



CENTRUM PRO INTEGRACI CIZINCŮ, o. p. s.

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## Press release – 20 years of the Centre for Integration of Foreigners, o. p. s.

### Center for Integration of Foreigners celebrates 20 years!

*(Prague, 12 May 2023) The non-profit organization Center for Integration of Foreigners (CIC) is 20 years old this year. Let's celebrate it together at a charity concert on June 15, 2023 at the Vinohradský pivovar with Kadé chim and Pohřební kapela.*

With the motto *"Helping immigrants to become our fellow citizens"*, CIC began providing integration services for foreigners in 2003. At first it was social counselling, but gradually other services started to follow the needs of the clients. Today, in addition to topics such as residency status and social security, CIC helps clients, for example, with joining the labour market, children and teenagers with entering the school system, and expectant mothers with preparing for childbirth and subsequent health care in Czech hospitals. The connection with the volunteer programme helps to establish contacts between foreigners and the Czech majority, learning local customs and communicating in Czech.

Knowledge of the language is of course an important part of integration into society. In the CIC courses, Czech is taught through a low-threshold methodology, which allows all those interested to participate, regardless of their mother tongue. Based on many years of experience, the CIC team of lecturers and methodology specialists also creates original textbooks – most recently, for example, the set of materials *Česky raz dva*, which was created in response to the arrival of a large number of Ukrainian pupils and distributed to schools as part of the *Učebnice pro Ukrajinu* project.

*"We are glad that we have been part of the process of helping foreigners in the Czech Republic for 20 years. We cordially invite you to our birthday celebration – a charity concert at the Vinohradský pivovar on June 15th at 7:00 pm,"* says Anna Marie Vinařická, director of the organization. Proceeds from the benefit concert will go to support services and activities for CIC clients.

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