

# ANNUAL REPORT 2014



VIA IURIS



## EDITORIAL

Katarina Šimončíčová, being one of the most significant Slovak environmentalists and a White Crow laureate, said that thanks to VIA IURIS the impossible has become possible.

In this particular case, she spoke of the breakthrough amendment to the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, which we have succeeded to push through in autumn 2014, after several years of hard work.

The criterion of the “impossible”, however, can also be used with regards to changes in the judiciary, to which we have contributed significantly. The outlook, which laid before Slovakia at the beginning of the year was not optimistic, but gradually, we have witnessed some tangible changes in the judiciary.

In the super election year, some good personnel changes in key positions took place and Štefan Harabin’s influence exercised on the course of judicial matters has weakened. In its new composition, the Judicial Council has a new historic opportunity to contribute to the credibility of the judiciary, not with words, but through concrete steps in the selection of judges, professional ethics and disciplinary proceedings.

What connects good laws (concerning the access to information, access to justice or authorization procedures) on one hand, and, good judiciary on the other, is the citizen. If we as citizens are not to be helpless against the authority, Slovakia must have not only good laws, but also a functioning judicial system. Not only the courts, but also the prosecution and the police.

If I may borrow words from Pavol Žilinčík, the first Director of VIA IURIS „The system is important, but people are everything“. We usually use this premise when describing problems and irresponsibility of public institutions, but I see in it also a positive message.

Through our work in 2014, we were once again able to get to know great and dedicated people who are not indifferent to the fate of our country. We live together in a system that too often operates by corruption and inefficiency, but we do not give up on the dream that together we can bring about a change.

Therefore, I want to thank all our partners, especially the members of the VIA IURIS Amicus Club, but also all other supporters and friends for standing with us.

VIA IURIS can do incredible things, but only thanks to you and a small team of people, for whose perseverance and devotion I take off my hat to. Now we look forward to the year 2015.



MILAN ŠAGÁT  
Executive Director

## ABOUT VIA IURIS

MORE THAN 20 YEARS, VIA IURIS HAS BEEN STANDING ON THE SIDE OF JUSTICE FIGHTING IN LEGAL CASES WHERE THE POWERFUL BEND THE LAW TO THEIR ADVANTAGE. IN 2014, OUR STRATEGIC ISSUES WERE CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE AND EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES, PARTICULARLY THE JUDICIARY.

WE ARE AN EXPERT ORGANIZATION USING MAINLY LEGAL INSTRUMENTS TO DEFEND AND PROMOTE THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

WE PREPARE AND PROMOTE CHANGES TO LEGISLATION, WE ELABORATE ANALYSES, PROVIDE CONSULTATIONS AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN STRATEGIC CASES, WE ORGANIZE LEGAL CONFERENCES AND WE PRESENT OUR THOUGHTS AND IDEAS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.



## YEAR 2014 AT A GLANCE

- 3,650 people supported our call on the members of the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic under our initiative called **"For a good choice"**. Also thanks to public pressure Štefan Harabin has not been elected President of the Supreme Court. Our campaign was also supported by public personalities such as Emília Vášáryová and Michal Hvorecký and it won the Special Jury Prize in Czech and Slovak non-profit organizations contest focused on public benefit campaigns.
- Citizens can now appeal or file a suit against the course and outcome of the environmental impact assessment procedure (EIA) and the outcome of the EIA procedure is binding on public authorities. We have succeeded in pushing these radical changes to be included in the **amendment to the EIA Act**, which came into effect from January 2015. We have also prepared draft amendments to eight laws that are still in the legislative process.
- In collaboration with the American law professor James E. Moliterno, we prepared extensive educational materials and organized the **first ever training for judges on the topic of professional ethics**.
- We have been working on 18 strategic cases and we provided more than 80 legal consultations. In an important **Freedom Information Act Case**, we achieved a precedent decision held by the District Court in Trenčín, which ordered the City Hall to make publicly available to citizens a legal audit report.
- Along with the organization Fair-Play Alliance, we organized the 7th annual **White Crow Awards**. The Board awarded a former National Forestry Centre controller Ľubica Lapinová, a doctor Zuzana Pechočiaková and a publisher, writer and poet Oleg Pastier for his long-term civic and cultural contribution.

# JUDICIARY

## Selection of Judges and Campaign *For a Good Choice*

We promote transparent and fair selection of judges, court presidents and other important court officials, which is based on professional and personal merits.

The judiciary is a closed system. Its functioning depends mainly on the people who create it. It concerns not only the ordinary courts, but also the tips of judicial hierarchy: the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Court and the Judicial Council. Year 2014 brought changes to all of these key judicial institutions.

As ordinary citizens we have no right to select and appoint judges. But we have a full right to demand from the competent individuals to select educated and personally mature professionals. A person at the top post of the Supreme Court should be the best of the best.

President of the Supreme Court sets the tone for the whole judiciary. He or she should be a respectable and honourable personality who represents the entire judiciary with dignity. He or she has significant

powers. He or she may transfer a judge of the Supreme Court, propose disciplinary proceedings or even initiate his suspension.

We are an expert organization which uses mainly legal instruments, however, in 2014, we launched a public campaign addressing the key event in the Slovak judiciary in recent years – the election of the President of the Supreme Court, who had been, at the same time, the President of the Judicial Council until the changes to the Constitution have entered into force.

The aim of our campaign was to change the existing situation in the Supreme Court. During our campaign, which was supported by analytical work and opinion polls, we were explaining to people how the situation in the judiciary impacts them, why are the on-going changes so important and we encouraged them to voice their appeal to



members of the Judicial Council who are responsible for choosing a good candidate. We pointed out not only ethical principles, but especially professional arguments enforced by comparison with the practice abroad.

The basis of the campaign was our website [www.zadobruvolbu.sk](http://www.zadobruvolbu.sk), where we published our expert statements, info-graphics and up-to-date information. There was an option to support this call on the members of the Judicial Council directly on the website. Some 3,650 people seized that opportunity.

In addition to the public, the campaign was supported by some well-known individuals, such as actress Emília Vášáryová, writer and journalist Michal Hvorecký or columnist Michal Havran. In collaboration with the film director Patrik Lančarič and actress Jana Oláhová, we shot a spot about sick justice, which was a big success, and, on the first day, it was seen by more than 15,000 visitors on the website.

Our campaign proved to be successful, and, together with the other initiatives we have contributed to the fact that Štefan Harabin does not stand at the forefront of Slovak judiciary anymore. In the second repeated round, Daniela Švecová was elected the new Supreme Court President. Jana Bažánková was elected the first ever separate chair of the Judicial Council.





In addition to the election of the President of the Supreme Court, we were also **monitoring selection procedures** for judges of district and regional courts, and we expressed our views on this subject in the media, particularly in relation to the most visible cases of nepotism in the judiciary.

An important event was the **election of candidates for judges of the Constitutional Court**. Therefore, we were actively monitoring and informing the public about the election process. We took part in the oral hearing of all candidates for constitutional judges, we created their profiles and we appealed to the members of Parliament to act responsibly and to take into consideration the professional and moral criteria of the candidates. Our initiative was supported by 11 non-governmental organizations.

We submitted comments on the second draft of candidates produced by the Slovak government in relation to the **selection of a Slovak representative in the European Court of Human Rights**. We notified the Council of Europe that the candidates were not sufficiently competent and the Council decided not to accept them.

We were also monitoring and commenting on the choice of the Slovak Candidate Daniel Šváby for the position of **Judge of the Court of Justice of the EU**.



## PROFESSIONAL ETHICS OF JUDGES

We promote the responsible exercise of judicial power, which implies the existence of clear rules on the performance of judicial duties and effective system of accountability, if a judge violates these rules.

Judicial ethics is one of the cornerstones of a credible and transparent judicial system, while the rules for judges are regulated mainly by the Act on Judges and Lay Judges. In Slovakia, the relevant law is problematic, also its application, as well as the absence of an effective code of ethics to which the Act would refer to.

Professional ethics is not an ornament. If it is missing, or the accountability rules are unclear, it negatively affects the quality of the rule of law. What could possibly happen unless we have a good code of ethics? A judge, for example, decides on matters of his or her friends - lawyers, he or she receives gifts and benefits without any restrictions, or, he or she behaves unacceptably at hearings or outside the courtroom.

In developed legal systems, judges when faced with moral dilemmas decide on the basis of professional ethics, i.e. a set of recommendations, rules, attitudes and guidelines. Slovak judges make decisions based on their own morals, and, often it is not enough. Therefore, we need a good code of ethics and to train judges in professional ethics.

In March 2014, the Judicial Council presented a **proposal for a new code of ethics**. However, it was prepared in a very short time and without a broader discussion with experts. It has several weaknesses, so we started to communicate with the Judicial Council members and we convinced them that the proposal should be revised. Eventually, the Judicial Council did not approve the proposal and it decided to prepare a new draft code of ethics.

In 2014, we also managed to implement the **first-ever training for judges** on the professional ethics. The training was led by American professor James E. Moliterno, an internationally recognized expert on professional ethics of the legal profession. With him, we have also developed unique training materials for judges on ethics, which, apart from other things, include some recommendations that are illustratively explained and applied in specific case studies.

To show that ethics is not merely an abstract concept, we applied it in specific cases. In 2013, during his public talk at the Paneuropean University, Štefan Harabin used insults addressed to individuals and groups of people. We believe that this way of expressing thoughts is contrary to the current code of ethics and it can be classified as a disciplinary offense or misconduct. Therefore, we turned to the ombudsman and the Minister of Justice to **initiate disciplinary proceedings** against Štefan Harabin.

In 2014, we also launched a **website [www.sudcovskaetika.sk](http://www.sudcovskaetika.sk)**. We want the public to understand more accurately the concept of professional ethics of judges and its impact in practice.



# Napak

Sudcovia sa u nás riadia tým, čo sami považujú za morálne. Nie všetky "slovenské morálne" rozhodnutia sú však správne.

**Preto potrebujeme  
etický kódex sudcov.**

IN ADDITION TO THE SELECTION OF JUDGES PROCEDURE AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS, WE ALSO ADDRESSED OTHER ISSUES CONCERNING JUDICIARY IN 2014.

WE WERE MONITORING THE LEGALITY OF THE DECISION-MAKING BY THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC, IN PARTICULAR ITS POWERS IN PERSONNEL MATTERS.

WE PREPARED AN EXPERT OPINION ON THE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION, WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, SIGNIFICANTLY STRENGTHENED THE POSITION OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL CONCERNING A NEW COMPETENCE DEALING WITH THE SCREENINGS OF JUDGES. WE CALLED ON THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO REJECT THE AMENDMENT.

WE ALSO PREPARED A LEGAL ANALYSIS ON THE LEGITIMACY OF THE APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT, SUPPORTED BY 14 RECOGNIZED LAWYERS. ACCORDING TO THIS ANALYSIS, PRESIDENT IVAN GAŠPAROVIČ WOULD HAVE ACTED CONTRARY TO THE CONSTITUTION, IF HE DID APPOINT THE JUDGES.





## CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND STRATEGIC LITIGATION

We promote good legislation and provide assistance in strategic cases, in which citizens or civic initiatives protecting the public interest stand against the powerful individuals. We advocate access to justice as well as wide and effective public participation in decision-making and governance. We want citizens not to be powerless. Rather, we want them to be able to co-decide about how will their community, municipality or state function.

In 2014, we were active not only in providing litigation assistance, but also in the area of legislation. We got involved in the amendments to eight key laws.

### **Act on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

The Act on Environmental Impact Assessment is crucial for the protection of the environment and human health. It concerns the assessment and subsequent authorization of industrial facilities and other activities with a significant impact on human health and the environment. These are, for example, power plants, incinerators, highways, landfills, mining and minerals, intervention in protected areas, or water dams.

In 2014, the Ministry of Environment decided to make amendments to this Act and we prepared extensive comments with regards to its compliance with the provisions of the Aarhus Convention. Our ideas won

support by more than 1,000 signatories, and subsequently the amendment was approved and signed by the President of the Slovak Republic in the autumn of 2014.

We managed to push through the amendment of some major positive changes that strengthen the position of citizens in protecting the environment and their health. The final EIA framework, which is the result of the process of assessing the environmental impact, ceased to be recommendatory in nature and it became binding. Eventually, the public may also appeal to court to challenge the course and the outcome of the EIA process.

## New Building Act

In the years 2013 and 2014, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development prepared a new draft of the Building Act, which has been in force already for 38 years. This Act is of critical importance, as it regulates, for example, the authorization of constructions and land-use planning. In the past and presently, there have been a number of known cases, when the citizens found out about some major constructions and operations once they have been officially authorized, or, just after the start when it was already too late to do anything concerning them. On the other hand, builders and developers would often complain about the slowness and bureaucracy of the construction procedures.

A chance to bring about a modern building law, which not only takes into account the interests of builders but also of citizens, was under a threat, since several

dangerous provisions appeared in the amendment.

For example the bill would have weakened the legal standing of the parties during the decision-making on planned constructions. Moreover, the concerned parties in the decision-making process would not be adequately informed about the upcoming construction. Citizens and municipalities would have a weak position in creation and adoption of ground plans in favour of strengthening the state. In general terms, the bill would signify the extension of the authorities' powers at the expense of citizens' rights.

We have been trying to improve the bill since 2013 and our efforts culminated in our collective comment in 2014 signed by a record-breaking number of 2,410 signatories. It contained a number of essential observations, which we expect to negotiate on with the ministry in 2015.





IN ADDITION TO THE EIA ACT AND THE BUILDING ACT, WE ALSO WORKED ON THE FOLLOWING ACTS:

IN RELATION TO THE WATER ACT, TO WHICH, IN COOPERATION WITH THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION SLATINKA, WE PREPARED A NUMBER OF COMMENTS. WE WERE ABLE TO EMPOWER THE PUBLIC TO PROTECT WATER SOURCES AND ENSURE GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF IMPORTANT WATER WORKS.

WE PREPARED COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT OF THE NEW CODE ON JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS IN ADMINISTRATIVE CASES. WE ALSO MANAGED TO UPHOLD WIDE LOCUS STANDI OF THE PUBLIC IN BRINGING ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS, JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THE GENERAL STATUTES, SURVEY OF BINDING OPINIONS OF THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES AND TO ADD PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE REASONING OF THE COURT DECISIONS.

FURTHERMORE, VIA IURIS WAS INVOLVED IN PREPARING A COMPREHENSIVE AMENDMENT TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

ADDITIONALLY, WE SUBMITTED COMMENTS ON THE ACT ON WASTE, WHICH WAS CONCERNED WITH DEFINING THE ADEQUATE SEPARATION DISTANCES FOR LANDFILLS FROM HUMAN SETTLEMENTS.

WE ALSO PREPARED EIGHT LARGE-SCALE OBJECTIONS TO THE CURRENT WORDING OF THE ACT ON COMPLAINTS.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, WE CONVINCED THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE ABOUT THE NECESSITY OF ADOPTING A LAW REGULATING THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE PUBLIC TO DEMAND ITS OBSERVANCE, AND, TO SEEK REDRESS IN COURT IN THE EVENT OF INFRINGEMENT.





In 2014, we were engaged in 18 cases, which include:

### **Disclosure of legal audit of city of Trenčín**

Trenčín City Hall arbitrarily bends the Information Act. In 2011, the Centre of Environmental Activities (CEA) asked the City Hall to provide a legal audit report, which was paid from public funds. The town rejected to declassify the requested information on the grounds that doing so could constitute a breach of the Copyright Act.

We have been working on this case since 2011, and, in 2014, we eventually succeeded. Through court's decision, we managed to reverse this illegal practice and to uphold the access to information. Repeatedly, we represented CEA in court, but despite the positive decision of the court, which imposed the obligation to disclose the report, the City Hall has failed to do so yet.

### **Plastic waste incinerator in Zlaté Moravce**

Some 95,000 tons of plastic waste imported from Italy are to be burned annually in the former Callex facilities in Zlaté Moravce. The townspeople were against such a project and they created a strong initiative, which was able to mobilize more than 11,000 petitioners against the incinerator.

We are helping them to enforce their rights under Environmental Impact Assessment Act (EIA) and we prepared arguments to challenge the conduct of the investor. It is by far the greatest intention to import waste from abroad to Slovakia. The waste may be imported only for the purpose of energy recovery.

This project does not solve the problems of waste management in Slovakia and the need of electricity by burning plastic is also questionable in the region.

### **Hazardous waste incinerator in Smolenice**

In the complex of Chemolak in Smolenice, an investor intends to build a hazardous waste incinerator. The implementation of such a plan could have major impacts on the environment, such as air and water quality.

In 2014, we achieved significant success as Environmental Inspection Headquarters upheld our appeal and it cancelled the authorization for hazardous waste incinerator. Thus, the procedure has been returned to the first stage and the Smolenice town is adjusting its land-use plan in order to prevent granting permission for the waste incineration.



## Forest Care Programme

Civic Association "Prales" ("Primeval Forest") contributes to the conservation and protection of natural forests in Slovakia. Together with them we tried to create a precedent – having the civic association to become a party to the preparation and approval of the document called "Program starostlivosti o lesy" ("Forest Care Programme"). This document is essential, because for the next 10 years, it determines the exploitation and management in the specific forest units.

We have been successful because Prales became an equal participant in several discussions about the programme and thus being allowed to submit its expert opinions and comments as well as to enforce them in dealing with forest authorities. In this particular case, we succeeded to apply the right of the public to participate in the preparation of the strategic documents in practice.





IN ADDITION TO THESE CASES IN THE LAST YEAR:

WE HELPED THE "PODPOĽANIE NAD ZLATO" CIVIC ASSOCIATION, WHICH FIGHTS AGAINST GOLD MINING AT BIELY VRCH NEAR BY DETVA.

WE HELPED PEZINOK CITIZENS IN THE EIA PROCESS EVALUATING A WASTE GASIFICATION POWER PLANT THAT PROPOSES TECHNOLOGY USED NOWHERE IN THE WORLD.

THE SLATINKA ASSOCIATION, WHICH SEEKS TO PREVENT THE STATE FROM ITS INTENTION TO BUILD A CONTROVERSIAL HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT ALSO DID IT IN COOPERATION WITH US.

WE ALSO HELPED TOWNSPEOPLE OF POPRAD WHO HAVE TO LIVE JUST A FEW METERS FROM THE FACTORY FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ALUMINIUM PROFILES.

WE SECURED LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO GREENPEACE SLOVAKIA, WHICH REPRESENTS THE VOICE OF THE PUBLIC IN ALLOWING THE COMPLETION OF MOCHOVCE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT.

WE HELPED INSTITUTE FOR NATURE PROTECTION, WHICH SEEKS TO STOP THE EXPANSION OF A QUARRY IN THE VILLAGE OF LUDROVÁ NEAR BY RUŽOMBEROK, WHERE DUE TO THE VALUABLE GRASSLAND HABITATS ARE AT RISK.

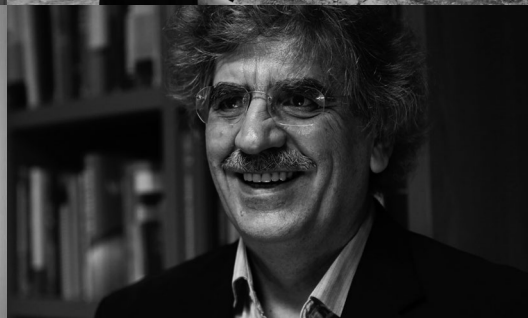
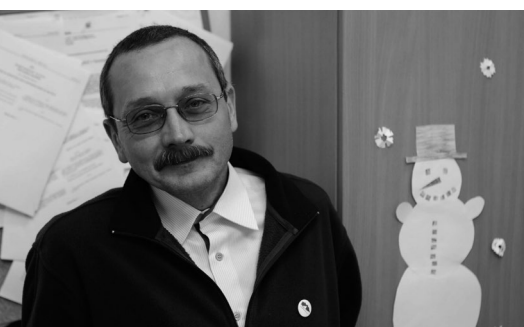
ON BEHALF OF THE THREE CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS, WE FILED AN ACTION CONCERNING THE ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION UNDER EIA ACT REGARDING THE PROPOSED SMALL HYDROPOWER PLANT ILIAŠ.

WE PROVIDED LEGAL AID FOR THE WHITE CROW AWARD LAUREATES.

WE FILED A CONSTITUTIONAL COMPLAINT AGAINST THE CONDUCT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE ACT ON FORESTS.

OUR CONSULTING ASSISTANCE HELPED TO SAVE THE FOUR CITY PARKS IN TRNAVA, WHICH HAVE BEEN PRONOUNCED PROTECTED AREAS.

# WHITE CROW AWARD



The White Crow is an award for socially responsible and courageous civic action. It is very important for us that precious people in our society who defend truth, justice and the public interest, may receive the well-deserved gratitude and support.

However, often it is the exact opposite – they are facing threats, criminal complaints, loss of employment or are being an object of ridicule. Therefore, in cooperation with the Fair-Play Alliance, we try to find them and to thank them publicly at a gala evening. We believe that support and media coverage of their stories will give them strength and energy. Moreover, it can help to draw public attention to important issues and encourage other white crows.

Since 2008 we have already awarded 22 White Crows. Among the laureates are, for example, the Pezinok citizens who are fighting against unwanted landfill more than 10 years; Zuzana Melicherčíková who as an employee of the Faculty of Law of

the Comenius University pointed out the suspected admission of students; Ivan Cehelský who despite repeated attacks protected nature and someone burned down his wooden house, or, Oto Žarnay, a teacher, who drew attention to several unfavourable contracts closed by a school.

In 2014 the awards went to Ľubica Lapiňová, a former inspector of the National Forestry Centre who revealed serious violations of the law in public procurement, and, Zuzana Pechočiaková, a doctor, who pointed out that certain information in the health documentation of an infant had been blanked out illicitly.

In recent three years, the White Crow Prize was awarded also for long-term benefits. The Prize went to Marcel Strýko, a dissident from Košice (posthumously), Katarína Šimončíčová, a tree protection activist, and, in 2014, Oleg Pastier, one of the key figures of the civil samizdat movement during the communist regime.

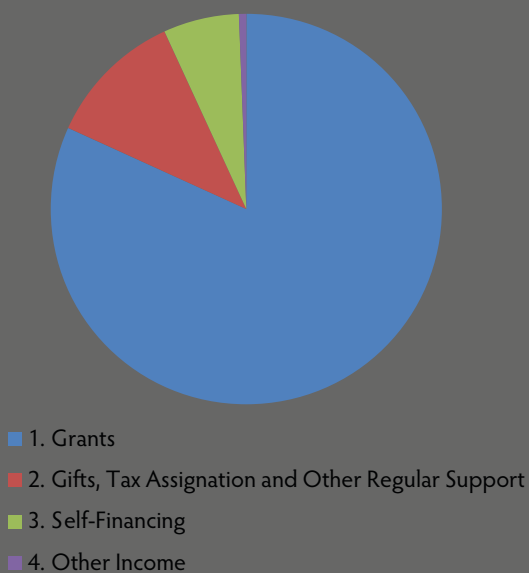




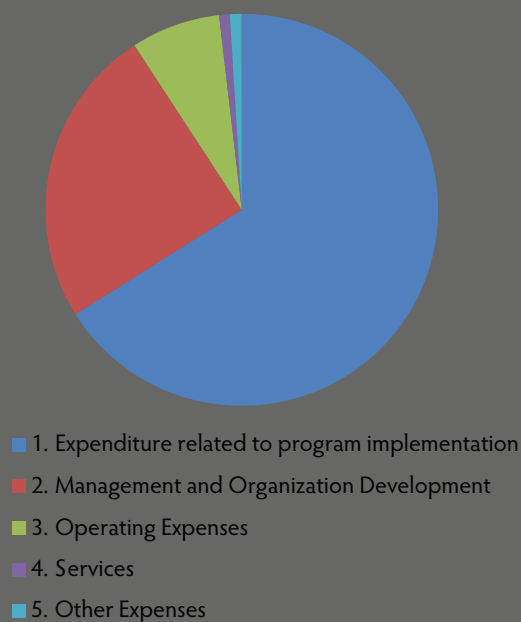
## REVENUE IN 2014

	Amount	Percentage of income
	277 863,58 €	100,00%
<b>1. GRANTS</b>	<b>223 233,47 €</b>	<b>81,90%</b>
Swiss Financial Mechanism (Ekopolis Foundation)	89 429,72 €	32,80%
Norwegian Financial Mechanism (Open Society Foundation)	48 457,39 €	17,80%
Norwegian Financial Mechanism (Ekopolis Foundation)	37 331,36 €	13,70%
Fund for Transparent Slovakia (Pontis Foundation)	22 000,00 €	8,10%
US Embassy	7 240,00 €	2,70%
Slovenská Sporiteľňa Foundation	5 425,00 €	2,00%
Eset Foundation	5 000,00 €	1,80%
Telekom Fund	4 500,00 €	1,60%
International Visegrad Fund	2 350,00 €	0,90%
Central European Foundation	1 500,00 €	0,50%
<b>2. GIFTS, TAX ASSIGNATION AND OTHER REGULAR SUPPORT</b>	<b>35 901,15 €</b>	<b>11,30%</b>
Tax Assignment	14 773,90 €	5,40%
Gifts	6 127,25 €	2,20%
Amicus Club membership fees	10 000,00 €	3,70%
<b>3. SELF-FINANCING</b>	<b>17 074,64 €</b>	<b>6,20%</b>
Income from the rental of premises and associated services	6 027,14 €	2,20%
Income from trade and other contracts	11 047,50 €	4,00%
<b>4. OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>1 654,32 €</b>	<b>0,60%</b>
Repaid loans and overpayments	1 416,37 €	0,50%
Interests	237,95 €	0,10%

Revenue in 2014



Expenditure in 2014



## EXPENDITURE IN 2014

	Amount	Percentage of expenditure
	<b>318 092,31 €</b>	<b>100,00%</b>
<b>1. EXPENDITURE RELATED TO PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION</b>	<b>210 097,02 €</b>	<b>66,10%</b>
Analytical and publication activities	38 710,21 €	12,20%
Strategic litigation and consultations	33 571,09 €	10,60%
Legislative activities	21 057,17 €	6,60%
Campaign "For a Good Choice of the President of the Supreme Court"	13 700,40 €	4,30%
Trainings and publications related to judicial ethics	13 366,46 €	4,20%
Conference on the Selection of Judges	1 409,26 €	0,40%
Online manual First Legal Aid	225,89 €	0,10%
Web portal Open Law	263,78 €	0,10%
White Crow Award	11 874,43 €	3,70%
Academic literature, software	5 484,20 €	1,70%
Websites	300,04 €	0,10%
Media coverage of the program outputs	20 841,47 €	6,60%
Management of projects and of grants	49 292,62 €	15,50%
<b>2. MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>78 737,17 €</b>	<b>24,70%</b>
Presentation materials	1 236,28 €	0,40%
Capacity building	919,00 €	0,30%
Fundraising	21 736,96 €	6,80%
Strategic planning and organization's management	39 316,17 €	12,30%
Costs for the provision of commercial activities	15 528,76 €	4,90%
<b>3. OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>23 341,92 €</b>	<b>7,30%</b>
Office running costs	14 903,91 €	4,70%
Travel expenses	4 186,60 €	1,30%
Communication-related expenses	938,60 €	0,30%
Computing and communication technology	2 075,75 €	0,60%
Taxes (on income, property, interests)	376,34 €	0,10%
Consultations and meetings	358,36 €	0,10%
Bank fees	217,56 €	0,10%
Administrative fees	284,80 €	0,10%
<b>4. SERVICES</b>	<b>2 837,57 €</b>	<b>0,90%</b>
Media monitoring	979,20 €	0,30%
Financial audit	900,00 €	0,30%
Translation and interpretation	312,00 €	0,10%
Security project	320,12 €	0,10%
Postal and courier services	326,25 €	0,10%
<b>5. OTHER EXPENSES</b>	<b>3 078,63 €</b>	<b>1,00%</b>
Other expenses	2 853,63 €	0,90%
Membership and contributions to international organizations	225,00 €	0,10%

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**  
**to statutory body of civic association VIA IURIS**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of VIA IURIS, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December, 2014, and the income statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

*Responsibility of the VIA IURIS*

Statutory body of VIA IURIS is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements in accordance with the Act on Accounting no. 431/2002 Coll. as amended, and for such internal control as statutory body determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

*Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the management, as well as evaluating the presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

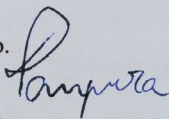
*Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial statements of the civic association VIA IURIS for the year ended December 31, 2014 are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Act on Accounting.

Independent auditor's report in English language is translation of independent auditor's report in Slovak language which comprises financial statements in Slovak language prepared in accordance with the Measure of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic of 28 November 2007 No. MF/25682 / 2007-74 as amended.

Banská Bystrica, 23 July 2015

MONAREX audit consulting, s.r.o.  
ČSA 24  
974 01 Banská Bystrica  
Business Register Banská Bystrica  
Section Sro, insertion 3701/S  
license SKAu 263



Ing. Ladislav Pompura, Ph.D.  
Responsible Auditor  
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## VIA IURIS TEAM

### Executive team

Milan Šagát – Acting Director  
(since 27 November Executive Director)  
Magdaléna Grambličková – Financial  
Manager  
Monika Jankovičová – Fundraising and  
Grants Manager  
Zdenka Tesárová – Accountant  
Veronika Čukášová – Project  
Coordinator  
Andrea Ochránková – Office Manager

### Cooperating lawyers

Zuzana Čaputová  
Eva Kováčechová  
Kristína Babiaková  
Peter Wilfling  
Dana Mareková  
Imrich Vozár  
Peter Horváth  
Ivana Figuli

### Members of Board

Tomáš Kamenec – Attorney, Dedák & Partners  
Andrej Majerník – Attorney, Majerník & Miháliková  
Dušan Ondrušek – Consultant, PDCS  
Juraj Rizman – Communications Director, Greenpeace  
CEE  
Ondrej Smolár – Executive Director, Soitron Group  
Jozef Vozár – Director, Institute of State and Law SAS

## OUR PARTNERS



## CONTACT ADDRESSES

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