

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

Every year PIN bestows the **Homo Homini Award** to personalities who have made significant contributions to the promotion of human rights, democracy and the non-violent resolution of political conflict.

PIN is a member of the **Lifeline** consortium of seven international NGOs that focus on providing support to embattled civil society organisations and individuals in repressive environments.

Since 1999 PIN has been organising the **One World** International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival in Prague and many other Czech cities. For several years the festival has also been held in Brussels.

PIN is one of the founders of the **Prague Civil Society Centre**, whose aim is to support civil society in the countries of the Eastern Partnership, Russia and Central Asia.

PIN's East European Programme is a member of the **Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum**, the **EU-Russia Civil Society Forum** and also participates in the **Solidarity Platform**.

### In 2015, the East European Programme was supported by:

European Commission / Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs / National Endowment for Democracy / Sigrid Rausing Trust / OAK Foundation / U.S. State Grants / PIN's Club of Friends.

### PEOPLE IN NEED

People in Need (PIN) is one of the largest NGOs in Central and Eastern Europe. Currently PIN works in 30 countries around the world where it implements humanitarian and development projects, as well as programmes aimed at supporting human rights and democracy. In the Czech Republic PIN focus on reducing social exclusion and on education. PIN also organises One World Documentary Film Festival.

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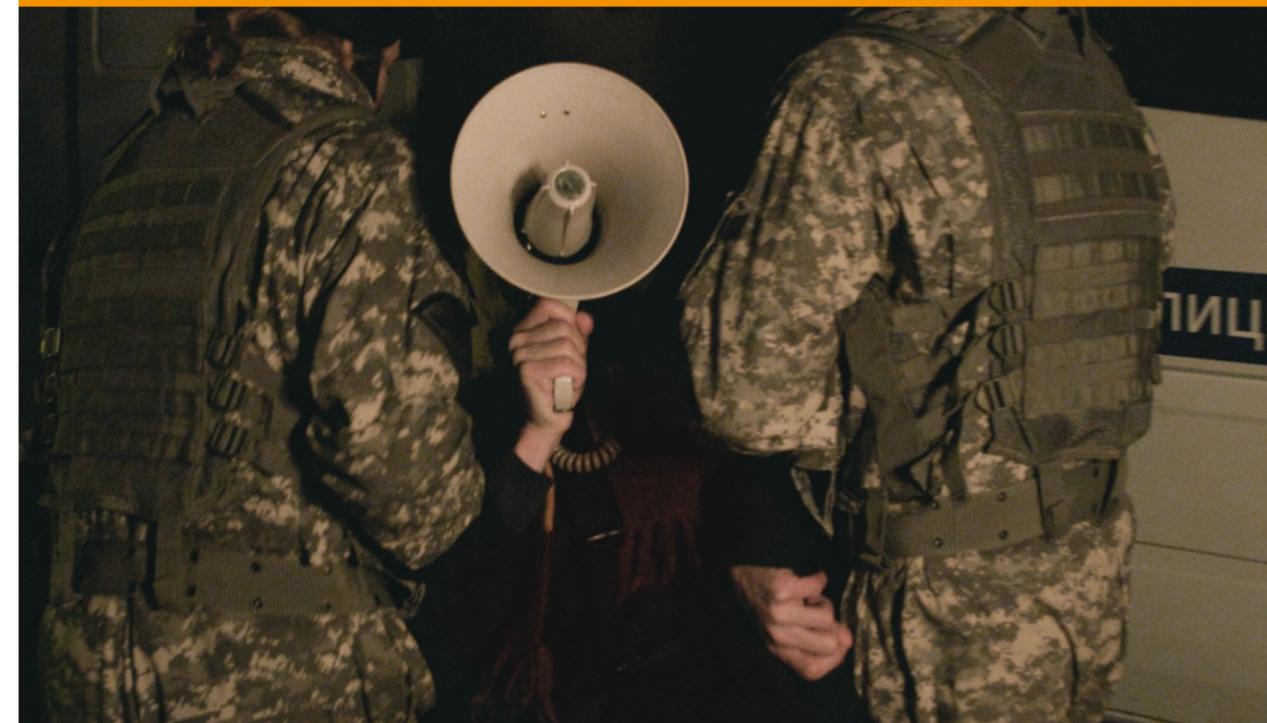
## MAP OF ONGOING PROJECTS

People in Need's Centre for Human Rights and Democracy has been working in repressive and transitional countries since 1990. It focuses on cooperation with civil society organisations and activists mainly in the post-Soviet region, Latin America, Middle East and North Africa.

### The East European Programme works in the following countries:



Armenia (since 2015) / Azerbaijan (since 2013) / Belarus (since 1998) / Moldova - Transnistria (since 2006)  
Russia (since 2009) / Ukraine (since 2003) / Central Asia (since 2015)



CENTRE FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
DEMOCRACY



EAST EUROPEAN PROGRAMME

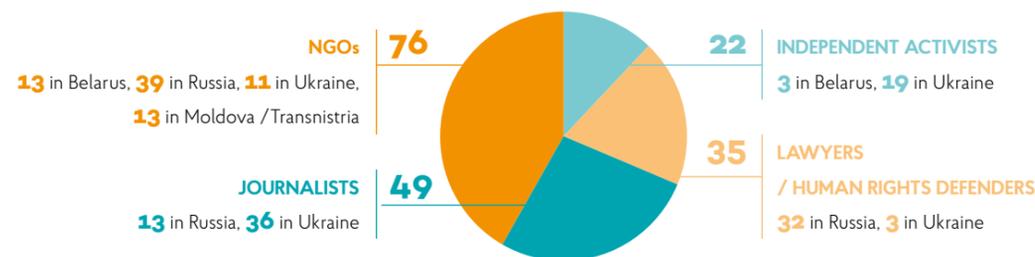
### MAIN ACTIVITIES:

- Capacity building for civil society organisations and support for their activities
- Direct aid to politically persecuted individuals and their families
- International support for human rights defenders and advocacy activities

## CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS AND SUPPORT FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES IN COUNTRIES WITH REPRESSIVE REGIMES

People in Need (PIN) considers civil society to be a pillar of any free and democratic country. This is why we support the professional development and activities of independent organisations and individuals working in repressive environments.

IN 2015, THE EAST EUROPEAN PROGRAMME WORKED WITH **182** CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVISTS\*



### WE PROVIDED OUR PARTNERS WITH:

#### STUDY VISITS AND INTERNSHIPS

**44** participants

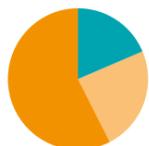


**35** activists  
**7** journalists  
**2** lawyers / human rights defenders

The main objective is to support the professional development of partners by giving them the space to make comparisons with the experiences of other countries.

#### SEMINARS AND TRAININGS

**210** participants



**121** activists  
**50** journalists  
**39** lawyers / human rights defenders

The goal is to help our partners be more effective in their work. The topics are primarily focused on: legal counselling, public campaigns and advocacy, investigative journalism or monitoring human rights violations.

#### SMALL GRANTS

we distributed **55** small grants to



**38** activists and non-profit organisations  
**10** journalists  
**7** lawyers / human rights defenders

Small grants are designed to support the concrete projects of our partners. Financial support makes it possible to utilise the knowledge obtained through trainings and internships and may serve as an impetus for implementing larger projects.

\* We also worked with persecuted individuals in **Azerbaijan**. However, we are not specifying numbers in order not to endanger their safety and our work.

“It’s one thing to imagine what freedom is really like, but quite another to experience it yourself,”

says one of our guests in the Czech Republic, a human rights defender and journalist from **Chechnya** who has witnessed and documented innumerable human rights violations there.

## DIRECT AID TO POLITICALLY PERSECUTED INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The East European Programme provides assistance to lawyers, independent journalists, bloggers, students and activists, who deeply care about the fate of their country, believe in basic human rights and for that reason are persecuted in their countries.

IN 2015, WE HELPED **50** PERSECUTED PEOPLE, OF WHICH **17** WERE POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

### WE PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF ASSISTANCE:



#### LEGAL AID

We provided highly competent legal assistance to people who were persecuted or arrested in their country for political reasons.



#### MEDICAL TREATMENT

Political prisoners are often denied medical care and access to medicine. We therefore provided medication and thorough medical examinations after their release. We also provided help to people who were injured during an interrogation or demonstration.



#### PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING

Human rights defenders are under constant psychological pressure exerted by agents of the state in repressive regimes. We provided professional psychological support to help them deal with stress.



#### MATERIAL AID

Human rights defenders and their families often lose their jobs as a result of their civic engagement. We provided material assistance to some of them in a difficult financial situation.

“It was the first time in 15 years that I let myself take a break and rest. Now I’m ready to go back and get down to all the work waiting for me,”

says one of the few brave human rights defenders from **Azerbaijan** who still continues working there despite the repressive and dangerous conditions that prevail since the 2014 massive crackdown on civil society.

## INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

In 2015, the East European Programme organised various activities aimed at drawing attention to human rights abuses in the post-Soviet space and obtaining broader public and political support for protecting these rights.

Here are some examples:

### 1. Stories Without Endings

This exhibition about unpunished violence in the North Caucasus uses a comic strip format to present the stories of 12 people who became victims of the arbitrary whims of the authorities in the region. [www.bezkonce.com/en](http://www.bezkonce.com/en)

### 2. Doubling Down on Repression

A campaign about the increasing political repression in Azerbaijan that includes an exhibition “Doubling Down on Repression: Stories from Azerbaijan’s Political Prisoners” and advocacy meetings on an international level. The exhibition has been already shown in Geneva, Strasbourg, Warsaw, London and Prague.

### 3. We Don’t Want Karimov in Prague

We sent an open letter supported by 30 organisations to the Czech President Miloš Zeman requesting him to cancel the planned Prague visit of Uzbek President Islam Karimov, one of the harshest dictators in the world. Karimov ended up cancelling his visit. (Photo: Association for Human Rights in Central Asia)

### 4. One World Film Festival in Brussels

This Czech documentary film festival is an annual event in the EU capital. We screen human rights documentary films while also bringing guests and speakers from countries with repressive regimes.

5.



### 5. #LETMYPEOPLEGO

People in Need joined an international campaign devoted to Ukrainian hostages illegally jailed by the Russian regime. As of February 2016, 21 Ukrainians are still imprisoned on the territory of Russia and in Crimea, where they are subjected to physical and psychological torture. PIN provided professional legal assistance to one of the hostages, who was later freed.

### 6. Truth against Russian propaganda

In partnership with the Ukrainian organisation Centre for Civil Liberties and under the auspices of Czech MEP Jaromír Štětina we organised a discussion on Russian propaganda at the European Parliament and issued a brochure on this topic.

### 7. Sport for Rights Campaign

As part of the ‘Sport for Rights’ coalition, we staged a happening in downtown Prague in June on the occasion of the inauguration of the European Games in Baku to denounce the constant human rights violations in Azerbaijan.

Thanks to international pressure and a campaign that People In Need’s East European Programme also participated in, Azerbaijani activists **Leyla Yunus** and **Arif Yunus** were freed from prison, where they had spent more than a year after being convicted to 8.5 and 7 years on politically fabricated charges. We still call for the

**release of all political prisoners in Azerbaijan.**