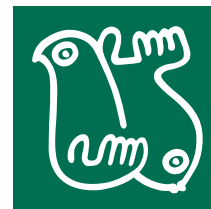




ANNUAL
REPORT

20
19

VÝROČNÁ
SPRÁVA



nadácia
ekopolis

The whole world will remember 2019 as the year before the corona. The year, in which everything still seemed to be fine. Of course, it was not! Almost every day, Slovakia was shaken by alarming news documenting how deep the crisis in the country is and how necessary the changes are in many areas.

Since the beginning of 2020, the world has changed for a long time. At the moment, we do not know how much it has changed, but what we know for sure is that humanity is undergoing a profound test. The test is not that much about how we deal with the virus, the pandemic threat will recede. The real test is how do we deal with ourselves - we the humans, we the humanity. It is a test of how we can cope with problems and challenges reach over the borders of individual states and nations, disregarding the color of the skin or lines between religions are not important.

In these tests, we still have the opportunity to not loose! In this test of corona, humanity has the opportunity to realize what it means to deal with a problem affecting the entire planet. To deal with it, the right decisions of the institutions must come, we need to listen to scientists and experts. It will not work without the responsibility of individual people as well as without mutual support and solidarity. By the way, these are the values and principles, which the Ekopolis Foundation has been supporting for 24 years in our society. The challenges ahead us are even more challenging - climate change, loss of biodiversity loss and environmental pollution. Lessons from the corona test can be very useful.

March 2020, Peter Medved'



In 2019 we supported
75 projects with the
sum of 594 918,75 €.

However, we realise that the true value and contribution of these projects to people and our environment is priceless.



OUR PROFILE

The Ekopolis Foundation has been managing grant programs specializing in civic society democracy and environmental sustainability since 1991.

Since 1991 we have supported 3 234 projects from NGOs, municipalities, civic associations and initiatives to the sum of 20 Mil. €. In addition we have also realized our own projects at both national and international level.

WE HELP AND CONNECT

active people and organizations in the issues of sustainable development, protection of natural and cultural heritage and in the building of a civil society. Together with our partners, we solve problems, we bring new themes to the fore, bold ideas and we inspire positive changes in society.

OUR VISION

is a country where people are aware of their responsibility for the condition and development of the environment in which they live and therefore act so that future generations will have a good life.

WE SUPPORT

the activities of hundreds of NGOs all over Slovakia in accordance with their actual needs; flexibly and without any unnecessary bureaucracy.

WE ARE A MEMBER

of the Environmental Partnership Association together with other foundations in Bulgaria, Czech republic, Hungary, Poland and Romania. We are also a member of the European Cyclists Federation, of the European Greenways Association which is oriented to the building, support and promotion of paths for non- motorised transport in Europe. Our foundation is also a member of Civilscape – an international network of NGOs from all over Europe in support of the European Landscape Convention. We are a Fair – Trade Partner that supports the ideas of fair business.

OUR PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

ENVIRONMENT

GREEN BELT

- The grant programme Green Belt supports active citizens and sustainable care of ecologically valuable areas which are used by the public and it supports the concept of nature preservation and sustainability.
- Thanks to the support of SLOVNAFT, S.C., 23 projects in the amount of EUR 60,000 were supported in 2019.
- TOP Project 2019: During the October feast, volunteers from civic organization Ďarmoty and two villages Golianovo and Čechynce, planted 50 Sorb trees along the newly built cycle route Nitra - Vráble as a reminder of wine tradition and legacy to the future generations.
- "Sorb trees are not only extremely important from the landscape point of view, but very rare and long living tree species, originally from the Mediterranean. They are very resistant to frost and therefore they have attached themselves in our conditions. They are growing for a long time and probably only the youngest planting participants will get the first fruits in 20-30 years," Milan Hronec, program manager

GOOD NEIGHBOUR

- The grant program Good Neighbour is focused to supporting active citizens, care and development of the good neighborhood and supporting relationships in city

district in the immediate vicinity of the Slovnaft refinery - Vrakuňa, Podunajské Biskupice a Rovinka.

- "In programme we supported 6 projects in area of social, cultural and community development, with cooperation of local government, schools and civic organizations on local level," Milan Hronec, program manager

TREE OF THE YEAR 2019

- The aim of the nationwide contest Tree of the year is to draw attention to the beauty and value of trees and awake people's interest in the environment.
- "The Tree of the Year contest found many supporters and partners during its 17 years duration and interest of people is growing year by year. We are really happy that the environmental theme is connecting people of every generation," Peter Medved', Director of Nadácia Ekopolis
- The tree of the Year 2019 became a Sorb Tree from Uzovská Panica (Rimavská Sobota district). 6 710 votes has decided about its victory. Tree represented Slovakia in European Tree of the Year contest in February 2020 and the Sorb tree has been placed on 10. place.
- The main partner is Slovak Saving Bank Foundation and patron of the contest is singer Peter Lipa.

FOR WATER COMPETITION

- The competition aims to contribute to responsible and efficient use of water through measures friendly to nature.

- Ekopolis Foundation, with financial support from NESTLÉ Slovakia, Ltd., launched the 4th year of the contest For Water. In total 6 proposals were submitted and 3 young experts and one school competition team were rewarded.
- "Water, as a precious source, and its preserving is priority for Nestlé in CSR area. In For Water competition is very important to us connection of real solutions and proposals from the students and young professionals. The competition is an opportunity to be active in this issue for young generation focused on preserving of natural sources," Martina Šilhánová, CSR manager in NESTLÉ Slovakia, Ltd.

BIODIVERSITY TO SCHOOLS

- The project is implemented in cooperation with Veolia, Stredoslovenská vodárenská prevádzková spoločnosť, a.s. and Podtatranská vodárenská prevádzková spoločnosť, a.s., thanks to which we selected 14 motivated schools from all over Slovakia.
- The aim of the two-year project is to lead schools to increase their natural diversity in their school areas and thus to revive the everyday learning process.
- "Proposals from schools to adaptation to climate changes are very varied - because of locality, extent and character of the school area. These include the use of rainwater - catching, draining and seeping, planning to build lakes, a rain garden, drainage channels... Several schools perceive the strong need to complement trees and seek other solutions to create shaded areas that are

used by children in afternoon activities or directly during classes," Lucia Rossová, program manager

PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY IN VEOLIA SLOVAKIA AREAS

- To the planted woods, bird and bat huts and insect houses, which we had in the area of the WWTP Rakytovce in the past, recently added a pond, which is supplying with rainwater from the roof of a nearby building. The proposal for water retention and the creation of a new biotope was created by students from the M. Bel University in Banská Bystrica during the third year of the WATER competition in spring 2018. In 2019 we installed 50 nests for protected bird House Martin in the administrative building. Birds upon arrival occupied all nests and build their own, even in places where they did not nest before. It is an unmistakable sign that the colony thrives.
- In May we also organized the Biodiversity Day for 120 students of primary schools from Banská Bystrica.

LIVING TRAILS

- The objectives of the programme are to support the sensitive renewal of marked hiking trails in Slovakia and enhancement of the recreational and educational functions of the Slovak countryside. Financial support has been directed towards restoration and improvement of hiking trails, educational paths and public spaces used by tourists.

- In 2019, thanks to cooperation with the Horalky brand from Sedita, we supported 9 attractive community sites and the most used public spaces by placing educational interactive info panels.

DARE 2 CONNECT

- Promoting the ecological linking of the Danube region along the Green Belt through Natura 2000 sites.
- On 19.-21. August was held a study trip of nine journalists from 5 countries along an extraordinary, more than 12,500 km long corridor, the former Iron Curtain - the European Green Belt, which commemorates the divided borders of Eastern and Western Europe.

LIFE BOOGI BOP

Design of corporate premises supporting biodiversity. Biodiversity Oriented Premises (BOPs) support local plant and animal species, become part of the green surrounding infrastructure and are more attractive to employees and business visitors.

OTHERS PROGRAMMES:

- ECOALARM
- ECOLOGY OF MOUNTAIN COTTAGES
- ENVIROeducation of young people
- KELT HELPS NATURE
- TREES INSTEAD OF LEAFLETS

CIVIL SOCIETY

ACTIVE CITIZENS FUND - SLOVAKIA

- Active Citizens Fund – Slovakia (ACF) is a grant programme aiming at strengthening civil society, supporting active citizenship and empowering vulnerable groups in Slovakia.
- The ACF – Slovakia supports Slovak civic organizations in engaging citizens in decision-making and public policy making, in efforts to create better conditions for good governance, protect human rights and provide civic education and improve the position of vulnerable groups in society. Particular attention is paid to young people and their participation in public affairs.
- The ACF – Slovakia is part of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway's financial assistance to 15 Member States of the European Union. The programme is managed by the Ekopolis Foundation in partnership with the Open Society Foundation and the Carpathian Foundation.
- In the period 2018 – 2023, the ACF – Slovakia will allocate 7.7 million EUR in 17 open grant calls for projects of civic society organizations (CSO) and will provide other support activities, training in project management, organizational development and self-financing.
- In 2019 we supported first 49 projects of 1. Call.
- All informations on www.acfslovakia.sk

PROGRAMME OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROMA COMMUNITY

The Ekopolis Foundation in partnership with the Carpathian Foundation implemented a 4th year of Programme of development of the Roma community. Financial support is received by 5 projects in the Banská Bystrica region, in total amount of 40,000 €.

- This year was focused on the healthy development of children from an early age, with an emphasis on children growing up in a particularly unfavorable environment, with an emphasis on their families and wider communities.
- On 21 - 22 October, a nationwide conference entitled "Trends in Early Childcare in Excluded Communities in Slovakia" took place at the St. Elizabeth University in Banská Bystrica. The conference was organized by the Ekopolis Foundation from Banská Bystrica and the Carpathian Foundation from Košice.

EUROPE FOR CITIZENS - RECLAIM OUR CIVIC SPACE!

- The Europe for Citizens and Reclaim Our Civic Space Initiative deals with the trend of limiting space for NGO activities in Central European countries. Through this initiative, together with partners from six countries (Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria), we want to help link the organizations that are interested in this phenomenon to provide them with more information from home and

abroad, and more skills to work together how to deal with this problem.

- On 27.2. - 1.3. was held an event - National Training Reclaim Our Civic Space in Banská Bystrica with more than 30 attendants from 4 countries. In November, project Reclamim Our Civic Space! was a part of international discuss forum - Human forum in Banská Bystrica.

SMART CITIES

PROJECT MOVECIT

The Ekopolis Foundation realised in cooperation with the city of Banská Bystrica and other European partners project MOVECIT, which was supported under the Interreg Central Europe. Aim of the project was to create mobility plans for institutions.

- " In cooperation with the City of Banská Bystrica, we managed to bring to life the pilot project Cycle Stations at the Railway Station. Banská Bystrica residents as well as visitors can enjoy new cycloboxes and shelter with bike stands. People can also find a chargers for e-bikes, public pumps, storage lockers, or an overview map of the walking distance of important places in our city. In the indoor cycling boxes there is room for twelve bicycles, space for storing a helmet etc., "Peter Medved, Director of the Ekopolis Foundation.
- In 2019, we successfully completed the MOVECIT project.

PROJECT SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

The project is part of the national project of the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society entitled Supporting Partnership and Dialogue in the Field of Participatory Creation of Public Policy which is financed by the operational programme Effective Public Administration.

The specific output of the project is an audit in line with the ADVANCE methodology, including an action plan and recommendations for sustainable urban mobility planning for Banská Bystrica.

REVITALIZATION OF PUBLIC SPACES IN B. BRAUN AREA

Revitalization of the site at the dialysis centres in Slovakia. The aim of the project is to make the premises around the new facility more appealing for senior citizens and clients with minor mental disabilities.

- Public planning of a park between Hron and the railway station
- The future of the space between the railway station Banská Bystrica - city and the river Hron was discussed by the inhabitants with representatives of the city of Banská Bystrica and the Ekopolis Foundation at two planning meetings - in October and November. The

designers and representatives of the city thus became acquainted not only with the needs of the lay and professional public, but also with the views of people on how this area should look like after realization.

BY BICYCLE!

- National platform for non-motorized transport support
- Cycloplatform
- In the project, we focus on creating a platform for communication and collaboration, coordinating activities, exchanging experience and know-how within NGOs and between them and the public administration. The platform aims to create a mechanism for their cooperation.

BY BICYCLE!

- The Ekopolis Foundation co-organized the European Mobility Week.
- We organized the By Bicycle Photo Competition as a part of a national campaign.

Výročná správa Nadácie Ekopolis

Referenčné obdobie: 1.január 2019 - 31.december 2019

Vydala Nadácia Ekopolis

Komenského 21

974 01 Banská Bystrica

Jazyková úprava: Martina Ragalová, Steven Murray (anglická)

Grafická úprava: Pavel Sokol, STUART, s. r. o.

Tel.: +421 48 414 52 59, 470 10 91

E-mail: ekopolis@ekopolis.sk

www.ekopolis.sk





nadácia
ekopolis

VÝROČNÁ SPRÁVA

20
19

ANNUAL REPORT

Nadácia Ekopolis
Komenského 21
974 01 Banská Bystrica

Tel.: +421 48 414 52 59
E-mail: ekopolis@ekopolis.sk
www.ekopolis.sk