

# Stronger neighborhood

**Programs We Implement** and Support at Česká spořitelna:

## The Day Spent Differently Program

Every one of our employees can dedicate two days to volunteering and helping those in need.

- The We Can Do More Program (Dokážeme víc) Neighborhood grant program implemented in collaboration with the VIA Foundation.
- The Stronger Changemakers Program Development program for local changemakers with an entrepreneurial spirit.
- Social Impact Award **Impact Hub** accelerator for young people aiming to address social and environmental issues.

## Inspiring Library

Who is a good neighbour?

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And how is Czech society today?

Recognition of libraries that inspire others through their actions. Implemented in collaboration with the **OSF Foundation**.

#### Journalistic Award

Recognition of quality journalism awarded by the **OSF Foundation**. We are their partners in this initiative.

# Good neighbour

We have become accustomed to the global interconnectedness of the world. But the world is held together by relationships at the local level. That's why we're helping to create stronger neighbourhoods.

Even the founders of Savings and Credit Union recognized that the resilience of our society is affected by the level of our economic activity, the level of our culture, and the shape of our relationships.

Savings banks were created to help poorer and the middle class to gain greater economic independence; and has always acted as a **good neighbour**:

- → support local businesses, build art houses, theatres, apartment buildings and homes for the needy,
- → never afraid to lend money or even invest in a completely unknown entrepreneur or project,
- $\rightarrow$  because of the efforts, Křižík, Kolben, Bata and others succeeded.

in 2022

**Good neighbours know each** other, they meet and interested in improving the common space.

#### **Overall placement** Czech Republic: **13th place** out of 27 EU countries

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We are not willing to be civically engaged, to respect our surroundings and neighbors. But we have always been able to pull together in times of crisis.

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(5.7% of the world's population) The Czech Prosperity Index is collaborative research of the Europe Data Portal in data and the analytical team of Česká spořitelna.

The index works with ten pillars, which contain a total of 116 data indicators for each European Union country.

This is also reflected in significantly better rankings in world's rankings of social capital and willingness to help. Only further developments will show whether we will have the courage to

THE CZECH REPUBLIC COMPARED TO EU COUNTRIES:

**Czech Republic** 

	27	9	1
State of the economy		<u> </u>	
Quality of education and research		•	
Solidarity and trust in society	• • • • • • • • • • • • •	-	
State of the environment	23		
Level of housing	• • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
Digitisation and infrastructure	• • • • • • • • • • • •	-	
Quality of the labour market	15 • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
Financial health		-	
Environment for entrepreneurs	21 • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
Health and safety development			• • • • •

## What is social capital?

The set of resources that a certain person can use because he knows himself with other people. It is a collection of useful social contacts and acquaintances.

maintain this trend.

→ We have only improved by two places since 2009. The worst performer in the social capital category. We jumped to 57th place for 2021, up from 112th a year earlier.

By The Legatum **Prosperity Index**<sup>™</sup> us for 2022 are:

#### **25th place** place out of 167 EU countries

(99.4% of the world's population)

According to **CFA World** Giving Index in 2022 we dropped to

44th place out of 119 countries in the

= click = Where do we stand compared to EU countries? Follow along with our **Prosperity Index**. = click =

Detailed profile and comparison with the world can be found at **prosperity.com**.

> = click = Generosity and willingness to help is measured by the **CFA World Giving Index**.

However, over the last decade we have jumped 71 places.

Česká spořitelna wants to change that...

world.

# How does Česká spořitelna help?

We do what we can. The Good Neighbor Initiative is our contribution to improving the country's social capital.

We encourage you to be proactive, to approach freedom responsibly and with the knowledge that it is not free. There are a lot of people in Česká spořitelna who don't hesitate to help those in need - they donate their time, their knowledge and their finances.

## The Day Spent Differently Program

Each of us can dedicate two working days a year for a good cause:

- $\rightarrow$  offer your strength to charitable organizations and know-how,
- accompany elderly or disabled people for a walk or a doctor's appointment,
- $\rightarrow$  take part in the programs we introduced here, as well as the Alphabet of Money, the Foundation's Day for School, working with universities.

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Are you interested in working with our colleagues? Contact us at denjinak@csas.cz

## We are a force of ten thousand already and we are working to stop the Czech apathy towards the environment!



...to help others to help..

"Every year I organize a The Day Spent Differently Program at the Česká spořitelna. I enjoy volunteering and it seems like a natural part of my life. Especially nowadays, when you say we kind of living in golden cages, this benefit can show us that without volunteers, many organizations would not be able to do the things they are trying to do."

## The We Can Do More Program (Dokážeme víc)

We support projects by active people who have ideas on ways to improve their neighbourhoods. They establish associations, to improve their neighbourhoods, restore benches, fountains or vanished paths, plant trees, build gazebos for neighborhood events and organize such events themselves.

**Together with the VIA Foundation**, we also announced a round of micro-grants in the Together for the **Countryside program.** 



For the first time, we also awarded two-year large grants with funds up to EUR 0.5 million CZK. New meeting places are being created with public participation in six municipalities.

Anyone can come here and plant a tree.

They will also be able to adopt it, give it a

...help to direct it properly...

## The Stronger Changemakers Program (Silnější hybatelé)

Development program for local drivers with entrepreneurial spirit offers a select dozen participants a multi-month intensive work on themselves and their own project.

The basis of the program is the learning process. On the way, the participants are accompanied by other changemakers, a mentor, a coach and other experts.

→ We're working with another organization, the "Breakfaststory" on this program, because we believe in supporting a worthwhile business.



In 2023 we supported

54 projects

In 2023 successfully graduated a total of changemakers.

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**Be inspired by the guests** podcast series from the world of communities relationships. Tune in to

**Over the Fence**.

Do you know of a mover who might be interested in participating in the program to apply? Refer him or her to **www.silnejsihybatele.cz** or contact us at **hybatele@csas.cz** 

## **Social Impact** Awards

The accelerator offers young innovators an opportunity turn their idea of making the world a better place into a sustainable business.

It is organised by Impact Hub and we have been a part of it since its inception.



You don't have to be rich or a powerful politician or an official to change the place where you live for the better. But you must be willing to talk over the fence with your neighbours, to take an interest in your neighborhood.



## **Bibliotheca** inspirans

Together with the **OSF Foundation**, we appreciate libraries that are among the important drivers of their neighborhoods.

## We award them a prize associated with a micro-grant.

- The award goes to libraries that provide examples of good and inspiring practice.
- We announce a different theme for each year. In 2024 the awards will focus on the wellbeing of libraries.

In 2023,

**11** libraries

that, in addition to their

educational role, that were actively

involved in their neighborhood

activities, received the award.



## **The Foundation OSF**

= click = "The Bibliotheca inspirans award belongs to those libraries that shine."

# We contribute and help those in need

Good neighbors do not hesitate to lend a helping hand where it is needed. They are not shy to bring a material gift or to contribute to those who find themselves in need.

## Spořka Českem

For the first time, we crossed the republic in a relay from west to east in 2021. And we have already completed three years. Part of the journey was, of course, volunteering to help those in need.

There are thousands of good-hearted people in Česká spořitelna who help. Thanks to you, we are changing the world for the better.

## **Wish-fulfilled trees**

Every year we make hundreds of dreams come true for people with different types of disadvantages. Starting back in 2022, we host a **#strongerChristmas** giving challenge. Our clients and employees donate together for development activities to underprivileged children, whether they are from orphanages or from single parent families in need.

The year 2023 in points

**1546** participants 27 606 km

**2**166 hours toward good causes

**19** microgrants Together for the Countryside CZK 1 021 026 for development activities for the disadvantaged children at Christmas this year 2023.

## Helping with sport

Our colleagues are constantly organising various charity runs or other sporting events.

Traditional ones include RunAut, a run for the Foundation AutTalk, which helps children with disabilities autism spectrum disorders. In particular, the organization is involved with good-hearted people from Erste Private Banking, dozens of colleagues.

 $\rightarrow$  The run is held annually in the Hvězda in Prague.

...you just have to put it on properly!

.. and we can all get involved..

## With slippers to dignity

Since the beginning, we have been standing by the campaign to support mobile hospices. During Slipper Day in October, we wear slippers to raise awareness, that through hospice services, people can live in dignity at home with their loved ones.

#### In 2023, 1906

people in Česká spořitelna the slippers. We sent ten crowns to the Mobile Hospice Forum for each one.

In 2023, the total proceeds

208 300 CZK.



# Together for freedom

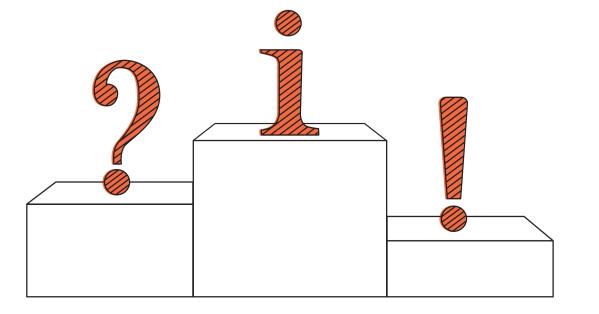
For the Česká spořitelna, supporting freedom and prosperity is the most natural thing.

## We support quality journalism

We are one of the partners of the Journalism Prize announced by the Open Society Foundation Fund. We are members of the jury that selects the winners of the regional journalism category. For 2022, the award went to Marek Osouch and Jiří Punčochář for their interview with hockey boss Libor Zabransky. Science

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We also support the **Nelež association**, which brings attention to the sponsors about the harmfulness of their advertising on disinformation websites.



Freedom and prosperity of the individual and society are linked vessels, one cannot exist without the other.



participated.

= click = → We also support the Prague organization **Thanks, that I can** (Díky, že můžem) and Brněnský sedmáctý association. Selick -

= click. → We are also partners of the War Veterans' Day fundraiser at the Memory Help Center nation (Centrum pomoci Paměti národa).