



ETP SLOVAKIA

CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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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FOREWORD

FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND DIRECTOR

The work of ETP Slovakia is based on a comprehensive approach: counseling relating to social and healthcare issues, education, assistance in housing improvement and job searching. Our “cradle to grave” approach engages people of all age groups.

For over twelve years ETP Slovakia has been helping its socially and economically excluded clients, a majority of them being marginalized Roma, but we also provide comprehensive services to migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and persons with subsidiary protection. We develop and pilot a wide range of solutions aimed at alleviating generational poverty, fully understanding that it is necessary to stretch out a helping hand in areas, where our clients need this. There are approximately 440, 000 Roma living in Slovakia and about one third of them is living in unsatisfactory conditions in segregated and separated ghettos. We work with the poorest Roma as we strongly believe in their potential. Our patient and professional approach has proved to be effective over the years.



Vladimir Ira
Chairman

We believe that most Roma families and individuals who inhabit settlements are capable of escaping the vicious circle of generational poverty.

Our society has rather unrealistic expectations of people born in segregated settlements. Changes in their life style do not happen overnight. They come gradually. We bring a positive impact into those areas in the lives of socially excluded people that have impacted them the most: long-term unemployment and loss of working habits, incomplete education, poor healthcare, various addictions and living in hazardous health conditions.



Slavka Macakova
Director

We have assisted hundreds of families and thousands individuals who, through our financial and housing programs as well as education, have made one step closer to escaping benefit traps.

2011 was a successful one despite many obstacles that we had to face. It was marked by discontinuity in financial resources for our activities. After completing our 18-month project Community Bridge-building in Central and Eastern Slovakia, a gap in the activities provided in our community centers occurred due to various reasons. Clients, who had been motivated to work on themselves, were suddenly left without much needed assistance and services that had been helping them to become self-sufficient. However, we were able to survive especially due to generous provision of local municipalities in our partnering towns and villages. This approach of municipality representatives is vital. In October 2011, we were pleased to learn that our project Community on Its Way to Prosperity had been awarded. We are now working to launch comprehensive project as soon as possible so that our clients can resume all the activities.

We present positive examples on a long-term basis.

Regarding the "Roma topics" – public view is generally on the opposite side. We organize artistic events, publish articles and publications, participate in public and expert discussion and promote the success stories of our clients. Recently, the public has been calling for some radical solutions regarding the Roma issue (e.g. demolishing of illegal shacks, separate schools for Roma children, sterilization of Roma women). We absolutely disagree and appeal to the government not to underestimate this situation.

We acknowledge simple human failure or lack of strong will as problems, as well as external factors.

From time to time, we are disappointed by the approach of some of our clients. We have to admit that it is not possible to reach success with all of our clients.

The second target group that we were working with in 2011 is migrants.

We have paid specific attention to refugees that have been placed into the Evacuation Transit Center in Humenne by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees as a place of safety. Dozens of people, who lived in deplorable conditions and were forced to flee their home countries, received a genuine welcome in the camp.

We assisted 86 refugees to overcome traumas that they have suffered and prepared them for a fresh start in their new countries.

These refugees came from Afghanistan, Somalia and Iran. At the end of their 6-month stay in Slovakia they were moved to USA and Canada. Their new life in Slovakia was hard at the beginning but together we made it through.

We provided counseling to 37 asylum seekers and 75 persons with subsidiary protection: assistance in formal matters and obtaining official documents, housing, Slovak lessons, education of children and young people as well as assistance in job search.

Thank you for reading this annual report, which comes from us in good faith. Our desire is to convey our efforts in addressing the most intricate challenges to you. We face them with determination and humility.

Vladimir Ira, Chairman
Slavka Macakova, Director





ABOUT US

OUR ACTIVITIES ARE FOR

- 1. People living on the edge of society, marginalized Roma communities (MRCs)** – we help them integrate economically and socially, we also support their self-sufficiency and independence.
- 2. Migrants – refugees, asylum seekers and persons with subsidiary protection** – this group of people is strongly vulnerable. Refugees come to Slovakia with a hope for brighter future. We help them to start anew.
- 3. Professional public** – we actively operate on societal level. We participate in expert discussions, review laws and national strategies, initiate inter-sector dialogue, present best practice examples and inform the public.

Our mission

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.

Executive Board

Vladimir Ira – *chairman*
Thomas Grey

Supervisory Board

Arpad Lörincz
Peter Handiak
Roland Bussa
Milena Buksarova
Katarina Stofanova

Our co-workers

Kosice Office

Slavka Macakova – *Executive Director*
Dominik Mojzis – *Financial Manager*
Graham Jeffs – *Coordinator of International Cooperation*
Monika Dolakova – *Administrative Person*
Viliam Luptak – *Accountant*

Community Bridgebuilding in Central and Eastern Slovakia Project

Peter Sovius – *Coordinator of Economic Integration*
Ludmila Stasakova – *Coordinator of Social Integration*
Dana Dolakova – *Coordinator of Education*
Erika Sabova – *Supervisor of Preschool Education*
Gabika Valentovicova – *Supervisor of Healthcare awareness and Young Mothers programs*
Dusan Kasencak – *Supervisor of Drug prevention and Awareness program*
Victoria Ball Jeffs – *Author and Crossroads trainer*

Housing Programs

Slavomir Kutas – *Project Coordinator*
Marek Isak – *Coordinator of Construction work*

Chance for Roma Project

Milena Kacmarcikova – *Project Coordinator*

ASAP III Project

Beata Kopal – *regionálna koordinátorka*
Linda Szitasova – *sociálna pracovníčka*

Project Evacuation Transit Center in Humenne

Jaroslav Kusev – *Project Coordinator*

Roma Voices for Tomorrow Project

Erika Bacova – *Project Coordinator (volunteer)*

Community Bridgebuilding in Central and Eastern Slovakia Project

Viera Gondova – *CC Spisske Podhradie*
Irma Horvathova – *CC Moldava nad Bodvou*
Zuzana Kollarova – *CC Sabinov*
Lenka Kovacova – *CC Kosice-Saca*
Adriana Lakatosova – *CC Simonovce*
Robert Olah – *CC Hodejov*
Dana Pustulkova – *CC Rudnany*
Zdenka Rabatinova – *CC Nalepkovo*
Vladimir Sendrei – *CC Kokava nad Rimavicou*
Monika Sendreiova – *CC Velky Blh*
Magda Bacova – *CC Stara Lubovna*
Hedviga Trifontyova – *CC Jesenske*
Marian Trisc – *CC Ostrovany*

Special thanks goes to all of our external co-workers (tutors, mentors, lecturers, interpreters) and volunteers, who made all of this possible, often without adequate remuneration.

We would also like to thank Ida Kellarova and the International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation for their cooperation in the children's artistic workshops.

RESULTS IN NUMBERS

SOCIAL, HEALTHCARE, VOCATIONAL, AND LEGAL COUNSELING 2009-2011	
12 municipalities – on average 200 clients per month in one CC/municipality	
EDUCATIONAL COURSES 2009-2011	
Preschool club	140 children
Extra-curricular activities	67 tutors
	3630 meetings
Mentoring Program	72 mentors
	72 protégés
Peer-to-peer Program	121 peer-lecturers
Financial education	988 courses
Sharpen Your Skills	246 courses
Healthcare prevention and awareness	186 courses
Young Mothers	1102 courses
Sexual health and substance abuse	131 courses
Culture and History of the Roma, photographic workshop	66 participants
CrossRoads	1137 courses
Bridges Out of Poverty	131 trained professionals
Small Steps on the Way to Prosperity (since 2010)	137 courses
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN 2011	
Publication Andal O Dzivipen (From our Lives)	
Organization of 7 photography displays	
Cultural and social evening – celebrating International Day of Roma	
Voices for Tomorrow – artistic workshop and concert, 250 spectators	
36 performances of Slumdog Theatre, 1500 spectators altogether	
SAVINGS PROGRAM 2007-2011	
New clients in 2011	167 clients
Clients altogether 2007-2010	410 clients
MICROCREDIT PROGRAM 2006-2011	
New clients in 2011	88 clients
Clients altogether 2007-2010	432 clients
CONSTRUCTION OF NEW APARTMENTS, HOUSES IN 2011	
New apartments in Hodejov	8 apartment units
New houses in Moldava nad Bodvou	4 new houses

AWARDS WON IN



Irma Horvathova, leader of Slumdog Theatre was awarded Gypsy Spirit Award in 2011 in the category of extra-curricular activities aimed at Roma children and youth.

2011



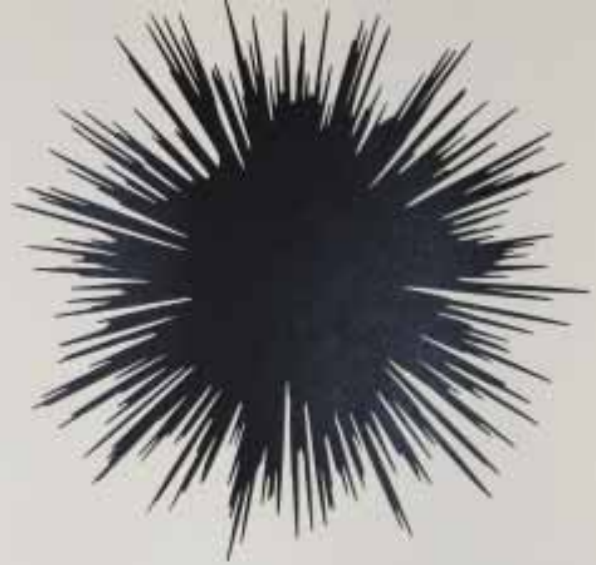
ERSTE Foundation
Award for Social Integration
2011

Country Winner

Bridging Communities in Central and Eastern Slovakia

ETP Slovakia

Košice, Slovak Republic



Gábor Kéri, Head of
Programme Director Social Affairs
ERSTE Foundation

Boris Harb,
Member of the Board
ERSTE Foundation

Prague, 20 June 2011

OUR ACTIVITIES

PROJECTS IN 2011

ACTIVITIES IN MARGINALIZED ROMA COMMUNITIES

In 2011, we implemented

COMMUNITY BRIDGEBUILDING IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN SLOVAKIA in 12 community centers (CC) in these participating municipalities:

Stara Lubovna
Spisske Podhradie
Rudnany
Ostrovany
Sabinov
Nalepkovo
Moldava nad Bodvou
Simonovce
Jesenske
Velky Blh
Hodejov
Kokava nad Rimavicou

Donor: *EEA Financial Mechanism and Norwegian Financial Mechanism, State Budget of SR*

Over the implementation period (October 2009-April2011), the project focused on these key areas:

Social, healthcare, vocational and legal counseling: Every community center provided social and legal assistance for clients who needed help with family issues, official communications with authorities, educational facilities, municipalities, courts or the police. We also assisted clients in finding part-time and full-time jobs.

Here are some practical examples: In Simonovce CC, managed by Adriana Lakatosova, we assisted a family by providing firewood at a very reasonable price from a local entrepreneur, who works in the forest. The CC also helped those in need through a local food bank, which provides food and also clothes. In May 2011, a branch of the food bank was established directly in Simonovce which now provides cheap food for the entire region.

Our community worker Danka Pustulkova is experienced in providing legal counseling in the CC in Rudnany: *"People don't like to hear that they should solve their problems in a court, especially our socially excluded clients. They always attempt to resolve their issues by arranging an installment calendar which they invariably cannot keep up with or they don't respond to various official appeals. This leads them getting into trouble due to property seizures and if one is not an expert in this field and has no legal education, it is hard to know what to do. I, myself, learned many things only by working in the field. I was surprised to find out that my clients were required to repay loans in respect of which they were guarantors as far back as 1989, e.g. loans for newly married couples. Our clients were informed by the legal counselor that property seizure can take place on a time limited enforcement order. If the order was issued over 10 years ago, the client can request to stop the property seizure due to forfeiture. The legal counselor has also helped the clients prepare an appeal to stop property seizure. Step by step I also learned to prepare an appeal to stop a property seizure that has been started based on an enforcement issued over 10 years ago for a number of clients. The District Court granted our request and our clients were very happy – until the counterparty appealed to the County Court. Neither I nor the clients believed we could possibly succeed on the basis, that a "common poor person*

without education could win this case.” But we did it. The appeal was dismissed by the county court. It took a long time to resolve these issues, about a year before the final statement of the county court was delivered to us, but it was worth it. Someone might suggest that we are teaching our clients to be irresponsible, not to fulfill their commitments and not repay their debts, but that was not what it was about. It was about learning that our legal system respects when a mistake was made by official authorities. People with higher or legal education understand the legal system better or they have friends who can help them and therefore easily escape this kind of trap. However, those, who are marginalized hardly ever get this chance.”

PRESCHOOL CLUBS: Preschool clubs provided by our trained community workers were attended by children aged four to six, usually for 4 to 8 hours a week. They learned basic colors, shapes, seasons, Slovak and Roma songs and poems; they were drawing and gained basic motor skills. The children also gained basic hygiene habits, learned to use the flushing toilet, brush their teeth, button their clothes and tie their shoes. Preschool clubs were provided in all of the 12 municipalities, there were 10 on average in every community.

Results: After one year of regular attendance of preschool club, none of the children who were about to start school were placed in special needs schools.

Story: Little 5-year-old Kevin was a very shy and quiet child at the beginning. He had issues with basic hygiene habits such as washing his hands after the toilet. After a few days, however, he was the first one to wash his hands. At the beginning he wasn't able to hold a pencil correctly or differentiate between colors but, after a short time, he could name all the shapes and also learned some poems. The names of vegetables and fruits in Slovak were his favorite. Community Social Worker Monika Sendreiova, who was teaching preschool, was very happy when he successfully passed the psychological test. The headmistress of local primary school, which the children attend, appreciates the work of the CC very much. There is no difference between Kevin and other majority pupils, who had been attending local preschool facility for a few years.

Similar success stories of little preschoolers can be found in every CC. They are a great encouragement for the future.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: A total of 67 tutors worked with young people providing extra-curricular activities such as: playing musical instruments, dancing (modern and traditional), singing, drama club, sports (football, table tennis), PC, arts and crafts, book clubs, courses for young photographers. Extra-curricular activities were selected according to the preferences and needs of the young people in the participating communities. There were 3630 various activities/meetings that took place over the project period. The activities were very popular and attended by 8-10 children and young people on average. The purpose was to support the talents and skills of the participants and also to encourage other children and young people to attend various extra-curricular activities. Our experience shows that if children and young people have hobbies that they regularly practice, their school results improve, there is rare occurrence of the small criminal offenses in the community and, overall they are motivated to live a better quality of life.

There were a number of leisure time activities provided in the community center in Kokava nad Rimavicou, led by Vladimir Sendrei. Eight boys and one girl attended football training and they have been regularly participating in football tournaments in nearby cities (Rimavska Sobota, Poltar, Hnusta) and they also received various awards. Three members of this team represent Municipality of Kokava nad Rimavicou in district league. Aerobics was something unknown to young people at first but after some time it became very popular. Their stamina has improved, their lifestyle has changed as well, and they are more thoughtful of their health. Singing was attended by 8 girls, they focused on singing, correct breathing techniques and melody. The courses are lead by experienced Roma singer Janka Sendreiova, who has provided many workshops and participated in a number of performances at home as well as abroad. Parents of the children consider it a great success that the children have published a CD with songs they had been practicing during the courses. Anicka Olahova won the Roma Superstar in 2011. Body-building club is attended by 8 boys on average. They came to understand that this sport is demanding and only those with a strong will can endure and see the fruit of their work. Three of these boys participated in the county tournament in bodybuilding.

MENTORING PROGRAM: The task of a mentor is to help the protégé to cross the imaginary bridge from poverty and dependence on social benefits into the life of being self-sufficient. Mentor works with the protégé for at least two hours per week during the entire year. They do homework together, talk about their future plans, family and problems. Mentor can take the protégé to the movies or some other cultural performance. It is usually a one-on-one relationship; it is a gift that the mentor gives out of their heart to their protégé

Result: 72 mentors have been trained; they became the mentors of teenagers coming from socially excluded background.

There were 7 mentors working in Sabinov CC (lead by Zuzana Kollarova). They developed the talents and skills of their protégés, do homework together and also talk a lot. The children learn to work with the computer that they do not have at home. They also acquire values such as responsibility, team work, and honesty. One of our mentors was even working with an adult protégé and they went together through such issues as raising children, home management and also official paperwork. As these relationships between mentors and protégés deepen, there is a great potential of change in the clients' mentality and this way they can do their first steps towards the purpose in their life.

PEER-TO-PEER PROGRAMS: Courses "Culture and History of the Roma" and "Sexual Health and Substance Abuse Prevention" were implemented with an innovative approach, using "peer-to-peer" method. Dozens of participants of the course were trained to become peer-trainers for their friends in the community. They met on a regular basis and passed on the knowledge that they learned in a very natural and informal way. Young lecturers gained priceless experience this way. Individual communities can raise their new natural leaders and people, who will have responsible approach to education and also to active participation in the community.

Result: Altogether 121 young people took part in the program and became peer-lecturers.

"There were originally six peer-lecturers of Sexual Health and Substance Abuse Prevention in Spiske Podhradie", says the CC leader Vierka Gondova. "Later two lecturers quit and the remaining four kept working with their peers and discussing various topics and issues with their friends. The young people were strongly interested in these topics, since these were the everyday issues of their life. Peer-lecturers, together with their friends, were searching for answers relating to such issues as drug addiction and unwanted pregnancies. Four peer-lecturers of the Culture and History of the Roma talked to their friends about the aspects of Roma culture, customs and traditions. For young people of Roma communities, this was new and precious information that they didn't know in the past. These meetings and talks strongly encourage their identity and pride about the Roma culture."

FINANCIAL EDUCATION: The topics of the courses were designed according to the actual needs of the clients in the participating municipalities. Education is aimed at eliminations loan sharks, improvement of household management and budgets, savings, loans, and credits. Clients have a chance to practice opening a bank account or completing official bank documents. They also get a chance to reconsider their family budget, think about the task of individual members in the family and learn to prepare their family budget. They can compare their annual income and their annual expenses and learn to create an emergency fund.

Result: 988 courses took place.

Clients who were attending financial education courses, started saving within our Savings Program and are now regularly saving towards a certain goal they have set in advance. Some of them do not want to buy things on hire purchase or borrow money at a high interest rate. Many Roma in Sabinov are caught up in a vicious circle – I borrow because I don't have any money and then as I don't have any money to repay my debt, I have to borrow again. Some of the clients were already able to escape this trap. Clients learned to make not only their monthly family budget but learned to plan for half a year ahead. The stories that we got to read together with the clients concerning the financial planning were very interesting for them as we discussed good and poor decisions that these people made. They also enjoyed calculating their expenses and many of them were surprised afterwards.



SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS: this theoretical and practical course focused on developing the craft and construction skills and took place in all of the CCs. The participants attended specific practical courses such as grouting, building brick walls, laying tiles, door and window assembly and painting. Practical presentations took place directly in the households of the clients, where they undertook their own projects. Via the Savings Program, the clients were able to save a sufficient amount of money and also using a small micro-credit within the Micro-credit program for their reconstruction. Clients acquired new working skills and habits and the courses encouraged their self-sufficiency, solidarity, and active participation within their community.

Result: 246 courses took place.

ETP Slovakia, in cooperation with local government and local construction company, constructed 8 low-standard apartments that are located in the center of the village only meters away from the church in Hodejov. The future tenants were required to work a certain amount of hours on the construction site. Support and supervision was provided by ETP's construction supervisor, who was regulating and leading all the construction work. The tenants were able to upgrade their apartments to regular standard via micro-credits they received from ETP.



Two-and-half bedroom apartment that Stefan, Gabriela and her children now have, was partly constructed by Stefan. "According to the contract we had to provide 15% of the work on our future apartment," he says. "We came into the bare structure with just the walls, ceiling and we had to finish everything by ourselves. Together we laid the tiles, assembled the doors and installed the kitchen counter. We were taught how to do it all and it worked! We enjoyed the work because we knew it was for our own good," continues Stefan. Gabriela was cleaning up after the masons. Their neighbor Maria also came to the construction site and cleaned outside and inside. Her mate was laying bricks. When they found out one apartment was assigned to them as well, they worked there without complaining. Until then, just like Stefan and Gabriela, they were living in a small old house without the toilet and running water in the Roma part of the village. It was not easy with seven children, especially if she wanted to have clean house and take good care for the children. "Our apartment now can't even compare to the old one. It was absolutely worth working here," claims Maria.

HEALTH CARE AND AWARENESS: Disabled people were provided with wheelchairs, funded by Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. They also had the benefit of lectures given by our nurse and our field social workers covering health awareness and hygiene habits.

Result: 186 lectures aimed at healthcare and sickness prevention took place in the CCs. There were about 9 participants attending on average.

Community social worker Hedviga Trifontyova is very keen on healthcare awareness: "Every time our nurse Gabika Valentovicova comes to talk about health, migraine, diabetes or conservatives and their impact on our body, clients enjoyed that very much. They like the lecture because of the useful information that they learn and put into practice in their families and personal lives. She answers all of their questions and gives them advice that they need. There are always some topics about healthy lifestyle and exercising as well as about prevention. Every mother wants to give her children only the best and therefore they are very thankful if someone like Gabika gives them counsel in such matters. We always expect her with great love."

YOUNG MOTHERS: This course was aimed at healthy lifestyle of pregnant women. We also taught them the basic principles that were to be applied before and during their labor, nursing their babies, children's diseases, care and a safe environment, nutrition and also about contraception. Young girls and boys attended the course as the role of being a parent certainly won't pass them by.

Result: 1 102 lectures with practical presentations of equipment for babies and mothers-to-be. These lectures were very popular and there were 14-16 participants on average.

At the course "Young Mothers" young women from Nalepkovo practiced taking care of the baby as they had all the necessary equipment. At the same time other young mothers showed them how to change the diaper of their own children. Community social worker Zdenka Rabatinova says that this course was very helpful for Mirka. She became pregnant when she was 18 and her partner wasn't much older- at 19. After she gave birth, it was not easy for her as she didn't know what exactly it meant to be a mother. Besides the "Young Mothers" course and healthcare awareness course, she also attended cooking and handicraft course. All of these helped her in managing the household and she was very thankful for all the help and knowledge, she gained in the CC.

SEXUAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION:

The course was aimed at sexual abstinence, safe sex, venereal diseases, responsible parenting and the role of fathers. Other topics included also alcohol and drug consumption, prevention of excessive alcohol consumption and drug addiction as well as their negative impact on health and life.

Result: 42 young people were trained through 131 lectures and became lecturers themselves, spreading awareness in the communities (peer-to-peer programs).

This story from Jesenske CC is about an 18-year-old boy who was able to fight and win against his drug addiction. This young man comes from a big family, he has six siblings. He completed only the primary education and due to financial reasons he wasn't able to continue in his studies. His mother is unemployed and his father is very sick and he is on disability pension. He picked the wrong company of friends as all of them were sniffing. In spite of knowing that the drugs were bad, he decided to try them anyway. When the CC was established in our village, he started attending our activities. Hedviga, the Community Social Worker, says: "He shared his story with us and we accepted him as one of us. He participated in "CrossRoads" and "Drug Prevention" courses. Ever since then he decided to pick completely different friends and he is trying to help those of his friends, who are still fighting with drugs. Now he is playing football in the local club and participates in



the activities of the CC. He is helping us with young people, his peers, we are trying to motivate them to continue in their studies. He is also thinking of going to the secondary school in Lucenec. We are very happy that we were able to support and save such a precious person as him. Most of all, however, it was his strong will that helped him to decide. We hope that one day he will reach his goal."

CULTURE AND HISTORY OF ROMA: This course was provided by an experienced photographer. Young Roma learned to work with a digital camera, practiced techniques of picture taking in the interior and exterior, portraits, group photographs, family events and also techniques of documentary photography. They also learned to save, edit and process the pictures on the computer and print them afterwards.

Result: 66 young people trained.

Some of these students have shown a great talent in picture taking and their works were presented in various expositions in several Slovak cities. Their photographs are also a part of beautiful publication *Andal O Dzivipen* (From Our Life) published by ETP Slovakia in 2012.

Six young people of Stara Lubovna participated in the creative workshop "Culture and History of Roma". They documented all the events of everyday life in the community such as interesting events, everyday life in school or social and cultural activities. Successful photographs presented in several exhibitions in Slovak cities are the fruit of their work. Ludka Stasakova, who is leading the CC in Stara Lubovna, is very proud of them.

CROSSROADS: This course addresses the causes of long-term unemployment and why people frequently fail in life and live in generational poverty. The goal of the course is to help the participants to discover their purpose in life and to encourage them to face issues from their past. The course encourages people to continue in their education, and also to reconsider and discontinue unhealthy relationships. The course was provided by our experience community social workers and there was a wide range of clients participating in the courses aged 14-60. Many of them found motivation and changed their everyday routine.

Result: Altogether 1 137 classes took place and there were 6 clients present on average.

Janka Plachetkova from Spisske Podhradie was an active participant of the training course CrossRoads. She regularly participated in the course as she was determined to improve the life of all of her family members. She has a husband and two children. Since she is unemployed, she thought that finding a job would solve her situation. However, this was not an easy task as she has only primary education. Therefore we were very happy when she enrolled to secondary school in Bijacovce and successfully completed the first year of the two-year program. She will continue with her studies after summer holiday.

The participants of CrossRoads in Rudnany also changed the view of their life, some of them discovered something new about their life, they didn't even know about. They learned to cope with their emotions in crisis, think about the purpose of their life and they are able to understand their children better. One of the participants completed a driver license course and two other clients are planning to enroll to driving school. Other eleven clients successfully started working and got performance contract and two other clients had their contracts prolonged and they are still working. Patrik, 13-year-old boy also attended, He was rather short-tempered and he wanted to have everything his way. If things were not his way, he was very rude and he would kick the furniture. Recently, however, his behavior has changed. He would politely greet everyone and if he wanted something, he would ask nicely. The major change in his



behavior could not go unnoticed by our community social worker and so she asked him what had happened. Patrik said it was because of "CrossRoads". He realized at the course that he has to behave himself and control his emotions. We are very happy and proud to have such children.

BRIDGES OUT OF POVERTY: In order to reach a permanent change in our communities, it is necessary to provide training not only to clients but also to professionals such as social workers, teachers, employees of local government and others, who are providing services to socially excluded clients. "Bridges Out of Poverty" helps to improve mutual cooperation with clients. The professionals are taught about the "hidden rules" of life in socially excluded communities. It enhances the services for the clients and increases the chances of socially excluded to escape benefit traps. The course was taught by Slavka Macakova a Ludka Stasakova.

Result: 13 lectures provided for 131 professionals working in municipalities and other public bodies.

Besides Human Capital Building within the "Community Bridge building in Central and Eastern Slovakia" project, we also implemented various social and cultural activities in 2011:

Publishing authentic book ANDAL O DŽIVIPEN (From Our Life): This publication gathers the success stories of members of marginalized Roma communities, together with photographs taken by young amateur artists and photographers. These stories were recorded by the experienced journalist, Beata Hybackova, and they depict the lives of families and individuals who were able to take their future into their own hands and face their destiny either by themselves or with professional help and support.

Large photographs of the young artists were displayed during various public social events in Kosice and Bratislava. Altogether there were seven public traveling exhibitions of these photographs. These pictures reflect a range of emotions and feelings that are an integral part of life in the settlement – from innocent joy of children all the way to sorrow, grief and hopelessness. The aim was to engage young people of Roma settlements into spreading the message about the reality of life in marginalized Roma communities to the majority.

The exhibitions took place in:

Medical Garden, Bratislava
Theatre Center in Old Town, Bratislava
Primary Schools in Old Town, Bratislava
Faculty of Natural Sciences of Komensky University, Bratislava
House of Arts, Kosice
Kulturpark, Kosice
Cultural Center SPOT, Kosice





We organized **cultural-social evening celebrating the International Day of Roma (April 8th, 2011)** in cooperation with Civic Association EQUITY and bookstore Artforum. The event took place at Kozia Street, Bratislava. Part of the evening was also a discussion about our coexistence and "Bridges out of Poverty". Participants of the discussion were:

- Irma Horváthová (komunitná pracovníčka z KC v Moldave nad Bodvou)
- Slávka Mačáková (riaditeľka ETP Slovensko)
- Slavka Macakova (Director of ETP Slovakia)
- Marek Sulik (Movie director of documentary movies)
- Andrej Ban (Journalist nad photographer)
- Miro Pollak (Plenipotentiary of SR for Roma Communities)

The discussion was lead by Laco Oravec (Program Director of Milan Simecka Foundation). After the discussion the performance Piece of My Life (Slumdog Theatre) was presented. The true story form the settlement is told and sung by those, who have experienced it.



SAVINGS PROGRAM – We have been implementing this successful project since 2007 and year 2011 was not an exception. The clients saved between 10 to 50 EUR for a defined goal over a period of 12 months, depositing the money to their own bank accounts. The bonus match funding that only the successful clients receive is highly motivational as it is equal to the saved amount. The total amount of money was invested into building their assets. Usually, they would improve or reconstruct something in their house (bathroom, kitchen, roof, construction of additional room, new windows, property purchase, etc.) or education (driver license, university or secondary education, purchase of PC). Each participant attended financial education course and personality development course as well.

Result: The project was implemented in 19 localities. Since 2007, 333 families have participated in the program and received bonus. 114 new clients have joined the program in 2011 and 26 of them successfully finished saving and 88 are still saving.

Donor: Open Society Foundation

Alexandra from Budulovska settlement in Moldava nad Bodvou is 33 years old and with her partner, has three children. She is very hospitable, takes good care of her children and they have good attendance in school. When she heard about the Savings program from Irma Horvathova, the Community social worker, she was the first one to join the program and this inspired others. Many people doubted, they didn't believe that they if they saved 500 EUR, they would receive additional 500 EUR as a bonus. "Who would give away money like that?" they were gossiping together. Alexandra started saving 25 EUR a month. After 12 months, there was 300 EUR in her bankbook and she received additional 300 EUR as a match funding bonus. Alexandra lives in a low-standard apartment, she didn't have bathroom, kitchen counter or floors. She decided to use her 600 EUR savings and bonus to refurbish her bathroom and kitchen. Other members of the community came to understand afterwards the participating in the Savings program could be very beneficial for them. Alexandra's dream of better home came true. After this experience, 12 other families of Moldava nad Bodvou joined the Savings program. .





Another of our pioneering projects is the **MICROCREDIT PROGRAM**, aimed at housing improvements. It has helped dozens of families supporting their self-sufficiency. Low-income families were provided with a small loan of 1 200 EUR, enabling them to reconstruct their bathrooms, repair their roofs, change the floors, install heating, etc. Families repay these non-profit loans over the period of four years and at the same time; they participate in financial education, a personality development course and courses on the construction site, where they gain practical experience and skills.

Result: 88 families in 15 localities received a loan in 2011. A total of 520 micro-loans have been provided since 2006.

Donor: Habitat for Humanity International

New housing and quality life is the motto of Alena Husarova, a mother of three, who lives in Ostrovany. She joined the Savings program in 2008, saved 597 EUR and received a bonus. She then joined the Microcredit program; she received a loan 1 160 EUR and started building a new house on the land of her grandfather Milan Duzda. Alena and her grandfather were both saving in the bank. After some time,

Alena received a construction loan to complete the house. Her family created their own saving scheme called "Little Bee Club". Every month one of the members of "Little Bee Club" received a certain amount of money agreed in advance that all the members of the group contribute to. At the beginning of the year it the order of receiving contribution was determined. It was a great help to Alena. When her house was finished, she started refurbishing it on the inside. Alena decided to patiently save money through all the available programs and schemes. At first, the family reconstructed the kitchen, later bedroom, bathroom and the toilet. "It almost seemed like we were done with everything" says Alena. Unexpected hailstorm, however, damaged the roof and they didn't have enough money to repair it. "At the same time a family tragedy came, our newborn child was born dead. I was desperate and I didn't know what to do. I turned to our community worker, Mr. Marian Trisc, who was also our mentor, and he promised to help us. We received a microloan from the Microcredit program and repaired the roof. I would like to thank our community worker and ETP staff for their great help as I am not sure what we would have done then."

"I met Mrs. Alzbeta couple years ago, when I started working in the CC" says experienced community social worker Ludka Stasakova from Stara Lubovna. Alzbeta has a large family – together with her husband they have seven children aged 6 to 21 years. Their family lives in a small house with two rooms. It has no running water or electricity. Her husband was able to get a job in the local company few years ago. However, more and more Roma started losing jobs and job opportunities are scarce in our region. Alzbeta's health started deteriorating after the birth of their last son. She was diagnosed with a severe liver disease. We kept in touch during the time of her hospitalization and we helped her to keep in contact with the doctors and hospitals. In spite of our efforts, she wasn't getting any better and finally the doctors said that only liver transplant could possibly save her life. However, this was a great problem as acceptable hygienic conditions were the prerequisite for registering Alzbeta into the transplantation list. Alzbeta was not able to meet these due to her housing conditions. After long time of reasoning, her husband agreed to join the Savings program and repair their house; however, this situation required an immediate solution. We joined forces with other institutions and her doctor and started to look for a way out. The local municipality of Stara Lubovna provided housing for Alzbeta in the local half-way house and ETP helped her secure the hygienic conditions according to the recommendations of the doctor. Even though the family did not complete the saving period, ETP provided them with a microloan for bathroom reconstruction. And what about the result? Alzbeta now lives in her own room in the half-way house, she has a heater, running hot water and flushing toilet. She met the requirements of the doctors and she was enrolled in the transplantation list. This brought a new hope into her life that her health might improve and she could be a good mother to her little children. After she gets better, she can go back to her house in Podsadek that her husband is planning to reconstruct via the Savings program.





SMALL STEPS ON THE WAY TO PROSPERITY: the project was implemented in 15 localities during 15 months (February 2011 – April 2012).

The aim of the project was to improve the skills of the members of socially excluded communities via practical training courses and teach them to save resources, decrease their housing expenses and improve the quality of their environment.

Most of the participants joined the Savings or Microcredit program in the past in order to improve their housing. Many houses are built improperly and their overall technical condition is very bad. They are energy inefficient mostly due to the easily removed reasons such as roof sieve, improperly installed door or missing insulation, etc. Unnecessary heat loss results in electricity wasting that has a major impact on the household budget. After participating in the courses, the clients understood that it was necessary to resolve the problems that they have overlooked until then. Today, they know that from a long-term point of view, it is worth investing into the projects that will make their dwelling more energy efficient.

Marek Isak was the trainer of the practical courses and the participants were able to reinstall their heaters, make new roof, insulate their houses, change their windows, insulate the floors, etc. Thermal images of the heat loss were another great step. It was possible to observe the behavior of the clients toward the environment and energy wasting (for example they don't leave doors open, they changed the light bulbs and they know that fridge should not be next to the heater or stove). The climate and the surroundings of the apartments have significantly improved over the 15 months.

A simple manual "How to work and save" is another outcome of the project. It is a catalogue of easy ideas and solutions on energy efficiency. The manual is mostly for the clients of Savings and Microcredit program. Our goal is to motivate the clients to use their savings to improve the energetic efficiency of their dwellings. It is available in the community centers in the participating municipalities.

Result: Altogether 137 training courses took place and there were 10 participants on the average.

Donor: UNDP - Global Environmental Facility Small Grant Program





CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SMALL HOUSES: An unusual situation in August 2011 caused us to determine to act in Moldava nad Bodvou, in the Budulovska settlement, where ETP Slovakia runs a community center. A fire in the settlement meant that four families lost everything they had, including their homes.

We immediately started a construction project for four small houses in cooperation with the City of Moldava and Bodvou. The goal of this extraordinary cooperation was to build new houses with the active participation of the future inhabitants. Initially the houses were to be just 5 x 5 meters but with the possibility for expansion. The city made 100 m² available to every family top rent and ETP provided the families with microloans of 1 200 EUR, together with the services of construction supervisor Marek Isak. The city secured the formal matters related to the construction, materials from older buildings, and their transportation to the construction site and also paid four construction workers. Construction work was also performed by the members of the four families – the future tenants. The families purchased materials and equipment for their new homes via our Microcredit and Savings programs and moved in just before Christmas 2011.



In spring 2012, the electric and water connection were completed finished. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Days Saints significantly supported the water installation. The church has good experience with drilling wells in the nearby countries as well as in Slovakia. The other inhabitants of the settlement – had to use water from a nearby brook, which was clearly unsatisfactory from a health point of view. We drilled two wells for drinking water and the inhabitants of the four houses are now self-sufficient and they have their own clean running water. The electricity is properly and legally installed and every family has its own meter.

Result: Moldava nad Bodvou: 4 new small houses created in just 4 months with the active participation of the future tenants and at a total cost per house not exceeding 4000 EUR.

Ďakujeme za podporu: *City of Moldava nad Bodvou, UNDP - GEF, Open Society Foundation, Habitat for Humanity International, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Days Saints, Local construction company Ametys s.r.o., language school Word Art, Member of European parliament Monika Smolkova*



What has changed after the four families moved into their new houses?

The children are happier and more content. They were despised before because of living in shacks. Their parents took good care of them and supported them in going to school. Now it is easier for them. They are proud of their own houses. Their self-esteem is better and they are able to integrate into the group with other children. They have modest, but clean, places to do their homework with electricity. . Running water to the houses has increased the convenience of cooking and the personal hygiene of all the family. They no longer have to wash their laundry in the brook because now they have a washing machine, a great step forward for these families.

We encourage them to regularly pay for their electricity to repay their microloans. The goal is to reach financial independence, repay their debts and not have any new debts. For them it is necessary to convince both themselves and others around them that they are capable of being self-sufficient and that they can take good care of their new home which they have built with the support of ETP and the local municipality. Their future is in their hands.

Since October 2011, 12 new families of Moldava nad Bodvou, inspired by the example of these four families have joined the Savings program.



In May 2011, we launched a new two-year project **CHANCE FOR ROMA**, in Kosice-Saca municipality with the close cooperation of the local primary school, U.S. Steel Kosice Company, local municipality and local Roma NGOs. The purpose of the project is to improve the educational level of Roma children; young people and adults who come from socially excluded families and develop role models that are worth being followed.

Just like all the other community centers of ETP Slovakia, the CC in Kosice-Saca takes a comprehensive approach and provides activities for all age groups. Besides social and legal counseling, our programs in the CC include:



PRESCHOOL CLUB: This takes place every day of the week for two hours. CC leader develops the skills and abilities of the children, which are necessary for them to enter the 1st grade of primary school (shapes, colors, seasons, etc.). The children learn basic hygiene habits and other social skills that every first grader should know.

Result: 20 children regularly attend preschool during the week.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES : Specific activities were selected based on the interests of the children. Among the popular provided activities in the CC are: modern and traditional dance, arts and crafts, cooking, photography, English language lessons provided by native English speakers and PC courses.

Result: 45 young participants.

MENTORING PROGRAM: The Mentoring Program started in October 2011. It is focused on two groups of the children:

1. Children who were identified by their teachers as problem students. The families of these children were contacted by our community worker and invited to join this program. Mentors provide their protégés with support in their studies, homework and they also talk about their future plans and help them resolve their family issues. They have become older siblings and role models that their protégés admire.
2. Talented children that need assistance in developing their talents and they do not have this chance at home for various reasons. Their mentors help them to find their way to success.

Milka Kacmarcikova, coordinator of this program, considers it very effective as it has brought positive results in only a few months. The school results and school attendance of children have both improved. Mentors come from the middle class and their task is to lead their protégés across the imaginary bridge from poverty to middle class.

CROSSROADS: This course was provided by our American colleague Vicki Ball Jeffs. She managed to win the hearts of 34 participants who were initially highly skeptical. The group consisted of Roma men, heads of households, who are employed by U.S. Steel Company via the local municipality in the form of personal leasing. Their chances of getting a permanent working contract increase based on their performance, discipline and active participation on their personal development. The key message of CrossRoads provided them with new approach to their life, purpose, valuing the truth and on personality development. CrossRoads



is aimed at personal development, addresses unhealthy relationships and helps participants reach their full potential. The course helped the clients understand the importance of their education and education of their children. Two vice-presidents of U.S.Steel Kosice Company, Mrs. Elena Petraskova and Mr. Martin Pitorak, participated in the final ceremony when the CrossRoads certificates were passed out. They could see the determination and motivation of the participants to put everything they learned into practice. Their active approach to life has become an example for other participants of the Company's Equality of Opportunity program.

Result: 33 participants successfully completed the course.

Ďakujeme za podporu: *Roma Education Fund, Municipality of Kosice-Saca, U. S. Steel Kosice Company, The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Slovakia, Embassy of the USA in Slovakia, The British Embassy in Slovakia*

Gabriel Csiszar is a six-year old boy. When he first came to the preschool club he was shy, quiet and couldn't draw very well. After some time he has improved in everything, he speaks Slovak well. He is a fast learner and remembers everything we teach. Community worker Lenka Kovacova is also a good friend to his mother. She is very happy that Gabriel can attend the preschool club where he can learn new things. If he didn't understand something, his sisters or his mother would help him. He was successfully enrolled to the 1st grade of the primary school. His mother is very proud of him. Gabriel's sisters go to school and also enjoy the extra-curricular activities in the CC. Their mother is very happy that they are not just aimlessly hanging around the neighborhood but they have something meaningful to do. They also participate in the mentoring program in order to improve their school results.

The Roma dance club "Somnakune cerchena" is lead by Milan Cisar. They have been working very hard ever since the dance club started. At first there were only girls in the club but after some time the boys joined as well. This was a great benefit for the club as they are very excellent in "capas" – a traditional dance of men characterized by rhythmical beat of palm against the thigh and calf. They have presented their talents at several events and contests and even won one of the 1st places in some of the competitions. They have a desire to gain the respect of non-Roma as well and they are constantly learning new choreographies and dances. Many of the club members are planning to continue in their studies at an arts school. Community workers are supporting them and reminding them to study hard. They will surely make it!



British Embassy
Bratislava



U. S. Steel Košice



Koninkrijk
der Nederlanden



We organized a great cultural event **VOICES FOR TOMORROW** in September 2011 for the first time. 45 children and young people from the Roma settlement at Moldava nad Bodvou and Roma community in Kosice-Saca practiced and were led by the famous Czech singer Ida Kellarova (and her band) and artists who are Ambassadors of the International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation. They worked together during a 3-day workshop and practiced mostly dance, signing and music. During this time cultures from different parts of the world were interconnected. The great climax of this workshop was in the form of concert that took place in the House of Art and it was attended by representatives of European Commission, Ministry of Culture, the City of Kosice and the general public. It was a fabulous opportunity for children who do not have many chances to meet renowned artists and they were inspired to develop their skills and benefitted from such a great opportunity to improve their talent.

Result: 45 children together with 10 artists of two Roma communities played a two-hour performance for an audience of 250 in the House of Art, Kosice.

Donors: International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation, NESS KDC, City of Moldava nad Bodvou, City of Kosice, EHMK 2013, Ministry of Culture of SR, European Commission – Representation in SR, State Slovak Philharmonic Kosice, Panorama Food Club

"I believe that this way we can open the door for children to get out of the settlement" says Ida Kellarova about the project. She is convinced that projects aimed at presentation of Roma children broaden their view and show them that there is a different life outside of the settlement. According to her words, children who participated in the workshops could possibly join Ida Kellarova and the group she is working with in Switzerland or other countries next year. She discovered many talents in Kosice that deserve to be supported on a professional level.

VOICES FOR TOMORROW

Another cultural project of 2011 was a series of performances by

SLUMDOG THEATRE. Slumdog Theatre was established by a group of devotees that had participated in the drama club in Moldava nad Bodvou CC since 2009. The theatre is made up of young people from the settlement that saw a real dramatic performance for the first time in their life only one year after they had joined the drama club. They started playing without any previous experience and just with the skills gained in real life. Their performances reflect current issues faced by the inhabitants of settlements and evoke strong emotions. The goal of Slumdog Theatre is to communicate the important message about the problems of young people living in socially excluded settlements who, despite their strong will do not have many chances to escape the vicious circle of generational poverty. Their wish is to eliminate stereotypes and prejudice rooted in the majority population through the play.



The performances in 2011 included:

Three performances in the Medical Garden for primary schools and the general public

Fifteen performances in the Center of Theatre, Literature and Education (Bratislava) for primary and secondary schools in Bratislava

Performance in Lunik IX, for primary school in Kosice

Seven performances for primary schools Hlboka, Mudronova, Dr. M. Hodza in Bratislava

Performance in Bilingual Grammar School of C.S. Lewis, Bratislava

Musical Performance at Bratislava Cultural Summer

Performance in The House of European Union, Bratislava

Performance in the Office of Government of SR, Bratislava

Performance at the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family, Bratislava

Performance at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Komensky University, Bratislava

Performance in the Salesian Pastoral Center, Vajnory, Bratislava

Performance at Lutheran Grammar School of J. A. Komensky, Kosice

Performance in Hodejov, for general public

Performance in Moldava nad Bodvou, for schools

After every performance, the spectators had a chance to ask questions and get to know the environment that the actors live in and the view of Roma in Slovakia that the actors had. Each discussion lasted from one to two hours. The spectators had questions regarding the housing and infrastructure issues in the settlements. The audience also had a chance to see the photographs of young Roma photographers that depict the life in the settlement. Some of the spectators decided to support the Slumdog Theatre and the inhabitants of Budulovska settlement in Moldava nad Bodvou in material way, by collecting clothes and other material objects to relief the situation in the settlement.

Result: 36 performances, altogether attended by of 1500 people. Irma Horvathova, leader of Slumdog Theatre was awarded Gypsy Spirit Award in 2011 in the category of extra-curricular activities aimed at Roma children and youth.



Donors: Civic Association EQUITY that has been supporting Slumdog Theatre on a long-term basis, Office of Government of SR, Open Society Foundation, Old Town Bratislava

Community social worker Irma Horvathova, who leads the Slumdog Theatre, says: "When we started, they were just desperate young people, who did not know how to deal with the daily reality in the settlement. They were dirty, skipping school, rude and hopeless." The Drama club and people from the CC completely changed their life. They started to take care about themselves and started regularly going to school. Now they have self-respect and they also learned to show respect to others. The first months were hard, they were struggling to learn something new. After some time Irma started to see the results of her work. "Their effort to learn something and show it to the majority was the most amazing thing I could have experienced."



OUR ACTIVITIES

PROJECTS IN 2011

ACTIVITIES FOR MIGRANTS

SOCIAL SERVICES FOR MIGRANTS – EVACUATION TRANSIT CENTER IN HUMENNE! ETP became an implementing partner of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Slovakia (UNHCR) in 2009 within the project aimed at caring for a group of people under protection of UNHCR. This pilot project involved 18 Palestinian families and a total of 98 people, who had spent three years in a tent refugee camp in the Iraqi desert on the borders of Iraq, Jordan and Syria. The residence of these people was temporary, for six months before the families would be transited to the country of permanent stay (USA).

From May 2011, the UNHCR, together with ETP, has been working with a new group of refugees from Afghanistan – widowed women, mothers with children. The group was made up of 46 people. They spent 6 months in Humenne and during this time they were introduced to brand new culture. At the beginning of winter, November 2011, they were resettled in the USA.

14 workers were involved in the project: a coordinator, four social workers, three interpreters, a school teacher, a general practitioner, pediatrician, nurse, lecturers, administrative workers and external co-workers.

In December we welcomed a new group of 40 refugees from Somalia.

Result: Inclusive 24-hour care for 86 refugees during their time of 6-month transit in Humenne.

Activities for clients and their children were adjusted to their current needs:

- English classes: three groups based on English level
- PC course
- Kindergarten/school for children aged 2-10 included: English classes, reading, counting, writing, crafts, sports and social skills
- Classes for older children: besides English and PC courses, we also provided math, geography, history and cultural orientation focused on the country of their future home
- Social and cultural orientation for adults: within this course we cooperated with International Organization for Migration –for basic cultural orientation. ETP Slovakia focused on classes aimed at USA and western countries – history, geography, values, system of education, places of interest, famous personalities – including immigrants, legal system, transportation, shopping. Every family was able to get to know the place they were transported to better.
- CrossRoads: our clients had never been at a greater “crossroad” in their life as at the time in Humenne. They very much appreciated the 8-day course led by American trainer Vicki Ball Jeffs, aimed at personality development, positive thinking, understanding their strengths and purpose.



- Creative workshops were provided for all age groups and over the period of six months a great number of activities took place: painting, courses of drawing, production of window decoration, production of puppets, flower planting, cooking and baking (Slovak, American, Iranian, Afghan dishes), needlework, knitting, folklore dancing, production of USA map, production of fridge magnets and many others.
- Roadtrips and leisure activities: these activities were very popular, since the clients were able to visit unknown places and experience something new. They discovered Slovakia, new world that was different from what they were used to. We organized a number of trips to Slovak castles, caves, ZOO and planetarium. We also attended cultural performances in the theatre, concert halls, museums and 3D movies. We also visited shopping malls in Kosice, Presov and Michalovce.
- Community life, personal talks and leisure time: these informal and unplanned activities often have the greatest influence on our clients. Our staff as well as employees of UNHCR Migration Bureau would often sit with the clients over a cup of tea and talk about their joys and sorrows. Personal relationships and friendly atmosphere are necessary for wellbeing of clients in their uneasy situation. Together we celebrated various holidays (Mother's and Father's Day, International Day of Refugees, Afghan holidays, birthdays, etc.). Some of our clients participated in the discussions about refugees with Slovak students. Some conflicts also occurred during the time of their stay; however these were resolved during personal talks and individual approach of the workers.

Besides these activities, we also provided daily medical and psychological care. The clients had to undergo necessary medical examination after their arrival and remain in the quarantine until their medical results were clarified.

Material assistance:

- Accommodation and food (Migration Bureau)
- Monthly hygienic boxes (Migration Bureau)
- Luggage (IOM and ETP)
- Clothes, shoes, nutrition supplements and basic food supplements besides the daily meals in the canteen – fruit, tea, coffee, milk for babies and adults, water (ETP)
- Strollers, sports equipment, games, carpets and curtains, school and kindergarten equipment, table tennis, foosball and darts, school and office supplies (ETP)
- 4 PCs, TV, DVD player (UNHCR)
- Clothes (Slovak Humanitarian Council, UNHCR and other donors)

Donors: Migration Bureau of Ministry of Interior of SR, UNHCR, IOM – International Organization for Migration, Slovak Humanitarian Council

When the clients from Afghanistan were leaving Slovakia, they were completely different than when they first arrived. Back then, they were full of fear, worried about their future, traumas that they experienced and unclear expectations from the new country that was to become their home for the next 6 months. Individual approach, acceptance and daily kindness helped them to overcome the stress and changed their behavior and attitude. Some of these women experienced equality for the first time in their life. Jaroslav Kusev - project coordinator shared a few words of one of the refugees that she used during her speech on International Refugee Day: "Thank you for the joy that you have brought into our life. I have been a refugee for 32 years and I have never experienced as much joy as I am experiencing today. Thank you very much"



Ministerstvo vnútra
Slovenskej republiky



IOM International Organization for Migration



ASAP III.: the target group of this project consists of foreigners with asylum and asylum seekers with subsidiary protection (persons, who were not granted with asylum, but there are major obstacles preventing them from going back to the country of their origin due to security issues). These refugees come from countries such as Somalia, Afghanistan, Iran, Cuba, and Congo but also from Ukraine and Russia. On January 1st, 2011 ETP became a local partner of Slovak Humanitarian Council that is coordinating this project on a national level. We provide comprehensive services for our clients within Central and Eastern Slovakia with the aim to linguistically, economically and socially integrate them. Project ASAP III will continue until the end of 2012.

During 2011, there were 24 refugees and 75 persons with subsidiary protection in Kosice. There are 13 refugees, who are our clients living in Lucenec, in Central Slovakia.

Beata Kopal a Linda Sztasova provided counseling and assistance to the clients in the following matters:

- Assistance in housing issues
- Purchase and distribution of material and financial assistance
- Assistance in job search
- Securing Slovak lessons
- Assistance in official matters and communication with authorities
- Assistance in medical examination
- Interpreting
- Legal counseling
- Psychological counseling
- Counseling regarding education (school and various requalification courses)
- Organization of leisure time activities

10 clients participated in the CrossRoads training course in October 2011.

Donors: *European Fund for Refugees – Solidarity in managing the migration flow, Slovak Humanitarian Council, individual donors*



Ministerstvo vnútra
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SLOVENSKÁ
HUMANITNÁ
RADA

RECOMMENDATIONS

- We recommend that every municipality with a segregated or separated community should have a community center (CC). The government should support the establishment of CCs on a national level and provide financial contribution for their operation via local government.

Activities of the CC should include:

1. A Preschool club. We recommend that three-year attendance at a preschool facility should be compulsory for children of an MRC. This would strengthen their competences in entering primary school.
 2. Extra-curricular activities for teenagers. Young people can be influenced through activities that they enjoy but which can develop them so that great changes can take place. They have strong prevention impact (relating to addictions of different kinds).
 3. Peer-to-peer programs. Expand the range of young participants active in the community life. Their civil participation is strengthened and they can become an inspiration for other community members, “good examples” and natural leaders. At the same time their skills and abilities are developed – working with people, organizational skills, communication abilities and other skills that they can use in the future.
 4. Education of women – young mothers who did not complete primary or secondary education because of pregnancy. Support them with provision of preschool clubs for their children. During this time the mothers will have a chance to complete primary or secondary education. Their mentor can possibly assist them with the school duties. “If we educate women, we educate the entire community.” It is also necessary to motivate boys and young men to complete their education.
 5. Financial education aimed at eliminating the negative impact of loan sharks in the marginalized Roma communities. Financial education should be supported with savings and microcredit schemes so that the clients can put their knowledge into practice.
 6. Housing programs aimed at improving housing conditions. It is necessary that any construction projects require the active participation of the clients in the construction process.
- In implementing programs aimed at the Roma minority, it is crucial to keep the continuation of financial resources. Anything that is built in two years of hard work can be lost in six months of passivity and the clients will fall back to their routine. Especially the projects coordinated on the national level should be continuous.
 - Promotion of positive examples in the media. The best practice examples should be widely promoted and presented. It is necessary to eliminate prejudice and attitude of the majority that is getting more and more radical.
 - The government should attempt to implement verified and successful projects undertaken by the third sector and include them into national strategies.
 - The Government should provide a chance of employment within the “activation work programs” to all interested candidates. The current system covers only a small part of population of those who would like to work. We recommend that the works should be aimed at the entire community or municipality: flood prevention, small construction work for the municipality, cleaning of the environment and concourse, elimination of dump, assistance to social workers, doctors, teachers, police, etc. This kind of work can significantly support social benefits.
 - Changes in legislation so that members of marginalized communities could receive a loan from State Housing Development Fund. Currently these people do not meet the strict criteria.
 - The Government should simplify the process of legalization of property. This would significantly resolve the issue of illegal buildings.

OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS

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The British Embassy in Slovakia
The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Slovakia
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UNDP GEF - United Nations Development Program - Global Environmental Facility
U. S. Steel Kosice Company
Roma Press Agency
State Slovak Philharmonic Kosice
Office of Labor, Social Affairs and Family in Stara Lubovna
Office of Labor, Social Affairs and Family Kosice

City of Bratislava – Old Town
City of Detva
City of Moldava nad Bodvou
City of Kosice – Kosice-Saca
City of Sabinov
City of Spisske Podhradie
City of Stara Lubovna

City of Stopkov
City of Ziar nad Hronom
Municipality of Cakov
Municipality of Ciz
Municipality of Hodejov
Municipality of Jablonov
Municipality of Jesenske

Municipality of Ochtina
Municipality of Nalepkovo
Municipality of Nitra nad Iplom
Municipality of Ostrovany
Municipality of Rudnany
Municipality of Simonovce
Municipality of Velky Blh

WHY OUR PARTNERS SUPPORT ACTIVITIES AIMED AT DEVELOPMENT OF ROMA COMMUNITIES



U. S. Steel Košice

U. S. STEEL KOSICE COMPANY

The absence of qualifications caused almost 100% unemployment rate of Roma in Kosice-Saca. The idea of offering them job opportunities as a tool for resolving some of the problems in the Roma settlement was gradually transformed in the Equality of Opportunity Project. U. S. Steel Kosice decided to support the long-term unemployed people in order to decrease the unemployment rate in the region and increase their living standards. We help those who want to work and change their life, support the education of their children and are interested in improving their own qualifications. Those who are involved in the Equality of Opportunity Project, have to support the regular school attendance of their children.

Through several projects, the company motivates children to complete primary education and to continue in their studies in the secondary vocational school, e.g. Secondary Metallurgical School in Saca. Children and young people are a special group the can move forward rather fast and we can teach them responsibility and encourage them to study.

Since the aim of the community programs of U. S. Steel Kosice Company and ETP Slovakia are very similar, we closely cooperate in our activities.

Ing. Jan Baca

Director of Public Affairs U. S. Steel Kosice Company



Práca v Kolíčiach, úspech vo svete!

NESS KDC, S.R.O.

An active approach to corporate social responsibility is an important part of the internal policy of NESS KDC Company. We support beneficial and charitable activities and encourage our employees into volunteering activities. We live in a time full of commerce and prejudice and we hardly perceive the reality around us. However, we, ourselves, are the only ones that can change that. Therefore, we decided to support intricate issues and socially disadvantaged groups including the homeless children and talented Roma children. Our desire is to help them to bounce of the very bottom and "fly away".

Andrea Bila

*Operations Manager, Ness Software Product Labs
Ness KDC, s.r.o.*

ETP IN THE MEDIA

The following regional and national TV features and press articles were published about the work of ETP Slovakia:.

aktualne.sk, 28.3.2011: Jurzyca bude navracat do skol socialne vylucene deti
<http://aktualne.atlas.sk/jurzyca-bude-navracat-do-skol-socialne-vylucene-deti/slovensko/spolocnost/>

.tyzden.sk, 7.4.2011: Od kolisky po hrob
<http://www.tyzden.sk/reportaze-tyzdna/od-kolisky-po-hrob.html>

Z tohto môže byť screenshot

tasr.sk, 8.4.2012: Na MPSVR si pripomenuli Medzinárodný deň Rómov predstavením Divadla z chatrče
<http://www.etp.sk/na-mpsvr-si-pripomenuli-medzinarodny-den-romov-predstavenim-divadla-z-chatrce/>

.tyzden.sk, 11.4.2011: Čo môžeme urobiť pre Rómov?
<http://www.tyzden.sk/vecery-tyzdna/mosty-z-chudoby.html>

.tyzden.sk, 14.4.2011: Ako nám zomrel kamarát
<http://www.tyzden.sk/reportaze-tyzdna/ako-nam-zomrel-kamarat.html>

ukinslovakia.fco.gov.uk, 10.5.2011: Otvorenie komunitného centra v Mestskej časti Košice-Šaca

The Slovak Spectator 26.5.2011: EU conference on Roma integration held in Košice
http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/42775/10/eu_conference_on_roma_integration_held_in_kosice.html

Bratislava.sme.sk, 31.5.2011: Medická záhrada ožije divadlom rómskych detí
<http://bratislava.sme.sk/c/5917040/medicka-zahrada-ozije-divadlom-romskych-deti.html>

gypsypirit.eu, 27.5.2011: Víťazi Gypsy Spirit už majú svoje srdcia
<http://www.gypsypirit.eu/sk/aktuality/40-vitazi-gypsy-spirit-uz-maju-svoje-srdcia>

stare mesto.sk, 2.6.2012: Výstava fotografií mladých talentov z rómskych osád na strednom a východnom Slovensku a vystúpenia Divadla z chatrče
<http://www.stare mesto.sk/sk/news/view/vystava-fotografii-mladych-talentov-z-romskych-osad-na-strednom-a-vychodnom-slovensku-a-vystupenia-divadla-z-chatrce-v-bratislave?sessid2b4f0b11d- ea2f7ae4bfff49b6307d50f=327df802a36d416898d8a0f3833e64fc>

spots.sk, 8.6.2011: Príbeh Rómov na Slovensku v Kulturparku
<http://www.spots.sk/pribeh-romov-na-slovensku-v-kulturparku/>

Správy STV, 3.8.2011: Do Bratislavy prišlo Divadlo z chatrče
<http://www.stv.sk/online/archiv/spravy-stv?date=2011-08-03&id=46032#1389>

Z tohto môže byť screenshot

Rádio Regina, 7.9.2011: V relácii Stretnutia záznam z koncertu Hlasy pre zajtrajšok a rozhovory
<http://www.etp.sk/radio-regina/459-stretnutia-20-00/>

Korzár.sme.sk, 9.9.2011: Dom umenia ožil talentom mladých Rómov
<http://kosice.korzar.sme.sk/c/6047664/dom-umenia-ozil-talentom-mladych-romov.html>

Rómsky magazín STV, 19.9.2011: Reportáž z koncertu Hlasy pre zajtrajšok
<http://www.stv.sk/online/archiv/romsky-magazin/?date=2011-09-19&id=46350>

Rómska tlačová agentúra, 5.12.2011: V Moldave stavajú domy pre rodiny, ktoré stratili strechu nad hlavou pri požiari, s minimálnymi nákladmi
<http://www.mecem.sk/rpa/?id=housing&lang=slovak&show=21710>

Rómska tlačová agentúra, 20.12.2011: V Moldave odovzdajú domčeky za menej ako 4,000 eur každý, vláda plánuje stavať za viac ako 50 000 eur jeden

<http://www.mecem.sk/rpa/?id=housing&lang=slovak&show=21760>

Korzár.sme.sk, 22.12.2011: Z chatrče sa Rómovia dostali prácou

<http://kosice.korzar.sme.sk/c/6191362/z-chatrce-sa-romovia-dostali-pracou.html>

Správy STV, 27.12.2011: Odovzdávanie bytov v Moldave nad Bodvou

<http://www.stv.sk/online/archiv/spravy-stv?date=2011-12-27&id=47445#662>

FINANCIAL REPORT

Profit and loss account	2011			Balance sheet	2011
	Activities not subject to taxation	Activities subject to taxation	Total		
Revenues				Assets	
Tržby za poskytnuté služby	481,00 €	3 161,00 €	3 642,00 €	Tangible assets	167 427,00 €
Prijaté príspevky	754 866,00 €		754 866,00 €	Depreciations	78 895,00 €
Ostatné výnosy	352,00 €		352,00 €	Cash	10 945,00 €
Total	755 699,00 €	3 161,00 €	758 860,00 €	Bank accounts	165 258,00 €
Expenses				Claims	277 992,00 €
Material and energy consumption	90 733,00 €	297,00 €	91 030,00 €	Other assets	0,00 €
Services	393 950,00 €	3 297,00 €	397 247,00 €	Total	700 517,00 €
Staff costs	235 958,00 €		235 958,00 €	Liabilities	2009
Taxes and fees	1 267,00 €		1 267,00 €	Registered capital	33 493,00 €
Depreciations	477,00 €		477,00 €	Funds	199,16 €
Other expenses	33 172,00 €		33 172,00 €	Profit or loss of current accounting period	72 059,00 €
Total	755 557,00 €	3 594,00 €	759 151,00 €	Financial obligations	54 295,00 €
Net profit or loss of current year	142,00 €	-433,00 €	-291,00 €	Other liabilities	510 892,00 €
				Total	670 938,16 €

Grants and contributions	2011		
	Grants	EUR	Other financial contributions
The Financial Mechanism EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanism	199 684,33 €		Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
Habitat for Humanity International	4 920,00 €		U. S. Steel Kosice Foundation
Open Society Foundation - OSF	1 350,00 €		Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic
UNHCR	144 710,00 €		City of Kosice
UNDP	30 742,70 €		NESS KDC
Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Slovakia	5 770,00 €		CVEK
US Embassy in Slovakia	6 588,45 €		Government Office of the Slovak Republic
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Slovakia	1 200,00 €		Children of Slovakia Foundation
Roma Education Fund	26 767,79 €		Other financial contributions
Council of Europe	16 908,80 €		
Total			690 438,70 €

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the executives of ETP SLOVENSKO:

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of ETP Slovensko ("The Company") comprising the balance sheet as of 31 December 2011 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

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. I conducted audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that I 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 presentation of financial statement.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of ETP Slovensko as of 31 December 2011 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Slovak Accounting law code.

Košice, November 11, 2012

Ing. Eva Gazdová

Licence SKAU 628





ETP SLOVAKIA – CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Zemplinska 15/A

040 01 Kosice, Slovakia

Tel/fax: +421 55 72 888 56-8

Web: www.etp.sk E-mail: etp@ke.etp.sk