

**[ about pontis foundation ]****2008 annual report published**

The Pontis Foundation's new annual report provides an overview of the foundation's activities in 2008. With the help of partners and donors, we successfully implemented numerous activities of our own to support those who need assistance. You may download our annual report in Slovak [in a PDF file here](#).

**open letter on china's president's visit of slovakia**

The Pontis Foundation added its signature under the open letter to Slovakia's top state officials in which they are requested by non-governmental organizations to address the issue of human rights at their meetings with China's President during his visit of Bratislava. The wording of the open letter (in Slovak) is [available here](#).

**[ corporate volunteerism ]****our bratislava 2009 – volunteers from 40 companies helped beautify bratislava**

On two days in June, all of us jointly worked 5,100 volunteer hours, which equals over 600 working days, or nearly 2.5 years of labour. The cleaned Mountain Park and premises of the Devín castle, restored playgrounds, newly painted fences, many planted flowers in gardens, trainings on how to prepare presentations, blood donations, discussions at retirement homes – all of this and more resulted in the total number of 53 projects implemented in 44 non-profit organizations. On June 12-13, 1,196 volunteers from 40 companies and organizations joined the third annual corporate volunteerism event titled Our Bratislava. They were assisted by the likes of actress Táňa Pauhofová, TV personalities Alena Heribanová and Katarína Brychtová, and the news co-anchors Jarka Hargašová-Lajčáková and Ľubomír Bajaník. More information and pictures from the event are [available here](#).

**[ foundation grants and programs ]****employee grant program accenture 2009: skills to succeed**

The company Accenture announced the most recent, fourth annual round of its Employee Grant Program. Through Accenture staff and their family members, non-governmental organizations (foundations, civic associations, non-profit organizations providing general public welfare services, non-investment funds, special-purpose church facilities), as well as allowance and budgetary organizations (schools, self-governments), may apply for grants – if they also employ volunteer work. Physical persons and enterprises are not eligible to receive the grants. The deadline for submitting grant requests is July 2, 2009. More information about the grant program (in Slovak) are [available here](#).

**additional 200 pcs donated to help increase computer literacy in slovakia**

In the program titled *PC for a Good Cause – Second Chance*, the Pontis Foundation and DELL will distribute 200 computers to 46 non-governmental organizations active in the area of education and emphasizing IT instruction. Supported applicants include various educational children's and youth associations and organizations focused on improving opportunities for seniors, parents on parental leaves, people who are disadvantaged on the labour market, and marginalized groups. Computers will also be donated to schools with significant extra-curricular activities in IT education. More information in Slovak is [available here](#).

**upcoming events**

**July**  
**Launch of new web site on corporate social responsibility.**

## [ corporate social responsibility ]

### csr seminar for small and medium enterprises

On Thursday, June 18, 2009, the Pontis Foundation, Business Leaders Forum and CSR Europe organized a seminar for small and medium enterprises, dealing with the topic of *Corporate Social Responsibility – Economy, Ecology, Society*. The event's partner was VUB banka; the bank had already sponsored similar events for small and medium enterprises last year. More information on the content of the seminar is [available here](#).

## [ belarus ]

### new analysis about the belarus' foreign debt

The Pontis Foundation brings you a new analysis from the Belarus Public Policy Fund Series; a joint project of the Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies and the Pontis Foundation aimed at encouraging policy dialogue in Belarus. The paper, prepared by Gleb Shymanovich takes a close look at how Belarus' foreign debt is structured and what potential impact it could have on the Belarusian economy in the upcoming period. The paper argues that the risk of a growing exchange rate and an increase in interest rates – both effects of the global financial crisis – make the prospects for successful servicing of the debt, even more uncertain. The analysis is [available here](#).

### “healing” healthcare in belarus

The Pontis Foundation organized a working visit to Belarus in March to map out the activities of non-governmental organizations and civic initiatives in the sphere of healthcare. Our goal was also to assess the potential for further development of their activities and advocacy work. The assessment focused only on groups active directly in the field of healthcare, not those working on social services in general; although the boundaries between the two are sometimes blurred and there are very few NGOs specializing only on the healthcare. The assessment was carried out by a Slovak health policy expert. The analysis is [available here](#).

## [ cuba ]

### eu council conclusions on cuba gives high priority to human rights issue

The Pontis Foundation welcomes the final conclusions of the EU Council on Cuba which gives high priority to the issues of human rights and release of political prisoners. In its regular annual assessment of the situation in Cuba, agreed upon by EU foreign ministers at June 15, 2009 session in Luxemburg, the Council correctly notes insufficient progress in these issues and calls on the Cuban government to release all political prisoners unconditionally, and to allow access to Cuban prisons for international humanitarian organizations. For more information, [visit this site](#).

## [ serbia & the balkans ]

### cross-border cooperation – panel discussion in bor, serbia

On May 26 in the Serbian town of Bor, in cooperation with its partner organization Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, the Pontis Foundation organized a panel discussion on the topic of cross-border cooperation. Among the guests at the round table were Sanja Mešanović from the Serbian Office for European Integration; Zoltán Pogátsa from the University of West Hungary in Sopron, Hungary; and Peter Németh from Slovakia's Regional Development Agency in Prešov. More information is [available here](#).

### premier our belgrade event follows the model of our bratislava

Following the model of the corporate volunteerism event Our Bratislava, companies associated in the Serbian Business Leaders Forum (BLF Serbia) organized the first day of volunteer work in Belgrade. Over 250 volunteers from various companies – BLF Serbia member organizations – joined the pilot event Our Belgrade on June 6. More information is [available here](#).

pontis foundation  
grosslingova 59  
811 09 bratislava  
slovakia  
tel.: +421 2 5710 8111  
fax: +421 2 5710 8125  
[pontis@pontisfoundation.sk](mailto:pontis@pontisfoundation.sk)

[www.pontisfoundation.sk](http://www.pontisfoundation.sk)  
[www.blf.sk](http://www.blf.sk)  
[www.firemnafilantropia.sk](http://www.firemnafilantropia.sk)  
[www.ideaxchange.sk](http://www.ideaxchange.sk)  
[www.nasabratislava.sk](http://www.nasabratislava.sk)  
[www.nasekosice.sk](http://www.nasekosice.sk)  
[www.viabona.sk](http://www.viabona.sk)

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Thank you!*

