

The Book Club PALIKERAV

The Book Club PALIKERAV was created by civic association Ďakujem - "Paľikerav" to show the majority of the population in Slovakia that the young Roma are not only great dancers, singers or musicians, but also devote other hobbies, more intellectual, for example, to reading books. And the other not less important goal was to get more young Roma to read books, that young people do not read books is the overall problem of our time. We try to help those who want to read, but their families cannot afford to buy them books.

The idea of the project is that the Slovak authors and publishers give us books, we are giving them to the young Roma, they are read the book and making a review they are sending to our volunteer, Miška, she edits them and then, they are published on our Facebook page of the Knižný Klub PALIKERAV, by doing a review, they meet the condition and the book remains to them. Authors are happy to have a review of their books, young ones because they get their favorite books, and we are happy because youngsters are reading.

In addition to reviews, we organize talks with writers and Live Libraries, where our reviewers go to schools and tell their stories to children, so they try to motivate them to learn and read books.

We are trying to point out that if we want to help the Roma, we must do it with education and books, just so we can change the future of these children.

We were able to get to read books not only our members, but also of their younger siblings, or even parents, who steal their books and because they must read them first.

Our project was not funded by any grant, whether government or private. No one has supported us financially. Our reviewers are making reviews just for the joy of books. The meetings are funded by our own money.

We are tearing down the prejudice, we show that Roma are reading books and good at school, and that a good project does not need a lot of money but good people who are willing to work and help others.

Our project is watched by both, Roma and non-Roma, even by well-known personalities such as the President of the Slovak Republic, the Vice-chairman of the National Council or the Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities.

Already in April, our project was noticed by the most watched television in Slovakia, TV Markíza.

At the end of April, they broadcast the Reflex session, which was also about our project, you can watch the video on this link: <https://www.facebook.com/kniznyklubpalikerav/videos/438801883137804/>

In the autumn we introduced ourselves in the newspapers, specifically in the SME journal, where we devoted almost the whole page.

On November 11, our reviewers took part in the Book Fair, not as visitors but as guests.

On 9 December, the book Vražedná sedmička (Murderous Seven), written by Roman Bezečný, was baptized by us, the mother-in-law was our reviewer Anna Hanková.

In mid-December, we won the Roma Spirit Award for our project as the best non-governmental organization. Link to see the video:
<https://www.facebook.com/kniznyklubpalikerav/videos/546081962409795/>

The greatest honor for us is yet to come, January 25, 2018, where our members meet with the President of our Republic at the Roma Education Conference, where our civic association invited as one of the participants to speak on the topic with the president on the stage