



društvo za sonaraven razvoj  
Association for Sustainable Development

# annual report

2025



For over two decades, Focus has been promoting social initiatives to combat climate change and the environmental crisis. As Luka, one of our colleagues, summed up in an interview in 2025, a key aspect of our work is cooperating with people to promote change from the bottom up, while also working with decision-makers to bring about relevant change from the top down. Both approaches are necessary to achieve the desired effect, and this is what we strive for week after week, month after month, year after year...

We are sometimes mistakenly referred to as a nature conservation organisation, which we definitely are not, even though we carry nature in our hearts. Many label us as an environmental protection organisation because our primary task is to protect the environment. However, this is a somewhat narrow definition of what we do. While we describe ourselves as an environmental organisation because our work focuses on the environment, this annual review reveals that people are actually at the heart of our activities.

Why is that? Because environmental issues are inherently social issues. Because humans are both the cause and the victims of environmental problems. The Earth does not need us; we, our civilisation, are the ones in danger. And because we humans have the knowledge and all the tools we need to build a better tomorrow.

This is why, in 2025, we continued to voice our criticisms and warnings regularly, develop recommendations for better policies and practices, raise awareness among the public and the media, connect with various stakeholders, and strengthen cooperation on various fronts.

Contrary to popular belief, we do not see our mission as saving the planet. Our goal is to transform society so that both people and nature can flourish. Together.



## / 2025 in numbers

**2** new employees joined Focus, bringing the total number of employees to a record

**1** additional **public interest status** obtained, bringing the total to

**4** areas: **environmental protection, energy and transport, sustainable mobility, and research activities**

Focus celebrated its

**22<sup>nd</sup>**

**birthday** in 2025.

**3**

**master's degrees were added** to our collection of educational qualifications.

**38**

was the **average employee age** at Focus

**10**

of us took part in **first aid training**

**98**

**events** were (co-)organised in **various locations** across Slovenia, from Dravograd to Postojna

**22**

**projects were implemented**, most of which were funded by the LIFE programme

**150**

**participants from 26** countries attended our **2025 International Summer School of Political Ecology** at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana

**3**

**projects involve activities in Hrastnik**, a municipality where we have so far connected **22 households, a health centre, a school, the town hall, a shop, a swimming pool and more** to solar energy as part of two community energy projects.

**20**

**support organisations joined** the Energy Communities Network, which we coordinate.

**10**

**households** were supported by Focus in the Zasavje region in **accessing Eco Fund home renovation subsidies**.

**137**

**municipalities participated in the activities organised as part of European Mobility Week**, which we coordinated together with the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy

**591**

**young people** participated in our **workshops** on the sustainable food system

# Climate

As part of the Climate Programme, we raise awareness about the link between climate and human behaviour and strive to help shape climate policies in Slovenia and the EU. We influence the development of positions, strategies, and national and EU regulations by formulating positions and submitting comments to relevant stakeholders, organising and participating in events (consultations, meetings, discussions), engaging in advocacy, monitoring the implementation of adopted policies, responding appropriately, and working with the media.

## Key activities

1. we participated in the process of adopting the **national Social Climate Plan**, for which we prepared comprehensive [recommendations for Social Climate Plan measures](#) and submitted comments on the draft plan.
2. We followed the **COP30 Climate Change Conference**, communicated our expectations and commented on the results. As national experts, we once again participated in the assessment of Slovenia for the [Climate Change Performance Index \(CCPI\) 2026](#), in which Slovenia moved up to 28<sup>th</sup> place.
3. We started working on climate change adaptation, focusing on involving vulnerable groups in designing climate change adaptation measures and improving the climate resilience of communities and vulnerable infrastructure.
4. We participated in the creation of the [Just Transition Network](#) and presented a set of requirements, the implementation of which would bring much-needed social and environmental benefits.
5. We organised several workshops on monitoring the effects of energy and environmental policies with the Jožef Stefan Institute's Energy Efficiency Center, which is developing a new platform for clearer modelling of emission reductions across all sectors, including energy, transport, buildings, and industry.
6. We followed the adoption of the [EU's 2040 climate target](#), which sets the pace and ambition for the EU's continued transition to climate neutrality by 2050.
7. As an NGO representative for climate change, our programme coordinator actively participated in meetings of the **Council of the Minister for Natural Resources, Space, Environment, Climate and Energy**.

Our advocacy activities were partially supported by the European Climate Foundation.

[MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAMME](#)



# / LIFE TogetherFor1.5



The aim of the **LIFE TogetherFor1.5** (Bringing EU Member States Together to Achieve the 1,5°C Objective of the Paris Agreement) project was to **align the EU's climate and energy commitments and measures** with the Paris Agreement's goal 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 on improving public acceptance of more ambitious and inclusive climate action

## Activities

1. We drafted a [critical assessment of the financing of Slovenia's green transition and made recommendations for a truly just green transition](#).
2. We participated in the preparation of a [report](#) on key gaps in National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) and made recommendations for improving the achievement of ambitious climate and energy targets at both EU and Slovenian level.
3. We participated in the process of [upgrading and updating the tool for monitoring and assessing the implementation of NECPs](#).
4. We participated in the preparation of [recommendations on incorporating a just transition into NECPs](#).
5. We participated in the preparation of [a report on the current state of Long-Term Climate Strategies](#).

The project was completed in August 2025.

## Partners and funders

Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe), Centre for Transport and Energy, Društvo za oblikovanje održivog razvoja (DOOR), The Danish 92 group, Eestimaa Looduse Fond (ELF), Focus Association for Sustainable Development, Germanwatch Nord-Sud Initiative, The Institute for Sustainable Development, Réseau Action Climat, Sociedad Española de Ornitología (SEO/BirdLife), Association for the Sustainability of the Earth System (ZERO), Bond Beter Leefmilieu, Magyar Természetvédők Szövetsége (MTVSZ), Environmental Association 'Za Zemiata

The project was funded by the European Commission through the LIFE programme.

## [MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)



The aim of the **LIFE Plan4Climate** project, which began in September 2025, is to accelerate the implementation of climate and energy policies in European Union Member States and increase their ambition by 2030, with the aim of achieving climate neutrality and a fair contribution by the EU to the Paris Agreement targets. The project focuses on **strengthening climate governance, improving public engagement, and increasing social support for a just climate transition**, particularly within the framework of National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) and Social Climate Plans.

## Activities

1. We monitored the preparation of the Slovenian Social Climate Plan and organised several meetings on measures for a **just climate transition** and the prevention of energy and transport poverty.

## Objectives and plans

- We will continue to monitor the implementation of the Slovenian NECP.
- We will focus our communication on the environmental, social, and economic benefits of climate measures with the aim of increasing public support.
- Together with our partners, we will monitor and analyze the progress of Member States in achieving climate and energy targets and prepare recommendations for policy improvements.
- We will provide support in preparing the next generation of NECPs (2028–2029) and strive to ensure that this process is inclusive, transparent, and fair.
- The project consortium will strengthen European climate governance by combining expertise, advocacy and public engagement.

## Partners and funders

Climate Action Network Europe, Bond Beter Leefmilieu, Centrum pro dopravu a energetiku, Društvo za oblikovanje održivog razvoja (DOOR), Eestimaa Looduse Fond (ELF), Focus, Germanwatch, The Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD), Magyar Természetvédők Szövetsége (MTVSZ), Réseau Action Climat France (RAC), Sociedad Española de Ornitología (SEO/BirdLife), WWF Italia, Za Zemiata, Association for the Sustainability of the Earth System (ZERO)

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

## [MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)

LIFE IP CARE4CLIMATE is an integral project that promotes the implementation of measures to help Slovenia achieve its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets by 2030 by raising awareness, educating and training key stakeholders. We mainly carry out or participate in activities aimed at **supporting local communities in transitioning to a low-carbon society and strengthening capacities for low-carbon society concepts in higher education.**

### Activities

1. We supported the initial phase of the project to establish a [community power plant](#) run by the Sončni Ig Energy Cooperative in the **Municipality of Ig**, which followed the steps of the pilot establishment of a community self-sufficient solar power plant at the primary school in Hrastnik. The project has now been completed.
2. We have compiled an [overview of existing sources of funding for community energy projects](#), accompanied by advice and examples of good practice from Slovenia and abroad.
3. We co-organised the **national Dovolj za vse (Enough for All) conference** on the topic of [Climate-Responsible and Resilient Communities](#).
4. We regularly posted on the [Dovolj za vse \(Enough for All\)](#) Facebook profile and managed the [dovoljazavse.si](#) online platform, which includes a **map of good practices in the sustainable management of community resources** and already features more than 100 examples. We created a [video](#) showcasing the good practice of establishing an e-minibus in the pedestrian zone of Škofja Loka.
5. We organised a high-profile **International Summer School on Political Ecology** entitled [Strategies for a Just Green Transition](#), attended by over 150 domestic and international students, researchers and theorists, representatives of decision-makers, civil society organisations and media representatives.
6. We held three [workshops](#) for public servants on transitioning to a low-carbon society, with an emphasis on sustainable mobility in Ljubljana, Maribor, and Slovenska Bistrica.

### Objectives and plans

- In cooperation with Umanotera, we will carry out activities to raise awareness of climate change and promote good practices for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- As part of the programme to support municipalities in implementing community projects, we will continue to support local communities in their transition to a low-carbon society. We will also support the implementation of at least one demonstration project.

- We will update and manage the [www.dovoljavse.si](http://www.dovoljavse.si) platform and Facebook profile, prepare a new handbook on community projects, and create new video presentations of good practices.
- At the end of June, we will organise a four-day International Summer School of Political Ecology 2026 at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

### Partners and funders

Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Transportation Engineering and Architecture, Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Slovenian Forestry Institute, Eco Fund – Slovenian Environmental Public Fund, ZUM, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU), Focus Association for Sustainable Development, Umanotera, JSI Energy Efficiency Centre, ZRMK Building and Civil Engineering Institute, IPoP – Institute for Spatial Policies, Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute

The project is co-funded by the European Commission through the LIFE programme and the Climate Change Fund.

### [MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)



**LIFE4ADAPT - Adapting to Climate Change** is a strategic, integrated Slovenian project focusing on climate change adaptation, which began in February 2025. Its aim is to contribute to the comprehensive implementation of the National Climate Adaptation Strategy. The project includes a wide range of activities aimed at adapting to the key negative impacts of climate change and involves key stakeholders as set out in the strategic framework.

As part of the project, we are coordinating the implementation of two pilot activities:

- **Community approach to preparing of adaptation measures and implementing a pilot measure in Hrastnik:** Together with our partners, we will analyse key environmental and social issues through participatory activities, and prepare a concrete pilot measure together with residents and vulnerable groups.
- **Improving the climate resilience of social infrastructure - a pilot project in an elderly care home in Ljubljana:** Together with our partners, we will analyse the current resilience of elderly care homes to increased heat loads and prepare a proposal for a pilot measure at a selected pilot location, working alongside residents, employees, professional organisations and other key stakeholders.

## Activities

1. We organised an introductory meeting with representatives of elderly care homes in Ljubljana and conducted 11 field visits to such homes.
2. We analysed the current **resistance of elderly care homes to increased heat stress** in the City of Ljubljana (reviewing publicly available data, calculating heat islands and reviewing protocols).
3. We presented the results of the analysis and field visits to representatives of elderly care homes in Ljubljana, as well as to representatives of the relevant ministries and the National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ).
4. We conducted a preliminary analysis using questionnaires to investigate problems related to increased heat loads in Hrastnik.

## Objectives and plans

- We will participate in preparing and implementing a call for tenders to select a pilot elderly care home in Ljubljana.
- We will compile a set of good practices for adapting to increased heat stress in elderly care homes (and other healthcare institutions), and organise a visit to observe these practices abroad.
- We will analyse the current level of preparedness for increased heat stress in the selected care home and use participatory methods to identify key issues and potential solutions.

- We will analyse problems related to increased heat stress in Hrastnik, focusing particularly on the negative impacts on vulnerable groups, and conduct a workshop for organisations working with vulnerable groups in cooperation with the Municipality of Hrastnik.
- We will carry out a summer citizen science campaign to map hotspots in Hrastnik.

### Partners and funders

Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy, Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Slovenian Environment Agency, Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia, ZaVita d.o.o., National Institute of Biology, Science and Research Centre of Koper, Focus Association for Sustainable Development, Slovenian Forestry Institute, University of Ljubljana, Agricultural Institute of Slovenia, CER Sustainable Business Network, Slovenian Water Agency

The project is co-funded by the European Commission through the LIFE programme and the Climate Change Fund.

### MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT



# / European Climate Pact



The **European Climate Pact** was established in 2020 to bring the challenges and opportunities of the green transition closer to citizens, stakeholders, and non-state actors, to inform and encourage them to take climate action, and to strengthen support for the green transition. It is a platform where different actors can meet and exchange information, examples, and practices on climate action at the local level. The pact has been established by the European Commission as part of the **European Green Deal** and can help the EU achieve its goal of climate neutrality by 2050. Focus was the national coordinator of the European Climate Pact activities in Slovenia until May 2025.

## Activities

1. We presented the Climate Pact at several events, including the Taborniški Festival (Scout Festival) in Tivoli Park.
2. We met with the national ambassadors of the Climate Pact to discuss current and future climate action and agreed on a plan of activities until the end of the year. We also discussed the roles of the European Commission and the ambassadors in implementing the Pact.
3. We held several meetings and training sessions for climate ambassadors, including sessions on national nature restoration plans.

**Focus's participation in the project concluded in May 2025.** The Ecologists Without Borders Association is now in charge of coordinating the Climate Pact on a national level.

## Partners and funders

Climate Alliance, Focus Association for Sustainable Development

The campaign was funded by the European Commission – Directorate-General for Climate Action.

## [MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)



# Energy

as part of the Energy Programme, we aim to help develop **environmentally effective and ambitious energy policies** that, on the one hand, respond appropriately to climate, environmental, and development challenges and, on the other hand, contribute to a just green energy transition. Our primary focus is on **reducing energy consumption and increasing energy efficiency**, followed by the responsible use of renewable energy sources. In both our substantive work and advocacy during 2025, we focused particularly on measures and policies in the field of energy communities and energy poverty.

## / Key activities

1. we prepared comprehensive [recommendations for the measures included the national Social Climate Plan](#) and submitted comments on the draft plan.
2. We provided feedback on the draft Renewable Energy Sources Promotion Act (ZSROVE-1) and monitored the adoption of the Electricity Supply Act (ZOEE-A).
3. We became the national antenna organisation of the [European Commission's Energy Poverty Advisory Hub \(EPAH\)](#), which operates in all EU member states. We support the activities of the project and facilitate cooperation and exchange between local and regional authorities that are planning various measures to combat energy poverty.
4. We joined the [European Solar Day](#) initiative and the international *No Energy for Genocide* campaign, and prepared a call for energy communities to boycott products from the Israeli multinational [SolarEdge](#).
5. We raised awareness of the many benefits of energy cooperatives and established connections on various fronts - we began cooperating with the Slovenian power market operator **Borzen**, continued strengthening the **Energy Community Network**, and supported several municipalities and local initiatives.
6. We continued our successful collaboration with the Municipality of Hrastnik and the [Zeleni Hrastnik Energy Cooperative](#). In 2025, we supported them in holding a general meeting and connecting a second community-owned solar power plant to the grid.



7. We drew attention to the issue of energy poverty among tenants and, to encourage new policies, prepared a set of [Good Practices for Tackling Energy Poverty in Rental Housing](#), which is available in Slovenian and English.
8. We collaborated successfully with social work centres and the Eco Fund to initiate the **energy renovation of 10 homes** in Zasavje.
9. We started exploring ways to combine two topics that we have been working on in depth for several years: **energy poverty and energy communities**.
10. One year after the referendum on the [second unit at the Krško Nuclear Power Plant \(JEK2\)](#) was cancelled, our NGO coalition drew attention to the illegitimate fast-tracking of the project and pointed out that one important part of the transition to renewable sources is also the promotion of energy communities, as they represent a real alternative to large, centralised energy systems.

#### [MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAMME](#)





The **Life COMET** (Coalitions for Community Energy Catalysation in Eastern EU) project aims to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the state of energy communities in the region, identify and share examples of good practice, influence the **improvement of the support environment for energy communities** through advocacy activities, and encourage the cooperation of key national stakeholders in the field of energy communities.

### Highlights

Key achievements in 2025 included **establishing of online entry point for energy communities**, the **successful completion of the second project of the Zeleni Hrastnik Energy Cooperative**, and the **organising of a [national conference on energy communities](#)** in collaboration with Borzen.

### Activities

1. The **Energy Communities Network** was launched, within which we organised an advocacy meeting with representatives of the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy, as well as two capacity-building workshops and a successful first annual meeting of the network. We also prepared a roadmap for the network's short-, medium- and long-term development and presented its objectives to the media. By the end of the year, the network had already gained 20 members, including both energy communities and supporting organisations such as research institutions, non-governmental organisations, companies and local energy agencies.
2. We participated in the [European Energy Communities Forum in Krakow](#) in spring, organised two knowledge transfer workshops for project partners and energy communities, and prepared a [toolkit for developing and upgrading energy communities](#).
3. We setup [the entry point energetskeskupnosti.si](#), through which we supported several initiatives and participated in Borzen's training programmes. Together with Borzen and the Municipality of Celje, we organised the conference "**Energy Communities - Residents at the Centre of the Energy Transition**", the largest meeting on the topic of energy communities in Slovenia to date, and presented the benefits of energy cooperatives at various other conferences and meetings.
4. We supported the [Zeleni Hrastnik Energy Cooperative](#) in implementing its second self-sufficient community project, [Novi Dom Hrastnik](#), which includes six nearby households in addition to the Hrastnik Health Centre. In April, the 100 kW solar power plant at the Hrastnik Health Centre was connected to the grid.
5. We participated in preparing a Social Climate Plan, which included organising a consultation for interested members of the public and decision-makers. We also contributed to preparing the Citizens' Energy Package.

## Objectives and plans

- We will carry out activities aimed at removing the barriers to the development of energy communities in the region.
- We will coordinate the Energy Communities Network and work on involving and empowering relevant national stakeholders.
- We will carry out advocacy activities, develop tools and methodologies, and provide technical support for the establishment of new energy communities.

## Partners and funders

Green Energy Cooperative (ZEZ), Electra Energy Cooperative, Rescoop.eu, Tallinn University of Technology, SZOLIDÁRIS GAZDASAG KÖZPONT EGYESÜLET, Focus Association for Sustainable Development, PLZ Spółdzielnia, Cooperativa de Energie

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

## [MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)





Women are underrepresented in decision-making processes and leadership structures, particularly in fields considered more technical, such as energy. As part of the **EUWES** project (Empowering Underrepresented Women in the Energy Sector), we examined the **issue of underrepresentation of women in management and leadership positions in the corporate sector of energy companies** and used an analysis of national policies to identify the main barriers faced by women in the energy sector.

### Activities

1. During the WISE project's introductory online event, we discussed the role of women in the modern energy model and its impact on gender equality, particularly in relation to energy poverty and climate change.
2. We held two workshops at the Ljubljana Secondary School for Civil and Geodetic Engineering and Environmental Protection on the topic of **the role of gender stereotypes in career choices**, and presented [five stories of successful women in STEM fields](#) in Slovenia through a mini communication campaign.
3. In cooperation with the ONA VE (SHE KNOWS) association and the European Commission Representation in Slovenia, we organised a roundtable discussion entitled [Strengthening Equality in STEM and Energy: Alliance for Success](#), which was dedicated to discussing the challenges and opportunities for greater inclusion of women in technical and scientific professions, particularly in the energy sector. The event was accompanied by an exhibition entitled "Women Pioneers of Science, Technology, and Energy".
4. We participated in the final project conference, [Tipping the Scale: Increasing Gender Equality in the European Energy Sector](#), held in Zagreb, where we met with experts, leaders, and decision-makers to discuss ways to empower women in energy and encourage girls to pursue STEM careers.

### Objectives and plans

The project concluded in **March 2025**, but we are continuing to work on mainstreaming gender into energy and broader environmental policies. We are planning new projects to address structural inequalities in the environmental and energy sectors and to strengthen the role of women in decision-making processes.

### Partners and funders

Društvo za oblikovanje održivog razvoja (DOOR), Engineers Without Borders, Women Engage for a Common Future, Focus Association for Sustainable Development

The project was funded by the European Commission through the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme.

### [MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)

# / The impact of building heating on air quality

Traffic and heating are among the main sources of PM10 and PM2.5 particles. In Slovenia, the widespread use of wood-burning stoves plays a particularly significant role. The project therefore aimed to address the **environmental and health issues related to wood biomass heating**. The main objective was to raise awareness of the harmful health effects of particulate matter, particularly those caused by heating buildings. We raised awareness about the issue among the general public, encouraged the transition to cleaner heating methods and supported households in implementing sustainable and long-term solutions.

## Activities

1. We conducted **indoor air quality measurements** in households and found that, while mechanical ventilation can reduce humidity as well as CO<sub>2</sub> and radon concentrations, it does not necessarily reduce particle concentrations.
2. We held workshops in three municipalities to discuss air pollution with local residents. These local events resulted in two proposals for measures to encourage the replacement of wood-burning stoves.
3. We organised a national consultation entitled **"Why Do Traffic Particles Bother Us, but Not Those from Chimneys?"**, which was attended by approximately 65 participants from academic, health, administrative, and NGO circles. The event opened an in-depth discussion on the overlooked role of individual heating systems in air pollution.
4. We organised an educational meeting for journalists to improve their understanding of the issue of particulate matter, the role of the media and the need for clearer, more timely public information from experts. We also presented our proposals for more user-friendly information and good practices from abroad to the Slovenian Environment Agency.
5. We created a video on [the correct way to burn wood](#), designed [infographics on indoor sources of pollution](#), recorded a [podcast](#), and shared the materials on social media.
6. We prepared **communication recommendations for decision-makers and experts** based on an analysis of the failure of the ban on wood-burning stoves in new buildings and an analysis of media reporting on cases of major air pollution.



## Objectives and plans

The project was completed in November 2025, but we are continuing our activities as part of the [Heating of Buildings and Air Quality 2.0](#) project, which began in December 2025 and will focus on improving municipal communication about air quality in relation to individual heating systems.

## Partners and funders

CIPRA (International Commission for the Protection of the Alps), Focus Association for Sustainable Development

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

## [MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)

## / LIFE RENOVERTY



The **Renoverty** project (Home Renovation Roadmaps to Address Energy Poverty in Vulnerable Rural Districts) addressed the challenge of **energy poverty in vulnerable rural/peri-urban areas across Central, South-Eastern, and Southern Europe**. We promoted the **energy renovation of buildings** by establishing a methodological and practical framework for preparing renovation plans for vulnerable neighbourhoods in a financially viable and socially just manner.

### Activities

1. We have prepared four [Energy Renovation Roadmaps for homes in rural areas facing energy poverty](#), based on different types of housing (single-family houses, apartments in multi-family buildings, rental apartments, housing estates).
2. With the support of social work centres and LAG Zasavje, we held two [meetings with households](#) affected by energy poverty, at which we presented the benefits of energy renovations and Eco Fund subsidies for vulnerable households.
3. We have prepared two sets of policy recommendations offering **concrete solutions to support household energy renovations and reduce energy poverty**: [Promoting Energy Renovations in Households Facing Energy Poverty](#) and [RENOVERTY and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive \(EPBD\) – Promoting Energy Renovations in Vulnerable Households](#).
4. We organised a consultation entitled [Upgrading Measures to Reduce Energy Poverty](#), in which we encouraged discussion on how to include those affected by energy poverty in energy communities; how to ensure cross-sectoral dialogue; and how to address energy poverty in rental situations.
5. We organised two consultations on “one-stop shops” for local and national stakeholders, and in collaboration with the Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia, we held an [online seminar](#) on the role of municipalities in addressing energy poverty.
6. We have developed a [free online training course](#) on co-creating energy renovations in rural areas.

### Objectives and plans

While the project concluded in October 2025, we will work to extend the Energy Renovation Roadmap model to other regions and continue to advocate for policies and measures to effectively address energy poverty.

## Partners and funders

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, Tartu Regiooni Energiaagentuur, Asociacion Ecoserveis

The project was funded by the European Commission through the LIFE programme.

## MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT



The **SOCIALNRG** project (Sustainable Options for Community-based Low-income Renewable Energy) aims to develop a **scalable approach to tackling energy poverty in three pilot social housing communities in Slovenia, Italy, and Belgium**. It focuses on promoting cooperation to establish or **adapt energy communities**, encouraging knowledge exchange, and preparing recommendations to remove barriers at the policy level.

### Activities

- We helped identify the needs and key challenges faced by residents of a multi-family building that is part of a pilot project in Slovenia, as well as ways to address these challenges. To this end, we helped organise a focus group and two workshops with residents.
- We encouraged the overcoming of sector-specific perspectives and the inclusion of local and regional institutions, social services and organisations in the local advisory committee, which will monitor the project's activities and results. We held two meetings of the local advisory board.
- We began developing a plan for an energy community model that would meet the needs of vulnerable residents in public rental housing.

### Objectives and plans

- Based on the pilot case, we will develop a plan to establish an **energy community for the social, cooperative, and public housing sectors** that will respond to the needs of those affected by the energy poverty.
- Through dialogue with residents, we will develop new community practices and an inclusive building management model at the pilot location and conduct training sessions on energy efficiency.
- We will build the capacity of local and regional institutions, as well as owners and managers of public social housing in other Slovenian regions and other EU Member States, to enable them to establish energy communities.

### Partners and funders

Comité Européen de Coordination de l'Habitat Social, E' Nostra Societa Cooperativa, Finabita Spa, Focus Association for Sustainable Development, Institute for Innovation and Development of University of Ljubljana, Klimaan, Rescoop Eu Asbl, Stanovanjsko podjetje za gospodarjenje z objekti d.o.o., Woonmaatschappij Rivierenland

The project is funded by the European Commission through the LIFE programme.

### [MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)



The **GENDER4POWER** project (Generating Equity, Nurturing Diversity, Energising Resilience 4 Power Against Energy Poverty) aims to improve conditions and **energy efficiency in buildings and households affected by energy poverty**. Our goal is to achieve a positive impact on the well-being of energy-vulnerable individuals through comprehensive solutions in the field of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency that focus on their needs, take gender into account and draw on the knowledge and experience of a wide range of stakeholders. One of the project's six demonstration sites is Hrastnik, where we are focusing on integrating energy-poor households into energy communities.

## Activities

1. To help us understand the challenges we will face in continuing the project, we organised meetings and interviews with numerous key players in the field of energy poverty and energy communities.
2. We compiled a report focusing on citizens' initiatives to combat energy poverty and the **role of energy communities in combating energy poverty in Slovenia**, and a report on the challenges and obstacles to achieving energy renovation goals in vulnerable households.
3. We have selected two project **ambassadors** in Slovenia to help us gather ideas for an [energy community in Hrastnik](#) that will include vulnerable groups and will ensure the equal participation of women in the development process.

## Objectives and plans

- We will collaborate with local residents in Hrastnik to determine the most suitable approach for incorporating vulnerable groups into energy communities in the local environment.
- Our aim is to train local actors to communicate and implement structural measures to reduce energy poverty.
- We will continue to raise awareness and educate energy-vulnerable people, as well as the various stakeholders responsible for measures aimed at combating energy poverty at the local level.
- We will contribute to the development of recommendations for policymakers at the national and European levels.

## Partners and funders

Wirtschaft und infrastruktur GMBH & CO Planungs, Women Engage for a Common Future, Austrian Energy Agency, D'Enginyeria Sense Fronteres, Electra Energy Cooperative, Viešoji įstaiga »Atnaujinkime miesta – Amiestas«, B-NK GMBH, La Bordeta energy Community, Focus Association for Sustainable Development

The project is funded by the European Commission through the LIFE programme.

## [MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)

# Mobility

We collaborate with European and national networks and organisations to participate actively in transport planning processes and advocate for **environmentally friendly and fair solutions in transport**, which is one of the most problematic sectors in terms of climate change and greenhouse gases. While we have spent recent years fighting for ambitious transport policies at national and European levels, 2025 has seen serious threats to the green transition and plans that we had previously welcomed, such as the proposal to relax the ban on selling cars with internal combustion engines from 2035.

## / Key activities

1. We have obtained status as a public interest organisation in the field of sustainable mobility, with a focus on public passenger transport, walking, cycling and other forms of mobility that have a lower environmental impact.
2. We have been involved in the advocacy activities of the Transport & Environment organisation and the Clean Cities network, and are pleased to see that its representative office for Central and Eastern Europe opened in September 2025, given that this region faces different transport challenges than Western Europe.
3. We responded to the Social Climate Plan with recommendations and proposals for measures to reduce transport and energy poverty.
4. We provided substantive support to the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy in its European Mobility Week 2025 campaign, which addressed the issue of transport poverty (and will do so again this year).
5. The Coalition for Sustainable Transport Policy (KTPP) responded to the EEA report on air pollution in Ljubljana, the extension of traffic vignette validity due to traffic jams, and the announcement of bus line closures. We also drafted a position statement on the operation of the Public Transport Management Company (DUJPP).
6. As members of the European Passengers' Federation, we campaigned for improved public transport services. In June, we attended the



Federation's conference in the UK, where we took part in the "Women in Transport" thematic session.

7. We delved even deeper into the issue of **transport poverty**. The book [Prevozna revščina v Sloveniji](#) ("Transport Poverty in Slovenia") was published, and we worked with economists to prepare a [study of the economic and political influences on the current and future state of transport poverty](#).

8. We debunked seven myths surrounding various aspects of decarbonising transport to make this topic more accessible to the public. We also presented various aspects of the [electric vehicle battery supply chain](#).

9. A Focus representative participated in the Radio Val 202 [podcast Zelena luč](#) ("Green Light") on the topic of 21<sup>st</sup>-century mobility and was involved in setting up the Slovenian Passengers' Association, the first association to advocate for the needs of passengers in Slovenia.

#### [MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAMME](#)



# Overcoming Mobility Poverty in the Era of Green Transition: A Mixed Methods Research Approach

This project aims to bring together research on transport poverty from both micro and macro perspectives to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the issue. At the micro level, studying transport poverty can provide insight into the life experiences and the needs of those most affected by it. At the macro level, studying transport poverty can reveal the broader social, economic and environmental factors that contribute to it.

## Activity

1. We have prepared a plan to **identify the hidden factors influencing transport poverty** using a social constructivist approach and conducted semi-structured interviews with selected individuals.

## Objectives and plans

We will write a scientific article on the hidden factors of transport poverty and present it at various events. As transport poverty is a complex and multifaceted issue that can affect individuals and households in different ways, we will use a mixed research methods approach.

## Partners and funders

Focus Association for Sustainable Development,  
Institute for Economic Research, Faculty of  
Law at the University of Ljubljana

The project is funded by the Slovenian  
Research and Innovation Agency  
(ARIS).

## MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT



## / Transport Policies and Transport Poverty

This project focused on the issue of transport poverty, particularly in rural areas where transport alternatives are limited, while promoting ambitious air quality and vehicle policies. Our previous research on **transport poverty** in Slovenia and five Eastern European countries (Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Romania and Bulgaria) revealed that enhancing public transport, particularly in rural areas, is one of the most effective systemic solutions for enhancing population mobility. In 2025, we participated in numerous conferences in Slovenia and across Europe, researched vulnerable population groups, monitored the preparation of the national Social Climate Plan and undertook activities to raise awareness of the link between income and transport poverty: lower incomes mean a higher probability of transport poverty.

### Highlights

In collaboration with expert economists, we conducted a [study of the economic and political influences on the current and future state of transport poverty](#), which highlights significant differences in transport poverty between income groups. In lower-income households, transport expenditure often accounts for more than a quarter of the budget.

### Activities

1. We advocated ambitious policies in the fields of air quality and vehicles, highlighting the [negative aspects of the increasing height of new cars](#) and the [hidden consumption of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles](#). We also examined the [supply chain for electric vehicle batteries](#).
2. We presented a study of the economic and political impacts on the current and future state of transport poverty, based on data from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, at the [Statistical Day with Researchers](#).
3. We participated in the [European Passengers' Federation \(EPF\)](#) conference in Swindon, UK, contributing to the discussion on **women in transport and transport poverty**. We also presented our work on transport poverty at the conference *Tackling Transport Poverty: A Collaborative Approach to Achieving Accessible and Affordable Mobility for All* organised by the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) and the European Committee of the Regions.
4. We advocated for the improvement of public passenger transport services to alleviate transport poverty. This included participating in the group that prepared the National Integrated Transport Strategy within the framework of the Expert Council of the Public Transport Management Company (DUJPP).
5. As part of the process of adopting the National Social Climate Plan, which is the basis for drawing funds from the Social Climate Fund, we joined forces with other organisations to respond and prepare recommendations with a [set of measures in the field of transport and energy](#) that will contribute to reducing emissions and other environmental pressures without exacerbating social inequalities.

**Although the project concluded in December 2025**, it will continue in a slightly different form in 2026.

### Funder

The project activities were funded by the European Climate Foundation.

The ZENPRE project (**Reducing Energy and Transport Poverty with a Focus on the Elderly and Women**) aims to help people facing energy and transport poverty, with a particular focus on the elderly and women. The project's goal is to gain a better understanding of the daily needs and challenges of these groups in the areas of energy use and mobility. Representatives of these groups are offered advice and support to help them make minor changes to their daily behaviour that could reduce their energy and transport costs, thereby improving their quality of life. At the same time, the project is training stakeholders and experts to improve the long-term situation of vulnerable groups by strengthening their knowledge, improving networking, and providing more effective advice. To achieve systemic regulation of the field, we share the experience and knowledge gained through advocacy activities with decision-makers.

## Activities

1. In collaboration with the Regional Development Agency for Koroška, we organised a **regional meeting for key stakeholders on the topic of energy and transport poverty** in Dravograd. We also held a regional meeting in Postojna together with the Regional Development Agency RDA Green Karst. The aim of both events was to facilitate the exchange of good practices and to discuss the challenges and solutions for improving cooperation between local stakeholders in supporting vulnerable groups. Participants emphasised the importance of systemic support and networking at the local level, a point which was also included in the recommendations for designing national measures as part of the Social Climate Fund.

2. During European Mobility Week 2025, we held **group counselling sessions for the elderly** in Kranj, presenting them with useful tips for dealing with adverse conditions relating to household energy supply, as well as information on how to find suitable transport options.

3. In collaboration with the Sopotniki Institute, we designed and collected data for an **online application** to inform vulnerable groups about measures to tackle energy and transport poverty.



## Objectives and plans

- We will present the results of in-depth interviews and quantitative analysis in a publication.
- We will provide training for stakeholders in direct contact with vulnerable groups, equipping them to offer mobility and energy advice based on our developed concept.
- We will launch a web application to assist with energy and mobility counselling.
- We will advocate for meaningful measures and connect various stakeholders from the transport, energy and social affairs sectors at local and national levels.

## Partners and funders

Focus Association for Sustainable Development, Sopotniki Institute, Forum for Equitable Development – FER

The project is funded by the Eco Fund and the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy.

## MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT

# Transforming Transport: Climate Action in the Service of Social Justice

The project aims to empower national and local stakeholders in the Czech Republic and Slovenia to develop **inclusive and equitable transport policies** as part of the green transition. By promoting understanding and support for decarbonisation measures among vulnerable groups and the wider public, the project will contribute to reducing transport poverty and making mobility more accessible and sustainable.

## Activities:

1. We have prepared a publication entitled [\*Debunking Myths: Decarbonising Transport\*](#), which uses a simple, accessible style to address the most common misconceptions about decarbonising the transport sector.
2. We organised a roundtable discussion with representatives of municipalities in the Ljubljana urban region to discuss the local-level obstacles preventing the successful resolution of transport poverty issues.

## Objectives and plans

- We will organise a field trip to the Koroška region for representatives of Czech municipalities to examine best practices in addressing transport poverty in sparsely populated rural areas.
- We will organise a field trip to South Moravia in the Czech Republic for representatives of Slovenian municipalities to learn about good practices in tackling transport poverty and promoting sustainable mobility.
- We will analyse 40 municipal comprehensive transport strategies from the perspective of transport poverty and present our findings in a publication.
- We will publish a publication on good practices in the field of preventing transport poverty, featuring examples from both Slovenia and the Czech Republic.
- We will strengthen advocacy and networking among various stakeholders in the field of transport to ensure the effective implementation of measures to reduce transport poverty.

## Partners and funders

Focus Association for Sustainable Development, Centrum pro dopravu a energetiku (CDE)

The project is co-financed by the European Climate Initiative (EUKI), is a funding instrument of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN)

## [MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)



## Partnership for Environment and Health 3.0

In the Partnership for Environment and Health 3.0, we have upgraded the goals of previous projects with activities to **raise awareness of environmental and health issues among young people** with the goal of increasing understanding of the connection between these two areas and encourage active participation in project activities. We have strengthened our work in non-formal education for young people, encouraging them to play an active role in addressing environmental and health issues, particularly in relation to climate change adaptation, air quality and the usability of green spaces.

### Activities

1. We have completed our latest local initiative – after measuring black carbon levels, the teachers and pupils at Brinje Grosuplje Primary School proposed the installation of bicycle racks, which was carried out in June 2025.
2. We compiled and published the article [Introducing the Topic of Air Pollution Into Primary Schools Through Experiential Learning – A Case Study](#).

The project was completed in September 2025.

### Partners and funders

MZTR – Youth Association for Sustainable Development, Institute for Health and Environment, Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ljubljana, Aerosol Magee Scientific, Focus Association for Sustainable Development

The project was funded by the Ministry of Health as part of its health protection and promotion programmes until 2025.

### [MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)



# Global responsibility and justice

as part of the **Global Responsibility and Justice programme**, our policy efforts focused on corporate responsibility policies. By 2025, EU legislation on human rights and the environment has been weakened. The substance of numerous directives aimed at corporate responsibility for respecting human and workers' rights and the environment, as well as their contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and thus climate change, were weakened. Nevertheless, we will continue to work actively, particularly in light of the upcoming transposition of the **Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD)** into national law, to advocate for the effective protection of the environment and human rights. We also worked on the **Critical Raw Materials Act (CRM)** and the **EU-Mercosur trade agreement**.



## / Key activities

1. We actively participated in monitoring and responding to the legislative process of adopting the **Omnibus I Directive**, proposed by the European Commission in January 2025 with the aim of simplifying the CSDDD, working closely with the European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ). Alongside other non-governmental organisations in Slovenia, we issued a [public appeal to the Slovenian government](#) to safeguard the fundamental human rights and environmental protection provisions enshrined in the CSDDD within the EU Council.
2. In collaboration with young people, rural youth and environmentalists, we actively [raised awareness](#) about the harmful effects of the **EU-Mercosur trade agreement**,

presenting our positions at parliamentary committee meetings. In this regard, we have repeatedly [called on the Slovenian government](#) and [Slovenian MEPs](#), published [opinions](#) and responded to numerous requests from the media for statements and interviews.

3. As part of the **Respect for Human Rights among Slovenian Companies** research project, we mentored [students from the Faculty of Economics and the Faculty of Law](#) in their research into respect for human rights in Slovenian companies.

4. We conducted a [legal analysis of Slovenia's readiness to transpose legislation on corporate responsibility](#) and the fourth [analysis of Slovenian companies' reporting on human rights due diligence](#), which once again highlights the inadequacy of voluntary commitments.

5. We explored the **origins of the food on our plates** in the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of our publication **Etični potrošnik (Ethical Consumer)**, entitled [Hungry for Rights](#), on our social media channels [Futr za Jutr](#) (Food for Tomorrow), in collaboration with the [Slovene Consumers' Association](#), with Radio Študent in the [podcasts Futr za jutro](#), and with the RTV Slovenia Multimedia Centre in the [Zeleni petek](#) (Green Friday) section of the website.

6. In collaboration with the Slovene Philanthropy and the Kinodvor Cinema, as part of the **Migrant Film Festival**, we organised a [screening](#) of the documentary film *The Pickers* and a [discussion](#) with guests Elena Stancu and Cosmin Bumbuț, who have been documenting the lives of Romanian migrant workers across Europe for many years.

[MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAMME](#)

## / Economic Justice – Corporate Responsibility

Within the framework of this project, our work centred on corporate accountability. We actively participated in the European association of non-governmental organisations, contributing to research, awareness-raising, and advocacy work in connection with the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) and the Omnibus I Directive, through which the European Commission intervened in key elements of corporate responsibility legislation. We also linked our work in the field of corporate legal responsibility to specific cases from the critical raw materials sector.

### Activities

1. We participated in the legislative process of the Omnibus I Directive by helping to develop an advocacy and communication campaign for non-governmental organisations at the EU level.
2. We coordinated the drafting of [positions of NGOs and employee representatives in Slovenia](#). We published an [open letter](#) to the government, presented our positions, and organised meetings with various stakeholders, from decision-makers to company representatives.
3. We conveyed our positions to Slovenian MEPs and met with decision-makers at the Ministry of the Economy, Tourism and Sport and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.
4. In cooperation with the Human Rights Ombudsman, we organised a [stakeholder consultation](#) to prepare a strategy for transposing the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive into Slovenian law.
5. We conducted a [legal analysis of Slovenia's readiness to transpose legislation on corporate responsibility](#), with a focus on three areas: climate transition plans, civil liability and access to courts, and the establishment and operation of an administrative body. The analysis was carried out by the Legal Center for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment.
6. We conducted the fourth [analysis of Slovenian companies' reporting on human rights due diligence](#), which once again highlights the inadequacy of voluntary commitments.

The project was completed in November 2025.

### Partners and funders

Focus Association for Sustainable Development, Fair Trade Slovenia, PIC – Legal Center for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment

The project was funded by the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund and the Oak Foundation as part of the Friends of the Earth Europe network.

### [MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)

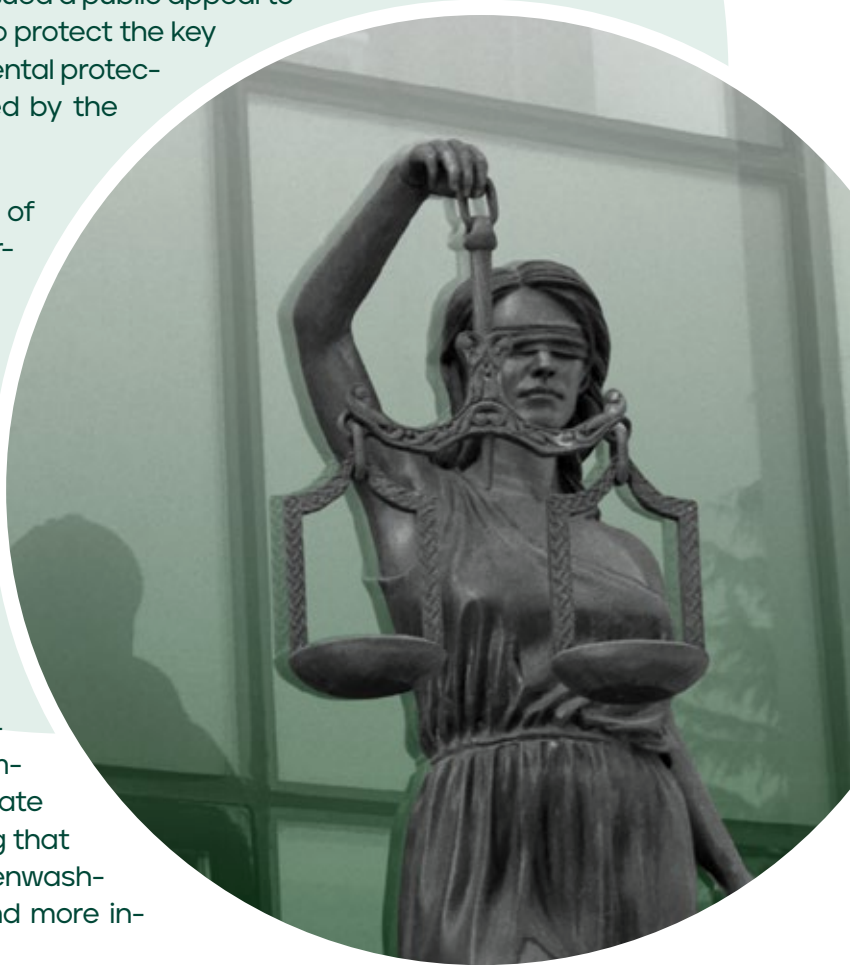


# Corporate Responsibility for Human Rights and the Environment in Europe

As part of the project, we are **strengthening the capacity of civil society to advocate jointly and effectively for stricter corporate responsibility legislation**. In the first half of the project, our main objective was to ensure that the Omnibus I Directive retained key elements of human rights and environmental protection, as set out in the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD). To achieve this, we actively involved ourselves in the legislative process and exchanged knowledge and views with the European network of non-governmental organisations and various stakeholders. In the second half of the project, our focus is on creating a supportive environment for civil society. This involves developing a deeper understanding of the existing regulatory framework and the coordinated involvement of civil society in the process of transposing the CSDDD into national law.

## Activities

1. As part of our advocacy campaign, we called on Slovenian decision-makers to support the most ambitious provisions of the Omnibus I Directive during the voting in the European Parliament and the Council of the EU, emphasising the importance of active Slovenian stakeholder involvement in the legislative process. Alongside other Slovenian NGOs, we issued a public appeal to the Slovenian government to protect the key human rights and environmental protection mechanisms established by the CSDDD in the EU Council.
2. Through the joint design of public initiatives and the organisation and participation in events, we strengthened the network of various stakeholders, including trade unions, NGOs, educational institutions, the Slovenian Human Rights Ombudsman, as well as companies, and laid the foundation for further cooperation.
3. By working with the media, we have helped to improve reporting on corporate social responsibility, ensuring that it goes beyond mere greenwashing and receives greater and more in-depth media attention.



## Objectives and plans

- In collaboration with the Legal Center for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, we will publish a practical guide for civil society, which will provide advice on how to use the legal and other tools available in cases where companies violate human rights or environmental standards.
- Based on the adopted Omnibus I Directive, we will update the legal analysis for the transposition of the CSDDD into Slovenian law, with an emphasis on climate transition plans, civil liability and access to courts, as well as the establishment and operation of an administrative body.
- In cooperation with the Human Rights Ombudsman and the Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana, we will organise a seminar on [responsibility and due diligence in business operations in Slovenia](#).
- In collaboration with other civil society organisations in Slovenia, we will continue our advocacy activities in the process of transposing the CSDDD into Slovenian law.

## Funders

The project is funded by the European Coalition for Corporate Justice.

## [MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)

## / Re:Booting the Food system



The Re:Booting the Food System project aims to create a more inclusive society with a developed sense of shared responsibility for sustainable food chains. Its goal is to raise awareness among young people in the EU and mobilise them to become agents of change in the global food system. A consortium of 14 organisations from the fields of environment, human rights, and youth work is working towards sustainable and equitable solutions to support a just transition in the food sector.

### Activities

1. We ran a series of **global learning workshops** in secondary schools, at the Department of Psychology of the Faculty of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Information Technologies (FAMNIT), and as part of the *Food and Society* course at the Faculty of Social Sciences (FDV). In collaboration with the youth organisation Mladi zmaji (Young Dragons), we organised **Dragon Disco Soup** events in Ljubljana, where young people discussed sustainable food practices while cooking and enjoying music together.
2. As part of the project, three youth organisations carried out **activities for young people** on the topic of sustainable and ethical food systems. In collaboration with the National Youth Council of Slovenia, we organised a participatory event on focusing on COP30 in Brazil.
3. We participated in several events related to corporate responsibility, green public procurement and organic farming.
4. We published the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of our publication **Etični potrošnik (Ethical Consumer)**, entitled "Hungry for Rights", which addresses the key challenges of the modern food system, the impact of agriculture on the environment, and the importance of sustainable and responsible choices. The publication was released in both [print](#) and [on-line formats](#) to make it accessible to a wider audience.
5. We completed a **study on eco-anxiety among young people**, focusing on those from rural areas. The report on the study's findings will be published in 2026.
6. In collaboration with our guests from Romania, investigative journalist Elena Stancu and photojournalist Cosmin Bumbuț, we presented stories from European fields and the lives of migrant workers. In collaboration with the Slovene Philanthropy and the Kinodvor Cinema, as part of the **Migrant Film Festival**, we organised a [screening](#) of the documentary film *The Pickers* and a [discussion](#) with guests Elena Stancu and Cosmin Bumbuț, who have been documenting the lives of Romanian migrant workers across Europe for several years.
7. We supported several youth organisations in organising events and Disco Soups. In collaboration with the MKC Maribor youth centre, we organised an [event](#) on sustainable food systems with the Secondary School and Vocational College of Hospitality and Tourism Maribor. We also supported young people by co-financing a [campaign on sustainable food systems and agroecology](#), which was carried out jointly by the No Excuse Slovenia and Slovenian Rural Youth Association, with support from the Lojtra Association.

8. In collaboration with the Slovene Consumers' Association, we explored the stories behind the food on our plates and informed the public in advance of the results of tests on frozen strawberries, which revealed the presence of banned pesticides.

### Objectives and plans

- We will work on policies related to corporate responsibility, including the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) and the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRM).
- We will prepare a final report on our research into young people's attitudes towards ethical food.
- We will publish a handbook for teachers and other educators on sustainable food and systemic challenges.
- We will organise several educational events, collaborate with (film) festivals, host a travelling exhibition, and support young people in organising their own events.

### Partners and funders

Focus Association for Sustainable Development, CIR – Romero initiative, Action Aid Denmark, Action Aid France, BUNDjugend: Jugend im Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland e.V., CEEweb for Biodiversity, European Coordination Via Campesina, Asociația Mai bine, MANI TESE ONG ONLUS, Südwind – Verein für Entwicklungspolitik und Globale Gerechtigkeit, Le Mouvement Rural de Jeunesse Chrétienne, International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth – Europe, Tudatos Vásárlók Közhasznú Egyesülete, Association of Conscious Consumers, We World

The project is co-financed by the European Commission under the DEAR programme.

### MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT



## My Activist Revolution (Revolution 7.0)



The **My Activist Revolution 7.0** project comprises workshops, conferences and participatory events for young people in four countries: Slovenia, Italy, Austria and Poland. Through national workshops, an online meeting, youth conferences in Ljubljana and Krakow, and an e-democracy platform, young people co-created a Youth Manifesto. The final version of the manifesto was presented at a meeting in the European Parliament in Brussels in 2025. Particular attention was paid to **including marginalised young people**. The project promotes **political participation** and the **active involvement of young people in democratic processes**, enabling them to engage in direct dialogue with decision-makers at the national and European levels

### Activities

1. The youth group organised a youth conference in Ljubljana with 80 participants, attended an international conference with 20 young people from Slovenia, and actively participated in using the e-democracy portal. They also led the entire process of drafting the Youth Manifesto, from content discussions to coordinating common positions.

### Objectives and plans

- Young people presented the Youth Manifesto at the European Parliament in Brussels.
- We will conclude the project with an evaluation process at a meeting in Vienna.

### Partners and funders

Sudwind, Buy Responsibly Foundation, We World, No Excuse Slovenia, Legebitra, Verband Österreichischer Volkshochschulen, C.S.A.P.S.A. SOCIETA' COOPERATIVA SOCIALE, Focus Association for Sustainable Development

The project was funded by the European Commission through the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme.

### [MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)

## / Futr za jutro (Food for Tomorrow)

FUTR  
ZA  
JUTRO

The aim of the Futr za jutro (Food for Tomorrow) project is to address the challenges of sustainable food and raise awareness of the environmental and societal impact of the food system. It aims to provide people, particularly young people, with an understanding of food systems and encourage them to actively reflect on, and contribute to, shaping a more sustainable food future. The project combines media work, youth participation and the organisation of events for young people, as well as social media campaigns.

### Activities

1. In order to raise awareness among young people about sustainable food, we collaborated with Radio Študent to create the [Futr za jutro \("Food for Tomorrow"\) podcast](#). The science editorial team produced 12 in-depth radio programmes, which were broadcast and simultaneously published as podcasts.
2. In collaboration with the RTV Slovenia Multimedia Centre, we prepared and published 12 articles on the topic of sustainable food in the [Zeleni petek \("Green Friday"\)](#) section of the website, which also included news articles and infographics.
3. We managed the [Futr za jutro](#) profiles on Instagram and Facebook. These are run by Dora, who, among other things, researched the involvement of young people in agroecology as part of a youth expedition to Tanzania. In general, we used these profiles to reveal the background of food and talk to renowned individuals about sustainable approaches to cooking at home.
4. In collaboration with youth organisations, we held seven Disco Soup events, where youth centres and local community organisations used a participatory approach to raise young people's awareness of sustainable food issues.
5. As part of the Mladi Maribor Festival 2025 and Global Learning Week, we organised an [event for high school and university students](#) in Maribor. We collaborated with youth and environmental organisations, as well as representatives from schools and the municipality, to discuss ways of encouraging young people to play a more active role in shaping a sustainable food future.



### **Objectives and plans**

- We will continue with our regular monthly podcasts Futr za jutro ("Food for Tomorrow") in collaboration with Radio Študent.
- We will manage the project's IG and FB profiles.
- We will publish a guide to sustainable food.

### **Partners and funders**

Radio Študent, Kersnikova Institute; Associate members: MMC RTV Slovenia, Fair Trade Slovenia

The project is funded by the Eco Fund and the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy.

### **MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT**

# Intersectional

## INCITE-DEM

The logo for INCITE-DEM, featuring the text 'INCITE-DEM' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'I' and 'N' are stacked vertically on the left, and 'CITE' and 'DEM' are stacked vertically on the right. The text is white on a yellow background that is shaped like a speech bubble pointing to the right.

The main objective of the **INCITE-DEM** project (Inclusive Citizenship in a world in Transformation: Co-Designing for Democracy) is to **strengthen inclusive participation and civic engagement** while **spreading democratic innovations** and mechanisms for dynamic feedback between citizens and institutional actors in representative democracies. Based on research, the project tested inclusive design processes for democratic innovation in practice by establishing so-called **Democracy Labs** in six countries. Lessons learned and research findings were translated into **policy guidelines and blueprints for sustainable, inclusive and innovative democracy** in a world in transformation.

### Activities

1. We conducted an online **Democracy Lab**, which was attended by 36 people. Participants evaluated various proposals for democratic innovations, including the concepts of a so-called citizen wallet and a citizen toolkit for getting started with democracy.
2. We organised an interactive forum in Ljubljana entitled **Citizens Reshaping Democracy**. The event brought together decision-makers and representatives of civil initiatives to assess the feasibility of democratic innovations developed in the Democracy Labs. Participants with experience in decision-making processes evaluated six models or proposals for democratic innovations in terms of their integration into existing institutions and representative democratic processes.
3. We organised an online **policy dialogue** in which representatives of policymakers, civil society, the IT sector and citizens discussed and evaluated nine policy recommendations. At the end of the consultation process, these recommendations will be included in the INCITE-DEM project roadmaps intended for decision-makers at the EU level.
4. We organised and ran the [final conference of the Shaping the Future of Democracy project](#), held in a hybrid format at the European Parliament and online. We arranged for the participation of distinguished speakers and, together with our project partners, designed a diverse programme that also included four in-depth workshops with academic partners.
5. At project level, we managed and coordinated the communication and dissemination of project activities, which included implementing a results dissemination and use plan, preparing activity-specific communication plans, creating an e-newsletter and managing the [website](#) and social network channels for the project.

The project was completed in February 2026.

## Partners and funders

FCiências.ID – Associação para a Investigação e Desenvolvimento de Ciências, University of Muenster, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, University of Groningen, University of Helsinki, Tallinn University, Instituto de Ciências Sociais – University of Lisbon, Asociacion Eco-Union, Focus Association for Sustainable Development, Kyoto Club

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

## MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT



# Communication

We continued to be seen and heard in 2025. Particularly noteworthy is the popular Futr za jutro ("Food for Tomorrow") social media channel, run by our plucky (sustainable) food influencer Dora. With her fresh approach, she successfully appeals to younger audiences and opens up discussions about eating habits, the environment, and everyday sustainable choices. But we were not only active online – as in previous years, we regularly communicated with the media, answered journalists' questions, gave interviews, and raised awareness among interested parties and the wider public about the issues we deal with. Particularly noteworthy was the visit by Romanian investigative journalist Elena Stancu and photographer Cosmin Bumbuț, who presented their award-winning documentary project *Away*, in which they have been following the lives of Romanian migrant workers across Europe for several years.

You can follow our contributions on the website [focus.si](https://focus.si), on social networks Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and BlueSky, and on YouTube. Each month, we summarise our activities, current content and event announcements in our e-newsletter.

As part of our project activities, we also managed:

- **Dovolj za vse** ("Enough for All") [website](#) and [FB profile](#),
- website [politicalecology-ljubljana.si](https://politicalecology-ljubljana.si),
- [INCITE-DEM](#) website and social networks ([X](#), [LI](#), [FB](#) in [Youtube](#)).
- **Futr za jutro** ("Food for All") [FB](#) and [IG](#) profiles.



## / In numbers

more than

**100**

**NEWS ITEMS**

on the Focus website

**36**

**PRESS RELEASES**

over

**800**

**MENTIONS**

of Focus in media

**5**

**WEBSITES** and

**14**

**SOCIAL NETWORK**

channels

more than

**10.000**

**FOLLOWERS**

on social networks

**6**

**MEDIA OUTLETS**

interviewed our guests  
from Romania – from  
*Delo* and *Dnevnik* to  
*Jana* and *Ona Plus*  
magazine



# Networking and cooperation

We have been networking internationally since our association was founded in 2003. Our involvement in international networks ensures the flow of information, participation in international projects and opportunities for education, the co-creation of network and EU policies, and support for the implementation of campaigns and actions (in the form of materials, data, tools, communication resources, etc.), placing us on the map of European and global environmental NGOs.

## International networking

**Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe):** Focus has been a member of the CAN Europe network for over 20 years. In 2025, we continued to monitor European and international climate and energy policies, advocating the network's positions on climate and energy issues to national decision-makers. We attended numerous meetings and participated in the network's conference calls and workshops. CAN Europe is also the coordinator of the LIFE Plan4Climate project, which Focus is implementing in Slovenia.

**Transport & Environment (T&E):** With the help of T&E, we monitor legislation relating to CO<sub>2</sub> standards, biofuels, alternative fuels, air pollution, and other transport policies, primarily at the EU level. In 2025, we participated in the annual meeting and online communication workshops.

**Friends of the Earth Europe:** We regularly collaborate with Friends of the Earth Europe in monitoring and working on European climate and energy policies. Over the past two years, our collaboration has been particularly focused on corporate accountability. In addition to being part of the European Friends of the Earth network, we have also been full members of the Friends of the Earth International network since 2018. In December, we attended the [network's annual meeting in Bangladesh](#), which also hosted an international conference on environmental justice.

**CIVINET Slovenia-Croatia-Southeast Europe:** We are part of a network of cities and other stakeholders involved in sustainable mobility in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. In addition to participating in thematic workshops, the network provides us with insight into good practices and allows us to keep track of developments in the region regarding energy-efficient transport and environmentally and user-friendly urban transport.

**European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ):** Our cooperation with the largest civil society network dedicated to corporate legal responsibility, which brings together more than 480 non-governmental organisations from across Europe, mainly encompasses advocacy for environmental and human rights due diligence. In 2025, our partnership was upgraded to full membership, providing us with easier access to certain partners and funding sources.

**European Passengers' Federation (EPF):** The EPF is an international non-profit association of passenger organisations and organisations promoting sustainable mobility. Its mission is to advocate for comprehensive passenger rights and effective mobility across Europe. We attended the association's annual conference in the United Kingdom.

**REScoop.eu:** Focus acts as a support organisation for the European federation of energy communities REScoop.eu, which helps energy communities make their voices heard in the European energy debate. REScoop.eu supports citizens, cooperatives, and cities in promoting a citizen-led energy transition. We are also collaborating with them on two LIFE projects.

**The European Commission's Energy Poverty Advisory Hub (EPAH)** is the EU's premier initiative aimed at eradicating energy poverty and accelerating a just energy transition for local communities in Europe. The EPAH's mission is to become the central platform for expertise on energy poverty in the EU for local communities and all stakeholders interested in combatting energy poverty in Europe. In 2025, Focus became the national antenna organisation of the advisory hub for Slovenia.

## **National networking**

In 2025, we also participated in the projects and activities of various Slovenian networks and organisations.

**The Plan B for Slovenia network** brings together 41 NGOs who view sustainable development as progress that meets present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own. We respond in a coordinated manner to climate change measures, strategic documents, draft laws, and other forms of communication within the decision-making process.

**The Coalition for Sustainable Mobility (KTPP)** is an association of 21 non-governmental organisations from across Slovenia, whose activities are focused on promoting sustainable transport policy in various ways.

**Network for Spatial Development** unites 27 NGOs from different parts of Slovenia, which advocate for various methods of sustainable spatial planning.

**The SLOGA platform** is a platform of Slovenian NGOs working in the fields of global sustainable, equitable and inclusive development, global learning, and international humanitarian aid.

**CNVOS** is an umbrella network of Slovenian NGOs that brings together over 1,700 different associations, societies, institutes and foundations. The network provides

the non-governmental sector in Slovenia with comprehensive and professional support, developing its potential and promoting critical thinking.

**Just Transition Network:** The purpose of the network is to establish and strengthen the cooperation between progressive organisations, collectives, trade unions, NGOs and individuals, and to ensure coordinated and consistent joint efforts for a just transition – a fundamental socio-ecological transformation of society from the bottom up.

**Glas ljudstva (Voice of the People)** is a civil initiative that unites over 100 civil society organisations and thousands of individuals from all walks of life and regions of Slovenia.

**The Slovenian Passenger Association** is an organisation that aims to develop public passenger transport and represent the interests of passengers at the national level, seeking solutions to improve public transport for all through continuous education and cooperation with experts.

# Management and development

In 2025, our number of employees had increased to 17. We hired one person to work on climate change adaptation and another to work on the Energy Programme.

The steady growth in our workforce meant that the **horizontal management of the organisation**, a principle to which we have been committed since the association was founded, faced its own challenges in 2025. These were primarily addressed by a more active role of the (super)group responsible for the overall supervision of management and employees. We continued to discuss organisational matters in working groups, which met on average once a month. The **working groups** cover the following areas:

- organisational development,
- finance,
- working environment,
- information technology and education,
- internal and external communication.

In the spring, we engaged in organised, in-depth reflection on our organisation's mission and development strategy. In the autumn, we devoted two days of our **annual strategic planning meeting** to identifying programme overlaps and generating ideas for new project applications. To ensure coordinated operations, we carried out organisational planning for the implementation of project activities and communication on a quarterly basis, while exchanging key information and making joint decisions at regular Monday briefings. Most of our employees attended a workshop on assertive communication, and ten of us took part in the first aid training organised by the Red Cross. We prepared a draft **work plan for the period 2026-2027**.

In addition to the traditional annual general meeting in March, we held two **extraordinary general meetings**, which were conducted electronically in accordance with the association's rules of procedure. At the first extraordinary general



meeting, members approved the revised 2024 annual report and the establishment of the Hiša NVO (NGO House) cooperative by Focus, while at the second extraordinary general meeting, we approved Focus's full membership of the ECCJ network.

We are committed to the transparent operation of the state and all institutions, and thus to the **transparency** of our own operations. We achieve this through consistent compliance with legislation, such as register entries and regular reporting, and by maintaining regular communication with the public, including the maintenance of websites, the provision of information about the association and the issuance of press releases. As part of our efforts to ensure transparency in the association's operations, we regularly prepare and publish annual reports containing financial statements.

*Focus's financial report will be completed by the end of March.*



