This year, as in previous years, AINova actively sought and received 2% of taxes from legal and individual entities.

The financial resources acquired from the donors will be used as usual for the activities and functioning of the Information centre focused on the promotion of the cultural values of the Lesser Carpathian region, for the Cultural Heritage activities, membership, advertising AINova activities, technical and administration provision for the smooth running of the institution and the activities of the library which is the part of the Information centre.

We would like to say thank you to all donors, because without their donation we could not contribute to securing an open society oriented towards knowledge and democratic principles.

The financial resources are used according to the activity development which is focused on the public.

The main donors in the year 2012 were: Prvá stavebná sporiteľňa, UNIQA poisťovňa, PORSCHE SLOVAKIA and friends of AINova (individuals).

Without these financial resources the functioning of the institution would be difficult because 2% of taxes are the main income of the institution.

Focus on: Ruth Zorvan

Ruth Kershaw Zorvan, a native English speaker from England, is Head of Professional Communications and Languages at AINova. Ruth established these programmes at AINova’s inception in order to bring quality language teaching to the business community and create revenue for AINova’s activities. The programmes offer specialised, tailored teaching to individuals and small groups.

Ruth graduated in 1991 from the University of Kingston from the School of Social Sciences studying Economics and Politics, specialising in Czechoslovakia. She then trained in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) at the University of Surrey, after which she headed for Prague in September ’92. She worked for 5 years at the Czech Management Center, rising from junior teacher to co-director, managing a team of 8 teachers. Here in Slovakia she has taught and managed many in-company contracts, but also cooperated on many AINova projects such as teaching in parliament, the government office, young politicians and others. Ruth combines her long teaching experience gained in the Czech Republic, Estonia and Slovakia, with business acumen, and fair knowledge of Slovak to create lessons that really help clients in concrete situations. One of her favourite teaching activities is specialised skills courses, such as the language of meetings, or presentations, and designing materials based on clients’ specialised needs. She also uses her management skills to run English courses for the public, starting 2 years ago with just 2 courses, we now regularly fill 6 courses with over 40 students.
On 19 – 20 June 2012 the third Grundtvig – Learning partnership project meeting was held in Sofia, Bulgaria attended by 23 participants from 8 countries. The first day was set aside for presentations of 3 teaching methods. AINova introduced e-learning methodology from the view of theoretical background, as well as the experience from the previous projects. It was followed by practical demonstrations in the Moodle platform where the course conducted within the running SlovakAID project – Modernisation of education in Moldova was used. Each country created their own “test” course where the participants could add and adapt their own texts, pictures and other media. Buzz activity, presented by the Greek partner, is an activity for gathering students’ information on a specific topic. The participants were divided into 2 groups, each of them thought about a specific notion presented by the moderator (the Greek partners), in this case it was a topic related to Greek history. A representative from each group then presented the ideas and reactions noted in the group. The Turkish partner introduced a cooperative technique Think, pair, share that encourages individual participation. The participants thought about the given topic related to Turkey’s history and present through questions using three distinct steps: think—about the question, pair—a discussion of the ideas in pairs within a group, share—their ideas in a class.

The next day was devoted to dealing with internal, administrative and organisational issues of the partnership and planning the next meeting in Pescara, Italy. The working atmosphere and the overall meeting organisation were excellent due to the effort of the Bulgarian partners who, in addition, prepared a great after-meeting programme for the participants – Sofia sightseeing tour and tasting of Bulgarian specialities during the social dinners.

**Course Eurospeak for Presidency**

With regard to the presidency of the Council of the EU which awaits the Slovak Republic in 2016, demand for specialised courses of English focused on EU issues has grown. The European Affairs dept., together with Professional Communication and English Programmes has organised such courses for employees of the central state administration bodies every year since 2004. In the summer months AINova prepared two 3-day intensive courses “Eurospeak for Presidency” focused on terminology related to the EU presidency. The courses are mainly intended for the staff who come in contact with EU issues, prepare materials for meetings of working groups, take part in these meetings or otherwise are involved in the preparation of statements within the scope of their offices. The content is divided into three blocks – terminology, negotiation and grammar. The central topic of this year’s courses included the Council of the EU – their working processes, ways of decision-taking, the Council working groups and their documents, tasks of presiding countries. On 9 – 11 July 2012 “Eurospeak for Presidency” course took place at the premises of AINova attended by 8 people – employees of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the SR, National Council of the SR and Ministry of Culture of the SR.

On 21 – 23 August 2012 at the premises of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the course was held for 15 Ministry employees.

**Project Cycle Management in cooperation with Carpathian foundation**

Another Project Management Course was held in Kosice on June 4 – 7, 2012. This time it was coorganised with the Carpathian Foundation as we had entered into mutual cooperation at the end of last year. This year we organised together 2 courses of project management. The cooperation stems from our common interests and goals. The Carpathian Foundation has been successfully fulfilling its mission in eastern Slovakia for more than 15 years. It distributes financial support focused on development of the region within various grant schemes, including its own. It supports cooperation, local partnerships and involvement of the local community. In order to improve the quality of grant applications and enhance competencies and skills of the applicants, mostly representatives of the local NGOs and volunteers, the Carpathian Foundation entered into cooperation with AINova which offered a number of places on course to the selected applicants from the CF database. Based on the course evaluations and feedback recieved, representatives of both organisations have expressed their hope to build on the good experience and develop cooperation in the future.
Awards for Exemplary Conservation 2012

An award ceremony of the third year of the Award for Exemplary Conservation was realised on 31st of May 2012. Ten historic houses were competing for the prize. The award ceremony took place in the Information centre in Svatý Jur where prizes were given to the owners of the houses. The award ceremony was attended by recipients of prizes together with donors and supporters of the project Partners for Heritage (Tatra bank foundation, First Saving Bank and The Bratislava Self-governing region).

The Prize of the Expert Jury was given to the chapel of the Virgin Mary of the Snow which attracted the jury not only by its overall ambience but also with professional solutions of technical problems and generally high quality of design was given to the winemaker’s house “U Šebov” in Modra. The appreciation for conservation of cultural landscape was given to the Terra Parna area in Suchá nad Parnou and appreciation for overall quality of design was given to the wine bar ‘Regius’ in Vajnory. An exhibition of all buildings nominated over the three years of the competition was presented in the premises of the Lesser Carpathian Museum in Pezinok during the summer. Thirty buildings which represent a vivid mosaic of the conserved architectural heritage in the region were presented there. All objects can serve as an inspiration and example of good conservation and implementation of a new function into the historic fabric.

Bardejov - from the student’s point of view

The highlight of complementary activities in the BHCD study programme was indeed the final workshop which each year provides the students with an opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge and experience in a “real life” situation. Mr. Jonathan Griffin, a British expert for heritage management, traditionally led the final workshop. This year it was realised in Bardejov, a small but exceptionally complete and well-preserved fortified medieval town which, in 2000, was inscribed in the World Heritage List. The main aim of the workshop was to answer the question, what are the cultural heritage values in Bardejov and how to maintain them for the future. The time for the study was limited so the students had the opportunity to participate in lectures focusing on conservation and implementation of monuments, as well as on strategic planning and cultural heritage management. The programme was concluded with a one week workshop culminated with the students’ presentation where the results of their work were publicly presented in the premises of the Town Hall to a group of key players from local government, monument’s board and representatives of NGO’s, as well as to interested public.

Workshop in Bardejov

Built Heritage Conservation and Development - conclusion of the academic year

Already the 9th academic year of the international daily postgraduate programme in Built Heritage Conservation and Development Studies ended successfully in June with final presentations of student’s seminar papers and awarding the AINova certificates of graduation.

The 2011/2012 academic year was launched in October 2011. 8 participants from Lithuania, Serbia, and Slovakia attended the studies. The programme was run in the form of interactive lectures presented by renowned Slovak and foreign experts. During three trimesters the students had the opportunity to participate in lectures focusing on philosophy, legislation, technical and economic aspects of preservation of monuments, as well as on strategic planning and cultural heritage management. The programme was concluded with a one week workshop in Bardejov. An important part of the studies were practical exercises, specialised excursions and individual work of participants, in the frame of which each participant prepared and presented three seminar papers.

As both the student group and the pedagogical team are international, the communication language is English. The main funding of the study programme was secured by the PSS Fund, Slovakia and by the private British Sainsbury Family Charitable Trust/Headley Trust. Partial financial resources came from the Austrian Cultural Forum in Bratislava. All students were provided with financial support to partially cover their study costs.
English teachers

In connection with the project SlovakAid SAMRS/2011/04/04 – Modernization of education in Moldova – preparation of pedagogues and students for e-learning methodology enhances the access to flexible education arose the need to have an internal expert for Moodle software in the institution AINova. This was the reason why the employee of the institution – Monika Konečná requested a grant from the Slovak Academic Association for International Cooperation, National Agency for Lifelong learning. She obtained the grant and she was able to participate in a course held on 11th of June – 15th June, 2012 in Infinity Business College in Dublin. The name of the course was Moodle – Virtual Learning Environment.

The programme of the course was as follows: Day 1: Induction and Icebreaking Activities, Introduction to Moodle, Philosophy of Moodle, Moodle Screen Elements, Personal Profile. Day 2: Communication within the platform, Calendars as a good source of information, Course Set up, Dublin sightseeing and orientation tour. Day 3: Adding resources, Adding Activities, Creating a course with the tutor. Day 4: Grading and Assignments, Creating a course. Day 5: Individual approach, Presentation of the outcomes of the course, Evaluation session.

The activity was concluded by the award of a certificate of attendance.

Children’s trip

In August, 2012 a new NGO was founded in Svätý Jur. It’s called "Poznávaj a tvor! POTVOR!". (Know and create! CREATURE)

The organization was established from the need to create a platform - space for activities which the founders, Ing. arch. Lucia Marušicová a Ing. arch. Barbora Vorlíčková, are dealing with. They prepare educational programmes for kindergartens, families and the public, in cooperation with AINova, and the Information Centre in Svätý Jur.

The goals include:

- Preparing of educational programmes particularly in the area of environmental protection, protection and development of cultural and natural heritage, organization of workshops, seminars, exhibitions and competitions, supporting of creativity, art and craft skills, organization of activities and public events.

- One of the activities will be the afternoon club POTVOR. It will be located in the Infocentre premises, and several times a week there will be creative workshops especially for children.

Professional Communication and Language Programmes

Grundtvig/In service training/Moodle — Virtual Learning Environment — a Course for Teachers and Educators

Professional Communication and Language Programmes are now opening courses for the public in Svätý Jur. Courses are focused on children, teenagers and adults and will start from September 18th, with application to the courses open until 10th September. Courses are available at different levels and are run in the afternoon for children, and in the evening for adults.

Please see the timetable for exact times and levels. Please see the timetable on http://www.ainova.sk/sk/novinky/?news_action_type=detail&news_id=108&news_archive=no. Further information, and application forms are available on our web page www.ainova.sk, and at the Information Center.

We had an excellent summer, opening our first children’s summer course in Svätý Jur, where 11 children aged 9-11 learnt English each morning for one week. The 2 teachers immersed the children in English through games, stories, and drama. At the end of the successful week the children gave a performance of a play called “Max’s magic mobile” which was attended by their families.

We also cooperated with European studies on the course ‘Eurospeak’. You can find more details of this course in the article “Eurospeak for Presidency”.

As always, we continue to deliver our professional and business English programmes to the business community and state institutions in Bratislava; meeting the needs of high level managers on a one to one basis.

New activities in the Information centre

In August, 2012 a new NGO was founded in Svätý Jur. It’s called "Poznávaj a tvor! POTVOR!". (Know and create! CREATURE)
In August 2012 the Information centre participated in another successful event. In the pleasant environment of Scheidlin’s garden a summer concert took place named “Wine and folk in Scheidlin’s garden”. About 80 music loving people met there with the music bands Arcuss and Sanyland accepting our invitation. Wine tasting organized by Vinocentrum is also becoming a very pleasant tradition.

“We enjoy sharing our knowledge and experience.”

Concert in Scheidlin’s garden

Project: Grundtvig—InTeam

English course for youth

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