



# Annual Report 2023

## Villa Vallila, registered institution



„Every day we learn something new...“

## An Introductory Word

2023 was a year of learning for the community of L'Arche Villa Vallila. After taking over the baton from the founders of Villa, we learned together in the community to be good stewards as well. We sometimes stumbled a bit during the year, but - as we know, one learns mainly from making mistakes - we managed everything together and with joy! And that's mainly due to a few things. One of them is that Villa Vallila is a stable community with a good foundation on which we can build further. And that stability is mainly made up of people. Even though some left, and others came last year, there is something solid in our team of Villacs (the core members) and assistants that holds us together and gives us a lot of strength. This cohesion is based on openness to accept the other's weaknesses and reciprocity. We experience each other in everyday moments here and support each other in meeting our own challenges and sufferings, which we overcome together. This is what we learn above all.

Furthermore, good founders form a good foundation. The founders, Eva and Mirek, were friends on the phone throughout the year, who advised with all sorts of technical issues or pleased with a kind word. In short, they are people who are here for us and we are here for them. Thanks for this!

We are also supported by affiliation with the International Federation of L'Arche (L'Arche Internationale), which supports us in our efforts to provide quality social services and create a good community of people.

The year 2023 was a year of learning, not only how to apply for the subsidy, support each other in the team or find lost sheep, but also how to trust that good things are blessed.

And it continues, as does the community of L'Arche Villa Vallila!

You can read about what important things we experienced in the community in 2023 and how we managed our finances on the following pages.

On behalf of the community,

Štěpánka Míchalová



## About the Community L'Arche Villa Vallila

Villa Vallila was founded as a civic association in 1996 with the aim of building a community house that would serve as a home for people who cannot live independently due to their health or social handicaps.

Following the example of L'Arche, a community of people with and without disabilities (residents and assistants) was created, in which people can develop their gifts and abilities as much as possible and are accepted and respected despite their handicaps. After an extensive reconstruction of the house, since 2001 we have been creating a community with the first residents and starting to provide social services.

Since 2004, we have been providing the social service sheltered housing according to Czech legislation, and since 2007 we have also been providing residential respite services for adults with mental, health or combined disabilities.

In 2018, we became a project of the International L'Arche Federation (L'Arche Villa Vallila, a project in the Czech Republic), which is the first stage of full membership in this organization, of which we became trial members this year.

Our mission is to enable people with disabilities to live a full life in the natural conditions of human society and to provide the residents of Villa Vallila with support in integrating them into the normal life in the social and work areas. For this purpose, we run a community house in Červený Újezd near Votice.

There are currently 10 permanent residents living in sheltered housing with various health or adaptation difficulties. In 2023, 23 people used the respite service during 128 stays. Together with the assistants who accompany them every day, they take care of the house, garden and animals, work in the therapeutic workshop, play in Vallilium Shakespeare's Theatre Group and participate in everything that life in the community brings.

*And that's us!*



# THE COMMUNITY OF L'ARCHE VILLA VALLILA BECAME A MEMBER OF THE L'ARCHE INTERNATIONALE IN A TRIAL PERIOD

From the very beginning, Villa Vallila was inspired by the community of L'Arche. In the more than 28 years of its existence, Villa Vallila has undergone a great development and has confirmed several times that the direction of becoming part of the wider L'Arche community is the right way for the community. Thus, in 2018, Villa Vallila was granted the status of "Project of L'Arche", which strengthened the community in its direction. Subsequently, in the fall of 2023, we submitted an application to change the status from "project" to "trial membership", which is another step towards full membership in the International L'Arche Federation.

Our community was officially accepted as a trial member by L'Arche Internationale's International Board of Trustees and leadership team in January 2024 (read letter on the next page). We slightly changed our logo, but the community remains fundamentally the same. In the same way that Villa Vallila's journey began, we continue, building on the idea of the founders.

Our current mentor from Archa, who regularly visits and accompanies us, is Johan Roose from Belgium. During his visit in June 2023, he took us through several evaluations. Together with Johan, the team of assistants and subsequently the Villacs, we carried out an evaluation of the first standard of Archa: "Core members are encouraged to live their gifts and grow as human beings". Within this standard, we evaluated the quality of the support provided in the areas of mental, physical, emotional, health, as well as in the areas of interests, work, personal growth and relationships within and outside the community. In addition, there was an evaluation of the new community leader in office and, last but not least, an evaluation of the criteria for the possibility of applying for membership in L'Arche. All evaluations took place in a good atmosphere, and we took away a lot of valuable suggestions for improving our work. We ended it all with a joint trip to a camel farm in Záhostice.



Johan visited us again in December together with his leader Laurence Rahmaoui, who got to know our community and at the same time announced the news of our membership in L'Arche. We also discussed another L'Arche standard: "Community Safety Standards and Goals," which includes the Code of Conduct, which we revised last year. Before returning to Belgium, Johan baked many trays of cookies with us and enjoyed the Advent concert.





To the Board Chair, Vít Herynek  
To the Community Leader, Štěpánka Míchalová  
To the International Representative, Johan Roose  
And to all the members of L'Arche Villa Vallila Community

January 2024

Re: Status of the L'Arche Villa Vallila community

Dear friends,

During their meetings in November and December 2023, the International Stewardship Board and the International Leadership Team considered the application made by L'Arche Villa Vallila Community to become a probationary community of the International Federation of L'Arche.

We were encouraged to hear about your community's journey over the years, especially the transition to the post-founder era. We are satisfied that the community is consistent with the Federation Charter, Constitution, and policies.

As such, the decision was a unanimous vote. It is with great joy that we welcome your community as a probationary member of the Federation.

As a probationary member, your community will continue to receive visits from the International Envoy, Johan Roose and will participate in all aspects of Federation life. You are asked to sign a Probationary Membership Agreement with the International Federation of L'Arche communities. However, you cannot exercise your right to vote until you are granted confirmed membership. As a member of the Federation, the International Constitution, the International charter, and policies of the Federation, which include financial transparency, payment of dues and solidarity with other communities apply to you.

We give thanks for your progress thus far and rejoice in the fact that we will continue this journey as fellow travellers. You can count on our support as you continue to deepen your relationships within the community and the Federation, and to develop the structures and means necessary to fulfil your mission.

Thank you for your community's gift to your local society, to the unity and diversity of your country and to the Federation.

Yours Sincerely,

Sylvain Brabant  
Interim CEO

## Pillars of L'Arche

You will learn about the four pillars of L'Arche on the following pages: Community, Professionalism, Spirituality and Outreach. These pillars are the main areas in which we operate and which we try to develop.

### SPIRITUALITY

We sit at the table. There are a lot of us, so we sit close. At least we're closer to each other again! There are potato dumplings with poppy seeds in the pot. When everyone finally finds his or her mug and the pre-lunch hustle and bustle dies down, it's time for a moment of silence. One often has some ideas about the prayer, it immediately vanishes when, while trying to express serious gratitude for today's lunch, when you hear from Mikuláš: "And how are you looking forward to the pork feast?" At that moment, after bursting out laughing, everyone understands how humour heals. In addition to these ordinary spiritual moments, Father Martin Sedloň from the parish in Klokoty sometimes comes to us and talks about relationships or communication. Last year, we also visited Father Sebastián Pavel Smrčina OFM in Pilsen and our long-time friend Father Karel Satoria in Kostelní Myslová, where we refreshed ourselves not only spiritually, but also physically by helping a little in the garden and gaining strength for further work.



### PROFESSIONALITY

It's great that there are professional speakers in the Villa, such as Pepa, who always courageously takes up the speech and saves us who are diffident. In addition to learning speeches, individuals in the team participated in the following courses throughout the year: musical therapy, art therapy, increasing mental resilience, reducing stress and managing emotions through mindfulness, time management, sexuality of people with intellectual disabilities.

Some of the workers were on internships in the sheltered housing Rolnička and in the workshop Eliáš in Prague. We also joined a group of confidants that deals with the issue of sexuality of people with intellectual handicaps. We have also started to cooperate with a psychologist Mgr. Veronika Plančíková, who regularly comes to the Villa for individual sessions with Villacs (core members) and gives them a different perspective on the difficulties they are experiencing. The team had also several supervisions and regular driver training during the year.





## OUTREACH

It's nice to live in a community, but it's also very good to be connected with the outside world. Last year, as usual, we collected garbage in the area during the "Clean Up the World" event. We also participated in the "Three Kings Collection" again. We went to many fairs to sell our products in nearby Chýnov, Borotín, Jistebnice, Soběslav, Bystřice, Sudoměř, Střezimíř, but also at the pre-Christmas fair of VOŠ Jabok in Prague. We were able to present the work of our therapeutic workshop again. A traditional Garden Party took place in the summer, where one could enjoy the band Brass Avenue, the jazz trio Trialog led by Štěpánka Havlíčková-Balcarová, Miluška Voborníková with her trio, the dance ensemble Labutěnky, the theatre performances by Anička Duchaňová and Letadýlko, the theatre group Našlose from Sedlčany and the theatre group from Tábor Hamlet's Omelettes. As every year, the newly rehearsed play was performed by the Villacs theatre company, in which the Villacs (core members of sheltered housing) play together with the assistants and other friends of the Villa. We also organized several visiting days in the Villa, so we were occasionally visited by former assistants, but also by people who did not know the Villa before. Regular visitors were also scouts who spent a weekend with us and helped us in the garden or in the house. During Advent, the traditional wreath weaving took place by women from different parts of the region.



## COMMUNITY

The most important is the community, i.e., the community that we create here. To do this, you need to meet, which happens every day at work and around the table. Once a month, the whole community gathers in the so-called community days, during which we pickle vegetables, rake leaves, but also plan, feast and celebrate. Several members of our community celebrated their birthdays last year. We also like to meet and connect with the local community, for example at a firefighters' or masquerade ball. However, the village forms also a community, and we are grateful that Červený Újezd supports us. From time to time, we go out of the Villa and Újezd communities, for example to Prague, where we spent last year's community holiday at the Rooseveltova Special Elementary School and got to know the beauty of not only the city, but also Okoř Castle. Life continues, so some of us set out for the Alps and others for the fifth time on foot from Újezd to Tábor or from Miličín to Prčice ("Prague-Prčice March"). We slept under the stars with the hardy ones on a hike in Kokořínsko and went to the swimming pool. We also went down the Lužnice River on canoes with Diaconia Rolnička or went to their events Dobroběh and

Rolnička Ball. Villa's friend Ben took the Villacs on an adventurous boat trip and we also carved in stone at a nice event called Stone Sculpting in Kamenná near Všechny. In addition to countless walks and small rides in the surroundings, it is also worth mentioning a trip to Červený Hrádek and to the christening of foals in Cunkov. Another year of the singing competition Villácký drozd took place. And so here we go at every moment...



## Arrivals and Leaves

At the beginning of April, Renata Kocourková, who conscientiously worked as a house leader and was in charge of all operational matters, ended her service after ten years. But

Renata didn't leave completely. She has become an auditor and a person responsible for accounting for the public collection and also helps us with the creation of individual plans of the Villacs. She is still our good friend and we are always happy to see her.

In February, a selection procedure was held and Lucie Adámková, who had already worked in the Villa for six years as an assistant, was elected as the new head of the house. Lucka has taken on her new role very successfully and because she has known Villa for so many years, she is a great support for the community. One of the first things she did in her new role was to make the first Villa honey. In addition to the team of assistants of the house, he also takes care of two Villa's bee colonies.

Eliška Králová, who took over from Lucie on a part-time basis, went through the selection procedure for the position of an assistant. Eliška has a great enthusiasm for her work, and she is also a great baker! Her cakes have already appeared at many villa celebrations.

Last year, there was also a farewell to a member of the Board, **Martin Prokop**, who has always delighted the Villacs with his musical skills. Martin is still supporting us and will be helping us with the creation of a new website this year.

**Petr Petrlík**, the new member of the Board, successfully passed the admission procedure, he cut wood even without gloves! Petr brings new ideas to the board and helps Villa with the financial side. He's also a great musician, and that's what we love at Villa!

In February, we accepted a new member of the community into sheltered housing - **Štěpán Mareš**. There are beautiful moments when

you go to the Villa in the morning and Štěpán calls from the fence: "Woman, the sheep already have hay!" Suddenly, all unfortunate thoughts become petty. Or when he hides behind a tree, and you also hide behind a tree, and you both wait to see who can last longer. Štěpán is simply a joker, and in the words of the Villacs: "Even though it's sometimes difficult with him, he belongs here!"



## People in Villa Vallila

The Villacs, inhabitants of the community house are the core of the whole community, because without them none of the following would be here. In 2023, there were 10 people living in the community - Roman, Mikuláš, David, Pavel, Tereza, Hana, Vera, Josef, Petr and Štěpán. They are people with various types of handicaps who cannot live completely independently, and therefore use the social service of sheltered housing directly in a community house or in two separate apartments. Everyone is involved in the life of the community according to their possibilities and abilities, in the therapeutic workshop, in the garden, in the home. Some of them also commute to work, visit the workshop in Rolnička Tábor or go to courses in Rytmus in Benešov. Every Villac is a person for whom we are grateful!

The community also provides respite services for people with disabilities who come to Villa for weekend or week-long stays. Their stay in the Villa and the associated change of environment will help not only them, but also the families who take care of them all year round. During stays, they are involved in community life and daily activities. We provide three beds for the service, which accommodated 23 people last year. They always bring a fresh air to the community.



The users of both services are accompanied by six **assistants – social service workers**, who take care of the household and farm with them on a daily basis, support Villacs in their daily activities and help them fulfil their personal plans. Each of the assistants has their own specific skills and thus enriches the community. Some people like to play, others like gardening or making jams. In short, everyone does what they can!



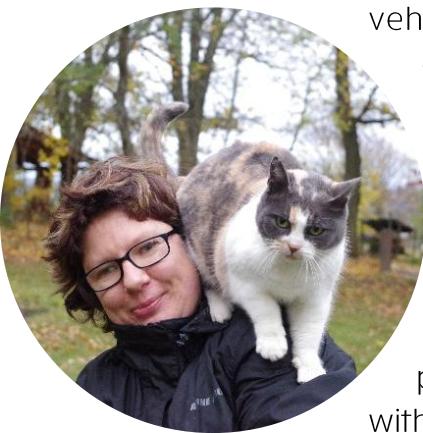
Part of the house is a therapeutic workshop in which people from the community, together with two **workshop workers**, create small products, learn work skills and train fine motor skills. Workshop girls are very creative, so they can design, for example, the production of fly swatters to catch any fly!

The head of the house and a social worker **are responsible for the operation of the entire community house**. They organize the operation and lead the assistants of the house, ensure quality teamwork, handle the affairs of the core members, coordinate their work activities, interview those interested in social services and generally coordinate the provision of social services. The advantage of our house manager is that she likes to plant flowers all around the house, so it just blooms here!



The operation of the entire organization is managed by **the community leader**, who is responsible for leading people, the safe operation of the community house, the good condition of the building, financial and economic security, and the good functioning of the entire community. She performs her leadership position primarily as a service to the community. She works closely with the team and external accountants, creates the organization's strategic plans, represents the organization in public, and also enjoys herding sheep from one pasture to another!

Technical matters are taken care of by a **technical worker – a maintenance man**, who provides the necessary repairs and maintenance on an ongoing basis, takes care of the operation of our vehicle and also renovates or repairs what is needed. It can easily involve every Villak in the maintenance.



The advisory and supervising body is the Board, which is headed by the President of the Board. The Board has six members and works closely with the management of the organization. Members participate in planning, control the organization's finances, support in making major decisions about the future direction of the organization's activities, participate in community events, are part of the donors' forum and help with the financial side of the organization. Above all, they are great people!

In 2023, our team was represented by:

Miroslav Novák  
Štěpánka Míchalová  
Pavel Vopat  
Renata Kocourková  
Dáša Bartáková  
Ilona Pavlíková  
Lucie Adámková  
Maruška Birhanzlová  
Eliška Králová  
Jaroslava Korandová  
Markéta Lovett  
Kateřina Dlabová  
Eva Suchá



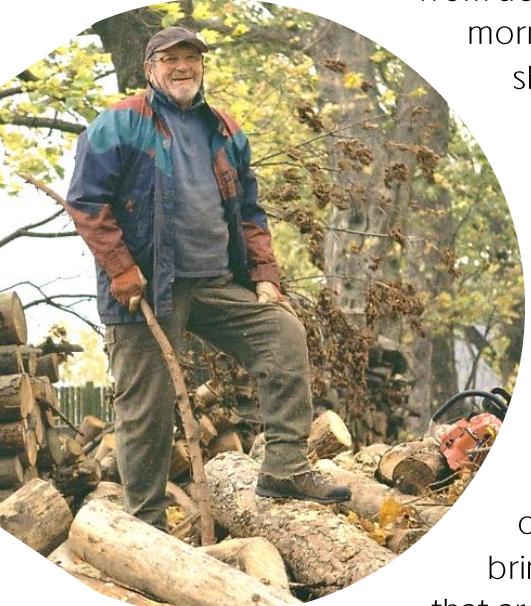
## Volunteers

Volunteers always bring new ideas to the community and help us in our daily work. They also see what is already hidden from our eyes....

In 2023, we were helped by: Stanislav Mareš, Dagmar Bartáková, Zuzana Havelková, Anna Herbenová, Miroslav Novák, Jitka Zimová, Jenovéfa Kučerová, Jakub Novák, Sofie, Eva, Vladka and others, who contributed to the community by their time. We will introduce some of them.

For many years, Dagmar Bartáková, aka Dáša, has been persistently and joyfully coming to the community every Monday to cook lunch for all of us with one of the Villacs! Even if one has a tendency to succumb to the stream of those who don't like Monday, Dáša will prevent him

from doing so, because she welcomes us with her smile from early Monday morning and always prepares a meal cooked with love for lunch! Also, she is a good and creative housewife who always processes what is needed. Thanks for it!



Stanislav Mareš aka Mister Mareš has been helping to cut wood in Villa for many years. He always tells us when it's time and he does it himself! He also regularly opens the spring season by roasting sausages with Villacs. He often thinks of our community and brings us used but still working things that are useful to us at the moment. He is a man with a big heart. Thanks for it!



Sofie aka Sofi is a girl from Ukraine who visited us last year and spent almost the whole summer in the community. She quickly became a friend of all Villacs, helped us with drying hay and also paddled persistently while going down the Lužnice River with the Villacs. Thanks for it!



Jakub Novák, aka Kubik, is the youngest volunteer of Villa Vallily! From time to time, he comes to us and plays "Ludo" with the Villacs or comes up with other boyish things. We already know that he prefers a roll with strawberry jam (without butter!). He always brightens up the mood as well other people coming to the Villa just for fun. Thanks for him and for everyone else!



## Projects and plans

At the beginning of the year, we created a so-called map of Villa Vallila to regain awareness of what the community has experienced, what is important to its inhabitants and where they are heading.

We created the map in several parts. First, we talked to the community about the points in the history of Villa Vallila from its foundation until now. Next, we talked about what our dreams and goals are, i.e., what we perceive to be important for the community right now. We also looked at the obstacles and limits that could threaten us or that we are afraid of. We also realized what the good and strengths of our community are and what we like about Villa Vallila. In the end, we created an action plan from the individual goals and the individual steps we will take in 2023.

In the winter months, we evaluated the whole year and created a plan for 2024.

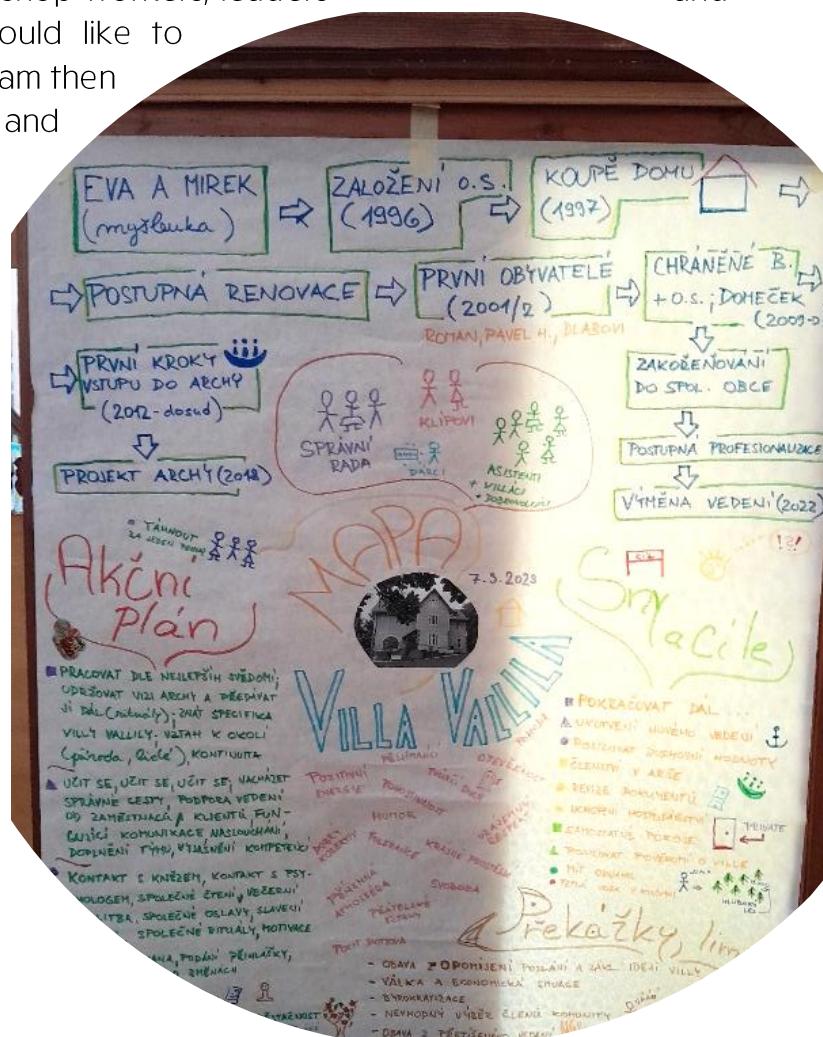
In the teams of Villacs, house assistants, workshop workers, leaders

and

volunteers, we thought about what we would like to change, improve or keep in our area. Each team then presented the plan to the entire community, and together we chose the most important goals.

So what are our plans for this year? (The following goals apply to the entire community. Individuals also have their personal goals within the framework of individual planning)

- start a candle workshop
- Update the tree of community members in the hallway
- Plant trees on Skalice
- Clean and repair the playground
- Present our community in schools
- Visit L'Arche in Slovenia and spend a community holiday there
- Promote cohesion
- Create information leaflets
- Build a new woodshed, renovate the shed
- Create a new website
- Paint the rooms
- Cook food for homeless people
- Support L'Arche in Zimbabwe
- Establish regular meetings with the clergy
- Revise some documents
- Organize a cooking and glass painting class
- And other smaller goals



# Hooray for it!

## Support us

The Villa Vallila organization is financed from the state budget from the part intended for non-profit organizations. The subsidy for social services is always provided for one calendar year. A large part of the annual budget is generated by financial donations from donors. Thanks to the kind sponsors, who are also supporters of Villa Vallila, the funding of the organization is well secured this year as well. For specific one-off projects, we address foundations and endowment funds. In 2023, we received a new car from the European Regional Development Fund.

The provision of social services, the operation of the community house and other necessary costs for the development of the organization in 2023 were supported by:

**Institutions:** Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic, Central Bohemian Region, Municipality of Červený Újezd

**Organizations:** Foundation of Petra and Petr Petrlík, Immunia Ltd., Havel & Partners Ltd., Anylopex plus Ltd., Pronatura Ltd., Roman Catholic Parish Sedlec-Prčice, Baroque courtyard Borotín, Choir Domino Tábor, Brewery Merklín, ABAK Tiskárna Ltd., Tiskárna Tria

**Individual Donors:** Denisa Blažková, Ivan Fencl, Vít Herynek, Jindřich Holčák, Ondřej Klípa, Barbora Kosová, Irena Kovaříková, David Kovařovic, Jan Lachman, Jiří Michal, Zuzana Moravcová, Jiří Muller, Martin Prokop, Jindříška Prokopová, Jiří Růžek, Dana Šeferniová, Milan Tejnor, Ondřej Vlček, Luboš Musil, Johana Kratochvíla

We would like to thank all donors and supporters for their support. Every donation is greatly appreciated and every help is a great strength for us, which supports not only Villa Vallila in living its mission, but especially people who can develop in the community and live their lives meaningfully and worthily.



HAVEL & PARTNERS  
ÚSPĚCH SPOJUJE



Středočeský kraj

IMMUNIA

ABAK  
Reklamní  
agentura

anylopex



EVROPSKÁ UNIE  
Evropský fond pro regionální rozvoj  
Financováno v rámci reakce Unie na pandemii COVID-19  
Integrovaný regionální operační program



MINISTERSTVO  
PRO MÍSTNÍ  
ROZVOJ ČR

DOMINO

PIVOVAR PETR PETRUŽÁLK  
ppp

## Management

Being a good manager is one of the essential skills that one must learn. In 2023 we managed to operate very well. Even the hay, which steamed in our bales, we successfully dried for the second time on Charles Square – the area in front of the Villa named after Karel Sládek, a supporter of the Villa. Due to the change of management and the caution associated with it, we have managed to save donations that we will use this year for planned projects.

## Income statement for 2023

EXPENSES		INCOMES	
Material costs	135 000	Revenues from stays	841 000
House equipment	35 000	Payments for care	740 000
Food	640 000	Incomes for food	641 000
Energy	271 000	Operating subsidies of state institutions	3 187 000
Repair & Maintenance	105 000	Interests	141 000
Telephone charges + internet	18 000	Rental income	19 000
Legal and economic services	101 000		
Other services	231 000		
Insurance	39 000		
Labour costs	2 849 000		
Legal social costs	894 000		
Other social costs	74 000		
Bank and other fees	20 000		
Depreciation of tangible assets	19 000		
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>5 431 000</b>	<b>Total incomes</b>	<b>5 569 000</b>



# Basic Organization Data

## Founders of Villa Vallila, registered institution

Eng. Miroslav Klípa  
Eng. Pavel Bratinka  
PhDr. Jan Klípa, Ph.D.  
MSc. Šimon Hradilek

## First Community Leader:

MSc. Eva Klípová

**Residence:** Červený Újezd u Votic 32, 257 88

**ID No.:** 67778399

**e-mail:** villa@vallila.cz

**web:** www.vallila.cz

**Bank details:** KB Praha 2 – Náměstí Míru, account no.: 27-3563450287/0100  
public collection ČSOB, account no.: 219720109/0300

**Community House:** L'Arche Villa Vallila, Červený Újezd u Votic 32, 257 88

House leader: Renata Kocourková until March 2023, Lucie Adámková since April 2023

## Bodies of the Institution:

Community Leader: Bc. Štěpánka Míchalová

Board: MSc. Vít Herynek, Ph.D. (předseda)

MSc. Václava Bratinková

MSc. Martina Herynková

Eng. Jindřiška Prokopová

Eng. Petr Petrlík

Denisa Blažková, MD

Auditor: MSc. Jitka Zimová until Feb. 2023, Renata Kocourková since March 2023

