

# **The Pontis Foundation Annual Report 2004**

**We build bridges between knowledge and hope; between a citizen and society; and  
between those who have and those who need.**

Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Partners:

This place is usually reserved for an appropriately proud presentation of the Pontis Foundation's successes of its management, and all its employees gained during the last year. Their honest work and creative approach, often accompanied by personal courage to face unexpected situations and events, has set the quality standards very high.

However, I would like to draw your attention to another equally important fact. Without you, our friends, sponsors, and colleagues, we would not be able to focus on many of the projects the Foundation is implementing today. It is your time, creativity, and resources which allow the Pontis Foundation to help where people need it most – in supporting the development of the NGO sector in Slovakia, in broadening the measure of engagement of governmental institutions, corporations, and firms, and in increasing awareness and solidarity in every one of us.

Past years have brought an increase in the number of those successful in business. Those who create assets and who are ready to devote part of their profits to support NGO projects, those who understand the importance of NGO work. This is a very supportive fact. We are glad that the Pontis Foundation is gaining your trust to administer funds and resources for the support of developing NGOs, for the support of corporate philanthropy projects, as well as for the projects nourishing the seeds of democracy in countries where there is lack of freedom. Basically, our entire life is dedicated to the search for freedom – financial, material, ...

You have made possible the implementation of projects in this report. The employees of the Pontis Foundation work together to contribute their ideas and to administer what was entrusted to them. If together we have helped people to draw nearer, if just a small step, toward their dreams, our work has been worthwhile and it gives us a worthy reason to continue in it.

*František Ružička, the Chairman of the Board*

Our Dear Friends, Supporters, and Colleagues;

Thanks to you, we had a very successful year where we managed to become the third ranking Slovak NGO, in the amount of funds raised through tax assignation. We hold your trust in the commitment to continue on the path commenced this past year. This path is the effective merger of resources and experience in assisting the ones who plummet to the depths of despair, and those working on the improvement of the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

Last year we succeeded in opening six new corporation funds out of which almost half a million US dollars was distributed to Slovak NGOs, schools, as well as to municipalities, all in accordance with the rules of open competition and principles of regional solidarity. Being aware of the challenge that is still vivid after 15 years for the Slovak civil society in its continuing struggle to sustain its democratic institutions and NGO organizations, this is our second year in which we are providing NGOs with loans and consultations on how to actualize their entrepreneurial ambitions.

In addition to bringing the entrepreneurial spirit into the work of NGOs, we, together with key corporate representatives, tried to initiate discussion on the potential that exists in the area of investing into relations within communities, as well as relationships with all partners helping corporations to succeed or profit. Along with representatives of eleven large corporations, we co-initiated the founding of the Slovak Business Leaders Forum (BLF). Besides carrying out surveys, organizing seminars, publishing a BLF Newsletter on responsible business and other activities, we have laid the grounds for the springing of a public debate on how socially responsible behavior (care for employees, the environment, investments and the setting up of linkages with communities) can bring corporations in Slovakia an increase in their profits as well as the loyalty of customers. This is related to the company's ability to gain and keep employees of high quality, to maintain an increased access to resources, and last but not least to support an improved quality of life and relationships in our communities.

At the same time, we are glad that in cooperating with other NGOs and key Slovak representatives, we have succeeded in initiating public debate on the value orientation of the Slovak foreign policy brought to the attention of the Slovak government with respect to issues concerning human rights in Cuba. Our effort to inspire and share Slovak experience and know-how crossed the Slovak borders when we succeeded, with the support of the Official Development Aid of the Slovak government, in starting up community club projects in Serbia, as well as the new project in Belarus. In Slovakia, we also welcomed the first group of young Iraqi leaders who left our country inspired by the success-story of our transition towards democracy and a market economy. However, every day brings new challenges, which take us further and make us better, more experienced, and more sensitive. I have the value of human resources in mind, courage, and the strong internal integrity of people - my colleagues - who, despite (financially) more attractive offers from other sectors, devote their time, energy, and creative talents to our Foundation and its projects. To see that we are not working in isolation, continual

openness toward the needs existing in communities and an ability to create partnerships in Slovakia, as well as abroad, continues to be our objective. After all, it is the struggle towards solidarity with those who are to this day living under dictatorial regimes and toward the ones to whom we as a new EU member country have a larger responsibility, specifically because of our faith in civil society and its values. It is related to our aspiration to focus more of our attention toward building an environment of support for our work in Brussels in the effort to influence attitudes of European institutions towards countries we are working in. Thanks to all of you once again for your support.

*Lenka Surotchak*  
*The Executive Director*

## **ABOUT THE FOUNDATION**

The Pontis Foundation, originally The Foundation for a Civil Society (NOS), was established in 1997, and is a successor to the Slovak branch of the American organization, the Foundation for a Civil Society. Currently, it is among the largest Slovak foundations. Since 1995, the Foundation has supported altogether 206 projects in the total amount of more than 4 million US dollars.

The Pontis Foundation is a grant-making and operational foundation, which

. . . strengthens the development and long-term financial sustainability of Slovak NGOs through the provision of expert consulting, loans, grants, and scholarships for further training of NGO leaders.

. . . supports the development of corporate philanthropy and corporate social responsibility. It provides consulting in designing corporate giving strategies and outsourcing. It implements surveys, educational activities, and the Via Bona Slovakia award. It administers the Business Leaders Forum in Slovakia.

. . . participates in the civil society development in Belarus and Cuba; develops the network of youth clubs in Serbia and helps young leaders in the Iraq transformation. It advocates for the value-oriented foreign policy in Slovakia, as well as the EU.

In its name (from the Latin word “bridge”) it symbolically expresses its long-term mission: to connect sectors of Slovak society, to be a bridge between resources and those who need them, while at the same time bringing Slovak experience to countries in which the democratic institutions are only in the beginning stages.

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The University of Trnava

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Attorney

## CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

January 2004

- Continuing the tradition of Business Breakfast

April 2004

- Initiating the establishment of an informal association of corporations named Business Leaders Forum

May 2004

- Organizing the fourth year of Via Bona Slovakia Award ceremony

September 2004

- Publishing the first issue of the monthly BLF Newsletter
- Starting a new project of economic reforms in Belarus supported through the funds of Slovak development aid

November 2004

- Business Leaders Forum members sign “the Memorandum on Corporate Social Responsibility
- Initiating public debate on the attitudes of the Slovak Republic in the European Union towards Cuba
- Starting a training project for young Iraqi leaders to be implemented in Slovakia

Throughout the year 2004

- Loan Program provided six loans in a total amount of US\$ 41,760
- The Pontis Foundation supported 81 projects in the total amount of US\$ 477,704

## **A. STRENGTHENING OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Contents**

Loans and Consulting  
Pro Bono Experts  
Educational Activities  
NGO Sustainability Index

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### **LOANS AND CONSULTING**

The Slovak NGOs' funding rested until recently mostly upon receiving from foreign private foundations and foreign governmental institutions respectively. A recent shift of focus of these donors towards other regions meant Slovak NGOs had to look for new sources of funding for their activities.

Alternative financial sources are currently available predominantly from the European Union, which in direct grant schemes requests co-financing of the project from an applicant. Such is the condition for a grant to be awarded. On the other hand, in the distribution of European funds by Slovak state institutions, the principle of reimbursement of expenses is preferred over advance payments. These conditions of granting today place NGOs in the position of a "co-investor", or require the existence of bridging resources in order to launch an awarded project.

Despite a relatively sufficient amount of programmatic funds available, NGOs today lack the operational and developmental capital to cover remaining programmatic costs and to invest in new and innovative ideas. Furthermore, as a consequence of a lack of experience on the side of banks and financial institutions in working with NGOs, NGOs have limited chances to receive loans from bank institutions due to a persisting mistrust between the banks and NGO sectors.

To reflect this development in "the market of philanthropy

**The goal of the Loan Program** is to help non-profit organizations to become financially sustainable and stable and to lead them towards utilizing commercial bank services in a way that would allow them to be seen as attractive, credible, and low-risk clients. During the process of the lending cycle, clients of the program gain practical knowledge and experience they can later use when applying for a loan at the bank institutions. Successful loans contribute to increasing the credit of NGOs in the financial market. Their repayment schedule forces the NGO to continually reveal their own reserves of financial and non-financial nature.

The Ford Foundation from the USA has endowed the Loan Program. The fund is purposefully bound to only provide loans to NGOs. All payments of the funds cum interest are paid back into the fund and can be provided again to new applicants.

and commercial lending”, the Pontis Foundation has been, already for the period of two years, successfully implementing the Loan Program. Its main goal is to offer a new, long-term and reliable alternative source of funding to help cover the programmatic, operational, and development expenses of NGOs. The Loan Program brings not only necessary financial sources, but at the same time teaches NGOs a responsible approach to the areas of financial management, planning, and control. Such an approach is an important prerequisite for mutual, beneficial well-functioning partnerships between representatives of non-profit and business sectors.

In 2004, at the 9.9% interest rate, we provided altogether six loans in the total amount of US\$ 41,760. Five out of the six loans were provided for the purpose of covering temporary discrepancies between income and expenses (so called bridging loans); the sixth loan was provided for the purpose of supporting the commercial self-financing activities of the Baden Powel Foundation related to establishing a Scout House operation.

Through loans directed towards the development of self-financing activities, we attempt to introduce NGOs to the culture of business thinking and entrepreneurial spirit. Interesting projects can result, which are able to generate sufficient financial sources necessary for the effective fulfillment of the NGO mission from a long-term perspective. At the same time, self-financing activities lead toward the necessary diversification in generating funds which is important not only from the sustainability perspective, but also from the programmatic independence point of view.

Both bridging and self-financing loans have enormous importance in helping NGOs gain experience with the lending process. In addition to others, these loans require the setting up of mechanisms of strategic planning and generally help to improve the financial management of the organization. The whole lending process is quite simple. Individual consultation during the application process, and in the process of business plan preparation is implicit. Every NGO, which wants to apply for a loan, has different needs and visions about its future. That is why we try to approach each individually; not only in processing their application, but also during the preparation of their payment schedule.

#### **Organizations Supported in 2004:**

##### *The Baden Powel Foundation*

Loan for financing an activity – project for utilization of Scout House (US\$ 9,124)

##### *Institute of Personal Development*

Bridging loan for operational expenses (US\$ 8,773)

##### *Schola Gregoriana Bratislavensis*

Bridging loan for organizing a youth meeting (US\$ 7,019)

##### *Stop Smoking*

Bridging loan for organizing an international soccer tournament (US\$ 7,019)

*Theatre from the Passage*

Bridging loan to cover operational expenses (US\$ 3,509)

*The Ypsilon Association*

Bridging loan for a research fellowship in Spain (US\$ 6,317)

Responsible selection of the organizations that received the loan bears its fruit – four loans were paid back already and two are in the process of repayment.

Since the beginning of the program, our foundation has provided altogether ten loans in the total amount of US\$ 64,220.

**Loans Available**

*bridging loans*

- cover temporary discrepancy between income and expenses
- allow to avoid interruptions or delays in activities
- enable the execution of a contract on a grant award

*self-financing loans*

- lead toward the development of business activities of an NGO
- contribute to systematic generation of financial sources with the goal of fulfilling the NGO mission
- enable the diversification of income sources, by which it decreases dependency on grant-awards
- increase the flexibility, quality, scale, and sustainability of programmatic activities

**Credit Commission**

The Credit Commission's responsibility is to decide on approving loans. It consists of experts working in the fields closely related to the focus of the Loan Program. The Credit Commission's members are people who are bringing into their work not only their knowledge and skills, but also their hearts and determination:

Dana Mareková  
CEPA, Banská Bystrica

Milan Čičel  
Integra Consulting, Bratislava

Arpád Lörincz  
1.SNSC

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## **PRO BONO EXPERTS**

### **Project of Voluntary Cooperation with NGOs**

At the end of 2004, in cooperation with KPMG Slovensko, which is one of the leading audit corporations in Slovakia, we have prepared a project of voluntary cooperation of the corporation's employees with NGO staff called "KPMG to NGOs".

The goal of the project, which will be running in 2005, is to help increase the professional knowledge and skills of NGO staff and to set up closer voluntary cooperation between the corporation's employees and the NGO sector.

This initiative is exceptional, because unlike the traditional model of training, employees of KPMG Slovensko cooperate on the implementation of specific projects directly in NGOs. NGO employees will thus have a chance to gain very specific recommendations in strictly defined problematic situations, while employees of KPMG have a unique chance to get acquainted thoroughly with the individual NGO and react to its actual needs.

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## **EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### **Cooperation with the William Davidson Institute**

In 2004, the Pontis Foundation started cooperation with the William Davidson Institute, which is a part of the Ross School of Business of the University of Michigan.

Within this cooperation, we started to prepare two important events titled:

- Rethinking the way in which NGOs do business
- Strategic Management Program

Both events were successfully organized in March 2005 in Bratislava.

The "Rethinking the way in which NGOs do business" conference was aimed at NGOs from Central and South-Eastern Europe. The primary goal of this event was to open a discussion and to search for new, innovative solutions for securing financial stability of the NGO sector. Topics of leadership, strategic management, communication, and marketing were addressed as well.

The goal of the management-training program called "Strategic Management Program" was to provide a unique opportunity for the middle and higher management staff to become acquainted with the new concepts and best practices in the current competitive world of business. An emphasis was on challenges corporations in the transforming markets need to face. Expert lecturers from leading institutions; including IMD-

Lausanne, the University of Michigan, and the University of Richmond guaranteed the high quality of this ten-day program.

*“This type of international training which interconnects managerial positions is currently absent in Slovakia. That is why we are glad we can offer the implementation of our program right here in Bratislava. Thanks to cooperation with the Pontis Foundation we are able to ensure the right targeting of our worldwide-quality training.”*

Amy Gillett  
Director, Executive Education, William Davidson Institute

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## **THE NGO SUSTAINABILITY INDEX**

For the second time in a row, the Pontis Foundation was chosen to participate in putting together the NGO Sustainability Index for Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia. This is an instrument used by the US Agency for International Development for gauging the strength and continued viability of the region's NGO sectors. The Index analyzes seven different dimensions of the NGO sector among others; legal environment, inter-sectoral cooperation, abilities of NGOs to communicate their activities, etc. In Slovakia, the index is developed by experts from the NGO sector, governmental institutions focused on NGO issues, and representatives of the donor community. We would like to use this opportunity to express our thanks for their involvement in the project. In 2004, the Pontis Foundation was chosen for the NGO Sustainability Index Project by the following organizations: Management Systems International (“MSI”) and International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (“ICNL”).

## **B. THE DEVELOPMENT OF PHILANTHROPY AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

### **Contents**

#### Initiatives

- Business Leaders Forum

#### Donor Services

- Grant Programs
- Benefit Program
- Business Breakfast

#### Awards

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#### Pontis at International Conferences and Meetings

Pontis Foundation and the Topic of Corporate Social Responsibility in the media

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## **INITIATIVES**

### **Business Leaders Forum**

In April 2004, Pontis Foundation initiated the founding of an informal association of corporations named Business Leaders Forum (BLF). It was committed to becoming a leader in enforcing principles of corporate social responsibility in Slovakia. After several years of active engagement in the area of corporate philanthropy and inter-sectoral cooperation, we have thus succeeded in creating a platform of corporations, which are to set an example and become a moving force in mainstreaming social responsibility in Slovakia.

The vision of this association is to achieve a state where a corporate social responsibility is understood as a set of business procedures and practices based on ethical values and respect towards employees, customers, business partners, communities, and environment. It would become an integral part of business strategies and decision-making processes on all levels of a corporation's management.

Eleven founding member corporations claimed their willingness to meet the vision on November 18th, 2004, when top leaders of these corporations signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Corporate Social Responsibility. By that, they expressed their commitment to integrate a set of principles respecting social, ethical, and environmental aspects of business conduct into their corporate strategy, and at the same time to inspire other companies active in Slovakia to be socially responsible in the management of their business activities.

*Eleven Founding Members of the Business Leaders Forum:*

Citibank (Slovakia), a.s.; Hewlett Packard Slovakia, s.r.o.; T-Mobile Slovensko, a.s.; Orange Slovensko, a.s.; Pfizer Luxembourg SARL, o.z.; Philip Morris Slovakia, s.r.o.; Provident Financial, s.r.o.; Slovak Telecom, a.s.; Tesco Stores SR, a.s.; Západoslovenská energetika, a.s.; VÚB, a.s.

**What Is Meant By Corporate Social Responsibility:**

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a concept of entrepreneurship in which companies voluntarily decide to implement within their business strategies and activities decisions that contribute to the improvement of the state of society and environmental quality, by respecting the interests of all parties concerned. A company, through adopting CSR strategy, applies an innovative approach towards its management, in which, in addition to its economic performance, also makes provisions for the development of social, environmental, and ethical aspects of entrepreneurship.

Corporate social responsibility is based on three pillars: economic, social, and environmental. Here we present examples of selected CSR principles in individual spheres:

**CSR in the economic sphere:**

- Codex of business behavior
- Transparency
- Enforcing principles of a good governance

**CSR in the social sphere:**

- Corporate philanthropy
- Health and security of employees
- Human resources development
- Observance of working standards
- Equal opportunities and observance of human rights

**CSR in the environmental sphere:**

- Ecological production, ecologic products, and services
- Ecological business policy (recycling and the utilization of ecologic products)
- Decreasing negative influence on the environment

## **Partnerships**

In the effort to participate in the European discussion on sustainability in April 2004, the newly founded Business Leaders Forum became a partner of an international organization, CSR Europe, where it represented the Slovak Republic.

CSR Europe is a non-profit organization actively supporting and spreading the idea of corporate social responsibility in all countries of Europe. Currently, it associates 65 corporate members and 18 national partner organizations and through its online information center initiates thematic activities and a dialogue in the area of CSR.

<http://www.csreurope.org>

### Business in the Community (BITC)

This British organization is the oldest organization in Europe devoted to nurturing the idea of corporate social responsibility for more than 20 years. BITC's membership consists of more than 700 British companies. Among the activities it carries out is the CSR indexing that defines a measure of competitiveness among companies in this area. Also, the Seeing is Believing program focuses on participation of top company leaders in CSR issues.

<http://www.bitc.org.uk>

### The Prince of Wales International Business Leaders Forum (IBLF)

The IBLF is an international educational charity, which was set up in 1990. Its main goal is to promote responsible business practices internationally, particularly in new and emerging free market economies. With this organization, we communicate as an informal partner.

<http://www.iblf.org>

## **Activities of the Business Leaders Forum in 2004**

In 2004, the Business Leaders Forum (thanks to the support of its members and international partners) organized several unique events, which focused on individual aspects of corporate social responsibility (CSR). The goal of these activities was to increase the awareness of the CSR issues within the business community as well as in the wide public. The goal was also to approach companies which do not strictly follow the financial indicators but which are also interested in the impact of business conduct on society and the environment.

### *1. Initiatives And International Conferences*

On May 20, 2004, the Business Leaders Forum (BLF) organized an international conference in Bratislava titled "Corporate Social Responsibility – A New Strategy for Business Success". The conference was held under the auspices of Mikuláš Dzurinda, the Slovak Prime Minister. Twenty five professionals working in the area of CSR in Slovakia and abroad took part in the conference – among them Ľudovít Kaník, the Slovak Minister of Labor, Social Affairs, and Family; Ronald Weiser, the American Ambassador to Slovakia, and Laurent Stokvis, the Dutch Ambassador to Slovakia. All three delivered an address to the expert audience.

This event, which was also a celebration of the Business Leaders Forum founding in Slovakia, launched our country's participation in the four-year European campaign called "CSR marathon". This campaign was put together in reaction to the outcomes of the EU summit, which focused on the issues of corporate social responsibility. This was held in March 2000 in Lisbon. The campaign is supported by sixteen European countries; including about 500,000 representatives of business, governmental, and non-governmental organizations throughout Europe. Thus, in the past year, Slovakia, (also thanks to the Pontis Foundation) successfully joined in an international initiative supporting the incorporation of CSR principles into the key aspects of entrepreneurship. These are to serve the role of an integral part of economic and social development of the country.

Venue: Hotel Radisson SAS Carlton, Bratislava

Organizers: the Business Leaders Forum Slovakia, the Pontis Foundation, and the Integra Foundation

## *2. Surveys*

In the summer of 2004, the Business Leaders Forum organized the first of the survey series named "CSR – Perception of the Concept by Slovak Citizens" and further initiated a sociological probe called "Attitudes of Slovak Companies Towards Socially Responsible Business".

The goal of the "Attitudes of Slovak Companies Towards Socially Responsible Business" survey was to map perception of CSR among companies in Slovakia and to identify their motivation in getting involved in CSR related activities. In Slovakia, about 150 large corporations participated in the probe that was a part of a wider international survey funded by the World Bank. The outcomes of the survey were published in the October 11th, 2004 issue of *Hospodárske noviny*. An abbreviated version can be found in the BLF Newsletter published in September 2004.

"Approximately one third of the respondents were convinced that the support of socially responsible activities helps the company to survive from a long-term perspective. More than 17% of respondents thought that a company's involvement in a social area positively supports efficiency, quality and the sale of products and services. Of the ones questioned, 37.3% considered the most important external impact of CSR activities to be the improvement of the company's image. 22% of the respondents saw impact in the support of sustainable development of the country, and 20.7% in environmental protection".

The goal of the "CSR – Perception of the Concept by Slovak Citizens" survey was to understand the basic opinions and attitudes of Slovak citizens on the emerging CSR topic. The survey was carried out from July 28 to August 3, 2004 by the Pontis Foundation, in cooperation with the FOCUS Agency on a sample group of 1,010 respondents. The outcomes of this survey can be found on the website of the Business Leaders Forum.

“Concerning the impact of CSR on forming a personal opinion about a company, CSR activities are positioned right after generally respected parameters such as quality of provided products and services, and approach to customers. For the respondents, the most important aspect of the CSR was faithfulness and openness in doing business. The company’s approach to employees follows right after. Two thirds of the respondents consider it important to know what specific CSR projects are supported in Slovakia, and more than four fifths of respondents thought the media should inform them more on socially responsible projects”.

### *3. Expert and Educational Events*

During 2004, the Business Leaders Forum organized the following events focused on individual aspects of CSR:

#### January 28, 2004:

*Seminar “CSR – New Tool for Building Loyalty of Employees”*

*Organizers: the Business Leaders Forum Slovakia, the Pontis Foundation*

The goal of the seminar was to inform the personnel professionals of Slovak companies on forms of cooperation that a company could develop with non-governmental organizations via direct involvement of its employees. The seminar emphasized the contribution of such cooperation from the point of view of team and motivation building, loyalty, and further development of employees` skills.

#### April 19, 2004:

*The seminar “Can We Breathe the Responsibility Directly into the Heart of Brand?”*

*Organizers: the Business Leaders Forum Slovakia, the Pontis Foundation*

For the most part, managers who were responsible for their company’s communication attended the seminar. Its goal was to bring to their attention the possibilities of charity-oriented cause marketing as a tool for branding and for the improvement of the company’s reputation. At the same time, the seminar’s objective was to present companies’ representatives with directions on how to prepare a successful giving strategy. The following people came to share their experience at the seminar: Juraj Droba, T-Mobile Slovensko, Corporate Affairs Director; Enrico Giraudi, founder and director of Ethico Italy; Jeff Sunshine from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation from California; and Lenka Surotchak, Executive Director of the Pontis Foundation.

#### September 16, 2004:

*Round Table “Attitudes of Slovak Companies Towards Socially Responsible Enterprise”*

*Organizer: The World Bank, the Business Leaders Forum Slovakia, the Pontis Foundation, and the Integra Foundation*

Participants of the round table discussed the findings of the survey, which focused on mapping the attitudes of Slovak companies towards socially responsible entrepreneurship carried out in the summer of 2004. “Probe in Slovakia” was a part of an international

survey which focused on the attitudes of businesses towards socially responsible entrepreneurship in selected countries of Central and Eastern Europe. World Bank funded the survey.

Slovak round table participants agreed that the findings of the survey clearly showed that one of the most important barriers for enforcing CSR in Slovakia was a lack of interest on the side of the government and media. The legislative changes in support of CSR are expected to come at a later time, after initial reforms that currently run in individual resorts of national economy are completed. Participants agreed that the year 2005 should - despite this fact – carry the sign of the information campaign to increase the awareness of the importance of CSR among the wide public as well as in the business sector.

September 23, 2004:

*Discussion on the Media Role with Alison Maitland; editor of the Financial Times*  
*Organizers: the Business Leaders Forum Slovakia, the Pontis Foundation*

In her report, Alison Maitland presented media coverage of the CSR topic throughout the world. She provided us with a sector analysis of CSR attractiveness and the attention, which the worldwide media devoted to it from January 2001 to July 2003. On the occasion of her visit to Bratislava, Alison Maitland gave an interview to the daily *Hospodárske noviny*.

October 19, 2004:

*Round table: “CSR Through the Eyes of the Slovak Public”*  
*Organizers: the Business Leaders Forum Slovakia, the Pontis Foundation*

Participants of the round table discussed the findings of the survey, which focused on the perception of CSR by the Slovak public. The survey was carried out by the Pontis foundation in cooperation with the FOCUS Agency in the summer of 2004. Taking into consideration its findings, the participants concluded that Slovak companies have been encouraged by the wide public to incorporate and enforce the principles of socially responsible entrepreneurship. The participants also expressed their hope “that CSR would one day become a part of business culture and a general standard of business behavior.”

#### *4. BLF Newsletter*

In September 2004, the Business Leaders Forum started to publish the BLF Newsletter – a monthly on responsible entrepreneurship, new opportunities, and long-term success. This periodical brings current information from the area of CSR in Slovakia and abroad in the form of interviews with prominent leaders from Slovakia and EU countries. In the form of case studies, it outlines the outcomes of research activities, as well as relevant information from governmental and NGO sectors.

“Specifically, the BLF Newsletter has an ambition to serve as a leading information channel, providing basic definitions of CSR and topic-related case studies. Our team will try to mediate, not only the latest news from abroad, but also the findings of the latest surveys in Slovakia ... Neither will we forget to present the inspiring experience of domestic and foreign partners of the Pontis Foundation and the Business Leaders Forum (BLF) to which our foundation provides a haven. Thanks especially to the support of BLF members. You will have a chance to read this monthly newsletter, the only one of its kind in Slovakia to be fully focused on the topic of CSR.”

Lenka Surotchak, Executive Director of the Pontis Foundation.

### 5. “BLF to Forests” Initiative

In response to the windstorm, which in November 2004 caused vast damages in the forests, school buildings and tourist facilities in National Parks and protected landscape areas in Northern Slovakia, members of the Business Leaders Forum decided to establish a foundation fund called “BLF to Forests”. Its goal is to support, on a long-term basis, projects, which lead to the renewal of valuable eco-systems and design and implementation of conceptual solutions of sustainable development in the affected regions. The support from the fund is primarily directed towards affected areas in Orava, Horehronie, Kysuce, Slovenský raj and the Low Tatras. Besides BLF members, the Fund is also open to other corporate or individual donors who can identify with the principles of fund distribution. These are published on the Pontis Foundation website. Foundation fund, which is managed by Ľudová banka under the number 4001 086 019/3100 does not serve only for the purposes of single shot collection. Its goal is to enable a wide public to show its solidarity with affected regions and, through specific actions, to contribute to its development and preservation as an ecologically stable eco-system for future generations.

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## DONOR SERVICES

### Grant Programs

Since 2004, the Pontis Foundation has been active as a guarantor in redistributing companies’ funds, which are determined for charity and publicly beneficial purposes of varying focus. Our services consist of recommending and designing transparent and aimed strategies of support of selected projects and organizations. In 2004, the following companies utilized our services: DHL International, T-Mobile Slovensko, a.s. (formerly known as EuroTel Bratislava, a.s.), and Tesco Stores SR, a.s.

Stemming from the mutual cooperation of previous years, we also provided our services to the World Bank. In 2004, through the Pontis Foundation, The World Bank repeatedly redistributed the Small Grants Program resources in support of NGOs in Slovakia.

### *DHL International*

In 2004, with the help of the Pontis Foundation, DHL Slovakia started the cooperation with two selected NGOs – the Association of Disabled of Orava (active in the Orava region of Northern Slovakia) and the Association for the Help of Mentally Handicapped (in Vranov nad Topľou). Both organizations concentrate intensively on issues of physical and mental disability through advocating rights for disabled people while also directly participating in the improvement of their living and working conditions. In 2004 DHL International helped to support the integration of disabled people into working and social life, particularly via its financial contribution toward the purchase of necessary workshop equipment. Further support came via activities, which strengthened solidarity and respect for the mentally handicapped, as well as through the support of advocacy activities in furtherance and protection of the rights of disabled people and their representation in the legislative process.

#### Fund of DHL International

<b>Name of the Project</b>	<b>Name of the Organization</b>	<b>Town/Village</b>	<b>Grant amount/US\$</b>
We Are Here As Well	The Association for the Support of Mentally Handicapped in Vranov nad Topľou	Vranov nad Topľou	\$1,393
Helping Disabled Citizens Through Social Consulting	The Association of Disabled of Orava	Tvrdošín	\$1,393
<b>Total in Grants</b>			<b>\$2,786</b>

*(Additional information concerning supported projects can be found in the section called "Projects Supported in Cooperation with the Pontis Foundation")*

### *T-Mobile Slovensko, a. s.*

In the middle of 2004, the corporation T-Mobile Slovensko, a.s. (at that time named EuroTel Bratislava, a.s.) and the Pontis Foundation, prepared a grant program called "EuroTel Helps the Community". The goal of this program was to support innovative ideas for the improvement of the quality of life in communities where employees of this corporation live or come from. Other equally important objectives of the program were to raise the interest of T-Mobile employees in the area of civil society development and to achieve closer cooperation between business and non-profit sectors. The program succeeded in supporting almost thirty projects in the total amount of \$45,620.

#### Regional Distribution of Supported Projects

##### **T-Mobile, Slovensko, a.s.**

<b>County</b>	<b>Number of Projects</b>	<b>Grant Amount (in US\$)</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Bratislava	17	\$27,085	57.89%
Banská Bystrica	4	\$6,387	13.65%
Košice	1	\$1,755	3.75%

Nitra	2	\$3,509	7.50%
Prešov	2	\$3,439	7.35%
Trnava	2	\$3,078	6.58%
Trenčín	1	\$1,537	3.28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>\$46,790</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Regional Distribution of Funds  
(Rounded Numbers)**

14% Banská Bystrica  
3% Trenčín  
4% Košice  
7% Nitra  
7% Trnava  
7% Prešov  
58% Bratislava

*(Additional information concerning supported projects can be found in the section called "Projects supported in cooperation with the Pontis Foundation")*

*Tesco Stores SR, a.s.*

In 2004, the Tesco Stores SR Corporation, together with the Pontis Foundation, implemented a grant program called "Help to People in Need". The total amount of more than half a million Slovak Crowns was distributed among the awarded organizations. The grant program was set up to help socially weak groups of citizens who were left to live on the fringe of society, with an ambition to improve their difficult situation. It also existed for schools where the property was destroyed or damaged by floods in July and August 2004.

*Regional Distribution of Supported Projects*

**Tesco Stores SR, a.s.**

<b>County</b>	<b>Number of Projects</b>	<b>Grant Amount (in US\$)</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Bratislava	1	1,404	7.36%
Banská Bystrica	3	4,211	22.08%
Košice	5	6,317	33.12%
Prešov	5	6,264	32.84%
Trnava	1	877	4.60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19,073</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Regional Distribution of Funds  
(Rounded Numbers)**

33% Prešov  
22% Banská Bystrica

33% Košice  
 5% Trnava  
 7% Bratislava

*(Additional information concerning supported projects can be found in the section called "Projects supported in cooperation with the Pontis Foundation")*

*The World Bank – The Small Grants Program:*

For the fifth time, the World Bank has already redistributed financial sources to non-profit organizations in Slovakia, twice through the Pontis Foundation. In 2004, the total amount of provided funds (\$40,000) was supplemented by an additional \$13,500 from the Juniper Networks Foundation Fund, which our organization received from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation in California. The grant program supported projects which focused on help to Roma citizens (6 projects), disabled citizens (5 projects), mentally handicapped (1 project), youth raised in orphanages (1 project), homeless people (2 projects), women (1 project), unemployed (1 project), youth (1 project) and for the support of a partnership between an NGO and a municipality (1 project).

Regional Distribution of Supported Projects

**The World Bank**

County	Number of Projects	Grant Amount (in US\$)	Percentage
Bratislava	6	\$18,425	30.84%
Banská Bystrica	7	\$21,552	36.07%
Košice	2	\$45,807	9.72%
Nitra	1	\$4,467	7.48%
Prešov	1	\$3,908	6.54%
Trnava	1	\$3,350	5.61%
Žilina	1	\$2,233	3.74%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>\$59,742</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Regional Distribution of Funds (Rounded Numbers)**

10% Košice  
 7% Nitra  
 31% Bratislava  
 6% Prešov  
 6% Trnava  
 4% Žilina  
 36% Banská Bystrica

*(Additional information concerning supported projects can be found in the section called "Projects supported in cooperation with the Pontis Foundation")*

<b>Projects Supported Through Grant Programs of Corporate and Institutional Donors</b>	<b>65 Supported Projects</b>	<b>US\$128,391</b>
<b>Projects Supported Through Foundation Funds</b> (see part on 'Benefit program')	<b>16 Supported Projects</b>	<b>US\$349,312</b>
<b>Total Number of Supported Projects in 2004</b>	<b>81 Supported Projects</b>	<b>US\$477,704</b>

## DONOR SERVICES

### Benefit Program

Prospering companies and individuals represent an important social factor. They provide job opportunities to people, understand the value of money, and give consideration to investing their resources in a way that brings not only additional capital, but also serves to support charitable and publicly beneficial programs in their community.

Through the Benefit Program run in cooperation with the First Slovak Non-Profit Service Center (1. SNSC), we help potential corporate donors to realize their expression of good will through assisting in selecting strategies of effective, transparent, and targeted placement of donated resources which are compatible with the company's values.

In 2004, we successfully started the program via strategic partnerships with the following corporations: Západoslovenská energetika, Východoslovenská energetika and with Všeobecná úverová banka. The first two corporations decided to realize their giving strategies in the form of direct financial support. To this purpose, they have established foundation funds administered by the Pontis Foundation to help families, schools, and villages, which have suffered from floods. Furthermore the funds were used toward supporting arts, sports, cultural events and research projects. In addition, Všeobecná úverová banka decided to use our experience and know-how in establishing their own "corporate" foundation, which will become a professional and transparent tool in implementing its own giving strategies.

We help our new partners in setting up and achieving pro-active philanthropic goals. Through a qualified decision making process, we identify giving strategies which correspond to the company objectives and at the same time promise well-targeted support of and permanent impact on the community.

### Program Supporters

C. S. Mott Foundation

TRUST Consortium of the Open Society Foundation, Jan Hus Educational Foundation, and the Children of Slovakia Foundation.

### Targeted Support

The Pontis Foundation and the First Slovak Non-Profit Service Center help companies to decide on the areas of support, which correspond to their strategic business plans. In harmony with the interests and beliefs of their employees and clients, the companies have the potential to achieve improvement of their status in the community through meeting its urgent needs.

#### Foundation Fund Západoslovenská energetika – the Pontis Foundation:

The foundation fund was established in December 2003. During the year 2004, the fund supported projects in the area of education, sport, environment, culture, and health care in the total amount of US\$ 103,874.

<b>List of Supported Projects</b>			
<b>Name of the Project</b>	<b>Name of the Organization</b>	<b>Location/Region of Implementation</b>	<b>Grant Amount/US\$</b>
Convergences 2004 – Festival of Chamber Music	Convergences – Association for Chamber Art	Bratislava	\$21,056
Purchase of Special Bed for Treatment of Patients with burns	Slovak Foundation for the Help of the Burnt	Bratislava	\$12,282
50-th Special Auction of Contemporary Slovak Fine Art	Foundation - Center of Contemporary Arts	Bratislava	\$17,546
Disenchantment of Castles	Scouting Slovakia	Western Slovakia	\$37,198
Transatlantic Trends 2004	Institute for Public Affairs	Bratislava	\$8,773
Cycle-Routes in Western Slovakia	Bicycle Bratislava (BicyBa)	Bratislava	\$7,019
<b>Total Amount of Distributed Funds</b>			<b>103,874</b>

*(Additional information concerning supported projects can be found in the section called "Projects supported in cooperation with the Pontis Foundation")*

At the end of 2004, we also opened “**The Positive Energy for Sport**“ grant program of the foundation fund Západoslovenská energetika – Nadácia Pontis, with the goal of supporting the construction of the new ones and re-construction of the existing sporting places with year-long utilization. The program will be implemented during the course of 2005 and resources in the total amount of US\$ 100,014 will be distributed to this

purpose. Západoslovenská energetika, a.s., in cooperation with our foundation, aims at supporting sports in communities, residential areas, and schools by creating opportunities for residents and youth to devote to sport activities on a yearlong basis.

Foundation Fund Východoslovenská energetika – the Pontis Foundation

This foundation fund was established in May 2004. During the course of the year, the total amount of US\$ 245,437 was distributed to support projects in the area of arts, education, flood relief, health care, and assistance to handicapped children.

<b>List of Supported Projects</b>			
<b>Name of the Project</b>	<b>Name of the Organization</b>	<b>Location/Region of Implementation</b>	<b>Grant Amount/US\$</b>
Multi-media Classrooms for Foreign Language Education	The Association of Graduates and Friends of Technical University in Košice	Košice	\$27,811
Support for Villages Affected by Floods in July and August 2004	The Association of Town and Villages of Slovakia	Eastern Slovakia	\$87,732
Helping Individuals and Families to Relieve Damage Caused by Floods in Eastern Slovakia	Slovak Red Cross	Eastern Slovakia	\$70,185
Participation in the International Fair of Training Companies in Bratislava	Civic Association “Rada Academia“	Košice	\$877
The Second International Fair of Training Companies of V4 Countries in Košice	Civic Association “Rada Academia“	Košice	\$702
Presentation of Student Life at the School	The Club of Friends of Visually Impaired Youth at the Vocational School in Levoča	Levoča	\$2,334
EKOTOPFILM	Bratislava Cultural and Informational Society	Bratislava	\$8,773
Childrens’ Center – “House of Children”	The Association for the Support of Mentally	Stropkov	\$17,546

	Handicapped in Stropkov		
Beneficial Concert "The Fall Harmony 2004"	The First Lions Club	Košice	\$3,158
Improving the Quality and Broadening of Services of Tatranská Kotlina Sanatorium	Tatranská Kotlina Sanatorium	Tatranská Kotlina	\$26,319
Total Amount of Distributed Funds			\$245,437

*(Additional information concerning supported projects can be found in the section called "Projects supported in cooperation with the Pontis Foundation")*

## **DONOR SERVICES**

### **Business Breakfast for Businessmen and Managers**

Our foundation has had an extensive experience with organizing Business Breakfast since 1998, when we ran the first series of such meetings with representatives of the business community in nine Slovak towns. At the turn of years 2003/2004, we introduced the second series within the Corporate Social Responsibility Program, which we had started back in the Fall of 2003. In the second series (implemented under the patronage of Citibank (Slovakia), a.s, together with the top leaders of the Slovak business sector), we have introduced new ways of exercising legal norms in the area of philanthropy and have presented options for effective giving in the company's place of business. Informative meetings in the form of a business breakfast were held in the following towns:

September 23, 2003 Business Breakfast in Bratislava

January 27, 2004 Business Breakfast in Trnava

January 29, 2004 Business Breakfast in Bratislava organized in cooperation with the American Chamber of Commerce

February 10, 2004 Business Breakfast in Košice organized in cooperation with the American Chamber of Commerce

We have several objectives we would like to achieve within the Business Breakfast Project. Foremost, we attempt to monitor the information and experience which the managers of participating companies have with the corporate philanthropy and learn of their involvement in publicly beneficial activities in the local community. Business Breakfasts are lead in the form of an open discussion, and managers are given room to present their corporate giving philosophy and actual philanthropic and sponsorship experience.

Within the last round of discussion, we have succeeded in collecting interesting and valuable information, including the finding that entrepreneurs generally are interested in supporting an increase in the quality of life in their neighborhood. However, they are not always aware of how to target their giving and sponsorship activities. In response to these findings, we have presented the potential donors with a set of tools to be used in realization of their giving efforts, especially in the form of targeted allocation of funds and personal involvement of the company employees in selected charitable activities.

Providing information and advice in the area of giving strategies has, since 2003, been a part of the Benefit Program initiative. The goal of the program is to mediate ways of effective expression of good will in a region of the company's place of business or area of activities that relates to the company's enterprise, as well as to identify such areas for support that best correspond with its strategic business intentions.

Keeping pace with the world trends and domestic developments in the sphere of corporate giving, our foundation shared within these business meetings current know-how in the following areas:

- Changes in Slovak legislation, which opened new opportunities for the support of publicly beneficial activities via assigning 2% of paid income tax
- Changes in market environment from the competition's point of view – a need to differ from competitors
- Requirement for Corporate Social Responsibility from the side of the EU

Business Breakfast meetings are a welcomed opportunity where positive examples of mutual cooperation between corporations and NGOs can be presented. Especially by presenting the success stories of corporate giving strategies, representatives of participating companies learned about the mutual benefit of inter-sectoral cooperation based on the partnership of a for-profit company and non-profit organization. At the same time, they gained information on the importance of such cooperation from the point of view of loyalty of their own employees toward the company, and consumers and clients toward their products and services. Presentation of success stories prove highly valuable, especially for companies that show an effort to get involved in publicly beneficial activities but are only beginners in the area of giving strategies.

\* \* \* \*

## **AWARDS**

### **The Via Bona Slovakia Award 2004 (Award for Activities Implemented in 2003):**

Via Bona is an annual award rewarding the philanthropic activities of corporations and individual businessmen. It is an expression of thanks and recognition for those who, through the support of publicly beneficial activities, express their openness towards needs of the local community and express their liability for its social issues and environment. In Latin, "Via Bona" means "good route". The ambition of the project is to express public

recognition for corporations and individuals who took this route; and the idea of philanthropy is firmly ingrained in their developmental strategies and business plans.

The fourth year of the Via Bona awarding ceremony was held on July 23, 2004 at the Radisson SAS Carlton Hotel. Two hundred and forty representatives of business, social, political, and NGO sectors were participants. The event was supported by Citigroup, our long-term partner, and was held under the auspices of Ronald Weiser, the American Ambassador to Slovakia; Michal Kováč, the first Slovak President; and Ľudovít Kaník, the Slovak Minister of Labor, Social Affairs, and Family. The main goal of the event was to give recognition to Slovak companies and individuals who contributed to the improvement of life in our society via supporting charitable and publicly beneficial activities in 2003, and to award the best projects in the area of partnership between business and the NGO sector.

The ambition of the Award that we have been organizing since 1998 is not only to give recognition to companies whose activities reflect the latest trends in the area of giving and philanthropy in Slovakia. Its goal is to also motivate other companies in supporting charitable and publicly beneficial activities in the communities they are active in, and to have them accept such socially responsible business strategies that would help them effectively allocate their donations.

We sincerely give thanks to those who took over the auspices of this event - sponsors of the award - Citibank (Slovakia), and the Foundation for a Civil Society, and also to all media, PR, and advertising partners of the event. Our thanks goes also to members of the Selection Committee, winners and awarded, and also to all of those who help create stories of how successful donors and recipients meet on this “good route” to create together something nice and useful for others.

As the experience from the Via Bona Slovakia Award shows, philanthropy in Slovakia begins to take a new direction. Despite the fact that there are still many companies in Slovakia, which prefer a passive form of giving, Via Bona Slovakia winners carry the mission and example of effective and purposeful allocation of their resources. This corresponds with their selected giving strategy. Acting in such way enables the corporations to become socially responsible businesses respectful towards their employees, customers, as well as towards their partners in the community.

A companies' motivation to help lies specifically in their performing well in business and wanting to share their success with others. However, they do not see the importance of their giving only in the terms of increasing their businesses prestige and in building a positive image to differ themselves from their competitors, but also in meeting the needs of civil and social fellowship through the form of altruistic help.

*“Via Bona Slovakia does not give out awards judging only on the amount of donated financial resources, but also pays special attention to the importance and impact of partnerships designed to benefit community, municipality, or an NGO. Small organizations as well as large corporations have a potential to strengthen, support, and advance community to become a vital, independent, and responsible community of people. The awards from previous years have already convinced us on the importance of supporting philanthropic activities in every possible way”.*

Ludovít Kaník,  
Slovak Minister of Labor, Social  
Affairs, and Family.

**Members of the Evaluation Committee:**

Michaela Benedigová,  
Managing Director, Interel, spol. s r. o.

Branislav Cehlárik  
Public Affairs Officer, Citibank(Slovakia),a.s.

Juraj Droba  
Corporate Affairs Director  
T-Mobile Slovensko, a.s.

Zuzana Gergel'ová  
PR Consultant  
The Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, and Family of Slovak Republic

Elena Hradiská  
Professor at the Psychology Department, Institution of Applied Psychology,  
Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences at Comenius University

Mariana Kováčová  
Statutory Representative, Centrum Slniečko, n.o.

Lívia Osvaldová  
Executive Director, Management Partners Group

Michal Ruttkay  
Director, Creo/Young&Rubicam

Martin Vavřínek  
Chief Editor, Weekly TREND

**Partners of the Event of 2004**

*General Partner:*  
Citigroup

*Partner:*  
Radisson SAS Carlton Hotel

*Media Partners:*  
Poradca podnikateľa, spol. s.r.o.  
Trend, Economy and Business Weekly  
Zoznam  
Korzár, regional press network  
Petit Press, network of regional weeklies  
Daily SME

*Advertising Partners:*  
Partners in Communication

## Awards

The awards were presented in the following categories: Main Via Bona Award; Award and Honorary Recognition for the Long-Term Partnership, Award and Honorary Recognition for the Support of Publicly Beneficial Activities in the Region; Award and Honorary Recognition for the Courage to Support Innovative Projects; Award for Media Contribution in Spreading Ideas of Corporate Philanthropy; and in the category of Honorable Recognition for Individuals.

An invitation for lunch, organized by His Excellency American Ambassador to Slovakia Ronald Weiser in his residency was part of the award as well.

### Awards were presented by:

Michal Kováč, the first President of Slovak republic

- The Award for the Support of Publicly Beneficial Activities in the Region

Scott Thayer, Chargé d'Affaires of Embassy of the U.S.A

- The Award for the Courage to Support Innovative Project

Roman Kováč, Member of the Board of Directors, Citigroup

- Honorable Recognition for Individual entrepreneur

Ľudovít Kaník, Slovak Minister of Labor, Social Affairs, and Family

- The Award for the Long-Term Partnership

Ján Filc, Member of the Executive Committee of the Slovak Committee of Ice Hockey

- Main Via Bona Award

Ľubomír Višňovský, the Slovak National Ice Hockey Team member

- Award for Media Contribution in Spreading Ideas of Corporate Philanthropy and for the Courage to Focus on New Topic of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

### Regional Distribution of Nominations

6% Košice

8% Žilina

4% Trenčín

4% Nitra

8% Trnava

70% Bratislava

### **Main Via Bona Award**

The Evaluation Committee granted the Main Via Bona award to U. S. Steel Košice for the support of publicly beneficial activities in the Košice region. This corporation

regularly supports a wide range of projects in the area of health care, science, and education focused especially on children and youth, who depend on the help of others.

In addition, U. S. Steel Košice funds the Andy Warhol Workshop which is focused on the raising of talents and the furthering of creative skills of young designers; it provides university students with the unique opportunity of paid summer internships within the corporation, and participates on projects such as the establishment of a children's room at the Hospital for Children and Youth in Košice.

The corporation also actively contributes to the improvement of the environment. Winning a first prize in the international competition EKO 2003 is proving such. It also cooperates with Roma leaders on the strengthening of their position in the region. Last but not least, it supports various regional cultural events such as the Košice Musical Spring, Steelers Cup, Talent Night, Generous Snow Flakes for Inhabitants of Košice, and others.

### **The Award for Long-Term Partnership**

The Award for Long-Term Partnership was presented to Orange Slovakia, a.s. Bratislava, for successful cooperation with the civic association Návrat (Return) dated back to 1999. The corporation, in partnership with the association, worked long-term on the project - the goal of which was to bring the fates of abandoned children to the public eye in a way that would contribute to placing them into foster families. Among the fruits of this mutual cooperation is the production of a documentary film series on the hardships of children who lost their families; a traveling photography exhibition called "The Best Is to Be With Mommy and Daddy" as well as a media campaign focused on the area of foster care. Orange Corporation also allowed the Navrat Association to establish a phone line on adoption on advantageous tariff.

In addition to partnership with the civic association Navrat, Orange Slovakia also cooperates on the long-term basis with other NGOs such as ETP-Center for Philanthropy, and the Association of Community Foundations.

### **The Honorable Recognition for the Long-Term Partnership:**

The Honorable Recognition for the Long-Term Partnership was presented to the following corporations: Istrobanka, a.s., Bratislava; NRSYS, a.s. Nitra; and Carrefour Slovensko, a.s., Košice.

Istrobanka Corporation was awarded an honorable recognition for its long-term partnership with the Children's Fund of the Slovak Republic, filling its first decade. The goal of mutual cooperation of the corporation and the Children's Fund is to improve the quality of life of permanently handicapped children, especially through the provision of in-kind support (including compensational tools) and to help them to overcome barriers in society.

The NRSYS Company was awarded an honorable recognition for its long-term support of humanitarian and social activities of Nitra Association of Disabled Persons. Long-term

and stable partnership of the corporation and the association dates back to 1991. Within this partnership, NRSYS actively supports implementation of programs for disabled children such as social-rehabilitation stays, skill trainings, or Santa Claus events. Employees of the corporations and their family members are personally involved in the activities and in such help to overcome imaginary social barriers and support the integration of disabled children into society.

Hypermarket Carrefour Košice was awarded an honorable recognition for its cooperation with the Association of the People of Good Will. It provides cloths, footwear, expendable supplies, sanitary supplies, and groceries for refugees located in refugee camps in Prešov and Košice counties. The importance of the cooperation, which dates back to 2001, is based on the provision of very specific help for people who found themselves to be a part of this marginalized group in our society.

**The Award for the Support of Publicly Beneficial Activities in the Region:**

The Award for the Support of Publicly Beneficial Activities in the Region was granted to MTM Obaly, s.r.o., a corporation from Martin. Managed by three ambitious women who managed to successfully combine their business activities with the support of publicly beneficial services, the corporation helps NGOs working in the area of nursing services. It financially supports the organization Samaritan that provides nursing care and social services and transportation to the elderly and ill, as well as in-home care. It further supports a hospital in Martin, and orphanages in Martin and Nécspaly.

**Honorary Recognition for the Support of Publicly Beneficial Activities in the Region:**

Honorary Recognition for the Support of Publicly Beneficial Activities in the Region were granted to the companies BBF Elektro, s. r. o., Spišská Nová Ves and the corporation Matador, a.s., Púchov.

The corporation BBF Elektro was awarded by the Evaluation Committee for its effort to help mentally handicapped people in their integrating into social life. In 2003, this corporation installed electrical hardware in a facility for mentally handicapped children. Thankfully this facility can provide social services today for clients in daily stationary and sheltered housing.

The Corporation Matador, a.s. Púchov, was awarded the Honorary Recognition for charity activities it provides through its own Foundation for the Support of Púchov Region. The corporation aims its help especially at health care, education, and regional development. Employees, as well as management of the corporation, help the long-term development of the region they are active in through involvement in publicly beneficial activities.

**Award for the Courage to Support Innovative Project:**

Award for the Courage to Support Innovative Project was granted to Slovenská Sporiteľňa, a.s., and advertising agency Mayer/McCann-Erickson from Bratislava for their expert and financial support of the communication campaign of the Slovak Catholic

Charity for the promotion of hospice care. Cooperation of these two corporations was qualified by the Evaluation Committee as a unique example of uniting strategy of expert and financial help. Courage of these two institutions to engage in the breaking of taboo of human dying and bringing the care of dying people back to ordinary life deserves recognition as well.

**Honorary Recognition for the Courage to Support Innovative Project:**

Honorary Recognition for the Courage to Support Innovative Project was granted to corporations Novitech, a.s., Košice and Slovak Telecom, a.s., Bratislava.

Novitech, a.s., Košice was awarded for the assistance it provided to seniors by allowing them to gain the new and to improve their existing computer skills. Nowadays, such skills prove inevitable in order to stay employed. The corporation provides space for computer courses, which are organized in cooperation with the non-profit organization Senior Dom, in its educational center TeleDom in Košice.

Slovak Telecom, a.s., Bratislava achieved the honorable recognition for full financial support of national Slovak Rescue Line operation, which is a unique system of phone help that provides expert services necessary in life-threatening situations for victims and witnesses of accidents.

**Award for Media Contribution:**

Media plays one of the key roles in the life of every democratic society. This is exemplified in informing on philanthropy and corporate social responsibility of Slovak companies. Position of media is, in this context, even more important because without their involvement, the public would never know about the existence of many corporate donors. That is why the Pontis Foundation decided this year to grant an award in a new category called “Award for Media Contribution in Spreading Ideas of Corporate Philanthropy and for the Courage to Focus on New Topic of Corporate Social Responsibility”. The award presented by Ľubomír Višňovský, a member of Slovak representation in Ice Hockey, was granted to the daily Hospodárske noviny under management of the Chief Editor Alica Ďurianová.

**Honorable Recognition for Individuals:**

Honorable Recognition for Individuals was awarded to Ján Drobny who, together with his colleague Pavol Hačuda, leads the corporation ARES of Bratislava. The corporation produces lifting devices for handicapped people and distributes children’s magazines into elementary schools. Ján Drobny gained the Honorable Recognition for the close cooperation and financial support of the Club of Handicapped Youth in Košice. Ján Drobny, despite his own handicap, retained the faith in the good he shows in his honest help to those who need it most.

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## **PONTIS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS:**

Even though we in the Pontis Foundation were very active participants and organizers of activities on the domestic and international forums, we consider the Prague meeting with the sister organization Via Foundation from the Czech Republic to be one of the most important events in 2004. At this meeting, we mutually informed each other about current activities and future plans. Thanks to the development of new partnerships with CSR Europe, a Business in the Community, we participated in the meeting of the platform of CSR Europe national partners, which was held in July in London and in September in Brussels. Here we presented latest trends in the CSR and philanthropy in Slovakia. In addition to this, together with the representatives of Slovak Telecom – its president Miroslav Majoroš and his deputy Ján Kondáš – we participated in the inauguration of the Seeing is Believing Project held in London. This provided room for us to present our activities to Prince Charles who initiated this project. In July, in London, we also participated at the meeting with international partners of the Business in the Community organization, an annual conference on partnership in communities followed by a British award ceremony for philanthropy in Albertson Hall. In November, we were present at the CSR conference in Maastricht, organized by the Dutch government on the occasion of ending its EU chairmanship. Here we presented findings of Slovak surveys in this area. In Skopje, Macedonia, we shared the experience from the development of philanthropy in Slovakia at the conference on the sustainability of the Macedonian NGO sector, and later on as the only organization from Slovakia, we participated at the conference on strategic philanthropy in Mexico, organized by the Bertelsman Foundation.

## **THE PONTIS FOUNDATION AND THE CSR TOPIC IN THE MEDIA:**

“Social Responsibility Is In”

Hospodárske noviny, April 5, 2004

“Corporate Responsibility Rising in Slovakia”

Slovak Spectator, May 10-16, 2004

“Corporate Social Responsibility in Slovakia is Often Reduced to Giving”

News Agency of the Slovak Republic, May 20, 2004

“Bratislava Is Hosting a CSR Conference”

Slovak News Agency, May 20, 2004

“Via Bona Award for Košice”

Národná obroda, May 25, 2004

“A Corporation Can Not Buy the Social Responsibility Only through Charity”

“Regina Ovesny-Straka: To Do Good and Talk About It”

“CSR Is More than Marketing to Us”, Say Corporations”

“Entrance Ticket to a Wealthier Stock Market”  
Trend, June 3, 2004

“First Corporate Social Responsibility Conference in Slovakia”  
“Corporate Social Responsibility – Leadership Threat or Opportunity?”  
AmCham Connection, June 2004

## C. INSTITUTE FOR CIVIC DIPLOMACY:

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The List of Awarded Grants

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Institute for Civic Diplomacy (ICD) successfully continued its work in 2004 as well. Its activity can be dated back to 2002 when it was established with the goal of institutionalizing existing international help which our foundation provided, and continues providing to civic initiatives and movements in several still not free and transforming countries of the world. The program, through its activities, successfully fulfilled one of the basic missions of the foundation – to strengthen democracy and help to build civil society in countries' whose citizens to this day live under much worse conditions than we here in Slovakia.

The long-term presence in a smaller number of strategic countries is our priority. Serbia, Monte Negro, Belarus, Cuba and Iraq are among them. In 2004 we implemented mostly development projects (Serbia, Monte Negro) and democratization projects (Belarus, Cuba). However, we also succeeded in organizing a unique project of experience transfer gained in the time of the transformation of Slovakia (Iraq).

The goal of the program in Slovakia is to develop civic dimensions of Slovak foreign policy. It is done through the encouragement of discussion within society through media, or directly with top political leaders. In 2004, in this spirit, the Foundation advocated for balanced Slovak foreign policy towards countries with dictatorial regimes – especially Cuba and Belarus – including the support of dissidents and civic movements in these countries.

According to the survey of Markant Agency, featured in the daily SME in May 2005, on the sample of 500 respondents, as many as 73% of the questioned stated that Slovakia should help spread democracy abroad. The question to which countries Slovakia should help to enforce the democracy was answered in the following way: Belarus (69.8%), Russia (67.9%), Cuba (60.1%), Uzbekistan (59.8%), Northern Korea (58.3%), Iran (58%), Syria (54.4%), Tajikistan (54.0%), and China (52.2%). Among motives of involvement of Slovakia in enforcing democracy, respondents stated reasons of world security, mutual solidarity, strengthening the foreign policy position of Slovakia, or stopping the inflow of people persecuted in their home countries. A high level of support of the Slovak public towards the advantage of democracy in Belarus and Cuba is also the result of long-term involvement of The Pontis Foundation in these countries.

Last but not least, the goal of the program is to participate on the preparation of a long-term concept of the official development aid of Slovakia. Following the work done in the fall of 2003,[when we by the virtue of Slovak NGDO (Non-governmental Development Organizations) Platform and Canadian CIDA/ODACE Program prepared a study on intentions of Slovak NGOs in Serbia and Monte Negro] we in the beginning of 2004 continued in a successful cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the preparation of a special grant program focused on democratization projects in the Ukraine and Belarus.

### **Development Programs – Serbia and Monte Negro**

Serbia is our long-term target country that we have been working in since 1999. We started our active presence in the country through, at that time, a legendary student movement Otpor! We shared Slovak know-how in preparation of mobilization campaigns focused on the participation of young people in Parliamentary elections. We came to Monte Negro three years later as participants of the American Development Aid Program called the Montenegro Advocacy Program.

In 2004, our activities were focused on the region of Central Serbia. In fall 2004, we started a pilot project called “Community Youth Clubs in Central Serbia” in towns of Smeredevo and Smeredevo Palanka, which involves local NGOs (CEDI and Božur) in solving urgent problems of two local communities. The goal of the Smeredevo club is to support a pro-active approach of young people in the job-search.

The club of rural Smeredevska Palanka focuses its activities on the social integration of children of Serbian refugees from Kosovo into the group of their peers. Both community clubs – with internet access, library database of job opportunities and tools necessary for learning English – should contribute to civic engagement of the post-war generation of Serbian youth in this economically deprived region located below Belehrad. Transfer of Slovak knowledge on inter-sectoral cooperation and support of partnerships among NGOs, local municipality, and business sector for projects of additional development of local community are also part of the project.

### **Democratization Programs – Belarus and Cuba:**

**Belarus** is, similarly to Serbia, our long-term target country. We have already been working here since 2000, when we implemented several projects of civic mobilization and support of local NGOs there. The previous year, 2004, was very important because of the Fall parliamentary elections in the country joined with the referendum on the change of the constitution.

During the project’s implementation in 2004, we were focused on the capacity building of independent analytical institutions and expert background for a political alternative toward Lukašenko`s regime, who has been ruling the country since July 1994. The Institute for Public Affairs (IVO) from Bratislava was our partner in this project. Experts from IVO provided representatives of Belarus analytical centers with various suggestions

and inspiration based on the reform process and transformation to democracy in Slovakia after 1998.

After the referendum and parliamentary elections on October 17, 2004, we initiated the establishment of a so-called Slovakia-Belarus Task Force, and started to publish a regular Newsletter within the SFPA (Slovak Foreign Policy Association) Letters. The working group created a framework for the transfer of Slovak know-how in the area of economy reforms preparations and civil mobilization before the Presidential elections in the fall of 2006.

During the previous year we also focused on the support of the civil activism of young people on the level of municipality and in the environment of NGOs and universities. Through a set of trainings and consultations, we provided our partners with practical skills necessary for the area of building youth organizations and regional networks, and in the area of strengthening the communication skills of young activists and student leaders. Later, the decision of the regime to close down the independent European Humanities University in Minsk caused serious damage to this project supported by the Open Society Foundation.

We are also trying to use gained experience from the work with countries living under dictatorship (Lukašenko`s Belarus, Milošević`s Serbia) in Cuba ruled under the regime of Fidel Castro. After March 2003, when Castro`s regime imprisoned 76 dissidents and independent journalists, we extended mostly technical support to dissident movement by humanitarian dimension. Together, with the People in Peril Association (PIPA), we initiated a public collection for the support of families and relatives of Cuba “prisoners of conscience”. Since September 2003, we succeeded in collecting more than \$5,264. In 2004, we distributed \$4,298 from the collection.

An important part of the democratization activities of our foundation for help to Cuba is being implemented in the territory of the Slovak republic. Our efforts in 2004 were focused especially on the domestic territory, where we intensively tried to improve public awareness on the state of human rights in this country and also monitored foreign policy of The Slovak republic towards Castro`s regime. In February 2004, together with the People in Peril Association (PIPA) we participated in the organization of an unofficial visit of Laszlo Nagy, the Chairman of the Slovak Parliamentary Council for Human Rights to Havana, where he, together with members of several other European Parliaments met Cuban dissidents.

Member of Parliament Nagy presented to the most significant of them – Osvald Payá, author of successful petition for referendum on free elections, as well as to wives of imprisoned dissidents, a letter and a present from Pavol Hrušovský, the Chairman of the Slovak Parliament, as well as money and medicines obtained from the public collection of our foundation and PIPA.

*“This kind of personal meeting is a huge encouragement for dissidents, and the best expression of solidarity of democratic Europe. It is very important, specifically that*

*members of parliaments of countries which have had their own experience with communism express this solidarity.”*

Oswaldo Payá

In March 2004, commemorating the first anniversary of the imprisonment of a large group of Cuban dissidents, in cooperation with Amnesty International Slovakia, we organized an event in Bratislava to express solidarity with the imprisoned and their families, which was concluded by a demonstration before the Cuban Embassy. Representatives of the Embassy were presented with the protest declaration demanding the delivery of all political prisoners in Cuba.

### **Transfer of Transformation Experience – Iraq**

In 2004, we prepared a one-year project called “Young Iraqi Leaders”, funded by the International Republican Institute in Washington. The goal of the project was to provide Iraqi civic activists, representatives of political parties, and members of diplomatic corps, with valuable experience gained from the democratization process in Slovakia.

During the three-week internship in Bratislava, project participants closely communicated with representatives of selected Slovak NGOs, the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and trainers of PR agencies who shared their experience and mediated practical skill in the area of public presentation and the work with media.

The first group of Iraqi leaders visited Slovakia in November 2004. The internship was also covered by Slovak media. On this occasion, they were informed about the emergency situation in Iraq and the preparation for the first free Iraqi elections in January 2005.

### **Development Education in Slovakia**

Along the wide public, and political representatives of Slovakia we contribute to the increase of awareness on countries, which need our help today. In this spirit, we started in the Fall of 2004 to implement a ten-month project of development education on the Western Balkans and Middle Asia as target countries of Slovak development aid.

The educational project was focused on the improvement of awareness of Slovak professionals and media on the Balkans and Middle Asia through public debates, seminars, university lectures, and internships for a group of journalists to Serbia and Macedonia.

### **Awards**

In February 15, 2004, Milan Nič, program director of the Institute for Civic Diplomacy was granted the Award of College Lecturer; Karol Rybárik for his work on the democratization of the Balkans, Belarus, and Cuba. The award has been annually presented since 2000 by the Institute of International Relations and Approximation of Law of Comenius University to people whom, through their work, have drawn international attention to Slovakia.

We appreciate that the Commission, consisting of people such as Ján Figel', the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic; Eduard Kukan, Minister of the Foreign Affairs of the Slovak republic; and Juraj Stern, the chairman of the Board of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association (SFPA) gave the recognition to the long-term effort of the Pontis Foundation in the area of democratization in several countries of Europe and the world.

**Institute for Civic Diplomacy in Printed and Electronic Media:**

“Union Warns Serbia, Schuster Is Establishing Contacts”

Národná obroda, February 18, 2004

“Nagy Visited Cuba Incognito and Met Dissidents There”

SME, March 3, 2004

“Voices of NGOs Will Be Louder”

SME, March 8, 2004

“Belarus is in ‘reconstruction’ – and Before Parliamentary Elections”

SME, March 9, 2004

“Politicians Talked also about Madrid”

SME, March 16, 2004

“Protest Against Imprisoning in Cuba”

SME, March 17, 2004

“The Topic of the Day – Conference – The Foreign Policy: Mistakes and Visions”

TA3 21:47, March 17, 2004

Cuba a Year after: Castro Did Not Break the Resistance

SME, March 18, 2004

Regional Daily

STV2 18:30, March 18, 2004

“Belarus Prohibits Ceremony of the Accession”

SME, April 30, 2004

“Prime Minister Visited Ukraine on the Request of EU”

SME, June 23, 2004

TA3 News – “Slovakia Will Help Ukraine and Belarus”

TV TA3 18:30, July 27, 2004

“Our Diplomacy Should Have a Clearer Attitude Toward Human Rights”

SITA, December 10, 2004

**Participation at Conferences:**

Towards Enlarged Europe: New Agenda, Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Organizer: German Marshal Fund of the United States

March 18, 2004, expert conference;

March 19, 2004, governmental conference

Belarus – Our New Common Neighbor, Prague, the Czech Republic

Organizer: People in Need, Senate of Czech republic

March 20, 2004

Belarus – Donors` Meeting, Prague, the Czech Republic

Organizer: EEDC Poland

March 21-22, 2004

Enhancing EU Profile in Democracy Assistance, Hague, Netherlands

Organizer: The Dutch Institute for Multiparty Democracy

July 5-7, 2004

OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Conference, Vienna, Austria,

July 15-16, 2004

Towards Democracy in Cuba, Prague, the Czech Republic

Organizer: People in Need, Directorio Democrático Cubano

September 17-19, 2004

Development Days, European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

Organizer: CONCORD - European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development

October 18, 2004

Eastern Policy Put to the Test: Elections in Belarus and the Ukraine, Warsaw, Poland

Organizer: Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

November 6-7, 2004

**The List of Grants Received in 2004:**

- Freedom House; Evaluation Trip to Cuba
- Freedom House; Consulting in the civic education area in the Ukraine
- National Endowment for Democracy; Working Group for Civil Society in Belarus
- Sasakawa Peace Foundation; Building and Development of the NGOs in Middle Serbia – seminar
- International Republican Institute; Transfer of Transformation Experience - Young Iraqi Leaders”

- Slovak Aid – The Official Development Aid of the Slovak Republic; The Community Youth Clubs in Middle Serbia
- Slovak Aid – The Official Development Aid of the Slovak Republic, Development Education in Slovakia
- Slovak Aid – The Official Development Aid of the Slovak Republic; The Working Group for Economic Reforms in Belarus
- Center for a Free Cuba; Travel Grant – Cuba

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### Balance Sheet, December 31, 2004

TOTAL ASSETS					Previous year accounting period
		Gross	Correction	Net	
<b>A. Fixed Assets</b>		<b>\$291,550</b>	<b>\$53,902</b>	<b>\$237,647</b>	<b>\$6,106</b>
1.	<b>Intangible fixed assets</b>	-	-	-	-
2.	<b>Tangible fixed assets</b>	<b>\$291,550</b>	<b>\$53,902</b>	<b>\$237,647</b>	<b>\$6,106</b>
	Buildings	\$228,313	-	\$228,313	-
	Machinery and equipment	\$53,586	\$44,252	\$9,335	\$6,106
	Transportation vehicles and inventory	\$5,369	\$5,369	-	-
	Other tangible operational fixed assets	\$4,281	\$4,281	-	-
3.	<b>Financial investments</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>B. Short-term (current) assets</b>		<b>\$759,229</b>	-	<b>\$759,229</b>	<b>\$329,836</b>
1.	<b>Reserves</b>	-	-	-	-
2.	<b>Long-term receivables</b>	-	-	-	-
3.	<b>Short-term receivables</b>	<b>\$338,153</b>	-	<b>\$338,153</b>	<b>\$15,686</b>
	Trade receivables	\$5,510	-	\$5,510	\$15,686
	Other receivables	\$332,538	-	\$332,538	-
4.	<b>Financial assets</b>	<b>\$420,199</b>	-	<b>\$420,199</b>	<b>\$306,850</b>
	Cash	\$4,281	-	\$4,281	\$1,404
	Bank accounts	\$415,918	-	\$415,918	\$305,446
5.	<b>Temporary accounts of assets</b>	<b>\$877</b>	-	<b>\$877</b>	<b>\$7,299</b>
	Prepaid expenses	\$737	-	\$737	\$5,825
	Accrued revenues	\$140	-	\$140	\$1,474
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$1,050,779</b>	<b>\$53,902</b>	<b>\$996,877</b>	<b>\$335,942</b>

**Balance Sheet, December 31, 2004**

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>Accounting Period 2004</b>	<b>Previous year accounting period</b>
<b>A. Own resources for covering fixed and current assets</b>		<b>\$494,140</b>	<b>\$309,271</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Organization's funds</b>	<b>\$494,140</b>	<b>\$309,271</b>
	Endowment	\$56,885	\$17,546
	Funds of the accounting entity	\$437,254	\$291,725
<b>2.</b>	<b>Profit / Loss</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>B. External sources</b>		<b>\$502,737</b>	<b>\$26,670</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Long-term liabilities</b>	<b>\$421</b>	<b>\$456</b>
	Social welfare fund	\$421	\$456
<b>2.</b>	<b>Short-term liabilities</b>	<b>\$60,675</b>	<b>\$25,863</b>
	Trade payable	\$11,159	\$23,933
	Liabilities to employees	\$351	\$1,053
	Social security liabilities	\$386	\$702
	Tax liabilities	\$421	\$175
	Other liabilities	\$48,358	-
<b>3.</b>	<b>Bank loans</b>	<b>\$93,136</b>	<b>-</b>
	Long-term bank loans	\$93,136	-
<b>4.</b>	<b>Temporary accounts of liabilities</b>	<b>\$348,505</b>	<b>\$351</b>
	Accrued expenses	\$211	\$351
	Deferred income	\$344,750	-
	Contingent liabilities	\$3,544	-
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>\$996,877</b>	<b>\$335,942</b>

**Statement of Profit and Loss, December 31, 2004**

EXPENSES	Activity	Activity	Activity	Activity
	Activity not subject to tax	Activity subject to tax	Total	Previous year accounting period
	7	8	9	10
Cost of materials	\$14,283	-	\$14,283	\$8,247
Cost of energy	\$6,176	-	\$6,176	\$4,316
Repairs and maintenance	\$7,931	-	\$7,931	\$3,229
Travel expenses	\$8,106	-	\$8,106	\$17,757
Presentation Costs	\$526	-	\$526	-
Other services	\$263,405	-	\$263,405	\$111,805
Wages and salaries	\$40,392	-	\$40,392	\$15,581
Social security insurance	\$2,386	-	\$2,386	\$5,685
Social security expenses	\$351	-	\$351	\$667
Other taxes and fees	\$1,053	-	\$1,053	-
Fines and penalties	\$140	-	\$140	\$70
Interests	\$2,807	-	\$2,807	-
Exchange rate losses	\$24,670	-	\$24,670	\$33,864
Gifts	-	-	-	\$1,544
Shortages and losses	\$2,246	-	\$2,246	-
Other expenses	\$2,983	-	\$2,983	\$1,930
Depreciation of intangible and tangible fixed assets	\$4,141	-	\$4,141	\$4,948
Contributions provided to other accounting entities	\$511,510	-	\$511,510	\$77,520
Contributions provided to individuals	\$4,281	-	\$4,281	\$35
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$897,389</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$897,389</b>	<b>\$287,198</b>

REVENUES	Activity	Activity	Activity	Activity
	Activity not subject to tax	Activity subject to tax	Total	Previous year accounting period
	7	8	9	10
Interests	\$11,054	-	\$11,054	\$4,597
Exchange rate profit	\$772	-	\$772	\$12,353
Other revenues	\$111,524	-	\$111,524	\$16,985
Received contributions from other organizations	\$343,031	-	\$343,031	\$253,895
Received contributions from 2% assignation of paid income tax	\$433,008	-	\$433,008	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$899,389</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$899,389</b>	<b>\$287,830</b>
<b>Profit or loss before taxation</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$632</b>
Income tax	\$2,000	-	\$2,000	\$632

### Structure of Revenues for 2004 According Resources

	<i>Income</i>	<i>Income – Percentage Subtotal</i>
<b>Grants</b>	<b>\$419,446</b>	<b>46.64%</b>
Foreign Foundations	\$231,023	
The World Bank	\$50,937	
Domestic Private Sources	\$33,156	
Domestic Private Sources – NGO Sector	\$32,890	
Domestic Governmental Sources	\$71,430	
<b>Bank Interests</b>	<b>\$9,790</b>	<b>1.09%</b>
<b>Returns from 2% of income tax</b>	<b>\$15,062</b>	<b>1.67%</b>
<b>Returns from 2% of income tax - grant program</b>	<b>\$417,961</b>	<b>46.47%</b>
<b>Public collection for the help to families of Cuban dissidents</b>	<b>\$1,661</b>	<b>0.18%</b>
<b>Other income</b>	<b>\$35,474</b>	<b>3.94%</b>
Interests from loans provided under the loan program	\$1,269	
Income from member fee of the Business Leaders Forum	\$25,010	
Income from the participants fee of the CSR Conference	\$8,410	
Exchange rate profits	\$785	
<b>Income Total (December 31, 2004)</b>	<b>\$899,394</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

**Structure of Expenses of the Pontis Foundation in the Year 2004:**

	<i>Expenses in USD</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<b><i>Grant Program - Benefit Program/Funds</i></b>	<b><i>417,961</i></b>	<b><i>46.5%</i></b>
<i>Grant Program – World Bank Small Grants and JNF</i>	<i>59,742</i>	<i>6.6%</i>
<i>Grants to individuals - Public Collection (Cuba)</i>	<i>4,298</i>	<i>0.5%</i>
<i>Grants for NGO Development / ICD-Serbia</i>	<i>33,725</i>	<i>3.7%</i>
<b><i>Direct Program Costs:</i></b>		
Loans for NGOs	19,526	2.2%
Via Bona Slovakia Award 2004	21,011	2.3%
Administration of the World Bank Small Grants Program	4,025	0.4%
Benefit Program/Business Breakfast and Consultations	384	0.0%
Benefit Program/Fund Administration	11,336	1.3%
Corporate Social Responsibility - Conference 2004	22,851	2.5%
Corporate Social Responsibility - Seminars 2004	4,363	0.5%
Corporate Social Responsibility - BLF	39,029	4.3%
Institute for Civic Diplomacy (Belarus)	88,980	9.9%
Institute for Civic Diplomacy (IRAQ)	52,644	5.9%
Institute for Civic Diplomacy (Cuba)	23,655	2.6%
Institute for Civic Diplomacy (Serbia)	15,444	1.7%
Institute for Civic Diplomacy (development education)	2,883	0.3%
Institute for Civic Diplomacy (other)	5,205	0.6%
NGO Sustainability Index	2,704	0.3%
<b><i>Administrative Costs</i></b>	<b><i>69,629</i></b>	<b><i>7.7%</i></b>
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>899,394</u></b>	<b><u>100.00%</u></b>

**EMPLOYEES OF THE PONTIS FOUNDATION  
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2004**

**Executive Staff**

Lenka Surotchak  
Executive Director

Gabriela Zúbriková  
Chief Financial Officer

Katarína Kahúňová  
Office Manager

**Programmatic Staff**

Milan Nič  
Program Director, Institute for Civic Diplomacy

Balázs Jarábik  
Program Coordinator, Institute for Civic Diplomacy

Michaela Ledňová  
Program Coordinator, Institute for Civic Diplomacy

Jamil Al-Sbenaty  
Program Assistant, Institute for Civic Diplomacy

Oľga Štefanović  
Program Assistant, Institute for Civic Diplomacy

Monika Smolová  
Program Officer , Loans for NGOs, NGO Strengthening

Dáša Maňková  
Philanthropy Program Officer, , Corporate Social Responsibility

Jana Ružická  
CSR Program Officer, , Corporate Social Responsibility

Lucia Borovská (Zlatošová)  
Program Officer, Business Leaders Forum, Corporate Social Responsibility

Michal Bunčák  
Program Officer , CSR Resource Center, Corporate Social Responsibility

**Former Employees of The Pontis Foundation In 2004**

Office Manager:  
Martina Horáková

Program Assistants:  
Zuzana Hermanová  
Monika Holečková

Patrik Dubovský

Program Officer:

Simona Kubinská

## **PONTIS FOUNDATION VOLUNTEERS**

**Our thanks belong to all the people who devoted just a little bit of their precious time or their experience to the Pontis Foundation. Thank you for your gift!**

Juraj Alner, International General Secretary of the Association of European Journalists;  
General Secretary of PanEuropean Union in Slovakia  
Member of the Slovak Committee for Support of Democracy in Cuba of the Pontis Foundation

Michaela Benedigová, Managing Director,  
Interel, s.r.o.  
Member of the Evaluation Committee for Via Bona 2003

Evelina Bombová, reporter,  
Petit Press - East division, Košice  
Member of the Evaluation Committee for the “Help for People in Need” grant program and “Support for Schools in Flooded Territories” supported by Tesco Stores

Ingrid Brocková, Country Operations Officer,  
World Bank  
Member of the Advisory Committee of Institute for Civic Diplomacy

Zora Bútorová, sociologist; Institute for Public Affairs (IVO) senior analyst  
Member of the Slovak Committee for Support of Democracy in Cuba of Pontis Foundation

Mary Ellen Calaghan  
Member of the North American Committee

Branislav Cehlárik, Public Affairs Officer,  
Citibank (Slovakia), a.s.  
Member of the Evaluation Committee for Via Bona 2003

Milan Číčel, Integra Consulting, Bratislava  
Member of the Credit Commission of the Loan Program

Janka Donovalová, Faculty of Arts of the Comenius University, Department of Culturology  
Member of the Evaluation Committee for the “Eurotel Helps the Community” grant program

Pavel Draxler

Juraj Droba, Corporate Affairs Director,  
T-Mobile Slovensko, a.s.  
Member of the Evaluation Committee for Via Bona 2003

Ján Figel', Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Council of the  
Slovak Republic, and since May 2004 Commissary, Member of the European  
Commission  
Member of the Slovak Committee for Support of Democracy in Cuba of Pontis  
Foundation

Ivica Forrová, Junior Achievement  
Member of the Committee for the NGO Sustainability Index

Zuzana Gergelová, Slovak Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, and Family  
Member of the Evaluation Committee for Via Bona 2003  
Member of the Editorial Board of BLF Newsletter

Greta Gornert  
Member of the North American Committee

Vojtech Gossányi, daily Hospodárske noviny  
Member of the Editorial Board of BLF Newsletter

Pavol Handiak, 1. Slovak Non-Profit Service Center (1.SNSC)  
Member of the Committee for the NGO Sustainability Index

Helena Heinrichová, student

Michael Hochleutner  
Member of the North American Committee

Elena Hradiská, College Lecturer at the Psychology Department, Institution of Applied  
Psychology, Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences at Comenius University  
Member of the Evaluation Committee for Via Bona 2003

Milan Ježovica, Advisor to the Prime Minister  
Member of the Advisory Committee of the Institute for Civic Diplomacy

J.E. Ralph Johnson  
Member of the North American Committee

Jana Kadlecová, the Sasakawa Peace Foundation  
Member of the Committee for the NGO Sustainability Index

Zuzana Konrádová, the Open Society Foundation  
Member of the Committee for the NGO Sustainability Index

Mariana Kováčová, Statutory Representative – Sun Center, NGO  
Member of the Evaluation Committee for Via Bona 2003  
Member of the Evaluation Committee of the Small Grant Program of World Bank

Milan Kurota, student

Martin Kuruc, civilian service worker

Ján Langoš, Chairman of the Board of the Nation's Memory Institute, active as a State  
Counselor at the Slovak Ministry of Justice  
Member of the Slovak Committee for Support of Democracy in Cuba of the Pontis  
Foundation

Arpád Lörcincz, 1. Slovak Non-Profit Service Center (1.SNSC)  
Member of the Credit Commission of the Loan Program

William Luers  
Member of the North American Committee

Wendy W. Luers  
Member of the North American Committee

Dana Mareková, CEPA, Banská Bystrica  
Member of the Credit Commission of the Loan Program

Martin Mareš, student

Lýdia Marošiová, Institute for Public Affairs  
Member of the Committee for the NGO Sustainability Index

John Michael, lawyer, Florida USA

Táňa Mikulášková, Slovak Blind and Partially Sighted Union  
Member of the Evaluation Committee for the “Eurotel Helps the Community” grant  
program

Anna Mišinová, A&D Global Business Relations  
Member of the Evaluation Committee of the Small Grant Program of World Bank

Martin Novák, Agency of Supported Employment, Banská Bystrica  
Member of the Evaluation Committee for the “Eurotel Helps the Community” grant  
program

Daniela Olejárová, Integra Foundation  
Member of the Evaluation Committee for the “Eurotel Helps the Community” grant program

Lívia Osvaldová, Director, Management Partners Group  
Member of the Evaluation Committee for Via Bona 2003

Carmen Pavlakovičová, Provident Financial, s.r.o.  
Member of the Editorial Board of BLF Newsletter

Valentina Petrus, Program Coordinator for Roma Projects, the Open Society Foundation  
Member of the Evaluation Committee of the Small Grant Program of World Bank

Peter Pollák, Roma Consultant for the Office of Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government  
Member of the Evaluation Committee of the Small Grant Program of World Bank

Emily Puškár  
Member of the North American Committee

Michal Ruttkay, director, Creo/Young & Rubicam  
Member of the Evaluation Committee for Via Bona 2003

Dorota Sadovská, artist  
Member of the Evaluation Committee for the “Eurotel Helps the Community” grant program

Jan Erik Surotchak, director, International Republican Institute, Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe  
Member of the Advisory Committee of the Institute for Civic Diplomacy

Marta Šimečková, journalist, interpreter, editor of the Forum Section of the daily SME  
Member of the Slovak Committee for Support of Democracy in Cuba of the Pontis Foundation

Vlado Talian, Hlava 98  
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Karen Thayer, student, USA

Martin Vavřínek, Chief Editor of weekly TREND  
Member of the Evaluation Committee for Via Bona 2003

Ludmila Veverková, Civic Association Ross, Banská Bystrica

Member of the Evaluation Committee for the “Help for People in Need” grant program and “Support for Schools in Flooded Territories” supported by Tesco Stores

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The Credit Commission of the Loan Program  
The Evaluation Committee for Via Bona 2003  
The Editorial Board of BLF Newsletter  
The Advisory Committee of the Institute for the Civic Diplomacy  
The Slovak Committee for Support of Democracy in Cuba of Pontis Foundation  
The North American Committee  
Grant Committees

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Jana Kročítá  
Peter Handiak  
Róbert Vlašič

## **FOUNDATION'S PARTNERS AND THE MEMBERSHIP IN DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS**

### **PARTNERS**

#### *In Slovakia:*

1. Slovak Non-Profit Service Center  
People in Peril  
Integra Foundation  
Institute for Public Affairs

#### *Abroad:*

Via Foundation, the Czech Republic  
Academy for Philanthropy Development, Poland  
Civil Society Development Foundation, Hungary  
CEDI, Bozur, Serbia  
Business in the Community, UK  
International Business Leaders Forum, UK  
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### **MEMBERSHIP IN SLOVAKIA AND ABROAD**

Donors' Forum in Slovakia  
Slovak NGDO Platform  
European Foundation Council in Brussels  
CSR Europe in Brussels  
Business in the Community Global Network in London  
International Business Leaders Forum in London  
William Davidson Institute Global Network in USA

**PROJECTS SUPPORTED IN THE COOPERATION WITH THE PONTIS FOUNDATION (IN US\$)**

*...OUT OF TESCO STORES FUNDS IN THE "PEOPLE IN NEED" GRANT PROGRAM:*

The Association of the Parents at the Special Elementary School in Stará Ľubovňa – \$649 – support of activities, which focus on the acquirement of skills and habits that prepare mentally handicapped and disabled children for future professions and fully-fledged lives.

Roma Integration 7777 – \$1,404 – the support for the purchase of equipment for work-room set up for leisure time activities of the pupils, trainees, and adult Roma at Luník IX in Košice.

The Association for the Support of The Mentally Handicapped in Stropkov – \$1,404 Sk – the support for the purchase of teaching aid for mentally handicapped children for the purposes of education and personal development to allow for integration into society.

Hope for Children – \$1,404 – the support of development of basic skills and hygienic habits by mostly Roma pre-school children; leading school children and youth toward the internalization of ordinary principles of family functioning via leisure time activities of the community center located in a suburb of Banská Bystrica.

Iskierka /sparkle/ – the Civic Association of Parents and Friends of Children with Combined Handicap – \$877 – the support toward the purchase of equipment of the sheltered workshop focused on developing working skills of severely disabled people in Trnava County.

Variant – \$1,404 – help in establishing material and technical conditions for education of Roma citizens in Krásna nad Hornádom.

Civic Association Roma Cultural Association – \$1,404 – support in establishing of the PC club in Roma location in Banská Bystrica – Senica - PC courses, gaining communication skills and techniques to allow for independent and fully-fledged life.

The Association for the Support of The Mentally Handicapped in Vranov nad Topľou – \$1,404 – the support of occupational therapy activities in the form of the production of ceramics, improving the position of mentally handicapped and citizens with combined handicap in the society of healthy population.

Civic Association Smile at Me – \$1,404 – purchase of sounding software, the opening of new communication opportunities through PC for seeing and blind at the elementary school in Košice.

PC Club of the Slovak Blind and Partially Sighted of Prešov County and the County Center in Prešov – \$1,404 – to support the improvement of opportunities for visually impaired citizens who are able to obtain information through computer techniques using screen sound programs.

The Association for the Support of Mentally Handicapped in the Slovak Republic – \$1,404 – contribution for the implementation of the education course series for mentally handicapped adults trying to live without the help of their parents.

Professor Čollák Foundation – \$1,404 – the support of an educational project focused on improvement of computer literacy of retired people in the Michalovce area.

Slovak Union of Disabled, County Center in Rožňava – \$1,404 – the support toward broadening rehabilitation and social services for walking and immobile adults, children, and youth.

Agency of Supported Employment – \$1,404 – help in the improvement of the access to information for Slovak disabled citizens who are unemployed; broadening the services by work with PC and Internet.

*...OUT OF T-MOBILE SLOVENSKO FUNDS IN THE “EUROTEL HELPS THE COMMUNITY” GRANT ROUND*

Kapušany Kindergarten – \$702 – contribution to eliminating damages caused by floods; renewal of favorable conditions for education and development of children attending kindergarten.

Elementary School Pri Podlužianke 6, Levice – \$1,755 – contribution to the purchase of equipment for a specialized classroom of foreign languages.

Civic Association Green to Children (Bratislava) – \$1,755 – the support of activities leading to awareness on the importance of safe behavior in traffic situations, knowledge of road signs, solving traffic situations.

Attract Art – the Association for the Actual Art – \$1,755 – contribution to the shooting of five movies directed by groups of children from various Slovak residential areas (Bratislava – Petržalka, Žilina – Vlčince, Trenčín – South, Nitra – Klokočina, Partizánske – Šípok) in which children introduced places they like to frequent.

KPV Association – \$1,755 – contribution to the self-help construction of safe playgrounds of high quality for children and youth in Bratislava III.

Hájik (124) – \$1,755 – help for the creation of opportunities for working with PCs and the Internet in rural communities with high unemployment rates.

Elementary School at the F. D. Roosevelt’s Faculty Hospital – \$1,755 – contribution to the reconstruction of the children’s room for long-term hospitalization of children in the Child Oncology Department.

Karmel, n.o. – \$1,755 – contribution to the establishment of a club facility for young people from the villages of Obišovce and Kysak to provide space for purposeful use of leisure time.

Adam and Jakub Gregor – \$917 – help to siblings (twins) with polio, securing rehabilitation space for walking training, supporting their independence and self-sufficiency.

Civic Association Hipo-kindergarten (Bratislava) – \$1,755 – support of development, social growth, and mutual cooperation of healthy and handicapped pre-school children through the Montessori methods, psycho-motoric activities and hipotherapy (therapy through horse-riding).

Civic Association Žiarsko – \$1,755 – contribution to the establishment of a leisure time center in the village of Slaská with the goal of increasing cultural, educational, and social status of citizens, especially children.

Civic Association Family.sk – \$1,755 – the support of self-help revitalization of a former children’s playground on Gercenova Street in Bratislava.

Elementary School Viničné – \$1,755 – contribution to accessing and effective utilization of school facilities for in-school and out-of-school sport activities – Through Sport Against Boredom and Drugs.

Pahorok, n.o (Bohunice) – \$1,324– contribution to a carpenter workshop established for the operation of the re-socialization of drug addicts aged 18 and over through the form of occupational therapy.

Autistic Center Andreas – \$1,720– help provided to improve the quality of life of autistic children and their parents through special leisure time education.

Uško Fund, Non-Governmental Fund at the Boarding Elementary School for Hearing Impaired in Bratislava – \$1,755 – contribution to the development of cognitive skills and creative thinking of hearing impaired children through the publishing of “Tinker” magazine.

Protection of Predators in Slovakia (Branch in Čadca) – \$1,755 – to support the protection and wise treatment of natural values of the Orava and Kysuce regions.

TJ Slovan Ostrov – \$1,755 – contribution to the construction of a playground for children in the area of TJ Slovan Ostrov.

Civic Association Mothers' Center "Ráčik" – \$1,699– contribution toward the launching of activities of a Mothers' Center located in Bratislava – Rača, creation of suitable conditions for free and organized activities of mothers and children.

Bystrica World of the Smallest – \$1,755 – contribution to the construction of a sport area located by an Elementary School and Kindergarten in Záhorská Bystrica.

Arabeska (Nitra) – \$1,755 – support of activities, which are helping handicapped children to live fully-fledged lives; help to families in handling specific issues related to the education of a handicapped child.

The Slovak Union of Hearing Impaired – \$1,684 – the support for the project of the creation of new signs in sign language related to the wild animals and different natural curiosities.

Sabuž – branch in Modra – \$1,755 – support for construction of a playground, which would become a part of the center, serving for the revival of social life in Modra and its surroundings.

Mothers' Center Kubko (Detva) – \$1,123– support of educational activities helping parents to increase the quality of care for pre-school children.

Joyful Heart Christian Community (Partizánske) – \$1,537 – help in the introduction of ethical and moral principles into the lives of youth (Roma and Non-Roma boys from socially weak families) through music and mutual communication.

Elementary School Mierová, Želiezovce – \$1,755 – contribution to the establishment of information, communication, and a cultural school center, creation of a school library fund, "informatization and internetization".

Elementary School Kráľová pri Senci – \$1,755 – contribution to the construction of a multi-purpose facility focused on the support of harmonious development of children.

Elementary School in the Village of Lok – \$1,684 – support of club activities, which would help to improve cooperation between schools and families and mutual relations between ethnic majorities and minorities in the school population.

Elena Bachledová – \$351 – creation of a tourist attraction (external symbol) for the promotion of the oldest pilgrimage place in Slovakia, directed toward pilgrim places of neighboring countries historically connected to Marianka.

Mothers' Center Klbko – \$1,413– contribution to the improvement of quality of the lives of people living in the residential area of Karlova Ves through the construction of a safe playground for small children built in the area of Mothers' Center Clew.

*... OUT OF RESOURCES OF THE SMALL GRANT PROGRAM BY THE  
WORLD BANK*

The Association of Supervisors and Social Workers – \$2,000 – contribution to the project which is addressing the issue of unemployment of young Roma through the establishment of the Agency of Supported Employment of Roma in Eastern Slovakia.

Community Center of Minorities – \$2,200 – the support for setting up teams of terrain doorkeepers and coordinators working in problematic streets of Veľký Krtíš.

Hope for Children (Banská Bystrica) – \$2,500– support of activities leading to the development of Roma girls' daily-life skills – education to healthy life-styles, sexual education, planned parenthood.

Škola Dokorán Foundation (Javornice) – \$2,500– support of projects focused on Roma children from a socially disadvantaged environment, children dependent on the help of others, mentally handicapped and disabled children, orphans, and half-orphans.

Association of Terrain Workers – \$3,500– the support of initiative with the goal to inform professionals and the wide public on projects implemented in Roma communities, the outcomes of such projects, and their social impact with the emphasis on relationships between the minority and majority.

Agency of Supported Employment, n.o., Banská Bystrica – \$2,300 – contribution toward increasing the awareness of disabled citizens on the opportunities of supported employment as an important European tool of job-related support of disabled people.

The Association for the Support of Mentally Handicapped in Vranov nad Topľou – \$3,000 – contribution to the establishment of the regular leisure time activity club focused on occupational therapy for mentally handicapped children, youth, and adults in a soon-to-be-open social services center.

Civic Association Inclusion – \$3,500 – support of establishment of a sheltered workplace of Radnička Coffee-house in five Slovak towns and the creation of organizational and financial conditions for their future operation.

Štúdio zážitku – Outward Bound Slovakia (Bratislava) – \$2,000 – financial support of the preparation and implementation of a 10-day intensive course for 28 young people living in orphanages with the goal to train practical life skills necessary for getting a job and building their own position after they leave the orphanage.

Homo erectus Association (Dolný Kubín) – \$2,000 – the support of activities leading to the awakening of interest in issues related to disadvantaged citizens – esp. long-term unemployed homeless people; implementation of proposed solutions of selected issues.

Integra Foundation – \$3,500 – contribution to creating conditions necessary for woman support group meetings in selected regions of Slovakia with the focus on educational, and group consulting.

Diocesan Charity Nitra – \$4,000 – support toward increasing solidarity of public with terminally ill citizens; breaking prejudices of local citizens toward hospice care related to the construction of a hospice in the town.

Civic Association Cultural Association of Slovak Roma (Banská Bystrica – Senica) – \$3,500 – help to citizens living in socially marginalized communities with the lowest incomes who are dependent on state benefits and the system of social support to integrate into society; education programs, labor market orientation.

Socia – Social Reform Foundation – \$3,500 – support of spreading basic information on community planning in the area of social services for socially disadvantaged groups in all counties of Slovakia.

Civic Association Little Sun – \$2,500 – contribution to the opening of the first school tearoom built without barriers in Nová Baňa.

Civic Association Fundament – \$3,000 – contribution to creating conditions for the increase of social-economic capital in the town and county of Rimavská Sobota and for the participation of unemployed citizens in programs implemented within partnerships of NGO, municipalities, and the public sector.

Club of Cystic Fibrosis - \$3,000 – help to families and adults suffering from cystic fibrosis through social consulting; broadening the cooperation with state administration and municipality bodies; education toward self-efficiency.

Dolnosaliby Youth Club – \$3,000 – contribution to the strengthening of cooperation of rural youth organizations in the county of Galanta and Šal'a; strengthening internet communication and regional network building.

Civic Association Up-stream – \$2,000 – Nota bene – support of training activities focused on the development of social skills of homeless people, orientation in solving their own life situations.

... *OUT OF DHL INTERNATIONAL FUNDS:*

The Association for the Support of The Mentally Handicapped in Vranov nad Topľou – \$1,393 – the support of activities leading toward strengthening of solidarity and respect

of mentally handicapped citizens, their acceptance by the wider public, and the support of co-existence with healthy co-citizens.

The Association of Disabled of Orava – \$1,393– contribution to implementing seminars focused on the topic of the rights of disabled citizens and advocating for legislative changes in this area.

*... OUT OF “VÝCHODOSLOVENSKÁ ENERGETIKA– NADÁCIA PONTIS”  
FOUNDATION FUND ESTABLISHED AT THE PONTIS FOUNDATION:*

The Association of Alumni and Friends of Technical University in Košice – \$27,811 – support of the reconstruction and purchase of technical equipment for three classrooms of foreign language education.

The Association of Slovak Towns and Villages – \$87,732 – support for 37 villages and towns affected by floods.

Slovak Red Cross – \$70,185 – help to individuals and families affected by floods in Eastern Slovakia; purchasing, lending, and the distribution of technical equipment utilized for the purposes of relief work in the flooded areas.

Civic Association “Rada Academia” – \$702 + \$877 – support for participation of the training company “Rada Academia” at the international trade-fair of training companies in Bratislava and Košice with the goal to gain business skills and to create conditions for successful competition in searching for a job.

The Club of Friends of Visually Impaired Youth at the Vocational School in Levoča – \$2,334– support of effective utilization of PC applications for blind and visually impaired pupils.

Bratislava Cultural and Information Association – \$8,773– EKOTOPFILM – financial support of a festival focused on presentation of professional audio-visual production; printing of promotional materials and informational leaflets.

Tatranská Kotlina Sanatorium – \$26,319– financial contribution provided toward the upgrade of catering services technology equipment, for upgrading of housing standards, and for the replacement of old sanitary equipment.

Association for the Support of Mentally Handicapped in Stropkov – \$17,546– contribution to construction of the infrastructure and increase in standard of services aimed at helping social inclusion of children and marginalized groups.

1. Lions Club – \$3,158– Beneficial concert “The Fall Harmony 2004” – contribution to the organization of a second year of the beneficial concert held in Dom Umenia (House

of the Arts) in Košice; building the public awareness and awareness of the business sector on the project's legitimacy and usefulness.

*...OUT OF "ZÁPADOSLOVENSKÁ ENERGETIKA – NADÁCIA PONTIS"  
FOUNDATION FUND ESTABLISHED AT THE PONTIS FOUNDATION:*

Convergences – Association for Chamber Art – \$21,056– Convergences 2004 – Festival of Chamber Music held in Bratislava – contribution to organizing the festival focused on the presentation of the unique world and Slovak chamber music.

Slovak Foundation for the Help of Burnt – \$12,282– purchase of special bed for the treatment of burnt patients.

Foundation - Center of Contemporary Arts – \$17,546– support of a beneficial auction of Slovak contemporary fine art that was to present a collection of 186 artworks of 87 prestigious Slovak artists.

Scouting Slovakia – \$37,198– support of the project in which young people take over the patronage of thirteen castles of Western Slovakia with the purpose of cleaning their surrounding and refreshing their look; improvement of public awareness on history and the importance of castles and their historical environment.

Institute for Public Affairs – \$8,773– Transatlantic Trends 2004– contribution to the implementation of an opinion poll on foreign policy issues which is part of comparative research in EU countries and the USA.

Bicycle Bratislava (BicyBa)– \$7,019 (total grant amount of \$59,307) – support of an analysis of the current state of cycle-routes, improvement of the existing concept and design of regional cycle-lines, preparation of evaluation study and the implementation of newly-proposed cycle-routes.

\* \* \* \*

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Annual Report of the Pontis Foundation for 2004

Prepared by: Peter Mészáros

Translation: Jana Vlašičová

Proofreading: Mathew Kovacs

Pontis Foundation

Grösslingova 4, 811 09 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

ph: +421-2-5296 2215, 2231, fax: +421-2-5923 6132

e-mail: [pontis@pontisfoundation.sk](mailto:pontis@pontisfoundation.sk), web: [www.pontisfoundation.sk](http://www.pontisfoundation.sk)