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Výročná správa
ANNUAL REPORT **2012**

Annual report **2012**



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Dear Friends,

the year of 2012 meant for us foremost taking the deep breath for the year 2013. Along with the operation of The Block Grant for non-governmental organisations and Partnership Support of the Swiss-Slovak Cooperation Programme we designed a new major program of support of the civil society – Active citizenship and inclusion financed by EEA Financial Mechanism. These two financial tools belong at the present to most important sources of financial support for non-governmental organisations in Slovakia.

Equally important part of our activities in the 2012 were the corporate responsibility programs realized with support of our business partners. Seven programs were made available to local NGOs, municipalities and even informal groups, covering broad spectrum of activities – work with youth, revitalization and greening of public spaces, maintenance of touristic trails in National parks, improving the conditions for mobility in our cities as well as support of savings and renewable energies. But the essential, as in the previous years the most important value for us is to be transparent and reliable partner to our donors, grantees and other partners that cooperate with us on joint projects and activities. The results of the supported projects and partnerships that we can be proud of are for us the source of encouragement about great number of good intentions and positive ideas which are the counterbalance to causes of the phenomenon called crisis.

Peter Medved',

Ekopolis Foundation, Director, March 2013

Our profile

The Ekopolis Foundation bears 22 years of knowledge of the management of grant programs specialized in civic society democracy and environmental sustainability. We support activities of hundreds of NGOs in accordance with their actual needs, flexibly and without unnecessary bureaucracy.

Since 1991 we have supported 2,688 projects of NGOs, municipalities, and initiatives by 12,352,953 Euros. We realize our own projects on the national and international level. We are a member of the Environmental Partnership Association together with foundations in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania. The foundation is a member of the European Cyclists Federation, European Greenways Association which is oriented on the building, support and promotion of the paths for non-motorized transportation in Europe, and also the member of Civilscape – an international network of NGOs from all over Europe in support of the European Landscape Convention. We are a FairTrade Partner that supports the ideas of fair business.

Our vision

is an advanced civic society where the citizens realize their responsibility for social development and environmental issues. A society with citizens who are interested in participating in public policy, have courage to adopt some critical stance and who are concerned with helping avoid detrimental conditions for future generations.

In 2012 we supported 103 projects with the amount of 219,193 €. However, a higher value is the contribution of these projects for people and our environment we have managed to beautify and revive together.



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The Year 2012 in short

January

- In the beginning of January 2012 we opened 3rd year of European O2 Think Big grant program. This program is paneuropean initiative of Telefónica O2 group. It supports the projects of young people focused on culture, art, environment, sport and free time activities.

February

- Before deadline of 1st round of Green Belt grant program, supported by Slovnaft, we obtained record of 565 applications. 112 of them were followed to 2nd – final round of evaluation.
- Until February, 27, 2012 the friends of greenery could vote for one of twelve finalists of European Tree of the Year enquiry on webpages www.treeoftheyear.org.
- We opened Living Trails 2012 grant program realised in cooperation with the partner – TOYOTA MOTOR SLOVAKIA.
- Also in 2012 the Ekopolis Foundation applied for your confidence and support through 2% of income tax for NGOs campaign. 2% financial sources obtained in 2012 were used for increasing of biking and hiking trails.

March

- Majestic, 320-years old Lime Tree from Lipany obtained 5591 votes in international enquiry. In the competition of 7 finalists it won 4th place. The winner is Hungarien Lime Tree (from

Felsőmocsolád) with 11,158 votes.

- For the projects of Slovak social and environmental NGOs in the 1st call of Swiss-Slovak Cooperation Program there is allocated 1.4 Mil. €. The amount of 600 Ths. € is allocated to support partners projects of Slovak and Swiss institutions, which contribute to minimalisation of economic and social differences among Slovak regions and developed countries in EU.
- The objective of the workshops organised in Košice, Banská Bystrica and Bratislava was to present the Block grant, documentations and to answer the questions of applicants.
- From 27 applications the Advisory Board of Rest beyond the City grant program chose six projects. Each project obtained financial sources of 6 Ths € and the education and assistance by planning and realisation of the projects for 450 €.
- In 6th year of Green Belt grant program there were chosen 23 projects and devided 59 Ths. €. By this way can be created eco-classrooms and renewed many parks in Slovakia.
- Living Trails grant program supported in 2012 next 5 projects in the whole amount of 7.68 Ths. €. Their result is the renovation of marking and technical condition of 260 km hiking trails in the whole Slovakia.
- Wholesale company METRO Cash & Carry SR supported four ecological projects in the amount of 8.5 Ths. €. The grants are provided from the project „Trees instead of leaflets“.
- 10th year of Tree of the Year enquiry, was opened on April, 20, on the Earth Day The face / patron of the enquiry was Peter Lipa, well-known Slovak singer and jazzman. He accepted the offer to cooperate on the enquiry with pleasure. Also well – known Slovak photographer Alan Hyža was interested in taking photos of 12 final trees. New official partner of the enquiry is TV JOJ Foundation.

April

- ZSE Energia company in cooperation with Ekopolis Foundation opened 4th year of Living Energy Fund. The best projects will be supported by the whole amount of 21 Ths. €.
- Third year of grant program O2 Think Big supported in 2012 the projects of young people by 75 Ths. €. The Ekopolis Foundation obtained almost 400 € from the whole Slovakia. The Advisory Board chose 54 best projects. They were supported from 500 € to 2000 €.
- On April, 24 the scouts celebrate St. George Day. In this occasion the scouts from Sekčov opened for the broad public new playground with fitness equipment. The project named „Bird catches the worm“ was supported by Think big 2011 by 3.5 Ths. €.
- On Saturday, April, 28, 2012 the Roma Alliance in Detva opened the project named „We can create better world“ supported by O2 Think Big grant program. The objective of the project was to reconstruct the public space where large Roma community. Lives

May

- In Zvolen there was organised first of educational workshops for young people supported in O2 Think Big program. Almost 70 young leaders obtained basic information how to manage their projects, to communicate, and to involve the public. They have also an opportunity to define their educational needs.
- Almost 100 employees of ČSOB Bank took part at the brigade, which was organized by Ekopolis Foundation in cooperation with Slovak Mining Museum in the area of Open Air Mining Museum near Banská Štiavnica. The result of their work is a good-looking area of the museum.

- In the neighbourhood Podbreziny in Liptovský Mikuláš there are planted 45 trees, more than 70 nursellings of bushes and ten benches. TATRY, C.A. in cooperation with Primary School of Janko Kráľ grew woody plants as a part of two projects – „Green Belt near the school“ and „Green Belt near the water“ supported by 3.1 Ths. €.
- Children of Slovakia Foundation in cooperation with Ekopolis Foundation and general partner of the project Telefónica Slovakia company invited all young leaders supported in O2 Think Big program to „Training of social and personal competences development“.
- We obtained 81 applications for support in Living Energy Fund. The projects are focused on building and installation of new sources using renewable energy sources and reconstruction of establishment using fossil fuels and implementation of energy saving measures.

June

- In June, there was organized in Carbonia (Sardinia, Italy) the 11th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention on "Council of Europe Landscape Award Forum". At the meeting there were presented the projects from different countries of Europe, which were awarded on the national level by Landscape Award. As in 2011 the Ekopolis Foundation obtained the special mention of the jury of the Council of Europe, the deputies of the foundation had an opportunity to present grant system of the foundation on this international forum.
- The members of Club of Slovak tourists Vyhne obtained 2.5 Ths. € for renovation and marking of hiking trails in Štiavnické vrchy and Vtáčnik. They marked 100 km of hiking



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trails, built 9 sign posts, reconstructed 12 and exchanged 73 pieces of sign posts and installed 16 boards of local names.

- The objective of the workshop GreenSpots – Green areas in the city, which took place in Košice, was to discuss actual topic focused on the greenery in the cities and the opportunities of their sustainable development.
- Podbrezová was the place of bike race. Project „Downtown Steel City“ was supported by O2 Think Big program. This race (down the town, on the asphalt, stairs, bridges, barriers, jumps) is very sporadic in Slovakia. Not always the community, municipality or state creates the conditions for young generation to realize something unconventional.

July

- From July, 5 to September, 28, the persons interested in the trees could send the vote to one of twelve trees – finalists of Tree of the Year inquiry and support its treatment. The voting was started at Pohoda Music Festival in Trenčín.
- Unconventional event named „Viking night“, which took place on July, 27 in Spišské Vlachy was visited by cca 700 visitors. Recreational area Zahura, Sabinka cottage presented the visitors with rich program, competitions, attractions and tombola. The event was organized by young people cooperating with Free time center and thanks to the financial support of O2 Think Big grant program.

August

- The project of public space renovation in Sásovská valley was supported by Rest beyond the City grant program. It was prepared by Municipality of Banská Bystrica in cooperation with Association of Salesian youth DOMKA. The project was

realized by means of volunteering brigades. The public could participate in August and clean and renovate the area for relax and barbeque.

- Echopolis – a bulletin of Ekopolis Foundation informs about programs and activities from January to July 2012.
- From the Block Grant for NGOs and Partnership Support of the Swiss-Slovak Cooperation Programme realised by Ekopolis Foundation in cooperation with SOCIA Foundation and Carpathian Foundation there were supported 15 projects by an amount of 1.9 Mil. €.
- „Historical street“ is the project title of Pro Civitate, Civic Association. The project was supported by 2 Ths. € from O2 Think Big program. The project was focused on cultural reviving of the town. It involved young people, local citizens and also visitors of this well-known spa town.
- VraK(Ing.) is a title of the project supported by 2 Ths. € from O2 Think Big program. The project was realized by the group of students in Nitra. As they say: „The project is an unique opportunity to use our knowledge from dendrology, garden architecture and floriculture, which we bravely collected during our studies.“
- „Hide park“ is a forgotten space near the river, a former illegal waste dump, which was changed to the green meadow thanks to the enthusiasts. There take place concerts, films, theatre, happenings and workshops. The space is maintained by Triptych, C.A. since 2010. This group obtained in 2012 the grant of 4.8 Ths. € of Rest beyond the city grant program.

September

- The opening of Administration Poľana was realized in the middle of September. The Office of Protected Landscape Area

Poľana obtained for the establishment of ecocenter financial support from Green Belt grant program.

- Living Energy Fund supported 10 projects, which objective is the support of renewable energy sources and energy savings. Allocated amount was 61 Ths. € .
- The members of Slovak Cycling club in Piešťany made the hiking trails in Považský Inovec mountain more attractive. The length is 40.4km. On the main ridge they installed 10 new iron sign posts, which replaced rotten woody pales or they installed them on the places where they were missing in last twenty years. For their project they obtained 2.07 Ths. € from Living Trails grant program.
- On September, 20, 2012 there was organized in Banská Bystrica the Market of NGOs. The event was prepared by Center of volunteers in frame of Volunteering days 2012.
- Community center Sásová invited the inhabitants to the event in alder tree forest in the part of Banská Bystrica called Sásová. This event attracted children and also adults by its various program. The event was focused on increasing the interest of people to community living and environment. Ekopolis Foundation presented Tree of the Year inquiry and unconventional demonstration of public spaces planning known as „open café“.

October

- The woody park Jedľoviny on the border of Martin was changed to the place of relax and recreation thanks to the grant of 4.7 Ths. € from Rest beyond the City program. The Municipality of Martin in cooperation with Club of Slovak tourists Turiec and with the volunteers cleaned the area, which is an access point of recreational center Martinské

Hole. In the park there were built public fireplaces, three woody sittings and useful information boards.

- Look Book is a title of the project realized in October in the streets of Nitra. It was supported by O2Think Big program. The project was directly focused on young people, but it got a touch to all age categories. Basic idea was to promote „the book“ as a tool of entertainment and education to the people through the book-stalls and small bookcases in the streets of Nitra.
- The conference Green Business presented new trends of ecological approach to business, their economic and marketing contributions and practical examples both to the question of green business approach bigger and smaller businesses on the Slovak market. The conference took place in eco-friendly Hotel Dália in Košice.
- The employees of O2 left their offices also this year to lend hand and help with the projects supported by grant program O2 Think big. During the Volunteer's Day they were reconstructing, improving and cleaning public spaces in Nitra and Zvolen.
- 3 Mil. € can be obtained from 2nd call of Swiss - Slovak Cooperation Programme
- More than 14,000 votes designated the chart of the finalists of the inquiry. The winner of the Tree of the Year 2012 inquiry became possibly the thickest tree in Slovakia with circumference of the trunk of 930 cm – Planetree from Komjatice (Nové Zámky district) which obtained 2,296 votes.
- The topic of 7th year of grant program Green Belt is a return to traditional way of growing of healing and amenity plants. The objective is to fortify a relationship to soil, water and healthy environment.



- The members of the Club of Slovak Tourists Krokus in Hanušovce nad Topľou renewed the marking in two tourist areas of Region of Vranov. The length is 38.2 km. For their project they obtained 2,07 Ths. € from Living Trails grant program.

November

- The surrounding of the monument „Gate of Freedom“ under Castle of Devin in Bratislava became nicer and greener also thanks to the grant of 5.2 Ths. € from Rest beyond the city grant program. The Municipality of Bratislava – Devín in cooperation with Bicycle Bratislava, C.A. and the volunteers reconstructed the surroundings near the monument, placed benches, educational boards and planted greenery. The reconstructed places were opened on November, 17 in the occasion of the pious memory of the shot and the imprisoned while the attempt to escape for freedom across state borders.
- At the end of November the deputies of Ekopolis Foundation and O2 company took part in the paneuropean meeting of the partners of O2 Think Big program. The program is realized by Telefónica company in Slovakia also in the Czech republic, Germany, Spain, Ireland and Great Britain. O2 Think Big is an important tool of support of innovative ideas. It is focused on young people aged from 13 to 25 years.
- For the project of the tourist trails marking renovation in the south part of Slovak Paradise the Association of tourist entrepreneurs of Spiš Region 500 € from Living Trails grant program.

December

- The program Rest beyond the City, which has been opened for

three years, has been introduced by the Ekopolis Foundation in cooperation with partner – HEINEKEN Slovensko. It divides totally 30 Ths. € for projects.

- Echopolis – a bulletin of Ekopolis Foundation informs about programs and activities from August to December 2012.

Our programmes and projects

1. SUSTAINABILITY AND GREEN ACTIVITIES

Block grant for NGOs and Partnership Support of the Swiss-Slovak Cooperation Programme

The Block grant is made of financial contribution of the Swiss Confederation and co-financed from the state budget of the Slovak Republic. The Block Grant has two parts: the Block Grant for NGOs and the Block Grant for Partnership Support. The Block Grant for NGOs is strategically aimed to establish a functional grant scheme to support projects of Slovak social

and environmental NGOs through so called Small projects. The Block Grant for Partnership Support is aimed at supporting partnership projects of Slovak and Swiss institutions through so called Joint projects.

2,652,983 EUR is allocated to finance Small Projects and 1,149,541 EUR to finance Joint Projects. Projects shall be selected in a grant competition announced based on the calls for proposals that shall be announced in 2012. In the 1st call of proposals there were chosen 15 projects in the amount of 1,906 Mil. €. The Block grant is provided by Ekopolis Foundation in the partnership with Carpathian Foundation and SOCIA – Social Reform Foundation.

Tree of the Year

In March 2012 there was opened already 10th year of Tree of the Year enquiry. The aim of the nationwide enquiry of the most interesting, rare, beautiful, or otherwise appealing tree is to highlight the importance of trees in our lives and arouse people's interest in their environment and its protection. There were 70 nominated trees in 2012. The expert jury chose 12 finalists from them. The title Tree of the Year 2012 has been awarded to an 138 year plane tree of Komjatice. Record 14,251 votes were sent to support 12 finalists. The partners of the enquiry in 2012 were Dajama publishing house, Artforum bookshop, ISA Slovensko (International Society of Arboriculture), A.B.I.E.S gardening and TV JOJ Foundation. Financial contribution for the treatment of three winning trees was provided by Slovak Savings Bank. The patron of 10th year of the enquiry was known Slovak singer Peter Lipa.

Green Belt

The objective of the program is to create, renew or revive the ecologically valuable areas and trails in cooperation with NGOs, local communities and schools, kindergartens or free time centers. The program supports sustainable care of ecologically valuable areas, which are used by the public and support the concept of nature preservation and sustainability. In the 6th year of the program, which was opened by Ekopolis Foundation and SLOVNAFT, S.C., there was obtained the support for 23 projects in the whole amount of 59 Ths. €. The aim of this year was „water“ in all its appearances in the nature. Thanks to this year there are actually 133 green belts in Slovakia. Ekopolis Foundation obtained totally 561 applications for support.

Trees inside the handbills

The wholesale network Metro Cash & Carry SR, s.r.o. started up a campaign, which supports the circularization of printed leaflets through e-mails. For every registered customer, who takes the actual offer in e-mail form, Metro contributes 1 euro for the planting of trees in towns and villages in Slovakia. In this project Metro cooperates with Ekopolis Foundation. In 2012 there were supported another 4 ecological projects in Ivanka pri Dunaji, Banská Bystrica, Považská Bystrica and Spišská Belá in the total amount of 8,5 Ths. €.

2. PUBLIC SPACES PLANNING AND CREATION

Rest beyond the City

Rest beyond the City is the title of the program opened by Ekopolis Foundation in cooperation with Heineken Slovakia, S.C.



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Its objective is to support communities living together with the renovation and reviving of recreational areas in the background of towns with more than 35,000 inhabitants. The financial support of 6 Ths. € was obtained for the 6 best projects. Each project obtained also the consultation during planning and realisation of the reconstruction in the value of 450 €.

3. SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND CYCLETOURISM

Living Trails

The objective of the program is to support the sensitive renewal of protected areas in Slovakia, and development of recreational and educational functions of Slovak nature. Financial support is directed towards restoration and improvement of tourist trails, educational paths and public spaces used by tourists. The partner of the program is TOYOTA MOTOR SLOVAKIA. In 2012 five projects were supported by 7,680 €.

Greenways

The objective of the program is the development of cycling as a concept of transport or tourism. The goal is to use bikes to serve citizens and residents for recreational purposes, sports, every day transport to work, school, shopping, or for travelling around the country. Through the program we support the development of biking trails, but also the increase of awareness and conditions for its development. In 2012, there was supported 1 project with 2 Ths. €. It was focused on renovation of the marking of 65 km MTB cycling trails in the region of Považský Inovec.

Cyclists Welcome!

Tourist facilities and destinations can increase the attractiveness of their services for cyclists when they obtain the certificate "Cyclists Welcome!". Since May 2008, this certification has been provided in Slovakia by the Ekopolis Foundation. The objective of the certification is to increase the number of facilities which are cyclist friendly and support cycle tourism in Slovakia. At the end of 2012 the logo of a smiling bicycle is owned by 85 tourist facilities in Slovakia.

Trixi mobil

The objective of the Trixi mobil program is to promote ecological, non-motorized transport, support the Greenways program and to contribute to the increasing attractiveness of tourism in Slovakia. This modern ecological tricycle, where a rider can comfortably take two passengers, was started in 1997 in Berlin. Since 2007, the Ekopolis Foundation owns 5 triximobils and is the only provider in Slovakia.

You could see them at Pohoda Music Festival 2012 in Trenčín, during the special day of ZSE, S.C. company „Energy in the motion“, during the cyclofests in Bratislava, Banská Bystrica and Zvolen, and seasonally (April – September) in Košice, Sliač and Piešťany.

4. RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

Living Energy Fund

The Living Energy Fund is a result of the cooperation of ZSE Energia, the Ekopolis Foundation, and customers of the company who support the development and use of renewable

energy sources and express their responsible approach to economic electricity usage. The fund obtained the sources from green electricity sold and distributed by ZSE Energia. For the support of up to 7 Ths. € could apply NGOs, civic associations, municipalities and other educational institutions, social care institutes, rest homes, free time centers and community centers. In its 4th year the fund supported 10 projects in the whole amount of 61 Ths. €.

5. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Tatra fund

The fund was established by Ekopolis Foundation together with its partners in November 2004 after the dreadful windstorm in Tatras. During five years the fund has supported 34 projects in total thanks to the contribution of tens of firms and thousands of donors. Fund support has been aimed for the renewal of the forest areas.

Forgotten Monuments

The Forgotten Monuments Program in partnership with CSOB Finance Group was in 2012 focused on mining heritage of the region of Banská Štiavnica. The amount of 77,8 Ths. € was during two years used for the renovation of 5 valuable mining locomotives in Slovak Mining Museum, for establishment of unique internet educational trail in Hodruša – Hámre including a book guide and for other reconstructions of historical mining works in the same village. Employees of CSOB organized the voluntary work for the renovation.

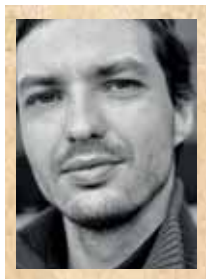
SUPPORT OF ACTIVE APPROACH TO THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

O2 Think Big

O2 Think Big is the program lead by Telefónica O2 company together with the partner Ekopolis Foundation and Children of Slovakia Foundation in June 2010. The objective of the program is to support innovative projects of young people at the age from 15 to 25 years in different areas of social and community living. In 2012 the Advisory Board chose from almost 400 applications of 54 groups of young people, who obtained financial support for realisation of their ideas from 400 to 2 Ths. €. Besides financial support young leaders had the opportunity to participate in trainings focused on living and social competences organised by Children of Slovakia Foundation. The program O2 Think Big was established in 2010 as paneuropean initiative of Telefónica O2 company and today it belongs to important measures of young people support in Spain, Ireland, Germany, Great Britain, Czech Republic and Slovakia.



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Dušan Hein, fotograf, novinár (1976): Obrazy z ciest aj každodenného života.

Z redakcie dvojtýždenníka BB Žurnál prešiel cez Slovenský rozhlas k spravodajskému mikrofónu Rádia Rebeca; v roku 2005 začal pôsobiť ako fotoreportér na voľnej nohe. Pracoval pre časopisy Život a Farmár, jeho fotografie sa objavujú v týždenníku Plus 7 dní a denníku Šport. Od roku 2011 je fotoreportérom a videoreportérom TASR, keď predtým päť rokov zaznamenával dianie pre tlačovú agentúru SITA. Na konci minulého roka sa autorsky predstavil knihou Orbis Urbis o živote Banskej Bystrice a jej okolia. Spolupracoval tiež na knihe o živote a diele maliara Dominika Skuteckého a obrazovej publikácii o Banskobystrickom kraji.

Dušan Hein, a photographer and a journalist (1976): Pictures of the journeys and everyday life.

His own journey led from the office of the fortnight magazine called BB Žurnál via Slovak Radio studios to the reporter's microphone in Rebeca Radio. In 2005 he started his life of a free-lance photoreporter. He has worked for magazines Život and Farmár; his photographs appear in the magazine Plus 7 dní and daily newspaper Šport. Since 2011 he has been a photoreporter and videoreporter for TASR after he had been documenting news for the press agency SITA. At the end of the previous year, he introduced himself as an author of the book called Orbis Urbis about the life in Banská Bystrica and its neighbourhood. He has also collaborated on the book of life and work of a painter Dominik Skutecký and picture book about Banskobystrický region.

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