

# NESST Country Profile

Sustainability.  
Not charity.

A philanthropic investment fund  
for social enterprise development


## NESST Portfolio: Slovakia

### NESST Venture Fund in Slovakia

NESST has been supporting social enterprises in Slovakia since 2001. A total of 35 organizations have applied, and 16 of them have received training on the NESST methodology focused on identifying and developing income generating strategies through social enterprise to increase their sustainability and strengthen their mission.

The later stage portfolio in Slovakia currently includes three organizations that receive financial and capacity-building support.

#### Slovakia in Numbers:

- \*Population: 5,470,306 
- Urban: 56%
- Below Poverty Line: 21%
- \*GDP per capita: US\$ 21,200
- \*GDP of the Poorest 10%: 3.1%
- \*Unemployment: 12.1%

Source: www.cia.gov

#### WellGiving Association

[www.charityshop.sk](http://www.charityshop.sk)

 CharityShop.sk

**Location:** Lozorno  
**Sector:** Philanthropy and charity donation  
**Date Founded:** 2005  
**Stage:** First year, later-stage portfolio

**Social Enterprise:** WellGiving's social enterprise is CharityShop, an online store which sells products and services offered by nonprofit organizations, women entrepreneurs, and sheltered workshops employing people with disabilities.



Levels of unemployment are higher among certain disadvantaged groups in Slovakia including the disabled and low-income women.

**Mission:** Inspire people to do good things through unconventional philanthropic projects, which contribute to a reduction of suffering and poverty, and help create new opportunities and greater equality for disadvantaged groups. Develop philanthropy and social entrepreneurship through technology.



#### Support Needed:

Financial: US\$ 10,000  
Capacity-Building: US\$ 7,500

#### Support to Date:

Financial: US\$ 10,000  
Capacity-Building: US\$ 6,500

#### Jablonka Association

[www.jablonka.org](http://www.jablonka.org)



**Location:** Jablonce  
**Sector:** Environment, community development, youth  
**Date Founded:** 2003  
**Stage:** First year, later-stage portfolio

**Social Enterprise:** Jablonka sells traditionally grown local seeds, plants, and trees, and offers garden design and landscaping services with natural materials at minimal costs.



Slovakia has been characterized by socio-economic and political changes that have had an unfavorable impact on all aspects of the environment.

**Mission:** Jablonka is dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage and sustainable development of the Záhorie region through eco-environmental educational activities and community-building programs.



#### Support Needed:

Financial: US\$ 10,000  
Capacity-Building: US\$ 7,750

#### Support to Date:

Financial: US\$ 1,000  
Capacity-Building: US\$ 7,750

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### Vydra

[www.vydra.sk](http://www.vydra.sk)



**Location:** Cierny Balog  
**Sector:** Community and rural development  
**Date Founded:** 1997  
**Stage:** Eighth year, later-stage portfolio

**Mission:** Vydra is committed to preserving local traditions, culture and the environment in the rural micro-region of Cierny Hron through education and sustainable development.



Unemployment in this rural region hovers around 25%, with levels as high as 85% for the Roma minority.

**Social Enterprise:** Vydra operates a tourist camp and buffet. Its first social enterprise, the buffet, is successfully managed externally and provides ongoing revenues for the organization. Its second social enterprise is the operation of three tourist information centers that provide referrals and sell tourist packages as well as local souvenirs. The tourist packages offer lodging, food services, and eco-tourism activities.



### Support Needed:

Financial: US\$ 15,000

### Support to Date:

Financial: US\$ 44,200

Capacity-Building: US\$ 81,430

## NESST

**Mission:** We work to solve critical social problems in emerging market countries by developing and supporting social enterprises that strengthen civil society organizations' financial sustainability and maximize their social impact.



**Website:** [www.nesst.org](http://www.nesst.org)

**Sector:** Venture philanthropy, social enterprise development.

**Date Founded:** Lee Davis & Nicole Etchart, USA, 1997.

**Regional Offices:** Santiago, Chile and Budapest, Hungary.

**Location:** 10 countries in Latin America and Central Europe: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Croatia, Ecuador, Hungary, Peru, Czech Republic, Romania, and Slovakia.

**Staff:** 32 professionals in 11 countries.

### NESST in Numbers

The following are some of the results of our work:

\* In total, over 2,400 organizations in 48 countries have been trained in the principles and tools of social enterprise.

\* 454 CSOs have the capacity to develop a social enterprise. 100 per cent of the organizations that were trained in the past two years said they would go through the NVF process again, and would recommend it to other CSOs.

\* The NESST Venture Fund (NVF) has provided business mentoring and financial support to 53 social enterprises in its later-stage portfolio, providing over US\$ 4 million in funds for start up and/or expansion of their business. These social enterprises have

increased their self-financing by an average of 51% and their beneficiaries by an average of 40%.

