

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

**Nadácia otvorenej spoločnosti
Open Society Foundation**



otvorení už 15 rokov

First and foremost we would like to thank our founder, Mr. George Soros, for his support and continued willingness to contribute to the development of an open, democratic and modern society in Slovakia.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to all the Open Society Foundation supporters, professionals and partner organizations with whom we cooperate for their assistance and endeavors in promoting our mission.

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WHO WE ARE

The Open Society Foundation (NOS-OSF) is a non-governmental organization that has been operating in Slovakia since 1992.

NOS-OSF is part of an international network known as the “Soros Foundations Network.” The network consists of more than 60 national autonomous foundations around the world (see www.soros.org for more details).

NOS-OSF is one of seven founding organizations of the Donors’ Forum – an important informal group of grant-making organizations in Slovakia.

VISION

“Open society is based on the recognition that we act on the basis of imperfect understanding. Perfection is beyond our reach; we must content ourselves with an imperfect society that holds itself open to improvement.”

G. Soros

MISSION

NOS-OSF’s mission is the development of an open and democratic society - a society where all people are aware of their rights and duties, and actively participate in public life.

GOALS

- Addressing current issues, initiating and supporting innovative and progressive solutions of social problems;
- Creating conditions for equal access to opportunities and inclusion of the disadvantaged groups in society;
- Contributing to more transparent and efficiently functioning society;
- Strengthening civil society – an important actor in advocacy of open society values at local and international level.

OUR VALUES

Openness, dialogue, concord, tolerance, activity, transparency, acceptance, mutual respect, responsibility and freedom of choice

NOS-OSF Founder GEORGE SOROS

George Soros was born in Budapest. He lived through the Nazi occupation of Hungary and in 1947 immigrated to the United Kingdom where he graduated from the London School of Economics in 1952. There, Soros became acquainted with the work of the philosopher Karl Popper, whose ideas on open society had a profound influence on his intellectual development. In 1956, he moved to the United States, where he accumulated a vast fortune. His Quantum Fund is considered to be the most successful investment fund in history, averaging annual return of 31% during its 32 years of existence.

In 1979, Soros started focusing on philanthropy. He provided funds to help black students attend the University of Cape Town in apartheid South Africa. He is now the chairman of the Open Society Institute. In 1992 he founded the Central European University based in Budapest.

George Soros has written eight books and many articles about politics, society and economy published regularly in respected newspapers and magazines around the world. He has received honorary degrees from the New School for Social Research, Oxford University, the Budapest University of Economics, and Yale University. In 1995, the University of Bologna awarded Soros its highest honor, the Laurea Honoris Causa, in recognition of his efforts to promote open societies throughout the world. In 2002, he was awarded the Dayton Peace Prize for his extraordinary efforts to foster democracy and civil society in the Balkans

Open Society Institute

The Open Society Institute (OSI), a private operating and grant-making foundation, aims to shape public policy to promote democratic governance, human rights, and economic, legal, and social reform. On a local level, OSI implements a range of initiatives to support the rule of law, education, public health, and independent media. At the same time, OSI works to build alliances across borders and continents on issues such as combating corruption and human rights abuses.

OSI was created in 1993 by investor and philanthropist George Soros to support his foundations in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Those foundations were established, starting in 1984, to help countries make the transition from communism. OSI has expanded the activities of the Soros Foundations Network to other areas of the world where the transition to democracy is of particular concern. The Soros Foundations Network encompasses more than 60 countries, including the United States.

See Open Society Institute New York: <http://www.soros.org> for more information.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND GRANTS IN 2009

EDUCATION

Supporting education is one of the Open Society Foundation's basic priorities. The Foundation reacts to the challenges and gaps existing in the reform of educational system in Slovakia, current state of affairs in the society and also to the political context related to the educational policy and trends in Europe. In cooperation with the key stakeholders, the Foundation supports the values of the open society, democratic principles and respect to human rights as an integral part of the educational reform and policy in a tolerant and just environment.

Promoting level of education among young people, getting acquainted with different cultures or acquiring new experience is achieved through the Foundation's own operating activities, provision of grants and scholarships. Those instruments have been well established in the Foundation's portfolio since its beginning.

Education program

Open Society Foundation along with the cooperating stakeholders promotes the values of the open society, democracy and human rights as parts of the educational policy and on-going reform of educational system.

Education program carries out activities aimed at supporting the reform of educational system with the aim to increase participation of the civil sector. In the long run, the program reacts to the need of equal access to education through supporting activities enhancing intercultural and tolerant environment at schools and in communities, building professional capacities and experience exchange. The program focused on organizing and supporting discussions, workshops, grants, publications and training activities.

Target group: NGOs, professional community and general public, institutions of state and public administration, self-governments, schools.

Publications

Preparation of publication *NGO initiatives in Education*

The goal of the Foundation and its partners was to produce a publication that would describe the process of influencing educational policy by NGOs. Also, the goal was to describe the main principles applied by the NGOs in promoting specific topics in the field of education. The areas covered by the publication bring about new knowledge and perspectives on the given area, promoting innovative approaches to the education, along with the values of the open society.

The aim of the NOS – OSF is to share information and examples of good practice in educational policy, formal and informal education, human rights, equal opportunities and new alternative methods of instruction, thus strengthen the role of NGOs in the field of education.

The target groups include NGOs that can be inspired by the publication in working in their own field of interest, be it on the local (school) or national level (formal educational system), educational institutions that can get support and tips for improvement of the teachers' training program, teachers themselves and individual schools that can use it in creating their own educational programs.

Operating activities

Meeting on the Case Studies of Influencing Education Policy by NGOs

February 18, 2009, Bratislava

The aim of the meeting was to structure the publication preparation (publication goals, target groups, preparation process).

Meeting on the Case Studies of Influencing Educational Policy by NGOs

March 23, 2009, Bratislava

Working meeting of the authors, editors and coordinators on the preparation of the publication and selected training and educational activities in the NGO sector.

Seminars

Segregation of Roma Students I.

February 23, 2009, Bratislava

The aim of the introductory meeting of experts in education was to analyze the current situation when it comes to segregation at schools.

Segregation of Roma Students II.

March 25, 2009, Prešov

Seminar on analyzing the current situation when it comes to segregation of the Roma pupils at the schools with the aim to map the needs of the target groups in the specific areas of educational policy.

Segregation of Roma Students III.

May 21, 2009, Žiar nad Hronom

Seminar on analyzing current situation with the aim to discuss the segregation/integration of the Roma students at the schools. The goal was to formulate suggestions and recommendations.

Multicultural Education

Multicultural Education

Closing seminar of a two year cycle of lectures and discussions on multicultural education.

Inclusion in Education – a series of seminars on inclusion were organized with the aim to provide for mutual exchange of experience in forming and implementing educational strategies targeting inclusion of disadvantaged groups. The target group included the representatives of NGOs, state and public administration, independent experts and civic activists in the field, who can implement the acquired knowledge in the practice. Seminars were organized under the leadership of prof. Arthur R. Ivatts, OBE, Great Britain. The key topics included: legislative framework for equal opportunities, racial equality and ban on discrimination in Great Britain and Slovakia, definition and interpretation (along with case studies), concepts in the field of education such as: discrimination, racially motivated incident, harassment, institutional racism, structures and mechanisms of promoting equal chances at the local and national level – strengths and weaknesses.

Project partner: Embassy of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Multicultural Education and Social Inclusion – Experience from Great Britain

July 17, 2009, Bratislava

1st. seminar: *Common topics – reaction of Great Britain*. Topics included general background to the problem of immigration, legal mechanisms existing in Great Britain, diversity and its impacts on the British society.

Multicultural Education and Social Inclusion – Experience from Great Britain

September 17, 2009, Bratislava

2nd. seminar: Inclusion of Roma in education: *Why and how to measure equal opportunities?* The topics of the seminar included the overview of the development in Great Britain in the past 60. years – diversity and its impact on the British society and equal opportunities. The aim of the seminar was to be acquainted with the assessment of the equal opportunities, including justification and methodology of ethnical data collection, their use and abuse, tools used for identification breaches of equal opportunities, school inspections, monitoring and assessment, conflicts and arbitrations.

Multicultural Education and Social Inclusion – Experience from Great Britain

November 11, 2009, Bratislava

3rd seminar: *Roma Inclusion in Education – Why and How to Achieve It and How to Measure It?* What it is? What are the costs? What strategies do we know and how to best manage them? What do we need for it?

Discussions

Equal Opportunities in Education

November 10, 2009, Bratislava

Discussion provided floor for opening questions related to educational practice through comparing modules and approaches to education of minority groups in Great Britain and Slovakia.

Partner: British Embassy Bratislava. Guest: Miroslav Beblavý, Slovak Governance Institute, Arthur R. Ivatts, OBE – consultant for education, Great Britain, Michael Roberts – British ambassador to Slovakia.

School System Before and After 1989

December 15, 2009, Bratislava

Discussion with experts in Slovak education (Alica Petrasová – Prešov University, Prešov, Štefan Porubský – Matej Bel University, Banská Bystrica, Erich Mistrik – Comenius University, Bratislava) on questions related to the development of educational system in Slovakia after 1989.

See appendix for list of grants.

University and Secondary School Scholarships for Roma Students

The Open Society Foundation administers the program for the office of the Slovak government plenipotentiary for Roma communities. The Office, in accordance with government resolution no. 278, provides funds for the Roma Secondary and University Students Support Program. The program is designed to support individual talented secondary school students from socially disadvantaged families.

See appendix for list of grants.

Secondary School Scholarships

This educational program was launched in 1993. Its goal is to allow students attend American or British secondary schools, understand other cultures, and experience life abroad by living in families, attending educational programs, becoming members of clubs and participating in community activities. NOS-OSF administers the selection of Slovak students.

Scholarships in 2009/10:

ASSIST, USA, one-year stay	4 scholarships
HMC, UK, one-year stay	7 scholarships

See appendix for list of grantees.

15th Annual English Essay Competition

This annual operating program has been organized by the Foundation since 1995. Its goal is to motivate students to improve their English language skills, support talented and creative students to develop original thinking and ways of expressing their views on current social and personal matters. The competition is designed for secondary grammar schools. Students compete in three categories (Junior: 1st and 2nd grades; Senior: 3rd and 4th grades; Anglophones: students of any grade who studied at English schools abroad for more than 4 months). In 2009, the competition was jointly organized by NOS – OSF and European Commission Representation in Slovakia, in cooperation with the National Bank Slovakia.

Essay topics:

1. What Do You Think About The Introduction Of The EUR o In Slovakia?
2. Alcohol Consumption And Cigarette Smoking Are Two Legal Drugs In Our Society. Do You Agree?
3. People Are Either Born Creative Or They Are Not. Do You Agree And Give Some Examples To Support Your Answer?

See appendix for list of winners

Program partners:

European Commission Representation in the Slovak Republic
National Bank Slovakia

Sponsor partners:

British Council in Slovakia
Cambridge University Press
CKM SYTS
Forum Foundation 2000
National Bank Slovakia
Oxford University Press
Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy
Slovak Spectator
Slovak Ventures, Ltd. – Pearson Longman
Stiefel-EUR ocart, Ltd.
Foreign Language Publications – Friendship magazine
Arlene Barilec – ex-volunteer of the Peace Corps in Slovakia

5th Book of Winning Essays

In September, NOS-OSF, with support of the EC representation in Slovakia and US Embassy in Bratislava, published the 5th Book of Winning Essays including 36 essays from the 13th-15th Annual English Essay Competition.

The book was sent to all Slovak grammar schools, competition organizers, sponsors, winners, committee members and other relevant educational organizations and individuals in Slovakia and abroad.

The book was launched on October 7, 2009 in the Open Gallery of the Open Society Foundation in Bratislava, by a celebrity moderator, Adela Banášová.

One-year Internships of Slovak Teachers at British Independent Schools (HMC)

This operational educational program was introduced in 1997 to allow young Slovak teachers to spend one year at private secondary schools in Great Britain (where they teach their subject and simultaneously, they tutor their students), in order to acquire new information and improve their knowledge of their subject's terminology and teaching experience

Number of applicants: 3

Number of grantees: 1

See appendix for list of grantees.

Partners:

Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference – HMC, Great Britain
UK independent schools

Roma Memorial University Scholarship Program

Roma Memorial University Scholarship Program is organized by the Open Society Foundation in cooperation with the Roma Education Fund in Budapest since 2007. It is operating educational program. It offers merit-based scholarships to full-time Roma university students, thus supporting their quality education.

Number of applicants: 38

Number of grantees: 35

See appendix for list of grantees.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Public Health Program aims to influence public health policy on social inclusion and application of human rights and justice through evidence-based approach. In 2009, NOS-OSF has mainly focused on overcoming marginalization of the Roma community, drug users and providing support for civil society organizations working in the aforementioned fields. The core of the Foundation's activities in this area lies in its operating activities.

Harm Reduction Program

In line with the strategy of the Public Health Program, the implemented operational activities and related projects focus on advocacy for harm reduction approach in Slovakia. The program is structured in such way that it offers a complex response to various levels of the given problem.

The goal of the Harm Reduction Program's advocating activities is to provide systematic support to organizations promoting harm reduction approach, primarily needle and syringe exchange programs, substitution programs for drug users and their inclusion into the overall system of the services to drug users.

Analysis

Implementation of the Project to Evaluate Selected Drug-Related Sections of the Penal Code (PEDA), HEP B/C prevalence, abuse of inhalants, available national documents (reports of National Monitoring Center for Drug Dependencies, statistical data etc.).

Monitoring, analysis and evaluation of funds used for supporting activities focused on dealing with drug abuse, primarily at promoting harm reduction approach from the budget of the Ministry of Health Care in Slovakia.

Supporting a spin-off organization Plan B that aims at providing legal aid and social and health services to drug users. The service is based on case management. It also targets data collection and monitoring the breaches of human and patients' rights and limited access to health care.

Roma Health

Advocacy for improving quality of health in Roma communities (meetings with the representatives of relevant institutions and organizations of state administration and local self-governments), developing "pressure" on responsible stakeholders in order to focus on problems that have been neglected on long-term basis – such as inclusion of field health workers into the scheme of state supported jobs etc.).

13 field health workers stationed in 15 selected Roma communities worked in the program (Brezno, Hnúšťa, Telgárt, Val'kovňa, Spišský Štiavnik, Kriškovská Liesková, Sačurov, Čičava, Kecerovce, Bystré, Čemerné, Svidník, Svinia). The field health workers continued in promoting and disseminating information on health, increasing the hygiene and health status of the Roma.

The activities of the field health workers in 3 communities were supported by the PFIZER Company Slovakia.

In 2009, the Roma Health Program focused on Roma children and youth in the selected communities. The young people were motivated to lead a healthy life style and be responsible for their health, improve communication in their families, at the public and hospitals through a series of meetings. There were 8 – 18 children and youth in each peer group. Their numbers increased after the summer camp, organized for 100 members of the peer groups at Zemplínska Šírava.

See appendix for list of grantees.

Training Activities:

First meeting combined with further training of the field health workers.

February 12 – 13, 2009, Poprad

Number of participants: 17

Second meeting combined with further training of the field health workers.

April 18 – 19, 2009, Spišská Kapitula

Number of participants: 18

Third meeting combined with further training of the field health workers.

June 5 – 6, 2009, Levoča

Number of participants: 18

How to Teach Roma Children Dental Hygiene.

Representatives of the Curaprox Company.

Fourth meeting combined with further training of the field health workers.

December 11, 2009, Prešov

Number of participants: 17

Summer camp for members of the peer groups of the Roma Health Program.

July 22- 23, 2009, Zemplínska Šírava

Number of participants: 102 from 12 Roma communities

Activities organized with partners:

Managing Call for Applications *Health of Roma Women*

Partner: OSI Budapest

Training program *Roma Health in Urban Areas*

Partner: Association of Community Centers

Program: Three two-day training programs for the field health workers from the Roma communities in urban areas.

Monitoring of Health Status of the Roma in the Banská Bystrica Region

Partners Association of Community Centers

Schering-Plough Corporation, Prague, Czech Republic

Program: implementation of monitoring focused on hepatitis C.

Abuse of Inhalants in the Roma Communities (2009-2010)

Survey of Inhalant Abuse in the Roma Communities in the Prešov and Košice Regions.

Partner: Association of Community Centers

GOOD GOVERNANCE

The goal of this program is to contribute to the optimal functioning of institutions, establish favorable conditions for creating policies respecting human rights of marginalized groups, overcome discrimination and exclusion, and develop opportunities for citizen's participation in the management of public affairs.

Law Program

In 2009, the Foundation's activities focused primarily at fight against intolerance, support of free access to information and strengthening of judiciary. The goal of this program is to contribute to and support the strengthening of the Slovak legal system from the perspective of protection and respect of human rights.

Program areas:

- A. Protection of human rights
- B. Transparency support
- C. Empowering judiciary

Operating activities:

Early Warning System

Since 2007, NOS-OSF monitors prepared bills and publishes them at www.osf.sk. The monitoring system consists of an early-warning system, listing selected new legislation in the preparatory stage, i.e. drafting and ratification by the Slovak government and Parliament so that the non-governmental organizations can step in those processes. The early-warning system allows interested parties to react to coming legislation and influence the drafting process.

A. PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2009, this subprogram focused primarily on operating activities and grant support of NGOs fighting extremism.

Since 2008, NOS-OSF coordinates a platform of NGOs and experts in the field. The aim of this activity is to coordinate internal communication of the main stakeholders, preparation and coordination of joint projects and positions to the governmental policies. In 2009, the Platform prepared 12 amendatory propositions to the amendment to the Penal Code, out of which, 3 were accepted.

Two NOS-OSF representatives were members of the Multidisciplinary Integrated Commission focusing the racially motivated criminal activities and extremism in 2009. This commission was established at the cross-sectoral Expert Coordinating Body for Fight against Criminality.

Through Information against Extremism

Series of trainings for secondary school teachers aimed at identification and reduction of youth extremism. The trainings are based on using a multi-media publication, published by NOS-OSF in 2008.

Partners: Police Corps, Methodological and Educational Center, CA People against Racism and CA CEEV Živica.

Trainings:

August 6 - 7, 2009, Trenčianske Teplice
Number of participants: 25

November 5 - 6, 2009, Dedinky
Number of participants: 22

November 18 -19, 2009, Snina
Number of participants: 22

Report on Compliance with Security Policy in Extremism for 2008

NOS-OSF supported the Institute for Civic Education in its creation of a second shadow report on compliance with the security policy in extremism. The first report analyzed the situation before and after 2007. The Report for 2008 is a follow up document that provides a dynamic picture of changes in the security policy. To download see: http://www.osf.sk/Documents/viktoria/SPRAVA_ICE_2008.pdf

Dost' bolo ticha (Enough of Silence)

NOS-OSF participated in a cultural event that was a reaction to the celebration, marches and promotion of a Nazi Slovak State. The aim was to make an opposing event to the celebration of a regime that suppressed and abused basic human rights and lives. The event was organized on March 14, 2009 in various Slovak cities.

Partners: People against Racism, Jewish Congregation.

More info at: <http://danilov.blog.sme.sk/c/186281/PROGRAM-AKCIE-DOST-BOLO-TICHA-14-marec-2009.html#ixzz0eYWH5BJW>

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B. TRANSPARENCY SUPPORT – ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The aim of this subprogram is to increase public administration transparency through supporting activities aimed at strengthening free access to information.

INFOčín - INFOAct Competition

In 2009, NOS-OSF organized 7th annual INFOAct of the Year Competition. The competition focuses on monitoring implementation of the Freedom of Information Act through collection and evaluation of cases of positive and negative enforcement or breaches to this act.

Evaluation committee consisted of: Ľubomír Andrásy, press secretary, Bratislava – Petržalka, winner of the positive prize in INFOčín 2008; Ema Beblavá, Transparency International Slovakia; Tomáš Kamenec, attorney; Oldřich Kužílek, presenter of the Freedom of Information Act in the Czech Republic, Nataša Petrová, Association of Local and Regional TV Broadcasters in Slovakia – LOToS.

Prize for Friendly INFOAct won the city of Žilina.

Prize for negative INFOAct went to the Ministry of Transportation, Post and Telecommunication together with the National Highway Company for not disclosing the contract on Toll on Highways, Regional Court in Bratislava for its ruling by which it declined the lawsuit against the Slovak Governmental Office (nomination was related to the scandal of refusing to disclose an audio recording from the first meeting of the government lead by Róbert Fico) and Ministry of Environment for not disclosing information about controversial contract on the sale of emissions to the Interblue Group

For more information see www.infocin.sk.

C. EMPOWERING JUDICIARY

The aim of this subprogram is to empower efficient judiciary in Slovakia through creating space for a public discussion, supporting training of the courts' employees, primarily in the field of protection of human rights, alternative conflict resolutions and through supporting the activities of NGOs working in the field of human rights.

Conference: Access to Justice: Barriers and Positions

November 26 – 27, 2009

Partner: Via Iuris

See appendix for list of grantees.

Equal Opportunities – Roma Participation Support

Grant Program Res publica 2009 – Support of Advocacy Activities

In 2009, this grant program was again aimed at supporting NGOs that focus on increasing civic involvement. The program funded activities geared towards strengthening the mechanisms of inclusion, responsibility and participation as well as on developing partnerships with public and private sectors and other NGOs with the view to support local ownership, bring about innovative solutions and empower active participation of the poor and marginalized inhabitants.

The aim of supported activities in 2009 was primarily to reduce the impact of discrimination and inequalities, monitoring the rule of law, increasing awareness on the key roles and political issues related to non-discrimination and equality. The call for proposals Res Publica was announced in December 2006. In 2009, grants were awarded to 13 non-governmental organizations. See appendix for list of grantees.

Grant Program – Equal Opportunities 2009

Program was designed for NGOs that advocate for and promote the interests of the Roma community and carry out activities aimed at strengthening the role of marginalized groups, towards increased equality and higher inclusion.

Equal Opportunities Program 2009 supported activities primarily focused at strengthening active participation of the Roma women in the public life and their motivation to the civic involvement. The program also supported activities aimed at motivating and supporting women leaders of the Roma NGOs, or, if necessary, empowering human resources and capacities of the organizations.

See appendix for list of grantees

International Initiative Decade of Roma Inclusion (2005 – 2015)

The Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005 – 2015 is an initiative supported by the Open Society Institute and The World Bank. It is the first international initiative of its kind opposed to discrimination against Roma, aimed among other things at providing this target group with equal access to education, housing, employment and health care. Also in 2009, the Foundation supported alliances of the Roma NGOs in Slovakia in their monitoring of the implementation of National action plans of the Decade, while making use of its existing experience and that of the Open Society Institute through providing consultancies to the governmental experts in various sectors in the field of public policy development.

International Meeting of the Decade Watch Team in Slovakia

The activity was organized through the financial support of NOS – OSF and OSI by a NGO In Minorita. Members of the DecadeWatch from various countries participated in this event, held in Bratislava. The meeting was organized before the September meeting of the international steering committee, during the Slovak presidency of the Decade of Roma Inclusion (2005 – 2015).

The aim of this activity was to create room for the DecadeWatch members to meet with broader participation of the Slovak representatives, discuss follow up steps and processes of the monitoring of the implementation of the governmental policies aimed at Roma inclusion.

Support of Research *Data on Human Rights of Roma Women*

The research was supported by NOS – OSF and OSI Budapest. Its aim was to support the mapping of the living situation of the Roma women, identifying barriers from the perspective of women's human rights and contribute to supporting and creating gender sensitive educational activities in the field of women's human rights in the Roma communities.

Another important benefit of this research was developing the advocacy material needed for implementation of the findings into the national and regional policies related to the Roma community, such as mid-term concept of development of the Roma national minority in Slovakia, *Solidarity – Integrity – Inclusion (2008 – 2013)*, *Decade of Roma Inclusion* etc.

Training on Policy Development and Advocacy Skills for Roma

This activity was organized by NOS – OSF and was financed by two OSI Budapest programs - Roma Initiative Office and Local Governance Initiative. The need to increase impact of Roma NGOs, networks and experts in the field of policy development justified the OSI's Budapest motivation to offer this training also in Slovakia. The aim of the activity was to develop politically oriented communication and advocacy skills of the Roma NGO representatives.

January 2009, Bratislava – 11 participants

April 2009, Bratislava – 9 participants

The Cost of Non-inclusion

Within the context of its mission, NOS – OSF strives to identify new approaches that could assist in establishing a positive change, opens discussions and supports other stakeholders interested in solving the problems in the society.

The study *The Cost of Non-inclusion* is a pioneering publication, approaching the topic from economic perspective.

The aim of the study was to take a different perspective, point at the potential losses resulting from the contiguous Roma exclusion.

The authors – Anton Marcinčin and Ľubica Marcinčinová took a challenge to indulge in this complicated topic and offer data and material that would serve for further discussions of experts, inspire creation of new studies and materials leading to the development

of public policies and use of money to solving the problems. The ambition of the publication is to serve as a basis of the expert debates, new recommendations and approaches.

The study was published on CD and is available in Slovak and English version at www.osf.sk

Advocacy for Right to Housing for Marginalized Groups

Project duration: April 2009 – October 2010

Partner: the Netherlands Embassy in Bratislava

Involved locations: Košice, Michalovce (Iňačovce and Vrbnica municipalities), Hnúšťa

The main project goal was to identify gaps in the capacities/institutions that deal with the housing problem in the given location. The goal was to create room for experience exchange through a series of meetings and seminars.

NOS - OSF initiated the extension of the evaluation of the municipal rental housing to the Roma settlements program that aims at identifying good practice in local housing policies for the marginalized Roma communities as a tool of improving living conditions. The evaluation is planned to be terminated for July 2010.

Project meetings and activities:

April 2009, Bratislava – Seminar of all the NGO representatives participating in the project,

May 2009 – February 2010 – workshop on the program evaluation of the municipal rental housing,

August 2009 – monitoring in the individual locations of Michalovce, Košice, Hnúšťa,

October 2009 – Brussels - FRA round table on Roma housing,

November 2009, Hnúšťa – round table,

November 2009, Košice – seminar targeting exchange of experience,

November 2009, Michalovce – round table,

February 2010, Prešov – workshop of the NGO representatives participating in the project,

February 2010, Michalovce – round table.

Public Administration Program

The Public Administration Program is designed to support projects focusing on improving the efficiency of public administration, increasing transparency and involvement of the public in regional public administration. The program encourages the involvement of citizens in the policy making process, budgeting and its control. NOS-OSF launched this educational, operating and grant program in 2000.

Operating activities:

Program budgeting

NOS-OSF in cooperation with the F.A.Hayek Foundation implemented several activities aimed at supporting awareness rising among public through training of the media and NGO representatives in using a new tool (program budgeting), that assists in making the control of public budgets easier.

Publication: Practical Manual on How to Use Program Budgeting in Practice

The publication was distributed among NGOs, media and activists working in the field of public control of the power. It can be downloaded at:

http://www.osf.sk/Documents/programove_rozpoctovanie/Programove-rozpoctovanie-v-praxi.pdf.

Announcing essay competition: Program Budgeting – Innovative Tool for Self-government Management

The competition was announced on September 29, 2009 for the university students. (The results were published in February 2010.)

Competition thesis:

- How can the program budgeting be used in self-government budget management? Why can the program budgeting be considered as an innovative tool?
- What are the best foreign examples of the best practice when it comes to the use of program budgeting (or its principles) at the level of local self-governments?
- Comparing the spending of the self-governments' budgetary funds in selected cases in comparison with the planned goals and intentions based on the monitoring report to the program budget.

- How to use the program budgeting in the practice at the self governmental level? Analysis and vision.
- Benchmarking of self-governments' identification of common performance indicators based on the program budget. The role of benchmarking in implementing the program budgeting.
- What are the first experiences (positive or negative) with practical implementation of the program budgeting at the level of local and regional self-governments in Slovakia (e.g. in considering differentiation among municipalities by their size?)

Seminar: Public Control of Higher Self-Governments

April 24. – 26, 2009

Partner: Transparency International Slovakia

Seminar was designed for the regional journalists and activists interested in self-governments in Slovakia. It focused on program budgeting, regional health care, politics, public-private partnerships and power control mechanism.

See appendix for list of grantees

Block grant - Human Rights Protection Program

The Block Grant – Human Rights Protection Program is a grant program supporting Slovak NGO-s intermediated by the Open Society Foundation. All grants are financed by the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and the State Budget of the Slovak Republic. The donors of this project include Island, Lichtenstein and Norway. It is co-financed from the State budget of the Slovak Republic.

The primary goal of the Block Grant is to create effective tools to eliminate social stereotypes, prejudice and strengthen the judiciary and human rights advocacy, multiculturalism, non-discrimination, principles of legal state, democracy, human rights and freedom by supporting innovative and pilot projects.

In November 2007, the NOS-OSF signed a contract with the Slovak government office about a non-returnable financial contribution from the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and the state budget of the Slovak Republic. The amount that is subject of this contract equals EUR 1,588,236.00.

In the Protection of Human Rights Program, the Foundation allocated non-returnable financial contribution to the organizations in the following priority areas:

Strengthening the Judiciary

Projects supported within this priority strengthen the capacity of the judiciary and state administration and increase citizens' legal awareness.

Projects include the following areas of support: public information campaigns on human rights, encouragement of active civil society participation, legal support and participation for the disadvantaged, improvement of professional skills of all those working in the field of human rights, support for programs aiming at elimination of prejudices, social stereotypes and xenophobia, human rights education, strengthening the capacities of NGO-s advocating for human rights, and many more.

Strengthening the Multicultural Environment

Projects supported within this priority aim to improve the quality of relationships in multicultural society with special attention to interests of disadvantaged groups.

Projects include the following areas of support: rapprochement and coexistence of different cultures, elimination of stereotypes and social prejudices, legislative and institutional framework concerning multicultural relations, social and professional discussion, institutional and professional capacities of NGO-s operating in the field.

Supporting the Protection of Human Rights

Projects supported within this priority aim to improve the conditions necessary for the implementation of basic human rights and freedoms in society and strengthen NGO-s operating in this area.

Projects include the following areas of support: judiciary performance in human rights observation, European and International Law professional capacity, transparency and anti-corruption, modern trends in the judiciary, public monitoring of the judiciary and public involvement, improvement in public legal awareness.

Supporting the Right to Equal Treatment

Projects supported within this priority aim to support and raise awareness about the right to equal treatment and non-discrimination.

Projects include the following areas of support: information campaign about the right to equal treatment and non-discrimination, elimination of stereotypes, xenophobia and social prejudices, implementation of anti-discrimination legislation, media campaigns, gender equality-promoting programs, interdisciplinary approaches towards advocacy of equal treatment measures. See appendix for list of grantees.

Projects Aimed at Decreasing Negative Impacts of the Economic Crises through the Emergency Fund

George Soros, the founder of the network of foundations, established an Emergency Fund. It is a special tool designed to assist the citizens of Slovakia in need. It is administered by the Open Society Foundation. The aim of the fund is to contribute to mitigating negative impacts of the global economic crises.

The priority projects in Slovakia include those targeting issues of the marginalized groups, including middle class, in the worst hit regions by the economic crises. The assistance is geared towards those NGOs whose existence is vital for maintaining the potential of the open society and continuity of existence of the independent cultural subjects. All creative ideas and incentives that can assist in widening the scope of implemented projects in Slovakia are welcomed.

See appendix for list of grantees.

2% Direct Tax Allocation Funds

In 2009, the Foundation gained EUR 2,020.73 from the 2% direct tax allocation from natural and legal persons. The funds are traditionally used for complementing the Foundation's grant programs.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION SUPPORT

International cooperation is present in all programs of the Open Society Foundation. The Foundation uses the East East Program – Partnership Beyond Borders to share international experience and to promote civil society principles. The Foundation’s 2009 operating activities in the area of international cooperation focused on the development of philanthropy and sharing of experience with transformation processes with its Asian partners.

East East Program – Partnership Beyond Borders

In 1991, George Soros came up with the idea of supporting cooperation between Central and Eastern European countries – he said, “people should travel, meet, and share views and experiences with post-communist transformation.” He stressed that Central and Eastern Europe had a lot to offer to each other and could help each other in many ways. The East East Program – Partnership Beyond Borders is based on this idea. This grant and operating program has been implemented since 1993. See appendix for list of grantees and travel grants.

SOCIETY AND INFORMATION

The Open Society Foundation uses the Journalism Award to improve the quality of Slovak journalism and create space for friendly confrontation and discussion.

2008 Journalism Award

Journalism Award is a forum of high-quality journalism open for journalists, representatives of media and broad public. It is designed for journalists from all types of media: print, electronic, national, local and regional as well as for Internet journalism. The aim is to point out to high-quality work of journalists, thus enhance expert discussion on status and trends in the Slovak journalism. From the long-term perspective, the Journalism Award aims at assisting in increasing the professionalism and quality in the Slovak media. 5th year was announced in cooperation with the following partners: MEMO 98, Prime time, Association of Publishers of the Periodic Press in Slovakia.

501 journalists with 911 contributions signed up to the competition. In each category, nominations were announced, out of which the jury selected one winner per category, who got a prize of EUR 830. The Board of the competition also announced the winners of the *Open Society Award*, announced in memorial of Karel Ježík and the *Prize of the Association of the Publishers of the Periodic Press in Slovakia*. The prize winners got awards in the value of EUR 1,660.

See appendix for list of winners.

Seminar

Seminar for Regional Media

April 27, 2009, Liptovský Mikuláš

Seminar focused on evaluating results of the Journalism Award in the category of regional media, analyzing winning and nominated pieces. 24 journalists from 14 media participated in the seminar.

Partners: MEMO 98, PRime time, Association of Publishers of the Periodic Press in Slovakia

NOS – OSF PROGRAM PARTNERS

Over time, organizations that were originally part of the Open Society Foundation program structure split to create independent organizations to build on their knowledge and to carry out their own activities or grant programs. These organizations include the following: Foundation - Center of Contemporary Art, the Wide Open School, Open Medical Club, Slovak-Czech Women's Fund and newly-created NGO – Plan B.

Wide Open School Foundation, Žiar nad Hronom

The Wide Open School Foundation was formed from the educational program Step by Step, launched in Slovakia by NOS-OSF in 1993. After two years, an independent spin-off organization, the Wide Open School Foundation, was established. Its mission is to stimulate institutional and family education of pre-school children, and to support children from socially disadvantaged or under-stimulating families. **For more information see:** <http://www.skoladokoran.sk>

Grant awarded: EUR 13,361,84

Open Medical Club

The civil association Open Medical Club organizes educational programs for medical doctors: Salzburg Medical Seminars, satellite symposia, and its own seminars and training activities for medical doctors and a wide range of health care professionals. Its aim is to effectively apply relevant and valid information and data acquired at the Salzburg Medical Seminars and other international institutions, putting the Evidence-Based Medicine principle into practice. The organization also provides up-to-date, relevant information to the public. **For more information see:** <http://www.omc.sk>

Plan B, n.o.

Plan B is an NGO operating on harm reduction principle, i.e. prevention and minimization of individual and social risks related to potentially risky models of behavior. A mission of Plan B is to provide assistance and support with health, legal or social issues implied by use and abuse of illegal addictive substances to users themselves as well as social environment and entire society.

Grant awarded: EUR 20,039

Slovak_Czech Women's Fund

In 2004, NOS-OSF Bratislava and OSF Prague established a new donor organization – the Slovak-Czech Women's Fund. At the same time, both foundations made a commitment to support this organization during its first three years of existence. The Fund's role is to promote the principles of equal opportunities for women and men by supporting initiatives aimed at protection, advocacy and application of women's rights, and philanthropy aimed at women and gender equality.

For more information see: <http://www.womensfund.sk>

Foundation – Center of Contemporary Art

Foundation - Center of Contemporary Art was established in 1993 under the name Soros Center for Contemporary Art (SCCA). From its establishment until 1999, it was one of the most important sources of support of alternative culture and projects of contemporary art, broadly covering the arts with the exception of literature. The Foundation is a platform for supporting creative artistic and training programs, and cooperation with various institutions in the area of contemporary art with the aim to promote this type of creativity. **For more information see:** <http://www.ncsu.sk/>

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Executive management

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Nadácia otvorenej spoločnosti - Open Society Foundation

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Tel./fax.: +421 51 7732 469

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Rules for expert committee members

1. Expert committee members (EC) are voluntary advisors in a respective grant program;
2. EC members assist in fulfilling the mission and goals of the Open Society Foundation;
3. EC members participate regularly in the meetings of their committees or other important meetings; they actively participate in the work related to their program;
4. EC members act in line with the ethical code. That is:
 - a) all project information is confidential and cannot be made public before its implementation;
 - b) EC members cannot spread information that could damage the Open Society Foundation's reputation;
 - c) there can be no conflict of interest, while the **conflict of interest** is understood as follows:
 - if the EC member cannot stay impartial and objective in assessing the project submitted because the decision is made between the foundation's interests and his/her interests;
 - if the EC member (or a relative, close friend, business partner) has a financial interest in awarding the grant or signing the contract or in decision making related to the public procurement of the foundation;
 - if the EC member (or a relative, close friend, business partner) is in business partnership with the grant applicant or is its potential contractor or will end up in other conflict situations related to loyalty with the foundation that can influence the foundation's decision-making. This is also applicable in the case when no personal financial profit of the EC member from the grant is at stake;
 - it is up to the consciousness of the individual EC members to admit their partiality, involvement, real or potential conflict of interests
 1. in the case of direct involvement/partiality the committee member is excluded from discussion about the project;
 2. in the case of indirect involvement/partiality (e.g. project supervisor), the committee member explains his/her position to the committee that decides about his/her participation in the discussion

If an EC member breaches any of the above provisions, he/she can be released from the EC.

5. EC members assist the program coordinator in guiding the program, stipulating its strategy and priorities
6. EC members are obliged to get acquainted with the project information supplied by the program coordinator and provide his/her assessment at the committee meeting;
7. EC members monitor the work of the grant coordinator.
8. EC members formally assess the performance of the committee in meeting the program goals and mission at the end of the year.
9. EC members are obliged to participate in the committee meetings. If they cannot participate they will excuse themselves in advance. If an unannounced absence occurs: if a committee member has three unannounced absences and has not participated in one third of all committee meetings in one calendar year, a request for his/her resignation may be filed.
 - a) in exceptional cases when an EC member has prepared for the meeting but cannot participate due to emergency reasons, he/she shall explain his/her position to the program coordinator in writing.
 - b) in the case of a long-term absence the EC member can find his/her substitute.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board of Trustees approved the foundation's budget at €856,305 on December 18, 2008. Budgeted administrative costs equaled €214,076.25. Those administrative costs do not include the depreciation of long term assets, unanticipated expenditures, or potential exchange rate losses. The breakdown of budgeted administration costs was as follows: NOS-OSF operation: €149,076.25 (Section 28 (2), (2)), €5,000 travel costs (Section 28 (2) (e)), €60,000 wages (Section 28 (2) (f)), out of that €10,000 remuneration for Foundation's administrator (Section 28 (2) (d)).

Overview of Revenues by Source in EUR and Donations Exceeding EUR 331.94

1.	EUR 1,000.000.00	Open Society Institute, Bundesplatz 16, CH – 6304 Zürich, Switzerland Private Non-Investment Fund in Switzerland and the USA
2.	EUR 550,359.40	Slovak Government Office, Bratislava (Norwegian Financial Mechanism)
3.	EUR 45,739.81	Trust for Civil Society in Central an Eastern Europe, Washington D.C., USA
4.	EUR 26,250.00	Schering-Plough, Ltd., Strakova 5, Bratislava
5.	EUR 22,168.91	Various contributions from individuals for activities organized by NOS-OSF
6.	EUR 16,185.00	British Embassy, Bratislava
7.	EUR 6,007.82	Returns from various grants
8.	EUR 5,600.00	British Council, Panská 17, Bratislava
9.	EUR 5,252.00	Roma Education Fund, Baarerstrasse 12, Zurich
10.	EUR 5,000.00	Association of Publishers – donation, Kutuzovova 17, Bratislava
11.	EUR 5,000.00	European Commission, Palisády, Bratislava
12.	EUR 3,521.12	Income from asset rental
13.	EUR 2,020.73	Funds from 2% direct tax allocation scheme
14.	EUR 498.57	Den Norske Helsingforskomite, Tordenskioldsgt 6, Oslo
15.	EUR 203.16	Received interest from the Foundation's accounts
	EUR 1,693,806.52	total income

Balance of Assets, Flow of Assets and Liabilities

Assets in EUR Acquisition Prices:	as of January 1, 2009	as of December 31, 2009
1. Software	59,292.41	59,292.41
2. Small and short term intangible assets	5,738.45	5,738.45
3. Real-estate, buildings	211,560.68	211,560.68
4. Technical equipment	259,430.98	259,430.98
5. Motor vehicles	39,918.41	39,918.41
6. Small and short term tangible assets	70,682.55	70,682.55
7. Land	14,795.23	14,795.23
8. Cash	660,993.76	308,763.99
9. Financial investments	462,023.34	463,893.99
10. Receivables	1,852,299.29	1,463,253.22
11. Future cost estimate	736,656.95	812,408.02
TOTAL	4,373,392.05	3,709,737.93

Tangible Fixed Assets in EUR after Depreciation:

1. Software	59,292.41
2. Small and short term intangible assets	5,738.45
3. Building depreciation	91,339.46
4. Technical equipment	254,678.43
5. Motor vehicle depreciation.	34,523.59
6. Furniture	2,622.15
7. Small and short term tangible assets	70,682.55
TOTAL DEPRECIATION:	518,877.04

Liabilities (in EUR):

1. Liabilities to suppliers	9,973.37	29,765.37
2. Other liabilities	1,339.92	18,237.97
3. Payable grants	1,047,921.93	1,334,445.46
4. Liabilities to employees	17,178.02	15,866.83
5. Liabilities to insurance companies	6,545.48	6,173.52
6. Slovak tax liabilities	0	505.12
7. Other liabilities	1,971,741.15	973,978.90
8. Reserves	14,185.49	8,397.94
9. Basic equity	96,276.54	96,276.54
10. Foundation's equity	6,638.78	6,638.78
11. Undistributed profit	701,223.41	701,223.41
TOTAL	3,873,024.09	3,191,509.84

Total Foundation Expenditures in 2009 Divided by Activity in EUR

Program Costs 2009	Program Costs in EUR
Education	115,622.04
International cooperation	23,026.02
Public health	193,188.30
Media programs	38,693.51
Good governance	1,334,889.58
Roma	229,877.74
Women	9,615.38
Human Rights	52,956.23
Public Administration	68,618.85
Youth	42,531.82
Total	2,109,019.47

Administrative Costs (in EUR)

Total costs:	2,331,975.16 EUR
Subtotals of total costs	
- program costs	2,109,019.47 EUR
- administrative costs	222,955.69 EUR
Administrative costs subtotals:	
– property protection	961.99 EUR
– promotion	0 EUR
– travel costs	4,274.51 EUR
– wages	46,863.06 EUR

Remuneration for foundation administrator and others set forth in the Foundation Charter

NOS-OSF bodies established by the Foundation Charter

Administrator

The administrator's 2009 remuneration was EUR 830 per month or EUR 9,960 per annum.

Board of Trustees

NOS-OSF's Board of Trustees and its chairman received no financial or non-financial remuneration for their work as board members.

NOS-OSF's Inspector

The NOS-OSF's inspector did not receive any financial or non-financial remuneration for his work in this position.

Council of Elders

Members of the NOS-OSF's Council of Elders (an advisory body to the Board of Trustees) did not obtain any financial or non-financial remuneration for their work in these positions.

In accordance with Act no. 34/2002 on foundations, no other NOS-OSF bodies were established by the Foundation Charter in 2009.

Overview of Foundation Fund Activities and Monies in the Foundation Funds

Pursuant to Act no. 34/2002 on foundations, NOS-OSF did not establish or own any foundation fund in 2009.

Changes to Foundation Charter in 2009

Pursuant to Act no. 34/2002 on foundations, NOS-OSF amended the Foundation Charter in 2009 to reflect the change of members of the Board of Trustees.

Changes in Structure of Foundation Bodies in 2009

The Foundation Charter stipulates the following structure of foundation bodies:

NOS-OSF Administrator

The foundation's administrator and executive director in 2009 was **Alena Pániková**.

NOS-OSF Board of Trustees

NOS-OSF's Board of Trustees has the following six members:

Name:	Position:
Eugen JURZYCA , INEKO, Bratislava	chairman
Martin BARTO , Slovak National Bank, Bratislava	member
Kálmán PETOCZ , Forum Institute	member
Zuzana KUŠOVÁ , Mayer/Mccann-Erickson, Bratislava	member
Milan VAJDA , Bratislava City Council	member
Janet LIVINGSTONE , expert	member

The Board of Trustees delegates decision-making on grants in specific areas to expert committees. The expert committees are bound to duly comply with the same rules as the Board of Trustees.

Council of Elders in 2009:

Rudolf Chmel
Martin Bútora
László Szigeti
Pavel Demeš
Štafan Markuš
Lev Bukovský
Iveta Radičová
Mária Zelenáková
Katarína Vajdová

Transparent Use of Financial Funds

The Open Society Foundation is by law required to have its accounts audited (Act no. 34/2002 on foundations and civil code as amended). The audit results are public.

Slovakia's EU entry brought new administrative processes as required by EU legislation. One of the requirements is the application of new accounting regulations ensuring the comparability of final accounts regardless of the location of the subject's registered office. To achieve this, the EU passed legislation introducing International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). These standards are drafted by the independent International Accounting Standards Board. In addition to the general audit, NOS-OSF also prepares accounts according to the aforementioned standards, making its operations more transparent and trustworthy for international donors.

NOS-OSF Ethical Code

The ethical code represents a set of rules that express the basic values of NOS-OSF's organizational culture and vision. The ethical code is binding for all members of the Board of Trustees, the Board of Elders, expert committees and foundation employees. The ethical code is an integral part of the foundation's organizational procedures and is a public document. Breaching the ethical code can lead to expulsion of a member from the Board of Trustees, Board of Elders, or expert committees or to the termination of employment.

The Open Society Foundation is an independent, nonpartisan institution that upholds the notion that an open society is the basis of democracy. NOS-OSF carries out its activities for the public's benefit and pursuant to applicable legal regulations.

Open Society

On a philosophical level, the open society concept is based on the idea that human understanding is imperfect and that nobody holds the ultimate truth. On a practical level, open society is characterized by the rule of law, respect for human rights, minorities and minority opinions, the division of power and a market economy.

Each and every NOS-OSF employee must be loyal to open society principles and cautious in attitude and deed so as to avoid jeopardizing the foundation's good reputation. Another NOS-OSF work requirement is making an effort to promote the foundation's goals, work respectfully, and adhere to the team spirit of the foundation. Work on the Board of Trustees, Board of Elders and expert committees is grounded in the high profile of members, and association with an institution or profession or certain elements in society with which the foundation wishes to cooperate in implementing its programs.

Independence

Though the foundation welcomes government cooperation, since this can facilitate the foundation's programs and this support increases the impact of the foundation's work, the Board of Trustees must oversee these relations to ensure they do not interfere with the foundation's independence. The foundation needs to preserve its freedom to support programs that may precipitate government criticism, such as support for media independence and diversity, programs fighting corruption and efforts in the field of human rights, etc. The principle of independence must also be applied in partnerships and co-financing.

Impartiality

Though promoting open society principles can be considered apolitical in the broadest sense of the word, it is important for the foundation to be impartial and to create an impression of objectivity. This requirement prevents us from employing persons publicly associated or identified with a political party or direct members of a political leadership.

Conflict of Interest

Supporting open society principles requires that support opportunities be equally available to all individuals in the country, and not limited or partially limited to a closed group. The basic principle for the NOS-OSF employee is to declare each real and/or potential conflict of interest. A "real conflict of interest" is understood as a material interest in programs supported by the foundation or family relations/ties to the organization that is the subject of the decision-making process. The same applies to purchasing of goods or services. A "potential conflict of interests" includes all situations and circumstances when the impression may arise that NOS-OSF employees mutually encourage each other's interests, even though there is no real conflict of interest.

The decision-making bodies need to be composed or predominantly composed of individuals with no personal and/or material interests in the programs supported by the foundation. In exceptional cases, when decision-making bodies want to support a project where one of its members has a material interest, they must ask a superior body for final approval. In practice this means that the expert committee needs to ask the Board of Trustees, which then consults the Open Society Institute for the final decision. If the decision-making body takes a decision, it should attach a justification and recommendation to the project. In the event that OSI decides to financially support the given program, the awarded amount can be deducted from the foundation's allocation. Such a decision comes under the jurisdiction of OSI.

Members of the decision-making bodies commit themselves to act in line with the Ethical Code, which they confirm by signing the document. The rules for expert committees/Board of Trustees can be adjusted as needed by individual programs. However, they must contain at least the following provisions:

- a) all information about the project is confidential and cannot be published before its implementation;
- b) expert committee (EC) or Board of Trustees (BT) members need to preserve and protect the foundation's good reputation;
- c) there must be no conflicts of interest; a conflict of interest is understood as follows:

- If the EC/BT cannot remain impartial and objective in evaluating and assessing a submitted project because he/she must decide between personal interest and the interest of the foundation (real conflict of interests);
 - If an EC/BT member or his/her relative, close friend or business partner has a financial interest in awarding the grant or signing the contract or in decision-making in the public procurement of the foundation (real conflict of interests);
 - If an EC/BT member or his/her relative, close friend or a business partner is in financial partnership with the grant applicant or is its potential contractor or otherwise comes into conflicting situations as to his/her loyalty with the foundation that can influence the foundation's decision-making. This is also applicable cases where no personal financial profit for the EC/BT member from the financial grant is at stake (real conflict of interests);
 - If an EC/BT member is associated in public with the submitted project/institution and an impression may arise that he/she is supporting his/her personal interests (potential conflict of interests), it is up to the conscious of individual EC/BT members to admit their partiality, involvement and real or potential conflict of interests. If in spite of previously taken measures (selection of committee members) a conflict of interests situation arises, the following measures shall be taken:
 - in cases of direct involvement/partiality, i.e. a real conflict of interests, the member is excluded from discussion about the project and from the project in general, together with a recommendation that must be approved by a higher level body,
 - in the event of indirect involvement/partiality, i.e. a potential conflict of interest (e.g. project supervisor), the committee member explains his/her position to the committee, which then decides on his/her participation in the discussion.
- d) if the EC/BT member breaches any of the above points, he/she can be excluded from the EC/BT based on a proposal by the program manager/coordinator or other EC/BT member.

Transparency and Equality of Opportunity

The open society principle is also promoted in the grant-making process such that granting methods and rules are as objective and transparent as possible, in compliance with applicable standards, and ensure that potential grant applicants have equal conditions for their grant applications. Granting principles are Part II of the Negotiation and File Procedures, "Awarding Grants-Grant Management." Employees make due effort to observe these principles.

This ethical code is updated at bi-annual intervals and is approved by the Board of Trustees.

LIST OF GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOLARSHIPS AND COMPETITIONS

Secondary School Scholarships

Number of applicants: 116

Number of awarded scholarships: 11

American Secondary School for International Students and Teachers (ASSIST), USA – 1-year stay

1. **Krčméryová Lucia**, Bratislava
St. Andrew's-Sewanee School, TN
2. **Mihók Marek**, Košice
Stony Brook School, NY
3. **Pôbiš Michal**, Banská Bystrica
The Putney School, VT
4. **Vozárik Jakub**, Prešov
Suffield Academy, CT

Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC) Projects for Central and Eastern Europe, Great Britain – 1-year stay

1. **Bigoš Filip**, Spišská Nová Ves
Felsted School, Essex
2. **Filipová Paula**, Považská Bystrica
Truro School, Cornwall
3. **Furik Andrej**, Bratislava
New Hall School, Essex
4. **Hoferová Sabine**, Bratislava
Stover School, Devon
5. **Komora Ondrej**, Nitra
Gresham's School, Norfolk
6. **Pacholská Denisa**, Prakovce
Strathallan School, Scotland
7. **Valentovič Gregor**, Bratislava
Whitgift School, Surrey

Scholarship Programs for Talented Secondary School Roma Students

1. Secondary School of Mother Theresa, Svidník
2. Secondary School of C. Daxner, Vranov nad Topľou
3. Secondary Grammar School, Krompachy, Krompachy
4. Business Academy, Vranov nad Topľou
5. Pedagogical and Social Academy, Lučenec
6. Pedagogical and Social Academy, Prešov
7. Secondary School, Čaklov
8. Secondary School, Secondary Automobile Vocational School, Banská Bystrica
9. Secondary School, Turany
10. Secondary Technical School of L. Svoboda
11. Secondary Veterinary School, Košice - Barca
12. Secondary Vocational School, Košice
13. Secondary Vocational School, Prešov

14. Secondary Vocational School, Vranov nad Topľou
15. Secondary School of Arts, Košice
16. Secondary Health Care School of Samaritan the Merciful, Svidník
17. Private Secondary Vocational School, Krompachy
18. Private Secondary Vocational School of Social and Law Issues, Košice
19. Private Secondary Vocational School, Bardejov
20. Private Secondary Vocational School, D. Streda, Kežmarok branch

Scholarships for Talented Roma University Students

1. Anna Adiová, Čiernad Tisou
2. Simona Balážová, Poprad
3. Eva Balážovicová, Nové mesto n/Váhom
4. Miroslav Balog, Sol'
5. Adrian Berky, Sklabina
6. Roman Čonka, Prešov
7. Dančová Lýdia, Jelšava
8. Demeter Jozef, Slovenské Nové Mesto
9. Duda Ladislav, Sabinov
10. Ferencová Alena, Prešov
11. Ferencová Natália, Prešov
12. Gáborová Kroková Jana, Bzenov
13. Horváth Ľudovít, Krompachy
14. Hromá Jana, Trebišov
15. Knapeková Janette, Veľký Krtíš
16. Kováčová Silvia, Trnava
17. Oláh Zdenko, Trnava
18. Oláhová Jana, Veľký Krtíš
19. Pehelová Marianna, Kokava nad Rimavicou
20. Pirková Katarína, Hlinné
21. Pompa Aleš, Poprad
22. Rábiková Klaudia, Prešov
23. Šarkoziová Petra, Žiar nad Hronom
24. Taragošová Andrea, Drnava

Roma Memorial University Scholarship Program

1. Lenka Bikarová, Švedlár
2. Barbora Bučková, Závadka
3. Dávid Čonka, Nová Lesná
4. Milan Franko, Smižany
5. Zuzana Gabčová, Holumnica
6. Denisa Gáborová, Poprad
7. Peter Gaži, Valalíky
8. Jaroslava Gažiová, Štrba
9. Anna Grajčárová, Michalovce
10. Diana Horváthová, Rimavská Sobota
11. Petra Hromadová, Šuňava
12. Mário Hruška, Klenovec
13. Simona Huňáková, Svidník
14. Andrea Kirvejová, Humenné
15. Eduard Kulin, Komárno
16. Drahotína Ličková, Banská Bystrica
17. Edita Plachetková, Švedlár
18. Ivan Rácz, Veľký Krtíš
19. Alžbeta Váradiová, Rimavská Seč
20. Mária Balážová, Mučín
21. Martina Banomová, Hnojné
22. Lýdia Dančová, Jelšava
23. Dávid Dulin, Krompachy
24. Anna Demeterová, Humenné
25. Richard Karšňák, Vranov nad Topľou

26. Peter Koky, Smižany
27. Ondrej Oláh, Lenartovce
28. Mária Pechová, Markušovce
29. Mária Pištová, Kežmarok
30. Tatiana Plešková, Banská Bystrica
31. Alžbeta Pompová, Toporec
32. Lucia Pustajová, Tisovec
33. Tomáš Sivák, Svidník
34. Andrea Taragošová, Bôrka
35. Katarína Toráčová, Handlová

English Essay Competition – 15th Year

Expert Committee:

Jana Bérešová, English language teacher, Testing SIG SAUA/SATE, Trnava University, Trnava
 Dagmar Blight, English language teacher, Faculty of Arts, St. Cyril and Methodius University, Trnava
 Jonathan Gresty, English lecturer, Evangelical Secondary School, Prešov
 Paul McCullough, American lecturer, Pedagogical Faculty, Comenius University, Bratislava
 Tor Lindbloom, American lecturer, Secondary Grammar School of Juraj Hronec, Novohradská, Bratislava

Number of essays: 803

Number of awarded: 12

NOS – OSF awarded all the winners with the 4th book of winning essays and presents.

Winners in the *junior* category:

- 1st place – Magdaléna KORÁBOVÁ, Secondary Grammar School, Metodova, Bratislava
- 2nd place – Matej HARČARÍK, Secondary Grammar School, Párovská, Nitra
- 3rd place – Dominika HELCMANOVÁ, Secondary Grammar School, Okružná, Zvolen
- 4th place – Michaela MAJNOVÁ, Secondary Grammar School, Párovská, Nitra

Winners in the *senior* category:

1. miesto – Ivana KELLYÉROVÁ, Secondary Grammar School of L. Novomeský, Tomášikova, Bratislava
2. miesto – Dušan SLÁDEČKA, Secondary Grammar School, Metodova, Bratislava
3. miesto – Peter KARLUBÍK, Secondary Grammar School of Comenius, Partizánske
4. miesto – Miroslava SZÉKELYOVÁ, Secondary Grammar School of L. Novomeský, Tomášikova, Bratislava

Winners in the *anglophile* category:

1. miesto – Denis DOBROVODA, Evangelical Secondary School, Vranovská, Bratislava
2. miesto – Michal SIPKO, Secondary Grammar School of Juraj Hronec, Novohradská, Bratislava
3. miesto – Hana SIPKOVÁ, Secondary Grammar School of Juraj Hronec, Novohradská, Bratislava
4. miesto – Branislav PELÁK, Secondary Grammar School, Šrobárova, Košice

One-year Internships of Slovak Teachers at British Independent Schools (HMC)

Participant:

Eva KOSTKOVÁ, graduate, Faculty of Humanities, Matej Bel University; Banská Bystrica
 Royal Russell School, Croydon, Surrey, England, Great Britain

Winners and nominees of the Journalism Award 2008

EXPERT COMMITTEE

Journalism Award 2008 – Board

Zuzana Kušová, PRime time
 Rast'o Kužel, MEMO 98
 Miloš Nemeček, Association of Publishers of Periodic Media in Slovakia
 Alena Pániková, Nadácia otvorenej spoločnosti – Open Society Foundation
 Ľubica Stanek, Nadácia otvorenej spoločnosti – Open Society Foundation
 Gabriel Šipoš, Slovak Press Watch / INEKO

See the list of juries in individual categories at www.novinarskacena.sk in *history*.

JOURNALISM AWARD 2008 RESULTS

Best Article in Print Media

Juraj Sedlák – Faces of Slovakia (Žurnál weekly)
Matej Gašparovič – Hot Lands in Nižná Boca (Profit weekly)
Ján Karásek – Forgotten Corner (Plus 7 dní weekly)

Best Story in Electronic Media

Táňa Kusá – What with the Children? (Radio Slovakia)
Peter Jankú – Where does the Money for MPs Offices End up? (TA3)
Mária Ōvedyová – series on a boy with a heart defect (TV JOJ)

Best Interview in Print Media

Karol Sudor - Marek Nikolov: Healthy Family Cannot Raise a Gay (SME.sk)
Jozef Majchrák, Tomáš Gális – Many Will Do with the Gossip (Týždeň weekly)
Juraj Sedlák – “Huszársky kúsok (Žurnál weekly)

Best Interview or Discussion in Electronic Media

Dóra Hushegyiová, Ágnes Bárdos – Prejudice and Stereotypes in the Slovak-Hungarian Relations (STV)
Magdaléna Glasnerová, Petra Kolevská, Ivan Predmerský, Ľuba Vančíková – Program *5 minutes After the Noon* (STV)
Juraj Hrabko – First Hand Story: Landfill in Pezinok (Radio Slovakia)

Best News Article in Regional Print Media

Lýdia Vereščáková – Citizens to Decide about the Mayor (Zemplínsky Korzár)
Martin Šimovec – Gold Miners Searching in Our Region (MY - Trenčianske noviny)
Jaroslav Vrabel – Bonuses of the Košice Mayors (Košický Korzár)

Best Regionally Aired Story in Electronic Media

Ladislav Munk – Unseen Stories (TV Ružinov)
Mária Babinská – Pentagon – Center of Drug Crime (Radio Regina)
Zuzana Laurinčíková, Peter Kotrha – Uncle Stanley (TV Trenčín)

Best Analytical and Investigative Article in Print Media

Monika Tódová – series: Rafaj falšuje Slotov podpis (SME daily)
Jana Mravcová – series of articles on the exchange rate of the Slovak korunas (Trend weekly)
Marek Vagovič – series of articles on the property of Ján Slota (SME daily)

Best Analytical and Investigative Story in Electronic Media

Ján Pasiar – Poem I, II (TV Markíza)
Peter Jankú – Confiscated Companies (STV)
Dušan Karolyi – Cigaret Business I, II, III (TV Markíza)

Best Commentary in Print Media

Marián Leško – series of commentaries (SME daily)
Máriu Kopcsay – series of commentaries (Pravda daily)
Ivan Štulajter – series of commentaries (SME daily)

Best Short Article in Print Media

Jana Shemesh – Notes from Israel (SME daily)
Milan Janásik – Mocked and Misused Contest (webjournal.sk)
Peter Schutz – series of short articles (SME daily)

Best News Photography

Alan Hyža – Slovak Salesians in the World (Žurnál weekly)
Jozef Barinka – Slovak 4-kayak (Six Stars)
Mária Candráková – Cheer Leaders from Horná Lhota (Plus 7 dní weekly)
Ivan Kováč – Other Football (Nový čas daily)

Best Cartoon, Comics or Caricature

Jozef „Danglár“ Gertli (Pravda daily)

Alan Lesyk – series of caricatures (Pravda daily)
Natália Ložeková – series of caricatures (Týždeň weekly)
Fedor Vico (Hospodárske noviny, Korzár)

Best Article Published on Blog

Natália Blahová – series of articles on children houses (nataliablohova.blog.sme.sk)
Janette Maziniová – series of articles on Roma, intolerance (maziniova.blog.sme.sk)
Jozef Melichár – Strog Majority of People Live in Silent Despair, Stanford Prison Experiment (melichar.blog.sme.sk)

Open Society Award Nominees:

Oleg Pastier – Family Silver (Radio Slovakia)
Natália Blahová – series of articles on children houses (nataliablohova.blog.sme.sk)
Peter Jankú – Confiscated Companies (STV)
Janette Maziniová – series of articles on Roma, intolerance (maziniova.blog.sme.sk)

Association of Publishers in Slovakia Award Nominees:

Lukáš Milan – series of articles on expensive tenders at the Ministry of Defense (Pravda daily)
Monika Tódová - series: Rafaj Forges Slotá's Signature, Janušek Wastes Money (SME daily)
Annamária Dömeová, Tomáš Nejedlý, Martina Ruttkayová, Jožo T. Schön – Donations for HZDS (Hospodárske noviny)

Education

Multicultural Education

Milan Šimečka Foundation E - learning Course Multicultural Education for Teachers	EUR 7,900
For the Future Multicultural Education in Selected Schools	EUR 4,950.00
Proxima With Compass to Schools	EUR 3,310.00
Orava Association for Democratic Education Model of Professional Standards of Multicultural Education for Elementary School Teachers	EUR 3,320.00
Wide Open School Foundation Multicultural Education as a Tool of Social Inclusion	EUR 2,970.00
Center for Civil and Human Rights How to be a Fair School?	EUR 7,750.00

Public Health

Association of Community Centers Abuse of Inhalants Among Roma in Eastern Slovakia	EUR 40,480.00
Association of Community Centers Improvement of Roma Health through Advocacy	EUR 13,478.91

Equal Opportunities – Support of Roma Participation

People Against Racism Legal Aid in Protecting, Exercising and Enforcing Rights of Hate Crime Victims	EUR 8,990.40
In Minorita International Meeting of the DecadeWatch Team in Slovakia	EUR 7,195.00
Pro Choice Monitoring of the CEDAW Implementation in Slovakia	EUR 7,395.00

Navrat Presov - City that Offers Services as Partnership for Families and Children	EUR 9,486.82
Citizen and Democracy Active Participation of the Public in the Development of Public Policies and Monitoring as a Tool of Systemic Promotion of the Right to Equality	EUR 8,114.00
Center for Civil and Human Rights How to Be a Fair School?	EUR 7,750.00
Slatinka Association School for Active Citizen: Who makes Decisions about Us?	EUR 6,806.00
Society for the Help of People with Autism Nothing about Us Without Us	EUR 10,000.00

Equal Opportunities

EsFem Active Roma Women – Hidden Roots	EUR 7,000.00
In Minorita Gender Equality with Respoect to the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005 – 2010	EUR 6,030.00
Cultural Association of Roma in Slovakia Message in the Bottle - Confidential Facts about the Gender Inequality of Roma Women	EUR 9,050.00
Pro Choice Break the Vicious Circle of Violence	EUR 7,500.00
NGO New Way Roma Women in Action	EUR 3,500.00
Romix Romaňakro džuvľakro angos - The Voice of Roma Woman	EUR 2,845.00
ETP Slovakia - Center for Sustainable Develpoment Financial Education for Roma Involved in the Individual Development Account Saving Program	EUR 14,290.00
Roma Cultural Association in Slovakia Data on Human Rights of Roma Women - Research Outcomes Presentation	EUR 3,191.00

International Initiative *Decade of Roma Inclusion* (2005 – 2015)

People in Need, o.p.s. Access Aliance for Change in Education at Slovak Schools	11 530 EUR
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Projects Aimed at Decreasing Negative Impacts of the Economic Crises through Emergency Fund

Youth Center for Social Assisstance Emergency Fund	EUR 5,500.00
Roma Women Forum - Forum pale Romnja Emergency Fund	EUR 9,000.00
Information and Counselling Roma Center Emergency Fund	EUR 4,800.00
Junior Achievement Slovakia From A to Z – Running Business in Tourism	EUR 10,118.00

Roma Activists Club Emergency Fund	EUR 6,039.00
Community center of Minorities Emergency Fund	EUR 10,560.00
Roma Cultural Association Slovakia Emergency Fund	EUR 6,124.00
Foundation – Center for Contemporary Art Support of Independent Cultural Organizations and Visual Art.	EUR 16,017,08

BLOCK GRANT

Support of Human Rights Protection

Milan Šimečka Foundation Law for (absolutely) Everyone	EUR 69,237.20
The Charter 77 Foundation Pro Bono Human Rights Advocacy	EUR 80,000.10
M. R. Štefánik Conservative Institute Advocacy for Civil Rights and Freedoms in Slovakia and Support for Value-Based Slovak Foreign Policy	EUR 79,636.56
The Human Rights League Legal Aid for Aliens on the Territory of Slovakia	EUR 47,363.76

Support of Right to Equal Treatment

The Association for Help to People with Intellectual Disability in Slovakia Together against Discrimination against People with Intellectual Disability	EUR ,69,607.65
Society for The Help of People With Autism Support Of Autistic Person´s Rights To Equal Treatment through System of Special Measures	EUR 81,938.63
Institute for Public Affairs Increasing Awareness about Discrimination and Human Rights among the Public Actors Working with Disadvantaged Groups	EUR 25,856.40
Pro Choice Pro Gender E-quality	EUR 53,971,32
Slovak Governance Institute Children from Marginalized Communities in the Process of Education Reform	EUR 67,299.96

Strengthening Multicultural Environment

Civic Association New Way Multiculture in the Zemplin Region	33 193,92 EUR
Civic Association of the Slovak - Indian Friendship Strengthening Multicultural Environment	EUR 27,469,93
Milan Šimečka Foundation Times of New Minorities	EUR 43,152.09
Slovak Governance Institute The Education and the Issues of Multiculturalism in the Context of the Interaction of the Foreign Policy and Domestic Political Debate	EUR 33,427.93

Empowering Judiciary

Citizen and Democracy For Transparent Judiciary Respecting the Principle of Equality	EUR 72,399.00
The Center for Civil and Human Rights The Implementation of the Antidiscrimination Act at the Slovak Courts- Practice and Perspective	EUR 50,098.39
Centre for Community Organizing We Want to know It	EUR 38398,43
Fenestra Interest Association of Women The Impact Analysis the Police, Prosecutors' Decisions and Court Rulings on the Safety of Women Experiencing Violence	EUR 70,877.20

Law Program

Alliance of Organizations of Disabled People in Slovakia Promoting Inclusion of Severely Disabled People through Training on the 2006 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	EUR 12,092.00
Centre for European and North Atlantic Affairs Panorama 2009	EUR 14,300.00
Institute for Modern Slovakia Handbook for Right-Wing Politicians	EUR 26,300.00
Association of Ruthenian Intellectuals of Slovakia Training and Support for Young Leaders' and Their Civic Activities in the Region of North-Eastern Slovakia	EUR 10,715,50
Centre for European and North Atlantic Affairs Summer School for Young Professionals 2009	EUR 8,600.00
People against Racism website www.futbal.rasizmus.sk – monitoring and combating racism and discrimination on football stadiums	EUR 5,000.00
Transparency International Slovakia The Perception of Corruption in Slovakia	EUR 5,500.00

20 Years After...

Projects on 20th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution:

1 st Slovak Nonprofit Service Center Special Issue of the <i>Efekt</i> Magazine	EUR 2,877.49
Alliance for Fair-play 20 years after	EUR 8,632.47
Alliance for Fair-play Concert for People Who Care	EUR 7,140.00
Donors Forum 20 Years After	EUR 4,316.24
Kalligram Ltd. Three books published on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia	EUR 20,100.00
Milan Šimečka Foundation Photogallery of Revolution	EUR 7,500.00

NGO Voices Ideas Still Count	EUR 10,733,52
Banovce Underground Theatre The Gilden Red Cage	EUR 2,974.00
Slovak-Czech Women´s Fund One Superman, but Many Super Women	EUR 7,193.73

Election Projects

Projects targeting elections in Slovakia at all levels

Institute for Public Affairs Slovakia is Voting 2009	EUR 11,918.00
MEMO 98 Infoelections.sk - Presidential election 2009	EUR 13,165.96
MEMO 98 Infoelections.sk - Election to European Parliament 2009	EUR 10,262.00

Others

1st Slovak Nonprofit Service Center <i>Efekt</i> Magazine	EUR 2,500.00
1st Slovak Nonprofit Service Center 2% for Better Life and Other Sources of NGO Financing	EUR 22,631.00
C.A.R.D.O The National Day of Volunteering	EUR 12,050.00
Center for Philanthropy On-line Giving Portal	EUR 9,000.00
The Bratislava Community Foundation This Is Unheard of!	EUR 6,030.00
Nadácia – Center for Contemporary Arts Exhibitions in the Open Gallery	EUR 5,743.00
Nadácia – Center for Contemporary Arts Exhibitions in the Open Gallery	EUR 7,655.00
Books for Schools Foundation SME at Schools	EUR 10,000.00
NGO Voices Voices Live	EUR 12,229,34
CA Žudro Ancient Songs	EUR 4,896.00
The Seal of the City of Sahy The Christmas Warmer	EUR 2,190.00
Slam - Administrative Unit of the Civic Association <i>Fleda</i> Regimes - Conceptual Music Album about 20 years from Democracy in Slovakia	EUR 3,000.00
Health Policy Institute	EUR 10,710.00

Monthly Newsletter on Health Policy	
Slovak Debate Association Minsk Debate Academy	EUR 7,336.00
W PRESS November 1989	EUR 14,525.00
Foundation - Center for Contemporary Arts Support of Independent Cultural Organizations and Visual Art.	EUR 16,017.08

East East Program – Partnership Beyond Borders

Social Work Advisory Board Best Practices in Individualization and Deinstitutionalization of Services for People with Learning Disabilities – 2 nd part	EUR 2,225.00
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Participation of Experts in International Meetings Abroad

Polish-Russian Non-Governmental Forum
June 30. – July 1, 2009
Warsaw, Poland
Juraj Buzalka, Bratislava

Better Understanding of the Political Crisis in post-Electoral Moldova
July 26. – 31, 2009
Kisinev, Moldova
Mirek Toda, Andrej Matišák, Bratislava

Best Practices in Individualization and Deinstitutionalization of Services for People with Learning Disabilities
October 5. – 10, 2009
Kyiv, Ukraine
Sona Holubkova, Slavomir Krupa, Denisa Nincova, Hana Stetinova, Bratislava

The New Reform Agenda of the Central and Eastern European EU Member States: The Next Five Years and the World Economic and Financial Crisis
October 19. – 20, 2009
Sophia, Bulgaria
Vladimír Kvetan, Karol Frank, Bratislava

We Are One / Tracing the 20th Century History of the Jewish People in Central and Eastern Europe
November 3. – 8, 2009
Nowy Sacz, Poland
Anna Bartokova, Anna Duricova, Eva Matusková, Zuzana Fekiacová, Matej Gudor, Marek Golian, Detva