

Sustainability and Long Term Viability of Community Foundations in Slovakia

Zuzana Podhorska Konrádová, Fellow, International Fellows Program ~ 2000

Abstract

This essay focuses on community foundations (CFs) and their contributions to the development of urban philanthropy in Slovakia, as well as the political, economic and social context in which they have been created. It also describes how they work and the problems they face, with an eye toward identifying models to help promote their long-term sustainability.

Ms. Podhorska compares two CF models, one American and one Slovakian, with an emphasis on their resource development, fundraising strategies, promotional campaigns, grantmaking and preparation of annual reports.

After three years of the Community Foundation Program in Slovakia, several questions have been raised which this research attempts to answer. This program started from almost nothing and put down roots in the nonprofit sector in Slovakia. During the first three years, the program changed in line with local conditions. It began as an initiative of the Open Society Foundation Bratislava (OSF) to apply the concept of community foundations to Slovakia.

The country's first community foundation, the Healthy City Community Foundation Banska Bystrica, was established in 1994. The Community Foundation Program, which was inspired by the development of Banska Bystrica CF, started in 1996. Its program's aim was to develop a mosaic of grassroots civil initiatives and NGOs in Slovakia to bring some of the OSF programs to the community level.

As a result of the program, three community foundations were established in 1997: the Community Association Sami Sebe, in Pezinok; the Community Fund of the Trencin Informal Association, in Trencin; and the Community Foundation Prešov, in Prešov. From 1998 to 1999, the Community Foundation Program was expanded by eight new CFs. Including these new additions, there are now eleven CFs (or initiatives) established by the OSF in Slovakia.

For the full version of the paper, please click [here](#).

