

**there are
many ways
to help others**





The Pontis Foundation helps individuals in Slovakia and abroad. It motivates individuals and companies to be responsible for their actions and the world around them. Through its programs and financial donations the Pontis Foundation supports non-profit organizations. The Pontis Foundation strives to make Slovakia an active player on the international scene and to use Slovakia's experience from the transition period to encourage democratization and development aid abroad.



Our vision is a world of free and responsible people who are working to improve their lives and the world around them.



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we support non-profit organizations

In democratic societies non-profit organizations are the bearers of positive change. They enable citizen participation in public affairs. It is our ambition to support their long-term financial sustainability and to contribute to their institutional strengthening and program development. We provide them with **grants, in-kind donations, software, help from volunteers, and know-how to improve their activities. We also help them communicate the results of their activities and identify new supporters.**

In November 2009 the Pontis Foundation launched a new program of individual giving called **Great Country (Dobrá krajina)**. The www.DobraKrajina.sk portal provides a unique tool for individuals and companies that makes the process of giving easier. In the Great Country everyone can choose to support an NGO project according to his or her own personal interests and preferences.

We also successfully make use of our experience supporting the NGO sector abroad in countries which are currently undergoing difficult transformation processes.



we promote corporate responsibility

We support the development of corporate philanthropy and **corporate responsibility (CR)**. We believe CR is a broader obligation on the part of companies to create and adhere to ethical standards, contribute to the economic development of society, improve the environment, increase the standard of living of employees, and support the development of the communities in which they operate.

We manage **corporate foundation funds** and the implementation of **grant programs**.

We are the first donor in Slovakia to accept projects and reports online in electronic form via the portal **Darca.sk**, thus protecting the environment by minimizing the usage of paper, so much of which is usually consumed in grant activities. We annually make more than **300 grants to non-profit organizations in a total amount of more than €900,000.**





The Pontis Foundation administers the **Business Leaders Forum (BLF)** – currently an association of 21 companies which have committed to be leaders in encouraging corporate responsibility in Slovakia. Together with the BLF, we organize conferences and events aimed at exchanging practical experience, discussing principles and new trends in the field, and addressing the most current issues in, and needs of, the community.

We also coordinate the activities of the BLF's working group on **climate change**, where companies gain information and exchange experience how to improve the impact business has on the environment.

We organize **an annual International Conference on Corporate Responsibility** – a one-of-a-kind event in Slovakia. Our biennial **Market of Corporate Solutions** enables companies to exchange practical experience in implementing corporate responsibility efforts.

We provide the public with news and information from the area of corporate responsibility via the portal **Zodpovednepodnikanie.sk** and a bimonthly **BLF newsletter**.

Alone among organizations in Slovakia, we offer companies tools for improving their own corporate responsibility programs using the objective, international norms contained in the **Standard Community Investment** and **Global Reporting Initiative**.

With the **Via Bona Slovakia Award**, we recognize companies and business leaders in Slovakia who have scored significant achievements in corporate philanthropy and corporate responsibility.

We also use the experience gained domestically in supporting corporate responsibility to provide foreign partners with training and consultations on inter-sectoral cooperation and communication strategies in such places as **Serbia, Macedonia, Belarus, and Moldova**.

In Serbia we joined 12 non-governmental organizations in an informal network, working with member NGOs on teaching corporate responsibility education, building relationships with companies, and creating a **Business Leaders Forum in Serbia**. A similar project in **Macedonia** led to the creation of a **Business Leaders Forum** there.



We coordinate a working group of the Business Leaders Forum called **ENGAGE**, which is designed to develop **corporate volunteerism** programs. We motivate company employees to participate actively in local projects that are important to the community. One such project is the event **"Our Bratislava,"** in which employees volunteer for community and non-profit organizations, such as family centers, foster homes, clubs



for at-risk children, and animal shelters. In 2010 more than 1,500 volunteers from 44 companies and organizations participated in the "Our Bratislava" event. They helped in more than 90 activities and altogether worked more than 5,200 volunteer hours.

we help individuals and communities

We value the interest of citizens in their surroundings and therefore support local initiatives by individuals and communities. We connect **individual volunteers** with initiatives by local governments, schools, and companies. We organize **calls for proposals** to build and repair children's playgrounds, year-round sport venues, parks, and recreational zones. We assist those who face social or health-



related disadvantages. Thanks to our support, people with disabilities, the long-term unemployed, and former prison inmates have the chance to improve their quality of life, find a job, and gain self-respect.

In the period from 2003–2010 we helped the families of imprisoned dissidents in **Cuba**. In cooperation with the civic association People in Peril, we organized a **public collection** in which we received **€27,940.89** in donations. Our associates have gradually delivered this support directly to the relatives of the dissidents in Cuba. We have also supported the **Ladies in White**, a movement of wives and mothers of Cuban political prisoners, not only financially but also morally, via personal contacts and through famous personalities in Slovakia and abroad who publicly adopted prisoners and displayed their solidarity with them.

In **Belarus** we cooperate with an **analytical community** which initiates public discussion and public policy change in the country. Since 2003 we have provided over **€640,000 in support** for Belarusian analysts through a number of project efforts. In **Serbia**, we helped build two clubs for young people and shared our **experience with the EU accession process** with young political leaders, staff of the Serbian parliament, and local governments. For the Serbian public we prepared a **series of documentary films** on the experience of the Visegrad Four countries with entry into the European Union.

In 2010 we began implementation of a project aimed at **improving the computer literacy of teachers and students in southeast Kenya**.



We have offered Slovak university students courses on **corporate responsibility** and **Balkan studies** and a course on **Balkan studies for the advanced**, which is designed for people from the community of experts on the subject. We also organized three years of a competition for the **best thesis on topics related to the Western Balkans**. In 2008 we modified the competition for university students to reward the **best essay on development aid**. Apart from organizing lectures on development aid for students, we also involve representatives of the academic community in direct aid projects and help them develop the skills necessary for **teaching about development aid**.



how you can help

- **Donate 2% of your taxes to the Pontis Foundation.** Donating 2% of your taxes doesn't cost you anything. Financing of the Pontis Foundation is transparent, therefore you can rest assured that your contribution will be used for the right cause.
- **Create your own profile on www.DobraKrajina.sk and become an individual donor.** Donating in the Great Country program is simple and transparent. As a donor, you are in direct contact with the organization you are supporting, and you can see how the funds you donated were spent.
- Your **financial gift to the Pontis Foundation** will be used for activities which bring positive changes to our society.
- We welcome **non-financial support** in the form of personal property or real-estate, in-kind services, and donations of time or experience.
- **Students can meet the requirements of their compulsory internship** at the Pontis Foundation.



"Behind everything we do is specific help for specific people. The activities we undertake are possibly only thanks to the work of the skillful and enthusiastic people on our team. We are grateful to all those who cooperate with us, support us, or simply wish us good luck..."

Lenka Surotchak
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**We regularly publish information on the activities
of the foundation on our webpage:**

www.nadaciapontis.sk.

Other websites about our activities:

www.blf.sk, www.darca.sk, www.dobrakrajina.sk,
www.firemnaflantropia.sk, www.hlavypomahaju.sk,
www.nasabratislava.sk, www.nasazilina.sk,
www.nepocujucipodnikatelia.sk, www.viabona.sk,
www.zodpovednepodnikanie.sk

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