



[BRATISLAVA, JUNE 20, 2013] For immediate release

NESST and Citi Present Awards to Winners of the 2012-2013 Social Enterprise Competition in Slovakia

NESST and Citi today announced the winners of the 2012-2013 NESST-Citi Social Enterprise Competition to promote excellence in social enterprise development among local nonprofits in Central Europe.

The 2012-2013 NESST-Citi Social Enterprise Competition is a part of NESST's mission to develop social enterprises in Central Europe. It is made possible thanks to the support of the Citi Foundation and the voluntary assistance of Citi employees in the Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Hungary. The awards from NESST and Citi reward excellence in designing, developing and planning sustainable social enterprises with a double, and often triple bottom line: financial social and environmental. NESST staff and local business advisors in Bratislava and Prague screened the finalists against criteria that NESST considers key for the potential success and impact of the social enterprise: viability of the venture idea, potential financial and social impact and quality of the business plan itself.

The two competition winners in Slovakia are:

Strom Zivota (Bratislava), for the Best Social Enterprise Business Plan 2012. The organization won for its plans to expand its online shop selling environmentally friendly and local products. The social enterprise promises to be a sustainable business, while also bringing significant social impact and raising awareness of the issue of environmental responsible behaviour. The award comes with a 6,000 Euro investment into the implementation of the social enterprise.

Gréckokatolícka charita Prešov received the second prize award for outstanding performance for the work and development of a social enterprise consisting in running a car tyre service. The organization offers social services, work therapy and accommodation for people affected by different types of addictions. They have been awarded the second prize of 1,500 Euro for their work and development of their notable social enterprise idea.

As part of the event, **Občianske združenie SOSNA**, received the NESST Incubation Performance Management Tool Award of US\$ 10,000 as winner of the 2011-2012 NESST-Citi Social Enterprise Performance Competition. Sosna offers professional environmental educational trainings and sells local organic and hand-made products to promote local agriculture and provide income to local producers. The prize acknowledges Sosna's excellent results in implementing its business plan during the first year of running their social enterprise.

Igor Kottman, Citi Country Officer Slovak Republic said: "Supporting non-profit organizations is a key priority for Citi. This program has enabled Citi funding and employee volunteering support to be channelled to help start social enterprises. We know from feedback from the civil society organizations taking part in our program how much they appreciated the professional advice and support they receive from our Citi employee volunteers which we are very proud of."

Eva Varga, NESST Portfolio Performance Director based in Budapest, and Eva Chaloupkova, Public Affairs Officer for Czech Republic and Slovakia, presented the winners with their awards.

"We've been delighted to have had the competition in Slovakia, allowing us to provide long-term support to contribute to the development of social enterprises in this region," said Ms. Varga. "The support from NESST will enable Strom Zivota, Gréckokatolícka charita Prešov and Sosna to extend social benefits to communities in need across Slovakia, while strengthening their financial sustainability. We congratulate them for their results" she said.

NESsT

NESsT works 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. Since its founding in 1997, NESsT has trained over 3,800 social enterprises in 48 countries on the principles and tools of self-financing and social enterprise and has invested over US\$ 8 million in social enterprises for start up and/or expansion of their businesses. NESsT currently operates in Central and Eastern Europe and in Latin America. Please visit www.nesst.org for more information.

Citi

Citi, the leading global bank, has approximately 200 million customer accounts and does business in more than 160 countries and jurisdictions. Citi provides consumers, corporations, governments and institutions with a broad range of financial products and services, including consumer banking and credit, corporate and investment banking, securities brokerage, transaction services, and wealth management.

Citibank Europe plc with its registered seat at 1 North Wall Quay, Dublin 1, Republic of Ireland, registered with the Companies Registration Office, registration number 132781, conducting its business activity in the Slovak Republic through Citibank Europe plc, pobočka zahraničnej banky with its registered seat at Mlynské nivy 43, 825 01 Bratislava, Slovak Republic, business number 36 861 260, registered with the Commercial Register of District Court Bratislava I, Section Po, Insert No. 1662/B

Additional information may be found at www.citigroup.com | Twitter: @Citi | YouTube: www.youtube.com/citi | Blog: <http://new.citi.com> | Facebook: www.facebook.com/citi | LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/citi

Citi Foundation

The Citi Foundation is committed to the economic empowerment and financial inclusion of individuals and families, particularly those in need, in the communities where we work so that they can improve their standard of living. Globally, the Citi Foundation targets its strategic giving to priority focus areas: Microfinance, Enterprise Development, Youth Education and Livelihoods, and Financial Capability and Asset Building. The Citi Foundation works with its partners in Microfinance and Enterprise Development to support environmental programs and innovations. Additional information can be found at www.citifoundation.com.

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