

Jožka from Veľká Ida, who has attended the FIE Pre-School Club, enrolled in the first grade in September. She is a half-orphan and has seven siblings. Her family faces very tough economic situation. Jožka was in urgent need of eye treatment and glasses, and therefore, we used the services of the kamosizwebus.sk ("Friends from the Web") crowdfunding portal to raise funds for the cause.



ETP Slovensko
ETPS
ETP Slovakia

2014

ANNUAL REPORT

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Introduction



Vladimír IRA
Chairman



Slávka MAČÁKOVÁ
Director

Our results for 2014 have once again assured us that the direction we set years ago has been correct. Our clients have enjoyed the benefits of our work and State entities are taking the valuable experience and findings of our "social laboratory" more and more seriously. It is a signal of their commitment to gradually implement our best practice examples in the community and social work in marginalized Roma communities nationwide.

The golden Civil Society Prize awarded to ETP by the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels has been of exceptional encouragement. We were awarded the Prize for the Building Hope project, which helps motivated young families from segregated communities to build their own houses that become their legal possession, making use of their own labor, savings and a microloan provided by ETP. Our organization is proud to have won the Prize from among eighty one organizations and individuals from all over Europe who had been nominated for the award.

Our activities in 2014 concentrated on five main areas: EDUCATION, HOUSING, FINANCIAL INCLUSION, EMPLOYMENT and HEALTH. We see these five areas as interconnected and interrelated, each one of them impacting the other. The notion was very well expressed by our former client, present tutor and university student from Podsadek in Stará Ľubovňa, Dávid Korčkovský: "Education will help me get a job, thanks to which I will gain financial independence and decent housing." The values and acts of this successful young man embody the aims we strive toward. It is only natural that Dávid serves as a role model, respected and followed by young people in his community.

We do everything possible to continue generating positive examples and hope, eventually, to break the cycle of generational poverty that creates a culture of poverty, ruefully binding our clients, who are left with little chance of escape.

We are fully aware that not only education but any of the five areas of our focus can become the trigger for a happier life. How, in particular?

From the viewpoint of the interrelated areas of housing and financial inclusion, particularly interesting is the testimony of our client, Milan Gaš-

par, a successful builder from Rankovce: "...We want to live as people; therefore, we have decided to start building our own house... The Project is great! It will enable us to move into a larger house, which, otherwise, I would never be able to afford from social benefits, being unemployed." Milan cares about quality housing "... so that my children have better conditions for studying and are able to achieve something in their lives."

And what kind of impulse can finding employment give? When we managed to create a new job position for our client Jožka Janová in our Community Centre in Veľká Ida, she rejoiced: "I am the richest member of our big family because I am the only one who is employed... I cannot describe with words how much I like working with children. I wish I could do it all my life." Nineteen-year-old Jožka would like to become a social worker, a tutor or a teacher.

The leitmotiv pervading all our activities, aimed at guiding our clients through their life journey, is to help them "from the cradle to a career." Therefore, we have worked with children from the age of three, searching for and discovering the most appropriate methods that would help the children realize their full potential. We have applied special pedagogy methods that had not been used in Slovakia before to work also with very young pupils. We have provided mentors and tutors to older children and young people. We have offered interesting and attractive activities and made use of various donation portals to raise funds to help our clients attain their education goals.

All these activities have been realized in the Community Centres operated by teams of people who possess both professional skills and integrity.



ETP in 2014



Education



As in previous years, in 2014 we mostly focused on the education of children and young people. It was the first year we opened our pre-school clubs also to three-year-old children.

The education of children and young people in the Community Centres included the following:

- Pre-School Preparation
- Health Awareness
- Financial Education
- New Horizons
- Mentoring Program
- Low-threshold activities
- Extra-curricular activities (focusing on computer literacy, reading, music, drama and photography)
- Tutoring and help with homework assignments.

The activities with children and young people in the Community Centres were carried out by our Community Centre Leaders (in some localities helped by their Assistants or Special Pedagogues), Mentors and Tutors, overseen and supported by Supervisors. Our Local Assistants helped us create and maintain good relationships between the Community Centre staff and parents and children from the settlement.

Pre-School Preparation has been provided in our Community Centres since 2009. In 2014 it was extended to include the education of children from the age of three. Its main focus is to prepare children for primary school enrollment. We have been successfully implementing the Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment method, the

elements of Grunnlaget Concept Teaching and Montessori pedagogy. In 2014 the Pre-School preparation classes took place for four hours a day. The children were divided according to their age into two groups: 1) three- to four-year-olds, 2) five- to six-year-olds.

Health Awareness courses focused on children between the ages of 10 and 14. The activities were carried out for two hours each week and followed a methodology designed by ETP. At the end of the school year, the participants were tested by the Supervisor and achieved a 100% success rate.

Financial Education was aimed at children aged 10 to 14. It was held for two hours a week. The course was taught based on a teaching manual developed by ETP. The participants were tested by the Supervisor at the end of the school year and achieved a 100% success rate.

The New Horizons training course was attended by children aged 10 to 14. The activities performed according to our own manual focused on personality development and took place two hours a week.

The Mentoring Program continued to be successful in 2014. Every Community Centre engaged about five Mentors, i.e. people of various professions, including field social workers, teachers or students who performed the mentoring besides their study or employment. Each Mentor dedicated their time to two children, or youngsters, according to their needs for at least two hours a week. The role of the Mentor is to show children and young people the different life of the middle class. The Mentor teaches protégés the hidden rules of the middle class, provides them with emotional comfort and shows them that they could live differently. Mentors support the children's talents, aptitude and ambitions. They help students manage the transition between primary and secondary school and assist them with their homework assignments to facilitate good school performance.

Low-threshold Activities of 2014 were attended by children of all ages and selected according to children's own interests.

Tutoring and school preparation were dedicated to children and young people attending primary and secondary schools.

The personalities of children and young people belonging to vulnerable groups were also developed by means of **extracurricular activities and clubs** led by Tutors. Children practiced various skills within the PC Club, the Reading Club, the Drama Club, the Handicraft Club, as well as Creative and Craft Workshops. Children could also enhance their skills playing sport games or performing music, singing, dancing, etc. In each Community Centre at least three clubs were held two hours a week for groups of 10 – 18 years old children.

Parents' Clubs have been held once a month. Community workers have discussed with parents the meaning of education, the ways to play and study with their children in their home environment as well as the various possibilities of educating their children in the Community Centres. The Parents' Clubs have also involved common activities and plays for children and their parents aimed at inspiring the parents to continue playing and working with their children at home.

The parents of younger children especially appreciated the Pre-School Preparation, which has always been free for the attendees. The children learned about hygiene and personal care, and they also improved their fine motor skills. They extended their vocabulary and improved their Slovak language skills. They also developed their abilities to focus. Many parents wish that their children could spend more time in the Community Centres so that they could study and learn there. They also consider it to be important for their children to adapt to a new environment.

Older children realize to a great extent that the activities they have attended in the Community Centres have helped them or their

classmates get to secondary school or finish their primary education. According to their own words, they understand the importance of school attendance and try not to skip school. They request more mentors and wish to spend more time with them. All the low-threshold activities and tutoring continue to be very popular with the children.

Education for Adults

We continued to focus on the professional and career development of ETP employees and associates, especially by means of continuous education of Community Centre Leaders, their Assistants, Local Assistants, Mentors and Tutors.

Within the **Grunnlaget** (meaning "groundwork" in Norwegian) **Concept Teaching Method**, the ETP Community Centre staff was the first in Slovakia to have ever been educated by the Norwegian lecturers. The ETP pedagogical staff was also the first in Slovakia to have applied this method in educating the children in the Pre-School Clubs.

In 2014, we continued verifying and testing innovative pedagogy methods (**Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment**, **Grunnlaget**, and Montessori) to work with children who were born in a "differently stimulating environment" of marginalized Roma communities.

We also concentrated on disseminating information on the results of the innovative education of children and young people from segregated settlements among teachers and other professionals working in the field of education, as well as among future social and pedagogy workers. We shared our experience via seminars, workshops and conferences.

Every single morning, at seven o'clock, Eva Turtáková and Monika Hadová wait at the bus stop in Rankovce to get to school in Košice on time. Since the bus is usually full of people, the seventeen-year-old high school students usually spend the hour's journey standing. They are both in the first grade of the Private Pedagogical and Social Academy in Košice. Eva studies Social Work and Monika has chosen to study Preschool Education. Both programs take four years to complete and finish with a high school leaving examination. Eva and Monika are high achievers. "They have very good and caring parents who support them in their study path. They are sensible, diligent and have everything it takes to study at a university," says their Mentor, Monika Beňová.



Housing



In the revised Atlas of Roma Communities of 2013, the experts of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) estimated that out of the total number of 402 000 Roma living in Slovakia, 53 % live in socially excluded communities. Several thousand families (estimates range from 5000 to 15000) have no option other than to live in shacks that are usually built illegally from scrap materials. The shacks are situated in settlements outside or on the outskirts of towns and villages and people who live in them have limited access to drinking water and electricity. Numerous families live in conditions which endanger their lives and health.

The vast majority of families living in ghettos are young or large families with poor chances of escaping the trap of generational poverty.

In 2014 our aim was to improve the quality of housing for young families, who live in illegal dwellings. **The most significant way proved to be the legal self-help construction of family homes or the home reconstruction, making use of ETP financial inclusion tools: the Savings and Microloans Programs.**

To disseminate our experience nationwide, we organized seminars to which we invited the representatives of government institutions. We want to utilize our profound experience for the benefit of other people in need living in Slovakia and across Europe.

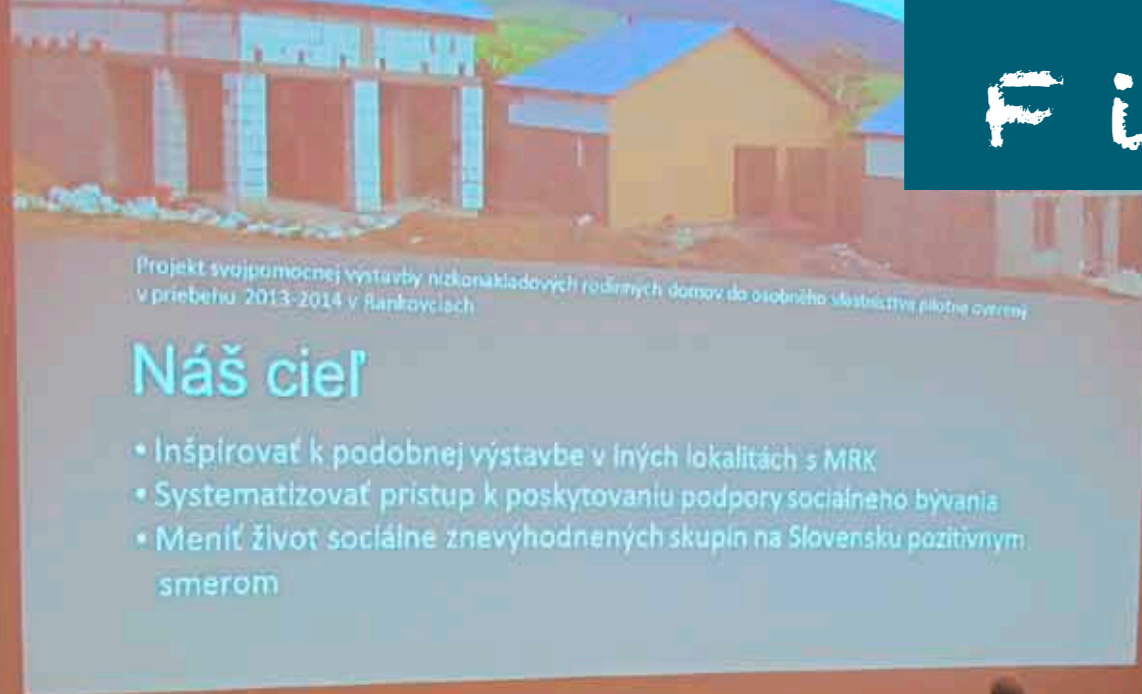
Solving the housing problem of people living in segregated localities is closely linked to the attitude of the Municipalities. In Rankovce we met with a cooperative approach of the Municipality, which offered the builders a land at a reasonable price. In contrast, the Municipality of Moldava nad Bodvou, whose Roma inhabitants face the alarming conditions of the Budulovská settlement, has not provided land for the construction. Yet, we believe the Municipality will reconsider its decision.

The question of housing is closely linked to attaining education and finding and retaining work. **Our understanding of the cause-and-effect relationship permeates everything we do in the area of housing.**

“The conditions of Roma settlements are so bad due to segregation. Their isolation breeds generational poverty,” says Ing. arch. Katarína Smatanová, the architect of incremental houses built by our clients in Rankovce. “The way our particular Project was set with ETP works well. After all, it was recognized by the European Union with the Prize. I understand housing as a process that also involves such things as grasping financial literacy or learning to cooperate. There is a perfect word in the English language to express that notion: empowerment.”



Financial Inclusion



In 2014 we continued testing new models, designing social innovations, and verifying new approaches to help all marginalized Roma communities. Yet, our main focus was on individual work with clients.

We also concentrated on **social investments** that can become incorporated in public policies and that will free those who were born in the conditions of generational poverty. Thanks to the innovative tools people are moving from being passive recipients of social benefits towards becoming motivated individuals actively seeking opportunities to use their own efforts to improve their situation.

The year 2014 proved that our successful social innovation, well worth being incorporated into the State's social policies, is the interconnection of the activities of the Housing and Financial Inclusion Programs. Our innovation has been recognized by Brussels, which has awarded ETP the golden Civil Society Prize for the Integration of Roma **for interconnecting financial education, saving and an interest-free microloan** to facilitate legal self-help construction of family homes by the inhabitants of the settlements, who have so far lived in unsuitable illegal dwellings.

Our experience has also proved that clients living on the so-called benefit in material need are capable of saving and repaying a microloan too. Unbelievable as it may seem, nearly a thousand families have already convinced us that it is possible; they were able to save money for a new roof, insulation, a new bathroom or a kitchen. Others used the interest-free microloan to build a family house themselves, legally, and with running water and electricity.

We believe that, similar to Rankovce, Ostrovany and the 41 other communities whose inhabitants were fortunate enough to have been able to join the Savings and the Microloans Program, the nationwide application of financial inclusion tools, verified by ETP, can prove that poverty and social exclusion in Slovakia's Roma settlements only need to be temporary.

Verona Bilá has spent all her life in Ostrovany. She reached the age of ninety one on Saint Nicholas' Day. She has raised seven children. Besides, she has thirty one grandchildren and nearly a hundred great-grandchildren. "The life in Ostrovany has changed in some ways and remained the same in others. We used to have wooden houses; now everybody has a brick house. But the same misery I experienced in my youth persists because people don't have any jobs," Verona says. She is counting how many of their family members have built or reconstructed a house, built a bathroom or connected their house to electricity: fifteen people altogether. All of them have used money from their own savings or the ETP microloan to realize their construction projects. In Ostrovany, ETP has one hundred and ten clients who have been repaying or have already repaid their microloans.



Employment



The database we have created shows that the average age of our clients who are seeking jobs is thirty years, while nearly forty per cent of them have only finished primary education. Such low levels of education, the absence of practical skills and work habits, the inequality of opportunities and the lack of job openings are the main factors undermining the efforts of many clients to find employment.

Our ways to help involve:

- an individual approach: personal discussions, facilitation of the contact with institutions, etc.,
- employment counseling: assistance with writing a CV, preparation for a job interview, self-presentation training, etc.,
- opportunities for gaining skills and experience: volunteering in our Community Centres, participation in the project of self-help construction in Rankovce or during the reconstruction of the new Community Centre in Veľká Ida,
- facilitating the contact between our clients and personnel agencies,
- helping our clients get in touch with employers,
- utilizing new employment policies' measures and tools provided by the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family.

By organizing the activation works according to Art. 52 and Art. 52a of Act No. 5/2004 on Employment Services we have enabled 44 long-term unemployed clients to gain practical skills by engaging them in the work in our Community Centres. Besides helping nine clients find employment at their local Municipalities, other organizations or businesses, starting from the September of 2014 we have created new positions of *Local Assistants* for four young

women in Veľká Ida, Rankovce, Moldava nad Bodvou and Košice-Šaca. Seven clients have become Tutors and, in Stará Ľubovňa, we have created a position of a *Community Centre Assistant*.

Overview of successful placements of ETP clients in 2014 as part of our Employment Integration services

Small Municipal Services pursuant to Art. 52 of Act No. 5/2004	21
Voluntary Service pursuant to Art. 52a of Act No. 5/2004	17 + 6 in cooperation with the Evangelical Church in Rankovce
Voluntary Activity pursuant to Art. 10 of Act No. 417/2013	7
Work Performance Agreement / Agreement on Work Activity	14
Fixed Term Employment Relationship	10
Employment Relationship Concluded for an Indefinite Period	11

Lukáš Bužo, the Assistant in the Community Centre in Stará Ľubovňa-Podsadek, is among our youngest team members. He is a great musician and a leader of the successful gospel band F6 from Čičava. He moved to Podsadek after he got married and soon became popular among the local children, parents and the entire ETP team. Wherever he comes, he creates a cheerful atmosphere. Whoever has seen him host a community event, offer creative items crafted by children during "Christmas in Košice", play or study with young clients knows what we are talking about. Lukáš has a soul that is bright, magic, perceptive and artistic. He uses his musical talent in work with the youth. Lukáš has attained a Bachelor's degree and now studies externally the Master's level of Social Work at the Catholic University in Ružomberok.

Health



"When do we go to see a dentist?" asked Danka Pustulková, the head of the Community Centre in Rudňany. "When we have a toothache," answered the children in unison. "And why do we go there?" Danka continued. "To have the teeth pulled," sounded the response accompanied by the expression of fear in the children's faces.

"No!" Danka rejected. "We go there even before our teeth can start to ache so that the dentist checked them and repaired the little cavities. In this way, we maintain healthy teeth until old age." To not just talk about the topic, on an August day, Danka took a group of ten- to thirteen-year-old girls and boys to the village for their first visit of a dentist's practice. They could see that it was quite an interesting place and that there was no need to be afraid of the dentist. The walk to the village also involved a visit of the local mining archive of the local Mining Association.

Gaining education and decent employment are the interconnected first steps our clients need to take in order to escape the unhealthy environment of generational poverty. In segregated settlements it is extremely difficult to maintain good health and hygiene. The program of self-help construction of family homes that become clients' asset increases the number of inhabitants from poor communities who get the chance to live in a healthy environment - in their own houses with electricity and running water.

However, the absence of good health would make all such ambitions pointless in the first place. Therefore, our efforts concentrate on raising the awareness of the need to lead a healthy lifestyle and cope with risks that endanger not only health but even lives of our clients.

Already during the Pre-School preparation classes, we encourage small children to maintain basic hygiene habits and a healthy lifestyle. Too often a Community Centre is the first place where children see a water tap or a flush toilet. Here they learn about the importance of washing their hands, bodies and clothes as well as of maintaining a clean environment in which to live.

Older children can attend a year-long **Health Awareness** training course, which is aimed at teaching young people to behave and act responsibly, explaining generally-accepted values and helping them learn to resist undesirable situations and temptations. During Health Awareness classes children discuss with their lecturers topics such as physical and mental changes occurring in adolescence, male and female bodies, planned parenthood, birth control, risks of teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Significant attention is paid to the topic of addiction, its consequences and prevention.

In Moldava nad Bodvou, it was common for fifteen- to sixteen-year-old girls to give birth. The long-term Health Awareness training has changed that situation; the female attendees are now over twenty and they have been able to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancies.

The results of the final Health Awareness test of 2014

Locality	Attendees	Successful
Košice-Šaca	9	9
Krompachy	8	8
Moldava nad Bodvou	5	5
Ostrovany	9	9
Rankovce	7	7
Rudňany	9	9
Sabinov	7	7
Spišské Podhradie	9	9
Stará Ľubovňa	10	10
Veľká Ida	13	13
Total	86	86

With the children's parents we regularly discuss such topics as hygiene, nutrition, the need for vaccination, preventive health check-ups, appropriate clothing and shoes, and mental health in the family, which can be generated by the atmosphere of mutual love or disrupted by alcohol and drugs.

Projects





This international project ran in Slovakia, Hungary and Italy in 2013 and 2014. From February to June of 2014, it engaged 80 children in creative workshops that were organized in five ETP Community Centres. The participants were given the opportunity to fully develop their talents, learn about Roma history, customs and traditions, and develop their study skills. The Project managed to draw the attention of not only Roma but also non-Roma children to Roma culture.

In **Košice-Šaca** children used various fine-art techniques to create original works of art that represented their own perception of their culture and history. Their paintings were colorful and vivid and they depicted people dressed in traditional Roma clothes. In cooperation with the Primary School in Košice-Šaca, **we also managed to engage non-Roma children to participate in the Project activities.** The art classes involved 20 fourth-graders. During them the teacher explained the students about Roma traditions, and together they created a large painting with a Roma theme. The painting was displayed at the final performances, which were attended by some of the students. The Dance and Drama Club in **Rudňany** rehearsed a play on the origin of the Roma flag, through which the boys and girls could learn new dances and songs. In the Community Centre in **Rankovce** each Monday and Friday belonged to the Roma band rehearsals. The boys learned to play several musical instruments and enjoyed practicing popular Roma and non-Roma songs. The Dance Theatre in **Moldava nad Bodvou** presented a beautiful display of Roma children's feelings and thoughts transformed into a performance full of emotions, singing, dance and drama. In **Stará Ľubovňa-Podsadek** the participants worked with books, computers and the Internet. They combined creative and musical activities.

"We were comparing Roma and Indian history and used the topic to create works of fine art," said Daniel Ščigulinský, the Instructor of the Creative Art4Rom Club in Podsadek.

The Project also engaged two teachers of the **Conservatory on Exnárova Street in Košice**, who participated in the artistic activities. The outcome of the Project was the final performances of the children attending our Community Centres, which took place at Košice's Kulturpark venue. The event was called *Art as the Way to Discover Our Roots* and it gave the children a unique chance to perform, which motivated them towards the best efforts from the Project's very beginning.



Building Hope - Improving Life in Roma Ghettos



The aim of this four-year Project that started in June 2014 is to **provide long-term comprehensive social services and education to the inhabitants of excluded Roma communities**. We have emphasized the importance of continuing the pilot-testing of the innovative education methods in the environment of both non-formal (Community Centres) and formal (schools) education systems, which had not yet been used in Slovakia. We have established, or extended, our cooperation with primary schools in order to provide their students with as much support as possible in developing their inner motivation, cognitive, emotional and social potential. The project has been implemented in three communities: Rankovce, Stará Ľubovňa and Veľká Ida. The half-year experience so far has been very positive.

"I would be happy to see the message spread that Roma children are capable and have a desire to learn; that helping and supporting them is the right thing to do. They deserve a chance. Our view of them should be unobscured; we need to break the prejudices and lies surrounding them. My dream is to leave the children I teach with the kind of experience that helps them move forward; just as I have been able to progress thanks to the people I have met in my life," says Mária Heveriová, our remedial teacher. To watch her working with the children makes one feel joy.





Building Hope - From Shack into a 3E House



The program of self-help construction of family homes was financed from several sources including partner institutions and individual donors. It was the first to ever test a new model of **self-help construction of family houses that become the builders' asset, financed by a combination of clients' own savings and an interest-free microloan provided by ETP**. The houses are constructed by young people from a marginalized Roma community on legally settled land with a valid Construction Permit. The building costs are covered by the future home owners, making use of their own savings and the ETP Savings and Microloans Program. The houses are connected to the infrastructure, they have their own toilet, and they are connected to electricity, water supply and sewage. They are built according to a flexible project of **incremental housing** designed for ETP by the architect, Ing. arch. Katarína Smatanová. The costs of the construction of one house of the size of 25 m² constituting the habitable space on the ground floor and 50 m² of habitable space of the attic were approximately 10 000 EUR.

Activities:

- From October of 2013 to April of 2014, we helped to build four and reconstruct two houses in Rankovce.
- We facilitated the sale of ten plots of land for the second phase of self-help construction. The clients were able to purchase the land thanks to our Savings Program.
- We created a post of a Construction Supervisor, who helps young builders at the construction site.
- We made several presentations and invited our supporters as well as groups and individuals interested in the Project (cooperating organizations, representatives of business sector, embassies, NGOs, municipalities and ministries, field

social workers, students of architecture, social work, etc.) to share our experiences.

- In April and October of 2014, we organized seminars on Innovations in Social Housing, during which we presented to the representatives of relevant ministries, supporters, municipalities and NGOs the results of the Project and proposed this solution to become an integral part of the State's housing policies for the inhabitants of segregated settlements. The solution presents the self-help construction as an effective social work tool.
- **We published the Step by Step manual**, which sums up our experience with the self-help construction. It is dedicated to anyone either from the public or private sector, who would like to apply our model. The manual is available in both Slovak and English.
- In September of 2014 we commenced the second phase of the construction of family homes in Rankovce. The second phase has been realized in Rankovce in cooperation with the Municipality and a local NGO Pre lepší život ("For a Better Life"). Nine families from the settlement took the opportunity to use our support and began building their own legal houses themselves.
- Thanks to the VÚB Foundation and dakujeme.sk ("thankyou.sk") crowdfunding portal, we managed to raise funds from both individual donors and companies to be able to provide our clients with a microloan to purchase construction material and tools. To support our builders, we also partnered with the crowdfunding portal of the Pontis Foundation - Dobrá Krajina – dobrakrajina.sk ("Great Country").

Besides building safe, healthy and legal homes, the Project has generated the following outcomes:

- Basic living conditions of the families involved have improved significantly.
- The builders have acquired working skills and habits, which have increased their chances of succeeding on the labor market.
- The social status of the builders and their families has improved and their sense of personal responsibility has grown.
- The cooperation with the majority has been essential, contributing to diminishing stereotypes and prejudices on both sides.
- The success of the builders motivates others in the community.
- The self-help construction model saves public finances.
- The model also has an enormous integration potential, much greater compared to other models of social housing implemented in Slovakia.

In the upcoming period, we continue in our efforts to:

- Help and support the builders in finishing the construction of nine family homes in Rankovce.
- Create a joint organization with other NGOs and partners to ensure the continuation, replication and nationwide application of the model of self-help construction of family homes for socially excluded inhabitants of Slovakia.
- Raise funds at both domestic and international levels to enable the financing of microloans and administrative and construction works to ensure the Project's future continuation.

In October, the Building Hope project was awarded the golden Civil Society Prize of 2014 for the Integration of Roma by the European Economic and Social Committee.

A single-room house with a kitchen, where Miloš Turták, his wife Agáta and daughter Vanesa lived for over ten years, had been built by Miloš with his own hands. It used to be fine, but it has become a little tight since the serious family circumstances brought the family to accept three children of Miloš's brother under their roof. As well as other people in Rankovce, the Turták family also had initial doubts about building their own house themselves, using their savings and a microloan. Yet they were brave enough to take the leap. In a year they managed to save six hundred Euros and subsequently received a matching bonus. They had enough money to buy a plot of land and some construction material. Agáta and Miloš took up a microloan from ETP twice, amounting to 3,500 Euros altogether. In August, their house began to take shape. Miloš and his brothers-in-law spent whole days at the site. During the summer vacation, the eldest boy Viktor helped in the construction too. Agáta would cook at home, always bringing full saucepots to the site. By winter, the men had the walls erected. "We are moving into the new house in May!," they rejoiced.



Evacuation Transit Centre



The Evacuation Transit Centre (ETC) in Humenné was established in 2009 as a result of the cooperation of three partners: the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of Slovakia, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration. The role of ETP, as an Implementing Partner to UNHCR, is to provide to refugees social and medical care and education in the ETC. By the end of 2014 the ETC provided a temporary refuge to 649 refugees from Afghanistan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan and Palestine. Before their resettlement in the destination country, they usually spend six months in the Centre. In 2014, our comprehensive services were provided to 293 clients altogether: 192 Somalians, 84 Afghans and 14 Ethiopians.

Regular activities of the ETC include:

- pre-School club for children aged three to six,
- school clubs for children aged six to sixteen,
- English language courses for young people and adults,
- computer literacy, cultural orientation and personality development courses,
- social, medical and psychological care,
- creative workshops,
- free-time and recreational activities,
- community gatherings.

Just before the resettlement to their destination country, the Somali boys played their last football match in Slovakia at The Friendship Cup tournament hosted by Gymnázium arm. Gen. L. Svobodu Grammar School in Humenné. The friendly atmosphere of the tournament was shared by the teams of the host school, the Secondary Specialized School, the Business Academy, the Primary School in Koškovce and the team of Somali residents of the ETC. The audience cheered the Somalians most of all; however, it was not the boys' lucky day, and despite their great desire for the medal, they ended up last. The gold and the trophy went to the Business Academy team. After the tournament, the changing room was filled with excitement of the friendly event.





Mothers' Clubs



The core objective of this project was to improve the quality of relationships between parents and their children, and to motivate the parents to become actively involved in their children's education. The project set the goal to take a planned **systematic approach to motivate the parents to work with their children**, talk to them as much as possible, play with them, help them with homework and read them books. The Project has been implemented in all our Community Centres since June 2014 and it has also continued in the following year. It engaged 68 parents of children attending the Pre-School preparation classes in our Community Centres.

The activities included:

- the two-day interactive training course for community workers led by professional lecturers, during which the issues of motivating parents towards working with their children were discussed and programs reflecting client needs were created,
- meetings of parents with their children – pre-schoolers in the Community Centres – involving common activities between parents and children,
- supervision meeting led by the professional lecturers.

In the Community Centre in Velká Ida, the topic selected for the meeting of pre-schoolers and their parents was memorizing yellow color and geometrical shape of a circle. The blend of the two notions generated the topic of the sun, whose representation was created by the children and their mothers or fathers. The children were provided fingerpaint to give their sun a face and the parents were given scissors to cut out the sunbeams, which their children later pasted around the yellow circle with eyes and lips curled into a smile. Once the little works of art were finished, smiles also appeared on the faces of both children and their parents. Together, they played and revised the topic. Before the meeting was over, the parents were assigned homework: to practice with their children the perception of the red and green color and drawing of a person's figure.



Community On Its Way To Prosperity

This broadly conceived Project was implemented since June 2012.

The purpose of the Project is to contribute to social integration and inclusion of children from socially disadvantaged Roma communities and to reduce socio-economic differences between the majority population and the Roma minority.

The aim of the Project is to enhance personal development of children and young people from vulnerable groups by increasing the quality and scope of social and education services provided in Community Centres and schools in ten localities in Košice and Prešov self-governing regions (Košice-Šaca, Krompachy, Moldava nad Bodvou, Ostrovany, Rankovce, Rudňany, Sabinov, Spišské Podhradie, Stará Ľubovňa and Veľká Ida).

The Community Centre workers enhanced the motivation of children and youth to finish their compulsory education and continue to study at secondary schools. On a daily basis, hundreds of clients attended the Community Centres established in cooperation with local Municipalities.

Project results:

- *7754 children and adolescents from 10 towns and villages now have access to quality professional services of the Community Centres.*
- 312 representatives of organizations and partners involved have acquired knowledge and skills necessary for improving the quality of social work and education of inhabitants of marginalized Roma communities.

- *133 Community Centre workers (pedagogical staff, Tutors and Mentors) have gained professional competence to provide comprehensive services and education to children and young people.*
- 10 Community Centres obtained equipment and tools to implement courses and training activities for children and young people.
- 100% of students that enrolled in the Financial Education and Health Awareness courses completed the final tests successfully.
- *Not one of the children attending our Pre-School Clubs in the Community Centres was placed in a special school or classroom.*
- The number of children and young people from marginalized Roma communities enrolled in secondary schools and universities has increased.
- The number of young people who found employment after finishing school has increased.
- 3 Community Centres continue providing comprehensive services thanks to a new ETP project, and 7 Community Centres have joined the National Project of Community Centres.
- We have prepared and submitted 36 project proposals to relevant institutions aimed at the improvement of social and economic conditions in 10 marginalized communities.

The standard education activities of the Community Centres included the Pre-School Preparation, Health Awareness, New Horizons and Financial Education, IT, Creative and Art Clubs.

Selected Successful Outcomes of Financial Education

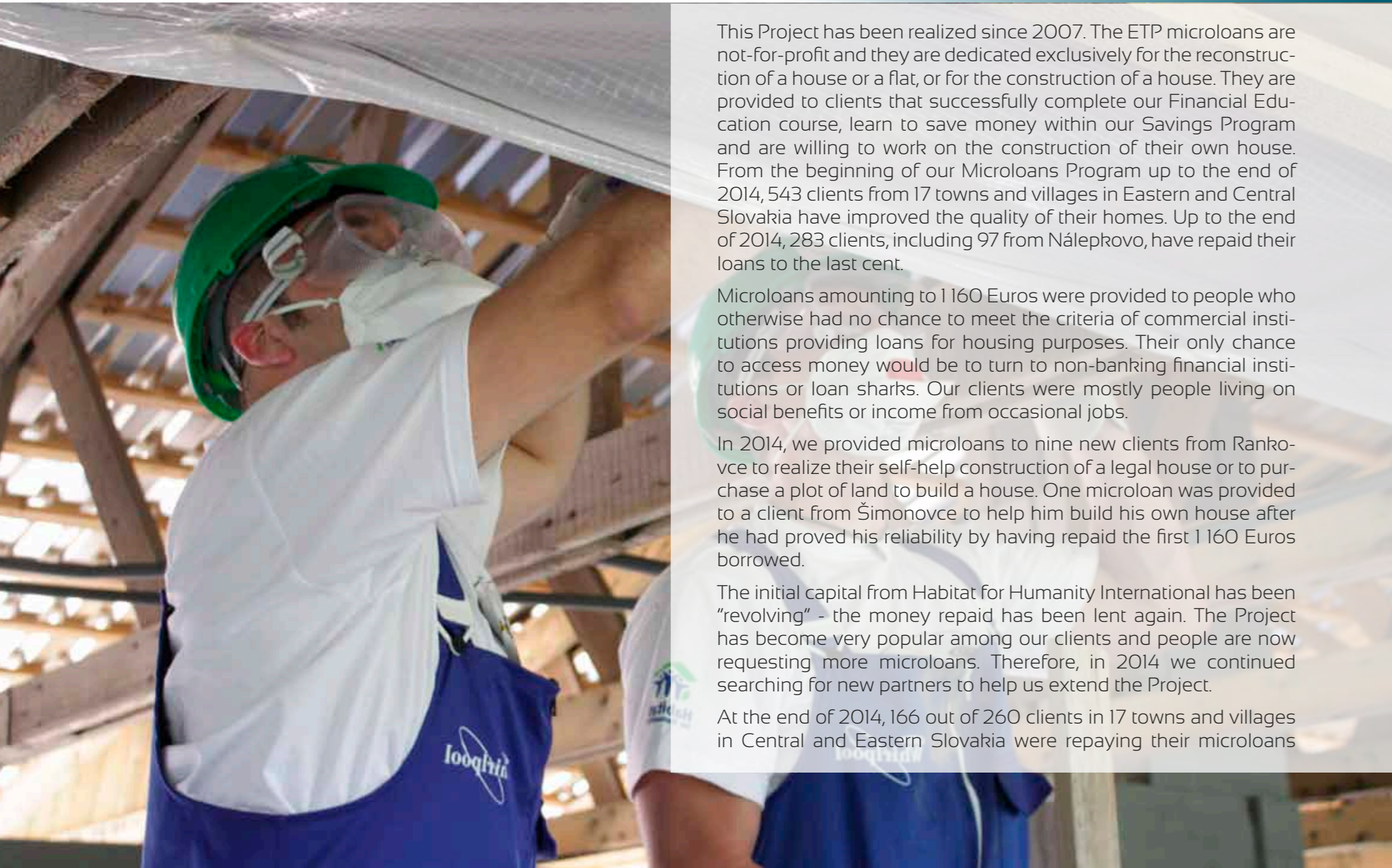
Rudňany Community Centre: Children started to play table football for money. Soon they found out that one of the players had a lot of money while the other had none. The player who lost suggested that they started over. It was a good example of dangers posed by slot machines and hazardous games; the players can develop addiction and lose their money.

Moldava Community Centre: The children were given the task to cook a lunch for five Euros. The Supervisor handed them out leaflets from supermarkets containing the prices of groceries offered. The children were thus able to practice maths, learn to work with price offers and gain practical skills with food preparation.

Rankovce Community Centre: Children were able to save some of their pocket money to pay for a trip or buy a cinema ticket. When a trip was planned, they were the ones to raise the question of how much money to put aside.

All Community Centres were involved in the BUS project. The children wrote their own small projects (e.g. to take a trip, clean the garbage in the village, plant flowers, etc.) and realized them afterwards. When proposing a trip, they decided what place they wanted to visit, made a plan, obtained travel tickets and took the trip. They improved their Internet skills, learned to prepare a budget and were rewarded with new experiences.

The experience and methods verified by ETP over the years have been adopted by the Implementing Agency for Employment and Social Inclusion in the new National Project of Community Centres, which will provide comprehensive social and education services to clients in 160 community centres in segregated communities in Slovakia.



This Project has been realized since 2007. The ETP microloans are not-for-profit and they are dedicated exclusively for the reconstruction of a house or a flat, or for the construction of a house. They are provided to clients that successfully complete our Financial Education course, learn to save money within our Savings Program and are willing to work on the construction of their own house. From the beginning of our Microloans Program up to the end of 2014, 543 clients from 17 towns and villages in Eastern and Central Slovakia have improved the quality of their homes. Up to the end of 2014, 283 clients, including 97 from Nálepkovo, have repaid their loans to the last cent.

Microloans amounting to 1 160 Euros were provided to people who otherwise had no chance to meet the criteria of commercial institutions providing loans for housing purposes. Their only chance to access money would be to turn to non-banking financial institutions or loan sharks. Our clients were mostly people living on social benefits or income from occasional jobs.

In 2014, we provided microloans to nine new clients from Rankovce to realize their self-help construction of a legal house or to purchase a plot of land to build a house. One microloan was provided to a client from Šimonovce to help him build his own house after he had proved his reliability by having repaid the first 1 160 Euros borrowed.

The initial capital from Habitat for Humanity International has been "revolving" - the money repaid has been lent again. The Project has become very popular among our clients and people are now requesting more microloans. Therefore, in 2014 we continued searching for new partners to help us extend the Project.

At the end of 2014, 166 out of 260 clients in 17 towns and villages in Central and Eastern Slovakia were repaying their microloans

regularly. **The financial discipline of clients from the Municipalities in which ETP Community Centres have long been established is very good.** Problems and difficulties with regular payments have mainly occurred in villages where ETP does not run a community centre or in those in which Local Microloan Officers have been changed.

Local Microloan Officers play crucial role in determining the Program's success. In their towns or villages, they suggest suitable clients to be involved in the Program and they help us collect the monthly repayments. If a Local Officer, often the Mayor or a Field Social Worker, is responsible in making the selection of clients, taking into account the client's previous financial discipline and regularity of his income, it is reflected in the total sum repaid. Despite repeated efforts by both Housing Program Coordinators and their repeated meetings with clients, in some Municipalities (Čakov, Číž, Drňa, Hodejov, Jesenské, Moldava nad Bodvou, Nitra nad Ipľom, Šimonovce, Veľké Kapušany and Veľký Blh), we were forced to resort to 85 distraint proceedings. In Nitra nad Ipľom, out of 20 clients who were provided a microloan in 2008, only one was able to repay it. 12 clients face distraint and 6 microloans were written off in 2014. Similar situation occurred in Veľké Kapušany, where none of the nine clients has repaid their microloan and all of them face distraint.

Nine clients are unable to continue repaying their microloans for genuine reasons.

Since the beginning of the Program in 2007 we have lent a total of 732 589,29 EUR of which 521 270,35 EUR (71,15%) has already been repaid. The repaid microloans constitute a revolving fund, which is used for lending to new applicants whose reliability is verified by their participation in the Savings Program and the Financial Education course.

We are happy to see the clients from Rankovce, who have taken up ETP microloans to build their family homes, making their regular monthly payments of 50 Euros.

2014 was also a year of sharing our expertise with both Slovak and European lawmakers. We have every reason to believe that, in the new EU Programming Period for the years 2014 – 2020, microloans will find their way to new clients all over Slovakia.

When the self-help construction of low-cost family homes commenced in Rankovce, the house of Rudo Tancoš was finished very soon. The father and the son were the first ones to arrive at the site in the morning, working diligently to be able to move in as soon as possible. They were able to build their house thanks to the microloan and the Construction Supervisor provided by ETP. The solar panels installed on their roof are a gift from their producer, RMC, s.r.o. from Nová Dubnica. Thanks to the donors, the family does not need to pay a cent for electricity. It is a great help, considering the family will have to be paying the 50-Euro monthly installments up to 2023. However low the family's income, for the last two years, their installments were always paid on time. The microloan was provided to the Tancoš family after the intervention by the Municipality, which was trying to resolve their catastrophic situation: the family had no roof above their heads; they were homeless, finding shelter at Košice train station. They were indebted to loan sharks and Rudo was addicted to glue-sniffing. When the Mayor of Rankovce, Stanislav Hada, learned about their situation, he could not remain idle; he allowed the family to become inhabitants of the Municipality, thus saving them from a life on the streets.



Music4Rom is an international project that involves seven European countries: Belgium, France, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and United Kingdom. In Slovakia, the project has been implemented by ETP in 2014 and 2015. The aim of the project is to support Roma cultural values to build intercultural bridges and achieve social inclusion and education of children via music. The project outcomes involved creating a library of Roma music, songs and musicians and designing innovative methodology, which is going to be available online for all pedagogues at the end of the project. Other activities involved organizing public events at both local and European levels. Within the Project, ETP has developed a methodology for creating musical instruments from recycled materials and children attending the Community Centre in Stará Ľubovňa-Podsadek have created a sample collection.

The Community Centres in Rankovce and Stará Ľubovňa-Podsadek participated in this Project, together with the Conservatory on Exnárova Street in Košice.

In October, sixteen Roma and non-Roma adepts for music studies from Romania, Slovakia, Spain and Italy, together with their teachers, met in Paris at a week-long Master Class led by a famous and multi-skilled Portuguese-French musician Jorge Chamine, who frequently performs Roma songs. Other teachers at the Master Class included renowned European artists. The students' role was to gain as much knowledge and artistic skills as possible and to share them after returning to their home country. In the following year, four students from the Conservatory in Košice and their teachers will engage in cooperation with young musicians from Rankovce and Stará Ľubovňa, working on common concerts.

The students of the Conservatory are talking about their Master Class experience:

Singer Anita Balážová: "I rid myself of problems with breathing and articulation when singing."

Cimbalom player Jakub Haffner: "I have befriended an excellent piano player, Jesus, who performed his piece at the Master Class. He is a talented Spanish Roma."

Guitar player Jakub Krajňák: "Paco Suarez has taught me to feel the piece played and to engage my imagination."

Singer Nikola Šoltésová: "I have learned that music comes from within, it is about emotions. In our heads, we have to create a story to each piece we perform."



Slovakia's New Generation



Realized in 2014 and 2015, this Project has focused on pre-school preparation of children from four marginalized Roma communities (Košice-Šaca, Moldava nad Bodvou, Rankovce and Veľká Ida). **The aim of the Project is to prepare children for kindergarten enrollment so that they are able to enter the system of formal education as soon as possible.** In some localities, we experienced problems with the placement of Roma children in kindergartens that are predominantly attended by non-Roma children. These problems were partly caused by low capacities of kindergartens. To resolve the issue required a lot of our efforts as well as willingness on the side of the schools' management, which, in some cases, was absent. The problem arose despite the fact that the Project offered financial contributions to kindergartens for the placement of Roma children. Considering the support from families in segregated settlements is often uncertain, the situation became more difficult for the Community Centres, which in many cases were the only places preparing the pre-school-aged children for school enrollment.

Martina Balogová from Košice-Šaca has been our colleague since September, working as an Assistant in our Community Centre. Next September, she is going to return back to school to undo a sin of her youth: she did not finish the ninth grade. She is aiming for high school graduation. At the same time, Martina's six-year-old daughter Mária is going to enter kindergarten in the school year of 2014-2015. Martina shows a sincere interest in her only daughter's good school performance; she enrolled her in the kindergarten in hope of ensuring a better life for her. No other mother from Košice-Šaca was as brave as Martina to take this step. Little Mária was the only Roma among twenty children and she felt the difference. Her mother gritted her teeth and kept encouraging the girl, drying her tears after each wrong done to her. Yet, the girl could not hold on for the entire school year. Fortunately, her mother has acquired so much knowledge and experience in the Community Centre that she resolved to take care of her daughter's preparation for the enrollment in the first grade herself, while her daughter was still attending the Pre-School preparation classes in the Community Centre.





Projects

Realized In Cooperation with the Humanitarian Program of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS)



Water for Rankovce

In 2014, we drilled a well and built a water tank for approximately 40 households. Before that, more than 300 inhabitants of this settlement used the only public source of drinking water – a well on the edge of the settlement, which is 400 meters away from the construction site. All the new houses built within the Building Hope project will be connected to the new water reservoir. By the end of 2014, four family homes constructed in the first Project phase were connected to the source.

Wood-Burning Stove and Wood Storage for the Community Centre in Rankovce

The Community Centre in Rankovce is based in the premises rented from the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession. In early 2014 the Humanitarian Program of LDS provided financial resources for the purchase of a wood-burning stove for the room in which the Pre-School preparation classes take place. Thanks to the LDS Church support, we were also able to build a small wood storage.

New Community Centre in Velká Ida

Following an agreement with Velká Ida Municipality, we commenced the reconstruction of the former fire station into a new Community Centre. The Construction Coordinator was helped by local men throughout the building process. The men dug the sewer trenches, covered the walls with gypsum board, repaired the roof, built a chimney, installed a solid fuel boiler, built the lavatory, and installed flooring, window ledges and interior doors and door frames. They did the complete wiring and water supply for the building and equipped the office and the kitchen with furniture. They also installed radiators, which were a gift from U.S. Steel Košice. Before the end of 2014, the basic construction was completed, with only the interior works left to be finished in 2015. The clients were looking forward to the new Community Centre with two rooms, a kitchen and a lavatory, ready to accommodate several activities simultaneously.

“As soon as we finish the wooden door frames, we will face the tough task of installing the flooring in the largest room. The job has to be one hundred per cent accurate, which means we have long hours on our knees ahead. If our helpers from the settlement, who perform their public utility services here, manage to do it, the experience will make it much easier for them to find a job afterwards,” explain the ETP workers, who come to the site every single day to teach their helpers from Velká Ida useful building skills. They have already taught them how to repair a roof, place gypsum board, build a chimney, as well as many other things the men will certainly utilize in the future.



The IDA Savings Program Let's Fulfil Our Dream (Individual Development Accounts)

The Savings Program was realized from 2007 to 2014. During the eight years of its implementation, 926 clients entered the Program and 626 clients finished it successfully.

The aim of the Project was to offer poor families and individuals an opportunity to take an active role in improving their own financial situation. The greatest contribution of the Savings Program has been the fact that **the participants were actively involved and managed to acquire assets with their own efforts.**

The long-term objective of the Project was to convince Slovak lawmakers that paying out social benefits unconditionally increases the dependence of the poor on the State and eliminates their courage and motivation to provide for their day-to-day existence themselves. Another Project aim was to convince our lawmakers about the necessity to develop new social policy tools that would help the jobseekers registered at the labor offices gain financial independence and improve the quality of their lives.

In 2014 the Savings Program was successfully completed by 145 clients from 14 towns and villages, to whom bonuses amounting to the total of 61 625 EUR were paid. The conditions of the Program were successfully fulfilled by the clients in the Municipalities where ETP ran a Community Centre, as well as in the following eight localities: 9 clients from Kecerovce received bonuses amounting to 3 400 EUR altogether, 12 clients from Vtáčkovce received bonuses totaling 4 150 EUR, four clients in Kojatice received 680 EUR in bonuses, 21 clients from Veľký Blh received bonuses amounting to 6 195 EUR, one client from Hodejov received a bonus of 550 EUR, 6 clients from Cinobaňa received 1 470 EUR in bonuses, 2 clients from Uhorské were awarded bonuses totaling 750 EUR and 6 clients in Veľké Dravce received the bonuses of 945 EUR in total.

The aims, procedures and outcomes of the Savings Program are described in detail in **The IDA Savings Program – Let's Fulfil Our Dream publication**, which was issued in both Slovak and English.

Ladislav Kaleja – Januv from Ostrovany and his wife Kveta are hardworking people. They work on their little farm every single day. They take care of poultry and pigs and grow vegetables in their garden. When the husband's health condition makes him weak, his wife and children take over and help. Three out of their four children have permanent jobs and the fourth son makes his living performing part-time jobs. Janka and Ján have become independent and live with their own families now. Ladislav and Zuzana are both single and they live in the settlement in a decent brick house with their parents, who built the house themselves over twenty years ago, while Ladislav Sr. still had good income. Five years later, they added a bathroom to their house. Recently, they have used the ETP savings to legalize the house and the ETP microloan to provide insulation and build a toilet room.



Let's Learn How To Learn



In the fall of 2013, **the pilot-testing of the Let's Learn How To Learn project, applying the method of Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment (FIE)** in educating children from marginalized Roma communities, was in its beginnings. In 2014, it was fully implemented and started generating results that proved its great significance.

Mgr. Mária Heveriová, a Remedial Teacher of the After-School Club at the Primary School in Velká Ida: "The greatest achievement lies in children gaining self-confidence and experiencing the feeling of self-worth, developing the 'I-can' approach."

The Project Activities were organized in cooperation with two primary schools (in Velká Ida and Košice-Šaca) and in all 10 Community Centres. The Project engaged 22 primary-school students and 49 pre-school students from Roma communities. In the After-School Clubs, running three hours a day, ten first-graders of each Primary School were attended by a school teacher trained in applying the FIE method, as well as by a Special and a Remedial Teacher. The After-School Club concentrated on the development of cognitive, emotional, social and verbal skills of students, applying the FIE method. Similar approach was used in the work with 49 pre-school pupils within the Pre-School Clubs in the Community Centres, which ran for two hours four times a week.

Mgr. Natália Pilipčuková, a Teacher at the Primary School in Velká Ida: "The training in the Method has opened our eyes and offered a different perspective on working with children, a different approach."

At the end of the school year, in June, we performed the verification of the Project and arrived at the following **project results**:

- The application of the FIE method has helped accelerate the development of children's several cognitive processes.
- Children's intrinsic motivation towards learning and working has increased.

- Children's verbal expression and fine motor skills have improved significantly.
- Children have learned to work in groups.
- There was a visible difference between the students attending the school clubs and other students in the classroom in terms of quality of their work and its outcomes.
- Children were better able to control their emotions and their self-regulation has improved.
- The interest of Roma parents in education of their children has increased.

The favorable result of the Project has led us to design a **manual on the FIE method**, which is going to be available to everyone who is considering applying FIE in their teaching.

The Project has drawn the attention of media as well as pedagogy experts.

The **seminar** we organized in Bratislava in November was dedicated to the people involved in the topic and it hosted the son of the FIE Method founder, the director of the Feuerstein Institute in Israel, Rabbi Refael Feuerstein, who contributed to **the pledge made by the representatives of the State's Education Department to put effort in applying the FIE method in the Slovak education system.**

The education of children by means of the Feuerstein method continues into 2015. We are happy to have the opportunity to pave the way for our successors in the name of raising the level of education among young people from marginalized Roma communities, thus contributing to the overall improvement of the living standard in Slovakia.

A 6-year-old pupil of the zero grade at the Primary School in Velká Ida: "Mrs. Teacher, please tell me I won't end up in a special classroom!"

Projects

Realized in Cooperation with Other Organizations and Projects



The cooperation with the National Project KomPrax (Competences for Practice) engaged 6 Community Centres in 2014. The activities were organized during the summer vacation. The young people involved were given the opportunity to participate in planning and organizing various activities, thus gaining practical skills useful for their further development.

Community Centre	June – July 2014
Košice-Šaca	Painting T-shirts and souvenirs Trip to the Recreation Area Alpinka in Košice - hiking, preparation of snacks, etc.
Krompachy	Trip to Spišská Nová Ves Visit to a ZOO Visit to a 5D Cinema Exhibition at Spiš Museum
Ostrovany	Trip to Košice Excursion to the Slovak Technical Museum in Košice
Rankovce	Creative Workshops Cleaning of the Village Visit to a Cinema
Rudňany	Trip to Ľubovňa Castle Trip to Košice
Stará Ľubovňa	Painting the Community Centre interior "We Are Little Nomads" - creative and sporting event

In cooperation with the crowdfunding portal KamošizWebu ("Friends from the Web"), established by Ľudia Ľuďom ("From the People to the People") website, 4 Community Centres engaged 6 young people from families in difficult economic situation, who needed help with financing their education. Four of the people were successful.

Community Centre	Collected Amount in €	Purpose
Ostrovany	288	Travel expenses to commute to school
Rankovce	121	Travel expenses to commute to school
Stará Ľubovňa	100	Purchase of a sewing machine
Veľká Ida	80	Purchase of English and German Textbooks

"Please, help me. I have no money to buy the textbooks and workbooks for the English and German classes. My family cannot afford to pay for them. I am ashamed to admit it at school, and I have been receiving bad grades because I am unable to prepare for classes," Denis Csiszár, a first-year secondary school student, approached Lucia Lučaiová, the head of the Community Centre in Veľká Ida in October. Denis' appeal was not left unnoticed; on the same day, an ETP call to raise funds for Denis' textbooks appeared on the portal ludialudom.sk, asking people to support Denis' cause. The funds were raised within an hour. The leader of the Community Centre got in touch with Denis' class teacher to explain the issue and make sure the boy was not considered reckless.

In cooperation with the VÚB Foundation and dakujeme.sk crowdfunding portal, we organized fundraising for the self-help construction in Rankovce. We managed to raise 9 243,13 EUR from individual donors, which constituted incredible 92% of the requested sum. 124 individual donors and companies altogether contributed sums ranging from 5 to 1 000 EUR to support our builders. The funds raised, together with a gift from the VÚB Foundation that doubled the amount collected, enabled us to help our clients purchase construction materials and necessary tools for the construction of their family homes.

In cooperation with the Great Country crowdfunding portal, we were able to raise funds for our clients – builders engaged in the Building Hope project in Rankovce. Individual donors were contributing sums ranging from cents up to 500 Euros. The fundraising efforts continue into the following year.





Cooperation

In 2013 and 2014, **we carried out non-public research requested by The Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)**. The purpose of the research was to identify the most active Slovak organizations working in the field of Roma inclusion and evaluate their capacity, competence, effectiveness and ability to maintain long-term sustainability of their projects. The Project also focused on the results achieved in the area of Roma inclusion at both local and regional level between the years 2007 and 2013. It assessed the Bank's possibilities to support the inclusion of Roma in Slovakia, especially in relation to drawing the EU funds in the Programming period for the years 2014-2020.

For the internal purposes of the Roma Education Fund (REF), in 2013 and 2014, we **collected detailed data in the area of education of Roma students from pre-school to secondary school**. The information served as support data for extending the REF activities in Slovakia. The collection of data was realized in seven localities in which ETP ran its Community Centres: Košice-Šaca, Velká Ida, Rankovce, Moldava nad Bodvou, Krompachy, Ostrovany and Spišské Podhradie. Based on the collection of data, REF provided to ETP a grant for the project Slovakia's New Generation, whose activities were carried out in four Municipalities: Košice-Šaca, Velká Ida, Rankovce and Moldava nad Bodvou.

Our social innovation – **the project of self-help construction of family homes was, upon the request of the Carpathian Foundation, presented to the participants of an international project.**

and Consulting

U.S. Steel – Christmas Stall

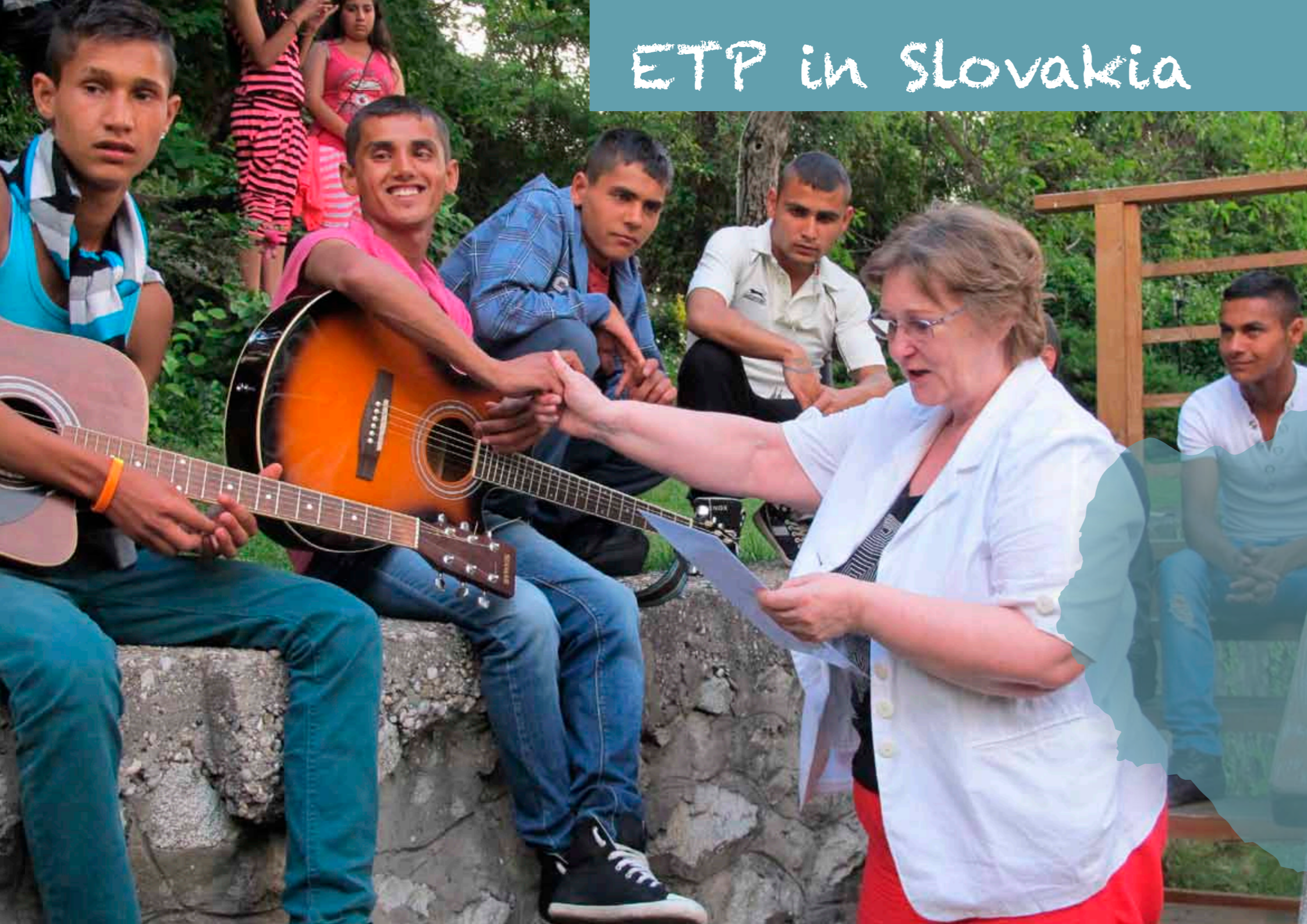
ETP Slovakia presented beautiful Christmas items crafted in our Community Centres during the event called "Christmas in Košice," which took place on Hlavná Street in Košice. ETP was hosted by U.S. Steel, whose stall carried a sign: "We Help Those Who Need It." A piece of the children's hearts could be found in each of the snowmen, angels, decorations and other cute items. During their creation, the children applied their skills and imagination. Throughout the entire day, their works were offered to the visitors of the Christmas Market for a voluntary contribution. All the gifts were sold and the 403,64 Euros collected in our donation box was distributed among the Community Centres afterwards.

"Was all of this really crafted by children?" asked an elderly lady, looking at the selection of gifts in our Christmas Stall. In the meantime, her granddaughter was choosing decorations for their Christmas tree. Another contribution made to our donation box...



ETP in Slovakia

in 2014



Community Centres

"Children enjoy coming here," says Janka Ferková, a mother whose children visited our Community Centre in Sabinov.

A common feature of all ten Community Centres operated by ETP was a high interest of children in its activities, often exceeding our capacities. **Over seven thousand children and young people have had access to the services of our Community Centres.** All ten Centres were equipped with computers, cameras and other tools necessary for running our courses and extra-curricular activities.

Community Centres have become safe and pleasant places, where children enjoy spending their time, even outside the regular activities. The children would often come just for the sake of being there. Many of them, especially the little ones, have become emotionally attached to the community workers. The children, as well as their parents, have been grateful for the opportunity to attend the Centres, and they have appreciated kindness and empathy of our staff.

Children and young people were interested in our extra-curricular activities and eager to perform in public (to dance, sing or play drama) as soon as they learned something new. In many localities, and on many occasions, they were given plenty of opportunities. For example, the children attending our Community Centre in Sabinov performed at the Sabinov Fair, where their talents were admired by the inhabitants from the majority too. The performances of our children and young people at the final concert of the Art4Rom project were also beautiful. Dancers and singers from Stará Ľubovňa were cheered in Poland, while children from Košice-Šaca were happy to perform in front of their younger friends. On Mothers' Day, the enthusiasm and talents of children from Moldava nad Bodvou, Ostrovany, Rudňany and Stará Ľubovňa brought tears of joy into the eyes of the children's mothers.

Our children also showed interest in collecting herbs, attending various outdoor activities and sporting contests, etc. They were so happy to be able to go to the Community Centres, mainly due to

the many interesting and beautiful toys they could find there – the toys they lacked at home.

"'Mine!' a three-year-old boy from Rudňany embraced a large pile of toys, not moving an inch from them. He had never played with toys, he didn't know how; it was the first time he had ever seen them. He hadn't been to the Community Centre before. Not until he started attending the Pre-School preparation classes," says Danko Pustulková, the head of the Community Centre in Rudňany.

Children very much appreciated activities in which they could get involved actively. They enjoyed planning and organizing trips, shopping for ingredients and cooking or baking afterwards. They would talk for ages about their life experience at the New Horizons lessons or during the meetings with their Mentors. Besides education, they expected from their Mentors help in dealing with their personal issues but also the chance to share their happy moments with them. In the Community Centres, the children also interacted with the non-Roma (Community Centre Leaders, Mentors and Tutors) and they developed friendly relationships with them, thus enriching the social life of their communities.

"Our Mentor gives us books to read and then we discuss them together. She also took us to the cinema in Košice," Eva and Monika, secondary school students from Rankovce, say proudly.

Another chance for boys and girls from Rankovce, Velká Ida and Moldava nad Bodvou to build new relationships was brought by the visit of students from the United School at Mokrohájska Street in Bratislava and Primary School in Plavecký Štvrtok. The event took place within the Community On Its Way To Prosperity project. Its aim was to raise the awareness of the life in marginalized Roma communities among the students and develop mutual understanding and tolerance.

Several Community Centres (Košice-Šaca, Moldava nad Bodvou, Ostrovany, Rankovce, Stará Ľubovňa and Velká Ida) also provided

social counseling. It was partly realized within the Mentoring Program and partly in the form of social interventions and field social work. The counseling was performed by the Community Centre Leaders and it reflected client needs at the given time. Some Community Centres devoted certain hours of day for adult counseling, during which our workers assisted the clients in dealing with administrative paperwork and helped them understand official documents received by mail, installment repayment schedules, etc. They also gave advice on clients' family and health issues. Social counseling and field work were usually realized as emergency interventions, as the majority of the Municipalities had regular field social work established within the National Project Field Social Work.

With only a few exceptions, in almost all the localities, the cooperation with the Municipalities was very good. In Rankovce and Stará Ľubovňa, The Church has provided considerable support for the Community Centre operation.



Košice-Šaca

ETP Slovakia was present in Košice-Šaca from 2011. The Community Centre was located near Železiarenská Street, where the local Roma community lives in harsh conditions of the derelict block of flats. Besides the standard programs realized in all ETP Community Centres, Šaca ran a successful Music and Dance Club, whose members were rehearsing plays and performing in front of younger children. Upon ETP's invitation, the Club members were visited by the famous Czech Roma singer, musician and choir master, Ida Kelarová. She was impressed by the local singers and decided to devote her time to work with them. Some of the children were invited to her summer arts camp and two of the boys have become members of the Czech and Slovak Čhavorenge children's choir, with which they rehearsed and performed. In June, the children from Šaca enjoyed a *Week Full of Activities*, which involved a Creative Workshop and a trip to Alpinka. From the fall, the Community Centre started to work also with the parents of our little clients to motivate them towards an active participation in education of their children.

The participation of children and young people in the activities provided by the Community Centre within the project Community On Its Way To Prosperity in 2014 was as follows:

Homework preparation	Financial Education	Mentoring Program	Extra-curricular activities	Low-threshold activities	New Horizons	Pre-School Preparation	Health Awareness	Total
1407	413	395	968	277	312	1954	375	6 101

"I am honored to have been invited by Aunt Ida to sing in her Choir. It has become world-famous, earning an invitation to New York. I sing the first voice at Čhavorenge. I performed at the gala concert at the Prague Rudolfinum on the Students' Day," says seventeen-year-old Richard Čisár, who studies to become a bricklayer. Since the first time he met Ida Kelarová, he has been dreaming of studying at a conservatory and devoting all his life to singing Roma songs. "Roma songs are beautiful. They are coming from the heart. No words can describe their beauty; they need to be felt," he says.



Krompachy

ETP Community Centre started in Krompachy in 2012. In 2014, long-term social and cultural neglect of the local residents, demonstrated especially in the young people's addictions, still could be felt. The Community Centre was located on Hornádska Street, in one of the four segregated Roma settlements in Krompachy. The Community Centre's activities enjoyed extraordinary interest among the local children and later also among their parents. Especially popular among the children were the low-threshold activities. We managed to do a great deal of work within the Pre-School Preparation. Older students appreciated the well-equipped Crafts Workshop of the Community Centre. They were guided by a Tutor to gain manual skills as well as to become familiar with woodworking techniques and tools. Children also enjoyed attending the Creative Hands Club, in which nice souvenirs were crafted to be later offered to the visitors of the U.S. Steel charity stall at Košice Christmas Market. ETP's social counseling and field work were not necessary as there had already been field social work established in the Municipality.

The participation of children and young people in the activities provided by the Community Centres within the project Community On Its Way To Prosperity in 2014 was as follows:

Homework preparation	Financial Education	Mentoring Program	Extra-curricular activities	Low-threshold activities	New Horizons	Pre-School Preparation	Health Awareness	Total
176	221	290	480	1730	213	935	240	4285

Eight-year-old Evička Duková named her doll "Soňa" after the Leader of the ETP Community Centre. "We had a good time playing, reading and writing together," the little lady explains. Her legs were affected, but whenever she could gather enough energy to walk a few meters from her house, she would come to the Community Centre. "Soňa would always come out on the street in front of the Roma houses and the children would follow her into the Community Centre. They enjoyed going there so much. It is a pity that the project has finished; we will miss the Community Centre," adds Ivan Horváth, a field social worker and tutor of the Crafts Workshop.



Moldava nad Bodvou

ETP Slovakia has implemented several projects in Moldava nad Bodvou since 2009. The Community Centre was based in a portable building situated in the center of the Budulovská Settlement, close to the miserable little shacks, derelict blocks of flats and usually over-filled scrapheap. These pitiful living conditions would often cause the local children and youth to seek refuge in the Community Centre, which was clean, warm, cozy and equipped with a computer and a lot of toys. It was a place where they could study, play and give thousands of questions to the Community Centre workers and Mentors.

In 2014, the work of ETP centered on education and free-time activities with children and young people. It was mainly due to engaging young people in the activities of the Dance and Drama Club that the addiction to glue-sniffing was reduced among the local residents. On the other hand, their interest in education increased. A great deal of work was done within the Pre-School Preparation, which provided an early intervention to a large number of children from the Settlement.

In cooperation with Dramatic Adventure Theatre from New York, interactive artistic workshops for children and young people from the Budulovská Settlement were organized for three weeks in July 2014. The final drama performance took place at the Free Time Centre in Moldava nad Bodvou.

At the end of 2014, four successful clients of the Savings Program were awarded bonuses totaling 5 820 EUR. The money saved and the bonuses granted were used by the clients to obtain driver's licenses, to improve the quality of their housing (to reconstruct a bathroom, to purchase kitchen furniture or flooring, etc). Out of all people participating in the Savings Program, the longest saving client came from Moldava nad Bodvou, saving for 40 months to be able to fulfil her dream – to buy her own house and move out of the Settlement - which she managed to accomplish towards the end of 2014.

The participation of children and young people in the activities provided by the Community Centre within the project Community On Its Way To Prosperity in 2014 was as follows:

Homework preparation	Financial Education	Mentoring Program	Extra-curricular activities	Low-threshold activities	New Horizons	Pre-School Preparation	Health Awareness	Total
843	289	408	1550	485	263	1664	242	5744

"A bottle of toluene could last the three of us for a day... I ate very little, I was skinny, my parents threw me out of the house..." Rado Žiga from Moldava nad Bodvou describes what his life had been like before he met Irma Horváthová, the Leader of the Community Centre. Rado enjoyed observing the rehearsals from the outside, looking through the window. "If you stop sniffing glue, you can join us," Irma spoke to him one day. He agreed to the deal. His friends kept tempting him, but he would no longer join them. The theatre was more attractive to Rado. His parents let him return home, where he now leads a decent life. Rado also worked as a Volunteer in the Community Centre.



Ostrovany

ETP Community Centre was active in Ostrovany from 2008. Besides its traditional activities, it also organized a couple of extraordinary events. Especially interesting was the meeting of local girls with the girls attending our Community Centre in Sabinov. The girls from Ostrovany welcomed the visitors with a home-made cake. At the beginning of the year, the Community Centre hosted a Photography Workshop led by Spanish photographers. During Carnival, a masquerade ball took place. The Mothers' Day was devoted to a celebration, offering children a chance to thank their mothers for their care. Together they also celebrated the Children's Day. They made a trip to Košice, where they visited the City's Historical Museum, the City centre and the Slovak Technical Museum.

The Savings Program was used by 28 clients. The total of 10 890 Euros was paid out in the form of bonuses, constituting the largest amount paid to the inhabitants from all Municipalities participating in the Program in 2014. All successful clients of the Savings Program defined a single aim: to improve the quality of their housing. The saved amounts and the bonuses attained were used for the purpose of reconstructing or repairing the bathrooms, building water and electricity connection, changing floors and windows, insulating homes, legalizing the land or making the exterior works – repairing the roofs and fencing the houses.

The Microloans Program was also very successful in 2014. The clients were regularly repaying the microloans received in the previous years. The effects of the Microloans Program are very visible, demonstrating themselves in the improvement of the housing quality among the local people. The poorest shacks are gradually disappearing and they are being replaced by insulated homes with new windows and bathrooms, or even with newly-built houses.

The long-term presence of ETP is also reflected in the increasing number of young people attaining secondary school education.

The participation of children and young people in the activities provided by the Community Centre within the project Community On Its Way To Prosperity in 2014 was as follows:

Homework preparation	Financial Education	Mentoring Program	Extra-curricular activities	Low-threshold activities	New Horizons	Pre-School Preparation	Health Awareness	Total
26	168	359	443	1018	123	874	147	3158

Before Christmas of 2014, the family of Viera and František Dužda moved into their new house. "It has been extremely difficult to finish. We have constantly been short of money. The foundations were built six years ago. Then the children came, so we needed to use our money for diapers and baby food instead. Thanks to God, we have already managed to repay the ETP microloan. To get to that point, I had to consider each cent before spending it," Viera explains. The money acquired from the Savings and the Microloans Program was used to obtain construction materials for the new house. The family was in desperate need of their own home. Before, they had occupied a single room of an old dark house belonging to their parents, which is close to Viera's sister and brother. The eighth, youngest, child of the Dužda family, a year-and-a-half-old Tomáško, faces serious health problems and his mother has to exercise with him several times a day. Taking care of her large family, the mother is loaded with work. "If only we could connect to the water supply as soon as possible," she says.



Rankovce

Opening in 2012, the ETP Community Centre in Rankovce is relatively new. Yet the results achieved in such short period have already made us proud. The Community Centre is located close to the Evangelical Parsonage, which has provided space for some of our activities. The local settlement is situated only 500 meters from the Community Centre.

Besides our standard activities, free-time and artistic activities have been realized as well. A music band participating in the Music4Rom project has rehearsed in the Community Centre. Young people from Rankovce also actively contributed to the Art4Rom project. From February to June 2014, boys were making themselves familiar with their own history, traditions and customs. The final outcome of the Project was a common performance of all participating children, which took place at Kasárne – Kulturpark cultural centre in Košice. Within these two international Projects, innovative education methods were used to develop children's personalities through art.

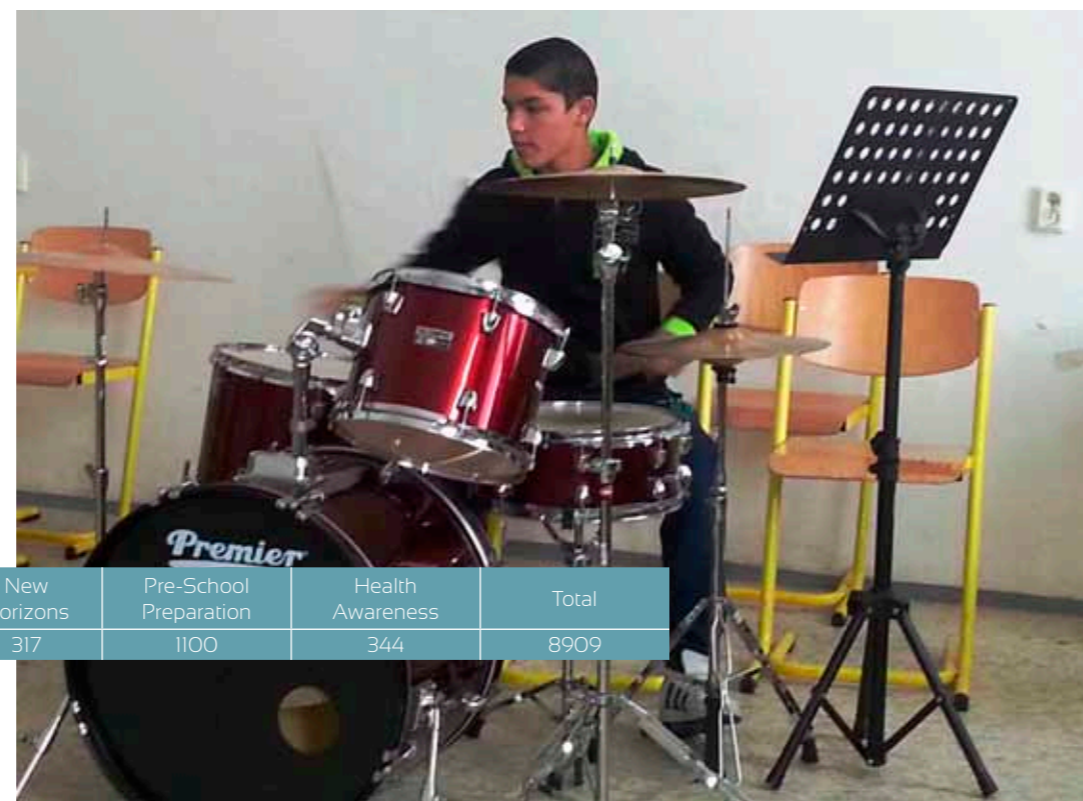
In cooperation with the local Municipality, which enabled our clients to purchase land, and the NGO Pre lepší život ("For a Better Life"), we continued with the Project of self-help construction of family homes. In 2014, four clients were able to finish the construction of their houses. Another two clients used the ETP microloan to legalize and finish their already existing houses. Ten new clients were able to purchase land for the purpose of construction thanks to the Savings Program. In total, 37 clients from Rankovce joined the Savings Program, receiving 19 595 EUR in bonuses. In the summer, ten clients commenced the construction of their new houses.

Microloans were provided to nine clients after they had fulfilled the conditions of the Program.

The participation of Children and young people in the activities provided by the Community Centre within the project Community On Its Way To Prosperity in 2014 was as follows:

Homework preparation	Financial Education	Mentoring Program	Extra-curricular activities	Low-threshold activities	New Horizons	Pre-School Preparation	Health Awareness	Total
2323	383	463	929	3050	317	1100	344	8909

Milan Gašpar decided to build his own house. After completing the Savings and Microloans Program, he commenced construction full of determination. Besides working on his own house, he depends on various part-time jobs to be able to cover the construction costs. As soon as he is finished with the work he does for others, he hurries home to work for himself. "I was most afraid to do the foundations. When they were finally finished and covered with the slab, I raised my hands to the sky and thanked God," he recalls. "In the new house, I am going to have a kitchen, a living room, a bathroom and a toilet on the ground floor, and a bedroom and two children's rooms on the first floor. We are going to have a solid fuel heater and, in addition, my cousin is building a beautiful fireplace for us. I erected the walls before the winter and I have also finished the bond beam for the roof," he says proudly. The family with three children is looking forward to the new house very much. Milan is most excited about gardening and the fruit trees that he is going to take care of.



Rudňany

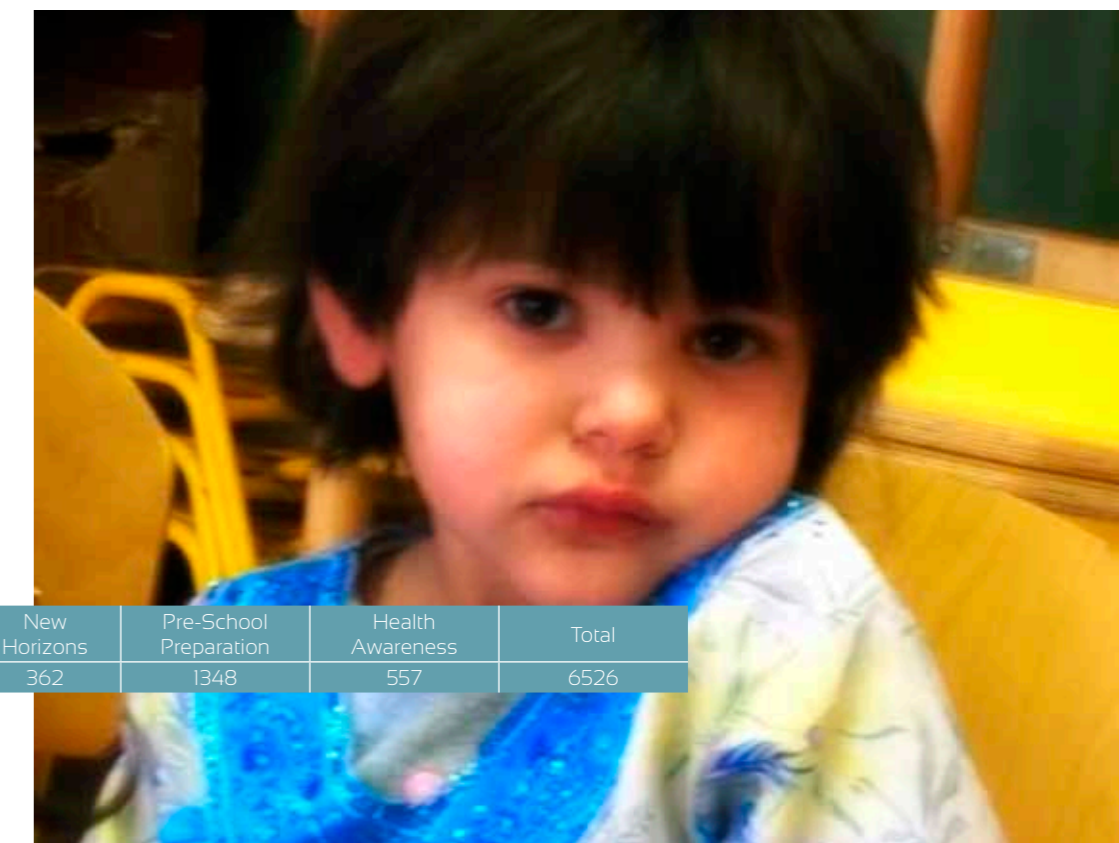
Throughout the years of our presence in Rudňany, since 2001, ETP has managed to build trust and authority among the local people. Our work there has borne fruit; the Community Centre, originally visited by the parents, later began to welcome their children. Raised in the Community Centre, the parents only found it natural to pass on to their children what they had once gained in the very same place. The core of our activities was education and free-time activities for children and young people, but we also provided social counseling. The 503 cases we attended to in Rudňany constitute nearly two thirds of all ETP counseling in 2014. Among other things, it involved advice on travel and work abroad, requested due to a lack of working opportunities at home. Beyond its standard activities, the Community Centre held a masquerade ball for children and organized trips to Košice City and Ľubovňa Castle. The pre-school children enjoyed a lovely gathering with their grandmothers. The Music and Arts Club based in the Community Centre provided space for young people from Rudňany, who contributed their theatre performance to the event called Art as the Way to Discover Our Roots, organized by ETP in June in Košice, as part of the international Art4Rom project, during which young people from another four Community Centres presented their talents.

Two successful clients participating in the Savings Program used their savings and bonuses totaling 1 800 EUR for the reconstruction of their flat, for new wiring and water pipes, or to install central heating. Six clients of the Microloans Program were repaying the borrowed amount regularly.

The participation of children and young people in the activities provided by the Community Centre within the project Community On Its Way To Prosperity in 2014 was as follows:

Homework preparation	Financial Education	Mentoring Program	Extra-curricular activities	Low-threshold activities	New Horizons	Pre-School Preparation	Health Awareness	Total
217	439	117	1853	1633	362	1348	557	6526

Emília Horváthová was raised as a "community child." She was a little first-grader when the Community Centre opened in Rudňany. Emília enjoyed visiting the Centre regularly. Today she is nineteen years old and she brings her three-year-old son there. Everything he learns during the Pre-School Preparation they continue practicing at home. "We revise poems and songs, we draw and play, we use the cubes we were given to build towers, castles and bridges. Together with my husband, we want Ervín to be a good student," Emília says. Her husband was raised in the Community Centre too and later also became a lecturer of the drug prevention and sex education courses. Emília became pregnant early, so she left secondary school. However, the desire for knowledge is still strong; she is going to go back to school one day.



Sabinov

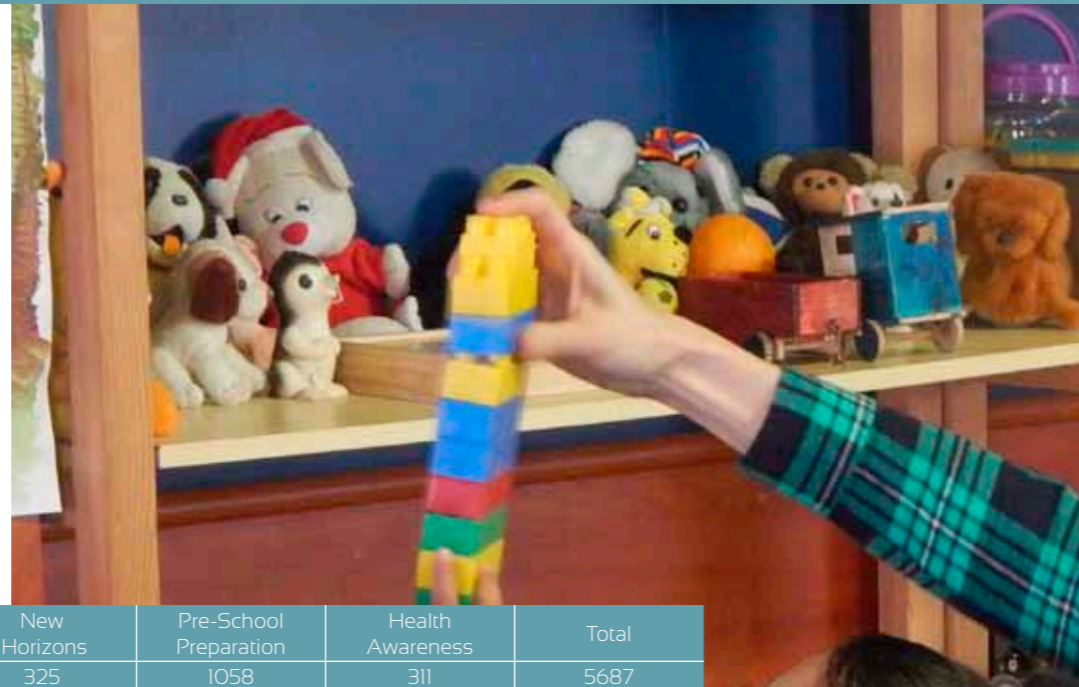
Children, young people and adults from Sabinov could participate in the ETP activities from 2009. The Community Centre was located about 1,5 kilometers from the local settlement. All standard education and extra-curricular activities were implemented in accordance with the ETP standard schedule. The Mentoring Program was successfully applied, contributing to the improvement of students' school attendance and performance. Very popular among the children were the low-threshold activities. There was a masquerade ball organized in the Community Centre and the month of March was devoted to reading. Girls attending the Community Centre have made new friends during a visit to the Community Centre in Ostrovany.

Five clients joined the Savings Program and at the end of the savings period received bonuses amounting to a total of 2 260 EUR.

The participation of Children and young people in the activities provided by the Community Centre within the project Community On Its Way To Prosperity in 2014 was as follows:

Homework preparation	Financial Education	Mentoring Program	Extra-curricular activities	Low-threshold activities	New Horizons	Pre-School Preparation	Health Awareness	Total
377	345	434	703	2134	325	1058	311	5687

"What a young person does not learn from their family, they can still be taught by a mentor," says Ladislav Duda, Sabinov's Field Social Worker and ETP's Mentor. He devoted four years to Filip and Lukáš, who have improved their school performance. They have not cut classes, have never been retained, and they are aiming for secondary school. "They usually bring their friends along, so there are usually ten to twelve boys attending our meetings," Ladislav says. "Eight hours a week was never enough for them; the boys kept visiting me constantly. Sometimes they needed help with history or maths, but often they just wanted to have a chat, play football or some board game, or they came to use a computer. Every activity can have an educational effect. The boys would often come to visit me at my home. We all have had an informal relationship; a friendly attitude is better than enforced authority," Laco explains what the experience has taught him.



Spišské Podhradie

The town of Spišské Podhradie has the lowest concentration of Roma among all the localities in which ETP was active in 2014. Operated from 2001, the Community Centre was ETP's oldest and its long-term social, cultural and educational influence generated good results. Many local residents left Spišské Podhradie to work abroad, most often in England, where the majority of them managed to find a job. Some of them have remained living there, others have returned home after earning a sufficient amount of money. The Community Centre was located in the town centre, which was within short walking distance for the Roma living in the town. However, the Roma living in the low-standard flats built by the Municipality in Rybníček locality, three kilometers away from the town, had to walk quite a long distance to reach the Community Centre. The local Roma were also helped by the Nano Nagle Irish Sisters' Centre, where an ETP employee applied the accelerating Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment method in educating children in the local kindergarten.

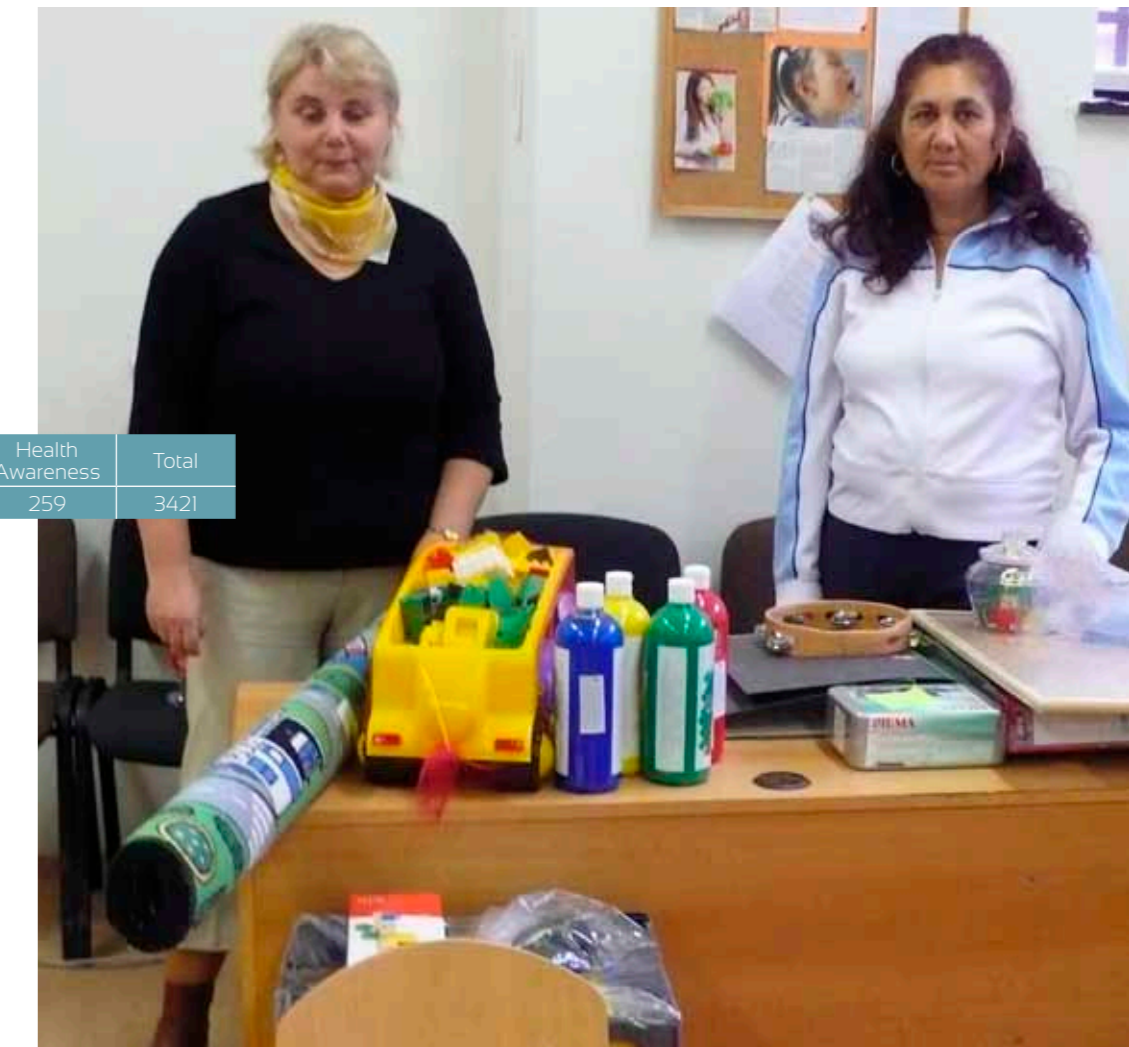
In 2014, seven families participating in the Microloans Program were repaying the money borrowed from ETP for the purpose of reconstruction of their homes.

The participation of children and young people in the activities provided by the Community Centre within the project Community On Its Way To Prosperity in 2014 was as follows:

Financial Education	Mentoring Program	Extra-curricular activities	Low-threshold activities	New Horizons	Pre-School Preparation	Health Awareness	Total
188	300	481	1621	228	344	259	3421

"We have installed new flooring and doors, renovated the facade and the bathroom, and built an attic. We get along very well with our non-Roma neighbors; our older daughter babysits their children," Janka Plachetková describes the living conditions of her family. A while ago, they bought an older house among the non-Roma. With the passing of time, the house needed reconstruction. It was realized thanks to the ETP Savings and Microloans Program. The entire family used to attend the activities of the Community Centre: Janka and her husband Branislav attended all its education activities, and the children came to play and use the computer until the family got

one of their own. The mother and her older daughter used to play in the drama group founded by Branislav's mother. Both of Janka's daughters are aiming towards secondary schools. The younger daughter would like to become a Confectioner. The older daughter is going to attend a secondary school in Levoča and after graduation continue to study at a university to become a Police Officer. "We will always speak well of ETP," Janka says. The Plachetko family was among those forced by the lack of work to leave home for England, where they did very well.



Stará Ľubovňa

Opened in 2003, the Community Centre in Stará Ľubovňa is ETP's third oldest (after Rudňany and Spišské Podhradie). The Centre is located in the Podsadek town district, only a few minutes from the local Roma settlement. The activities of the Community Centre have been very rich and popular among the clients. A Gala Concert that took place at the Centre experienced a full hall of settlers and visitors cheering the singing, dance and drama performances of the children and young people. Our long-term presence in Podsadek has been reflected in the fact that there are several secondary school students, and even some university students, in the settlement. This is an indicator of the quality of our work within the local community. At the Centre, we have appointed a Special Pedagogue, which has enabled us to successfully apply innovative teaching methods in educating children from three years of age and younger students attending schools. We have also created a position of an Assistant, filled with a university student of great musical talent. Organizing various activities, we have met with good cooperation with the local parish, primary school and a local branch of a secondary school. The Centre also houses a Crafts Workshop, whose craftwork was admired by the visitors of Košice's Christmas Market. March was dedicated to books and reading, and there was a celebration held on the Mothers' and Children's Day. In October, community dancers and singers contributed their performance to a conference on minorities in Poland. In addition, the Community Centre organized a creative and sporting event called We Are Little Nomads.

The Savings Program continued in 2014, providing its services to seven clients, who were awarded bonuses totaling 3 120 EUR. The results of the Program have produced many renovated houses in Podsadek. The clients have reconstructed their bathrooms, replaced the flooring and windows and renovated their houses' facades.

The participation of children and young people in the activities provided by the Community Centre within the project Community On Its Way To Prosperity in 2014 was as follows:

Financial Education	Mentoring Program	Extra-curricular activities	Low-threshold activities	New Horizons	Pre-School Preparation	Health Awareness	Total
271	480	1027	1705	275	1439	293	5490

Thirty one out of 49 clients of the Microloans Program in Stará Ľubovňa were repaying their loans regularly. Eighteen clients had already repaid their microloans in the previous years. The repayments were collected in close cooperation with the Stará Ľubovňa Municipality, which has had a functioning special beneficiary system in place, addressing the issue of the residents with weak financial discipline.

Dávid Korčkovský has been among the best students since childhood. At the Catholic University in Ružomberok he is now among the high achievers too. He has already attained a Bachelor's Degree and now continues in the Master's Program. Already at secondary school, he led a group of ten children towards loving God and realizing the responsibility involved in their life mission. "I emphasized how important it was for them to study. It was definitely worth it; all these young people are studying at secondary schools now," Dávid says proudly. Currently, Dávid works with a group of six older students within the Photography and PC Club. The young people appreciate his friendly informal attitude and they admire his photography. Dávid started working with a camera in ETP a long time ago. Thanks to the ETP Savings Program, his parents have reconstructed their house. Dávid took to the idea of financial education and saving too. As soon as he reached adulthood, he started putting some of his pocket money aside to qualify for the bonus and be able to buy a laptop. He was the first person in the settlement to buy a computer, and now he is the first person in Podsadek to ever study at a university.



Veľká Ida

The ETP Community Centre has operated in Veľká Ida since 2012. At the beginning it was based in the local manor house with only one room available. Its opening hours were limited by the hours of the Municipal Office, based in the same premises. Soon, the great interest of children in the activities of the Centre made the space no longer sufficient. Therefore, ETP decided to reconstruct an old battered municipal fire station to create a new Community Centre. With the financial support of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, it commenced the reconstruction works in August, engaging the local Roma as part of their activation works. By the end of the year, the walls and the roof were erected, the sewer trenches were dug, and the only things left to finish next year were the interior works.

The Community Centre has especially been involved in the standard education and extra-curricular activities, but also in various other events.

In January, a Photography Workshop for twelve- to nineteen-year-old children took place in Veľká Ida. It was led by two Spanish photographers, Eva Peray and Josu Trueba Leiva, who have realized similar events all around the world. In February, children enjoyed a lot of fun at a masquerade ball.

In August, the Community Centre hosted a Romani Design fashion show, organized by a Budapest agency. It combined traditional Roma motifs with a contemporary design and it also included the artistic performances of the children attending our Community Centres in Moldava nad Bodvou and Rudňany.

The participation of children and young people in the activities provided by the Community Centre within the project Community On Its Way To Prosperity in 2014 was as follows:

Homework preparation	Financial Education	Mentoring Program	Extra-curricular activities	Low-threshold activities	New Horizons	Pre-School Preparation	Health Awareness	Total
29	376	423	693	2607	321	1403	345	6197

Due to the strong social neglect persisting in the local settlement, the Community Centre focused on teaching the children basic hygiene and introduced toys and writing tools to them. Within the Pre-School Preparation, success was accomplished with applying progressive teaching methods and a position of a Special Pedagogue was created. Out of

an ETP initiative, a FIE After-School Club has been in place at the local Primary School since 2013. Since September 2014, we have been running two FIE Clubs, one for the zero-graders and one for the first-graders. Each afternoon, a Remedial Teacher, a Special Pedagogue, a Class Teacher and a Local Assistant work with selected pupils at the Clubs, whose results are very promising, drawing interest not only of the teachers from the local Primary School, but also of experts from the Ministry of Education and the Methodology and Pedagogy Centre.

"We are going to the Theatre!!! To Romathan!," rejoiced the little students from Veľká Ida. Although they were not quite sure what to expect, out of what they had been told in the Community Centre and at school, it was meant to be something amazing. Fairy tale magic was supposed to be happening right in front of their eyes... all accompanied by live music... None of the children had ever been to a theatre and neither had their parents. The bus that drove them to Košice stopped right in front of the theatre and waited for them until the end of the performance. As soon as the theatre lights went off, the actors in costumes appeared on the stage and the fairy tale started, the room full of children went quiet. The little mouths of the children in the audience went open and their eyes were stuck on the stage throughout the performance. When musical Instruments, including violins and a cimbalom, started playing, the little students were tempted to dance. "Are we coming back sometime later?" asked the children.



News

The Golden Civil Society Prize

Upon accepting the Civil Society Prize in Brussels on 16 October 2014, Slávka Mačáková said: *"...The implementation of the innovative social project Building Hope was possible thanks to our predominantly private donors and sponsors. We would also like to thank our colleagues and partners at the local levels, who have been tireless in guiding our clients throughout the construction of their low-budget houses up until the point they were able to move in. I hope and I believe that project of this kind, helping change the quality of lives of the poorest of the poor in Europe, will find support in the now-prepared Operational Programmes of the European Commission... It is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that the EESC mission to 'better connect the European policies and legislation with the economic, social and civil conditions in the field...' is accomplished."*

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) Civil Society Prize was awarded to ETP Slovakia – Centre for Sustainable Development for the Building Hope project of self-help construction of family homes. The golden Prize, including fifteen thousand Euros, was accepted in Brussels by ETP Director, Slávka Mačáková; Ondrej Sámel, who had been helping the builders from the very beginning; and Milan Gašpar, one of the active builders from Rankovce.

The Civil Society Prize has been awarded since 2006 to non-governmental organizations and individuals who significantly contribute to supporting the European identity and integration. In 2014, initiatives aimed at the integration of Roma were evaluated.

81 organizations and individuals from all over Europe were nominated for the Prize, but only eight of them have been shortlisted. The international Jury was chaired by EESC President Henri Malosse, who handed out the Prize to ETP.

Milan Gašpar on the Brussels experience: *"In Brussels, we were accompanied by Ms. Gabika from the Permanent Representation of Slovakia to the European Union, who showed us the most beautiful sights of the City. When we were getting on the plane, I was very proud of my 'belongings' – the framed Civil Society Prize. I also carried pocketsful of candy for my children from Gabika."*

"It is good to know that there is someone standing behind you," said Ondrej Sámel at the Press Conference held at The Slovak Syndicate of Journalists in Košice on 20 October.



Pohoda Festival 2014



We received a lot of positive energy from the visitors to our stall in the NGO sector of the Bažant Pohoda Festival in Trenčín. We are grateful for each "brick" added to our miniature house, symbolizing the houses built in Rankovce as well as our efforts to build a more just society.

In our stall, we were especially honored by the visit of the President of the Slovak Republic, Andrej Kiska, and the former Prime Minister of Slovakia, Iveta Radičová.

Milan Igor Hudák, a member of the Slumdog Theatre from Moldova nad Bodvou: *"I am very happy for the opportunity to perform at this big festival and I am glad that our drama group raised interest among the visitors. I also participated in the discussion on the education of Roma youth."*



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Humanita v komunitách Civic Association
Humanitarian Program of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation (Belgium)
Iuventa – Slovak Youth Institute
Jesenské Municipality
Košice-Šaca Municipality
Ľudia ľuďom donation portal
M.G.R. International (Belgium)
Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of Slovakia
Ministry of Labour, Integration and Social Affairs of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia
MIRET Civic Association
Mnémosyné Civic Association
MUS-E (Hungary)
MUS-E Napoli (Italy)
Nitra nad Ipľom Municipality
Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Košice
Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Krompachy
Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in Stará Ľubovňa

Open Society Foundation
Ostrovany Municipality
Pedverket Kompetanse (Norway)
People in Need Slovakia
Pre lepší život Civic Association
Primary School in Košice-Šaca
Primary School in Veľká Ida
Private Centre of Special Pedagogy Counseling Komenského 3 Košice
Rankovce Municipality
Roma Education Fund
Rudňany Municipality
Šačanský život Civic Association
Šimonovce Municipality
Slovak Governance Institute
Slovak Humanitarian Council
SOCIA Foundation
Sociálny Prešov
Sons-Croisés (France)
Swiss-Slovak Cooperation Programme
Technical University of Košice
The Mosaic Art And Sound (Great Britain)
The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Bratislava
The Town of Krompachy
The Town of Moldava nad Bodvou

The Town of Sabinov
The Town of Spišské Podhradie
The Town of Stará Ľubovňa
U. S. Steel Košice, s. r. o.
UNDP GEF – SGP – the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme
UNHCR – The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Union Romani (Spain)
U. S. Steel Košice Foundation
Veľká Ida Municipality
Veľký Blh Municipality
Velux Foundations

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

Vladimír IRA – Chairman

Thomas GREY

Graham JEFFS

Supervisory Board

Milena BUKSÁROVÁ

Katarína ŠTOFANOVÁ

Arpád LÖRINZ

EMPLOYEES AND ASSOCIATES

ETP Office in Košice

Slávka MAČÁKOVÁ – Director

Michaela CSALOVÁ – Deputy Director

Ľudmila STAŠÁKOVÁ – Social and Economic Integration Coordinator

Slavomír KUTAŠ – Housing Program Coordinator until April 2014

Eva ZELIZŇÁKOVÁ – Housing Program Coordinator since May 2014

Lenka ORSÁGOVÁ – Education Program Coordinator since March 2014

Martin VAVRINČÍK – Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment Coordinator

Lenka CZIKKOVÁ – Project Coordinator until May 2014, maternity leave

Mária GEDEONOVÁ – Social Work Supervisor

Gabriela VALENTOVIČOVÁ – Health Awareness Supervisor until June 2014

Slavomír STRAKULA – Financial Education Supervisor, Tutor since July 2014

Daniel ŠČIGULINSKÝ – Supervisor for Pre-School Preparation and Mentoring Program until December 2014

Soňa SOLÁKOVÁ – Supervisor for Pre-School Preparation since December 2014

Lucia HRUBÁ – Work Integration Mediator

Dušana RASLAVSKÁ – Assistant to the Education Coordinator since March 2014

Ondrej KOVÁČ – Accountant

Anna POGÁNYOVÁ – Administrative Worker since October 2014

Monika DOĽAKOVÁ – Analyst

Gabriela JACKOVÁ – Analyst until November 2014, maternity leave

Tatiana ŠTOFANOVÁ VAGASKÁ – Public Relations until October 2014

Beáta HYBÁČKOVÁ – Public Relations since October 2014

Jana MILKOVÁ – Assistant to the Education Coordinator until March 2014

Peter SOVIUS – Construction Coordinator since September 2014

Peter PELÁK – Construction Coordinator since September 2014

Community Centre Košice-Šaca

Jaroslava VOROBEL'OVÁ – Community Centre Leader

Lenka KOVÁČOVÁ – Assistant to the Community Centre Leader, Tutor and Mentor

Martina BALOGOVÁ – Local Assistant since September 2014

Katarína SEMANIKOVÁ – Mentor, Tutor

Martina HIRKOVÁ – Mentor

Irena MARTINEKOVÁ – Mentor, Tutor

Lenka SOPKOVÁ – Mentor

Community Centre Krompachy

Soňa SOLÁKOVÁ – Community Centre Leader until November 2014

Juraj ČURILLA – Mentor, Assistant to the Community Centre Leader since December 2014

Alena SCHONVICKÁ – Mentor

Dagmar PACOVSKÁ – Mentor

Jana PRELICHOVÁ – Mentor until September 2014

Jarmila PRELICHOVÁ – Mentor since October 2014

Ivan HORVÁTH – Tutor

Miluše GOŽOVÁ – Tutor

Lenka VIAZANKOVÁ – Voluntary Service until February 2014

Community Centre Ostrovany

Mária BARTOVÁ – Community Centre Leader from March 2014 until October 2014, maternity leave

Lukáš RYBA – Community Centre Leader until March 2014

Veronika KALEJOVÁ – Mentor

Ján HURČÍK – Mentor

Renáta MARKOVÁ – Mentor

Peter KALEJA – Mentor since September 2014

Viera MARKOVÁ – Tutor

Magdaléna CERVOVÁ – Tutor

Community Centre Moldava nad Bodvou

Irma HORVÁTHOVÁ – Community Centre Leader

Margita HORVÁTHOVÁ – Voluntary Service from April until September 2014, Local Assistant and Tutor since September 2014

Adriana JANITAROVÁ – Mentor

Emília NOE – Mentor

Monika KOREA – Mentor

Oto HORVÁTH – Mentor, Tutor since November 2014

Michaela KIRÁLYOVÁ – Mentor

Karol HORVÁTH – Tutor until August 2014

Mária KUČOVÁ – Tutor

Štefan REZEŠ – Tutor until October 2014

Radoslav ŽIGA – Voluntary Service since December 2014

Richard HORVÁTH – Voluntary Service since December 2014

Anikó HORVÁTHOVÁ – Voluntary Service from April until September 2014

Štefan MATA – Voluntary Service until February 2014

Zdenka RABATINOVÁ – Social Worker since November 2014
Dawood KHWAJA – Physician
Irena ŠPROCHOVÁ – Pediatrician
Alica KOLESÁROVÁ – Nurse
Ján KRAVEC – Nurse since July 2014
Mária GEDEONOVÁ – Psychologist
Olga KOSTELNÍKOVÁ – Psychologist
Alena KOSTELNÍKOVÁ – Psychologist
Sultan RODWALL – Interpreter until August 2014
Geta KHWAJA – Interpreter until August 2014
Nawayee NAQIBULLAH – Interpreter until August 2014
Ketabji MOJTABA – Interpreter until August 2014
Abdulfatah Mussa ABDULAH – Interpreter
Abdi Nieima AHMED – Interpreter
Abdi Abdirahman AHMED – Interpreter since October 2014
Faisal Jeilani MOHAMED – Interpreter since March 2014
Ahmed Abdi MOHAMED – Interpreter until April 2014 and again since October 2014
Liban Ahmed ABDI – Interpreter since April 2014

Associates in the Municipalities Involved in the Savings and the Microloans Program

Cakov – Karol BARI (Mayor)
Cinobaňa – Jozef DEMJAN (Assistant to the Field Social Worker)
Číž – Klára TURISOVÁ (Municipal Employee)
Drňa – Miloslava MOLNAROVÁ (Municipal Employee)
Hodejov – Magdaléna CSENEOVÁ (Registrar),
Iveta VILHANOVÁ (Field Social Worker)
Jesenské – Margita HRONCOVÁ (Community Worker),
Daniela BODOVÁ (Municipal Employee)

Kecerovce – Július PECHA (Field Social Worker)
Kojatice – Michal SLÁDEK (Housing Coordinator of People in Need)
Nitra nad Ipľom – Tivadar BERKI (Mayor)
Šimonovce – Štefan BALOG (Field Social Worker)
Uhorské – Katarína KULJAČEKOVÁ (Field Social Worker)
Veľké Dravce – Alžbeta ILLÉŠOVÁ (Assistant to the Field Social Worker)
Veľký Blh – Monika SENDREIOVÁ (Field Social Worker)
Vtáčkovce – Gabriela GÁBOROVÁ (Field Social Worker)

ETP Slovensko
ETP S
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Financial Report

Profit and Loss Statement		2014	
<i>Revenues</i>	<i>Non-Taxable</i>	<i>Taxable</i>	<i>Total</i>
Income from Provided Services	0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
Contributions from Other Organizations	1 499 089,00 €	0,00 €	1 499 089 €
Contributions from Natural Persons	3 367,00 €	0,00 €	3 367 €
Interest	0,00 €	0,00 €	0 €
Other Revenues	9 199,00 €	0,00 €	9 199 €
Total	1 511 655,00 €	0,00 €	1 511 655,00 €
<i>Expenditures</i>			
Material and Energy Consumption	74 526,00 €	0,00 €	74 526 €
Services (Travel Costs)	44 854,00 €	0,00 €	44 854 €
Other Services	188 180,00 €	0,00 €	188 180 €
Personnel Costs	974 738,00 €	0,00 €	974 738 €
Taxes and Fees	38,00 €	0,00 €	38 €
Depreciation	1 212,00 €	0,00 €	1 212 €
Interest	45,00 €	0,00 €	45 €
Other Expenditures	24 295,00 €	0,00 €	24 295 €
Representation Expenditures	12 164,00 €	0,00 €	12 164 €
Contributions Made to Natural Persons	65 637,00 €	0,00 €	65 637 €
Total	1 385 689,00 €	0,00 €	1 385 689,00 €
Income	125 966,00 €	0,00 €	125 966,00 €

BALANCE SHEET		2014
<i>Assets</i>		
Fixed Tangible Assets		18 179,00 €
Current Assets - Cash		4 441,00 €
Current Assets - Bank Accounts		571 462,00 €
Long-Term Receivables		0,00 €
Short-Term Receivables, Down Payments		178 776,00 €
Total		772 858,00 €
<i>Liabilities</i>		
Registered Capital		33 493,00 €
Income from Operations		239 189,00 €
Short-Term Reserves		0,00 €
Short-Term Trade Payables		16 264,00 €
Obligations towards Employees		49 271,00 €
Tax Liabilities		6 609,00 €
Liabilities Related to the Financial Obligations to the State Budget		93 632,00 €
Settlement with the Social Insurance Company and the Health Insurance Companies		29 642,00 €
Accrued Revenues		304 559,00 €
Other Funds		199,00 €
Total		772 858,00 €

Grants and Contributions in 2014			
<i>Grants</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Other Financial Contributions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Swiss-Slovak Cooperation Programme	648 105,59 €	European Economic and Social Committee – Civil Society Prize	15 000,00 €
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	582 422,52 €	2% of Income Tax Assigned to ETP	9 199,53 €
VELUX Foundations	261 445,00 €	Council of Europe Development Bank	8 000,00 €
Open Society Foundation	58 310,00 €	Carpathian Foundation	310,00 €
Roma Education Fund	27 532,00 €	Roma Education Fund - Consulting	2 000,00 €
United Nations Development Program - Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme	18 415,00 €	Contributions from Natural Persons	76,00 €
Hungary-Slovakia Cross-border Co-operation Programme (HUSK)	21 150,37 €	Contributions from Legal Persons	55,00 €
NGO Fund of the EEA Financial Mechanism - Active Citizenship and Inclusion Programme	13 811,71 €	Contributions from the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family	81,30 €
Education Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency	14 636,13 €	Platform of Volunteer Centers and Organisations	45,00 €
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Slovakia	1 000,00 €	Technical University of Košice	21 211,00 €
Government Office of the Slovak Department of EEA and Norway Grants	929,53 €	L'udia ľudom	1 571,00 €
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung	10 000,02 €	International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation	130,00 €
Engagement Global gGmbH	3 000,00 €		
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	14 871,79 €		
U.S. Steel Foundation	554,18 €		
Holcim Foundation	500,00 €		
Total		1 734 362,67 €	

Microloans repaid by clients in 2014	36 656,60 €
Microloans provided to clients in 2014	30 962,96 €

Independent

Auditor's Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the executives of OZ ETP SLOVENSKO – Centrum pre udržateľný rozvoj:

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of OZ ETP Slovensko – Centrum pre udržateľný rozvoj ("The Company") comprising the balance sheet as of 31 December 2014 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 OZ ETP Slovensko – Centrum pre udržateľný rozvoj as of 31 December 2014 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Slovak Accounting law code.

Košice, Juni 30, 2015

Ing. Eva Gazdová

Licence SKAU 628



When Sebastián from Veľká Ida enrolled in the first grade of primary school, he was not able to speak. The intervention of the Remedial Teacher of the FIE After-School Club helped, but Sebastián needed the help of a Speech Therapist. His poor family was not able to afford one, and therefore, we published a call on the kamosizwebu.sk ("Friends from the Web") crowdfunding portal to raise the funds.



ETP SLOVAKIA - CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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