



BEEsiness

Beekeeping as a way of
social entrepreneurship

Imprint

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Why?

Even if some things seem surprisingly incompatible, after a while of thinking they get a beautiful idea. For example global dying of bees and high rate of unemployment in Poltár region. Bond in this example understandable at first sight is our project BEEsiness - beekeeping as a way of education and social entrepreneurship. In this project we would like to improve conditions for development of the number of bee colonies by creating new apiaries and finding new ways for people in the region for earning a little extra added to the family budget. 20 new apiaries came to existence in towns Kokava nad Rimavicou, Utekáč, Klenovec, Hnúšťa, Kružno, Lukovišťa, Lučenec and Fil'akovo and 2 educational apiaries in Liešnica nad Lučenec. We have trained 20 new beekeepers. Another 27 people learned to process bee products to beautiful candles, healing balms or aromatic soaps and healing tincture. The project preserves useful craft and helps people to find their way to it. Way, which might help to solve global problems on a local level.

Issues

The place of realization of “project Beeznis – beekeeping as a way of education and social enterprising” took place in settlements in region Poltár and in town Lučenec where we co-operated with House of Social Services Slatinka (DSS Slatinka). Region Poltár is one of the five regions with the highest rate of unemployment in Slovakia. The rate of unemployment in the region is 23 - 24% on a long term basis. Unemployment of women in the region is high too – level counted from the total number of job applicants in July 2015 reached 26,04%. Because of lack of job offers in the region there is a heavy outflow of young people for work. Many job opportunities are in agricultural activities and forestry works. Because of the job types requir-

ing high physical strength women in the region find it more difficult to employ at the labour market. There is a certain potential in the development of crafts. For this reason we tried to make use of the potential of local group members of marginalized citizens and offer new skills to earn a little extra or honey for their own consumption or consumption of the members of family by their own abilities. Because of the low purchase power in the region it is necessary to move the sales rate of the product to stronger regions of Slovakia. For the most vulnerable citizen groups we defined unemployed on long term basis, Roma, rural population, women and people with mental or physical disabilities.



Region Poltár is one of the five regions with the highest rate of unemployment in Slovakia. The rate of unemployment in the region is 23 - 24% on a long term basis.

People with mental disabilities

Mental disability in the society is still perceived as the least acceptable out of all possible ways of a disability. Especially people with various level of mental disability experience various types of discrimination or social exclusion. At the same time there is a high rate of successful integration to society for people with lower level of mental disability. These people are able to live on their own demanding certain levels of assistance, work or comfortably live in majority of citizens. DSS Slatinka is our partner organization we realized the project "BEEsiness – beekeeping as a way of education and social enterprising" with. Clients from two facilities of House of Social Services Slatinka regularly took part in the project. Clients from the facility of supportive housing (ZPB), Sládkovičova

Street in Lučenec suffer handicap such as light mental disability, Down syndrome or behaviour disorder. These clients live in a collective with daily assistance and they take care of themselves mostly in their own. Many clients attend different kinds of brigade-work where they clean, help with easier construction, gardening and demolition works. Many of them have creative skills and they fulfil themselves in their own creative hobbies which require patience, technique and fantasy. Clients of DSS Nádej in Vidiná live in a social facility on weekly stays. Clients of this facility we realized this project with suffer mostly of mental disability, one client suffers of physical disability, he is immobile but willing to work with hands and he compensates his disability with patience and interest in

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work. Bee products proceeding courses have been realized always separately for the clients of DSS Nádej and clients of ZPB, Sládkovičova due to space and capacity reasons so that we could ensure individual approach to each client and so that we can better notice potential and skills of each client. Clients of both facilities of House of Social Services have different skills, abilities, interests and approach to work so the level of proceeding and result of the products varied. Among the clients there were such who understood the assignment right after the first explanation and a practical promotion and they were able to construct the product on their own and even made use of their creativity and fantasy which added an individual and unique design of the products, where as some clients needed more patience and time, optionally some help.





Bee products proceeding

Candle production from bee wax foundation

At first we started the bee products production course with bee wax foundation candle production. Production of candles made out of bee wax foundation is very easy but it requires patience. When producing such a candle it is possible to use fantasy or proceed according to a manual. We explained the clients by means of a simple presentation completed with many examples and pictures what they will learn during



the course, we told them about the life of bees, their significance, bee products, how we get them and how they can be used. We showed the clients finished candles made of bee wax foundation to easily imagine what they should do. We gave the clients the material – bee wax foundation with a wick and we showed them how to proceed when creating the candle. Afterwards we let the clients work individually and we observed how they were doing. Assistants helped some of the clients. When the candles were finished, clients had an opportunity to keep them as they were or complete them using various techniques. They could decorate the candles using leftovers of various bee wax foundation of contrasting colours to the candle out of which they rolled small balls.





They fixed them to the candles and created different shapes such as flowers or dots, etc. They could choose forms for making ginger bread cakes which they used for creating various shapes made of bee wax foundation and they fixed them to the candles. Clients were interested in

the work; they didn't even want to stop. They used their fantasy, worked mostly individually, precisely and patiently. Many of them are able and willing to create such candles even individually in their free time to earn a little extra.

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Poured candles made of bee wax

Production of candles made of bee wax is very easy but it can be very dangerous. Before starting the work we instructed the clients in health and safety training because the wax can burst into fire while heating, cause fire or serious burns. Due to this reason clients worked carefully, some were even scared to work with the wax. Skilled clients or those who had experience with cooking worked individually. We showed clients the work equipment, explained the procedure and showed them completed products. First they fixed a wick into special silicone forms created for candle production and they zipped the form using elastic bands. They melted the wax using a cooker and





a pot with a double base and afterwards they carefully poured it into the silicone moulds. They used rubber gloves during work to avoid contact of hot wax and skin. We tried to keep the wick in the candle straight and let the candles harden. Candle hardening takes a while so the work is lengthy but when using a larger amount of candle production moulds many candles can be created, they can be left to cool and other activities can be done. When the candles were hard enough, skilled clients took them out of the forms. We watched whether the candles were hard inside because the inside of the candles can still be liquid and hot so there is a possibility of burns when removing the candle mould. After the clients gained some experience they considered the work easy and fun.



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Lip balm with bee wax and honey

For production of lip balm we prepared all the necessary material and weighted it so that each participant could create the lip balm of his own and so the prepared amount of lip balm fitted into the prepared case. Clients had a health and safety training but the preparation resembles cooking some of the clients

had experience with. We used olive oil, bee wax and honey for production of the lip balm. Some clients who could read and count worked mostly individually after we told them the exact amount of the ingredients. We had to assist the clients in measuring and we advised them when the exact amount was measured.

Possible way of individual work is to proceed according to a photo-manual where necessary amounts measured on scales would be shown in pictures. This way clients could count necessary amounts without the knowledge of numbers. Afterwards clients melted the bee wax in a pot with double base, added vegetable



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dry flowers of marigold with olive oil and put it into a sunny and dry place and let the marigold percolate for about two weeks. We explained why we were doing so, what is the use and effect of marigold and what we will use the elixir later on.



This time they were joined by some attendants who didn't make the lip balm at the previous meeting on their own but were more courageous this time.



Marigold ointment with bee wax

At the next meeting the clients already knew what they would learn and they knew approximate process as the work had been very similar to the last workshop. This work was fast and easy with both groups. Ointments were made by the participants who worked individually even at the previous meeting where they learned how to produce lip balm with bee wax and honey. This time they were joined by some attendants who didn't make the lip balm at the previous meeting on their own but were more courageous this time. They worked slowly and carefully but they did the work well.

Production of soap with bee wax and honey

We didn't produce the soap with bee wax and honey with people with light mental disability. Some clients would definitely



have no problem with the production of the soap, especially those who like cooking. One of our clients even wrote a book with recipes with many pictures and precise steps as a guide for less skilled clients. Production of soap is a production with caustic substances and careless manipulation could lead to serious injuries. We worked with groups with about

10 clients but there were also assistants present, based on previous experience we knew the soap production is more suitable for smaller groups with the most skilled ones only. On the production of soap with bee wax and honey we are prepared to work with more experienced clients in the future.

Resume of the work with people with mental disability

The attendants of the course had various kinds and levels of disabilities, some were able to work individually, and some needed help and constant support and encouragement. Team work was interesting for all attendants. Clients encouraged each other they are able to create each product on their own and they were very happy when they could do so. Work with these people helped to cement the

friendship. Some attendants needed encouragement before the work and gain confidence the work was going well and afterwards they were more or less able to work individually. Work and atmosphere in the group depended on their current mental and physical state, sometimes on the current problems which they solved in the groups between each other but generally the work was very

challenging and fulfilling. Clients were hearty and they were looking forward to the meetings. Some attendants were not so keen in the work when "the time was not right" and they only observed the other clients as they were creating various products. At the end all attendants took part, especially when they saw that their colleagues can handle the work. Sometimes they enjoyed the work



so much they didn't want to stop. Work with people with mental disability could be enriching not only for the attendants to improve their skills but also for major society which does not know people with mental disability. Majority can through the products created by people with mental disability get to know these people and learn about their qualities, skills and themselves.



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Protected workshops

We met some of the most skilled clients of House of Social Services Slatinka at a work meet to create products for Easter market in Lučenec. Together with employees of DSS we picked four of the most skilled and we met them in extra meetings. The aim of these meetings was to produce candles made of bee wax foundation, poured candles of bee wax with Easter motives and lip balms with decorated case. All of the chosen clients knew the worth of money so except of the joy of work and the fact they have been chosen as the most skilled ones they were motivated as well by financial bonus. They sold the created products at the Easter market. People were interested in their products which was a positive feedback for the clients themselves as well as



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for us. After selling the products at the market we started considering continuing the co-operation with clients of House of Social Services Slatinka even by means of protected workshop where clients would make use of the gained knowledge and skills with bee products production. As they are mostly season products with the highest demand during Christmas time or Easter a possible way of product sales as attendance of

cultural events where the clients could sell their products. DSS attended many various festivals in the region in 2015 and except of Easter market in Lučenec they sold the products at a market in Fil'akovo or a folk festival Koliesko in Kokava nad Rimavicou. Clients of DSS in the pre-Christmas period in 2015 started creating candles made of bee wax foundations and they will offer them at two regional Christmas markets. Wax

products were a part of present boxes for partner and foreign organizations. We are considering sale of the products via internet by means of an online shop and asking small shops to offer our present products in flower-shops, groceries, drug stores, toy shops, stationery shops, etc. The buyers can get information in the internet shop of our non-governmental organization where they could also buy the products of DSS.



Roma inhabitants

We organized the course of bee products for Roma community too. We lined to the co-operation with community centre in Kokava nad Rimavicou which provides nongovernmental organization Láčko drom. In this community centre members of Roma community who are unemployed on long term basis meet where they clean public areas of the town and make similar activities. Mostly women took part in our project but also some men were present. At the beginning there was a large interest in the course as many attendants thought of a way of easy way of earning money. During the meetings a smaller group of women and one man was created which met regularly in number of about 10 people. Even these attendants were motivated by the financial bonus for the created products but during the process they enjoyed the production

of cosmetic and gift products and they attended the meetings to learn something new, extend their skills and have fun. If other members of the community were available they came to visit and encourage the attendants of the course. Women worked in a group because based on their words they enjoy working in a group where they can talk and have fun so the time passed by faster. Group work also had another influence – some attendants competed with each other in every activity and they motivated each other to create a beautiful product in short time which had a positive effect on the course. Some attendants thought

at the beginning they cannot do it but there was a community feeling and other attendants encouraged them they can manage on their own. Some attendants would rather work individually at home there they would have more space and quiet and could work according to their skills and possibilities. Attendants were not scared to use their fantasy; Roma like colourful, merry and bright things which showed at the choice of colours of candles made of bee wax foundations

or poured candles. This could prove as a potential disadvantage in the future when major society would not show interest in products marked with “Roma aesthetics”, on the other hand it could be an advantage when compared to the market competition when different and original products would be offered. After the product production the attendants were proud they created them on their own, they prided themselves to wider community and received first product sale offers in the community.

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Bee products proceeding

Candle production from bee wax foundation

We started the course of bee products by production of bee wax foundation candles. First, by means of a presentation we introduced the significance of bees, their activity and bee products, their possible usage as a way of earning. We introduced the content of the

course and we told them what they will produce during the course, what they will learn. Female attendants and one male attendant joined the course with a different level of creativity. Whereas some created the candle according to the manual, others worked individually

and decorated the candles imaginatively. Candle production is to many attendants except of the way of improving skills also a way of relax and fun. To most of the attendants the meeting was motivating; they required the following meeting right on the next day instead of the later date.



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Poured bee wax candles

Date of the meeting of production of the poured candles followed right after the production of candles made of bee wax foundation because the attendants were motivated by the first meeting and they were curious what else they could learn. Whereas the wax hardens longer and we had less moulds for candle production when compared to the number of attendants, we worked in pairs. At the beginning we explained a simple process of work. Attendants working in pairs decided what the end product would look like. Mostly they have decided the product would be colourful even if it was a more difficult process of candle production. As we worked using an electrical cooker and we had a pot with double base they decided before what colour

of wax would follow. As each group had a different idea we had to wait until the wax melted. Such work is very exhausting and required a lot of patience. It is necessary to wait until one colour of wax hardens and other colour could be poured. Less patient attendants worked in a very fast pace at the beginning and poured various colours of wax without waiting until hardening. When they realized it would not ensure the desired effect they waited patiently until the layers hardened. Finished candles surprised all of the attendants and the authors counted the value of the finished candles. They kept the candles for themselves so that they could pride about their work even if they received sale offers.



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Lip balm with bee wax and honey

The aim of the meeting was to learn the basics of how to create a lip balm by using bee wax and honey. Attendants have been told about the way of procedure first theoretically, we said what kind of equipment we need, what ingredients and what would be the proportion and we described the procedure of work. Some attendants wanted to create their own balm, measure all of the ingredients on their own and prepare the balm. For others it was enough to see the procedure once and they could repeat it again so some chose a larger amount and just divided it into small cases. Procedure is very easy and the purpose of the meeting was to teach the attendants the procedure so that they could repeat it without assistance in case of an offer but none of the attendants wrote down notes about the proportions, that is why it is difficult to say whether they would

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be able to handle the procedure on their own. It would be necessary to repeat the recipe once again what they have realized at the end of the course. Even despite the misunderstandings they could handle the procedure and they improved the recipe by adding various essential oils to balms so that they taste and smell better. After this meeting we introduced the content of another one and prepared tincture made of marigold by pouring it into olive oil.



Marigold ointment with bee wax

As the procedure of creating marigold ointment is very similar to procedure of lip balm, work went quite smoothly and it was easy to understand. The work is done with the same amount as with lip balm, so there was no problem with the preparation of the ointment. The attendants of the course knew what to do and how to proceed, we only went through the various proportions of individual ingredients and how we could change the product. At the end we discussed the healing effects and usage of the ointment. By the end of the course the attendants were planning how to use the ointment and how they would use it for healing.

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At the end the attendants evaluated the process of soap production as easy-to-manage but it is necessary to follow the safety regulations and work carefully, slowly and swiftly.

Production of soap with bee wax and honey

As the production of soap is a more difficult project we started the production a day forward. Without the attendants of the course we prepared the soaps to show what the end product would look like. As the soap hardens a bit longer it is necessary to keep it in warm during the process which we couldn't ensure during the realization of the course and it is possible the production of the soap wouldn't be successful. We started from the very end – first we showed what the end product would look like and afterwards we started the production of the soap. First we said what is the soap made of and we explained the process of work. We picked the bravest woman who created the soap at the end and the other ones were observing and giving advice. Attendant weighted the necessary proportions according to the recipe, created

lye which she mixed with vegetable oils and added bee wax and honey. At the end the attendants evaluated the process of soap production as easy-to-manage but it is necessary to follow the safety regulations and work carefully, slowly and swiftly. This work could ideally be realized in conditions where only the attendants working on the soap production would be present without other members of community observing, curious and willing to show support with work requiring higher level of concentration.

Resume of work with Roma women

While working with marginal groups we realized it is necessary to motivate the attendants at all times so that they are willing to take part in activities and they have a feeling the project is serious, leads them somewhere and has a potential they could make use of. We found out how important it is to create a meeting plan so that they can plan to attend. Time planning proved to be difficult but it kept on changing during the whole course. When we set the individual dates of the courses, we created some motivation that if they want to take part in the program, they must take it seriously and only that way learn new skills which

might offer them an extra income. At the beginning of the course it was necessary to motivate the clients by earning a little extra, financial motivation proved to be crucial with some attendants. Some attendants slowly started showing a will to learn and hear something new, extend the horizon and skills. There was a specific difference with their understanding of aesthetics. Roma, as they said and was obvious like colourful, bright, sometimes even garnished decorations. This proved by the candle production which in some cases should be an enriching element and advantage for the majority potential customers. Contribution of

work with these attendants and a positive experience was their honesty and openness. When they were considered equal partners, they had a very friendly attitude and the work with them was enriching and inspiring. As they like fun, joy and music, they often sang during the production, listened to the music or told funny stories but when it was necessary to concentrate or explain they had no problem to pay full attention to work.



Beekeeping Course



How to connect environmental, social and economic dimension of our development? How to be responsible towards the environment and protect it, help social groups and help their family income at the same time? Our way of social business was through what we understand the best – beekeeping. Non-governmental organisation kRaj is primary devoted to development of beekeeping and helping pollinators for 3 years already. We are coming out of over 60-year beekeeping tradition in our family. Beekeeping course has been to us an answer to help the landscape, which does not have enough pollinators. Help to people of different marginalized groups, which have no access to financially exhausting beekeeping courses and equipment. Last but not the least, the course should be also an economic help, graduates get a small income from honey and bee products sales which could rise based on their skills.

Beekeeping course took place in theoretical part during five meetings in Klenovec (rural inhabitants, Roma) and four meetings in Lučenec (people with medium mental disability). Practical part took place in our educational apiary in Liešnica and Lučenec during months May to September.

Attendants of the course gained practical and theoretical knowledge necessary for beekeepers – beginners. We went through the whole year of a beekeeper and beekeeping tasks, bee diseases, legal questions and sales marketing. 20 people able to keep bees finished the course in September. Within the project they could rent a beehive with bees and beekeeping equipment, more expensive tools (for example honey extracting machine) shared with the whole community and later after during successful beekeeping they will buy it from the profit made from honey sale.



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Beekeeping and rural inhabitants

Regions of Malohont and Novohrad were rich in bees and beekeepers in the past. Beekeeping was a typical craft wide-spread in every village. Even historical photographs from the region show the mayor as a proud beekeeper. Number of bee colonies decreased mostly due to infection of bee colonies by American foulbrood disease in the region. Extinguished colonies were not rebuilt by bee keepers and bee keeping was not attractive to young people anymore. Beekeeping tradition is in a recession nowadays and for example Poltár region is a region with the lowest number of bee colonies and beekeepers in Slovakia (Poltár 121 beekeepers and 1939 bee colonies, in comparison Rimavská Sobota with 390 beekeepers and 8620 bee colonies, Levice region with 532 beekeepers and 16 031 bee



colonies). Alongside undesired numbers of beekeepers and bee colonies there is also the highest number of unemployment in Slovakia in the region as most of the people lost their jobs after the glass factory closed in 3 towns. It is unemployed with a very narrow education profile or even people without education or experience. These people are unemployed on long term basis, without a chance of finding a new job in the region. If people do not want to leave the region because of a job they need to search for own ways of living. Low numbers of bee colonies do not show only in the decay of the tradition but also in the landscape where the number of bees – pollinators decreased. Profit in the agricultural production is decreasing as well as biodiversity of the country.

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Our experience

The course had a good feedback with people from the rural environment. Even if current trends show the significance and importance of bees in the towns, beekeeping always remains a matter of countryside and open country. Our aim group had already have some experience in ancillary works with other beekeepers or help in the family while their family was beekeeping. It is very common they have their own garden which supports their relationship to work with nature.



Beekeeping and Roma

If we imagine the list of stereotypes about Roma and crafts, after smithery and playing the violin and other musical instruments, singing, dancing, masonry or healing we certainly will not find beekeeping. Our project became a huge experiment how to work with Roma and bees at the same time. Have we managed to ruin this myth? In co-operation with non-profit organization Lácho drom we organized a series of meetings with Roma community in settlement Kokava nad Rimavicou where we presented the possibilities of the beekeeping course. The simplest way of beekeeping was presented as well as advantages of our course and ways of help for the interested. We arranged the meetings in settlements Klenovec, Zlatno and Hnúšťa

too. Despite of our effort we only interested two persons. One of them did not start the course due to family reasons. His family has been worried the combination of bees and little children would not be good. Another interested finished the course successfully.

Our experience

Even if Roma in the region spend a lot of time outside in their gardens, they rejected the beekeeping. They are scared of the stings, they are scared of bees. They have no experience with bees and they are scared of the unknown. Frequent denial related with the news regarding allergic reactions. Despite listening to their worries and explanations they could be solved (overalls and beekeeping gloves), they rejected the offer. Another problem was the possible position of the bees. The interested ones lived in blocks of flats without parcels where we could not find a suitable place for placing the bee colonies.

Our Roma beekeeper

In Klenovec town Mr. Jozef applied for the beekeeping course. He has certain duties but every time he could he attended the course. Later on the technology lapsed and he could not reach the information regarding the applied part of the course. He managed to renew the communication and we arranged individual dates of the meetings. He took his son who wanted to take part in the beekeeping to attend the course

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too. Jozef has now bees in his garden and he is preparing them for the winter months. Work with this group had no specifics and we worked as we would with a majority group.

Possibilities for the future

During the project we wanted to use a model where attendants would have their own bees in their premises – separate apiaries. We had to deal with many problems using this model: fear of the community/family, inadequate premises, living in a block of flats. In the future we would choose a model in which we would, in co-operation with the local government, select premises where a common apiary would be. This is where all of the attendants would have their beehives, common spaces, honey extracting room and premises.



Beekeeping and people with mild mental disability

Non-governmental organization kRaj has already co-operated with House of Social Services Slatinka (DSS) in the past. DSS clients are people with different forms of mental disability. Integration of the clients into the beekeeping course has been inspired by our Norwegian partner organization Bybi which as a part of its activities integrates people with Down syndrome to beekeeping (find more in-

formation <http://godtjobba.comkampen-for-biene/>). We could not find a similar project in Slovakia so we confronted the experience with the Norwegian partner. People with mental disability became another challenge and effort to stop the myth saying "they" cannot do it. This course in DSS has been preceded by a bee products processing course. During the course we experienced a good memory, knowledge and motoric skills of our clients. Beekeeping course for DSS started in town Lučenec with a theoretical preparation. There were many interested and over 10 clients attended the lectures. During these meetings a group of 3 clients we had a good co-operation with came to existence, they were not scared of bees and had a lot of knowledge about bees. Client Peter was the most exceptional one because of his rich experience from special school where the topic was a honey bee.



Honey, lavender and bee products complete the DSS offer which might financially help the clients. Will honey with lavender fragrance be in the offer next year?

Our experience

Theoretical part of the courses took part during four meetings in March. As not all of the clients were able to read, the presentation on the meetings was only in a form of photograph presentation, video presentation and practical demonstration. Expressing in visual form connected with lecturing brought good results and clients could reproduce the learned knowledge from the previous meetings. At the end of the theoretical part we chose 3 best clients from the group and we met them in practical meetings too. Practical meetings took part in a new educational apiary in the town park in Lučenec. They were divided into basic thematic units, work with the bees was not problematic.



Planning

Beekeeping is an activity which requires knowledge of work planning during the whole year. Each action is bonded to a particular season/month of a year. DSS clients have limited planning abilities. For this reason even DSS assistants took part in the course and their task was to monitor the planning and realisation of beekeeping works in needed dates. The work with the bees will be done by DSS clients.

Our non-governmental organization kRaj will keep on providing professional and marketing help and next common meetings starting in April 2016 are already planned.

Future chances

Three DSS clients gained colonies of bees with necessary equipment which will be placed in towns Vidiná, Lučenec and Fil'akovo. In Fil'akovo bees are placed in the peripheral part of a gardening colony. Except of the bees, DSS also cleaned devastated part of the gardens and planted lavender. Honey, lavender and bee products complete the DSS offer which might financially help the clients. Will honey with lavender fragrance be in the offer next year?



How to continue?

Even if the project is at its end, we are just beginning. Our beekeepers have their first beekeeping season in front of them, during which they will in their own apiaries find out what is beekeeping like in practice. Our non-governmental organization kRaj will keep on providing professional and marketing help and next common meetings starting in April 2016 are already planned. Common is also the strategy in honey sale. Our graduates can offer us honey for "social

honey purchase". That means they can sell us the honey for a price they require and not for a price offered by a honey purchaser. Honey will be sold in compact packaging with a common label. There definitely will be an individual packing of

honey from various producers. The label will contain the origin of honey, beekeeper and his story. Because the best help to beekeepers and bees is purchasing good honey directly from the beekeeper.





Educational apiaries

If we see an apiary at the suburb of a town, subconsciously we take it for a private and closed space. Space which could even be dangerous for us... Let us change the perception of an apiary to an open and friendly place for wide society. First place of such an apiary is an open educational apiary in Liešnica close to Kokava nad Rimavicou. Beautiful and peaceful rural environment literally attracts for new experience. Apiary brings the possibility to perceive the fascinat-

ing world of bees in an exciting way and mostly schools make use of this possibility. Another apiary has been opened in a town park in Lučenec. These apiaries bring also another opportunity – bee-keeping courses. Both apiaries were used in the project for this activity and in 2015 they served 20 graduates in free courses for various marginal groups but also to 90 graduates in commercial paid courses.

