

Trondheim, June 18, 2003.

Activity Report for January to June 2003

Project

In December 2002 I was contacted by Henning Sommero, a well know professor, musician and composer and by John Pål Indeberg. They have been active for many years in the culture scene in Bratislava. They asked if I would be willing to meet Egil Lejon to discuss a possible cultural collaboration event between Trondheim and Slovakia. In this meeting Mr. Lejon told me about his 10 years spent in Bratislava and his contributions to the Slovakisk Norsk Forening (SNZ)

The goal for our collaboration was to increase the awareness among Norwegians of Slovakian history, culture, society and business. Current awareness in Trondheim of Slovakia is quite limited and as such a week-long festival of Slovakian culture would increase awareness and interest by providing the opportunity for Trondheim residents to gain personal contact with Slovakia.

I expressed my support for such collaboration and strongly suggested that an organization be formed to oversee this project and emphasized that a financial plan and budget must be established.

Thereafter the Norsk-Slovakisk Forening (Norwegian Slovak Association) was established with me as chairman.. The Executive Committee voted in resource persons with Egil Lejon acting as secretary. The consul was named as the Executive Committee Secretariat. Resolutions were established and proposals made for a working plan were developed. In the following meeting the Norwegian-Slovakian Culture Fund (Norsk-slovakisk kulturfond) was established with Dean Knut Andresen as foreman. Relevant regulations were then established.

The program for “Slovakisk mars i Trondheim” was adopted. 16 different events were fulfilled and a very thorough guide through the exhibit in Norwegian has been published by Egil Lejon, Juraj Peressenyi, and Pavel Petrovic.

“Slovakisk mars i Trondheim” was a very demanding arrangement both economic and time wise. It is my impression that our efforts have succeeded in meeting our goals of greater knowledge and awareness of Slovakia in Trondheim. This is good groundwork for supporting future projects.

January 2003 / February 2003

Planning of "Slovakisk mars i Trondheim". Securing financial support and quality control. Contract writing and many meetings with collaboration partners. Much contact with SNZ (www.nsf-trondheim.org)

March 2003

Official opening of "Slovakisk mars I Trondheim". Ambassador Andrej Sokolic and his wife were present for three days.

The ambassador accompanied to NTNU for a private tour. Meeting with acting mayor of Trondheim.

Meeting with Arne Lundemo at Inter Studies where we agreed to keep each other orientated.

Participated along with my wife in *Corps Consulaire Norge's* General meeting. Development minister Hilde Frafjord Johnsen spoke. All ambassadors and member of *CC-Norge* were invited. A formal ball followed.

April 2003

Evaluated and formally ended project "Slovakisk mars i Trondheim".

Reception at Erkbispegården 29 April in honor of Queen Beatrix's official birthday. Ambassador Erik Ader and Mrs. Diane Ader acted as hosts.

Participated in *CC-Trondheim's* annual meeting.

May 2003

Worked on finding a suitable gallery space for a traveling Slovak art exhibition which started its journey in Elverum. Finding available locations in Trondheim is not easy. In light of this ongoing challenge, I have been voted in to the board of directors for *Trondheim Kunstforening* (Trondheim Art Association) which is very well known and respected.

With the official opening of Norli Bokhandel (Norli Bookstore), Egil Lejon read Milan Rúfus while John Pål Inderberg and Henning Sommerro provided the musical accompaniment on Slovak national musical instrument - fujara.

Preparation of the report and financial accounting for "Slovakisk mars i Trondheim". Secretary Egil Lejon and Pavel Petrovic have worked very hard in the production of this report. The report is written in both Norwegian and Slovakian and contains copies of newspaper reports, program reproductions and various illustrations.

June

In coordination with Valeria Zolcerova, I welcomed engineer Stanislav Karahuta from the firm Stratex in Presov. He wishes to acquire contacts with Norwegian water-treatment firms with the intention of securing an agent for the region. We had a very enlightening meeting with Scandiaconsult– one of Scandinavia’s leading consultancy firms within the building and property market. We met with *Utbyggningskontoret* (Office of Development of the Municipality of Trondheim) which is responsible for determining the allowable pollution levels. They provided a good overview of current and future pollution control limits. Mr. Karahuta will produce a separate report on his experience of the meeting. His report will be sent to the embassy.

Goals for the second half of 2003.

- Working with establishing cooperation between the Slovak region Trenčín and Trondheim
- Acquire a display location for the Slovakian traveling exhibition
- Launch a website for Slovakia’s Honorary Consulate
- Arrange a Slovakian wine tasting event with invitations sent out to various media.
- Follow up Slovaks – Norwegian Association (SNZ).
- Fund raise for *Norsk-Slovakisk kulturfond* (Norwegian – Slovakian Culturefund)
- Arrange a meeting with Slovaks who reside in this region.
- Participate in arrangements which promote Slovakia.

Respectfully,

Erik Frederiksen
Honorary Consul

Attached: Letter from SNZ