



nadácia
ekopolis

2025

A N N U A L R E P O R T

Director's Foreword

Dear partners, friends,

The year 2025 demonstrated how important it is, in times of uncertainty, to stand on the side of democracy and to care for a healthy landscape. At a time of growing international instability and a domestic political environment in which the public interest too often becomes a foreign concept, our work carries particular significance.

The past year also brought important confirmation that perseverance matters. Despite pressure on civil society, we also witnessed victories in which the cohesion of civil society and expert argumentation managed to halt destructive interventions in the landscape and in citizens' rights. These successes prove that when forces are united, they can correct even the arrogance of power.

Our anchoring in Europe remains essential. Slovakia must not become an isolated island. Our task is to build bridges, share common European values, and strengthen the ties that make us more resilient. When the state withdraws from its role, communities and active individuals take on the burden. Thanks to partners at all levels, the Ekopolis Foundation has been improving our country for 33 years in four areas: environmental protection, strengthening civil society, improving settlements, and supporting non-motorised transport.

I would like to thank all partners and donors. Your support in 2025 was not only a contribution, but also a declaration that we care about Slovakia.

Peter Medved'
Director, Ekopolis Foundation

Overview

In 2025, we continued to support people who improve their surroundings – in the landscape, in cities, in communities, and in civil society. Through grant programmes, expert partnerships, public campaigns, and international projects, we connected nature protection, community life, professional knowledge, and practical solutions.

Sadíme budúcnosť – 33 projektov / 80 500 €

Zelené oázy – 28 projektov / 62 000 €

Dobrý sused – 20 projektov / 40 000 €

Od vzniku nadácie sme podporili viac ako 3 968 projektov v celkovej hodnote vyše 27,1 milióna eur.

- **182 500 €** distributed through grant programmes
- **81** supported projects
- **4 000** volunteers involved
- **1 514** trees planted

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OUR PROGRAMS



Sadíme budúcnosť

The Sadíme budúcnosť programme supports the return of trees and functional greenery to cities, municipalities, and open landscapes. In 2025, alongside grant support, we strengthened the programme's professional dimension through seminars, international cooperation, and the sharing of good practice.

A key milestone of the year was the first comprehensive planting monitoring, carried out after four years of the initiative. In cooperation with the Nadácia Tipsport, we visited 204 locations and assessed more than 8,608 trees. The results showed that 76% of trees were in excellent or satisfactory condition. The monitoring also helped us better identify where follow-up care, expert assistance, and community education need to be strengthened.

The programme also included expert events such as participation in the Gardeniáda festival in Banská Bystrica, the seminar Stretnutia v sadoch in Brezno, and the publication Planting Our Future, created in cooperation with partners from the Czech Republic and Poland.



€80,500 distributed

33 projects supported

1,218 trees planted

1,080 volunteers involved

Tree of the year

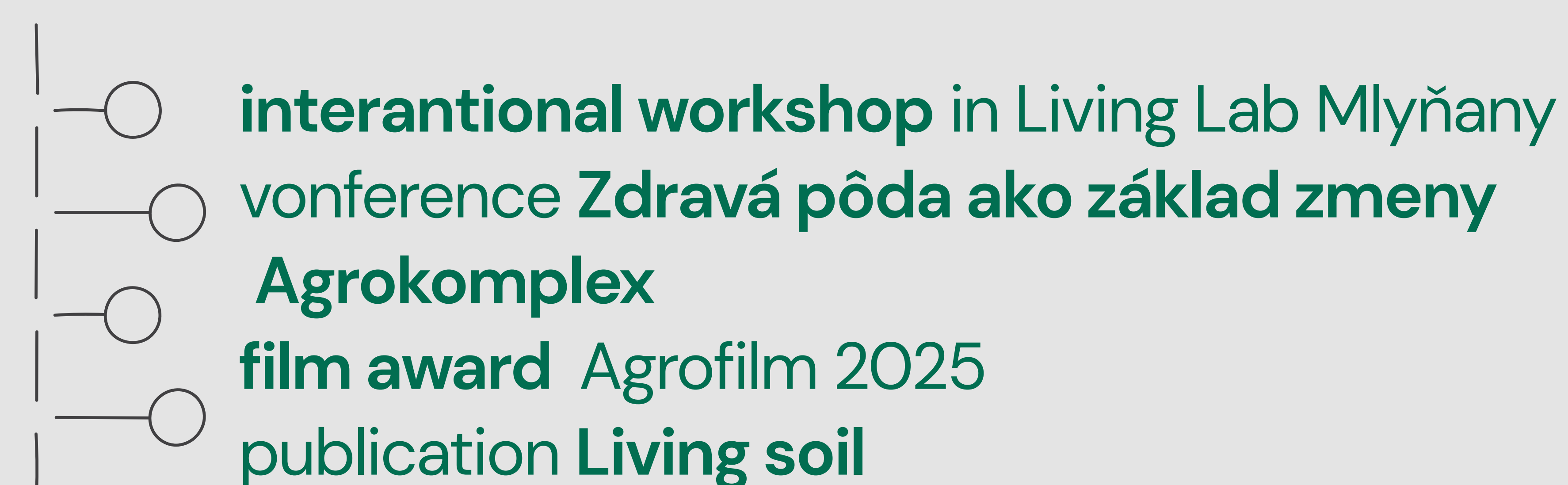
The Tree of the Year poll once again showed in 2025 that powerful stories of trees and places can engage thousands of people. The winner was the 150-year-old wild apple tree from Žiar, which will represent Slovakia in the European Tree of the Year.

The programme combines public voting, environmental awareness, and practical tree care. The edition again included a school competition, professional treatment of selected trees, and a public planting event in Budmerice.



Regenerative agriculture

Our Regenerative agriculture programme focuses on supporting regenerative agriculture and soil health. In 2025, we continued developing the Living Lab at Arboretum Mlyňany, where principles of regenerative farming and agroforestry are tested under real conditions. The programme connects farmers, scientists, and experts, gradually building a space for new knowledge and practical solutions. An important part of the year was also cooperation with academia and the preparation of an agroforestry study programme.



Green Belt

For 20 years, Zelené oázy has supported communities that care for their surroundings and transform neglected places into vibrant public spaces. In 2025, we celebrated the programme's anniversary while supporting new projects that connect nature protection, community cooperation, and practical improvements in local areas.

The TOP project of 2025 was the revitalisation of the Šalgovské ponds in the municipality of Uzovský Šalgov. The programme is implemented with the support of Slovnaft.



Good Neighbour

The Good Neighbour programme supports projects that improve life in neighbourhoods and strengthen local relationships. In 2025, it brought new community and school gardens, greenery planting, public space improvements, and activities for children, young people, and seniors. A common denominator of supported projects was the effort to create places where people can meet, cooperate, and feel at home.



Cycling Projects

In 2025, we continued two international cycling projects linking cycle tourism, local development, and sustainable mobility.

In the ICTr-CE project, we developed an innovative Good Impact Program connecting cycling tourism with direct benefits for local communities along the EuroVelo 13 route. In the IBC project, we focused on storytelling of local heritage in the Komárno – Štúrovo section and created a system of QR stops with stories connected to the Danube River and life along it.

EEA Civil Society Fund Slovakia

In 2025, we officially launched the implementation of the EEA Civil Society Fund Slovakia programme, which supports civil society organisations in the areas of democracy, human rights, and active citizenship.

The programme is funded by the EEA and Norway Grants. In Slovakia, it is managed by a consortium of foundations: Nadácia Ekopolis, Karpatská nadácia, and Nadácia otvorenej spoločnosti Bratislava. Its aim is to strengthen the stability and capacities of the civil sector in Slovakia and to create space for long-term cooperation and international partnerships.

—○ **9,7 mil. €** will be distributed between 2025 – 2029

—○ **7** grant calls to support civil society

People and Partnerships

Behind the results of the Ekopolis Foundation are not only the supported projects, but also the people who create them – the internal team, Board of Trustees, Supervisory Board, advisory bodies, evaluation committees, expert partners, and long-term supporters.

The Ekopolis Foundation is a member of the international consortium Environmental Partnership Association, bringing together foundations in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Romania.

Thank You

2025

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