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SUMMARY

In 2007 ETP Slovakia, after nine years of accumulated experience of working in more than twenty communities which face multiple deprivation and generational poverty in Eastern and Middle Slovakia, became strengthened in its belief that traditional approaches are doomed to failure. Communities facing multiple problems require new approaches that treat people in poverty, the clients, as problem solvers. Therefore, new types of services and new working methods are required which are delivered in a comprehensive fashion to all who require them in community centers located close to the place where people in poverty live.

ETP Slovakia is committed to the concept of social mobilization, whereby individuals are empowered and encouraged to help themselves and, in doing so, bring additional benefit to the local community and be answerable to it. Social mobilization is an inevitable part of our work. Also high on the agenda has continued to be the creation of conditions for improving co-existence amongst Roma and non-Roma communities.

In 2007 ETP Slovakia achieved the following results:

a) successfully concluding:

- Roma Financial Education Project sponsored by the British Embassy in Slovakia, worth \$22,000
- Your Svetlogorsk Project, sponsored by SlovakAID, worth \$50,000

b) effectively delivering its flagship projects throughout the year:

- *Your Spiš 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 and other villages in Eastern Slovakia, sponsored by Habitat for Humanity International, worth \$491,230
- Let's Make Our Dream Come True - Individual Development Project sponsored by the Open Society Institute, worth a total of \$250,000.
- Roma Humanitarian Assistance Program, sponsored by the International Organization for Migration, worth a total of EUR 2,407,915.

c) providing consultancy for partners within the following projects:

- Raising Environmental Awareness of Indian Cities Project - Increasing Environmental Awareness in Indian Cities with a specific focus on solid waste management, sponsored by the European Union
- IOM Brussels within Roma Health Program

- d) continuing to deliver and support:
- *ETP Shop* – the Internet Shop for Arts & Handicrafts
 - *YOUR SPIŠ FUND* – encouraging local NGOs to establish social enterprises and consultancy for member municipalities
- e) securing the following new projects for delivery during 2008:
- Housing Improvement and Purchase Project to new municipalities in Eastern and Middle Slovakia, sponsored by Habitat for Humanity International, worth \$300,000
 - The Regeneration of Svetlogorsk Sea - sponsored by SlovakAID, worth of 4,364,460 Sk.
- f) establishment of two non profit organizations aimed to procuring and construction of rental apartments and assistance to disadvantaged communities, in partnership with Nalepkovo Municipality – ETP Slovakia Housing – social enterprise, non profit organization and with Moldava nad Bodvou Municipality – ETP Moldava Housing, n.o.

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



ETP SLOVAKIA

OUR MISSION

OUR OBJECTIVES

OUR PHILOSOPHY AND
VALUES

ETP Slovakia – Centre for Sustainable Development – has carried out its activities in Slovakia and abroad since 1992 as a consulting and educational non profit organisation.

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 Slovakia.

OUR PHILOSOPHY AND VALUES

- We adhere to the principles of sustainability.
- We maintain a continuous dialogue about needs and opportunities.
- We endeavor 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 and Central Slovakia, supporting and assisting disadvantaged and marginalized 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 and teaches people in poverty to save for assets and manage their finances.

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 organizations have applied to implement projects of their choice for the benefit of disadvantaged members of the community and to improve their quality of life.

In cooperation with the respective Local Authorities, the Community Centers (operating Community Social Clubs and Job Clubs) organize a variety of different activities for all age groups. In Community Centers ("CCs") educational (learning by doing, after-school activities, preventive programs, life-long education, vocational training), job creation programs, social and legal services across the age range are provided. People in need can be advised and helped, including being given humanitarian aid. Within the CCs small businesses can be born and operate, Homes for the members of disadvantaged groups have been provided and improved through the engagement of the beneficiaries themselves in construction or reconstruction works.

Job positions of community social workers 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. ETP Slovakia believes that individuals can change their destiny if they are assisted with integrated comprehensive service in CCs nearby their homes. Therefore ETP Slovakia motivates hundreds of clients to take over responsibility in many communities in Eastern and Middle Slovakia and assist in gaining skills and abilities to earn a living and gradually become independent of assistance.

ETP Slovakia focuses on the improvement of the living condition of individuals and reducing social and economic disparities by job creation in small businesses. It pursues equal opportunities and helps disadvantaged people in their efforts to become self-reliant and independent. 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

ČIČAVA

JABLONOV

LEVOČA

NÁLEPKOVO

OSTROVANY

RUDŇANY

SPIŠSKÉ PODHRADIE

SPIŠSKÝ ŠTVRTOK

STARÁ LUBOVŇA

TURŇA NAD BODVOU

VELKÉ KAPUŠANY

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 Community Social Workers (CSWs) are the lynch-pins of the Centers. They spend time getting to know local families, both informally through Club activities, and by offering counseling and practical help to support their needs.

CSWs also work with District Labor Offices to find work for long term unemployed people. Space is provided within the Centers for starting small businesses. Computer and technical equipment have helped to create conditions for community organizations 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 2007.

ČIČAVA

The Community Center in Čičava opened in August 2007 following discussions between ETP Slovakia and the staff of the pastoral centre in Čičava about projects and activities in the social area, health care and legal advice.

In September 2007 work started on the Roma Humanitarian Assistance Project in Čičava and Vranov nad Topľou and by providing activities for elderly Roma people – regular meetings with legal advice, medical assistance and cultural events (including a performance by a Christian musical group called F6).



Young Roma people have formed a theatre group, DIK, giving regular performances every month in the Centre.

In cooperation with the Vranov Pastoral Centre and non profit organization Hot Team, a Roma church service took place every Sunday in the House of Culture, which on one occasion was attended by European Commissioner for Education, Culture and Youth – Jan Figel.

There are regular negotiations with local municipalities about cooperation in the area of removing aspects of the negative social conditions of the inhabitants of Roma settlements.

The Centre leader is Mr. Rastislav Zubaj.
Contacts: Čičava 74, Čičava, 093 01 Slovak Republic,
tel.: +421-908 64 17 37, e-mail: zubaj@ke.etp.sk

JABLONOV

Community events included activities for all members of our clients' families: needlework, woodcrafting, easter eggs decorating and glass decorating courses. Children attended local singing and dancing courses and participated in the competition organized in the Kolping House in Spišská Kapitula. There was some success on the education front as two Roma young clients decided to continue their studies at vocational school.

During 2007 11 clients, who had been involved in the Individual Development Account Program regularly attended financial training course Do Not Be Afraid of Money, which helped them better understand financial issues, family budgeting as well as discouraging them from borrowing money from loan sharks.

The year ended with the production of Ikebanas and by making Christmas dinner decorations.

The Center leader is Mrs. Darina Dzuriková.
Contacts: Jablonov 165, Jablonov, 053 03 Slovak Republic, tel.: +421-53 454 13 53,
e-mail: dzurikova@ke.etp.sk

LEVOČA

In 2007, 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 been continuing to provide services for the benefit of citizens of the Spiš Region. These three social enterprises concentrate on renovation work, home interiors and a cleaning service for guest houses and private homes from the areas of Levoča and Spišská Nová Ves and offer temporary and short-term jobs for unemployed people from the Spiš region.

The Center leader is Mr. Miroslav Pollák.
Contacts: Špitálska 19, Levoča, 054 01 Slovak Republic,
tel.: +421-53 429 72 20, e-mail: pollak@ke.etp.sk

NÁLEPKOVO

In 2007 the Community Centre worked with many clients of various ages through projects such as the home improvement project for people with low incomes: Yours Spis II, the Individual Development Account Program and RHAP (Roma Humanitarian Assistance Program). The daily work was social and financial counseling, educational training and job training, e.g. needlework, weaving, PC courses and cooking.

Excellent cooperation continued with the local municipality, local entrepreneurs, and local NGOs - Romas Want To Live Better, Lačo dživipen, Vondrišiel and Education – Our Hope for the Future.

Some regular activities took place for children and young people via their involvement into after-school activities, e.g. sightseeing, trips, and swimming.

The Center leader is Mrs. Zdenka Rabatinová.
Contact: Mlynská č. 633, Nálepko, 053 33, Slovak Republic, tel: +421-53 429 71 68,
e-mail: nalepkovo@ke.etp.sk

OSTROVANY

In May 2007 a meeting took place between the Mayor of the village of Ostrovany, and the Director of ETP Slovakia, when the two parties agreed to cooperate in working with families with low incomes through a project known as the IDA (Individual Development Account) Program. The project was to lend money to people with a special bonus at the completion of the agreed period of saving. These clients soon began to take part in other activities including PC courses.

In August the Centre started to deliver the Roma Humanitarian Assistance Program). 308 new people became a part of our client group. There were meetings and activities prepared for them (medical assistance, legal advice and religious meetings etc).

In September the Community Center joined the EQUAL project helping unemployed people to get a job and develop work skills (building of the community center, PC training, hygienic habits, etc).



One of the most successful project was the HABITAT loan scheme – 18 clients had the possibility to take an interest – free loan and used it for improving their home.

The Center leader is Mr. Marián Trišč and Mrs. Viera Marková.

Contacts: Ostrovany 60, Ostrovany, 082 22 Slovak Republic, tel.: +421-51 489 22 31,
e-mail: trisc@ke.etp.sk, markova@ke.etp.sk

RUDŇANY

The Community Centre is located in a former boiler room directly in the Roma settlement known as 5RP11. 99% of the clients are Roma.

From the beginning of the year an activation works program has been managed from the Centre for 30 clients through cooperation with local Roma non-profit organization REMA.

During all the year a wide range of regular activities took place – making of handcraft presents, sewing, covering knitting, cooking courses (cooking of nutritious and cheap meals). There were practical training courses to teach the girls to sew and to produce textile toys. Products were sold on ROMAEXPO 2007 in Spišská Nová Ves.



Other activities included lessons about reading stories for children, financial management courses and various types of health lectures. In May–September 2007 in cooperation with Council for Social Counseling in Kosice the educational training Let's Take a Chance was undertaken. It was aimed at teaching parents how to assist their children do their homework and how to learn.

People were helped with the practicalities of seeking employment – completing application forms, drafting letters and CV preparation. Some clients gained employed in the car industry and there was success in employing one client on graduate practice in the Roma kindergarden and during the vacation she looked after Roma children in the CC.

Many clients were given advice on debt management. One client was helped to secure maintenance for her children from their 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.

Some children's activities also took place. Some equipment for children was acquired (bicycles, balls, football table, party games, DVD movies) via the project financed by Foundation of Children Slovakia – 1Hour Wage for Children. Children met 3 times a week watching children's movies, reading books, performing theatre, making carnival masks, drawing and cooking.

In August the Roma Humanitarian Assistance Project started, the Individual Development Account project continued, as did For Better Health Project in the CC and neighboring Roma Kindergarden, a project to provide information about hygiene, sexual health and environmental protection.

A religious meeting took place once a week during the whole year.

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

SPIŠSKÉ PODHRADIE

The Centre has been working with the clients on different projects – EQUAL, Let's Make Our Dreams Come True (IDA), RHAP (Roma Humanitarian Assistance Program), 1Hour Wage for Children throughout 2007 and, towards the end of year, the Habitat Home Loans project started.

In the EQUAL project, the Centre, in cooperation with the Civic Association Čerčeň, the Labour Office and the Local Authorities, the management of an Activation Work Program was secured serving long-term unemployed citizens (37 clients). With the help of centre, 25 clients found jobs in Slovakia, the Czech Republic and England. We helped two clients to start their own businesses utilizing a subsidy from the Labour Office.

Several practical training courses took place (making of advent garlands and Christmas decoration, making of ikebana).

In cooperation with Čerčeň Roma civic association various cultural activities took place – a Roma festival at Spissky hrad, a theatre performance in Spišské Podhradie and St. Nicolaus meeting.

10 clients joined the IDA project and fulfilled the project requirements. Every week these people attended special financial training course Do Not Be Afraid of Money.

133 clients are involved in the RHAP project from Spišské Podhradie, Žehra, Bystrany, Spišské Vlachy, Krompachy and Gelnica.

The project 1Hour Wage for Children was provided for children. They had twice a weekly dancing course and a Club of Skilled Hands. Every month they had some special activity – a trip to Krásna Hôrka, visiting the planetarium, swimming and visiting the zoo park and theatre.

The Center leader is Mrs. Vierka Gondova.
Contact: Mariánske námestie 34, 053 04 Spišské Podhradie, Slovak Republic, tel: +421-53 454 25 45,
e-mail: podhradie@ke.etp.sk

SPIŠSKÝ ŠTVRTOK

The Community center in Spišsky Štvrtok provided real help to its clients in 2007, supported by individual, group and community work with unemployed people - one aspect is job counseling and the life situations of unemployed are also addressed.

Clients rarely know anything about the job market and they need support in difficult life situations. Through its activities, the Centre concentrated on these challenges. Technique in finding jobs were taught and the basic ways of behaving at job interviews. The Centre also focused on upgrading the skills of unemployed people and helping clients survive emergency situations.

Courses of cooking were taken place, where the clients learned, for example, how to cook pizza. There was also a financial course and practical training courses to produce handmade products.

Health courses brought a new ideas about healthy lifestyle and healthy food. Social counseling and legal advice sought to solve crisis situations in the lives of our clients and to strengthen the control they have over their lives.

The Center leader is Ms. Katarína Kubaská.
Contact: Tatranská 4, Spišský Štvrtok, 053 14, Slovak Republic, tel.: +421-53 469 94 58,
e-mail: stvrtok@ke.etp.sk

STARÁ ĽUBOVŇA

Throughout the year social counseling was provided for clients on regular basis in our Community Center as well as in clients' homes. It supported the relations between clients and public institutions. The work in the Centre was focused on six main areas: employment, quality of life, housing, education, health, social integration and social activities.

Activation works in Podsadok were coordinated, people were helped to find work or start their own business, or be involved in voluntary work (repairing the House of Culture in the town) and in temporary jobs to pay off their debts.

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.

Clients got involved in the Let's Make Our Dream Come True (IDA) project and their took part in financial training courses – Do Not Be Afraid of Money.

Center staff worked to reduce school absenteeism, supported after-school activities and provided tutoring, internet skills, reading, cultural and sporting activities. A trip to Bratislava was organized for Roma children, to a carnival, a vacation in Medzibrodí and at Fest Rom – a conference for evangelism of Roma people and performance of gospel music groups. Other activities included internet courses, drawing and reading books in the CC, rehearsals of cultural programs and sport activities (football tournaments).

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 after giving birth.

Antisocial behaviour was addressed such as begging, cooperation with police in the cases of stealing by youths and helping the young people address drug abuse and other dependencies. The improvement of communication between clients has been supported and mediation provided.

The CC cooperated with Children's Homes and with the Crisis Center in which children from Stará Ľubovňa live.

The activities in the Centre are coordinated by Mrs. Ľudmila Stašáková.
Contact: Podsadek Kultúrny dom, Stará Ľubovňa, 064 01, Slovak Republic, tel.: +421-534 32 30 62,
e-mail: lubovna@ke.etp.sk

TURŇA NAD BODVOU

The Community Center in Turňa nad Bodvou is located in the premises of Civic Association PRO TORNENSIS. The Center started its activities in 2002 and is a place for adults, children, youth and the elderly.

In 2007, as part of the Roma Humanitarian Program, a club for elderly Roma was established, in which regular activities for beneficiaries were organized once a week. Elderly Roma visit the center on a regular basis, as they are interested in many different activities, which are being prepared for them, such as: traditional handicrafts, weaving, basket-making, pottery, cobbling, wreath making, knitting, etc.

Once every month the Center has been visited by a priest, who prepared interesting program for our clients.

In cooperation with a Civic Association the Center organizes an Activation Work Program for 30 unemployed people and helps them to acquire working skills and working habits. The majority of our activated clients work either in a carpentry workshop or in basket-making workshop.



In addition, during 2007, the Center organized the following activities: exhibition of traditional Roma products, Handicraft Weekends, Deveskhero kher – activities for Roma of all ages, the Civic Club for Turna nad Bodvou citizens.

The Center staff have delivered training courses and have provided assistance to unemployed and those on social benefits in i.e. job applications, CV preparation, applications for social benefits and allowances and in small business plan preparation.

The center leader is Mrs. Margita Bartóková.
Contact: Civic Association Pro Torensis, Turňa nad Bodvou 60, 044 02 Turňa nad Bodvou,
tel.: +421- 915 89 03 32,
e-mail: bartokgita@gmail.com

VELKÉ KAPUŠANY

In September 2007 a new Community Centre was opened in Velké Kapušany after which the RHAP project started to help to elderly Roma people. Field work included visits to clients in their natural environment. New activities were organized to suit the needs of clients.

Many clients displayed musical talent so an entertainment program was arranged – Roma Nostalgia was evident with much dancing and singing. Staff of the local municipality was also invited and they really enjoyed it. Our clients felt very satisfied with activities like this and they could meet together and talk to each other.

Medical assistance, legal advice and emergency assistance were also provided to elderly Roma people including the delivery of hot meals to the poorest people.

The Centre leader is Mr. Viktor Teru.
Contact: Hlavná ulica, Velké Kapušany, 079 01, Slovak Republic, tel.: +421-908 84 92 68,
e-mail: teruviktor@gmail.com



YOUR SPIŠ 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 SPIŠ II. – Inclusion of NGOs into Social Economy throughout 2006 ETP Slovakia

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 SPIŠ 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 Spiš Region (Holumnica, Jablonov, Nálepko, Ostrovany, Rudňany, Spišské Podhradie, Spišský Štvrtok, Stará Ľubovňa) 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 Spiš 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 Labor Offices, provide assistance and counseling 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 organizations to obtain advice relating to such things as social care, health, education and housing, etc.

At the end of 2007 there were:

- **eight** Job Clubs operating
- **eight** local partnerships functioning
- **nine Personal Advisors** trained and providing services for unemployed
- **six social enterprises operational** (wood-working, arts and handicrafts shop, cleaning services, restoration of antiquities, social assistance and social counseling, art handicrafts production)
- **seventeen** non-profit organizations cooperating with the project
- **two non profit organizations** becoming emerging social enterprises (social services for elderly & physically disabled)
- **new type of skills building training courses** for unemployed delivered in all Job Clubs (financial training course, family budgeting, debt counseling and prevention, contract of personal responsibility)
- **eight** local community organizations implementing Activation Work Program for people on social benefits
- **seventeen** jobs created in a wood-working social enterprise



- **twenty** practical capacity building training courses for unemployed people delivered (woodcutter, masonry, carpentry, restoration, sawing, textile decorations, cleaning services, health and safety, hairdressing, cooking, flooring and ceilings laying, roof repairs, reconstruction of bathrooms and kitchens, batik, coating and pasting, glass-painting, needleworks, crocheting, knitting, painting etc.)
- **fifty** practical experience courses for unemployed people
- **thirtyfive** unemployed established in micro businesses
- **onehundredandfourteen** seasonal jobs operational for five months
- **more than one thousand** unemployed people back to work (Activation Work Programs temporary jobs, voluntary works, regular full-time jobs, and small enterprises)
- **onehundredandtwentysix** fixed job positions contracted
- **more than one thousand** people participated in training courses



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 2007 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 program 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. In September 2007 loans have been provided to 20 tenants in new apartments from the Habitat Revolving Fund to cover these extra costs and to enable Roma families to live in apartments of a basic standard (as oppose to a low-standard).

Also in 2007, loans (on average \$1500) were provided to renovate or refurbish 55 homes. Families from two villages (Nálepkovo and Ostrovany) 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 unique nature of the program has attracted the attention of the national Ministry of Construction and Regional Development and the Office of the Government of Slovakia Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities and detailed discussions have taken place to explore the possibility of these initiatives becoming the subject of partnerships between Government and the not for profit sector.

From a total number of 105 families, who have been involved in the micro-loan program since its beginning in 2005, there have been no repayment defaults to date.

Home improvement loans have been administered by ETP Slovakia as part of a broader range of services it offers to client families in Nálepkovo and Ostrovany from its Community Centers.



YOUR SPIŠ FUND

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

The aim was to support economic and social development in the disadvantaged region of Spiš, and within the framework of seven grant rounds, over 100 community organizations from towns and villages participating in the program 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 2007 five projects have been finalized supported in the 8th grant round totalling 162 405 Sk.

YOUR SPIŠ Fund has undertaken a survey on services and handicrafts demands in eight cities and villages of Spiš Region (Spišské Podhradie, Jablonov, Spišský Štvrtok, Rudňany, Holumnica, Stará Ľubovňa, Podsadok, Nálepko).

YOUR SPIŠ Fund has implemented 50 practical vocational training courses for unemployed people from the region aimed at various handicrafts, construction, reconstruction and restoration works.

YOUR SPIŠ Fund has helped to prepare new project proposals that were submitted to Social Development Fund for the following villages: Žehra, Ostrovany, Spišská Teplica, Nálepko, Dravce, Iľiašovce, Jablonov, Stará Ľubovňa and Nálepko.

Assistance to non-profit organizations based in member municipalities have been focused on project preparation for Foundation of Children in Slovakia, Ekopolis Foundation, Ministry of Culture of SR and Ministry of Social Affairs, Labour and Family SR.

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 Svidník to the more western towns and villages of Poprad and Štrba 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.

Hand made crafts have been sold by Civic Association Čercheň during variety of traditional and cultural events and fairs in Spišské Podhradie and Levoča.

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



ROMA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

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 109 member states, a further 24 states holding observer status IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. In Slovakia it has been established since 1995.

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 for the second time 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 August 2007 and October 2008, it has implemented humanitarian and social programmes in all districts of Eastern Slovakia and in some districts of Central 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 Roma Humanitarian Assistance Program has been providing for more than six thousand elderly Roma in all districts of Central and Eastern Slovakia.

Humanitarian assistance included food or hygiene packages, winter assistance in the form of wood, or warm blankets, legal advice and medical assistance and, in exceptional cases, help has been 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, ten Community Centers have been in operation providing educational activities, social, health and legal assistance not only for elderly Roma people, but also for other members of whole communities.

The Centers, 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. Centers 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 in late 2006, 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 have been receiving 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 Jablonov, Nálepkovo, Ostrovany, Rudňany, Spišský Štvrtok, Turňa nad Bodvou

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

Typical assets saved for are 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 receive personal money management counseling, and if applicable, assistance in purchasing a home or starting a small business. ETP Slovakia's Personal Advisors receive the applications, verify candidates' eligibility, help participants develop a family budget, provide basic financial education, track the participants' saving activity, provide advice during financial emergencies, and ultimately issue matching funds. Participants are 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.

At the end of 2007 the achievements are:

- 126 savers have been engaged.
- There has only been 17% drop out in first year of the project.
- Local authorities have been very keen on their families having the chance to enroll in the scheme.
- There is intense interest from areas where community mobilisation has not previously taken place.
- The vast majority of savers wish to engage in further self help, e.g. a home improvement loan from Habitat for Humanity International.
- Overwhelmingly positive reactions have been forthcoming from national local media.



- interest has been shown in the pilot by a Government Ministry of Construction and Regional Development and the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family, Office of the Slovak Government of the Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities and other national and international institutions.

The pilot has demonstrated that:

- Roma families do wish to save for assets which bring benefits to their family life.
- Roma families are capable of self help.
- Non Roma people are impressed by Roma families' ability to engage in self help.
- There is widespread demand for such programs.
- As part of a comprehensive approach to multiple deprivation, an IDA scheme blends very well with other initiatives such as housing, social, legal and health promotion services.

During 2007 126 clients were involved in IDA program, of which 5 have been saving for educational asset (e.g. Driver's Permit, a computer purchase) and 121 clients have been saving with the aim of improving housing conditions (e.g. windows and doors replacement, house purchase, etc.). The drop out rate 20%.

ETP Slovakia also administers home improvement loans, in conjunction with its partner, 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 has observed changes in self-esteem, changes in the welfare of children and improvements in the stability of households.



YOUR SVETLOGORSK – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL BELARUS

The objective was to support civil society to develop sustainable economic development activities in rural Svetlogorsk in the Gomel Region of South Eastern Belarus. A partnership of Slovak experience and expertise (ETP Slovakia), a Belarusian regional NGO (Community Development Project) and the District Council of Svetlogorsk sought to demonstrate examples of sustainable development. Stakeholders include the rural Councils in the selected areas, potential entrepreneurs and the Job Centre.

Awareness of the importance of small business development in rural areas was raised amongst some of the key players in Svetlogorsk, where the large collective farms have been suffering from loss of jobs and of employment opportunities and, together with the partner NGO and Local Authority, people in rural areas were encouraged to consider starting a small business as an alternative to leaving the villages and contributing to their further demise.

Over 50 Belarusian individuals were engaged with on a one to one basis discussing their business aspirations and advice was dispensed with a view to encouraging them to seriously consider self employment in rural areas and give a better understanding of the nature of a market economy in circumstances where private enterprise is embryonic or frequently limited to retail activities.

Four training visits to Svetlogorsk took place covering the techniques of community development, the role of civil society, the development of sustainable business and the use of business advice services.

Two visits to Slovakia included attendance at a wide range of privatised enterprises, examples of successful agricultural businesses and giving an appreciation of the prevalence of agro-tourism in Eastern Slovakia and the significant and increasing contribution it is making to the economy.

A Small Business Advice Service has been launched which visits local villages and holds information sessions for potential business people offering assistance and encouragement near where they live, as opposed to within the city

A detailed training manual has been prepared which incorporates advice and information for local trainers to be able to equip people who are considering starting or expanding a small business, covering business plan preparation, obtaining grants and loans, registration, taxation etc.



ROMA FINANCIAL EDUCATION PROJECT

The concept was to raise the level of awareness of three age groups (children, teenagers, adults, both men and women) on financial matters, financial literacy and family budgeting within Roma communities by developing and testing novel computer-based training materials to be delivered by ETP Slovakia trained Personal Advisors within its community centres.

ETP Slovakia's Community Centers, staffed with trained Personal Advisors and already familiar to Roma families, provided neutral, informal and friendly venues where people of all ages are encouraged to engage in training which addresses practical issues.

The training was, in part, in the context of the asset building scheme being operated by ETP Slovakia in conjunction with the Open Society Institute, Habitat for Humanity and respective local authorities whereby both **a) match funds (grants)** for those who successfully save over an agreed period of time for a predetermined purpose (home improvements, education, small business start-up, increasing the employability) within the Individual Development Accounts Programme and **b) loans** are provided to enable Roma families to improve their living conditions.

Roma are extremely vulnerable with regard to financial matters and family budgeting. They are subject to loan sharks with their prohibitive interest rates and illegal methods of debt collection. Cultural barriers result in an almost complete absence of confidence in banks and other financial institutions which operate within the non-Roma world.



In addition, institutions of all kinds (including banks) discriminate against Roma and are often suspicious of them. As many Roma are poorly educated their understanding of such institutions is minimal. The school drop out rate for Roma teenagers is frighteningly high, mainly fuelled by the absence of prospects, resulting in even less knowledge of financial matters and the consequences of such things as credit than their non-Roma peers.

ETP Slovakia's experience has shown that working in small groups, in the non-threatening environments of community centres, Roma people can gain knowledge which can protect them and give them more confidence generally.

The project was to design and prepare training material in the form of computer based Q & A (quiz and game style) covering the following topics: loans, mortgages, savings schemes, interest, secured borrowing, family budgeting, credit, money management, bank accounts, banking services, financial planning (short-term and long-term goals), saving and spending habits, saving accounts, certificates of deposits, saving bonds, maintaining a good credit rating, saving and investment plans, legal ways of earning money, prevention from loan sharks, smart shopping, etc.

Leaflets and handouts were also designed covering these topics for trainees to retain.

In total approximately 200 people have undertaken the financial training in cities and villages where ETP Slovakia operates its Community Centers.



LOOKING AHEAD

In cooperation with two local Authorities, Moldava nad Bodvou and Nalepkovo, ETP Slovakia has established two non-profit organizations with the aim of constructing apartments for members of Roma minority groups and obtaining subsidies from the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic to do so. ETP Moldava Housing and ETP Nalepkovo Housing non-profit organizations will work with future tenants to enable them first save for home improvements and then receive micro-loans to improve their houses to higher standard. Day-to-day support will be given to the tenants including assistance in securing jobs or social benefits by Personal Advisors in the Community Centers as an integral part of the joint activities of ETP Slovakia and two municipalities.



PEOPLE

Košice Office

Slavomíra Mačáková, Director
Beáta Kopalová, Service Manager
Judita Gogová, Financial Manager
Slavomír Kutaš, Technical Services Manager
Graham Jeffs, International Partnerships
Coordinator
Monika Doľaková, Educational Manager
Dana Doľaková, Administrator
Viliam Lupták, Accountant
Gabriela Valentovičová, Health Coordinator
Branislav Kráľovský, Field Delivery Officer
Peter Sovius, Field Delivery Officer
Peter Lipták, Field Delivery Officer
Štefan Suchodolinský, Field Delivery Officer

Levoča Office

Miroslav Pollák, Deputy Director
Milan Rišš, Field Delivery Officer

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Arpád Lőrincz
Peter Haňdiak
Roland Bušša

Organizations cooperating on projects with ETP Slovakia in 2007

Association for Social Reform, Slovakia
Autisti, non-profit organisation, Slovakia
Autonomia Foundation, Budapest, Hungary
Centre of Community Work, Czech Republic
Council for Social Counseling, Slovakia
Dravce Municipality
Holumnica Municipality
Iliašovce Municipality
Jablonov Municipality
Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom
Levoča Municipality
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 Kosice
Powys Equal Partnership, Wales, United Kingdom
Roma Press Agency, Slovakia
Rudňany Municipality
Slovak Roma Scouting
Spišská Teplica Municipality
Spišské Podhradie Municipality
Spišský Hrhov Municipality
Spišský Štvrtok Municipality
Stará Ľubovňa Municipality
Švedlár Municipality
Žehra Municipality
Werk. Waardig, Belgium
Winrock International, India
YOUR SPIŠ Fund



FINANCIAL REPORT 2007

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the meeting of ETP SLOVENSKO:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of ETP Slovensko ("The Company") comprising the balance sheet as of 31 December 2007 and the related profit and loss account and notes including the cash flows statement, for the year then ended and the summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

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

Auditor's responsibility

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

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

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

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of ETP Slovensko as of 31 December 2007, and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Slovak Accounting law code.

Košice, July 3.2008

Ing. Eva Gazdová
Licence SKAu No. 628



Balance sheet		Period: 2006 - 2007	
(in SKK ,000)			
Assets	2007	2006	
Tangible assets	4 987	4 992	
Depreciations	2 315	2 240	
Cash	161	47	
Bank accounts	14 867	4 606	
Claims	16 045	17 487	
Other assets	0	0	
Total assets	33 745	24 892	
Liabilities	2007	2006	
Registered capital	1 009	1 009	
Funds	6	6	
Profit or loss of current accounting period	2 154	2 133	
Financial obligations	5 169	2 130	
Other liabilities	25 407	19 614	
Total liabilities	33 745	24 892	

Grants and contributions	2007		
	Currency		
Grants	SKK	USD	EUR
Habitat for Humanity International	785 447	34 344	
Open Society Institute	319 357	13 964	
British Embassy	467 703		
Slovak AID	1 113 934	48 707	
IOM	22 224 182		661 434
EU Asia Pro-ECO Program	454 205		13 518
Other financial contributions			
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family SR (iniative EQUAL)	3 497 439		
Total	28 862 267		

Profit and loss account		Period: 2006 - 2007					
		2007			2006		
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		37	0	37	99	84	183
Contributions received		31 706		31 706	8 466	158	8 624
Other revenues		133		133	21	86	107
Total revenues		31 876	0	31 876	8 586	328	8 914
Expenses							
Material and energy consumption		18 128		18 128	782	3	785
Services		13 009		13 009	7 368	100	7 468
Staff costs		210		210	82		82
Taxes and fees		33		33	9		9
Depreciations		131		131	90		90
Other expenses		345		345	562	139	701
Total expenses		31 856	0	31 856	8 893	242	9 135
Net profit or loss of current year		20	0	20	-307	86	-221