

## [ about the pontis foundation ]

### donate 2% of your tax to the pontis foundation

The Pontis Foundation invites you to donate 2% of your income tax for last year. Proceeds will be used as part of transparent grant programs for activities defined by legislation. **Let's support those in need together in 2009!** Detailed instructions (in Slovak) on how to donate 2% of your income tax in Slovak are available at: [http://www.nadaciapontis.sk/ako\\_poukazat\\_2percenta](http://www.nadaciapontis.sk/ako_poukazat_2percenta)

## [ foundation grants and programs ]

### let's make life better – a new grant program of kia motors slovakia

KIA Motors Slovakia has established in the Pontis Foundation a foundation that's focused on supporting environmental and social philanthropic activities in the Žilina region. The aim of the first employee grant program **Let's make life better** in 2009 is to financially support environmental, social and educational projects. Among those eligible for support are non-governmental organisations, as well as nonprofits established by governmental authorities or local governments, that carry out their activities in the Žilina region. The deadline of the call for grant applications is March 20, 2009. More information (in Slovak) is [available here](#).

### 15 future entrepreneurs attend training

The Pontis Foundation, in co-operation with the Integra Foundation, organised a training called, "**How to start your own business**" for people with hearing disabilities who wanted to set up their own small licence businesses. The training was financially supported by a grant program of T-Mobile Slovakia called **Looking for Another Sense – FOR DOING BUSINESS**. More information about this training (in Slovak) is [available here](#).

### positive energy to help 22 sports fields

The Západoslovenská energetika Fund of the Pontis Foundation, under the grant program *Positive Energy for Sport*, will support 22 projects to build, reconstruct or finish sports fields in the western part of Slovakia. A total of 116 179 € (3 500 000 SKK) will be distributed from the fund for this purpose. More information about the results of the grant program and a list of supported projects (in Slovak) are [available here](#).

## [ via bona slovakia ]

### 82 nominations for the via bona slovakia 2008 awards

The aim of the Via Bona Slovakia Awards is to publicly recognise companies and entrepreneurs that promote corporate responsibility (CR) and corporate philanthropy in Slovakia. In this, our 9<sup>th</sup> year, we have received 82 nominations for the award. The list of nominations is available (in Slovak) at the webpage [www.viabona.sk](http://www.viabona.sk).

### results of the first evaluation round of the nominations for the via bona slovakia 2008 awards

After the first round of the evaluations of nominations that were received, 38 nominations qualified for the second round. The winner of each category will be selected at the block evaluation by the members of evaluation committee. The list of the nominations that qualified for the block evaluation (in Slovak) is [available here](#).

## upcoming events

### March 19

Member Companies associated with the **Business Leaders Forum** will hold their regular **quarterly meeting**.

### March 24

A **roundtable will be held in Leskovac, Serbia**, under the project *Visegrad for the European Serbia*.

### April 2

We will announce the results of **Via Bona Slovakia 2008** at a gala ceremony.

### April 21

A **roundtable will be held in Vranje, Serbia**, under the project *Visegrad for the European Serbia*.

### April 28

In Bratislava, we will co-organise an **event about the situation in Cuba**.

### May 14

The key topic at the **6th International Conference on Corporate Responsibility** will be the economic crisis and its impacts.

### ongoing

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

## [ belarus ]

### eu - belarus relations discussed at meetings in brussels and london

In April, the EU will review its decision to suspend sanctions against Belarus, and decide whether to invite Belarus to join the EU Eastern Partnership. In a run up to these decisions, the Pontis Foundation, with the Office for a Democratic Belarus, held two meetings on Belarus in Brussels (March 2 and March 4) and one in the UK (March 3) with the London-based Centre for European Reform and the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies. The meetings were held to give independent experts from Belarus a chance to present their views on the current situation in Belarus and on EU-Belarus relations, and to make recommendations for future EU steps towards Belarus. The main points about EU – Belarus relations [can be found here](#).

## [ serbia and the balkans ]

### roundtable on social policy reforms in kragujevac, serbia

The Pontis Foundation, in cooperation with partner organization Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, organized on February 24 a roundtable in the Serbian town of Kragujevac on "**Social Policy Reforms – Experiences with Social Dialogue**." The speakers at the roundtable were *Tanja Miscevic*, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Political Science at Belgrade University and former director of the Serbian EU Integration Office, *Daniel Csanady*, College of Management in Budapest, and *Ondrej Krutilek*, Democracy and Culture Studies Centre in Czech Republic. More information about the roundtable is [available here](#).

### study trip of smart kolektiv to slovakia on corporate volunteering

Our partnership organisation Smart Kolektiv from Serbia visited Slovakia February 16th – 19, 2009. Participants on this study trip deepened their knowledge of the activities of big international companies in the field of corporate volunteerism. They visited the Slovak branches of Hewlett-Packard, KPMG and IBM. They also visited some non-governmental organisations. This study trip was one of the activities of the Pontis Foundation's project **Our Town**. More information about the project is available here.  
<http://www.nadaciapontis.sk/en/13873>

## [ development aid education ]

### we announced the best essay competition on the topic of development aid

University students in Slovakia who submit their essays to the Best Essay Competition on the topic of development aid can win an interesting first prize – a **3-week internship at the Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the UN in Geneva, Switzerland**. Submitted essays have to reflect current academic trends, elaborate actual problems of development aid and contribute to the discourse about the setup of Slovak development aid. Essays must be in Slovak and must be submitted no later than **May 24, 2009**. More information on competition (in Slovak) is available at [www.nadaciapontis.sk/esej](http://www.nadaciapontis.sk/esej).

### 35 university students attend winter school on development aid

From February 26 – March 1, the Pontis Foundation organised the **Winter School on Development Aid** in Banská Štiavnica. The school was attended by 35 students and associates from Slovak universities. The goal of the Winter School was to enhance Slovak interest and activism in development aid by using new and unconventional means. The project was financially supported by SlovakAid. More information about the event [can be found here](#).

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Thank you!*

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