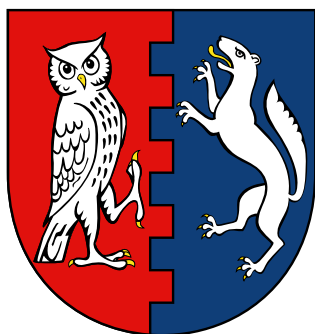




# **Servare et Manere Annual Report 2019**

## Profile

Servare et Manere is a Slovak unincorporated association founded in 2010 in the Podhorie village and is currently based in Žilina. The name of the association is composed of two Latin words "*servare*" = save and "*manere*" = preserve. Servare et Manere is an organisation founded with the purpose of knowledge, protection and renovation of the cultural heritage of Slovakia. The main goal of the association is to promote cultural and historical sights on the territory of Slovakia. Servare et Manere adopted its coat of arms and flag in 2010 and since November 27, 2016, they were registered in the Heraldic Register of the Slovak Republic under the signature HR-W-324/2016. Since 2018, after founding the international project called The Tree of Peace, the main role of Servare et Manere is the promotion of the activities related to the development of peace and friendship on the international and domestic levels. The Tree of Peace is already successfully implemented in 8 countries. The main goal of the project is to promote a message of peace by planting a Tree of Peace on every continent.



## Tree of Peace

The Tree of Peace project is an international and strictly apolitical project created on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War I. The idea of the project is based on the fate of Ondrej Sobola who died on the Russian battlefield in an unknown place. His story inspired Marek Sobola, the author of the project, to memorialize the soldiers who died during the two world war conflicts in unknown places and were buried without their names or identities. There is probably no country in the world that does without a war victim or an unknown soldier.

The Tree of Peace project was established on September 28, 2018. The main idea of the project is a Message of Peace. The project has its official logo, which contains the dove – the general symbol of peace that is associated with the tree – the main feature of the project. The project is implemented as a voluntary and community service by Servare et Manere, Slovak unincorporated association. The official motto of the Project is: “Let’s make love the lifeblood of this world”. The Tree of Peace officially represents the Slovak Republic under the brand “DOBRY NÁPAD SLOVENSKO – GOOD IDEA SLOVAKIA” that represents Slovakia at home and abroad. The project is supported by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. The project is currently taking on another dimension. All of us should behave responsibly to the current global situation caused by the pandemic of the new COVID-19 coronavirus. The Tree of Peace is also a Tree of Understanding – Tree of Life. Since 2020, the planting is linked with the current global situation and Trees of Peace are dedicated not only to the memory of the world war disasters but extend also to the memory of natural disasters. We cannot forget the victims of the current COVID-19 pandemic. As a reflection of the current situation, the Servare et Manere created the so called Friend of Peace. Important world personalities, including Ms. Farah Pahlavi, former Shahbanou of Iran; Cardinal Soane P. Mafi from Tonga; Archduke Markus Emanuel Salvator of Austria and Ms. Dagmar Havlová, the former First Lady of the Czech Republic, have become the Friends of Peace.



By 2019, thirteen peace trees have been planted in important places of the military and world history, such as The National WWI Museum and Memorial of the United States in Kansas City (United States), The Imperial Villa called Kaiservilla in Bad Ischl (Austria), The Monument to the victims of the 71st Trenčín Infantry Regiment in Kragujevac (Serbia), The Monument to the Battle of the Nations in Leipzig (Germany), or the palace complex of the Tsarskoe Selo State Museum in St. Petersburg (Russia). Six trees have been planted in Slovakia and others in Germany, Serbia, Austria, Poland, Russia, the United States and the United Kingdom. The thirteenth tree was planted by the President of the Slovak Republic, Madam Zuzana Čaputová, together with the Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic and Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to United Kingdom Ľubomír Rehák on December 4, 2019, at the Cemetery in Brookwood near London.

## TREE OF PEACE



STROM POKOJA

13



## **EVENTS OF 2019**

### **March 16**

Preparing the new design of a Commemorative Plaque. The new proposal was created in cooperation with the Kremnica Mint Studio. Author of the new design is Marek Sobola, author of the gypsum model Slovak medalist Branislav Ronai. This new design is universal and best reflects the main idea of the project that is the message of peace through the motto: "Let's make love the lifeblood of this world". The date on the plaque will be updated annually. The Kremnica Mint is a state-owned mint situated in Kremnica, Slovakia. The predecessor of current mint was established in 1328, and for nearly seven centuries it has continuously been producing mint articles.

### **March 19**

Marek Sobola, CEO of the project, met with Her Excellency, Mrs Winnie Anna Kiap CBE, High Commissioner of Papua New Guinea to the United Kingdom. The meeting was mediated by the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in London and was also attended by His Excellency, Mr Ľubomír Reháč, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic to the Court of St. James's in London. The meeting, held in a very friendly atmosphere, opened topics about projects bringing together the two geographically remote nations. One of them was the project Tree of Peace. Several places and alternatives for a suitable place for the commemorative tree were discussed: The Rabaul War Cemetery or some public place in Port Moresby, the capital and largest city of Papua New Guinea and the largest city in the South Pacific outside of Australia and New Zealand, as well as the surroundings of The Coast Watchers Memorial Lighthouse in Madang province as an iconic place for the tree. This iconic war memorial is dedicated mostly to the Australian and British soldiers and local volunteers who served and fell during the Second World War. It is one of the most important military monuments in Papua New Guinea.

## **March 19**

Marek Sobola met with Her Excellency, Hon. Titilupe Fanetupouvava'u Tuita Tu'ivakano, High Commissioner of Tonga to the United Kingdom. The meeting was mediated by the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in London and was also attended by His Excellency, Mr Ľubomír Reháč, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic to the Court of St. James's in London. After a kind welcome on the ground of Tonga, the meeting started with a discussion about projects that bring together the two geographically remote countries. There is an interesting historic link between Slovakia and the Polynesian country. In 1911 the Vava'u Island was visited by the Slovak astronomer Milan Rastislav Štefánik. He came there as a member of a French scientific astronomical expedition and stayed for almost four months in the Kingdom. He studied a total solar eclipse on a low hill in Vava'u Island near the administrative centre Neiafu. Until today, two concrete pedestals are preserved on this low hill – pylons with Štefánik's name (served as tripods for astronomers). The main topic of the conversation was the project Tree of Peace.

## **March 20**

Marek Sobola met with His Excellency, Mr Jitoko Tikolevu, High Commissioner of the Republic of Fiji to the United Kingdom. The meeting was mediated by the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in London and was also attended by His Excellency, Mr Ľubomír Reháč, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic to the Court of St. James's in London. A friendly discussion was opened by the Tree of Peace project presentation, the universal message of which is to join the nations. Although these countries are very distant from each other, there is an interesting historical link between Slovakia and the island country in Melanesia. In 1911 the Republic of Fiji was visited by Slovak astronomer Milan Rastislav Štefánik. He came there as a member of a French scientific astronomical expedition. In addition to history, the main topic of the meeting was the project Tree of Peace. High Commissioner Tikolevu appreciated this international initiative and recalled that the project also has an environmental and ecological dimension.





## **March 20**

Marek Sobola met with Mrs Gerry Manolas from the Memorial Association for Free Czechoslovak Veterans. Together with the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic in London, they honoured the memory of Czechoslovak soldiers. They dedicated a special memory to Milan Píka, a Slovak and Czech brigadier general, member of RAF and member of the foreign resistance movement, who died in Bratislava on March 20, 2019. Milan Píka was the son of a general Heliodor Píka, a Czechoslovak army officer executed by his country's Communist regime after a show trial in a kangaroo court. They also dedicated memory to general Ivan Otto Schwarz, a member of RAF, a native from Bytča (Slovakia) who died in 2018 at the age of 93. The Memorial Association for Free Czechoslovak Veterans was founded to honour and remember all Czechoslovak World War II veterans and service personnel who fought with the Allies. The Association takes care of the Czechoslovak military graves at Brookwood Military Cemetery. This cemetery covers about 37 acres (15 ha) and is the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the United Kingdom. The Servare et Manere established the cooperation with the Memorial Association for Free Czechoslovak Veterans.

## **March 25**

Establishing cooperation with Her Excellency, Mrs Ladislava Begeç, Consul General of Slovak republic in New York regarding the planting of the Tree of Peace in Kansas City. The planting was planned with the cooperation of His Excellency, Mr Ross P. Marine, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic to the Midwest USA. Mr Ross Marine took over the organization and communication with the leadership of the National World War I Museum and Memorial of the United States in Kansas City.

## **March 25**

Mr L'ubomír Rehák, Slovak Ambassador to the United Kingdom informed the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic about Marek Sobola's meetings with the High Commissioners of Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Fiji in London.



**MINISTRY  
OF FOREIGN  
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS  
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**



## **April 12**

Marek Sobola met with Her Excellency Mrs Enkeleda Merkuri, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Albania to the Slovak Republic. The Author of the idea of the Tree of Peace introduced the project and its ongoing results to the Ambassador. The main topic of the discussion was the preparation of the planting a commemorative tree in the village of Oponice near Nitra in Slovakia, where the later Albanian Queen Geraldine Apponyi (\*August 6, 1915 – † October 22, 2002) lived during her childhood. The Ambassador highly appreciated the project and expressed her interest in the cooperation with the planting. She also suggested that the act itself could be enriched by other accompanying events, such as the exhibition of photographs from the life of the last Albanian Queen or the screening of her biographical movie with the presence of some Francophone Ambassadors accredited in Slovakia.

## **April 13**

An article on the planting the Tree of Peace in Bad Ischl was published in the latest issue of “Ansichten – Pohľady”, a magazine published by Slovaks living in Austria. The tree planted in Bad Ischl is *Quercus rubra* – originally a North American tree.

## **May 16**

Servare et Manere signed a License Agreement with the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. The international project Tree of Peace officially represents the Slovak Republic under the brand called “GOOD IDEAS SLOVAKIA – IDEAS FROM SLOVAKIA”.

## **May 20**

Production of the first ten pieces of a new commemorative plaque of the project. The author of the plaque is Marek Sobola and the final design was made in the studio of the Kremnica Mint that made plaques. These plaques will be fixated on a special stainless steel pillar with a text of the particular planting of the tree and the participants of the event. The steel pillar was designed by MgA. Michal Janiga, Slovak sculptor.

### **June 14**

L'ubomír Reháč, Slovak Ambassador to the United Kingdom informed His Majesty The King Tupou VI, King of Tonga by an official letter about the ambition of the planting one of Trees of Peace in the Kingdom of Tonga and about the meeting of Marek Sobola with Her Excellency, Hon. Titilupe Fanetupouvava'u Tuita Tu'ivakano, High Commissioner of Tonga to the United Kingdom, which took place on March 19, 2019.

### **June 20**

The United States Congress is briefed about the international project Tree of Peace by Emanuel Cleaver II, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Missouri's 5th district. Official Congressional Record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress was published in Washington, Thursday, June 20, 2019, Vol. 165, No. 104.

### **June 21**

The planting of the 9th Tree of Peace was carried out under auspices of the Honorary Consulate of the Slovak Republic to the Midwest USA and the Consulate General of the Slovak Republic in New York. The tree was planted on the North Lawn of the National WWI Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri on Friday, June 21, 2019 in honour of the memory of those who fought and perished in WWI. Dr Matthew Naylor, President and CEO of the Museum and Memorial, the staff of the Museum and Memorial; Mr Matej Saloň the Deputy Consul General of the Slovak Republic in New York; Mr Ross P. Marine, the Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic to the Midwest USA; Mr Stan Salva President of the Czech & Slovak Club of Greater Kansas City in Missouri; Dr Cecilia Rokusek President and CEO of the National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids in Iowa; Mr Marek Sobola, Ph.D., the director of the international project Tree of Peace, Mr Róbert Machciník, technical manager of this project, Czech & Slovak Club members and guests participated in the tree planting ceremony. Red oak (Tree of Peace in the USA) was donated by Consulate General of Slovakia in New York. Tree planting principals also participated also in the "Taps at the Tower" at the Museum and Memorial including the placing of a wreath of remembrance at the base of the tower by Marek Sobola, Matej Saloň and Stan Salva. Official declarations and recognitions to the Tree of Peace project have been issued by Mr Sylvester "Sly" James Jr., Mayor City of Kansas City and Mr Michael Larson, Mayor of Sugar Creek city.



## October 21

The 10th Tree of Peace was planted in the Republic of Serbia. The planting of the tree was a part of a nationwide event when both the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Serbia Ms Dagmar Repčková and representatives of several Serbian state institutions in Kragujevac, the former capital of the former Principality of Serbia honoured victims of fascist aggression at the traditional commemorative event called “Great School Hour” (Serbian: Veliki školski čas). Nearly 3,000 Serbian citizens including 300 students, were murdered here 78 years ago as an act of revenge on the occupying forces. Ms Repčková, the Ambassador, along with military attaché of Slovakia Cpt. Zuzana Majerová has laid a wreath at the Memorial in Šumarice Park (Serbian: Spomen-park „Kragujevački oktobar”, Спомен-парк „Крагујевачки октобар”) and urged the new generations never to allow these unfortunate events to be repeated. In this forest park, there is also a monument dedicated to the memory of 44 Slovak soldiers who were executed on June 8, 1918, on the old shooting range, called Stanovljanske Field (Serbian: Stanovljanske polje) near the town of Kragujevac. The soldiers were members of the replacement battalion 71st Infantry “Trenčín” Regiment (German: Infanterieregiment Nr. 71). The events were preceded by the rebellion of those soldiers who got stuck their command. It was one of the biggest protests of the World War I soldiers directly on the front. The Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Belgrade was one of the important partners of the tree planting in Kragujevac together with the City Council of Kragujevac and several Slovak villages whose citizens were executed in Stanovljanske Field and their names are carved in the Memorial: Divina, Štiavnik, Belá, Krpeľany and Hruštín. Local media also reported on the event.



## **November 2**

Members of the Servare et Manere visited The Imperial Villa called Kaiservilla in Bad Ischl in Upper Austria. Kaiservilla was the summer residence of Emperor Franz Joseph I and Empress Elisabeth of Austria, known as Sissi. After a warm welcome by Archduke Markus Emanuel Salvator of Austria, owner of Kaiservilla, the delegation moved to Imperial Park to check the Tree of Peace, which has been growing here since 2018. Kaiservilla is an important place in the history of the First World War. On June 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the next in line to the Austro-Hungarian thrones, was shot by the Serbian assassin Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia. The Imperial Villa suddenly became the absolute centre of the world attention amidst a torrent of diplomatic activity. Following the murder of the Crown Prince and his wife, Emperor Franz Josef signed Austria-Hungary's ultimatum to Serbia at his desk in the Imperial Villa. Franz Josef's final act of state on July 28, 1914, was to sign the manifesto "To my peoples" (German: An Meine Völker) at his desk in the Imperial Villa. The manifest, explaining why he had been forced to declare war, was published the following day.

## **November 12**

The founder and author of the project Tree of Peace was received by the head of the Taipei Representative Office in Bratislava, H. E. Larry R. L. Tseng. Marek Sobola thanked H.E. Tseng for his cordial welcome and at the same time introduced his plans for planting a memorial tree in Taiwan. Marek Sobola is also in contact with The Slovak Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei. Both participants of the meeting, which took place in the office facilities of the Representative Office in Bratislava, discussed the possibilities of cooperation in the implementation of the international project Tree of Peace in Taiwan.



## **November 26**

The 11th Tree of Peace was planted at a very important place for the history of Europe. The commemorative tree, called *Tilia euchlora* (German: Krim-Linde), was a part of a park composition in the Monument to the Battle of the Nations (German: Völkerschlachtdenkmal) area. This impressive memorial was built in memory of the 1813 Battle of Leipzig, also known as “Battle of the Nations”. Planting of the memorial tree in Leipzig had been organized by the Honorary Consulate of the Slovak Republic for the Federal States of Saxony and Thuringia (German: Honorarkonsulat der Slowakischen Republik in Leipzig). The event was co-organized by Stiftung Völkerschlachtdenkmal Leipzig and Stadtgeschichtliches Museum Leipzig. The tree was also co-financed by both Dr Michael Jaenisch and Dr Udo Böttiger, company directors of HJW + PARTNER, Bausachverständige + Ingenieure Leipzig. The event was opened by Dr Volker Rodekamp, Director of Stiftung Völkerschlachtdenkmal Leipzig. An important guest of that memorial planting was a member of the Royal House of Saxony (House of Wettin), His Royal Highness Prinz Mauricio von Sachsen Herzog zu Sachsen, who represented his father, His Royal Highness Prinz Alexander Markgraf von Meissen Herzog zu Sachsen, the Head of the Royal House of Saxony. The Online Stadtmagazin für Leipzig and Leipziger Internet Zeitung also provided information about the event.

## **November 30**

Another of the Trees of Peace was planted in a territory of the Slovak Republic. This planting was preceded with a ceremonial of the unveiling of the reconstructed and relocated Monument to the Fallen Heroes from Divina village, which took place on the 100th anniversary of its building. The memorial was originally unveiled next to the old post office building at the lower end of Divina on May 15, 1949. Commemorative planting was attended by mayors of Divina and Divinka, Martin Fronc and Michal Krško together with members of the United States Armed Forces, SSG Daniel Collins, SGT Cody Rauch and SGT Brandon Tanis. American soldiers placed a wreath at the Monument of the Fallen Heroes and assisted in the planting of the Tree of Peace. The planting of the memorial tree in Divina was carried out with the financial support of the Žilina self-governing region. The project received a grant in the “Individual Grants” program. Reportage about the planting of the Tree of Peace was carried out by the regional TV Severka.







## December 1

The establishment of an award called The Tree of Peace Memorial Plaque As the responsible organization for the Tree of Peace project, unincorporated association Servare et Manere can recognise important personalities who treasure peace, freedom and mutual understanding and acknowledge the importance of initiatives which serve to enhance the welfare of everyone in society. Servare et Manere honours all those who have made a special contribution to the promotion of the idea of understanding among people uniting of nations and the preservation of nature. Servare et Manere expresses the highest gratitude by awarding a Tree of Peace Memorial Plaque, which may be granted to the Heads of the states, who are personally involved in planting, or people and governmental or non-governmental organizations who have made a special contribution to spreading ideas of understanding and union among nations, as well as have made a major contribution to the spreading and implementation of the project. This award cannot be given In Memoriam and the number of laureates is limited to 20 people including organizations. Laureates are included in a special register. The Tree of Peace Memorial Plaque can be awarded at any time. The medal is struck from copper and its diameter is 100 mm.



## December 4

The 13th Tree of Peace was planted in the United Kingdom. After the meeting of NATO leaders near London, the President of the Slovak Republic, Zuzana Čaputová, visited a cemetery in Brookwood, to honour the memory of Czechoslovak veterans, who fought with the Allies during the WWII. Peter Gajdoš, Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic, was also a member in the delegation of the President. With the assistance of the honour guard, the President laid a wreath to the Czechoslovak Veterans Memorial. Afterwards, the president moved to plant a memorial tree in the private part of the cemetery, where other Czechoslovak Veterans and their descendants are buried. The President Zuzana Čaputová, together with the Minister of Defence and participating diplomats, planted the 13th Tree of Peace with Marek Sobola, the author of the project. The commemorative lime tree in the 'Greenspire' variety (*Tilia cordata* 'Greenspire') symbolizes the memory and remembrance of all unknown soldiers who died in global war conflicts. It also symbolizes the Slovak origin of the project. After the planting, Marek Sobola thanked the president for the honour she showed to the project by her participation. He also handed her a Memorial Plaque with the number 001, which is identical to the plaque on the metal memorial pillar next to the Tree of Peace. This plaque is a unifying element of the whole project and is located at every planted tree. It has a uniform design in all partner countries since 2019.

## December 4

Servare et Manere awarded the Tree of Peace Memorial Plaque to Mr Ľubomír Rehák, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic to the Court of St. James's in London. His Excellency is a great friend and supporter of the Tree of Peace project since its inception.



## Financial management

### January 1 – December 31, 2019

Account balance as at 31 December 2019		13,84 €	
Cash status as at 31 December 2019		28,79 €	
Receipts		3.904,80 €	
Expenditures		6559,85 €	
Receipts and Expenditures			
Expenditures		Receipts	
Graphic services	536,18 €	Divinka village	500 €
Accommodation	836,69 €	Hruštín village	400 €
Slovak post	52,90€	Štiavnik village	750 €
Tickets (travel expenses)	3.058,07 €	Jaroslav Král', Krpeľany village	300 €
Memorial Plaque model 2018 (last year commitment)	255,74 €	Divina village	300 €
Memorial Plaques model 2019 Kremnica Mint	1.817,27 €	The Embassy of the Slovak Republic in London	562,50 €
Bank charges	3 €	Spolok priateľov Turzovky	292,30 €
		Žilinský samosprávny kraj (financial grant)	800 €
Final total	6.559,85 €	Final total	3.904,80 €
ECONOMIC RESULT as at 31 December 2019		-2655,05 €	

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Servare et Manere is a Slovak unincorporated association founded on March 31, 2010. The organization is registered by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic under N°: VVS/1-900/90-35334.

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**Statutory officials:**

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Mgr. Ing. Marek Sobola, Ph.D.

*Deputy Director*  
Mgr. Ing. Stanislav Mikolaj

*Technical Manger*  
Ing. Róbert Machciník

*Financial Manager*  
Ing. Dominika Sobolová