HRSI invites you to a discussion with Simon Panek, Prominent Civil Society Activist, on the topic

Supporting People in Need: how to become an activist?

MAY 13 / 5:30 PM / GELLNER ROOM

The Prague Civil Society Centre (PCSC) has been set up to support non-governmental organizations and civil initiatives in the countries of Eastern Europe, Russia and the countries of Central Asia. With civil societies under increasing pressure throughout the post-Soviet space, the Centre aims to be a modern, dynamic and flexible hub for activists from all over the region. The Centre, which was officially launched in Prague in February 2015, will offer solidarity and support through innovative tools for capacity building, professional contacts and cross-border networks for non-state actors and target groups.

Šimon Pánek (born 27 December 1967) is a former Czech student activist during the Velvet Revolution in 1989 and today the executive director of the humanitarian organization People in Need (Člověk v tísni), which he co-founded in 1992. People in Need (PIN) became the biggest non-governmental organization in Central and Eastern Europe and works worldwide to mitigate the suffering of people in times of crisis. For its international and national effort, PIN has become highly respected in the Czech Republic and abroad. In 1992 Šimon Pánek co-founded Nadace Lidových novin (The Lidové noviny Foundation), now known as People in Need (PIN), and has been a foreign policy specialist on the Balkan region and human rights issues abroad in the presidential administration of Václav Havel. He received the Czech State Medal of Merit in 2002 and the European of the Year Award in 2003. Šimon Pánek chaired the Board of the Open Society Fund Prague, is a member of the European Council on Foreign Relations, of the Board of the European Partnership for Democracy and of the Board of Eurostep. He is also a board member of recently founded Prague Civil Society Centre.