

THE STORY OF TEACHER NAĎA: HOW INNOSCHOOL SHOWED US NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND HORIZONS

"My name is Naďa
and I work as a
teacher at the
Private Secondary



Vocational School at Bukovecká Street
17 in Košice.

The teaching craft fascinated me with
all my might, so I have been devoting
myself to it for many years. I found
myself at work. I believe that teaching
students is my mission, despite the
obstacles that life stands in our way -
because children are our future.

Children are simple beings - they like
interesting and engaging learning.
Therefore, as a teacher, I try to give
them all the professional information in
an understandable and attractive form.

It's not always easy. Questions such as:
**"Will it be practical for us in the
future? Will we use it in the future?"**

I hear in the school quite often.

When the new Act on the Social
Economy and Social Entrepreneurship
came into force in 2018, we thought
together at school, how the topic of
social entrepreneurship in an
innovative, practical and simple way to
"get under the skin" of students. **"Let's
give students new skills that would
be useful for them in practice"** - was
our motto.



We started teaching a new special subject "management and marketing of social work". But we still missed a link between theory and practice. One day in 2020, we were approached by partners from the Technical University, Faculty of Economics in Košice, with offer to participate in Innoschool Learning system piloting, an innovative learning system focused on the topic of social entrepreneurship. It was like a sign of destiny for us, that has brought us the solution were looking for. **We accepted this challenge!**

As one of 8 secondary schools in the Košice region, our school participated in Innoschool Learning system piloting in the months September 2020 - February 2021. Piloting Innoschool, highly innovative Learning System, aimed at strengthening the entrepreneurial spirit, perceptions of social problems, challenges and the creation of social innovations by secondary school students, and which combines traditional classroom learning methods with digital elements and web-based serious game, was for us teachers, as well as for students themselves, a great challenge.



"Of course, it also raised natural concerns, whether and how we will be able to implement this innovative element in learning process. I can only exalt the management of our school, which is opened to new innovative learning methods, that has taken the opportunity and started to act. To enable the teaching and pilot testing of the learning game, a new subject "Social Entrepreneurship" was from September 2020 introduced at the school for 2nd class students, which was taught by two teachers as an unclassified subject. We teachers, we were trained in the game and its teaching, during the whole game piloting also by the creators of the game professionally supported. I was worried how the students would accept the game, how they would identify themselves with it. What was my surprise, when students sometimes asking questions like: **"Will it be practical for us in the future, will we use it in the future?"**, they divided themselves into teams on their own initiative, together they solved tasks in the game, gained the game currency, supporters and competed with each other.

With help of us teachers, the game with its graphics, simplicity, dynamics, slowly guided students through the practical and theoretical world of social entrepreneurship by solving creative tasks. At the end of game, each student had obtained a certificate of successful learning completion, some of them even won the best idea for social entrepreneurship. Students learned to understand social problems and challenges, to develop their own ideas, to develop their own business models and plans, to give and receive constructive feedback, to work in a team.

Being useful, being a part by solving social problems in society, was also a great motivation for them. They felt useful, importantly, adult.

Good results, but also positive feedback from students, convinced us shortly after the start of the game of the correctness of the decision we made at school, both in relation to the game InnoSchool, so to the introduction of a new subject called Social Entrepreneurship.

Therefore, let us not be afraid of challenges and innovations in education. Because every challenge, although unknown at first, can have a lot of positive effects in the future.