

ANNUAL REPORT PDCS 2006

In 2006, PDCS celebrated its 15th birthday and became „a senior“ in the context of Slovak nonprofit organizations. Of the 30,000 nonprofit organizations currently registered in Slovakia, a great number does not live to see its 5th birthday. To be a “senior” organization means (we hope) to become more mature and stronger as an organization (just like wine does) rather than to lose memory and confidence in going forward. We increase the number of clients we serve and expand the scope of our activities. Still, our original mission remains constant. PDCS seeks to facilitate clashes of differing opinions in spirit of nonviolence and help with constructive changes in the society. We are convinced that successful development of a society truly requires education and improvement of one’s ability to deal with proponents of different opinions.

Also in 2006, the success of our programs rested on basic principles we came to rely on in our work in PDCS. Our fundamental conviction became stronger in 2006 that conflict cannot be taken away but they may be transformed.

To a greater degree, PDCS tried out opportunities to implement long-term contracts for public administration institutions. It also entered - to a much greater degree than in the past - into international partnerships and networks at the European level. We presume this trend is here to stay in the coming years.

Our annual statistics say that in 2006 we conducted 120 training days, 59 facilitations, 42 consultation and strategic planning sessions, and 33 days of consultancy and training internationally. Those numbers may tell the story that we are not bored but fail to tell the story of what and why we do. Because of the scope and variety of our activities, we cannot write about them all in detail in this report. Details may be found at www.pdcs.sk.

To give you an idea of the direction we are taking, we mention briefly a selection of noteworthy projects implemented in 2006.

Membership of PDCS in networks and partnerships in 2006

The PDCI network (Partners for Democratic Change International), of which PDCS is a member, opened a new office in Brussels in 2006 with three members of staff. Its main task is to find opportunities for new programs and further development of the network. PDCS takes an active participation role in clarifying the direction of PDCI network and works closely with its Brussels office.

In 2006, PDCS continued its own development also by becoming a member of the Nonviolent Peaceforce international network of organizations seeking support for nonviolent approaches to conflict resolution anywhere in the world. For the future, joining the network will translate into expansion of our developmental programs aimed at nonviolent approaches to conflict prevention and solution.

In 2006, PDCS made a decision to enter into a long-term partnership with PANET Civic Association. For detailed description of activities of PANET in 2006, please see its annual report at www.panet.sk.

In 2006, the clients using our training and consultation services started to include many public institutions and cross-sector institutions that face common challenges. Also for this reason, we strengthened the network of our long-term contractual trainers. Our team of 13 internal staff of PDCS has grown by another more than 20 external colleagues who work with us on several long-term programs and to whom we provide opportunity for further education and technical assistance.

Overview of select PDCS projects in 2006

PDCS continued its activities in traditionally strong areas and added more activities related to developmental programs.

1. Conflict transformation, support for nonviolent conflict resolution, and developmental education

In 2006, we continued our cooperation with nonprofit organizations in several European countries, which focus on training in nonviolent conflict resolution.

One of the projects within which we learned about specific training programs was the ALPICOM program (A Learning Partnership in Conflict Management).

Similar other projects include ARCA (Associations and resources for conflict management skills) and SISINE (Sistema Integrato di Simulazione per la Negoziazione). Within the ARCA Project, we and our partners from 11 countries participated in an European survey of capacity and services provided by organizations providing training to persons intervening in conflicts. The survey, further study and interviews then resulted in a handbook on how to prepare civilian peace workers for addressing conflicts. The handbook is to be published in 2007.

The SISINE project aims to develop a virtual computer game environment to help users improve their negotiation skills. We adapted several of our simulation games for such virtual game environment. In addition to writing scripts for the simulation games, core of the software was written to be tested in early 2007.

Besides long-term work on projects spanning several years, we also respond to current challenges. VIDES is an international membership organization for young Catholic volunteer missionaries. We organized a seminar for them on Nonviolence in the Clash of Religions in Bratislava.

Of great interest to us was the enriching experience of conducting a series of three training courses in Afghanistan within a project by the People in Peril nonprofit organization. We provided training on three topics 'Civil Organization Development and Civic Advocacy', 'Participation in Communities' and 'Community Projects' to members of women's organization AWRC from Kabul and representatives of local governments and nonprofit organizations in Kapisa and Parwan provinces. The training courses were quite dynamic in the culturally differentiated environment.

We also conducted shorter training courses for two groups of Afghans in Slovakia as part of IVO-implemented project. Similarly, Pontis Foundation contracted us to provide short training courses on communication and conflict transformation to two groups of leaders from Iraq taking a study trip to Slovakia.

We presented the topic 'Prevention and conflict transformation' also at universities, giving several seminars in 2006:

- to students of European Studies at the Comenius University Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences,
- to students of the Comenius University Faculty of Political Science, and
- to students of Public Administration at the Ostrava University Philosophy Faculty in the Czech Republic.

2. Organizational development and change

In 2006, we consulted several nonprofit organizations, conducted strategic planning processes for them and helped them with their organizational development.

In particular, we worked with organizations working with youth. We continued to provide long-term consultation and facilitation help to the Intenda Foundation (previously Youth of Slovakia Foundation). We also facilitated strategic planning processes for the Youth of Slovakia Council and eRko – Movement of Christian Communities of Children, which tried to clarify their long-term direction.

Another example was the training on organizational development support requested by IREX for representatives of organizations and companies from Uzbekistan, which implement USAID-funded projects. One-week long training course built up their skills in addressing systematically issues of their own sustainability and strategic development. Participants welcomed the combination of lectures, training sessions and site visits to Slovak nonprofit organizations and state institutions working on similar topics.

3. Minorities and tolerance

Roma Integration Program

Starting in July 2003, the US-based Partners for Democratic Change USA, in cooperation with partner organizations in Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia implements a comprehensive 4-year program of integration of Roma communities in the greater society and enhancement of cross-sector cooperation in selected regions.

The program is a project of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and is implemented as a part of the Roma Integration Program financed by SEED funding of the US Department of State to support and develop democracy in Central and Eastern Europe. The Slovakia-related part of the program at community and national levels is implemented by PDCS. The international level comprises mostly exchange of experience among individual countries in which the project is implemented.

At the community level, we continued in three select locations (Kežmarok, Prešov and Rimavská Sobota) with the facilitated process of cooperative planning with the goal to create joint development and integration projects for Roma communities and to strengthen cross-sector cooperation. The greatest achievement of these groups was the roundtable seminar organized in Prešov on the issues of non-payers in this city. In these locations, we continued to provide training courses on conflict resolution, proposal writing and advocacy. The work of conciliation commissions in these locations was also solidified - they started to actively present their activities in public and concluded with success their first cases of conflict resolution. Conciliation councils started cooperation at an international meeting in Chomutov also with conciliation councils in Czech Republic and Hungary.

The grant-making subprogram continued in 2006: all 60 projects funded in previous years with combined support of SKK 7 million were completed in 2006.

As part of the media subprogram, training was conducted at the national level for Roma journalists and regional television stations in order to improve how Roma are portrayed in the media. Included in this subprogram was provision of funding for broadcasting of 10-part *So Vakeres* Roma magazine, which we produced for the Slovak Television in cooperation with the Roma Press Agency.

We continued to provide a series of training courses on education on multiculturalism to lecturers and students of Education Faculties at universities. We delivered one such comprehensive training for all teachers of a primary school in Trebišov. Experience collected at

these training courses will be used to develop a handbook for teachers/lecturers. A summer camp was organized for 21 Roma and non-Roma children in order to gain experience in using games, techniques and methodology on removing barriers and prejudices among children.

A working group on social housing and alternative and traditional construction technologies held a series of working meetings. A construction plan was prepared to construct a clay-and-straw house in Spišské Podhradie.

Training for the Community Social Work Support Program of the Social Development Fund

Community social workers arrange dialogue and promote contacts between officials of towns, representatives of public administration institutions and people living in socially excluded communities. Thanks to a project of the Social Development Fund, there are currently around 200 community social workers and 400 of their assistants working directly in Slovak towns and villages. We provided their training.

Up till end of 2006, we conducted 71 training courses from a series of 91 training courses for community social workers, their assistants, and coordinators. This extensive training contract with the Social Development Fund will continue for the entire year 2007. As part of the project, we launched a advisory group or experts on development of standards for social work, which then prepared the first draft of the Standards document. In 2007, this first version will be commented upon at several fora for relevant experts.

Reducing Inequality in Health Care in Roma Communities

In 2006, we worked as partners with Spanish organization FSG to implement the project Reducing Inequality in Health Care in Roma Communities. The program ran primarily at two levels: the international level with meetings of representatives of partners organizations and representatives of individual working group, and the national level.

The working group composed of representatives of institutions, agencies, and nonprofit organizations experienced in addressing health and health care issues in Roma communities was completed at the national roundtable seminar in October 2006 with participation of Slovak Deputy Prime Minister. Also thanks to the work of this working group and the roundtable seminar, the Slovak Minister for Health Care later gave his support to the Health Support Program for Disadvantaged Communities in Slovakia 2007-2015. A working version of a publication was written on health care in Roma communities, addressed primarily at mid-level health care professionals.

Evaluation of Roma Information and Advisory Centers Program (IPCR)

In 2006, we conducted evaluation of the IPCR Program for the Open Society Foundation Slovakia. The evaluation included summative part assessing sustainability of the centers with special emphasis on their ability to fulfill their mission, and a formative part mapping out current needs of the centers in terms of grant and operational support. It also researched institutional support needs for a specific group of Roma organizations besides IPCR centers.

4. Learning about Learning

In a series of training courses and facilitated meetings requested by the Planned Parenthood Society, Open Society Foundation Slovakia and the Contemporary Art Center Foundation, we have worked with consultants who provide services to nonprofit organizations and public sector institutions.

PDCS has been also involved as a long-term partner in the interesting JPD3 project of the Prague College of Industrial Design (VŠUP), seeking to assess needs for, prepare and test the new “Art Management” course for students and lecturers of the college.

5. Civic Participation and Community Development

Of great importance to PDCS was its cooperation with Ekopolis Foundation in the PrieStory Program. PDCS was in charge of providing methodology guidelines and consulting grant recipients in their projects of local public space development using participative methods. Also thanks to our training and consultation assistance, four noteworthy public spaces were created in Slovakia in 2006 – the second year of the program.

The key activities of PDCS currently include also facilitation of public dialogue with citizens. For example, PDCS collaborated in the project European Citizens’ Consultations – the historically first all-European discussion of citizens from 27 member states on the future of European Union. With the help of facilitators, citizens exchange experience and develop ideas on future direction of Europe. Results of their discussions are then communicated to politicians. The objective of such consultations and the related follow-up processes is to influence European and national institutions and policy makers preparing decisions on future development of Europe. The project was funded by a consortium of European foundations led by the King Baudouin Foundation and its communication strategy co-funded by ‘Plan D’ of the European Commission.

As part of the same ‘Plan D’ of the European Commission, we cooperated with the Gremium of European Citizens on the topic Development of Rural Areas in Europe (as part of international project better known in some countries as European Citizens’ Panel). This initiative aims to engage in discussions a select representative sample of citizens in the Bodva Valley on essential issues of their region. This project was implemented by the Carpathian Foundation in the region of Bodva – Sziksó River Valley and PDCS provided facilitation of the meetings with citizens.

New publications in 2006

PDCS staff contributed their own chapters to the publications of other institutions:

- Three brochures on public-benefit organizations (ed. Edo Marček): *Discussion Process, Legislation and Practice*, and *Examples from Other Countries*, (published by the Open Society Foundation Slovakia and Donors Forum, 2006, in Slovak)
- Two chapters in the publication *Youth Participation in Slovakia: “Case Studies“* (Karolína Míková, Ján Mihálik and Lenka Rapošová) and “What is Youth Participation?” (Zora Pauliniová); (published by Youth Council of Slovakia, 2006, in Slovak)

Besides books, we have published dozens of press articles on PDCS programs and activities in 2006 (e.g. articles on Afghanistan or Great Britain published in the *Týždeň* weekly magazine). We also provided interviews in several radio programs.

As part of the RIP Program, we completed two more 20-minute film portraits of Roma with the TA3 television station.

Main donors of PDCS in 2006

Many of our projects could not have been possible without financial assistance. Our thanks for funding goes primarily to these organizations:

European Commission,
Open Society Foundation Slovakia,
Carpathian Foundation, and
USAID

Our clients and partners in 2006

PDCS, o.z., Partners for Democratic Change Slovakia works with organizations and provides services to institutions in several sectors in Slovakia and internationally.

1. Slovak nonprofit organizations

In 2006 we provided training courses and consultations to organizations such as C.S.Lewis Secondary Bilingual Grammar School, CVNO (Center for Education of Nonprofit Organizations), People in Peril Association, DOMKA, Ekopolis, eRko – Movement of Christian Communities of Children, Forum Institute, IUVENTA, Carpathian Foundation, Intenda Foundation, NCSU (Center for Contemporary Art Foundation), NDS (International Youth Foundation Slovakia), Pontis Foundation, NOS - OSF, Občan a Demokracia, Odysseus, RMS (Council of Youth Slovakia), Slnéčnice, Slovak Council for Refugees, Society for Planned Parenthood, VOKA, and many other small organizations and civic initiatives.

2. Partners of PDCS in Europe:

Austrian study center for peace and conflict resolution, Austria
BOCS Foundation, Hungary
Bund für Soziale Verteidigung e.V. (BSV), Germany
Centro Studi Difesa Civile (CSDC), Italy
Fundación Secretariado Gitano, Spain
IFAK – Institut für angewandte Kulturforschung e.V.
Institut De Recherche Sur La Résolution Non-Violente Des Conflits, France
Mouvement pour une Alternative Non-violente (MAN), France
Nederlands Expertisecentrum Alternatieven voor Geweld, Netherlands
Nonviolent Peaceforce, Belgium
Norges Fredslag (NFL), Norway
NOVA-Centre per a la Innovació Social, Spain
Partners for Democratic Change International (PDCI)
PATRIR, Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania
PEACEWORKERS UK

3. Training and facilitation services requested by international organizations:

AED Croatia
Aliance lektorů a konzultantů, Czech Republic

Change Facilitation, Germany

East-West Institute

IREX Uzbekistan and Tajikistan

Carpathian Foundation

OSI Budapest

Partners Georgia

Partners for Democratic Change International (PDCI)

UN Secretary, UNDP

4. State and public administration institutions and local governments

Social Development Fund (FSR)

Methodological centers, secondary schools, universities: C.S. Lewis bilingual secondary grammar school, College of Social and Economic Sciences at Comenius University, College of Political Science at Comenius University, Ostrava University, College of Industrial Design Prague and some city and town local governments – VÚC Prešov

5. Training and facilitation services provided to private institutions and businesses (directly or through other organizations)

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Who was who in PDCS in 2006:

Director:

Dušan Ondrušek

Deputy Directors:

Anna Zemanová, Karolína Miková

Office Manager and Project Manager:

Monika Straková

PIR Director:

Andrea Chorváthová

PIR Coordinator:

Pavol Makyš

Project managers, trainers, and consultants:

Peter Guštafík

Ján Mihálik

Lenka Rapošová

Mirka Hašková

Eduard Marček (PANET)

Financial Manager:

Renáta Ferstlová

Accountant:

Marika Nagyová

IT Administrator:

Samuel Vališ

Assistant:

Miroslav Tóth

PDCS activities in 2006 at a glance

	Number of events	Number of days	Number of participants
Training	120	330	2277
Facilitation	59	66	1444
Consultation	29	23	98
Strategic planning and evaluation	13	19	119
Lectures	5	14	144

In line with the PDCS mission and traditions, PDCS members provided over 40 days of volunteer work for public benefit activities in 2006. Several PDCS members work on boards of foundation and in various advisory bodies.

International activities of PDCS (countries, in which provided training or consultation in 2006)

Afghanistan	Moldavia
Belgium	Norway
Bulgaria	Poland
Czech Republic	Spain
Georgia	Turkey
Germany	Ukraine
Hungary	USA
Italy	

PDCS budget in 2006

BALANCE SHEET

000's SKK
as at
Dec. 31,2006

Assets	
Long-term assets total	1363
Long-term intangible assets	
Software	
Long-term tangible assets	1363
Property	1062
Machinery, equipment	301
Current assets	5092
Inventory total	99
Goods	99
Short-term accounts receivable	289
Business accounts receivable	289
Financial assets	3770
Cash and cash equivalents	255
Bank accounts	3515
Temporary asset accounts	934
Future expenditures	104
Future income	224
Estimated accounts active	606
<i>Assets Total</i>	<i>6445</i>

Equity and Liabilities	
Own capital	4626
Capital funds	
Equity	187
Earnings	4439
Retained earnings, Unpaid loss of previous years	4844
Profit and loss account	-405
Loans	1829
Long-term liabilities	24
Social fund	24
Short-term liabilities	1752
Business liabilities	973
Liabilities towards employees	138
Liabilities to social insurance institutions	61
Tax liabilities	209
Other liabilities	371
Temporary accounts passive	53
Estimated accounts passive	
<i>Liabilities Total</i>	<i>6455</i>

**PROFIT AND LOSS STATE-
MENT
(000'S SKK)**

Activity

**as at Dec. 31,
2006**

Expenditures	Nontaxable	Taxable	Total
Materials	349	176	525
Utilities	66		66
Cost of goods sold		220	220
Maintenance and repairs	179	48	227
Travel	829	240	1069
Presentation expenditures	49		49
Other services	7444	5497	12941
Salaries	1981	2131	4112
Mandatory social insurance	422	100	522
Other social insurance			
Mandatory social expenditures	37		37
Real estate tax	2		2
Other tax and fee expenditures	4	37	41
Write-off of uncollectible receivables			
Exchange rate loss	649		649
Donations			
Other expenditures	26	159	185
Depreciation of long-term intangible and tangible assets	252	84	336
Contributions provided	7061		7061
<i>Expenditures total</i>	<i>19350</i>	<i>8692</i>	<i>28042</i>

Revenue			
Sale of services		9137	9137
Sale of goods		223	223
Interest revenue	8	21	29
Exchange rate gain	10		10
Donations received	34	41	75
Contributions received from organizations	18274	26	18300
Contributions received from individuals			
Revenue total	18326	9448	27774
Profit/loss before taxes	-1024	756	-268
Income tax		135	
Profit/loss after taxes	-1024	621	-268