



Introduction of homesharing in the Czech Republic

The Abakus Foundation has been operating since 2020, building on 10 years of work by the Avast Foundation. In the Czech Republic, we are systematically developing the following areas:

1. Palliative care

2. Support for families with children or young adults with disabilities

3. Education for the 21st century



ACTIVITIES IN THEMATIC AREA NO. 2 (2016 - 2023):

Interviews, mapping, analyses → Supporting early childhood intervention → Parent groups → Advocacy Academy → Community-based services → Homesharing → Empowering young adults with disabilities to become independent

HOW WE WORK

- Practical example
- Introduction of homesharing in the Czech Republic

WE MAP CURRENT NEEDS AND COLLECT DATA

Analysis of the needs of parents whose child has a disability or chronic illness*:

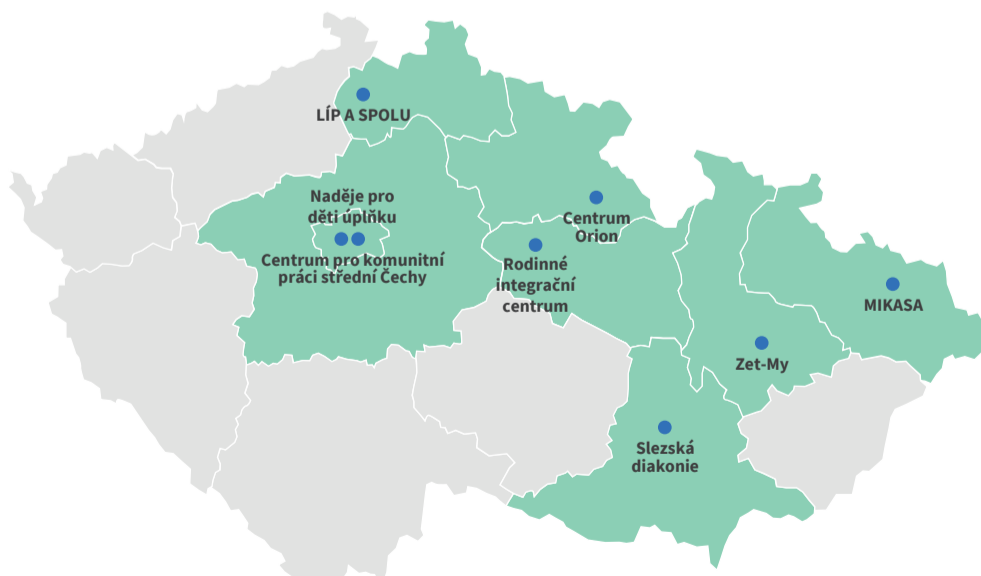
- **82% of these parents have no time to rest**
- **Only 5% of these parents regularly use respite services.**

WE SEEK AND SUPPORT THE MOST VERSATILE AND FLEXIBLE SOLUTIONS AND SERVICES

Homesharing = sharing care. Each family is regularly assisted by a volunteer host who takes the child into his or her home for an agreed period of time. The child's family gets a break, the child makes new social contacts and the hosts spend time in a meaningful way. It does not require any new buildings or shift staff and can be introduced almost anywhere.

WE EDUCATE AND CONNECT PROFESSIONALS IN THE FIELD

2 pilot organizations are training and mentoring **6 organizations** in other regions and for other target groups of children with mental disabilities and further share their experiences.



WE RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE TOPIC AND SEEK TO ANCHOR IT IN THE SYSTEM

National campaigns on homesharing, **universal methodology** and collaboration between 8 organizations to create a **stable homesharing infrastructure** which further organizations can benefit from.

WE DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN THE PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Training in advocacy skills including individual and joint consultations, create advocacy plans and provide funding for advocacy staff salaries for almost 2 years.

WE SUPPORT THE TRANSFER OF BEST PRACTICE WITHIN THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND FROM ABROAD

Cooperation with a **foreign mentor** and active participation in international conferences.

WE COLLECT DATA ON AN ONGOING BASIS AND USE IT TO INTRODUCE FURTHER MEASURES

Since the beginning of the implementation of homesharing, researchers **have continuously collected data** from caring families, host families and mediating organizations.

The aim of their research is to:

- 1) **Evaluate the process of introducing homesharing.**
- 2) **Evaluate the impact of homesharing on families and hosts.**

WE TAKE A BROADER PERSPECTIVE

Homesharing is proving to be a good tool for respite but also for separation training which can be a precursor to independent living. **The younger a child is when he or she first enters homesharing, the easier the process is for everyone (children, parents and hosts).**

WE FUND ACTIVITIES SYSTEMATICALLY

In the period 2018 - 2023, Abakus Foundation invested **CZK 45 million (EUR 1.8 million) in launching homesharing.**

WE FOLLOW UP WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT IN THE AREA AS NEEDED

According to our analysis of the needs of parents whose child has a disability or chronic illness*:

- **60% of parents worry about being unable to care for their child one day. Abakus has therefore launched initiatives to empower young adults with disabilities to live independently.**

*Analysis of the needs of parents whose child has a disability or chronic illness, n=1824 parents in the Czech Republic, Schola Empirica and Avast/Abakus Foundation, data collected in 2020