



društvo za sonaraven razvoj
Association for Sustainable Development

annual report

2023

A year of deeper change

Changes. We cannot avoid them. At Focus, we've embraced them with open arms in 2023 to make it easier to deliver on our goals. We have transformed the way the organisation works internally, expanded the team, taken on new projects and boldly tackled completely new topics. Easy? Not at all. Difficulties? You bet. But it was necessary. And when a team member says in an emotional speech that she can't really say what it is that makes Focus different from other NGOs, but that it is a great team of very diverse individuals working in a very positive working environment and atmosphere which we all love being part of, we know we are doing the right thing. Without inspiration and satisfaction within the team, the results could not be what they are.

We want to present our annual report in a clear and concise way. But Focus is much more than a list of projects and activities, and we hope this report successfully reflects that.

Thank you for following us.

The Focus Team



20th

birthday

16

employees at the end of 2023 is a new record number of Focus employees

16

households

3

public buildings

2

local businesses are included in the energy self-sufficiency community Zeleni Hrastnik ("Green Hrastnik"), set up with the support of Focus

620

media reports have mentioned Focus (and we've probably missed a few)

186

participants attended the International Summer School of Political Ecology 2023

1

European Social Innovation Award 2023 - awarded to the EmpowerMed project, coordinated by Focus

10

14

Disco Soup events focusing on the production and preparation of sustainable food in a relaxed and musical context

projects were funded by major EU programmes - 2 by the Horizon Europe programme, 4 by LIFE programme, 3 by Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme and 1 by the DEAR (Development education and Awareness Raising) programme

Climate

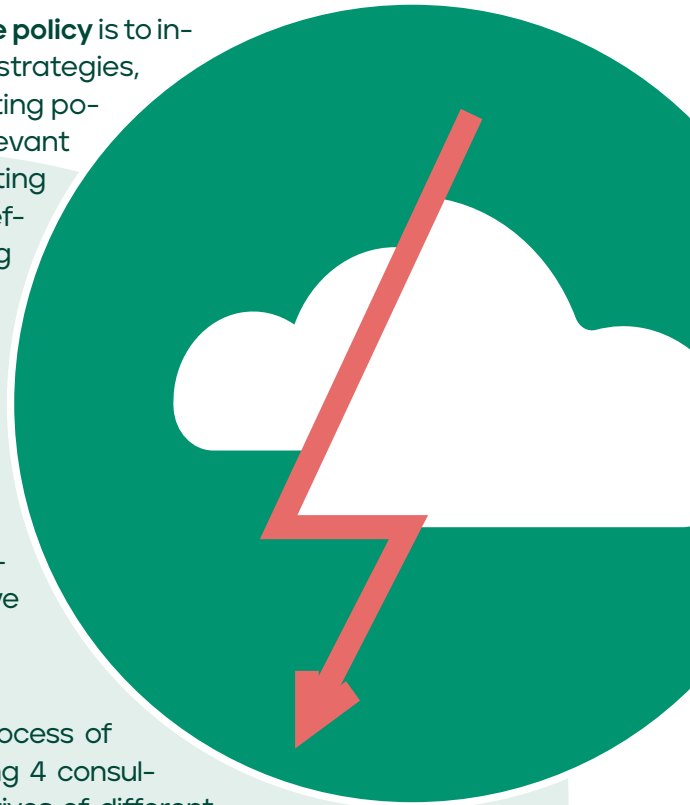
The aim of **co-designing climate change policy** is to influence the development of positions, strategies, national and EU regulations by formulating positions and providing comments to relevant stakeholders, organising and participating in events (consultations, meetings, briefings, debates), advocacy, monitoring and responding to the implementation of adopted policies, and working with the media.

Key activities

1. We continued to monitor the adoption process of the **Fit for 55** legislative package.
2. We participated in the adoption process of **the Climate Law**, including co-organising 4 consultations on the draft law for representatives of different stakeholder groups.
3. We were involved in the **revision** process of **the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP)** and as an intervener in the process of the Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (CEA) of the NECP.

As a representative of NGOs working in the field of climate change, Focus has actively participated in the meetings of the **Council of the Minister of the Environment, Climate and Energy**. In 2023, we also participated in all **climate diplomacy meetings** convened by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Some of the policy monitoring activities were carried out under the **Plan B Network for Slovenia**, where Focus coordinated the Climate Policy Working Group, and others with the support of the European Climate Foundation.



/ LIFE TogetherFor1.5

(Bringing EU Member States together to achieve the 1,5°C objective of the Paris Agreement)

The project aims to **align the EU's climate and energy commitments and actions with the Paris Agreement's objective** of limiting global warming to 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels. The project builds on the opportunities provided by the revision of climate and energy policies (finalisation of the Fit for 55 legislative package, revision of the National Energy and Climate Plans, and revision of the national long-term strategies) during the project period (September 2022 - August 2025) and the improvement of public acceptance of more ambitious and inclusive climate action.

Activities

1. We participated in the revision process of the National Energy and Climate Plan - with a response in the Plan B Network for Slovenia, where Focus coordinated the Climate Policy and Sustainable Energy Working Groups, as well as in the Comprehensive Environmental Assessment (CEA) process.
2. We contributed to a report on public involvement in the NECP revision process.
3. We participated in the **NECP Awards Campaign**, highlighting the good and bad policies in the NECPs in key areas to address the climate crisis.
4. We contributed to a report analysing the draft revised NECPs and made proposals for climate and energy planning at EU and Member State level, in line with the Paris Agreement.
5. We organised a stakeholder meeting on challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the Slovenian NECP.

Objectives and plans

- We will participate in a study and report on the social benefits of climate action in 13 EU Member States and a communication campaign on the positive effects of faster action on the quality of life of Slovenian citizens.
- We will monitor, analyse and engage in the revision process of the NECP.



- We will monitor the implementation of the Slovenian NECP and update the [implementation monitoring tool](#).
- We will contribute to the analysis and report on the transparency of climate and energy data at national level.
- We will organise a conference to share good practices in the renewal of NECPs.
- We will prepare an analysis of Slovenia's Long-Term Strategy in the light of the strengthened EU 2030 target, the potential new 2040 target, and the Paris Agreement.

Partners and funder

Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe), Centre for Transport and Energy (CDE), Development Design Association (DOOR), 92-gruppen, Eestimaa Looduse Fond (ELF), Focus Association for Sustainable Development, Germanwatch Nord-Sud Initiative e.V., Foundation Institute for Sustainable Development, Réseau Action Climat - France (RAC-F), Sociedad Española de Ornitología (SEO/BirdLife), Association for the Sustainability of the Earth System (ZERO), Bond Beter Leefmilieu Vlaanderen (BBL), Magyar Természetvedők Szövetsége (MTVSZ), Environmental Association "Za Zemiata" Sdružení (ZaZemiata)

The project is funded by the European LIFE Programme.

Link

<https://1point5.caneurope.org/>



/ LIFE IP CARE4CLIMATE

LIFE IP CARE4CLIMATE is an integrated project that **promotes the implementation of measures to help Slovenia meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets** through awareness-raising, education and training of key stakeholders.

Activities

1. We implemented **support programmes for the municipalities of Hrastnik, Postojna, Kočevje and Maribor** for sustainable community resource **management**, and participated in the implementation of a support programme for the **municipalities of Tolmin, Kobarid and Bovec**.
2. We have implemented **community demonstration projects in Postojna** (where we successfully completed the project with the opening of the Sustainable Mobility Centre), **Hrastnik** (cooperative community solar power plant – Solar School Hrastnik), **Ig** (cooperative community solar power plant) and **Velenje** (business model for self-supply for the **Velenje** Municipal Utility Company). We have participated in a demonstration project with the **Ptuj Agricultural Cooperative** (community solar power plants).
3. We co-organised a national conference entitled "**Climate Change for Local Communities**".
4. We produced the newsletter **Enough for All**, managed the online platform dovoljavse.si and the FB page [Enough for All](https://www.facebook.com/EnoughforAll).
5. We organised a high-profile **international summer school on political ecology**, "Overcoming the Inequalities of the Green Transition", attended by 186 international and national students, researchers and theorists, decision-makers, civil society organisations, and media.
6. We held **8 workshops on upgrading Local Energy Concepts** (LECs).

Objectives and plans

In the coming years (the project runs until the end of 2026), we will continue to:

- raise awareness about climate change and its implications for Slovenia, and promote good practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- support local communities in the transition to a low-carbon society;



- support the development of low-carbon social concepts in higher education;
- strengthen the public administration's capacity to manage the transition to a low-carbon society and to implement participatory processes,
- prepare guidelines for municipalities and LEC developers on inclusive processes and new concepts for a fair energy transition.

Partners and funders

Ministry of Environment, Climate and Energy, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Transport, Engineering and Architecture, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Forestry Institute of Slovenia (GIS), EKO SKLAD, Slovenian Environmental Public Fund, ZUM, The Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU), Focus Association for Sustainable Development, Umanotera, Slovenian Foundation for Sustainable Development, Jožef Stefan Institute - Centre for Energy Efficiency, Construction Institute ZRMK, Institute for Spatial Policy (IPoP), Institute for Construction of Slovenia - ZAG

The project is co-funded by the European LIFE Programme, the Climate Change Fund, and the project partners.

Links

<https://www.care4climate.si/en>

<https://focus.si/projekti/life-ip-care4climate/>

<https://focus.si/projekti/enough-for-all/>

www.dovoljazavse.si



/ European Climate Pact

The European Climate Pact was launched in 2020 to bring the **challenges and opportunities of the green transition** closer to citizens, stakeholders and non-state actors, to inform and encourage climate action, and to strengthen support for the green transition. It is a platform for a wide range of non-state actors to meet and exchange information, examples and practices on climate action at local level. Launched by the European Commission, the Pact is part of the European Green Deal and can help the EU achieve its goal of becoming climate neutral by 2050.

Activities

The project started in September 2023. In the first months of the project, we ran an online campaign to calculate the true cost of car ownership and held informal discussions with the Sustainable Mobility Pact Ambassadors.

Objectives and plans

The European Climate Pact has three main objectives:

- to raise awareness of climate change and its pervasive and growing impact on people's lives,
- to inform citizens about the European Union's policies, initiatives and funding sources related to climate change response,
- to promote change by empowering and encouraging people to take climate action in different areas of their professional and personal lives.

As the national coordinator of the European Climate Pact activities at the national level, Focus will promote the European Climate Pact, organise awareness-raising events, identify good practices for national and international exchange, and provide support to the Ambassadors and the whole Pact community.

Partners and funder

Climate Alliance and Focus Association for Sustainable Development

The project is funded by the European Commission - Directorate General for Climate Action.

Link

https://climate-pact.europa.eu/index_en



#MyWorldOurPlanet
#EUClimatePact

/ Connected for Forests

The project **addresses the loss of biodiversity in Slovenian forests** as a result of climate change and the exploitation of forests for economic gain.

Biodiversity is key to the normal functioning of forest ecosystems. If the delicate balances within them are upset (due to climate change), the forest can no longer fulfil its primary function. Only biodiverse ecosystems can provide benefits to society – water and air filtration, carbon storage, soil retention, raw materials and social functions such as relaxation and recreation. One effective way to conserve biodiversity is to create protected areas or forest reserves. Forest reserves are natural forests that are left to develop naturally.

Activities

1. We have developed a **strategic work plan** with a protocol for responding to ad hoc unsustainable decisions in forest management.
2. We participated in a **Theory of Change workshop** to map stakeholders in the Slovene forest sector.
3. We prepared an **overview of the relevant forestry legislation** and a draft proposal for a substantive basis for formal legal amendments to the current legislation, with a view to the possibility of introducing a permanent non-management obligation for forest owners.
4. We reviewed **good practices in ownership structure**, contract and trust law in Slovenia.
5. We conducted **communication activities** on the importance of nature reserves for climate change mitigation and adaptation were carried out.

Objectives and plans

We will continue our activities to **raise awareness of the importance of nature reserves** and to **increase the share of nature reserves in Slovenia**.

Partners and funder

CIPRA Slovenia, the Society for the Protection of the Alps, the Society for Birdwatching and Bird Studies of Slovenia, Focus Association for Sustainable Development

The project is supported by the Active Citizens Fund Programme in Slovenia 2014–2021.

Link

<https://focus.si/projekti/povezani-za-gozdove>



Energy

Policy co-design within the Energy Programme aims to ensure **environmentally efficient and ambitious energy policies** that adequately respond to climate, environmental and development challenges. It is particularly important that these policies **contribute to a green and just energy transition and to energy savings, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources.**

/ Key activities

1. At the EU level, we followed the discussions on the energy dossiers within the **Fit for 55** package (Energy Efficiency Directive, Renewable Energy Directive).
2. We have contributed to **national legislation on renewable energy, energy reduction and energy efficiency**. As part of the Plan B Network for Slovenia, we co-ordinated the response to the new draft Energy Act (EZ-2), the response to the Regulation on Electricity self-supply from RES and the Regulation on one-off compensation for a municipality to promote the deployment of wind generation installations.
3. We have been involved in the **NECP revision process** (co-ordination of the Plan B response to the public hearing on the revised draft NECP) and the Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment for the revised NECP.
4. Focus has actively participated in **meetings of the Council of the Minister for Environment, Climate and Energy** as a representative of energy NGOs.
5. We regularly published news related to **energy policy and developments in the energy sector** on our website and social media. We held meetings and interacted with various stakeholders, issued several press releases and regularly monitored developments in the field. We also participated in several events and conferences related to the energy sector.

6. **We have warned about the risks and dangers of nuclear power.** We raised questions and made arguments against the continued use of nuclear energy, targeting decision-makers and the public, while promoting more sustainable forms of energy production. As part of the Plan B Network for Slovenia, we responded to the Resolution on the Long-term Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy.

7. We launched the **Energy Community Report** as a way to fight energy poverty.

Some of the policy monitoring activities were carried out within the **Plan B Climate Programme for Slovenia**, where **Focus coordinated the Sustainable Energy Working Group**, and others with the support of the European Climate Foundation.



/ EmpowerMed

(Empowering women to take action against energy poverty in the Mediterranean)

The project addressed the **challenges of energy poverty in the Mediterranean**, with a special focus on the **inclusion and empowerment of women**. The main objective of the project was to contribute to the reduction of energy poverty in the Mediterranean through the implementation of a set of practical energy efficiency measures and the advocacy of energy poverty policies and actions among key actors at local and European level.

In focus

The project was awarded the **European Social Innovation Award 2023** for the implementation and dissemination of community meetings as a way to address energy poverty.

Activities

1. We carried out **advocacy activities on energy poverty in Slovenia and the EU** (three major events in Slovenia, two in Brussels at EU level, and a policy debate in the framework of EUSEW – European Sustainable Energy Week).
2. We disseminated **recommendations for policies and actions to reduce energy poverty** to more than 100 stakeholders in Slovenia and more than 200 at EU level. Some of EmpowerMed's recommendations have been included by the European Commission in the European Commission Staff Working Document [EU guidance on energy poverty](#).
3. EmpowerMed mobilised 203 local actors (140 of them women) and trained 527 local key actors (297 of them women). With the support of these actors, EmpowerMed **empowered 8,871 women and men affected by energy poverty** to tackle the issue. It achieved primary energy savings of 1.85 GWh/year, sustainable energy investments of €20,000, greenhouse gas emission reductions of 287 tCO₂ equivalent/year, and savings of €327,000.



4. The project's advocacy activities **mobilised 4,305 key actors in the fight against energy poverty** (250 representatives of public services, 229 health professionals, 2,421 decision makers, 586 energy and energy poverty experts and 814 social actors). The communication of the project was very successful: the project was presented on more than 80 occasions (outreach 238). The EmpowerMed project was also featured in 19 academic articles and other scientific works.

Objectives and plans

The project ended in August 2023, but Focus is continuing its work on energy poverty through the Renoverty project.

Partners and funder

Association for the Design of Sustainable Development (Croatia), SOGESCA s.r.l. (Italy), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain), Fundació Institut de Recerca en Energia de Catalunya (Spain), GERES – Groupes Energies Renovables (France), Associació Catalana d'Enginyeria Sense Fronteres (Spain), Women Engage for a Common Future EV (Germany), Milieukontakt Shqiperi (Albania), Focus Association for Sustainable Development (Slovenia)

The project was funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.

Link

<https://www.empowermed.eu>



/ EUWES

(Empowering Underrepresented Women in the Energy Sector)

Women are under-represented in decision-making, especially in areas considered more technical, such as energy. They are also under-represented in the senior management structures of energy companies. The EUWES project addresses the issue of **women's under-representation in management and leadership positions in the corporate sector of energy companies**. The project's multi-level analysis and mapping of national policies and strategies will help us to identify the main barriers for women working in the energy sector. Policy recommendations will be developed and awareness-raising activities will be carried out with decision makers, energy company management and higher education institutions.

Activities

1. **A review of gender and energy policies** was carried out to see if there were any policies in place to increase the visibility of women in the energy sector. The results have been compiled in a State-of-the-Art Analysis to be published in March 2024.
2. We have developed a database of **all key actors and stakeholders** in the field of women's inclusion in the energy sector.
3. We have developed a **template for the preparation of advocacy plans** in all project countries.

Objectives and plans

In 2024, we will provide training and start advocacy activities in Slovenia and the EU.

Partners and funder

Society For Sustainable Development Design (Croatia), Engineers Without Borders (Spain), Women Engage for a Common Future (Germany), Focus Association for Sustainable Development (Slovenia)

The project is funded by the European Union under the CERV programme.

Links

<https://euwes.door.hr>

<https://focus.si/projekti/>

euwes-empowering-underrepresented-women-in-the-energy-sector



/ Analysis and expert basis for the development of measures to combat energy poverty

The aim of the project was to:

- develop a **long-term strategy to combat energy poverty** through appropriate sustainable policies and measures, and monitor their implementation,
- strengthen the capacity of decision makers at national level to take leadership and responsibility in tackling energy poverty,
- foster communication, networking and cooperation between stakeholders working to reduce energy poverty.

Based on the Regulation on the criteria for defining and assessing the number of energy-poor households adopted in October 2022, we have prepared a **proposal for an Action Plan for Reducing Energy Poverty** together with the Jožef Stefan Institute and the Institute for Economic Research. The preparation of the Action Plan includes **essential measures to reduce and mitigate energy poverty**, including an estimate of the resources needed to implement them.

Activities

1. We held workshops to prepare an Action Plan to reduce energy poverty.
2. We drafted an Action Plan to reduce energy poverty,

Objectives and plans

The project has been completed.

Partners and funder

Jožef Stefan Institute, Institute for Economic Research, Focus Association for Sustainable Development

The project was funded by the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy.



/ LIFE RENOVERTY

(Home Renovation Roadmaps to Address Energy Poverty in Vulnerable Rural Districts)

The project addresses the **challenge of energy poverty in rural and peri-urban households in CEE and SEE**. It promotes the energy renovation of buildings by establishing a methodological and practical framework for the preparation of renovation plans for vulnerable neighbourhoods in a financially feasible and socially equitable way.

Activities

1. In the Slovenian region of Zasavje, we carried out **12 energy audits of homes** of people living in energy poverty.
2. We recorded key indicators for the selection of the target group – 12 households in energy poverty.
3. We established cooperation with the Local Action Group (LAG) and other key actors at local and national levels.
4. We adapted tools and practices for active stakeholder involvement and developed a roadmap for stakeholder involvement in the planning process.



Objectives and plans

- We will prepare renovation roadmaps for the Zasavje region to improve energy efficiency and quality of life ("energy renovation roadmaps") in different types of housing.
- We will try to extend the model of the renovation roadmaps to other regions.
- We will raise awareness of the issue at local/regional and national levels through stakeholder engagement and public presentations/workshops.
- We will advocate among key actors at local, national and European level for policies and measures to address energy poverty.

Partners and funder

Institute for European Energy and Climate Policy Stichting, University of Piraeus Research Center, Focus Association for Sustainable Development, Climate Alliance, European Leader Association for Rural Development, Instituto de Sistemas e Robótica, Reflex Környezetvédő Egyesület, Regionalna Energetska Agencija Sjeverozapadne Hrvatske, Mittetulundusühing Tartu Regiooni Energiaagentuur, Asociacion Ecoserveis.

The project is funded by the European Union's LIFE-ENERPOV programme.

Links

<https://ieecp.org/projects/renoverty>

<https://focus.si/projekti/renoverty/>



The aim of the project is to carry out a comprehensive analysis of the state of the art of energy communities in the region, to identify and share examples of good practice, and to influence the **improvement of the supportive environment for energy communities** through advocacy activities. The project will establish energy community networks that will foster the cooperation between key stakeholders in the field of energy communities.

Focus leads carries capacity-building activities for key stakeholders in the field of energy communities.

Activities

The project started in November 2023, so this year we only carried out preparatory activities and attended the first project meeting in Zagreb.

Objectives and plans

We will build national energy community coalitions by identifying, involving and empowering relevant national stakeholders.

To better understand the state of the art of energy communities, we will analyse local specificities and contribute to building a more supportive environment – through advocacy, the development of tools, methodologies and technical support for the creation of new energy communities.

We will build on existing networks, platforms and projects with innovative and comprehensive approaches to address existing bottlenecks in the development of energy communities in the region.

Partners and funder

Green Energy Cooperative, Electra Energy Cooperative, RESCOOP EU ASBL, Tallinn University of Technology, Szövetkezetiségét Támogató Egyesület (Association for the Support of Co-operatives), Focus Association for Sustainable Development, PLZ Spółdzielnia, Cooperativa de Energie

The project is co-funded by the European LIFE programme.

Link

<https://focus.si/projekti/life-comet>



Mobility

In cooperation with European and Slovenian networks and organisations, Focus is actively involved in co-designing **more ambitious transport policies**, both at the EU and national level.

In 2023, we continued to work with [Transport & Environment](#) and other European organisations to advocate for more ambitious European transport policies. The Fit for 55 package, in particular the CO2 standards for trucks and the final decision to end the sale of new fossil fuel vehicles after 2035, was at the heart of this work. Part of the activities also focused on the promotion of vehicles with lower air pollutant emissions and, in this context, advocating for the new EURO7 standard. We challenged the use of harmful biofuels and the unsustainable use of hydrogen and e-fuels in road transport, and followed and closely monitored the adoption of the RED Directive. Having joined the [European Passengers Federation](#), we are consequently involved in advocacy for better public transport (PT) services.

Focus is a member of the [Coalition for Sustainable Transport Policy \(CSTP\)](#), the [Spatial Network](#) and the [Environment and Health Partnership](#) - informal associations working for sustainable transport policies, reduced health impacts of transport and sustainable spatial planning. All three networks are watchdogs for ongoing transport processes and projects at local, national and European level and facilitate knowledge transfer within the networks.

/ Key activities

1. The [Clean Cities Campaign](#), a coalition of NGOs of which Focus is a member, ranked 42 European cities on their efforts to introduce shared and zero-emission transport. Ljubljana was ranked 9th, mainly due to its widespread and accessible electric car sharing. As part of the Clean Cities Campaign coalition, we carried out **advocacy activities on air pollution** - advocating solutions for zero-emission cities.
2. In cooperation with other NGOs and networks in the EU, we have contributed to the **development of European transport policies**: the [EU directives on the promotion](#)

of renewable energies, the agreement to ban the sale of new combustion engine cars, the agreement to phase out diesel trucks from 2040, etc.

3. We have been involved in action on air pollution: : advocating for a more ambitious EURO7 standard for motor vehicles and following up on the reform of the Ambient Air Quality Directive.

4. In the framework of the CSTP, we responded to the planned road reconstruction in the area of the Ljubljana Passenger Centre (PCL) and joined the preliminary process of the GIS and road reconstruction in the area of the PCL as a side-participant (together with IPoP and PIC).

5. We carried out **advocacy activities in the area of public transport** and participated in a meeting of a wider group of stakeholders to present an analysis of PT financing.

6. CSTP responded to the **NECP revisions in the transport sector** (workshops, written responses, communication with key stakeholders), focusing on the (un)reasonable projections for the use of alternative fuels in transport (Response 1, Response 2).



/ Transport poverty in the Republic of Slovenia

The aim of the project is to **examine the current state of transport poverty in Slovenia** and to study the impact of proposed legislative changes and trends in the energy sector on the transport poverty of the population. Transport poverty is a situation in which an individual or household has limited access to services and activities that are essential to them because transport to them is inadequate or difficult to afford.

Activities

1. We held two **workshops on transport poverty**: *Social Aspects of Transport Poverty and How to Alleviate Transport Poverty in Slovenia?*
2. We have been involved in **defining transport poverty in Slovenia** and setting indicators to measure it.
3. We have prepared an **article on transport poverty** for the publication *Green Transition at Regional Level / Regional Development 9*.



Objectives and plans

Based on the indicators of transport poverty and the identification of vulnerable groups, we will prepare a list of measures to alleviate and reduce transport poverty in Slovenia.

Partners and funders

Geographical Institute of Anton Melik ZRC SAZU, Focus Association for Sustainable Development, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia.

The project is co-funded by the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning and the Public Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation of the Republic of Slovenia.

Links

<https://focus.si/projekti/mobilnostna-revscina-v-republiki-sloveniji>

https://urbani-izziv.uirsi.si/Portals/urbaniizziv/Clanki/2022/uiizziv-20222-S_26.pdf

/ ECF Transport: Mobility poverty in Slovenia and the CEE region

The overall objective of the project was to **analyse the issue of transport poverty and to raise awareness** of this phenomenon among relevant stakeholders in Slovenia. We aimed to review policies and assess the state of transport poverty in Slovenia and in five other countries in the region and to raise awareness among policy makers. We wanted to increase understanding of the vulnerable groups affected by transport poverty.

Activities

1. We have prepared an **overview of transport poverty** in Slovenia and in Croatia, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria, and compared them. Two visiting interns also prepared an overview of mobility poverty in their home countries, Germany and France.
2. Together with other experts, we prepared an **Economic Study on the impact of the unstable political and economic situation on transport poverty in Slovenia**.
3. We made presentations at the **Transport Poverty Hub** and at the **Degrowth International Conference** in Zagreb.



Objectives and plans

We will work in close cooperation with partners in Croatia, Hungary and Slovakia to find appropriate measures to address transport poverty in each country. We will organise events and raise awareness of the issue.

Partner and financier

Focus Association for Sustainable Development

The project is funded by the European Climate Foundation.

Link

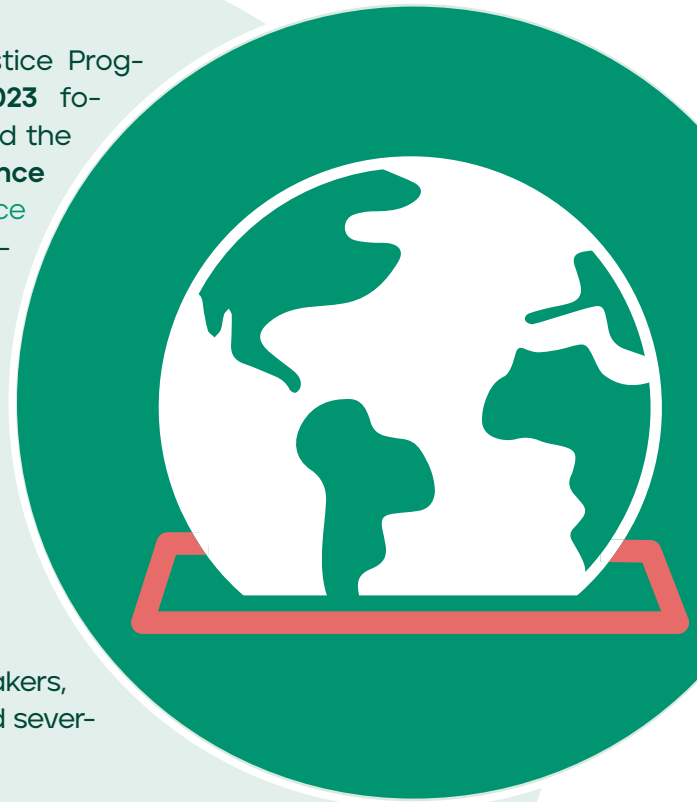
<https://focus.si/mobilnostna-revscina-v-drzavah-vzhodne-in-srednje-evrope>

Global responsibility and justice

In the Global Accountability and Justice Programme, our **policy co-design in 2023** focused on **corporate accountability** and the **Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD)**. We joined the **Justice is Everybody's Business** network of organisations calling for ambitious legislation to prevent human rights violations and environmental destruction in the value chains of companies operating in the EU.

/ Key activities

1. We sent several **calls** to decision makers, made three **submissions**, and organised several meetings.
2. **We hosted Ugandan activists** Maxwell Atuhura and Nicholas Omonuk Okoit and organised a press conference and round table for the general public in cooperation with the Jakopič Gallery.
3. As part of the Europe-wide campaign "**Justice is Everybody's Business**", we organised a high-profile **event in Slovenia** to highlight the urgency of adopting new EU legislation.
4. In cooperation with Fairtrade, we prepared the second Human Rights Due Diligence **Reporting Analysis of Slovenian companies**.
5. We translated and edited **the publication What if...?**, which highlights cases of human rights violations and environmental standards in the value chains of multinational companies in sectors ranging from oil to children's toys.



6. We have highlighted the link between consumer lifestyles and infringements resulting from overproduction outside the EU.

7. Together with the Alliance of Free Trade Unions, we drafted a **public letter** addressed to Slovenian representatives in the European Parliament.



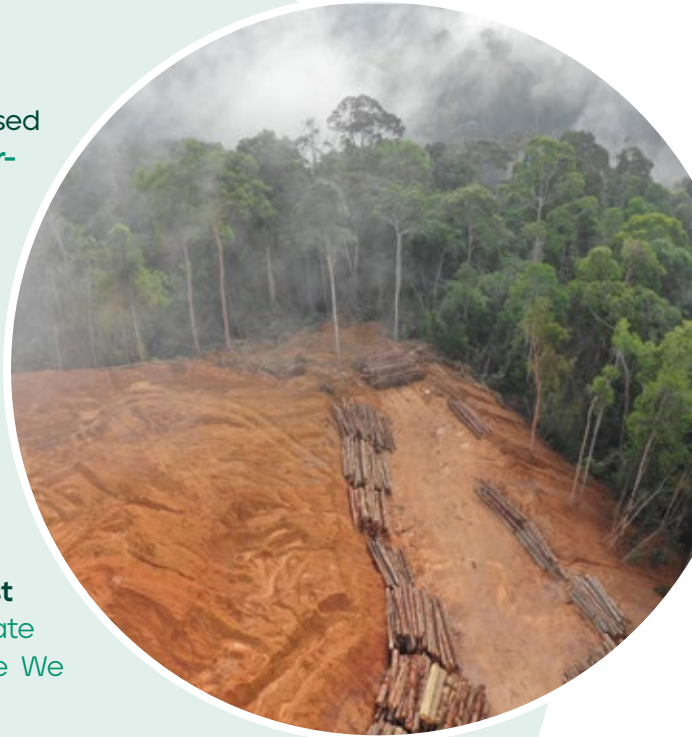
/ European supply chains and deforestation

The destruction of forests outside EU borders, caused by the way we produce raw materials for products we consume in the EU, is called "**imported deforestation**". The EU is one of the largest importers of tropical deforestation and producers of the emissions associated with it.

Together with our partners, we advocate for the adoption and implementation of **effective EU legislation** by reaching out to decision-makers at the national and EU level. We raise awareness of the links between consumption and forest destruction: with the media, consumer rights organisations and other stakeholders.

Activities

1. Together with partners, we organised an expert consultation on **the role of forest ecosystems in the context of climate change**.
2. We carried out **advocacy activities** at the national level (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Government of the Republic of Slovenia).
3. In partnership **with the Slovenian Consumers' Association**, we have produced **articles** on topics **related to forest destruction**: *Meat on a Sustainable Plate* and *Do We Know What Kind of Coffee We Drink?*



Objectives and plans

- Adoption of ambitious legislation at the EU level
- Successful implementation of legislation
- Raising the awareness of the general public about the links between everyday products and "imported" deforestation

Partners and funder

Fern, ZERO, Südwind, DUH, Forests of the World, PKE Gliwice, Canopée, Envol Vert, Ecologistas en Acción, Mai bine, Focus Association for Sustainable Development

The project is funded by the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation.

Link

<https://focus.si/projekti/imported-deforestation/>

/ End exploitation

The project builds the capacity of civil society and business, and links with other stakeholder groups, so that together we can **advocate for stronger legislation on corporate responsibility**.

By researching on the situation in Slovenia, empowering civil society, raising awareness among businesses and decision-makers, influencing regulation and monitoring the work of institutions through an advocacy campaign, we are working to ensure better legislation, fairer supply chains and the active involvement of Slovenian stakeholders in the process of drafting and adopting legislation.

Activities

1. We have analysed the **attitudes of Slovenian companies** towards mandatory legislation on due diligence (environment and human rights) and assessed the situation in Slovenia on this basis. In addition to the legislative framework, this includes a qualitative assessment of the scope and willingness of business to act more sustainably. The report will be published in March 2024.
2. Together with other NGOs in Slovenia, we have launched a **public call to the Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport** to organise an inter-participatory consultation on the Due Diligence Directive on sustainability, which could serve as a guide for the Slovenian position in the EU negotiations. The Ministry did not organise the consultation, so we turned to the Ombudsman's office.
3. In cooperation with the Ombudsman, we organised a **public inter-stakeholder consultation** with the aim of openly sharing the experiences and expectations of different stakeholders.
4. As part of the Europe-wide campaign "**Justice is Everybody's Business**", we organised a high-profile **event in Slovenia** to highlight the urgency of adopting new EU legislation.



Objectives and plans

On the basis of this analysis, we will continue activities that help ensure a supportive environment for ambitious implementation.

Partners and funders

Fair Trade Slovenia, Centre of Business Excellence of the Faculty of Economics in Ljubljana, Focus Association for Sustainable Development

The project is funded by the Active Citizens Fund.

Link

<https://focus.si/projekti/brez-izkoriscanja>

/ Our Food. Our future

Our food system has a major impact on climate change, human rights violations and the causes of migration (poverty, hunger, etc.). A key objective of the project was to **raise awareness and mobilise young Europeans to switch to sustainable food and consumption patterns, thus contributing to the promotion of a fairer and more sustainable food system.**

Activities

- 1.** We set up **an exhibition on deforestation in Bolivia** in several Slovenian cities, featuring photographs taken by Matjaž Krivic during our joint expedition to Bolivia in 2022. Thanks to Krivic's international visibility, the photo reportage, to which **Maja Prijatelj Videmšek** contributed the text, also had an international impact. It was published in the *Boston Globe*, *New Scientist*, and *Revolve* magazines and even in a Taiwanese newspaper. We also completed a series of **blogs** on the Focus website.
- 2.** We published the board game **Ni planeta B** ("No Planet B"), created in collaboration with Primož Černelič. The game was presented and played at several events.
- 3.** We participated in the **FDI Documentary Film Festival** with the film *We'll Eat Ourselves to Death*, a documentary about the unsustainability of the food system, and organised a panel discussion on the topic following the screening.
- 4.** We participated in the **Migrant Film Festival** with the film *Illusion of Abundance*, about the (ir)responsibility of international corporations, and organised the discussion that followed the screening.
- 5.** We worked with project partners in the **Week for Action - Food for Tomorrow**, raising awareness of the issues facing today's food system.
- 6.** In cooperation with youth organisations from all over Slovenia, we organised **12 disco soups**, which were a great success. The events, co-created by young collaborators, involved participants in conversations and shared food preparation with music.



7. In cooperation with the Slovenian Consumers' Association, we have prepared **articles on the (un)safety aspects of coffee and food consumption in Slovenia.**

8. We managed the **Facebook** and **Instagram** profiles Futr za jutro ("Food for Tomorrow").

Objectives and plans

The project ended in August 2023, but Focus is continuing its work on (un)sustainable food systems through a new project called Reboot.

Partners and funders

Action Aid France (AAF), Acoge Federación Andalucía, Buy Responsibility Foundation (BRF), Christliche Initiative Romero (CIR), Instituto Marques de Valle Flor (IMVF), Katholische Landjugendbewegung Deutschland (KLJB), Mai Bine, International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth Europe (MIJARC), Oxfam Deutschland, Focus Association for Sustainable Development

The project was funded by the European Commission under the DEAR programme and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia.

Links

<https://ourfood-ourfuture.eu>

<https://www.facebook.com/FutrZaJutr>

<https://www.instagram.com/futrzejutr>

A purple speech bubble containing the text "OUR FOOD OUR FUTURE" in white, bold, uppercase letters.

**OUR FOOD
OUR FUTURE**

/ My Youth Revolution – Participation

In 2023 and 2024, the project will organise several **workshops and conferences for young people**, create a **youth manifesto** and participate in international youth conferences in Vienna and Bologna, and hold several **meetings with decision-makers**, round tables, with a special focus on young people who are not represented in power structures and whose voices are all too often ignored. Young people will summarise their demands and aspirations in a youth manifesto to be presented to the European Parliament.

Activities

1. As part of the project, a group of young people organised **national workshops** in different locations in Slovenia to discuss the ideal world order, sustainable futures, and to prepare for the international conference in Vienna.
2. Young people from Slovenia participated in an **international youth conference in Vienna**.
3. The project has created an **online tool** for young people from Slovenia, Poland, Italy and Austria to co-create a youth manifesto.



Objectives and plans

In 2024, participants will travel to Krakow and Brussels to present their Manifesto at the European Parliament.

Partners and funder

Südwind, Buy Responsibly Foundation, We World, Focus Association for Sustainable Development

The project is funded by the European Commission under the EU's Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme.



Links

<https://my-revolution.eu/>

<https://focus.si/projekti/moja-revolucija-5-0-sodelovanje>

/ My Resistance – My Democracy

In 2023 and 2024, the project will organise several workshops and conferences for young people, develop a youth manifesto, participate in youth activities and two international meetings where **young people** will learn about **creative methods of political participation and advocacy processes**. There will be several meetings with decision-makers and round tables, with a particular focus on young people who are not represented in power structures and whose voices are all too often ignored. We will look at youth activities **through the historical prism of youth movements**.

Activities

1. A group of young people organised **workshops** in various locations in Slovenia to discuss the ideal world order and sustainable futures, and to prepare for the international conference in Bologna in the autumn. The workshops were held in cooperation with numerous schools, the youth organization "Young Dragons" from Ljubljana, and the Museum of National Liberation in Maribor, which provided a historical perspective on youth rebellions in Slovenia after the Second World War and the rise of consumerism during this period.

2. Young people from Slovenia attended the **European Youth Conference in Bologna**.

3. The project has produced a four-language **educational guide** to youth revolutions.

Objectives and plans

Young people from Austria, Slovenia, Italy and Poland will draw up a youth manifesto and present it to the European Parliament in 2024.

Partners and funder

Südwind, Buy Responsibly Foundation, We World, Focus Association for Sustainable Development

The project is funded by the European Commission under the EU's Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme.

Link

<https://focus.si/projekti/mojupor-mojademokracija>



Intersectional

/ INCITE-DEM

(Inclusive Citizenship in a World in Transformation: Co-Designing for Democracy)

Political participation, i.e. the various forms and opportunities for citizens to influence political processes initiated by state actors or (political) decision-makers and civic engagement, is undoubtedly a fundamental principle of democracy. Citizens should be able to participate collectively in deciding their common future, and it is crucial to initiate dialogue between citizens with different interests, aspirations and needs and their democratic leaders. It is therefore essential to ensure effective feedback mechanisms between democratic leaders and citizens exercising their individual rights in liberal democracies.

The main objective of the project is to **strengthen inclusive participation and civic engagement**, while **spreading democratic innovation** and dynamic feedback mechanisms between citizens and institutional actors in representative democracies. This objective is driven by the ambition to empower citizens, increase political trust, satisfaction with democracy and social cohesion, and thereby shape the future of democracy in a changing world.

Focus is responsible for managing and coordinating the communication and dissemination work package of the project.



Activities

1. We made a **historical case study of the participatory process in Slovenia**.
2. We co-developed **criteria and indicators for inclusive participation and commitment to democratic innovation for socio-ecological transformation**.
3. We carried out a **comparative study of examples of civic participation and engagement** in several European countries.

4. We have started preparations for the Democracy Lab in Slovenia.

5. As part of the project's communication and dissemination management, a communication and dissemination plan for the dissemination and use of the entire project's results was prepared, as well as the visual identity, the content of the project's website, the project leaflet and other basic communication and dissemination materials for the project.

6. We managed INCITE-DEM's social networks: X, LinkedIn, Facebook and Youtube.

Objectives and plans

- To provide a systematic historical overview of participation and action in democratic life;
- To understand the key conditions for inclusive political participation and civic engagement in democratic life by comparing current trends across Europe;
- To model the dynamics of trust, polarisation and consensus building and to co-design a policy tool based on agents for reflexive dialogue;
- To experiment with inclusive design processes for democratic innovation;
- To evaluate democratic innovation through advanced analysis, select experiments and interactive forums;
- To develop concrete policy guidelines and strategic policy plans for sustainable, inclusive and innovative democracy in a world in transition;
- To support a community of practice and the adoption of inclusive democratic innovations for participation and collaboration.

Partners and funder

FCiências.ID - Associação para a Investigação e Desenvolvimento de Ciências (Portugal), University of Muenster (Germany), Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Norway), University of Groningen (The Netherlands), University of Helsinki (Finland), Tallinn University (Estonia), Instituto de Ciências Sociais -University of Lisbon (Portugal), Asociacion Eco-Union (Spain), Focus Association for Sustainable Development (Slovenia), Kyoto Club (Italy)



The project is funded by the European Commission under the EU's Horizon Europe programme.

Links

<https://incite-dem.eu>

<https://focus.si/projekti/incite-dem-citizens-reinventing-democracy-copy/>

Communication

In 2023 we also focused on communicating with the media and other audiences through press releases, interviews, the [Focus website](#), social networks [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [X](#) and [Instagram](#), and a monthly e-newsletter.

As part of the project activities, we also managed:

- The website [dovoljavse.si](#) and Facebook profile [Dovolj za vse](#) ("Enough for All"),
- The website [INCITE-DEM](#) and INCITE-DEM's social networks: [X](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Youtube](#),
- Facebook and Instagram profiles [Futr za jutro](#) ("Food for Tomorrow").

/ In focus

Our communications team has grown by 50%! In November, we welcomed our new member, Matija, who is responsible for social media and visual communication at Focus.

/ Activities

1. over **130 posts on the** Focus website
2. about **40 press releases**;
3. more than **620 media publications** mentioning Focus
4. social media management
5. preparation of communication materials and activities



/ Statistics

Website

- 21,000 visitors

Monthly e-newsletter

- 595 subscribers

Facebook

- Focus has 4,046 followers, almost 200 more than the year before.
- The Dovolj za vse profile has 1,660 followers, about 210 more than the year before.
- The Futr za jutro profile has 762 followers, 38 more than the year before.

Twitter

- The Focus profile has 904 followers, 50 more than the year before.
- The INCITE-DEM profile has more than 60 followers since its launch in September this year.

Instagram

- 710 followers follow the Focus profile, which is over 100 more than a year ago.
- The Futr za jutro profile has 1,637 followers, 85 more than a year ago.

LinkedIn

- 469 followers, almost 150 more than the year before.

/ Links

<https://focus.si>

Focus Association for Sustainable Development | LinkedIn

Focus Association for Sustainable Development (@Focus_drustvo) | X

Focus Association for Sustainable Development | Facebook

Focus Association for Sustainable Development | Instagram

Focus Association for Sustainable Development | YouTube

<https://dovoljazavse.si>

Enough for All | YouTube

Enough for All: Sustainable Community Resource Management | Facebook

Food for Tomorrow | Facebook

Food for Tomorrow | Instagram

INCITE-DEM Citizens Reinventing Democracy (@InciteDem) | X

INCITE-DEM Citizens Reinventing Democracy | LinkedIn

INCITE-DEM Citizens Reinventing Democracy | Facebook

INCITE-DEM Citizens Reinventing Democracy | YouTube



The Association

Integration and cooperation

We have been involved in international networking since our very beginnings. Our involvement in international networks provides us with information flows, facilitates participation in international projects, opportunities for training and co-design of network and EU policies, support for campaigns and actions (in the form of materials, data, tools, communication content, etc.) and puts us on the map of European and global environmental NGOs.



International integration

- 1. Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe):** As a member of CAN Europe, we monitored European and international climate and energy policies and promoted the network's positions on climate and energy issues among decision-makers in Focus Slovenia. We attended numerous meetings, regularly participated in the network's conference calls and took part in its workshops.
- 2. Transport & Environment:** Through the T&E network we keep up to date with legislation on CO2 standards, biofuels, alternative fuels, air pollution, and other transport policies at the EU and national level.
- 3. Friends of the Earth International and Friends of the Earth Europe (FoEE):** We have participated in several FoEE network meetings. Our President is a member of the FoEE Board of Directors. We have worked regularly with them to monitor and work on European climate and energy policies. We have regularly disseminated and promoted the network's campaigns on the website, Facebook and X, and also shared news from other member organisations that we thought might be of interest to our followers.
- 4. CIVINET Slovenia-Croatia-South East Europe**

5. **Tax Justice Europe:** We monitor tax justice through our network and contribute to the development of European tax justice policies.
6. **European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ):** In cooperation with the ECCJ and FoEE, we conducted a campaign on environmental and human rights due diligence.
7. **Together4Forests** is a network of over 220 NGOs working in the EU to protect forests, other natural ecosystems and human rights worldwide.
8. **Forest Movement Europe** is a network of European NGOs and individuals working to protect and restore forests.
9. **The European Passengers' Federation (EPF)** is an international non-profit association of passenger and sustainable mobility organisations. The EPF's mission is to promote comprehensive passenger rights and efficient mobility throughout Europe.
10. **REScoop.eu:** Focus is a support organisation of the European federation of citizen energy cooperatives – REScoop.eu. The federation helps energy communities to make their voices heard in the European debate on energy. REScoop empowers citizens and cooperatives and aims to achieve energy democracy. Its mission is to support citizens, cooperatives and cities in promoting a citizen-led energy transition.

Integration at national level

In 2023, we participated in the projects and activities of the Slovenian networks and organisations **Plan B for Slovenia**, the **Coalition for Sustainable Transport Policy**, the **Spatial Network**, the **Partnership for Environment and Health**, and the Working Group on Global Learning – **Sloga Platform** (our President was Chairwoman of the Board), and we also worked directly or indirectly with a number of other organisations, partners and individuals to implement projects and campaigns.

Volunteering/Internships

Volunteers have completed 120 hours of voluntary work for the association. We also hosted two interns – Suzie from France and Leandro from Germany.

/ Leadership and development

Focus **reorganised its internal functioning** in 2023, introducing working groups to address organisational issues in the different work areas of Organisational Development, Finance, Employees and Work Environment, Information Technology and Education, Communication, and Administration to facilitate the management of the organisation.

In the early autumn of 2023, we held our annual strategic planning meeting, where we developed programme content and outlined our priorities for the next 3-5 years. We have also set up a funding strategy. In addition to the annual planning exercise, we also held three quarterly planning meetings and weekly briefings. We revamped the 2023-2024 Work Plan (for 2024).

We are committed to transparency in the functioning of the state and all other institutions and organisations, and we want our activities to be transparent as well. Every year, in strict compliance with the law (registrations in the registers, regular submission of reports), we communicate extensively with the public: updating of the website, dissemination of information about the association and numerous press releases. The preparation of the annual report also aims to improve the transparency of our activities.

The team

Until May, we hosted Zhenja Zasiadko, Head of Green Investment Department at the Ukrainian NGO Ecoaction - Centre for Environmental Initiatives, who worked for a while from our office due to the war in Ukraine. Matjaž Grmek left Focus at the end of the year. We were joined by Elena Lunder, Luka Mofardin, Matija Širok and Katja Huš.



1. DISCLOSURES TO THE 2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1.1 BALANCE SHEET

Total assets as at 31. 12. 2023 are EUR 707,375.97 and include the following items:

1.1.1 Fixed assets

Tangible and intangible fixed assets are valued at cost and depreciated on a straight-line basis. The Organisation did not have any write-offs of fixed assets in 2023. The balance of property, plant and equipment at the end of 2023 is EUR 6,826.16.

1.1.2 Financial fixed assets

As at 31. 12. 2023, the Organisation has the initial capital share in ENERGETSKÁ ZADRUGA ZELENI HRAST, Z.O.O. in the amount of EUR 1,000.

1.1.3 Long-term loans

The Organisation has a loan to the Fondacija Krila Nade / Foundation Wings of Hope in the amount of EUR 11,488.32, which is repaid on an annual basis.

1.1.4 Short-term trade receivables

As at 31. 12. 2023, the Organisation's short-term trade receivables amount to EUR 237,979.94. The largest part of trade receivables consists of receivables from government and other institutions under budgetary appropriations and other foundations, funds and institutions.

1.1.5 Cash

At the end of the year, the Organisation had cash balances of EUR 429,028.77 in domestic bank accounts. The Organisation has two transaction accounts with Delavska Hranilnica d.d.

1.1.6 Short-term deferred costs and accrued revenues

This item includes short-term deferred costs or short-term deferred expenses are amounts incurred but not yet charged against the Organisation's activities and they do not yet affect profit or loss. In 2023, the Organisation had EUR 21,052.78 of short-term deferred costs.

1.1.7 Society's fund

The society's fund is the Organisation's own source of funding. It comprises the net revenue surplus, which may come from donations, membership fees, foundations and income from the provision of services. The Organisation has reserves within the society fund to cover labour costs and other costs of implementing the Organisation's programme in the event of unforeseen financial circumstances. The society's fund is part of the income statement for the purpose of the Organisation's external financial reporting. As at 31. 12. 2023, the society's fund amounts to EUR 61,699.75.

1.1.8 Long-term accrued costs and deferred revenues

Long-term accrued costs and deferred revenues have increased to EUR 195,405.19 in 2023 as a result of the carry-over of revenue to be generated when applying for or obtaining cofinancing or funding from public and national sources.

1.1.9 Short-term operating liabilities

Short-term operating liabilities of the Organization are 62,737.93 EUR and include:

- Short-term trade creditors in the amount of EUR 5,644.89 (fully payable);
- Liabilities for wages and salaries and wage benefits in the amount of 58,615.46 EUR;
- Tax liabilities in the total amount of 1,066.40 EUR.

The Organisation has not provided any specific collateral or guarantees to suppliers, nor has it requested any bills of exchange from them, as we consider that there are no risks in dealing with suppliers.

1.1.10 Short-term accrued costs and deferred revenues

Short-term accrued costs and deferred revenues decreased by EUR 20,048.46 in 2023 as a result of the carry-over of revenue.

1.2 INCOME STATEMENTS

ITEMS	2023 (EUR)	2022 (EUR)
Revenue	865,747.36	732,226.58
Expenses	831,496.10	671,661.68
Revenue surplus	31,766.00	60,564.90
Income tax	115.13	233.60
Net profit/loss	31,650.90	60,331.30
Average number of employees	12.73	11.02

Revenue from business activities include:

- Grants from the budget and other public funds: 286,020.78 EUR
- Grants from other foundations, funds and institutions: 162,139.34 EUR
- Grants from EC sources: 379,126.80 EUR
- Membership fees: 983 EUR
- Donations from other legal and natural persons: 1,675.87 EUR
- Sales of services, materials: 31,364.77 EUR
- Other revenue: 4,436.80 EUR

1.3 ANNEX TO THE 2023 INCOME STATEMENT ON PROFITABLE ACTIVITY (accounting standard 33.5 read in conjunction with standard 33.7)

The Organisation keeps separate records of profitable activities on the revenue side and recognises expenditure according to its share of the Organisation's total activity. In 2023, the share of profitable activities in the Organisation's total activities is 3.64%.

