

[about pontis foundation]**human rights day statement: evaluating slovakia's foreign policies**

Among the Pontis Foundation's goals is to advocate the foreign policies of Slovakia and the European Union based on the values of democracy, respect for human rights, and solidarity. Every year on December 10, to mark the occasion of Human Rights Day, the Pontis Foundation evaluates Slovakia's foreign policies from these perspectives. The full wording of the statement is [posted here](#).

recipients of 2008 ján langoš awards announced

On Human Rights Day (December 10, 2008), in cooperation with the Pontis Foundation and the Central European Foundation (CEF), Ján Langoš Foundation presented the *National and International Ján Langoš Awards*. The national award was given to Bishop Pavol Gojdič *in memoriam*. The recipient of the international award is Árpád Göncz, the former President of Hungary. Read more about the event [here](#).

pontis now also at facebook

The Pontis Foundation now also has its webpage on the popular social network *Facebook*. In [our profile here](#), you can find a selection of information on our activities, along with video footage from our events. You might decide to become one of our "fans". We'll be happy to meet you there!

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

In cooperation with the Pontis Foundation, T-Mobile Slovakia supported the projects of 13 non-profit organizations from various regions of Slovakia. The maximum amount of an awarded grant reached Sk 70,000 (€ 2,323.58). The total distributed amount from T-Mobile Slovakia's grant resources at the Pontis Foundation is Sk 894,996 (€ 29,709). More information on the supported organizations and their projects is [here](#).

4th annual zse grant program – positive energy for sports

Západoslovenská energetika's fund at the Pontis Foundation is announcing the 4th annual grant program titled *Positive Energy for Sports 2009*. The aim is to support the building and reconstruction of open-air sports facilities, usable throughout the year, in the region of Western Slovakia. For this purpose, the total amount of Sk 3,500,000 (€ 116,179) will be distributed by the Západoslovenská energetika's fund. Applicants supported in the previous year may submit grant requests again if the constructions undertaken by them still need to be completed. More information in Slovak is [here](#).

[corporate responsibility]**every fifth slovak does not believe there are any socially responsible companies in slovakia**

The term corporate responsibility is only familiar to 39% of the Slovak public. Almost a fifth of the people we asked do not believe that there are any socially responsible companies conducting business in Slovakia. These are some of the results of a quantitative survey of the perception of corporate responsibility by the Slovak public. More information is [here](#).

[ngos support]**canada's governor general meets ngo representatives**

In the Better World facility in Bratislava-Petržalka, we organized a meeting of Canadian Governor General, Michaëlle Jean, with representatives of reputable

upcoming events**january**

Two-day seminar on **European Union and Turkey** in Istanbul.

january

Opening of the 9th annual **Via Bona** award competition, recognizing corporate responsibility and philanthropy. More about Via Bona [here](#).

february

Winter School of Development Aid.

february

Round table in Novi Sad, Serbia, on knowledge economy and education system reform.

continuously

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

Slovak non-profit organizations. The Governor General paid an official visit to Slovakia on 26–28 November. Read more about the event [here](#).

[belarus]

eastern partnership is also an opportunity for belarus

The European Commission presented the proposal of an Eastern Partnership for Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and – potentially for the future – also Belarus. The proposal is interesting for all of the listed countries, including Belarus. Belarusian access, however, is still conditioned by the EU through the improvement of mutual relations. The transcript of an article first published in the *Hospodárske noviny* daily on 3 December is posted [here](#) (in Slovak).

belarus brief released: end of european policy of neighbourhood

In early November, only a few weeks following the September elections in Belarus, we published our most recent Belarus Brief so far, titled *End of European Policy of Neighbourhood*. The report argues that the European Union changed its policy towards Belarus and embarked on a path of “Realpolitik”. The report’s full English wording may be downloaded [here](#).

16 projects apply for support from belarusian public policy fund

Until December 12, Belarusian experts had the opportunity to apply for support from the Belarusian Public Policy Fund, as part of already the fifth call for projects. The fund received 16 applications in support of public policies and open discourse in Belarus. The results of evaluation by an international committee will be announced in early February 2009. Applicants could apply up to € 5,500 for a time period of no more than 6 months.

[cuba]

new issue of cuba–europe dialogues bulletin

The network of European Non-governmental organizations that also focus on Cuba – among them the Pontis Foundation – released a new issue of its *Cuba–Europe Dialogues* bulletin. Among other topics, the new issue examines the following: Obama and Cuba; disastrous consequences of hurricanes; half-year report on human rights in Cuba. The bulletin is published in English, and you may download it from our address [here](#).

[serbia and the balkans]

round table on small and medium-sized businesses in niš

On December 12 in the South Serbian city of Niš, we organized a round-table on the topic of *Development of Small and Medium-Sized Businesses in the Context of European Integration*, in cooperation with our partner organization Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence. More information about the event [here](#).

another semester of balkan studies completed

In December, we completed another semester of the university-level Balkan Studies course; 37 students from Bratislava’s Comenius University enrolled for the classes. There were 12 seminars in total, and participants were introduced to the history, politics, international relationships and sociological aspects of the Western Balkans countries. This was the 3rd academic year in which Pontis made the course available.

[dialogues about turkey]

dialogues about turkey: 2-day seminar for young people

Dialogues about Turkey participants were offered a varied and attractive program, featuring interesting guests. Among those in attendance was the British Ambassador in Slovakia, Mr. Michael Roberts; in his address, he talked about the relations between Great Britain and Turkey, the problem area of Cyprus, and the issues related to the process of Turkey’s entry into the EU.

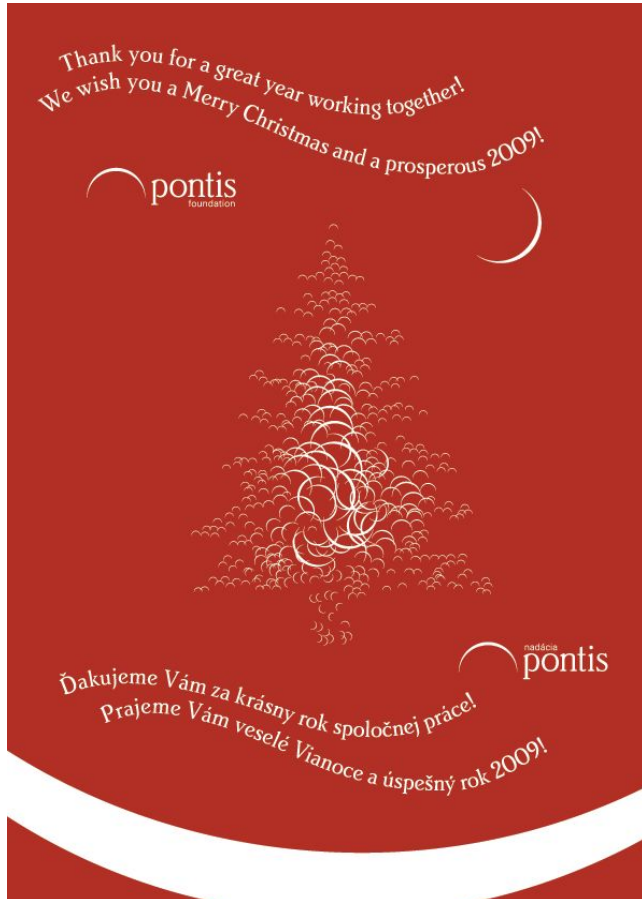
Read more about the seminar [here](#).

[**development aid education**]

series of 15 development aid lectures completed

As part of our *Development Aid Education* project, we completed a series of 15 lectures at 5 universities. Students of five Slovak universities in Bratislava, Banská Bystrica, Trnava, Nitra and Prešov got to know various aspects of development aid, and were presented with specific information on development aid in Kyrgyzstan, the Western Balkans, and Belarus. The project was financially supported by Slovak Aid. Read more about the project [here](#).

[**thank you for a wonderful year of cooperation!**]



**Lenka Surotchak
Pavel Hrica
Beáta Hlavčáková
Gabika Zúbriková
Kinga Dabrowska
Iveta Čarná
Monika Smolová
Oľga Auchenbach
Norbert Maur
Marieta Kováčová
Jana Ružická
Michal Kišša
Ivana Králová
Maroš Silný
Veronika Vašinová
Jakub Šimek
Martina Petrová
Jana Kobzová
Matej Duman
Janko Hrebík
Milan Šagát
Alexandra Vašinová
Vladimír Vladár**

*We apologize if this e-mail message inconveniences you.
Please [let us know](#) so we can avoid such a situation in the future.
Thank you!*

pontis foundation
grosslingova 59
811 09 bratislava
slovakia
tel.: +421 2 5710
8111
fax: +421 2 5710
8125

pontis@pontisfoundation.sk

www.pontisfoundation.sk

www.blf.sk

www.firemnafilantropia.sk

www.ideaxchange.sk

www.nasabratislava.sk

www.nasekosice.sk

www.viabona.sk