

*Annual Report* **2010**

ENGLISH SUMMARY



## ***Dear Friends,***

I am very happy to present you our activities, supported projects as well as people and partner organisations who stands behind them on the pages of our Annual report for the last year.

The Ekopolis Foundation belongs to most important sources of support for environmental projects in Slovakia. At the same time the foundations become more than before active in the international arena through number of networks and partnerships. Thanks to cooperation with partners and donors from various sectors we have been able to provide support to broad scale of projects - from smaller local activities sustained through corporate donations to more sophisticated projects of non-governmental organisations supported by larger grants. The principal financial resources for the later ones during last three years have been the EEA Financial Mechanism and Norwegian Financial Mechanism. Very important for us is also the support of advocacy activities where citizens stand for their rights for healthy environment.

The year 2011 is the 20th year of the Ekopolis Foundation. The foundation started back in 1991 as a flexible grant making program supported by consortium of private international Funders from USA and Western Europe, which provided small grant to NGOs in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland.

The key values inherited from original Funders – trust, partnership, effectiveness in using of financial means, transparency

in grant-making remained the same because they are of principal importance for us.

That is despite the fact that conditions and context has changed substantially. What has changed compared to situation twenty years ago, is complexity of global challenges in a shrinking world, which becomes more and more obvious to public, business leaders as well as politicians. And even though the issues of climate change, peak-oil or environmental pollution resonate daily in the media and are subject to official negotiations and ordinary talks, we need to admit that we are not very successful in finding out right answers.

We believe that in this context the activities of NGOs and various local initiatives are of crucial importance, as they are bearers of social innovation and often they are source of necessary pressure toward responsible institutions to achieve the needed change. Therefore, the most important role of the Ekopolis Foundation for the future is to generate available resources for people who are concerned about the future, who have the ideas, will and energy to translate the vision of sustainable development in a concrete action.

**Peter Medved**  
*March 2011*

## Our profile

The Ekopolis Foundation has 20 years' expertise of managing grant programs specialized in civil society democracy and environmental sustainability. We support the activities of hundreds of NGOs in accordance with their actual needs, are flexible and all without any unnecessary bureaucracy.

Since 1991 we have supported 2,487 projects of NGOs, municipalities and initiatives costing 11,699,000 Euros. We realize our own projects on the national and international level. We are a member of the Environmental Partnership Association together with foundations in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania. The foundation is a member of the European Greenways Association, which is committed to building, supporting and promoting traffic-free pathways in Europe, and also a member of Civilscape – an international network of NGOs from all over Europe in support of the European Landscape Convention. We are a Fairtrade Partner, which supports the ideas of fair business.

Our vision is an advanced civil society where citizens realize their responsibility for societal development and environmental issues. A society with citizens who are interested in participating in public policy, have the courage to adopt a critical stance and who are concerned about the development of our society, its values and future generations.

In 2010 we funded 102 projects with a total of 1,485,000 Euros. However, the larger value of this is the contribution these projects make to people and the environment, which we have managed to revive and enhance together.

## The Year 2010 in short

### JANUARY

- In the 6th year of the Public Spaces Program 5 projects were approved from Banská Bystrica, Bátorce (Levice distr.), Borinka (Malacky distr.), Hrušov (Rožňava distr.), Volkovce (Zlaté Moravce distr.). These focused on the renovation of public spaces with the aim of improving the quality of neighborhoods and the lives of their inhabitants. Grantees took received training in Senec on participatory planning.

- The foundation received 22 projects totaling almost € 102,000 for the Living Trails Program 2010, which focuses on the renovation of tourist trails in Slovakia's national parks.

### FEBRUARY

- The 4 winning proposals for the Lanice Park in Zvolen were presented to the public as part of the project Claiming Public Spaces, which was realized in cooperation with the Municipality of Zvolen.
- A record 316 preliminary applications for support were received by Green Belt Grant Program of the Ekopolis Foundation and SLOVNAFT, 109 of them were forwarded for the next stage of evaluation.
- The project „Revitalization of the local kindergarten area“ in Dvory nad Žitavou (Nové Zámky district) received € 635 from the People for Trees Program. This project won the „Skanska Prize for the largest contribution to the local community improvement“ thanks to high levels of cooperation, aesthetic and educational impact.
- The 7th year of the event for the support of motor-less transport named „Cykloharmatanec“ was organized within the framework of the project Bicycle Transport Development – Contribution to Improvement of the Air Quality supported in Block Grant EMVO TUR of the Ekopolis Foundation.
- The first planning meeting within the framework of the project Stage under pears supported in its 6th year by the Public Spaces Program was organized in Hrušov (Rožňava distr.). Thirty local inhabitants took part.
- The Ekopolis Foundation presented the Public Spaces Program and Claiming the Public Spaces Project at an interesting meeting in Košice named Pecha Kucha Night.

### MARCH

- The 5th in a series of workshops focused on the topic of public spaces named “Woody plants as a part of Public spaces” was organized in Zvolen, 90 people interested in the topic took part.
- 2 % income tax campaign focused on motor-less transport support and the Greenways Program – Trails for healthier living.
- 7 successful projects obtained 25,000 Euros from the Living Trails Grant Program for the reconstruction of 190 km of tourist trails in national parks and nature reserves in Slovakia.

- Artistic Garden – A community project for the reconstruction of public spaces was started with a planning meeting initiated by Pôtoň Theatre from Bátorce (Levice distr.) and also the project Pink Park in Banská Bystrica. A planning meeting was also organized in Hrušov. These projects were supported by the Public Spaces Program 2010.
- The Ekopolis Foundation in cooperation with its partner ZSE Energia launched the 2nd year of the Living Energy Fund, which supports projects focused on effective energy usage.
- As part The Green Belt Grant Program had a total of 56,000 Euros which was divided among 21 projects.
- A presentation entitled „Public involvement in territorial decision making, territorial planning documentation preparation and planning of public spaces” was organized. This meeting was organized by the Ekopolis Foundation in cooperation with the Municipality of Žilina and the Municipality of Banská Bystrica.
- The Green Schools project entitled „The Official project of the UNO Decade for education of sustainable development” for 2010 – 2011, which is one of 86 projects, has received an award from UNESCO. The Green Schools project was supported by the Block Grant EMVO TUR of the Ekopolis Foundation.
- The Ekopolis Foundation took part in a workshop celebrating the 10th anniversary of the European Landscape Convention.
- Toyota Motor Slovakia Ltd. was awarded the Green Award Via Bona for the best environmental project, the Living Trails program. This program is being carried out in cooperation with the Ekopolis Foundation.

#### APRIL

- A planning meeting was organized in Borinka. The Pajštúnsky Market Place project was supported by the Public Spaces Program 2010.
- After Easter the Ekopolis Foundation treated the poplar trees in Zvolen, this activity was ensured in cooperation with the Municipality of Zvolen and SHP Group Harmanec, S.A., as part of the program Smile for Trees.
- The 2009 Annual Report of the Ekopolis Foundation was printed.
- The Ekopolis Foundation launched the Tree of the Year 2010, a competition that is now in its 8th year.
- The 4th meeting of the international team of the UrbSpace

project – enhancing the appeal and quality of the urban environment was organized in Asti and Milan (Italy).

- Smile for Trees is the name of a new program, whose 1st year was launched by the Ekopolis Foundation in cooperation with SHP Harmanec, S.A. Its objective is to revive public spaces by planting trees so that they will be greener and more beautiful. 6 projects were granted a total of 13,200 Euros.

#### MAY

- An ecological and educational project named Practical Ecological Education for Nursery Schools – creating a model of sustainable landscape of Daphne gained 1st prize in an art competition. The project was supported by the Block Grant EMVO TUR.
- The Ekopolis Foundation launched an educational course of public space planning, which consists of 2 parts: Participation and public spaces and Facilitation and moderating of meetings.
- The deputies of the Environmental Partnership for Sustainable Development (EPSD), of which the Ekopolis Foundation is also a member, took part in a study trip in France. Its objective was to acknowledge mobility plans, e.g. plans for reducing the number of cars necessary for travelling to town or to work.
- Before the deadline, 50 applications were received for the support of 583,125 € to Living Energy Fund.
- The Ekopolis Foundation was accepted as a member of the European Cyclists' Federation, which is the most important European organization representing the interests of cyclists in all aspects.
- The Ekopolis Foundation took part in the 20th meeting of the Association of Towns and Villages of Slovakia.
- A new educational trail of Beckovské Skalce Nature Reserve was finally opened. This was built by For Nature, C.A. in cooperation with the State Nature Protection and Slovak Association of Nature and Landscape Protectionists. The activity was carried out as part of the project Microregions for the nature, which was supported by the Block Grant EMVO – TUR of the Ekopolis Foundation.
- The Chair of the Advisory Board of the Ekopolis Foundation Ján Mičovsky presented its book Tender Green, which tells the story of corruption involving the State Enterprise Forest of the Slovak Republic.

## JUNE

- Up to 79 trees were nominated for the 8th annual competition of Tree of the Year 2010 competition by the friends of the greenery in Slovakia.
- The 2nd part of the educational course of public space planning was organized in Banská Bystrica.
- The Living Energy Fund supported 10 projects with 62,972 Euros in the 2nd year of its existence. The projects focus on energy saving investment projects and education.
- Telefónica O2 Slovakia in cooperation with the Ekopolis Foundation launched a new grant program: Think Big. Its objective is to motivate young people to create and realize their ideas and support their projects in the field of culture, sport, art, and environment. In its pilot year 3 winning projects out of 6 nominated ones were supported with a total of 21,000 Euros.

## JULY

- From 1st to 31st July, 2010 there was the opportunity to vote for 3 of the 6 final projects from Think Big program with the objective of supporting the creation of public spaces creation for young people.
- The Ekopolis Foundation took part in the Pohoda music festival in Trenčín.
- At the Pohoda festival public voting for the Tree of the Year 2010 was initiated. Until September, 30 it was possible to vote for 1 of 12 finalists and support its treatment.
- An 4 km long educational trail from Svit to Lapušná Valley was reconstructed and opened for tourists thanks to the financial support of 3,800 thousand Euros from the Green Belt 2010 grant program.

## AUGUST

- A new public space in Hrušov (Rožňava distr.) was opened for the public. The reconstruction was supported by the Public Spaces Program.
- The customers of the company Metro Slovakia were able to vote for a project and support tree planting as part of the People for Trees grant program. The total amounted to 4,000 Euros.
- The first planning meeting with the young people in Kremnica who planned the reconstruction of the public space in front of

Akropola Cinema was organized. The project was supported by the Think Big Program.

- The Ekopolis Foundation and Sosna, C.A invited all those interested in natural garden design and clay plasters to attend courses. These were organized at the reconstructed ecocenter in Družstevná pri Hornáde near Košice.

## SEPTEMBER

- A 700-year-old yew tree was in the lead of the Tree of the Year competition.
- The Ekopolis Foundation launched the 7th year of its Public Spaces grant program, the priority of which is the renovation of public spaces destroyed by floods.
- The Ekopolis Foundation of the Block Grant EMVO TUR published a new book: Support of environmental NGOs.
- As part of the project Around Vršatec mountain – crown of Biele Karpaty For Nature, C.A. opened a newly reconstructed educational trail, which received 5,000 Euros in funding from the Living Trails grant program
- The town Želiezovce won the Slovak Capital of biodiversity competition. It also an award for The best project in 2010 for its project Oak Trees - the remembrance of the Esterhazy Family. This project was supported by the People for Trees 2009 grant program of the Ekopolis Foundation

## OCTOBER

- A conference was organized as part of the Green Schools project, which was supported by Block Grant EMVO TUR of the Ekopolis Foundation. This conference centered on participation in environmental education named „School of alternation“.
- As part of the Think Big Program a public discussion on young people and volunteering was organized. This took place at a cultural center Žilina, at the Záriečie railway station.
- A new 6.5 km long educational trail leading to Muráň Castle was opened. The Living Trails Program granted 4,500 Euros for its renovation.
- 26 preliminary applications were received in Public Spaces 2011.
- The 5th meeting of the Urbspace project team was held in City of Sopot, Poland.
- A new green oasis near the water was opened for the inhabitants of the Podbreziny neighborhood. The project was sup-

ported by 2,200 thousand Euros from the Smile for Trees Grant Program and SHP Harmanec Group, S.C.

- The Ekopolis Foundation and SLOVNAFT, S.C. launched the 5th year of the Green Belt grant program.
- The winner of Tree of the Year 2010 competition was an 850-year-old oak tree from Dubinne, which received 911 votes. In second place was a yew tree from Pruské with 761 votes and in 3rd place was also an oak tree from Želiezovce with 577 votes.
- The Mother Center Medulienka finished two projects: Ecological heating and Magic garden. These contributed to the improvement of the quality of services in the center. The projects were supported by the Living Energy Fund and the Smile for Trees Grant Program.
- Rest beyond the City is the title of a new program, which was piloted by the Ekopolis Foundation in cooperation with Heineken Slovakia. Its objective is to support community living in reconstructed and relived recreational areas in the outskirts of bigger towns.
- In the Poľana Protected Area 4 tourists trails measuring 39 km were renewed and reconstructed. The project was supported with 2,500 Euros from the Living Trails Grant Program.
- A new cycling trail was opened in Veľké Teriakovce. The event was organized by the Poľana Bicycle Cycling Club as part of its project Transport Development – Contributing to the Improvement of Air Quality.
- In Krupina the historical Turkish water well was reconstructed and opened for tourists The Information center for the young received a total of 1,600 Euros for its projects from the Green Belt 2010 Grant Program.

## NOVEMBER

- Practical solutions for waste minimalization and separation in the towns of Stará Turá, Dubnica nad Váhom and Piešťany and in the village of Košeca were presented at the Open Door Day event as part of the project From Separation to Minimalization of Waste. This was supported by the Block Grant EMVO TUR.
- Landscape in Town, Town in Landscape was the title of an international conference held in Banská Bystrica for experts from Europe. It was organized by the Ekopolis Foundation, Slovak Environmental Agency and the Union of Towns and Cit-

ies in Slovakia and other partners for the 10th anniversary of the European Landscape Convention.

- Members of the Ski-Tourist Club Markuška from Lúčky village reconstructed an 8 km long, heavily exposed and popular trail at the Choč - Nature Reserve. project was supported by 3,000 Euros from the Living Trails 2010 grant program.
- A new public space, the Pink Park was opened in Banská Bystrica. This project was supported by the Public Spaces Program 2010.
- A workshop entitled the Primaeval forests of Slovakia was organized in Banská Bystrica as part of the project Primaeval Forests Protection supported by the Block Grant EMVO TUR.
- The reconstruction of the eco-center in Družstevná pri Hornáde (Košice distr.) was completed. The members of Sosna, C.A. were granted 6,800 Euros from the Living Energy Fund for their project House with a sunny roof.
- Historically the first Slovak Republic Award for Landscape has been awarded to the Ekopolis foundation.
- At the 6th International Congress named The Day of Waste Management theGold Ant 2010 competition was held for the fifth year running. Tatry, C.A. won the award for its project Do not separate! Separate with us!, the activities of which have been financed by the Block Grant EMVO TUR since 2008.

## DECEMBER

- 3 other public spaces were opened for the public in Borinka, Bátovce and Volkovce were supported by the Public Spaces Program 2010.
- During the pilot year of the Rest beyond the City grant program, 9 applications were received.
- In Antwerp (Belgium) the annual meeting of the CIVILSCAPE NGO was organized in support of the European Landscape Convention.
- In 7th year of the Public Spaces Program 5 projects were approved by the Advisory Board of the Ekopolis Foundation. These projects were based in towns and villages that were destroyed by floods in 2010.

## Our programs and projects

### 1. Sustainability and green activities

#### THE BLOCK GRANT EMVO – TUR

The foundation supported 34 projects with more than 2.379 million Euros. These projects were completed by December 2010. With the long-term realisation of the projects and the amount of financial support granted (30 to 107 thousand Euros), the Block Grant provided essential and strategic support for environmental NGOs. The individual projects contributed to the achievement of the program objective, which was to increase the participation of environmental NGOs in creating solutions for problems connected with sustainability in Slovakia. The most important projects have both long-term and society-wide importance. An overview of the projects is provided in the Block Grant publication: *Toward Sustainable Development with the Support of Environmental NGOs in Slovakia*. The Block Grant was financed by the EEA Financial Mechanism, the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and the State Budget of the Slovak Republic.

#### PEOPLE FOR TREES PROGRAM

The wholesale network Metro started up a campaign, which supports the circulation of printed flyers through e-mails. For every registered customer who exchanged the paper flyer for an e-version of the flyer, Metro contributed 1 € for the planting of trees in towns and villages across Slovakia.

The chosen projects came from 4 Slovak regions. The project with the highest number of votes was granted 1,000 Euros to implement it. 4 projects were granted 1,000 Euros each.

The grant program started with the objective of supporting the improvement of the quality of the environment, the care of greenery and increasing the aesthetic, functional and health value of our towns and villages.

#### TREE OF THE YEAR

Already in its 8th year, the Tree of the Year competition was launched by the Ekopolis Foundation in May. The aim of the nationwide competition for the most interesting, rare, beautiful or otherwise appealing tree is to highlight the importance

of trees in our lives and arouse people's interest in their environment and its protection. 79 trees were nominated in 2010. The expert jury chose 12 finalists from them. The title Tree of the Year 2010 has been awarded to an 850-year-old oak tree from Dubinné, which obtained 911 votes and a financial contribution of 333 Euros for its treatment. The partners of the competition in 2010 were Dajama editorship, the Artforum bookshop and ISA Slovensko (the International Society of Arboriculture). The financial contribution for the treatment of the three winning trees was provided by the Foundation of Slovak Savings Bank.

#### GREEN BELT

A surprising 316 applications were received by the Ekopolis Foundation in the first round of the 4th year of this program. The Advisory Board chose 109 of them, which proceeded to the second round. In the end 21 projects were granted a total of 56 thousand Euros in financial support. SLOVNAFT, S.C. is the main partner of the program.

The objective of the program is to create, renew or revive areas and trails of high ecological value in cooperation with NGOs, local communities, schools, kindergartens and leisure centers. The program supports the sustainable care of areas of high ecological value, which are used by the public as well as the concept of nature preservation and sustainability.

### 2. The Planning and Renovation of Public Spaces

#### THE PUBLIC SPACES PROGRAM

The program was announced by the Ekopolis Foundation in cooperation with its long-term partner ČSOB – Financial Group.

28 applications requesting a total of 136,000 Euros were received from the whole of Slovakia. The priority focus of the 6th year of the Public Spaces Program was the renovation of public spaces with the aim of improving the quality of neighborhoods and the lives of their inhabitants.

As part of the Public Spaces Program 5 projects were chosen to receive a total of 25,000 Euros from the Advisory Board. Local

inhabitants were involved in the planning and renovation of the chosen public spaces.

### THE URBSPACE PROJECT

The UrbSpace project grew out of several years of experience from the Public Spaces Program. In 2009, we started working intensively with a team of experts from 8 European countries on an international project called UrbSpace. REC Slovakia decided to accept the Leading Partner role. The goal of the program is knowledge exchange and the development of planning and creation of a good urban environment. In cooperation with the Partners for Democratic Change NGO in 2010 we provided educational training to 25 facilitators on the topic of Public involvement in public space planning and creation.

The project was supported by the Central Europe Program and the European Regional and Development Fund.

### CLAIMING THE PUBLIC SPACES

The objective of the project, which started in 2008, was to focus the attention of the general public on urbanized landscape and environmental quality. City Park Lanice in Zvolen is a specific example of this type of public space. We tried several methods of creating a public space with public involvement, using the experience of foreign experts and local partners. In February 40 people including both professionals and members of the public met in Zvolen. The objective of the meeting was to present proposals for Lanice Park. In March, a workshop was held entitled „Woody plants as a part of public spaces“. We presented the gathered information in 3 municipalities and presented them to other communities and partners. The project was supported by the Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe and is a part of the UrbSpace project.

support is directed towards the restoration and improvement of tourist trails, educational paths and public spaces used by tourists. The partner of the program is TOYOTA MOTOR SLOVAKIA. This company was received an award from the Green Prize of Via Bona for its environmental project. In 2010 there 7 projects were supported with a total of 25,000 Euros.

### GREENWAYS

Greenways are trails or corridors, which serve inhabitants and are used for recreation and sport, everyday transport to work or schools etc. They encourage people to exercise (walking, jogging, cycling, roller-skating, cross county skiing etc.) and help to solve conflicts between motor and motor-less traffic on everyday journeys to school, work, shopping centers, playgrounds and nature etc. In 2010 3 projects were granted a total of 16,831 Euros.

### CYCLISTS WELCOME!

Tourist facilities and destinations can increase the appeal of their services for cyclists when they obtain the certificate „Cyclists Welcome!“. Since May 2008, this certification has been provided in Slovakia by the Ekopolis Foundation with the support of DOEN and TOYOTA. The objective of the certification is to increase the number of facilities, which are cyclist friendly and to support cycle tourism in Slovakia.

The certification scheme has been inspired by examples from Germany (Bett&Bike), Austria and Switzerland and is based on the scheme entitled „Cyklisté vítáni,“ which has already certificated over 750 facilities in the Czech Republic.

There are 25 evaluators and a certificate with the logo of a smiling bicycle is owned by 65 tourist facilities in Slovakia.

### THE TRIXI MOBIL PROJECT

The objective of the Trixi mobil project is to promote ecological, non-motorized transport, support the Greenways program and to contribute to the increasing appeal of tourism in Slovakia. This modern ecological tricycle, where a rider comfortably takes two passengers, was started in 1997 in Berlin. Since 2007, the Ekopolis Foundation owns 5 triximobils and is the only provider in Slovakia.

## 3. Green tourism and cycling

### LIVING TRAILS

The objective of the program is to support the careful renewal of protected areas in Slovakia, as well as the development of recreational and educational functions of Slovak nature. Financial

## 4. Renewable energy sources

### THE LIVING ENERGY FUND

The Living Energy Fund is the result of cooperation between ZSE Energia, the Ekopolis Foundation, and customers of the company who have decided to support the development and use of renewable energy sources as well as express their responsible approach to economic electricity usage. For each MWh of electricity sold in the Living Energy Product, ZSE Energia contributes 3.30 Euro to the Living Energy Fund.

In its 2nd year the fund supported 5 investment and 5 educational projects with a total of 62,900 Euros. These focused on the usage of renewable energy sources as well as energy saving.

## 5. Other activities

The objective of the program is to support citizens who assert their environmental rights. The support focuses on enforcing systemic changes in environmental protection, transparency in decision-making processes and enforcement of public society capacities. In 2010 the foundation granted 6 projects a total of 24,792 Euros.

### THE TATRA FUND

The Tatra Fund was established by the Ekopolis Foundation after a windstorm damaged the Tatras on November 19, 2004. During the 5 years of its existence, the fund has been able to support 34 projects thanks to the contributions of tens of companies and thousands of individual donors. The fund focused its support on the renewal of forest areas.

In 2010 the Fund supported the project of Urbárske pozemkové spoločenstvo Bobrovec. This focused on: the renewal of trails, creating resting spots, furnishing the regulated tourist chalet with a new stove, and planting new trees in devastated areas.

### GREENFIELD

Since November 2009 a company called Greenfield, Ltd. from Martin has decided to support the Ekopolis Foundation – it will transfer 1 Euro for each customer accommodated. In 2010 the

company provided the foundation with financial support totaling 500 Euros. This money was used to support foundation activities.

## Our News in 2010

### THINK BIG

The Think Big program was opened by Telefónica O2 Slovakia in cooperation with the Ekopolis Foundation in June 2010. The mission of the Think Big program is to motivate young people to create and realize their ideas and support their projects in the field of culture, sport, art, and the environment. In its pilot year the jury chose the six best projects from the whole of Slovakia. The three winning projects that received the highest number of public votes by SMS and online came from Kremnica, Žilina and Zvolen. They were granted a total of 21,000 Euros in financial support. Think Big was launched as an all European initiative of the Telefónica O2 Group.

### SMILE FOR TREES

Smile for Trees is the name of a new program of the Ekopolis Foundation, which was launched in April 2010 in partnership with SHP Harmanec Group. The objective of the program is to revive public spaces through the planting of trees so that they will be greener and more beautiful. The first pilot project to be funded by the Smile for Trees Program was the Lanice City Park in Zvolen, which received a donation of 5,000 Euros. This resulted in the treatment of 40 poplar trees in the park. In 2010 6 projects were supported with a total of 132,000 Euros.

### REST BEYOND THE CITY

The pilot year of this program was launched by the Ekopolis Foundation in cooperation with Heineken Slovensko, S.C. Its objective is to support community, living together with the renovation and reviving of recreational areas in the outskirts of towns with more than 35,000 inhabitants. The best projects obtain the support of 6 thousand € and will be realized in 2011. The Ekopolis Foundation received 9 applications in December 2010.

O FOTOGRAFIÁCH / ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHS:

**Našu výročnú správu spestrili fotografie študentov Fakulty ekológie  
a environmentalistiky Technickej univerzity vo Zvolene, zo súťaže *Študentský fotoobjektív*.**

„Myšlienka podporiť tvorbu mladých fotografov pri zaznamenávaní krás a tajov prírody vyústila v roku 2006 do vyhlásenia prvého ročníka súťaže, ktorá má nekomerčný charakter. Počet autorov aj prihlásených záberov v jednotlivých súťažných kategóriách z roka na rok rastie. Pre členov hodnotiacej komisie je čím ďalej, tým ťažšie vybrať najzaujímavejšie a najnápaditejšie. Do súťaže **Študentský fotoobjektív** venovala ceny aj Nadácia Ekopolis,“ povedala Zuzana Gallayová z Fakulty ekológie a environmentalistiky o súťaži.

Niekoľkým autorom sa podarilo zo svojich záberov vytvoriť výstavy, ktoré si mohli návštevníci prezrieť v Banskej Bystrici, Prievidzi, Banskej Štiavnici a pod. V roku 2010 vznikol na fakulte Fotokrúžok, v rámci ktorého si mladí autori vymieňajú skúsenosti.

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Zaujala nás v nich krása detailu, netradičnosť, uhol pohľadu, akou sa študenti pozerali a vnímali prírodu počas svojich tvorivých objavov. Veríme, že zaujmú a potešia aj vás.

*Our annual report for 2010 has been livened up by the student pictures from the Faculty of Ecology and Environmentalistics at Technical University in Zvolen participating in the competition of Student Photo Lens.*

**Výročná správa nadácie Ekopolis za rok 2010**

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