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ANNUAL REPORT

2008

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1. BASIC DATA

1.1. NAME:

Iniciatíva Inakosť (Initiative Otherness)

1.2. SEAT:

Okružná 13, 917 01 Trnava

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:

E-mail: inakost@inakost.sk

Tel.: 0903/205480

www.inakost.sk

Bank account: 2622805582/1100

2. MEMBERS OF AUTHORITIES

ADMINISTRATION BOARD:

Július Kolenič, chairman

Eva Adámková, member

Ivo Slávka, member

Ján Benec, member

SUPERVISORY BOARD:

Katarína Kriegerová, chairperson

Ján Jamnický, member

Miroslav Krchňavý, member

3. MISSION AND GOALS

3.1. MISSION: mission of the association is protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of citizens with homosexual orientation (hereinafter "minority") and representing of the minority at government authorities and local self-governing authorities as its official and representing at the civil service authorities and local self-governing authorities as its official and representative agent. With its activity to point out on the discrimination of minority in society and to aim to its removing.

3.2. GOALS:

- Enforcement of legislation adoption concerning cohabitation of same-sex persons.
- Enforcement and protection of minority interests in majority society.
- Development of civic society by various forms of culture-social activity, extension of citizen knowledge in accordance with Constitution of SR and Declaration of the Rights and the Liberties of Men.
- Editorial and publication agency.

Mainly:

- a) Support of publication activities, purchasing and editing of various publications, miscellanies, scripts etc.,
- b) Preparation of broadcast and television broad casts, realization of websites in cooperation not only with Slovak, but also with foreign subjects

- Outreaching and educational activity.

Mainly:

- a) Educational activity for schools, citizens, civil service authorities and self-government authorities and other subjects,
- b) Organizing of courses, seminars, conferences, cultural, artistic, sport and community events etc.,
- c) Support of participation on educational, cultural, artistic, sport and community events etc. ,
- d) Support of study stays, stages and visit of schools and educational institutions.

4. ACTIVITY REPORT

4.1. Meeting of Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Slovak Republic with the Iniciatíva Inakosť

On Thursday 10th January, 2008 at 10 a.m. at the Government Office of SR in Bratislava was held the meeting of Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Knowledge-Based Society, European Affairs, Human Rights and Minorities, Mr. Dušan Čaplovič with the representatives of the Iniciatíva Inakosť.

Representatives of the Iniciatíva Inakosť informed Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Dušan Čaplovič about results of the successful project SME TU – dni inakosti (WE ARE HERE - days of otherness) which has been realized within the framework of 2007 European year of the equal opportunities for all - on the way to the righteous society.

Conclusion of the meeting was the agreement about continuation of active cooperation between Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Iniciatíva Inakosť at the providing of public and professional discussion about the institute of life partnership of two persons of same sex.

In discussion should participate according to Mr. Dušan Čaplovič Committee on Human Rights, Minorities and the Status of Women. Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of SR has promised that he will initiate advance of discussion more in professional direction with attendance of professional institutions.

Goal of the discussion will be searching and defining of content of same sex life partnership acceptable for the Slovak society.

4.2. Negotiation of the Iniciatíva Inakosť with European socialists

On Tuesday, 26th February 2008 in the seat of European Parliament in Brussels took place meeting of Iniciatíva Inakosť Chairman of Administration Board Július Kolenič with the vice-president of the Socialistic Group in the European parliament Barbara Dührkop. Subject of the meeting was discussion about the approach of the European socialists to human rights of gays and lesbians and about possibility of eliminating of same sex couples discrimination.

Barbara Dührkop has confirmed at the meeting that European socialists would welcome if the SMER - SD party was actively supporting same sex life partnership in Slovakia.

Meeting participants have agreed that existing of legislation regulating coexistence of same sex couples belongs to democratic standards common in the European Union at providing of minority rights of gays and lesbians and application of their right for dignified life and treating.

4.3. Project “Way to the Act on Life partnership”

Iniciatíva Inakosť realizes in the year 2008 and 2009 project “Way to the Act within the framework of Block Grant financed from the EEA Financial Mechanism, Norwegian Financial Mechanism and Slovak State Budget.

Goal of the project is to contribute to increasing of the acceptance level for law concerning same sex life partnership by the wide public and its parts are:

- public opinion research,
- broadcast shows,
- theatre shows,
- exhibitions,
- campaigns and
- discussions.

4.4. Research of the public opinion on Life partnership

Within the framework of the Iniciatíva Inakosť project “Ways to the law concerning life partnership realized the agency FOCUS, s.r.o. between the days 3.-9.July 2008 research of the public opinion on the representative sample of the citizens of the SR - 1022 persons.

Research results have showed that public opinion is already significantly shifted towards acceptance of the law concerning same sex life partnership.

It can be seen from the research that the public has no objections against real content of the law. On the question which of the following rights shall have two persons of same sex , i.e. two gays or two lesbians living as a couple, have answered definitely yes or probably yes:

- possibility to create common property – 54,5 % of respondents
- right to tax relieves as in the marriages – 40,7 % of respondents (43 % answered definitely no or probably no)
- right for off-days in the employment if the partner needs accompaniment to the doctor – 54,1 % of respondents
- access to information about the medical condition of the partner – 64,2 % of respondents
- right for admission of treatment fee during treatment of sick partner – 57,5 % of respondents
- right for the off-days in employment in case of the death of partner for providing of the funeral– 69,4 % of respondents
- right for the pension after deceased partner – 45,2 % of respondents (only 36,9 % answered definitely no or probably no)

- mutual maintenance obligation between partners as in the marriage – 47,3 % of respondents (only 32,3 % answered definitely no or probably no)
- right for the mutual inheritance – 58,1 % of respondents

Approving of the law concerning same-sex life partnership would definitely or probably support 42,0 % of respondents (definitely or probably not 44,8% and not decided 13,2 %).

4.5. Theatre show NORMAN, IS IT YOU? (NORMAN, SI TO TY?)

On the 13th June 2008 at 7:30 P.M. have been performed in Cultural centre in Bojnice theatre comedy show written by Ron Clark and Sam Bobrick NORMAN IS IT YOU? within the framework of the Iniciatíva Inakosť project "Way to the life partnership legislation".

American comedy of authors Ron Clark and Sam Bobrick NORMAN, IS IT YOU? which is joking on the subject of homosexual relationships as well as marriage infidelity and coping of parents with the fact that also in normal heterosexual family can live a homosexual child, had its premiere in Lyceum Theatre in New York in 1970.

It was the first theatre play which openly and in funny way dealt with to and as in that time wasn't the homosexuality spoken that openly as today, it achieved significant acceptance. Therefore it was in 1976 successfully filmed and in theatre has been continually played in 35 countries of the world.

With time distance it has been remade and updated by authors. It is really light, conversation comedy with number of great gags which story is basically about need of understanding and tolerance.

4.6. Press conference of Iniciatíva Inakosť on 30th June 2008

On 30th June 2008 was in the Slovak Syndicate of Journalists in Bratislava carried out press conference of the Iniciatíva Inakosť.

Representatives of Iniciatíva Inakosť informed about viewpoint of Iniciatíva Inakosť on activities of Mr. Dušan Čaplovič, Deputy prime Minister of the Government of Slovak Republic which at personal meeting with Iniciatíva Inakosť on the 10th January 2008 expressed his willingness to initiate and support public and professional discussion regarding same sex life partnership institute which aim is definition of content of the same sex life partnership acceptable for Slovak society.

However, steps which Deputy Prime Minister declare as his activities in this area are according to Iniciatíva Inakosť only passive and insufficient. Positive shift in public opinion is consequence of efforts mainly of non-governmental organizations.

Iniciatíva Inakosť invited Prime Minister of Slovak republic, Deputy Prime Minister of Government of Slovak Republic as well as the whole Government of SR to include in the proposal for 2009 state budget of SR, establishment of state executive power authority which would manage relation of the state to minority formed by people with other sexual orientation. It should be institution , professional department or workplace in some institution which would specialize for solution of questions connected to removal of disadvantageous position and discrimination of our minority. Establishment of such authority would in comparison with state budget outcomes require reservation of insignificant amount of financial means despite it would enable effective and active approach of state to the problem.

4.7. Public discussion about Life partnership

Iniciatíva Inakosť organized discussion with wide public about same-sex life partnership which took place on Thursday 16 October 2008 at 4:30 in hall of the Local office of city district Bratislava - Ružinov, Mierová 21, Bratislava. Entrance was free.

On discussion participated:

László Nagy

Chairman of the Committee on Human Rights, Minorities and the Status of Women

Monika Flašíková-Beňová

Member of European Parliament

doc. PhDr. Gabriel Bianchi, CSc

Psychologist

PhDr. Sylvia Porubánová

Sociologist

4.8. Round table on subject "What causes concerns regarding same sex life partnership legislation in SR and how to overcome them"

Iniciatíva Inakosť organized on 16 October 2008 Round table on subject "What causes concerns regarding same sex life partnership legislation in SR and how to overcome them".

On Round table on which Iniciatíva Inakosť invited also representatives of Ministry of Justice of SR and members of all parliamentary clubs were present:

László Nagy (Chairman of the Committee on Human Rights, Minorities and the Status of Women)

Monika Flašíková - Beňová (member of European Parliament,

Marek Lisánsky (General Director of Human rights and Minorities department of Government Office of the Slovak republic),

Viera Hanuláková (director of Department of Gender Equality and Equal Opportunities of Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of SR)

Peter Pilinský (Chairman of the Green Party),

Róbert Beňo (member of director board of the Green Party),

Gabriel Bianchi (Department of Social and Biological Communication SAS),

Július Kolenič, (Iniciatíva Inakosť),

Employees of Government Office of Slovak Republic,

Guests from abroad.

4.9. Meeting of Iniciatíva Inakosť with Confederation of Trade Unions of SR

On 17 October 2008 took place meeting with vice president of Confederation of trade Unions of SR, Mr. Eugen Škultéty on which were present:

Rodrigo Martin Galan (Rainbow Rose <http://www.rainbowrose.eu/>)

Silvan Agius (ILGA Europe <http://www.ilga-europe.org/>)

Július Kolenič (Iniciatíva Inakosť).

Subject of the meeting was cooperation at discrimination preventing on basis of different sexual orientation on the workplace and development of cooperation with KOZ SR in this area.

4.10. Mass remark of the Iniciatíva Inakosť to legislative intent of private law codification

On 16 September 2008 Iniciatíva Inakosť submitted mass remark to legislative intent of private law codification together with more than 700 signatures of people who joined the remark. In the remark requires Iniciatíva Inakosť to add

provisions about the new institute of same sex life partnership in Legislative intent of private law codification.

4.11. Inakosť discussed with the Justice Department a comment towards the Civil Code intent

On October 30, 2008 a hearing of a multiply comment of the Iniciatíva Inakosť towards the new Civil Code legal intent took place, led by the Assistant Secretary JUDr. Anna Vitteková and in presence of the chairman of the re-codification committee that prepares the new Civil Code, prof. JUDr. Ján Lazar, DrSc.

The new Civil Code, that will also involve family law area, is being prepared by the Justice Ministry of the Slovak Republic which in august submitted proposal of the legal intent for inter-departmental comment. Within the inter-departmental commenting procedure, the Iniciatíva Inakosť submitted a multiply comment asking to involve concept of lifetime partnership of two people of the same sex in the legal intent of the Code. The text of the multiply comment contains specific clauses in which the following is revised:

1. Establishment (solemnization) and extinction of lifetime partnership,
2. Nullity of lifetime partnership and conditions excluding establishment of a lifetime partnership,
3. Titles and charges of lifetime partners,
4. Property community of lifetime partners,
5. Extinction of lifetime partnership.

The result of the multiply comment discussion at the Justice Department is the statement that "the presented multiply comment may function as a starting point for further discussion of specialists and legislative work if socio-political conditions are met".

The Iniciatíva Inakosť welcomed the attitude of the chairman of the re-codification committee, prof. JUDr. Ján Lazar, DrSc. presented at the meeting, stating that the re-codification committee occupied themselves with involving the concept of lifetime partnership of two persons of the same sex in the new Civil Code, they are familiar with similar regularisations abroad and regarding the professional aspect, they do not have any problem incorporating the legal concept in the processed legal intent. The Assistant Secretary JUDr. Anna Vitteková, as well as prof. JUDr. Ján Lazar, DrSc. named as the only reason to refuse incorporation of lifetime partnership in the legal intent the fact, that in their opinion nowadays there is a lack of social and political conditions to do this step and that no political order to incorporate the concept in the new re-codificated civil law had been received.

The Iniciatíva Inakosť disagrees with this opinion, because various sociological surveys executed by independent institutions show that more than a half of the inhabitants in the Slovak Republic do not have objections against a legal regularization of specific rights and charges of two persons of the same sex living in a lifetime partnership recognized by the state.

Regarding this issue, there still is present a disaccord between the Justice Department and the Iniciatíva Inakosť.

4.12. Film Festival of Otherness 2008

At the Film Festival of Otherness 2008 which took place from 19 to 23 November 2008, visitors could see a wide offer of comedies, documents and drama (www.inakost.sk).

At the festival opening were also present László Nagy, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for Human Rights, Nationalities and Position of Women and Peter Pilinský, chairman of the Green Party.

(<http://www.stranazelenych.sk/tlacovy-servis/tlacove-spravy/strana-zelenych-podporuje-uzakonenie-institutu-registrovaneho-partnerstva>)

The opening of the festival was accompanied by Róbert and Zoltán Miko from the band Z času na čas (<http://www.zcasunacas.sk>).

The exhibition SME TU (here we are) – days of otherness was included as a part of the festival and petition signatures to adopt a law on lifetime partnership of two persons of the same sex were collected.

5. THEY WROTE ABOUT US

5.1. PRAVDA.SK 10 January, 2008

Questions and answers:

Online with Július Kolenič about registered partnerships

Should Slovakia join the liberal trend in the Western Europe and enable registered partnerships for homosexual couples? Or does Slovak legislation not need such enactment? This was the topic of a discussion with the chairman of the Iniciatíva Inakosť Mr. Július Kolenič on Thursday from 11:30.

5.2. SME ONLINE 27 February, 2008

Eurosocialists: Smer should support registered partnerships

Bratislava 27 February (TASR) – European socialists would welcome if the Smer-SD party actively supported adoption of a legal enactment of lifetime partnership of two persons of the same sex in Slovakia. This was stated on Tuesday, 26 February, by Mrs. Barbara Dührkop, the vice-president of the socialists' fraction in the EP in the seat of the European Parliament (EP) in Brussels, at meeting with the administrative board chairmen of the Iniciatíva Inakosť, Mr. Július Kolenič.

The scope of the meeting was a discussion about the attitude of the European socialists towards human rights of gays and lesbians and about possibilities of elimination of discrimination of couples of the same sex. "We welcome the attitude of the European socialists in the field of the human and minority rights and their active attitude to elimination of discrimination, to creating conditions for full-value and dignified life of gays and lesbians, which, as well as other inhabitants, need to live it in safety of a lifetime partnership", Mr. Ivo Slávka, a member of the administrative board of the Iniciatíva Inakosť, informed.

The member of the EP Monika Beňová for Smer-SD party considers meeting Barbary Dührkop with the Iniciatíva Inakosť "a bilateral and personal meeting", while as of her opinion the topic of the registered partnership had not been officially discussed among eurosocialists. "Eurosocijalists fraction has not officially expressed their opinion of the topic yet" was her reaction for TASR.

The members of the meeting agreed that existence of a legislation discussing cohabitation of couples of the same sex belongs among democratic standards which are common in the European Union when providing minority rights for gays and lesbians and when setting up a claim to dignified life and treatment.

27 February, 2008 9:17:00 | Copyright © TASR 2008

5.3. SME ONLINE 4 March, 2008

Activists appeal to Radičová to express her opinion of registered partnerships

BRATISLAVA – KDH, according to the Iniciatíva Inakosť, tries to preclude passing the law of lifetime partnership of two persons of the same sex by conditioning its support to the presidential candidate Iveta Radičová by her declaration for traditional family established on a marriage of a man and a woman. Therefore Inakosť appeals to Radičová to clearly state her attitude towards minority rights, including the right to lead a full-value and dignified life of couples of the same sex in a lifetime relationship set by an act.

"Gays and lesbians are coequal inhabitants of this state and the President of the Slovak Republic also is our president. Therefore we appeal to Iveta Radičová to even now state that she wants to be a President of all the inhabitants of the Slovak Republic and to disagree with acceptance such conditions which could prevent her from it", stated Július Kolenič, the chairman of the administrative board of the Iniciatíva Inakosť, in declaration for TASR today.

The KDH Council decided on 1st March in Topoľčany to provide support of the Christian democrats in presidential elections next year to the candidate of the opposition party SDKÚ-DS Ivetta Radičová only under condition of her public expression of her support to protect human life from the moment of its conception until their natural death and her support of a traditional family established by a marriage of a man and a woman. Inakosť is concerned with this attitude of the KDH.

“We object to human rights of gays and lesbians including the right of couples to live dignified life in a lifetime partnership recognized by the law being a subject of agreements and businesses of politicians without our presence and in contradiction to our rights and needs which in no way thread nor limit the concept of marriage nor protection of a family”, said Kolenič.

Human life is the most precious value and unborn life is worth of protection, said Radičová to media at weekend. “The same, aloud and without any problems, I will repeat that I respect and esteem a family. Protection of a family is a priority in every society”, was her Sunday reaction in STV to a question if she fulfilled conditions of the KDH which would influence their support to Radičová in presidential elections.

4 March, 2008 17:28:00 | Copyright © TASR 2008

5.4. SLOVO 9 July, 2008

Homosexual couples are becoming a smaller issue
COMMENTARY

Most of Slovaks mind cohabitation of homosexual couples recognized and advantaged by the law. Though, the latest survey made by the Iniciatíva Inakosť as a part of a wider project to support the law of registered homosexual lifetime partnerships shows, that we are becoming more tolerant even in this field. It is not that the law has support from the Slovak public and moreover, it is not that this is a problem which would bother us. There are no political points to gain with this topic but it is becoming apparent that neither they are a subject to gain by an ostentatious fight against rights of homosexuals.

In the results of the survey on opinion of the public the most interesting fact is, that people would mind the most if the state gave financial advantage to “official” homosexual couples – if they were given tax allowances and survivor’s pensions as it is in case of a husband and a wife. However, other marriage titles and charges would not be considered a problem, nor in property related issues (inheritance and co-ownership). Registered homosexual couples should according to majority have the same rights as married couples do even when taking care of an ill partner, including state financial support. The survey, probably on purpose, avoids the most sensitive area – the right of child adoption – where definitely opposition of majority predominates, but it is also true, that neither the Iniciatíva Inakosť do not consider it necessary to solve immediately in the law of registered partnership.

But still the law is not going to become a hot topic for politicians also because, according to the survey too, objectors of such legislation are stouter than its

followers. The basic question, if they agree with a law of registered partnerships of homosexuals without the right of adoption of a child, only 10 percent of interviewed answered definitely yes, but as many as 25 percent were definitely against it. On the other hand it is apparent that single aspects of such law would mind only (in some cases very a significant one) minority.

The project of the Iniciatíva Inakosť The way to a law of lifetime partnership is useful and it is positive, that also out state budget takes share in it. The results of the survey show that it should mainly focus on enlightenment so that people can exactly know what the law should contain, because it seems that the content itself is for majority a smaller problem than its passing is. There is a necessity to use more media, to provide a wider space to positive stories from lives of homosexual couples. There is no question that a suitable era for this legal normative is very near. ??

5.5. AKTUALITY.SK 27 November, 2008

Beňová supports registered partnership

Registered partnerships are one of the current topics which divide people in more groups. As every other topic that meets religious prejudices, faith in traditional values or belief in what is right and what is not. The Member of Parliament for Smer, Mrs. Monika Flašíková – Beňová favours enactment of registered partnership.

The European Parliament Member for Smer-SD Mrs. Monika Flašíková – Beňová herself has in the long term been cooperating with the public association Inakosť and favours providing human rights for differently sexually oriented people by passing a law of lifetime partnership of two people of the same sex. *"I have no right to represent opinion of the Smer party. This is my personal attitude and a call for this agenda"*, said lately the Member of the European Parliament at a press conference of the Inakosť association. Still she herself does not know if any of the Smer members of Parliament would support Inakosť's agenda and if there had been a discussion on it within the party. *"I am just an ordinary member of the Smer, I am at no important position, I am not a part of our party's administration, I cannot state anything from this point of view"*, she stated. Although she added, that representatives of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, as well as the ones of Dušan Čaplovič's office, the Vice president of the Slovak Government, for knowledge society, European affairs, human rights and minorities had suggested specific solutions of the issue of registered partnerships of persons of the same sex. However, Flašíková – Beňová thinks that this agenda still needs a support from opinion-makers in Slovakia.

Inakosť:

The legal regulations suggested by the Inakosť should include establishment of a lifetime partnership, conditions, under which such a partnership is null, titles and charges of lifetime partners, property co-ownership of partners and extinguishment of a lifetime relationship.

In September were these regulations sent as a multiply comment supported by 700 signatures of citizens by the public association to the Ministry of Justice, which submitted the legal intent of the private law codification for commenting. This was for Inakost', as a representative of differently sexually oriented citizens, a possibility to legally set an institution of a lifetime partnership of two persons of the same sex.

By the end of the 2001 then Member of Parliament for Democratic left party Milan Ištván submitted a proposal of a law of a lifetime partnership of two persons of the same sex. It was refused by the Parliament in February 2002.

According to Daniel Lipšic, the former General Attorney and present Member of Parliament of the Slovak Republic, the Slovak Parliament is in the present not ready to accept registered partnership pf homosexual couples.

6. ECONOMY

6.1. Yields: 1 263 thousand SKK

6.2. Costs: 926 thousand SKK

6.3. Profit: 327 thousand SKK

The profit of 327.000 Sk was transferred in 2009 and will be used in compliance with the mission and the goals of the Iniciatíva Inakost' activities.