

Annual report Výročná správa 2016



Dear friends,

I'm pleased that you have decided to read the Ekopolis annual report for 2016. It will inform you what we have worked on and who we have been able to help thanks to the support of our partners. If you have been our supporters for a longer period, you will certainly notice that even though our programmes are changing and evolving, the topics that we have long devoted our energy to remain as important to us: namely the environment and active citizens. In recent years, we have attached particular importance to the urban environment in terms of the quality of public spaces and the theme of sustainable mobility.

In the introduction, I would like to highlight some of the achievements that have made us particularly pleased here in the Foundation:

At the final event of the Active citizenship and inclusion and Democracy and Human Rights programmes in April 2016 we reflected on the stories of the successful projects of the non-governmental organizations in the fields of active citizenship, environmental protection, promotion of children and the young, development of services in the social sphere, transparent governance, human rights and the fight against discrimination, racism and xenophobia. Thanks to the financial support of 7.4

million € from the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009 - 2014, which was managed by Ekopolis Foundation in partnership with the Foundation for Children of Slovakia, the Socio - Foundation to support social changes and the Open Society Foundation in the period 2012-2016, 197 projects were realized.

In 2016, the 10th annual programme of the Green oasis, supported by Slovnaft plc took place. In those 10 years, the programme has supported 225 projects with the participation of nearly 8,000 volunteers who look after and improve public spaces.

The Tree of the Year is growing in popularity. In 2016, the survey involved a record number of voters and the Slovak Tree of the Year achieved a praiseworthy 3rd place in the 2016 European Tree of the Year international competition.

We are also pleased with the success of the annual symbolic contest To work by bike, which really gained momentum in 2016 with 60 participating local governments and 5,637 participants in 1,731 teams who rode 782,621 kilometres to work and back in a month. Ekopolis is a long-time supporter and partner of this great and exceptional project.

We are proud we were a partner of the international discussion forum HUMAN FORUM 2016, 7-8 December 2016. For a third time in Banská Bystrica, the Human Forum created the environment for representatives of state institutions and local governments, academics, civil society activists, students, teachers, journalists, politicians, representatives of churches and also for the general public to jointly seek answers to questions related to human rights, or increasing extremism and radicalization of society.

A short preface would of course not be complete without sincere thanks to our partners, supporters, fans and volunteers, all those without whom our work would not be possible. For myself, I wish to thank my colleagues, the members of the Advisory and Supervisory Boards and to all who help us with the selection of the supported projects. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Peter Medved, Director Ekopolis Foundation, March 2017

Our programmes and projects

ENVIRONMENT GREEN BELT

The program Green Belt reached the first jubilee, ten years. More than 220 successfully completed projects and the thousands of volunteers who sacrifice their comfort and leisure and decided to change the world for the better. Not that great, geopolitical and anonymous world, but a small world in which they live. They change it, because they have their own ideas, desire, courage and responsibility. Thus they planted, treated, cleaned, saved. We are glad, that we can help them.

(Milan Hronec, Program Manager of the Ekopolis Foundation)

In the 10th year of the programme, which was opened by Ekopolis Foundation and SLOVNAFT, S.C., support was obtained for 21 projects to the sum of 56,000 €.

FOR WATER COMPETITION

Theoretically acquired knowledge can often be applied by young people in practice in their first job. Here, however, they cannot afford to make mistakes, and sometimes do not even have anyone from whom they can learn. Competition for water, in addition to promoting efficient water management, allows students and young graduates to try real scenarios whereby they have the support of experienced mentors and the opportunity to participate in several seminars and workshops. They thereby find themselves in a situation from which they can obtain a great deal for their future professional and personal lives.

(Martina B. Paulíková, Program Manager of the Ekopolis Foundation)

In the 1st year of the competition For Water, which was realized with the support of Nestlé Slovakia, Ltd., 12 teams were involved.

TREES INSTEAD OF LEAFLETS

The Trees instead of leaflets programme is entirely specific in our programme portfolio, because all the financial resources for its operation come from savings on printing leaflets acquired by those clients who are consciously and responsibly active regarding the environment and have decided to prioritize their electronic version. That is why throughout its history, only projects related to new plantings or treatment of existing vegetation have been supported.

(Milan Hronec, Program Manager of the Ekopolis Foundation)

The wholesale network Metro Cash & Carry SR, s.r.o. supported the next four ecology projects in 2016 to the sum of 3,300 €.

GOOD SIGNAL

Towercom, Inc. in cooperation with the Ekopolis Foundation implemented a pilot project. The first stop was a popular tourist destination Skalka near the Kremnica.

TREE OF THE YEAR

It is a well-known thought that the culture of a country may also be measured by the number of majestic old trees. Over the years that we have been conducting the Tree of the Year survey we have had the opportunity to acquaint ourselves with hundreds of rare trees and their even more exceptional destiny, which is often more dramatic than that of people. Fortunately, there are still enough people who have realized this wealth, and it is therefore with a very good feeling that I can say that Slovakia is culturally a very rich country.

(Milan Hronec, Program Manager of the Ekopolis Foundation)

The title Tree of the Year 2016 was awarded to a plane tree from Budatín. The partners were Slovenská sporiteľňa Foundation and Slovak Environment Agency.

19 285 votes were sent in supporting the 12 finalists.

Winner of the Tree of 2015 – pear from Bošáca was placed in a contest European Tree of the Year for 3rd place.

LIVING TRAILS

We consider marked hiking and biking trails to be the family silverware of Slovakia and therefore tirelessly contribute to their repair and improvement. They permit a better knowledge of the country, its nature and history, furthermore, they provide ample room for an active lifestyle and not least the opportunity for local people to be proud of their region and to help it and themselves.

(Ján Roháč, Program Manager of the Ekopolis Foundation)

In 2016, support to the sum of 20,000 € was designated to renewed hiking, biking trails and infrastructure in the 5 well-

known tourist destinations. The partner of the programme is I.D.C. Holding.

DEALING WITH ENERGY

Program Dealing with energy allowed 5 municipalities and 5 schools of Western Region to implement energy saving measures to reflect their needs and possibilities. The most common solution was the replacement of outdated lighting to more energy efficient. Some buildings have been renovated outdated heating, or carried out construction work so as to prevent excessive heat loss.

(Štefan Jančo, Program Manager of the Ekopolis Foundation)

The Ekopolis Foundation, together with CEEV Živica, supported 10 school and municipality projects by the sum 23,500 eur, that improved the use of electricity and heat energy. The donor of the programme is Západoslovenská energetika, a.s.

Conference Dealing with energy brought inspiration for energy saving at the municipal level.

CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AND INCLUSION

Funds for NGOs from the EEA Grants are in 16 countries in Central and Southern Europe the most important source of support for people who stand on the side of public interest, looking for and bring new solutions to social problems. Slovakia gets a chance to be a space where people can confront their elected representatives, where is honored a human dignity, where there is solidarity with weaker and where environment is protected.

(Peter Medveď, Director of the Ekopolis Foundation)

The conference talked about successful information campaigns, advocacy and legislative changes, but also about how to lower racism among young people.

The publication “It can be done - Fund for NGOs” - inspiring stories of successful projects.

The Ekopolis Foundation co-organized the event HUMAN FORUM 2016 - International Forum on Democracy and Human Rights.

The publication Civil Society in Slovakia: cross, intersection, the call is aimed at assessing the state, trends, needs and possibilities of the development of civil society in Slovakia.

PROGRAMME OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROMA COMMUNITY

Good ideas need time to come to maturity, but traditional grant programmes are rarely able to offer sufficient time to verify new procedures. Besides long-term financial support, our programme provides support to ambitious ideas proposed by carefully selected organizations that have ideas how to improve access to the Roma minority to housing, work and health care. In addition, the lessons learned then find their way to other communities and also receive awards and their implementers are invited to support the formulation of legislation. At the Pohoda Festival, Roma from Valaská offered free laundry to festival goers who were often surprised that such a laundry employs less qualified people from minorities.

(Martina B. Paulíková, Program Manager of the Ekopolis Foundation)

The Ekopolis Foundation in partnership with the Carpathian Foundation implemented a 2nd year of Programme of development of the Roma community. 6 projects in the Banská Bystrica region received financial support totalling 48,600 €.

The Ekopolis Foundation co-organized a conference UPre: Roma really answers on which were introduced organizations actively contributing to improving the situation of the Roma minority in Slovakia.

SMART CITIES PROJECT MOVECIT

Sustainable urban mobility, in relation to the development of Slovak towns, is mentioned more and more often. It must of course be developed at a citywide level, but equally important is the creation of conditions for a sustainable way of commuting. I am glad that through the MOVECIT project we can help Banská Bystrica town hall in improving conditions for commuting to work other than by car.

(Ján Roháč, Program Manager of the Ekopolis Foundation)

MOVECIT aims to make transport more sustainable in times of increasing individual and motorised mobility in central Europe.

The Ekopolis Foundation realise in cooperation with the city of Banská Bystrica and other European partners project MOVECIT, which is supported under the Interreg Central Europe. Aim of the project is to create mobility plans for institutions.

BY BICYCLE

We are dedicated for a long term for a support of cycle NGOs and implementation of own projects in non-motorized transport. Greenways program supported local cycle initiatives, we operate tricycles Trixi Mobil and certificate cycle brand Cyclists Welcome!. We are part of commenting on public policies in the field of cycling and development of projects EuroVelo 13 Iron Curtain Trail. We are dedicated to the development of know-how in the field of mobility plans and install of cycle counting.

(Ján Roháč, Program Manager of the Ekopolis Foundation)

The Ekopolis Foundation co-organized the European Mobility Week and the 8th annual conference Cycling 2016.

60 competitors participated on the photo contest Bike to work.



Výročná správa Nadácie Ekopolis

Referenčné obdobie: 1. január 2016 – 31. december 2016

Vydala Nadácia Ekopolis, Komenského 21, 974 01 Banská Bystrica

Jazyková úprava: Eva Ščepková, Steven Murray (anglická)

Grafická úprava: Pavel Sokol, STUART, s. r. o.

Tel.: +421 48 414 52 59, 470 10 91

email: ekopolis@ekopolis.sk

www.ekopolis.sk



nadácia
ekopolis

Nadácia Ekopolis, Komenského 21, 974 01 Banská Bystrica

Tel.: +421 48 414 52 59

E-mail: ekopolis@ekopolis.sk

www.ekopolis.sk

Výročná správa Annual report

2016

