

The Sun Centre

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



CONTENTS

- 4 Director's Foreword
- 5 Administrative bodies
- 6 About us



The Sun Centre facilities

- 9 Centre for Children and Families
- 13 Intervention Centre
- 16 Counselling Service for Victims
- 18 Women's Safe House
- 20 Safe House Shelter



Information at the end

- 34 People at the The Sun Centre
- 35 Memberships and Collaborations
- **36 Our Supporters**
- 37 Volunteering and Fund-raising
- 38 Economic results

Director's **Foreword**

"Fortunately, the waiting rooms are overcrowded. But fortunate is not a train—fortunate is the tracks."

playwright, novelist)

2020 was envisioned as a year of festivities, commemoration, success and developments. The year began with expectations of fulfilling dreams, desires and wishes. This is certainly what most of us, including everyone at the The Sun Centre, imagined it to be, because this year Slniečko celebrated twenty years of work in helping and supporting the most vulnerable people—abused and sexually abused children, women who experience violence, victims of domestic violence and families in crisis.

The year 2020 was supposed to be... but was not. It has been one of the most difficult for us, too. The peaceful progress and remembrance of what we and our organization have experienced was obscured at the beginning of March by news of the first person in Slovakia infected with COVID-19. It caught us on the last day of training during the preventive programme "KOZMO and his adventures", which we organized in Nitra for kindergarten teachers. We gradually started implementing measures which were often very chaotic, searching for protective equipment, sewing face masks, creating a system of care for children and women with children—in short, being prepared—even though we often wondered whether any of us could be prepared for the onset of a virus

which could cause death. At the beginning of the pandemic, we already registered several families with whom we worked because they lost income and jobs, and the agreements which earned them a living had been terminated. Several of them found themselves suddenly with no income and threatened with the loss of their homes. Fortunately, in February, they received a gift from members of the Evangelical and Roman Catholic Church in Nitra. We used the gift to buy food and provide a rent allowance for a large family who were left with no income. Right at the beginning of the pandemic, the Children of Slovakia Foundation responded, and we are very grateful for that. We were able to help with the purchase of food, cleaning products, aids for children, and rent allowance for other families, especially those who had gone through the hell of violence. Many of us could not stay at home during the first wave or second wave of the pandemic. We had to operate facilities for children and women with children, the Counselling Service and the intervention centre. It was difficult, and we often struggled with our own fears, we had to unite as a team and rely on each other. One infected person in the team could have started an avalanche. We managed the first wave of the pandemic, but

Director's **Foreword**

during the second, several of our colleagues were infected. Some did better, others did worse, but they recovered. However, the pandemic has taught us many things, such as to continue training thanks to the creative team EduCAN, which was able to transfer the sessions online.

The pandemic measures exposed serious issues in the system of assistance for women who experience violence and victims of domestic violence. Thanks to the interest and patronage of President Zuzana Čaputová, several experts on the topic of violence, representatives of the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic met during the pandemic. Based on good practices and the cooperation of the The Sun Centre and KPZ in Nitra in expelling a violent person from the house, they prepared the basis for amending the Act on Victims of Crime, in which intervention centres will also be included.

We are also grateful to the Orange Foundation for helping families, whose assistance allowed us to aid specific families financially and materially during the second wave. Sincere thanks to all those who helped and encouraged us and put their shoulder to the wheel, even though 2020 brought a lot of pain,

fatigue and reflection on the meaning of life. The year also opened many hearts to help others and show everyone's best.

People's characters are especially evident in crisis situations. I am honoured to work with a team that has been able to unite, work together, empathize the needs of children and women, deal with situations related to COVID-19 and offer creative alternatives to best fulfil the mission of the The Sun Centre. And even in the most difficult times I can remember. Thank you. Hats off to these heroes and heroines.



Mariana Kováčová, director Centrum Slniečko, n. o.

Legal representative

Mgr. Mariana Kováčová, PhD., director

she studied special pedagogy, and since 1990, she has been working against the problems related to the abuse and sexual abuse of children, women who experience violence and the victims of domestic violence. In 2000, she founded the The Sun Centre, a non-profit organization, and has been running it since then. She initiated the establishment of specialized centres for mistreated, sexually abused children, children's hotlines and the first safe home for women in Slovakia. She is also the

professional guarantor and author of projects aimed at providing systematic structures for effective assistance to children with CAN syndrome, families in crisis and victims of domestic violence. She has been engaged in social supervision, standard-setting and education for more than 20 years. She specializes in children's drawing and its use in the diagnosis and treatment of children with CAN syndrome. She has trained several hundreds of educators, psychologists, social workers, judges, police officers and students of these

professions in the topic of violence against children through the "Bruises on the Soul" organization. Awards: Award of the City of Nitra for work in helping abused women and children (2006), Nitra Knight (2009), Winner of the Crystal Wing Award for Philanthropy (2014), Social Act of the Year (2015), Slovak Woman of the Year nomination in the Charity category (2016), Woman of Courage Award (2018) and Public Acknowledgement of the Ombudsman Maria Patakyova (2018).

Board of Directors

Ing. Mária Svitačová Mag. Alexandra Draková Mgr. Zdenka Niková

Supervisory Board

Mgr. Ľubica Ľachká PhDr. Denisa Vargová, PhD. Jana Tomášová

About us

We have been providing assistance to abused and sexually abused children and victims of domestic violence for more than 20 years, helping to address this issue effectively and comprehensively by ensuring and protecting basic human rights and freedoms, educating and actively working for the prevention of violence.

OUR VALUES:



CHAPTER

The Sun Centre Facilities



OUR FACILITIES:

Centre for Children and Families Intervention Centre Counselling Service for Victims Women's Safe House Safe House Shelter EduCAN - Prevention and **Education Centre**

Centre for Children and Families, a specialized residential facility to help abused and sexually abused children and children with serious suspicion of being abused or sexually abused. We operate the Centre for Children and Families (CCF) in two separate family houses with a garden.

We provide children with comprehensive care based on a specialized programme. CCF provides social work services, psychological help and care, special pedagogical care, diagnostics and other professional activities. In our professional work with children, we use the multi-sensory room Snoezelen, elements of entertainment therapy, art therapy, music therapy, canistherapy, hippotherapy and ergotherapy.

As far as possible and in the best interests of the child, CCF professionals work with the child's family to adjust their situation so that the child can return to the care of his or her parents. If the child cannot return to the parents or the child's parents are not able to, do not want to or cannot care for the child, we seek out opportunities in the broader family and people close to the child. If no-one can be found,

the psychologist prepares the child for an alternative family in foster care with the consent of the child.

At the CCF, we provide measures for the social protection of children and quardianship through a professional team consisting of social workers, psychologists, special pedagogues, educational and organizational workers, assistant educators and economic workers. The aim of CCF implemented measures for the social protection of children and social guardianship is systematic prevention of crisis situations in the family, protection of the rights and legally protected interests of children, and comprehensive assistance and care for abused and sexually abused children to prevent deepening and recurrence of mental, physical and social development disorders of children, thus preventing an increase in the socio-pathological phenomena in society.

In our professional work with children, we use the multi-sensory room Snoezelen, elements of entertainment therapy, art therapy, music therapy, canistherapy, hippotherapy and ergotherapy.

The year 2020 began peacefully, but suddenly everything stopped. COVID-19 affected everyone without distinction, even children, especially ours, for whom the virus and its consequences were another form of violence they would experience in their lives. Children whose daily routine has seen violence are very vulnerable. They perceive any major and minor changes with difficulty, especially smaller children who do not understand what is happening, why they suddenly had to be more isolated, why they could not attend kindergarten or primary school, why they had to wear face masks and constantly listen to suggestions about "increased hygiene". The feelings of children depend very much on our own feelings. Despite strict measures, we cannot show panic. We explain the situation kindly and clearly to the children. If we handle it without panic, maintain peace and do not express our personal worries, children will not be so frightened and insecure. It is necessary to talk about problems openly with children, but always accordingly to their age and understanding. Complete isolation from the outside environment could do more harm than good to our children, so we went into nature, walks to the river or the forest, far enough away from people. Despite our best efforts,

we could not completely avoid social isolation due to the various measures and regulations. Therefore, we attempted to make the children's daily programme diverse, but at the same time with regular rituals, which are very important. Classes are held in the mornings from Monday to Friday, which means free time to play, create, relax, do housework or go for a trip. A huge advantage of both our "family houses" are the gardens, which provide us with space to go out and breathe fresh air even on days of total lockdown. Children play various controlled ball games, do gardening, exercise, play board games or just relax on a swing, listening to pleasant music or reading a good book. To ease mental stress, the Snoezelen multisensory relaxation room is fully available to children. Joint activities with our educators, psychologists, social workers and Aunt Jarka are very popular housework, cooking, baking. Joint activities help build the trust-based relationships which children have not experienced in the past. At the end of the day, we evaluate the day with our children together. What we experienced, what we learned, what didn't work out so well. We encourage each other to manage the situation together, because we can only do so with a positive attitude.

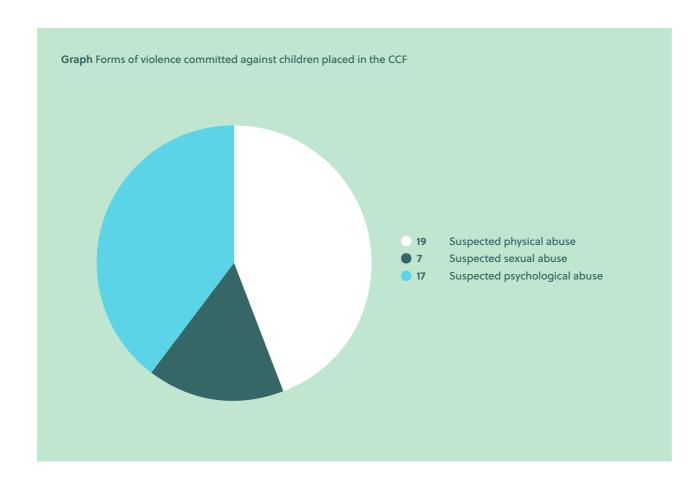


Distance education is also challenging. Having 2-3 children of different ages at home all day is not easy. With one you have to learn physics, the other is only learning to count... Well, you know, what you pass on to them from birth, what you give them. At the The Sun Centre, we have houses full of children of 3 to 14 years of age. Everyone came here at a different age and with different experiences. Everyone requires an individual approach in learning, in creating a leisure programme, but especially in building trust in us, adults. Because it was adults who hurt them and created their fear. Every year we organize a rich programme for children during the summer holidays. However, the summer of 2020 was not as usual. Despite the COVID-19 disease and the related restrictions, we still managed to do things that seemed impossible at the beginning of the summer. In addition to trips to the surrounding area—Zobor, Žibrica, the ruins of Gýmeš, Dražov Church, Nitra Castle, or the Tríbeč Mountains, we also visited Trenčín, Hrušov Castle and Topoľčianky Castle. Summer activities were aimed at exploring nature and the surroundings. It also included various sports activities. Cycling trips into the surroundings had the greatest success.



We also visited the summer swimming pool in Nitra several times with the children. The aim was to spend free time actively but also involve children in looking after the surroundings and greenery of the Centre. The children were happy to make various salads and other delicacies from hand-grown vegetables and fruits. At the end of the summer holidays, 12 children enjoyed time at three summer camps, the first summer camps for many of them.

In 2020, 25 children were given assistance by court resolution for urgent or educational measures. Nine children were admitted to care.



We provide childcare primarily from state contributions through OLSAF, but funding is sufficient only for the essentials. At the same time, there is much that cannot even be financed from these sources, and therefore we provide many leisure programmes for children or supply special needs through various grants, which we always apply for, but also through supporters and volunteers.

> In 2020, CCF was co-financed from the budget, OLSAF, MoLSAF SR, the European Social Fund and the **European Regional Development** Fund under the Human Resources Operational Programme, grants and contributions from private donors and supporters.

The Intervention Centre

In 2020, CCF and IC were co-financed from the budget, OLSAF, MoLSAF SR, the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund under the Human Resources Operational Programme, grants and contributions from private donors and supporters.

The Intervention Centre is part of the Centre for Children and Families, a facility aimed at protecting children at risk of CAN syndrome and helping families in crisis. We implement measures for outpatients and in the field. Together with a psychologist and a special pedagogue, field social workers implement specialized accredited programmes in families at the recommendation of the Social Protection of Children and Social Guardianship body for children and families with children in crisis.

In 2020, the centre provided long-term social counselling and psychological help for 7 families, 18 individuals, of which 9 were children, mostly directly within the family environment. The most common areas of issues addressed with clients were disturbed relationships between parents and children, insufficient parenting skills, educational problems, adverse family social conditions, divorce, pre-divorce and post-divorce situations in the family, family conflicts, suspicion of CAN syndrome and the consequences of domestic violence.

Areas addressed with clients (18) at IC:	Number	
Adverse social conditions	16	
Insufficient parenting skills	10	
Divorce, pre-divorce and post-divorce situations	9	
Educational problems with children	11	
Parental conflicts	9	
Suspected CAN syndrome	7	
Child/parent contact problems	7	
Disrupted relationships between children and parents	11	
Consequences of domestic violence	9	

mplemented at CCF and IC in 2020

Support and help for children with CAN syndrome through experiences, feelings and cognition

Support duration: 7/20-3/21 Donor: Grant programme Children's Hour, Children of Slovakia Foundation

The project supported ongoing medical equine-assisted therapy for children, regular canistherapy, the purchase of therapeutic aids, and the participation of twelve children in three summer camps in the Low Tatras (Krpáčovo), Slovak Raj-Vernár (Camp in Paradise) and Holidays on the Ranch.

Support for Crisis Centres

Support duration: 8/19-9/20 Donor: Volkswagen Slovakia Foundation (€2,420)

Thanks to this support, two rooms for children at the facility were renovated.

Let's prescribe a game for children deprived of love

Support duration: from 2011 to 12/20 Donor: Dobrá krajina, Pontis Foundation

Support was used to purchase creative aids, specialized therapeutic aids and to make the interior and exterior of the centre cosier.

Building positive experiences against emotional deprivation in children with CAN syndrome

Support duration: 7/19-3/20 Donor: Grant programme Children's Hour, Children of Slovakia Foundation

Thanks to the project's support, we were able to provide equineassisted therapy for children, regular canistherapy, and revitalization of a part of the garden called the "Feeling Garden".

Support for the deinstitutionalisation of alternative care III.

Support duration: 8/19-12/22 Donor: European Social Fund and **European Regional Development** Fund under the Human Resources **Operational Programme**

The aim of the project is to support the deinstitutionalisation of alternative care through the Intervention Centre, in particular to increase the availability of professional assistance and improve application of the measures for the social protection of children and social guardianship of the child's family.

Treating family relationships

Support duration: 9/20-11/20 Donor: City of Nitra

Thanks to support from the City of Nitra, we were able to provide clients of the The Sun Centre with a "contact with art" experience, and through drawing and clay modelling, support the healing process of children traumatized by violence in its various forms. An exhibition of these wonderful works could not be organized because of the COVID-19 pandemic. An extraordinary calendar event has therefore been scheduled for 2021 for these drawings.

Bicycles

Support duration: 12/20

Donor: Slovenské elektrárne (€1,500)

Thanks to the support, we bought eight new bicycles for children (younger and older).

Counselling Service for Victims, Women's Safe House, Safe House Shelter

Counselling Service for Victims was established in 2002. It specializes in professional assistance to women who experience violence in relationships and victims of domestic violence. It provides social and specialized social counselling, legal and psychological counsellina.

It is an accredited workplace pursuant to Act No. 274/2017 Coll., on Victims of Crime and on Amendments and Supplements to Certain Acts with the authority in the Districts of Nitra and Šaľa. Its mission is to provide the most comprehensive and highly professional services aimed at protecting and strengthening the rights of victims of crime.

In recent years, the number of new clients—women, victims of domestic violence—in the Counselling Service was around 140 or even more during the year. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic adversely affected the centre, therefore the number of new clients over the past year was significantly lower, with 82 new clients and 67 from previous years. The vast majority were women. Three clients we worked with in 2020 were men who cared for minors. Women who experience violence and victims of domestic violence Women who experience violence and victims of domestic violence who saw an increased incidence of violence during the pandemic were not able to seek effective assistance.

who saw an increased incidence of violence during the pandemic were not able to seek effective assistance. They suffered silently, shut inside with their abusers. We learned about the true life of violence during the pandemic from women, victims of domestic violence, only after the first wave of the pandemic when they had the opportunity to take a short breath and seek help again.

Under the comprehensive assistance to women who experience violence and victims of domestic violence, we are actively involved in ongoing criminal and civil proceedings before courts. These proceedings almost never end in the calendar year when the victims turn to us, especially criminal proceedings, which are dependent on expert evidence, reconstructions and the hearing of witnesses after the indictment, which take a long time. In one particularly serious case of abuse of a mother and three minor children, the criminal proceedings of the abuser and the appeal proceedings continued from 2016 to the summer of 2020.

We generally help victims of domestic violence not only through social, legal and psychological

Counselling Service for Victims

counselling, but also through active involvement in criminal proceedings in the form of a representative for the injured party, in accordance with Section 53 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. From a victim's point of view, criminal proceedings in Slovakia are time-consuming and legally demanding. Most of the victims become lost in the process and are not able to orient themselves properly. Despite legal instructions from law enforcement agencies, these proceedings are extremely mentally and physically demanding. Criminal proceedings are closely related to civil proceedings, which are directly linked to the conclusions of criminal proceedings and require legal assistance of a special nature. The expertise of a counsellor who provides assistance to victims of domestic violence is related to his/her expertise, empathy and communication skills. Understanding the consequences, the trauma experienced and its impact on the behaviour of victims of domestic violence is essential for communicating with victims of crime to avoid them experiencing secondary victimization.

Despite the pandemic, long-term cooperation with the Regional Directorate of the Police Force in Nitra continued as regular quarterly professional meetings with authorized members of the Police Force and investigators of the Nitra Region. We inform each other about problems in working with victims and seek common paths and starting points. At the end of 2019, we concluded a Cooperation Agreement with the Regional Directorate of the Police Force in Nitra, extending our cooperation in 2020 with the police and services for victims (vulnerable persons) in the act of expulsion. This is an important police authority which stops violence and protects victims. Members of the district departments of the Slovak Police Force are authorised to perform this action. This is direct assistance to victims if the police find domestic violence is occurring in the home where the victim lives, and they may expel the violent person for 10 days. The practice has shown that victims cannot effectively defend themselves in this psychologically demanding situation and have no one to turn to. Victims have no opportunity to request free legal aid from an institution that would guarantee them prompt and adequate assistance by submitting appropriate petitions to a civil court. Based on information about expulsion received from the police, we have been proactively contacting

the victims and directly explaining the situation and offering help since the beginning of 2020. In 2020, we promptly and effectively helped victims in 11 cases of expulsion in this way, succeeding in each of these cases with a petition to order urgent action pursuant to Section 325 para. 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure. We therefore have not only achieved the purpose of expulsion itself but have also helped to make proper use of the legislation aimed at protecting the lives and health of victims of domestic violence. In two legal cases, the court has already ruled in the main proceedings, in both cases in favour of the victim.

Our initiative to link expulsion with an assisting organization claimed a response from the President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová and was soon reflected in the bill of a new amendment to the Act No. 274/2017 Coll., on Victims. The amendment also includes the establishment of intervention centres. which will represent coordinated and comprehensive professional assistance for victims of domestic violence.

Measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have also affected our work with the victims in cases of expulsion

Counselling Service for Victims

since we could only work online or by telephone in a certain period of time, making it very difficult for us to work and for victims to access assistance. The police were also unprepared for this situation. Field police officers restricted the use of the act of expulsion to a minimum since they lacked guidance on whether and where they could expel abusers in a situation where quarantine facilities were not available for them or they wanted to cross the district during a state of emergency. The pandemic also affected the course of ongoing criminal proceedings, many of which were suspended by measures taken or the health condition of police officers. Ongoing expert investigations and the preparation of expert opinions necessary for criminal proceedings have been slowed down or even suspended. Women who experience violence and victims of domestic violence needed to share their feelings, fears and anxieties, so we provided them with at least psychological counselling over telephone at that time. In civil proceedings following finalised criminal proceedings, pandemic measures have caused the courts to exclude the public from the proceedings. In the case of victims, whom we accompanied to individual hearings as

part of the assistance, there were situations in which they found themselves alone before a court, which had an adverse effect on their mental state. It should be mentioned here that not all victims are entitled to free legal aid using the Centre for Legal Aid, nor can they afford legal representation. Accompanying victims to court proceedings is one of the ways to help their mental well-being.

The process to achieve compensation from the perpetrator is also challenging for victims of crime, even though the new amended legislation significantly facilitates a victim's access to compensation and minimizes further victimization. Under the most comprehensive assistance to victims, we referred those who needed this assistance to cooperating lawyers or executors.

The range the Counselling Services is also supported by the fact that the non-profit The Sun Centre has the Women's Safe House and Safe House Shelter. where we can immediately provide crisis intervention and housing for women who experience violence and their children. In cooperation with a partner organization, we obtained two one-bedroom

apartments for these women and children, where the rent is affordable because it is not commercial. At present, two women live there together with their three children.

> In 2020, the Counselling Service was co-financed from the budget of the Nitra Self-Governing Region, the European Social Fund and the **European Regional Development** Fund under the Human Resources Operational Programme, subsidies from the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic, grants and contributions from private donors and supporters.

The Women's Safe House

The Women's Safe House, the first ever safe house in Slovakia, was established in 2015 thanks to the support of the Norway Grant through the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and co-financing from the state budget of the Slovak Republic.

The safe house is a safe place with a secret address which provides security, empowerment and social protection for women who experience violence and their children. It is a crisis intervention facility and an emergency housing facility in the context of Act No. 448/2008 Coll., on Social Services (Section 29). It provides accommodation for a certain period of time necessary to ensure crisis intervention, protection and support, usually for 3-6 months, social and specialized social counselling, psychological counselling and assistance in exercising the rights and legally protected interests. In severe cases, the stay at the facility may be extended for another six months.

As one of the few facilities in Slovakia, it meets the minimum standards of the Council of Europe for the provision of services for women who experience violence and their children, i.e. 24/7 assistance. For the first three months in crisis intervention, services

are free of charge. The WSH building is joined to a security service building and is secured with several security features. Women and children are provided psychological support. The interior of the building also meets the spatial standards of the EU Council each room has its own bathroom, there are two consulting rooms, a staff room, children's playroom, food storage, two handy storage areas, a laundry and a kitchen with a dining room. Inside, a specialized room with a one-way mirror to minimize secondary victimization is used to interview child victims of violence. The WSH provides suitable conditions for the preparation of food, necessary basic personal hygiene, cleaning, washing, ironing and maintenance of linen and clothing, leisure activities, food aid and the provision of clothing and footwear in crisis situations.

The services provided by the WSH include the crisis phone line 0905 511 512, which operates on business days from 7.00 am to 6.00 pm.

Our professional team provides children and women with crisis intervention, social and specialized social counselling, psychological counselling, legal counselling and accompaniment, educational and

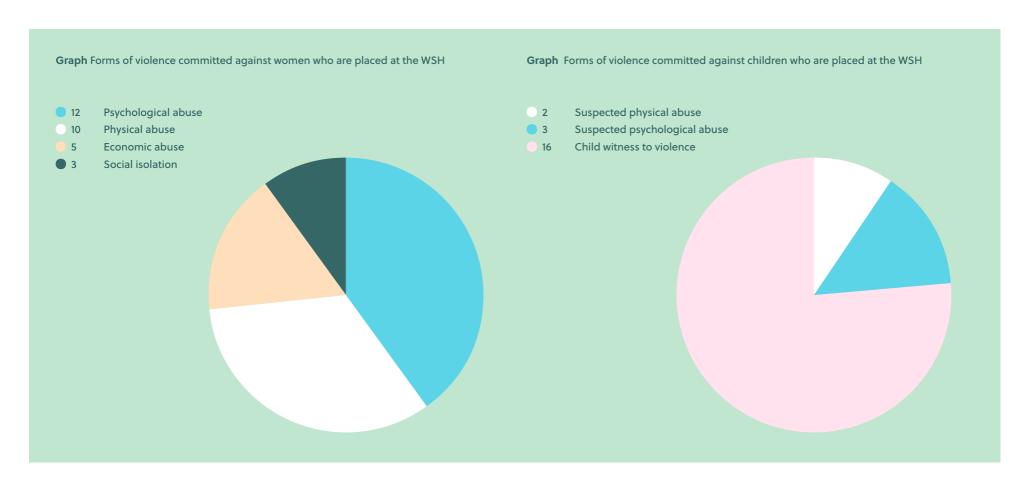
special pedagogical care for the children of clients, psychological counselling for children and supporting therapies such as ergotherapy, art therapy, etc.

Above all, children and women at the WSH are given a safe environment and support so that they can get back on their feet and live a full life free of violence as quickly as possible. The services provided by the WSH include motivational activities, education in topics such as parenting skills, household management, economic counselling, specific skills, and various leisure activities.

The Women's **Safe House**

In 2020, 12 women and 19 children found safety at the Women's Safe House. Thirty-one interventions were provided through the crisis line.

In 2020, the Women's Safe House was co-financed from the budget of the Nitra Self-Governing Region, the European Social Fund and the **European Regional Development** Fund under the Human Resources Operational Programme, subsidies from the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic and contributions from private donors and supporters.



The Safe **House Shelter**

The Safe House creates a space for independence and a successful start in life, including employment and housing.

The Safe House Shelter was founded by the nonprofit organization The Sun Centre in 2007 to provide assistance to women, mothers with children who have experienced violence in relationships, domestic violence and women who need follow-up support even after professional crisis intervention. It completes the comprehensive and complex services for women who experience violence created by the non-profit organization The Sun Centre. The services range from counselling at the Counselling Service for Victims and protection, safety and crisis intervention at the Women's Safe House and subsequent assistance for independent living.

The Safe House creates a space for independence and a successful start in life, including employment and housing. It provides social services, including accommodation and a system of comprehensive support services, aimed at motivating and activating inner potential. These services are temporary until the woman/victim of violence takes control of their life, and with the support of a professional team, finds housing and enters the labour market. The Safe House provides social counselling and accommodation for a certain period of time up to

a maximum of one year. In exceptional cases, the period of accommodation may be extended for another six months. The facility provides conditions for the preparation of food, necessary basic personal hygiene, cleaning, washing, ironing and maintenance of linen and clothing, leisure activities, food aid and the provision of clothing and footwear in crisis situations. It is located in a family house which has a garden, gazebo, a children's playground and vegetable patch. There are three rooms with shared facilities (kitchen, pantry, living room, bathroom with tub and toilet, separate toilet with sink, storage).

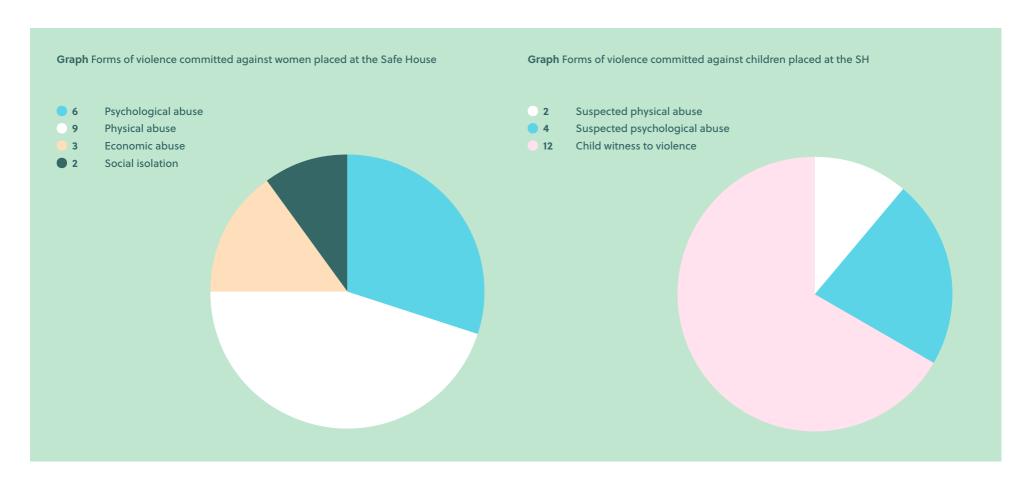
Social services at the Safe House are provided in accordance with Act No. 448/2008 Coll., on Social Services. The capacity of the facility is seven beds in three family rooms. In 2020, nine women and sixteen children found refuge at the Safe House.



The Safe **House Shelter**

In 2020, nine women and sixteen children found refuge at the Safe House.

In 2020, the Safe House Shelter was co-financed from the budget of the Nitra Self-Governing Region and contributions from private donors and supporters.



implemented at the Counselling Service for Victims, WSH and Safe House Shelter

No violence

Support duration: 8/18-9/20 Donor: European Social Fund and **European Regional Development** Fund under the Human Resources **Operational Programme**

The aim of the project was to maintain, improve and interconnect the multidisciplinary system of protection, assistance and safety for victims of domestic violence, especially women, in the Nitra Region. The project offered a comprehensive programme for victims of domestic violence which included prevention, multidisciplinary interconnection, telephone counselling and face-to-face crisis intervention, accompaniment, social, legal and psychological counselling, crisis intervention and a safe place in the event of threat to life.

The project was completed in September 2020. During the project, 70 hours of supervision were provided thanks to the support, assistance was given to 308 clients, and four multidisciplinary meetings were held between experts who address cases of domestic violence and 52 participants.

A safe way from violence

Support duration: 7/19-2/20 Donor: USA Embassy

Thanks to the support, four expert meetings were held with representatives of organizations to help victims of domestic violence, and one meeting included the participation of representatives of several political parties. The meetings focused on policy change in the context of helping women who experience violence and victims of domestic violence. The support also included an information campaign and analysis of the current situation in Slovakia concerning domestic violence and violence against women, with a proposal for individual measures for systemic change.

Aid Fund

Support duration: 5/20-7/20 Donor: Orange Foundation (€2,300)

Support was requested for 10 women and 18 children. All of them are victims of domestic violence and have been helped by the The Sun Centre. Some are already outside the facilities of the The Sun Centre receiving field and outpatient care, and some are at the Women's Safe House residential facility. The aid was requested to cover the cost of housing and food and hygiene needs. Despite the reduction of the requested amount, the funds were

used for these purposes, giving clients the opportunity to solve their situations without compromising basic needs such as housing, food and hygiene.

Assistance to victims of violence during the coronavirus crisis

Support duration: 4/20-3/21 Donor: Children of Slovakia Foundation (€500)

Already at the beginning of the pandemic, the coronavirus crisis created the need for strict lockdown and restriction of movement. During this time, an increase in domestic violence was recorded. Many families also found themselves in an existential crisis. Through support from the Children of Slovakia Foundation, we were able to help 17 families immediately from the start. Our team of field social workers provided them with food, pharmaceutical products, vitamins, and school supplies for children, and we were able to help some with rental contributions.

for Victims, WSH and Safe House Shelter mplemented at the Counselling Service

Assistance to victims during coronavirus crisis

Support duration: 11/20-4/21 Donor: Orange Foundation (€20,000)

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, stress and worries about existence and survival was present in many families. This was particularly challenging in families where victims of domestic violence decided to deal with the situation before the pandemic, but also in those situations where women who experience violence became independent with their children. Low incomes and job losses have put them on the brink of poverty and threatened the loss of their homes. Through support from the Orange Foundation, we helped 15 families with 26 children in need at the end of the year, and assistance will continue in 2021.

Unboxing

Support duration: 11/20-12/20 Organizers: Orange and Orange Foundation

In addition to financial contributions. we assisted families and victims of domestic violence through Christmas packages in the form of UNIBOXES. They were collected nationwide at all Orange stores, where they were then distributed through selected organizations to families who probably would have had Christmas without

presents because of the coronavirus crisis. In 110 UNIBOXES, we distributed many interesting and valuable items, such as flour, sugar, oils, sweets, trainers, Christmas decorations, vitamins, children supplies, hygiene products, books, etc., to families with children, encouraging precious smiles on their faces.

Subsidies for accredited entities

Support duration: 1/20-12/20 Donor: MoJ SR

Covering lawyer fees and partially the rent of the Counselling Service for Victims.

Support for mothers with children

Support duration: 3/20-12/20 Donor: City of Nitra

Support for co-financing the cost of housing for a mother with five children, whom she mainly looks after by herself. The family was thus guaranteed a life with dignity and stability.

EVA Charity Bazaar

Organizer: EVA magazine - Sinfully

The 2020 EVA Charity Bazaar once again offered auctions of branded clothing and accessories. The proceeds were distributed between six organizations which help abused women, including us. In addition to financial support throughout the year for women with children in our care, the event partners delighted them with drinks, yoghurt, drugstore products, food, vitamins and books.

The Prevention and Education Centre EduCAN specializes in educating professionals in protecting victims against violence through specialized education courses such as "Bruises on the Soul". EduCAN also develops and trains experts for in the innovative prevention programme "KOZMO and his adventures" (PP). PP is a Slovak author's programme we created for children up to 7-8 years. The goal of PP is developing cooperation, tolerance, mutual respect, empathy and assertiveness and the elimination of violence. An integral part of the activities are supportive and awareness-raising events, campaigns, various expert discussion meetings, and active lobbying for protection and prevention against violence.





The year 2020 commenced happily with the launch of the audio book KOZMO at the Club under the Lamp in Bratislava on 19 January. The book "Kozmo and his adventures", which we published in 2015, was transferred to audio by the Kemka family. You can also hear the parents' sons Šimon and Matúš in the audio book. The audio book is attractive to children not only because of the length of the stories which keep their attention, but also because of the number of space characters and the great storytelling talent of Juraj Kemka. The audio book was launched by the musician Pánko.

25 February 2020 - Discussion "What's next?" at Satory Stage. It's a paradox. On the day of rejection of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence by the Members of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, a moderated discussion was held in Bratislava with representatives of sixteen organizations and three politicians on "What's next in the protection and support for women who experience violence and victims of domestic violence?".

Of the nine invited politicians and those who could participate, four expressed interest in the discussion—women both inside and outside parliament who fight for the rights of women and children and their protection from violence and for victims of domestic violence. The system of protection for victims of domestic violence and women who experience violence in relationships and their children is facing collapse. Finance for Counselling Service s and women's safe homes is insufficient. Project financing is not continuous and threatens the operation of these facilities. Thousands of women, children and victims of domestic violence are waiting in vain for concrete help and support, even though



they are legally guaranteed this support. Women who experience violence, their children, and victims of domestic violence need available support and help. It is essential that the state, the future government and parliament create the conditions for it.

1,938 children in 109 groups in 71 schools all over Slovakia experienced a complete prevention programme.

We had a lot of activities and events planned for 2020, but COVID-19 thwarted these. In the spring, we cancelled a series of different readings and discussions. We processed the KOZMO online memory game for children at home and published the audio book online. But the measures continued. The last "live" training was held in February and early March. We postponed the dates for training sessions and meetings, but ultimately it was clear that postponement would not help, so we sat down and started changing the concept of education to go online. It was not easy. The specific characteristics of the topics which we teach are challenging, even in full-time education, much less the distance form. But we succeeded, and in the autumn, we organized online expert training sessions for the implementation of the preventive programme "KOZMO and his adventures". Despite the challenging year, we managed to train 109 new experts from around Slovakia. As of 31 December 2020, there were 111 certified experts in Slovakia authorized to implement PP.

The trained experts performed admirably. Through their resilience, creativity and commitment, 1,938 children in 109 groups in 71 schools all over Slovakia experienced a complete prevention programme. More than 1,000 children started the prevention programme at various stages in the PP, but due to measures and quarantines, they could not continue and complete it.

Drum Session "We beat the drums so that children can be heard more"

Drum Session "We beat the drums so that children can be heard more" is a nationwide event we successfully started in 2014. We organize the other three years in cooperation with the National Coordination Centre for Addressing Violence against Children at the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.

The President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová took over patronage of the seventh year of the nationwide Drum Session "We beat the drums so that children can be heard more!"

Silence cannot protect children from violence. The seventh year was exceptional for the current situation caused by COVID-19. All of us become victims—victims of COVID-19 and its consequences. It brought quarantines, social isolation and economic threat. However, it showed us how we can unite and help each other. We can only protect ourselves from it with joint efforts, as from any violence. Violence against children is here, it is around us, although we often do not perceive it, we do not see it. Being closed at home during the pandemic has increased our sensitivity to what is happening around

us. And suddenly, when we stayed at home, we found out that the baby's crying is not just from time to time, that it is regular, that something always precedes it. It is important to perceive children and listen more, it is important to trust children. That is why the nationwide Drum Session has been organized every November since 2015 - "So that children can be heard more!" Despite the extraordinary situation, on 19 November 2020, over 130 schools, but also families, friends and supporters in more than 100 towns/villages from Gajáre to Čierne Pole, beat the drums across the whole of Slovakia. Drums beat in the north, west, middle, east and south of Slovakia. Drums beat in red and green territory. Drums beat in schools and at homes.

All participating municipalities and cities can be found on the current map DRUM SESSION 2020.

Over 130 schools, but also families. friends and supporters in more than 100 towns/ villages from Gajáre to Cierne Pole, beat the drums across the whole of Slovakia.







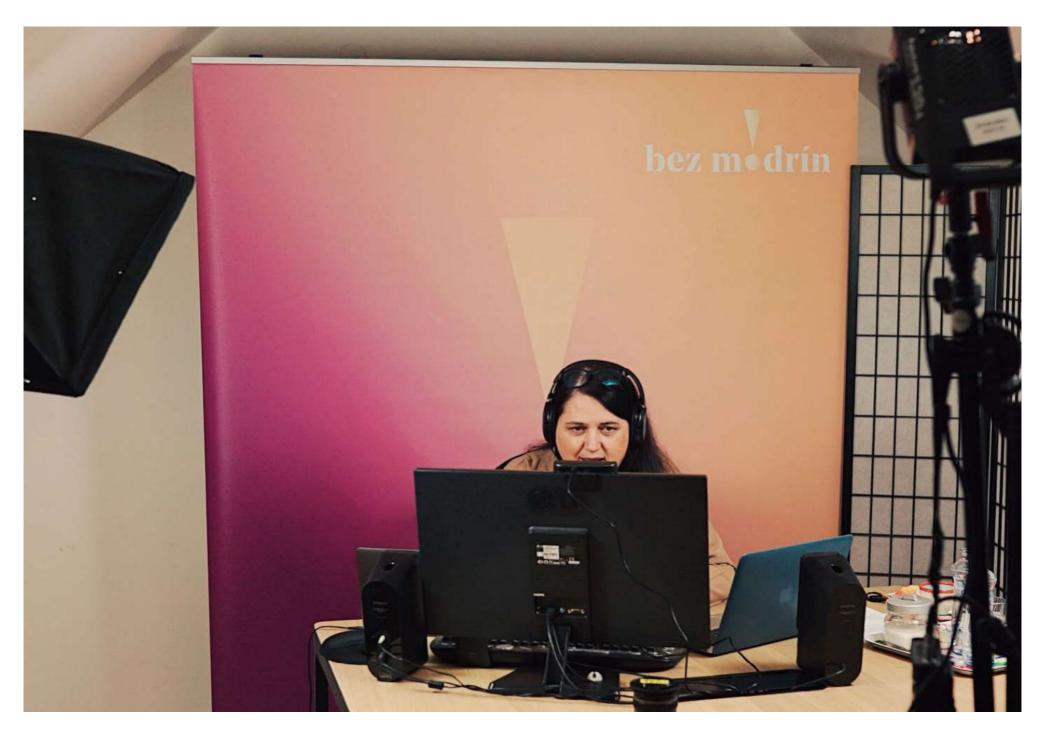


Thanks to various support, we published a small methodology for parents with a variety of tools, called "KOZMO at home", and prepared a webinar and educational structure for the methodology. A total of 253 registered users registered for the training and subsequently completed it. However, in fact, only 384 participated in the training since 131 participants completed it from a single IP address in pairs.

In September, we expanded the offer of our free available e-learning courses with the new course "Domestic and Gender-Based Violence I.". In 2020, experts from various fields successfully passed our 381 e-learning tests.

We successfully renewed the website www.bezmodrin.sk and opened the information and education Instagram account @bezmodrin. In autumn, we organised a number of our professional round tables, although eventually in a virtual space. The first one was held on 9 November and focused on the issue of Women's Safe Houses. It was attended by 17 experts from around Slovakia. The main topic of the second discussion on 23 November was the possibility of setting up effective systemic protection for women who experience violence and for victims of domestic violence. Twenty-three experts discussed the topic with the representative of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic. The third discussion, symbolically on 3 December, focused on the state of the amendment to the Act on Victims of Crime. Twenty-five experts discussed the topic with representatives of the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic. At the end of the year, we filmed the third educational documentary from the series Bruises on the Soul, this time "Bruises on the Soul III.", focusing on the issue of domestic and gender-based violence.





mplemented at EduCAN

EduCAN

Support duration: 6/19-5/22 **Donor: The Velux Foundations**

The project continues to deepen the activities of a specialized educational centre for the prevention of violence against and between children, identification of children with CAN syndrome, professional intervention, prevention of secondary victimization and multidisciplinary cooperation. Violence at schools, in families and society is growing, but more brutal manifestations especially highlight the need for systemic changes focused primarily on prevention—primary prevention—but also the need to increase awareness and education in the general public and professionals on this topic. Thanks to the educational activities under this project, we are attempting to help very effectively turn the power of the "silent majority" into the power of a perceptive and concerned majority, which is the driving force behind protection against violence.

No bruises

Support duration: 9/20-4/22 Donor: ACF - Slovakia

The aim of the project "No bruises" is to implement innovative methods of experiential education for teachers and students - future professionals in the field of respect for/violation of human rights in the context of gender equality and through the identification of appropriate and inappropriate approaches of experts. An important part of the project is the analysis of "blank spaces" in the victim protection system, proposals for effective changes, setting up communication towards legislators and the public through round tables and a podcast platform. In 2020, we managed to create and make available a new e-learning course "Domestic and Gender-Based Violence I.", organize 3 round tables and produce a new educational documentary Bruises on the Soul III. thanks to this support.

KOZMO and its adventures protection of children from violence by prevention

Support duration: 1/20 – 12/20 Donor: SPP Foundation (€7,000)

Thanks to this support, eighteen teachers and social and special pedagogues from kindergartens and primary schools in eastern Slovakia, mostly with children from marginalized groups, were trained in the prevention programme "KOZMO and his adventures" and provided training with KOZMO boxes.

KOZMO, or how to talk to children about violence

Support duration: 1/20-12/20

Donor: MoJ SR

Through this support in 2020, we created a small methodology for parents, called "KOZMO at home", including training and a webinar for its use. A total of 384 parents underwent training, who, in addition to the methodology with a variety of aids, also received the KOZMO family board game.



Information at the end

CHAPTER

Project Management, **Administration and EduCAN**

Bc. Gabriel Čulák Ing. Peter Kováč Dušana Králová

Ing. Melánia Kurpielová

Mgr. Simona Nagy

Mgr. Paulína Rakúsová

Michal Sekera

Mgr. art. Martina Slováková

Katarína Slováková

Ing. Monika Szabóová

Jana Tomášová Eva Ulianková

Counselling Service for Victims, Women's Safe House, Safe House Shelter

JUDr. Sylvia Gancárová

Mgr. Stanislava Čitáryová

Mgr. Drahomíra Fülopová

Angelika Karasová

Mgr. Romana Kinclová

Mgr. Anikó Kissová

Mgr. Zuzana Lukáčová

Mgr. Terézia Kiššová

Mgr. Dominika Ondrejková

Bc. Denisa Sebelepská

Mgr. Paulína Tóthová

Bc. Miroslava Vančová

Professional Supervision

Doc. PhDr. Peter Brnula, PhD.

CCF and IC

PhDr. Denisa Vargová, PhD.

Mgr. Michaela Badinková (MD)

Mgr. Lucia Bariová

Mgr. Beáta Beláková

Mgr. Stanislava Borovičková

Ing. Patrícia Bučeková

Mar. Aneta Cicáková Bc. Simona Ďurinová

Mgr. Veronika Dzurilová

Mgr. Daniela Elčíková

MSc. Katarína Farkašová

Mgr. Jana Florovičová

Bc. Magdaléna Hamarová

Mgr. Adriána Holičková

Mgr. Katarína Hrmová

PeadDr. Mgr. Eliška Chovancová

Mgr. Mária Jambrichová

Mgr. Eva Kerekešová

Mgr. Marta Korgová

Mgr. Martina Kostolániová (MD)

Mar. Lenka Koteková

Mgr. Alena Kováčová

Mgr. Simona Krakovíková

Mgr. Zita Laczkóová

Mgr. Patrik Lehocký

Mgr. Jaroslav Lukáč, PhD.

Mgr. Evelína Magdinová

Mgr. Mária Nagy-Maťová (MD)

Jarmila Maťová

Eva Mišaníková

Mgr. Anna Odrášková

Bc. Mária Parizeková

Mgr. Peter Pindjak

Mgr. Maroš Stacho

Slavomír Škorica

Mgr. Žaneta Volčková

Mgr. Monika Zaujecová

Memberships

Asociácia krízových stredísk (Association of Crisis Centres)

Koalícia pre deti Slovensko (Coalition for Children Slovakia)

Výbor pre deti a mládež pri Rade vlády (Committee for Children and Youth at the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic)

Collaborations

Trnava University

cooperation on joint research aimed at training professionals in the protection of children's rights and follow-up assistance.

Regional Directorate of the Police Force in Nitra

cooperation in the training of Police Force officers regarding domestic violence to increase their skills in this area.

Supporter

Support from Budgets and ESF and ERDF

City of Nitra the Ministry of Labour Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic Nitra Self-Governing Region

Foundations – Grants – Support from NGOs

CPF - Darujme.sk Ľudia ľuďom Nadácia C & A Nadácia Orange Nadácia Pontis Nadácia pre deti Slovenska The Velux Foundations Nadácia Volkswagen Slovakia Nadácia OSF Nadácia Ekopolis Karpatská nadácia

American Embassy Bratislava

Support from Companies and Organizations

Airsoft Team Staf American Embassy Bratislava AT & T Global Network Services Slovakia Avon Cosmetics, s. r. o. Brückner Slovakia, s. r. o.

Cukru Production, s. r. o.

DM drogerie markt, s. r. o.

Ekvia, s. r. o.

Generali Poisťovňa, a. s.

Johnson Controls

Klub pod lampou

Komerční banka, a. s.

Korekta, s. r. o.

Kumšt. Trnava

Lvreco CE, SE

Lidl Slovenská republika v. o. s.

Martinus

Orange Slovensko, a. s.

QUEEN ZP. s. r. o.

Penam Slovakia, a. s.

Printec Slovakia, spol. s r. o.

Samsung Slovakia

SkyToll, a. s.

Slovenská sporiteľna, a. s.

Slovenské elektrárne, a. s.

WebSupport, s. r. o.

o.z. Generation of love

o.z. Inšpiruj svet s Nadáciou Pomoc

o.z. Prúty

o.z. Srdce pre talenty – Eva Charity Bazaar

We would like to thank all those who help us in any way to support the operation of our organization and our clients. Special thanks go to all volunteers, without whom we would not be able to implement any event or project.

Finances from Private Individuals

and

Thank you!

Volunteers are an enormous support to our work. However, COVID-year 2020 also impacted this area of assistance. Many planned activities and support could not be implemented because of the emergency measures. Despite a challenging year in 2020, we were not left without support. In addition to 355 hours of volunteer assistance by four volunteers in various activities of the organization, other volunteers provided material and financial fund-raising assistance to help clients and children overcome shortages in food, pharmaceutical products, household needs and meal vouchers, and children's supplies such as books, school supplies and sports equipment. Both individuals and teams supported

us. Material collections in 2020 were organized by SPU students, employees of the US Embassy in Bratislava, and employees of Slovenské elektrárne. We were also supported by our neighbours, who shared their fruit and vegetables with our children and mothers during the year, and also helped with necessary clothing. We were supported by financial fundraising at the Roman Catholic Church of St. Gorazd, the Evangelical Church of St. Spirit, and employees of the US Embassy in Bratislava.

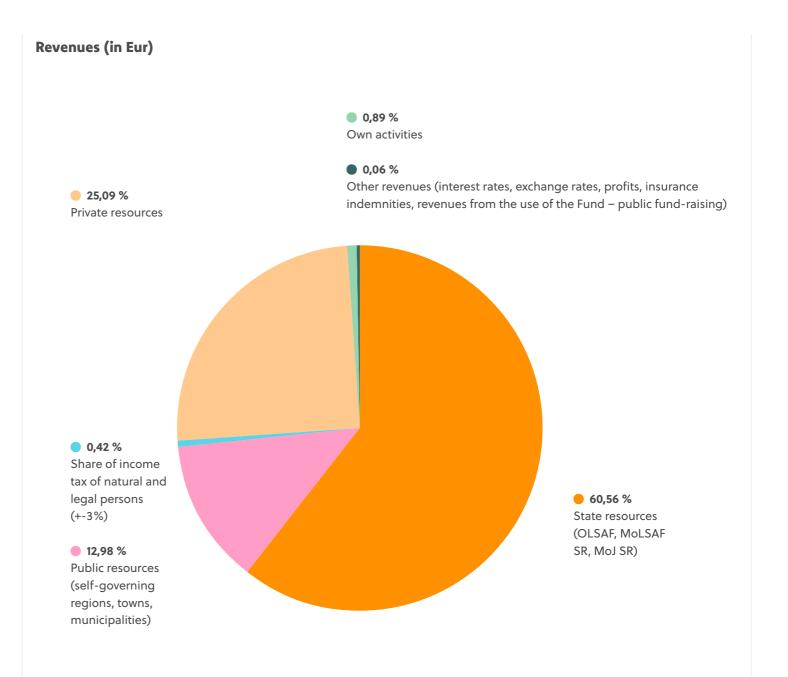
Children look forward to St. Nicholas Day and Christmas no matter where they are, whether at home or at a facility. However, not all children can be at home or with their loved ones.

Nevertheless, the stockings on St. Nicholas Day were also filled at our facilities thanks to packages from Airsoft Team STAF. And, just like in previous years, the employees of Siemens, s.r.o., Generali Poisťovňa, a.s., SkyToll, a.s., Lidl Slovenská republika, v.o.s., Johnson Controls a Slovenských elektrárni, a.s., delivered presents under all our Christmas trees.

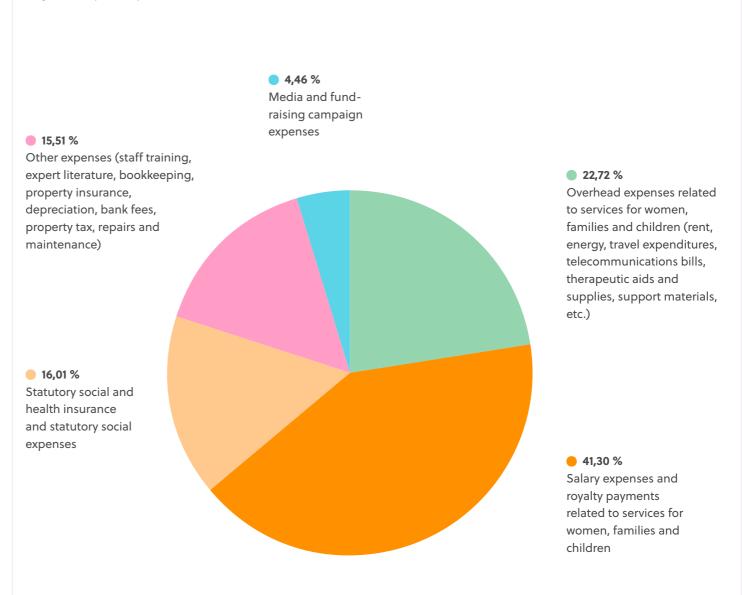
We would also like to name individual supporters and families, however the GDPR does not permit this. A huge THANKS to everyone for their help, support and energy—there was no shortage of them, even in 2020.

Economic results

in 2020



Expenses (in Eur)



There were no costs related to research and development activities. The organisation performed its activities in such a manner to eliminate negative environmental impact. The organisation has no organisational units abroad. In 2020, the organisation did not acquire any business or other shares. The organisation's activities do not affect employment changes. The organisation has not identified any significant risks and uncertainties in its operation. The organisation expects the future trend of its activities to be identical to the previous period and in accordance with the organisation's statute—the provision of social assistance in the public's interest. No events of special significance occurred after the end of the accounting period.

Profit and loss account as of 31. 12. 2020

Account		Assets	Liabilitie
*501	Material consumption	€114,184.28	
*502	Energy consumption	€23,666.67	
*511	Repairs and maintenance	€32,447.47	
*512	Travel fares	€252.40	
*513	Representation costs	€776.60	
*518	Other services	€174,698.06	
*521	Salary expenses	€419,373.96	
*524	Statutory social insurance and health insurance	€145,656.21	
*527	Statutory social expenses	€16,539.81	
*528	Other social expenses	€380.30	
*532	Property tax	€629.28	
*538	Other taxes and fees	€2,083.08	
*547	Special costs	€2,860.00	
*549	Additional other expenses	€37,108.29	
*551	Depreciation of non-current intangible assets and non-current tangible assets	€37,022.76	
*556	Creation of funds	€339.70	
*563	Benefits provided to natural persons	€7,350.00	
*602	Revenues from sales of services		€5,283.82
*622	Activation of internal organisational services		€1,210.00
*644	Interest rates		€53.20
*645	Exchange rate profit		€71.69
*646	Received gifts		€419.00
*649	Additional other revenues		€952.3
*656	Revenues from use of the fund		€520.1
*658	Revenues from property leases		€2,860.00
*662	Contributions received from other organisations		€249,499.4
*663	Contributions received from natural persons		€17,010.04
*665	Contributions from the share of paid tax		4,383.3
*667	Contributions received from public fund-raising		€646.90
*691	Subsidies		€765,463.2
IN TOTAL		€1,015,368.87	1 048 373,20 \$
PROFIT			33 004,33 €

Balance sheet as of 31. 12. 2020

Liabilities	Assets		Account
	€183,249.70	Buildings	*021
	€4,118.30	Sets of movable assets	*022
	€32,378.44	Vehicles	*023
	€1,837.93	Other non-current tangible assets	*029
	€32,742.88	Land	*031
	€13,286.16	Goods	*032
	€4,377.34	Treasury	*211
	€241,553.37	Money to bank account	*221
	€4,792.78	Trade receivables	*311
	€417,983.12	Other receivables	*315
€14,401.49		Trade liabilities	*321
€6,210.3		Current reserves	*323
	€413.59	Clearing with the Social Insurance Agency and health insurance companies	*336
	€1.24	Tax receivables	*341
	€574,843.64	Receivables due to financial relations with the state budget and the budget of regional self-government	*346
	€520.00	Other receivables	*378
€520.0		Additional other receivables	*379
	€4,480.00	Deferred expenses	*381
1 392 601,16		Deferred revenues	*384
	€6,456.52	Accrued revenues	*385
€112,100.0		Capital stock	*411
€292.90		Monetary funds created under special regulations	*412
€-39,285.7		Outstanding economic outturn of previous years	*428
€33,004.3		Economic outturn account for the accounting period	*431
€3,190.5		Social fund liabilities	*472
€1,523,035.0	€1,523,035.01		IN TOTAL

the auditor Confirmation m am

MaxAudit, s.r.o., D. Dlabača 775/33, 010 01 Žilina

Správa k ďalším požiadavkám zákonov a iných právnych predpisov

Správa k informáciám, ktoré sa uvádzajú vo výročnej správe

Štatutárny orgán je zodpovedný za informácie uvedené vo výročnej správe, zostavenej podľa požiadaviek zákona o účtovníctve. Náš vyššie uvedený názor na účtovnú závierku sa nevzťahuje na iné informácie vo výročnej správe.

V súvislosti s auditom účtovnej závierky je našou zodpovednosťou oboznámenie sa s informáciami uvedenými vo výročnej správe a posúdenie, či tieto informácie nie sú vo významnom nesúlade s auditovanou účtovnou závierkou alebo našimi poznatkami, ktoré sme získali počas auditu účtovnej závlerky, alebo sa inak zdajú byť významne nesprávne.

Posúdili sme, či výročná správa Neziskovej organizácie obsahuje informácie, ktorých uvedenie vyžaduje zákon o účtovníctve.

Na základe prác vykonaných počas audítu účtovnej závierky, podľa nášho názoru:

- Informácie uvedené vo výročnej správe zostavenej za rok 2019 sú v súlade s účtovnou závierkou za daný rok.
- výročná správa obsahuje informácie podľa zákona o účtovníctve.

Okrem toho, na základe naších poznatkov o účtovnej jednotke a situácií v nej, ktoré sme získali počas auditu účtovnej závierky, sme povinní uviesť, či sme zístili významné nesprávnosti vo výročnej správe, ktorú sme obdržali pred dátumom vydania tejto správy auditora. V tejto súvislosti neexistujú zistenia, ktoré by sme mali uviesť.

23. marca 2020



MaxAudit, s.r.o., D. Dlabača 775/33, 010 01 Žilina, Licencia SKAU č. 298

Ing. Erik Kelbel, štatutárny audítor, Licencia SKAU č. 924

We did not even notice the arrival of COVID-19 in Slovakia. It was there somewhere, in others... they may not have behaved as they it is here, and it threatens everyone. We can only protect ourselves from it by working together. It has brought quarantine, social isolation and economic instability. Nevertheless, it has also shown us how we can unite and help each other. COVID-19 is violence against us all. There are children and women at our facilities who already know violence and all its consequences. When COVID-19 disappears, let's try not to forget what it was like to be a victim of violence. Because we can only deal with violence by not trivializing, ignoring or perceiving it as something that does not concern us. COVID-19 will pass, but victims of violence—children, women—

Centrum Slniečko, n. o. Bottova 32/A, 949 01 Nitra info@centrumslniecko.sk 037/6522220

www.centrumslniecko.sk www.facebook.com/centrum.slniecko.nitra www.kozmove-dobrodruzstva.sk www.bezmodrin.sk

Design and production: Cukru production, s.r.o. Photography: archive Centra Slniečko, n.o.

