



ANNUAL REPORT 2006

CONTENT

SUMMARY	4
ETP SLOVAKIA	6
COMMUNITY CENTERS AND COMMUNITY SOCIAL CLUBS	8
YOUR SPIS II – INCLUSION OF NGOS INTO SOCIAL ECONOMY	12
IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSING CONDITIONS OF FAMILIES WITH LOW INCOME IN NALEPKOVO	13
PRE SCHOOL EDUCATION	14
YOUR SPIS FUND	15
INTERNET SHOP FOR ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS	16
SECOND CHANCE EDUCATION	17
HUMANITARIAN AND SOCIAL PROGRAM	18
INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT PROGRAM	19
PEOPLE	20
FINANCIAL REPORTS 2006	23

SUMMARY

As ETP Slovakia entered its 15th year it continued to pursue its conviction that communities facing multiple problems require services which are delivered in a comprehensive fashion and that it is futile to attempt to address economic, social and environmental factors separately from each other.

Similarly, its commitment to the concept of *social mobilisation*, whereby individuals are empowered and encouraged to help themselves and in doing so bring additional benefit to the local community, became even stronger. Also high on the agenda has continued to be the creation of conditions for improving co-existence amongst Roma and non-Roma communities.

In accordance with its business plan, ETP Slovakia consolidated its position in 2006 by:

a) successfully concluding:

- the Humanitarian and Social Program sponsored by the International Organisation for Migration, worth \$2,662,250
- the 2nd Chance Education Program sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Slovak Republic, worth 2,000,000 Sk

b) effectively delivering its flagship projects throughout the year:

- *Your Spis II* – Inclusion of NGOs into Social Economy, sponsored by European Social Fund through the EQUAL initiative, worth a total of 20,000,000 Sk
- Home Loans Scheme in Nálepkovo, sponsored by Habitat for Humanity International, worth \$164,350

c) providing consultancy for partners within the following projects:

- Raising Environmental Awareness of Indian Cities Project with a specific focus on solid waste management, sponsored by the European Commission
- Roma Scouting in Slovakia for Community Social Work Program
- Roma Health Program

d) continuing to deliver and support:

- *ETP Shop* - the Internet Shop for Arts & Handicrafts
- *YOUR SPIS FUND* – encouraging local NGOs to establish social enterprises
- The Kindergarten in Rudňany for Roma children

e) commencing 1 new project:

- Individual Development Account Program, sponsored by the Open Society Institute, worth \$250,000

f) securing the following new projects for delivery during 2007 and beyond:

- Roma Financial Education Project sponsored by the British Embassy, worth \$22,000
- *Your Svetlogorsk* – Sustainable Development In Belarus, worth \$55,000
- Housing Improvement and Purchase Project, sponsored by Habitat for Humanity International, worth \$160,715

Details of all the Projects referred to appear in Appendices to this Report.

ETP SLOVAKIA

OUR MISSION

OUR OBJECTIVES

OUR PHILOSOPHY

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.

OUR 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.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To develop the social capital of disadvantaged regions in Slovakia and build the capacity of organizations which deal with socially disadvantaged people.
- To assist the strengthening of the environmental, social, economic, educational and cultural attainments of individuals and disadvantaged groups and addressing ethnic issues.
- 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 create space for discussion on environmental, economic and social problems and possible solutions and to support public involvement in the decision-making process.
- To provide humanitarian and social assistance to people in need.
- To establish social enterprises in Eastern Slovakia.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

- We adhere to the principles of sustainability.
- We maintain a continuous dialogue about needs and opportunities.
- We endeavour to establish long-time relationships.
- We are transparent.
- We look for solutions to common problems with others of a like mind.
- We have trust in the possibility of positive changes.
- We pursue equal opportunities.
- We persistently seek and secure systematic solutions to complex problems.
- We believe the approach of small and gradual steps leads to significant changes in the long run.

ETP Slovakia works with small communities in Eastern Slovakia, supporting and assisting disadvantaged and marginalised groups, the poorest of the poor and members of ethnic minorities, specifically Roma from deprived settlements, in order to improve their social and economic situation. In particular, it promotes employment opportunities, cares for vulnerable people - especially the elderly, provides education & training and helps poor families to secure and improve housing.

ETP Slovakia's foundations lie firmly in the principles of sustainability and its starting point has been to empower members of local communities to prepare Development Plans in conjunction with the local authority. These Plans have formed the basis of the work of newly formed self help groups whose capacity has been built through training and encouragement to achieve registration and become self-reliant. Funds have been obtained for which the voluntary organisations have applied to implement projects of their choice for the benefit of disadvantaged members of the community and to improve their quality of life. Community Social Clubs (Community Centers) have been established from which these organisations can operate and within which small businesses can be born, educational, social & legal services across the age range can be provided and people in need can be advised and helped, including being given humanitarian aid. Homes for the members of disadvantaged groups have been provided and improved through the engagement of the beneficiaries themselves. Job positions of community social workers (Personal Advisors) have been created and their legitimacy proved. The skills and capacities of local people have been built in order to deliver specific services to deprived communities, including job creation within newly emerged social enterprises.

ETP Slovakia's work is solidly embedded in its holistic approach to *sustainable development* and an unshakable belief in the futility of attempting to address economic, social and environmental factors separately from each other. ETP Slovakia is similarly committed to the concept of *social mobilisation* whereby individuals are empowered and encouraged to help themselves and, in doing so, bring additional benefit to the local community. ETP Slovakia aims to enhance the living conditions of individuals and to narrow the widening social disparities by *fostering enterprise* within a supportive context. It pursues equality of opportunity and assists disadvantaged people in their efforts to earn a living and gradually become *independent of assistance*. It has trust in the possibility of positive change and believes that the approach of small and gradual steps leads to significant changes in the long run.

COMMUNITY CENTERS AND COMMUNITY SOCIAL CLUBS

HOLUMNICA

JABLONOV

LEVOCA

NNLEPKOVO

RUDNANY

SPISSKE PODHRADIE

SPISSKY STVRTOK

STARA LUBOVNA

As ETP Slovakia's whole approach is driven by an appreciation that problems relating to social, environmental, health, housing and employment issues are all inextricably interlinked, crucial to this thinking is ETP Slovakia's network of **Community Centers** and the **Community Social Clubs** which they host, which strive to address multiple deprivation with comprehensive solutions.

Well trained Personal Advisors are the lynch-pins of the Centres. They spend time getting to know local families, both informally through Club activities and by offering counselling and practical help to support their needs.

Personal Advisors also work with District Labour Offices to find work for long term unemployed people. Space is provided within the Centres for starting small businesses. Computer and technical equipment have helped to create conditions for community organisations to flourish, including the use of phones, faxes, photocopiers, Internet access and computers for communication, obtaining information, administrative tasks and for providing a range of courses.

The following is a brief description of the work of each of the Centers in 2006.

HOLUMNICA

During 2006 the activities of the Community Centre were tightly bound with both the work of the *Civic Association Supporting and Educating Roma Clients* and the local enterprise known as *St Joseph's Workshop*.

Cooperation between these three bodies means that the needs of local citizens of Holumnica could be met in a comprehensive fashion, as can those from the nearby villages of Ihlany and Jurske. The Civic Association provided training, the Workshop provided employment and the Centre's Personal Advisor provided counselling and advice in cooperation with the Labour Office.



An important development for 2006 was a project carried out by the Association *Supporting and Educating Roma Clients* called *People for Trees*, sponsored by the Ekopolis Foundation whereby the territory surrounding the Centre and the Workshop was cleared and fenced to improve security for clients of the Centre and Workshop employees.

In 2006 fourteen jobs for long term unemployed people were created at the Workshop and 3 jobs in a sheltered workshop for people with disability, after the successful submission of proposals for grants from the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and the Family.

The Centre leader is Mr. Frantisek Perichta. Contact: Holumnica, 059 94 Slovak Republic, tel.: +421-52 45 880 92, e-mail: perichta@ke.etp.sk

JABLONOV

The specially refurbished new Community Center opened at the end of 2006 with a ceremony attended by the Mayor, representatives of the Fund for Social Development, who had financially supported the reconstruction of the building, the Director and staff of ETP Slovakia and some young clients who sang to help celebrate the occasion.

For its initial work, the priority client group included Roma residents, unemployed young people, long term unemployed adults, young mothers, young people who had not completed their secondary education and unemployed people who had no education.

The activities focused providing advice relating to housing, unemployment, health, social integration and education. Some of the assistance involved communicating with the local authorities, the police and insurance offices.

Other community events included such things as various activities for all members of clients' families, needlework and glass decorating courses. Children attended a local singing and dancing courses and later they participated in the competition organized in the Kolping house in Spisska Kapitula. There was some success on the education front as two Roma young clients decided to continue their studies at vocational school.

The year ended with the making of advent garlands, the Christmas decorations baking cakes.

The Centre Leader is Mrs. Darina Dzurikova. contacts: Jablonov 165 , 053 03, Slovak Republic, tel.: +421-918 611 962, e-mail: dzurikova@ke.etp.sk

LEVOCA

Activities in the first half of 2006 focused on a *Second Chance* educational project and activities for disabled people. It was encouraging to see external secondary and intermediate school students from Spisska Nova Ves, Levoca and Bijacovce at the end of course graduation ceremony when the successful students returned home with their certificates and heads full of ideas about new employment opportunities brought about by taking this *Second Chance*.

Disabled adults, often accompanied by their children, regularly attended centre meetings where they



constructively spent their spare time, the most popular activity being making art products from natural materials and producing small presents and decorative items.

In the second half of year 2006, Centre activities concentrated on practical training courses for unemployed people such as furniture repainting and house reconstruction, including roof repairs of historical houses. Three new small businesses – social enterprises have emerged, concentrating on renovation work, home interiors and a cleaning service for guest houses and private homes from the areas of Levoca and Spisska Nova Ves offering jobs for unemployed people.

The Centre leader is Mr. Miroslav Pollak. Contacts: Spitalska 19, Levoca, 054 01 Slovak Republic, tel.: +421-53 42 972 20, e-mail: pollak@ke.etp.sk

NALEPKOVO

In 2006, Job Club activities were orientated towards clients who are disadvantaged by reason of a low level of education, long-term unemployment, single parenthood or simple poverty.

80 families participated in the *Habitat for Humanity* sponsored home improvement project where loans were arranged and support and advice was given.

The most popular Centre activities in 2006 were courses on IT training, on nutrition & health and the cultural activities, including The Mikulas, a performance by the Sendrejovci group, the visit of Mattias Troger from Germany and activities for the children - tutoring, drawing, painting and PC games.

One activity was designed for clients who were involved in an Activating Work Program to help them understand the reason, duty and rights of this work. At an event for children and mothers a nutritious and tasty meal called "rice pudding" was prepared, a first for every Roma woman present. At the following meeting it was the turn of the Roma women to cook typical Roma food, cakes sour cabbage soup.

Another popular, twice-weekly craft activity was for clients who were part of the housing improvement project and their handiwork was included in an exhibition at the local school and some of them sold.

Cooperation with the local council and Mayor Dusan Daniel remained very positive and productive. For example, he helped to organize a culture performance

called Sandrej's Group and local musical groups from Civic Association "Lacho dzivipen " and when guests from India and Greece were in attendance.

In another activity, "Draw your own house", children could express their feelings relating to reconstruction and housing. During such activities it was obvious that the children had started to have a better opinion about themselves and, more importantly, having increasing happiness in their lives. Zdenka Rabatinova.

The Centre leader is Ms. Zdenka Rabatinova. Contact: Mlynska 633, Nalepkovo, 053 33, Slovak Republic, tel: +421-53 42 971 68, e-mail: rabatinova@ke.etp.sk

RUDNANY

The Community Centre has been located within in Roma settlement known as 5RP11 since July 2006, in a former boiler room. 99% of the clients are Roma.

In the first part of the year people were helped with the practicalities of seeking employment – completing application forms, drafting letters and CV preparation. Awareness was raised about bird flu and regular organised covering knitting, sewing, clothes mending and cooking which featured inexpensive but healthy and nutritious food. One-off courses have included haircutting & colouring, health and nutrition, hygiene, sex education, environment protection, making Christmas presents and baking cakes.



Clients with low education were helped with job searching and many clients were given advice on debt management. One client was helped to secure maintenance for her children from the father who was in the Czech Republic. Clients were also helped with problems relating to pensions, invalidity benefits, orphan's annuities and survivor's pensions.

An NGO was formed called "REMA" to manage an Activation Works Programme to clean in the 5RP11 locality. Children enjoyed "The Fairy Story", about reading, they performed some theatre and a pantomime and took PC courses. The year ended with a lovely Christmas event for the whole family.

Dana Pustulkova, the Personal Advisor says "If the goodness is forced by violence, no one believes it is a goodness," says one adage. For our job this is doubly important so we approach to our clients in such a way that their faith in us is not put at risk.

The Centre leader is Mrs. Dana Pustulkova. Contact: 5RP11, Rudnany, 053 23, Slovak Republic, tel: +421-907 404 385 e-mail: pustulkova@ke.etp.sk

SPISKE PODHRADIE

The Community Centre in Spisske Podhradie was opened on December 5, 2003 since when it has launched the activities of various local community organisations, as well as providing a full range of assistance to clients.

In 2006, in cooperation with Civic Association *Cerchen* – *Hviezda*, the Labour Office and the appropriate Local Authorities the management of an Activation Work Program was secured serving long-term unemployed citizens. In doing so two new jobs, one full time and one part time which then became full time were created. Roma people are on the Program and non Roma's also have the opportunity to join to this project.

These good citizens also became clients of the Centre thus providing the the opportunity to help with every-day problems such as debt management, social needs, job applications, or CV preparation etc.

The YOUR SPIS FUND awarded a grant to assist with the production and sale of hand-made products such as silk-painted scarf, batik tablecloths, knitted handbags and other craft objects and establishment of the stall at the edge of Spis Castle (more in Your Spis Fund section below). For this project two workers were employed, one a student and the other one a young mother.

Products were sold at *Ruzinov's Feast, Christmas Bazaar* in Bratislava, organized by the International Women Club, some of whose members are wives of ambassadors to Slovakia, was attended, as well as at the Christmas Fair in Levoca.

In the Spisske Podhradie, community centers employees were responsible for delivery of snacks to the local school for children whose families live below the poverty line.

Other activities included practicing for the performances of a voluntary group called "KHAMORO". And the establishment of a children's garden "NANO NAGLE", sponsored by Irish nurses.

The Centre leader is Mrs. Katarina Karakaya. Contact: Marianske namestie 34, 053 04 Spisske Podhradie, Slovak Republic, tel: +421-53-454 25 45, e-mail: podhradie@ke.etp.sk

SPISSKY STVRTOK

The activities in 2006 focused on citizens who required help or advice for a wide range of problems but mainly on those seeking employment opportunities.

For children and young people, activities concentrated on cultural performances and social competitions, artistic work, drawing and making small, hand-made pieces of work, some of which was exhibited at Christmas, a very popular event which will be repeated next year.

The issue of housing was also a common theme throughout the year, relating mainly to the new houses

and flats which have been built locally, but to a basic standard, and in cooperation with the local authority. The issue of housing needs will continue to be a high priority within the village as this affects so many aspects of family life.

The Centre was very fortunate to have an excellent relationship with local Roma businessmen Ladislav Mirga, thanks to whom many registered unemployed people were given work.

The local Roma society "Sila pomoci" developed activities for Roma women helping with their unemployment needs and financially supported by European Social Fund.

The Centre leader is Mr. Miroslav Pollak. Contact: Tatranska 4, Spissky Stvrtok, 053 14, Slovak Republic, tel.: +421-53 469 94 58, e-mail: stvrtok@ke.etp.sk

STARA LUBOVNA

The Community Centre in Stara Lubovna - Podsadok was opened in November 2003 since when regular and varied club activities have thrived.

In 2006, activities focused on supporting the Roma community, in particular coordinating activating works, co-operating with the Labour Office, identifying job vacancies, helping with applications for small business projects, self-employment and helping to arrange temporary and voluntary work.

Other work revolved around quality of life and housing issues, helping with form processing, references, debt management and to secure fuel and clothes for needy families.

Centre staff worked to reduce school absenteeism, supported after-school activities and provided tutoring, internet skills, reading, cultural and sporting activities. A partnership was established with the local medical centre concentrating on vaccinations, health consultancy for old people and encouraging expectant and new mothers not to prematurely leave the maternity hospital.

Classes were provided on the topics of crime and dependency, begging, domestic violence, child care, debt counselling and communication skills with the majority of citizens.

One interesting activity was a presentation of the book "Neboj sa cigana" which included the subject of antidiscrimination. Regular activities have been working with children, learning to use internet, religious education and during the summer holiday making an interesting library reading called "Lubovianska kniznica". Young people attending the Gospel Festival "Fest Rom", a weekend course called "Filip" and the Carnival disco and Christmas program.

The activities in the Centre are coordinated by Ms. Ludmila Stasakova. Contact: Podsadek Kulturny dom, Stara Lubovna, 064 01, Slovak Republic, tel.: +421-52 43 230 62, e-mail: lubovna@ke.etp.sk



YOUR SPIS II – INCLUSION OF NGOs INTO SOCIAL ECONOMY

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. Implemented in and between Member States and funded through the European Social Fund, EQUAL has supported the project **YOUR SPIS II. – Inclusion of NGOs into Social Economy** throughout 2006.

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' villages in the Spis Region (Holumnica, Jablonov, Nalepkovo, Rudnany, 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.

At the end of 2006 there were:

- **Eight** Job Clubs operating
- **Eight** local partnerships functioning
- **Eight** Personal Advisors trained & providing services for unemployed
- **Four** social enterprises operational (wood-working, handicrafts shop, cleaning services, restoration of antiquities)
- **Two** new emerging social enterprises (social services for elderly & physically disabled)
- **Twenty vocational** training courses for unemployed delivered (wood-chipping, masonry, carpentry, restoration, tailoring, textile decoration, cleaning services, health & safety, etc.)
- **Four types of skills building** training courses for unemployed delivered in all eight Job Clubs (PC, CV, job interview, bonton)
- **Fortytwo practical capacity building** training courses for unemployed people delivered
- **Twenty** unemployed established in micro businesses
- **Two hundred** seasonal jobs operational for five months
- **More than four hundred** unemployed people back to work (Activation Work Program operated by trained local NGOs)

By far the greatest challenge in 2006 was caused by long delays in reimbursement from the Slovak Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (acting as Managing Agent for the EQUAL Project YOUR SPIS II)



IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSING CONDITIONS OF FAMILIES WITH LOW INCOME IN NALEPKOVO

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL

Habitat for Humanity International is a non-profit, 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.

Throughout 2006 ETP Slovakia worked with Habitat for Humanity International on the adaptation and implementation of the Habitat housing development model in Slovakia with the aim of improving the living conditions of poor (mainly) Roma families in the village of Nálepkovo. The pilot phase started in December 2005 and from 1st July 2007 has been extended to a much wider area.

During 2006 The Slovak Ministry for Construction and Regional Development Program provided subsidies to the Municipality of Nálepkovo of 80 % of the cost of new apartment buildings for 20 Roma families, Nálepkovo Local Council, provided the remaining 20 percent, including the so-called sweat equity of future tenants via their involvement in an activation work programme and working at construction site. These subsidies, however, only cover the costs of housing units to a limited standard, i.e. without floor covering, tiled bathrooms, kitchen equipment and with insufficient heating and insulation to provide modest, decent living conditions for families with children. Loans will, therefore be provided from the Habitat Revolving Fund to cover these extra costs.

Also in 2006, loans (on average \$1300) were provided to renovate or refurbish 50 homes and, in one case, towards the purchase a house. Families received construction training and supervision during the works and have been involved in a variety of activities organized in the community center such as family management, family budgeting, financial training, cultural activities, and children's after-school activities. ETP Slovakia's Personal Advisor has also been helping unemployed members of the families to enroll them into an activation work program, search for jobs, connect them with employers, apply for grants from the Labor Office for start-up small enterprises, and resolve their social, health and legal concerns.

The pilot program is considered to be:

- unique in providing loans:
 - to Roma families and
 - which have not been secured by a charge on property.
- unusual in that:
 - the home improvement loans program is administered by ETP Slovakia as part of a broader range of services it offers to client families in Nálepkovo from its Community Centre
 - there is an intensive lender/borrower relationship, due to nature of the client group and the cultural conditions existing within the borrowers' community
 - from 50 participating families in 2006 there have been no repayment defaults to date
 - the active collaboration of the local authority has been secured



PRE SCHOOL EDUCATION

For the majority of Roma people, the education of their children is not a priority. Research carried out among children in Nalepkovo Primary School showed 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 inadequate preparation for Roma children primary education and the language barrier leads to poor educational achievements for these children at elementary schools and subsequent failure at Secondary school. In Rudnany, based on the parents' initiative and with the support of the municipality, a Club for pre-school children was established in November 2002, with the aim of helping pre-school children in the neighbourhood known as 5RP11.

As well as providing a pre-school facility as close to children as possible, a second objective was to influence their parents and the entire community through the children to give education a higher priority. Since the end of 2003 the Ministry of Education included the kindergarten in the network of standard pre-school facilities under the administration of the Rudnany Municipality.

During 2006 51 children from two Rudnany Roma settlements Patoraka and 5RP11 attended 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.

Parents have continued to 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 where children do not simply play club with toys, they become familiar with the kindergarten as well as improving their motoric skills and hygienic & dietary habits.

In Nalepkovo the pre-school children's club Kindergarten Svetielko was established by the Civic Association Education – *Our Hope for the Future* in cooperation with ETP Slovakia. In 2006 24 children from Roma settlement Grun attended. Systematic work with the children has brought 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. 8 children finished a pre-school preparation in 2006 and have been enrolled in an elementary school in Nalepkovo.

Following recent refurbishment, mainly to improve insulation, the kindergarten will be included in the network of standard pre-school facilities under the administration of the Nalepkovo Municipality.



YOUR SPIS FUND

Arising out of the YOUR SPIS Program, the YOUR SPIS Fund was established, on the initiative of ETP Slovakia, in October 2002 and brought together three towns and eleven municipalities of the Middle Spis Region.

The aim was to support economic and social development in the disadvantaged region of Spis, and within the framework of seven grant rounds, over 100 community organizations from towns and villages participating in the programme have received more than 6 million Sk for the implementation of 162 projects improving life and living conditions of their population.

The criteria for successful project applications has been 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.

During 2006 the YOUR SPIS Fund made 5 grants to support community activities totalling 162,405 (approx \$6770).

The Community Organisation *Cerchen* received 41,045 Sk to assist with the establishment of a small business selling hand-made crafts to tourists from a stall in the car park of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Spis Castle.

A grant of 52,110 Sk was awarded to the Community Organisation New Way Levoca towards a social enterprise which offers cleaning services for guest houses and private homes in the areas around Levoca and Spisska Nova Ves.

In Rudnany a grant of 25,250 Sk was made towards reburishment and equipping the new location for the Community Centre on the first floor above the Kindergarden on the site of the Roma settlement known as 5RP11.

In Spissky Hrhov a community organisation established a new business which is restoring both old furniture and old buildings received a grant of 44,000 Sk. The members of CO have established the new business.

The Fund also arranged educational and training activities for organizations with particular reference to creating job opportunities for disadvantaged people in newly established social enterprises.



INTERNET SHOP FOR ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS



As the focus of ETP Slovakia is to support local development and the capacities of citizens, strong ties have been developed with many Roma and non-Roma skilled artisans and craftsmen from Eastern Slovakia.

Currently folk crafters face dire competition from vast shopping centers and malls which offer cheap commodities. The very existence of folk crafts in Slovakia is thus threatened. The dexterity, skillfulness and hard labor of folk artists no longer receive the appreciation it deserves.

More than 100 artists ranging from east of Bardejov and Svidnik to the more western towns and villages of Poprad and Strba have been visited with an offer to display and sell pieces of their work through the virtual shop. Almost eighty handicraftsmen and have artisans agreed to become part of this bigger virtual family.

During 2006 further steps were taken to present, promote and sell handmade originals produced by craftsmen in small workshops in Spiš Region by developing the E-shop.

Since every piece work is unique and its producer does not have storage capacity the website offers to take orders online, processed them offline, handle credit card payments and dispatch orders anywhere in the world.

The website address is www.etpshop.sk



SECOND CHANCE EDUCATION

Supported by European Social Fund and concluding in 2006, this project sought to improve the level of qualification, knowledge, skills and practical experience of disadvantaged people, who have either a low level or unfinished education.

By the use of individual tutorials, 20 people under 25 years old were prepared for graduation exams in order to finish vocational training. An informal education system was developed for individuals from a socially disadvantaged background, which would allow training in community centres and by the use of mobile (peripatetic) workshops.

A local development partnership involving local authorities, entrepreneurs, civic society and public institutions was formed to support this alternative forms of education at the local level. The project implementation started in early 2005 with a 7 strong project team in five towns and villages of the Spis region. More than 150 under 25 year olds showed interest in this opportunity 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 Spisska Nova Ves and Girls' Vocational School from Spisska Nova Ves) assisted the young people from Iliasovce, Spisský Stvrtok, Spisske Podhradie, Zehra and Levoca.

Trained ETP Slovakia staff help young people to do their homework in the Community Centres, prepare for written exams and accompany the students to Secondary School of their choice for final examinations.

Twenty-nine young people were selected for the courses, 10 received apprenticeship certificates, two went on to regular further education and one student graduated from two schools, three students found employment within their own villages.

In addition to their academic progress, students also benefited from improved PC, communication and presentation skills as well as improving their self-esteem and their ability to communicate between minority and majority groups.



HUMANITARIAN AND SOCIAL PROGRAM

Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. With 120 member states, a further 19 states holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants.

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.

ETP Slovakia was approached by *International Organization for Migration* to deliver a project for the benefit of elderly Roma people who suffered during World War the Second and, between October 2003 and January 2006, 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. 6,000 such Romas lived within the region, and based on their problems and needs, they obtained one or more types of humanitarian and social help.

In all the towns and villages where the program was 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 provided for more than six thousand elderly Roma in fifteen different districts of Eastern Slovakia.

Humanitarian assistance included 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 was social help, provided in areas with a high number of elderly Roma people, and, in cooperation with town

and village local government, twelve Social Clubs were established providing educational activities, social and legal assistance not only for elderly Roma people, but also for other members of whole communities.

The Clubs, however, were 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 were visited by the social field workers, a doctor, lawyer and other experts who provided advice on various issues of everyday life.

ETP Slovakia believes the program was more than just providing simple help for the beneficiaries. In some cases it lit a spark of life that had almost been put out by the harsh times which clients had gone through.



INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT PROGRAM

The Open Society Institute has entered into a partnership with ETP Slovakia, to implement a three-year Individual Development Account program targeting communities in Eastern Slovakia which have a high concentration of low-income Roma.

IDAs have a ten-year history in the United States, and the program has also been successfully adopted in a number of countries, proving that even the poorest people can save on a regular basis. The funds matching these savings under the program enable participants to have higher aspirations, including asset goals that would otherwise be beyond their means.

Participants are expected to demonstrate that they can both generate income and save some of this. Matching funds then act as a reward for behavior which steers people out of poverty. It provides a step up towards otherwise unattainable assets such as home ownership, home repair, vocational certification, education or enterprise start-up.

Participants also receive financial education that can reduce their economic disenfranchisement and dependency, and increase their knowledge of money management and legal issues.

The greatest benefit of the program is that the participants take an active part in it and achieve their asset goals through their own efforts. Its long-term purpose is to demonstrate the superiority of conditional cash transfers over the existing Slovakian welfare system; to encourage welfare policy away from meeting the short-term subsistence of beneficiaries and toward helping beneficiaries reach financial independence.

The program offers, therefore, an opportunity for low-income participants to play an active part in improving of their own financial situation, and therefore indirectly allows them to achieve goals such as increasing the market value of the property in which they live, increasing their social mobility and improve their chances for employment, increase and make their income more predictable. It also reflects the beginning of a trend from simply giving benefits to poor people to benefits which require a commitment from the recipient.

After conducting focus group discussions with Roma communities, the villages of Holumnica, Nálepkovo,

Rudňany, Spišské Podhradie, Spišský Štvrtok and the town of Stará Ľubovňa where ETP Slovakia operates Community Centres have been selected as the Program's sites.

Typical assets saved for could be a Driver's Permit, purchasing a home computer, home purchase, repair or extension, e.g. building bathroom/kitchen, or starting a small business.

All participants will receive personal money management counseling, and if applicable, assistance in purchasing a home or starting a small business. ETP Slovakia's Personal Advisors will receive the applications, verify candidates' eligibility, help participants develop a personal finance budget, provide basic financial education, track the participants' saving activity, provide advice during financial emergencies, and ultimately issue matching funds. Participants will be requested to enter into an agreement (a *Contract of Personal Responsibility*) whereby they promise to listen to advice given by ETP Slovakia staff relating to the welfare of their families generally.

ETP Slovakia also administers home improvement loans, in conjunction with the US social homes provider *Habitat for Humanity*, and IDA clients may have the opportunity to obtain such a loan. Where families have established a track record of savings and/or loan repayment then it may be possible for bank loans to be arranged.

In addition to any other benefits, the Program is expected to notice changes in self-esteem, changes in the welfare of children and improvements in the stability of households.

PEOPLE

Kosice Office

Slavomira Macakova, Director
Slavomir Kutas, Coordinator
Monika Dolakova, Administrator
Viliam Luptak, Accountant
Beata Jedinakova, Coordinator
Graham Jeffs, International Cooperation
Coordinator

Levoca Office

Miroslav Pollak, Deputy Director

Board of Directors

Vladimir Ira, Director
Thomas Grey
Miroslav Pollak
Ing. Ludmila Komorova
Katarina Stofanova
Milena Buksarova

Board of Trustees

Arpad Lorincz
Peter Handiak
Roland Busca

Association for Social Reform, Slovakia
Association of Towns and Villages in the Spis Region
Association of Young Roma, Banska 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
Iliasovce Municipality
Kobyly Municipality
Legal Practice Azariova, Suchanova and Co.
Lemesany Municipality
Levoca Municipality
Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom
Mnisek nad Hnilcom Municipality
Moldava nad Bodvou Municipality
Nalepkovo Municipality
Office of Labour, Social Issues and Family, Poprad
Office of Labour, Social Issues and Family, Stara
Lubovna
Ostrovany Municipality
Partnership for Social Inclusion Kosice
Powys Equal Partnership, Wales, United Kingdom
Prakovce Municipality
Rakusy Municipality
Roma Press Agency, Slovakia
Rudnany Municipality
Slovak Scouting
Social Development Fund
Spisska Nova Ves Municipality
Spisske Podhradie Municipality
Spisske Tomasovce Municipality
Spissky Hrhov Municipality
Spissky Stvrtok Municipality
Stara Lubovna Municipality
Strba Municipality
Svedlar Municipality
Werk. Waardig, Belgium
Winrock International, India
YOUR SPIS Fund
Zahradne Municipality



FINANCIAL REPORTS 2006

Balance sheet		Period: 2005 - 2006	
(in SKK ,000)			
Assets	2005	2006	
Tangible assets	4 759	4 992	
Depreciations	1 976	2 240	
Cash	75	47	
Bank accounts	3 432	4 606	
Claims	768	17 487	
Other assets	0	0	
Total assets	7 058	24 892	
Liabilities	2005	2006	
Registered capital	1 009	1 009	
Funds	6	6	
Profit or loss of current accounting period	2 356	2 133	
Financial obligations	838	2 130	
Other liabilities	2 849	19 614	
Total liabilities	7 058	24 892	

Grants and contributions	2006		
	Currency		
Grants	SKK	USD	EUR
Habitat for Humanity International	2 577 413	91 284	
Open Society Institute	1 957 575	75 000	
Dutch Embassy	91 800		
„EC“ contribution for consultancy	37 075		
UNDP	27 544	913	
IOM	276 322	8 768	
EU Asia Pro-ECO Program	351 613		9 589
Other financial contributions			
Ministry of Education (ESF)	677 426		
Ministry of Social Affairs / EQUAL (ESF)	5 127 577		
Total	11 124 345		

Profit and loss account		Period: 2005 - 2006					
		2 005			2 006		
in SKK ,000		Activities not subject to taxation	Activities subject to taxation	Total	Activities not subject to taxation	Activities subject to taxation	Total
Revenues							
Revenues from the provided services		75	129	204	99	84	183
Contributions received		40 479		40 479	8 466	158	8 624
Other revenues		28		28	21	86	107
Total revenues		40 582	129	40 711	8 586	328	8 914
Expenses							
Material and energy consumption		26 295	11	26 306	782	3	785
Services		11 911	11	11 922	7 368	100	7 468
Staff costs		468	16	484	82		82
Taxes and fees		17	1	18	9		9
Depreciations		101		101	90		90
Other expenses		1 585	31	1 616	562	139	701
Total expenses		40 377	70	40 447	8 893	242	9 135
Net profit or loss of current year		205	59	264	-307	86	-221

