

Slovakia

Albín Škoviera, Jana Svetlíková and Milan Pukančík

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Slovakia was part of Czechoslovakia until 1 January 1993 and the history of the FICE Czechoslovakia can be found in Section ??.

1 The Foundation of the National Section

In spite of the break up of Czechoslovakia on the 1st January 1993 into the Czech and Slovak Republics, there was initially no intention to split our common FICE organisation. However, political and economic reality led into the separation. The Czech section was formed on 12th of February 1993 in Olomouc and the Slovak section was formed on the 3rd of April 1993 at 5:30 p.m. in Liptovský Hrádok. The first chairperson of Slovak FICE was elected PhDr. Jana Svetlíková, CSc. The next member of the committee was PhDr. Eva Beganová. They both had experience of working in FICE and important international relationships and contacts. Building up of new independent national section started.

2 Organisation and finance

FICE Slovakia's organisation is centralized and administered by seven members of a committee intended to represent all regions of Slovakia. The organisation has the legal status of non-governmental, non-profit organisation. Its operations have been supported by the Ministry of Education in the beginning; more recently the Ministry of Social Affairs has contributed to its international activities. Nowadays about 75% of our income comes from projects and grants, the rest is contributions of members and fees from seminars. The organisation was also involved for a short period of time in a national mechanism for 2% tax dedication.

3 Membership

There are 50 members of our organisation currently. The membership is individual. Members are mostly social educators and other workers in care homes for children and special schools or other facilities and university teachers.

4 Activities

4.1 As an organisation

Our activity is aimed in two directions:

- Training activities for professionals (seminars, publications, visits),
- Direct work and educational activities with children (summer camps for children from care homes, educational projects).

Over a year FICE Slovakia usually organises one seminar, one summer camp and one excursion. Occasionally we publish a conference book. Within the project 'Child parliament' for children and young people from residential care we organised eight weekends sessions over a period of three years. In 2006 we organised three events within the same project.

4.2 With other FICE members

In cooperation with FICE Slovenia we arranged two visits to Slovenian residential homes and took part in the seminar on 'Models of good practice in social pedagogical work' held in Rogla, Slovenia, in October 2005. We also arrange visits abroad in cooperation with FICE Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary. We regularly participate in seminars of FICE Czech Republic.

4.3 In relation to the country as a whole

We have most influence when we are able to cooperate with a partner in an impressive demonstration of a shared activity.

4.4 Future

Reflecting the actual reality of the situation in the NGO sector in Slovakia, FICE Slovakia will apparently have to:

- make its administration professional (have at least one paid administrative worker)
- find a partner organisation perceptively enabling a merger
- concentrate more on regional than countrywide activities

4.5 Special Features

As the momentous milestones in FICE Slovakia history we consider summer camps for children from residential homes and our projects for the wider participation of children in residential homes.