

**[ about pontis foundation ]****in 2009 the ngo sector in slovakia was hit mainly by the financial crisis and the negative attitude of the previous government**

The annual NGO Sustainability Index of the non-governmental sector realized by the Pontis Foundation shows a decrease in the year 2009. In comparison to the year 2008 the number was by 0,1 of a point lower, which is a small change. The position of the non-profit sector in Slovakia is among the top five of the 29 countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Euro-Asia. more here >>

<http://www.nadaciapontis.sk/en/15326>

**projects of the pontis foundation and the pontis non-profit organization at the ngo day 2010**

Representatives of the Pontis Foundation and TechSoup Global presented to participants of the NGO Day 2010 projects of TechSoup Slovakia, projects focused on increasing PC literacy of teachers and students in South-East Kenya and projects of the Darca.sk portal. Representatives of 56 non-governmental organizations took part in the NGO Day 2010. This is the third time Microsoft Slovakia organized this event. more here >>

<http://www.nadaciapontis.sk/en/15415>

**pontis foundation is on the social network facebook**

You can now find updated information on our activities also on the social network Facebook at the following address: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Nadacia-Pontis/45533785629>. Add us to your pages you like and be informed on current happenings! Thank you!

**[ corporate volunteering ]****more than 650 volunteers helped make žilina a nicer place**

The Our Žilina 2010 event brought together once again companies that care about the environment around them with non-profit organizations that need help. The 165 company volunteers were spontaneously joined by 488 volunteers from the general public. Between September 22nd – 25th volunteers cleaned the forest park Chrást and the park under Rondel, painted a 300 meter long fence of a school, 10 benches and 2 sandpits, planted almost 40 decorative plants and prepared a drainage sewer at the Lietava castle for the winter. 653 volunteers worked off altogether 2 589 hours, which is more than 1,5 year of work of one person. The Pontis Foundation organized the event in cooperation with the group of companies Engage and the town of Žilina. more here >>

<http://www.nadaciapontis.sk/en/15429>

**in the new program helping heads company employees can pass their know how to charity activities**

In September 2010 the Pontis Foundation in cooperation with the group of companies Engage started a new program of corporate volunteering – Helping Heads. In this program, employees of the participating companies can pass their experience and know-how from various areas to non-profit organizations. more here >> <http://www.nadaciapontis.sk/en/15413>

**companies can receive a prize for involving their employees in volunteer activities**

The Pontis Foundation accepts nominations for a new prize - Employee Volunteering Award Slovakia (EVA Slovakia). The aim of the prize is to show positive examples of large and small size companies that engage their employees in volunteer activities in order to improve the employability of disadvantaged people. The EVA prize is a part of the prestigious pan-European prize - European Employee Volunteering Awards which is organized on the occasion of the European year of Volunteering 2011 simultaneously in 21 European countries. more here >> <http://www.nadaciapontis.sk/en/15390>

**[ upcoming events ]**

**October**  
**Autumn school for analysts from Belarus.**

**October 15**  
**Deadline for the Kia Innovation Award competition.**

**October 18**  
**Deadline for nominations for the Employee Volunteering Award Slovakia.**

**October 20**  
**Seminar for small and middle size companies in Banská Bystrica on corporate responsibility and energetic efficiency.**

**November 11**  
**Forum on corporate philanthropy.**

## **take part in ibm´s service jam**

The Pontis Foundation, as the main Slovak partner of the event, is inviting you to take part in an interesting global virtual conference - IBM´s Service Jam which takes place on October 10th – October 12th 2010. The conference is hosted by IBM. more here >> <http://www.nadaciapontis.sk/en/15410>

## **ernst&young employees helped in non-profit organizations for the third time**

September 3rd was a very untraditional day for more than a hundred employees of Ernst&Young. For the third time already, the company organized in cooperation with the Pontis Foundation a volunteer event called Ernst&Young Community Day. Volunteers worked off approximately 500 volunteer hours in six non-profit organizations. more here >> <http://www.nadaciapontis.sk/en/15370>

## **corporate volunteers from mazars helped at a nursery**

There are many ways for a company to celebrate ten years of its existence. Employees of the company Mázars combined business with pleasure and made the garden of the nursery at the Šťastná street in Ružinov a nicer place. more here >> <http://www.nadaciapontis.sk/en/15364>

## **video about our bratislava 2010 event**

New video about volunteering event Our Bratislava 2010 you can find on <http://www.nasabratistlava.sk/SK/page/Spravy/Video-Nasa-Bratislava-2010/n-0>.

## **[ foundation grants and programs ]**

### **the public learned sign language**

Thanks to the support of the Slovak Telekom Foundation Fund at the Pontis Foundation, the Pontis Foundation organized a sign language course for beginners in Nový Smokovec, in Vysoké Tatry. In the five days of the training, 20 participants from the whole of Slovakia learned how to communicate with the deaf in basic life situations. more here >> <http://www.nadaciapontis.sk/en/15372>

### **employee grant giving program helping hand will help 14 non-profit organizations**

14 projects received support of almost 11 000 EUR from the employee grant giving program Helping hand organized from the Foundation fund PwC. The chosen projects are very different and focus on various fields.

### **accenture donates to skills development more than 55 000 eur**

As a part of its employee grant giving program for the year 2010, Accenture will support from the Accenture Foundation fund at the Pontis Foundation 13 projects focused on skills development. On top of that this is the fifth time that Accenture in Slovakia will directly support civic activities of the Maják (Lighthouse) and Dotyk (Touch) associations. Accenture decided to directly support another two non-profit organizations – Human Rights League (Liga za ľudské práva) and Shelter House at the Halfway Point (Dom na polceste).

### **kia innovation award – a competition for secondary schools in the žilina and trenčín regions**

The Pontis Foundation in cooperation with Kia Motors Slovakia announced a pilot competition project for secondary schools in the Žilina and Trenčín regions. The Kia Innovation Award competition is designed for students of secondary schools who will prepare a project from the area of the automobile industry. Authors of the three best projects will receive a grant worth 6 500 EUR, 4 500 EUR and 2 500 EUR that they can use to buy equipment and learning devices for their school. The deadline for applications on the portal [www.Darca.sk](http://www.Darca.sk) is October 15, 2010. Students will present selected projects at a conference held on the premises of Kia Motors Slovakia.

## **[ cuba ]**

### **cuba released a prisoner whose family was supported by Slovaks through a collection!**

On Friday September 3, after 7 years the 48 year old Alfredo Batista was released from a Cuban prison. After his release, he was forced to leave with his family to

Spain. Alfredo Batista and his family were among the 35 families which were supported by Slovaks via a collection of the People in Peril organization and the Pontis Foundation. The Slovak politician Ján Figel' symbolically adopted Alfredo and his family. more here >> <http://www.nadaciapontis.sk/en/15322>

### **gift of the slovak foreign ministry and the pontis foundation to the released cuban prisoner a. d. batista**

On Thursday September 16, 2010, the Slovak Ambassador to Spain Ján Škoda handed over to the former political prisoner Alfredo Domínguez Batista and his wife Melba Santana a mobile computer – a common gift of the Foreign Ministry of the Slovak republic and the Pontis Foundation. The computer was donated by Accenture via the Pontis Foundation. more here >>

<http://www.nadaciapontis.sk/en/15392>

### **[ serbia and the western balkans ]**

#### **2nd call for proposal for support from the slovak - serbian eu enlargement fund**

The Pontis Foundation (Slovakia) and the Center for Democracy Foundation (Serbia) announced the 2nd Call for Proposal for researchers and organizations from Serbia to undertake research projects. The Slovak - Serbian EU Fund was financially supported by Slovak Aid. more here >>

<http://www.nadaciapontis.sk/en/15347>

#### **new policy paper on absorption capacity of serbia for use of eu funds**

The author Ivan Knezevic has focused in his policy paper on absorption capacity of Serbia for use of EU Funds. Based on the example of EU integration of Slovakia author strengthened the importance of the pre- accession phase and pointed out main challenges in using pre-accession assistance. more here >>

<http://www.nadaciapontis.sk/en/15360>

### **[ development aid and development education ]**

#### **pontis foundation is partner of the international development aid and cooperation course**

The course is organized by the Faculty of International Relations of the University of Economics in Bratislava. In the winter semester 2010/2011 students will learn about developing countries in the context of international relations or world economics and international development priorities.

### **pontis foundation**

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