

the Pentagon is our home

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PROJEKT BOL FINANČNE PODPorený RADOU VLÁDY SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY PRE PREVENIU KRIMINALITY

Project title: **PENTAGON ACADEMY**

Scope of the project: apartment building Stavbárska 40 and 42, Bratislava (known as Pentagon)

Grant provided: subsidy from the state budget of the Slovak Republic for 2018 to ensure the tasks of crime prevention, from the program OD60103.U14902 of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic - District Office Bratislava

Grant amount: 10,000 EUR

Project implementation: 12.11.2018 - 31.3.2019

Contacts email: **[PLEASE ADD]**

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Website: **[PLEASE ADD]**

Project description: *The Pentagon Academy project aims to build a community room, its equipment, facilities and operation so that it is prepared for activities that, in the form of legal, mediation, psychological and financial counselling, will help residents of the apartment building to manage a demanding environment affected by drug crime.*

The activities included in the project aim to protect the inhabitants of the apartment building, give them a sense of greater safety and security and teach them to behave in such a way as to contribute to creating a positive atmosphere, help suppress manifestations of maladaptive and criminal behaviour in and around the house, build better between human relations and formed a cohesive community. As a large number of citizens with lower social status are concentrated in the apartment building, the services provided should also help them in the area of personal growth in finding work, resolving family and neighbourhood disputes, increasing financial literacy, managing communication with authorities and institutions, including the police and preparing them. to different life situations. The community room will create space for better and more effective work of the committee of representatives of homeowners and will enable residents to get acquainted with the house agenda, house rules and the correct understanding of the principles of good cohabitation. Last but not least, the project will also include social and interest activities, which are focused mainly on leisure activities, neighbourhood assistance, sittings for seniors. Cooperation with experts in mediation, psychology and especially with the Academy of the Police Force will make it possible to use the acquired practical experience and information in the creation of methodological materials that can be used in other apartment buildings with similar problems.

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February 2, 2018

The project "PENTAGON IS OUR HOME" got the green light



Last year in November, we put our efforts into gaining as many votes as possible in the campaign for the support of the Pentagon is our home project within the grant program [Community Grants 2017 of the VUB Foundation](#).

Why is the VUB Foundation grant program exceptional? You say so, perhaps because it's handing out money to the right things to help communities grow. Yes, mainly because. But also because it uses the form of sms voting, which will very clearly show the strength and support of

the community. It is a small litmus paper which, when immersed in a real challenge, you will find out the real weight of people's words and thoughts.

We received 3,989 sms votes, which we understand as a huge commitment to the residents of the apartment building at Stavbárská Street 40 and 42 and to everyone who showed support, confidence and willingness to help our project. It was not easy to find so many people who will stand up for the media called "shame" of Bratislava. Finding enough arguments and convincing these people that this apartment building deserves a new chance seemed like fiction at first. But we gradually found out that we care about our city, we know how to be belonging, we know how to understand the seriousness of the situation and we can put our hand to the work.

We received a promise of cooperation not only from the residents of the house, supporters of our civic association, but also from construction companies, experts in law, psychology, finance and also from city deputies, to complete our project to a successful end.

We are currently starting preparations, consulting on how to implement the project as efficiently as possible from a technical and economic point of view. The coordinators of the implementation work for our civic association are Mr. Peter Grečko and for the apartment building Mrs. Lenka Poláková. At the same time, we must prepare the coordination of work on the construction of a community room with an apartment building, where work will take place throughout the year on the overall reconstruction of the house. We will regularly inform you about the progress of work on the construction of the community room on our portal.

The VUB Foundation gave us a chance to do something good for Bratislava again. Thank you very much again and we're going for it.

[See original article](#)

March 9, 2018

The Pentagon is their home, but no one writes about them



The apartment building on Stavbárská Street with descriptive numbers 40 and 42 belongs to the complex infamously known as the "Pentagon". It is these two entrances that have been and still are most burdened by the problems of drug crime, which has been described and talked about a lot in the media, on social networks, in various forums. Among ordinary people, this is one of the favourite "negative" topics that can stir up passions. But it will actually move a few to something constructive that he

could do for an apartment building and help in a difficult situation.

We must commend the tireless efforts and wonderful work that the Children's Fund of the Slovak Republic is doing here. As part of its projects, it operates a low-threshold facility for children and young people on Stavbárská Street - the Mixklub, which is intended for unorganized groups of children and young people aged 6-18.

We have been moving in the environment of an apartment building on Stavbárská Street since 2006 and we still missed one thing. Community. A cohesive community of people who would help each other, communicate, advise and help each other. People of different ages, with different backgrounds, with different interests, different life stories, live here, and many would appreciate a certain degree of neighbourhood reciprocity. The environment in which they live is not kind at all. What they have to look at is also shaken by strong characters. These are scenes from a bad movie, and no matter how resilient a person is, he cannot prevent the negative influence of this environment. Suffice it to say that you are from the Pentagon and you are already classified as a drug addict and dealer, you have a sticker of an unadaptable person. But there are also good, hardworking and decent people. And marvel at the world, they also want to live a normal life, they don't want to worry about their health at all, about the health and life of their children. Many of them grew up in this apartment building. The Pentagon is their home, they don't know another home and they don't have the money to move out. Their psyche has to do a lot. We are talking about people who try, go to work, do not make problems, take care of their families, they are moms, fathers, aunts, uncles. They also have common worries, marital disagreements, problems at work, property disputes, they need to feel that someone cares about them as well. Here we find people who live alone, seniors who have no one to turn to if they need advice on tuning a new TV, they have no one to help them with the purchase from time to time, or just talk over tea. These people seem to be forgotten, as if they don't even exist, they are not written about, no reports are made.

Therefore, we are looking forward to obtaining funds through the VUB Foundation for our project, which we will implement together with the representatives of the apartment building this year. We will build a community room for these people. The room will be multifunctional and will be used not only as a counselling centre, but also as a relaxation centre. We want to organize workshops, sessions for seniors, seminars that will help people in personal development.

The first step is to build the room itself. Let's keep our hats and thumbs up.

[See original article](#)

May 4, 2018

Reconstruction in the Bratislava Pentagon



The apartment house Stavbárska 40 and 42 will spend large sums of money in 2018 to improve the security situation in the house and at the same time for extensive reconstruction. Thanks to a loan from the State Housing Development Fund and with the use of their own funds, the owners and administrators of the house were able to start renovation work aimed at removing the state of emergency in the house. There is a complete reconstruction of the entrance parts of the apartment building and common areas, electrical wiring, pipes,

replacement of elevators, regulation of the heating system, insulation of the house. They will also invest in a new access and camera system and other security features to gradually alleviate the catastrophic security situation in the house.

As part of these reconstruction works, we will also implement our Pentagon is our home project, for which we received a grant from the VUB Foundation in the amount of EUR 3,000.

What we want to do is actually rebuild the unused space on the first floor. This is a niche that we want to turn into a room. It will be necessary to build walls, install windows, doors, build a bathroom, a small kitchen and the main room of the community room together with the entrance hall, which will serve as a small waiting room. Repair floors, ceilings, make new wiring and heating.

The project documentation has already been processed, but since the construction of the community room must be carried out in cooperation with other construction works in the apartment building, we are still waiting for the building inspectorate permit.

[See original article](#)

July 8, 2018

Have you ever been to the Bratislava Pentagon?



A lot of people ask us if it's really that bad in that pentagon. We must answer, "Unfortunately, very bad."

Imagine that you decide to go for a walk on a nice Sunday morning. You leave the apartment and already in the hallway you are struck by a terrible stench after vomiting and feces (human). You keep walking, you take your child in your arms so that he doesn't want to touch anything. Cigarette butts, syringes, condoms roll on the ground. You go to the stairs and you have to cross several drug addicts and half-naked prostitutes who are drugged

unconscious. And so you cover your baby's eyes so he doesn't have to look at it. You go outside and the waiting crowd of strangely nervous people almost knocks you down the door. They were just waiting for the front door to open. They need their dose and so they go to buy it. They will still use it in the apartment building, they don't care where.

Can you imagine something like that? It has been and has been a reality in the Pentagon for a very long time. And it is the people who have to protect their children and themselves in this way in order to manage it, who are the ones in the whole marathon of drugs, prostitution and violence. And yet they are the most important in the whole story of the Pentagon. This must not be forgotten, because the Pentagon is their home.

At present, huge funds are being spent on the reconstruction, reconstruction and technical support of the operation of an apartment building. It also invests in security. We want to contribute a little with the construction of a community room, which was financially supported by the VUB Foundation within the Community Grants program. But none of these activities may have the right effect if the people inside the house are not properly motivated, if they do not understand the meaning of the changes that are happening in their house and do not put their hand to the work themselves. It is easy to criticize things, but to come and face the problem, find a solution to it and deal with all possible opinions, disagreements, obstacles is really not easy. We are admired by the representatives of the owners at Stavbárská Street 40 and 42, who spend their free time just solving problems and finding the right way to get out of a bad situation.

[See original article](#)

September 7, 2018

The Pentagon project is our home - a change of date



We have been patiently waiting for several months with the completion of the construction of the new community room at Stavbárská Street 40 and 42. The construction of the room depends on other works that are currently underway in the apartment building. The reasons for the delays and postponements are various unexpected failures, damage and unplanned work during the extensive complex renovation of the apartment building. Following an agreement with Lenka Poláková, the representative of the owners, on August 23, 2018, we asked the VUB Foundation to change the completion date of the Pentagon is our home project - construction of a community room by November 30, 2018. The VUB Foundation complied with our request, so we believe that we will soon be able to continue construction.

[See original article](#)

December 10, 2018

Pentagon Community Room



Our intention to build a community room in an apartment building at Stavbárská Street 40 and 42 is becoming a reality. The construction and modification of the premises is in full swing. The community room is already getting its contours. What we managed to do:

- we modified and completed the walls and partitions
- created a small kitchen and bathroom, which are part of the community room
- we turned the access corridor to the community room into a small waiting room
- we have introduced a new plumbing and electrical installation
- we have installed a new ceiling, in which new not only lamps but also radiators are built
- we laid a new floor covering
- we bought the first chairs and armchairs for a community room and a small waiting room
- we installed two large unbreakable information boards

This construction was possible thanks to a grant provided by the VUB Foundation, the financial contribution of our trademark and, to a large extent, the apartment building itself also contributed financially to it.

What will be the sequel?

We still have a lot of work to do to equip the community room with additional furniture, a kitchen unit, a technical office for the workplace of the owners' committee and a counselling centre.

What makes us very happy is that we managed to obtain additional funding for the community room for its technical equipment and operation. The subsidy was approved by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, Crime Prevention Department on October 1, 2018 in the amount of EUR 10,000.

[See original article](#)

Look in the community room



In 2017, we had a vision. **A vision of a more beautiful and better Pentagon.** Our vision was to help people for whom the Pentagon is home so that they can live here without worrying about their health or even their lives. From the technical, hygienic and safety point of view, the condition of the apartment building once again reached the limit of carrying capacity. The disaster was around the corner.

When we first tried to change at the Pentagon, it was **2006**. Those who have not experienced it will find it difficult to understand how difficult it was. Only thanks to the help of many residents, the administrator of the apartment building, the police and city deputies were we able to partially improve the security situation in the house and its surroundings. The basic rules have been determined and a strategy has been outlined on how to improve the current situation, or at least keep it at the same level. However, in a high-risk facility such as Stavbárska 40 and 42, such a goal requires consistent and long-term support from all stakeholders. The pentagon has a bad reputation and a superficial view of it only deepens the negative image. As a spectator and distant observer, all you can remember is that the Pentagon should be avoided by arcs. We see the Pentagon and its inhabitants differently. We know the life stories of the people who live here and the reasons why they found themselves here. We want to convey this view to you as well.

In the years 2006 to 2010, many partial activities were implemented to prevent the mentioned catastrophe (**You can find more about the Drugs Outside project in our archive**). Then came the attenuation. The technical equipment that was supposed to help protect the house became obsolete, their efficiency decreased until it reached zero. We had to start all over again. However, this would not be possible without the commitment of the population group and financial assistance. Thanks to the dedication of several representatives of the owners, the apartment building is currently undergoing a complete renovation of the technical condition of the house, not only in the security area, but also its operation (repair of entrance and common areas of the house, elevators, wiring, etc.). It is the basis for further continuation of the project and improvement of living space for its inhabitants, who have been suffering for years and bear the consequences of problems that they did not cause themselves. The house received funding from **the Housing Development Fund** for its renewal.

But let's get back to our vision. We consider the construction of a community room directly in the apartment building at Stavbárská 40, on the first floor, to be its materialization. We wanted to be closer to people and this is the closest we could get to them. The community room was built thanks to two grants, which we managed to obtain. In 2018, the **VUB Foundation provided** us with EUR 3,000 from Community grants, and subsequently the **Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Crime Prevention** approved a subsidy for the completion, equipment and operation of a community room in the amount of EUR 10,000.

What we have managed to do so far from two grants:

- All construction work on the interior was completed, including electrical and plumbing.
- Bathroom sanitary ware, washbasin and hygienic accessories were purchased,
- The kitchen has a small kitchen and cabinets.
- The central room was furnished with furniture, folding tables and chairs, which allow variable use of the interior, we added lamps and a hanger.

- Notice boards and storage cabinets were installed.
- The room was equipped with internet, installed data projector and screen for visual presentations during discussions, workshops, consulting rooms, etc.

Today, the community room was put into operation and will start serving the residents of the house. There is still room for improvement and we will continue to work to improve the operation of the room to take into account the needs of the residents and meet the goal we have set. We will keep you informed about the activities of the community room in the following articles.

[See original article](#)

February 2, 2019

Visit from the office of the Minister of the Interior of the Slovak Republic



The community room in the Bratislava Pentagon is a bit unique in Slovakia. There aren't many blocks of flats that can boast of something like this. The aim of building it is to bring a new, more pleasant feeling to this community, to create a space where it will be possible to focus peacefully on those people who are interested in a positive change in the house and personally want to participate in it. This is where conflicts are to be resolved in a non-conflict way, precautionary tools are to be sought to combat the ever-

present effects of drug crime, and it is here that people are to learn that their cohesion and neighbourhood assistance is one of the foundations for building a secure community.

The Pentagon Academy project is financially supported by the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Crime Prevention and that is why we were happy to welcome representatives of the Minister of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Ing. Jozef Halcin, Director of the Crime Prevention Department from the Office of the Minister of the Interior of the Slovak Republic and his collaborator from the Government Council for Crime Prevention Mgr. Diana Jurášková, Mgr. Veronika Blažičková and Mgr. Kamila Džurňáková, who spoke very positively about our work and the space created.

We believe that together we will be able to prepare various activities that will help people in the Pentagon, as well as the whole of Vrakun. We have one and the same goal, to make this place a normal apartment house in which you can live safely. Many topics were discussed there, for example, we have already agreed to prepare discussions on safety for seniors in the community room.

[See original article](#)

February 4, 2019

Questions for the Pentagon



The Pentagon Academy is a situational crime prevention project and its goal is to create a cohesive community of people in the Pentagon apartment building who can change things. Approximately 700 people live in the two entrances of Stavbárska 40 and 42, which are most affected by the presence of drug dealers and drug addicts at the same time. It's like a small village, but people don't know each other at all. They avoid each other, behind the closed doors of their apartments they want to have peace

from all the marasmus in the corridors, stairs and in front of the house.

But the community cannot be built that way. Without face-to-face meetings, without getting to know your neighbours, without communicating and greeting "Hello" and without being willing to personally engage in house activities, it is not possible to create an environment where things not only improve but can be sustained and continued. work and develop it.

After the completion and equipment of the community room, our next step was to address all residents of Stavbárska 40 and 42 in the form of a simple questionnaire. The aim was to inform them about the existence of a community room, to attract their attention and get to know them. Find out what they would like to use the community room for, what type of counselling service or leisure activity they would be interested in. And we were a little curious and we also asked about their beautiful memories, hobbies, desires and dreams. It was important for people to understand that by completing the questionnaire, they have a direct impact on what will happen in their community and, through participation in community life, will create a better place for themselves and their loved ones.

Stavbárska 40 and 42 is a complicated house with many problems and the bad security situation resulted in the point where Slovenská pošta refused to deliver consignments to these entrances in order to protect the health and life of its deliverers. Therefore, there are no mailboxes in the apartment building and providing information to each inhabitant is all the more difficult. We had to come up with a non-standard solution and we "delivered" the questionnaires by hanging them on the door handles. Thus, a total of 189 questionnaires were handed over - 1 piece per apartment. The questionnaire was filled in and handed over by 34 inhabitants, to whom we thank once again. They understood that we wanted a better life for them.

[Questionnaire](#)

[See original article](#)

February 11, 2019

First steps to the community room



The inhabitants of Stavbárská 40 and 42 took their first steps into the community room on Sunday, February 3, 2019, when a meeting was held with the aim of finding representatives of the individual floors. In order for the house to start living and for people to work together effectively, they need to have contact persons who will disseminate important information, help solve problems, conflicts and oversee compliance with operational and safety principles in the house. As the house is still

undergoing extensive reconstruction, there is a large movement of construction workers and it is necessary to constantly monitor what is happening in the house. One of the tasks of the "connectors", as the corridor representatives called themselves, is to report to the administrator any negative conduct and behaviour in the house, to minimize damage to already restored parts of the house, especially by restricting the entry and movement of unauthorized persons.

The Pentagon's home agenda is very comprehensive, and in order to improve the situation, it is necessary to increase the awareness of the population, problem solving, coordination of reconstruction and readiness for new situations and conditions. Expanding the range of people who will help with the home agenda in the apartment building is a natural step and one of the conditions for the success of the whole project. The community room becomes the heart of the Pentagon, it will give it rhythm, strength and from it good ideas will spread through the power lines to each apartment. as caretaker, deputy owner and main initiator of changes. Although it seemed impossible at first, we are extremely happy that so many people have shown a genuine interest in resolving the situation in the house and helping Lenka.

On February 7, 2019, the second meeting of "connectors" took place in the community room with already specific tasks that need to be carried out in the house. Security measures and abuse rates were evaluated, e.g., emergency exit buttons, which are one of the indicators of the frequency of unauthorized entrances to the apartment building.

[See original article](#)

March 12, 2019

Meet the people of the Pentagon with us



One needs joy, understanding, and good neighbours to live. When we opened the community room at the Pentagon, we didn't know how it would affect the people in the house, but we hoped for a positive acceptance of the idea. It's different when you just talk about something and another, when you can see it with your own eyes, you experience it physically. In fact, the first response was lukewarm and timid. After all, only in a house where for years people saw only freaked-out drug addicts collapsed

on the stairs, crumbling corridors, a lot of clutter and dirt, endless problems and conflicts, suddenly someone offers them something nice, something different, something they don't know to help them. . Gaining people's trust is probably the hardest part... and not losing it yet. That is why we respect every single person who has decided and continues to come to the community room.

We are still at the beginning and we are looking for the most correct form of how to bring people interesting leisure topics, professional help, how to talk to them and not scare them, how to encourage them and help them. It is important that everyone who enters the community room understands that we are not arguing here, we are not shouting here, we are not dealing with anger here and we are not looking for enemies. To understand that he is the one who can help this house the most by being active in the community. We want people to feel good here and want to come back and help.

Only a few weeks have passed since the opening and we managed to start a few interesting activities. In the questionnaires, people wrote us what they were interested in and we try to meet their expectations. We believe that gradually really anyone who wants to can come to discuss their favourite topic, share experiences, find an expert on their problem.

In February and March there were several discussions on the topic of financial literacy and then an individual financial counselling centre was launched, a psychological counselling centre started operating and we had several meetings on the topic of tolerance and conflict resolution, Mr. Farkaš, Mr. Halcin from the Department of Crime Prevention on the topic of safety of the elderly, but we were also happy to bring such a topic as Roma music and culture, which Mrs. Mojžišová and Belišová have been dealing with for a long time, or the expert advice of a veterinarian to keep pets in a flat house. Each of the topics, although it may not seem so, reflects the needs of the community and is aimed at creating good neighbourly relations. A good neighbour can become an enemy for complete pettiness, and we want to prevent this with good communication.

[See original article](#)

Security at the Pentagon



The Bratislava Pentagon is gradually changing. In addition to the reconstruction, which will give the house a beautiful new facade, new wiring, new elevators, new tiles, new paint, new security doors, a community room was built inside on the first floor. An access and camera system was installed on the floors and zone access protection was created. One of the very important parts of the renovation of an apartment building are the new security rules, which are intended to restrict the entry of unauthorized persons

into the apartment building as much as possible. This is a big problem that the house has to face all the time and despite the high quality of technical equipment, it is not possible to completely prevent unauthorized entry. There are several reasons. Either it is the indifference of the inhabitants, who do not care who enters the house with them (or so-called slips next to them), or it is also a fear to stop and expel these people from the apartment building. These are most often people who come to buy a "dose", enter groups, tend to be aggressive and therefore the concerns of the population about their own health are justified. It is these unauthorized persons who cause the greatest damage to the house, destroy and pollute the interior, damage the elevators, stairs, endanger the health of the inhabitants and create an atmosphere of fear in the house.

One of the tasks we have set ourselves in working in the community room is to do a better information campaign on the safety principles that residents should follow. In cooperation with the representatives of the owners and the administrator of the apartment building, we prepared two lectures on safety in the apartment building. The entire access system is set up to restrict the uncontrolled movement of strangers and prevent entry to the first floor, whether via a staircase or elevator. However, technology needs strong human support and it is therefore very important that residents are informed about how the system works, how to use their identifier (contactless pendant), how to use new lifts, how to behave if they are trying to they enter a stranger, what is right, what is wrong, what to do if they prevent such entry do not know. As the house does not have a communication system, entry of visitors must also have stricter rules and visits must be accompanied upon entry and exit from the apartment building. Residents need to understand that if they do not follow these principles, it will be very difficult to improve the situation in the house, protect their health, their families and their property. They must understand that they are no longer alone, that they are part of the community behind them, which has the taste, support and tools to improve the situation. It is now up to each of them to personally contribute to a better life at the Pentagon. which is behind them, which has the taste, support and tools to improve the situation. It is now up to each of them to personally contribute to a better life at the Pentagon. which is behind them, which has the taste, support and tools to improve the situation. It is now up to each of them to personally contribute to a better life at the Pentagon.

Another goal of the Pentagon Academy project will be to improve law enforcement and the possibility to apply paragraph 11, para. 5 of Act 182/1993 on the ownership of flats and non-residential premises, as amended - the text of the subject paragraph:

(5) If the owner of an apartment or non-residential space in a house by his actions interferes with the exercise of ownership of other owners of apartments or non-residential premises in this house in such a way that it restricts or prevents the exercise of ownership by grossly damaging the apartment or non-residential space, common parts of the house, common facilities of the house, common non-residential premises, accessories or constantly disrupts the peaceful

living of other apartment owners, endangers safety or violates good manners in the house, or does not fulfil obligations imposed by a court decision, the court may order sale of an apartment or non-residential space.

Thus, the primary problem is not the drug users themselves, but those who sell drugs at home. In addition to committing criminal offenses, their irresponsible and reckless conduct knowingly *disrupts the peaceful housing of other homeowners, endangers safety, violates good manners in the house* and is the reason why situations arise in which house equipment is damaged and the value of flats is reduced.

A new house code will be adopted in the apartment building with "sanction" fines for violating the basic principles of safety, which the residents have agreed to, and it will be within the competence of the house manager to impose and enforce these fines. Intensive work will be done to obtain sufficient evidence in each incident to file criminal reports against those who commit offenses and criminal offenses in the house. The House needs stronger legal support and measures that will be repressive against people damaging the apartment building and their occupants and can also be defended in court proceedings.

A committee of representatives of the owners has started working in the apartment building, who are already creating a functional connection between the administrator and the residents, coordinating the operation and administration of the house and the ongoing reconstruction work. We are preparing several discussions and trainings for the owners' representatives, which will help them learn the right forms of communication even with maladapted neighbours and people who are in conflict. The aim will be to intensify communication with the local authority, city police and relevant departments of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, which have an impact on the Pentagon and to make maximum use of their possibilities and powers to suppress crime not only in the house but also its surroundings and support the efforts of residents.

We are pleased that the community room has created a real background for work for the benefit of the apartment building and its inhabitants.

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April 4, 2019

The pentagon is not dying...



It started with a large "Pentagon is not dying" banner. Residents and people who care about the fate of the apartment building at Stavbárska Street 40 and 42 have decided to fight again and stop the bad situation in the house. It really took an enormous amount of time and effort, but today we can say that it was not a waste of

effort or a waste of time and that we are well on our way to making the Pentagon experience better times.

The effort of our civic association was to help by building a community room directly in the apartment building. Gradually, from October 2018, we turned an empty soulless space into something unparalleled in apartment buildings, and we are extremely happy that it has succeeded in the Pentagon, so damned, so slandered, so denigrated Pentagon. The people who live here can be justifiably proud of themselves. They have really great, selfless and bold people among themselves and especially they have Lenka Poláková, who fights for a better Pentagon every day.

The community room was also created in order to join Lenka more people and not be afraid to fight together for their right to live in a normal, quiet, clean and safe house. There is still a lot of work ahead of them, but now they have a decent place for their work, where they can turn their neighbours into a cohesive community, where they can help the weak, where they can find solutions to problems in peace.

In this way, we want to thank everyone who contributed, either financially or with their personal interest in building a community room. To all the people of the Pentagon who overcame prejudice and perhaps fear and came and became involved in community life. All lecturers and professional collaborators who help and work for the benefit of this community. To everyone in the media space who understood that the Pentagon deserves a positive "advertisement" that will help its inhabitants, motivate them and open the eyes of the rest of us. Thanks to Lenka, Robek, Ivka, Danke, Zolim, Viki - you are great!

Our work at the Pentagon is not over either, we are continuing! We will continue to help improve security and law enforcement, prepare for further leisure activities, and continue counselling, discussions, and community room sessions. The community room is alive!

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April 18, 2019

Mayor Vallo in the community room



The community room is becoming an integral part of the Pentagon's fight against drug crime, and we are more than pleased that our joint efforts have been appreciated by people from the city hall and the city council. On Tuesday, April 16, 2019, the mayor of Bratislava Matúš Vallo, the mayor of Vrakuňa Martin Kuruc, the representative for security and drug policy Iveta Chovancová, the head of the BA police Marek Gajdoš, the deputies of the local council of MS Vrakuňa Miroslav Macko, Soňa Svoreňová and Zuzana Magálová came to visit us. After the changing

Pentagon, they were accompanied by the caretaker Lenka Poláková, the director of the management company Spokojné bývanie sro Jana Adamová and the project manager Peter Grečko.

There was talk of renovating the apartment building, rebuilding the entrance hall and changing the main entrance, installing a new access and camera system, because all this is important in a comprehensive security solution in the house. From the first steps in the house, it was clear to everyone that the Pentagon was changing, there was no unpleasant pungent odour as in the past, the stairs and corridors were clean, partly painted. Right during the visit and in front of everyone, a person who entered the house illegally was uncompromisingly expelled from one floor.

Before entering the community room, a permanent exhibition was created - a memorial room, where the state of the Pentagon in the not-so-distant past is presented in the form of large-scale photographs. And these photos, which look really authentic and even disruptive, attracted everyone's attention. They quickly understood what had happened at the Pentagon, and that if this issue was not given enough attention, it could return. After all, just a few months ago in December 2018, it was not a problem to find 18 people at the elevators at the same time, who injected a dose there ... the number EIGHTEEN once again! Can you imagine it in your block of flats? And these situations keep repeating themselves, only the numbers of drug addicts who dare to use the drug in the house are shrinking. It is also thanks to Lenka's really unprecedented and breath-taking courage, who confronts these people and "throws" them out of the house. And believe me, not everyone could expose themselves to such a threat, because you never know how a person who has just used a drug or wants to use it quickly will react. But without strictness and repression, it is simply not possible in this house.

The activities of the Pentagon Academy, the residents' interest in community life, were presented in the community room. The project from 2006 DorgyVon and the great effort at that time to change the situation, seeking help at home and abroad, were also mentioned. Lenka herself confirmed that even now the people in the house are enthusiastic and have a desire to help and get involved in the house, but if they do not feel outside support from the competent, police and self-government and there is no more lasting change for the better, their enthusiasm can once they fall and the drugs win over the immense efforts of the many people in the house. The inhabitants of the management company are supported by the changes. Mrs. Adamová and her team approach the situation in the house very responsibly. In addition to the successful implementation of the remodelling of the house, they prepared a new house rules with provisions and stricter rules taking into account the specific needs of the house. Thanks to Lenka, Mrs. Adamová and Mr Greček, the mayor of Mr Kuruc was thanked for his really good work. And, of course, thanks go to everyone who helps and tries to make the Pentagon better and more beautiful, like Feri Banda, who cleans up around the Pentagon and whom MP Macko personally invited to a short meeting with the mayor.

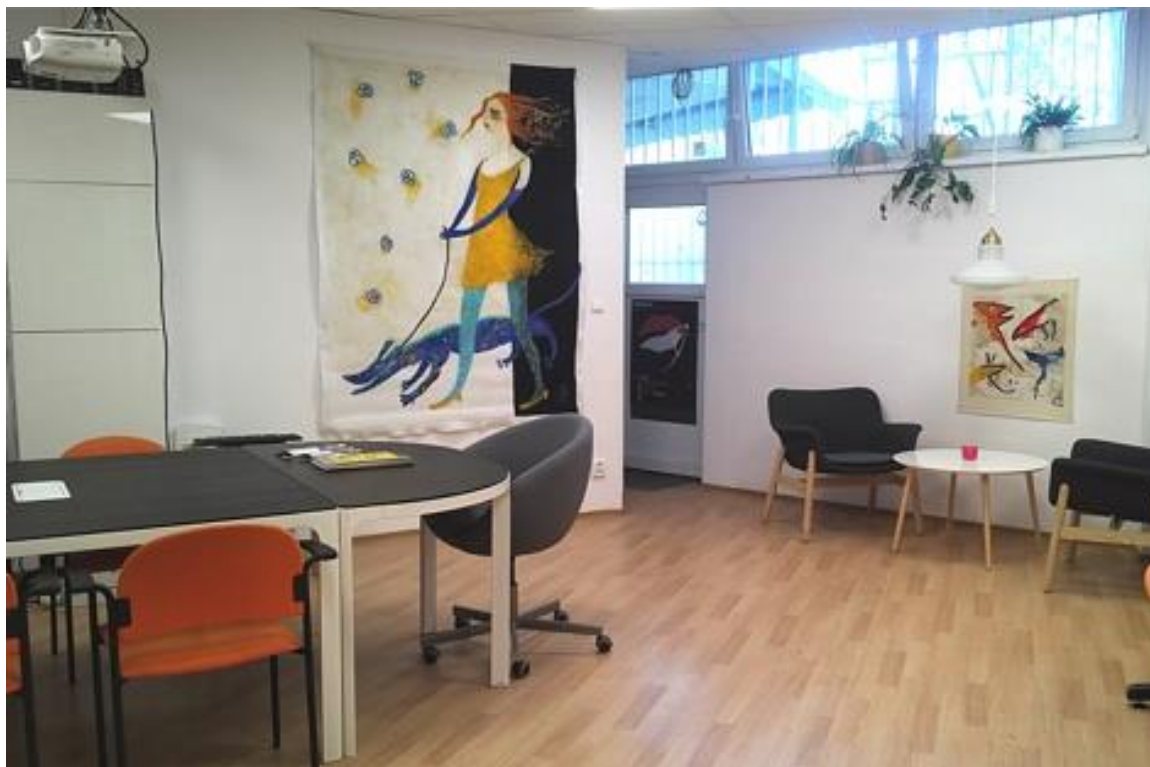
Mayor Vallo saw all this, heard it, experienced it and became convinced that things were happening at Stavbárská, good living projects were being started, which, as he said, he wanted to support. There was a discussion about what concrete steps the municipality can take to support the project and, together with the city district and the city police, they will look for solutions for the Pentagon. We hope that the necessary steps on the part of the city will be taken quickly and, most importantly, that they will be effective and well set up for the problematic environment of the Pentagon apartment building and its surroundings.

Thank you and we look forward to working with you.

[See original article](#)

May 9, 2019

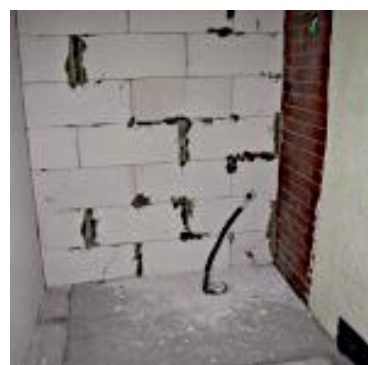
Pentagon Community Room - photo gallery



Future community room



There will be a kitchen



To you toilet



We are working on the walls



Future reception - hallway



Ceiling in the kitchen



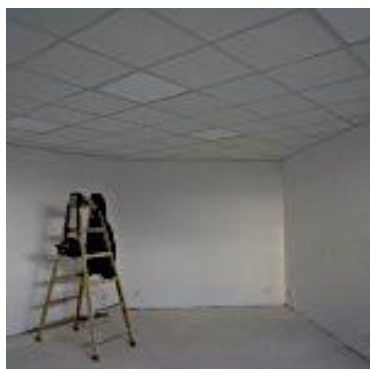
The ceiling will be in the main room for a while



The lighting is already mounted



Kitchen and toilet soon



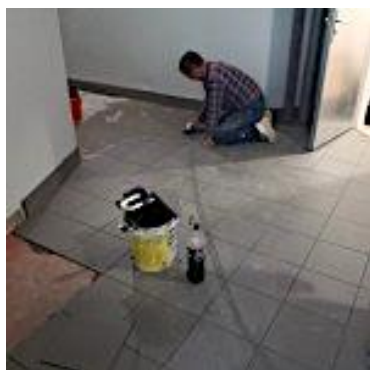
Main room



Floor selection



Good choice :)



Entrance hall



"Homeless" in the entrance hall. A frequent situation from the past and the present.



Installing the bulletin board



Tadá - WC



Kitchen also ready



View from the toilet side



Decoration by artist Zuzana
Cigánová Mojžišová



3-piece table for multifunctional use



For example, like this :)



View at the entrance to the room



Storage cabinets



View of the entrance hall



Entrance hall with mirror



Space to thank the sponsors



A room with a permanent exhibition
on the history of the Pentagon



The images are hidden by the roller shutter



A short history of the Pentagon apartment building



This is how we distributed questionnaires, as residents do not have mailboxes



Invitations to events were posted on each floor



Meeting with employees of the Crime Prevention Department of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic



The meeting was fruitful and we were promised help



First meeting on financial advice



The first meeting on Roma culture and tradition



Meeting with a veterinarian



Satisfaction on both sides



Meeting with residents on security in the Pentagon



Demonstration of the operation of a new elevator



Who is satisfied with the remodelling of an apartment building?



Mediation advice - how to resolve conflicts between neighbours



Mr Halcin discusses with residents how to help seniors not become victims of crime



One of the regular meetings of the "couplers", assistants to the owners' representative for each floor



The second meeting on Roma music and tradition



Consultation with the administrator of the apartment building



Mayor Vallo with the team in the community room



What else needs to be done?



Commendation from the mayor for his work at the Pentagon so far



The first event especially for children



Watching the film Mohyla and a discussion with director Andrej Kolenčik



Children help us clean up :)



Just such a sitting with tea :)

[See original article](#)

May 12, 2019

Children's movie night at the Pentagon



Finally, they came for their children in the community room. On the evening of May 7, we prepared a screening of the Slovak film MOHYLA about MRŠtefánik. And since it was the first screening, we did it in style. There was a red carpet, popcorn, wheels and the director of the film Andrej Kolenčík himself, who honoured us with his visit. We also prepared a surprise for him, a special film award "Pentagon Academy for directing" and a huge applause from children.

The children liked it very much and some of them liked to watch the film and simply enjoyed the atmosphere. The community room came to life with children's joking and laughter. Andrej was enthusiastic and we are grateful that he accepted the invitation and answered the children's questions about his work, work and animations used in the film.

Popcorn passed, the film ended, but the child's joy remained. The children from the Pentagon are amazing and they deserve such nice moments in life. We thank all those who helped us prepare the children's film evening and also the little big helpers who did not hesitate and after the screening took the broom in their hands and helped with the cleaning of the "cinema hall".

The pentagon is changing. Children already know and see it. Thank you and we look forward to other interesting events in the community room.

[See original article](#)

May 28, 2019

Presenting small gifts



When we started the Pentagon Academy project, we had some doubts about how the residents of the apartment building would accept it and whether they would be interested in community activities at all. It was something new for us too, not for them yet. And although the first steps into the community room were hesitant and cautious, today most of those who care about the house were in the community room. Adults and children. We believe that this will continue and we will be able to bring other nice

experiences, advice and help.

Those who were the first to join the project and were willing to share their views, life stories, observations and worries with us at the very beginning, we allowed ourselves to give them a little attention. As a thank you for their time spent filling out the questionnaires, we have prepared a practical gift for them - an LED headlamp. The gifts were handed over to them by the members of the Home Council on 27 May 2019. And the time is approaching when everyone who has filled in the questionnaires will be included in the raffle, where we will draw interesting prizes such as laptop, tablet and phone.

[See original article](#)

May 31, 2019

Violations of house rules will be paid at the Pentagon



The Pentagon Academy project continues. In May and June, life in the community room does not cease, and although we have slowed down some activities a bit to gain new strength and time to seek new financial resources, we are still working to improve security in the apartment building and prepare an interesting program for the community room.

Meetings of the home council (formerly “couplers”) are held regularly, formed from residents willing to

participate in the administration and maintenance of the house. During the month of May, 2 meetings took place. Topics included the ongoing reconstruction of the house, the repair of interiors, the optimization of the operational settings of the camera system, access system, elevators, the gradual introduction of new house rules and many other topics important for the successful continuation of the transformation of the Pentagon.

Since the beginning of the year, we have been working with the house council and the house manager on the text of the new house rules, which would reflect the current state and needs of the apartment building. An important element in the home order is the so-called the Sanctions Code, which addresses contractual penalties or restrictions on user rights for repeated violations of the House Rules. Through the community room, we want to bring pleasant and positive experiences to the inhabitants of the house, create a light-hearted friendly atmosphere and create a background where they can find advice and help with common worries even in difficult life situations. At the same time, in addition to building the community, it is necessary to insist that every single member of it observes the house rules, without exception. Only the coherence of these two attitudes can bring about a positive change. It is still unacceptable for many Pentagon residents to abide by the new rules and to adapt to an increasingly strict but justifiably critical assessment of their behaviour. And it will still be a long way to go and a difficult struggle so that, despite disagreements within the community, the improvement can be sustained and sustained.

It is important that the changes that the administrator and the home council are trying to promote have the support of the law. That is why the house order is so fundamental and forms the legal basis for achieving order in the house. The new house rules came into force on June 1, 2019 after proper discussion and approval by the representatives of the apartment owners and the administrator.

During the months of March to May, statistical surveys were conducted on the most common causes of security breaches to determine what is the greatest threat and how such behaviour can be eliminated. If an incident occurred, the authorized persons evaluated the recordings from the access and camera system and also collected the personal experiences and testimonies of the inhabitants. Based on the findings, written warnings were prepared for those apartment owners who, either in person or their tenants and visitors, did not comply with the principles of safety, violated the house rules and caused damages defined by the sanction regulations. The summons was personally handed over to the specific inhabitants by the members of the house council, explaining that it is still only a warning and if their behaviour in the house does not change and violations of the house rules are found again after 1.6.2019,

The Sanction Rules are addressed as an annex to the contract on the performance of the administration and the Sanction is defined as follows: “*Sanction - a contractual penalty or tolerance of a restriction of user rights, agreed in these sanction regulations, represents the financial obligation of the owner expressed in € as a penalty for violation of house*

rules, or tolerance of a restriction for violation of house rules. In the event of a breach of the house rules by the apartment owners and the National Park, the apartment building administrator will impose a contractual penalty on the apartment owner (a person bound by the obligation to pay prescribed advance payments to the administrator) or a restrictive measure will be taken against him; restrictive measures or pay the imposed contractual penalty to the account of the apartment building, ... The administrator is entitled to take the restrictive measure immediately after the occurrence of the infringement and identification of the person of the pest. "

The amount of the contractual penalty for a breach of house rules ranges from € 15 to € 100, depending on the severity of the breach. One of the restrictions of user rights is e.g., elevator blocking. In addition to the direct threat to safety, misuse and damage to house equipment (including elevators and fire equipment), non-compliance with hygiene principles in common areas of the house, penalties for non-registration of persons ("black tenants" accommodation), pollution of the house and night rest.

The aim of this very demanding process is to teach the inhabitants of the house to take care of their property, to protect the funds invested in the renovation of the apartment building, not to destroy the house and its surroundings, not to worsen the situation with their indifference and ignorance. The technical security of the house is of sufficient quality so that the representatives of the owners and the administrator can obtain a sufficient amount of evidence of a serious violation of the house rules and then proceed to the possibility offered by § 11 par. 5 of the Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 182/1993 Coll. On the ownership of flats and non-residential premises, as amended, and to file a lawsuit. The court may, on the basis of irrefutable evidence, order the sale of the owner's flat, which by its conduct interferes with the exercise of the ownership right of other owners of flats or non-residential premises by grossly damaging the flat or non-residential space,

The people of the Pentagon are lucky to have people there who sincerely care about changing things for the better. And this despite many obstacles, whether it is human stupidity on the one hand, envy, loss of justice and any decency, and on the other hand the fear of revenge, exhaustion and often a feeling of hopelessness. We go further, we are looking for support from the competent authorities of the Vrakuňa district and we are preparing a meeting at the level of deputies and the security committee of the Vrakuňa Municipal Office, about which we will inform you in the coming days.

[See original article](#)

June 10, 2019

Meeting of the Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Crime



The Pentagon as part of the Vrakuňa district is a problem that is not only addressed by the owners of apartments in this house. The drug crime that is being committed here has a negative impact on the surrounding houses and the entire city district. Therefore, the mayor of the Vrakuňa district, Mr. Kuruc, initiated the creation of an advisory body to the mayor - the Committee for the Prevention and Combating Crime of the Vrakuňa district (hereinafter referred to as the committee).

The committee met on June 4, 2019 in a community room on Stavbárska Street. 40, which discussed in particular the problems caused to drug homes by drug users and homeless citizens. At the moment, they are largely staying in the courtyard of the Pentagon apartment building, which otherwise forms a very nice green park. However, it is now absolutely unsuitable for a walk, for example by mothers with children, or sitting. The reason is drug addicts and homeless people, who have started to build a "tent town" here and intensively disturb the night peace, pollute the park with human excrement and bother the inhabitants of the settlement with inappropriate behaviour and drug use in public.

The Committee sought various ways to prevent, in particular, pollution of the courtyard, as there was a health risk, noise and odour. Especially in the summer months, life for apartments with windows to the park is extremely unpleasant. The proposed solution was also the location of a mobile toilet, which would partially reduce the pollution of the entire courtyard. This topic is still open and in case of adopting the idea of a mobile toilet, it is necessary to solve many technical issues regarding the exact location, waste disposal, cleaning and maintenance.

Another topic was the establishment of a neighbourhood (civic patrol) in an apartment building. The question is whether the neighbourhood patrol will be set up only at Stavbárska 40 and 42, where the patrol has already been approved, or whether other Pentagon entrances 34, 36 and 38 will be added to the project. They have so far refused to cooperate. In solving the problems of the Pentagon, it is crucial to connect, and therefore we will continue to look for the most correct form of operation of the neighbourhood patrol, to define its role and form of cooperation between the individual entrances and also with the city police. Patrol members will need to undergo training to know their rights and opportunities, within which they can perform their tasks and not get into crisis situations unnecessarily. They will also have to be able to deal with presumed verbal attacks or threats of revenge.

The committee set itself the task of organizing meetings of representatives of all the Pentagon's entrances and possibly the surrounding apartment buildings, which also experience problems with noise, drug sales, environmental pollution and damage to semi-underground containers.

The **members of the committee** attended the meeting of the Security **Committee**:

- Miroslav Macko - Member of the Ministry of Agriculture Vrakuňa
- Marek Gajdoš - Chief, Bratislava City Police
- Dominika Jašková - director, OZ Odysseus
- Lenka Poláková - Deputy Owners, Stavbárska 42
- Iveta Chovancová - City Hall HL. of Bratislava

and invited guests:

- Nikoleta Bedušová - Vice President, Oz Odysseus
- Simona Pretzová, Children's Fund of the Slovak Republic
- Lukáš Štellár, Children's Fund of the Slovak Republic
- Silvia Sokolová - representative of the owners of Stavbárska 34-36
- Peter Grečko, OZ Safe housing

[See original article](#)

June 18, 2019

Many thanks for the financial support from the creators of the film "The Caretaker"



Jaroslav Vígh and Lukáš Bandy Krist are two very skilful young filmmakers who made a short documentary for the VUB Foundation about the Pentagon janitor Lenka Poláková and the community room. The film won the Young Lions Slovakia competition and is nominated for the Young Lions 2019 international round at the Cannes Lions Festival, which will take place from 17 to 21 June 2019. The aim of this competition is to support young professionals in advertising, marketing, PR, art and

design.

And then we received an email from the VUB Foundation from Mrs. Rímešová: "... I would like to tell you an amazing thing that guys Jaro and Lukáš did. VUB Bank wanted to buy their video, which Mrs. Poláková and I shot with you about the Pentagon, and instead of asking for money for themselves, they want to dedicate it to the civic association Safe Housing so that similar projects can continue in the Pentagon. We were very pleased with their attitude, and that is why we want to support you, thanks to them and Mrs. Poláková."

In the civic association Safe Housing, we were extremely pleased with this report. We are honoured to be able to help such an amazing person as Lenka Poláková and, of course, to all the good people who are home to the Pentagon.

We've been working with the Pentagon for 13 years. We know how difficult it is to work in an environment so heavily marked by drugs and try to change it for the better. **That is why we very much appreciate the decision of Jaro and Lukáš, who not only created a truly remarkable video with a new positive view of the Pentagon, but with their generous gesture showed how the community should work in practice. Big THANKS guys!**

The project in the Pentagon continues, the community room is alive, we have other activities ready and we have a lot of plans in mind to support this community as much as possible. And that's why every financial aid gives us hope that the people of the Pentagon will really experience peaceful, dignified and safe living.

THANK YOU AGAIN!

[See original article](#)

May 3, 2019

Pentagon caretaker Lenka Poláková: "We want to create a community of decent people who care about the house"



The reputation of the Bratislava apartment building Pentagon is no longer very surprising today, but the people who decided to change the Pentagon are probably. Their goal is to return the soul to the house and create a place where people will get to know each other and the neighbour will greet the neighbour again. We talked about the first changes, ideas and everyday reality with Pentagon caretaker Lenka Poláková and with the chairman of the civic association Safe Housing, Petr Greček.

Lenka Poláková and Peter Grečko have been cooperating since 2006. Lenka has lived in the Pentagon for 18 years, works as a caretaker of the most problematic house in Bratislava, Peter is the chairman of the civic association Safe Housing. They also have realistic expectations. They know that they will not eradicate drug crime from Bratislava, but they care that humanity and a sense of security are restored to a place that is home to many decent people.

At the Pentagon, we met in a new community room that was created for all the decent people in the house. The initiators realize that change needs first and foremost communication, listening to people's needs and their support. People who are interested in creating good and change for the better in the community are also valued by the VUB Foundation, and therefore financially supported the creation of a community room in the Pentagon within the Community Grants program.



Networks and cameras are not enough, the house needs a soul

Lenka Poláková and Peter Grečko and I are in one of the five entrances to the Pentagon. We enter a new community room, which they have created as a space where the inhabitants of the house can meet. It is important for them to make people in the house aware that each of them can contribute to change.

"We wanted the community room to look nice. All visuals and texts on the walls were created by Zuzana Mojžišová Ciganová. She was given the task of bringing the soul into this space and we are very pleased with the result," says Peter Grečko about the new community room.

The project, which aims to bring humanity, understanding and the joy of life to the Pentagon, is called the Pentagon is our home. They want to improve life at the Pentagon, but also inspire people outside. "We are learning how to fight evil, and at the same time we believe that the project will one day help not only us, but also other people who have a similar problem in their apartment building," presents the goals of the project Peter Grečko.



Questions about why the Pentagon has become a drug site come from people often. "It was never an apartment building. At first it was a hostel, after the revolution, uncomfortable people moved here, and so the first problems began to arise. On a daily basis, residents encountered the fact that they had to go to kindergarten and work around the drugged people with the children. We hope that this will change, but we also know that technical means are not everything, people are important. Because a house that doesn't have a soul can't do it even with the help of nets and cameras," explains Peter Grečko.

Strive to have more positive people

Lenka Poláková and Peter Grečko realize that the situation in which the Pentagon finds itself cannot be resolved overnight. Their view of the problem is far from a romantic idea. They are aware of the path they have before them, as well as the need to think about every step and change they are trying to push through in the apartment building.



"As part of the project, we need to deal with things in the form of sugar and whips. Sugar is this new community room. We had meetings with a financial advisor, a psychologist, a veterinarian, a clergyman, but also, for example, a discussion on the topic of Roma culture, music and traditions. The room can be adapted to various activities, from a counselling centre to a cinema for 35 people. The next one will be the screening of the film Mohyla about MR Štefánik, as well as films from the One

World festival, which is organized by the organization People at Risk, or training with the Red Cross on providing first aid," says Grečko.





The space consists of a main room with multifunctional use, bathroom and toilet. In front of the entrance to the premises there is a permanent exhibition of the history of the house in the form of banners, leaflets and photographs, which present the causes of the critical condition in the house.

"We try to get people here and to keep them in the more positive mood. We need to be a team. It's nice to meet here, have coffee and tea and talk about common things," explains Peter Grečko from the civic association Safe Housing.

The doors of the community room opened in January this year. In addition to thematic discussions and cultural events, there are regular meetings of the apartment owners' committee. They solve the home agenda, coordination of work on the renovation of the house or cooperation with the administrator regarding the house rules and security principles. During these meetings, they were also taught, for example, how to communicate properly in various conflict situations.

By introducing chips, they want to limit foreign visitors in the corridors

Part of the change, which, according to the Pentagon's caretaker, is a whip, is in this case a restriction on movement in the apartment building. They are trying to solve the problem with chips. They help as barriers against the entry of people who do not live in the house. "The Pentagon is extremely complicated and fragmented, so more security has been needed. No one can go to any floor. When I go to call the elevator, I have to use a chip. When I get on the elevator, I can only go to the floor where I live," says the caretaker Lenka Poláková. Even people can enter a community room only with it.



Mrs. Poláková meets people daily, reactions to changes were different. "At the beginning, they said we were restricting their freedom, but we told them that if they went home, if they went to visit, they could come down after them. If they want to visit, for example with families who live on another floor, we will allow them to do so. The rule is that this must be requested in writing and the reason given. No visitors can run around alone. We automatically block misused keys," he explains.

The community room has also been used in recent months to talk to people about the changes that have taken place with the introduction of the new security system. 75 people came to the training on the principles of safety and behaviour when entering the house, provided that at least one person from the apartment took part in the meeting.

"Last time we walked up the stairs, we met a lady who said that there was an 80% change with the chips. We are pleased with such reactions, but we believe that soon it will be 90%," adds Lenka Poláková.

Residents were skeptical, but gradually added

Caretaker Lenka Poláková knows almost all people personally. She humorously says that many call her an aunt, mom or leader. According to Petr Greček, he has authority also thanks to the fact that he speaks to everyone equally and openly. "People see that Mrs. Poláková has struggled here and they see authority in it. He is a man who can understand the other's vision, speaks his language, tries to help him," says Peter Grečko.

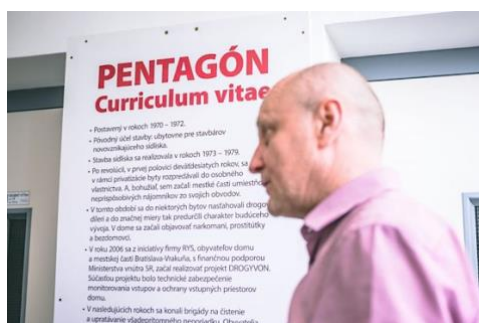


The hardest part is persuading other people to join and start broadcasting positive change together. Many Pentagon residents have been tired of the janitor's problem for many years. "People were skeptical that nothing would help and they preferred to move out. But when they saw that something was being done, they gradually began to add. Now we are really a team of several people who meet here and learn from each other," says janitor Poláková.

The house is home to young families with children and seniors

The Pentagon has many young families, seniors and, for example, police officers. "It's such a mixture, but there are few middle-aged people. Basically, the ones that would meet me physically the most," says Lenka Poláková with a smile. "There are a lot of university-educated people here, but we also had people who couldn't read and write. They signed the paper with crosses with the presence of two witnesses," adds the housekeeper.

Many people blame them for taking so many years to make a difference and still not being there. "Some people would say that we have been trying here since 2006 and that it is enough for us as a success, but it is also a success, because it is still not Luník 9 and it is not even demolished like the Blue House in Bratislava. That is a success for us," says Grečko.



Years of effort are bearing fruit

The aim of all activities is to return safe housing to decent people. "We realize that if we manage to banish evil from here, it will move on. About the street, about the house, about the city and that's bad. We do not want to close the door on others who need help. It is important that we get rid of the biggest problem, to live here more peacefully and better. It would be best, of course, for drugs not to be sold at all," says Peter Grečko.

In a community room at the Pentagon, they want to create a space for help, communication and community building for the good and brave people who care about this apartment building. "The problem is that people like to network, but only on social networks. They go out, meet, and say hello. We need to bring social society back to normal life and also create something pleasant with the help of a community room," says Grečko. "We are slowly doing well and many have joined us," concludes Lenka Poláková with a smile.

[See original article](#)

June 24, 2019

Another beautiful thing happened at the Pentagon



When a person opens his mind, his heart also opens and he starts doing good things. And good is contagious. We don't have to be "white crows" right away, it's enough if we're good crows. And a good crow sets a good crow, and we're happy that there's a whole flock of us in the Pentagon.

What actually happened to us?

On Tuesday, June 18, the first official home meeting was held in a community room. Of course, there was talk of

serious and important things concerning the renovation of the apartment building at Stavbárská 40 and 42 and the improvement of security measures. It is necessary to communicate a lot and to continue the efforts and efforts to improve in order for a well-started robot to reach a successful end.

In addition, we kept one nice promise and drew a raffle. Every Pentagon resident who completed the questionnaire as part of the Pentagon Academy project was included in the raffle. In the presence of the house council, representatives of the management company and the inhabitants of the house, we drew the owners of three prizes. However, as not all winners were present at the meeting, we decided to give them gifts separately on June 22, 2019 in a community room in the presence of Lenka Poláková. And here are the raffle winners. Congratulations!

- *Cannerová Monika - first prize: notebook*
- *Madlušková Ivana - second prize: tablet*
- *Palusová Zuzana - third prize: mobile phone*

And then the absolutely amazing thing happened.

Mrs. Madlušková gave up her prize in favour of someone else who will be more beneficial, will help and will be extremely pleased. She heard about the secret desire of Viki Kovačovičová, who is actively involved in work in the community and for the house, and since the beginning of the project, the Pentagon Academy has been willing to help. Mrs. Madlušková did not hesitate and gave her win - she gave the tablet to Viki as a thank you!

There was no lack of joy or its unique manifestations - tears. **We thank Mrs. Madlušková for having a good heart** and we thank all the good people in the Pentagon who understood what the community is about and where to start if we want to change things for the better.

We are proud of you!

[See original article](#)

A brief overview of events at the Pentagon



Since August 2019, we have been working on several activities aimed at further improving housing on Stavbárská Street at entrances 40 and 42. We bring you a brief overview of the most interesting events:

1. *First fines for violating house rules (9/2019).*
2. *Commemorative medal of the Regional Directorate of the Police Force in Bratislava for Lenka Poláková (September 27, 2019)*
3. *Subsidy from the City of Bratislava (18.10.2019)*
4. *Neighbourhood Watch Statute (10/2019).*
5. *Location of information screens in the corridors (23.10.2019).*
6. *Visit from the Police Presidium (24.10.2019).*
7. *Locking of semi-underground containers (28.10.2019).*

(1) First fines for violation of house rules

As of June 1, 2019, a new house order has been in force in the apartment building, which also includes sanctions for its violation. As announced at the house meeting, a few weeks after the new house rules came into force, the administrator and the house council only drew attention to the violation and called on the perpetrators in writing to rectify the behavior. In September, the trustee already imposed financial penalties for repeated violations of the provisions of the House Rules. The most common offenses are smoking in the elevator and storing rubbish in the corridors of an apartment building.

(2) Commemorative medal of the Regional Directorate of the Police Force in Bratislava for Lenka Poláková

She devoted a huge amount of her free time, effort and energy to the Pentagon. She showed strength of personality, courage and a good heart. It stood at the beginning of the renovation of the apartment building, it was a solid pillar of change, it was not afraid to stand against those who destroyed it and made it a dangerous place. Lenka Poláková, a member of the Home Council, has been working for the House and its inhabitants for a long time. The Pentagon is her real home, so she treats it. He also wants it to be a safe place to live, which he has been "fighting" for a long time with the support of his great neighbours and in close cooperation with the Slovak Police. The Regional Directorate of the Police Force of the Slovak Republic appreciated her work and on *September 27, 2019, on the day of the Police Force, awarded her the Commemorative Medal for significant assistance and cooperation in fulfilling the tasks of the Police Force.*

(3) Subsidy from the City of Bratislava

Our aim is to continue the operation of the community room and interesting activities for the community as best and most efficiently as possible. This, of course, requires funding, which we try to obtain from various grants and subsidies. In the second half of the year, we submitted three applications for a financial contribution. Only one of our intentions was approved, but not in full. The subsidy for the material provision of the neighbourhood patrol and training materials for its members will be provided to us by the City of Bratislava in the amount of € 1,108. On October 18, 2019, we signed a contract and provided the necessary documentation.

(4) Neighbourhood Watch Statute

From the beginning of the Pentagon Academy project, it was clear that maintaining a new, better condition in an apartment building would be very challenging. Preventing the movement of unauthorized persons in the house and their stay in common areas under the influence of narcotics was and is one of the most difficult tasks, with which the members of the home council significantly help. Based on previous experience, we have decided to set up a neighbourhood patrol, whose members will regularly inspect the common areas of the house and its immediate surroundings. They will undergo proper training and will carry out their activities in accordance with the valid legislation of the Slovak Republic and in close cooperation with the Municipal Police and the Police of the Slovak Republic. As a basic document, we have developed the Statute of the Neighbourhood Guard, which defines the tasks of the patrol and the rights and obligations of its members.

(5) Location of information displays

The Pentagon is a large apartment building, and with such frequent and fundamental changes taking place in the house, it is extremely important to inform residents in the simplest possible way. Convening a meeting for each new thing or preparing and distributing leaflets is time-consuming and organizationally demanding. Therefore, in the spirit of the 21st century, we decided to place in each of the entrance lobbies information displays that are compatible with the access system and adjustable remotely in online operation. The displays were assembled on October 23, 2019, and we were the first to release a short instructional film on the correct use of electronically locked semi-underground containers.

(6) Visit from the Police Presidium

On October 24, 2019, a meeting of representatives of the Home Council, the civic association Safe Housing, the District Department of the PZ SR and the Presidium of the PZ SR took place in the community room.

(7) Locking of semi-underground containers

Stavbárska street 40 and 42 was one of the first streets with populated semi-underground containers in Bratislava. After various technical and operational problems that accompanied semi-underground containers, which were caused mainly by insufficient information and protection of container containers, on October 30, 2019 we managed to lock all containers with an electronic access system compatible with the company's waste collection system. In addition, the lock has a beautiful accompaniment in the form of illuminated large-scale information banners placed on the wall of the "transformer station" opposite the apartment building and perimeter banners on each container. It is not only an aesthetic use of public space, but also fulfils an educational role and provides residents with a simple explanation of how to properly dispose of waste and how to behave in a given space. Graphic processing, **Zuzana Cigánová Mojžišová** is inspiring, instructive and at the same time arouses respect. Again, the Pentagon is unique and can be a model for other apartment buildings.

[See original article](#)

November 8, 2019

Locked semi-underground containers on Stavbárská street



The Bratislava Pentagon is once again holding one championship. Beautiful, inspiring, informative and at the same time arousing respect. **As the first apartment building in Slovakia, it has semi-underground containers locked to an electronic access system.**

Stavbárska street 40 and 42 was one of the first streets with populated semi-underground containers in Bratislava. However, it is a location that requires increased attention when introducing any innovations, including hitherto non-traditional waste containers. After the initial installation of the containers on September 10, 2017, it did not turn out completely well. People seem to ignore them, throw garbage outside the containers, even create an illegal landfill of oversized waste, and finally two of the containers were damaged by fire.

Our approach to the apartment building has always been different. Any change must be associated with a suitable information campaign and the closest possible cooperation with the inhabitants of the house. Therefore, we decided that as part of the Pentagon Academy project, we will help the house with the space where the semi-underground containers are installed. Our common intention was to electronically lock the waste containers and adjust the space around the containers so that no landfills would arise there.

From **28.10.2019**, all containers are locked with an electronic access system compatible with the company's waste collection system. The access system was developed by RYS and offers a specific solution for locking waste containers without the supply of electricity using a unique battery system.

The locking of the containers has a beautiful accompaniment in the form of illuminated large-area information banners placed on the wall of the "transformer station" opposite the apartment building and perimeter banners on each container. It is not only an **aesthetic use of public space, but also fulfils an educational role and provides residents with a simple explanation of how to properly dispose of waste and how to behave in a given space.** The graphic design of the banners is from the workshop of [Zuzana Cigánová Mojžišová](#). With this solution, the Pentagon is again unique and can be a model for other apartment buildings.

And what do we enjoy the most? It's been over a week and everything works in an apartment building with the worst reputation!

[See original article](#)

February 14, 2020

The story of the Bratislava Pentagon is starting to be SMART



Article published in the magazine *Stavebníctvo a bývanie*, January / February 2020, volume 21

In the civic association Safe Housing, we have long been dedicated to improving community life in apartment buildings and bring non-traditional solutions that, with their innovation, push the boundaries of the use of modern technologies in crime prevention further and further. Our aim is to transform the environment

in apartment buildings and the public space around them so that it has a positive effect on people and at the same time brings a sense of security and belonging to the life of the community.

The pentagon will not die

One of the worst apartment buildings in Slovakia, the Bratislava Pentagon, has become a matter of our heart. The house, which was a screaming nest of drug dealers and drug addicts and which you would have been afraid to enter unaccompanied a year ago, has undergone an incredible change. It started with the determination of the caretaker Lenka Poláková and a group of apartment owners to reverse the catastrophic development in the house and limit unauthorized entrances to the house. The presence of people under the influence of addictive substances in the common areas of the house posed not only a safety and hygiene risk, but also had a very bad effect on the psyche of the population, raising children and was often accompanied by property devastation. Together with the administrator of the apartment building, they applied to the State Housing Development Fund (ŠFRB) for a loan for the renovation of the house, which was approved for them. In 2018, an extensive reconstruction of the entrances on Stavbárska Street no. 40 and 42. The house received a new insulated facade, electrical wiring, elevators, tiles, painting, lighting of common areas. A large investment was also directed to security. The entrances to the house and the elevator are secured by security doors, specially adapted and sprung to withstand frequent physical attacks and digs. In the house, we have implemented a precisely thought-out zone protection, where all entrance doors on the floors and elevators are protected by an access and camera system. to withstand frequent physical attacks and kicking. In the house, we have implemented a precisely thought-out zone protection, where all entrance doors on the floors and elevators are protected by an access and camera system. to withstand frequent physical attacks and kicking. In the house, we have implemented a precisely thought-out zone protection, where all entrance doors on the floors and elevators are protected by an access and camera system. The access system based on DESFire technology provides important protection against copying of chips and provides absolute addressability of their use. All the technical elements used to restore security at the Pentagon meet the requirements for high data security and protection against misuse. In addition, electronic information boards with remote administration and connection to the access system are installed in the entrance lobbies. However, the technological revolution in the Pentagon does not end here. The Pentagon became the first apartment building in Slovakia with semi-underground containers locked by a battery access system with high energy savings, which is even connected to the central system in the house via Wi-Fi. All operational changes in the apartment building were consulted with the residents and incorporated into the new house rules, which were approved by the apartment owners. It was one of the important moments in the process of healing the hard-pressed community.

Building a community

If you say that, despite all the technical innovations and innovations, you would not want to live in a house secured as a prison, we will tell you a secret. The house has a soul and that soul is a newly built community room directly in the house, as close as possible to people and people. When we learned about the planned renewal of the Pentagon, it was clear to us that without consistent communication, support and understanding on the part of the population, technology would fail over time and investment would be lost. So we decided to help. The construction of the community room was not included in the budget for the renovation of the house from the SFRB. We received the financial support necessary for its construction through grant programs of the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, the VUB Foundation and the City of Bratislava, which contributed to the construction, equipment and operation of the room and accompanying activities. *The community room* opened its doors in February 2019 and became an office of the Home Council, a place for organizing home meetings, a space for psychological, financial and mediation counselling, as well as for leisure activities. The community room is connected with amazing experiences and human stories, experienced children's laughter, tears of happiness, singing, presentations, serious debates, but also the official visit of Mayor Matúš Vall, Mayor of Vrakun Martin Kuruc and many other representatives of the city and police.

People need to be inspired

And it wasn't just in the community room. Gradually, we try to penetrate outside the house. The first swallow is the *locking of semi-underground containers*, which we combined with the information campaign. The artist Zuzana Mojžišová Cigánová created aesthetically and content- wise *contemplated large-area banners*, which we placed on the wall of the "transformer station" opposite the apartment building. At the same time, each waste container is covered by perimeter banners, which perform an educational task and provide residents with a simple explanation of how to properly dispose of waste. With this solution, the Pentagon is again unique and can be a model for other apartment buildings. The result of this huge effort is not only to increase the price of housing, but also to increase the culture of housing and improve neighbourly relations. We will continue our activities to support crime prevention in the Pentagon, because any change is fragile at first and needs to be supported until it is firmly ingrained in people's minds. But we can already say that if it is possible in the Pentagon, it can be done in any apartment building in Slovakia. You can follow the whole story of the Pentagon and its changes on the community portal bezpecnebyvanie.sk

[See original article](#)

They came to see the Pentagon from Finland



From the right: Annu-Leena Arola (Idesco), Markus Hautala (Idesco), Peter Grečko (oz BB), Marcela Beňušková (oz BB)

Preventing foreigners from entering the apartment building was one of the basic conditions for maintaining the new safety rules agreed by the residents here. The common areas of the house had to be secured so that they could no longer be vandalized, damaged, so that people under the influence of addictive substances would not stay in them, so that such people would not sleep here or use drugs in them, so health.

The technical solution of the access system was designed and supervised by Peter Grečko, who has been involved in crime prevention in apartment buildings since 1999, when we introduced an absolutely innovative approach to apartment

building protection and comprehensively addressed the first apartment building on Rovniankova Street 14 in in 2001.

On Stavebárská Street, we tried to use all our many years of experience, so the choice fell on proven systems and their technical components, which certainly include the Finnish DESFire contactless readers produced by Idesco. We managed to create a very comprehensive access control system with the primary goal of increasing the tactical and technical level of building security.

And it was the great trust we placed in these readers that paid off. The use of compatible and advanced products offers the client a system that provides a wealth of real-time information as well as a record of all events related to the movement of persons, including violent openings, which can be effectively analysed and quickly taken necessary measures to eliminate any security breach.

The access system contains a total of 104 Idesco readers, the readers are used at the main entrance entrances, inside the elevator to select a floor, to exit at the main entrances, to call an elevator and inside the building in the sectional entrances on each floor.

Movement inside the building is restricted to authorized users (usually homeowners and their registered roommates, family, partners, etc.) to avoid excessive anonymity. This was crucial for crowding out inadaptable people, especially drug users. The system can also control individual settings of access rights, e.g., most users have the right to use the elevator only on the floor where it lives, the rights are set individually, e.g., for the disabled or the elderly.

The implementation of all technical solutions in the apartment building together with the work of an excellent team of people for crisis management has led to almost incredible changes inside the apartment building. The security of the building has increased, which has also caused a significant increase in the market price of individual apartments. Residents feel safer and have begun to think positively about the future of this community. An intelligent access control solution provides very good tools for law enforcement and crime prevention organizations.

Currently, the priority is to maintain the status achieved by all changes made during the last year. Based on the experience gained, we plan to adopt such modifications and new solutions that will ensure a long-term sustainable state

ensuring the safety and protection of the population. Our goal is to make the building even smarter, to put into practice the latest technological solutions, a cloud management system and features and activities that support the community.

[See original article](#)

Appendix

Questionnaire: Stavbárska 40-42

* Mandatory field

Name and surname *

Phone number, email *

Entrance, floor and apartment number *

I am a: *

☐ The owner of the apartment

☐ Subtenant

My current situation: *

☐ employed

☐ unemployed

☐ pensioner

☐ student

☐ invalids

☐ at the nursery

☐ other

Population age *

How long have I lived on Stavbárska *

Why do I live here *

I am interested in helping *

I am interested in activities *

- ☐ Psychological counselling
- ☐ Financial advice
- ☐ Mediation counselling
- ☐ Committee meeting
- ☐ Free time activities

How I have helped others in my life

I found someone interesting.

Which countries I visited.

What I do in my free time

My biggest dream.

I agree with the publication of the life story *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Not
- ☐ I do not know

I want to deliver the gift: *

- ☐ I will come in person
- ☐ Lenka will deliver it to me

Note

[See original questionnaire](#)

