



Annual Report 2004

focus

association for sustainable development

January 2005

► What is Focus?

Focus Association for Sustainable Development is a voluntary, independent, non-governmental and non-profit association. Everyone who supports the statutes can become a member. Membership is voluntary.

► Our aim

Our aim is to change the behavior of the people towards a more environmentally and socially responsible life with the enhancement of understanding and awareness. We actively work to improve the natural and social environment.

► Fields of activity

Focus covers the fields of:

- climate change
- energy (renewables, efficiency, nuclear)
- transport
- environmental fiscal reform
- sustainable consumption

Annual report of the Focus Association for Sustainable Development for 2004

This is the second time we are closing the working year in Focus and in the following report for 2004 we would like to introduce you a short summary of our activities in 2004. The report summarizes the work on projects as well as all other activities of Focus.

During the year 2004 we implemented five projects, while one remains open also in 2005. Projects from 2004 are the following:

Environmentally and socially friendly mobility

Background: Currently the greenhouse gases which are causing climate change are still growing, despite of different measures being implemented. The most obvious is the growth of emissions from transport, where the lack of efficient measures is the most alarming. While EU is building the basis for sustainable mobility Slovenia is developing plans for building highways and has no policy shaped on mobility issues. Mobility is more than just building highways, sustainable and efficient solutions can be found in combining different modes of mobility and increasing the efficiency of transport.

Project description: Initiating event of the project was roundtable 'Entering EU and sustainable transport' organized at the end of April. The roundtable served as basis for preparing a publication, networking and contact building. On the basis of the results of the roundtable, existing debates and publications from EU (found with help of European Federation for Transport and Environment – T&E) the group of NGO representatives designed and issued publication on sustainable mobility. The publication contains the following topics: basic principles of sustainable mobility, political and legal framework in EU and Slovenia, good practice examples, five steps to sustainable mobility, which each of us can do, information about efficient vehicles, list of literature and contact data on experts and organisations. The brochure has informative nature and can be used as a tool for shaping good measures in Slovenia. Brochure was presented to the wider public through press conference, press release, to the interested public at second roundtable debate which was organized on 22. September – day without the car (interested public: representatives of Ministry for environment, spatial planning and energy, Minis-

try for transport, Ministry for economy, teachers, biking associations and networks, representatives of municipalities of Slovenia, students dealing with transport issues). In parallel the educational package was prepared for pupils of primary schools. The educational package was tested in cooperation with Slovenian E - Forum in the framework of the project: workshop for 15 kids was organized and the materials from the package were used. The educational package was also used in the project Climate Education for Kids, implemented by Slovenian E – Forum.

Financing: Project was financed by Agency for efficient use and renewable sources of energy, Office of the government of Slovenia for informing, Municipality of Ljubljana and Swedish NGO Secretariat for Acid Rain.



Environmental Centre

Background: Environmental non-governmental organisations (NGO) are important actor in the field of environmental protection. In Slovenia numerous environmental NGOs are active but due to unfavourable working conditions and employment opportunities only some of them take part in decision making processes. Work of environmental NGOs does not bring satisfactory result due to lack of possibilities for networking, high operative costs, disperse financial sources and non recognised role in decision making processes. All this results in low efficiency of their work. On top of that in Slovenia we do not have a centre yet where interested and wider public and international institutions or organisations could get environmental information, independent opinions, advise or even help with searching environmental justice. Well informed and aware public is of key importance in environmental protection, the efficient solution must be found.

Project description: The goal of the project was to establish framework for activities of environmental NGOs active on the field of 6EAP and environmental centre where information and publications about environmental protection would be available for the public. In final phase the environmental centre would consist of: offices for NGOs, environmental library, green phone, information, education and awareness raising services, access to

environmental information and help in searching for environmental justice, information web page. Project has two phases. In the first phase which was executed in 2004 the following was done:

a) Work program of environmental centre for period 2005 – 2008: The purpose of work program was to prepare long-term plan of activities of NGOs joined in the environmental centre. In the framework of work plan preparations the analysis of current situation was done to see what from 6EAP in Slovenia is being implemented, where are the challenges, what should be improved and what is the NGOs capacity. (expert knowledge, human resources, financial capability). In final version the work program exposes potential NGO activities but due to unknown financial future does not precise concrete projects apart from some potential joint activities (e.g. Earth day, activists groups, mirror to the government etc). Work program contains also infrastructure needs which are necessary to establish a centre.

b) Brochure: Presentation brochure will serve higher visibility of NGOs, easier access to NGOs, informing the public and attracting potential donors. It contains the following topics: short description of the idea of environmental centre, presentation of involved NGOs. The brochure was so far presented at Student arena 2004 and will in the future serve for presentations in schools, governmental institutions, potential partners and donors and all the other interested parties.



c) Information web page: The goal of putting up the web page was to gather all important environmental information on one (virtual) place and gathered information regularly update and upgrade. In this stage the web portal is concentrated on the topics of 6EAP and can be broadened to all environmental topics in the future. With time the portal will be upgraded with new topics and new elements (forums etc.)

Partners: Project was coordinated by Focus and was/is implemented in cooperation of following partners: Focus (fields: climate change, transport and mobility, renewables); Umanotera (fields: nature, fair trade, GMO, waste, chemicals); Institute for sustainable development (fields: agriculture, tourism, nature cross-cutting urban/rural space); Botanic association of Slovenia (fields: nature and biodiversity); Slovene E-Forum (fields: energy, natural sources, economic instruments for environment protection).

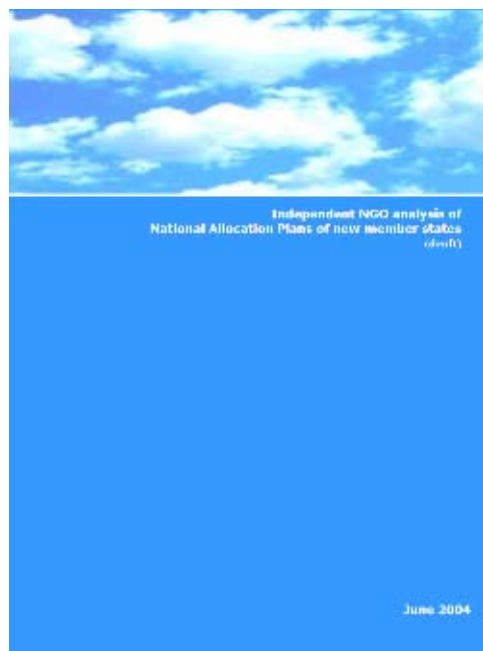
Financing: Project was financially supported by Ministry for environment, spatial planning and energy and partners on the project.

Independent assessment of the National Allocation Plan

Background: In 2004 the European Directive on emissions trading came into force and Slovenia was obliged to present its national allocation plan to EU Commission until 1st May 2004. The allocation plan is of key importance for environmental integrity of emissions trading scheme. Although the main guidelines are drawn by the directive the governments (also Slovene) still had some place for final formation of the plan. Interests of different industry lobbies can be different from the directives' guidelines it was important to ensure with monitoring that those interests are not reflected in the allocation plan. Inefficient plan can have dangerous environmental, economic and even social impacts. For those reasons it was important that NGOs were monitoring and analyzing the plan.

Project description: Partially the project was executed in the framework of international project of Climate Action Network Central and Eastern Europe and other part was adjusted to Slovene circumstances. In first phase of the project the questionnaire was designed by NGOs by which the evaluation of the allocation plans was done. Throughout the project Focus was present at various events where the public could comment the plan. When allocation plan was out for the first public commenting Focus analyzed it with a help of questionnaire and guidelines of EU directive and prepared comments. The commenting opportunities arose several times due to changes made in the process of making the plan. Within the project the following outputs were made: NAP assessment for Slovenia, two letters with comments for Slovenian government and one letter with comment to European Commission. In the framework of the project Focus also participated at the European workshop organized by CAN Europe. Project is being continued by following the developments on Slovene and European level.

Financing: The project was financially supported by German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, WWF European Policy Office and Climate Action Network Europe.



Carbon Dinosaur in Slovenia

Background: Our planet is warming because we emit large quantities of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These gases are being produced with burning coal, oil and gas as well as by industrialized agriculture and deforestation. It is expected that raising the global temperature will cause catastrophic climate change which can kill millions of people, force thousands of people to leave their homes and cause economic, social and environmental catastrophes. Friends of the Earth Europe were organizing Europe wide campaign 'Carbon Dinosaur Tour' between May and October 2004, by which they were raising awareness and informing the public about growing CO2 emissions. 10 meters high Carbon dinosaur was travelling across Europe and disposing actors who are blocking the effective fight against climate change. The dinosaur visited 50 European cities among them also Ljubljana.



Project description: Focus organized the visit of Carbon Dinosaur in Ljubljana to show to the public that energy intensity of Slovenia is two times higher than EU average, government is over-allocating emission allowances, the dates of closing down old and inefficient thermo plants are being pushed ahead in future and emissions from transport are rapidly increasing and policies to solve the described challenges are not in place. Dinosaur was in Ljubljana for three days (30th September, 1st and 2nd October) and with its presence raising awareness of the public and politicians about unsustainable use of fossil fuels and climate change. Dinosaur visited the governmental palace and the Preseren square. It was accompanied by the exhibition on climate change. In the framework of the visit the following activities were organized: press conference, roundtable 'What to do with Slovene dinosaurs?' and Climate killer Oscar ceremony. During the visit the petition was being signed with 10 demands which were sent to new EU commissioner for energy by FoE and co organizing NGOs. The demands and signatures of the petition will be handed over to new Slovenian government at the beginning of 2005. A flier 'Don't be a fossil – fight climate change!' was published, which shortly explains the problem of climate change. Financing: Action was financially supported by Friends of the Earth Europe and Swedish NGO Secretariat for Acid Rain.

Renewable sources of energy for local communities

Background: Renewable energy sources are normally local sources of energy which lessen the political dependency and ensure development of new technologies and new working places. Using renewables contributes to preserving non-renewable sources and cleaner environment. All this is important for development of new energy concepts and policies in the future. Representatives of local authorities often see a threat in renewables because they lack the basic information about the importance of RES. Low level of awareness is the barrier for developing RES projects on the local level.

Project description: The goal of the project is to raise awareness and level of knowledge of representatives of local authorities about renewables through local workshops. In the framework of the project 5 regional workshops will be organized. Workshops will cover the topics such as: strategic importance of RES for the future, how to develop and execute concrete RES projects, positive environmental, economic and social impacts of the use of RES and how to finance the RES projects. Workshops will present the following topics:

- Strategic and political importance of the use of RES (Ministry for environment)
- How to finance RES from European structural funds? (Agency for energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy and Ministry for agriculture, forestry and food)
- Good practice example



In 2004 the web page on RES was designed. The web page contains information on renewables and the use of renewables. The manual on RES was prepared and will be published at the beginning of 2005. The project will have strong media coverage to ensure higher number of participant at the workshops. The project was well received by the regional development agencies which agreed to help with the execution of the workshops. The project will end in March.

Financing: Project is financially supported by British Embassy in Ljubljana.

Other activities

Although the project oriented activities were the main activities of Focus not all of the work can be done through projects. Hereafter we describe the activities which were executed by Focus outside of the framework of above described projects.

On many occasions fast and direct actions are needed in environmental activism which can not be planned in advance. In 2004 there were several of such occasions.

action 'Who cares about environment?':

Background: The government introduces numerous measures which lead to environment and nature in Slovenia. Planned construction of incinerators, new electrolyze aluminium plant, public support for investments in nuclear power, changes of Triglav national park law, the way of implementation of Natura 2000 project, obstruction in processes of establishing regional parks, outdated national energy program, wind farms projects in Karst region are only some of them.

Action description: Outrage of citizens is being publicly manifested. With action Who cares about the environment? We wanted to show to the public and the government that environment is not an obstacle for sustainable development but its part which offers new challenges and opportunities. From 21st to 24th of April the following activities were executed: press conference where the action was presented to the media and the attention was drawn to the environmental problems in Slovenia, public roundtable and demonstrations at Preseren square. Partners: Focus, Umanotera, SE-F, Eko link, and others.

demonstrations against National energy program

Background: The government adopted new national energy program in 2004. Besides further support for fossil fuels use and development it also supports the further use of nuclear power. Support for renewables and energy efficiency is insufficient specially if compared to the support for fossil energy.

Action description: Focus was following the developments around new NEP with commenting and giving suggestions. Focus also became a member of Coalition for better NEP. All the efforts did not bring desired improvement, therefore on the day of adopting the NEP in the parliament the demonstrations were organized in cooperation with Slovenian E-Forum. The goal of demonstrations was to call on the members of parliament to demand the better quality NEP. The leaflet was published and distributed and some posters were prepared.



presentation of green fiscal reform at GLOBE Slovenia meeting

Background: Focus started working on green fiscal reform in 2003.

Description: GLOBE Slovenia invited Focus to present the brochure 'Green fiscal reform' at their meeting. At the meeting the brochure was presented and the pan European dimensions of the campaign lead by European Environmental Bureau. Present were the representatives of the parliament, NGOs, media and minister for finance.

commenting of policies and programs

Focus actively followed the development of policies and measures on the field of climate change, energy, transport and other fields which are important for the work of Focus. Focus made comments of the following documents:

- *National energy program* (comments, cooperating with Coalition for better NEP, press release for European media, demonstrations)
- *National program on environment protection* (two rounds of comments, participation at document preparation workshops, giving joint comments with other organisations)
- *Resolution on transport policy of Slovenia* (giving comments, discussion at GLOBE Slovenia meeting, leaflet, press release)
- *Regulations on NGOs working in public interest* (comments, participation at meetings)
- *National Allocation Plan* (see under projects)
- *post 2012 debate* (comments on the draft policy, comments on decisions of the council on the future climate change policy, calling upon some changes in the draft texts of EU climate policy)
- *project NCSA* (comments on the report on situation in the field of climate change)

comments and corrections of the poster about nuclear power use

Focus helped German organisation with translating of posters on the use of nuclear power.

Publications issued by Focus and contribution to other organisations' publications



- The Eastern Promise: Progress report on the EU renewable electricity directive in accession countries. Chapter for Slovenia. January 2004. For WWF EPO.
- Demand new NEP! Leaflet. March 2004. Focus.
- Transport and Environment in enlarged Europe. Chapter for Slovenia. March 2004. For European Federation for Transport and Environment.
- Structural Funds and Renewables. Chapter for Slovenia. March 2004. For CAN CEE and WWF European Policy Office.
- Sustainable mobility. Informative brochure. September 2004. Focus.
- Sustainable mobility: educational package for teachers and pupils from 1st to 4th grade of primary schools. September 2004. Focus.
- Demand quality resolution on transport policy of Slovenia! Leaflet. September 2004. Focus.
- Don't be a fossil – fight climate change! Leaflet. September 2004. Focus.
- Efficiency in Central and Eastern Europe. Chapter for Slovenia. September 2004. For WWF European Policy Office.
- Independent NGO Assessment of New Member States NAPs. Chapter for Slovenia. October 2004. For CAN Central and Eastern Europe.
- Environmental centre. Brochure. October 2004. Focus, Institute for sustainable development, Slovene E-Forum, Umanotera, Biodar.

Co-operation

We believe the cooperation is one of the basic conditions for success. In 2004 we were cooperating with the following organizations, institutions, networks and individuals:

in Slovenia:

- Umanotera, Slovene fundation for sustainable development: projects Sustainable mobility, Carbon Dinosaur, Environmental centre, organizing action Who cares for environment?
- Slovenian E-Forum: projects Sustainable mobility, Carbon Dinosaur, Renewables for local authorities, Environmental centre, organizing action Demonstrations for better NEP, Focus was their partner on Climate Education for Kids project.
- Institute for sustainable development: project Environmental centre
- Association Biodar: project Environmental centre.
- Botanic association of Slovenia: project Environmental centre.
- Albin and Boris Keuc: experts in Sustainable mobility project.
- Coalition for sustainable waste management (KTRO): supporting the activities of the coalition.
- Coalition for better NEP: help with actions.
- Coalition for Volovja reber: supporting activities of the coalition.
- Regional environmental centre for Central and Eastern Europe: participating at REC trainings, cooperation within NCSA project.
- Ministry for environment, spatial planning and energy: cooperation with NPVO, cooperation on drafting the publication Sustainable consumption.
- Regional development agencies (Maribor, Pivka, Celje, Murska Sobota, Nova Gorica, Koper, Kranj): project Renewables for local authorities
- dr. Miha Tomšič: help with studies and work on NEP
- Agency for efficient use and renewable sources of energy: help with Sustainable mobility, Renewables for local authorities and Changing the habits, not the climate! projects.
- GLOBE Slovenia: cooperation with organizing their meetings.

abroad:

- Climate Action Network Central and Eastern Europe: network coordination, preparation of publications, project cooperation with NGOs.
- Climate Action Network Europe: cooperation on work on emissions trading.
- WWF European Policy Office: assisting with two publications.
- Friends of the Earth Europe: cooperation on Carbon Dinosaur Tour and participation in Climate Action Summer School.
- European Federation for Transport and Environment: assisting with publication.
- Agree.net: cooperation on network establishment and help with project development.
- Citizens United for Renewable Energy and Sustainability: coordination of central and eastern part of the network (first half of the year).

Membership Focus is member of the following coalitions, organisations and networks: Coalition for sustainable waste management, Coalition for better NEP, Coalition for Volovja reber, Environmental centre, Climate Action Network Central and Eastern Europe, Climate Action Network Europe, Agree.net., Citizens United for Renewable Energy and Sustainability.

Presence at meetings

In 2004 Focus was represented at following meetings, workshops, conferences and events:

- European Conference for renewable energy, 19-21 January 04, Berlin
- Climate Education for Kids planning workshop, 1 February 04, Ljubljana
- FoEE Climate campaigners meeting, 2-3 February 04, Brussels
- NAP workshop I, 4 February 04, Brussels
- 1. meeting for Agree.net, 14 February 04, Budapest
- roundtable Who cares about environment?, 22 April 04, Ljubljana
- demonstration who cares about environment?, 24 April 04, Ljubljana
- working meeting on regulations about NGOs status, 12 May 04, Ljubljana
- 9th meeting of Slovene Committee for climate change, 20 May, Ljubljana
- Renewables 2004, 1-4 June 04, Bonn
- International Energy Brigades Annual Meeting 04, 11-14 June 04, Šolta
- Conference on emissions trading, 1-3 July 04, Bucharest
- GLOBE Slovenia meeting – green tax reform, 7 July 04, Ljubljana
- Climate Action Summer School, 16-18 July 04, Maastricht
- NCSA workshop, 14 September 04, Ljubljana
- GLOBE Slovenia meeting, transport, 21 September 04, Ljubljana
- 10th meeting of Slovene Committee for climate change, 14 Oct, Ljubljana
- Agree.net 24-27 November 04, Bratislava
- CAN Europe meetings, 25-26 March and 27-28 September 04, Brussels
- Workshop on needs for capacity building for implementing UN convention on climate change, 21 December 04, Ljubljana
- Public presentation of changes of regulations for managing utilities which emit GHGs, 21 December 04, Ljubljana
- NPVO workshops, 9 March, 2 September 04
- Various coalitions' meetings (waste, NEP, Volovja reber, env. centre)



Media appearance

Focus appeared in the following media in 2004:

radio

- *Mariborski radio Študent*: 4 October, dinosaur
- *Radio Kranj*: 30 September, dinosaur
- *Radio Maribor*: 22 April, Earth day 04
- *Slovenija 1*: 16 August and 29 September, news, Carbon killer voting
- *Slovenija 1*: 16 November Intelekt (climate change)
- *Slovenija 1*: 7 December Intelekt (China)
- *Slovenija 1*: 20 December Studio ob 17-ih, COP10
- *Val 202*: 22 Apr, Earth Day
- *Val 202*: 30 Sep. dinosaur

newspapers

- *Hot Spot*, Dec, about Focus
- *Delo*, 17 Jan, Eastern Promise
- *Delo*, 23 Apr, Earth Day
- *Delo*, 1 Oct, dinosaur
- *Delo*, NAP
- *Dnevnik*, 1 Oct, dinosaur
- *Mladina*, 19 Jan, Eastern Promise
- *Mladina*, 4 Oct, dinosaur
- *Novi tednik*, 7 Oct, dinosaur
- *PN Sobota*, 7 August, interview

television

- *Slovenija 1*: 24 March, news at 4pm and 7pm, NEP action
- *Slovenija 1*: 22 April, news at 10pm, Earth Day
- *Slovenija 1*: 7 July, news at 7pm, Globe, tax reform
- *Slovenija 1*: 30 Sept., news at 10pm, dinosaur

other

- web pages
 - Ljubljanske novice, interview
 - www.avtonomija.org, dinosaur
 - www.matkurja.org, dinosaur
- agencies
 - STA – 1 October dinosaur
- e-news
 - Umanotera e-news
 - CNVOS e-news

In 2004 Focus issued six press releases, on the topics of: Eastern Promise report, National Energy Program actions, Structural Funds report, National Allocation Plan comments, sustainable mobility and climate killer award for Slovenia.

Development of the association

Members and their activities Focus got some new members in 2004. Carbon Dinosaur action was especially useful for recruiting new members as well as being present at Student arena. To motivate new members several meetings were organized and one new member was sent to the REC trainingship for young environmental leaders to Hungary.



Visibility of Focus In 2004 we tried to improve the visibility of Focus by publishing small leaflet about Focus. Power point presentation about Focus was also prepared. The references of Focus also contributed to improved visibility and also important was publishing of the brochure of Environmental centre. We managed to change the image of organisation which will be gradually introduced in 2005 by renewing of the web page and outlooks of our publications.

Transparency Because we are acting to increase the transparency of governmental institutions and other organisations, we try to keep our actions transparent. In 2004 we guaranteed our transparency through maintenance of our web pages, providing information on association on request, press releases; a part of transparency is also publishing this report.

Future plans In summer months of 2004 we prepared the draft of work program for 2005 which was finalized at the end of the year. At the beginning of December we prepared guidelines for mid and long-term activities of the organisation for the period 2006 – 2008.

Financing of our activities

In 2004 Focus was financially supported by following institutions: Ministry for environment, spatial planning and energy (MoE), Agency for efficient use and renewable sources of energy (AURE), Office for informing of government of Slovenia (UVI), Swedish NGO Secretariat for Acid Rain, Municipality of Ljubljana (MOL), WWF European Policy Office, Friends of the Earth Europe, European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E) and British Embassy in Ljubljana.

institution	income (in EUR)
Acid Rain	6.502
MoE	4.167
AURE	2.708
UK Embassy	2.688
UVI	1.875
T&E	1.000
MOL	897
FoE	650
WWF	500
interest	23
total	21.010

cost	in EUR
honoraria	12.788
taxes	2.257
material	109
equipment	43
travel	799
services	1.759
printing	1.591
total	19.346

Focus Association for Sustainable Development

Cesta na Roglo 17c, 3214 Zreče, Slovenia
www.focus-ngo.org, info@focus-ngo.org
tel: + 386 41 291091 or + 386 40 722149