

## Verbattle THE MEDIA

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### About the project

Speak up and change the world! That's the motto of Verbattle and the sum of reasons why the Czech Debate Society decided to implement this project. Educational programme and a style of competitive debate called Verbattle started almost twenty years ago in India. During its existence there it gained considerable popularity among the youth. Czech Debate Society licensed this educational program in 2014.

This project with the participation of partnering organizations Czech Debate Society (Czechia), Vedogiovane Società Cooperativa Sociale (Italy), Contrôle-Z Nouvelle Aquitaine (France) and Seiklejate Vennaskond (Estonia) including 30 youths and 11 leaders aims to improve participant's communication and language skills through seminars of work with information, logic, formulating their own opinions and arguments, public speaking, presentation skills, media perception and creation and other soft-skills.

It will equip them for active participation in social discussion and intercultural dialogue, strengthen their rational and logical thinking, increase their awareness and respect for democratic values and ideals, show them examples of best practices, provide them with knowledge of the activities of civil society and the power to influence of local leaders, raise their social responsibility and awareness through experiential education in terms of individuals, the state and the international community (EU) and last but not least, it will enhance their level of tolerance for diversity, attitude to social inclusion and brotherhood in the best sense of the word.



### Hosting organization

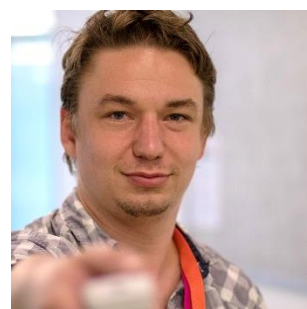
Czech Debate Society is a Czech non-profit organization founded in 2004. Its main goal is to educate and support education of youth using competitive debate as a primary method. The greatest value gained throughout the years is the organization's experience with international events. Each year in Olomouc, Czech Republic, Czech debate society holds "Heart of Europe", one of the biggest independent international high-school debate tournaments in the world with 300 students participating from all inhabited continents. Erasmus+ projects like Verbattle the Media are an opportunity to combine this experience with all our national projects and put it to good use in the form of international exchange to pioneer Verbattle in Europe.

## Organizers

**Vlastimil Waic** (38): Verbattle the Media project coordinator, Czech Debate Society project manager and member of the Board of directors. He worked as a PR manager and journalist in the past. His former client list contains names like PayPal, Microsoft, HP, Bombardier and more, but currently he manages marketing communications in the Czech hunting and gamekeeping association, a national body with 55 000 members. Vlastimil is an active communications skills lecturer, web professional and youth leader. He has 25 years of history with debating, 21 years of which judging and training experience. Spent a month last summer in India on a Verbattle internship. Besides debating loves metal music, fishkeeping and shooting both photos as well as targets on the range.



**Jakub Kadlec** (33): Czech Debate Society president is to be responsible for administrative and accounting part of the project. Jakub is an experienced NGO Manager and Fundraiser. Jakub has 20 years of experience with debate. Even if he occasionally still judges debate, he is mostly a trainer. He's the Chief organiser of Heart of Europe, one of the biggest independent debate tournaments in the world with 300+ participants and 100 000 € budget each year. Jakub is a communication and other soft-skills lecturer, who's held lectures in conferences in Belarus, Netherlands, Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine, Romania, Great Britain or Turkey. He currently works in a management job at the Faculty of Law of the Olomouc Palacký University.



## Contact

In case of need please don't hesitate to contact Vlastimil or Jakub:

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Jakub Kadlec, president: 00420 601 353 165, [jakub.kadlec@c-d-s.cz](mailto:jakub.kadlec@c-d-s.cz)

## Czech Republic and the venue

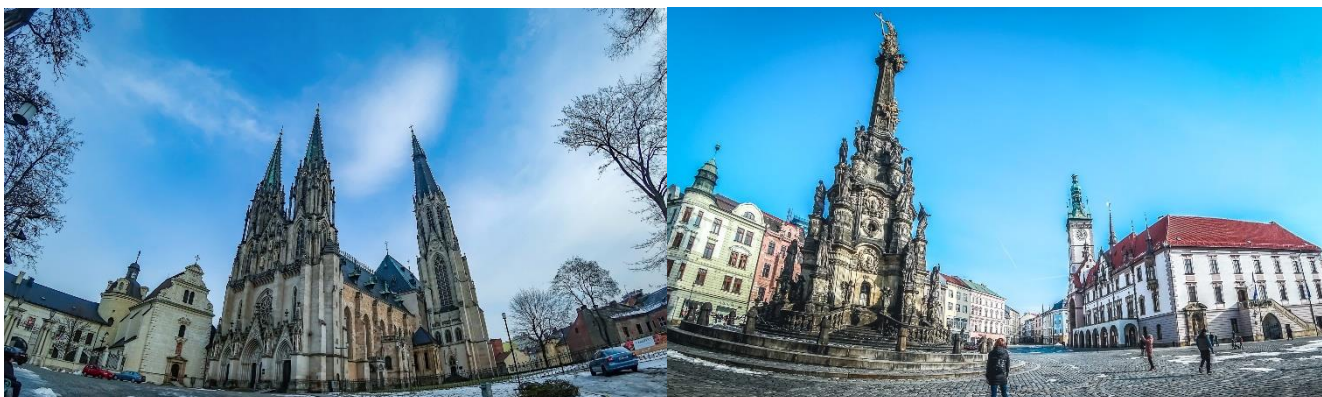
The Czech Republic is a landlocked country in Central Europe bordered by Germany to the west, Austria to the south, Slovakia to the east and Poland to the northeast. The capital and largest city, Prague, has over 1.2 million residents. The Czech Republic includes the historical territories of Bohemia, Moravia, and Czech Silesia.



The Czech Republic is a developed country with an advanced, high income economy and high living standards. The UNDP ranks the country 12<sup>th</sup> in inequality-adjusted human development. The Czech Republic also ranks as the 8<sup>th</sup> safest country in the world. It is a member of the United Nations, the European Union, NATO, the OECD, the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

The country has been traditionally divided into three lands, namely Bohemia (CZ: Cechy) in the west, Moravia (CZ: Morava) in the southeast, and Czech Silesia (CZ: Slezsko; the smaller, south-eastern part of historical Silesia, most of which is located within modern Poland) in the northeast. Known as the lands of the Bohemian Crown since the 14<sup>th</sup> century, a number of other names for the country have been used, including Czech/Bohemian lands, Bohemian Crown, and the lands of the Crown of Saint Wenceslas.

The Verbattle the Media youth exchange will take place in Olomouc, a city located on the Morava River. The city is the ecclesiastical metropolis and was a historical capital city of Moravia, before having been sacked by the Swedish army during the Thirty Years' War. Today, it is the administrative centre of the Olomouc Region and the sixth largest city in the Czech Republic. The historic city centre is well preserved and is protected by law as urban monument reservation. It has about 99 000 inhabitants, and its larger urban zone has a population of about 384 000 inhabitants. Its Holy Trinity Column is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.





## PÖTTINGEUM HIGH SCHOOL DORMS

The main venue for our project will be dormitories of the Emanuel Pötting Medical High School and College "Pöttingeum" in Olomouc, U Sportovní haly (Str.) 1.

There are rooms for two or three persons, each two share a bathroom.

There will be three meals and enough drinks and fruits each day.



## Required forms

- **Parental consent:** For participants younger than 18, you have to have signed consent from parents agreeing with their children's participation. Most countries also require leaders to have explicit parental consent for crossing borders with children, so if needed please prepare yourself second consent forms accordingly.
- **Code of conduct:** All participants will have to sign a code of conduct form.
- **Photo and video consent:** Each participant and of course for participants younger than 18 again parents have to sign their photo and video release forms.
- **GDPR Information:** Each participant and of course for participants younger than 18 again parents have to sign their GDPR information form.
- **We need all these documents signed, scanned and sent before the exchange.**
- We need a scanned copy of any document proving your organizations existence and its identification number (statute etc.), scanned bank account existence proof (contract, statement etc...). Required by Czech tax office as an anti-laundersing measure.
- We also need scanned copies of all participants and leaders travel documents (IDs or passports – ID page), because the accomodation is obliged to report the event to the Czech border police.

Please don't underestimate any documents listed here. It might not only complicate our relationship with our national agency and other government agencies, but mainly complicate your travel to and stay in Czech Republic. You of course are EU citizens and any potential trouble should be easily solved, but it's better not to get in any at all.

## Insurances

The Erasmus+ programme requires you to have several insurances and cover its cost by yourself:

- Travel insurance covering medical care, repatriation of the ill / injured / dead, injury and death. It is possible to purchase this insurance for less than 25 € for 6+2 persons in Czech Republic, so it shouldn't really be much more expensive in your countries. We will need a scanned proof of your insurance.
- European health insurance card provides you with necessary care covered by state under the same conditions as for its citizens. Because medical care is basically free in the Czech Republic, with European health insurance card you will be taken care of for free too, but please don't underestimate the necessity of travel insurance regardless. We're gonna need all EHI cards for your participants scanned before the exchange.
- Your leaders must be insured for leader liability. We will extend our liability insurance to include your leaders, so you don't have to take care of it.

### **Checklist of documents to scan and send us before the exchange:**

- ✓ Parental consent for each participant younger than 18
- ✓ Code of conduct for each participant and leader
- ✓ Photo and video consent is voluntary but recommended for each participant and leader
- ✓ GDPR Info form for each participant and leader
- ✓ Document proving your organization's existence and identification number
- ✓ Travel documents (ID / passport) for all participants and leaders
- ✓ Travel insurance proof for all participants and leaders
- ✓ European health insurance cards for all participants and leaders

## Target participants and leaders

Each delegation should consist of **3 boys and 3 girls in the age of at least 14 and at most 19 + 2 leaders in the age 18+** (but preferably more - to be older than the participants). Participants should be high school students, leaders preferably with interest in the topic of the exchange to be able to contribute to the activities.

## The Education

The project aims to be fun, it's summer, right? But also, to educate. What follows is the description of the project. Please feel free to take any part of it for your own project promotion.

Speak up and change the world! That is the motto of Verbottle's competitive debate program, as well as a summary of the reasons why the Czech Debate Society has decided to implement this project. The premise for any debate is the existence of a dispute. A prerequisite for the existence of a dispute is the ability to work properly with information and perception of the media. The result is greater willingness for active citizenship. Only active citizens are the counterbalance of the ever-deepening democratic deficit. Active citizenship can take many forms, some of which are explored within this project.

Through informal education in the fields of speech, media perception, work with information, teamwork, civic journalism, manipulative techniques and defence against them, or communication in social media, including the approach to the phenomenon of civic journalism and other soft skills suitably supplemented by practice, or screenings of related movies will improve communication and language skills for project participants.

Specifically, individual lectures will be:

- Introduction to public speaking,
- Logic and argumentation,
- Social media,
- Photography 101,
- Media perception and manipulation,
- Civil journalism,
- Manipulation
- and more...

and there will of course be games, some funny lectures, photo contest, trips to the city, movies, leisure...

Simply put, we would like to improve critical thinking and media perception in the participants. By doing so they will learn how to make media themselves, how to deal with manipulation and also what could be the unfortunate results of manipulations becoming mainstream.

It would be good to have participants chosen by the end of June to start working with them.

## Czech Republic Survival Guide | [www.czech.cz](http://www.czech.cz)

### Time zone

The Czech Republic lies in the GMT+1 time zone, usually referred to as Central European Time (CET); daylight saving time is used during the summer and will be in place during our Exchange, so the time zone is GMT+2 Central European Summer Time (CEST). Note that the Estonians will cross the time zone (-1) on their way to Czech Republic.

### Climate and Weather

Geographically speaking, the Czech Republic is situated in the temperate zone, and there are four seasons of approximately the same length. Day temperatures during our exchange will probably be between 25 and 35 °C, but it may be colder - especially in the morning. It shouldn't rain (too much).

### Currency

The official Czech currency is the Crown (Koruna, abbreviated as Kč/CZK). 1 € is equal to 25 CZK. Cards are accepted almost everywhere. ATMs are plentiful. When withdrawing money, please avoid ATMs of the Euronet company. Any bank-branded ATM is OK. When withdrawing money or paying by card avoid offered currency conversion (paying in CZK). Always choose EUR as the payment currency, which will cause your bank to do the exchange. The rate will be better.

### Electrical Current

Nominal voltage 230 Volts, frequency 50 Hertz. Number of phases: 1/3. Number of wires: 2/3/4. Types of plug - C and E (Czech or German plugs are OK). Outlets should be OK as these are compatible across Europe.



### Connectivity

To call other countries from Czech Republic place 00 before your country code. The place of the exchange has 5G cellular coverage, so participants should be reachable. As all participants are from within the EU, you can call home or use your data for the same price and under similar conditions as you would at home. Please check the conditions of your carrier.

Useful phone numbers:

Emergency central (operated by fire department): 112

Police: 158, Ambulance: 155, Fire department: 150