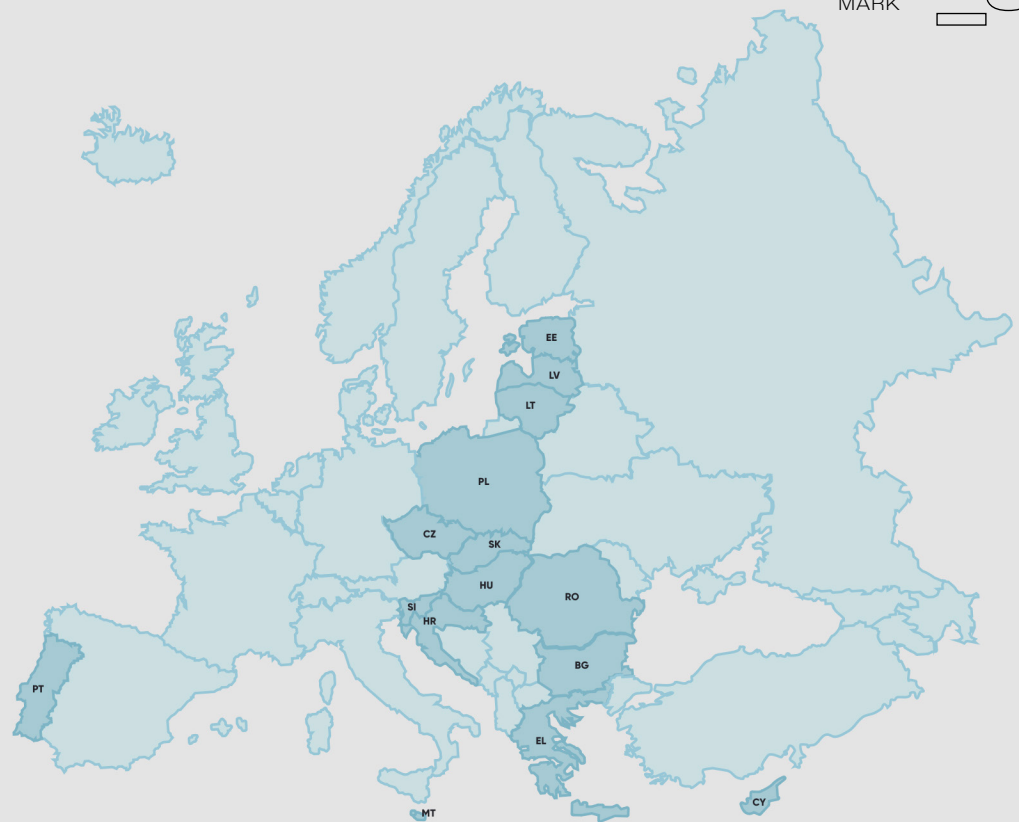


Iceland   
Liechtenstein **Active**  
Norway **citizens fund**

# LEFT THEIR MARK



First hackathon in Banská Bystrica, BBTHON, Source: CoWorking Banská Bystrica



**EEA and Norway Grants** have provided €2.8 billion to beneficiary countries in the 2014-2021 programming period to contribute to a socially and economically equal Europe and to strengthen relations between Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and the 15 countries that have received financial assistance. The Slovak Republic could use €113.1 million from these grants for projects in a wide range of areas, covering innovation, research, education and competitiveness, social inclusion, environment and climate change, culture, good governance, protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, justice and governance.

**EEA and Active Citizens Fund Slovakia** has been a small but significant part of this broader assistance, not only in Slovakia but in all beneficiary countries where these funds have been an important source of support for civil society organisations. Consistent long-term support for civil society activity and development - not

least in the 2014-2021 programming period - demonstrates the importance that functioning democracies attach to engaging active citizens who contribute to their better functioning. These countries also value and develop their CSOs - those that help complement services that the state is not sufficient to provide and those that, as independent actors, uphold the rule of law and democratic values. mental rights and freedoms, justice and governance.

And precisely democratic values—freedom, equality, justice, participation in decision-making, the rule of law, protection of minorities and solidarity with the weak, respect for human rights, accountability and transparency—have been mercilessly tested in recent years by a round of crises and attacks by autocratic pols.

NGOs, as champions of these values and their defence in a decent and open dialogue, are under increasing pressure from politicians, most often from those dismantling democracy step by step. At a time when the algorithms of social networks are rolling back civility and mutual respect when the disparaging are imposing insurmountable boundaries on society, we are creating worlds whose coexistence is becoming increasingly difficult.

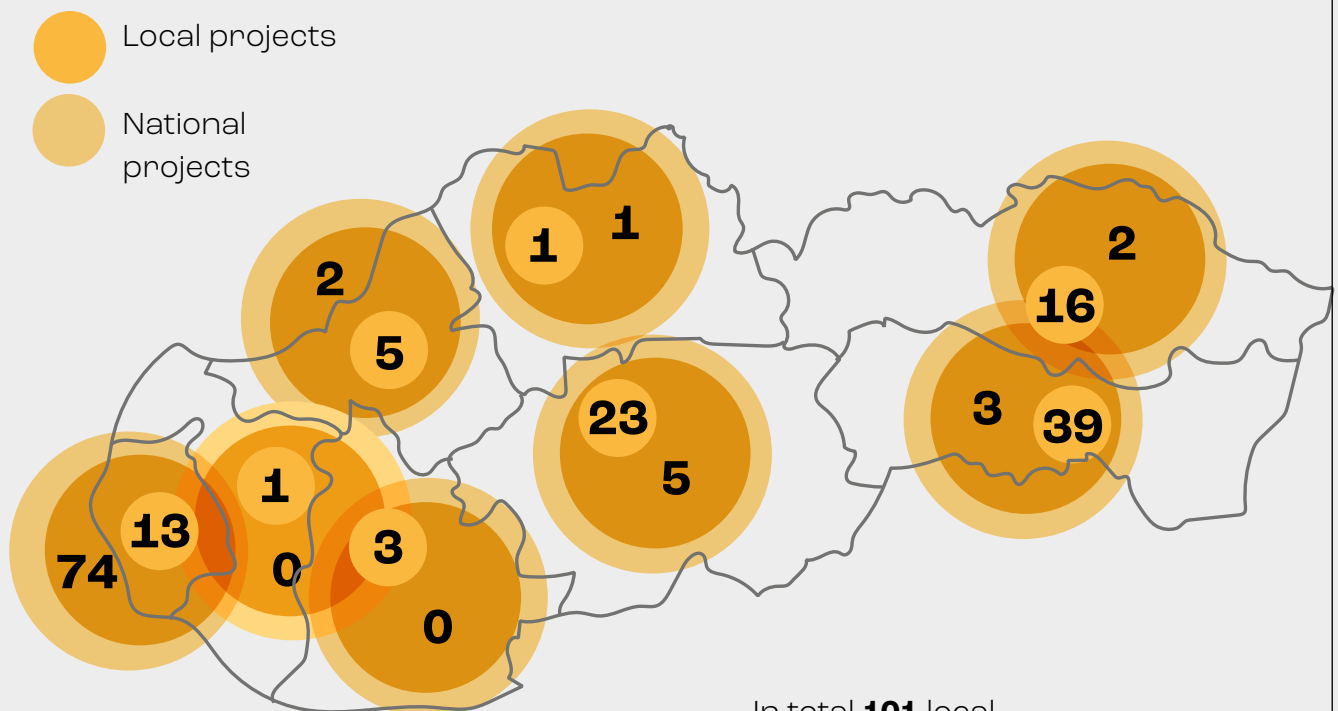
The common denominator of the projects and accompanying activities in the ACF SK programme was the desire to overcome these boundaries, encourage the good in people and enable NGOs to make the world a little better. The publication we are presenting is a report on how we have succeeded in doing this.

The publication is also a thank you from the consortium of trustees - the Ekopolis Foundation, the Carpathian Foundation and the Open Society Foundation to all the partners who have been involved in the implementation of the ACF SK programme - the project implementers, the team from the Financial Mechanisms Office in Brussels, the external experts and specialists with whom we have worked on the implementation of ACF, the partner foundations, the administrators of the ACF programmes in other countries.



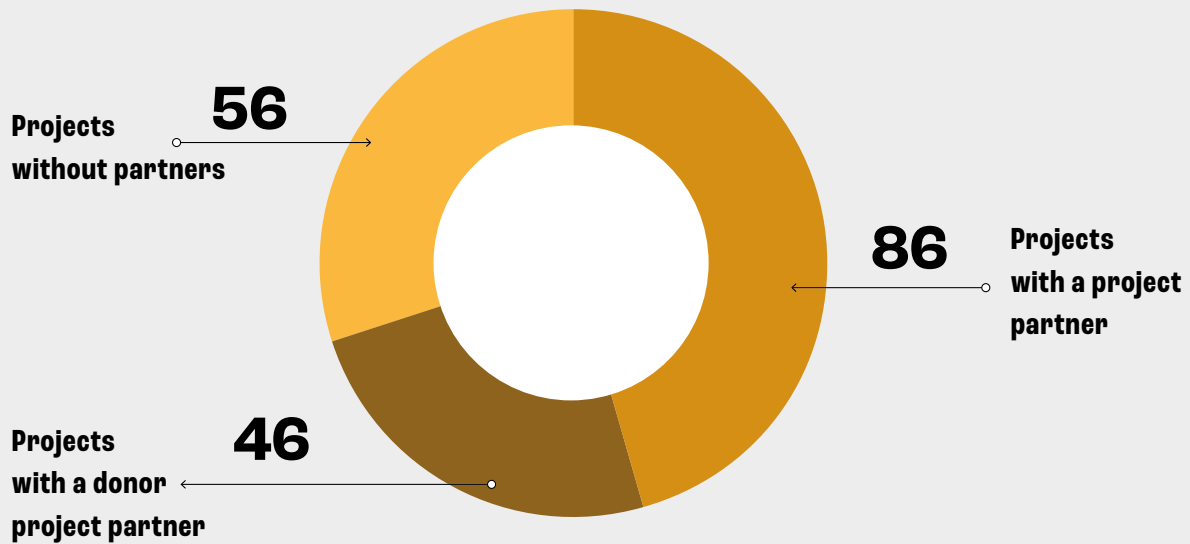
# ACF-Slovakia

## Regional impact of supported projects

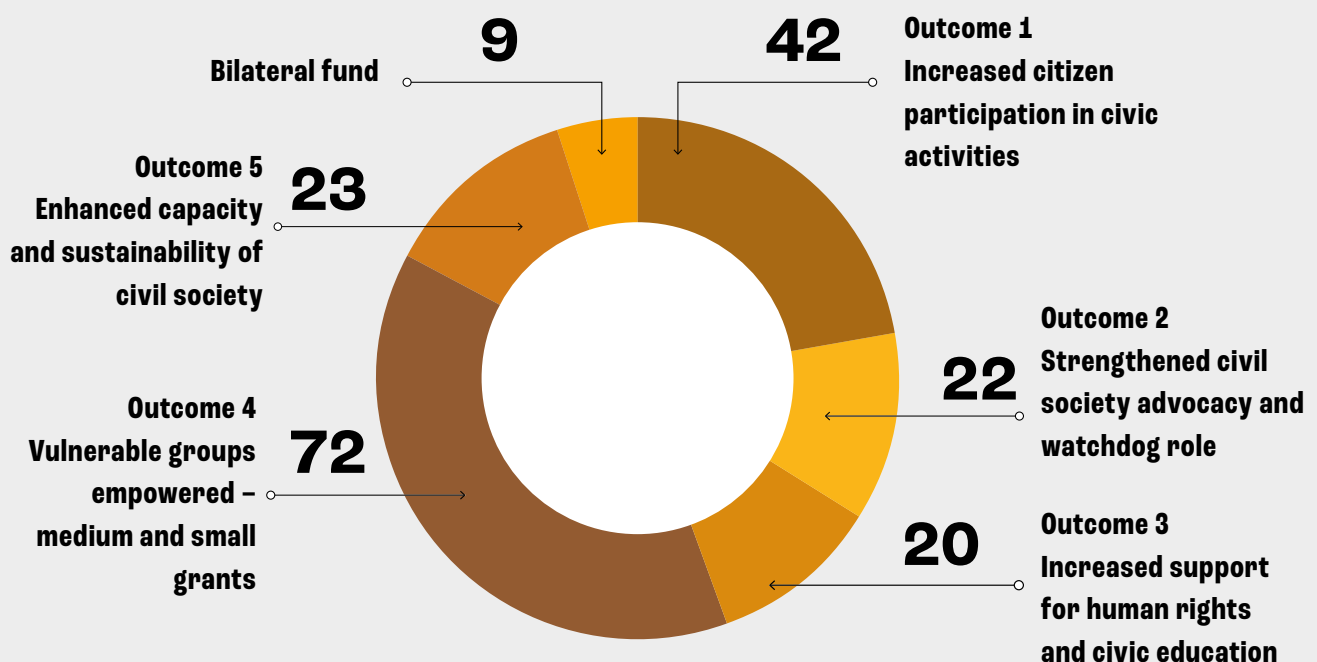


In total **101** local  
and **87** national projects.

## Number of projects with a donor project partner



## Total number of projects contracted



# The ACF supports Slovak civic organisations

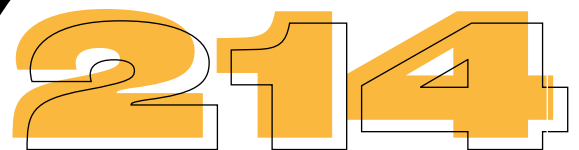
in engaging citizens in decision-making and public policy-making to create better conditions for good governance, protect human rights, provide civic education and improve the position of vulnerable groups in society. Particular attention is paid to young people and their participation in public affairs.

The programme's cross-cutting priorities agreed to support bilateral cooperation between Slovak organisations and partners from donor countries, develop capacity, and improve civil organisations' positions in society.

The Active Citizens Fund is part of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway's financial assistance to 15 European Union Member States. The, in partnership with the Open Society Foundation and the Carpathian Foundation, manages the ACF in Slovakia.

Between 2018 and 2023, the ACF allocated €8,5 million in 20 grant calls for projects of Slovak civic organisations. ACF will also provide other support activities, such as training in project management, organisational development, and self-financing.

The Active Citizens Fund—Slovakia (ACF—Slovakia) programme started in 2018 when the planning of the following activities for the following years started—activities at the level of fund operators and also at the programme level (planning of calls and the content of individual topics).



214

**organisations  
supported**

On 13 May 2017, a consortium of three organisations—Ekopolis Foundation, based in Banská Bystrica; Open Society Foundation, based in Bratislava; and Carpathian Foundation, based in Košice—was selected to manage the programme. The selection of these organisations covered Slovakia's entire territory, including less developed regions. It made the programme accessible to smaller organisations with less experience with similar grant calls. Slovakia and Bulgaria were the first countries where the Active Citizens Fund programme started to be implemented.

The Programme Implementation Agreement was concluded on 14 July 2018. The conclusion of the Agreement was followed by the planning of the call announcements, which were launched at the programme launch event on 22 October 2018 in Košice. Once the dates of the calls were agreed upon, it was also decided to hold consultations at the beginning of each call and ongoing consultations with those interested in applying to the programme. The programme's course has been influenced from the outset by various events in Slovakia, which have more or less shaped the direction and nature of individual projects.

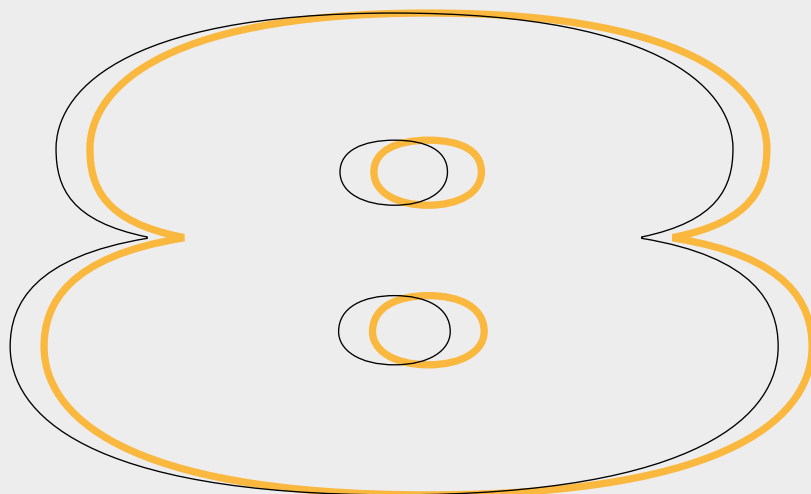
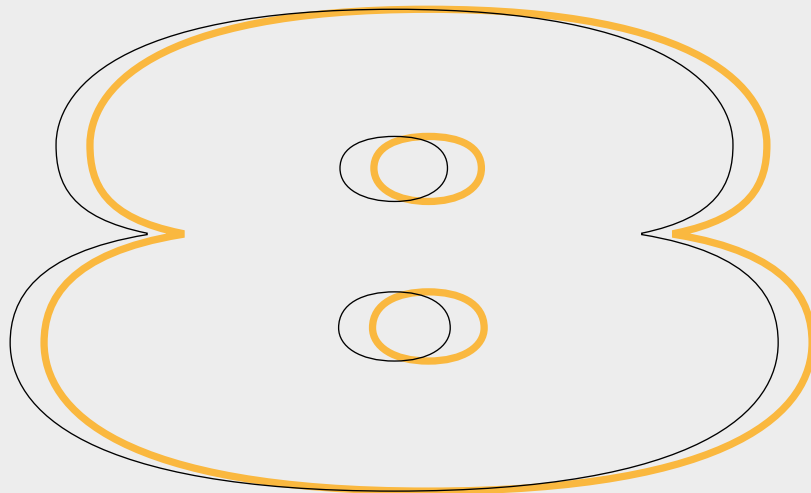
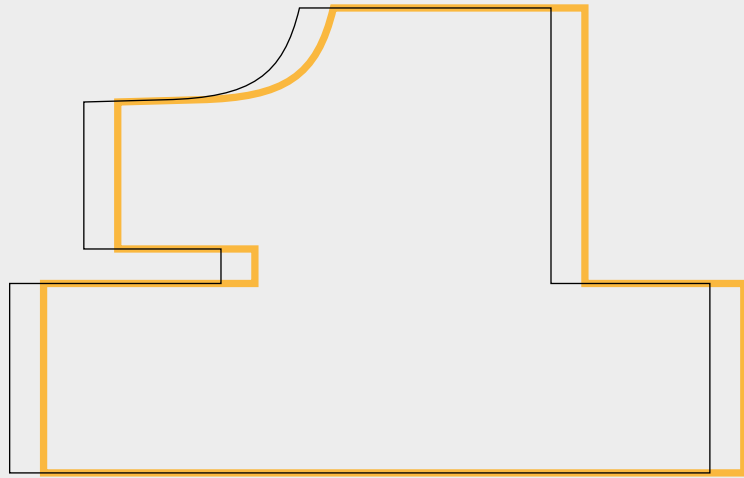
The event that shook, and is still shaking, the whole of Slovakia is the COVID-19 pandemic. It erupted in early 2020 and affected the proper implementation of projects to varying degrees. The war in Ukraine had the second most significant impact on implementing some projects. However, this event affected only a small number of projects (either ending implementation or implemented in the last call). In both cases, the grantees were able to react promptly, and we adapted the programme to meet the current needs and requirements.

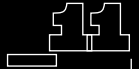




**188** projects supported

**214** civil society organisations supported





# The programme supported a total of **188** projects under three calls and five Outcomes:

- 42 projects in the outcome Increased citizen participation in civic activities,
- 22 projects in the outcome Strengthened civil society advocacy and watchdog role,
- 20 projects in the outcome Increased support for human rights and civic education,
- 72 projects in the outcome Vulnerable groups empowered,
- 23 projects in the outcome Enhanced capacity and sustainability of civil society,
- 9 projects in a separate, Bilateral fund,

OUTCOME 1

**Increased  
citizen  
participation in  
civic activities**



**supported  
projects**

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**42** supported projects

**20** projects supported within medium grants

**21** projects supported within microgrants

**9** physical spaces renovated or created

**40** networks/platforms enabling public participation in decision-making

**3 757** people educated on environment/climate change

**55** youth organisations supported

The programme in this area will enable organisations to improve their skills, strengthen their competencies, implement higher-level governance, and implement modern sustainability strategies. The ACF will also support projects to enhance the environment for the development of civil society.

#### **Thematic focus:**

- citizen participation in public policy decision-making,
- creating and improving the infrastructure to enable the public to participate in the debate,
- strengthening public participation in decision-making - both in tangible terms (physical spaces for organisations' activities) and intangible (e.g. web tools, platforms and working groups),
- support for 50 initiatives by civil society organisations (CSOs) enabling citizens to participate in decision-making on public affairs,
- involving youth in civil society activities - by supporting at least 16 CSOs focusing on youth work

<b>Financial support:</b>	<b>€ 1 740 000</b>
<b>Types of grants:</b>	
Medium grants:	€30 000 – 80 000, 12 – 18 months, 3 calls
Microgrants:	Up to €8 000, up to 12 months, continuously open



**SUPPORTED PROJECTS – MEDIUM GRANTS**

Project	Organisation	Implementation period	Project grant
<b>1. call</b>			
Regional Co-Working Centre For Civic Participation	OTVOR DVOR	06/2019 – 11/2020	€ 79 922
You Are Slovakia.Digital Too	Slovensko.Digital	05/2019 – 06/2021	€ 64 996
Active citizens as a basis for a well-functioning state	VIA IURIS	06/2019 – 06/2021	€ 64 998
Get oriented to self-government	Združenie občanov miest a obcí Slovenska	05/2019 – 12/2020	€ 49 423
Re-Start	Naša Sobota	05/2019 – 03/2021	€ 39 327
Object-lens 21: Young reporters for civil society	Centrum environmentálnych aktivít	06/2019 – 07/2021	€ 64 987
Social Impact Academy	CoWorking Banská Bystrica	07/2019 – 04/2021	€ 56 347
<b>2. call</b>			
Public involvement in the preparation of the Concept for helping people with autism	Nadácia Rafael	10/2020 – 07/2023	€ 80 000
Green School - every day for future	CEEV Živica	06/2020 – 04/2022	€ 64 413
FABRIK SPACE - open zone for communities and civic participation	TABAČKA KULTURFABRIK	07/2020 – 04/2022	€ 64 836
Climate changes in Gemer - how to continue?	Centrum udržateľnej energetiky Gemer, n.o.	10/2020 – 05/2022	€ 77 328
Bystriny – a network of active citizens	Bystriny	06/2020 – 04/2022	€ 65 000
Buckle up - we are starting...	Mládež ulice	06/2020 – 04/2022	€ 62 480
<b>3. call</b>			
With Active Citizenship for a Better Self-government	Transparency International Slovensko	11/2021 – 06/2023	€ 72 000
InQubator of public participation	Dúha na východe, o.z.	11/2021 – 06/2023	€ 76 059
I listen to you	Presahy	01/2022 – 06/2023	€ 71 565
Slovakia in data: support for civil society and democratic institutions through data analysis	DEKK Inštitút	11/2021 – 07/2023	€ 62 991
LINK Academy	CoWorking Banská Bystrica	11/2021 – 06/2023	€ 58 968
Mechanism for the prevention of radicalisation and extremism - police and young people together	Centrum pre výskum etnicity a kultúry	10/2021 – 06/2023	€ 64 974
Together We Are Slovakia.Digital	Slovensko.Digital	01/2022 – 06/2023	€ 57 699

<b>Organisation:</b>	OTVOR DVOR
<b>Project:</b>	Regional Co-Working Centre For Civic Participation
<b>Project Grant:</b>	€ 79 922
<b>Implementation period:</b>	06/2019 – 11/2020

According to demographic data from 15.1.2024, one of the least developed regions is Gemer, where, for example, in the city of Rožňava, the unemployment rate of the total population of 17 164 is 13.80%. This demographic figure is, in practice, also related to lower education levels and lack of opportunities. Civic engagement, participation, and interest in activism and efforts to improve public space have also stagnated in the region for a long time. Rožňava has also long lacked a space that would bring together active people or representatives of the third sector in the city and the region and that would educate these people or generate new meaningful projects and initiatives. Thanks to the project, the co-working space in a forgotten monastery was renovated and equipped with furniture, IT equipment and other necessary accessories. Everything was done in cooperation with the Norwegian partner Bjerkaker Learning Lab, who acted as the project's mentor. The task was to supervise the correct setup of all processes related to management, communication with the public, etc.

In addition to creating and starting the co-working space, the project managed to organise more than 20 cultural and educational events. Among these events were, for example, a meeting with the President of the Slovak Republic, Zuzana Čaputová, a discussion with Denník N on the topic „What will the second wave of the corona bring us?“, a discussion with inspiring people from Slovakia, info seminars on the topic „Benefits of co-working for high school students“, as well as various concerts of local bands and much more.



# OTVOR DVOR



Source: OTVOR DVOR

”

*Overall, we evaluate this project as very successful, and we believe that this co-working with the help of the Norwegian partner/mentor has been set up so well that in the long term, it will bring space for public activation in our city and the wider region*

*Richard Petro, OTVOR DVOR*

“



# ŽIVICA



*Teachers in the field course in Poloniny mountains, Source: CEEV Živica*

”

*I consider it a success that even after the end of the project, we continue with follow-up activities - teachers from inspiring schools share their experiences with other colleagues, and we in the team continue to educate teachers of Green Schools..*

*Zuzana Gallayová, CEEV Živica*

“

<b>Organisation:</b>	Centrum environmentálnej a etickej výchovy Živica
<b>Project:</b>	Green School - every day for future
<b>Project Grant:</b>	€64 413
<b>Implementation period:</b>	06/2020 – 04/2022

The project responded to the current challenge of climate change, the consequences of which are felt in everyday life. In particular, it pointed out that children and young people in Slovakia often need help understanding and explaining complex global issues (including climate change). Teachers need to have sufficient skills and experience in teaching about climate change in various subjects. However, an essential aspect of adaptation measures is the population's participation, especially of children and teachers.

The project promoters created ten inspirational centres in different regions of Slovakia by training and supervising 20 teachers. In discussions and webinars, practitioners brought them the latest information from the European context (Michal Wiezik, Member of the European Parliament), climate change research (Jana Škvareninová, Faculty of Ecology and Environmental Science, Technical University of Zvolen), ecosystem services and green infrastructure (Branislav Olah, Faculty of Ecology and Environmental Science, Technical University of Zvolen), practical experience of civic engagement and advocacy of citizens' rights to the environment (Eva Kovačechová, VIA IURIS) and practical adaptation measures of municipalities and cities (Peter Svitek, Centre for Environmental and Ethical Education Živica), innovative approaches to the protection of natural forests as critical ecosystems for climate change mitigation (Zuzana Bundová, AEVIS). Teachers innovated teaching, implemented information activities for parents and residents, and shared examples of good practice with other teachers of the Green School programme.

The main results of the project were trained teachers, videos from schools with examples of good practices, a series of video lectures from the conference for municipalities and the public, and a game for schools.

The project managed to educate 1 923 people in the field of the environment through lectures, trainings and seminars.

**Organisation:** CoWorking Banská Bystrica

**Project:** LINK Academy

**Project Grant:** €58 968

**Implementation period:** 11/2021 – 06/2023

Supporting and developing young people is still relevant and even more urgent after the COVID era. In our view, giving young people the opportunity to improve skills, gain experience and get to know proactive peers is very beneficial. Such long-term programmes will help them find their talents and what they are good at and show them the opportunities life offers.

CoWorking Banská Bystrica has decided to create a tailor-made programme for young people from Banská Bystrica and the surrounding area. The programme will support the development of social and professional competences and their more successful placement in the labour market.

The project LINK Academy implemented seven rounds of training and development programmes, which 217 young people attended. The project involved three secondary schools in Banská Bystrica: the J.Murgaša Secondary Industrial School, the Business Academy and the Secondary Vocational School of Hotel Services and Trade. Participants attended workshops on Presentation Skills, Time Management, Project Management, Copywriting, and Speech Workshops. Afterwards, they volunteered for a school project they conceived and planned themselves. Participants in the remaining four tours volunteered in selected non-profit organisations, where they applied the acquired skills in practice.

The 1st Banská Bystrica hackathon was implemented within the project. The project implementers approached three institutions that provided their know-how in different areas and assigned assignments to the participants: the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic, the Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region and the city of Banská Bystrica. The participants were young people involved in the educational programme

**COWORKING  
BANSKÁ BYSTRICA**



First hackathon in Banská Bystrica, BBTHON,  
Source: CoWorking Banská Bystrica



LINK Academy,  
Source: CoWorking Banská Bystrica

”

Looking back, we are still convinced that it was a great decision to implement this project, and we are glad that it received support from ACF - Slovakia.  
Eva Ščepková, CoWorking Banská Bystrica

“

## SUPPORTED PROJECTS – MICROGRANTS

Project	Organisation	Implementation period	Project grant
International Summer School to Promote Civil and Human Rights Education	REACH	06/2019 – 07/2019	€7 998.50
Public discussions - citizen participation in the control of public affairs	OZ Proti korupcii	09/2019 – 02/2021	€7 884
We can do it together	Silnejší slabším	09/2019 – 11/2020	€7 999.40
Youth in Dubravka needs a low threshold	ICHTYS	08/2019 – 11/2020	€7 662.60
Oflajn 2020	Nezisková organizácia Voices	01/2020 – 01/2021	€7 200
Together or against each other? What affects our coexistence?	Inštitút pre verejné otázky	09/2019 – 02/2021	€3 514
Slovakia at the Crossroads	Point	12/2019 – 02/2021	€7 945
WORLD ACCORDING TO GABRIEL - 2. year of festival of transgender culture	Občianske združenie „Hlava 98“	03/2020 – 01/2021	€5 562
One world in the regions – teaching and learning	Človek v ohrození	09/2020 – 12/2021	€7 919
The World of the Future – podcast series	Centrum environmentálnej a etickej výchovy Živica	08/2020 – 03/2021	€7 128
Capable Children for Their Community	ETP Slovensko	10/2020 – 10/2021	€8 000
Internal communication platform of Liga za duševné zdravie	Liga za duševné zdravie	11/2020 – 01/2022	€7 920
Orchestra from the Land of Silence – school projections	Film Expanded	01/2021 – 12/2021	€7 155
Inclusion – step by step	A Centrum	12/2020 – 10/2021	€7 898
With Demagogue Against Demagoguery Among Young People	Inštitút pre dobre spravovanú spoločnosť	01/2021 – 03/2022	€6 789
Trenčín on its way	Nezisková organizácia Voices	01/2021 – 01/2022	€7 200
Corruption – the act is happening	Prešovské rozvojová agentúra	12/2020 – 04/2022	€7 200
Privacy and its protection	Super pocit	11/2020 – 11/2021	€8 000
MESTOMETER	OZ SPOLKA	02/2021 – 11/2021	€7 574
We are supporting single parents online	JEDEN RODIČ	02/2021 – 05/2022	€7 960
From the chain to the lair - we treat abused dog souls.	OZ BROD	02/2021 – 12/2021	€3 491.46



**Organisation:** Nezisková organizácia Voices

**Project:** Trenčín na ceste

**Project Grant:** € 7 200

**Implementation period:** 01/2021 – 01/2022

Due to the epidemiological situation in 2021, many activities have been moved online or cancelled. However, in the case of the Trenčín Voices organisation, neither of these options was likely. Therefore, the implementers of the Trenčín on the Road project found another alternative that, in addition to bringing a regular dose of positive news from the city, helped keep the Café on the Road running, meaning people with intellectual disabilities working in the café did not lose their jobs.

The project organisers involved them in an activity called Notes from Trenčín, in which they interviewed personalities from the city and discussed supported employment with each of the ten guests interviewed. At the same time, an original gift made by a vulnerable person was always ready for them in the café and packing room. Thanks to the varied communication of the activities, the project fostered empathy and respect for the helping professions in the guests and readers and deepened the relationship with the city.

Despite the pandemic, it has been possible to show the general public that people with intellectual disabilities can work and can be much more independent and confident than we can imagine. A total of 10 longer in-depth interviews with people who enrich life in Trenčín were prepared and published in 2021. Their lives and activities were brought to the general public's attention in the form of blogs in the online space - mainly at [www.voices.sk/zapisky](http://www.voices.sk/zapisky). More than 150 people participated in the activities. An unplanned but all the more significant result was that the pro bono crowdfunding campaign #naceste was implemented, and more than €11 000 were raised for the social workshop Kavarna Na ceste and the exhibition Notes from Trenčín was organised at the Space event.



# VOICES

”

*In the long term, the project implementers see it as a great benefit that supported employment is much better known, and the participation of people with disabilities in events is perceived as much more natural*

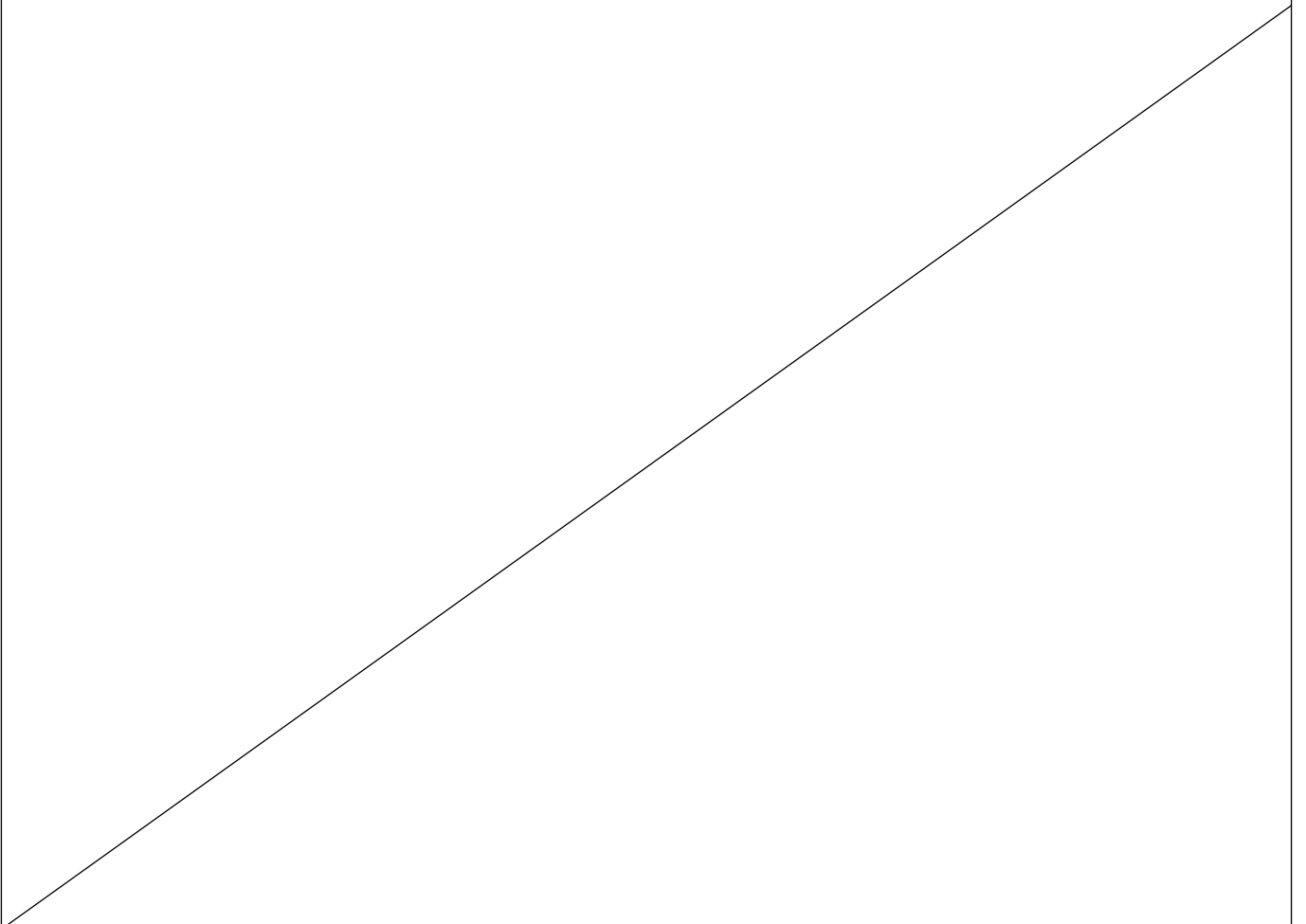
*Ivan Ježík, Nezisková organizácia Voices*

“



*Note 03 Janka Pondušová,  
Source: Voices, non-profit organisation*

# Development and Use of Life Competences of young people





# predefined project



<b>Organisation:</b>	Nadácia pre deti Slovenska
<b>Project:</b>	Young Community Leaders
<b>Project Grant:</b>	€58 910.04
<b>Implementation period:</b>	11/2021 – 06/2023

The Foundation for Children of Slovakia has long worked with young people.

Thanks to the project, the organisation was able to give a group of 75 young people just such an experience. Through comprehensive training, the project taught young community leaders to map community needs, communicate with the public, work with partners and local government, and implement community projects - from their design, management, project management and teamwork to their evaluation and billing. Young people also developed their life skills and leadership abilities throughout the programme. Together with 14 mentors, who provided them with more than 4,100 mentoring hours, they successfully implemented 61 local community projects. The projects covered various areas focusing on community development, environmental protection, education, and public spaces or culture restoration.

*Participants of one of the discussions - Martina Paulíková, Linda Zvedelová, Vanessa Štítnická, Riccardo Belloni, Source: Pavol Strhák*





# NADÁCIA PRE DETI SLOVENSKA

What was successful?

For example, creating several nature trails, building an online quiz library, developing a methodology for teaching using 3D printers, building several workouts and playgrounds, or organising a city art festival.

Thanks to well-implemented community projects, the project has involved more than 4,000 participants.

”

*We believe that if they are civically active in their communities, it contributes significantly to their development and their willingness to stay or return to the regions where they come from.*

*Ondrej Gallo, Nadácia pre deti Slovenska.*

“



# OUTCOME 2

## **Strengthened civil society advocacy and watchdog role**



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**supported  
projects**

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- 22** supported projects
- 9** projects supported within medium grants
- 13** projects supported within strategic grants

- 58** local/regional policies influenced by the work of civil society organisations
- 36** CSO campaigns on good governance and transparency
- 44** legal actions submitted by CSOs in the field of good governance and transparency
- 27** CSOs researching to support their advocacy activities

**24** projects were supported in the theme **PUBLIC INTEREST DEFENCE**, in three calls for proposals.

Advocacy activities and monitoring the exercise of public authority are essential for the democratic governance of society and for addressing problems that undermine citizens' trust in the functioning of the state, local government and public services. CSOs here complement the work of independent media and offer critical reflection on how public affairs are managed.

#### **Thematic focus:**

- promoting good governance and increasing transparency,
- public policy-making at national, regional and local level,
- good governance and transparency.

<b>Financial support:</b>	<b>€1 846 997</b>
<b>Types of grants:</b>	
Medium grants:	€30 000 – 80 000, 12 – 18 months, 3 calls
Strategic grants:	€80 000 – 120 000, 18 – 30 months, 2 calls

## SUPPORTED PROJECTS

Project	Organisation	Implementation period	Project grant
<b>1. call</b>			
REYN Slovakia - A network of educators working with Roma children at an early childhood	Škola dokonán – Wide Open School n.o.	06/2019 – 04/2022	€54 078
Participatory Creation of Community Plan of Social Services: Pilot Project Karlova Ves	Inštitút pre dobre spravovanú spoločnosť	06/2019 – 02/2021	€45 248
Women's rights in public policies	Občan, demokracia a zodpovednosť	05/2019 – 05/2022	€119 695
I want to work; who will help me? Enhancing cooperation between policymakers and the non-profit sector in integrating disadvantaged people into the labour market	Stredoeurópsky inštitút pre výskum práce (Central European Labour Studies Institute, CELSI)	07/2019 – 06/2021	€71 910
Proposals to increase credibility and create the conditions for more effective and faster action by law enforcement agencies	Aliancia Fair-play, o.z.	05/2019 – 01/2022	€95 305
Drinking water as an existential public interest	OZ Za našu vodu	07/2019 – 03/2021	€35 509
Fewer barriers to more natural benefits	Aevis, n.o.	06/2019 – 07/2021	€71 972
Defence of public interest in sustainable mobility	Cyklokoalícia	06/2019 – 04/2021	€71 283
We want better and more effective nature protection	PRALES	06/2019 – 06/2022	€89 919
Children don't wait!	LIPANA, n.o.	07/2019 – 08/2022	€95 081
<b>2. call</b>			
Advocacy for sustainable mobility for all	Cyklokoalícia	10/2020 – 12/2022	64 332 €
Safety hotlines legislation and cooperation with state rescue services	IPčko	05/2020 – 05/2022	64 543 €
Beginning of the development of social agriculture in Slovakia	Druživa, o.z.	06/2020 – 05/2022	79 430 €
Where does our money go to?	Transparency International Slovensko	06/2020 – 04/2023	119 994 €
Pillars of the rule of law	VIA IURIS	08/2020 – 05/2023	99 918 €
Promoting democratization in schools	Slovenská komora učiteľov	06/2020 – 05/2022	96 678 €
Promoting the human rights of the Roma minority through the use of legal remedies and in cooperation with local Roma activists	Poradňa pre občianske a ľudské práva	06/2020 – 05/2023	€83 409
Protection and support system for women experiencing violence	Fenestra	01/2021 – 09/2023	€87 019

**3. call**

Strategy to promote inclusive education	Nadácia pre deti Slovenska	10/2021 – 10/2023	€82 353
Protection of drinking water of Žitný ostrov - the highest public interest	Občianske združenie Za našu vodu	12/2021 – 03/2024	€113 641
Slovakia after Covid-19. How will a pandemic change our lives?	Slovenská organizácia pre výskumné a vývojové aktivity	11/2021 – 10/2023	€94 490
EduGlobe - the way to the implementation of the National Strategy for Global Education	Ambrela – Platforma rozvojových organizácií	10/2021 – 10/2023	€107 189

<b>Organisation:</b>	Cyklokoalícia
<b>Project:</b>	Advocacy for sustainable mobility for all
<b>Project Grant:</b>	€71 283
<b>Implementation period:</b>	06/2019 – 04/2021

People who cycle to work have a 52% lower risk of dying from a heart attack. Cycling to work combines physical activity with being in the fresh air, which contributes to mental well-being. Cycling is an environmentally friendly mode of transport that does not generate CO2 emissions. These are just a few of the benefits of cycling and cycling transport, the development of which is also the focus of the Cycling Coalition.

At the national level, the most significant outcome of the project was the changes to the traffic sign ordinance, initiated through a mass comment and comments on the National Climate and Energy Plan. Other policies, such as the Air Protection Strategy, the Road Safety Strategy and the Government's Programme Statement, were also affected. The project also conducted more than 20 meetings in 6 ministries, which resulted in improved perception and more robust support for the topic from the government.

An important activity of the project is the court case on the construction of the Bratislava waterfront to improve the situation for pedestrians and cyclists directly and set a precedent for environmental protection in proceedings with the Ministry of the Environment and the District Authority. Other legal acts concerned the right of access to information. Citizens' initiatives continued to penetrate several cities to improve sustainable mobility. The Bicycle Coalition provided FollowEIA tools and a bicycle route map with the possibility of adding suggestions.



# CYKLOKOALÍCIA

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*The importance of the project is underlined by the fact that our activities were relatively unique in Slovakia. Thanks to the increased public involvement, our capacity, the knowledge of the professional public and the media attention, we expect a significant long-term impact.*

*Dan Kollár, Cyklokoalícia*

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*Start of the event Levice on a bicycle supported by Cyklokoalícia,  
Source: Cyklokoalícia*



# PORADŇA PRE OBČIANSKE A ĽUDSKÉ PRÁVA



*Towards Justice - Stories of Roma women and man who have stood up against discrimination and other violations of their human rights, Source: Marek Turčok for Poradňa pre občianske a ľudské práva*

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*The project's activities contributed to the Government of the Slovak Republic apologising for the police raid in Moldava nad Bodvou and the practice of forced sterilisation of Roma women. We have achieved landmark court rulings in favour of Roma children discriminated against in special education and segregated in ethnically homogeneous schools, which accentuate the responsibility of the state. We published a unique publication of stories of Roma and Romani women who stood up for their rights. The court cases conducted and the decisions reached are necessary timeless advocacy tools. They will continue to influence state and local government policies in this area well into the future.*

*Štefan Ivanco, Poradňa pre občianske a ľudské práva*

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<b>Organisation:</b>	Poradňa pre občianske a ľudské práva
<b>Project:</b>	Promoting the human rights of the Roma minority through the use of legal remedies and in cooperation with local Roma activists
<b>Project Grant:</b>	€83 409
<b>Implementation period:</b>	06/2020 – 05/2023

Systemic discrimination against Roma persists in Slovakia. Roma children are systematically denied the right to education and protection from discrimination in primary education. Investigations into the disproportionate use of police force are also inadequate. The majority of Roma children in Slovakia are educated in purely Roma schools or special classes, leading to poor quality education and an unclear future. The European Commission is pursuing proceedings against Slovakia for breach of the Racial Equality Directive for unlawful segregation of Roma children in mainstream and special education. Investigations into the disproportionate use of police force are still insufficient, and potential racial motivation is not sufficiently explored.

The project has been crucial in eliminating discrimination and other human rights violations against Roma men and women in Slovakia. Throughout the project, the organisation monitored and documented cases of discrimination and other violations of the rights of the Roma minority. Findings from the monitoring were subsequently used in strategic litigation and advocacy activities with responsible state institutions and international human rights institutions. The Civil and Human Rights Counsellor's Office has addressed various institutions' 29 suggestions for improving policies in this area, organised 14 advocacy meetings and was heavily involved in advocacy activities towards the UN CERD Committee, which addressed relevant recommendations to the Government.

<b>Organisation:</b>	Občianske združenie Za našu vodu
<b>Project:</b>	Protection of drinking water of Žitný ostrov - the highest public interest
<b>Project Grant:</b>	€113 641
<b>Implementation period:</b>	12/2021 – 3/2024

Žitný ostrov (Rye Island) boasts Slovakia's largest reservoir of drinking water and one of the largest in Europe. Its abundant water resources, favourable climate, and fertile soil make it an essential agricultural region. The reservoir's water quality is excellent, making it a reliable source of drinking water; however, agricultural activity and the use of pesticides are a significant threat to its quality and essential importance as a drinking water reservoir.

The project focused on defending Rye Island's water resources from threats from agricultural and human activities that threaten its role as a critical drinking water supplier. It aimed to raise awareness among residents about water conservation and pollution risks, particularly from pesticides. Community engagement initiatives were vital in fostering a stronger relationship with water resources. In addition, the project prioritised the development of pesticide monitoring policies, which are essential for protecting water quality and ensuring long-term sustainability. The project essentially advocated for Rye Island's water resources through awareness raising, community engagement, and policy implementation.

The project succeeded in raising awareness among the inhabitants of Rye Island about the importance of water protection and the risks posed by water pollution. Educational initiatives, including tailored programmes for schools and community events, have contributed to increased knowledge and understanding of water management practices. In addition, the project facilitated better stakeholder collaboration, leading to better coordination of water management efforts and the development of pesticide monitoring policy proposals. These policy proposals aimed to strengthen regulations and ensure the long-term sustainability of Rye Island's water supply, benefiting the local population and future generations dependent on these water resources.

Community engagement activities have fostered a sense of ownership and responsibility toward local water resources, enabling residents to proactively protect and preserve this invaluable asset. In addition, improved communication and cooperation with water companies, local governments and government institutions have led to more efficient water resource management practices, which have had a positive impact on water quality and sustainability.

# ZA NAŠU VODU

Awareness in Rovinka,  
Source: Za našu vodu



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*The project was one of the few awareness-raising projects on the topic of drinking water and its reservoirs - we managed to explain its importance to the public on a wider scale - not only for individual households, but especially for the whole country, and also to explain the trends of climate change and its relation to the need to protect water resources.*

*Annamarie Velič, Za našu vodu*

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# OUTCOME 3

# Increased support for human rights and civic education



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**supported  
projects**

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- 20** supported projects
- 15** projects supported within medium grants
- 5** projects supported within strategic grants

- 164** educational institutions launched to provide civil and human rights education
- 8** campaigns carried out to raise awareness on gender equality
- 81** civil society organisations involved in reducing hate speech
- 1 077** professional staff trained in civil and human rights

20 projects in three calls supported increased support for human rights and civic education within the outcome.

The insufficient level and quality of human rights education create a number of challenges. Education in this area is often reduced to memorising facts and definitions, teaching history without references to other topics, and usually inadequately discussing modern history.

ACF's ambition is, therefore, to stimulate and encourage civil society organisations to innovate, support critical thinking, and provide education in the area of civil and human rights.

#### **Thematic focus:**

- Protecting human rights and promoting civic education,
- influencing attitudes of target groups towards minorities, for example, in the context of the Roma minority and on gender equality issues, among other things, by supporting activities to eliminate hate speech and negative stereotypes,
- information campaigns on human rights, equal treatment, and gender equality (including gender-based violence) on both local and regional levels.

<b>Financial support:</b>	<b>€1 335 461</b>
<b>Types of grants:</b>	
Medium grants:	€30 000 – 80 000, 12 – 18 months, 2 calls
Strategic grants:	€80 000 – 120 000, 18 – 30 months, 1 call

Project	Organisation	Implementation period	Project grant
<b>1. call</b>			
No identity without memory (interactive educational workshops)	Post Bellum SK	05/2019 – 06/2021	€58 140
Small stories amid historical turmoil	Antikomplex.sk	07/2019 – 11/2022	€44 708,32
Misery in Slovakia	Pôtoň	08/2019 – 10/2022	€64 800
Ask your Parents 89	Film Generácia, o.z.	07/2019 – 05/2021	€58 473
<b>2. call</b>			
Education of critical thinking teachers in the regions	Slovenská debatná asociácia	07/2020 – 07/2023	€34 137
Civic education for democracy	LIVING MEMORY	07/2020 – 06/2023	€36 038
CTeachers (Critically Thinking, Culturally Sensitive & Conscious Teachers)	eduRoma - Roma Education Project.	09/2020 – 08/2022	€63 891
School and peer mediation as a tool for the prevention of bullying and other sociopathological phenomena	Ave Prosperita	06/2020 – 03/2022	€40 770
Eastern Rainbow	Dúha na východe, o.z.	10/2020 – 10/2023	€54 001
Be more clever in civic issues	Zmudri	08/2020 – 10/2021	€44 741
Schools for Democracy - Development, Professionalization and Advocacy	Centrum komunitného organizovania	08/2020 – 09/2023	€99 936
Speak up with us!	Možnosť voľby	06/2020 – 01/2023	€98 551
100 - Hundred	Amnesty International Slovensko	10/2020 – 08/2023	€99 535
No bruises	Centrum Slniečko, n.o.	08/2020 – 08/2022	€83 408
Central European Forum 2020/2021	Projekt Fórum, občianske združenie	06/2020 – 11/2023	€110 700
<b>3. call</b>			
Transforming the school from the inside	LEAF	11/2021 – 07/2023	€58 059
„Those next door“	Islamská nadácia na Slovensku	11/2021 – 08/2023	€41 256
Strong reading	Laputa, o.z.	10/2021 – 10/2023	€59 283
Strengthening key institutions, education and awareness-raising to promote non-discrimination and gender equality sustainably	Občan, demokracia a zodpovednosť	01/2022 – 07/2023	€34 913



# PÔTOŇ

Source: photo archive of Pôtoň Theatre



Source: Dúha na východe

# DÚHA NA VÝCHODE

<b>Organisation:</b>	Pôtoň
<b>Project:</b>	Misery in Slovakia
<b>Project Grant:</b>	€64 305.14
<b>Implementation period:</b>	08/2019 – 10/2022

Migration is an international issue currently dominating the debate in Europe and globally. Individual states need help finding a consensus on responding to this social challenge. There is a noticeable disparity of opinion among political leaders, the media and the public. It can be said that this issue is dividing society. According to Eurostat surveys, within the European Union, the countries with the fewest immigrants have the biggest immigration problems. Slovakia is one of them.

By organising a series of events, the project sought to promote critical thinking among young people (aged 15 to 25) on important social issues, facilitate the development of human rights knowledge, cultivate solidarity towards vulnerable groups, reduce extremist and xenophobic sentiments, promote creativity and artistic expression and contribute to raising civic awareness. In addition, the project aimed to challenge negative stereotypes associated with migration and to create a more positive and informed outlook among participants. The initiatives implemented also included targeted training, research activities and collaboration with various organisations, professionals, immigrants, educators and students to address the multifaceted aspects of migration discourse and promote positive social change.

Within the Psoty na Slovensku (PNS) initiative, 25 events were organised, 10 in online or hybrid form and 15 in traditional form in Bátorovce. These events included reruns of the play American Emperon, theatre discussions, live libraries, creative workshops, migration and human rights discussions, and short lectures on the third sector and independent culture in Slovakia. The project has established cooperation with various actors, including six partner organisations, 20 migration and human rights experts, 16 expert lecturers, nine immigrants, three theatre theorists and 18 educational institutions (including six universities and 12 secondary schools). The project involved 824 students and 50 teachers.



*We consider the project to be significant especially in relation to the results of the research, which demonstrates the benefits of the project for the target groups and specifically names the benefits of the individual activities during the event.*

*Monika Škojcová, Pôtoň*



<b>Organisation:</b>	Dúha na východe
<b>Project:</b>	Dúhové vzdelávanie
<b>Project Grant:</b>	€37 519.40
<b>Implementation period:</b>	10/2020 – 10/2023

Slovaks consider LGBTI+ people to be the second most discriminated group in Slovakia. This finding also entered the annual report on LGBT rights in the EU by the international organisation ILGA for 2023. It also devoted an entire chapter to Slovakia, assessing its treatment of the rainbow community for the year. The report says that following the 2022 terrorist attack, several places placed rainbow stickers on their doors to signal safe spaces for LGBTI+ people. But beyond that, the community's situation hasn't improved. Quite the opposite, you could say.

The project intended to improve the quality of life of LGBTI people in Eastern Slovakia by educating different target groups to accept LGBTI people and by conducting a campaign to sensitise students and the public to accept LGBTI people. The trainings were aimed at changing attitudes and empowerment towards their own activities. The project held several debates and campaigns in schools, involving 575 students. Many of them reported a change in attitude and increased sensitivity to hate speech, which contributed to a safer environment for young LGBTI+ people. Reducing prejudice and stereotyping in schools has positively impacted the experiences of LGBTI+ students, fostering a more inclusive and accepting learning environment. Community leaders, empowered by comprehensive training, have become catalysts for change in their communities. Sixteen community leaders gained practical experience in preparing and facilitating discussions and workshops, contributing to raising awareness and acceptance of LGBTI+ issues among peers and other community members.

”

*„Sixteen community leaders gained practical experience in preparing and leading discussions and workshops, contributing to raising awareness and acceptance of LGBTI+ issues among peers and other community members.“*

*Róbert Furiel, Dúha na východe*

“



<b>Organisation:</b>	Laputa
<b>Project:</b>	Strong reading
<b>Project Grant:</b>	€59 283
<b>Implementation period:</b>	10/2021 – 10/2023

Well-developed reading literacy is essential for active citizenship, especially in the current era when critical reading and understanding text and context are crucial skills. In Slovakia, in general, we face the problem that many people cannot read with comprehension and understanding of text. Moreover, reading literacy is not only the ability to read and understand a text but also to work with the information obtained. This is also absent.

Laputa brings innovative methods of creative and critical reading to schools using diverse texts curated by experts in human rights, civil society, language and literature. Through similarly attuned texts, the project also addressed challenges related to human rights education and civic values. During two testing phases, workshops were conducted to test the effectiveness of the materials in both primary and secondary schools, which included collaboration with students and teachers. This iterative process allowed for adjustments and improvements based on real-world feedback.

Collaboration during the testing also led to developing a methodological guide to accompany the readers. This guide has served as a valuable resource for educators by providing insights into practical implementation strategies and ways to maximise the impact of the materials in the educational environment. In addition to the reader and accompanying guide, the project produced a series of 20 e-learning courses linked to the texts. Each course featured activities lasting approximately 20-25 minutes, allowing educators to tailor the approach based on the target audience and available time. These e-learning courses gave the project a dynamic and interactive dimension, leveraging technology to enhance the learning experience.

# LAPUTA



Central European  
forum, Source: Laputa

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*Despite some deviations from the plan (e.g. timing), we have enjoyed a unique collaboration of different organisations that have created synergies by combining their expertise and experience.*

*Slavomír Sochor, Laputa*

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OUTCOME 4

**VULNERABLE**

**GROUPS**

**EMPOWERED**

**– MEDIUM AND**

**SMALL GRANTS**

supported  
projects

**72** supported projects

**15** projects supported within medium grants

**57** projects supported within small grants

**12 932** beneficiaries of services provided or improved

**116** new methods developed to address the needs of vulnerable groups

**1 751** individuals from vulnerable groups trained for their economic empowerment

**214** municipalities implementing measures to empower vulnerable groups

Vulnerable groups are exposed to social isolation and different forms of discrimination in our society. Their access to information, the labour market, education and culture, and participation in decision-making is insufficient. The programme will address the Roma minority and other groups at risk of social exclusion and poverty.

#### **Thematic focus:**

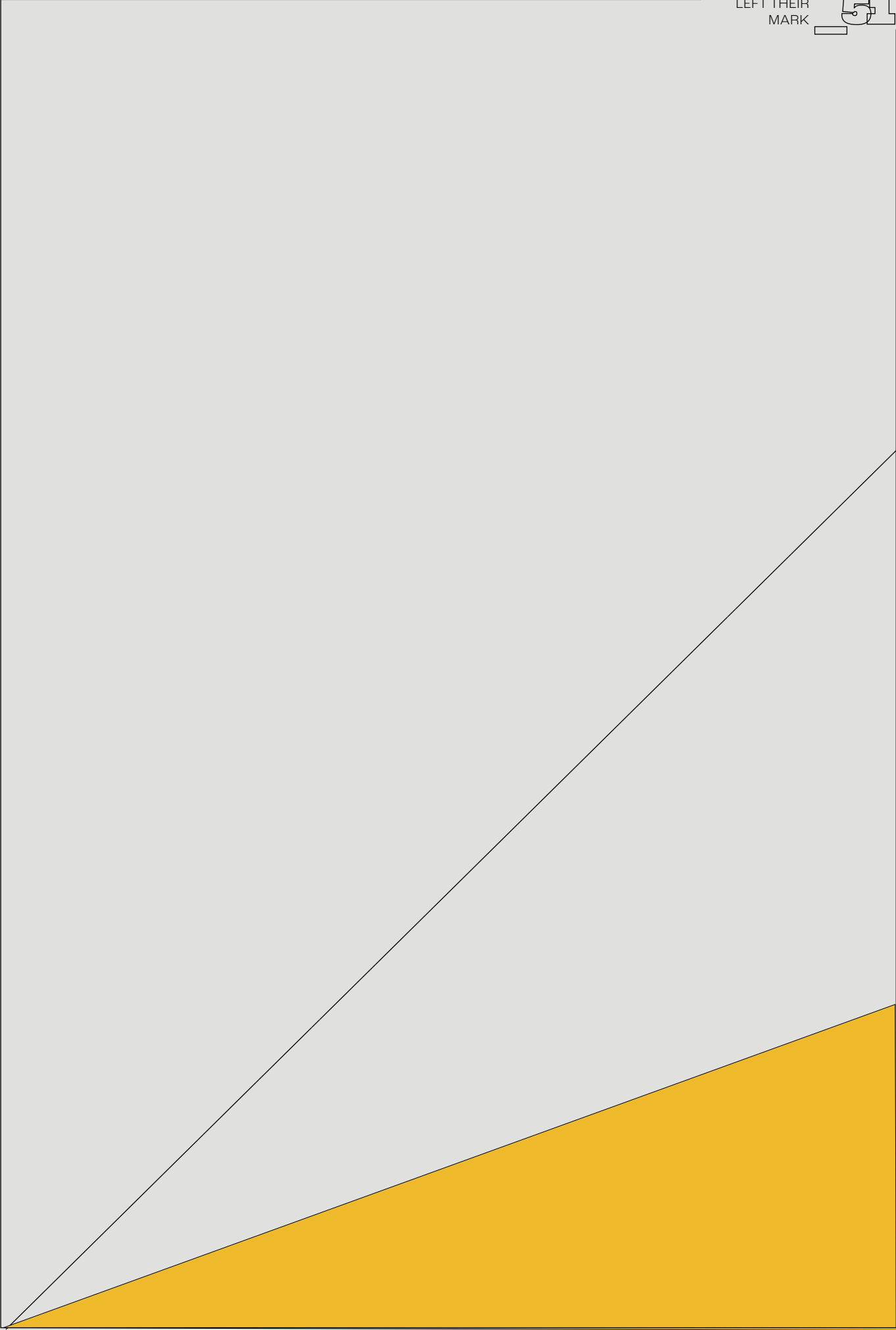
- improving the position of vulnerable groups in society,
- strengthening vulnerable groups and their participation in decision-making on public affairs, as well as improving target groups' income access to economic growth,
- introducing meaningful methods and services at the local level.

<b>Financial support:</b>	<b>€1 732 396</b>
<b>Types of grants:</b>	
Medium grants:	€30 000 – 80 000, 12 – 18 months, 3 calls
Small grants:	€5 000 – 15 000, 6 – 18 months, 3 calls

## SUPPORTED PROJECTS – MEDIUM GRANTS

Project	Organisation	Implementation period	Project grant
<b>1. call</b>			
Project Omama - early care for children from excluded Roma communities	Cesta von	06/2019 – 02/2021	€64 953
Honeycomb: Social Workshop	Občianske združenie kRaj	06/2019 – 01/2021	€64 258
Creation of community centre for labour and knowledge mobility in Nitra	Nitrianska komunitná nadácia	07/2019 – 01/2021	€61 896
Nine lives! Youth in Action	ETP Slovensko – Centrum pre udržateľný rozvoj	06/2019 – 09/2021	€64 945
Dorka Bags	DORKA, n.o.	06/2019 – 07/2020	€56 099
BUDDY	PRO VIDA, o.z.	07/2019 – 08/2020	€59 916
Project PPV / Strengthening professional capacities in pre-primary education in the context of inclusion of Roma children	eduRoma - Roma education project	06/2019 – 09/2021	€57 933
<b>2. call</b>			
Way to life	Spoločnosť Úsmev ako dar	08/2020 – 05/2022	€76 925
We guide, we support, you have housing	Všetci pre rodinu, n.o.	07/2020 – 04/2022	€64 911
3P - práca, pomoc, podpora (Work, Help, Support)	Združenie STORM	07/2020 – 07/2022	€58 416
From BBS (Big Brother/Sister) to CREDO	Dobrovoľnícke centrum Košického kraja	05/2020 – 03/2022	€53 098
Promoting the integration of the unemployed from marginalised groups into the labour market	Kežmarská platforma pre sociálne začlenené, n.o.	11/2020 – 08/2022	€59 738
<b>3. call</b>			
Mobile application for early detection of children with autism for marginalised groups	Centrum včasnej intervencie Prešov	10/2021 – 05/2023	€52 929
We help, support and connect	Relevant, n.o.	11/2021 – 06/2023	€64 995
Green spaces in the city and social innovations	Druživa, o.z.	01/2022 – 09/2023	€63 010

LEFT THEIR  
MARK



**Organisation:** Občianske združenie kRaj

**Project:** Honeycomb: Social Workshop

**Project Grant:** €64 258

**Implementation period:** 06/2019 – 10/2020

Wax-making is a rare craft in Slovakia, especially in the western Gemer region. It focuses on the processing of beeswax and the production of various products from it. These are products used by beekeepers and for the general public. At the same time, the Gemer region is one of the least developed regions in Slovakia, with a high percentage of unemployment. Since 2014, the kRaj civic association has been involving vulnerable groups in its activities - Roma, people with mental or physical disabilities, and the long-term unemployed (especially women), thus helping these people to gain a better position and economic development in society.

The project Votinari, a social workshop, was intended to raise cooperation with vulnerable groups to a higher level by creating a social enterprise.

The project had 4 main activities:

1. Creating a social enterprise workshop - was an important milestone. A social workshop for wax processing was established to employ the long-term unemployed. The workshop will continue to be an incubator for similar projects and courses for the unemployed.
2. Training those interested in working in the company—in total, the project gave 30 people a chance. They have gained working habits, new specialisations, and a better position in the labour market. They can also use the craft to start their own businesses.
3. Social workshop—The first 2 employees got jobs in the social workshop. Today, the workshop is sustainable and will create more job opportunities.
4. Product marketing helped to make the project's goals visible while simultaneously presenting its own products.

The project resulted in the empowerment of vulnerable groups. The target group received a course on beeswax processing, which 30 people attended. Their family also benefited from this measure, bringing the number to 70 people whose economic or social situation has improved. These results are further strengthened by the method developed within the project and the partnership with ÚPSVaR in Lučenec and Poltár, who helped find suitable candidates for courses and employment. The project established a social workshop in the village of Utekáč, which started with gradual employment and employed two women by the end of the project.

# kRAJ

*Soaked candles, Source: Občianske združenie kRaj*



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*In a broader context, the project shows the path of local small businesses that can operate in the regions with a national or international impact—creating organic products and working with people who have not had a job for a long time.*

*David Turčáni, Občianske združenie kRaj*

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# ZDRUŽENIE STORM



*Clients are involved in keeping the cleanliness around and inside the centre, Source: STORM Association*

<b>Organisation:</b>	Združenie STORM
<b>Project:</b>	3P - práca, pomoc, podpora (Work, Help, Support)
<b>Project Grant:</b>	€58 416
<b>Implementation period:</b>	07/2020 – 07/2022

The STORM association has been working since 2002 to prevent risky behaviour in various target groups (drug users, sex workers). Its activities are based on low-threshold principles and a Harm Reduction philosophy. The STORM Association is an accredited entity of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (MPSVaR SR) and the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (MŠVaŠ SR). The main area of operation is the Nitra, Trnava and Banská Bystrica regions.

Social inclusion of drug users and sex workers through practical work training works very well. Clients improve their practical work skills by working outdoors or indoors in the STORM Centre. They are motivated by fulfilling an individual goal (e.g., obtaining funds for an ID card, reducing debts to health insurance, paying for a doctor, housing, etc.).

The project directly reached 245 clients in three towns (mostly in Seredi) and indirectly reached about 400 clients through leaflets and the STORMík magazine. The original indicator was set at 100 clients, but the project reached a larger number despite the pandemic. In the same way, 54 clients were involved in the project activities compared to the target of 25. Some of them improved their lives, wrote CVs, and improved their work skills. They could buy groceries, visit the doctor and get accommodation.

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*The option perhaps most strongly perceived by the community is the opportunity to work legally. The money people receive through such work can be used to address their social situation or, to a small extent, arbitrarily, according to their needs at the time*

*Pavol Ščasný, Združenie STORM*

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<b>Organisation:</b>	Centrum včasnej intervencie Prešov
<b>Project:</b>	Mobile application for early detection of children with autism for marginalised groups
<b>Project Grant:</b>	€52 929
<b>Implementation period:</b>	10/2021 – 05/2023

The prevalence of autism in the general population is 1-2%, which means that 1 to 2 out of 100 children are affected by some form of autism. Currently, screening of children under the age of 3 for autism is mandatory in Slovakia, the so-called M-CHAT, which is carried out by paediatricians, child neurologists, child psychiatrists and clinical psychologists. The M-CHAT is part of the so-called standard of examinations of psychomotor development of children at the 2nd-11th preventive examination in primary care approved by the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic under Section 45(1)(b) of Act No. 576/2004 Coll. on health care. However, practice shows that too many children diagnosed with autism fail the screening screens. In Slovakia, we have long recorded a disproportionately lower number of children with autism in marginalised groups, which may be due, for example, to a misunderstanding of the content of the screening questionnaire and its poor completion. The above means that the child does not receive a correct diagnosis or access to early intervention, which improves the child's cognitive, adaptive and developmental outcomes and thus improves their chances of education in mainstream school. On the other hand, early intervention has been shown to reduce the need for long-term support for the child, the stress on the family and the financial costs associated with care and support over the lifetime of a person with autism.

The ASDetect mobile app uses visual support of short videos to enhance understanding of the difference between autistic and healthy child behaviour, significantly increasing understanding of the content for marginalised groups and their approach to early intervention. As part of the project, the Early Intervention Centre Prešov translated and made available in Slovakia an Australian mobile application that helps parents recognise the first signs of autism in their young child (up to 30 months).

In total, 1 175 children from marginalised Roma communities were tested in the Slovak version of the app (number of return emails sent from the app), and 963 of them were at risk of PAS. Within the framework of this project, it was also possible to hold meetings with representatives of 61 municipalities that disseminate information on their territory about ASDetect and assist in its use in families that do not have access to digital technologies.

# CVI PREŠOV



*National training of Omamas, Photo presentation of the application for the Omamas, meeting in Lipovce, where the functional mobile application ASDetect was presented to Omamas for the first time, Source: CVI Prešov*

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*We are delighted to have been given the confidence and funding to carry out this project. As this was a challenging collaboration with Australia and a large sum of money, we would not have been able to do it without this opportunity. We are also very grateful to the ACF Slovakia team, who have always been helpful and patient and worked with us to solve the difficulties that arose during the project.*  
*Zuzana Smolková, CVI Prešov*

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## SUPPORTED PROJECTS – SMALL GRANTS

Project	Organisation	Implementation period	Project grant
<b>1. call</b>			
Dancing without barriers	„Hviezdička“ tanečné štúdio	06/2019 – 09/2020	€ 14 936
On horseback - playfully and healthy	VOLTILAND Košice o.z.	05/2019 – 2/2020	€ 9 786
Parental Centre - Early child care at home environment	Detstvo deťom	05/2019 – 07/2020	€ 14 879
Social assistance - a step towards improving the position of vulnerable groups	Občianske združenie Odysseus	05/2019 – 11/2020	€ 13 500
This and That	Bol raz jeden človek	05/2019 – 06/2020	€ 14 961
Hand in hand, step by step	Centrum dobrovoľníctva, n.o.	05/2019 – 10/2020	€ 14 940
When I can, I do sport	Keď môžem pomôžem	05/2019 – 10/2020	€ 13 464
One for all, all for the community	Miestne združenie YMCA Revúca	05/2019 – 07/2020	€ 14 960
Engaged Capital	KPTL, občianske združenie	06/2019 – 12/2020	€ 14 985
Increase the acceptance of LGBTI people through positive examples and policies at local level	Dúhový PRIDE Bratislava	05/2019 – 10/2020	€ 14 922
Opportunity to get a job	Podnik medzitrhu práce - Šanca pre všetkých	05/2019 – 05/2020	€ 12 872
Stand up	Centrum osvety a poradenstva	05/2019 – 01/2020	€ 14 670
<b>2. call</b>			
„This may be our way too“	Zábavné momenty	06/2020 – 07/2021	€ 12 513
Green for a better life	Centrum vzdelávania a odbornej pomoci	06/2020 – 07/2021	€ 11 109
Soil therapy	Spokojnosť	06/2020 – 11/2021	€ 8 568
The trauma of homelessness	STOPA	06/2020 – 07/2021	NOT IMPLEMENTED
Parental Center - Early intervention support centre	Detstvo deťom	06/2020 – 07/2021	€ 15 000
Give sense to the senses	Liberta	06/2020 – 11/2021	€ 13 500
Development of volunteering	Bratislavské dobrovoľnícke centrum	05/2020 – 11/2021	€ 14 940
WE CAN DEFEND OURSELVES!	Červený kríž - KE mesto	05/2020 – 11/2022	€ 14 836
Two hands of moms	Národné tréningové centrum práce	05/2020 – 03/2021	€ 12 870
We want a chance, too	Partnerstvo pre sociálne inovácie	06/2020 – 09/2021	€ 12 681
Dancing without barriers	„Hviezdička“ tanečné štúdio	06/2020 – 10/2021	€ 14 971



Better life for a Roma woman	OZ pre podporu vzdelávania, výchovy a kultúry - ROMA	06/2020 – 01/2023	€ 14 445
Supporting the position of vulnerable groups in Novohrad	Vaša charita	06/2020 – 02/2022	€ 15 000
When I can, I do sport II.	Keď môžem pomôžem	06/2020 – 10/2022	€ 13 482
Energy of the young and experience of the old	Láskavé ruky	05/2020 – 08/2021	€ 14 994
ETNIKANA - MUSIC IS A LANGUAGE THAT WE ALL UNDERSTAND	500	05/2020 – 09/2022	€ 15 000
This and That II. phase	Bol raz jeden človek	05/2020 – 07/2021	€ 14 994
Volunteering for All	Centrum dobrovoľníctva	06/2020 – 09/2022	€ 14 975
Tailors' workshop Romani SUV	Združenie pre lepší život	05/2021 – 07/2021	€ 15 000
Sharing is caring	LUMAR	06/2020 – 04/2021	NOT IMPLEMENTED
From education to work	Centrum osvetvy a poradenstva	05/2020 – 12/2021	€ 14 940
Education as a way out of poverty	OZ Pre človeka	06/2020 – 02/2022	€ 15 000
Superar protects children	Superar	06/2020 – 09/2022	€ 14 040
Way out of the ghetto	Oheň nádeje	05/2020 – 02/2022	€ 13 493
THANKS A LOT for the help	Šedý medveď	05/2020 – 05/2021	€ 15 000
<b>3. call</b>			
Discover your abilities	Zábavné momenty	10/2021 – 09/2022	€ 14 650
We want a chance too 2.	Partnerstvo pre sociálne inovácie	09/2021 – 11/2022	€ 14 787
Equal chances for everyone	Centrum vzdelávania a odbornej pomoci	10/2021 – 03/2023	€ 14 660
Development of volunteering II.	Bratislavské dobrovoľnícke centrum	11/2021 – 04/2023	€ 14 400
Intergenerational learning in practice	Silnejší slabším	10/2021 – 06/2023	€ 14 999
Dancing in the Roma community	„Hviezdička“ tanečné štúdio	10/2021 – 09/2022	€ 14 999
Amalka - early care in the home environment of Roma excluded families	Detstvo deťom	10/2021 – 03/2023	€ 15 000
Empowering Roma in Velky Krtis	Komunitné Centrum Menšín, občianske združenie, Veľký Krtíš	09/2021 – 10/2022	€ 13 500
Barrier-free paddling	Štúdio Zážitku Outward Bound Slovensko	11/2021 – 10/2023	€ 14 838
Work skills and social competences to increase the living standards of the Roma	OZ Margarétka Lovinobaňa	10/2021 – 01/2023	€ 14 999

This and That III. phase	Bol raz jeden človek	09/2021 – 04/2023	€ 14 994
Improving the quality of life of vulnerable groups	nezisková organizácia Projekt DOM.ov	11/2021 – 01/2023	€ 14 997
Two hands of moms //2	Národné tréningové centrum práce	11/2021 – 12/2022	€ 14 917
THIS is our city, too	SPOLU - Slovensko	11/2021 – 01/2023	€ 8 370
Development of skills for the labour market	Protect work	10/2021 – 06/2023	€ 14 058
For a more beautiful autumn of life	Slavonic	10/2021 – 11/2022	€ 14 301
By film we break down prejudices	Pre človeka	11/2021 – 06/2023	€ 14 998
Magic pyjamas	MISIA MLADÝCH	11/2021 – 03/2023	€ 14 778
IdeaStar	HANS	10/2021 – 02/2023	€ 14 935
THANKS A LOT for the help	Šedý medveď	11/2021 – 12/2022	€ 15 000
Look Up Stand Up	Nadácia Milana Šimečku	11/2021 – 04/2023	€ 14 998
Application of social innovation and development of social enterprise	Podnik medzitru práce	10/2021 – 05/2023	€ 14 970



**Organisation:** Partnerstvo pre sociálne inovácie

**Project:** We want a chance, too

**Project Grant:** €12 681

**Implementation period:** 06/2020 – 09/2021

The Luník IX housing estate is an urban district that has turned into a Roma urban ghetto over time. Luník IX is characterised by concentrated and generationally reproduced poverty. Most residents are long-term unemployed, suffer from material deprivation and lack sufficient education. A large proportion of young people complete their education in primary school. After several years of working with children and young people in Luník IX, the Partnership for Social Innovation has found that children need to be educated, spend their free time actively, and be part of mainstream society. Therefore, it applies the principle of systematic long-term work with this target group, which focuses on several areas of life: supporting children's education to achieve secondary education, acquiring and learning the habits necessary for education and for entering the labour market (punctuality, regularity, respect for rules), acquiring work habits or skills, and supporting the development of the community as a whole. These investments are intended to bring about an active attitude of the inhabitants of Luník IX towards the solution of their situation and to help them integrate into society.

The project's activities consisted mainly of regular active educational meetings, especially in a playful, non-coercive way. An important aspect is that a routine has been established in the form of regular Monday meetings. This regularity has helped to bring about significant changes in the children's education. Educational 'trips' within the majority were also very important. More than 200 lessons have been taught, and more than 20 experiential trips have been organised. New friendships and bonds were formed. Older children became important role models for the younger ones. Sixty children and young people from underprivileged families participated in the project activities.



*We also want a chance, too is called We also want a chance, too because 400 metres from here, as the crow flies, there is a housing estate that belongs to the majority, and it is Luník VIII. From the beginning, we have been wondering how life would change for these children if they had been born 400 metres away“*

*Martin Gič, OZ Partnerstvo pre sociálne inovácie*



**Organisation:** Bol raz jeden člověk

**Project:** This and That

**Project Grant:** €14 961

**Implementation period:** 05/2019 – 06/2020

Intellectually challenged people are one of the population groups with the lowest quality of life. Depending on the degree of challenge they face, they need different degrees of help, from little support to total care. As a result of significantly reduced intellectual abilities, they have problems not only in perception, understanding and learning but also in adaptive behaviour, under which many social and practical everyday life skills fall. The creative brand Hento Toto is dedicated to educating and developing these people's artistic talents and presenting their art to the public. Based on many years of experience, we decided to turn their artistic hobby (drawing, painting, graphics) into work and „use“ their unique art to create social inclusion and increase their quality of life.

In 2022, we obtained social enterprise status and employed the first three mentally challenged people. The project activities consisted of planning and material and technical provision, team stabilisation, education and production, sales and media coverage. The project resulted in 1500 graphic designs, 26 prototypes of new products, 13 products to order, three workshops, sales in 60 stores, sales via e-shop, granting the status of a social enterprise, and employment of 3 draftsmen with disabilities. The project also serves as an example of good practice for other organisations. It shows that even mentally challenged people can work effectively with proper management, a prerequisite for long-term economic sustainability.

# HENTO TOTO



THIS AND THAT,  
Source: *Bol raz jeden človek*

”

*The HENTO TOTO project can inspire other organisations that, even in the context of the non-profit sector, can build a competitive brand that empowers vulnerable groups.*

*Michal Hajčík, Bol raz jeden život*

“



<b>Organisation:</b>	Detstvo deťom
<b>Project:</b>	Amalka - early care in the home environment of Roma excluded families
<b>Project Grant:</b>	€15 000
<b>Implementation period:</b>	10/2021 – 03/2023

Generational poverty has a negative impact on children's development. If a child does not have the necessary support for the first three years of life, it is difficult to correct those negative impacts later in life.

The project's goal was to continue working with families from marginalised Roma communities to increase their parental competence, working with adolescents and working with children from birth in their home environment.

Another goal was to develop the organisation as an early intervention support centre. Childhood for Children continued to prepare children for school, educated girls on responsible attitudes towards sexuality and parenthood in a girls' club, organised activities of a Montessori club for children aged 1-4 years and a mothers' club with children aged 0-3 years. Women from the community were involved in the activities as mentors. The project prepared and updated methodological materials for parents. One hundred and eighty people, including 111 children and parents from marginalised Roma communities, were actively involved in the project activities. The project contributed to increasing the parenting competencies of young parents from marginalised Roma communities and the professional competencies of mentors and workers from marginalised Roma communities. Working with young and future parents improves their parenting competencies and, consequently, more effectively upbringing children.

# DETSTVO DEŤOM



*Amalky in families - early childcare in the home environment -  
Mariana, Source: Detstvo deťom*

”

*Parents from marginalised Roma communities see the progress of successful children in kindergartens/primary schools; parents are more self-confident, confident and responsible in caring for their children, the overall quality of life of families improves.*

*Eleonóra Liptáková, Detstvo deťom*

“

OUTCOME 5

**ENHANCED**

**CAPACITY AND**

**SUSTAINABILITY**

**OF CIVIL**

**SOCIETY**

**supported  
projects**

**23** supported projects

**16** projects supported within medium grants

**7** projects supported within strategic grants

**42** joint initiatives resulting from cooperation between different civil society organisations

**17** campaigns carried out

**39** partnerships between experienced and less experienced civil society organisations

**5** Roma inclusion and empowerment platforms/networks supported

The need for more resources to build the capacity of civil society organisations forces organisations to focus on their survival. It diverts them from pursuing strategic changes in their activities to ensure their long-term development. The programme in this area will enable organisations to improve their skills, strengthen their competencies, implement higher-level governance, and implement modern sustainability strategies. The ACF will also support projects to improve the environment for the development of civil society.

#### **Thematic focus:**

- Capacity building and support for the sustainability of civil society.
- strengthening the capacity of organisations,
- at a national level, the aim is to change four national policies and laws related to improving the environment related to the activities of civil society organisations.

<b>Financial support:</b>	<b>€1 845 221</b>
<b>Types of grants:</b>	
Medium grants:	€30 000 – 80 000, 12 – 18 months, 3 calls
Strategic grants:	€80 000 – 120 000, 18 - 30 months, 2 calls

## SUPPORTED PROJECTS

Project	Organisation	Implementation period	Project grant
<b>1. call</b>			
Vital capacity	Raná starostlivosť, n.o.	09/2019 – 02/2021	€58 500
Strengthening the capacity and cooperation of civic cultural organisations for better public policies in the field of culture	A4 - asociácia združení pre súčasnú kultúru	07/2019 – 05/2021	€62 569
We are innovating ourselves!	Nadácia DeDo - Solidarita s deťmi z detských domovov	05/2019 – 09/2020	€57 577
Developing the internal capacities of the organisation and its external reach with a strategic focus on strengthening the base of supporters and philanthropy at the individual level	Človek v ohrození, n.o.	05/2019 – 09/2020	€64 294
Institutional development of Divé maky	Divé maky	07/2019 – 02/2021	€47 368
Modern information and counselling services for young people	Združenie Informačných a poradenských centier mladých	05/2019 – 03/2021	€58 130
Improving access to private financing of CSOs	Centrum pre filantropiu n.o.	06/2019 – 02/2022	€103 256
Linking is both the way and the goal	Platforma rodín detí so zdravotným znevýhodnením	08/2019 – 03/2021	€100 737
Open Smile	CINEFIL	06/2019 – 02/2022	€96 007
<b>2. call</b>			
Civic Leaders on Long Runs	PDCS, o.z.	08/2020 – 09/2022	€104 926
Towards Inclusive Education	Centrum inkluzívneho vzdelávania	06/2020 – 03/2022	€104 900
Strong Voice of Civil Society in Public Policy-making in Times of CLimate CRisis - CLICRI	Karpatský Rozvojový Inštitút, o.z.	06/2020 – 08/2022	€90 174
We serve the communities of the Košice region	SOSNA, o.z.	11/2020 – 06/2023	€95 221
Bašta - a Space for Civic Activities	Different - občianske združenie	06/2020 – 02/2022	€79 774
CO3 - Co-exist, Co-work, Co-operate	OTVOR DVOR	05/2020 – 02/2022	€79 727
Green for business	WWF Slovensko	09/2020 – 05/2022	€71 991
Capacity Building and Sustainable Development of Post Bellum SK	Post Bellum SK	05/2020 – 05/2022	€61 758
Developing of SocioFórum as a Relevant Partner in Public Policy-making	SocioFórum, o.z.	06/2020 – 02/2022	€56 750



**3. call**

About bees and people	Občianske združenie kRaj	11/2021 – 11/2023	€77 362
Strengthening the capacity and social impact of the coworking community in Slovakia	Kolabo	10/2021 – 08/2023	€74 880
Crowdfunding - a way to strengthen the financial independence of CSOs	Nadácia Centra pre filantropiu	10/2021 – 06/2023	€69 354
Civil society in the post-covid period: development scenarios and preparation for a new context	PDCS, o.z.	11/2021 – 07/2023	€79 966

<b>Organisation:</b>	CINEFIL
<b>Project:</b>	Open Smile
<b>Project Grant:</b>	€96 007
<b>Implementation period:</b>	06/2019 – 02/2022

In Slovakia, very few venues, especially cinema halls, are specially adapted for the blind, autistic, hearing impaired or elderly. In Košice, they decided to change this, and from one of the oldest still serving cinemas in Slovakia, the CINEFIL organisation decided to create a space for all.

Thanks to the reconstruction of the lower premises of the Úsmev Cinema, the ideal space and conditions were created to launch inclusive film groups Klapka, Úsmev! In addition, open screenings specially adapted to people who have autism and dementia were included in the programme, thus expanding the local cultural offer (14 screenings in total with almost 300 visitors). The project stimulated discussion on inclusion and openness in culture. It attracted and built contacts, culminating in creating an inclusive platform that brings together non-profit organisations, civic associations, and cultural centres to make them more accessible to all.

The project aimed to streamline the functioning and communication of Cinema Úsmev, to contribute to a more inclusive and open cultural offer in Košice and to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly operation of the Cinema Úsmev building. The organisation participated in 5 training sessions with a Norwegian partner, with whom it continuously discussed current challenges and possible solutions. The results were published in annual reports to increase the organisation's transparency, and a board of directors was established. Through workshops on non-violent communication with marginalised groups, social networking, inclusive education and film education, the organisation helped better communicate with its partner organisations (small organisations with less experience).

# CINEFIL



*Autism - friendly screening,  
Source: CINEFIL*

”

*The project has created a new cultural offer for vulnerable groups, a new opportunity for education, integration and sensitisation of children, and has connected organisations in an effort to be more inclusive and open.*

*Natália Centková, Kino Úsmev*

“

<b>Organisation:</b>	Nadácia Centra pre filantropiu
<b>Project:</b>	Crowdfunding - a way to strengthen the financial independence of CSOs
<b>Project Grant:</b>	€69 354
<b>Implementation period:</b>	10/2021 – 06/2023

StartLab helps civil society organisations and active citizens to raise and build financial and social capital. It is an important infrastructure tool for fundraising. The aim was to create a stable training and support system for campaign authors and to strengthen the organisation's internal marketing capacity to develop this service in the long term. All activities aimed to move StartLab forward. The main activity was the creation of educational materials and their dissemination online through social networks, newsletters and training sessions. The project produced an ebook and 53 educational articles, which, together with information about active campaigns, were disseminated through more than 300 posts on Facebook and Instagram. The project implementers organised more than 20 events on how to prepare a successful campaign.

Over the project's lifetime, CSOs that had campaigned on StartLab received 10,983 donations, totalling €347 596; the project helped fund 87 projects by non-profit organisations. Three hundred seventy-one participants attended the training events.

Thanks to the grant, the StartLab platform has evolved into a comprehensive service that, in addition to being a fundraising tool, also provides the information and education needed for campaigners to raise the desired amount of money.



*We teach the public to support good causes. We teach organisations how to communicate and fundraise, and together we move forward.*

*Zuzana Zaťovič, Centrum pre filantropiu*



<b>Organisation:</b>	Centrum inkluzívneho vzdelávania
<b>Project:</b>	Towards Inclusive Education
<b>Project Grant:</b>	€104 900
<b>Implementation period:</b>	06/2020 – 03/2022

Today, the Centre for Inclusive Education has a stable full-time management team of 3 and is looking for an additional person. It has a functional and active Board of Directors. It produces new outputs yearly, including many videos, publications, and advocacy activities. It is in the process of creating laws, commenting, and guiding the system on the topic of inclusive education: 9 long-term trainings in Artphiletics, Teaching Assistant in Practice, Nonviolent Communication, School Support Team, Facilitative and Reflective Learning. It has created 28 short-term webinar topics for pedagogical and professional staff, and almost 2000 graduates from all over the country have participated in them.

The organisation implemented the unique Grunnlaget training in collaboration with our Norwegian partner. Development of the organisation - we managed to expand the organisational team (currently 3 permanent employees), the board of directors (3 members who meet monthly), more than 20 expert lecturers, the organisation has developed important documents: strategic plan, financial plan, marketing plan.

”

*Probably the biggest support for us to be successful in the project was the faith of Ekopolis and its staff in us. I don't think all the organisations were so lucky to have a combination of specific project people who were not just inspectors but could advise us, teach us some practical skills, explain things patiently and allow us to make mistakes and correct them. Finally, we felt the humanity in the communication, which also motivated us to work on ourselves because we knew that someone on the other side was interested in our outputs and following up on them. That's very encouraging*

*Viktor Križo, Inklucentrum*

“



# OUTCOME 6

## **Bilateral fund**

9

**supported  
projects**

## 9 supported projects

**12** collaborative bilateral initiatives funded by the ACF Bilateral Fund

**878** people participating in bilateral activities funded by the ACF Bilateral Fund

Part of the ACF programme is also a bilateral exchange of experience, know-how and good practice between Slovak civil society organisations and donor countries. The thematic priority of bilateral cooperation is the phenomenon of spreading disinformation and propaganda against democratic governance in society.

### Thematic focus:

- Prevent the spread of false news and propaganda against the democratic management of society.

**Financial support:** €89 129

### Types of grants:

Small Grants: €10 000, 6 – 12 months, continuously open call

## SUPPORTED PROJECTS

Project	Organisation	Implementation period	Project grant
Brainwashing	Prešovská rozvojová agentúra	07/2019 – 12/2019	€9 981.76
INspire – good practice exchange between youth workers	Mládež ulice	11/2019 – 07/2020	€10 000
Free Feeling	PRERAG	07/2020 – 01/2021	€10 000
#VISIONSxCHANCES	Občianske združenie Vidiecky parlament na Slovensku	09/2020 – 02/2021	€10 000
Rule of law and ethics	Centrum environmentálnej a etickej výchovy ŽIVICA	03/2021 – 10/2021	€9 925
Strategies for coping with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on LGBT + organisations and communities	Sapling	04/2021 – 12/2021	€9 230.50
Curriculum proposal for the training programme „Participation Leaders“	Dialogue Centre	04/2021 – 03/2022	€10 000
INclusive Workplace/Inkluzívne pracovisko	Ženský algoritmus	05/2021 – 11/2021	€9 992
Development of Care Farms for independent living and integration into the community	Zvieratá a ľudia navzájom	11/2021 – 06/2022	€10 000



<b>Organisation:</b>	Centrum environmentálnej a etickej výchovy ŽIVICA
<b>Project:</b>	Rule of law and ethics
<b>Project Grant:</b>	€9 925
<b>Implementation period:</b>	03/2021 – 10/2021

The project responded to the low trust of people in the judiciary and the need for more knowledge about the functioning of the judicial system in Slovakia. Within the project, a translation of the Norwegian book *Legal Heroes* was prepared, which can be a tool for a better understanding of the ethical dilemmas of judges and also a teaching tool for law students. The project organisers organised two online discussions in which judges and judicial experts discussed current challenges in our judicial system. A webinar was also conducted on how citizens can get involved in public proceedings and where they can find the information they need. The project created an information campaign for the public to understand better how the Slovak judiciary, courts and prosecutor's office work.

The project resulted in the publication of 750 copies of the book *Legal Heroes* (almost half of them were distributed to, e.g. two law faculties, the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, the Judicial Academy in the Czech Republic, Slovak and Czech attorneys, etc.), two online discussions, and the webinar was viewed by at least 1 384 people. The author of the book, Hans Peter Graver, came personally to Slovakia and participated in a discussion with the judges of the new Supreme Administrative Court of the Slovak Republic. Two thematic interviews were published on the Black Swan portal and read by at least 1 381 people. Another result was the creation of 5 infographics, which, together with other informative contributions, had a total reach of at least 346 000 people.



*We have brought a unique book on ethics in the judiciary that law schools will use in teaching the subject, and we have brought materials that bring the subject to the wider public's attention*

*Jana Ďaďová, Centrum environmentálnej a etickej výchovy ŽIVICA*



# Regional Civil Society Initiatives

Joint activities of ACF programme administrators and activities in cooperation with the Office for Financial Mechanisms

06/**2017**      **Fund Operator Meeting**, Belgium



10/**2018**      **Fund Operator Meeting**, Norway



06/**2019**      **Civil Society Forum**, Romania

11/2019      **Fund Operator Meeting**, Belgium



11/**2021**      **Fund Operator Meeting**, Belgium



05/**2022**      **Fund Operator Meeting**, Romania

06/2022      **Advocacy workshop**, Czech Republic

08/2022      **Opinion Festival**, Estonia

09/2022      **Conference – Inklusive education**, Slovakia

09/2022      **Anti-Burnout Camp**, Croatia

10/2022      **Digital4Good conference**, Portugal

**Active Citizens Days 2022 Advocacy for social inclusion: strategies and tools**, Norway

**Fund Operator Meeting**, Belgium

**Conference - Inclusive education in times of exclusion on the rise**, Slovakia

11/2022      **Communication workshop**, Belgium

**Regional Capacity Building Workshop**, Greece





- 02/2023 **Civil society initiatives on elections – experience and know-how exchange**, Poland
- 03/2023 **Stretnutie Community for Action 2023 - Exploring progressive re-granting**, Slovenia
- Civil society initiatives on elections – experience and know-how exchange** study trip, Hungary
- 05/2023 **CEE Fundraising 2023 Sharing Experience** – Expert seminar on fundraising capacity building, Poland
- 06/2023 **The Role of Civil Society in Countering Disinformation and Promoting Media Literacy**, Bulgaria
- Communication workshop**, Belgium
- 10/2023 **ACF Fund operators Meeting**, Belgium
- Communication workshop**, Belgium
- ↓
- 04/2024 **Data Based Disinfo Defense konferencia**, Slovakia
- Democracy and European Values through Civic Engagement: Civil Society's Impact on Electoral Processes and Interactions with Candidates for the European Parliament Elections 2024**, Estonia
- Rule of Law in the UE The voice of Civil Society Organizations**, Belgium
- 05/2024 **Fund Operator Meeting, Community for Action Meeting**, Croatia
- 06/2024 **Strengthening Local Media in an Age of Disinformation**, Czech Republic
- Local Media Forum**, Norway

# Regional Civil Society Initiatives - Examples

9/2022

## ↳ **Conference – Inklusive education, Slovakia**

On October 6-7, 2022, the main planned RCI activity of the ACF SK took place – “Conference - Inclusive education in times of exclusion on the rise” in Bratislava. The conference was attended by a total of 76 participants, including 62 representatives of educational organisations. FO partners were OSF Czech Republic (10 representatives) from the Czech Republic, and three representatives from Bulgaria - Ognyan Isaev from the Trust for Social Achievement, Iva Boneva from the Organisation for Shared Learning ELA and Valery Pandzharov from OSF Sofia. Norway, the donor country, was represented by Larisa Bronder from The European Wengeland Centre.

8/2022

## ↳ **Opinion Festival, Estonia**

SK ACF provided a speaker, Michaela Pobudova, for the unique festival of democracy, “Opinion Festival”, which took place on August 12 and 13, 2022, in Paida, Estonia, at the invitation of the Estonian Open Society Foundation. Michaela participated in a panel discussion called “Sharing is Caring: Neighbors for Ukraine”. The panel presented the perspective of civil sector organisations from Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and Poland on the current situation in Ukraine. It specifically focused on how civil society has contributed to solving the problem of people from Ukraine who have come to these neighbouring countries, what lessons have been learned from their work and what challenges remain.

9/2022

↳ **Anti-Burnout Camp, Croatia**

SK ACF enabled the participation of two CSO leaders at the Anti-Burnout Camp, which took place on 13-17 September in Medulin, Croatia. The event aimed to provide shared space for stakeholders of the anti-burnout initiatives, discuss different aspects of the (activist) burnout phenomenon among CSOs' leaders, activists and practitioners, and map know-how, experiences and grassroots initiatives related to burnout prevention and reaction. The two SK activists were Lucia Bardosova, coordinator of the civil society platform in Rimavska Sobota, and Maros Chmelik, director of the Centre of Community Organising in Banska Bystrica.

10/2022

↳ **Digital4Good conference, Portugal**

Digital4Good conference organised by FOs Portugal, Estonia and Malta in Lisbon, 4.10.2022. ACF-SK was represented by Eva Koreňová, programme manager of OSF. At the forum, the latest developments and trends were exchanged to secure a better-prepared civil society in Europe, able to thrive in the digital age and find new solutions to the problems we face together. The conference combined keynotes and plenary sessions of thought leaders of the sectors with breakout sessions with a thematic focus on four different societal agendas. High-level experts and IT entrepreneurs from Europe and the U.S. led discussions.

11/2022

↳ **Regional Capacity Building Workshops, Greece**

Regional Capacity Building Workshops to support ACF Fund Operators' capacity development role, Athens, 21-25 November 2022. Two back-to-back regional workshops to support Fund Operators of the EEA Grants Active Citizens Fund in their capacity development role. The ACF Fund Operators of Greece, Portugal and Romania jointly organised the workshops. Lucia Bardosova, an external Ekopolis expert, and Melinda Astrabova, programme manager, represented ACF SK.

3/2023

↳ **Civil society initiatives on elections – experience and know-how exchange**

study visit, Hungary

Civil society initiatives on elections—an experience and know-how exchange study trip in Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Romania and Slovenia, 26-30.3.2023. Stefan Batory Foundation, Education for Democracy Foundation, PL, Civil Society Development Foundation, RO, Ekopolis Foundation SK, Centre for Information Service, Cooperation and Development of NGOs, SLO. Slovak participant Veronika Pachova, Basta, Bardejov.

4/2024

↳ **Data Based Disinfo Defence conference**

Operators of the Active Citizens Funds (ACF) programme in Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Latvia, led by the Slovak Ekopolis Foundation and the Open Society Foundation, organised a two-day conference on “Data Based Disinfo Defence” for ACF programme operators on 17-18 April 2024 in Bratislava.

The conference aimed to examine the nature and extent of the problems related to the spread of disinformation and hoaxes in the selected countries, look for common solutions to existing problems and highlight good practices in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Latvia. The conference was organised within the Regional Cooperation Fund of the Active Citizens Fund programme framework. The event was attended by four people: representatives from partner organisations from the Czech Republic and Latvia and other participants from Croatia, Poland, Romania and Estonia. In total, 25 people participated in the event.



# COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES OF THE ACF SLOVAKIA PROGRAMME

Webpage: [www.acfslovakia.sk](http://www.acfslovakia.sk)

Youtube: Active Citizens Fund - Slovakia

FB skupina: Grantisti ACF – Slovakia

FB stránka: Active Citizens Fund – Slovakia

IG: [acf\\_slovakia](https://www.instagram.com/acf_slovakia)





Communication workshop, Source: EEA and Norway Grants



Communication workshop, Source: EEA and Norway Grants



event The future of funding for NGO activities, Source: Ekopolis Foundation



DATA BASED DISINFO DEFENSE CONFERENCE, Source: Matúš Astrab for Ekopolis Foundation,



The Role of Civil Society in Countering Disinformation and Promoting Media Literacy, Source: ACF Bulharsko





Infoseminar ACF – Slovakia, Source: Ekopolis Foundation



Opening of the ACF – Slovakia programme, Source: Ekopolis Foundation



Filming 10 videos as a cross-section of the ACF-Slovakia programme, examples of good practice, Source: Matúš Astrab for Ekopolis Foundation



# LEFT THEIR MARK

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[www.ngonorway.org](http://www.ngonorway.org)



Iceland  \_\_\_\_\_  
Liechtenstein **Active**  
Norway **citizens fund**

**LEFT**

**THEIR  
MARK**