



ETP SLOVAKIA
CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL REPORT
2008

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INTRODUCTION



Vladimír Ira
Chairman



Slávka Mačáková
Executive Director

Last year passed in the spirit of our long-term goal to approach the problem of generational poverty in disadvantaged and marginalized communities in a comprehensive manner, and to create conditions for a sustainable impact of our activities. By providing services related to employment, housing, education and health via our network of community centers and social clubs, we created opportunities for people from Slovakia's poor regions, and Roma communities in particular, to achieve integration. We encouraged our clients to take the initiative, use existing opportunities, and help not only themselves and their families but also their communities.

In the fall of 2008 we concluded our activities under the Community Initiative EQUAL - YOUR SPIŠ II (ESF) and the Roma Humanitarian Assistance Project (IOM). In both these projects, we applied an holistic approach to the issue of economic and social marginalization and intensified and expanded our work in many communities in Eastern and Central Slovakia.

We implemented the project YOUR SPIŠ II in 17 collaborating municipalities, in which the local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) stimulated activity among the unemployed and helped them improve their employability in the labor market. The main benefit to these communities is the establishment of 17 job clubs, 6 social enterprises and 38 new business licenses. NGOs in three of the partner villages received financial grants from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in order to create new job opportunities for the unemployed. The approach and impact of this project has received acknowledgment from the European Social Fund in a publication *Examples of Best Practice*.

A unique Roma Humanitarian Assistance Project provided humanitarian aid to more than 6,500 elderly Roma who experienced persecution in Slovakia during the Second World War. Delivery of material aid was complemented with high-quality healthcare, social and legal counseling, as well as cultural and social activities.

In this annual report, we are focusing on our activities in the area of housing for low-income families. Our savings program, Individual Development Accounts (Open Society Institute), has so far attracted 250 clients, with interest in this project still increasing. ETP will, therefore, continue to look for support for this type of program. Because most of our clients are saving to improve their housing situation, we typically combine the program with our micro-loan project Improvement of Housing Conditions for Low-Income Families (Habitat for Humanity International). By the end of 2008, more than 300 families from 14 communities joined this program and received loans for repairs, renovations and property purchases.

ETP's activities in the housing area have received support from the City of Moldava nad Bodvou and together we have founded a new non-profit organization ETP Moldava Housing, which has received a subsidy from the Ministry for Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic to build 12 new lower-standard flats.

Our approach has caught the attention of the Office of Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities, which gave financial support to our micro-loans project in 2008. Considering our success and tangible results of this program to date, ETP Slovakia will work towards a permanent and systemic solution to the issue of housing for socially excluded groups.

In 2008 we continued our development activities in the Svetlogorsk District of Belarus (SlovakAid). You can read about this and other ETP projects in detail on the pages of this report.

In cooperation with our foreign partners, in the past year ETP Slovakia introduced new innovative training programs Bridges Out of Poverty (May 2008) and CrossRoads (June 2008), which focus specifically on the problem of generational poverty. In the forthcoming period, we want to develop further introduction and adoption of positive experiences from abroad in Slovakia, including via the Slovak Anti-Poverty Network, which in November of last year elected as its President the Executive Director of ETP Slovakia Slávka Mačáková.

We are pleased to announce that ETP Slovakia has, for its long-term engagement in Roma communities and a comprehensive approach, won the Gypsy Spirit Award 2009 in the organizations category. This award is of great encouragement for us, as well as a challenge to undertake more high-quality work. In this report we present the results of our year-long efforts and the successes of our clients. None of this would be possible without the continuing support of our donors and cooperation of our partners, whom we thank for their trust in our ability to translate financial resources into real impact.

Chairman of the Executive Board
Executive Director





ETP IN 2008

The increasing social and economic disparities in Europe continue to be a problem, from which Slovakia is not exempt. A whole series of issues affecting socially excluded Roma communities is not sufficiently addressed in the country. Generational poverty is endemic in these communities and its elimination remains one of the greatest challenges facing modern Slovak society. Slovak Roma live in segregated settlements at a low socio-cultural level, without access to services and infrastructure, spatially separated from the majority. Poor Roma communities have a low employment and education rate, high prevalence of disease and inadequate sanitation. A combination of these factors in the vast majority of rural settlements and urban quarters inhabited by the Roma, together with the negative perception of the Roma population by the majority and the subsequent discrimination and criminalization, leads to social exclusion, which cannot be dealt with partially and without regard for its complex nature.

The work of our organization is guided by an holistic approach to social and economic development and a firm belief that we can fully address the social exclusion of Roma communities in Slovakia only with a long-term and comprehensive engagement in individual communities. The foundations of ETP Slovakia are based on a principle of sustainable development, which also guides our implementation of project activities through a well-developed network of community centers and social clubs. We can expect a sustainable and long-term change in the communities only if we help build the capacity of community social workers, members of the local government and the clients. Our goal is to improve the quality of life of individuals and increase their chances of success in the form of education, employment, self-sufficiency and independence from government support. We believe that a bottom-up approach to economic and social development at the individual and community level will lead to long-term changes in society.

Last year was the fourth year of Decade of social inclusion of the Roma population 2005-2015. In this year preceding the beginning of Slovakia's presidency, ETP Slovakia – Center for Sustainable Development, focused on the four priorities of the Decade – education, employment, health and housing.



Education

The present state of Roma education is perhaps the most serious issue from a long-term perspective. Almost 80 percent of Slovakia's Roma have only basic or no education. Only about two percent of all Roma have higher education, including graduating from high school. Approximately 28 percent of Roma children regularly skip school. Despite certain systemic steps towards addressing this dire situation, an impossibly high number of Roma children is pushed to the margins of the educational system in the form of special needs schools and classrooms regardless of the student's abilities. Due to the inadequate level of pre-school preparation, language, inadequate sanitation and lack of family support, the Roma children are often doomed to fail already on their first day at school.

The goals of the National Action Plan for the Decade include: improve educational results of the Roma, improve pre-school preparation of Roma children, and promote lifelong learning of the Roma with incomplete education with the goal of increasing their chances of success on the labor market. In the course of last year ETP organized training courses such as construction, tailoring, wood and artistic works as part of our projects YOUR SPIŠ II and the Roma Humanitarian Assistance Project (RHAP). In accordance with the priority to provide lifelong learning to the members of the Roma minority, we assisted local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) implement activities aimed at increasing the potential of the unemployed through education and vocational training. Our clients had continual access to computer, financial and other courses meant to increase their qualifications.

In 2008, 200 clients took our financial education course as part of their participation in the savings project Individual Development Accounts (IDA). This course on finance for people with low income is taught interactively and with the use of computers. The course addresses topics such as saving, loans, financial planning, home budget, and uses real-life examples. Various editions of the course reflect different needs of children, the young and adults from the marginalized Roma communities.

It is our view that problematic learning of Roma children is closely related to the problem of inadequate housing, which does not provide good conditions for school preparation. ETP is indirectly addressing the problem of education through some of its projects, which are described in more detail in the Housing section. In the future, ETP Slovakia will focus particularly on the educational needs in Roma communities, including pre-school preparation of children and extracurricular activities for students of primary and secondary schools.



Dezider from Velké Kapušany

Dezider is a 26-year-old married man, who has been unemployed for a long time, just like many Roma men from this region.

However, he seized an opportunity to visit the nearby office of social field workers and he now regularly participates in programs aiming to increase employment. Dezider's attitude and initiative are a good example for all clients in the community center.

Thanks to cooperation between the local labor office, teachers and the Roma information and counseling center, which has been fostered by ETP's YOUR SPIŠ II project, Dezider has gained many valuable skills, such as working on a computer. Dezider was one of our clients who managed to get a job in the municipal business of Velké Kapušany and integrated well with his colleagues despite the language barrier. He keeps coming back to the community center with the goal of helping others gain skills and find a job.

At the moment, Dezider is planning a purchase of his own computer. He says: "I emphasize to my son that he first needs to learn how to use a computer and only then he should learn to play a guitar."



Employment

The alarmingly high rate of unemployment, reaching 100 percent in some communities, lasting dependency on government help and a vicious cycle of poverty are direct consequences of the low education level among the Roma and the widespread prejudice among employers against hiring Roma workers. The transformation of Slovakia from a predominantly industrial country to services- and knowledge-based economy since 1989 has also affected the development of the labor market which offers few opportunities to the insufficiently qualified Roma. The young Roma seeking employment often encounter distrust and automatic rejection regardless of their skills. For many years, unemployment benefits have often been the only source of income in entire communities, which subsequently results in loss of skills and motivation to look for a job.

In 2008 ETP Slovakia focused intensely on the issue of unemployment in Roma communities. Seventeen partner towns and villages participated in the YOUR SPIŠ II project, in which the local non-governmental organizations, in cooperation with the local government, businesses and individuals, stimulated and supported the unemployed to exploit their potential, so that they could sell their goods, offer services, find a job or found a small business. We created a network of job clubs, in which our clients were able to increase their qualifications in various educational and training courses, gain information about job offers and were given access to job databases and Internet search. Trained community social workers counseled the clients, communicated with local businesses and cooperated with labor offices.

Counselors were also available to people interested in establishing a shop or other small business. This project also supported social enterprises, which are meant to help decrease the high unemployment rate in the poor regions. At the end of the project, there were six functioning social enterprises – a cleaning service, a crafts shop, a woodworking workshop, a restoration workshop, social services and counseling, production of artisanal products and art works. Thanks to the support from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, small businesses were started in three municipalities participating in the project. The newly created jobs gave our clients an opportunity to gain valuable work and business skills.

In June 2008, ETP Slovakia hosted a training program CrossRoads meant especially for the unemployed. (You can learn more about this training on page 24.) The main contribution of the program is its emphasis on the internal personal change, not only in relation to work and one's economic situation, but also to other people, the environment and the overall outlook on life challenges. The goal of this project is to train community social workers and clients in towns and communities with a high unemployment rate.

Health

In comparison with the majority population, life expectancy of the Slovak Roma is up to seven years less, a result of the low living standard and unsanitary environment in Roma settlements, neglected healthcare, and a high prevalence of substance abuse. Roma communities tend to have a higher than average rate of population growth but also a higher mortality rate for both children and adults. Diseases which have been considered eliminated from the Slovak territory and at present rarely occur in the majority population, such as tuberculosis, hepatitis A and infectious respiratory diseases, are commonly found among Roma children. A high teen pregnancy rate negatively affects childcare and the young mothers' health. The healthcare system in Slovakia is not capable of addressing the conditions and needs in poor Roma communities, which require special attention and care due to the risk they pose to public health.

Besides offering material, social and legal assistance to elderly Roma, our Roma Humanitarian Assistance Project (RHAP), financed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), provided our clients with care and counseling also in the area of health. Physicians and nurses cared for more than 2,500 elderly Roma in Eastern and Central Slovakia, who were given blood pressure gauges, pads, walking sticks, sanitary chairs and other equipment based on need. Clients suffering from chronic illnesses were able to have the cost of their prescription drugs reimbursed. Immobile patients had access to care provided directly in their home by a visiting nurse.

Our community centers hosted 85 lectures on various health topics, the goal being to raise awareness about basic healthcare and disease prevention, and to answer questions from the elderly Roma and their family members. Within the same project, our social workers received training in health issues and some of them successfully completed a course by the Slovak Red Cross. They subsequently applied this accumulated knowledge in their work with clients.

In the future, ETP Slovakia will focus particularly on young women's and mothers' health and will also continue providing health counseling in communities through lectures and individual consultations.



Zdena from Ostrovany

Zdena is one of the 53 clients of the community center in Ostrovany, where in the last year she successfully completed a PC course, participated in the financial training "Don't Be Afraid of Money", and received a loan to improve her family's housing conditions. Thanks to this loan, Zdena renovated her house and also learned about saving and money management.

Zdena lives in a Roma settlement in the village of Ostrovany, together with her husband and their four children. They have never held a stable job, although they did participate in so-called activation work program in their municipality. As with many families in this settlement, they used to live in a wooden cottage without electricity, water or toilet. However, when their children started school, they needed more space to do their homework. Zdena and her husband realized that their housing conditions were not suitable and decided to take action. They learned about a savings program for low-income families from community workers in Ostrovany. Zdena says: **"I had doubts in the beginning as to whether I could save without taking the money out and whether I would really get the bonus at the end."** While saving, Zdena regularly attended events and activities at the community center and took a financial planning course, where she learned how to put aside a sum of money after spending on essentials each month.

Zdena and her family got a chance to live better. Thanks to their own effort they now have electricity and more space in their home which is especially appreciated by the children. Zdena recognized the results of her efforts: **"My family is very happy about this renovation and the new roof. Our four children can now study alone without being disturbed. They have more friends, are healthier and feel happier. I recommended this program to all members of my extended family."**

Housing

There are about 380,000 Roma living in Slovakia. Just about a half of the entire population is integrated with the majority population in 772 municipalities. The remaining half live in 787 settlements, which are only inhabited by the Roma and spatially separated from the nearby towns and villages. These segregated settlements typically lack infrastructure and communication lines, access to drinking water, sewerage system and waste disposal, and more than 20 percent of the houses and cottages are constructed without a building permit. The majority of these settlements are concentrated in Eastern and Central Slovakia. Those trying to improve their living conditions typically encounter a whole host of hurdles: inability to buy land, limited access to communication lines and infrastructure, limited access to financial services and loans in particular, and the tendency to move the Roma outside towns and villages.



In cooperation with Habitat for Humanity International and the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities, ETP Slovakia has responded by providing special-purpose micro-loans of up to 1,200 Euros to low-income families interested in improving their housing situation. In 2008, we offered loans to 156 families, who used the funding to, for example, build a bathroom, get access to water, build a new roof, and install heating or insulation for the house. These loans to improve housing conditions are a part of a wider range of services offered to the clients of our community centers. Those clients who complete a construction course and participate in construction works also participate in other activities such as the financial management course and various cultural and educational events, and their children have access to our extracurricular activities.

As part of this project, ETP Slovakia is cooperating with the city of Moldava nad Bodvou and, through our non-profit organization ETP Moldava Housing, we have received a subsidy from the Ministry for Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic to build 12 lower-standard homes with the projected date of final building approval in the last quarter of 2009.

The impact of our activities in the area of housing is greater due to the mutually reinforcing relationship between our micro-loan project and our savings program of Individual Development Accounts. This program, financed by the Open Society Institute, allows clients to save money for a specific purpose. At the end of the saving period, the final sum is matched with a bonus of an equal amount. 84 of our clients successfully completed the savings program in 2008, while 69 others continue saving. At the end of the savings program, participants can apply for a housing micro-loan. This is true also for future tenants of the new flats in Moldava, who will use the funding to finish and equip the flats to a higher standard.

Last year we also provided assistance in the area of housing to elderly Roma with especially harsh living conditions. Through the Roma Humanitarian Assistance Project (RHAP), many clients were given new beds, heating stoves and construction materials, and they had access to counseling from a construction advisor while doing small repairs and renovations.

In order to secure a long-term solution to the housing problem in Roma communities, ETP Slovakia recommends establishing a government housing fund for socially deprived families and adopting functioning and field-tested programs and projects in this area.

PROJECTS

YOUR SPIŠ II – Inclusion of NGOs in Social Economy

Donor: European Social Fund – Community Initiative EQUAL

Duration: March 2005 – September 2008

Last year ETP Slovakia concluded its activities under the YOUR SPIŠ II project, which focused primarily on the problem of unemployment and inclusion of target groups. We implemented this project in 17 partner municipalities, in which the local NGOs, in cooperation with the local government, businesses and individuals, stimulated and supported utilizing of the talents, skills and abilities of the jobless in these communities. The purpose of the project was to increase the capacity of NGO workers in such a way that would allow them to further develop activities focusing on improving the quality of life of socially disadvantaged people, on their inclusion in society and on increasing their employability by transforming the NGOs into social enterprises.

Results

17 job clubs

6 social enterprises

200 employed

38 business licenses

1,936 employed through internships, activation works, contracts or as volunteers and self-employed



Roma Humanitarian Assistance Project (RHAP)

Donor: International Organization for Migration

Duration: August 2007 – October 2008

In 2008 ETP Slovakia led activities under RHAP to a successful conclusion. The goal of this project was to provide social and humanitarian aid to elderly Roma people, who experienced persecution in Slovakia during the Second World War. ETP Slovakia offered assistance to more than 6,500 people by distributing material aid and providing healthcare and social and legal counseling. We also focused on social assistance in towns and villages with many clients. In cooperation with local government officials, we organized activities and events for the elderly and other members of the community in 19 community centers.

Results

6,527 recipients of humanitarian aid in Eastern and Central Slovakia

19 social clubs for elderly

15 young Roma educated on the Roma Holocaust

22 trained community social workers



IOM International Organization for Migration

Marika from Hodejov

Marika's positive attitude made a strong impression on our community social workers from the very beginning. Marika is retired and lives in a small house with her husband and a 16-year-old grandson whom she has raised. She never experienced much success in her life, but she considers herself successful for raising her seven children and a grandson even in these modest conditions. Marika joined a few programs implemented by ETP. Marika received a food package and medical aids, and she participated on all community activities for the elderly, which was a pleasant addition to her daily routines.

*The biggest change of all was a micro-loan she received to improve her housing. She could finally replace her old rusty roof with a new one, add a small patio in front of her house, a new front door and linoleum flooring. Marika's neighbors helped her paint the interior walls. This assistance translated into a big change, which would not have been possible without Marika's effort. The positive transformation of her home is now motivating her to continue with renovations. She says: **"I will save some more so I can repair and paint the house exterior."***



Improvement of Housing Conditions for Low-Income Families

Donor: Habitat for Humanity International, the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities

Duration: Since December 2005

After the initial success of our project to develop housing for socially disadvantaged, mainly Roma, families, ETP Slovakia continued providing housing micro-loans to clients in Eastern and Central Slovakia with the support of Habitat for Humanity International and the Slovak Government. Currently, the project affects more than 350 families, which have received micro-loans to fund repairs, renovations, and purchases of homes. The project's uniqueness and exceptional success rate have caught the attention of the Ministry for Construction and Regional Development and the Office of the Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities. Our activities in this area have sparked a discussion of partnership between the government, local administration and the non-profit sector.

Results

Establishment of non-profit organizations ETP Moldava Housing and ETP Slovakia – Housing

12 lower-standard flats in Moldava nad Bodvou

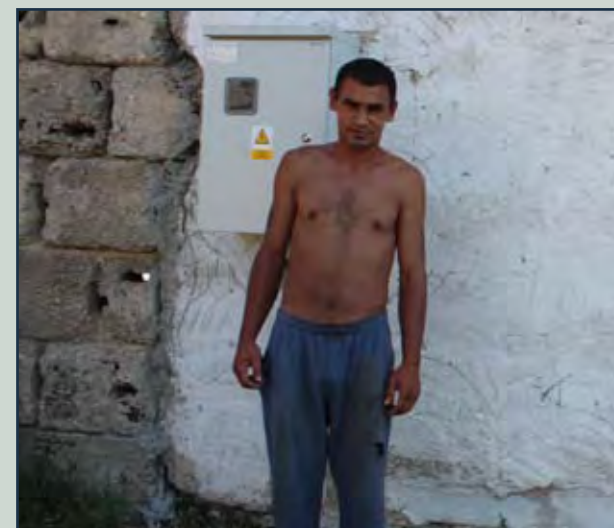
361 families in 14 communities participating in the micro-loan program



Ivan from Podsadek

Ivan lives in a Roma settlement in Podsadek near Stará Ľubovňa. He is a father of four children between ages 6 and 17. The whole family has gradually engaged in the social, educational, and extracurricular activities organized in the local community center. Ivan's family decided to join ETP's savings program with the goal of completing construction of their house. While saving, Ivan prepared for the construction phase and prepared all the necessary permits. He actively participated in our financial training courses and eventually saved the projected sum. Ivan's family was subsequently offered a micro-loan to finance further renovations, which they are now re-paying. Ivan is one of the positive examples for the entire community. He has shown that, with some effort, it is possible to improve one's housing and the overall quality of life for the family.

*A radical change has taken place in the attitude and values of Ivan's children. His eldest son David still actively participates in community events. He volunteers, helps other children study, attends education courses, helps organize events for younger children, and has joined our summer camps as a counselor. He is now studying management with very good results. David has bold future plans: **"I'm considering going to college. And then I will run for office in the municipal council, so that some things change around the settlement."** We believe that our community work inspires more and more young people from Roma settlements to make and fulfill plans for the future.*





Individual Development Accounts (IDA)

Donor: Open Society Institute
Duration: Since December 2006

This project is implemented with the support of the Open Society Institute and gives low-income Roma families an opportunity to improve their financial situation. Participants are expected not only to retain income but also to put a fraction of it aside for future goals and plans. A financial bonus equal to the sum saved is a reward for those who manage to meet the strict conditions of the program. All clients participating in the project are offered personal counseling on how to manage one's own finances, buy a house, or start a business. The long-term goal of the program is to gain experience and gather evidence which would promote an understanding among decision-makers that social benefits without any conditions only deepen dependency of the poor on the State and take away the courage and motivation to secure a livelihood through one's own hard work.

Results

Overall saved sum 65,000 Euros
257 participants of the savings program
89 graduated saving accounts
150 graduates of financial training "Don't Be Afraid of Money"

Matúš from Rudňany

*Matúš is a 28-year-old father of five children, who was one of the 27 new tenants of lower-standard flats in the Roma community 5RP11. Together with other tenants of these unfurnished flats, Matúš welcomed the possibility of improving his flat's standard with the help of a loan and the savings program. However, when the local Labor Office reacted negatively to the initiation of these programs in Rudňany and threatened to withdraw social benefits from participating clients, most of them balked out of fear of losing their only source of income. Despite subsequent assurances that ETP programs would not endanger the clients' claim on social benefits, trust had been lost. Only one client remained – Matúš. When he came to have his monthly payment signed off, he would give hope to the surprised community social worker: **"I will make it until the end, you'll see."***

A new, sixth child was born in Matúš's new flat. They had been living in an empty flat with mattresses and blankets lying on the cement floor. Gradually, new pieces of furniture appeared – a table, a kitchen set, shelves. Despite the discomfort, Matúš did not buy more and kept saving. Meanwhile, he was able to lay tile floor in the entire flat but his final goal was to save for central heating and a cooking stove. However, the saved sum of 600 Euros and the bonus were not enough to pay for the necessary material and work. Therefore, Matúš applied for a micro-loan from Habitat for Humanity International, which he is now re-paying with more than double the required payment.



Matúš's family will always remember last year's Christmas, because the installation of central heating was their biggest present. By persisting in his effort, Matúš helped not only his own family but also other community members. Thanks to his example, 11 more clients from this community have joined the savings program since January 2009.



Svetlogorsk Sea

Donor: SlovakAid – Slovak Agency for International Development Cooperation

Duration: Since December 2008

This project builds on previous activities of ETP Slovakia in the Svetlogorsk District of Belarus. Its main goal is to apply the experience and knowledge of Slovak experts in implementation of the National Development Strategy in the context of Svetlogorsk Sea, an area of particular environmental importance and with huge agro-tourism potential. The project is meant to support a long-term, sustainable economic development in the region by promoting its unique environmental phenomena and culture. Project activities include capacity-building in natural resource management and creation of a protection plan for the area's biodiversity and cultural heritage through economically and socially sustainable measures such as establishment and development of a network of natural reservations and support for scientific research.

Results

3 study visits in Slovakia

5 training visits in Svetlogorsk

10 teachers trained in debate methodology and 60 students trained in public speaking and communication skills

Implementation of the first phase of the development plan for Svetlogorsk Sea





ETP IN SLOVAKIA



COMMUNITY CENTERS

The approach of ETP Slovakia is based on an understanding that social, educational, environmental, health and housing issues are interconnected. This philosophy is reflected in the work of our community centers and social clubs, in which we provide comprehensive services to our clients from disadvantaged and marginalized communities. Trained community social workers are in daily contact with whole families, offering them social and other counseling, and, in cooperation with local labor offices, helping jobless find new opportunities. To our clients the community centers have become places of warm gatherings, interesting activities and education. This section presents the work of our community centers in 2008.

Čičava

The community center in Čičava provided services to clients under RHAP and YOUR SPIŠ II projects. Apart from material aid, clients were most interested in healthcare and health education. Unemployed clients helped organize a cultural event called Prevention Against Disease and several health lectures for elderly Roma took place throughout the year. Thanks to the EQUAL initiative, unemployed clients had access to assistance with composing resumes, cover letters and job applications, as well as with other issues related to the specific social situation of each client. Soon after initiating the social counseling program, three young men found short-term placements with a local construction business. Four more clients found a job in an industrial firm in the city of Bardejov and five others improved their skills while working construction on a local house. During the year, the center hosted courses on arts and crafts, typing, flower arranging etc. Members of the community met at various social events such as concerts, a theater performance "This Boat Is Sinking" produced by the local theater club Dik, a "community day" complete with homemade goulash and outdoor games, and the long-awaited FestRom.



Hodejov

In 2008 Hodejov participated in activities under RHAP. The center's clients – mostly elderly Roma – came to the center for creative workshops, health lectures, history discussions or holiday celebrations such as Mother's Day. The housing program attracted 16 clients who used the interest-free micro-loans to improve their housing situation. Community social workers prepared activities for pre-school children from the poorest families. Children learned to differentiate colors, types of fruit and animals, to paint and make simple paper decorations. In August the center hosted an Open Day, during which visitors could learn about the center's activities. During the day, children made rag dolls and the center also hosted a dance party. The cultural event on Children's Day was a big success.



Jablonov

In 2008, clients of the community center in Jablonov participated in the IDA savings program, the YOUR SPIŠ II project and RHAP. The savings program attracted 8 new clients who successfully completed their schedules in January 2009. Community social workers from Jablonov helped clients solve issues related to building permits and municipal land, where new flats and houses could be built by the participating families. The center's activities under the YOUR SPIŠ II project were reinforced by the establishment of two workshops producing pillows, blankets, tablecloths and simple wood products, which helped employ a few previously jobless clients. The project was funded by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Throughout the year, the center hosted various educational courses and free-time activities such as a summer camp, Christmas concert or a trip to Auschwitz. The center in particular supports artistic talent of the local Roma children, whose artworks have been exhibited in various towns in Slovakia and traveled as far as Brussels in Belgium.

Kokava nad Rimavicou

The community center in Kokava nad Rimavicou was established in February 2008 and the clients from Kokava and nearby villages received assistance under RHAP, YOUR SPIŠ II and IDA projects. In 2008 Kokava center had 6 saving clients, of whom three showed interested in applying for a housing micro-loan. The clients especially appreciated health lectures in March and June and used the opportunity to ask about specific problems. They received blood pressure gauges, other medical equipment and drugs. Social and free-time activities took place throughout the year. Especially welcome were the Easter party with Easter egg decoration and folklore music, the Roma Day visit in Velké Kapušany and Labor Day celebrations. Community social workers hosted a celebration of Roma Day for the elderly, who had very little awareness of this holiday. On the same occasion, a cultural event presenting Roma history, music and dance took place in the town of Poltár.



Moldava nad Bodvou

ETP Slovakia began cooperation with this center in early 2008 within the framework of IDA, housing and YOUR SPIŠ II projects. The savings program engaged 19 clients, majority of whom showed interest in a micro-loan to improve the quality of housing. One of the clients used the saved money to get a driver's license. The clients had access to social and financial counseling, courses on nutrition, tailoring, computer skills, masonry, hairstyling and gardening. Some clients were able to find work in various local firms despite the difficult economic situation. In cooperation with the community center in Turňa nad Bodvou, community social workers organized a "goulash party", a visit to a smithery museum and a trip to the nearby Betliar castle.

Nálepkovo

In the previous year the clients of Nálepkovo community center participated in the micro-loan program to improve housing for low-income families, the savings program, YOUR SPIŠ II project and RHAP. At the end of the year, 97 clients had signed loan contracts. Thanks to the savings program, 6 participants fulfilled their dreams such as getting a driver's license, repairing a family house or replacing windows. Thanks to the YOUR SPIŠ II project, 36 clients either found a new job or started their own business. The community center offered 9 professional courses for the unemployed, including a financial education course. With the support of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the community center established a unit of sanitary care, where clients can take advantage of a communal washing machine and dryer. Clients from four municipalities received humanitarian assistance in the form of food packages, first aid kits and personal hygiene items, and had access to health exams and daily free-time activities. The center hosted embroidery, tailoring, cooking and computer courses and various social events throughout the year.



Ostrovany

This municipality has a well-functioning savings program with 14 graduated and 24 new participants. The center's clients participate in various auxiliary activities such as IT, tailoring and masonry courses, which help improve their employability. In 2008, 54 clients participated in the micro-loan project. Special purpose loans from Habitat for Humanity International enabled many of the clients to get the remaining funding for construction material and works. In most cases the clients do the work themselves, thus putting to use the skills learned in courses. Clients eligible under RHAP received aid in the form of food packages but also financial assistance for home repairs. They also attended various spiritual and social events and had access to health, social and legal counseling. Through YOUR SPIŠ II project, clients had also access to computers and the Internet to search for jobs. Four of the center's clients started businesses and employed other community members. More than 30 clients found a stable job.

Rožňava

The community center administered assistance to 90 eligible RHAP clients in the city and its vicinity. Community social workers delivered one warm meal to 20 immobile clients each day. Throughout the year, elderly Roma had access to material and medical aid, and legal, social and financial counseling. Clients received blood pressure gauges, personal hygiene and food packages, and in some cases fuel wood, stoves, plumbing fixtures and sanitary facilities. The same project enabled some clients to take part in all-day trips to Krásna Hôrka and Betliar castles, enjoy birthday celebrations with music and refreshments and attend the regular "tea parties". In cooperation with the Gemer Cultural Center the community center hosted an educational lecture combined with a presentation of traditional musical instruments. In May 2008 a group of elderly Roma visited the International Roma Festival in Bratislava. It was the very first visit of the capital for many. They visited the Bratislava castle, the parliament building and enjoyed the rich cultural program of traditional music. In June 2008, the community workers hosted a talent show "Talentárium". Young Roma demonstrated their multiple talents through dances, the spoken word, and music. The older people in the audience were particularly impressed.

Rudňany

The local job club is located directly within the Roma community 5RP11. During 2008, our IDA savings program had success with 11 new clients. All of them are interested in applying for a micro-loan. This community also participated in activities under RHAP. Regular social activities, such as wire-weaving, manufacturing of gift items, tailoring and garment mending, and cooking courses took place in the center throughout the year. Young women and girls attended workshops to make rag dolls and other cloth toys. Clients had access to health lectures delivered by the Catholic University in Ružomberok and attended a lecture on the introduction of the Euro in Slovakia. Some clients made a traditional visit to the Roma film festival Kalo Čangalo in the nearby Spišská Nová Ves, where they saw a Czech feature film and attended a photo exhibition by Eva Davidova Romano Drom – Roma Roads in the Spiš Art Gallery. The community center also participated in the international charity project Operation Christmas Child 2008, thanks to which the center organized a Christmas party with a cultural program and distributed 100 care packages in the community.



Spišské Podhradie

As part of the YOUR SPIŠ II project, community social workers from Spišské Podhradie helped clients find employment, write resumes and search for organizations offering internships. The center also mobilized the community members to repair the center and clean up residential areas. Throughout the year, the center offered practical workshops such as production of Advent wreaths, Christmas decorations and glass and silk painting. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints provided the civic association Čercheň with funding for two new sewing-machines and costume fabrics for the local theater group, as well as various landscaping and gardening equipment for the upkeep of the banks of the Žehranka river. The savings program attracted 10 clients, 6 of whom finished and received a bonus. Successful participants bought construction material, replaced old roofs, renovated bathrooms, bought windows, painted interior walls, repaired facades and built a new stove. There were 133 elderly Roma eligible for RHAP aid. These clients received food packages, medicaments and medical equipment. Most also received a heating stove and fuel wood, a bed or construction material. Clients attended health and legal lectures. The trips to Auschwitz, Litmanová, Nálepko and Veľké Kapušany were a great addition to our people's daily lives.

Stará Ľubovňa

The center's main target group are the inhabitants of the Roma settlement Podsadek and on Továrenská street in Stará Ľubovňa. Clients are especially fond of the savings program, which 55 of them joined last year and 36 successfully finished with the goal of repairing and renovating homes. Community social workers provided counseling of all sorts throughout the year. Activities of the center revolved mainly around these areas: employment, quality of life, education and extracurricular activities, social integration and social counseling. The center regularly held health lectures, legal sessions, financial trainings, workshops, after-school counseling, spiritual meetings, cooking and baking classes and personal counseling. Apart from these regular activities, the center hosted a series of cultural and social events, a meeting with Roma police experts for the young, Roma Day celebration, clothing auctions and a summer camp.



Šimonovce

Within the framework of RHAP, the center organized a series of health lectures on topics such as high blood pressure and dangers of diabetes in Šimonovce and the other surrounding municipalities of Čakov, Hostice, and Martinová. The lecturer handed out blood pressure gauges to the clients and explained their use. Elderly clients were very appreciative of the reimbursement scheme for prescription drugs. The same project enabled the center to hold a lecture on the new currency Euro in Slovakia. The Euro was to begin circulation in January 2008 and the lecturer explained the advantages and disadvantages of this fundamental change to our economy. The clients welcomed this discussion, as many of them had limited information about the Euro and also expressed concerns about the impending change. The lecturer focused on answering all the important questions and on highlighting the significant changes that may influence the way older people live. The clients were also given an opportunity to participate in the micro-loan project to improve their housing. During last year, 38 clients received a loan for the purpose of renovating their homes.



Turňa nad Bodvou

The community center in Turňa nad Bodvou joined ETP's RHAP activities, the YOUR SPIŠ II project, and the IDA savings program. Two participants of the savings program are planning to purchase a house and have considered applying for a loan through the micro-loan project. Year 2008 was filled with many social events with great attendance by clients of all ages. During Christmas and Easter, the center's clients were able to attend workshops and cultural performances. Women decorated the center's Christmas tree, children prepared music and dance performances for elderly people, and women arranged flowers, made Advent wreaths and decorated Easter eggs. The community centers of Turňa and Moldava co-hosted a "goulash party". Clients eligible for help under RHAP attended trips to the Betliar castle and Auschwitz. The trip to Poland in June 2008 made a deep impression on the visitors. Some of them lost relatives and friends in the concentration camp and endured the tour of the site only with great difficulty. The participants also visited the birthplace of Pope John Paul II. Wadowice, where they visited his house and the church where he served his first mass.

Veľké Kapušany

For the inhabitants of Veľké Kapušany, year 2008 was significant despite the adverse economic situation. The savings program was joined by 6 clients, all of whom are interested in a micro-loan to improve their housing conditions. Community social workers continued with their assistance to those dependent on social benefits. Various activities were available for children and the elderly throughout the year. Talented Roma children regularly met in the town's cultural center and, with the support of local businessmen, formed a folklore performance group, whose director is the renowned dancer from Hungary Tibor Lakatoš. Some members of the group, consisting of young people from the segregated Roma settlement, are former drug addicts. Celebrations of International Roma Day hosted by the center were modest but dignified. The community center invited clients of all ages to a small party, where they could listen to lectures on Roma history, culture, language and arts.

NEWS



“CrossRoads” Training

Between 27th April and 7th May 2009, ETP Slovakia organized a unique training course CrossRoads for the current and future community social workers. This course for the jobless and more generally for people who find themselves standing at a metaphorical “crossroads” focuses on personal development, and its goal is to help people find their way back to the labor market and a full use of their potential. This training has been developed and brought to Slovakia by the U.S.-based Dovetail Consulting. During the course, participants learn to understand why dependency on social benefits does not solve their life problems. CrossRoads enables the audience to discover new ways of finding and keeping a job, resolving conflict, and offers them various motivational strategies. This training for future trainers was organized by ETP Slovakia with financial help from the U.S. and British Embassies in Slovakia, the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

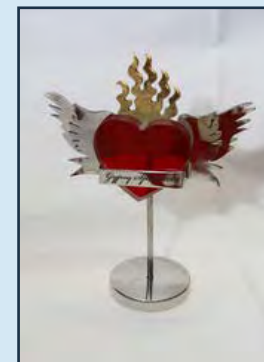


Gypsy Spirit Award 2009

On 16 April 2009 in the Slovak Radio building, Gypsy Spirit Awards 2009 were given out to organizations and individuals who have helped improve the situation of Roma in Slovakia. The international expert jury, consisting of Michal Kocáb, Alexian Spinelli, Rumyan Russinov, Sylvia Porubánová and Jaroslav Kiska, selected ETP Slovakia – Center for Sustainable Development as the winner in the category of organizations. The jury gave the following reasons for selecting ETP:

For a complex, highly expert and authentic work and services to disadvantaged and marginalized groups, for fighting against poverty and social exclusion in Slovakia with special regard for the Roma in segregated settlements. For implementing the concept of social mobilization, which encourages mutual assistance and support, specifically for creating and co-creating of temporary and permanent job opportunities.

This award reinforces our conviction that an integrated and complex approach to the solution of socio-economic status of the Roma minority in Slovakia is the correct way towards improving the situation. We are glad that our work is being appreciated by experts. We view the award as a challenge to work even harder in poor and socially excluded communities, with the goal of promoting a systemic adoption of best practices and solutions.



DONORS AND PARTNERS

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Habitat for Humanity International
Community Initiative EQUAL, European Social Fund
International Organization for Migration
Ministry for Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, Slovak Aid
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
Open Society Institute
Office of Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities
Embassy of the United States in the Slovak Republic
British Embassy in the Slovak Republic

aha! Process, Inc. Texas USA
Dovetail Consulting Colorado USA
ETP Moldava Housing
YOUR SPIŠ Fund
City of Moldava nad Bodvou
City of Rožňava
City of Spišské Podhradie
City of Stará Ľubovňa
City of Veľké Kapušany
Municipality Abovce
Municipality Cakov
Municipality Číž
Municipality Drňa
Municipality Hodejov
Municipality Holumnica
Municipality Jablonov
Municipality Jesenské
Municipality Nálepko
Municipality Nitra nad Ipľom
Municipality Ostrovany
Municipality Rudňany
Municipality Šimonovce
Municipality Veľký Blh
The Council for Social Counseling Košice
Roma Press Agency Slovakia

ETP SLOVAKIA

Mission Statement: To support regional development, protect the environment and assist in the development of the social, economic, educational and cultural potential of people, organizations and communities with an emphasis on problem solving within disadvantaged regions, socially disadvantaged groups and ethnic minorities.

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Chairman

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Peter Sovius,
Education program Coordinator

Monika Doľaková,
Education program Officer

Štefan Suchodolinský,
Housing program Officer

Community Centers

Darina Dzúriková
053 03 Jablonov 165

Rastislav Zubaj
093 01 Čičava 74

Zdenka Rabatinová
Mlynská 633, 053 33 Nálepko

Marián Trišč and Viera Marková
082 22 Ostrovany 60

Dana Pustulková
5RP11, 053 23 Rudňany

Viera Gondová
Mariánske námestie 34, 053 04 Spišské Podhradie

Ľudmila Stašáková
Podsadok Kultúrny dom, 064 01 Stará Ľubovňa

Margita Bartóková
OZ Pro Torenensis, 044 02 Turňa nad Bodvou 60

Viktor Teru
Hlavná ulica, 079 01 Veľké Kapušany

Katka Valková
Krátka 22, 048 01 Rožňava

Vladimír Sendrei
Huta 31, 985 05 Kokava nad Rimavicou

Adriana Pelegrínová
Dukelských Hrdinov 3, 045 01 Moldava nad Bodvou

Iveta Vilhanová
980 31 Hodejov 230

Ernest Lakatoš
980 03 Šimonovce 146

FINANCIAL REPORT

Profit and loss account	Period: 2007 - 2008					
<i>(in SKK ,000)</i>	2007			2008		
Revenues	Activities not subject to taxation	Activities subject to taxation	Total	Activities not subject to taxation	Activities subject to taxation	Total
Revenues from the provided services	37		37	103	35	138
Contributions received	31 706		31 706	65 331		65 331
Other revenues	133		133	2 381		2 381
Total revenues	31 876	0	31 876	67 815	35	67 850
Expenses						
Material and energy consumption	18 128		18 128	34 565	3	34 568
Services	13 009		13 009	29 458	11	29 469
Staff costs	210		210	156		156
Taxes and fees	33		33	30	1	31
Depreciations	131		131	1 089		1 089
Other expenses	345		345	2 494		2 494
Total expenses	31 856	0	31 856	67 792	15	67 807
Net profit or loss of current year	20	0	20	23	20	43

Grants and contributions	2008		
Grants	SKK	USD	EUR
Habitat for Humanity International	6 336 622	230 906	37 800
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Days Saints	90 718		
IOM	48 396 933		1 524 636
Open Society Institute	1 073 622		
US Embassy	66064		
Foundation FES	35000		
Other financial contributions			
Slovak Aid	1 334 977		
The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic	700 000		
The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic / Ministry of Education (ESF)	532 042		
The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic / EQUAL (ESF)	8 636 189		
Total	65 331 285		

Balance sheet	2007 - 2008	
<i>(in SKK ,000)</i>	2007	2008
Assets	2007	2008
Tangible assets	4 987	4 996
Depreciations	2 315	2 327
Cash	161	525
Bank accounts	14 867	2 834
Claims	16 045	18 895
Other assets	0	0
Total assets	33 745	24 923
Liabilities	2007	2008
Funds	1 009	1 009
Fondy organizácie	6	6
Profit or loss of current accounting period	2 154	2 134
Financial obligations	51 69	5 784
Other liabilities	25 407	15 990
Total liabilities	33 745	24 923

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the executives of ETP SLOVENSKO:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of ETP Slovensko ("The Company") comprising the balance sheet as of 31 December 2008 and the related profit and loss account and notes including the cash flows statement, for the year then ended and the summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes,

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these Financial Statements in accordance with Act on Accounting No. 431/2002 Z. z. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, that are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error: selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance, whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. The procedures selected depend on auditor's judgement, including the assessments, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall the overall presentation of financial statement.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of ETP Slovensko as of 31 December 2008 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Slovak Accounting law code.

Košice, July 30, 2009

Ing. Eva Gazdová

Licencia SKAU 628



