



nadácia  
**ekopolis**

**VÝROČNÁ  
SPRÁVA  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**20  
17**

## Dear friends,

When we look back over the past year, we see a lot of work carried out by our foundation - competitions as well as educational activities for the public and experts alike, campaigns for fewer cars in our cities, and several dozen projects supported throughout the country, beneficial to people and the environment. What exactly 2017 brought us, you can read about on the following pages of the Annual Report. From the interesting news, I would like to draw attention to the pilot project of the Environmental Education Project for secondary schools in Slovakia, with the participation of 6 secondary schools.

We are enjoying the ever-growing appeal of the likeable “Tree of the Year” public opinion poll which, over its 15-year run, has presented thousands of interesting trees and their stories. Perhaps you did not know that since 2011 the Tree of the Year poll also has its European superstructure, where Slovak trees have with dignity enriched the international community of “winners” from the countries involved.

The results of the Roma Communities Development Programme, which we are doing together with the Carpathian Foundation, have indeed brought interesting results. Through local organizations, we seek to find real responses to the difficult situation of the Roma minority in terms of access to employment, housing, or education. This programme also featured a series of documentary films

in 2017 which are worth watching on our YouTube channel.

We are extremely proud and grateful for the useful cooperation with our corporate donors and partners - through programmes and projects such as Green Oases, Living Paths, Trees instead of leaflets, Contests for Water, Protecting and supporting biodiversity in industrial areas; we bring about concrete measures wherever people depend on the environment in which we live.

What is our foundation preparing for the future? From this perspective, the selection of Ekopolis, the Carpathian Foundation and the Open Society Foundation as the Active Citizens Fund in Slovakia, which is part of the EEA and Norwegian Grants 2014-2021, was an important event for us. From 2018, we will start providing financial and technical support to non-governmental organizations in Slovakia for a total of EUR 8 million from this foundation.

The fulfilment of our mission would of course not be possible without the support of you - our donors, partners and people and organizations with whom we are honoured to cooperate.

*Peter Medved', Director Ekopolis Foundation, March 2018*



## Our profile

The Ekopolis Foundation has been managing grant programs specializing in civic society democracy and environmental sustainability since 1991.

We help and connect people and organizations active in the issues of sustainable development, protection of natural and cultural heritage and in the building of a civil society. Together with our partners, we solve problems, we bring new themes to the fore, bold ideas and we inspire positive changes in society.

Our vision is a country where people are aware of their responsibility for the condition and development of the environment in which they live and therefore act so that future generations will have a good life.

We support the activities of hundreds of NGOs all over Slovakia in accordance with their actual needs; flexibly and without any unnecessary bureaucracy.

Since 1991 we have supported 3,108 projects from NGOs, municipalities, civic associations and initiatives to the sum of 19,4 Mil. €. In addition we have also realized our own projects at both national and international level.

We are a member of the Environmental Partnership Association together with other foundations in Bulgaria, Czech republic, Hungary, Poland and Romania. We are also a member of the European Cyclists Federation, of the European Greenways Association which is oriented to the building, support and promotion of paths for non-motorised transport in Europe. Our foundation is also a member of Civilscape – an international network of NGOs from all over Europe in support of the European Landscape Convention. We are a Fair – Trade Partner that supports the ideas of fair business.

In 2017 we supported 40 projects with the sum of 85 150 €.

However, we realise that the true value and contribution of these projects to people and our environment is priceless.

## Our programmes and projects

### ENVIRONMENT

#### GREEN BELT

Over the eleven years of the programme, we have been able to activate many groups of volunteers and communities that have successfully implemented interesting environmental projects all over Slovakia. Their efforts and the results of their work are an inspiration for others by which we offer the opportunity to form the face of our country.

Anton Molnár, Director of Business and Marketing  
Communication SLOVNAFT

**In the 11th year of the programme, which was opened by Ekopolis Foundation and SLOVNAFT, S.C., support was obtained for 23 projects to the sum of 56,000 €.**

#### FOR WATER COMPETITION

We greatly appreciate the cooperation with the Ekopolis Foundation. Nestlé is aware of the importance of protecting natural resources and water is one of the most precious. The competition FOR WATER is unique because it combines theory with practice and gives young people the opportunity to prepare a project that solves water management in a realistic situation and just a model version.

Martina Šilhánová, manager of CSR Nestlé Czech Republic and Slovakia

**In the 2nd year of the competition For Water, which was realized with the support of Nestlé Slovakia, Ltd., 7 teams were involved.**

#### TREE OF THE YEAR

The Tree of the Year poll makes a significant contribution to the awareness of the need for the sustainability and development of the environment. Protecting trees, which are our natural heritage, needs to be increased and more attention needs to be paid to them

Danica Lacová, Administrator of the Slovak Savings Bank Foundation

#### • 15th year

- **The title Tree of the Year 2017 was awarded to an apple tree from Bošáca. The partner was Slovenská sporiteľňa Foundation.**
- **23 270 votes were sent in supporting the 12 finalists.**
- **Winner of the Tree of 2016 – plan tree from Budatín was placed in a contest European Tree of the Year for 9th place.**

#### TREES INSTEAD OF LEAFLETS

METRO has been cooperating with the Ekopolis Foundation for seven years, and during that period we have supported a number of meaningful projects together that have brought a positive atmosphere of nature to different parts of Slovakia. In this joint effort we want to continue in the next year and together enhance the greenery for people in Slovakia.

Martin Krajčovič, press spokesperson Metro  
Cash & Carry SR

**The wholesale network Metro Cash & Carry SR supported the next four ecology projects in 2017 to the sum of 3,300 €.**

#### PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY IN VEOLIA SLOVAKIA AREAS

We take the view that it is the duty of large companies to consider their environmental impact in all their activities and to manage their sites rationally and with a view to the natural diversity of the site. We are delighted that our partner in the project and its executor and guarantor is Ekopolis. They were able to cover not only the technical side of the project but also educational activities and work with the public.

Slavomíra Vogelová, press spokesperson, Stredoslovenská vodárenská prevádzková spoločnosť

**The first year of biodiversity conservation and support activities at two Veolia operation sites (Rakytovce Waste Water Treatment Plant and Veolia Utilities Žiar nad Hronom).**

#### KELT HELPS NATURE

The idea of the Kelt helps nature project is to support visitors to sites in the countryside where they are used to roasting sausages or relaxing by a roaring fire. We are delighted that in cooperation with the Ekopolis Foundation we have been able to reach out to a large number of volunteers who are not indifferent to what their favourite places look like, and that we were able to support good things that help to improve and enhance sites in the countryside that will serve the public.

Andrea Malovcová, brand manager of the Kelt brand

**The pilot year of the project witnessed the tidying up and enhancement of barbecue pits in Zálesie, Zázrivá and Prešov**

## ENVIROEDUCATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

*The project received a great response from secondary school pupils. It contributed not only to expanding their knowledge about climate change but has also motivated young people to design their own creative and innovative solutions for improving the environment.*

Danica Lacová, Administrator of the Slovak Savings Bank Foundation

**Six secondary schools were involved in the pilot year, which, in addition to educational training for their students, had the chance to win 1,000 EUR in the competition. The winner was the J.G. Tajovský Grammar School in Banská Bystrica.**

## ECOLOGY OF MOUNTAIN COTTAGES

*The Green Mountain Chalet Ecology Project is an excellent tool for the broad hiking public to show that even in tough mountain conditions it is possible to apply modern, more environmentally friendly technologies. It will also be possible to show how renewable energy sources can be used in the environment of national parks with minimal impact on the surrounding countryside.*

Ing. Milan Orlovský, Managing Director KOOR

**Ekopolis Foundation and KOOR, s.r.o. are launching a new project in Slovakia aimed at bringing about the ecologisation of mountain huts in national parks. The project, supported by the German foundation DBU, will focus mainly on energy generation, storage and savings, drinking water and waste water management, waste and sewage management and fire protection.**

## LIVING TRAILS

*We are very pleased to be able to cooperate again with the Ekopolis Foundation in enhancing our beautiful Slovakia. Every year, the Slovak Horalka from Sedita try to give back to Slovakia even just a little bit of the love they receive. I consider it to be their duty. In addition, Horalka from Sedita is the best-selling wafer biscuit on the Slovak market, it is also a brand to which Slovaks have a strong emotional relationship. Horalka are pulled out of a backpack on a trip with family or friends and have for many years inherently contributed to one sharing their feelings of joy, satisfaction and happiness with their closest friends. And to keep it that way, there must be beautiful projects such as those realised by Ekopolis Foundation. This year there is a project supporting the evermore expanding activity of cycling in Slovakia. And we will be pleased if Horalka from Sedita can help on the road, not only in sating hunger and caressing the soul, but also in managing minor bicycle repairs.*

Katarína Ferenczová, Director of Marketing, I.D.C. Holding

**In Slovakia, thanks to the support of the Horalka from Sedita wafer biscuits, new bicycle stands are appearing.**

*Since 2007, when Toyota became a partner for the first time, 40 projects have been supported through the Living Paths programme, which has improved nearly 1,000km of hiking trails in Slovakia, as well as their painted hiking signs, scores of directional arrows, maps and information boards, shelters, benches and bridges. We consider the long-term support of the renewal and development of hiking and biking trails in Slovakia to be very important and beneficial.*

Petra Tomová, PR Manager, Toyota Central Europe - Slovakia

- **Renewal of marking of cycling routes on the EuroVelo 13 Road of the Iron Curtain.**
- **The Slovak Tourist Club in Krupina renewed the route markings on the access route to Čabrad' Castle in central Slovakia.**
- **The village of Hrabušice in Spiš has repaired the environment around the pond in Podlesok which is the entrance to the Suchá Belá gorge in the Slovak Paradise.**

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### PROGRAMME OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROMA COMMUNITY

**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 €.**

Of note in the second year of the Roma community development programme, implemented by the Ekopolis Foundation in partnership with the Carpathian Foundation, was the organization of a study trip. At the end of May, grantees visited organizations operating in Slovakia and Hungary, they were inspired by examples of good practice and established new contacts.

## SMART CITIES

### PROJECT MOVECIT

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.

### PROJECT SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

The project is part of the national project of the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society entitled Supporting Partnership and Dialogue in the Field of Participatory Creation of Public Policy which is financed by the operational programme Effective Public Administration.

**The specific output of the project will be an audit in line with the ADVANCE methodology, including an action plan and recommendations for sustainable urban mobility planning for Banská Bystrica.**

### REVITALIZATION OF PUBLIC SPACES IN B. BRAUN AREA

In 2017, Ekopolis Foundation continued in cooperation with B. Braun, which was involved in the revitalization of the site at the dialysis centre in Galanta. The aim of the project was to make the premises around the new facility more appealing for senior citizens and clients with minor mental disabilities; the new centre is operated by B. Braun following the building's modernization.

## BY BICYCLE!

The Ekopolis Foundation co-organized the European Mobility Week.

**157 competition photos from the Bicycle to Work competition were rated in 3 categories - a public vote on Facebook, Instagram and the Ekopolis Foundation Prize.**

**Launch of the application for the Trans-European Cycling Route EuroVelo 13 The Road of the Iron Curtain.**

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Výročná správa Nadácie Ekopolis

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Vydala Nadácia Ekopolis

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