



post address: P.O. Box 15, 810 00 Bratislava 1, Slovak Republic  
e-mail: [inakost@inakost.sk](mailto:inakost@inakost.sk)  
[www.inakost.sk](http://www.inakost.sk)

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2010

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## 1. BASIC DATA

### 1.1. NAME:

Iniciatíva Inakosť (Initiative Otherness)

### 1.2. SEAT:

Ľudovíta Fullu 3, 841 05 Bratislava

### 1.3. ID No.: 37 995 545

### 1.4. Tax number: 2022247711

### 1.5. LEGAL STATUS:

Civic association registered by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic under the no. VVS/1-900/90-28830

### 1.6. CONTACTS:

Post address: P.O. Box 15, 810 00 Bratislava 1

E-mail: [inakost@inakost.sk](mailto:inakost@inakost.sk)

Tel.: 0903/205480

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

Bank account: 2622805582/1100

## 2. MEMBERS OF AUTHORITIES

### ADMINISTRATION BOARD:

Ján Benec, chairman

Július Kolenič, member

Martin Macko, member

### ADVISORY BOARD:

Eva Adámková, chairperson

Ivo Slávka, member

Miroslav Žemlička, member

### 3. MISSION AND GOALS

#### 3.1. MISSION:

The mission of the association is protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transsexuals (hereinafter "minority") and representation of the minority in interactions with government authorities and local self-governing authorities as its official and representative agent. It aims to point out the discrimination of the minority in the society and to seek its elimination.

#### 3.2. GOALS:

- Passing of a legislative measure concerning the cohabitation of same-sex persons.
- Enforcement and protection of minority interests in majority society.
- Development of civil society by various forms of socio-cultural activity expanding citizen awareness in accordance with the Constitution of the Slovak Republic and the Declaration of the Rights and the Liberties of Men.
- Editorial and publication activities.

Mainly:

- a) Support of publication activities, purchasing and editing of various publications, anthologies, educational materials etc.,
- b) Preparation of radio and television broadcasts, compilation of websites in cooperation not only with Slovak, but also with International partners

- Awareness-building and educational activity.

Mainly:

- a) educational activity for schools, citizens, state service authorities and local self-governing authorities, entrepreneurs and other subjects,
- b) organising of courses, seminars, conferences, cultural, artistic, sport and social events etc.
- c) support of participation in educational, cultural, artistic, sport and social events etc.,
- d) support of study stays, scholarships and visit of schools and educational institutions.

## 4. ACTIVITY REPORT

### 4.1. Gays and lesbians, let's get together!

On 20 January 2010 Iniciatíva Inakosť informed on press conference about its new campaign: Gays and lesbians, let's get together!

Campaign took place in print and other media. Its aim was to mobilize gays and lesbians for fight for their rights. According to representatives of Iniciatíva Inakosť shall gays and lesbians take advantage that we have in Slovakia an opportunity to vote such political representation which really cares for dignified life for all citizens with no difference and resolutely show their will, will of their relatives, friends, colleagues and close persons.

Part of the campaign was also petition passing a law about registered partnership. Citizens could support the petition also electronically via internet.

On press conference was present also representatives of political party Zelená vlna (Green wave), which supports effort of Iniciatíva Inakosť for enactment of registered partnership.

### 4.2. International Women's Day is celebration of all women

15.3.2010 Iniciatíva Inakosť sharply condemned statement of the Prime Minister R. Fico, in which has been stated: „Feminists, lesbians, and homosexuals brought us flowers in front of the Government Office, yet we haven't gave them any flowers. And women who were given flowers never gave them back to us. I wish to emphasize that the International Women's day is not a political propaganda"

We don't agree that the Prime Minister narrows IWD to feast only for heterosexual women. IWD is a feast for all women, regardless on their sexual orientation.

The statement of the Prime Minister is discriminatory and it is clear demonstration of what reproached Slovakia currently published Evaluation report of United States of America on human rights in world.

### 4.3. Photographic competition Love is love

Iniciatíva Inakosť announced within the Slovak Gay and Lesbian Film Festival photographic competition Love is love (Láska je láska) about life of lesbian and gay couples (e.g. double-portraits, still lives, stylized pictures, common trips, everyday life in household and society etc.) starting on 1st May 2010 and ending on 31st July 2010. Participants could win 100 EUR, Bioderma cosmetics, queer

films from Gorila.sk portal, books from the bookstore Artforum, tickets for Slovak Gay and Lesbian Film festival and other prizes.

Competition has been a new experience for organizers and competitors. Amateur photographs (19 authors, 100 photographs) searched for content and form. Jury obtained on "its table" photographs of couples in love who need to show to the world that they have found themselves, reportage photographs from manifestations in various countries of the world, double portraits, and also trumped-up photographs transforming on various level reality to artistic vision. Some successfully captured depth of relationship or complicatedness of position of LGBT people symbolically; other captured concrete people and situations.

Jury awarded the first prize to Jakub Gulyás for Claudia series. Dana P. has been awarded second prize for the Proud (Hrdí) series and third one Peter Pavlík for photographs Gay Pride NY. Winning works of the photographic competition Lásky je láska could be seen directly in front of cinema auditoriums on VŠMU (Academy of Fine Arts and Design) during Slovak Gay and Lesbian Film festival.

Partners of competition were: Bioderma, Gorila.sk portal, Artforum bookstore, Fototip.sk photographic portal, Colourplanet.cz portal and communication net QPeople.

#### 4.4. Survey of Inakosť related to Slovak Parliament elections 2010

On 10 May 2010 Iniciatíva Inakosť requested through an open letter parties standing for Slovak Parliament elections 2010 to express their opinions concerning legitimisation of registered partnerships which purpose would not be raising of children and which would establish legal rules for permanent life and property community of two same-sex persons. "Our target is to gain opinions of political parties regarding specifically freedoms and rights of homosexuals. There are only five questions and we hope that answers will give adequate picture about intentions of the party. Answers will be basement for recommendations to voters - our supporters, lesbians, gays, their relatives and friends. " explained Július Kolenič from Inakosť.

Questions to political parties standing for Slovak Parliament:

1. On 17th May is internationally recognized International Day Against Homophobia. What is your view on situation in this sphere in Slovakia? What specifically would you change?
2. There are still countries which consider homosexuality for sickness or criminal offence and LGBT people still experience persecution, torture or executions. What is your opinion to refugee who would ask for asylum in Slovak republic on grounds of his homosexuality trying to escape discrimination in home country? Would you push the asylum through? Why yes/no?
3. Which rights would you recognize to foreign gay or lesbian couple which is married or concluded partnership in other EU member country?

4. Is enactment of registered partnership of two same-sex persons one of program clauses which your party will promote in Program announcement of the Government of the Slovak republic if you become part of governing coalition? Why yes/no?
5. Will representatives of your party in Slovak Parliament support proposal for enactment of registered partnership, whether it will be proposed by coalition or opposition?

#### 4.5. Slovak Gay and Lesbian film festival warm-up eve

On Friday, 21 May 2010 in Štúdio 12 on Jakubovo námestie 12, Bratislava festival offered a movie about love of two gays and beginning of homosexual movement. Such way organisers of festival supported Rainbow PRIDE (Dúhový PRIDE) Bratislava 2010. Stonewall movie with Slovak subtitles was screened. Entry to the event was free. After end of the movie a discussion regarding topic Homosexuality and art took place. Viewers could after the screening join the party in Club Barbaros on Vysoká street.

Partner of warm-up evening was Club Barbaros. Public projection of the movie was realised with permission of BBC FILMS.

#### 4.6. Results of Inakosť survey regarding elections to the Slovak Parliament NR SR 2010

On 3rd June 2010 Iniciatíva Inakosť assessed answers for open letter to political parties standing for in elections to the Slovak Parliament 2010, in which they were asked to give their opinions to enactment of registered partnership of two same-sex persons. To the questions in open letter answered 5 candidate political parties (SaS, SDKÚ, KDH, EDS and Paliho Kapurková).

Of the parties that answered only SDKÚ didn't answer each question separately but they expressed their opinion to adoption of children by same-sex couples despite that Inakosť didn't asked this question in the survey.

KDH in its answer beside other stated that it can't see reason why same-sex couples should be enabled to use registered partnership institute which would establish legal rules for permanent life and proprietary community.

EDS pointed out the need to address fight against homophobia on grounds of sexual orientation, in relation to registered partnerships thy support discussion on this subject which is according to EDS long-term process.

Answers of Paliho Kapurková are generally positive, however it is prankish party and so realization of its opinions after elections is disputable.

Most complexly answered the Iniciatíva Inakosť's questions the SaS party which demonstrated real interest to solve issues of gays and lesbians in its answers, to promote enactment of registered partnership and support it actively. "We are surprised and pleased with level of knowledge which showed in its answer SaS party. Survey proved that SaS has sufficient professional potential for solving of problems of gays and lesbians. Also declaration of their interest on enactment of registered partnership is very encouraging." said leader of Iniciatíva Inakosť, Július Kolenič.

#### 4.7. Statement of Iniciatíva Inakosť to election results

13 June 2010 Iniciatíva Inakosť published following statement to election results:

"We congratulate SaS party to election results. We are pleased with success of SaS party as it is historically first political party which has in its election program registered partnerships of two same-sex persons and it gets to Parliament with huge support of electors.

This election result confirms that Slovak society has shifted in perception of human rights and it is ready for law on registered partnerships. From right-wing parties only KDH rejected adoption of the act while this party gained one third less votes than SaS.

We know that negotiations about establishing of new government will not be easy but we hope that Mr. Sulík will meet clause 96 of SaS party election program and will not backtrack on requirement to enact in new election period standard act on registered partnerships enabling arrangement of proprietary relations of gay and lesbian couples also in Slovakia.

Many people from LGBT minority gave you the vote. Don't disappoint us."

#### 4.8. Slovak Gay and Lesbian Film Festival presented on Art Film Fest

Slovak Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (FFi) has been presented on Art Film Fest. On Wednesday, 23 June 2010 FFi team in the Spa Hall in Trenčianske Teplice informed about 9th gay and lesbian film presentation. On press conference organisers described how the festival started and developed. They described how FFi approached public and also homosexual community. They spoke about prepared 2010 season in Bratislava and offered a vision for years to come.

#### 4.9. Inakosť and FFi on Pohoda festival

Iniciatíva Inakosť in the year 2010 for the first time attended multicultural festival Pohoda in Trenčín (8-10 July 2010) among other non-governmental organisations.

In Inakosť (and FFi) stand visitors could find useful and entertaining information documents dedicated to gay-lesbian-bi-trans topics, they could take part on photo competition *Láska je láska*, sign the petition for registered partnership, suggest one movie for autumn festival of LGBT-movies, take part in tickets competitions and others.

#### 4.10. Queer films in Košice and Vrútky

Also film fans in Košice and Vrútky could enjoy Slovak Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. Festival organizers prepared in cooperation with gay clubs Marseille and Shanghai and VŠMU screening of Slovak queer movies. First Evening with FFi started on Saturday, 11 September 2010 in Shanghai club in Vrútky. Visitors could see Viktora Csudai's movie *Pink partner* (*Ružový partner*). On Thursday, 14 September 2010 was screened the before-mentioned movie together with Vladimír Adásek's movie *100% pure love - Passion* (*100% čistá láska - Vášeň*) in Košice club Marseille. On Saturday 18 September was screened in Shanghai club in Vrútky a movie *Supperman* directed by Albert Vlč. This could be seen also on 21 September 2010 in Košice club Marseille. Series of movie nights was concluded on Saturday, 25 September 2010 in club Shanghai. Entry to all screenings was free.

#### 4.11. Exhibition Different families, one love (Rôzne rodiny, jedna láska)

During 22 September - 15 October 2010 was in entrance hall of Faculty of Law of Comenius University Bratislava placed an exhibition called *Different families, one love* as an accompanying event of the Slovak Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. The central point of the ILGA-Europe "Different families, same love" exhibition is equal family rights no matter what sexual orientation and gender identity is. The portraits how 12 different families with one thing in common – love! However, in many European countries, these families are either unrecognised or even legally discriminated. The aim of the exhibition is to expose the type of discrimination that these families face, and by doing this challenge the social acceptance of the situation. ILGA-Europe hopes that the exhibition will contribute to the debate about the discrimination experienced by various families including those of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. The ILGA-Europe exhibition "Different families, same love" was originally launched as a poster and billboard campaign across Europe in 2008 and 2009. Since 2010, the exhibition has travelled to European countries to raise awareness about family rights.

#### 4.12. Exhibition Fall of the wall meets Stonewall

Exhibition *Fall of the wall meets Stonewall* took place on 22 September - 15 October 2010 in lobby of film club Nostalgia in Bratislava. Author of the exhibition is British lesbian activist Clare Dimyon.

"This exhibition is partly a celebration, partly a tribute to LGBT people across Central and Eastern Europe who face unique challenges of "coming out" in countries still emerging and recovering from totalitarian occupation. The coincidence of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall with the 40th anniversary of Stonewall reminds us that this message of liberation has a particular resonance for the LGBT people" says activist Clare Dimyon. The exhibition is an accompanying event of the Slovak Gay and Lesbian Film Festival 2010, and was originally launched with the support of the European Commission Representation in London, European Parliament's Intergroup and with the help of British Embassy Bratislava.

#### 4.13. Slovak Gay and Lesbian Film Festival

Film festival took place from 29 September till 5 October 2010 in four cinema auditoriums in (Film and Television Faculty on Academy of Performing Arts, FK Nostalgia, Palace Cinemas Aupark). Dramaturgy divided movies into four sections: New century (Nové storočie), Golden collection (Zlatý fond), Queer Czechoslovakia (Teplé Česko-Slovensko) and Latino Lovers. More than 50 movies about life of LGBT people saw together more than 3100 viewers. They decided that their favourite movie was drama Single Man directed by fashion designer Tom Ford.

Viewers could see premiers of two new Slovak movies. Director Matúš Krajňák personally presented movie (Real men) Praví chlapi starring actress Jana Olhová. Document about Rainbow Pride, Love Thy Neighbour (Miluj blížneho svojho) was presented by director Vladimíra Hradecká. Patronage over the Slovak Gay and Lesbian Film Festival 2010 took Minister of Culture and Travel Industry Daniel Krajcer. Patron of the festival is also actress Zuzana Kronerová who supported festival about life of LGBT people already last year. This year joined her also actor Richad Stanke. "Perfection is made of details. As clothes make the man, our lives are made of these parts, these details. If we ever want to achieve perfection, we shouldn't want to get rid of these diversities, these differences, these details" the actor explained why he accepted an offer of organisers to become another patron of the festival.

Except movies huge interest of visitors draw also accompanying events: Photographic competition about life of gay and lesbian couples, theatre performance Rómeo a Júlia in Štúdio 12, exhibition Different families, one love (rôzne rodiny, jedna láska) in foyer of Faculty of Law of Comenius University, exhibition Fall of the wall meets Stonewall in foyer of FK Nostalgia and three discussions. Discussed were gay prides and also trans people in Slovakia. Most participants attracted discussion on topic homosexuality and Christianity.

Slovak Gay and Lesbian Film Festival is focused on presentation of European and world cinematography dealing with topic of sexual minorities. Movies presented on the FFi show life of LGBT people. Festival is organized by group of

volunteers which consider film medium and film festival as suitable tool for spreading an idea of open civic society.

## **5. OTHERS ABOUT US**

### 5.1. SME ONLINE 20/01/2010

Collecting of signatures for enactment of registered partnerships has started

Bratislava 20 January (TASR) - Iniciatíva Inakosť with support of Zelená vlna party started today on press conference campaign called Gay and lesbians, let's get together!

"Goal of the campaign is mobilization of gays and lesbians to fight for their rights. It is in their own interest to unite in effort for self-determination which should be their priority." said Ivo Slávka of the civic organisation Iniciatíva Inakosť.

Part of campaign is also petition for adoption of and act on life partnership of two same-sex persons. "Goal of Inakosť is to collect more than 100.000 signatures and send clear signal to Slovak Parliament that the rights of gays and lesbians to full life in partnership could not be ignored and it shall deal with adopting an applicable legislation" said about plans Slávka.

Vice-chairman and founder of Inakosť Július Kolenič described fight for human rights and support of initiative for enactment of life partnerships of life partnerships of two same-sex persons as one of basic topics of the party. "By now political parties made only general and meaningless declarations about providing of same rights for all regardless on sexual orientation," said Kolenič and added that realization of promises in this area was null.

According to Kolenič, petition will address not only gays and lesbians but also their parents and people who care about them. "We ensure that in Slovakia no one will be second-class citizen," he said and later he added that, "Zelená vlna wants to push through adoption of such act about life partnership which will not interfere with traditional concept of marriage as a bond between man and woman".

Mário Mikloši, chairman of Zelená vlna in this relation said that they don't want enabling of adoption of children for registered partners. "We are not going that far so these people could adopt children, this is where we stop," said Mikloši and added that they want to remove practical problems, e.g. right to inherit for long-term partners.

### 5.2. SITA 08/03/2010

Topic of registered partnerships is absolutely insignificant

BRATISLAVA 8 March (WEBNOVINY) - Topic of registered partnerships is absolutely insignificant, said today Robert Fico in the Office of Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights and National Minorities. "If I made a list of topics according to its significance and such list would have 74 000 points, this topic will not get there," said Fico. Iniciatíva Inakosť view Prime minister's gesture as a display of fear.

Maybe for Fico is this topic insignificant, but there is a huge community in Slovakia which are concerned with this issue, warned the Prime Minister Július Kolenič from Inakosť. "He should just take a calculator and he will see that together with parents of gays and lesbians it makes almost one million citizens," said Kolenič. He added that this government and any other government is not hindered by anything to adopt a law on life partnerships which wouldn't hurt harm anyone and could help to many.

Iniciatíva Inakosť will prepare before June Parliament elections monitoring of opinions of politicians regarding registered partnerships. Election leaders will be asked about their opinions; it will also examine election programs of the parties. Afterwards it will publish an assessment and recommendation for voters. "We talk here also about electors which are not indifferent to attitude of party leader which stand for to Slovak parliament elections," said Kolenič. Inakosť will start activity at the beginning of pre-election campaign.

### 5.3. SITA 04/05/2010

Slovak Gay and Lesbian Film Festival eve supports Rainbow Pride

BRATISLAVA 4 May (WEBNOVINY) - Film festival will take place September/October in Bratislava but soon will take place FFi Warm-up eve. Even scheduled on Friday 21 May will start with screening of movie Stonewall (1995) in Bratislava's Štúdio at 18:00, entry at the event is free. After the movie is planned discussion on topic Homosexuality and art. After this can viewers join party in Club Barbaros. Organisation team want to support Rainbow Pride Bratislava 2010 in this way.

In the movie Stonewall British director Nigel Finch tried to reconstruct events from the New York club Stonewall on 28 June 1969. Regular police controls in club turned to bloody drama. Homosexuals commemorate each year this event with prides which are today known over the world as gay prides. Movie is not just memory of historical events but it is mainly love story between two gays - Spanish travesty star La Miranda and her boyfriend Matty Dean. Movie will be presented in original with subtitles.

#### 5.4. SITA 10/05/2010

Inakosť inquires attitude of politicians to partnership

BRATISLAVA 10 May (WEBNOVINY) - Iniciatíva Inakosť wants to find out attitudes of political parties which stand for coming Parliamentary elections to enactment of registered partnership through the open letter. "Our aim is to find out attitudes of political parties towards questions related to freedoms and rights of homosexuals. There are only five questions but we hope that answer will give correct picture about intentions of the party. Answers will be basement for recommendations to voters - our supporters, lesbians, gays, their relatives and friends." explained Július Kolenič from Inakosť. Inakosť wants to learn party attitudes to registered partnerships which purpose wouldn't be raising of children but it would establish legal rules for life and proprietary community of two same-sex persons.

First of five questions asks how they view situation regarding fight against homophobia in Slovakia and what would they change. With second question wants Inakosť find out attitude of political party to refugee who would ask for asylum in Slovak republic trying to escape discrimination in home country. "Which rights would you recognize to foreign gay or lesbian couple which is married or concluded partnership in other EU member country," ask further activists. With fourth question they find out if the enactment of registered partnership of two persons of same-sex is a point of program which the party wants to promote if they get to the government. Fifth question asks about support for enactment of registered partnership in Parliament.

#### 5.5. SME ONLINE 03/06/2010

Inakosť: Highly-developed program for gays and lesbians has SaS

BRATISLAVA. Five of 18 candidate parties before elections expressed their attitudes to enactment of registered partnership of two same-sex persons. Leader of Iniciatíva Inakosť Július Kolenič said that most complex answer to their questions received from SaS.

"We are surprised and pleased with level of knowledge which showed in its answer SaS party. Survey proved that SaS has sufficient professional potential for solving of problems of gays and lesbians. Also declaration of their interest on enactment of registered partnership is very encouraging." said Július Kolenič.

From current parliamentary parties responded only SDKÚ-DS and KDH. According to KDH said except other that they don't see any reason why same-sex couples should be enabled to use institute of registered partnership which should establish legal rules for permanent life and proprietary partnership. SDKÚ

didn't answer each question separately but it expressed its opinion on adoption of children by same-sex couples despite that wasn't a topic on which Iniciatíva Inakosť didn't ask in the survey.

SDKÚ-DS refused any forms of discrimination and violation of human rights and freedoms, relationship of same-sex persons however cannot have same legal status as marriage and could not establish right for adoption. At the appeal of Inakosť replied EDS and Paliho Kapurková. EDS points out the urge to deal with fight against discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation. Answers of Paliho Kapurková are generally positive, however it is prankish party and so realization of its opinions after elections is disputable.

"Disappointment is for us ignoring of the survey by several parties but at most by Smer - SD. Vice-chairman of the party and Deputy Prime Minister of the Government for Human Rights Dušan Čaplovič used to act as supporter of gay and lesbian rights in the past. Now his statements seem insincerely and party seems to be afraid to express its clear opinion. They will have an opportunity to show its perception of human rights with real steps after the elections," added Kolenič.

#### 5.6. SITA 13/06/2010

Gays and lesbians pleased with success of SaS

BRATISLAVA 13 June (WEBNOVINY) - Slovak society has shifted in perception of human rights and it is ready for law on registered partnerships. It said in its statement Iniciatíva Inakosť. This is reaction on success of SaS party which has in its election program registered partnerships of same-sex persons. "We are pleased with success of SaS party as it is historically first political party which has in its election program registered partnerships of two same-sex persons and it gets to Parliament with huge support of electors," said in the statement given to the SITA agency Július Kolenič from Iniciatíva Inakosť. Inakosť points out that from right-wing parties only KDH refuses adoption of act on registered partnership and this party gained by one third less votes than SaS. According to preliminary unofficial results of voting, SaS gained 12.14 % of votes, KDH supported 8.52 % electors.

"We know that negotiations about establishing of new government will not be easy but we hope that Mr. Sulík will meet clause 96 of SaS party election program and will not backtrack on requirement to enact in new election period standard act on registered partnerships enabling arrangement of proprietary relations of gay and lesbian couples also in Slovakia. Many people from LGBT minority gave you the vote. Don't disappoint us," is presented in the statement of Iniciatíva Inakosť.

## 5.7. SITA 23/06/2010

Slovak Gay and Lesbian Film Festival will be probably spread to Košice

TRENČIANSKE TEPLICE 23 June (WEBNOVINY) - Ninth year of Film festival will take place from 29 September until 3 October in Bratislava, reverberations will take place on 4 and 5 October. Organisation team negotiates also about spreading of the festival to Košice, however sure screening points in Bratislava's film club 35 mm. Program is still being prepared, first confirmed title is document *S dŕvĕrou a lÁskou* (With trust and love) (2006) directed by Michal Herz. For this year is prepared for example profile of Latin American LGBT cinematography. Patrone remains to be the actress Zuzana KronerovÁ.

Film festival is "good tool how to fight against homophobia with culture," said on today's press conference Zita HosszuovÁ from organization team. Festival PR manager Roman Samotný added that such event establishes place for meeting of homosexual people but it is not focused only on this community but on the wide society. Film festival already realized one event - warm-up eve which took place before the first-ever Rainbow Pride in Slovakia in May of this year. "It went well, fortunately no one was throwing stones on us as on the Pride," said Roman Samotný.

## 5.8. TYZDEN.SK 29/06/2010

We believe that SaS won't get back

Interview with Július Kolenić from IniciatÍva Inakosť about Rainbow Pride, registered partnerships and SaS.

- More than month ago took in Bratislava place the Rainbow Pride . How do you asses it today?

I think that it was a successful event. IniciatÍva Inakosť wasn't organizer but we supported it. We organised warm-up eve of Slovak Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. On the eve before the march we screened movie *Stonewall* about begging of movement for gay and lesbian rights I personally joined the Pride. Square was full, not only with gays and lesbians but also with accidental by-passers. Directly at the square was the atmosphere great.

- When we made interview before Pride with organisers they have spoken about completion of twenty-year effort of gays and lesbians. What do you think?

I don't know exactly how was it meant but I understand under the term completion some kind of an end. Completion would be if we reach what we wanted. I would rather prefer to talk about milestone.

- Pride was disrupted by people who thrown stones on Pride participants. Were the safety measures adequate?

That is hard to asses for me because I neither organised it nor communicated with police but I know that organisers called police and also warned the Ministry that there is increased safety risk. I think that we shall thank to policemen who intervened directly on place against violators. The fact that the Pride didn't follow the previously planned route was a decision of organisers based on police recommendation. I think that it was responsible decision.

- At the time of Pride was in Plus 7 dní magazine published an interview with the actor Viktor Horján who said that Gay Parade is only provocation and it would be better if the half of Slovak showbiz came out.

This is not mutually incompatible, rather the other way round. I think coming out of famous personalities who are gays or lesbians would improve position of gays and lesbians in Slovakia. If they didn't hide this fact - that is the minimum. Experiences from abroad showed that if favourite actors, moderators come out it will improve change of the public attitude. At the same time I think that the Pride was also important. If somebody fights for his rights, he cannot be afraid to speak out publicly and claim for his rights. Without it, it is impossible.

- You mention rights. What is the goal of Inakosť?

Basic goal of Inakosť is enactment of right regulating cohabitation of same-sex couples in Slovakia. That is our main goal because everyone has the right for dignified and happy life. It is human nature that people wish to live their lives with a partner. Gays and lesbians choose of course partners of the same sex. To live happy life with their partners they need, except other, legal assurance. To gain it, it is necessary to adopt a law which it would guarantee.

- So your priority is registered partnership.

Yes. Many people don't realize how hard it is to live without things which they take for granted. They don't know how is the life complicated when you don't have them. If for example your partner fell sick and your employer is not helpful, he is not obliged to give you time off, even a holiday. These are basic, very human issues which can be removed by the simple law like seeing the medical reports, information about state of health. Imagine that your partner had an accident, he is in coma and there is a need to decide about his cure, to give approval ... Another problem is acquiring of common property. If you live together for twenty years and manage your finances jointly, it has to be stated how will be settled the proprietary relations. Even in today's state of law can be the propriety acquired in co-ownership but you need to conclude an agreement by each single thing that you are buying it in divided co-ownership. Partners shall also have maintenance obligation to each other.

- Opponents of registered partnerships argue that inheritance can be arranged also today.

Inheritance can be arranged by testament but let's be little bit human. Imagine twenty-five years old man who finds his partner. They live together, they make

agreement that they will love together until the death and sign the testament in ceremony. That is unimaginable. How many young people is aware about all matters that has to performed to avoid all possible situations which they couldn't even imagine in a situation? Much easier is to state unified rules for all by the law.

- Queer Leaders Forum which organized the Pride has mentioned marriages with possibility to adopt the children. If I get it right, they say, if fight for rights, then for all rights.

In the world it is arranged differently: from minimalistic versions to possibility to enter into marriage with all rights and responsibilities. There is only very few countries, these are most liberal where gays and lesbians have option to enter into marriage as heterosexual couples. I think that we are in Slovakia not yet in such a situation. Iniciatíva Inakosť asserts solution for which is the Slovak society ready and which is real.

- You need political support for this. SaS had registered relationships in the program but it didn't get to four-coalition agreement...

Inakosť asked political parties before elections what is their opinion on LGBT rights. Differently from other parties, SaS answered all questions very competently. Also after the election we said that we are pleased that SaS get in the Slovak Parliament with huge support of citizens. The fact that they get here despite support of registered partnerships proves that Slovak society shifted significantly and it is ready for adoption of such law.

- How do you view that the registered partnerships probably won't be enacted in this term of office?

From right-wing political parties only KDH rejects adoption of such law, while this party gained by one-third less votes than SaS. We know that negotiations about establishing of new government will not be easy but we believe that SaS party will not backtrack on requirement to enact in new term of office a standard act on registered partnerships enabling arrangement of proprietary relations of gay and lesbian couples also in Slovakia. Many people from LGBT minority gave SaS the vote and they shouldn't disappoint them.

- We know cases from abroad where are enacted registered partnerships or adoption of children by homosexual couples that the office worker was fired because she didn't want to marry two gays, or that the organization which arranged adoptions rather finished the activity than obligatory award the custody also to same-sex couples. Can this happen also in Slovakia?

First of all I have to say that Iniciatíva Inakosť doesn't assert neither marriages nor adoptions.

- But you assert partnerships.

Office is a service. Officers are paid with money of tax payers. Gays and lesbians are also tax payers. I can't see any reason why they shouldn't do it.

When black man come to process ID card and somebody tell him that it is against his belief, would it be right?

- Has the public discussion about homosexuality moved forward in the last years?

Researches showed that during last decade public situation and public opinion have changed. According to research of European values rejection of homosexuality decreased from 54% in 1991 to less than 32%. When we asked citizens through established agency what is their opinion on registered partnerships, part of people agreed and part of them disagreed. Research showed that rejection was based on fear of unknown because when we asked on specific rights, for example 60–70 % of citizens said that they have no problem with right to medical information.

#### 5.9. SITA 17/09/2010

Slovak Gay and Lesbian Film Festival will bring Latino Lovers

BRATISLAVA 17 September (WEBNOVINY) - Film festival which will take place in Bratislava from 29 September to 5 October will bring together 55 titles from 22 countries in the film clubs 35 mm and Nostalgia and cinemas of Palace Cinemas Aupark. One of program sections will be Latino Lovers. "Current renaissance of Latin American cinematography is reflected also in number of quality movies dealing with LGBT them. During the last year have occurred in Latin America several strong queer movies - we bring you five of them that we consider as most interesting," said dramaturgy manager of festival Monika Višniarová.

Visitors can expect also accompanying events - discussions, exhibitions and theatre performances. In front of the cinema auditoriums of the film club 35 mm in the premises of VŠMU's Film and Television Faculty will be exhibited winning works from the photography competition Love is love (Láska je láska). Space will get Claudia series, winning work of Jakub Gulyás. Second place belongs to Hrdí (Proud) series by Dana Piffková and the third place to pictures from Gay Pride N.Y. by Peter Pavlík. Exhibition Different families, same love (Rôzne rodiny, jedna láska) will occupy from Wednesday 22 September to 15 October the vestibule of the Faculty of Law of the Comenius University. Its central idea is same rights for families regardless on their sexual orientation or gender identity. The film club Nostalgia vestibule will belong from 22 September to 15 October to photographs from gay prides in Central and Eastern Europe. Author of the exhibition Fall of the Wall meets the Stonewall is British lesbian activist Clare Dimyon. "Gay prides in Central and Eastern Europe go beyond the fight for human rights of LGBT people. They are also test of democracy for the countries which lacked democratic processes for almost half of the century" said the author.

Even before start of film festival projections of Slovak queer movies in Košice and Vrútky will take place. In Shanghai club in Vrútky will be screened on 18 and 25 September movies about life of Slovak gays. Screenings will start at 20:30 and entry is free of charge. People in Košice could see them in Marseille club. 21 September will belong to "Queer movies". Start of the screening will be at 20:00 and entry is also free of charge.

#### 5.10. SME.SK 29/09/2010

Festival under the rainbow flag

Part of the Slovak Gay and Lesbian Film Festival which starts today in Bratislava will be also two Slovak premiers.

Ninth year of Slovak Gay and Lesbian Film Festival will screen more than fifty movies about life of LGBT people. Since today until Tuesday visitors can see in four cinema auditorium in Bratislava older and newer movies from twenty-two countries of the world.

Festival which tries to eliminate inner barriers and support cultural diversity is organised by group of volunteers from Iniciatíva Inakosť. Its patron is for the second time Zuzana Kronerová. In the play Malamadre (Zlomatka) of the Astorka theatre she played role of a mother who cannot come to terms with homosexuality of her son. „I am interested in different points of view,“ she said resolutely.

Queer Czechoslovakia

Since the time when Tom Hanks excelled beside Antonio Banderas in the Philadelphia has passed already seventeen years and also in Hollywood are movies with theme of homosexuality more common. For example in the year 2006 won the Oscar movie Brokeback Mountain.

Also the first movie which will be screened on the festival in the FK Nostalgia excels in quality. Directorial debut of famous fashion designer Tom Ford called Single man offers visual perfectionism for which he was awarded last year in Venice with Queer Lion. Colin Firth for the role of the professor who lost his boyfriend and get to the deep existential rises won in Venice an award for the best actor.

Movie of only 21-years old Xavier Dolan "Heartbeats" about (almost) traditional love triangle. Together with document about Anna Lister, "first British modern lesbian" which take viewers through her diaries in the English of the 19th century, they belong to biggest lures.

New century, Latino lovers and Golden collection is followed by Queer Czechoslovakia section. It presents mostly short mainly student movies. This year will be presented Real Men by Matúš Krajňák, document about Bratislava's Rainbow Pride 2010 Love Thy Neighbour directed by Vladimíra Hradecká. Document of Michal Herz In Trust and Love (S dôverou a láskou) about probably most known Czech gay relationship of Pavel Vítek will be personally presented by his partner Janis Sidovský.

#### Exhibitions and discussions

"The coincidence of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall with the 40th anniversary of Stonewall reminds us that this message of liberation has a particular resonance for the LGBT people," said Clare Dimyon, author of exhibition Fall of the Wall meets Stonewall where police raid against homosexuals took place.

Another exhibitions and discussions will be also at screening spots – in cinema auditoriums of Film and Television Faculty on Svoradova, in FK Nostalgia and in Palace Cinemas in Aupark. For more information please see [ww.ffi.sk](http://ww.ffi.sk)

#### 5.11. The Slovak Spectator ([spectator.sme.sk](http://spectator.sme.sk)) 11.10.2010

##### Film festival teaches tolerance

Organisers hope to advance gay and lesbian rights in Slovakia

11 Oct 2010 Michaela Terenzani - Stanková Culture & Society

The Inakosť Film Festival (FFI), known in English as the Slovak Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, has been organised four times by the civic initiative Inakosť (Difference) but it has only been since last year that the festival has emerged with strong support, offering a broad range of films and other accompanying events.

"The interest among viewers showed us that we were on the right track," Ján Benec, the festival director told The Slovak Spectator, adding that the aim of the organisers is simple: to prepare an interesting festival and make sure that all people – either those from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community or anyone else who might be interested – have the opportunity to see worthwhile movies and feel good after the event.

The festival also provided young Slovak film directors with an opportunity to show their talents and works. Vladimíra Hradecká's Miluj blízneho svojho (Love Thy Neighbour), a documentary which maps the first gay pride march held in Bratislava this summer, and Matúš Krajňák's Praví chlapi (Real Men) were screened for the FFI audience this year.

One of the highlights of the festival was the Slovak premiere of the hugely successful film A Single Man, directed by Tom Ford and based on a 1964 novel of the same name. Ford, a well-known American fashion designer, made his

debut as a film director in this work which centres on a college literature professor whose unwavering despondency over the death of his longtime companion drives him to decide to take his own life.

According to Benec, Dúhový PRIDE Bratislava 2010 (Rainbow Pride Bratislava), Slovakia's first-ever gay pride parade in May, resonated at the festival and there has been productive cooperation between the organisers of the two events: the FFI participated in the pride parade by screening gay movies as accompanying events and the organisers of the pride parade held a provocative topical discussion within the framework of the film festival.

The number of offerings at this year's FFI was especially significant. According to Benec, 55 movies from 22 countries were screened and the accompanying programme was the richest thus far – with three exhibitions, three discussion forums and three theatre performances. The venue of the festival also extended beyond Bratislava, as some movies were screened before the official start of the festival in Kosice and in Vrútky.

“To pick just one [event], I'd mention a successful and very lively discussion on the topic 'Homosexuality and Christianity – Living in the Middle', about LGBT people who don't want to take one side or the other but rather want to integrate both,” Benec told The Slovak Spectator.

Slovakia's Culture Ministry was the festival's general partner and minister Daniel Krajcer took patronage over the festival, making this the first time that a government official offered sponsorship to a LGBT event. Several Bratislava-based embassies also acted as main partners for the festival, including the US, Dutch, Norwegian, Danish, Swedish and Finnish embassies.

Irish Ambassador Kathryn Coll attended the opening of the festival, as did Daphne Bergsma, the Dutch Ambassador. The Dutch Embassy also financially supported the festival. The embassy told The Slovak Spectator that the festival's organisers believed that having a prominent foreign guest such as the ambassador personally attending the event would have a beneficial impact on the perception of future festivals.

According to the Dutch Embassy supporting human rights and LGBT rights in particular are of special interest for Dutch representations abroad and that advocacy on behalf of LGBT rights is an integral part of Dutch foreign policy.

“There is an active community promoting LGBT rights in Slovakia and the embassy supports their initiative,” the Dutch Embassy stated. “We rely on the expertise of this community about how their rights are best promoted in Slovakia. Hence, at their request, we supported the film festival.”

The embassy's statement said that acceptance of LGBT rights has to start by informing people about the issue and that in the Netherlands this process developed over several decades, starting with small events similar to the Slovak Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

“We hope that public awareness of the presence of LGBT minorities [in Slovakia] can be raised and society can slowly embark on a path of tolerance and acceptance,” the embassy statement reads.

Speaking for the festival's organisers, Benec also stressed that their hope is to encourage tolerance and understanding between the minority and the majority.

“We basically hope that some decades from now such a festival will no longer be needed because being gay or lesbian will be about as provocative as having red hair or green eyes,” Benec said.

## **6. ECONOMY**

6.1. Yields: 19 592 €

6.2. Costs: 22 522 €

6.3. Profit: 2 794 €

The profit of 2 794 € was transferred in 2011 and will be used in compliance with the mission and the goals of the Iniciativa Inakostf activities.