



društvo za sonaraven razvoj  
Association for Sustainable Development

# annual report

2024



# Introduction

## 2024 was a long and eventful year for Focus.

The Hrastnik Solar School came to life in all its community (and award-winning) glory. We came face to face with the referendum on the second unit of the Krško Nuclear Power Plant, which fell through at the last moment. Who knows where and when it will rear its ugly head again? The International Summer School of Political Ecology was marked by public, private and community connections and alliances – how to unravel the increasingly complex social relations in a world that is steadily slipping towards less inclusivity and tolerance?

In the Democracy Lab, we measured, dissected and microscoped with members of the public to find out how we can strengthen our society from the grass roots up. In consultations and roundtables, we have sought realistic solutions for energy-poor households, dissected the National Energy and Climate Plan, and highlighted the environmental and social responsibilities and abuses of multinational corporations. With the EUWES project, we have looked at the energy crisis from a different angle: Why is the share of women working in the energy sector so disproportionately low, and what can we do to bring this ratio back into balance?

We shared pizzas at the annual planning meeting in Trieste and enjoyed freshly picked herbs from the Istrian countryside at the team building event. We gritted our teeth a little and laughed a lot more. In a few short years, Focus has grown from a small, close-knit household to a much larger extended family. More members also means a lot more responsibilities and tasks, so we hope that this report will be of service to you, our readers, and as much as it will serve us to look back at the past few months and gain some perspective – we have achieved a lot.

And there is yet more to come.

We press on!



## / 2024 in figures

15

employees came together at full strength for a year-end group photo.

600

articles in Slovenian and international media have mentioned Focus.

12

prominent international speakers and more than 120 participants took part at the International Summer School of Political Ecology 2024.

4

awards were received by the Hrastnik Solar School.

40

is the total number of paws of all our four-legged companions.

100

good practices have already been entered on the Dovolj za vse ("Enough for All") map of good practices in sustainable management of community resources.

11

projects were successfully launched in 2024 and

1

new post was advertised.

340.000

views of our forest preservation campaign videos and

38.000

views of the 9-step video guide to a community solar power plant.

# Climate

The purpose of climate change **policy co-design** is to influence the development of positions, strategies, national and EU regulations through formulating positions and submitting comments to relevant stakeholders, organising and participating in events (consultations, meetings, briefings, debates), advocacy, monitoring the implementation of adopted policies, providing relevant feedback and through media outreach.

## KEY ACTIVITIES

1. We have been involved in the process of adopting the **Climate Law**, in the process of revising the **National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP)** and as an intervenor in the process of the Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment as part of the NECP revision.
2. We participated in the **United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29)** in Azerbaijan
3. We organised a hybrid conference on living within planetary boundaries, an international conference on climate and energy planning in Central and Eastern Europe, and a consultation on the future of forest ecosystems.
4. With the grid connection of the Hrastnik Solar School, a community self-consumption solar power plant, we completed a two-year process of creating a **pioneering model for building an energy community** based on public-community partnership and democratic governance.
5. As a representative of climate change NGOs, our Programme Coordinator actively participated in the meetings of the **Council of the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Energy**. We also participated in the preparatory activities for the President's Forum dedicated to Climate Change.

We carried out advocacy activities with the support of the European Climate Foundation. Our participation at COP29 was co-funded by the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy.



# / LIFE TogetherFor1.5

The LIFE TogetherFor1.5 (Bringing EU Member States Together to Achieve the 1.5°C Objective of the Paris Agreement) project aims to **align the EU's climate and energy commitments and actions** with the Paris Agreement objective to **limit global warming to 1.5°C** above pre-industrial levels. The project builds on the opportunities presented 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

We participated in the revision process of the Slovenian National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), took part in expert consultations and coordinated the joint response of the Plan B for Slovenia network.

1. We participated in the Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment process as part of the NECP revision.
2. We contributed to a report on the [societal benefits of more ambitious climate and energy policies](#) and presented it at a press event.
3. We organised an [international conference focusing on the NECPs of Central and Eastern European countries](#).
4. We contributed to the [process of upgrading and updating the NECP Tracker monitoring tool](#), in the analysis and [report on the ambition of the current versions of the revised NECPs](#), and in the drafting of [recommendations for improving the NECPs in the revision process](#).
5. We contributed to the preparation of a [report on transparency and accessibility of data, which is crucial for credible energy and climate policy-making](#).

## Objectives and plans

- We will contribute to the analysis of the final versions of the NECPs and upgrade the data for the NECP implementation monitoring tool.
- We will contribute to the report on the ambition of long-term climate strategies.
- We will prepare a national analysis of climate and energy finance.
- We will organise a stakeholder meeting on the implementation of the Fit for 55 package.
- We will take part in the organisation of an international conference on updating the national Long-Term Strategies and co-organise a project closing event.

## Partners and funders

Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe), Centre for Transport and Energy, DOOR – Society for Sustainable Development Design, The Danish 92 Group, Estonian Fund for Nature (ELF), Focus Association for Sustainable Development, Germanwatch Nord-Sud Initiative, The Institute for Sustainable Development, Réseau Action Climat, Spanish Ornithological Society (SEO/BirdLife), Association for the Sustainability of the Earth System (ZERO), , Bond Beter Leefmilieu, National Society of Conservationists – Friends of the Earth Hungary, Environmental Association Za Zemiata

The project is funded by the European Commission under the LIFE Programme.

## MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT



# / LIFE IP CARE4CLIMATE

LIFE IP CARE4CLIMATE is an integrated project that promotes the implementation of measures to achieve Slovenia's 2030 greenhouse gas emission reduction targets through awareness raising, education and training of key stakeholders. We are implementing or participating in the implementation of activities aimed at supporting local communities in the transition to a low-carbon society and building capacity for low-carbon society concepts in higher education.



SAMO 1 PLANET  
CARE4CLIMATE

The project's biggest achievement of 2024 was the establishment of the **community self-consumption solar power plant and energy community Hrastnik Solar School**. We have won several [awards](#) for our pioneering model.



## Activities

1. We have completed a **demonstration community project** to set up a [cooperative community solar power plant](#) in Hrastnik and presented it at several events as well as in national and international media. We also presented the 9 key steps in a [video](#).
2. We provided support to **the Municipality of Ig** in replicating the Hrastnik model of setting up a cooperative community solar power plant. We worked with the Municipality of Velenje to develop a business model for self-consumption for the public utility Komunalno podjetje Velenje. We also supported the agricultural cooperative Kmetijska zadruga Ptuj, which is planning an energy community and the installation of solar power plants.
3. We completed **municipal support programmes** for sustainable management of municipal resources in the municipalities of Hrastnik, Postojna and Kočevje.
4. We co-organised the **national conference** "[Energetski prehod po meri ljudi](#)" ("People-Centred Energy Transition") and a workshop of the same name.



5. We helped train community project coordinators and managed the online platform [dovoljazvse.si](http://dovoljazvse.si), where 100 examples have already been added to the **map of good practices in sustainable management of community resources**. We have regularly posted on the [Dovolj za vse](https://www.facebook.com/dovoljazvse) ("Enough for All") Facebook profile prepared two activity overviews in the form of an [e-newsletter](#).

6. We organised the high-profile **international summer school on political ecology** [The Public, the Private and the Commons: Challenges of a Just Green Transition](#), which was attended by more than 120 foreign and national students, researchers and theoreticians, decision-makers, civil society organisations and the media.

### Objectives and plans

- In cooperation with Umanotera, we will carry out activities to raise awareness on climate change and promote good practices in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- We will continue to support local communities in their transition to a low-carbon society through a support programme for municipalities to implement community projects and carry out one demonstration project.
- We will manage the [www.dovoljazvse.si](http://www.dovoljazvse.si) project platform and Facebook profile, develop a new handbook on community projects and a publication on financing community projects, and produce new videos.
- We will organise the [International Summer School of Political Ecology 2025](#) at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana and two workshops on sustainable mobility for public officials.

### 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, Forestry Institute of Slovenia, 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 under the LIFE Programme and the Climate Change Fund.

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



# / European Climate Pact

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



## Activities

1. We organised the conference [Living Within Planetary Boundaries: How to Balance the Needs of Society with the Limits of the Earth](#), with Prof. Dr. Lučka Kajfež Bogataj and Ajda Pistotnik as guests.
2. We presented the Climate Pact at several events, including the Scout Festival at Tivoli Park. At the [Študentska menza \("Student Canteen"\)](#) event in Ljubljana's Rožna dolina, we encouraged young people to reflect on the impact of the food system on the environment.
3. We discussed our role in a just green transition with the **National Climate Pact Ambassadors** at the International Summer School of Political Ecology 2024.
4. We held several meetings and trainings for Climate Ambassadors, including a training on climate change adaptation and a workshop on gender equality and a just green transition.

## Objectives and plans

- We will contribute to the visibility of the European Climate Pact and support both the National Ambassadors and the Pact community as a whole.
- We will organise events to raise awareness about climate change and encourage people to take climate action in different areas of their professional and personal lives.

## Partners and funders

Climate Alliance and Focus Association for Sustainable Development

The campaign is funded by the European Commission.

## [MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)



## / Connected for Forests

The Connected for Forests project addressed the loss of biodiversity in Slovenian forests caused by climate change and exploitation of forests for economic benefits. Biodiversity is key to the normal functioning of forest ecosystems. When the delicate balances within these ecosystems are disturbed (due to climate change), the forest can no longer fulfil its primary function. One effective way to conserve biodiversity is to establish protected areas or forest reserves. Forest reserves are natural forests that are left to develop naturally.



### Activities

1. We organised a [consultation](#) for experts and interested stakeholders on the role of forest ecosystems in the context of climate change.
2. We carried out advocacy activities against the expansion of roadways in protected areas and on the lack of a systematic approach to forest reserves.
3. Our campaign [For Natural Forests - Leave a Piece of the Forest Alone](#) highlighted the importance of nature reserves for climate change mitigation and adaptation



### Objectives and plans

The project ended in April 2024.

### Partners and funders

Focus Association for Sustainable Development, CIPRA Slovenia, the Society for the Protection of the Alps, DOPPS-Birdlife Slovenia

The project was funded by the Active Citizens Fund.

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

# Energy

Policy co-design under the Energy Programme aims to ensure **environmentally efficient and ambitious energy policies** that appropriately address climate, environmental and development challenges. It is particularly important that these policies **contribute to a fair green energy transition and to the reduction of energy consumption, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources.**

## / Key Activities

1. We have contributed to the drafting of **national legislation in the field of renewable energy, energy reduction and energy efficiency** – the new draft Energy Act and the Act on the Siting of Installations for the Generation of Electricity from Renewable Energy Sources.
2. We coordinated the Plan B network's response to the final public hearing on the revised NECP and participated in the Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment process.
3. We promoted energy communities and established the **Energy Communities Network**.
4. We carried out an **analysis of the barriers to the deployment of wind energy in Slovenia**, which reinforced the view that the transition to renewables must be inclusive, legal, fair, responsible and strategically managed.
5. We supported the Zeleni Hrastnik ("Green Hrastnik") Energy Cooperative in the installation of a 100 kW self-consumption solar power plant at the Hrastnik Health Centre and the establishment of the Novi dom Hrastnik ("New Home Hrastnik") **Self-Consumption Energy Community**.
6. As a representative of NGOs in the field of energy, our Programme Coordinator actively participated in the meetings of the **Council of the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Energy**.
7. We pointed out the risks and dangers of **nuclear energy exploitation** and joined the activities of a coalition of NGOs raising awareness about the negative aspects of the JEK2 project (second unit of the Krško Nuclear Power Plant) and the related consultative referendum. Together with PIC – Legal Centre for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, we filed an initiative to assess the constitutionality of the referendum question on the JEK2 project, and registered for the official referendum campaign for the consultative referendum on the project, which was subsequently cancelled.

Some of our energy policy monitoring activities were carried out under the Climate Programme of the Plan B Network for Slovenia, where we coordinated the Sustainable Energy Working Group until May 2024, and others with financial support from the European Climate Foundation.

[MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAMME](#)



The aim of the project Life-COMET / Coalitions for Community Energy Catalysation in Eastern EU is to carry out a comprehensive analysis of energy communities in the region, to identify and exchange examples of good practice, to promote the improvement of the supportive environment for energy communities through advocacy activities and to foster the cooperation between key national stakeholders in the field of energy communities.



Key achievements in 2024 were the establishment of the **Energy Communities Network** and the inclusion of the obligation for municipalities to plan for **energy communities** in the framework of Local Energy Concepts in the new **Energy Act**.

### Activities

1. We brought together 12 organisations supporting energy communities to form the Energy Communities Network. We developed a training and advocacy plan to improve the support framework for energy communities
2. We co-organised a workshop on **people-centred energy transformation**, where we identified barriers and opportunities for energy communities and worked together with participants to find solutions.
3. We prepared an assessment of the adequacy of the national framework for the establishment and operation of energy communities in Slovenia.
4. We supported the Zeleni Hrastnik ("Green Hrastnik") Energy Cooperative in the implementation of the second self-consumption community project and the installation of a solar power plant at the Hrastnik Health Centre and promoted the benefits of cooperative energy communities at various conferences and meetings.



## Objectives and plans

- We will undertake activities to remove barriers to the development of energy communities in the region.
- We will coordinate the Energy Communities Network and work to involve and empower relevant national stakeholders.
- Advocacy, development of tools, methodologies and 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, SOLIDÁRIS GAZDASAG KÖZPONT EGYESÜLET, Focus Association for Sustainable Development, PLZ Spółdzielnia, Cooperativa de Energie

The project is co-funded by the European Commission under the LIFE Programme.

[MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)

# / Addressing barriers to wind energy in Slovenia

The objectives of this renewable energy promotion project were to identify barriers to wind energy deployment in Slovenia, to put together a selection of good practices and recommendations for overcoming these barriers, and to raise public awareness of the importance of wind energy in achieving climate and energy goals.

Our analysis, [Overcoming Barriers to Wind Energy Deployment in Slovenia](#), highlights key recommendations for **overcoming the difficulties in siting wind farms in Slovenia** and securing wind energy in the national energy mix.

## Activities

1. Together with partners and key stakeholders, we analysed the situation in the field of wind energy in Slovenia, including an analysis of a specific project in Pohorje, and summarised the findings in the document [Overcoming Barriers to Wind Energy Deployment in Slovenia](#).
2. We presented good practices from the EU in the booklet [Good Wind Energy Stories from the EU](#) and organised a webinar where we presented three good practices of wind energy deployment from Austria, Belgium and the Czech Republic together with our guests. The video of the webinar is available on [YouTube](#).
3. We co-organised two [closing events](#) in Ljubljana and Maribor, where we and our partners presented our findings and recommendations on how to increase the acceptance of wind energy in Slovenia.

## Objectives and plans

The project ended in October 2024, but we will continue to monitor relevant policies and use the findings of the analysis for advocacy activities.

## Partners and funders

Focus Association for Sustainable Development, IPoP – Institute for Spatial Policies, PIC – Legal Centre for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment

The activities were funded by the European Climate Foundation.

[MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)



Women are under-represented in decision-making processes and management structures, especially in areas considered more technical, such as energy. The EUWES – Empowering Underrepresented Women in the Energy Sector project addresses the **under-representation of women in management and leadership positions in the corporate sector of energy companies**. The main objective is to identify the main barriers for women working in the energy sector through a multi-level analysis and mapping of national policies and strategies.

## Activities

1. We presented the project at the Women in Energy 2024 conference and promoted the [analysis of the gender and energy sector situation in Slovenia](#).
2. We conducted **trainings** for energy companies on the development of gender equality action plans in the workplace, for decision-makers on gender mainstreaming in energy policies, and for high school students on the impact of gender roles and stereotypes in career choices.
3. We organised a panel discussion at the [International Summer School of Political Ecology 2024](#) and participated in the Energy Poverty Advisory Hub in Barcelona and the Right to Energy Forum in Brussels. As part of our advocacy work, we met with representatives from the European Commission, namely from the Directorates-General for Energy and Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.
4. We have prepared **recommendations** to decision-makers at both [national](#) and [EU level](#).

## Objectives and plans

- We will provide training for female high school students.
- In cooperation with the ONA VE network, we will organise a roundtable on women's representation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and energy in the run-up to International Women's Day.
- We will co-host an event for women in the energy sector.
- We will participate in the closing conference in Zagreb in March.

## Partners and funders

DOOR – Society for Sustainable Development Design, Engineers Without Borders, Women Engage for a Common Future, Focus Association for Sustainable Development

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

## [MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)



## / LIFE RENOVERTY

The project LIFE RENOVERTY – Home Renovation Roadmaps to Address Energy Poverty in Vulnerable Rural Districts addresses the challenge of **energy poverty in rural and peri-urban households in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), South-eastern Europe (SEE) and Southern Europe (SE)**. It promotes the **energy renovation of buildings** by establishing the methodological and practical framework to develop renovation roadmaps for vulnerable rural districts in a financially viable and socially equitable way.



### Activities

1. We have developed a plan to involve stakeholders in the process of preparing energy renovation roadmaps for homes in the Zasavje region with the aim of eradicating energy poverty.
2. With the support of the Social Work Centres and the Local Action Group Zasavje, we organised three [meetings with households](#) affected by energy poverty.
3. We have prepared training materials for people affected by energy poverty and various local actors who can help in the energy renovation of households.
4. In cooperation with the Local Action Group and the Regional Development Agency Zasavje, we organised several events with different stakeholders to co-create the [Roadmap for Energy Renovation of Homes](#) affected by energy poverty.
5. We developed a four-step action plan for the implementation of the **Roadmap for Energy Renovation of Homes**.



### Objectives and plans

- We plan to implement 4 actions to support the energy renovation of homes for people experiencing energy poverty.
- 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 level through the involvement of different stakeholders, public presentations and workshops.
- We will promote policies and measures to address energy poverty among key actors at local, national and European level.

## 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, Institute For Systems and Robotics, REFLEX Environmental Association, North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency, Tartu Regional Energy Agency, Ecoserveis Association

The project is funded by the European Commission under the LIFE Programme.

## MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT



The **SOCIALNRG** - Sustainable Options for Community-bAsed LowIncome Renewable energy project aims to develop a **flexible approach to combat energy poverty in three pilot social housing communities in Slovenia, Italy and Belgium**. It focuses on fostering cooperation to create or **adapt energy communities**, promoting knowledge sharing and making recommendations to address barriers at policy level.

### Activities

As the project started in October 2024, we only carried out preparatory activities during the year and attended the first project meeting in Belgium and a community event in Ravne na Koroškem.

### Objectives and plans

- We will participate in the adaptation of the **community energy model for the social, cooperative and public housing sectors** to respond to the needs of people affected by energy poverty. The aim is to reduce energy costs, empower vulnerable households and promote community development, trust and resilience.
- The project approach will be based on co-creation with households, taking into account local factors and supporting local ownership and empowerment.
- In order to overcome sectoral perspectives, we will promote the involvement of local and regional authorities, social services and anti-poverty organisations in local advisory committees that will closely monitor the project's processes and outcomes.
- We will support the development of a capacity building programme to train local and regional authorities, energy communities, social housing providers and energy poor households in at least nine other EU countries.

### Partners and funders

Comite Europeen 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 under the LIFE Programme.

### MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT



# / GENDER4POWER

The GENDER4POWER - Generating Equity, Nurturing Diversity, Energising Resilience 4 Power Against Energy Poverty project aims to enhance living conditions and **energy efficiency in buildings and households affected by energy poverty**. It emphasises a holistic gender-responsive, multi-stakeholder, and people-centred approach to renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions. By incorporating gender mainstreaming and intersectionality and by involving citizens, the project aims to improve public acceptance and community trust, strengthen social networks and ensure the **active participation of marginalised groups in decision-making processes**.



## Activities

As the project started in November 2024, only preparatory activities were carried out during the year and we attended the kick-off meeting in Munich.

## Objectives and plans

- We will develop comprehensive approaches to promote social and gender justice in addressing energy poverty.
- We will raise awareness of energy poverty, energy efficiency, and gender and social justice aspects to promote a sense of self-sufficiency and participation in sustainable solutions.
- We will participate in citizen-led and community empowerment initiatives for renewable energy and renovation.
- We will work together to develop and disseminate a comprehensive set of gender-sensitive practical recommendations, with a particular focus on the views of the energy poor.

## Partners and funders

Wirtschaft und infrastruktur GMBH & CO Planungs, Women Engage for a Common Future, Austrian Energy Agency, Engineering Without Borders Catalonia, Electra Energy Cooperative, Viesoji Istaiga 'Atnaujinkime miesta - Amiestas, B-NK GMBH, Energy Community of La Bordeta, Focus Association for Sustainable Development

The project is funded by the European Commission under the LIFE Programme.

## [MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)

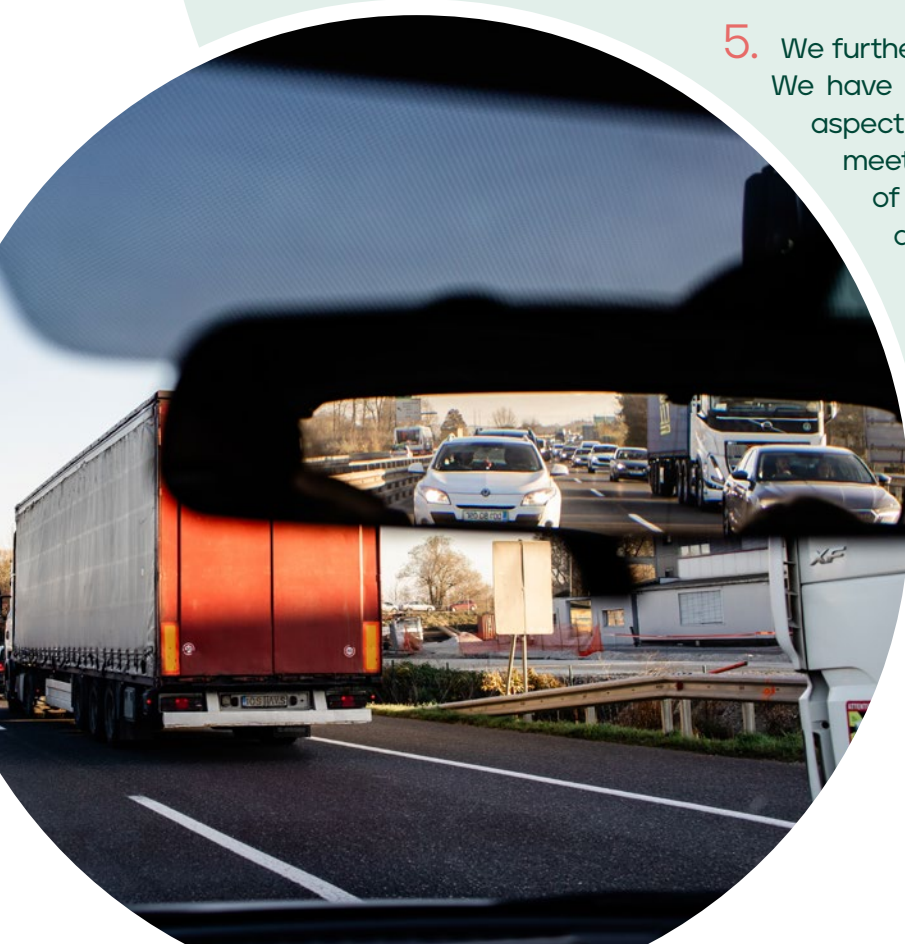
# Mobility

Focus is actively working with European and Slovenian networks and organisations to co-design **more ambitious transport policies**, both at EU and national level. This year, it is particularly noteworthy that, at our initiative, the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) mentions transport poverty for the first time.

## / KEY ACTIVITIES

1. We have participated in the advocacy activities of the [Clean Cities](#) campaign, especially on [air pollution](#) and reducing transport emissions in cities.
2. Together with the [Transport & Environment](#) network and other European organisations, we advocated for ambitious European biofuels policies.
3. As members of the [Coalition for Sustainable Transport Policy](#) (Koalicija za trajnostno prometno politiko - KTPP), we responded to the content of the revised NECP. We agreed that emission reductions will be needed in both passenger and freight transport and welcomed the recognition of the need to change the structure of passenger transport. We criticised the high projections for [biofuel use](#) due to the low potential of advanced biofuels and the fraudulent use of biofuels from waste, such as used cooking oil.
4. As members of the [European Passengers Federation](#), we have been advocating for better public transport services. In September we hosted the Federation's General Assembly in Ljubljana.
5. We further explored the issue of **transport poverty**. We have been particularly interested in the social aspects and how to design measures that best meet the needs of vulnerable groups, and one of our latest projects combines transport and energy poverty.
6. A representative of Focus is an expert contributor to the [Zelena luč](#) ("Green Light") [podcast](#) on 21st century mobility on Val 202 (Radio Slovenia).

[MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAMME](#)



## / Mobility poverty in Slovenia

Our research project Mobility Poverty in the Republic of Slovenia answered the following questions: *What is mobility poverty? How can it be defined? How is mobility poverty addressed in other countries? How accessible are different destinations for residents? Who are the most vulnerable groups? What measures can be taken to alleviate mobility poverty?*

We **defined transport poverty** and **proposed measures to alleviate it in Slovenia**. Due to the high level of interest, we have also worked with partners to prepare [a monograph on transport poverty in Slovenia](#), which was published in the beginning of 2025.

### Activities

1. We conducted a [workshop with key stakeholders on transport poverty measures](#) at the 8th National Conference on Integrated Transport Planning.
2. We co-developed of a list of measures to reduce transport poverty (published in the report).
3. We produced a very substantive [final project report](#).
4. At the end of the project, we also presented its key points in a [press release](#), which was widely covered by the media.

### Objectives and plans

The project ended in May 2024. Some of the measures have been selected for the National Social Climate Plan, which is expected to be finalised in June 2025. A monograph with the key messages of the project will be published in early 2025.

### Partners and funders

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

The project was co-funded by the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning and the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency.

[MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)



# Overcoming mobility poverty in the age of green transition: a mixed methods research approach

The project aims to bring together research on transport poverty from both micro and macro perspectives, allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of the issue. At the micro level, research into transport poverty can provide insights into the lived experiences of individuals most affected by the issue and an understanding of their needs. At the macro level, studying transport poverty can provide insights into the wider social, economic and environmental factors that contribute to the issue.



## Activities

1. We have implemented a quality management plan, including risk management.
2. Using a social constructivist approach, we have developed a plan to **identify the hidden factors that influence transport poverty**, which will form the basis for interviews with the people affected by transport poverty.

## Objectives and plans

- We will conduct 8-10 in-depth semi-structured interviews with people experiencing transport poverty.
- We will write a scientific paper on the hidden determinants of transport poverty.
- Transport poverty is a complex and multifaceted issue that can affect individuals and households in different ways, so we will use a mixed methods research approach.

## Partners and funders

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

The project was funded by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency.

[MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)

# Transport poverty in Slovenia and the CEE region

The project focuses on the problem of transport poverty, especially in rural areas where there are fewer transport alternatives. The results of our previous research on transport poverty in Slovenia and five Eastern European countries (Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria) have shown that improving public transport, especially in rural areas, is one of the most effective systemic solutions to improve the mobility of the population. The project's activities focused on **Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Slovakia**, with an emphasis on **in-depth analyses of public transport and dissemination of good practices** among stakeholders. We have co-designed **measures to reduce transport poverty**, which will be included in the **National Social Climate Plan**.

The booklet [Good practices for Tackling Transport Poverty in Central and Eastern Europe](#) contains several examples of good practices in alleviating transport poverty in rural areas from Slovenia, Slovakia, Hungary and Croatia, collected by our researchers. The booklet is aimed at policy makers from different European regions who are designing policies to tackle transport poverty at local and national level.

## Activities

1. We raised awareness about the issue of transport poverty, its extent in Slovenia, Croatia, Slovakia and Hungary, and the [importance of public transport in tackling this growing problem](#).
2. We have carried out reviews of public passenger transport services from the perspective of transport poverty.
3. We identified **examples of good practice in reducing transport poverty in rural areas** and presented them to the drafters of the National Social Climate Plans at an international web event.
4. We organised [national events](#) to bring together social and transport planning stakeholders and to respond to public debates on the use of the Social Climate Fund.

## Objectives and plans

The project ended at the end of 2024.

## Partners and funders

The project involved individual researchers from Slovenia (Focus), Hungary, Croatia and Slovakia.

The activities were funded by the European Climate Foundation.

## [MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)





# / ZENPRE – Reducing Energy and Transport Poverty



The project **Reducing Energy and Transport Poverty with a Focus on the Elderly and Women (ZENPRE)** aims to raise awareness, educate and empower members of affected groups to reduce both types of poverty through training, based on a better understanding of the issues and needs of vulnerable groups in the areas of mobility and energy. We want to contribute to a systemic regulation of the field and to raise awareness among the general public for behavioural change in the areas of personal mobility and energy use.

## Activities

1. We have developed a communication and advocacy plan.
2. We conducted in-depth interviews with representatives of vulnerable groups and a quantitative survey in the form of a questionnaire through an independent contractor.

## Objectives and plans

- The results of the in-depth interviews and the quantitative analysis will be presented in a publication.
- We will develop a **concept for mobility and energy counselling** and conduct training sessions to share it with stakeholders in direct contact with vulnerable groups.
- We will develop a **web application** to support energy and mobility counselling.
- We will advocate for meaningful action and bring together different actors at local and national level in the field of transport, energy and social affairs.

## Partners and funders

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

The project is co-financed by the Eco Fund and the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy.

## [MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)

## Partnership for Environment and Health 3.0

The Partnership for Environment and Health (PEH) 3.0 builds on the objectives of previous PEH projects with activities to **increase young people's awareness of the environment and health**, to understand the link between the two and to actively participate in project activities. We have strengthened our activities in the field of non-formal education for young people and promoted their active participation in addressing environmental and health issues, particularly in the areas of climate change adaptation, air quality and usability of green spaces.



### Activities

1. We conducted about [40 workshops on air pollution](#) in primary schools for more than 700 students from grades 4 to 9, as well as some workshops in kindergartens.
2. We also carried out [black carbon measurements](#) in three primary schools.
3. We took part in the closing event of the Brežice Primary School, where pupils also launched a [local initiative](#) by developing project tasks, presenting them to other pupils and the local community, and implementing measures to reduce pupils' exposure to air pollution.

### Objectives and plans

The project will end spring 2025, so only final activities are planned.

### Partners and funders

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

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

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



# Global responsibility and consumption

In 2024, the Global Responsibility and Justice programme continued to focus on **corporate responsibility** and the **Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD)** in our **policy co-design**. We worked closely with the **Justice is Everybody's Business** network of European organisations, which called for ambitious legislation, and intensified our efforts at the national level. We are particularly proud of our **good cooperation with the Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia**. Legislation at the EU level has been adopted and we have started to prepare national transposition guidelines. In the context of corporate accountability, we have also focused on the **Critical Raw Materials Act (CRM)** and followed developments on **imported deforestation** and the revived **Mercosur trade agreement**. We have also monitored policy developments in the fields of education and agriculture.

## Activities

1. We sent several [position papers](#) and [appeals](#) to decision-makers, organised meetings with different stakeholders, and in March we held an online [consultation](#) for companies. We welcomed the [approval](#) and [adoption](#) of the Directive.
2. We carried out **research on companies' compliance with human rights commitments** and reviewed the banana supply chain of a Slovenian company. We worked with the Counselling Office for Workers to analyse a case of **labour rights abuse in Slovenia**.
3. As part of the Festival of Migrant Film, we organised a [screening](#) of the film Arica (about the unpunished dumping of toxic waste by a Swedish mine in a town in Chile) and a discussion with a Serbian activist about the pressure put on activists and farmers by a mining multinational and the Serbian government for opposing lithium mining.
4. In collaboration with the Faculty of Economics, we produced a [handbook](#) on the impact of the CSDDD directive on businesses and a [guide](#) to the CSDDD.
5. We updated a [publication](#) on greenwashing in food production.
6. We had a media presence on the issue of corporate accountability, which we also linked to the issue of consumer lifestyles (we talked about [clothes](#), [cocoa](#) and other [raw materials](#), [consumption](#) during holidays and responsibility). There was also a lot of media coverage on legislation and corporate accountability as well as on imported deforestation.

[MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAMME](#)

Our project focused on the topic of **corporate accountability**. We actively participated in the European NGO alliance and contributed to research, awareness-raising and advocacy work in relation to the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive. We linked our work on corporate accountability to practical examples in the field of food production and critical raw materials.

### Activities

1. We helped set up an NGO campaign at the EU level.
2. We coordinated the drafting of the [positions of NGOs and workers' representatives in Slovenia](#).
3. We presented our positions to **Slovenian MEPs** and met with decision-makers in the Ministry of the Economy, Tourism and Sport and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs.
4. We presented the issue in more than 40 articles in the Slovenian media.
5. We engaged with NGOs and trade unions to develop a strategy for the transposition of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive. As part of the Festival of Migrant Film, we organised a screening of Arica, a film about the unpunished dumping of toxic waste by a Swedish mine in a town in Chile. The screening was followed by a discussion "[a glass of water with arsenic, please](#)" with Jelena Bunić from the Marš sa Drine movement, which is fighting lithium mining in a fertile region in Serbia, and Marko Kumer – Murč, producer of the film about the South Stream gas pipeline.
6. We have translated and published the Raw Materials Coalition's guidelines for the implementation of the Critical Raw Materials Regulation, "[Critical Raw Materials and Critical Rights](#)".
7. We have translated and published the [Guide](#) to the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, produced by the European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ) to facilitate understanding of the Directive. We will further develop the guidelines in 2025 with suggestions for the Slovenian context.
8. Together with the Counselling Office for Workers, we have carried out a case study analysis of corporate human rights violations in Slovenia (at the Marinblu company), which will be published in the publication Etični potrošnik ("Ethical Consumer"), to be published in spring 2025.
9. We have conducted our third [analysis](#) of human rights due diligence reporting by Slovenian companies.
10. We carried out an **analysis of the Derby banana supply chain**, which will be presented in an infographic in Etični potrošnik.



### **Objectives and plans**

- We will monitor the transposition of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive into Slovenian law.
- We will actively cooperate with other Slovenian and European NGOs, especially in advocacy and activities related to the announced deregulation in the area of corporate accountability.

### **Partners and funders**

Fair Trade Slovenia, Faculty of Economics, Counselling Office for Workers

The project was funded by the Wellspring Foundation and Friends of the Earth Europe.

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

## / No Exploitation

In the framework of the No Exploitation project, we have been **building the capacity of civil society and businesses to advocate together for stronger legislation on corporate accountability**. Through **research 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 and fairer value chains**, and the active involvement of Slovenian stakeholders in the process of drafting and adopting legislation.

In cooperation with the **Centre of Business Excellence of the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana**, we have published a guidebook on corporate due diligence, which we hope will be a useful tool in developing and implementing sustainable business practices.

### Activities

1. Our advocacy campaign called on Slovenian decision-makers to support the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) during the votes in the European Parliament and the Council of the EU and stressed the importance of actively involving Slovenian stakeholders in the drafting process. Together with other Slovenian NGOs, we published a public appeal in the Dnevnik daily calling on Minister Han for Slovenia to endorse the CSDDD in the EU negotiations. We have expanded the network of different stakeholders (trade unions, NGOs, educational institutions, the Slovenian Ombudsman, companies) and laid the foundations for further cooperation.
2. We organised a well-attended online event to present the guidebook on corporate due diligence.
3. As part of our cooperation with the media, we contributed to strengthening the media landscape on corporate social responsibility beyond greenwashing and to increasing media attention on the topic.

### Objectives and plans

The project ended in March 2024. The findings of the analyses will be used to inform the activities of other projects that will contribute to providing a supportive environment for ambitious implementation of the legislation.

### Partners and funders

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

The project was funded by the Active Citizens Fund.

### MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT



# / Rebooting the Food System

The overall objective of the "Rebooting the Food System" project is to contribute to a **more inclusive society with a developed sense of co-responsibility for sustainable food supply chains**. The project aims to **raise awareness and mobilise EU youth** to become agents of change in the global food system. A consortium of 14 organisations is working towards sustainable and equitable solutions that will support a **just transition in the food sector**.

## Activities

1. We conducted **global education workshops** and held a workshop for educators on cocoa supply chains and current challenges in the food system as part of the 2nd International Conference on Ecosocial Education. In cooperation with the youth organisation Mladi zmaji ("Young Dragons"), we organised a Disco Soup event in Ljubljana, where young people took part in discussions and prepared food together, accompanied by music.
2. Following a call for proposals, we selected two youth organisations to carry out activities for young people on sustainable and ethical food systems.
3. We participated in a number of events on corporate accountability, green public procurement and organic farming.
4. We worked with volunteers to collect best practices in connecting farms and consumers.

## Objectives and plans

- We will continue to work on policies related to corporate accountability (CSDDD, Critical Materials – CRM).
- We will conduct a survey on young people's attitudes towards ethical food.
- We will publish the publication *Etični potrošnik* ("Ethical Consumer") on the topic of sustainable food.
- 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, The vision of the Better Association, MANI TESE ONG ONLUS, Südwind – Association for Development Policy and Global Justice, Rural Movement for Christian Youth, International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth – Europe, Tudatos Vásárlók Közhasznú Egyesülete (Association of Conscious Consumers), We World

The logo for 'REBOOT FOOD' features the words 'REBOOT' and 'FOOD' in a bold, dark purple, sans-serif font. The letter 'O' in 'REBOOT' is replaced by a stylized silhouette of a person standing on a small patch of land, with a flame or spark above their head, symbolizing a 'reboot' or a spark of change.

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

## / My Revolution 5.0 – Participation



As part of the My Revolution project, a group of young people took part in international youth meetings in Krakow and Brussels, where they presented a manifesto to European decision-makers that they had developed together at the meetings and through an [online tool](#). The project focused on the work and **empowerment of young people who are not represented in power structures** and whose voices are all too often ignored.

Young people from several European countries drafted a **Central European Youth Manifesto** and presented it to Members of the European Parliament. The Central European Youth Manifesto focuses on **maintaining humanitarian and democratic principles** and **emphasises the need for environmental protection and social justice**, which they consider to be the most urgent issues of this century.

### Activities

1. A group of young people from Slovenia participated in the international conference in Krakow.
2. A [collaborative online platform My Revolution](#) was launched.
3. A group of young people from Slovenia actively participated in the drafting of the [Central European Youth Manifesto and its presentation at the European Parliament in Brussels](#).

### Objectives and plans

The project ended in November 2024.

### Partners and funders

Südwind – Association for Development Policy and Global Justice, Buy Responsibly Foundation, We World, Focus Association for Sustainable Development

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

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





## / My Resistance – My Democracy (My Revolution 6.0)

The project organised several youth activities and two international meetings for young people to learn about creative methods of political participation and advocacy processes. The activities also helped young people to look at issues through the historical prism of youth movements.

Young people from several European countries co-drafted a [Youth Manifesto](#), setting out their **expectations for the future, an ideal world order and a sustainable future**. They also presented it to Members of the European Parliament in Brussels



### Activities

1. A group of young people from Slovenia actively participated in the drafting of the [Central European Youth Manifesto](#) and its presentation at the European Parliament in Brussels.

### Objectives and plans

The project ended in June 2024.

### Partners and funders

Südwind – Association for Development Policy and Global Justice, Buy Responsibly Foundation, We World, Focus Association for Sustainable Development

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

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

# / My Activist Revolution (Revolution 7.0)

The My Activist Revolution 7.0 project includes workshops, conferences and active events for young people in four countries (Slovenia, Italy, Austria, Poland). The meetings will take place in Ljubljana, Poland, Brussels (handover of the manifesto at the European Parliament) and Vienna. Special attention will be paid to the **inclusion of marginalised young people**. The project promotes **political participation and the active involvement of young people in democratic systems** and enables them to directly influence decision-makers at national and European level.

## Activities

1. A group of young people organised two workshops, one in Ravne na Koroškem and the other, in cooperation with Legebitra, in Ljubljana, presenting the different possibilities for youth political participation, from the local to the EU level.

## Objectives and plans

- An e-democracy portal will be set up to promote youth participation.
- We will organise an international conference, and young people from Slovenia will also participate in a conference in Poland, where they will co-draft a manifesto and present it to the European Parliament.

## Partners and funders

Südwind – Association for Development Policy and Global Justice, Buy Responsibly Foundation, We World, Brez izgovora Slovenija (No Excuse), Legebitra, Association of Austrian Adult Education Centres, C.S.A.P.S.A. Social Cooperative, Focus Association for Sustainable Development

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

## [MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT](#)



## / Futr za jutro ("Food for Tomorrow")

The Futr za jutro ("Food for Tomorrow") project aims to **address the challenges of sustainable food and raise awareness of the environmental and social impacts**. Together with our partners, we will create a series of media communications and events aiming to raise awareness (especially among young people) about sustainable food. We will also produce a participatory guide to sustainable food.

### Activities

1. We have coordinated the production of a series of [podcasts Futr za jutro \("Food for Tomorrow"\)](#) together with Radio Študent, which are broadcast on air and on on-line platforms.
2. We relaunched the [Futr za jutro \("Food for Tomorrow"\)](#) social media profile.
3. We organised three Disco Soup events to promote sustainable eating.

### Objectives and plans

- In cooperation with MMC RTV Slovenia, we will produce a series of articles entitled Zeleni petki ("Green Fridays") on the topic of sustainable food.
- In cooperation with Radio Študent, we will continue the regular monthly podcasts Futr za jutro ("Food for Tomorrow").
- We will manage the Futr za jutro ("Food for Tomorrow") Instagram and Facebook profiles.
- We will help organise several Disco Soup events – at least 7 are planned.

### Partners and funders

Radio Študent, Kersnikova Institute, Focus Association for Sustainable Development

The project is co-financed by the Eco Fund and the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy.

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



FUTR  
ZA  
JUTRO

# Intersectional

## INCITE-DEM

The main objective of the INCITE-DEM – Inclusive Citizenship in a World in Transformation: Co-Designing for Democracy project is to **enhance inclusive participation and civic engagement**, while **expanding democratic innovation** and dynamic feedback mechanisms between citizens and institutional actors in representative democracies. The project will establish so-called **Democracy Labs** in six countries to test research-based inclusive design processes for democratic innovation. Lessons learned and research findings will be translated into **policy guidelines and roadmaps for sustainable, inclusive and innovative democracy** in a changing world.

We organised a **Democracy Lab** in Ljubljana, where 32 citizens, representatives of democratic initiatives, and political officials and civil servants explored ways to make democracy more inclusive, participatory and effective.

### Activities

1. We conducted three case studies on civic participation and engagement (in Slovenia, Croatia and Bulgaria).
2. We carried out preparatory activities for the Democracy Lab in Ljubljana and organised the event in November 2024.
3. At the project level, we managed and coordinated the communication and dissemination of the project activities, including the implementation of the plan for the dissemination and exploitation of results, the design of communication plans for individual activities, the preparation of the e-newsletter, and the management of the INCITE-DEM website and social media channels.



### Objectives and plans

- We will continue to manage and implement the project's communication activities.
- We will participate in the analysis of the conclusions of the Democracy Lab.
- We will develop a Strategic Plan for the use of the results.
- We will organise a final project event in Brussels, which will include decision-makers from the European Union institutions.

## Partners and funders

FCiências.ID – Association for the Research and Development of Sciences, University of Münster, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, University of Groningen, University of Helsinki, Tallinn University, Institute of Social Sciences – University of Lisbon, Association 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

In 2024, we continued to work hard to make Focus seen and heard. We communicated regularly with the media, answering journalists' questions, giving interviews and raising awareness of the issues we are working on among stakeholders and the general public. We increased our visibility with new Focus T-shirts, whose message, "od-rasti" ("grow up"/"degrowth"), reflects our vision. We have also expanded our photo archive and made our posts on all channels even more visually appealing.

You can follow our content on the [focus.si](https://focus.si) website, Facebook, LinkedIn, X and Instagram, and now also on BlueSky. All the highlights from the current month and event announcements are summarised in our monthly e-newsletter.

As part of our project activities, we have also been managing:

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

## Activities

1. We have written and published over 100 news stories on the Focus website.
2. We sent around 30 press releases to a wide range of media outlets.
3. We registered 600 media mentions of Focus and featured the most prominent ones in the [Focus in the Media](#) section of the website.
4. We have joined the fast-growing social network [BlueSky](#).
5. We designed and printed the organisation's T-shirts.
6. To improve public speaking skills, most staff attended a short public speaking school.
7. We finally managed to organise a group photo shoot.
8. In cooperation with photographer Polona Avanzo, we expanded the Focus photo archive with images from Ljubljana and Slovenia.

## / Communication in numbers

We regularly update

**5**

WEBSITES  
and

**14**

SOCIAL  
MEDIA  
CHANNELS

More than

**10.000**

TOTAL  
FOLLOWERS

on Facebook, X,  
Instagram and  
LinkedIn

**22**

NEW VIDEOS

uploaded  
to Focus'  
[Youtube](#)  
channel

**12**

INTERVIEWS

with speakers at  
the International  
Summer School of  
Political Ecology  
2024

**71**

MEDIA  
ARTICLES

about the  
Hrastnik Solar  
School

## / Featured media coverage

Al Jazeera Balkans and TV Slovenia's Globus: [Sončna šola Hrastnik / Pasti in koristiti zelenega prehoda](#)

Delo, Večer, MMC RTV SLO: [Komentar pred koncem COP29](#)

Siol.net: [Zgolj zamenjava energentov ni dovolj](#)

Gostujoče pero in Delo: [Pravica je prišla na obisk, politiki EU pa so ji pred nosom zaprli vrata](#)

Zelena luč on Val 202: [Kaj je «bio» pri biogorivih?](#)

Dnevnik: [Koristi energetske skupnosti, tudi v boju proti energetske revščini](#)

Aktualno on Val 202: [Okoljski odtis hrane na naših krožnikih](#)

24ur.com: [Prisilni lastniki avtomobila, 60.000 Slovencev prevozno revnih](#)

Ah, ta leta! on TV Slovenia: [Manj je več](#)

ESG Magazine and the Zelena Slovenija ("Green Slovenia") web portal: [O tem, kakšna bo energetska prihodnost Slovenije](#)

Studio ob 17h on Radio Prvi: [Izkopavanje litija v Srbiji](#)

Readers' letters in Dnevnik: [Predlagana preložitve izvajanja uredbe o krčenju gozdov – EUDR](#)

Most viewed social media posts: [Cikel videov o prebivalcih gozda – pustimo delček gozda pri miru!](#)

# Integration and cooperation

We have been networking internationally since our very beginnings in 2003. Our integration in international networks provides us with a flow of information, participation in international projects, opportunities for training and co-design of network and EU policies, support for campaigns, actions (in the form of materials, data, tools, communication materials, etc.) and puts us on the map of European and global environmental NGOs

## International integration

**Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe):** For more than 20 years, Focus has been a member of CAN Europe, where we have continued to monitor European and international climate and energy policies and to advocate the network's position on climate and energy issues to national decision-makers. We have attended numerous meetings, regularly participated in the network's conference calls and taken part in its workshops. We participated in their activities at COP29 in Baku. CAN Europe is also the coordinator of the LIFE Together for 1.5 project, which is being implemented by Focus in Slovenia.

**Transport & Environment (T&E):** Through T&E, we are keeping track of legislation on CO<sub>2</sub> standards, biofuels, alternative fuels, air pollution and other transport policies, particularly at EU level.

**Friends of the Earth Europe:** We regularly work with this network to monitor and work on European climate and energy policies, and over the past two years, we have worked particularly closely on the issue of corporate legal liability.

**CIVINET Slovenia-Croatia-Southeast Europe:** Our engagement in this network of cities and other stakeholders working on sustainable mobility in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, including participation in thematic workshops, allows us to identify good practices and to follow developments in the region in the field of energy-efficient transport and environmentally and user-friendly urban transport.

**European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ):** We work together with the largest civil society network devoted to corporate accountability, bringing together more than 480 NGOs from across Europe, particularly in the area of environmental and human rights due diligence.



**Together4Forests:** This network of more than 220 NGOs is striving for EU action to protect forests, other natural ecosystems and human rights around the world.

**Forest Movement Europe** is a network of European NGOs and individuals working to protect and restore forests. In 2024, we organised the network's annual meeting, which took place in the heart of the Pokljuka forests.

**European Passengers' Federation (EPF):** EPF is an international non-profit association of passenger organisations and organisations promoting sustainable mobility. The association advocates for comprehensive passenger rights and effective mobility throughout Europe. In 2024, we hosted the EPF General Assembly in Ljubljana.

**REScoop.eu:** Focus is a supporting organisation of REScoop.eu, the European federation of energy communities. The federation helps energy communities to make their voices heard in the European energy debate. REScoop.eu empowers citizens and cooperatives and aims to achieve energy democracy. Its mission is to support citizens, cooperatives and cities in driving a citizen-led energy transition. REScoop.eu is also our partner in two LIFE projects.

## **Integration at the national level**

In 2024, we participated in the projects and activities of the following Slovenian networks and organisations: Plan B for Slovenia, Coalition for Sustainable Transport Policy, Network for Spatial Development, Partnership for Environment and Health, Sloga Platform. We have also cooperated directly or indirectly with a number of other organisations, partners and individuals.

# Management and development

We successfully addressed the challenges of horizontal management of the organisation, which in 2024 included the growth in the number of employees, by addressing organisational issues in working groups. The members of each group met on average once a month. In addition to the (super)group, which is responsible for the overall management overview, Focus has five working groups covering the following areas of work:

- Organisational Development,
- Finance,
- Employee Working Environment,
- IT and Education,
- Communication.

At the end of September, we held a two-day annual strategic planning meeting to review our programmes and set the priorities for the next three years. In addition to the annual planning meeting, we held three quarterly planning sessions and regular weekly briefings. We have prepared a work plan for the period 2025–2026.

We are committed to transparency in the functioning of the State and all other institutions and organisations, and we strive for transparency in our work, too. This has been achieved, as every year, through strict compliance with the law (registry entries, regular reporting) and regular communication with the public: maintenance of the websites, dissemination of information about the organisation and press releases. The preparation and publication of this annual report also aims to improve the transparency of the organisation's activities.



## / The Team

The Focus team remained unchanged in 2024 at 15 employees.

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

