

**KONZERVATÍVNY
INŠTITÚT
M. R. ŠTEFÁNKA**
M. R. STEFANIK
CONSERVATIVE
INSTITUTE

Annual Report 2007

**Bratislava
2008**

Milan Rastislav Štefánik Conservative Institute (hereunder as CI) is an independent non-profit NGO. CI is a think-tank with conservative orientation established as non-investment foundation on May 4th, 1999. It was registered at Regional Authority in Bratislava on June 2nd, 1999, under no. 99/602/87 – NF. Mr. Ján Králik is the establisher of CI. Mr. Peter Zajac (the chairman), Mr. Ján Králik (deputy chairman) and Mr. Vladimír Čečetka (member) constitute the **Board of Directors of CI**. Mr. Ondrej Dostál as the CI administrator is **the statutory body** from 2001. In February 2007, the Board of Directors reelected Mr. Ondrej Dostál as the CI administrator. Andrea Gondová is the CI controller. Neither CI statute nor CI bodies underwent changes during 2007.

In 2007, there were eight **employees** in CI: it's administrator and director Mr. Ondrej Dostál, project manager Ms. Dana Feketeová, macroeconomist Mr. Peter Gonda, an analyst for education issues Ms. Zuzana Humajová, communication manager and analyst for agricultural and environmental issues Mr. Radovan Kazda, fundraising manager Mr. Luboš Mikuška, and co-ordinator of foreign relations, Conservative Letters editor, CI website administrator and analyst for regional policy and government issues Mr. Dušan Sloboda. In 2007, the foreign policy and European integration analyst Mr. Ivan Kuhn has joined the CI team. Approximately 20 more fellow workers were co-operating in CI activities.

Unlike some other think-tanks, CI activities are not aimed to one single specific area of public affairs and the life of the society. The common factor of these activities is their basement in the conservative values and point of view related to the society and liberal attitude in the economics. CI activities serve for public interest. Their outcome becomes freely available to public and to the citizens, media, decision makers, political parties and also to other NGOs.

In 2007, CI carried out projects and activities to fulfil it's aim, i.e. mainly the development and protection of conservative democratic values and support of civic activities aimed to develop such values in Slovakia as well as the support of culture, research and education.

CI Projects

In 2007, CI continued organizing lectures of important foreign economists within the cycle of **Conservative Economic Quarterly Lecture Series (CEQLS)**. Three lectures were carried out in 2007. Mr. Peter Gonda was the project co-ordinator.

In 2007, CI executed the project called **Academy of Classical Economics**, which included eight seminars on economic issues. Mr. Peter Gonda was the project co-ordinator.

In 2007, CI continued running the project called **Reader's Literacy as the Education Quality Problem in Slovak Primary Schools**. Ms. Zuzana Humajová was the project manager.

In 2007, CI also continued with the project **Education for Life**, aimed to education of primary-school teachers. The project keeps running also in 2008. Mr. Peter Zajac was the project co-ordinator and Ms. Zuzana Humajová was the project manager.

CI continued running also the project **Partnerships for Development**, which included some communication activities (Konzervatívne listy, website). Mr. Dušan Sloboda was the co-ordinator of these CI communication activities.

In 2007, CI launched the project called **Eurofunds Watchdog – Decrease of the Risk of Corruption through Monitoring of Projects Financed from the EU Funds**. Mr. Ivan Kuhn was the project co-ordinator.

In 2007, CI launched the project called **Support to Slovak Value-Oriented Foreign Policy**. Mr. Ivan Kuhn was the project co-ordinator.

In 2007, CI launched the project called **The Government and the Non-Profit Sector Environment**. Mr. Ondrej Dostál was the project co-ordinator.

Conferences, Seminars, Conservative Clubs and Other Events Organized by CI

In 2007, CI performed various conferences, seminars, Conservative Clubs and lectures with discussions.

The first of the seminars on economy within **Academy of Classical Economics (ACE)** took place on January 31st, 2007. CI executed the first year of ACE in partnership with the City University of Seattle in Bratislava (Vysoká škola manažmentu).

Also the results of the contest called **2006 Student Essay** dedicated to the topic called **Milton Friedman's Message for Slovakia** were published within the ACE first seminar.

On March 21st, 2007, CI organized another CEQLS lecture in co-operation with the French Embassy in Slovakia. Our guest was an important French economist and former president of Mont Pelerin Society, Mr. *Pascal Salin*, who delivered a lecture called **Why Do We Need the Capitalism and the Competition**.

On March 22nd, 2007, CI participated on the organization of *Pascal Salin's* another lecture in the facilities of the University of Economics (Ekonomická univerzita) in co-operation with the Department of Economical Policy in the Faculty of National Economy thereof, the Faculty of National Economy Student Parliament and F.A. Hayek Foundation. Mr. *Pascal Salin* lectured to the EU students on **Two Diverging Approaches of Economic Integration**.

On April 18th, 2007, SKOI organized, in co-operation with CI, in Zichy Palace in Bratislava, a lecture of British journalist Mr. *James Bartholomew*, the author of *The Welfare State We're In*, which was awarded on April 25th, 2007 with **Sir Antony Fisher International Memorial Award**, a prize awarded every year by Atlas Economic Research Foundation. *James Bartholomew* spoke on **How the Welfare State Subverts the Society**. Mr. Peter Gonda, the CI economist, introduced the author and moderated the discussion with him.

On April 20th, 2007, CI organized in Pálffy Palace in Bratislava a lecture of Mr. *Stanislav Štech*, Head of the Department of Pedagogical and School Psychology of the Faculty of Education and the Vice-Rector of Charles University in Prague, on **School Mission – Culture Protection and Child Growth**. The lecture was dedicated to the need of support for both these missions and the protection of its conservative spirit in order to create conditions for development of autonomous personality.

On June 11th, 2007 CI and Association for Welfare Reform, in co-operation with SKOI, introduced the book of Mr. *Peter Gonda* and Mr. *Pavol Chalupníček* **In Defense of the Free Market** and the book of Mr. *Bill Baker* **From A Vicious Circle**.

On June 18th, 2007, CI organized the 25th Conservative Club, that time on **Labor Code Amendment**. Mr. *Jozef Špirko*, the Vice-President of National Union of Employers, and Mr. *Rudolf Bauer*, a member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic (KDH), participated in the discussion. Despite of being invited, the representatives of Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic and those of Confederation of Trade Unions of the Slovak Republic did not participated on the discussion.

On June 28th, 2007, CI, in co-operation with Slovak Seminar on the Free Society and SKOI, organized another CEQLS lecture in Bratislava. Mr. *Michael Novak*, known American philosopher and political scientist working in American Enterprise Institute, delivered a lecture on **Economics, Ethics and Welfare State Crisis**.

On October 2nd, 2007, CI organized a round table on **Transparency of Eurofunds in Slovakia** for NGOs in Bratislava. The round table took place within the CI project called *Eurofunds Watchdog – Decrease of the Risk of Corruption through Monitoring of Projects Financed from the EU Funds*. Mr. *Ondrej Dostál* as the Director and the analysts Mr. *Ivan Kuhn* and Mr. *Dušan Sloboda* represented CI.

On October 18th, 2007, CI organized a round table on **How the Slovak Foreign Policy Should Be?** for NGOs in Bratislava. The round table took place within CI project *Support to Slovak Value-Oriented Foreign Policy*. Mr. *Ivan Kuhn*, the analyst, represented CI on the round table.

On November 6th, 2007, CI organized in Ružomberok already 3rd conference aimed to the environmental policy aspects; this time the topic was **Development Alternatives for Waste Management in Slovakia** (public sector – business environment – local governments). Mr. *Radovan Kazda* co-ordinated the conference.

On November 9th, 2007, CI, in co-operation with Vydavatelství Ideál, U.S. Embassy in Bratislava and the weekly magazine .týždeň organized in Bratislava *John O'Sullivan's* lecture; he is a journalist and former especial adviser of the Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and author of the book *The President, the Pope and the Prime Minister*. Mr. *John O'Sullivan* lectured on **Values and Foreign Policy**.

On November 16th, 2007, CI organized a meeting **Let's Revive the November 1989 Ethos**. The following personalities spoke about **How We Are Like Eighteen Years After...**: Tomáš Janovic, Martin Mojžiš, Tom Nicholson, Juraj Petrovič, Šarlota Pufflerová, Ján Štrasser, Sandra Tordová, Tóno Popovič, Tomáš Zálešák and Gábor Zászlós. Also the **Declaration on November 17th, 2007** was published in this meeting.

In November 28th, 2007, the 2007 **final ceremony of Academy of Classical Economics** (ACE) took place in Bratislava. The first year of AKE was organized jointly by CI and City University of Seattle in Bratislava (VŠM). After the evaluation of essays on *The Importance of Ideas of Great Figures of Classical Economics for Slovakia in 2007*, 23 AKE graduates were awarded with CI and VŠM certificates. At the end of the AKE 1st year, the web **ACE Discussion Portal** was launched.

In November 2007, CI launched successfully the execution of educational modules within the scheme **Education for Life**. The first two meetings took place on November 16th and 17th, 2007 and on November 30th and December 1st, 2007. The primary school teachers from the regions of Trenčín, Nitra and Trnava participated thereon.

On December 10th, 2007, CI organized the meeting called **Human Rights Here and Now**, which took place in Bratislava within the Human Rights Day celebration. The following personalities spoke on the human rights there: Fedor Gál, László Szigeti, Daniel Hevier, Martin Dinuš, Ľuba Lesná, Vladimír Ondruš, Jana Cviková, Ernest Valko, Hedviga Malinová, Juraj Petrovič and Peter Zajac. The .týždeň editors Mr. Štefan Hríb and Mr. Juraj Kušnierik moderated the meeting. Sváťa Karásek, Michal Kaščák, Braňo Jobus and Pavol Poliak were singing and playing. The **Human Rights Day Declaration** was published in the meeting.

On December 17th, 2007, CI organized another CEQLS lecture in Bratislava. This time, Mr. *Luboš Pástor*, University of Chicago (US) professor, delivered a lecture on **Chicago School of Economics and Its Today's Importance**.

Lectures, Introductions and Appearances

In 2007, CI analysts and fellows also gave specialized lectures and appearances on events organized by other institutions and participated in public discussions in the media.

On February 1st, 2007, the CI analyst Ms. *Zuzana Humajová* and the editor in chief of the web magazine www.pravespektrum.sk Mr. *Lukáš Krivošík* were guests of the discussion on **Slovak Educational System**, which organized SKOI and Civic Democratic Youth (ODM) in Bratislava.

On February 28th, 2007, Bratislava Institute of Humanism organized a **Discussion on Global Warming** between climatologist Mr. *Milan Lapin* and the CI analyst Mr. *Radovan Kazda*.

On March 26th, 2007, CI Director Mr. *Ondrej Dostál* discussed with the member of the European Commission Mr. *Ján Figel'* in the Slovak Radio broadcasting called **On the European Union from the First Hand**, within the celebration of 50th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome.

On April 17th, 2007, the CI analyst Ms. *Zuzana Humajová*, co-author of the reformist school act (February 2006) and author of the Educational Reform Strategy (March 2007), gave her opinion for SITA press agency on **the reforms intended by the Ministry of Education**. Due to her opinion that „*the Ministry of Education apparently will not make the real educational reform, but only some cosmetic touches*“, she did not accepted the membership in the Curricular Council of the Ministry of Education.

On April 26th, 2007, Ms. *Zuzana Humajová*, CI analysts for education affairs, introduced a **Evaluation Model of School Quality. Project for Strengthening of Scholar Community Participation in the Educational Process** in the conference **School Management or: Is the Parent a School Customer?** held in Banská Bystrica.

On April 26th, 2007, **a discussion on European Constitution** took place at the Comenius University Faculty of Law. One of the participants was also Mr. *Ondrej Dostál*, CI director and co-ordinator of the Initiative against the European Constitution.

On May 1st, 2007, the CI economist Mr. *Peter Gonda* was, together with Juraj Kotian, the guest of Robert Žitňanský in his broadcasting (Analyses and Trends) in TA3. The discussion went on **Three Years in the EU: Were Right the Sceptics or the Optimists?**

On May 3rd, 2007, the CI President, Mr. *Peter Zajac*, was one of the guests in the discussion moderated by Štefan Hríb and Juraj Kušnierik, held in Bratislava's A4 club, this time on **Hungarians and Slovaks**.

On May 23rd, 2007, Bratislava Institute of Humanism organized a discussion on **Welfare State and Market** in the premises of BISLA. Mr. *Peter Gonda*, the CI economist, and Michal Polák, the editor in chief of the weekly revue *Nové Slovo*, were the participants.

On June 25th, 2007 Mr. *Ondrej Dostál*, the CI Director, made his appearance on the conference called **365 Days of Social Democracy**, which was organized in Bratislava by ODM.

On June 28th, 2007, the CI director *Ondrej Dostál* made his appearance within the discussion on **How Should the Future Europe Look Like? Which Europe Slovakia Wants?**, held in Bratislava. The EurActiv.sk web portal, Young European federalists and European Movement organized this event.

On October 10th, 2007, the Club of the Bratislava Institute of Humanism (BIH) organized a discussion on **How Our Public Debate Looks Like**. The CI President Mr. *Peter Zajac* and Mr. František Novosád from BISLA were guests of Egon Gál.

On October 17th, 2007, the CI analyst Ms. *Zuzana Humajová* participated on panel discussion on **Utilization of Slovak Experience for the Future Transformation in Cuba**. This event, organized by the civic association People in Peril in Bratislava, included also the introduction of the book **Which is the Future of Education in Cuba?**, which contains the outcomes of co-operation between Cuban independent teachers and Slovak experts in education. Ms. *Zuzana Humajová*, CI analyst for educational affairs, is a co-author of this book.

On October 25th, 2007, the weekly magazine *.týždeň* organized a discussion on **Global Warming – Facts and Myths** in Bratislava. One of the participants was also the CI analyst Mr. *Radovan Kazda*.

On November 6th, 2007, the CI economist Mr. *Peter Gonda* participated in a discussion called **What Will Bring the Euro Introduction to Slovakia?** held in Banská Štiavnica.

On November 19th and 20th, 2007, a conference on **Current Questions Related to Nature Protection in NATURA 2000 areas** took place in Vrátna Valley. Also the CI analyst Mr. *Radovan Kazda* made his presentation there.

On December 5th, 2007, the civic association AKO and EurActiv.sk organized in Bratislava a discussion on **Environmental Policy: Regulations or Promises?** between the CI analyst Mr. *Radovan Kazda* and Mr. *Martin Hojsík* from Greenpeace.

On December 10th, the CI analyst *Radovan Kazda* made his appearance in Radio Regina within **a discussion dedicated to the issue of food price increase**. Mr. Ivan Oravec as the Chairman of Slovak Chamber of Agriculture and Food, Mr. Gejza Blaas, the Director of the Research Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics and Mr. Jozef Orgonáš, the Secretary general of the Trade and Tourism Union were also participants of this discussion.

On December 13th, 2007, the CI economist Mr. *Peter Gonda* delivered a lecture on **What Will Bring the Euro to Slovakia?** in Nitra.

Analyses, Studies, Proposals on Reforms and other CI Expert Activities

In 2007, CI analysts and fellow workers published in media and CI website their articles, analyses and studies related to economics, social policy, school system, agriculture, environment protection, public administration, regional development, civic society, national minorities, European integration and foreign policy. At the same time, they introduced various expert opinions and proposals.

On January 8th, 2007, the CI analyst Dušan Sloboda published the **balance of the up-to-date relationship between the budget of the Slovak Republic and the common EU budget** during our membership period from 2004 to 2006. As it is apparent from the comparison of the revenues and expenditures of the national budget, for the time being, Slovakia did not profit significantly from the EU membership and, instead of the scheduled surplus of SKK 32 billion, as of the end of 2006, this achieved only SKK 4 billion.

On January 16th, 2007, the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic released the **Draft of Concept for Pre-School Education with Regard to the Preparation of Children for Primary School** for the inter-ministerial comments. The CI analyst Ms. *Zuzana Humajová* developed some comments to this document.

On February 15th, 2007, Institute for Public Affairs published the book **Slovakia 2006. Global Report on State of Society**. The CI analysts are the co-authors of the following chapters: Mr. *Ondrej Dostál* for Ethnical Minorities, Mr. *Radovan Kazda* for Agriculture and Ms. *Zuzana Humajová* with Mr. *Branislav Pupala* for Education.

On February 19th, 2007, the CI economist Mr. *Peter Gonda* published the study called **Criteria of (Non-) Advantageousness of the Slovak Membership in the Eurozone**, where he presented seven criteria which should be added to the Maastricht Criteria while assessing the advantageousness of the common currency introduction in Slovakia.

On March 7th, 2007, the CI analyst Ms. *Zuzana Humajová* presented in a press conference the **Educational Reform Strategy**. Within this document, CI submitted for public debate an integral strategy of specific reform steps needed by the Slovak regional educational system in order to achieve that educated graduates, well ready for the life, further studies and work, would leave the schools.

On April 20th, 2007, CI organized a press conference, where the analyst Mr. *Radovan Kazda* introduced the study called **Basic Points of the Forest Industry Reform in Slovakia**. This study is a pilot entry to the issue of government adopted measures within the area of adjustment of mutual relations of both direct and

indirect participants of activities related to the exploitation of the forest as natural resource.

On May 7th, 2007, the CI analyst *Dušan Sloboda* published a study called **The Channelling of the Investment Stimuli into Slovak Regions (from July 2006 to May 2007)**, where he analyzed the target of the support provided by the Slovak Government from the national budget to private sector in form of the investment stimuli (government or regional aid) or of another regional development supports to individual regions of Slovakia after the start of the government of Mr. Robert Fico.

On May 24th, 2007, the CI analyst Mr. *Dušan Sloboda* published a study called **Eurofunds and Regional Differences in Slovakia. The Local Infrastructure Priority (2004-2006) Case**. He deals with the eurofunds allocation within the Local Infrastructure Priority between 2004 and 2006. The analysis was aimed to show the regions where the eurofunds were channelled and whether their allocation may reduce the regional disparities or not and whether suspicions of corruption and clientelism might be identified within this process or not.

On June 11th, 2007, the CI analyst Ms. *Zuzana Humajová* evaluated the reform draft of the Minister of Education called **Concept of Bi-Level Model for Educational Schemes**.

In June 2007, the Democracy and Culture Studies Centre in Brno issued proceedings called **Euro vs. Crown**. Besides renowned Czech politicians, political scientists, lawyers and economists, also the CI economist Mr. *Peter Gonda* contributed to the proceedings related to risks and profits of the common currency for Czech Republic (and Slovakia, too).

On August 8th, 2007, press conference took place. There, the CI analyst Ms. *Zuzana Humajová* and the CI President Mr. *Peter Zajac* evaluated the legislative spirit of the Educational Act developed by the Ministry of Education. The CI representatives did not find this act as a reform act.

On August 21st, 2007, the CI analyst Mr. *Dušan Sloboda* published an analysis **Where the Eurofunds are Channeled in Slovakia?**, where he deals with the eurofund allocation between 2004 and 2006 to the individual regions. From the CI analysis results that the eurofunds allocation to the individual regions was not specific with regard to the declared political goal of regional disparities reduction.

On September 10th, 2007, the CI analyst Ms. *Zuzana Humajová* presented in a press conference the document **Two Faces of New School Act**, which compares the CI alternative School Act draft with the legislative spirit expressed by the Ministry of Education.

On October 2nd, 2007, the CI Director Mr. *Ondrej Dostál*, who is the author of the chapter Ethnical Minorities in the yearly publication of Institute for Public Affairs called Slovakia – Global Report on the State of Society, made a statement that the representation of Hungarian and Roma minorities in the Government Board for Ethnical Minorities is to be reduced. While in the past, the board had three representatives of Hungarian minority and two of the Roma one, today, the government proposes a change to one representative for each minority.

On December 4th, 2007, the CI analyst Mr. *Ivan Kuhn* submitted, on a press conference, the outcome of the public opinion polls monitoring the **opinion of Slovak citizens on Slovak foreign policy towards non-democratic countries** or countries whose governments and rulers infringe the human rights and civic liberties and do not observe the principles of the rule of law. The agency FOCUS carried out the opinion poll.

On December 11th, 2007, the book called **Savings and Sources of Public Financing** was introduced. This book, which includes the proposals for measures aimed to save more than SKK 40 billion of the national budget expenditures, was issued jointly by the CI, INESS and F. A. Hayek Foundation analysts.

On December 19th, 2007, CI started the 2nd year of the context **Student Essay**, this time on **Global Warming – the Truth and Social Myths**.

The project of **Evaluation of Economic and Social Measures in Regions of Slovakia** carried out by the Institute for Economic and Social Reforms (INEKO) includes the opinions of the analysts, businessmen, mayors, university teachers, scientists, representatives of branch associations and NGOs with regard to the proposed and executed measures of the local governments at the level of municipalities and regions. During 2007, one of the evaluators was the CI analyst Mr. *Dušan Sloboda*.

Communication Activities of CI

Also in 2007, CI operated the website **www.konzervativizmus.sk**. By the mean thereof, as well as by e-mails to wide group of people interested on CI activities, CI provided the information thereon and on further affairs related with the issues of conservatism. CI operated also the English version of it's website at **www.institute.sk**. Furthermore, in 2007, CI operated also the specialized web sites **www.usainfo.sk** (dedicated to information on US society and politics and the US-Slovak relations), **www.euroustava.sk** (dedicated to the issues related with European constitution) and **www.noveskolstvo.sk** (dedicated to the education and its reform). Mr. *Dušan Sloboda* was the administrator of the CI web sites.

In March 2007, the operation of **EUserver.cz** portal started. It is aimed to concentrate and provide all relevant information (new journals, books, studies, invitations to conferences, seminars) from the eurorealistic organizations working within Czech Republic and Slovakia in one single web site. CI is one of the project partners.

In 2007, CI published monthly it's newsletter called **Conservative Letters**. Authors from among the staff and fellow workers of CI publish their analyses, studies and comments on current issues, drafts of new laws and various affairs of public policy therein. Also the information on CI activities and happening within the Slovak and foreign conservative communities can be found there. In 2007, 12 numbers of Conservative Letters were issued. Mr. *Dušan Sloboda* was the editor of Conservative Letters.

CI analysts and fellow workers published articles in professional and other media, gave their opinions for media and participated in several discussions in electronic media.

On May 28th, 2007, CI in co-operation with Liberal Institute (LI), issued a book of lectures of renowned pro-market experts as they took place within the CI project of **Conservative Economic Quarterly Lecture Series (CEQLS)** in Bratislava and the annual, spring and fall lectures of LI in Prague. The book **In Defense of the Free Market** includes the lectures of James Buchanan, William Niskanen, Pascal Salin, Václav Klaus and other important personalities in Slovak (or Czech) and English versions.

In 2007, CI carried out also activities aimed to the edition of **Explanatory Dictionary of Economics**.

Support for Culture and Art

On January 15th, 2007, a presentation of art monographies by **Oskár Čepan – Klára Bočkayová – Milan Bočkay – Marian Meško** took place in Pálffyho Palace in Bratislava. Vydavateľstvo Michala Vaška from Prešov, CI and authors participated in the organization of the event. Peter Smolík, Barbara Bodorová, Juraj Mojžiš, Jiří Valoch and *Peter Zajac* introduced the monographies. The event included also the opening of the exposition of the authors; *František Mikloško* had the main speech.

On March 14th, 2007, the **Dominik Tatarka's Award for 2006** was awarded in Pálffy Palace in Bratislava. The Jury of Dominik Tatarka's Award and CI award the Prize each year. Dominik Tatarka's Award is considered to be the most prestigious Slovak prize for literature and it is dedicated to the author for an exceptional work, which meets the humanistic traditions of Slovak culture and links thereby to the intellectual heritage of the writer Dominik Tatarka. **The laureate of the Dominik Tatarka's Award for 2006 became Kornel Földvári.**

On May 29th, 2007, Nitrianska galéria in Nitra opened the exposition **The Story of A-R Group**. CI was one of the medial partners of the exposition.

CI Library

Within CI, there is a **Conservatism Library – CI Documentary Centre**. The goal of CI is to build up a documentary basis containing the fundamental works with conservative orientation, conservative magazines, professional texts on conservatism, literature, analyses and studies from different areas of public policy, which would become a professional information base for expert and analytic teams of CI staff, fellow workers and Board of Directors. The library contains CI publications and simultaneously it is being completed with foreign and national volumes oriented on conservatism and classical liberalism. With regard to the extension of the library, we established closer co-operation with the partner think-tanks from abroad. Mr. *Dušan Sloboda* was the co-ordinator of the project of Conservatism Library.

Civic Activities of CI

In February 2007, CI together with other institutions developed a **collective comment on the amendment of the act on some measures for acceleration of the highways building** since the adoption of an amendment proposed by Ministry of Transport of the Slovak Republic would mean the simplification of the expropriation procedure in case of the grounds due to drastic and apparently anti-constitutional infringement of the rights of the present ground owners protected by the Constitution.

In February 2007, CI in co-operation with other institutions developed a **collective comment for preservation of the right of free choice of the health insurance company** since the amendment draft by Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic would make from the government employees, children, students, OAPs, invalids and other citizens the second-class citizens. Their right of free choice of the health insurance company would be strongly restricted after the amendment entry in force.

On March 13th, 2007, a **conflict procedure on collective comment related to Labour Code amendment** took place in the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic. However, the points of view of the representatives of the Ministry and the collective comment initiators (CI, INESS, NFAH and OKS) did not get closer to each other. From among 15 points formulated in the collective comment, the agreement was achieved only in one single case.

On April 23rd, 2007, CI participated on **collective comment to the draft of the act on expropriation of terrains and buildings** with the aim to preclude future enforcement uncertainties of the draft and to increase the legal security of Slovak citizens and other owners of terrains and building on the territory of the Slovak Republic.

On April 24th, 2007 the CI analyst Mr. *Radovan Kazda* expressed an opinion **on the situation in Tichá Valley and Kôprová Valley**, where, as he thinks, „*the intervention against the ecologists in Tichá Valley and Kôprová Valley is the continuation of the intensification of controversy related to the character of the nature protection in Slovakia, which concerns the whole concept of the nature protection enforced by Slovak governments after 1989*“.

On May 8th, 2007, a **Declaration of Slovak Economists for Support of the Declaration on Sovereignty in Direct Taxes** was published. Also the CI economist Mr. *Peter Gonda* is one of the signatories thereof.

On July 10th, 2007, CI with INESS and OKS, in behalf of the public, addressed **a collective comment against the changes in social security and annuity insurance systems** to the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. On July 23rd, 2007, the conflict procedure took place. The representatives of the Ministry

accepted part of our comments and withdrew from giving people the possibility to spend the money they saved in the 2nd pillar during the intended transition period.

On July 26th, 2007, Ms. *Zuzana Humajová* and Ms. *Zuzana Kľačanská* from CI (together with other initiators) addressed to the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family their **collective comment refusing the proposal to establish the Slovak Government Board for Gender Equality** as co-ordination, advisory and initiative body of the Government for the gender equality issues and enforcement.

On August 20th, 2007, Mr. Richard Drutarovský from the Initiative for Equitable Expropriation, together with CI, INESS and OKS as public representatives, addressed **a collective comment to the draft of act on some measures related to the preparation of strategic works** to the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development. Also due to our initiative, the Government suspended the negotiations about this act on August 22nd, 2007.

On September 4th, 2007 Mr. Richard Drutarovský from the Initiative for Equitable Expropriation, together with CI, Civic Conservative Party and several public representatives addressed **a collective comment to the draft of act on single extraordinary measures at the building of some terrestrial communications** to Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications. The act draft was aimed to solve specific cases of expropriation of the citizens' ownership in order to speed up the building of specific highway sections. We opine this draft for unambiguously contradictory to several provisions of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic and therefore we asked to refuse the draft en bloc.

On September 10th, 2007, a **Call to the Minister of Justice Mr. Štefan Harabin** was published; its purpose was to prevent the possible amendments of the Act on Free Access to Information. CI also supported this initiative and CI staff signed it.

On September 26th, 2007, a **Call to the Government asking for withdrawal of the draft of the act on expropriation at the highways construction from its agenda** was published. Civic Conservative Party, the Initiative for Equitable Expropriation, CI and other citizens asked the Government to withdraw the draft of the act originated in the Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications from its agenda, since the act, if enforceable, might enable an anti-constitutional expropriations.

On October 11th, 2007, the Slovak Government decided to establish the Government Board for Gender Equality. Therefore, CI initiated the **creation of Extra-Governmental Board for Natural Heterogeneousness**. This board will act as informal and independent association of individuals and organizations with the common belief that the government should not intervene artificially and with force to the natural differences existing between women and men and it should not, under the pretext of gender equality, interfere with the traditional institutions and introduce new regulations restricting the voluntary relations among the people.

On October 11th, 2007, a call with subtitle **Let's Stop the Intensifying Spiral of Nationalist Animosity** was published. One of the call initiators was the CI President Mr. *Peter Zajac* and the CI analysts were the signatories.

On October 12th, 2007, the CI fellow worker Mr. *Martin Kríž* and the analyst Ms. *Zuzana Humajová*, in behalf of CI, **gave public support to the collective comment of citizens to the amendment of the Government decree on distribution of the tax revenues for the local governments.** If enforceable, this would cause the discrimination of private and church schools.

On November 28th, 2007, the CI analyst Mr. Ivan Kuhn initiated the **Call for Acceptance of Declaration of the National Council of the Slovak Republic on Elections of the OSCE Presiding Country**, which was addressed to the members of the National Council by several NGOs. According to their opinion, Slovakia should not support Kazakhstan's candidature for the OSCE presidency in 2009 since it is not a country, which respects the human rights and civic freedoms and it has no real democratic regime.

On December 9th, 2007, **CI called to the coalition members of the National Council of the Slovak Republic to vote against the governmental draft of the act on single extraordinary measures at the building of some works and highways** since this draft is, in accordance with the opinion of renowned constitutional lawyers, unambiguously in controversy with several provisions of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

On December 20th, 2007, CI joined other NGOs supporting the **collective comment to the draft of act on associations**, which would restrict the right for free association and would be in controversy with the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

Mr. *Ondrej Dostál* was the co-ordinator of the civic activities.

Foreign Activities of CI

On March 13th, 2007, the results of **2007 Templeton Freedom Award** were declared. In the competition of more than 200 think-tanks from 53 countries of the world, **CI was awarded with Honorable Mention within Templeton Freedom Awards**, which are granted every year by Atlas Economic Research Foundation in Arlington, U.S.A. CI was awarded with the Honorable Mention in 7th year of Liberty Forum, which took place in Philadelphia between April 24th and 26th, 2007.

On May 30th, 2007, a conference called **Czech Republic and Slovakia – European Integration Future** took place in the residence of Prague mayor under the auspices of Mr. Jan Zahradil, the Head of Civic Democratic Party's Club of EP members. On the meeting of Czech and Slovak eurorealists organized by **EUportal.cz** in partnership with CI, the latter was represented by Mr. Peter Gonda, Mr. Jaroslav Daniška and Mr. František Šebej in the individual panels.

Between September 13th and 16th, 2007, Mr. *Peter Gonda* and Mr. *Ľuboš Mikuška* participated , in behalf of CI, on **European Resource Bank Meeting**, an international conference of pro-market think tanks, held in Bucharest, Romania this year.

Between October 12th and 14th, 2007, a conference dedicated to the **Medial Scene Development in Central Europe** took place in the Neuwaldegg Chateau in Vienna, Austria. One of the lecturers was also the CI President Mr. *Peter Zajac*.

Between October 20th and 26th, 2007, the CI analyst Ms. *Zuzana Humajová* was on professional trip in the U.S. Within this trip carried out on the base of invitation from Center for a Free Cuba and Institute for Cuban and Cuban-American Studies (University of Miami), Ms. *Zuzana Humajová*, together with Ms. Eliška Sláviková from People in Peril, introduced the book **Which is the Future of Education in Cuba?** to the representatives of the U.S. Government, Congress, academic community and NGOs dedicated to the support of democracy in Cuba.

Mr. *Dušan Sloboda* and Mr. *Ľuboš Mikuška* were the co-ordinators of the foreign activities.

CI Economy

The non-investment foundation of **Milan Rastislav Štefánik Conservative Institute** has had the total income of SKK 4,603,982.00 and total expense of SKK 4,420,961.00 in 2007.

In that year, CI received 7 donations and contributions totalling SKK 490,000.00. The donations came from two natural persons (Mr. Vladimír Čečetka in amount of SKK 150,000.00 and Mr. Fedor Gál in amount of SKK 40,000.00) and one legal person (civic association Konzervatívny inštitút M. R. Štefánika in amount of SKK 100,000.00). Mr. Fedor Gál's donation was dedicated for the support of the Dominik Tatarka's Award. The following companies contributed to CI: Mondi Business Paper (SKK 100,000.00 for the execution of the conference Development Alternatives for Waste Management in Slovakia), CitiBank (SKK 40,000.00 for CEQLS project execution), Shell Slovakia (SKK 10,000.00 for the Explanatory Dictionary of Economics) and Finservis Tax (SKK 50,000.00 for the Explanatory Dictionary of Economics).

In 2007, the CI income from the paid income tax 2-% assignation totalled SKK 228,613.00.

In 2007, CI received from Atlas Economic Research Foundation for the support of it's activities SKK 146,988.00. From VÚB Foundation, CI received a support of SKK 200,000.00 for the execution of the Academy of Classical Economics project. From Penta Foundation, CI received a support of SKK 50,000.00 for the execution of the Explanatory Dictionary of Economics project. From Ekopolis Foundation, CI received a grant totalling SKK 54,000.00 for the execution of The Government and the Non-Profit Environment project. In 2007, CI received a grant support from Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe totalling SKK 1,566,670.00 for the execution of the project Eurofunds Watchdog – Decrease of the Risk of Corruption through Monitoring of Projects Financed from the EU Funds. In 2007, CI received from Open Society Institute the grants totalling SKK 580,639.00 for the support of the project of Support to Slovak Value-Oriented Foreign Policy. CI received from Pontis Foundation grants totalling SKK 59,900.00 for the execution of the Development Partnerships project. In 2007, CI received from European Social Fund the refundation of the Education for Life project costs totalling SKK 435,637.00.

The sale of own books (In Defense of the Free Market) meant for CI a revenue totalling SKK 34,410.00 in 2007. The participation fees for the events organized by CI (Academy of Classical Economics) totalled SKK 43,100.00.

CI expenses in 2007 were used to ensure the activities meeting the goal of this non-investment foundation (SKK 4,341,512.00, i.e. 98 % from it's total expenses) as well as for it's administration (SKK 79,449.00, i.e. 2% from it's total expenses).

The following was the CI expenses structure in 2007 by projects and the most important activities:

Eurofunds Watchdog – Decrease of the Risk of Corruption through Monitoring of Projects Financed from the EU Funds project costs totalled SKK 570,113.00; Education for Life project costs totalled SKK 2,393,642.00; CEQLS project costs totalled SKK 130,968.00; Dominik Tataraka's Award costs totalled SKK 60,162.00; Development Partnerships project costs totalled SKK 69,367.00; Reading Literacy project costs totalled SKK 80,501.00; Academy of Classical Economics project costs totalled SKK 257,314.00; the costs for publication of the book In Defense of the Free Market totalled SKK 207,948.00; costs of contest Student Essay totalled SKK 10,355.00; costs of conference Development Alternatives for Waste Management in Slovakia totalled SKK 144,226.00; costs for Explanatory Dictionary of Economics totalled SKK 65,420.00 and Support to Slovak Value-Oriented Foreign Policy project costs totalled SKK 371,302.00.

Ondrej Dostál
Director of M. R. Štefánik Conservative Institute