



## The Czech-Norwegian bridge was crossed

The project "Czech Norway Bridge to Democracy through real participation" was completed on 31/01/2024. Before we look back at its progress and results, we first of all want to share our big gratitude to the grant provider ([EHP](#) via [DZS](#)), the project partners ([Donum Felix](#) and [Nyskolen](#)) and our entire team of [School CoLibri](#) for the great cooperation during 18 months of creative work, sharing and opportunities to grow both personally and professionally for all involved.

The project primarily aimed to fill the gaps in democratic education in the Czech Republic and to support the start-up and operation of democratic schools. These often arise as a reaction to the classic school system in the Czech Republic, which still places greater emphasis on the acquisition of knowledge than on the acquisition of competences.

Given that democratic schools in the Czech Republic are a new educational direction, their establishment and operation is demanding in terms of personnel and finances and is based rather on volunteer enthusiasm and great enthusiasm of individual founders and teachers. Until now, teachers of free and democratic schools in the Czech Republic did not have comprehensive educational material, and therefore very often asked more experienced schools for help, advice and definition of roles and responsibilities in the democratic education system.

On a practical level, teachers in newly emerging free and democratic schools need information on how to set up school assemblies, how to set up a system of lectures and workshops, how to create and inspire pupils to participate in action groups, and above all they need concrete tools for conflict resolution and mediation processes. This was one of the levels on which the project was focused and thanks to which the unique educational material Teacher's Guide was created.

The final target group of the project were pupils and students of free and democratic schools. They need to be educated in an increasingly safe and better prepared environment so that they can confidently express their opinion, needs and feelings, develop self-confidence, self-awareness and critical thinking. They also need to prepare themselves to be active citizens in a 21st century democratic society.

As part of the project, we organized and implemented regular meetings, 2 peer learning visits with shadowing activities in partner schools and sharing know-how with partners in order to create a Guide for teachers who teach in free and democratic schools or who want to start applying democratic principles in other schools ; and Democratic Curriculum for young people and their teachers, with the aim of enriching the education of students with democratic principles that would lead them to take responsibility for their lives and for their local community. We have created a set of 25 cards with practical tips on how to live democratic rules in everyday school life.

We have developed long-term cooperation between partners. At the end of the project, we held 3 workshops for teachers, 1 in Norway and 2 in the Czech Republic, informing about the project and its outputs.

We expect a long-term impact of the project, because thanks to its outputs, young people will realize their active role in society and will be able to perceive the needs of others within the whole. Furthermore, more young people will be actively involved in civic life, thus contributing to the development and stability of cooperating democratic schools. At the system level, the project will launch modernization in education and strengthen the response of the education system to the main challenges of today's world (ability to respond to crises and a rapidly changing world, active participation in the life of a democratic society).

The logo for CoLibri, featuring the word "CoLibri" in a sans-serif font. "Co" is green, "Libri" is blue, and there is a small orange dot above the "i".The logo for Donum Felix, consisting of a teal square with a white asterisk-like symbol on the left, followed by the text "Donum Felix" in a dark blue sans-serif font.The logo for NYSKOLEN, featuring the word "NYSKOLEN" in a bold, black, serif font. Above the "Y" is a green leaf-like symbol and above the "N" is a blue butterfly. Below the main text is a green horizontal bar with the text "Nyskolen i Oslo" in white.