

Embassy of the Republic of Slovakia
Thommas Heftyes gate 24
0244 Oslo

June 17, 2006

Ambassador Dusan Rozbora

Activity report for January to June 2006

Projects

- A group representing *Sør-Trøndelag Fylkeskommune (STFK)* and *Nidaros Domkirkes Restaureringsarbeider (NDR)* (Nidaros Cathedral Restoration Committee) visited Trenčín 11-13 January 11-13, 2006.
- Upon arrival in Bratislava, they were met by the Norwegian ambassador to Slovakia. The following day they travelled to Trenčín where they met the new governor Pavol Sedlacek. After the meeting they were given a tour of the castle.
- Working meetings and a Restorations' Committee and an Administrative Committee were established. These groups were established to meet certain criteria in the EØS application. The restoration projects consist of the restoration of six buildings belonging to the Castle with a budget of €1.1m. The total restorations' project has a budget of €20m. The visit was very productive with the following resolutions being made:

From the Administrative Group

1. STFK developed a Supportive Statement
2. NDR reporting back which specialty areas they can contribute expertise to
3. Trenčín is sending the partners a draft of the application being written
4. Both partners to remain in contact with FMO in Brussels in order to gain further information and advice
5. We will investigate the ramifications of having two Financial Mechanisms and how that relates to the Trenčín application
6. Will clarify what role NDR will play in the project

From the Specialist Group

1. NDR to function as a specialist advisory
2. NDR or other similar groups can contribute to some of the preliminary studies
3. that a conference be held in Trenčín with regards to the castle restoration
4. NDR make the most of its international contacts and network
5. Work towards an agreement with the exchange of skilled hand workers

All meeting-minutes have been forwarded

January – June 2006

Application deadline for the first round in EFTA-funding in Slovakia passed on March 23. The groups from STFK and NDR traveled to Trenčín from the 14 to the 17th of March. The purpose of this trip was to aid with the application with regards to budgeting, financing, contact with FMO in Brussels etc.

Met with the Commercial Counselor Erika Chuda Friday January 17 in Trondheim to plan the September visit from Spa Piestany and presentation of Slovakia.

In cooperation with the trade embassy's trade department, we accepted an invitation from Spa Piestany in Slovakia. (March 9) A successful meeting where travel bureaus, Commercial Counselor Erika Chuda and others were present.

This year has been busy with many meetings taking place with the working group who has been working closely with Trenčín.

Goals for 2006

Continue working with Trenčín in the following matters:

- Student exchange and support in the establishing of a Nursing Studies program with the University Alexander Dubcek. HiST (www.hist.no) is currently in contact with University Alexander Dubcek.
- NTNU (www.ntnu.no) will make contact with University Alexander Dubeck to discuss the possibilities of closer cooperation
- Regional High Schools (Sør Trøndelag) and Trenčín to work in the EU's Leonardo Program.
- Continuation of the establishment of a Norwegian-Slovakian industry network within water treatment, shoe and other potential industries
- Continued work towards the establishing of a Project Office in Slovakia.
- We have been contacted by the local chapter of the Red Cross. They wish to establish a new international partner to cooperate with. We hope it will be Slovakia.
- Arrange a meeting with Slovaks who reside in this region.
- Participate in arrangements which promote Slovakia.

Respectfully,

Erik Frederiksen
Honorary Consul
www.konsulat-slovakia-trondheim.no