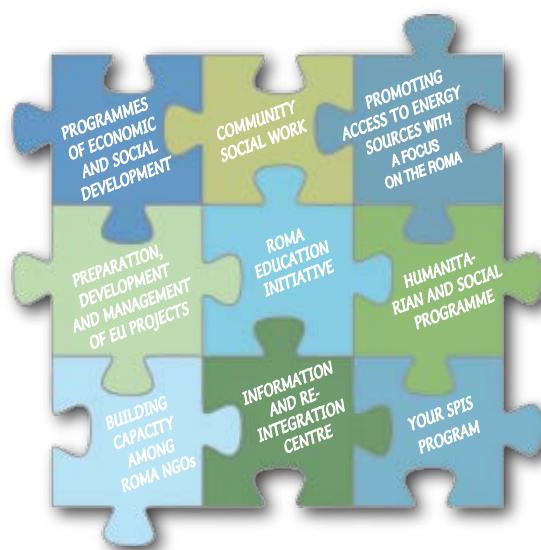




ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005



CONTENT

INTRODUCTION	4
OUR DONORS.....	6
OUR PARTNERS	9
OUR ACTIVITIES IN 2004-2005	10
BUILDING CAPACITY AMONG ROMA NGOs	11
YOUR SPIS PROGRAM SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY	
DEVELOPMENT IN MIDDLE SPIS.....	12
Sow Breeding in Roma families involved in YOUR SPIS	
Programme.....	13
Roma Education Initiative.....	14
Let's take the Second Chance to Improve our Lives	16
Community Development Service Centers	
and Community Social Clubs.....	17
YOUR SPIS FUND	25
PROMOTING ACCESS TO ENERGY SOURCES TO FOSTER	
INTEGRATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT FOR	
DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES IN SLOVAKIA WITH A	
SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE ROMA	26
HUMANITARIAN AND SOCIAL PROGRAMME	27
COMMUNITY SOCIAL WORK	28
INTERNET SHOP FOR ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS	29
INFORMATION AND RE-INTEGRATION CENTRE	30
IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSING CONDITIONS	
OF FAMILIES WITH LOW INCOME IN NALEPKOVO	31
IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING CONDITIONS	
OF PEOPLE IN ROMA SETTLEMENT IN SVINIA	32
YOUR SPIS II – INCLUSION OF NGOs	
INTO SOCIAL ECONOMY	33
SERVICE AND CONSULTATION	34
Programmes of Economic and Social Development.....	34
Legal and emergency assistance to disadvantaged	
people and community organisations	36
Preparation, development and management	
of EU projects	37
PUBLICATIONS IN SLOVAK LANGUAGE	38
PEOPLE.....	39
FINANCIAL REPORTS 2004-2005	41

INTRODUCTION

WHO ARE WE?

MISSION

OBJECTIVES

WHAT SOCIAL AND
POLITICAL NEEDS
DO WE FULFIL?

HOW DO WE
INTERACT WITH KEY
STAKEHOLDERS?

WHAT ARE OUR VALUES
AND OUR PHILOSOPHY?

WHY ARE WE
EXCEPTIONAL?

WHO ARE WE?

ETP Slovakia – Centre for Sustainable Development – was established in 1992 as a consulting and educational NGO as part of a programme (Environmental Training Project for Central and Eastern Europe) implemented by USAID in six countries.

MISSION

The support of regional and local development, the protection the environment, the empowerment of social, economic, educational and cultural capacities of citizens, including problem solving in relation to socially disadvantaged groups and ethnic minorities.

OBJECTIVES

- To directly help people threatened by social exclusion and create opportunities for motivated and capable people to develop their talent and fundamentally change the quality of their lives
- To assist the development of disadvantaged regions and areas in Slovakia by strengthening of the environmental, social, economic, educational and cultural attainments of individuals and disadvantaged groups and addressing ethnic issues
- To map and analyse the needs of disadvantaged areas in Slovakia and, in cooperation with local and regional activists, propose system solutions which can become a part of planning documents for municipalities, micro-regions and regions.
- To develop the social capital of disadvantaged regions in Slovakia and build the capacity of organizations which deal with socially disadvantaged people.



- To develop the human resources necessary for the implementation of strategic change by increasing the potential of the public and support the capability of local government to solve the problems at community level.
- To create space for discussion on environmental, economic and social problems and possible solutions and to support public involvement in the decision-making process
- To help to prepare institutions, organizations and individuals for the successful integration of Slovakia within the European Union
- To provide humanitarian and social assistance to people in need.
- To establish social enterprises in Eastern Slovakia.

WHAT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL NEEDS DO WE FULFIL?

- The development of disadvantaged regions and areas in Slovakia
- The strengthening of the social, economic, educational and cultural attainments of individuals and socially disadvantaged groups and addressing ethnic issues
- Increasing the potential of the public and supporting the capability of local government to solve the problems at the community level.
- The preparation of institutions, organizations and individuals for the successful integration of Slovakia within the European Union

HOW DO WE INTERACT WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS?

- We maintain a continuous dialogue about needs and opportunities.
- We are transparent.
- We endeavour to establish long-time relationships.
- Together we look for solutions to common problems.

WHAT ARE OUR VALUES AND OUR PHILOSOPHY?

- We adhere to the principles of sustainability.
- We have trust in the possibility of positive changes.
- We pursue equal opportunities.
- We believe the approach of small and gradual steps leads to significant changes in the long run.

WHY ARE WE EXCEPTIONAL?

- We persistently seek and secure systematic solutions to complex problems.



Ing. Slavomíra Mačáková, PhD.
 director

OUR DONORS



UNDP

(UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME)

The UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) works within the framework of the United Nations and provides professional and technical assistance to countries around the world. Its main objective is to help developing countries and countries which are developing democratic market mechanisms to create their own capacities for reaching the sustainable development of human resources, such as: permanent improvement in the lives of people, their work, education, health, neighbourhood and use of natural resources. Areas with the highest priority for the UNDP programs are those which deal with fighting poverty, sustainable life, the environment and helping the governments of developing countries.

In 1997 the Regional Office of the UNDP for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States opened the Regional Support Centre in Bratislava - the capital of Slovakia. At the same time the first general regional program of the UNDP - Help for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States started to be implemented, a series of mutually related programs which belong to the program priorities of UNDP in all 30 countries of the region. The management of these programs was assigned to the Regional Support Centre in Bratislava along with the responsibility for training and support functions for the whole region.

UNDP has supported two projects, which have been managed by ETP Slovakia YOUR SPIŠ – Sustainable Community Development in Middle Spiš and Promoting access to energy services to foster integration and human development for disadvantaged communities in Hungary and Slovakia with special focus on the Roma.

MATRA

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands promotes the strengthening of civil society in Central and Eastern Europe, the name deriving from the Dutch for social transformation, 'maatschappelijke transformatie'. Projects are designed to help strengthen institutions and build the capacity of central government, local authorities and, above all, civil society organisations. They also seek to improve interaction between national and local government and civil society, and to encourage consensus on measures to strengthen democracy and the rule of law. The MATRA Program supported financially additional activities within the YOUR SPIŠ Program

- **Sustainable Communities Development in Middle Spiš** aimed at establishment, development and regular operation of community centers in disadvantaged region of Middle Spiš.

SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, through the Swiss Embassy in Bratislava, supports educational activities within the framework of the YOUR SPIŠ Program. The main goal of the project **Kindergarten – Club of Pre-school Preparation**, which is implemented within the Community Centre in the Roma settlement in Nálepkovo, is to prepare the children for obligatory school attendance. Mastering the Slovak language and appropriate hygiene habits are the main prerequisite for successful completion of elementary school. Second objective is to work with parents through their children and to persuade them that education is necessary in order to secure better future for their children.

IOM – INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION

The IOM is an international organisation with its seat in Geneva, Switzerland. In the Slovak Republic it runs two offices, in Bratislava and Košice. IOM has been designated under the Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation (Swiss Banks) to administer humanitarian assistance for needy, elderly survivors of Nazi persecution who were persecuted by the Nazi regime because they were or were believed to be Roma, Jehovah's Witness, physically or mentally disabled or homosexual. Under the German Foundation Act, IOM has been designated to administer social programmes for the benefit of Sinti and Roma who were victims of National Socialist injustice in accordance with the German Forced Labour Compensation Programme. Since 2003 the **Humanitarian and Social Program** has been implemented by ETP Slovakia in the Eastern and Middle Slovakia region for the benefit of elderly Roma who survived Nazi persecution. The activities of the Humanitarian and Social Program are focused mainly on provision humanitarian and social, medical, legal and emergency assistance to Roma in need. IOM financially supported also the implementation of the project **Information and Re-Integration Centre** aimed at creation of suitable conditions for job integration of long-term unemployed.

ROYAL EMBASSY OF THE NETHERLANDS

The Matra Small Embassy Projects Programme - better known as Matra/KAP - is part of the MATRA Program. Matra/KAP has been set up in the

recognition that a wide range of small-scale efforts undertaken by all sorts of individuals and groups, is also needed to create a pluralist civil society, in which many people actively participate. The aims of Matra/KAP are the same as those of Matra as a whole, summarised above but what makes it special in the theatre of international donorship - is that it pays attention to the less spectacular side of project efforts, which tend to be overlooked. MATRA/KAP financially supports the establishment and operation of **Internet shop with traditional Roma handicrafts**.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION – PROGRAM PHARE ACCESS 2001

The overall objective of multibeneficial program Phare Access was to strengthen the civil society and prepare for accession candidate countries in Central and Eastern Europe. One of the two specific objectives was to encourage the inclusion and participation of individuals and groups who risk being economically, socially or politically marginalised in the transformation process. ETP Slovakia received a financial support from Phare Access Program to implement the project **Building of Capacities Among Roma and Pro-Roma Non-Government Organisations**, the joint project of three NGOs from Czech Republic (DROM, non profit organisation, Autonomia Foundation from Hungary and ETP Slovakia).

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND – PROGRAM INITIATIVE EQUAL

The EQUAL Initiative is a laboratory for new ideas to the European Employment Strategy and the Social inclusion process. Its mission is to promote a more inclusive work life through fighting discrimination and exclusion based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. EQUAL is implemented in and between Member States and is funded through the European Social Fund. Initiative EQUAL supported implementation of the project **YOUR SPIŠ II. – Inclusion of NGOs into social economy**.

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND – SECTORAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAM HUMAN RESOURCES

Overall objective of SOP Human Resources is to increase employability based on qualified and flexible work force. The program supports activities of ETP Slovakia focused at increasing the qualification potential and adaptability of young long-term unemployed people from Spiš Region that are entering labour market in the framework of the project **A Second Chance to Change our Lives**.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian organization dedicated to eliminating substandard housing and homelessness worldwide and to making adequate, affordable shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat is founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a simple, decent, affordable place to live in dignity and safety. ETP Slovakia co-operated with Habitat for Humanity in 2004 – 2005 on the project **Home Renovation and Improvement of General Living Conditions in the Roma Settlement of Svinia** and since 2005 has co-operated on the project **Improvement of quality of living conditions for the families with low incomes in the village of Nalepkovo.**

OUR PARTNERS

Association for Social Reform, Slovakia
Association of Towns and Villages in the Spiš Region
Association of Young Roma, Banská Bystrica
Autisti, non-profit organisation, Slovakia
Autonomia Foundation, Budapest, Hungary
Centre for Community Organising, Slovakia
Centre of Community Work, Czech Republic
Civic Association SPOLU, Kremnica
Civil Review Foundation, Hungary
Council for Social Counselling, Slovakia
DROM, non-profit organisation, Czech Republic
Holumnica Municipality
Hranovnica Municipality
Iliašovce Municipality
Kobyly Municipality
Legal Practice Azariova, Suchanova and Co.
Lemešany Municipality
Levoča Municipality
Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom
Mníšek nad Hnilcom Municipality
Moldava nad Bodvou Municipality
Nálepkovo Municipality
Office of Labour, Social Issues and Family, Poprad
Office of Labour, Social Issues and Family, Stará Ľubovňa
Ostrovany Municipality
Partnership for Social Inclusion Košice
Powys Equal Partnership, Wales, United Kingdom
Prakovce Municipality
Rakúsy Municipality
Roma Press Agency, Slovakia
Rudňany Municipality
Slovak Scouting
Social Development Fund
Spišská Nová Ves Municipality
Spišské Podhradie Municipality
Spišské Tomášovce Municipality
Spišský Hrhov Municipality
Spišský Štvrtok Municipality
Stará Ľubovňa Municipality
Štrba Municipality
Švedlár Municipality
Werk. Waardig, Belgium
Winrock International, India
YOUR SPIŠ Fund
Záhradné Municipality



OUR ACTIVITIES IN 2004-2005

BUILDING CAPACITY AMONG ROMA NGOs

YOUR SPIS PROGRAM SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN MIDDLE SPIS

Sow Breeding in Roma families involved in YOUR SPIS Programme

Roma Education Initiative

Let's take the Second Chance to Improve our Lives

Community Development Service Centers and Community Social Clubs

YOUR SPIS Fund

PROMOTING ACCESS TO ENERGY SOURCES TO FOSTER INTEGRATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT FOR DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES IN SLOVAKIA WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE ROMA

HUMANITARIAN AND SOCIAL PROGRAMME

COMMUNITY SOCIAL WORK

INTERNET SHOP FOR ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS

INFORMATION AND RE-INTEGRATION CENTRE

IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSING CONDITIONS OF FAMILIES WITH LOW INCOME IN NALEPKOVO

IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING CONDITIONS OF PEOPLE IN ROMA SETTLEMENT IN SVINIA

YOUR SPIS II – INCLUSION OF NGOs INTO SOCIAL ECONOMY

SERVICE AND CONSULTATION

Programmes of Economic and Social Development

Legal and emergency assistance to disadvantaged people and community organisations

Preparation, development and management of EU projects



BUILDING CAPACITY AMONG ROMA NGOs

The aim of the international project called **Building Capacity Among Roma NGOs – Programme for the Development of Roma Civic Organizations** – was to develop organizational capacities and disseminate good practice among Roma and pro-Roma non-governmental organizations and institutions in Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia with the aim to improve ability of these groups to solve problems occurring in Roma communities, e.g. education, housing, jobs, health, discrimination and low incomes.

The project was implemented in 2003 and 2004.

The following activities were carried out:

- A group of potential trainers was created within the framework of Training of Trainers courses in each country. Experienced activists who understand the basic components of an effective organization were trained to share their knowledge and experience with other members of their organizations. A training curriculum was created and provided to future trainers together with methodology that will enable further sharing of knowledge.
- Within the framework of Organizational Development Training, both Roma and non-Roma non governmental organizations were trained how to apply for financial assistance from European funds, how to identify local needs, how to generate innovative ideas and how to implement a project on the basis of needs and resources of local (Roma) communities.
- Regional Study Trips were organized to ensure the mutual sharing of specific knowledge and experience and the international network that serves as the basis for cooperation was created and is being continuously developed.
- Within the Internship Programmes, Roma and pro-Roma activists were given the possibility to work in well developed non-governmental organizations in other countries with the aim of expanding the capacities and skills of their organizations.

As one of the results of this project, 13 Roma and pro-Roma non-governmental organisations from Slovakia submitted the joint project proposal to the Delegation of the European Commission in Slovak Republic entitled *Let's Show People the Way to EU*, which was awarded and successfully implemented in 2004.



YOUR SPIS PROGRAM SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN MIDDLE SPIS



Middle Spis consists of three districts, Gelnica, Levoca and Spišská Nova Ves and has a total of 140,000 residents. Of these, 16% are Romany, most of them living in conditions resembling the third world. The official unemployment rate varies from 24% to 28% in the region generally, but it can rise up to 100% among the Roma. The whole region suffers from underdevelopment and lack of investment.

The program, tailored to address this situation, originated at UNDP RBEC Bratislava, Slovakia and the main aim was to contribute to local development and social integration through building capacities and networks at the community level. In other words, the project aimed to give socially excluded people opportunities they had never had before. The program was initiated by the UNDP and implemented by ETP Slovakia in cooperation with the Office of Government of the Slovak Republic, with financial and institutional support from the UNDP and Government of the Netherlands through its MATRA Program.

The methodology used was *social mobilization* - a tool that enables marginalized and poor people to group into community-based organizations and start up community development and micro-entrepreneurial activities provided the financial support is available.

YOUR SPIS targeted marginalized and disadvantaged groups from neglected towns and villages in Spis region whose social situation and living conditions were below the average level of and who were long-term unemployed. The community activists employed by the YOUR SPIS Programme dedicated significant time to discussions with local Councillors, Mayors and, most importantly, with the members of the target groups and assisted them in finding solution to improve their own situation. The hardest task was to change attitudes and to overcome the lethargy, nihilism, and lack of confidence of the socially excluded. But, with the assistance given from the program management, local Mayors, the UNDP and other institutions, after a short period we found *them* on 'our side', cooperating, caring about their future and discovering internal strengths such as manual skills, artistic talent, managerial skills, and entrepreneurial activities.

ETP Slovakia successfully and meaningfully engaged with Roma and other vulnerable groups in Levoča, Rudňany, Spišské Podhradie, Iliašovce, Mníšek nad

Hnilcom, Spišská Nová Ves, Nálepkovo, Prakovce, Spišské Tomášovce, Spišský Hrhov, Spišský Štvrtok, Švedlár, and Žehra.

We helped them to design, plan and work together on the implementation of small social and economic development initiatives.

The members of almost sixty community based organisations from the Middle Spis region within the period of 2001 – 2005 realised 157 small projects for which the local authorities provided not less than 50% of the financial support, remaining funds were acquired from YOUR SPIS Grant scheme.

13 small entrepreneurs received micro-credits to start their own businesses, 12 community support centres were established whose work includes business start ups, job training, training for hobbies, computer and internet access, job/social information service, social, legal and emergency counselling, educational services, children, young and elderly people's activities and cultural, sport and other leisure activities, 9 Programs for Social and Economic Development (Development Plans) were prepared in conjunction with the respective local authorities, including the members of disadvantaged groups, 50 community development workers have been trained and employed to support local development in 12 disadvantaged communities, a few hundred temporary jobs were created, which allowed unemployed people to improve their working habits and gain skills and experience and 65 permanent job positions were created for unemployed people.

The process also resulted in the mobilization of psychological powers among the members of the communities, some of them later became leaders in their communities organising community life, providing social assistance and counselling to those in need or even working for the local, regional and national institutions dealing with for social development of disadvantaged regions.

YOUR SPIS Program was successful in obtaining the financial support to achieve its sustainability from various donors, such as: European Commission, European Social Fund, the International Organisation for Migration, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer Foundation and various Embassies and other donors and sponsors.

SOW BREEDING IN ROMA FAMILIES INVOLVED IN YOUR SPIS PROGRAMME

The main aim of the Sow Breeding project was to motivate unemployed Roma to get involved into small independent farmer's activities in order to provide food for themselves and the members of their families. The project side effect was the development of social solidarity among wider Roma families and communities based on the principle *a gift for a gift*.

ETP Slovakia's partner was Heifer International Foundation, which financially supported purchasing of sows, medications, remedies and delivery of professional training courses, e.g. in zootechnology for the future breeders' families.

The project started in 2003 and its activities extended over the years 2004 - 2005.

A selection of partners' families was based on the previous skills and experiences of a particular candidate with breeding. A group of selected families participated in the training courses and lectures to learn about the technological aspects of swine breeding. After the training courses 29 Roma families were selected to be involved in the first project phase. Each family received a pregnant sow, which was ready to deliver small piglets. When the piglets were eight weeks old and weighed 20 kilos the family gave three piglets to another selected family from the community.

During the project, the breeders participated regularly in training courses and received professional support from the project coordinator – a vet – in their breeding places. The Guide for a Small Farmer – Swine Breeder was published and distributed to Roma breeders. Since 2003 almost 60 families have participated in the project. Altogether they produced 876 small piglets, of which 126 were used for their own breeding purposes and 185 piglets were raised for fattening. The remaining piglets were sold to other regions.

All the breeders obeyed the rules, directions and legal regulations of the Ministry of Environment of the SR in order to process and dispose of the biological waste ecologically.

Four families applied to YOUR SPIS Fund for micro-credits to extend their breeding activities. They received small loans up to 25,000 Sk, which they used to purchase feed for the animals and for the enlargement of pigsties. These breeders have improved their economical status and their living conditions have also improved considerably.

This project has demonstrated that sow breeding can be an effective methods of integrating Roma

into meaningful activities and getting them involved in small entrepreneurial activities. In addition it has helped Roma to acquire self-confidence, a feeling of security and satisfaction and has halted the social exclusion of Roma in the project communities.



ROMA EDUCATION INITIATIVE

For the majority of Roma people, according to the community development workers in the towns and villages involved in the YOUR SPIŠ Programme, the education of their own children is not a priority. The research carried out among these children in Nálepkovo Primary School shows that the majority of Roma children do not meet the criteria required to enter Elementary school. Their health condition is very poor and both nourishment and standards of hygiene are lacking. The combination of such insufficient pre-school preparation of Roma children and the language barrier leads to poor educational achievements for these children at Elementary schools and the reason why they fail at Secondary schools. This situation has led ETP Slovakia to initiate pre-school preparation projects for Roma children in the villages of Rudňany and Nálepkovo. In Rudňany, based on the parents' initiative and with the support of the municipality and the YOUR SPIŠ Programme, a Club for pre-school children was established in November 2002, with the aim of helping pre-school children in the neighbourhood of 5 RPII. The basic objective of the Club was to situate the pre-school facility as close to children as possible, thus providing education where they live. Another objective was to influence their parents and the entire community through the children to pay a special attention to education of children. The pre-school Club and the results of its work with the children have helped the municipality to raise funds from the US Army. These funds were designed for the reconstruction of an old boiler house and rebuilding it into a kindergarten. At the end of 2003 the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic included the newly built kindergarten in the network of standard pre-school facilities under the administration of the Rudňany Municipality.

At present 51 children from two Rudňany Roma settlements Pátoraká and 5RPII are enrolled in the kindergarten. Children are divided into three classes – younger age group (children 3 - 4 years old), middle (4 - 5 years old) and older age group (5 - 6 years). An essential part of the pre-school education are a health and a dietary programmes. Snacks and lunches are provided to the children on a daily basis. Snacks are financed from the programme REI – Roma Education Initiative of the Open Society Foundation.

Parents also participate in the educational process and assist in its organisation. The assistant working in the kindergarten also teaches parents how to help children with their homework. The kindergarten premises are also used for parents' activities which include: courses of crocheting, making bobbin laces, courses of reading, writing, cooking, handicrafts, etc.



In the afternoon young mothers of children of 2–3 years old meet regularly in a club called A Doll. The children can play in a club with toys, they are getting used to the premises of the kindergarten as well as improve their motoric skills, hygienic and dietary habits.

Another activity for people from two Roma settlements in Rudňany is a Job Club which assists long-term unemployed people to improve their motivation, working skills and habits, raise education and search for job opportunities.

In November 2005 Open Society Foundation awarded project for Rudňany, which allows for continuation of a health and dietary programme in the kindergarten and promotes health educational programmes, such as family planning, birth control, young mothers' education, health of a child, etc.

In Nálepkovo the pre-school children's club Kindergarten Svetielko has been established by the Civic Association *Education – Our Hope for the Future* in cooperation with ETP Slovakia. The main sponsor of this project is the Swiss Embassy. In the kindergarten named *A Small Light* 24 children from Roma settlement Grun are enrolled. They are taught to name things in both Roma and Slovak languages, thus enhancing their word stock. Systematic work with children brings an enormous success. The children have gained basic hygienic habits, learned to ask for things and express their thanks, they help each other, recite short poems and rhymes, and draw. Their results are wonderfully illustrated by the following two pictures painted by little Ferko:



When starting the kindergarten



After 6 months of attending the kindergarten

Two children finished a pre-school preparation in 2005 and they have been enrolled in an elementary school in Nalepkovo. The remaining children from kindergarten will start their elementary education in 2006.

At the end of 2005 the reconstruction of the kindergarten has been started, the main aim of which is to insulate the building in order to keep the warm inside. After reconstruction the kindergarten will be included in the network of standard pre-school facilities under the administration of the Nalepkovo Municipality.



LET'S TAKE THE SECOND CHANCE TO IMPROVE OUR LIVES

The aim of the project, which is financially supported from European Social Fund, SOP Human Resources and managed by Ministry of Education, is to improve the level of qualification, knowledge, skills and practical experience of disadvantaged people, who have either a low level or unfinished education.

The project objectives are as follows:

- By the use of individual tutorials, to enable 20 people below 25 years old to prepare for graduation exams in order to finish vocational training.
- To develop an informal education system for other members of the communities, interested individuals and citizens from socially disadvantaged background, which would allow training in informal setting of community centres and by the use of mobile (peripatetic) workshop .
- To establish a local development partnership that will involve local authorities, entrepreneurs, civic society and public institutions in order to support alternative forms of education at the local level.

The project implementation started at the begining of 2005 with seven people of the project team co-operates activities in five towns and villages of the Spis region. More than 150 under 25 year olds have shown interest in this opportunity of the Second Chance – to finish their formal education. 16 teachers, lecturers, professionals from two vocational secondary schools from the region (Forestry Apprentice Secondary School from Bijacovce and Furnishing Apprentice Secondary School from Spišská Nová Ves) are assiting young people from the following towns and villages: Iliašovce, Spišský Štvrtok, Spišské Podhradie, Žehra and Levoča. Trained staff of ETP Slovakia community centres help young people to do their homework, prepare for written exams and accompany the students to Secondary School of their choice for final examinations.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICE CENTERS AND COMMUNITY SOCIAL CLUBS

A wish to achieve sustainability in social, educational, cultural and counselling activities within the towns and villages participating in the YOUR SPIŠ Programme (UNDP) and Humanitarian and Social Programme (IOM) led to the enhancement of the original concept of **Community Development Service Centers (CDSCs)** by also establishing **Community Social Clubs (CSCs)**, based on the following model:

- The YOUR SPIŠ Programme would provide financial support for the reconstruction of the buildings to establish the CDSCs together with training and counselling activities
- The Humanitarian and Social Programme would provide financial support for the reconstruction of the buildings to establish CSCs together with counselling and social assistance as well as financial support for the material, medical, legal, and emergency assistance for the HSP clients
- local community organizations would contribute to their establishment and maintenance
- local government would provide financial resources for their operation also beyond the above mentioned programmes
- District Labour Offices would support CDSC/CSC activities, as would local entrepreneurs, schools and local not-for-profit organizations. Computer and technical equipment in these clubs has helped to create conditions for activities to be undertaken by community organisations. Space is provided for starting small businesses – including for the beneficiaries of micro-grants within the framework of the YOUR SPIŠ Programme. Local community organisations can use the Centres' phones, faxes, photocopiers, Internet access and computers for communication, obtaining information, administrative tasks and for providing a range of courses. CSCs are available to all the inhabitants of the town or village, thus creating conditions for improving the co-existence amongst Roma and non-Roma communities.

During 2002 – 2005 ETP Slovakia has assisted with the establishment and regular operation of CDSCs/CSCs in the following villages and towns: Holumnica, Iliašovce, Levoča, Mníšek nad Hnilcom, Moldava nad Bodvou, Nálepkovo, Prakovce, Rakúsy, Rudňany, Spišské Podhradie, Spišské Tomášovce, Spišský Hrhov, Spišský Štvrtok, Stará Ľubovňa, Štrba and Žehra, Švedlár.

COMMUNITY CENTRE HOLUMBICA

The activities of all the community organisations from Holumbica are now being implemented in the community centre as well as the carpentry workshop of St. Joseph in cooperation with a local entrepreneur. The Centre provides social, legal and medical assistance to unemployed, disadvantaged people and to elderly Roma from Kežmarok District within the Humanitarian and Social Programme. At the end of 2005 the group of twelve long-term unemployed and unskilled Roma were trained in woodworking, and carpentry workshop techniques including the use of hand tools and machinery. The training course was implemented in the Centre and some of the trainees have already obtained jobs and, for the rest of the group, new employment opportunities are being sought in cooperation with the District Labour Office. The Civic Association Support of Roma Employment also uses the Centre for its community activities. The leader of the centre is Mr. Frantisek Perichta, who is supported by Ms. Emilia Kasencakova. Contact : Holumbica, 059 94 Slovak Republic, tel. +421-52 458 8092, fax: +421-52 468 4781, e-mail: perichta@ke.etp.sk

COMMUNITY CENTRE ILIAŠOVCE

The Community Centre in Iliašovce has been established as a tool for the development of community life to increase civic participation in addressing public issues. The reconstruction work and furnishing the premises was accomplished in cooperation with the Local Authority of Iliašovce, in which the local unemployed people played a substantial role. Since the end of 2003 the Centre has been attended principally by people interested in computer work and Internet services. It has also organized events for all age groups, language classes, tutorials for pupils from Primary School, retraining courses, appointments with specialists (e.g. doctors, psychologists, etc), sport, cultural activities and a variety of discussion groups. Children and young people fre-



quently spend their free time at the Centre playing party games, video games and watching TV, movies. Club staff has established annual village hockey, volleyball tournaments, and ski championships, supported by the Mayor, and also has organised traditional festivities (*Iliašovská pantlička, Country Ball*). The Civic Association ROMA Iliašovce has been using the premises of the Centre to produce small cookies and home-made tarts, which are offered also for sale. The Civic Association Komunita Iliašovce has implemented a variety of different projects for the benefit of unemployed, disadvantaged people most of them in close cooperation with the Local Authority. The Centre offers bicycle and tailoring services for local people... The Association publishes a local newsletter promoting the activities of the Centre. The inhabitants of a neighboring village of Kurimany can also visit the Centre and benefit from its services and activities.

The following people were responsible for the operation and management of the Centre in 2004 – 2005: Lubomír Maciak, Janka Oravcová, Sylvia Mirgová and Danka Čonková. Contact: Iliašovce 155, 053 11, Slovak Republic, tel.: +421-53-429 96 42, e-mail: iliasovce@ke.etp.sk



COMMUNITY CENTRE LEVOČA

This Community Centre has succeeded in motivating and mobilising local people to participate in activities which encourage the work ethic, address a wide range of needs and provide an assistance to socially disadvantaged people. The premises are used for various cultural events, for art workshops and a dancing group. Since the beginning of 2004 the Centre has been working in expanded premises, serving the needs of Levoča's inhabitants who participate in such activities as film shows, computers access, games, folk & modern music group performances, Roma music ensembles and soloists, folk story-tellers and tea parties, during which people discuss various community-related issues. Young Roma people hold regular meetings on Centre premises and contribute to cultural programmes. The Community Centre cooperates closely with lo-

cal community organisations, such as Nad Tehelňou, Samy sebe – an informal women's group, Roma Women Club and the Young Sportsmen's Club. These organisations have succeeded secure funds from Local Authority, District Labour Office and the banks relating to various activities that have improved their development, outlook and communication skills which, collectively, have contributed to the creation of a positive image of these organisations. Together, these developments have helped the majority population in Levoca to change their views relating to Roma communities, especially in relation to the fresh thinking of the young generation of Roma. Since 2005 the Centre has played a role of a prolonged arm of the City Hall responsible for social assistance and services. In order to provide high quality services, the Centre cooperates with local police specialists, local labour office, and other specialists, e.g. physicians, psychologists, teachers, priests, etc.. Activities in the Community Centre in Levoca during 2004 – 2005 were managed by Eduard Čonka, Blanka Sanitriková, Milan Rišš and Zuzana Riššová. Contact: Predmestie 26, 054 01, Levoča, Slovak Republic, tel. +421-53-429 90 33, e-mail: levoca@ke.etp.sk



COMMUNITY CENTRE MNÍŠEK NAD HNILCOM

The Community Centre in Mníšek nad Hnilcom has been established within joint collaboration of the YOUR SPIS and Humanitarian and Social Programmes. At the end of YOUR SPIS Programme in 2005 the Local Authority assumed the responsibili-

ties for the operation of the Centre. The premises are used mostly for the social and cultural activities in the town. The most active are music, dancing and theatre groups of young people. The Centre has provided social services and counselling for the unemployed as well as humanitarian services for the elderly Roma. The Centre cooperates with a local non-profit organisation *Club of Carpathian Germans*. The operation and management of the centre is in hands of the Local Authority of Mníšek nad Hnilcom. On behalf of ETP Slovakia over the period of 2004 – 2005 the following community activists were responsible for a daily management of the centre: Štefan Kačír, František Fox, and Marián Žiga. Contact: Mníšek nad Hnilcom 165, 055 64, Slovak Republic, tel.: +421-53-489 63 15, e-mail: mnisek@ke.etp.sk

COMMUNITY CENTRE MOLDAVA NAD BODVOU

This Community Centre came into existence in the framework of Humanitarian and Social Programme. The Centre is located within the City Hall and it provides services mostly for the benefit of local Roma citizens. Younger people participate at various vocational and retraining courses and educational activities. Elderly people are provided with social and legal assistance and in some cases material and humanitarian assistance was also delivered to people in need. The Centre serves as a focal point for community social workers. Since 2005 the Centre has launched two projects aimed at promotion and development of traditional arts and crafts of Roma people. The Centre cooperates closely with Social Development Fund. Since the end of 2005 the Centre has been operated by the City of Moldava nad Bodvou. The activities of the Centre were started by two brothers: Ladislav and Jozef Bartók and currently Ms. Jana Kováčová is responsible for the daily Centre operation and management.

Contact: Hlavná 58, Moldava nad Bodvou, 045 01, Slovak Republic, tel: +421-55-460 74 06, email: moldava@ke.etp.sk

COMMUNITY CENTRE NÁLEPKOVO

The Community Centre in Nálepkovo was officially opened in April 2003 and reflected the need and growing requirement for the integration of the minority part of population – Roma – within the village.. In the mornings the Centre provides a range of advisory services for socially disadvantaged families and a network with the following organisations has been created:

- in co-operation with the primary school, contacts between the school and families has been established, involving checking on school attendance, consultation with teachers about situations in individual families, enrolment in the 1st grade and at secondary schools, paying children's allowances in

the form of food, teaching aids and hygiene accessories and clothes,

- in co-operation with a non-state health care facility – arranging compulsory inoculation of children through parents
- in co-operation with Labour Office – providing assistance in completing forms and jobs application,
- in co-operation with Social Insurance Company - assisting in arranging pensions,
- in co-operation with the State Health Institute in Spišská Nová Ves – organizing various informative discussions and lectures,
- in co-operation with community organisations from the village – activities aiming at mitigation of tension between the minority and the majority.

During 2004 various types of courses were organized in the Centre: a PC training course for children and adults, baskets making, knitting, weaving, sewing and handicrafts, implemented in cooperation with an informal group of young people *Wonder Land*. Leisure activities for children from the Basic school in Nálepkovo – work with computers and fairy tale afternoons - are also regularly held in the Centre. In the afternoon children can play with toys, do their homework and draw or watch videos. During the holidays children and young people from the village meet in the Centre to learn the basics of various typical folk handicrafts, such as weaving, knitting, making bobbin laces, drawing and many others.

Since the end of 2005 the Centre has organised a joint project of ETP Slovakia and Habitat for Humanity entitled *Improvement of living conditions of low income families from Nálepkovo*. Unemployed people from the village can visit the Job Club and, with the assistance of trained Personal Advisor, search for jobs. The village is included in the Community Social Work Programme, managed by the Social Development Fund, and the premises of the Centre also host the social field workers.

The activities in the community Centre have been coordinated by Irena Pronská, Ivana Mozgová and Zdenka Rabatinová. Contact: Mlynská č. 633, Nálepkovo, 053 33, Slovak Republic, tel: +421-53-429 71 68, e-mail: nalepkovo@ke.etp.sk



COMMUNITY CENTRE PRAKOVCE

The Community Centre is located within the Town Hall of Prakovce. In order to prepare a comfortable venue for local residents, ETP Slovakia, in cooperation with the Local Authority, reconstructed two bigger rooms to fit to the needs of the information, training and service provision centre. The Centre has implemented several projects focused at improvement of the surrounding environment in the town. Courses on a variety of handicrafts (such as bobin-lace making, embroidery, woodcarving) are organised regularly in the centre. A Civic Association A Joy mobilises unemployed people through an Activation Work Programme. The Partnership for Social Inclusion, a local branch of Social Development Fund for Hnilec Valley makes the use of the centre for its office. The Centre also offers counselling, information services and assistance to unemployed people, which activities are coordinated with the District Labour Office. Since the second half of 2005 the Local Authority of Prakovce has taken over the centre management responsibilities. The key people, who have helped to start activities of the Centre are Štefan Kačírr and Eva Lenkeyová.

Contact: Klub kultúry 267, Prakovce, 055 62, Slovak Republic, tel: +421-53-487 46 76 and 479 91 66, e-mail: prakovce@ke.etp.sk

COMMUNITY CENTRE RAKÚSY

Activities in the Community Centre in Rakúsy commenced in December 2003, when it was officially opened. From the beginning the Centre has mostly served to elderly Roma people, the clients of the Humanitarian and Social Programme. The Centre has progressively provided not only social and health assistance, but also administrative, community, educational activities to all members of the segregated Roma settlement.

During the 2004 - 2005 the focus of the Centre was mainly the social and humanitarian assistance to people in material need, including surgeries with a physician, the mayor and the local priest and social and cultural events have been organised for the citizens of the settlement. The Centre organises all activities in a close collaboration with a local civic association *Community – A Place for Everyone*. Since the second half of 2005 the Community Social Work project supported by the Social Development Fund has been implemented in the village of Rakusy. Community Activist trained by ETP Slovakia Eva Veštúrová, who was at the birth of the Centre, has assumed the managerial responsibilities and is currently employed by the Local Authority.

Contact: Rakúsy – osada 260, 059 76, Slovak Republic, tel.:+421-53-468 42 71, e-mail: rakusy@ke.etp.sk



COMMUNITY CENTRE RUDŇANY

From the establishment of the Community Centre in Rudňany it has been supported and promoted by the Civic Association ZORE, which cooperates closely with the Local Authority. The members of ZORE have worked with inhabitants of Roma settlement 5RP II, organised various training courses for them, and jointly implemented a variety of projects focused at improvement of socio-economical situation of disadvantaged Roma people (Roma Health Assistants, Inhabitants of Rudňany to Themselves and educational and vocational training courses).

The Centre is located in the same building as the Roma kindergarten in the settlement 5RP II. Mostly young people and women have an interest in participating in the diverse centre activities (a tutorial for children, health education, family planning, birth control, discussions with a physician, courses in cooking and baking, handicraft courses, of which the most popular was a course on wire-weaving).

Since September 2005 the Centre has been providing social counselling and assistance to unemployed people in their search for jobs. Cooperation with community social workers employed by the Local Authority through Social Development Fund is well developed. Since its opening the Centre has been managed by two experienced and qualified community activists Erika Sabová and Dana Pustulková.

Contact: Rudňany, 053 23, Slovak Republic, tel:

+421-907 404 385

COMMUNITY CENTRE

SPIŠSKÉ PODHRADIE

The Community Centre in Spišské Podhradie was opened on December 5, 2003 since when it has launched the activities of various local community organisations, clubs, informal groups as well as provided assistance to clients of the Humanitarian and Social Programme.

During 2004 and 2005 the following courses were held: English Language for Beginners and advanced students, advanced German Language , PC – basic course for members of community organisations from the town, tutorials for children and youth of all age groups, Basket-making and Silk Scarves Painting.

The Community Centre in Spišské Podhradie can pride itself also by the following activities: leisure activities for children from the Basic School in Spišské Podhradie – PC training courses, social activities for pensioners, “winter” meetings of the club of retired women from the town, and meetings of children from the scout troop. Since the second half of 2005 the Centre has been cooperating with the Local Authority on the social housing project and environmental project – a compost area. A Job Club, which is an integral part of the Centre, provides social and job assistance to unemployed people and members of their families. The Centre also closely collaborates with local community social workers. Many exhibitions were organized in the Centre premises, for example the exhibition of flower arrangements organized by the Civic Association (CA) *Sikade vasta*, and the exhibition of products made in the sewing course organized by the CA *Čercheň*. Various products of the CA sewing workshop including tablecloths, embroidered napkins, skirts, blouses have been presented. There was also an exhibition of oil paintings and wooden products made by a local artist, Ján Kolačkovský.

All these activities have contributed to the Centre in Spišské Podhradie becoming an inseparable part of the town and a place where many residents regularly meet and are very proud of.

The managers of the Centre have been Tatiana Forgáčová and Katarína Karakaya.

Contact: Mariánske námestie 34, 053 04 Spišské Podhradie, Slovak Republic, tel: +421-53-454 25 45, fax: +421-53-454 25 45, e-mail: podhradie@ke.etp.sk



COMMUNITY CENTRE SPIŠSKÉ TOMÁŠOVCE

The Centre is located within the Local Authority Hall. Its activities are focused at advisory services and counselling for unemployed people from Spišské Tomášovce. The centre premises are used for various cultural and art activities, in which the young people from the village express their talents, gifts and abilities. A young Roma dancing group A Star utilizes the centre to rehearse dancing programmes which are later performed in towns and villages of Eastern Slovakia. The Centre cooperates closely with a local kindergarten And, thanks to this fruitful collaboration, a number of joint projects have been implemented to improve the surroundings of the kindergarten and in the town. The Centre has the ambition to widen the scope of its activities to support skillful handicraftsmen from the town. The Centre also cooperates with the Social Development Fund. Ms. Jana Zajacová, who was trained as ETP Slovakia Community Activist is currently employed by the Local Authority of Spisske Tomasovce and has taken over all responsibilities and community activities in the town. Contact: Kostolná 20/12, Spišské Tomášovce, 052 01, Slovak Republic, e-mail: tomasovce@ke.etp.sk

COMMUNITY CENTRE SPIŠSKÝ HRHOV

The Community Centre in Spišský Hrhov is located in the centre of the town in the newly reconstructed premises of the Local Authority. It serves all the inhabitants of Spišský Hrhov and it is mostly focused at development and promotion of handicrafts. The Centre is used by local craftsmen, and also for re-training courses, such as wood-carving, weaving, and embroidery.

The Centre cooperates closely with local community organisation *Spiš*, that has implemented the projects to establish smithery workshop, bakery and reconstruction of a children's playground near a local kindergarten. The traditional annual cultural festivity *Harhovské čudá* is one of the examples of good collaboration between the community centre, local community organisations and the Local Authority of Spišský Hrhov. The Centre has provided social, medical, humanitarian and legal services to disadvantaged people from Hrhov and neighboring villages. Since 2005 the Centre has also offered employment services, in a newly established Job Club, to long-term unemployed people. The Centre has been a focal point of the community social workers and as such has been responsible for the management of an activation work programme. In 2004 and 2005 the following community activists were managing the activities in the centre: Katarína Zvancigerová and Iveta Polláková. Contact: ČSA č. 33, Spišský Hrhov, 053 02, Slovak Republic, e-mail: pollakova@ke.etp.sk



COMMUNITY CENTRE SPIŠSKÝ ŠTVRTOK

The village of Spišský Štvrtok is well known for its peaceful coexistence of the majority with the Roma minority. The activities of the Community Centre in Spišský Štvrtok make a significant contribution to mitigating possible misunderstandings, as it is open for people of all age groups, for both women and men, as well as for Roma and non-Roma. The Centre is a place where inhabitants of Spišský Štvrtok can meet and organize their community activities and social events. The cultural activities of the Centre include: variety shows, discos, performances of an amateur junior dance group *Rytierikovia*, mixed football tournaments and discussions with a doctor and a lawyer. The Association of Bee-keepers, sow breeders and the civic associations *Domino* and *Sila pomoci (Power of Help)* also regularly meet in the club. The adults are assisted in the Job Club when looking for jobs. The Centre collaborates with Social Development Fund and implements projects that create employment opportunities for unemployed people. All new activities arisen from ideas and thoughts developed and approved in the Local Development Plan.

These new ideas and thoughts have been introduced to the village citizens and have been reshaped into various interesting forms, projects, and activities. Through diverse courses and training sessions provided for people from the community, the community itself gains skills and a comprehensive overview. Handicrafts have started to revive again in the village.

The Centre has organised various activities contributing to the development and improvement of the life in the village including: the construction of a playground, fitness centre, improving environment of the village by building both small and large parks, sand playgrounds and leisure areas. The women of the community are engaged in embroidering table cloths and painting scarves. They have taken courses on sewing and weaving and have learned to make dresses and other accessories, to cook, bake and work with computers.

Village life has gradually changed and relations among people have improved.

All activities of the Centre would be impossible without the enthusiasm and hard work of Štefan Mirga, who has guaranteed the sow breeding programme in the Spišský Štvrtok and other Spiš villages. Contact: Tatranská č. 4, Spišský Štvrtok, 053 14, Slovak Republic, tel.: +421-53-469 94 58, fax: +421-53-46 99 457, e-mail: stvrtok@ke.etp.sk



COMMUNITY CENTRE STARÁ LUBOVŇA

The Community Centre in Stará Lubovňa - Podsadok was officially opened in November 2003 and from the outset its activities have been focused at implementation of the Humanitarian and Social Programme.

In the Centre regular club activities are held and the members of the Roma community Podasadok are invited to participate in various activities, although their initial approach was rather cautious. It was the task of the staff to gradually gain their confidence and help the clients understand that the Centre premises were there to serve them. Currently various meetings, lectures, tea parties, birthday celebrations, book readings and video showings take place/ The community life in the Centre includes also preparations for various festivals, from both practical and spiritual side.

Regularly monthly meetings of the community members with a physician are held which clients

consider to be very interesting and valuable. Lecture topics vary, from rules of providing first aid through the basics of hygiene to prevention from various diseases.

At the beginning of 2005 the activities of the Centre were extended to include community social work, which has an impact on the whole community of socially disadvantaged people. Besides counselling and social assistance, the Centre hosts social field workers, who map the needs of the community, work with young people and provide social and legal assistance. They also support young people in their effort to complete their education. From the summer of 2005 the Job Club has offered assistance to unemployed people from the City of Stará Ľubovňa. The activities in the Centre are coordinated by Ludmila Stašáková.

Contact: Podsadek Kultúrny dom, Stará Ľubovňa, 064 01, Slovak Republic, tel.: +421-53-43 23 062, e-mail: lubovna@ke.etp.sk



COMMUNITY CENTRE ŠTRBA

The Community Centre in Štrba was officially opened in December 2003. Through the Centre the Humanitarian and Social Programme has provided food, hygienic, medical, winter, social and legal assistance for clients from Štrba and surrounding villages. Some clients of the HSP programme, whose living conditions are desperate, have been provided with emergency assistance and a laryngoscope has been bought to improve the life conditions of a seriously handicapped client from Štrba who can again, after ten years, communicate with his family members.

Discussions on various topics are organized in the Centre, e.g. on retirement pension schemes, on social care, social benefits and social assistance, with the manager of the Police Force, the lawyer, the physician and the priests of all congregations.

The Centre premises were used by a group of young dancers, who later became independent and currently is on its own.

In the occasion of various life anniversaries of the HSP programme clients, ceremonial meetings are held in the Centre where family members join in.

Similar social gatherings are also organized on the occasion of calendar holidays, including: Christmas, New Year's Eve, New Year, Carnival, St. Valentine's day, International Women's Day and Mother's Day. The meetings are accompanied by live or recorded music, children's performances and performances of dance and music groups of the children folk ensemble *Štrbianček*.

The Centre in Štrba wishes to continue improving the quality of life of all Štrba residents focusing on the socially disadvantaged community of people who are not able (either due to objective or subjective reasons) to help to themselves, and are reliant on outside assistance from the state administration or local government bodies. The newly launched activities of the Centre are based on the specific needs of individuals or the needs and requirements of the entire community with the focus on development of new job opportunities for unemployed people.

Since 2005 the Centre has cooperated with the Local Authority and the Socia Foundation on the implementation of the project entitled Increasing our Chances. The Centre is managed by Anna Marecová. Contact: SNP 338, Štrba, 059 38, Slovak Republic, tel: +421-52-789 57 21, fax: +421-52-789 57 23, e-mail: strba@ke.etp.sk



COMMUNITY CENTRE IN ŠVEDLÁR

It was in 2003 when the reconstruction and repair of the Community Centre in Švedlár started and after a year of hard work put in by local people the Centre started to provide services to disadvantaged people from the village.

Activities in the Community Centre are designed for all village inhabitants interested in community life and wish to be engaged in it and in Centre activities. These are mainly socially disadvantaged groups of citizens, including the Roma community.

Meetings of the clients of the Humanitarian and Social Programme including with a physician, a lawyer, a priest, a psychologist, etc take place in the Centre, as do the activities of basic school pupils. Various courses and seminars organized for unemployed adults by the District Labour Office are also held there.

Patchwork and bobbin laces are made and traditional Slovak carpets are woven. The bobbin laces were exhibited in the Spiš Museum in Spišská Nová Ves in autumn of 2004 and the members of the community club present their original products and pieces of art work at various markets and fairs.

Based on good co-operation with the District Labour Office in Gelnica, various seminars, courses and meetings of the unemployed are held in the Centre, e.g. *Effective Household Management*. 25 Roma women participated in the course and their reaction was very positive.

Two-day meetings with a psychologist were organized in the club premises which were also attended by unemployed people from surrounding villages. In 2004 a re-qualification course for unemployed Roma people took place and 70 job applicants participated in the course. This project was implemented by the Centre in cooperation with Labour Office and MAPA, Ltd. Košice. The community Centre offers various social and counselling services and clients are given advice as to how to proceed when searching for a job. The Centre premises are also offered to various associations and informal groups in the village to hold their gatherings and sessions and cooperates with local community organisation *Support of the Development of Švedlár* on the development of social enterprise – the production of paving stones, which provides seasonal jobs for three citizens from the village. In cooperation with the Local Authority, An Association of Carpathian Germans and the Basic School, various social events have been organised – carnivals, Mother's Day, St. Nicolaus Day, etc. Since 2005 the Centre has been involved in Community Social Work Programme managed by the Social Development Fund since which time Mr. František Fox, who has been in the Centre from the very beginning as ETP Slovakia community activist, has become a full-time employee of the Local Authority. Contact: Školská 17, Švedlár 63, 053 34, Slovak Republic, tel.: +421-53-489 52 24, e-mail: svedlar@ke.etp.sk



COMMUNITY CENTRE ŽEHRA

The Community Centre in Žehra has taken on the voluntary activities of a group of Roma people dating from 1998 and the activities of the Phare Project *Improving the Status of Roma People in Spiš*. The main objective of the Club since 2004 has been to create conditions for improving social, economic, cultural, spiritual, educational and job opportunities for the Roma minority and to increase their initiatives in solving their own problems. The Centre in Žehra focuses also on solving issues of the Roma housing. One of the examples of which is the reconstruction of 34 shacks in Žehra. In 2000 the water pipeline was built, and in the same year the reconstruction of the Roma kindergarten in Žehra was completed. The Centre has served also as the distance learning centre for Vocational Forestry School in Bijacovce, the neighboring village. The Centre has offered various social and counselling services for all members of the community, with a special attention paid to elderly and ill people, who have been visited in their homes. During 2004 and 2005 the members of the community voluntarily improved the premises of the Centre, built the altan in the Centre garden, pavements in and around the Centre, and they arranged the dawn in the Centre garden. The regular meetings with the Mayor, the Spiš bishop and other social and cultural events have been organised by two Centre coordinators Viera Sabolová and Marián Dunka.

Contact: Žehra 90, 053 61, Slovak Republic, tel: +421-53-448 50 92, e-mail: zehra@ke.etp.sk

YOUR SPIŠ FUND

Arising out of the YOUR SPIŠ Programme, the **YOUR SPIŠ Fund (YSF)**, was established, on the initiative of ETP Slovakia, in October 2002. The YSF brings together three towns and eleven municipalities of the Middle Spiš Region (Spišská Nová Ves, Levoča, Spišské Podhradie, Iliašovce, Nálepkovo, Mníšek nad Hnilcom, Rudňany, Spišský Hrhov, Spišský Štvrtok, Spišské Tomášovce, Švedlár, Prakovce, Žehra) and Ostrovany from Prešov Region, BIC Spišská Nová Ves, Ltd., Civic Association ETP Slovakia – Centre for Sustainable Development and UNDP (United Nations Development Programme).

Since the very beginning the YSF, had the aim of supporting economic and social development of the disadvantaged region of Spiš, but has also been gradually taking over activities of the YOUR SPIŠ Programme. Therefore during 2004 - 2005 the YOUR SPIŠ Fund took the role of providing financial support to development plans and activities of either groups of inhabitants or individuals from the region.

Seven grant rounds have supported economic and social development of the disadvantaged Spiš Region focussing on supporting the development of community organizations and the initiatives of groups of people whose activities contributed to the development of business and improvement of the quality of life.

The criteria for successful project applications were to create conditions for establishment self employment in accordance with local Development Plan and with the active involvement of as many members of the community as possible – mainly disadvantaged groups, minorities, women and unemployed people and supported at least by 50 % of the municipal budget.

Within the framework of the seven grant rounds, 96 community organizations from towns and villages participating in the programme received more than 6 million Sk for the implementation of 157 projects improving life and living conditions of their population. The YSF also manages the micro-credit fund that supports small-scale self-help business initiatives of the region. During 2003 - 2005, 13 new small-scale entrepreneurs received micro-credits in the total amount of 370 100 Sk.

The YSF organizes various educational and training activities for organizations and individuals from the disadvantaged region and supports the development of projects and plans for improving living conditions and social situation of people living in the region.



In the area of human resources, the project contributes to the increase of professional, organizational and management skills of external co-workers of the YSF and representatives of local government associated in the YSF, as well as representatives of community organizations from the region.

YOUR SPIS Fund also mobilizes resources from other development partners, local and national government, European Social Fund and other donors and sponsors. The role of the Fund is to provide community organizations and individuals with micro-grants (for activities that benefit the entire local community) and micro-credits (for individuals that want to start-up entrepreneurial activities).

YSF has become the partner of ETP Slovakia and other organisations in projects aimed at development of expertise and experience of local community centers' staff members, representatives of local community organisations from the towns and villages of YSF. YSF plays a role of an active partner within Development Partnership YOUR SPIS II - Inclusion of NGOs into Social Economy. YSF took over the responsibility in cooperation with local non-governmental organisations to propose, establish, develop and turn meaningful entrepreneurial ideas into viable local social enterprises, which would provide jobs for those in need.



PROMOTING ACCESS TO ENERGY SOURCES TO FOSTER INTEGRATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT FOR DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES IN SLOVAKIA WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE ROMA

ETP Slovakia has collaborated with UNDP on two regional development projects focusing on the upgrading of Roma communities in Slovakia: YOUR SPIŠ and the project *Promoting access to energy sources to foster integration and human development for disadvantaged communities*. This project built on the successful results of the YOUR SPIŠ Program and on the strong relationship with local authorities in the Middle Spiš region.

The main aim was to identify feasible alternatives energy supplies for Roma settlements in rural areas. The project started with surveys on the energy needs of low income people, together with energy audits of public buildings including basic schools, and of private housing. The focus was on a feasibility assessment on the promotion of new energy sources as a mechanism for fostering social and economic integration among disadvantaged communities, including the Roma minority.

The mayors from Middle Spiš region visited villages and towns in the Czech Republic and Western Slovakia to familiarise themselves with alternative energy solutions for low income communities and to become aware of the innovative effective energy solutions for public building and social housing.

One result of the visit was to support the purchase of environmental friendly technology – the heating system for the Roma Kindergarten in Rudňany which allows fifty children from two Roma settlements to improve their personal hygiene and dietary habits, as showers, hot water, breakfasts and lunches are made available to the children on a daily basis. The daily operation of the kindergarten has also effected the whole community in that it mobilizes parents, and grandparents to take better care of the surrounding environment and improves the inter-racial relationships in the village as well as providing regular employment for the members of the community.

In cooperation with Energy Centre Bratislava the *Catalogue of Technical Options* was published and distributed to mayors of villages and towns involved in the project which provides information on alternative energy sources, makes recommendations to regional and local decision-makers and is a ready-

made tool for municipalities and local organizations as well as the private sector in promoting alternative energy options. In addition it also identifies funding opportunities for the investment in viable energy service solutions for local authorities.

In cooperation with YOUR SPIŠ Fund and based on the recommendations of the YOUR SPIŠ mayors, a grant was made to purchase a wood-chipping machine and a number of jobs created for local Roma people in fire-wood processing operations. In order to sustain the project results beyond the project, ETP Slovakia has raised additional funds from two major donors: IOM and Habitat for Humanity International. 150 solid-fuel furnaces have been purchased for Roma families and twelve seasonal job positions have been created which provide firewood for heating of homes in low-income Roma settlements.

This project has also helped project staff, YOUR SPIŠ staff and local stakeholders to better understand the various options available for the provision of energy that respond to the needs and choices of the poor.



HUMANITARIAN AND SOCIAL PROGRAMME

During World War II, certain large groups of people within Europe suffered significantly. Many of them did not survive such torment, and those who did suffer from this trauma even today. In some cases the reason for such cruel treatment was simply their ethnic background. A specific form of collective guilt also affected the Roma population.

In recent years IOM – the *International Organization for Migration* - has provided help and assistance for those Roma people who were either directly or indirectly affected by Nazi racism and persecution in a number of European countries.

ETP Slovakia was approached by IOM to deliver a project for the benefit of elderly Roma people who suffered during World War the Second and, since October 2003, it has implemented humanitarian and social programmes in almost all districts of Eastern Slovakia.

Elderly Roma people in need born before May 9th, 1945 and who survived the Nazi persecution are the target group. At present more than 6,000 such Romas live within the region, and based on their problems and needs, they can obtain one or more types of humanitarian and social help.

In all the towns and villages where the program has been implemented there are different social communities of Roma, from the upper middle class to the lowest class. However, there isn't a trace of social solidarity among them – the only solidarity that exists, if any, is within the family. The situation of the poorest segregated Roma thus depends directly on outside assistance and the social networks functioning between the Roma and non-Roma. This is what Humanitarian and Social Program has provided for more than six thousand elderly Roma in fifteen different districts of Eastern Slovakia.

Humanitarian assistance includes food or hygiene packages, winter assistance in the form of wood, coal or warm blankets, legal advice and medical assistance and, in exceptional cases, help can be provided in the form of a special emergency assistance for solving housing or financial problems.

A particular type of assistance is social help which is provided in areas with a high number of elderly Roma people and the Project has, in cooperation with town and village local government, established twelve Social Clubs, which have become centres for leisure, educational activities, and social and legal assistance not only for elderly Roma people, but also for other members of whole communities.

During 2003 and 2004, the Humanitarian and Social Programme, in cooperation with local governments,

supported the opening of Clubs in the villages and towns of Holumnica, Levoča, Mníšek nad Hnilcom, Moldava nad Bodvou, Rakúsy, Spišské Podhradie, Spišský Štvrtok, Spišský Hrhov, Stará Ľubovňa, Štrba, Švedlár and Žehra.

Although these Clubs are designed mainly for elderly Roma people, any local inhabitants interested in meeting with others are also welcome. The Clubs, however, are not only places for meetings, they also provide a facility for answering questions, solving problems and offer meaningful ways of spending free time, for example for hobbies, handicraft activities, singing and recreation, etc. Clubs are regularly visited by the social field workers, a doctor, lawyer and other experts who can provide advice on various issues of everyday life.

ETP Slovakia believes the program has been more than just simple help for the beneficiaries. In some cases it has lit a spark of life that had almost been put out by the harsh times they have gone through. And that is what really counts.



COMMUNITY SOCIAL WORK

The project **Community Social Work – Capacity Building for Extension and Improvement of Social Services and Counselling** was successfully implemented from June to December 2004. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic contributed to the project by providing financial subvention.

Although the project leader was ETP Slovakia, we closely cooperated on the development of capacity building program with specialists from **Council for Social Counselling** and **Association for Social Reform**.

The aim of the project was to develop and deliver a capacity building program in *community social work and social counselling* for the staff of community social clubs in the community centers established in 17 towns and villages in Eastern Slovakia. The project focused on the strengthening of inclusion of groups threatened by social exclusion and improvement of their adaptability at a labour market as well as their standard of living.

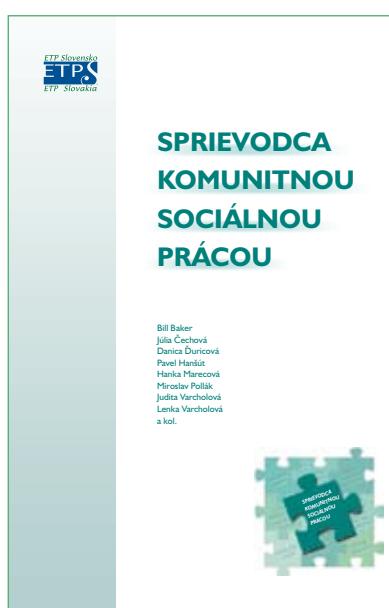
The capacities of the community social clubs staff members have been markedly strengthened, the trust of local Councils towards cooperation with community social clubs has increased and the stage for provision of social services and counselling to socially disadvantaged people by individual personal contacts has been set.

A concrete project outcome is the publication of **A Guide for Community Social Workers**, which is being updated regularly in order to incorporate latest law changes. Community social clubs' staff members, trained during the project, assisted



respective local authorities in preparation of the project proposals for the **Social Development Fund (SDF)** to support development of community social work in towns and villages (Stará Ľubovňa, Štrba, Rakúsy, Levoča, Švedlár, Nálepkovo, Rudňany, Spišský Hrhov, Spišské Podhradie, Žehra). At a later stage they became coordinators of these projects implementation. Since the beginning of 2005 the community social work projects have been managed by the **SDF**.

Experiences and skills gained during implementation of the project **Community Social Work** are being used in all above mentioned municipalities involved in **Program of Development of Community Social Work** managed by SDF as well as in all projects aimed at socially disadvantaged people implemented by ETP Slovakia.



INTERNET SHOP FOR ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS

The focus of ETP Slovakia is to support local development and to empower the social, economic, and cultural capacities of citizens, including socially disadvantaged groups and ethnic minorities. During the implementation of YOUR SPIS Programme ETP Slovakia has gained extensive experience in the field of capacity building of disadvantaged groups, has developed strong ties, networks and genuine partnership cooperation with local governments, public organizations and community-based NGOs, as well as with skillful artisans and craftsmen from Eastern Slovakia. We have realized that handicraftsmen lack opportunities to present, promote and sell their original products in the disadvantaged regions of Eastern Slovakia. Therefore ETP Slovakia submitted in the framework of the Royal Embassy of the Netherlands MATRA KAP Programme the project proposal entitled *E-shop for Roma handicrafts from the Spis Region*. The main aim of the project is to provide support the retail sale of original arts and crafts from disadvantaged regions of Eastern Slovakia via a virtual e-shop as well as via existing distribution chains. The project target groups are Roma and non-Roma folk handicraftsmen, artisans.

More than 100 handicraftsmen from far east localities around Bardejov and Svidnik up to more western towns and villages, such as Poprad and Strba have been visited with an offer to display and sell original pieces of their work through the virtual shop. Almost eighty handicraftsmen and artisans agreed to become part of a bigger family. Not only the virtual internet site has been created but also, in partnership with Strba Local Council and a local entrepreneur, ETP Slovakia has opened a small shop in the premises of the Motorest Sosna in the Winter of 2005. *The ETP Shop of Folk Arts and Handicrafts* sells products made by artisans and craftsmen from disadvantaged regions of Eastern Slovakia. The Shop arises of ETP Slovakia's developmental programmes YOUR SPIS I and YOUR SPIS II - Inclusion of NGOs into Social Economy - that support long-term unemployed citizens of Spis by encouraging their integration into the labour market as well as creating job opportunities for disadvantaged people in newly established social enterprises.



INFORMATION AND RE-INTEGRATION CENTRE

The overall objective of this project was to contribute to the stabilisation of local Roma communities in areas with high rates of socio-economic exclusion of Roma population, thus reducing migration pressures towards Western European countries.

The project was implemented in 2005 in partnership with the International Organisation for Migration, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium.

CARPENTRY WORKSHOP IN HOLUMBICA

A 23-day carpentry workshop trained 12 young unemployed Roma in wood processing and carpentry thus increasing their chances to secure gainful employment and enhancing their prospects of integration within their local communities. The workshop had two parts: a theoretical introduction, followed by practical training in woodworking skills. In the introductory part, participants were given information on the usage and processing of wood and workplace safety rules. In the second part, they had the opportunity to apply the knowledge they had gained in practical work, practising various woodworking methods, from basic bark removal to a machine-based manufacturing of wooden products. As a direct result of the training, 2 participants, who showed the most attitude and interest in carpentry work, were employed in the Holumbica carpentry enterprise. In the next phase of the project, activities will be aimed at promoting the sale of the workshop's products, providing participants with sales skills and to generate income for the operation of the workshop.

WOOD-CHIPPING WORKSHOP

The aim of this activity was to establish a small firewood-making enterprise that will serve as a sustainable income generating tool for the community. While cleaning the municipal forests, wood is gathered and processed by a wood-chipper into a biomass product that can be used for heating or gardening purposes. The biomass product will be sold and/or distributed to the workshop participants as remuneration. In the introductory part of the training, the 12 participants - young Roma who have only completed primary school education - were briefed about basic principles of working in a forest, working with a chainsaw and a wood-chipper and workplace safety rules. Practical work was carried out in the local forests of towns Spisske Podhradie and in Spisske Vlachy which had agreed

to cooperate in the project. As a direct outcome of the activity, 5 participants were employed in the wood-chipping enterprise.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SMALL WOOD-PROCESSING ENTERPRISE

In the Spis Region a storage room has been rented in order to process wood from the forest for fire-wood. Project activities (cleaning forest, wood processing and preparation of wood biomass products) continued beyond the project end via voluntary work of 11 Roma.

The project has clearly demonstrated a great demand for further practical training among the members of the Roma community. Also, the chosen approach has proved to be successful in overcoming the stereotype of "un-employability" of the Roma. An interesting social shift has been noted with relation to the activities of the second workshop where being a member of the workgroup and engaging into work for which there is demand, became a matter of prestige for the whole community. The provision of training followed by actual employment has been demonstrated to be an effective method in integrating Roma in their communities and can also be used as a complement to counselling and social assistance activities.



IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSING CONDITIONS OF FAMILIES WITH LOW INCOME IN NALEPKOVO

In this project ETP Slovakia works jointly with *Habitat for Humanity* (HFH) on the adaptation and implementation of HFH's housing development model in Slovakia with the aim to improve the living conditions of poor families, including Roma, in Nalepkovo. The project started in December 2005 and the implementation period is eighteen months.

A broader cooperation has been secured for the project implementation. The Ministry for Construction and Regional Development Program has provided subsidies to the Municipality of Nalepkovo of up to 80 percent of the cost of the construction of apartment buildings for 20 Roma families, Nalepkovo Local Council, in cooperation with future tenant families, has provided the remaining 20 percent, including the so-called sweat equity of future tenants, involved in activation work programme. These subsidies, however, are only intended to cover the costs of construction of housing units to a limited standard, e.g. without flooring, tiled bathrooms, kitchen equipment and with insufficient heating and insulation to provide modest, decent living conditions for families with children. The families in material need must find their own way of completing the construction. I, ETP Slovakia has, therefore, established a strong partnership with Habitat for Humanity International, the Local Council, the Community Center, and local community based organisations and has developed an integrated, results-oriented, sustainable approach to alleviate poverty housing of disadvantaged, marginalized citizens, including equally the Roma and the non-Roma members of the community. With such a people-oriented focus based on strong institutional partnerships, the project has started to develop a sustainable foundation for future poverty housing improvement and construction programs in Slovakia.

We believe this will achieve the following concrete results:

- the construction of 20 houses for low income Roma families
- the establishment of a Housing Revolving Fund of USD 100,000 to provide loans to co-finance renovations and reconstructions of lower-standard houses.
- training and supervision for the renovation of 50 homes for low income families
- vocational training to the selected partner families on SDA (Simple, Decent and Affordable) house construction and renovation, carpentry, community development, local fundraising, etc.

■ the offering of this the model to the Slovak Government as a method of implementation the Social Housing Fund for low income families.

■ the evaluation of the pilot phase and the formulation of recommendations and proposals for the replication and extension phases.

■ using the experience of the Housing Development Program (HDP) to ensure successful replication and extension of the HDP to other regions of Slovakia

The families will repay the loans on a monthly basis to the Housing Revolving Fund and agreements will be entered into between the families and the Local Council to allow families in need to receive support from the local council and a local job club in their search for employment.

In addition, ETP Slovakia, again in close cooperation with HFH and Local Council, will organise an intensive vocational training program for members of the families in order to improve their manual skills as well as to build their capacity on how to implement and operate HFH model in Slovakia.



IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING CONDITIONS OF PEOPLE IN ROMA SETTLEMENT IN SVINIA

This project was launched in August 2004 jointly by Habitat for Humanity International and ETP Slovakia and was finished in June 2005.

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

General Improvements of Living Conditions

- clean-up works carried out
- the drainage system was cleaned and fixed
- two deratizations took place in the settlement
- the water reservoir and a supply of drinking water was provided
- the macadam was laid in the area of all housing units
- railings in the apartment housing units were repaired and welded
- concrete was laid on the pavement
- drainage piping was installed in order to launch drainage works in the area in front of apartment housing units
- the roofs of apartment housing near chimneys were fixed



Homes Renovation Project

- material support for individual renovations was provided for each family in the settlement together with the individual assistance from project staff
- 84 families received solid fuel furnaces
- 84 families received new flues
- 35 families received beds
- 19 families received floor covering



Community engagement, social work and other outcomes

- During the project ETP Slovakia secured additional financial resources from the National Labour Office for the purchase of working outfits, safety and hygienic measures for Roma participating in activation work program
- Due to good cooperation with the local basic school, ETP Slovakia organised a number of events for children and their family members, such as Children's Day, Christmas Party, Roma Day, sport days, etc.
- Home Decoration Day – International Children's Day - 100 children participated in Children's Drawing Contest



YOUR SPIS II – INCLUSION OF NGOs INTO SOCIAL ECONOMY

This project builds on the work ETP Slovakia has previously undertaken and, although concentrating on employment issues, perpetuates its commitment to a holistic approach.

The **YOUR SPIS II** Project is funded by the European Commission through the European Social Fund, the objective of which is to promote a more inclusive work life through fighting discrimination and exclusion. The Project is delivered by a Development Partnership, led by ETP Slovakia, and is part of two Transnational Partnerships addressing similar employment challenges in Belgium, the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom.

The main objective of the Project is to equip non-government organizations in partners's villages in the Spis Region (Holumnica, Nalepkovo, Spisske Podhradie, Spissky Stvrtok, Spissky Hrhov, Stara Lubovna, Strba, and Svedlar) so that they can assist socially disadvantaged people and increase their chances of securing employment.

With a commencement date of 1st September 2005, the aim is that NGOs from the selected towns and villages in the Spis Region will be by the end of the project in 2008 in a position to help long term unemployed people to return to work and thus be gradually integrated into society, including through the use of **social enterprises**.

Working with local authorities, local organizations, businesses and individuals, the NGOs encourage unemployed people to use their talents and skills, to sell their merchandise or establish a small business. The NGOs, in fact, aim to establish themselves as social enterprises.

The emphasis is on increasing the number of job opportunities (including e.g. by establishment of new social enterprises) not merely at decreasing the number of unemployed or securing qualifications and re-training for jobs which simply did not exist.

Operating within ETP's existing network of Community Centres and drawing on the experiences of foreign partners, trained **Personal Advisors**, in close collaboration with Labour Offices, provide assistance and counselling to clients searching for a job as well as helping to overcome the barriers that prevent them from succeeding.

A network of **Job Clubs** have been established where clients may, in an informal setting, have the opportunity to obtain information about work, training opportunities and have access to databases and internet searching. Child care facilities and coffee are



on hand. Also available is a specialist **Small Enterprise Adviser** for those who show interest in establishing their own trade or small business of the kind encouraged by the relevant local Community Development Plan, in cooperation with the local authority. At the same venue, clients are able to meet representatives of other support organisations to obtain advice relating to such things as social care, health, education and housing, etc.

Designated **Job Brokers** work closely with Labour Offices to bring the needs of both employers seeking workers together with people seeking work, assembling details of vacancies and matching these with those available for work. Databases of clients and potential employers have been established. The Brokers bring job seekers together with potential employers, encourage both parties to reach agreement and provide guarantees to protect employers. The Brokers then provide follow-up support after employment has started.



SERVICE AND CONSULTATION

PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

In accordance with Law No. 503/2001 of the Code on Supporting Regional Development, each village/town is required to prepare a medium-term development plan which becomes the basis for preparing applications and subsequent securing of funds, including from European Union sources.

When preparing and developing a **Programme of Economic and Social Development (PE & SD)** for a village or a town, ETP Slovakia uses the methodology recommended by the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic, which comprises a multi-sectoral approach with maximum and open participation of the public in the planning process - two basic pillars for effective and valuable definition of development areas of the life of village inhabitants and its subsequent sustainability.

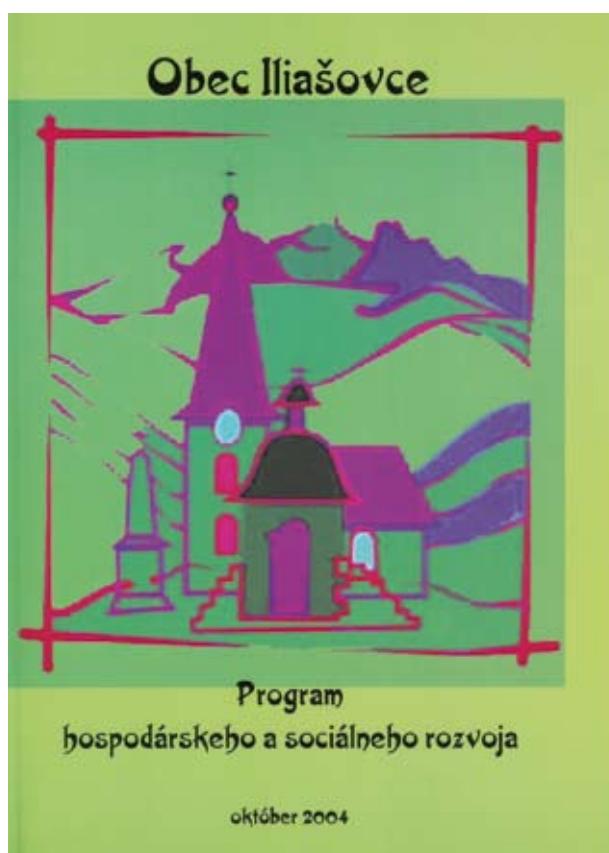
The entire process of preparing and developing a **PE & SD** is based on an approach which maintains the principle that each citizen is the best expert as far as his/her life is concerned. Every member of a Team or meeting acts as a citizen on the basis of equality any inhabitant of the village may become a member of the Team - no priority selection is required. The Team follows the rules set in advance defining all team participants, including village representatives, directors of organizations and major entrepreneurs as citizens, and not as experts, which helps to increase the level of creativity of proposals generated and finding solutions. As a rule, meetings are held every two weeks, are well publicised in advance and last approximately four hours, The average number of people participating is between 12 and 20. Meetings are led by an impartial facilitator, take the form of an interactive discussion and divide into small groups to ensure objective outputs. The efficiency and progress achieved by the various Teams varies significantly and depends on a large number of factors. A reasonable period needed for the plan preparation is between 8 and 12 months, with an average of 14 meetings. Each village defines its development areas and their quantity individually, and in this particular respect this development process is simply unique.

Citizens who have not participated in creating a PE & SD directly by being part of a Team have the possibility of express their views in at least two public meetings – after the draft strategic goals have been published and after the action plans are completed.

At their first meeting with the public, the Team members prepare a special questionnaire relating to specific proposals and village development trends relating to individual areas. The Team immediately publishes the results of the research and incorporates them into the developed goals.

Children and students are also invited to participate in the creation of a PE & SD by expressing their ideas in the form of essays and works of art relating to the development of their village. Accompanying photographic documentation from village life reveals both the positive and negative aspects as perceived by visitors to the village. This stage of the development process is most interesting and its outputs often surprising from the point of view of its message and artistic achievements. Selected works are included in the final document and act as a motivation for the young generation to become familiar with the entire PE & SD.

ETP Slovakia's methodology is based on its long-term experience in implementing sustainable development projects on the basis of **Local Agenda 21** and cooperation with local government bodies in the process of preparation of development strategies in several Slovak towns. That process of preparation and adoption of the development strategy of the town of Kremnica coordinated by ETP Slovakia was appraised by the Central European Institute for Economic and Social Reforms INEKO as the second



best social and economic measure of a local government authority in Slovakia in 2002.

In the first half of 2003 the preparation and development of a PE & SD was enhanced by social-economic research among villagers using by the methodology of sustainable living on the basis of structured discussions with selected respondents from a village/town. This new dimension of team thinking on goals, frameworks and priorities of the development of a village/town, working in parallel with the work of the team and the public responses on the PE & SD has become the third pillar of objectivity and verification of individually defined development areas and goals.

The questionnaire also contains a small energy audit of a village and the research of resources.

The final report processed in accordance with statistical methods and analyses is subject to an independent meeting of the Team, at which outputs obtained during preparation of a PE & SD are compared with the results of expert investigations, and required corrections are made. Several years of experience in preparing development plans indicates an interesting fact that outputs of Teams and expert investigations in many villages have been almost identical, and this fact verifies the principle of public participation, very often underestimated in society.

The approval of the prepared and commented PE & SD by a municipal government is the fourth pillar of the ETP Slovakia's methodology, which makes the programme a document binding for the municipality.

Since 1999 ETP Slovakia has facilitated the process of preparing strategic development documents and **Programmes of Economic and Social Development** in the following towns and municipalities: **Kremnica, Zvolen, Detva, Humenné, Stará Lubovňa, Spišský Hrhov, Hranovnica, Spišský Štvrtok, Iliašovce, Prakovce, Rudňany, Ostrovany and Záhradné**. Currently the PE & SD for Lemesány is being developed.

In 2004, two PE & SDs, were also prepared on the initiative of ETP Slovakia, in the towns of **Spišské Podhradie** and **Spišská Nová Ves**; its validity and importance having been justified to the members of the Town Council.

According to the words of the village Mayor, the PE & SD of the **Rudňany** municipality has become a very inspiring and important document for everyday activities of the municipal office despite the fact that it was developed without participation by elected bodies and local government representatives.

Within the framework of the PE & SD the inhabitants of the **Iliašovce** municipality have adopted an

Ecological Code focusing on maintaining and enhancing the environment.

The inhabitants of the village of **Záhradné** have defined and processed the development area of ethics that should help them to enhance the quality of their life.

One final point - the preparation and development of a PE & SD results not only in a document that must be quoted and submitted as an annex to project applications, it is a process that launches many other activities of local people and so the process of its development directly benefits the people whom it is intended to help.



LEGAL AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

ETP Slovakia, in close cooperation with legal practice of Azariová & Suchanová provides legal assistance and consultancy to disadvantaged people, people in need, community organisations and individuals mostly from Eastern Slovakia region.

Legal assistance has been provided on a regular basis based on the necessity and the needs of the clients or organisations by the following ways:

- a) Direct lawyer's assistance to a particular client in case of providing emergency financial support to prevent eviction or utility shut off (identifying the legal status quo of particular cases, communication with institutions, authorities, proposing the solution to eliminate the problem).
- b) Regular meetings with a lawyer, based on the needs from the region. The agenda of such regular meetings has been e.g. preparing and submitting legal documents to access social benefits, drafting wills, general legal advice, assistance in improving living conditions, e.g. flat exchange, emergency relocation, emergency financial assistance, prevention of eviction, assistance in securing institutional care for the eligible beneficiaries, etc.
- c) Direct assistance with preparation of legal documents to establish and application for registration of a community organisation as a civic association at the Ministry of Interior
- d) Training courses for the ETP Slovakia staff members working in the community centres and the representatives of NGOs working in the Roma communities to train them e.g. in specificities of social law, entrepreneurial activities of non-profit organisations, personal data protection

Altogether up to 150 meetings have been organized in various municipalities in premises of the partners' municipalities or partners' community organisations. The lawyer provided assistance to more than 250 individual clients in solving diversity of various problems, cases such as arranging realty ownership rights, unauthorized distraintments, neighbours' relationships and representing the clients before the court, etc.



PREPARATION, DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF EU PROJECTS

The approach of ETP Slovakia towards offering training opportunities for public officials and other interested parties is based on the trainers' own experience gained within the framework of many national and international training events. Training is designed so that the participants themselves affect the course, dynamics and, to some extent, the content.. Each training session is different because the main principle of ETP Slovakia is firstly to become familiar with the environment for which the educational activity is designated and then to methodically assist in solving the specific problems of the community, which is the target group of the trainees. In the course of training, methods such as group work , presentations by participants, feedback, role playing and brainstorming etc. are used.

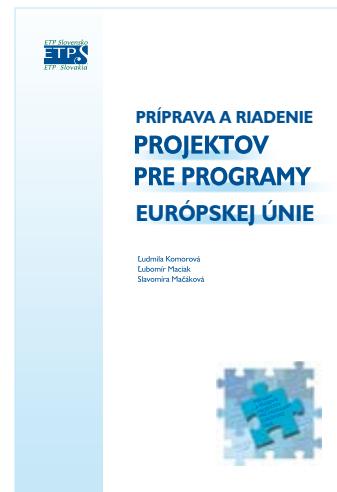
Experience has explicitly proved that the more trainees participate and cooperate in the course of the training, the more they gain from it. ETP trainers combine theory with practical experience through interactive discussions and working in groups in a balanced way, where information can be processed in the light of trainees' experiences and finally transformed into something that can be used in practice. Such practice has demonstrated that the participants not only learn from the trainers, but also from each other.

ETP Slovakia offers the following training:

- Preparation and management of projects for the European Union programs.
- How to create, manage and implement environmental projects within the framework of European Union
- Preparation of grant proposals and reports

Such educational activities are a suitable complement for enhancing the knowledge and the experience of public administration, state administration, local government, business entities, non-governmental, non-profit organizations and representatives of planning, development, implementation and for the management of the projects financed from various sources, mostly from structural funds of the European Union.

Since 2003 more than 300 participants (from organizations throughout Slovakia) have received training in how to effectively prepare, manage and implement EU projects.



PUBLICATIONS IN SLOVAK LANGUAGE

Príprava a riadenie projektov pre programy Európskej únie
Ludmila Komorová, Lubomír Maciak, Slávka Mačáková

Manuál pre neziskové organizácie pracujúce s rómskymi komunitami

Ivan Humeník, Ludmila Komorová, Lubomír Maciak, Slávka Mačáková, Miroslav Pollák

Sprievodca komunitnou sociálnou prácou

Bill Baker, Júlia Čechová, Danica Ďuricová, Pavel Hanšut, Anna Marecová, Miroslav Pollák, Judita Varcholová, Lenka Varcholová a kolektív

Rozvoj obce – a každý môže byť starostom

Lubomír Maciak, Miroslav Pollák

Plán hospodárskeho a sociálneho rozvoja – Spišský Hrhov

Plán hospodárskeho a sociálneho rozvoja – Stará Lubovňa

Plán hospodárskeho a sociálneho rozvoja - Rudňany

Plán hospodárskeho a sociálneho rozvoja - Hranovnica

Plán hospodárskeho a sociálneho rozvoja - Prakovce

Plán hospodárskeho a sociálneho rozvoja - Iliašovce

Plán hospodárskeho a sociálneho rozvoja – Spišský Štvrtok

Plán hospodárskeho a sociálneho rozvoja - Ostrovany

Plán hospodárskeho a sociálneho rozvoja – Záhradné

Katalóg ľudových výrobcov remeselných výrobkov

Sprievodca pre drobného chovateľa - farmára
Štefan Mirga, Tomáš Linsel

Sprievodca pre začínajúceho včelára

Štefan Mirga, Marián Ondáš

Oblastné noviny TVOJ SPIŠ (V/2005)

Katalóg riešení šetrenia energiou v obytných budovách
ETP Slovensko, UNDP a Energetické centrum Bratislava

Fungovanie MVO na Slovensku a jeho súvislosti so zákonom o ochrane osobných údajov

Ivan Humeník

PEOPLE

Community Social Club Holumnica

František Perichta, Personal Advisor

Community Social Club Iliašovce

Jana Oravcová, Social Field Worker

Community Social Club Levoča

Zuzana Riššová, Social Field Worker

Community Social Club Moldava nad Bodvou

Jozef Bartók, Social Field Worker

Community Social Club Nálepkovo

Zdenka Rabatinová, Personal Advisor

Community Social Club Prakovce

Eva Lenkeyová, Social Field Worker

Community Social Club Rakúsy

Eva Veštúrová, Social Field Worker

Community Social Club Rudňany

Dana Pustulková, Personal Advisor

Community Social Club Spišské Podhradie

Katarína Karakaya, Personal Advisor

Community Social Club Spišský Hrhop

Iveta Polláková, Personal Advisor

Community Social Club Spišský Štvrtok

Štefan Mirga, Personal Advisor

Community Social Club Stará Lubovňa

Ľudmila Stašáková, Personal Advisor

Community Social Club Štrba

Anna Marecová, Personal Advisor

Community Social Club Švedlár

František Fox, Personal Advisor

Community Social Club Žehra

Viera Sabolová, Social Field Worker

Roma Kindergarten Nálepkovo

Irena Pronská, Director

Roma Kindergarten Rudňany

Erika Sabolová, Director

Košice Office

Slavomíra Mačáková, Director

Štefan Kubinec, Financial Manager

Graham Jeffs, International Cooperation Coordinator

Slavomír Kutaš, Coordinator

Ivan Humeník, Lawyer

Monika Doláková, Secretary

Viliam Lupták, Accountant

Jana Končeková, Assistant

Peter Lipták, Coordinator

Peter Piroch, Coordinator

Martin Lipták, Coordinator

Levoča Office

Miroslav Pollák, Deputy Director

Jana Maciaková, Coordinator

Lubomír Maciak, Coordinator

Milan Rišš, Assistant

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Thomas Grey

RNDr. Miroslav Pollák

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Ing. Arch. Katarína Štofanová

Supervisory Board

Ing. Arpád Lörincz

Mgr. Peter Haňdiak

Ing. Roland Bušša





**FINANCIAL REPORTS
2004-2005**

AUDITORS' REPORT

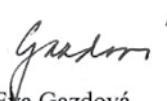
To the Board of Directors ETP Slovensko:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Association ETP Slovensko ("The Association") comprising the balance sheet as of 31 December 2004 and the related profit and loss account and notes for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Association's Executive. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and their compliance with the accounting legislation, as well as assessing significant estimates made by the Executive, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Association as of 31 December 2004, and the results of its operations for the year ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the Slovak Republic.

20 March 2005
Ždiarska 5
Košice,
Slovak republic


Eva Gazdová
Licence SKAu 628

BALANCE SHEET		2001 - 2004			
(in SKK'000)					
Assets		2001	2002	2003	2004
Tangible assets		668	406	3 425	4 115
Write-off of receivables		-488	-375	-1 856	-1 875
Cash value		17	16	31	315
Bank accounts		3 017	3 398	14 924	11 132
Receivables		658	91	841	798
Other assets		21	336	0	0
Total assets		3 893	3 872	17 365	14 485
Liabilities		2001	2002	2003	2004
Registered capital		1 009	1 009	1 009	1 009
Funds		5	6	6	6
Profit or loss of current accounting period		569	2 592	989	2 096
Financial obligations		686	265	1 653	2 574
Other liabilities		1 624	0	13 708	8 800
Total liabilities		3 893	3 872	17 365	14 485

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT		2001 - 2004							Total
in SKK'000		2 001		2 002		2 003		2 004	
Revenues		Activities not subject to taxation	Activities subject to taxation	Activities not subject to taxation	Activities subject to taxation	Activities not subject to taxation	Activities subject to taxation	Activities not subject to taxation	Activities subject to taxation
Revenues from the provided services	0	516	0	0	1 205	261	90	215	2 287
Received contributions	7 893	0	18 509	0	18 279	0	40 725	0	85 406
Other revenues	23	0	21	0	67	26	181	0	318
Total revenues	7 916	516	18 530	0	19 551	287	40 996	215	88 011
Expenses									
Material and energy consumption	314	18	458	0	1 130	15	19 476	19	21 430
Services	6 844	316	10 617	0	11 152	493	18 386	364	48 172
Staff costs	458	48	1 590	0	1 889	6	1 026	0	5 017
Taxes and fees	5	0	5	0	3	0	8	0	21
Depreciations	92	6	150	0	1 481	0	18	0	1 747
Other expenses	115	0	3 687	0	5 120	151	1 398	105	10 576
Income tax	0	15	1	0	2	0	10	0	28
Total expenses	7 828	403	16 508	0	20 777	665	40 322	488	86 991
Net profit or loss of current year	88	113	2 022	0	-1 226	-378	674	-273	1 020

GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS					
Grants	Currency	2003	2004	2005 (Plan)	Total
Delegation of the EC in Slovak Republic / "Let's Show to the People The Way Towards EU"	EUR		5 100		5 100
European Social Fund - Initiative EQUAL / YOUR SPIS II - Inclusion of NGOs into Social Economy	SKK			3 081 518	3 081 518
European Social Fund - SOP Human Resources / Second Chance to Improve Our Lives	SKK			454 686	454 686
Habitat for Humanity International / Improving Living Conditions in Svinia	USD		45 560	15 324	60 884
Habitat for Humanity International / Improving Living Conditions in Nalepkovo	USD			50 000	50 000
IOM / Humanitarian and Social Program	USD	183 378	899 043	1 188 075	2 270 496
IOM - The Royal Embassy of the Belgium / Information and Re-Integration Centre	EUR			18 200	18 200
The Royal Embassy of the Netherlands - Matra KAP / E-Shop for Roma Handicrafts	SKK			344 250	344 250
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family / Community Social Work	SKK		500 000		500 000
Phare Access Hungary / Building Capacity Among Roma NGOs	EUR	21 263			21 263
UNDP / Promoting Acess to Alternative Energy Sources for the Roma	USD		30 000	25 000	55 000
UNDP + MATRA + Swiss Embassy / YOUR SPIS - Sustainable Community Development in Middle Spis	USD	285 866	221 063	124 163	631 092
The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic / "Gypsies Go to EU"	SKK	213 975			213 975
Other financial contributions					
The Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family / Activation Work Programme	SKK		59 310		59 310

GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS (IN SLOVAK CROWNS)				
Grants	2003	2004	2005 (Plan)	Total
Delegation of the EC in Slovak Republic / "Let's Show to the People The Way Towards EU"		204 230		204 230
European Social Fund - Initiative EQUAL / YOUR SPIS II - Inclusion of NGOs into Social Economy			3 081 518	3 081 518
European Social Fund - SOP Human Resources / Second Chance to Improve Our Lives			454 686	454 686
Habitat for Humanity International / Improving Living Conditions in Svinia		1 469 538	475 381	1 944 919
Habitat for Humanity International / Improving Living Conditions in Nalepkovo			1 551 100	1 551 100
IOM / Humanitarian and Social Program	6 743 359	28 998 632	36 856 463	72 598 454
IOM - The Royal Embassy of the Belgium / Information and Re-Integration Centre			702 393	702 393
The Royal Embassy of the Netherlands - Matra KAP / E-Shop for Roma Handicrafts			344 250	344 250
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family / Community Social Work		500 000		500 000
Phare Access Hungary / Building Capacity Among Roma NGOs	882 223			882 223
UNDP / Promoting Acess to Alternative Energy Sources for the Roma		967 650	775 550	1 743 200
UNDP + MATRA + Swiss Embassy / YOUR SPIS - Sustainable Community Development in Middle Spis	10 512 150	7 130 387	3 851 785	21 494 322
The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic / "Gypsies Go to EU"	213 975			213 975
Other financial contributions				
The Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family / Activation Work Programme		59 310		59 310
Total	18 351 708	39 329 746	48 093 125	105 774 579