





2012

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND DIRECTOR

Celebrating Our Second Decade, Envisioning the Next One

Dear friends,



Vladimír Ira
Chairman

As many of you know, ETP Slovakia celebrated its twentieth anniversary in 2012. For the past ten years, ETP has been laying the foundation for the creation and nourishment of better environments in localities failing to meet some of the most basic human needs: drinking water, shelter, and food.

With your help, ETP's last decade of building life-long learning centers and providing comprehensive social services in marginalized Roma communities has resulted in some extraordinary results – over 40 community centers established, over 20,000 beneficiaries served, hundreds of homes repaired and renovated, hundreds of jobs created and retained, tens of new homes built, as well as dozens of students in high schools and universities. We have observed the educational achievements of the Roma from segregated communities increase, gifted children and young people developing their talents with eminent artists. Some musicians, dancers and singers are now famous at home and abroad.

Thousands of people in segregated communities now have access to ETP integrated services, provided and delivered with a „cradle-to-grave“ approach. The use of ETP-pioneered community centers, staffed by well trained generalists, located close to where poor people live, now has widespread acceptance as the way forward.

Included in these thousands are more than 2,000 children and youth at risk, who are on a daily basis able to improve their life and cognitive skills through their participation in ETP's educational programs. In the last school year, over 90 percent of these children, who were born poor with limited support in their families and little prospects for their future, matriculated to a higher grade.

At ETP, we are convinced that soon there will be a new generation of educated young people developing their own bright prospects and bettering the lives in their communities. We are proud to have contributed to their success.

As you are reading ETP's annual report 2012, please be reminded of the thousands of children, who were born in the wrong place, at the wrong time, to parents who lack the resources to support them to succeed in school and life. Please consider the people living in the heart of Europe, who have to live in segregated shanty towns under unacceptable conditions, in huts with no drinking water or electricity, surrounded by heaps of garbage. Please remember those, whose living conditions in segregated neighborhoods remain as they have been for centuries.

Our goal is simple - to motivate, encourage and support all children, youths and adults, who are eager to learn, overcome obstacles, take the initiative, seize existing opportunities and change the course of their future prospects.

Vladimír Ira, Chairman

Slávka Mačáková, Director



Slávka Mačáková
Director

ABOUT US

ETP Slovakia – Centre for Sustainable Development is a non-profit organization that works with small communities in Slovakia, supporting and assisting disadvantaged and marginalized groups, the poorest of the poor, **refugees, specifically Roma** from marginalized settlements, in order to improve their social and economic situation. In particular, it promotes employment opportunities, cares for the vulnerable, provides education and training, helps poor families to secure and improve housing, and teaches how to save and manage finances. Since 2001, we have been carrying out activities through our network of community centres established in partnership with local governments at the door step of marginalized Roma. Our offer of comprehensive social services is centred on five main areas: **housing, education, employment, health and financial inclusion**. When providing these comprehensive services, we embrace the principle **“from cradle to grave”** – provision of life-long education for the whole community and all age groups.

OUR ACTIVITIES SERVE...

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

OUR MISSION IS...

To support regional development, protect the environment and assist in the development of the social, economic, educational and cultural potential of people, organizations and communities with an emphasis on problem solving within disadvantaged regions, socially disadvantaged groups and ethnic minorities.

OUR VALUES ARE...

We adhere to the principles of sustainability.

We have trust in the possibility of positive changes.

We believe the approach of small and gradual steps leads to significant changes in the long run.

We persistently seek and secure systematic solutions to complex problems.

We are transparent.

We endeavor to establish enduring relationships.





OUR TEAM

Executive Board

Vladimír Ira
Chairman
Thomas Grey
Ludmila Majláthová

Supervisory Board

Milena Buksárová
Katarína Štofánová
Arpád Lörincz

Košice Office

Slávka Mačáková
Executive Director

Michaela Csalová
Vice Director

Monika Doľáková
Administrative Support

Ondrej Kováč
Accountant

Slavomír Kutaš
Housing Program

Milena Kačmarčíková
Project Coordinator

Erika Bačová
Project Coordinator

Lenka Czikková
Project Coordinator

Martin Vavrinčík
Project Coordinator

Kornélia Fűrjészová
Assistant

Gabriela Dancáková
Assistant

Community Centres

Ľudmila Stašáková
Social Integration

Erika Sabová
Preschool Education

Gabriela Valentovičová
Health Program

Slavomír Strakula
Financial Inclusion

Mária Gedeónová
Supervision

Viera Gondová
CC Spišské Podhradie

Irma Horváthová
CC Moldava nad Bodvou

Antónia Baňasová
CC Sabinov

Lenka Kováčová
Jarmila Vorobelová
CC Košice-Šaca

Dana Pustulková
CC Rudňany

Daniel Ščigulinský
Soňa Pavlovská
CC Stará Ľubovňa

Marián Trišč
Mária Bartová
Lukáš Ryba
CC Ostrovany

Antónia Gordiaková
Monika Beňová
CC Rankovce

Soňa Soláková
CC Krompachy

Lucia Lučaiová
CC Veľká Ida

Evacuation Centre Humenné

Miriám Mihoková
Martina Ficová
ETC Coordinator

Martina Dudyová
Marta Gutu
Miriam Knoll
Teachers

Elžbieta Bonk
Katarína Gabajová
Katarína Bodnárová
Pavol Zrelák
Tatiana Jurková
Dáša Lukáčová
Štefánia Miková
Štefan Sablič-Kriško
Michal Parnica
Lenka Pauliková
Jaroslav Kušev
Lukáš Bonk
Social workers

Dawood Khwaja
General Practitioner

Irena Šprochová
Pediatrician

Alica Kolesárová
Nurse

Mária Gedeónová
Oľga Kostelníková
Alena Kostelníková
Psychologists

Sultan Rodwal
Geeta Khwaja
Sameera Paigham
Mojtaba Ketabchi
Abdirashid Shire
Abdilfatah Mussa Abdulahi
Mohammed Abdirizak Husien
Abdi Abdirahman Ahmed
Abdi Nieima Ahmed
Interpreters

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



2012 IN A SNAPSHOT

Year 2012 mainly means to us:

- Celebration of 20 years of existence
- 10 community centres providing comprehensive social services at the door-step of hundreds of marginalized Roma families, p. 9
- 152 kids regularly attending pre-school daycare, helping them significantly to successfully join the education system, p. 12
- 126 school age children being regularly aided by 63 mentors, p. 13
- First 4 Roma families moving into legal self-constructed houses in Moldava nad Bodvou, p. 15
- 424 clients engaged in micro-savings and micro-loans programs enabling them to finance major improvements of their living conditions, p. 17
- 150 refugees coming through our Evacuation Transit Centre on their way to new, better lives, p. 23
- First introduction of the renowned Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment methodology into our educational services, designed for fostering cognitive potential of children from deprived environment, p. 12
- Talented kids experiencing recognition and fame during highly successful final concert of Voices for Roma in the House of Arts in Košice, performances of the Slumdog Theatre in Brussels and elsewhere and numerous other artistic events performed by kids from the margins of society, p. 19



COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH



Unlike uncoordinated, top-down, single sector oriented programs provided by the government, ETP's activities are **comprehensive and tackle all issues associated with the life** of marginalized Roma families. Deriving from over 13 years of experience of work at the edge of society, we are convinced that only social programs encompassing education, housing, health, employment and social counseling, as well as financial inclusion, will bring social change and lasting results.

Our community centers and social workers provide services on the basis of **"cradle-to-grave" approach**, offering Roma of all ages assistance with their problems and challenges. As described henceforth, we have a positive impact on those areas in the lives of socially excluded people that concern them the most: long-term unemployment and loss of working habits, incomplete education, limited access to healthcare and living in poor and insanitary conditions.



Each individual, each family and each community are different. Our services are tailored to specific needs and circumstances in order to offer effective help. We also believe that it is crucial to **engage Roma themselves with design and implementation of solutions** to problems they face every day, thus achieving a sense of ownership among the beneficiaries resulting in **long-term sustainability**. The other key aspect is to join efforts of all local stakeholders – local government, church, employers, educational and healthcare institutions.



Our society has rather unrealistic expectations of people born in segregated settlements. **Changes do not happen overnight** and may only come gradually provided that local stakeholders cooperate.

We work with the poorest Roma, as we strongly believe in their potential. We are convinced that most Roma families and individuals who live in segregated settlements are **capable of escaping the vicious circle of generational poverty**, if the right kind of assistance is provided to them. Our patient and professional approach have proved to be effective over the years.



COMMUNITY CENTRES

Donors

Swiss Financial Mechanism, Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, Roma Education Fund, U.S. Steel Košice, Dutch Embassy, British Embassy, U.S. Embassy, Local Governments

In 2012 ETP continued its activities in marginalized Roma settlements thanks to the launch of a project titled "A Community on a Way to Prosperity" funded by the Swiss Financial Mechanism and Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic. The project supports community centers as facilities providing the whole range of **comprehensive social services** focusing on children and youth at risk from marginalized Roma communities and reduction of generational poverty.

In this project, ETP operates community centers in the following ten municipalities: **Košice-Šaca, Krompachy, Moldava nad Bodvou, Ostrovany, Rankovce, Rudňany, Sabinov, Spišské Podhradie, Stará Ľubovňa, and Veľká Ida.**

The operation of a community centre in Košice-Šaca has been also secured through a two-year project "Chance for Roma", launched in May 2011 and financed by the Roma Education Fund. The project aims, in close cooperation of the local kindergarten and primary school, U.S. Steel Košice and the local government, to improve the educational level of Roma children, young people and adults who come from socially excluded families and to develop role models.

All community centers are established and operated in **close cooperation with the local government**. The municipality owns the premises of the community centre and ensures its operation by, for example, covering utility costs. ETP contributes its trained staff, experience and know-how, resulting in a wide range of social services available to people of all ages.

Our overall objective is to work with families, so that they can improve their quality of life and life prospects. We are convinced that disadvantaged families need to be served by **very local community centers located at the doorstep of Roma families**, where well-trained professional staff engage with the most disadvantaged Roma and address their long standing issues.

There is one experienced social worker (leader of the community centre) working in each of them, organizing all listed activities, while some of the activities described below are supported by long-term volunteers and part-time employees of ETP. The community centres are **open at least 4 days a week, 8 hours a day**, based on preferences of the local clients and community needs. One day per week is designated for education, activity planning, administration, communication with local partners and supervision.

The specific nature of each community centre's offer is tailored to meet the needs of the local community. Altogether, each community centre serves about 170 - 500 clients on a regular basis (counting in clients who are in regular contact with ETP's activities), thus amounting to more than **2,300 individual clients benefiting from ETP activities** in ten community centers.



Activities organized in community centers focus mainly on children and youths and include:

- Pre-school daycare
- Mentoring and Tutoring program
- Extra-curricular activities
- Financial education trainings
- Self-development training courses
- IT literacy program
- Health prevention course (including sexual health)
- Drama, musical and sports clubs (each community centre specializes in one area upon its preference)
- Handcraft and art workshops
- Low threshold free-time activities
- Ad hoc activities depending on life in a community and a municipality

Each community centre provides also social and legal assistance to clients who need help with family issues, official communications with government authorities, educational facilities, municipalities, courts or the police. We also assist clients in finding part-time and full-time jobs.

There are a number of other activities performed or organized in the community centers as centers of comprehensive intervention aimed at adults and families, such as microsavings and microloans, social work and counseling, the housing program, financial literacy trainings, cultural events, and others.

PRESCHOOL DAYCARE

Preschool daycare facilities, staffed by our trained community workers, were attended by children aged 4 to 6, usually for at least 8 hours a week. The activities focus on the development of cognitive skills of children from socially deprived environments, as well as their socialization in the mainstream education system, and basic preparation for enrolment in elementary schools. Regular attendance in preschool daycare dramatically reduces the need to place children in special education schools, which reduce the children's prospects. Children attending our daycare program regularly usually join the standard educational system.

Children learn basic colors, shapes, seasons, names of various items, Slovak and Roma songs and poems; they draw and gain basic motor skills and improve significantly their command of the Slovak language. Preschool clubs are available in all of the 10 municipalities with average attendance of about 15 children in each community.

In 2012 our community workers organized regular group and individual meetings with Roma parents to explain and discuss with them why daycare attendance is crucial for preschool age children.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEUERSTEIN INSTRUMENTAL ENRICHMENT

ETP Slovakia organized regular meetings with a psychologist and a special education professional, who visited community centers on a weekly basis to help children "unlock" their cognitive and learning skills. Both the children enrolled in preschool and the children involved in extracurricular activities attended the meetings with a psychologist and a special education professional. These meetings focused on enhancing the skills and abilities of the children in the area of audiovisual memory, speech competences and vocabulary through specific exercises developed by the renowned psychologist Reuven Feuerstein – Instrumental Enrichment. The meetings have also proven to improve the self-esteem and self-motivation of the children, so that their chances to succeed within the education system grow. At the same time, the psychologist tested the usage of the Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment tool with encouraging results.

MENTORING PROGRAM

In 2012, 63 mentors were trained and were regularly working with 126 young Roma. The role of a mentor is to help the protégé to cross the imaginary bridge between social layers of society, from poverty and dependence on social benefits into a life of self-sufficiency. The primary role of the mentor is to provide otherwise socially excluded Roma child with a role model and a positive example, making the protégé familiar with the habits and behavior patterns of a middle class society. The mentor works with the protégé for at least two hours per week during the entire year. They do homework together, talk about future plans, discuss family and issues, go to cinema or other cultural performances or just have a good time together. As these relationships between mentors and protégés deepen, the potential for change starts to unlock. The clients can thus take their first steps towards fulfilling their life's purpose.

FINANCIAL EDUCATION

These courses focus on the elimination of usury and loan sharks, improvement in individual and family budgeting, savings, loans and credits, financial management and financial literacy. Clients have the chance to practice opening a bank account or completing official bank documents. They also get a chance to evaluate their family budget and think about the contribution of each family member. They are taught to compare annual income and annual expenses and are encouraged to create a reserve fund. Clients learned to draw up not only their monthly family budget but to plan 6 months ahead.

Completion of the financial education program is a basic pre-condition for enrolment in the Saving and Microcredit program (see p. 17). Many clients attending financial education courses started saving within our Savings Program and are regularly saving towards a certain goal they have set in advance. Many inhabitants of the marginalized Roma communities are caught up in a vicious circle – I borrow because I don't have any money and then as I don't have any money to repay my debt, I have to borrow again. Some of ETP's clients have already been able to escape this trap with our assistance.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

A total of 20 tutors worked with young people and led extracurricular activities such as: playing musical instruments, dancing (modern and traditional), singing, drama club, sports (football, table tennis), IT, arts and crafts, book clubs, courses for young photographers. Extracurricular activities were selected according to the preferences and needs of the young people in the participating communities. There were 3630 various activities/meetings in total that took place in 2012. The activities were very popular and attended by 8-10 children and young people on average. The purpose was to support the talents and skills of the participants and also to encourage other children and young people to attend. Our experience shows that if children and young people have hobbies that they regularly practice, their school results improve, they spend their leisure time in more effective and positive way, and overall, they are motivated to live a better life.

HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS

Our healthcare program focuses on sexual health and substance abuse prevention. It covers topics of sexual abstinence, safe sex, venereal diseases, responsible parenting and the role of fathers. It also covers topics of alcohol and drug consumption, prevention of excessive alcohol consumption and drug addiction as well as their negative impact on health and life.

Donors

Habitat for Humanity International, United Nations Development Program - Global Environmental Facility Small Grant Program, Open Society Foundation, Individual donors and sponsors

SELF-HELP HOUSE-BUILDING

In 2012 ETP started to implement project "From Shack to 3E Houses" aimed at the development of a sustainable model of self-help house-building for the Roma living in shanty-towns. This innovative program, based on initial experience with construction of four houses in Moldava nad Bodvou, provides the poorest of the poor in Slovakia with the opportunity to secure simple, decent and affordable homes on their own.

House construction takes place in close **cooperation with the local government**, who designate plots of land available for purchase and housing construction. Roma families purchase the land usually with funds accumulated via our Savings program. The clients who undertook educational and financial programs in community centers and have demonstrated a strong commitment to change their lives and living conditions are provided with **loans** (of up to 6,000 EUR) in the form of construction material, tools and re-payment of all costs of construction, including administration (i.e., no cash is provided). The Roma families are expected to repay the loan within 8 years.

Apart from the financing, ETP provides **assistance with administrative and formal matters** (purchasing the land, legal compliance) as well as **professional supervision** during construction. Further, prospective home owners gain working habits, skills and capabilities, which will help them succeed in the labor market.

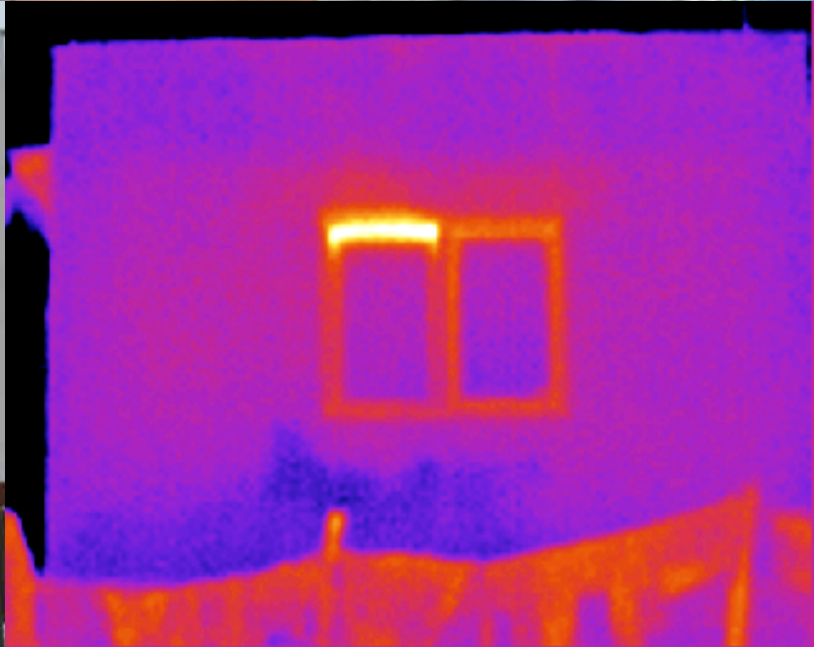
This house-building model enables **gradual development of housing**, depending on the owners' resources. The basic model with 25m² includes a basic sanitary unit (bathroom with a toilet, washbasin and bathtub), kitchen sink and a room for daily usage, and a bedroom on the upper floor. With a simple structure of external walls around the porch, it is possible to enlarge the living area up to 50m² and gain another room or even further expand the area to a total of 75m². During construction, we encourage use of recycled and environmentally friendly materials that are also most economical. The light construction system in various alternatives ensures simplicity, which enables clients to build their houses on their own, or with the help of their relatives in a design meeting their specific needs and preferences.

SMALL STEPS ON THE WAY TO PROSPERITY

In 2012 ETP completed implementation of this two-year project aimed at saving resources, decrease of housing expenses and improvement of the quality of environment in marginalized Roma communities. The training courses focused on the improvement of skills through hands-on activities. The project was implemented in 6 localities. During the project, 137 training courses took place with 1179 participants in total.

Most of the participants also joined the Savings or Microcredit program in order to improve their housing. Many houses are built improperly and their overall technical condition is very poor. In particular, they are energy inefficient due to easily fixable causes, such as roof sieve, improperly installed door or missing insulation, etc. Unnecessary heat loss results in energy waste, which impacts the household budget. After taking part in the courses, clients understood that it was necessary to resolve the problems which they have overlooked for years.

They were able to reinstall their heaters, build a new roof, insulate their houses or floors, replace their windows, etc. In the course of the project implementation, it was possible to observe that behavior of the clients towards the environment and energy has changed (not leaving doors open, replacing the light bulbs, reinstalling fridge further from heater or stove). A simple manual comprising ideas and solutions on energy efficiency, is available at community centers.



FINANCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAMS

Donors

Habitat for Humanity, Open Society Foundation

SAVINGS PROGRAM

ETP has implemented this highly successful project since 2007. Clients are saving between 10 to 50 eur a month for a goal defined in advance over a period of 12 to 24 months, depositing the money in their own bank accounts. The bonus match funding, received by successful savers, is highly motivating as it matches the saved amount. The saved amount is then invested in building of clients' assets. Usually, they improve their housing (bathroom, kitchen, roof, construction of additional room, new windows, property purchase, etc.) or use it to fund education (driver license, university or secondary education, purchase of a PC). Each participant attended also the financial education course.

In 2012, the project was implemented in 24 localities, in which 101 new clients have joined the program. 74 clients successfully finished saving, joining 407 participating families since 2007 to receive the matching bonus.

MICROCREDIT PROGRAM

Yet another one of the successful financial inclusion programs of ETP focuses on housing improvements. It has helped dozens of families to increase their self-sufficiency. Low-income families are provided with a small loan of 1,200 eur, enabling them to renovate their bathrooms, repair their roofs, replace flooring, install heating, etc. Families repay these non-profit loans over the period of 4 years and at the same time they participate in financial education and courses on the construction site, where they gain practical experience and skills. Since 2006, a total of 583 micro-loans have been provided, while in 2012 we have worked with 323 families in 15 localities.





CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Donors

The Ministry of the Culture of the Slovak Republic, City of Košice, Municipality Košice - Šaca, NESS-KDC s.r.o., Ryba Košice, s.r.o., Labaš s.r.o., TEHO Košice, Pizza Kocka s.r.o.

Partners

International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation, Civic Association Miret, Art-School Exnárova, Košice, European Commission, DG Education and Culture, European Commission – Representation in SR, Civic Association Equity, Dramatic Adventure Theatre, New York, USA

ROMA VOICES FOR TOMORROW

Roma Voices for Tomorrow 2012, which followed the successful pilot Voices for Tomorrow 2011 project, has been the culmination of ETP's **long-term support of talented children from the marginalized Roma community in Moldava nad Bodvou and Košice – Šaca.**

The overall purpose of the project was to support **30 talented children (both Roma and non-Roma)**, their internal motivation, self-esteem and empower mutual inter-cultural relationships by engaging with professional artists, teachers and like-minded peers from the majority (students of Art-School Exnárova Košice). We have also experienced that the public performances organized as part of the projects invariably provoked a positive response and conveyed a strong emotional message to the majority population, challenging stereotypes.



The tutoring and regular meetings with children enhanced not only the artistic talents of the children. Workshop leaders and tutors emphasized the importance of education, helped young people to improve communication skills and general knowledge. Children (both Roma and non-Roma) benefited also from a great opportunity to work together (which is actually unusual in the current situation of segregated classrooms or even schools). They became friends and showed us how to defy prejudice.

Roma Voices for Tomorrow 2012 consisted of three art workshops organized in July, August and September. The first one **resulted in an outstanding participative performance (held 5th July 2012) appreciated by the Košice – Šaca public, local government and media representatives.**

The second and third workshops were led by Ida Kelarová. Children rehearsed Roma and Slovak traditional songs and dances, with the purpose of connecting different cultures. The workshops were supported by several tutoring sessions led by three art teachers from The Art-School Exnárova Košice, who worked with all children during the summer. The project's pinnacle achievement was the **final concert that took place in the House of Arts in Košice on 16th September 2012, which was** attended by the representatives of the City of Košice, sponsors, media and the general public.

The international character of the project was accentuated by the concert in Brussels on the occasion of International Roma Day and a performance at the conference "From Segregation to Integration" in April 2012, where children performed on stage of the Albert Hall in Brussels.

THE SLUMDOG THEATRE

One of the most significant and well-known results of extracurricular activities led by ETP Slovakia is the Slumdog Theatre from the Roma ghetto in Moldava nad Bodvou. Slumdog Theatre has been presenting its plays in a series of performances around Slovakia since 2010 and has been well received and recognized by national and international audiences. Their performances continued in 2012.

Slumdog Theatre was established by a group of devotees that had participated in the drama club in Moldava nad Bodvou. Irma Horváthová, the leader of the Slumdog Theatre was awarded Gypsy Spirit Award in 2011 in the category of extracurricular activities for Roma children and youth.

The theatre is made up of young people from the settlement, who saw a real theater performance for the first time in their life only one year after they had joined the drama club. They started playing without any previous experience and just with the skills gained in real life.

The goal of Slumdog Theatre is to communicate the problems of young people living in socially excluded settlements who, despite their strong will, do not have many chances to escape the vicious circle of generational poverty. Their wish is to eliminate stereotypes and prejudice rooted in the majority population through the play.

The performances in 2012 included:

- Performance for Primary School in Nesvady, Slovakia
- Performance for Primary School Odborárska ulica, Košice
- Several performances in Moldava nad Bodvou, for schools, teachers, for representatives of European Commission, participants of international project RomaNet, media
- Performance in Brussels during a conference "From Segregation to Integration"
- Performance in Brussels for the European Commission – Representation in SR
- Performance for primary school, Sajukazla, Hungary

DRAMATIC ADVENTURE THEATRE VISIT

ETP Slovakia expanded its activities in the area of mentoring for artistically talented children and youth via cooperation with a variety of international partners.

The members of the Dramatic Adventure Theatre, based in New York, visited the Community Centre in Stará Ľubovňa in January 2012. During their visit, they worked with children of different ages, including also teenagers. The mission of this theater is to engage in cross-cultural dialogue and provide the artists as well as these communities with an opportunity to develop their creativity and express themselves through dramatic art.

The workshop prepared for the children was aimed at developing the imagination of the children, understanding various patterns of behavior and playing role models in different situations.





HELPING MIGRANTS

Donors

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Slovakia, Slovak Humanitarian Council, European Fund for Refugees – Solidarity in managing the migration flow, New Yorker, individual donors

EVACUATION TRANSIT CENTRE HUMENNÉ

Since 2009, ETP is the implementing partner of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Slovakia (UNHCR) within a project focusing on refugees under the protection of the UNHCR. The project provides social services to refugees, coming from countries where their lives are endangered, in the Evacuation Transit Centre Humenné (ETC). After the re-socializing period of 4-6 months on average, the refugees are re-settled in third countries, where they start a new life.

ETC was established at the end of summer 2009 on the premises of the Migration Office, when the very first group of Palestinian refugees arrived. It was a group of 98 refugees from the camp Al Waleed in Iraq. Since then, 523 refugees from Palestine, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Eritrea, Yemen, Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia have passed through the gates of ETC Humenné.

The UNHCR, together with ETP, has been working with a new group of 40 refugees from Somalia – widowed women, mothers with children from December 2011. They spent 6 months in Humenné, before they were re-settled in the USA at the beginning of May 2012. During 2012, ETC served in a similar way to a total of 150 refugees coming in 4 groups from Afghanistan, Iraq, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia.

There are 32 employees of ETP working in the ETC, including a coordinator, eight social workers, eight interpreters, a school teacher, a general practitioner, pediatrician, nurse, lecturers, administrative workers and external co-workers. The staff aims to create a safe and stable environment full of peace, love and acceptance for all refugees.

Activities for clients and their children were adjusted to

their current needs:

- English classes: three groups based on proficiency level
- IT literacy course
- Kindergarten/school for children aged 2-10 included: English classes, reading, counting, writing, crafts, sports and social skills
- Classes for older children: besides English and IT courses, we also provided math, geography, history and cultural orientation focused on the country of their future home
- Social and cultural curriculum for adults focusing on basic cultural orientation. The course focuses on circumstances of USA and other Western countries – history, geography, values, system of education, places of interest, famous personalities – including immigrants, legal system, transportation, shopping. Every family was able to get to know the country in which they were about to start a new life
- Psychological assistance provided by trained professional therapists in the form of group and individual sessions tackling any types of psychological challenges clients are facing with respect to former life in their homeland, as well as prospects of a new one
- CrossRoads: our clients had never been at a greater “crossroad” in their life as at the time in Humenné. They very much appreciated the 8-day course led by American trainer Vicki Ball Jeffs, aimed at personality development, positive thinking, understanding their strengths and purpose
- Creative workshops were provided for all age groups and, over the period of six months, a great number of activities took place: painting, courses of drawing, production of window decoration, production of puppets, flower planting, cooking and baking (Slovak, American, Iranian, Afghan dishes), needlework, knitting, folklore dancing, production of USA map, production of fridge magnets and many others
- Roadtrips and leisure activities: these activities were very popular, since the clients were able to visit unknown places and experience something new. They discovered Slovakia, a different world from the one they grew up in. A number of trips was organized to Slovak castles, caves, ZOO and other places of interest. The clients also attended theater performances, concerts, visited museums and 3D movies. The clients also enjoyed opportunities to shop at malls in Košice, Prešov and Michalovce
- Community life, personal talks and leisure time: these informal and unplanned activities often have the greatest influence on our clients. Staff of the ETC would often sit with the clients over a cup of tea and talk about their joys and sorrows. Personal relationships and friendly atmosphere are necessary for wellbeing of clients in their uneasy situation. Together we celebrated various holidays (Mother’s and Father’s Day, International Day of Refugees, Afghan holidays, birthdays, etc.)

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



PROJECT ASAP3

The target group of this project consists of foreigners with asylum and asylum seekers with **subsidiary protection** (persons, who were not granted asylum, but there are major obstacles preventing return to the country of their origin, in particular due to security issues). These refugees come from countries such as Somalia, Afghanistan, Iran, Cuba, and Congo, but also Ukraine and Russia.

From January 1, 2011 until the end of 2012, ETP acted as a local partner of the Slovak Humanitarian Council that was coordinating this project on a national level.

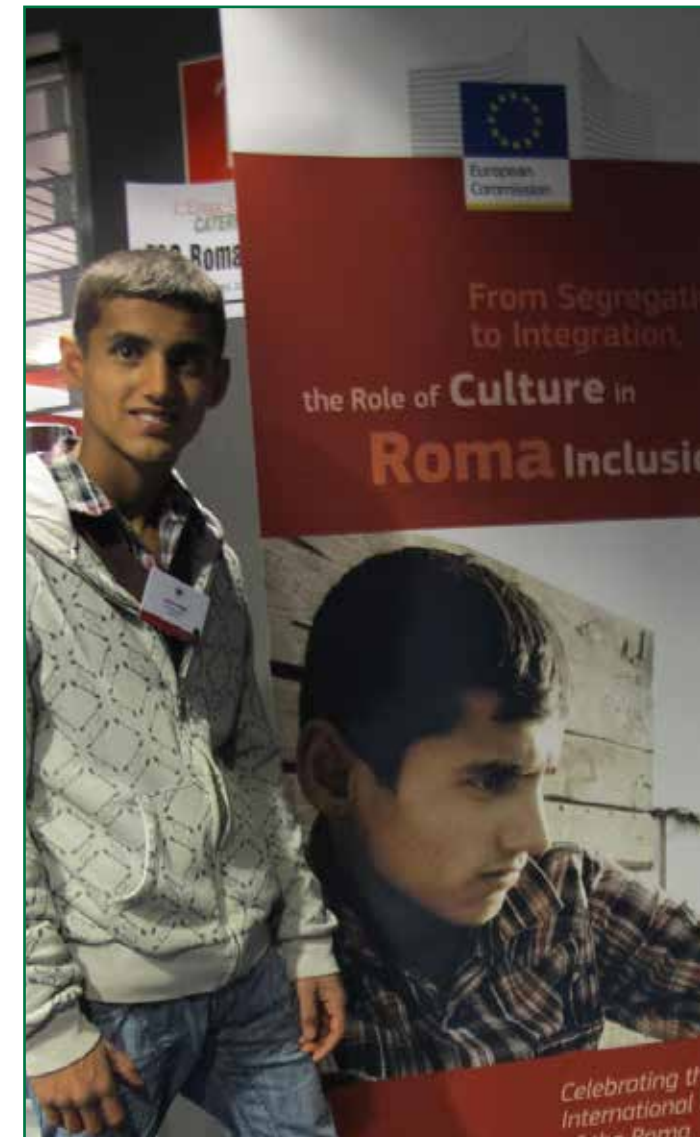
Services for our clients in Central and Eastern Slovakia were provided with the aim of integrating them linguistically, economically and socially. During 2012, there were 24 persons with asylum and 75 persons with subsidiary protection in Košice. There were another 13 refugees living in Lučenec, in Central Slovakia.

Counseling and assistance to the clients included:

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



ADVOCACY AND POLICY WORK



There is no shortage of official policies and strategies emanating from Brussels, Bratislava and from other centers, where international and national pro-Roma organizations are based. But these policies are making very little difference on the ground so far.

We feel we have much valuable experience and knowledge in working with Roma families and we have pioneered a number of major initiatives, which proved to be successful in terms of motivating individuals and families to take responsibility for their future. Our community social work has been replicated in small villages and bigger cities across Slovakia and it is now incontrovertible that the provision of comprehensive services from locally based community centers is an essential component in achieving social change. We have developed and piloted a wide range of other innovative solutions aimed at alleviating generational poverty.

ETP is an active player in commenting draft laws, affecting national policies, participating in creation of strategies and policies related to Roma integration on regional, state and EU level. The goals and objectives of the current strategies in Slovakia are based on interventions and projects successfully piloted and tested in the field by ETP in the past, such as social field work, community centers, micro-credits, financial literacy programs, self-help construction of houses and others.

Through our dedicated and long-term communication and contacts with local, national and EU policy-makers, we aim to transmit gained know-how and systematize what has proven to work on a small scale. We believe this to be the only way forward.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Donors

European Regional Development Fund, Hungary-Slovakia Cross-Border Cooperation Program 2007-2013, Individual donors

Partners

The Carpathian Foundation – Hungary, IQ Roma Servis, Slovo21, Women Roma Group Manushe, Hungarian Maltese Charity

ROMANET – COMMUNITY BASED CAPACITY BUILDING

ETP Slovakia together with The Carpathian Foundation – Hungary started the program RomaNet in October 2012. The program supports Roma communities in the Carpathian region (includes both sides of Slovak-Hungarian border).

It aims to:

- improve local Roma communities' abilities to represent and act in their interests
- assess the main issues and problems existing in Roma communities and organizations and suggest possible solutions
- support the organizational development of the participating organizations and foundations so they can work more efficiently
- promote successful internal and external communication, exchange of information and networking
- organize conferences on a regular basis to promote co-operation and team spirit among Roma civic organizations
- promote partnership among the participating organizations, municipalities and companies

The program focuses on the empowerment of the staff of Roma NGOs by establishing and developing a strong, professional network for cross-border cooperation. The competences of Roma organizations are developed via different kinds of training courses (needs assessment, community-mobilizing, community development, project idea development, proposal writing, and project implementation) seminars, joint actions and best practice sharing.

There are five Slovak Roma or pro-Roma oriented NGOs involved in the program, whose representatives participate in the training courses based on "learning by doing method", evaluating workshops and practice tasks:

- OZ Roma Veľké Dravce, Veľké Dravce (Banská Bystrica region)
- KVOZ Lácho Drom, Kokava nad Rimavicou (Banská Bystrica region)
- In Network Slovakia, Veľká nad Ipľom/Lučenec (Banská Bystrica region)
- OZ Šačanský život, Košice – Šaca (Košice region)
- OZ Equity, Moldava nad Bodvou (Košice region)

On the other side of the border, there are five Hungarian Roma or pro-Roma oriented NGOs:

- Roma Közösségfejlesztők Országos Egyesülete
- Siroki Roma Magyar Egyesület
- Szegényeket Támogató Alap Egri Alapítványa
- Szomolyai Magyar Roma Egyesület
- Szűcs Községért Egyesület

During the year-long program, all participants go through several stages. They will complete four training courses (including two common cross-border visits and best practice sharing), which will result into ten „mini projects” proposals. Each „mini project” will be developed according to the needs of a particular community, while representatives of ten NGOs will focus on certain problems and their solutions (e.g. Roma women, youth, housing, cleaning the settlement, education or cultural activities etc.). Mutual visits (including cross-border ones) will be scheduled during „mini projects” implementation in order to share experiences, feedback and mutual evaluation. In summer of 2013, two workshops will be organized and activities of NGOs will be evaluated.

Bodag festival and final conference will be prepared by participants of the program in September, 2013. It will be a two-day-long closing event of the program and will include a conference combined with a food festival and cultural program.

OTHER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

During 2012, ETP also collaborated on the preparation of many social projects with its partners abroad. These included IQ Roma Service, Slovo21, Women Roma Group Manushe and Hungarian Maltese Charity in particular. The premises of our community centers served as places of research for Czech professional social workers and policy makers interested in social change and policies research.





ETP IN THE MEDIA

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OUR PARTNERS AND DONORS

ETP Slovakia team and clients would like to say thank you to all the partners and supporters that made it possible for us to work and implement our activities:

aha! Process, Inc. Texas, USA

Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture (CVEK)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Days Saints

Dovetail Consulting, Colorado, USA

European Fund for Refugees – Solidarity in managing the migration flow

Equity, Civic Association

European Regional Development Fund

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Habitat for Humanity International

Hungary-Slovakia Cross-Border Cooperation Program 2007-2013

Open Society Foundation

International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation

IOM - International Organization for Migration

Košice 2013 – European Capital of Culture

Labaš s.r.o.,

Migration Bureau of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic

Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic

NESS KDC

New Yorker

Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic

Office of Labor, Social Affairs and Family Košice

Open Society Foundation

Pizza Kocka s.r.o

Roma Education Fund

Roma Press Agency

Ryba Košice s.r.o.

State Slovak Philharmonic Košice

TEHO Košice

Slovak Humanitarian Council

Swiss Financial Mechanism

The Embassy of the USA in Slovakia

The British Embassy in Slovakia

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Slovakia

UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Slovakia

UNDP GEF - United Nations Development Program - Global Environmental Facility

U. S. Steel Košice Company

City of Moldava nad Bodvou

City of Košice – Košice-Šaca

City of Sabinov

City of Žiar nad Hronom

City of Stropkov

City of Detva

City of Prešov

City of Revúca

City of Spišské Podhradie

City of Stará Ľubovňa

City of Krompachy

Municipality of Veľká Ida

Municipality of Ostrovany

Municipality of Rudňany

Municipality of Rankovce

Municipality of Šimonovce

Municipality of Drňa

Municipality of Číž

Municipality of Cakov

Municipality of Veľký Blh

Municipality of Jesenské

Municipality of Nálepko

Municipality of Hodejov

Municipality of Kokava nad Rimavicou

Municipality of Ochtná

Municipality of Veľké Dravce

Municipality of Abovce

Municipality of Kojatice

Municipality of Vtáčkovce

Municipality of Kecerovce

Municipality of Uhorské

Municipality of Bzenov

Municipality of Cinobaňa

Municipality of Hliník nad Hronom

FINANCIAL REPORT

Profit and loss account	2012		
Revenues	Activities not subject to taxation	Activities subject to taxation	Total
Revenues from the provided			
Contributions received	1 112 785,00 €		1 112 785,00 €
Other revenues	139,00 €		139,00 €
Total	1 112 924,00 €		1 112 924,00 €
Expenses			
Material and energy consumption	55 015,00 €		55 015,00 €
Services	437 895,00 €		437 895,00 €
Staff costs	362 640,00 €		362 640,00 €
Taxes and fees	143,00 €		143,00 €
Depreciations	477,00 €		477,00 €
Other expenses	104 390,00 €		104 390,00 €
Total	960 560,00 €		960 560,00 €
Net profit or loss of current year	152 364,00 €		152 364,00 €

Balance sheet	2012
Assets	
Tangible fixed assets	17 511,00 €
Financial assets cash	3 725,00 €
Financial assets bank accounts	448 176,00 €
Short-term receivables	26 232,00 €
Suspense accounts	2 415,00 €
Claims arising from projects	918 654,49 €
Claims HFH	201 793,00 €
Total	1 618 506,49 €
Liabilities	
Registered capital	33 493,00 €
Profit or loss of current accounting period	224 714,00 €
Current liabilities	65 588,00 €
Liabilities to employees	59 110,00 €
Accrued liabilities	1 235 402,00 €
Suspense Accounts	199,00 €
Total	1 618 506,00 €

Grants and contributions	2012		
Grants	EUR	Other financial contributions	EUR
Swiss Contribution	275 852,00 €	U. S. Steel Košice Foundation	409,53 €
Habitat for Humanity International	5 946,97 €	Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family Košice	145,63 €
Open Society Foundation - OSF	116 000,00 €	City of Košice	200,00 €
UNHCR	396 339,71 €	NESS KDC, s.r.o.	500,00 €
UNDP-GEF	22 556,59 €	CVEK	500,00 €
Ministry of Interior SR	214 379,56 €	Other financial contributions	1 320,40 €
Roma Education Fund	39 950,00 €	Elementary School UI.K.	310,00 €
Ministry of Culture SR	16 000,00 €		
Total			1 090 410,39 €

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

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

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of OZ ETP Slovensko – Centrum pre udržateľný rozvoj ("The Company") comprising the balance sheet as of 31 December 2012 and the related profit and loss account and notes including the cash flows statement, for the year then ended and the summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

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

Auditor's responsibility

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

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

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

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of OZ ETP Slovensko – Centrum pre udržateľný rozvoj as of 31 December 2012 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Slovak Accounting law code.

Košice, May 11, 2013

Ing. Eva Gazdová

Licence SKAU 628







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