

ANNUAL REPORT PDCS 2003

The year 2003 was full of changes for Partners for Democratic Change Slovakia (PDCS). We made a conscious decision to get ready for new conditions related to Slovakia's entry into EU which concern all institutions.

In its strategic planning, PDCS clarified again its mission and took consideration of its long-term sustainability. We managed to make further specific steps towards sustainability.

Changes in staff have brought higher quality to PDCS activities with the prospect of deepening our mission and strengthening our focus on EU programs and activities outside Slovakia. Despite staff changes and demands claimed by new programs, PDCS managed to stabilize its organizational operation, and continue in the path towards greater professionalism, shift from simpler training courses towards training series and long-term consultation services. We are successful in providing to a larger extent training and consultation services both nationally and internationally. In 2003 we worked in 10 countries with 11 internal and external staff of PDCS providing services outside Slovakia.

Due to the breadth and variety of activities, it is not possible to include them all in this report. The full list can be accessed at our web site www.pdcs.sk.

To give an idea about the direction we are taking in our activities, we briefly mention some interesting projects from 2003.

Overview of Selected PDCS Projects in 2003

In 2003, PDCS continued its own development project financed by **institutional development grant** from the Trust for a Civil Society administered by the consortium Ekopolis Foundation and ETP Slovakia. This grant has helped our organization implement internal changes towards long-term sustainability in terms of programming, institutional development and financial planning. Thanks to the grant, we managed to complete the analysis of legal forms for future PDCS functioning and take preparation steps to re-register from a civic association to a nonprofit organization. Working relations with branch offices have been modified and decision was made to continue the work of Levice office, prepare for opening of offices in Kežmarok, Rimavská Sobota and Prešov within the Program of Roma Integration. Decision was also made towards independence of office in Prešov (in the framework of Conciliation Commissions program). Greater professionalism of PDCS work has been supported by a major restructuring of PDCS web site, development of new public relations materials and definition of PDCS publication series for the period 2002 – 2007.

PDCS continued its activities in the following focus areas. The scope of this report does not permit us to mention all activities so we list only one key project for each area and a few high-preference activities. More comprehensive overview may be accessed at www.pdcs.sk.

- **Organizational development and change (in the nonprofit sector, in public sector...)**

In 2003 we started our involvement in developing the strategic plan of **Slovak Youth Council** and provided a series of consultation services on its organizational development. Further strategic planning work continues in 2004.

In January 2003 we started a long-term consultation process for **the Youth of Slovakia Foundation (NMS)**. The goal of PDCS consultation team in NMS was to develop internal capacity for managing grant programs and facilitate development of basic philosophy and framework (including mechanisms) for successful grantmaking. The Foundation currently enjoys all basic prerequisites for successful and transparent grantmaking and develops its first programs.

Towards the end of the year, a team of consultants provided short-term and intensive consultation help to **Iuventia** in formulating criteria for selection of and determining basic programs or directions for priority activities in 2004. The goal was to stabilize the institution and develop conditions for long-term strategic planning in the course of 2004.

- **Minorities and tolerance**

Starting from July 2003, the Partners for Democratic Change in USA cooperates with Partners centers in Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia in implementing a comprehensive 4-year program to promote integration of Roma communities in the wider society and strengthen cross-sector cooperation in selected regions.

This program of US AID is implemented as part of **Program of Roma Integration**, financed by the US Department of State from SEED program designed to support and develop democracy in Central and Eastern Europe. PDCS implements its part in Slovakia at both community and national levels. The program runs in three selected locations – Kežmarok, Prešov, and Rimavská Sobota.

Included in the program we have so far organized four meetings in Kežmarok focusing on cooperative planning. The meetings were attended by residents from the communities of Kežmarok, Stráne pod Tatrami, Huncovce, Rakúsy, Malý Slavkov and Veľká Lomnica. In their joint meetings, cooperative planning participants defined a way to learn about the needs of their communities and prepare areas of support for the first round of small grants. In its second year, the program focuses on two more locations, working with the media, strengthening the legislative process and giving support to conciliation council establishment.

- **Training on training**

The key project in this area has been the long-term project supported by multiple donors ***Long-Term Education for Consultants in the Nonprofit Sectors in Czech and Slovak Republics***. In 2003, we implemented its first half. The project runs along two main lines: educational and consultation-related (involving mentors and tutors). The project is going to result in a group of quality certified consultants (sixteen) and mentors (eight) as well as their networking – provision of mutual support in professional growth. Consultants focus on the developmental approach, including process consulting in social development and in preparation of Czech and Slovak Republics for EU entry as well as in the context of foreign development aid.

In the first year of the projects, we organized three training courses, three workshops and one open seminar. The project gets excellent responses. Another great result of Czech and Slovak mixture among participants, advisory board members and guests is the strong networking of TaK, Obec konzultantu and individual consultants in Czech and Slovak Republics.

- **Community development**

In 2003, we undertook the following three activities related to community development:

As a part of a project of the civic association European Culture Society, we developed content of the interactive ***CD ROM Citizen Participation*** designed mostly for local governments in Slovakia. In addition to 21 techniques of community participation taken from the publication *Participation Works!* (published by New Economic Foundation), the CD ROM includes original contributions by PDCS experts Karolína Miková, Zora Paulíniová, Ladislav Briestenský and Gabriel Bianchi. The project has been implemented thanks to the financial support of the Open Society Foundation Bratislava.

In 2003, we completed the three-year program ***Sustainable Bratislava Through NGO Strengthening and Partnership Development*** funded by the British Council. The project was designed primarily for environmental organizations and civic initiatives working in the area of citizen participation but representatives of the public sector participated as well. The project promoted stronger and more effective advocacy of public interest in environmental issues by both organizations and individuals. The involved institutions had an impact on local, regional and national policies and started to promote change of political culture in their communities.

In the spring of 2003 PDCS implemented the third-country-training ***Citizens' Participation in Community Development*** /Croatia program of US AID/ for World Learning. The training was provided in Slovakia to three consecutive groups of participants, separately from urban and rural areas of Croatia (all together 30 participants). Through the training and study visits participants learnt successful models of citizens' participation in community development, advantages of creating partnership between sectors and the role of each of three sectors in development.

- **Prevention and conflict transformation**

In 2003, PDCS repeatedly worked in Central Asia. The longest training was provided in cooperation with UN Peace University in Costa Rica, along with UN TOP peace mission in Tajikistan – three one-week training courses ***Conciliation in Post-Conflict Conditions*** in Varzob, Tajikistan for three groups of 30 participants – top leaders of two opposing sides in the past wars.

The training was attended by leaders of political parties of both ruling coalition and the opposition, religious leaders, journalists, officials of state law enforcement institutions (police and army) as well as scientists and analysts interpreting the conflict in Tajikistan. The training courses provided by Dušan Ondrušek, David Darchiashvili a Natalia Mirimanova received very positive response. To many representatives of the opposing sides, it was one of the few opportunities to clarify their attitudes in a direct dialogue. Similar events will continue in Central Asia working with UN Peace University.

Our clients and partners in 2003

Partners for Democratic Change Slovakia (PDCS) provides services to organizations from various sectors both nationally and internationally:

1. Nonprofit sector:

We provided training and consultation for major organizations such as Civic Association Proti prúdu, Civic Association Spolu, Civic Association VOKA, CVNO (Center for Nonprofit Organization Education), DOMKA Žilina, Ekopolis, Inforoma, Integra Foundation, Iuventa, Prešov Community Foundation, Nádej deťom, NDS (Children of Slovakia Foundation), NMS (Youth of Slovakia Foundation), NOS - OSF, Professional Women, RMS (Youth Council Slovakia), SZZP (Slovak Association for Physically Handicapped), UNDP, ZOM Prešov and a number of smaller organizations and civic initiatives.

2. Training and facilitation requested by foreign organizations:

ABA/ CEELI, ALCOA Foundation, CEEN Consulting GmbH, IREX, Partners Czech, Partners Hungary, PDCI, UNTOP, Tajikistan, UNDP, World Learning Instituut voor Publiek en Politiek (training course in Slovakia)
Kurve Wustrow, Germany (project partner)
AISIS, APIS, IZV (Institute for Interest Education), SKIP, Jan Pivečka Foundation, VIA Foundation (training courses and consultation in the Czech Republic)

3. State and public institutions, local government:

- methodology centers, educational facilities, primary and secondary schools, institutions of higher learning
- labor offices in the Slovak Republic
- district offices in the Slovak Republic, some city and town local governments
- Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government Office for Roma Communities

Publications issued in 2003

- Ondrušek, D. et al. (ed): Reader for nonprofits (in English)
- Ondrušek, D. and Mihálik, J.: Počasie je také, aké si ho urobíš (in Slovak)
- anthology: What Worked – Selection of Roma Projects in Central and Eastern Europe
- some PDCS members contributed as authors to the following publications:
 - Občianska participácia (CD ROM), with contributions by Miková, K., Briestenský, L., Paulíniová, Z., Bianchi, G.
 - conference proceedings contribution "International Perspectives on Social Ventures", Gušťačík, P., Ondrušek, D., published by ALCOA Foundation

In addition, PDCS issued the 5th and 6th issues of TaK Newsletter for trainers and consultants in the nonprofit sector. We published 10 articles in magazines and dailies and gave 6 interviews to radio and television.

Who is who in PDCS in 2003:

Director:

Dušan Ondrušek

Deputy directors:

Hana Zemanová, Karolína Miková

Office manager and project manager:

Monika Straková

Branch offices:

Zuzana Tordová (Manager of Conciliation Council in Levice)

Tomáš Földi (Assistant for Conciliation Council in Levice)

Luboš Klimek (PDCS office in Prešov)

Project managers, trainers and consultants:

Aleš Bednařík

Andrea Chorváthová

Ivana Tóthová

Ján Mihálik

Natália Kušnieriková

Pavol Makyš

Peter Gušťačík

Peter Robl

Financial manager:
Renáta Ferstlová

Financial assistant:
Lucia Halandová

Assistant:
Miroslav Tóth

IT manager:
Samuel Vališ

Major donors in 2003

A great number of our projects could not be implemented without financial assistance. Our thanks goes primarily to these organizations:

British Council
Charles Stuart Mott Foundation
Ekopolis Foundation – ETP Slovensko
European Commission
Levi Strauss Foundation
NOS-OSF
Open Society Foundation Prague
VIA Foundation
US AID

Budget of PDCS in 2003

Expenditures (SKK)	
Supplies and office operation	866.000
Energy costs	73.000
Costs of publications	56.000
Repairs and maintenance	41.000
Project implementation (services)	10,175.000
Costs of salaries and services	1,203.000
Property depreciation	363.000
Money exchange losses	685.000
Other expenditures	65.000
Expenditures Total	13,527.000

Income (SKK)	
Contributions from other organizations	14,092.000
Contributions from individuals	179.000
Sales of services	160.000
Sales of publications	56.000
Interest revenue	36.000
Money exchange gains	27.000
Other income	21.000
Income Total	14,571.000

The difference between income and expenditures is due to projects extending over two calendar years.

Overview of PDCS activities in 2003

	no. of events	no. of days	no. of participants
Training	208	339	1781
Facilitation	92	81	951
Consultation	108	97	280
Teaching	10	8	132

In line with its mission and traditions, PDCS and its members provided in 2003 volunteer work of 110 days for public-benefit purposes. In various campaigns, PDCS provided non-material and direct financial assistance (donation to help victims of earthquake in Bam, Iran). Several PDCS members work on boards of foundations and as members of various advisory bodies.

International activities of PDCS in 2003

Countries in which provided training and consultation in 2003

Bulgaria	Kazakhstan
Croatia	Macedonia
Czech Republic	Tajikistan
Georgia	Turkey
Germany	United Kingdom
Hungary	United States