍ ASSOCIATION
PRO INTEGRACI FOR INTEGRATION
A MIGRACI AND MIGRATION**



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The Association for Integration and Migration (SIMI) is an NGO providing overall support to migrants and refugees in the Czech Republic since 1992. We offer legal and social counselling, psychosocial support, intercultural assistance as well as information and community activities to our clients. Our work also encompasses analytical, watchdog and advocacy activities, along with education and methodological support for professionals and institutions. Through involvement in schools, public events as well as social and traditional media, we actively engage with the public in Czechia.

Association for Integration and Migration (SIMI)
 Havlíčkovo náměstí 2
 130 00 Praha 3
 CIN 26612933
 Bank account: 182096102/0300 (ČSOB, a.s.)
 T: +420 224 224 379
 E: poradna@migrace.com
 W: www.migrace.com
 www.facebook.com/SIMIPoradna/

Graphic design by Martin Málek



We turned 30!

In 2022, we commemorated 30 years since the outbreak of war in the former Yugoslavia and the subsequent influx of war refugees to the then Czechoslovakia in response to which our organisation launched its consultancy activities. It is an irony of fate that the 30th anniversary was accompanied by another war and the need to support thousands of refugees – this time from Ukraine.

At the end of the year, the U.S. Embassy presented its annual **Alice Garrigue Masaryk Human Rights Award** to SIMI Director Magda Faltová for her tireless, sustained, and principled efforts to fight discrimination and advocate for the rights of asylum seekers, migrants, and refugees in the Czech Republic, including those fleeing Russia's brutal war in Ukraine.

The year in numbers

More than **3,730** CLIENTS from **85** countries
5 most common countries of origin: Ukraine, Russia, India, Belarus, the Philippines



A word from the director

Dear Friends and Supporters of SIMI,

Welcome to our annual report of 2022, the year of a tragic event and the year of change. We were getting ready to celebrate 30 years since the foundation of SIMI when Russia attacked Ukraine. From the first day of the war, SIMI has provided information, services and support to hundreds and thousands of refugees from Ukraine. We have opened the first emergency shelters in hostels, provided material and non-material support to arriving migrants, participated in crisis teams reporting on the situation in the field and collaborated on comprehensive measures. Thanks to the enormous commitment of the entire SIMI team, we were able to operate almost continuously for the first two weeks and maintained our extreme performance in the following months. Last year, we launched a brand new service, the "SIMI Hotel", a medium-term sheltered housing project for refugee women with children; activated the platform "Refugees Welcome" to support Czech host families; and maintained services for our existing clients. Our team doubled in size as we welcomed new colleagues from Ukraine, Belarus, Russia and Georgia. Over the year, we met thousands of women, men and children under stress, experiencing not only life's tragedies but also joys. For 30 years, we have made a point of supporting and respecting our clients – and we continued to do so even in the greatest crisis yet.

We pulled through last year thanks to the support of volunteers, often our former clients and people with migrant backgrounds. We were immediately contacted by a number of our former employees offering assistance and cooperation. Our partners and donors helped, too, as many companies and organisations gave us financial and material support. Collaboration with NGOs was immediate and extremely important; two organisations and one law firm even lent us their staff. We have found that SIMI is part of a strong community that appreciates our work, likes us and does not hesitate to support us. We thank everyone!

We gained valuable experience in 2022. As an organisation we grew stronger: we found that we can pull through a crisis, we are professional, experienced, can react quickly, and know how to learn from mistakes. I am incredibly proud of all our colleagues, volunteers, supporters and clients who, together with us, have shown that Czech society can be compassionate, supportive and capable of overcoming its prejudices. I hope that last year's experience will allow us build a dignified, open and solidarity-based immigration system for all migrants, regardless of their country of origin or war they are fleeing!

Magda Faltová, director

	number of clients	number of consultations and assistances	total duration in hours
Legal counselling	1054	2703	2419,85
Social counselling	375	701	617,14
Psychosocial counselling	66	203	230,17
Intercultural assistance service	326	921	1682,42

MOST FREQUENT TOPICS: residence issues; psychosocial, material and financial support

EMPLOYEES

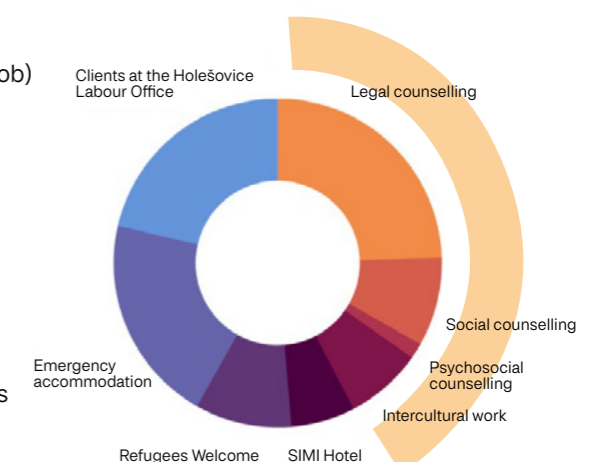
January 2022: **21** (of which 8 with agreements to complete a job)
 December 2022: **38** (of which 12 with agreements to complete a job)

VOLUNTEERS: 95

More than **1,550** working hours

PROJECTS:

- Helping Hand
- Prague 3 – Living Together 2022
- Prague 3 – Help for Ukrainian Refugees
- Integrating Prague
- Safety and Wellbeing for Refugee and Migrant Women among Us
- Professional social counselling for migrants

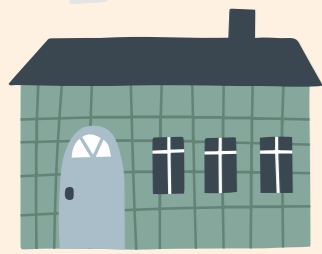
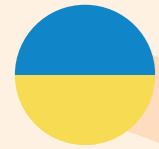


Helping Migrants from Ukraine: the Story of the Makarenko family

**SDRUŽENÍ ASSOCIATION
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THE JOURNEY BEGINS

Russia's aggression in Ukraine commenced a sad period and an influx of people fleeing to safety from their war-torn homes. Several hundred thousand refugees were forced to move to our country as well. Each one of them carries a different story: some come from the West, some from the East, some have money, and some don't. And everyone handles their situation in a different way. In SIMI we meet various clients, each with their own needs and a unique story. What they have in common is uncertainty, living in a foreign environment, and fearing the future.



The MAKARENKO Family
This four-generation refugee family from Ukraine lives in a single household with three rooms.

OKSANA

- 82 years old
- Pensioner
- Radomila's mother
- Can no longer work due to old age and health
- Has a difficult relationship with her grandchildren and other family members

RADOMILA

- 60 years old
- Mother of six children, five of which still need her care
- Widowed
- Became grandmother during her stay in Czechia
- The only one in the family who can work; has to earn money for the whole family
- Exhausted

DAGMAR

- 15 years old
- Attends school

VLADIMIR

- 12 years old
- Attends school

ANASTASIA

- 9 years old
- Attends school

OLEG

- 7 years old
- Attends school

MARINA

- 17 years old
- Arrived in Czechia with her family, two months pregnant at the time
- Gave birth in Prague in September 2023, the father of the newborn was killed in the war a few weeks later
- Still a child, she's coping with the death of her partner and her new role as a mother

LOLA

- *2022 in Prague
- Mother: underage Marina; father: died in Ukraine

**REFUGEES
WELCOME**

1

SIMI HOTEL
Upon arrival in Czechia, the family finds refuge in the SIMI Hotel, a sheltered accommodation facility operated by SIMI. Our social and intercultural workers help the Makarenkos find their way around the Czech Republic and look for a place to stay. They assist them in arranging health insurance and other important necessities. They support the mother in her job search and other family members in communicating with doctors, authorities, schools and the eldest daughter in preparing for the upcoming birth.

2

REFUGEES WELCOME
Our team, which links refugees with solidarity households, assessed the needs of the Makarenko family and assisted them in relocating from the SIMI Hotel to a solidarity household. The team aided the family in their settling in, identifying sources of financial and material support, resolving any conflicts with neighbours, and finding suitable nursery school, primary school, and activities for the children. Additionally, we arranged psychosocial support specifically for the family member in the toughest situation - the mother.

3

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT
Our psychotherapist started working with the mother Radomila, the cornerstone and pillar of the family. Taking care of the whole family, Radomila is affected by the demanding situation in all aspects of her life.

4

SIMI ADVISORY TEAM / SOCIAL AND LEGAL DEPARTMENT
Social and intercultural workers assist in organizing Radomila's working conditions, and in collaboration with our legal department, ensure the proper conduct of her employment. They provide support to the family by accompanying them to hospitals, arranging extensions of temporary protection, enrolling children in school, and coordinating follow-up psychosocial assistance for Marina, who, despite her young age, has become both a mother and a widow.

End

THEIR JOURNEY AFTER A YEAR
In the last year, the Makarenkos have experienced more than many of us will in a lifetime. They are overcoming this challenging period through their own strength and resilience, as well as with the help of volunteers, experts and organisations such as SIMI. This family's story shows the wide range of areas in which we can support our clients. We hope that in a few years, when little Lola and her loved ones remember their involuntary stay in Czechia, they will recall the support and safety they found here in their time of need, rather than the painful circumstances of their arrival.

All names have been changed for the purpose of the annual report



Supporting refugees from Ukraine

In all our projects implemented last year we aimed to support war refugees in various ways.

HOUSING

SIMI was heavily involved in providing accommodation for refugees. With our support, **1,349 people** found a place to live in the Czech Republic. They were also provided with social work support and plenty of information about other relevant services.

Already in the first days of the war, SIMI arranged **emergency shelters** in a rented hostel and three cooperating hotels where **880 refugees** stayed temporarily.

In late April 2022, the **SIMI Hotel** project was launched to provide sheltered accommodation to fleeing women with children for three months. By the end of the year, **127 women** and **110 children** found shelter and safety there.

We re-launched the **Refugees Welcome** platform to mediate long-term accommodation for refugees with Czech residents (in "solidarity households"). From the end of February to the end of the year, **4,614 accommodation offers** from local citizens and **3,399 applications** from refugees were submitted to the website. Social workers arranged **330 exploratory meetings** to survey the needs of refugees and **76 successful accommodation meetings** where refugees met their Czech hosts with the social workers' assistance. **232 refugees** found a new home this way.

PROVIDING HELP AT HOLEŠOVICE LABOUR OFFICE

In August, the labour office in Praha-Holešovice became overcrowded with refugees applying for humanitarian benefits. Around **9,000 Ukrainian refugees** passed through this office. People had to wait in queues for several days; the situation was extremely challenging also because of high summer temperatures. SIMI, along with other organisations, helped address the situation on the ground and coordinate the applicants. **Two SIMI employees** supported more than **900 clients** directly on the spot. In cooperation with several other NGOs, a comprehensive change was achieved in the overly complicated benefit issuance system and other areas.

RAISING AWARENESS

For volunteers, social and intercultural workers as well as other professionals working with refugee women, we organised a webinar on the **"Identification and Communication with Victims of Violence among Refugee Women"**.

Given the high number of children among refugees, education was an important topic. Therefore, we prepared a well-attended **online meeting about the differences in education in both countries** for parents, conducted in the Ukrainian language.

PROJECTS:

- Integration Services for Special Visa and Temporary Protection Holders 2022
- Supporting Refugees from Ukraine
- Refugees Welcome
- SIMI Hotel – Sheltered Housing for Refugees from Ukraine
- SIMI Response to Refugee Crisis from Ukraine

Advocacy activities and membership in networks

We participate in shaping and influencing the migration and asylum legislation of the Czech Republic and the migrant integration related public policies. We strive for better and more favourable conditions for the life of migrants in our country. We advocate for active involvement of municipal and regional authorities in the process of migrant integration.

In 2022, advocacy faced significant challenges. In particular, we consider the following initiatives and outcomes to be crucial:

- SIMI's involvement in expert and legislative debates on the legal framework for temporary protection
- Commenting on all amendments of "Lex Ukraine"
- Recommendations for the Government's *Strategy for Managing the Refugee Wave from Ukraine*
- The establishment of the Permanent Commission for the Adaptation and Integration of Ukrainian Refugees and Strengthening Social Cohesion, led by the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs and the Government Commissioner for Human Rights
- Recommendations for improving the humanitarian benefit application app based on our firsthand experience from the labour office in Praha-Holešovice
- Initiating the NGO statement on the current situation of women from Ukraine, followed by recommendations for the Government to promote gender equality in managing the refugee crisis
- Addressing the topics of migration and the management of the refugee wave from Ukraine in the *Contribution of Non-Governmental Non-State Organisations to the Implementation of the Programme of the Presidency of the Czech Republic in the Council of the EU 2022*
- Suggestions for including measures to support migrants in the *Action Plan for the Prevention of Domestic and Gender-Based Violence for 2023-2026*
- Monitoring and commenting on the amendments to the Asylum Act and the Act on the Residence of Foreign Nationals
- Initiating a meeting of the Minister of the Interior and the Government Commissioner for Human Rights with refugee representatives on World Refugee Day

SIMI IN NETWORKS

- **Consortium of Migrants Assisting Organisations** (The Consortium) – member of the Executive Committee
- **Czech Women's Lobby** (CWL) – member of the Committee
- **Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants** (PICUM) – member of the Board of Directors
- **European Network Against Racism** (ENAR)
- **European Network of Migrant Women** (ENoMW)
- **European Network on Statelessness** (ENS)

SIMI IN ADVISORY BODIES

- **Committee for the Rights of Foreigners** (of the Council of the Czech Government for Human Rights)
 - **Council of the Czech Government for Equality of Women and Men**
 - **Committee for Reconciliation of Professional, Private and Family Life** (of the Council of the Czech Government for Equality of Women and Men)
 - **Committee for the European Union** (under the Government Council for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations)
 - **Permanent Commission for the Adaptation and Integration of Ukrainian Refugees and Strengthening Social Cohesion**
 - **Inter-Departmental Working Group on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda** (at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
 - **Prague City Council Committee for the Integration of Foreigners**
 - **Prague City Hall Working Group for Ukrainian Refugees**
 - **Prague 3 City District Working Groups: Socio-Culturally Disadvantaged Citizens and Integration of Foreigners**
- and many more working groups and platforms both in the Czech Republic and abroad

PROJECT:

- Building Fair Migration Policy
- Women in Migration – In the Shadow of Covid-19 Pandemic
- Successful Migrant Integration in Regions





Our donors and partners

For a long time, SIMI has been largely financed by institutional sources, i.e. through grants and subsidies from Czech and foreign institutions, foundations and non-profit organisations. However, our long-term goal is to diversify our sources and increase private donations. That is why we are very pleased to report that in the past year, a significant wave of solidarity emerged within Czech society, resulting in **over 300 new private donors including individuals and companies**. Our biggest donor Česká spořitelna, via **Česká spořitelna Foundation** and other companies in its group, secured **financing for the SIMI Hotel** where **237 refugees** from Ukraine found shelter last year. Individual donors primarily supported the accommodation of refugees with Czech families through

the **Refugees Welcome** platform and the integration of Ukrainian refugees into Czech society. At the same time, many individuals and companies offered **non-financial aid** such as their own free time (**over 1,550 volunteer hours**) as well as materials and services free of charge or at significant discounts (furnishings, clothes, food, etc.).

We would like to thank all individual, corporate and institutional donors. Their support was crucial for us at certain moments after the outbreak of the war! We received a total of **26 800 027 CZK**, with **resources from individual donors and companies accounting for more than 50%**. A detailed overview of donations and subsidies received can be found in the financial section of this annual report.

Awareness and education

Our activities aimed at the Czech public work towards the elimination of prejudice, promoting tolerance and combating the existing racism and xenophobia. We acquaint the majority society with the life of real migrants, tell their stories and explain what obstacles they have to face in everyday life in a foreign country.

In 2022, our online tutoring programme for pupils with different mother tongues (DMT) continued for a third year. In this project, volunteers tutor primary school pupils once or twice a week and help them develop their skills in the Czech language and other subjects. In total we supported **36 pupils with DMT**.

For primary and secondary school pupils we organised **eight talks on migration and refuge** with guests from **Namibia, Mongolia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Syria, Ukraine** and

Vietnam. We held a community event at one of Prague's primary schools where **63** pupils attended, including 20 pupils with DMT. Guests from **Mongolia, Congo** and **Vietnam** took part in this event.

Our public cooking classes have been very popular for some time. In 2022, we organised four of them, each featuring skilled cooks from different parts of the world: **Mongolia, Namibia, Ukraine** and **Belarus**.

PROJECTS:

- Crossing Borders in Prague
- Volunteers in SIMI
- Let's Learn Together
- Birth in Peace without Violence

Our publications



Analysis of the Availability of Selected Social Services in the Capital of Prague for Migrants at Risk of Social Exclusion



Analysis Migrant Women on Czech Labour Market in the Contexts of Covid-19 Pandemic and Russian Invasion to Ukraine



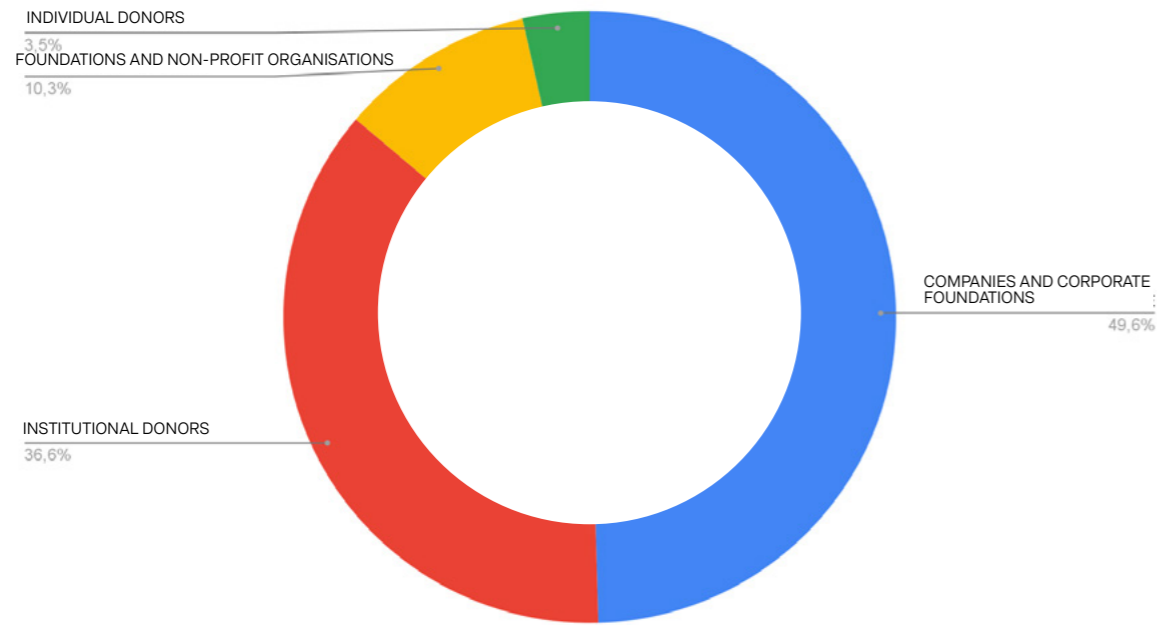
Methodology of Field Social Work with Migrants



Infosheet 14.1. Temporary Protection Holders – Primary Help to Refugees from Ukraine (a part of Local Integration Manual)



Segmentation of SIMI financial sources in 2022



Testimonials

"For a long time, the SIMI team has been engaged in professional and vital work in integration and migration. I am immensely grateful for their professional support throughout 2022 in managing the refugee wave that followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine. They have been an indispensable partner to our state, providing practical assistance to refugees and collaborating externally to plan necessary measures for successful crisis management as well as the subsequent adaptation and integration of refugees in the Czech Republic. I extend my heartfelt thanks and respect for your dedication and commitment as well as for devoting your time and expertise to the development of key policies and legislation in this domain. You are an important source of consultation and expert support. Thank you for our partnership."

Klára Šimáčková Laurenčíková, Government Commissioner for Human Rights

"SIMI and Česká spořitelna share the courage to explore uncharted territories. We thought it useful to provide unused office spaces to accommodate people in need. Despite the new challenge of running a sheltered accommodation, SIMI fearlessly accepted our offer. We greatly value their bravery and adaptability. We are glad that, together, we have assisted dozens of people fleeing Ukraine. Additionally, we take pride in supporting SIMI's first steps as future housing experts."

Andrea Studihradová, Česká spořitelna

"From the very beginning of the war in Ukraine, it was clear to us that it was important to support not only humanitarian organisations providing aid in Ukraine, but also to provide comprehensive assistance to refugees coming to Czechia. This led us to support local social workers, and we quickly sought out an organisation that we were familiar with, ensuring a reliable choice. Furthermore, it was crucial for us that SIMI, with its comprehensive approach, has been the driving force behind the scenes. Without SIMI's involvement, many things would simply not be possible. At the same time, SIMI is often overlooked in favour of various smaller organisations."

Martin Basl, Livesport

Financial report

FINANCIAL DONATIONS RECEIVED IN 2022

Source	Programme/Project	Amount (CZK)
INDIVIDUAL DONORS		899 759
Aid to refugees from Ukraine	refugee integration	431 751
Accommodation for refugees from Ukraine in Czechia	Refugees Welcome	229 120
SIMI support in general	SIMI support	238 888
COMPANIES		630 000
Livesport s.r.o.	refugees from Ukraine	500 000
Česká spořitelna - penzijní společnost, a.s.	Czech language courses for refugees	100 000
Česká spořitelna a.s.	children's party	15 000
Stavební spořitelna České spořitelny, a.s.	children's party	15 000
CORPORATE FOUNDATIONS		12 050 000
Česká spořitelna Foundationy	SIMI Hotel	12 050 000
FOUNDATIONS & NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS		1 000 000
Člověk v tísni o.p.s	SOS Ukraine	1 000 000
Total donations received		14 579 759

GRANTS AND SUBSIDIES IN 2022

Source	Subsidies used (CZK)	
FOUNDATIONS AND NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS		1 757 611
OSF (Active Citizens Fund from EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021)	Building Fair Migration Policy	1 130 909
Open Society for Europe (OSIFE)	SIMI Response to Refugee Crisis from Ukraine	626 702
INSTITUTIONAL DONORS		9 776 206
Prague City Hall	Integration Services for Special Visa and Temporary Protection Holders 2022, Professional Social Counselling for Migrants, Crossing Borders in Prague	4 758 191
Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic	Support for Refugees from Ukraine, Volunteers in SIMI	1 530 125
Prague City Hall: European Structural and Investment Funds, Operational Programme Prague - Growth Pole of the Czech Republic	Let's Learn Together	1 174 350
Czech National Agency for International Education and Research: European Commission, Erasmus+ Programme	Successful Migrant Integration in Regions	1 005 240
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic: European Social Fund, Operational Programme Employment	Integrating Prague	801 987
Office of the Government of the Czech Republic	Women in Migration	475 913
Prague 3 City District	Helping Hand	28 000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Safety and Wellbeing for Refugee and Migrant Women among Us	2 400
Total grants and subsidies		11 533 817

Expenses	Amount (CZK thousand)
Materials consumed	5 872
Repairs and maintenance	0
Travel expenses	161
Representation expenses	7
Other expenses	1 766
Wages and salaries	9 601
Statutory social security and health insurance	3 063
Statutory social security expenses	47
Other taxes and fees	0
Other fines and penalties	0
Foreign exchange losses	3
Other miscellaneous costs	28
Provided membership contributions	18
Total expenses	20 566

Revenues	Amount (CZK thousand)
Sales of services	367
Interests	3
Profit on Exchange rate	0
Other revenues	145
Received contributions	8 694
Operating subsidies	11 534
Total revenues	20 743

PROFIT (LOSS) **+177**

Assets	as of 1/1/2022 (CZK thousand)	as of 31/12/2022 (CZK thousand)
Assets	64	63
Software	35	35
Accumulated amortization on software	-35	-35
Valuable rights	64	64
Tangible fixed assets under CZK 10,000	182	105
Accumulated amortization on tangible fixed assets under CZK 10,000	-182	-106
Current assets	10 362	22 898
Material in stock	0	41
Subscribers	3	0
Operating advance payments	2 946	4 111
Demands for subsidies and other settlements with state budget	0	0
Demands for subsidies and other settlements with the authorities of territorial self-governing units	0	0
Other receivables	0	0
Estimated accounts receivable	0	0
Cash on hand	10	28
Bank accounts	7 403	18 718
Pre-paid expenses	0	0
Accrued income	0	0
Total assets	10 426	22 961

Liabilities	as of 1/1/2022 (CZK thousand)	as of 31/12/2022 (CZK thousand)
Own resources	1 030	7 150
Own assets	1 009	1 009
Funds	1	5 944
Accounts based on profits	0	177
Profits in approval procedure	113	0
Retained earnings, accumulated losses from previous years	-93	20
External resources	9 396	15 811
Suppliers	7	681
Advance payments received	5 118	9 116
Employees	395	1 021
Remaining liabilities	5	38
Payables to the state budget	1 453	2 787
Liabilities for social security and health insurance	199	559
Other direct taxes	32	121
Payables to the authorities of territorial self-governing units	2 175	1 468
Other liabilities	10	0
Accrued expenses	2	20
Total liabilities	10 426	22 961

The complete financial report including the auditor's report is available at the SIMI office, Havlíčkovo náměstí 2, Prague 3.



Support us

WOULD YOU AGREE THAT SIMI'S WORK IS IMPORTANT FOR OUR SOCIETY?

You can support us financially via our **website**. You can also become one of our volunteers and help where needed. If you wish to discuss strategic support to our organisation, we will gladly meet with you and provide you with all information needed.

Contact: Tereza Halbrštátová, halbrstatova@migrace.com

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

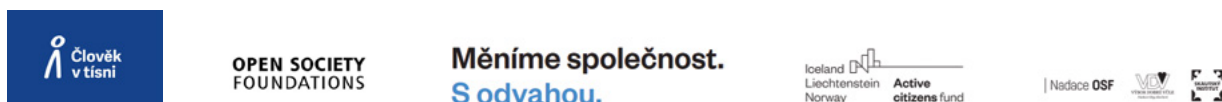
Donors who contributed 10,000+ CZK last year. Other individual donors can be found under the "Partners" section on our website.

Blanka Chrámecká, Georgi Stojkov, Michal Falta, Jan Hladky, Petr Šebor, Jan Macháček, Ingrid Ledererová, Vladan Brož, Mária Veselá, Balu Gopakumar, Taras Povoroznyk, Petr Vácha, Klára Dvořáková, Alexander James Suchy, Klára Fiedlerová, Petr Koutný, Lenka Mrhačová, Kateřina Perknerová, Robert John, Roman Majer, Vítězslav Kotrd, Vojtěch Siegel, Pavel Krušina

COMPANIES & CORPORATE FOUNDATIONS



FOUNDATIONS & NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS



INSTITUTIONAL DONORS



NON-FINANCIAL PARTNERS



PROJECT PARTNERS

