

Inspiration Forum 2025

Final Report

A platform of the Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival for thinking about the contemporary world
www.inspirationforum.com



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The Inspiration Forum is a discussion and educational platform of the Ji.hlava Festival. For **15 years**, it has been introducing topics that shape the contemporary world and connecting expert knowledge, cultural perspectives and practical experience. In 2025, the Festival offered four thematic days dedicated to **Europe, relationships, money and radicalisation**.

The programme is designed to be accessible to a wide audience while remaining academically accurate. In addition to debates, it featured lectures, workshops, participation formats, performative walks and artistic encounters – formats that not only allow topics to be heard, but also to be understood and related to our own experience.

Listening and open dialogue lie at the heart of the Forum. Once again, this year's edition has shown that the path to a better life does not begin with ready-made answers, but with a willingness to ask new questions.

“You always learn something new, you delve into a topic in greater depth, and you also have the opportunity to look at an issue from a different perspective.”

◀ — Inspiration Forum attendee ▶

We Open Dialogue

Our 15th year in numbers

4

topics

48

programme blocks

3 697

visitors

and

700

online

programme views

4

Inspirational Meetings
in participation format

101

speakers and

6

facilitators

3

workshops and

8

Inspirational
Yoga lessons

15

students and **30** articles
and interviews in the IF News
workshop

107

participants
in Inspirational Meetings

26

IF Matchmaking meetings

22 325

website visits over
the course of September
and October 2025

13

live-recorded podcasts

We Look for Connections 2025

The Forum's topics are a response to the challenges that shape our society. Each topic was focused on a different area, but we traced the subtle threads that connected them – from the vision for a united Europe, relationships and the body to money and the insidious mechanisms of radicalisation.

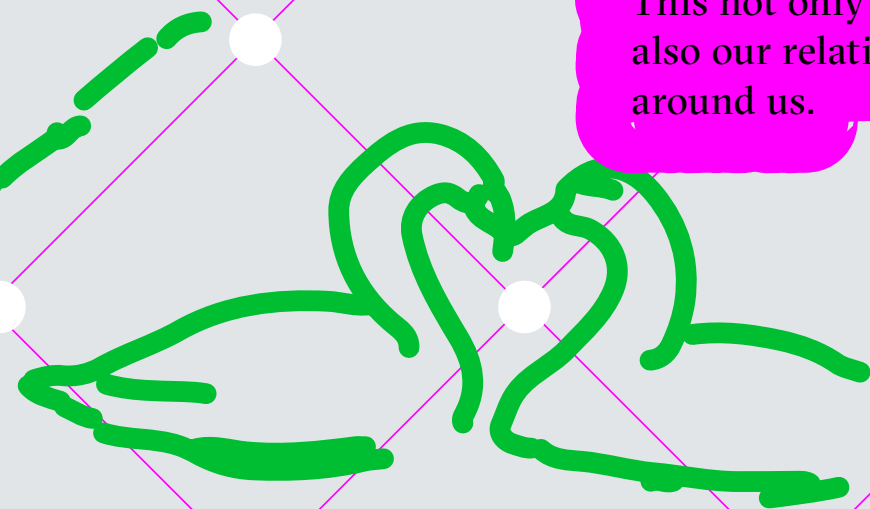


On Europe: an old continent facing new questions

This year, we looked at Europe through the prism of the future: what do we want to create together and what separates us? We talked about war, security, cooperation, mistrust, disinformation and the hopes we place in Europe.

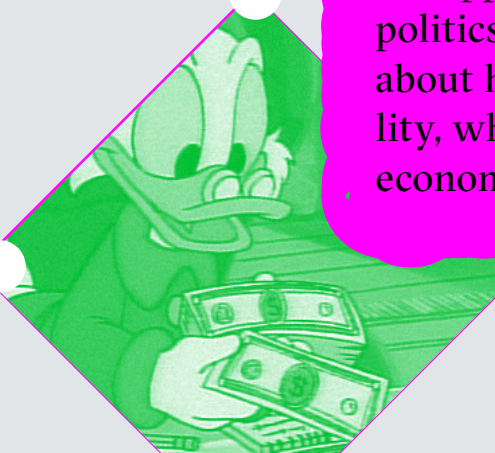
Heart and Love: Caring for relationships, the body and the world

We explored how relationships shape the quality of our lives and what we need to grow in them. This not only involves love between people, but also our relationship with ourselves and the world around us.



Money: It makes the world go round – but in what direction and why?

We approached money as a force that shapes politics, society and everyday life. We talked about how money works, what creates inequality, what role oligarchs play and how to protect economic and civil liberties.

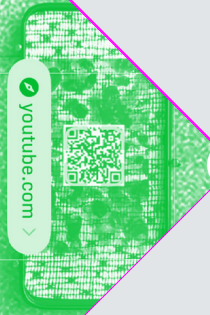


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We Are Radicalising: Rediscovering understanding in the digital world

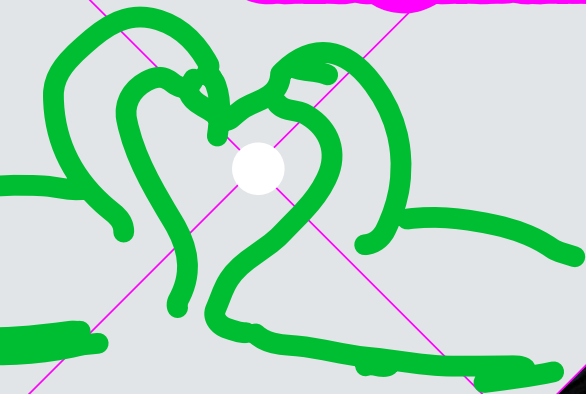
We examined radicalisation in everyday life in the digital world and how algorithms, loneliness and mistrust lead to extremes. We paid particular attention to the womanosphere – an on-line space where specific forms of radicalisation among women are taking shape.



We Connect Worlds

The Inspiration Forum's audience

We emphasise active audience participation and create a space where different experiences and perspectives can come together while debating current topics.



Audience

An audience of all ages, often with secondary and higher education, who perceive documentary film not only as art, but as a way to understand politics, society, technology and their own lives.

Professionals from the areas of film and culture

Directors, producers, festival curators, film critics and film school students. The Inspiration Forum serves as a social think tank and a source of topics, contacts and new collaborations for them.

The broader professional community and civil society

Researchers and academics, journalists, educators, and individuals from non-profit organisations, public administration and civic initiatives, who use the Forum as a space where theory, politics, and everyday practice meet – and a place where they can compare their own perspectives with those of others.

The local audience from Jihlava and the surrounding region

City residents, regional students and the general public. These individuals bring their experience of life in the region to the discussions – including work, family background, care and the everyday realities outside major cities.

The online and hybrid audience

People who watch recordings of debates, podcasts or the Ji.hlava online programme. Some are familiar with the festival; for others, the Inspiration Forum is their first contact with Ji.hlava – exclusively in digital space.

Families and older audiences

A growing group: parents with children and older viewers who come for topics such as relationships, care and social change. For these individuals, the Inspiration Forum represents a safe space for intergenerational dialogue.

How Our Audience Sees Us

The Inspiration Forum has long been one of the most highly rated segments of the Ji.hlava Festival. According to this year's evaluations, attendees particularly appreciate **the quality of guests, the clarity, the open and cultivated atmosphere**, and the interconnectedness of topics throughout the individual days. The programmes have a significant personal, civic and professional impact, and people utilize them in their work, teaching, community life and relationships.

What people take away

"You always learn something new or you delve into a topic in greater depth."

"Gaining insight into topics that I don't normally encounter was very enriching."

"I've gained new information and things to think about."

"I have nearly one whole page of notes."

Impact on their lives and work

"I've gained new arguments for discussions and conversations in my life."

"I'm a teacher, so it's essential for me to be interested in things."

"I work as a volunteer in a retirement home, and the Inspiration Forum has inspired me. I'd like to approach things creatively."

"As a filmmaker who's concerned about social issues and politics, I came for inspiration and starting points to learn about these topics, and it's worked very well."

Personal experience

"I'm leaving the festival in good spirits; it's been a great experience."

"I'm taking away several inspiring ideas, and I'm going to share them with my loved ones."

"It's simply food for thought."

"I don't spend so much time around young people anymore, so it's broadened my horizons."

How people view the formats and topics

"For me, the most interesting part of the Inspiration Forum was the participatory meeting; I feel like it really broadened my horizons."

"It's true that one lecture isn't going to change things, but I do find the medley of opinions interesting."

"The format of daily themes is nice."

Quality of guests and overall impression

"The guests were selected well! They were diverse and interesting; there were „familiar names“, but also room for new faces."

"I really liked the selection of guests and topics. It's obvious that a lot of work went into it."

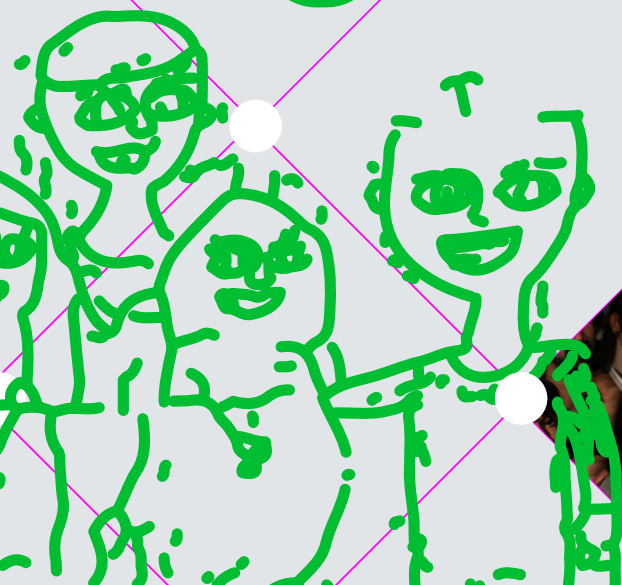
"The selection of guests was comprehensive and diverse."

"The Inspiration Forum is great! We'll probably come again."

"10/10."

What the data shows

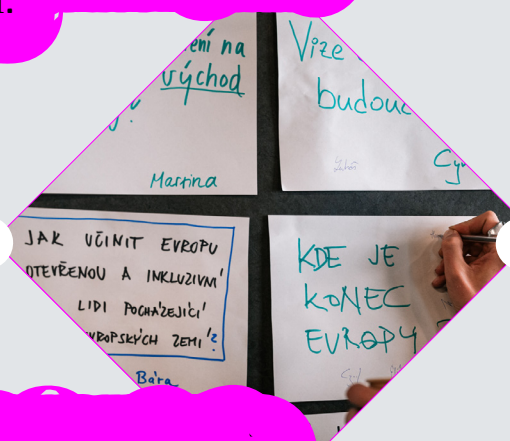
- The audience views the Forum as a **reliable point of reference** in times of rapid changes.
- The audience appreciates **the combination of expertise and clarity**.
- The programmes have **real impacts** – from professional inspiration to changes in communication, learning and community work.
- Participation formats are **the highlight of the festival** for some visitors – they allow for open dialogue and the joint creation of topics in a way that's unique in the Czech cultural environment.



A Space for Joint Reflection *Inspirational Mixer*




In 2025, three participatory gatherings were held in Open Space format and one participatory workshop, *Good Morning, Czech Republic!*, was led by facilitators from the *NaZemi* organisation.



How it works

At the beginning of the meeting, participants propose topics under the guidance of facilitators that they'd like to discuss together. They are divided into smaller groups and engage in dialogue, formulating their positions and listening to others. The roles of speaker and audience are blurred – every voice is important.

For some, these formats are a crucial moment of the festival, as they don't normally experience such open dialogues. They also encounter people they wouldn't normally meet – from a various array of professions, generations and life experiences.



It is precisely this diversity that shows how our opinions are formed, what shapes us and how understanding can be sought despite our varying perspectives.

What was discussed

How to have strong relationships in fragile times
closeness, boundaries, long-term relationships,
intergenerational tension

The Europe we want

regulation of social networks, security and freedom,
the future of nation states, the role of the Czech Republic

How to talk to one another, even when we disagree

dialogue across different opinions and generations,
working with emotions during conflicts

Good morning, Czech Republic!

A shared vision of the story we want to tell about
ourselves as a country, both at home and abroad

What People Took Away

"For me, the most interesting part of the Inspiration Forum was the participatory meeting; I feel like it really broadened my horizons."

— IF visitor

"I work as a volunteer in a retirement home, and the Inspiration Forum has inspired me. I'd like to approach things creatively, and I like the idea of creating community projects."

— IF visitor

"It was the first time I listened to people outside my social bubble talk about how they see the world."

— IF visitor

We Discover New Voices and Perspectives

This year's speakers

When selecting speakers, we pay attention to their expertise and the diversity of their perspectives. We invite personalities who bring deep knowledge, practical experience and the ability to open up new connections. The curator's selection is conceptual and connects experts, researchers, journalists, artists and public figures from the Czech Republic and abroad. This has enabled dozens of prominent voices to come together once again this year at the Forum, shaping the festival's social debate.

Eviane Leidig (United States of America)

Online content researcher

Researcher into online extremism and the narratives used by the far right to appeal primarily to women. She works at the Centre for Research on Extremism at the University of Oslo.

Izzeldin Abuelaish (Palestine/Canada)

Doctor and peace activist

Palestinian-Canadian doctor, peace activist and author of the book *I Shall Not Hate*, nominated five times for the Nobel Peace Prize for his activities.



Oleksii Reznikov (Ukraine)

Lawyer and negotiator

Lawyer and former Minister of Defence of Ukraine.

Klára Šimáčková Laurenčíková (Czech Republic)

Special educator and government commissioner for human rights

Expert on children's mental health and inclusion.

From 2022 to 2025, she served as government commissioner for human rights and deputy minister for European affairs.

Grace Blakeley (United Kingdom)

Economist and publicist

Author of *Vulture Capitalism*. Commentator on the structural power of money, inequality and the role of corporations. Contributor to Tribune Magazine.



Jeffrey A. Winters (United States of America)

Political scientist and scholar on elites

Professor at Northwestern University. His book *Oligarchy* has transformed the debate on the political power of wealth. He explores the ways in which powerful elites influence the functioning of democracies.

Andreas Weber (Germany)

Biologist and philosopher

Author of books on ecology, physicality and the spirituality of nature. He combines science, philosophy and poetry to show how life is interconnected through a network of relationships and interdependencies.

And many other personalities...

Marie Heřmanová, social anthropologist and journalist, **Miloš Vystrčil**, chairman of the Czech Senate, **Markéta Gregorová**, politician and activist, **Kevin Chen**, writer, **Kateřina Šedá**, artist, **Petr Vizina**, journalist, **Anna Šabatová**, politician, **Paul Hilder**, political strategist, **Jan Charvát**, political scientist and sociologist, **Helena Truchlá**, journalist and analyst, **Kateřina Klapilová**, sexologist, psychologist and scientist, **Jan Farský**, Member of the European Parliament, **Veronika Vichová**, defence analyst, **Radek Kubala**, sociological researcher, **Petr Kaniok**, political scientist, **Diana Fabiánová**, documentary filmmaker, **Tomáš Feřtek**, documentary filmmaker and publicist, **Vladimíra Dvořáková**, political scientist, **Filip Zelenka**, journalist and political scientist, **Zuzana Jiráček Fillingerová**, therapist, **Linda Bartošová**, journalist and presenter, **Miroslav Palanský**, tax and corruption researcher, **Markéta Pechová**, field worker, **Marie Krpata**, researcher, **Jan Bělíček**, literary critic and journalist, **David Tišer**, activist and artist, **Martin Jonáš**, journalist and reporter, **Táňa Dluhošová**, researcher at the Oriental Institute, **Matouš Hrdina**, publicist, and others.



Art in Dialogue with Research

Inspiration Forum Lab

The Inspiration Forum Lab is a biennial interdisciplinary programme of the Inspiration Forum that connects art and research. It creates a space where artists and scientists can meet, explore common themes and develop new multimedia projects.

Inspiration Forum Lab 25/26 – Trajectories

This year's edition focuses on **trajectories** – as movements across time, space, ecosystems and social structures. Trajectories as traces left behind by data, bodies and institutions, or transformations whose patterns we're still searching for. The festival featured a five-day introductory meeting: lectures, readings, the sharing of research, field observations, and initial proposals for interdisciplinary collaboration. This will be followed by meetings in Ljubljana and Bratislava in 2026.

IF Lab

Uses art to enable the search for new worlds and new ways of thinking about them.

Brings together science, art and social issues into a single, shared perspective.

Connects the worlds of art and science and seeks out a new language for the sharing of knowledge across disciplines and audiences.

Previous editions

The previous edition of the IF Lab (2023/2024) was dedicated to **water** as a resource that shapes landscapes, bodies and ways of caring for **Bodies of Water**. In 2021/2022, the Lab focused on **planetary limits** – the **Limits of Growth**. Final exhibitions took place at the Display Gallery in Prague.



We Give Space to Young Voices

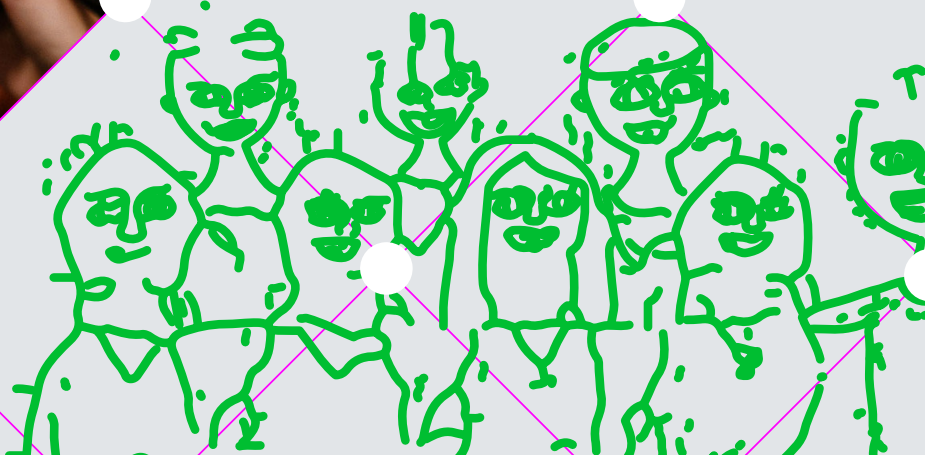
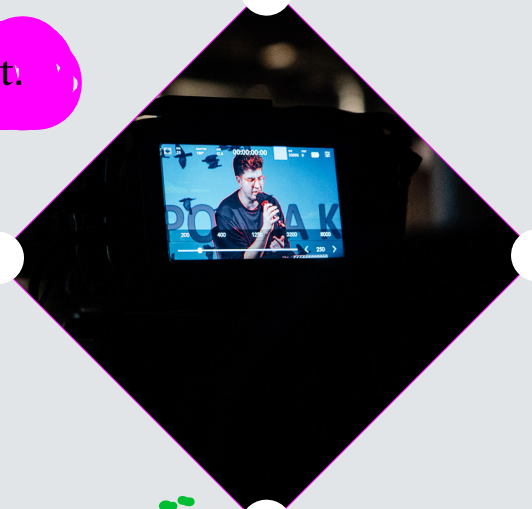
IF News workshop

We support the new generation of journalists and introduce them to topics that shape their future and the world in which they'll be working.

Fifteen budding journalists joined the festival newsroom under the guidance of Zdeněk Veit, deputy editor-in-chief of the Czech Press Agency. During the festival, 30 texts were produced – reports, reflections and four interviews with guests of the Inspiration Forum. All were published on the IF's website.

What participants take away

- practical experience from the festival newsroom,
- conducting interviews with experts,
- writing analytical and contextual texts,
- editing and publishing in a professional environment.



We Connect Film and Science

Inspiration Forum Matchmaking

Matchmaking connects documentary filmmakers with experts from the Inspiration Forum community. It creates a space where they can work together to find topics, questions and stories that have the potential to become a film, series or podcast.

How it works

Scientists bring their research, contexts, data and personal experience to individual meetings. Documentary filmmakers share the ways in which they think about film, and together they look for paths to approach topics in a way that's understandable, accurate and powerful for audiences.

This year's results

In 2025, 26 matchmaking meetings took place. Some pairs decided to continue and are now working on initial concepts for various audiovisual formats. Creators and experts have gained new insights, contacts and a clearer idea of how to tell their stories.

Matchmaking helps:

- scientists share their findings with a broader audience,
- documentary filmmakers find new topics and stories rooted in expert knowledge,
- expand the impact of the Inspiration Forum into specific creative projects.

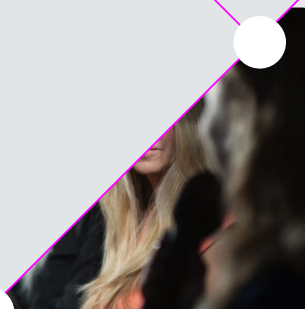


The Inspiration Continues Even after the Festival Ends *Video recordings of the programme at Ji.hlava Online*

After the festival, the programmes remain available **free of charge** on the festival's YouTube channel and on the Inspiration Forum website. This allows them to live on outside the festival and reach audiences who would otherwise not have access to the debates.



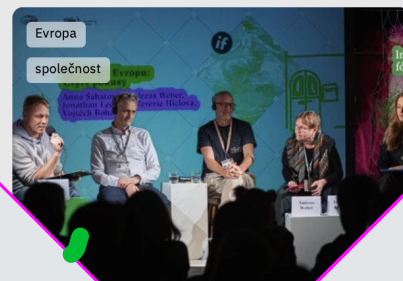
pomínek
owadoschová
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sex a swajpování
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Láska mezi námi
Sufian Massalema
Elena Pecénová
Hana Nguyen...



Evropa
společnost



svob
válka

Inspiration Forum Screenshot Podcast Series

This series presents the most interesting aspects of contemporary global thinking and explores themes of the Inspiration Forum in depth. It places them in the Czech and global context and raises questions that have often not yet entered the public debate.

SCREEN
SHOT

if



Season 6 with Pavla Hubálková

Science journalist Pavla Hubálková introduced the work of environmental philosopher Timothy Morton, feminist theorist Helen Hester, economist Nick Srnick, lawyer Kirthi Jayakumar and activist Cheryl Maloney. Each series also includes recordings of selected discussions from the Inspiration Forum in original form for those who want to revisit the topics in their headphones.

Previous series

In previous years, the series were prepared by Matouš Hrdina, Klára Vlasáková, Lukáš Senft, Kateřina Smejkalová and Ivo Bystřičan. All 80 episodes are available free of charge on the [*Inspiration Forum's website*](#), Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Deník Referendum.



Timothy Morton



Cheryl Maloney



Helen Hester

We Bring Topics into the Public Sphere

Media coverage and public debate,

This year's Inspiration Forum resonated within Czech media space. Its topics appeared in major news media, cultural magazines and professional platforms for science and technology.

- Reports and interviews were published by iDNES.cz, Czech Television, Seznam Zprávy, Deník N, Voxpot, Deník Referendum, Heroine, Jihlavské listy and others.
- The topics of female radicalisation and the mission of peace attracted the most interest.

Media Response to the Inspiration Forum

"The Inspiration Forum is the Jihlava Festival's discussion platform, which focuses on key topics over the course of five days. It connects audiences with figures from the worlds of science, art and civil society."

← iDNES.cz, 16 June 2025

"The events of the Inspiration Forum are sold out. Topics included Europe, an old continent facing new questions, and Heart and Love: Caring for relationships, the body and the world."

← iDNES.cz, 29 October 2025

N Vzdej se feminismu, je to lež, vrať se k tradici, hlásá ženosféra

Anastasiia Furr

"We'll be talking about justice, dignity and values", explains Forum leader Tereza Swadoschová.

← Jihlavská Drbna, 24 June 2025

"Dozens of guests from home and abroad will head to Jihlava to discuss the future of Europe, relationships, money and radicalisation"
— **Jihlavské listy, 12 October 2025**

"Much of the content they create on social media is related to self-development. Other topics include gender-focused issues such as health and mental well-being, food blogging, motherhood and pregnancy. These are apolitical topics. However, these women often insert their political ideology into lifestyle posts in order to reach a wider audience."

— **Heroine, 22 October 2025**

"Unfortunately, with the advent of new conservatism, the original, traditional perception is returning: women should be beautiful, and this beauty is determined by the male gaze", comments Ferjančková.

— **Heroine, 24 October 2025**

"It's necessary to understand that the security, freedom, dignity and rights of Israelis are inextricably linked to the security, freedom, dignity and rights of Palestinians."

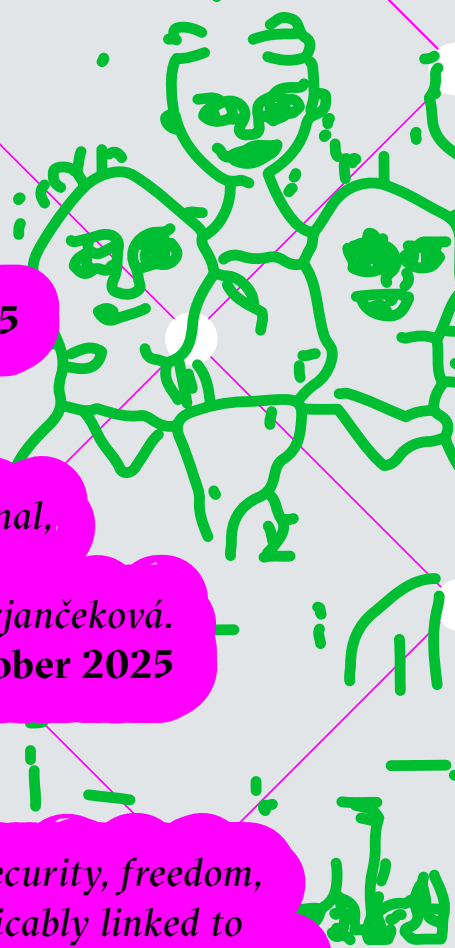
— **Seznam Zprávy, 30 October 2025**

"Izzeldin Abuelaish, a Palestinian-Canadian doctor and peace activist who has been nominated four times for the Nobel Peace Prize, was a distinguished guest. His powerful story resonated deeply."

— **iDNES.cz, 4 November 2025**

"The financial crisis was followed by a pandemic, then an energy crisis, and now an arms crisis looms over us all... and apparently everyone is to blame for everything. The Bittner brothers' live show offered the audience at Jihlava a universal recipe for all current and future problems: the knowledge of compound interest."

— **Deník Referendum, 7. November 2025**



Become a Partner of the Inspiration Forum

The Inspiration Forum creates a space where science, culture, civil society and younger and older generations meet and to mutually seek out new ways to understand the world and change it for the better.

1. Link your brand with a respected platform for public debate

The IF has long been one of the most highly rated parts of the festival, attracting media, experts and the general public. Partnership strengthens visibility in a space where the topics of today are being created.

2. Reach diverse professional and civic audiences

From researchers and journalists to students, families and regional audiences, IF reaches tens of thousands of people live, online and through podcasts.

3. Support the creation of innovative projects and interdisciplinary collaborations

Matchmaking connects film and science, while IF Lab develops collaboration between art and research. Partnerships give rise to documentaries, exhibitions, podcasts and research projects

4. Become part of a community that thinks ahead

We collaborate with institutions that share the values of openness, dialogue, education and responsibility. Our partnerships are long-term and based on a common goal: to strengthen democracy, the culture of dialogue and society's ability to understand itself.

We Appreciate Your Support

We would like to thank all our partners, sponsors and institutions whose involvement is broadening the Inspiration Forum's impact and helping us advance public debate and social imagination.



In the year 2025 Inspiration forum
was supported by:



Main Inspiration Forum partner

ERSTE

Stiftung



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• Visegrad Fund
• •



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CZECH CENTRES

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Inspiration Forum partnerships

IOCB TEC-H
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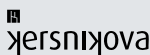


Státní fond kultury ČR



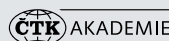
MINISTERSTVO
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IF matchmaking partnership



IF Lab partnership

NOVINÁŘSKÝ
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IF News partnerships

Mezinárodní festival
dokumentárních
filmů Ji.hlava

Ji.hlava International
Documentary Film
Festival

Mezinárodní festival
dokumentárních
filmů Ji.hlava

inšpirační
fórum
10. —
11. 2025

Inšpirační
fórum

IF Team

Tereza Swadoschová – Programme, strategy and management,
Nikol Halamásková – Programme coordination, **Eliška Brožová** – Production and partnerships,
Barbora Fukalová – Content editor, **Petr Bittner** – Editor
Kristýna Oubrechtová – Local campaign, **Yana Angela Bergstermann** – Inspiration Forum intern
Anna Grabherr – Matchmaking, **Eliška Vizingrová** – Social media,
Šárka Zahálková – IF LAB, **Mia Kordová** – IF LAB intern

