

[on pontis foundation]**pontis wins best annual report contest award**

Pontis Foundation won the 3rd place in the *Best 2007 Annual Report* contest. This was the ninth installment of the contest, organized by the Institute for Economic and Social Reforms INEKO, the company SK-media, and the *Trend* weekly. More information in Slovak is available [here](#).

pontis becomes a fair trade workplace

Pontis Foundation is the first Slovak foundation to obtain the *Fair Trade Workplace* certificate. As part of the campaign supporting Fair Trade, the certificates are awarded by the Integra Foundation. Pontis Foundation has supported Fair Trade ideas on a long-term basis, and Fair Trade products are a natural part of all events we organize. Read more [here](#).

[foundation grants and programs]**t-mobile's support of talented sensorially handicapped children and youth**

In cooperation with Pontis Foundation, Integra Foundation and the Slovak Deaf Association, T-Mobile Slovakia is for the second time announcing the grant program *Looking for Another Sense – FOR BUSINESS*. The program's aim is to increase the opportunities for hearing-impaired people to launch their own, independently run businesses. At least Sk 1,500,000 (€ 49,790.88) will be distributed for the purpose. More information about the program in Slovak is available [here](#).

tesco for healthier cities – 30 november 2008 deadline

The Tesco Stores Slovakia grant fund set up at the Pontis Foundation announced another round of its grant program *Tesco for Healthier Cities*. Its aim is to support the enhancement, cleaning and other maintenance of green areas in cities and towns where Tesco stores are located. In the current round, the total amount of grant money to be distributed is Sk 1,200,000 (€ 39,832.70). Read more about the program in Slovak [here](#).

čsob fs employee grant program results

The ČSOB FS grant fund at the Pontis Foundation will support 20 non-profit organizations through distributing the total amount of Sk 540,000 (€ 17,924.70). 68 non-governmental organizations were recommended by ČSOB FS employees for the grant program. Detailed program results are posted [here](#).

[corporate responsibility]**1st corporate philanthropy forum – thoughtful donations are more than signing the check**

In early November, the first *Corporate Philanthropy Forum* took place in Bratislava. Participants agreed that their intention was to increase the effectiveness of financial donations they provide to help their local communities; donations should be expanded to include other forms of support. Expert guidance for non-profit organizations and a greater engagement on the part of employees will contribute to raising the quality of supported projects. Read [more here](#).

community investment standard used by 6 slovak companies this year

59% of finances provided for philanthropic activities are provided by companies for commercial initiatives, such as sponsoring or cause-related marketing. That is the result of the evaluation of this year's donation activities, performed by using the *Community Investment Standard* methodology. The amount has almost doubled compared to the previous year, while, conversely, the amount provided for charitable donations dropped from 47% to the current 28%.

upcoming events

27–28 november
Two-day **Turkey Dialogues seminar** in Bratislava. Read more about the event [here](#).

december
As part of the *Visegrad for a European Serbia* project, we organize the **3rd Round Table in Serbia on Joining the EU**.

december
We'll announce the **best student essay contest** on the topic of development aid.

continuously
We regularly publish **news from our target countries** on our web pages. Get all the news [here](#).

More information is [here](#).

gri reporting introduced in slovakia

In late October, in cooperation with the *Business Leaders Forum* association, we organized a seminar on producing corporate responsibility reports. There is no tradition as yet in Slovakia for compiling reports on the companies' economic, social and environmental performance. The seminar presented the very first such report, produced by VÚB banka in accordance with internationally recognized guidelines. Read more [here](#).

[ngos support]

watch 2008 non-profit organizations fairs video footage

At this year's *Non-Profit Organizations Fair* events that took place at the 2008 Bažant Pohoda music festival, in Bratislava, and in Banská Bystrica, the total number of 74 non-profit organizations were presented. Would you like to learn more about the discussions conducted with visitors, what products were offered, or what guests visited our Pontis Arena at the music festival? Then watch the combined video footage from this year's three fair events, posted [here](#).

[belarus]

conference on belarus: shaping the space for change

On 10–12 November in Kiev, in cooperation with Pact Ukraine and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, we organized the 2nd annual conference of the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies. At the conference titled *Belarus: Shaping the Space for Change*, participants evaluated developments in the political, social and economic area in the previous year, and examined trends that will determine the future course of events in Belarus. More information is [here](#).

communication training provided for belarusian experts

On 13 November, in cooperation with the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies, we organized a meeting of Belarusian experts in Minsk. The meeting focused on improving 6 Belarusian experts' skills of communicating the results of their research to the public and stakeholders. This is another of Pontis Foundation's activities aimed at systematically supporting the Belarusian expert community whose effort is to revitalize the country's public discourse.

[cuba]

reports from families of Cuban prisoners visited in 2008

Pontis Foundation and the civic association People in Peril organize a collection to support the families of Cuban political prisoners since 2003. Proceeds from the collection are delivered to the families by volunteers. From November 2007 to November 2008, we arranged 6 trips of volunteers to Cuba. The families received finances and material support amounting to Sk 120,196.06 Sk (€ 3,989.78). Based on these journeys, we prepared a publication we intend to use to share information with you on the status of prisoners and the supported families in 2008. We're also bringing greetings from Cuban families to Slovakia, especially to everyone who expressed their solidarity by contributing to the collection. You may download the publication in Slovak [here](#). More information in Slovak is [here](#).

[serbia and the balkans]

balkan studies graduates obtain certificates

On Monday, 10 November, we organized a festive dinner for graduates of the 2nd year of Advanced Balkan Studies, with the participation of Mr. Tomislav Car, Ambassador of Croatia. Successful graduates obtained certificates and diplomas on completing the course. More information in Slovak is available [here](#).

corporate responsibility project in serbia completed

This project in Serbia lasted 20 months from March 2007 to the end of October 2008. It focused on extending the capabilities of our partner organization Smart Kolektiv, on training 12 non-governmental organizations in cooperation between sectors and corporate responsibility, and corporate responsibility trainings for company representatives. Details on project results in Slovak are posted [here](#).

užice round-table on encouraging foreign investment

On 12 November in the Western Serbian town of Užice, in cooperation with our partner organization Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, we organized a round-table discussion titled *Regional Economic Development and Encouraging Foreign Investment*. Read more about the event [here](#).

continuing preparation of serbian document on eu integration of visegrad countries

Between 19 and 31 October 2008, the B92 crew from Serbia visited Budapest, Bratislava, Trnava, Prague and Brno. As part of the project *Visegrad for a European Serbia*, they recorded a series of 24 interviews. Read more about the prepared documentary film in Slovak [here](#).

[dialogues on turkey]

young people invited to two-day seminar on turkey

In cooperation with our partner organization ARI Movement in Istanbul, we are preparing the seminar *Turkey Dialogues* for 27-28 November 2008. The seminar's aim is to provide young people in Slovakia with information on Turkey, its modern history, culture and politics. Participants will get the opportunity to obtain finances for their own Turkey-related projects. More information about the seminar, its preliminary program and the registration forms are [available here](#).

[development aid education]

5 development aid lectures held so far

As part of the *Development Aid Education* project, we have already organized 5 lectures at 4 universities. The lectures present various aspects of development aid to students of five universities in Bratislava, Banská Bystrica, Trnava, Nitra and Prešov. The project was financially supported by Slovak Aid. We're continuing our lectures this month, and their schedule is posted [here](#).

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Please [let us know](#) so we can avoid such a situation in the future.
Thank you!*

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