

desk RESEARCH

Yes, that's our cover, because we
have to use all to use less.

greenACT

PREFACE

GreenACT is a 20 months' project designed to enhance ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION and AWARENESS of YOUNG PEOPLE through the organisation of SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME to familiarize young people with the idea of environmental citizenship, based on the fact that the future depends on each and one of us by acting responsibly and positively towards our environment and developing sustainable solutions for addressing environmental challenges. In a period where Earth faces the consequences of climate change and global warming crisis and the need for mitigation of climate change is emerging, Green-ACT aims to support further these YOUTH INITIATIVES and raise more awareness in the 6 countries, by educating young people on environmental issues, inspire them in developing a firm ecological mind-set, and invite them to have a positive impact in their communities as active agents.

The partnership is composed of 6 partners from 6 countries: Romania, Lithuania, Cyprus, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Portugal

Furthermore, it aims:

- o To promote the idea of establishing SUMMER SCHOOLS for raising young people's environmental awareness;



- o To set up the GreenACT MOVEMENT (a network of young activists) for coordinating their actions and engaging citizens;
- o To build/increase the capacity of partner organizations to take action regarding the reduction of waste in the partner countries by encouraging local communities to recycle and reuse.
- o To equip youth workers with new sustainable environmental skills in order to empower more young people;
- o To facilitate brainstorming on challenges and possible solutions of topics such as alternative forms of socio-economy, biodiversity and food production, sustainable production and consumption, transport, etc.

The Desk Research template will be developed in each partner country with the purpose of recording gaps in policies related to environmental protection and awareness in partner countries and whether there are any good practices or not. As well known from before, there is a lack of reports based on what young people's opinion on climate crisis, eco-lifestyle, basic environmental issues, environmental awareness and reports to show their level of environmental education and awareness. Furthermore, this desk research will show the policies or good practices applied in the 6 partner countries for tackling the climate crisis and environmental degradation at the local level. The Desk Research along with the survey that will be later on realised, there will be provided evidence-based data in the participating countries on young people's attitudes towards climate crisis and eco-lifestyle and the EU policies in the 6 countries related to the protection of the environment.

The Desk Research template follows the below given structure, proposed by the Intellectual Output leader partner, D.G.T. Association, in order to allow an easier comparability of reported information and outcomes across GreenACT partner countries and includes the following chapters (that each will have 2 subchapters) :

- o Chapter 1: Recording gaps in policies related to environmental protection and awareness Bulgaria
- o Chapter 2: Best practices in policies related to environmental protection and awareness Bulgaria



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Slovenia is considered a green country both by its citizens and internationally. While this is true to a certain extent with its examples of best practices in policies in certain areas, there are still some gaps in policies related to environment protection.

Slovenia ranks high in Sustainable Development Index but there are significant gaps in certain SDGs especially in Climate Change, Water, Clean Energy Sustainable Cities and Partnership For Goals. This desk research has focused on the challenge of transition to green energy (most of energy output is still from non-renewable sources like coal and nuclear power), the issue of access to drinking water for Roma members living in informal settlements, a problem of plastic waste which has grown even worse due to anti-Covid 19 measures and also not enough of Slovenian aid to other countries, especially in the area of environment. In the last two years with the change of the government in Slovenia, environment situation has worsened also due to obstacles to environment organizations and attempts for environment legislation to be more business friendly at the expense of nature. This has resulted in the forthcoming referendum on Water Act on July 11.

On the other hand, Slovenia can also boast of some green achievements. Slovenia ranks the third by the percentage of forests in its territory in European Union with two virgin forests which have recently become UNESCO World Heritage sites. Slovenia is also a part of the first five nation-transboundary UNESCO Mura-Drava-Danube Biosphere Reserve, nicknamed the Amazon of Europe. It is also the proponent of the World Bee Day as it has strong tradition of beekeeping famous worldwide and also is the first EU country which has enshrined the right to water into its constitution.

How post-covid 19 Slovenia will advance towards the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals remains to be seen as it also depends on how the European funds for recovery are going to be spent. The key here is a civil society which not only has to defend the existing environment laws but also to strive for even stricter protection of environment-related topics. The youth as the agent of the change, who will inherit Slovenia, plays the most important role in future.



POVZETEK V SLOVENŠČINI

Slovenijo imajo za zeleno državo tako njeni prebivalci kot tudi drugod po svetu. Čeprav je to do neke mere res preko dobrih praks in politik na določenih področjih, so še vedno v Sloveniji določeni razkoraki kar se tiče politik zaščite okolja.

Med državami sveta Slovenija visoko kotira na indeksu trajnostnega razvoja, vendar so še veliki izzivi pred Slovenijo na področju podnebnih sprememb, vode, čiste energije, trajnostnih mest ter partnerstva za cilje. Naša raziskava se je osredotočila na izziv prehoda obnovljive vire energije, saj se večino energije v Slovenije proizvede preko neobnovljivega premoga in jedrske energije, dostop do pitne vode za Rome iz nelegalnih naselij, problem plastičnih odpadkov, ki je z ukrepi zoper Covid-19 še narasel, ter tudi za nezadostno uradno razvojno pomoč Slovenije revnejšim državam, vključno na okoljskem poročju. V zadnjih dveh letih je s spremembo vlade v Sloveniji prišlo do poslabšanja stanja okolja tudi z oviranjem dela okoljskih organizacij in s poskusi, da bi spremenili okoljsko zakonodajo v prid podjetništvu in v škodo narave. To je privedlo do bodočega referendumu o vodi 11.julija 2021.

Na drugi strani se lahko Slovenija pohvali z nekaterimi dosežki na področju okolja. Je tretja po površini gozda v Evropski Uniji in ima med drugim dva pragozdova, ki sta pred kratkim postala del UNESCO-ve svetovne dediščine. Slovenija je tudi ena izmed petih držav članic v prvem petdržavnem biosferne rezervatu na svetu Mura-Drava-Donava, ki ga imenujeji tudi Amazonka Evrope. Slovenija je tudi pobudnica svetovnega dneva čebel in ima močno in slavno tradicijo čebelarstva, ki je znano po vsem svetu in je obenem tudi prv država Evropske Unije, ki je v svojo ustavo zapisala pravico do vode.

Kako bo Slovenija po Covid-19 epidemiji napredovala z izvajanjem ciljev trajnostnega razvoja, se bo šele videlo, je pa ta razvoj odvisen tudi od tega, kako bodo evropska sredstva za okrevanje porabljena v Sloveniji. Ključ je tu civilna družba, ki ne samo, da mora braniti doslej sprejete okoljske zakone, temveč se mora zavzeti še za strožjo zaščito tematik povezanih z okoljem. Mladi, kot nosilci sprememb in tisti, ki bodo nasledili Slovenijo, igrajo tu najpomembnejšo vlogo.



INTRODUCTION

The desk research for Slovenian part of the Erasmus+Ka205 GreenAct project has been based on the research from mostly internet resources. The attention was put on the topics we find important about the state of environment and current issues that have and will impact Slovenia on its path to green transition.

Although Slovenia is considered a green country, there are issues and challenges that especially young people will face if we don't start solving them through environment protection and climate change mitigation. The desk research also aims to offer pan-European and global outlook as it also considers Slovenian international development cooperation in the field of environment-related topics.

Slovenia became independent from Yugoslavia on June 25, 1991 and on May 1, 2004, it joined the European Union.

More than half of Slovenia is forested, ranking it third in Europe, by percentage of area forested, after Sweden and Finland. According to the Slovenian Environment Agency (ARSO), Slovenia covers less than 0.004% of the entire Earth's surface and 0.014% of its land surface, however, more than one per cent of all known species on Earth and over two per cent of land species live in its territory. Slovenia is classified as one of the richest European and even world countries in terms of biodiversity, and areas of special importance cover more than half the country (56% – protected areas, valuable natural features, the European network of nature protection areas Natura 2000, ecologically important areas). Slovenia's nature is especially protected in 50 nature parks (1 national, 3 regional and 46 landscape parks), 56 nature reserves, one integral nature reserve and 1,161 natural monuments. The European Green Deal identifies biodiversity as one of the main priorities for the Commission and the EU member states in the coming decade. During the Council Presidency (July 1-December 31, 2021), Slovenia will advocate the implementation of measures from the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030, and a better management of existing protected areas, including Natura 2000, and the protection of wild pollinators.¹

According to Sustainable Development Report from June 30, 2020, with data from before Covid-19 pandemic, Slovenia's overall rank in implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was number 12 with 79,8% of SDGs already implemented. According to the report, major challenges for Slovenia remained in the SDG no.13 (Climate change) and significant challenges remained in SDG no.6 (Clean water and sanitation), SDG no.7 (Affordable and clean energy), SDG no.11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and SDG no.17 (Partnership for goals). The upcoming 2021 Sustainable Development Report is supposed to be published sometime in June 2021.²



1. Recording gaps in policies related to environmental protection and awareness in Slovenia

Key findings of Chapter 1:

- ...The energy sector challenge to green transition.....
-The access to drinking water for Roma in informal settlements
- More and better Official Development Assistance, including for environment
- The situation of environmental NGOs
- Plastic waste in the time of Covid-19
-

1.1. Already existing gaps in Slovenia

There are existing gaps in Slovenia that generate problems. They are less about non-existing policies but more about existing policies having a defectuos implementation.

In April 2021, the Slovenian government adopted resolution on Slovenia climate neutrality by 2050. The resolution hasn't been passed by the Slovenian parliament yet.³

But there are huge existing gaps which may prove difficult to reach climate neutrality. The energy sector faces a huge challenge in green transition. Most of energy in Slovenia is produced from non-renewable sources. Teš 6 lignite-powered plant, due to rising costs of emission coupons, could be closed before 2033 as originally planned. Currently Teš 6 generates a third of Slovenia's electricity output. The second case is Krško nuclear power plant which 40 year-span ends in 2023. The government is already considering to build a new reactor.⁴

A revised analysis of Slovenia's national recovery and resilience plans by Bruegel, a Brussels-based think tank, shows that from EUR 2.6 billion in available funds, Slovenia plans to spend EUR 1,05 billion on green and EUR 0.54 billion on digital goals. The rest of EUR 0.91 billion has been earmarked for "other" investments. While Slovenia stood out by its low share of digital and green investments in the first Bruegel's analysis, the updated figures place Slovenia in the middle of the rankings in the EU.⁵



The analysis of funds points to the fact that among spending shares only 700 to maximum 1, 2 billion EUR are likely to have climate impact and make a contribution to a green transition. Most important measures with effect on green transition include investments in reducing flood risks (310 million EUR), investments in renewable energy sources (50 million EUR), investments in railway infrastructure (279 million Eur), construction of public housing (60 million EUR), building renovations (86 million EUR) etc. But on the other hand if 50 million EUR for renewable energy sources are mainly spent for a hidro power plant Mokrice on the lower Sava River, and not for any solar power, then the investment may run counter to „Do No Significant Harm” requirements, as the Mokrice project endangers several important species,, including Natura 2000 qualification species. Also the investment in natural gas stations in the sum of 8 million EUR is considered to have a negative effect on green transition.⁶

According to Global Footprint Network, the world will achieve Earth Overshoot Day on July 29 this year. However Slovenia has already achieved its Earth Overshoot Day on April 30. It is very disturbing that with each new year Slovenian Earth Overshoot Day is closer to the Day of Earth on April 22.⁷

Since declaring access to water as a human right in its constitution in 2016 as the first EU country, Slovenia has failed to adopt the legislation to implement this right, especially for vulnerable communities , such as 12,000 Roma population. In December 2019, a two-month-old Roma baby died of untreated pneumonia. Roma families in Ribnica area live in inhuman living conditions without water, sanitation and electricity. Roma’s life expectancy is 55 years compared to 77 years of Slovenian population.⁸

A group of Roma sued Slovenia at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. On March 10, 2020, the Court delivered its judgement in Hudorovic et al. V.Slovenia and found Slovenia not to violate human rights of Roma to access water and other basic infrastructure in their informal settlements. Slovenian law allows access to the public water network to households with required building permits. The judgement recognized Roma’s greater disadvantaged in accessing water but the court was reluctant to examine a claim of unequal access to water as an issue of discrimination. Roma families have a history of entrenched discrimination leading to social exclusion. They are overrepresented in informal settlements lacking basic infrastructure in Slovenia.⁹

In recent years, financing of environmental NGOs have become a problem. For example, they receive only 1.18% of all state funds intended for NGOs in Slovenia from the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP), and this share covers the areas of environment, nature and also space.

NGOs receive only 0.41% of the total MESP budget, which is almost four times less than the average share of funds for NGOs in the budgets of ministries.



Despite the provided earmarked funds, according to the MESP, no tenders are planned for NGOs in 2021, and according to the current proposal of the program for the use of the Climate Change Fund in the period 2020-2023, the already planned funds will be reduced by 60%.

There are more than 200 environmental NGOs in Slovenia, including 78 NGOs with the status of acting in the public interest in the fields of environmental protection and nature conservation.¹⁰

There is also a lack of awareness of those policies among public. Those NGOs with the status of acting in the public interest in the fields of environmental protection and nature conservation received only 0.8% of all income tax deductible donations in Slovenia in 2019. Companies can't finance environmental organizations in Slovenia due to the conflict of interests.¹¹

In its biggest environmental mobilization so far, civil society in Slovenia has managed to secure a referendum on the contested Water Act by collecting more than 50,000 certified signatures of citizens during the campaign for drinking water demanding a referendum which will take place on July 11, 2021. New provisions of Water Act open the door for commercial construction in coastal strips, thereby endangering surface and groundwater making it more difficult to protect the right of access to water as a public good.

According to Greenpace Slovenia, the global pandemic was used as an opportunity to dismantle environmental protection through the idea of economic development. Amended Water Act allows for construction of restaurants, tourist shops, parking lots, etc, on the coastal strips which could limit access to people. In the addition, the Nature Conservancy Act has already been amended while amendments to the Environmental Protection Act, the Construction Act and the Spatial Planning Act have already been announced.¹²

The gap can be seen also in Slovenian international development cooperation. Slovenia pledged to allocate 0,17% of its GNI for Official Development Assistance (ODA), a part of SDG no.17, already by 2015 and its aid is still small. According to the Report About International Development Cooperation of Slovenia in 2019, published in October 2020, Slovenia allocated 77,4 million EUR or only 0,16% of its GNI for ODA (the whole ODA of OECD DAC). The good thing is that it also includes funds for climate change mitigation with a focus on sustainable management of natural and energy resources. These include SDGs no.6, 7, 12, 13, 14 and 15. Most of the projects carried in this area were by the Slovenian Centre For International Cooperation And Development (CMSR) and its focus were Western Balkans countries. Among projects were a compost project in Kosovo, a sustainable management of forests' project in Georgia and water-related projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania and Ukraine. Climate change-related projects funded by Slovenia took place in Serbia as well as two NGO-led projects in Rwanda and Uganda. A humanitarian relief was sent to Mozambique, hit by tropical cyclone, a consequence of climate changes.



CMSR projects were worth more than 3.3 million EUR. Altogether Slovenia allocated almost 5.8 million EUR for climate change-related international development projects, either multilateral or bilateral ones. Slovenia also funded environment projects in the sum of 4,36 million EUR in 2019.¹³

Plastic waste has been always a problem in Slovenia. The research entitled Recycling of European plastic is a pathway for plastic debris in the ocean, published in September 2020, shows that according to UN Comtrade data from 2019, Slovenia, had the highest ocean littering per head (1,5 kg per citizen) for the polyethylene exported out of the original country in the EU. Plastic waste export is an important pathway of plastic debris loss into the oceans from Europe, and Slovenia is no exception here. The challenge of managing increasing quantities of plastic waste diverted for recycling in Slovenia has been partially met through export of plastics destined for recycling to low-cost countries outside of Europe. Therefore improving efficiency of plastic separation in Slovenia without paying greater attention to the final fate of exported plastic flows is counter-productive from an environmental perspective.¹⁴

According to Greenpeace Slovenia, in 2019 most of Slovenian plastic waste was exported to Malaysia (34.579.007 kg), Turkey (11.755 kg), Indonesia (10.117 kg) Hongkong 9.310 kg) etc.¹⁵

According to the Ecologists Without Borders NGO, only around 33% of plastic waste is recycled in Slovenia (globally less than 10%) and around a third of EU plastic waste meant to be recycled is actually exported to developing countries.¹⁶

Measures to contain the spread of Covid-19 infections have resulted in bigger plastic waste in Slovenia. Our society has once again been thrown back into single-use plastics as the use of disposable items and in particular of disposable plastics has increased. Harmful impacts include haphazard use and disposal of disinfectants, the use of nonbiodegradable personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks and gloves, increased home deliveries with additional protective materials, food taken home in disposable materials and packaged items from stores carried home in plastic bags. Microplastics are now found everywhere as disposable face masks are difficult to recycle due to the mixture of different types of materials. Disposable materials, especially plastics have been presented as the responsible, clean and hygienic choice due to presumed increased spread of infection from reusable products. There is even more harmful impact of the continuous use of carbon emitting equipment and of plastic syringes used for massive Covid-19 vaccinations resulting in the increased medical waste. The increased production of nonbiodegradable materials is inevitably going to affect the environment we live in. This additional waste is an additional source of microplastics which will be finally drained to the ocean polluting the marine environment.

1.2. Future impact of those gaps in Slovenia



The future impact of existing policies having defectuous implementation will slow down the green transition of Slovenia and will result in negative consequences for both environment and people. An extra effort is needed to ensure Slovenia goes back to the path of sustainable development and therefore the public action is needed.

The future impact of not recognizing Roma communities in informal settlements to have access to drinking water as enshrined in Slovenia's Constitution will lead to further health problems and will impede the process of integration of this minority into the mainstream society. Moreover, Sustainable Development Goals won't be achieved in Slovenia if a certain group like Roma are left behind. Main points to be covered here include future impact of:

If there is less financing for environmental NGOs, they will have more problems to undertake activities meant for environment protection and climate change mitigation and will be even more dependent on interested activists and volunteers.

It will be also harder to achieve post-Covid 19 green and just transition if public is passive. A good example of positive engagement of public is forthcoming Water Act referendum on July 11. All environmental gains so far can easily be lost if public is not watchful and if people stop taking care of environment and their surrounding.

Slovenia also pledged to raise its Official Development Assistance but in reality it lags behind its promises. It should follow best practices and raise its ODA to 0,7% of its GNI as suggested by the UN.

The way out is to conduct activities of environment and SDG awareness among young people in order to enable them acquire pan-European and global mindset with empathy and activism. The generation that caused these problems won't solve them.

2. BEST PRACTICES IN POLICIES RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AWARENESS IN SLOVENIA



Key findings of Chapter 1:

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- Forested country with primeval forests as Unesco World Heritage sites
- First five-country UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube
- A champion of bees- World Bee Day
- First EU country to have a right to water in its constitution
- Ljubljana, a green capital of Europe 2016., the only European capital member of Zero Waste Europe network
-

2.1. Already existing best practices in Slovenia

There are existing policies on national level in Slovenia and there are also examples of best practice in the correct implementation of those practices on national level.

Krokar and Snežnik-Ždrecle Virgin Forests were declared UNESCO World Heritage sites as a part of the extension to the UNESCO World Heritage site Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests of Germany. They are kept intact as primeval forests. Only from May 2021 on, the Krokar forest has been accessible to limited number of visitors while the Snežnik-Ždrecle forest is still off-limits to tourists.¹⁷

First five country Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube will be designated by UNESCO sometime in summer 2021, covering 700 km² of the region of the rivers of Mura, Drava and Danube running through Austria, Slovenia, Hungary, Croatia and Serbia. The lower courses of the Drava and Mura Rivers and related sections of the Danube are among Europe's most ecologically important riverine areas, the so called Amazon of Europe, forming a long green belt. There were plans to set up hydro power stations on the Mura River in Slovenia but due to the public pressure, the government of Slovenia decided in May 2019 to protect the Mura river and halt the construction of hydro power plants.¹⁸

A World Bee Day: Slovenia proposed that the United Nations proclaim May 20 as the World Bee Day. On december 20, 2017, the United Nations unanimously supported the proposal and proclaimed May 20 as the World Bee Day. The purpose of the World Bee Day is to raise awareness of the importance of bees and beekeeping. May 20 is the birthday of Anton Janša (1734-1773), a Slovene beekeeper and the pioneer of modern beekeeping. Slovenia is a nation of beekeepers and in 2011 Slovenia was the first EU state to prohibit the use of certain pesticides harmful to bees. Bees and other pollinators pollinate nearly three quarters of plants that produce 90% of world's food.¹⁹



Slovenia was the first EU country to enshrine the right to water in Constitution in 2016. As mentioned before, water features prominently in Slovenia's international development cooperation. According to Dr. Stanislav Raščan, the state secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs acting as a Minister for Development Cooperation, Slovenian aid to WASH represented more than 10% of Slovenian Official Development Assistance which makes Slovenia the second donor in terms of the percentage of WASH ODA. According to him, Slovenia is determined to make a comprehensive approach to water in all aspects of EU external action a core priority during Slovenian EU presidency.²⁰

Ljubljana, the capital city is another example of best practice. Since 2016 when Ljubljana was proclaimed the Green Capital of Europe, it has acquired 6 new urban garden areas, 2 Ljubljanica River beaches, 3 dog parks, 6 public orchards, a new animal shelter, a public herb garden, 3500 new trees planted, a bee path, 360 new bikes and 34 new bike stations in the Bicikelj bike rent system a municipality municipality's vineyard, electric train Urban, 20 new electric car stations, various circular economy projects and RCERO, a very modern waste treatment plant, new low energy or zero energy buildings etc. Ljubljana is also planning to put a public Ljubljanica river transport into operation.

Ljubljana became a member of an international network of Cities for Bikers in 2018 and a member of Tree Cities in the World in 2019 as forests cover 46 per cent of the Ljubljana Municipality area. Since 2014 Ljubljana has been the only European capital member of Zero Waste Europe network.²¹



2.2. Solutions to raise awareness in order to promote those best practices in Slovenia

Slovenia is generally considered to be a green country. Numerous foreign articles view Slovenia as one of the safest and greenest destinations in Europe and the World. Slovenian Presidency of European Union from July 2021 until the end of 2021 is a great opportunity to enhance the knowledge and facts about best practice in environment-related activities and on the other hand also to start solving environmental issues and challenges that haven't been tackled yet. This is the chance for environmental NGOs to put pressure on the government to be serious about the environment protection and climate change mitigation.

The ideas are to start with ecological, sustainable tourism in Snežnik Ždrocle and Mura part of the Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube. Beekeeping Academy already established should enroll both Slovenian and international students and Slovenian beekeepers should share their knowledge with their counterparts in Europe and the world. Considering water issues, Slovenia should form Water Coalition and actively engage with like minded countries in new water-related projects within the international development cooperation. The city of Ljubljana should also share its examples of best practice with other capitals in Europe and the world to help green transition go smoother.

New methods that could potentially be used in future have to be connected with 21 st century skills based on interdisciplinary approach and the use of new digital skills . Here , the initiative is with the young people who will inherit Slovenia, Europe and the world and who are probably most interested to see the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals so that no one is left behind in the post Covid 19 Europe and world.

CONCLUDING REMARKS



This research has found out that despite pretty good overall Sustainable Development Index, Slovenia has recently experienced some negative trends in the area of environment and climate change. This is especially seen in the context of the recent challenges to the work of NGOs, especially environmental NGOs and recent, amendments to some acts in legal system that endanger environment protection like Water Act .

It depends on us how public will make itself heard in the time of post-Covid 19 recovery. If Slovenia wants to achieve a just and a smooth transition to green society, it has to make existing environmental laws even stronger so that water is in public domain (including for Roma people), circular economy and alternative modes of transport are reinforced, non-renewable energies like coal and nuclear energy are phased out and replaced by renewables, that Slovenia achieves its climate neutrality before 2050 (better in 2035 like Finland) and that Slovenian Official Development Assistance is scaled up especially in the field of environment protection and climate change mitigation.

Finally, as we are still in the time of pandemic it's very important that we deal with potential future pandemic in a different way. The anti-corona measures have resulted in loss of jobs, rising debts, rising nationalism and have also negatively impacted environment with additional waste from single use masks, gloves, vaccines , medicines and have polluted soil and water. On the other hand as Amnesty International has reported, governments around the world used anti corona measures as a pretext to clamp down on civil rights and liberties under the pretext of going into new normal..

For Slovenia it is important how EU funds will be spend in Slovenia and thus the role of civil society as a watchdog and also as an agent of change, especially with the active participation of young people is extremely important if we want to ensure a just transtion to sustainable Slovenia where no one is left behind.

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