

Czechoslovak Roma Union z.s.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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The year 2025 was a turning point for the Czechoslovak Roma Union, which brought significant successes, international recognition and further strengthening of our activities in the field of community work, social support and protection of the rights of the Roma community.

Thanks to the professionalization of our association, support from institutions and foundations, but above all thanks to the dedicated work of our volunteers and employees, we were able to implement projects that bring real and positive change to the lives of hundreds of people.

This year will go down in the history of our organization as a period when we achieved not only local successes, but also significant international recognition.

Professionalization of the association and development of the organization

One of the key milestones of 2025 was the continuation of the professionalization of our association within the project "Professionalization of the Czechoslovak Roma Union", which is co-financed by the European Union. This project, the implementation of which began in October 2024, brought visible results in 2025 in the form of strengthening the organizational structure, improving communication strategies and expanding fundraising capacities.

Thanks to financial resources from European funds, we were able to retain two qualified part-time employees who focus on:

- Development of fundraising and obtaining additional sources of funding
- Coordination of volunteer activities and support for volunteers
- Visibility of our activities through modern communication and marketing
- Strategic planning and project management

During 2025, we also completed the creation of a new website, which significantly improved our communication with the public, partners and donors. The new logo of the Czechoslovak Roma Union, which was created as part of the project, has become a symbol of our values – solidarity, equality and respect for human dignity.

The professionalization of the association has allowed us to better plan and coordinate our projects, use available resources more effectively and create long-term sustainable programs that truly change the lives of people in socially excluded localities.



Community work in Mojžíř and Nové Předlice



Our community work in the Mojžíř and Nové Předlice locations continued with full intensity in 2025 and brought concrete results in improving the living conditions of local residents. These areas, which have long struggled with social exclusion, are home to many families who face daily challenges associated with poverty, unemployment and discrimination.

Volunteer network and community activities

In 2025, we managed to maintain and further expand a network of active volunteers who regularly participate in various activities aimed at supporting the local community. The main activities included:

Public area cleaning

Regular cleaning events, which significantly contributed to the better appearance of both locations and strengthened the sense of responsibility among residents. These activities were supported in 2025 by the VIA Foundation and the Olga Havel Foundation, whose financial contribution made it possible to purchase the necessary equipment, protective equipment and tools for our volunteers. Thanks to this support, we were able to carry out more than 120 cleaning events throughout the year.

Sports and leisure activities for children

We continued to organize football training, boxing classes, and dance lessons, which provide children with a safe space to develop their talents and strengthen team spirit.

Educational programs

Czech language teaching and tutoring for children within the OP JAK PRO ROMA project have proven to be very effective tools for supporting the school success of children from Roma families.

Community events and competitions

In 2025, we organized more than 12 events focused primarily on children, which supported interpersonal relationships and brought joy to the everyday lives of residents of both locations.

Association for a better Mojžíř

We continued to support the activities of the association Pro lepší Mojžíř, which was founded by the local residents themselves with our help. This association focuses on the long-term improvement of conditions in Mojžíř and is proof that the participation of the residents themselves in changes in their own community is the key to success.

"Shoebox" project – 1500 gifts for children

One of the most touching moments of 2025 was the unwrapping of gifts as part of the "Shoe Box" project, which we implemented at the end of the year. Thanks to the generosity of donors from all over the Czech Republic, we were able to distribute 1,500 gifts to children from excluded locations.

This project meant a lot to the children – for many of them it was the first real Christmas present in their lives. The joy in the children's eyes and the gratitude of their parents reminded us why we do what we do. The "Shoebox" project is a beautiful example of solidarity and humanity that overcomes prejudice and brings people from different communities together.

Cooperation with partners and foundations

Our activities would not be possible without the support of our partners and donors. In 2025, we collaborated with:

- European Union – co-financing the association's professionalization project
- VIA Foundation – supporting cleaning events in excluded locations
- Olga Havel Foundation – supporting community activities
- Food Bank Prague – ensuring food delivery to excluded locations
- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports – OP JAK PRO ROMA project



Financováno
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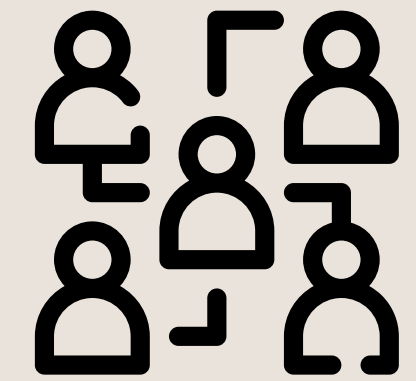
OP JAK PRO ROMA Project – Education Support

In 2025, we continued the successful implementation of the OP JAK PRO ROMA project, which is focused on supporting the education of children from Roma families. As part of this project, we organized:

This project brings concrete results in the form of better school results for children, their higher motivation to study and strengthening their self-confidence. We consider education to be a key tool in the fight against social exclusion and poverty.



Regular tutoring for children in all subjects



Interest groups – football, boxing, dance groups



Leisure educational activities supporting the development of talents and social skills



Developing parenting skills with parents

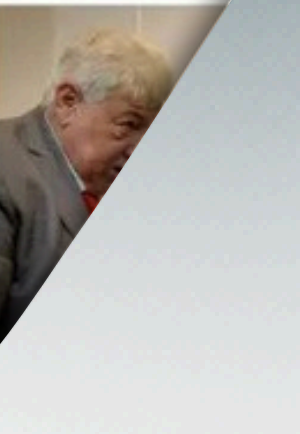
Awards for our members

Jožka Miker – Museum of Roma Culture Award

Our Vice President Jožka Miker received the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from the Museum of Romani Culture for his contribution to the Romani community. This award is a testament to his dedicated work, which has lasted for several decades. Jožka Miker is an inspiration to our entire organization and his story shows that perseverance, courage and love for one's community can bring about real change.

Marian Dancso – Roma Spirit 2025

Another member and volunteer of our association, Marián Dancso, received the prestigious Roma Spirit 2025 award for personality of the year. This award is an exceptional recognition of his work and a symbol of the fact that the Roma community has its personalities who deserve the respect and admiration of the entire society. Marián Dancso is an example of the young generation of Roma who are not afraid to step out of anonymity and actively contribute to positive changes.



Without a doubt, the greatest achievement of 2025 was our historic visit to the Vatican at the invitation of the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. This event represented an absolutely exceptional and unforgettable moment in the history of the Czechoslovak Roma Union and the entire Roma community.

ARCHIVES AND ARCHIVES

Our goal is not only to find this document in the archives, but also to start a dialogue about a possible symbolic act of forgiveness and recognition of the historical injustice that was inflicted on the Roma. We believe that such a step would have enormous symbolic and moral significance not only for the Roma community, but for society as a whole.

Purpose of visit:

Excommunication of Roma

The main purpose of our trip to the Vatican was to begin the process of searching for a historical document on the excommunication of the Roma from the Church, which was proclaimed in 1427. This document is of crucial historical importance because the excommunication of the Roma from the Catholic Church in the 15th century had long-term and devastating consequences for our community. It led to the legitimization of the persecution, discrimination and marginalization of the Roma throughout Europe for centuries.

The importance of the visit for the Roma community

This visit has enormous symbolic significance for the Roma community. An invitation from the highest authority of the Catholic Church is a clear signal that the voices of the Roma are heard and that our history and suffering are not forgotten. It is a step towards historical justice and recognition that the Roma are a full part of European society and Christian civilization.

Historic visit to the Vatican – Meeting with Pope Leo XIV.



Meeting with Pope Leo XIV.

Our visit to the Vatican at the invitation of the Holy Father was an absolutely exceptional and unforgettable event that left deep emotional traces and spiritual experiences in each of us that will forever be written in our hearts. This trip was not just an ordinary tourist visit to one of the holiest places in the Christian world, but it was an opportunity to participate in a general audience directly before the Holy Father, which represents for every believer an extraordinary moment of spiritual fulfillment and a meeting with the highest authority of the Catholic Church.

From the very beginning of our stay in Rome, we were surrounded by an atmosphere of hospitality and friendliness that pleasantly surprised us and exceeded all our original expectations. Immediately upon our arrival in the Eternal City, we were welcomed with open arms and a warm smile by the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Holy See, doc. JUDr. Pavel Svoboda, PhD., D.E.A., whose professionalism, humanity and incredible helpfulness immediately captivated us and showed us how important it is for the Czech representative office abroad to take care of its citizens and allow them to experience such important moments in a dignified manner.

Ambassador Svoboda did not limit himself to a formal welcome, but actively participated in the organization of our stay and showed a real interest in our mission and the activities of the Czechoslovak Roma Union. His willingness to help and personal commitment exceeded all our expectations, as we initially assumed standard diplomatic courtesy, but instead we encountered a genuine interest in our work and efforts to improve the situation of the Roma community. The Ambassador devoted his precious time to us, listened to our experiences from field social work and showed understanding for the problems that our organization faces every day in helping socially excluded families and individuals.



THANKS FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Dear donors and supporters,

On behalf of the Czechoslovak Roma Union and all the people we were able to help thanks to your generosity, we would like to sincerely thank you for the financial support you provided to our association in 2025.

Your contributions have enabled us to continue our humanitarian work and provide assistance to those most in need in our community.

Thanks to your support, we have been able to:

- ✓ Cook hot meals for people in need
- ✓ Provide support for socially vulnerable families
- ✓ Help homeless people
- ✓ Provide basic food to those in need

Your generosity has a concrete and measurable impact on the lives of dozens of people who have found themselves in difficult life situations. Every contribution means a hot meal, hope and the feeling that society has not forgotten them.

We are deeply grateful for your trust, solidarity and humanity that you show to the most vulnerable members of our society. Without your support, we would not be able to continue our mission.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

With respect and gratitude,

Karel Karika

Chairman of the Czechoslovak Roma Union



In 2025, we received more than 100,000 CZK in our donation account, which allowed us to continue this activity without interruption and even expand the number of portions we prepare and distribute every Sunday. We thank all donors who supported this important activity with their financial contributions.

Sunday cooking for the poor – 8 years without interruption

For the eighth year in a row, we have continued the tradition of cooking and distributing hot lunches to the poor and homeless on Sundays. This activity, which has become one of the pillars of our work, provides assistance to those most in need and is a symbol of our solidarity with people in need.



We thank all partners for their trust and support, which allows us to continue our work.

The year 2025 was a year of extraordinary successes, historical milestones and further strengthening of our activities for the Czechoslovak Roma Union. The professionalization of our association thanks to the support of the European Union, the continuation of community work in Mojžíř and Nové Přeblice, the awards of our members and, above all, the historic visit to the Vatican at the invitation of Pope Leo XIV are proof that our work has meaning and brings positive changes.

However, all our activities would not be possible without the support of our volunteers, partners, donors and members. We thank everyone who participated in our work and look forward to another year full of new opportunities, challenges and joint successes.

Together we can continue to bring positive changes to the lives of many people and build a more just and supportive society, where the dignity of every person is respected, regardless of their origin or social status.



+420 603443852

info@romskaunie.cz