



Annual Report 2006

focus

association for sustainable development

January 2007

► What is Focus?

Focus Association for Sustainable Development is a voluntary, independent, non-governmental and non-profit association.

► Our aim

Our aim is to influence the behaviour of 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.



Focus Annual Report 2006

Another year passed, in which, despite increasingly difficult situation for non-governmental organisations, we successfully executed many projects, cooperated in different processes and were present at many events. In the following annual report for 2006 we are introducing a short summary of our activities in the passed year. The report follows the main theme areas on which we are active in: climate, energy, transport and cross-cutting activities.

Climate

Europe for climate

The aim of the Europe for climate project was to stimulate, through awareness raising and informing, a discussion on two main climate topics: European emissions scheme and so called 'post 2012 debate'. During the project the following activities were executed:

- ▶ designing the web page on emissions trading
- ▶ designing the 'post 2012' web page
- ▶ designing the climate inquiry for children and publishing it on the web
- ▶ informing NGO on second national allocation plan for ETS
- ▶ participating in preparations of second national allocation plan for Slovenia
- ▶ promoting of climate inquiry for children
- ▶ putting up climate exhibition in schools and executing lectures: in co-operation with European Commission office in Ljubljana the contact with 5 high schools was established (Ljubljana, Celje, Brežice, Jesenice and Slovenj Gradec), the climate exhibition was put up in the schools and lectures on climate were executed for more than 1000 pupils.
- ▶ stimulating the 'post 2012' debate: Focus was planning to execute a post 2012 debate, but due to many similar activities which were being carried out during the project period by other actors, decided to change the plan. Instead of organizing a separate discussion we decided to participate in preparations for different events which were more or less linked to the subject (post 2012 capacity building workshop for new member states, events in the framework of 'Slovenia is reducing CO2' project).
- ▶ collecting 'tonnes of clean air': the action of collecting tonnes of clean air was launched in December – the companies were asked to give citizens of Slovenia the emissions trading allowances as Christmas present.

The schools activities were executed in cooperation with EC office in Ljubljana. In the NAP II process we were cooperating with CAN Europe and Agree.net.

Climate deal

The aim of the campaign was through awareness raising and informing on climate change stimulate citizens to make a 'climate deal' with the government in which the citizen would promise to change something in his/hers daily life and in return ask the government to do its part in climate fight. The campaign was part of the Europe wide Friends of the Earth campaign. The following activities were executed:

- ▶ Preparation of material: Leaflet (contains information on climate change, about the campaign and some 'climate deal' hints) and toolkit for activists (information which every activist should know during the action – what is climate change, its causes and impacts, what each of us can do to limit the impacts of climate change, what is Kyoto Protocol etc. were prepared. The campaign was also presented on the web page: <http://www.focus.si/index.php?node=165>.
- ▶ Training for activists: The call for recruitment of activists was published and 12 activists were selected to help with executing the campaign. The training for selected activists was organised: the activists gained knowledge on climate change, street action skills and practical information about the campaign. The training was organised as a workshop on the 16 July in Youth hostel Celica.
- ▶ Establishing the virtual campaign: within the www.foeurope.org web page the Slovenian version of the campaign tools were prepared. http://www.foeurope.org/climate/deal/action/step1.php?lang=si_SI

- ▶ Executing 6 actions: With the help of activists the actions were executed at Reggae Lakesplash and Rock Otočec festivals, in Ljubljana, Ptuj, Maribor and at Student Arena 2006. During the actions the leaflets were being distributed among the people and 'climate deals' were being collected – people were writing their personal climate deals on the cartoon bubbles – what they are willing to change in their lives in return for the action of the government. Pictures were taken of the people with their climate deals. Pictures were published in the virtual gallery. About 500 deals were collected.
- ▶ The Climate Deal exhibition: climate deals collected during the actions were exhibited at the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Ministry of transport, Ministry of the Economy and at the Ministry of agriculture, forestry and Food. The climate deal exhibition was reminding the decision makers of the ongoing climate talks in Nairobi and showing them that many people are ready to act to prevent dangerous climate change. The exhibition was also a form to participate in Global Climate day on the 4 November.
- ▶ Nairobi action: The photographs of climate deals were sent to Friends of the Earth Europe and they were used for the Climate Deal publicatio which was being distributed during the UN climate conference in Nairobi. The press release was published for the promotion of the results of the campaign.
- ▶ Handing over the climate deals: the collectio of climate deals was handed over to the minister of environment and spatial planing at the end of the year 2006.



Climate news

Focus is preparing regular weekly news on climate and related fields in English. The news contain the sections on climate and energy policy (EU and international), conference announcements, announcements of new publications etc. During 2006 about 45 issues of news were prepared. News are published at the web page (<http://www.focus.si/index.php?node=107>), and short summary of the content is send to European NGOs (CAN Europe mailing list, Agree.net mailing list, CAN CEE mailing list) as well as to Focus info mailing list.

Slovenia reduces CO2

During the project which is coordinated by UK Embassy in Slovenia, British Council and Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Focus helped with setting up the project web page and organising the energy efficiency and renewables conference:

- ▶ www.slovenija-co2.si: Focus prepared the text for the web page and collected the good practice examples.
- ▶ conference Sustainable energy for municipalities and public sector: In cooperation with Slovenian E Forum Focus organised the conference on energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy for municipalities and public sector on the 31 June 2006 in Bistra. The conference agenda was outlined, the speakers identified, logistical preparations were carried out and the conference report prepared. Focus participated with a presentation as well.
- ▶ www.slovenija-co2.si: Maintaining the web page (news and events alerts) and upgrading the good practice examples and links. News were being prepared on the weekly basis.
- ▶ future project activities: Focus participated in the debates on the possible continuation of the project.

Slovenija
znižuje
↓ CO₂

Post 2012 capacity building workshops for new member states

Together with German organisation Ecologic and other partners Focus helped with preparations and execution of the series of international workshops and expert papers on the capacity building on post 2012 climate issues for new member states. 11 and 12 October one of the workshops was organized in Ljubljana. Focus participated in preparations of workshop programme, communication with Ministry of Environment and Ecologic and logistics. Focus also contributed to the final report of the workshop.

CAN Europe Focus participated at the annual CAN Europe meetings in March and October 2006. The meetings serve to exchange information on national and EU level on climate issues. Focus participated in producing the emissions trading report (http://www.climnet.org/EUenergy/ET/0506_NAP_report.pdf) and joint media communications (translation of two press releases into Slovene language and gathering media contacts for CAN E). Focus cooperated with CAN E in publishing the new report on NAP II (together with Angree.net network). Together with CAN E and Germanwatch Focus prepared report for Slovenia on Climate Change Performance Index, publication which was presented at climate talks in Nairobi.

Agree.net Within the Agree.net Focus is coordinating the climate activities. We participated at all Agree.net meetings and were contributing to its strengthening, regularly informing members about developments in the climate change field (through climate news) and executed a seminar on climate lobbying and post 2012 and ETS debates. Focus prepared the draft work programme for 2007 and final report for 2006. Focus prepared the climate change educational materials data base. During the climate seminar the lobby action against UniCredit financing new nuclear power plant in Bulgaria was executed.

Friends of the Earth Europe Focus worked with FoEE on the Climate Deal campaign and actively contributed to the other network activities (1 Million signature campaign against nuclear energy www.focus.si/index.php?node=76&id=2, translation of press releases, international climate day action).

COP12/MOP2 For the second time Focus participated at the UN Climate conference which took place in Nairobi in 2006. Focus member was member of Slovenian national delegation and at the same time participating in working groups of Climate Action Network.



Review of the OP GHG Before the review of Operational Program for Greenhouse gas reductions started Focus submitted its comments to the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, outlining the most problematic issues which the programme should address. After the programme was published Focus had limited possibilities to participate in improving it due to the delay of the process. Focus submitted comments to the programme but was not able to organise broader public debate.

Climate change committee Focus member is continuing her work in the committee through participating at the committee meetings, informing NGOs through the web page and with contributions at the meetings. Focus was present at the 13th and 14th committee meetings in 2006.

Participation in the EU wide climate campaign Focus helped with executing of the campaign in Slovenia. Focus executed the training for activists on climate change. Together with the representative of Profos d.o.o. (company in charge for the Slovene part of the campaign) the lectures for high school pupils were executed. Together we also executed actions during the mobility week.



Energy

Renewables and NGOs: different, but united

The project Renewable sources of energy and NGOs initiated a broader and structured discussion on the question of the use of RES among nature conservation, sustainable development organisations and different civil initiatives. The overall goal of the project was to develop common criteria, under which the RES utilization projects can be acceptable in Slovenia, from the side of nature protection as well as energy security, employment and regional and technological development.

The results were to be achieved through a process, which comprised of four workshops, which served as a platform for exchanging views and opinions, striving to understand differences and finding common points on which the active attitude toward the use of RES could be developed.

The first workshop 'Inclusive governance – Not decisions for people, but with people' outlined the barriers for efficient involvement of stakeholders into the decision making processes and comprise the set of criteria which would overcome these barriers. The second workshop was aiming at unifying the position of the biggest energy NGO in Slovenia on the proposed draft declaration. The reactions of the participants were mainly negative towards the text of the declaration. The third workshop 'Is renewable also green?' aimed at improvement of the draft declaration. Some specific improvements were made to the declaration, which were used to revise the declaration text. The fourth workshop 'Searching for future solutions' aimed at finding possible ways to ensure sustainability of renewables in the future, to find possible ways for reaching common positions and agreements among NGOs and to highlight the most realistic ways and the carriers of the activities. The process identified three key obstacles: a) the NGOs are reluctant to co-operate when there is no specific endangered area in question, b) there is lack of trust among NGOs and c) NGOs tend to keep the debate dispersed over many open issues, rather than to focus on renewables.

Project was executed in cooperation with Regional Environmental Centre in Slovenia and Slovene E Forum. The last workshop was done in cooperation with Ministry for environment.

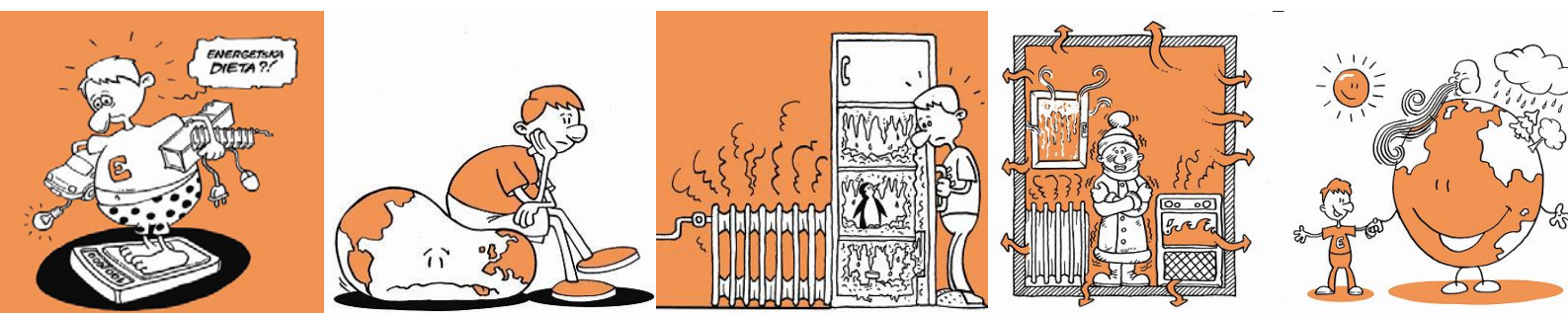


Energy diet

To show people that it takes small simple steps to reduce our energy use without endangering our lifestyle, Focus decided to inform people through brochure 'Energy diet'. Project encompassed the following activities:

- ▶ collecting existing materials and data: the existing brochure published by Energija Klub was used as a sample on which the outline of the brochure was prepared. Necessary data was collected (prices for simple energy efficiency improvements in homes, availability of energy efficiency tools, etc.) and appropriate calculations were done.
- ▶ drafting the leaflet and testing it: From the collected materials and data the draft of the brochure was prepared and send to few energy efficiency experts for checking.
- ▶ finalising and designing the leaflet: The improved text was edited and designed in a handy small publication. To make it more appealing, cartoons were added to the text.
- ▶ making strategy for distribution of the leaflet: distribution strategy identified the potential users of the publication. A distribution list was prepared, including energy advisory centres, student organisations, regional development agencies, appliances stores and different energy related events as distribution points.
- ▶ preparing press release and presenting the leaflet to the media and public: When the publication was ready to distribute the press release was written and sent to about 80 media contacts. Special article was written for the magazine about energy savings and some appearances in the media about the publication were done.
- ▶ making energy-diet web page: Web page containing the text of the brochure was designed. E-card was made available on the web page to help spread information about the publication further.
- ▶ Focus received very positive feedback from the people who read the brochure. The visitor's counter of the web page shows us that the web page set up is being regularly checked. Some requests for additional copies of the publication were expressed by teachers. Media responded unexpectedly well to the leaflet, as it was presented in many web media, as well as in some specialised magazines and even in some radio shows.

Project was implemented with the support of Slovene Ecological Fund and Ministry of Environment.



Mobility

Sustainable transport policy



Slovenia was adopting new transport policy in the beginning of 2006. Process was not transparent, while the policy proposals were mostly directed into supporting motorised mobility. Therefore Focus formed a coalition together with other organisations (Cipra, LKM, ITR, REC, Mountain Wilderness, SEF, Umanotera and MKM). Coalition for sustainable transport policy of Slovenia attempted to balance the debate and orient transport policy towards sustainability. The following actions were executed:

- ▶ forming alternative transport policy proposal: We formulated a sustainable transport policy proposal, which was available for decision-makers and other interested parties. At the same time a shorter version for communication to the public was published and a brochure Sustainability leads to future (www.focus.si/files/programi/teze_KTPP.pdf, www.focus.si/files/programi/brosurica_TPP.pdf).
- ▶ presenting the proposal to the public: A press conference was organised by the Coalition to present our view of transport policy.
- ▶ media work: During the campaign four press releases were issued and we had some interviews.
- ▶ decision-making chain: Coalition expressed its dissatisfaction with an action oriented towards decision-making chain (transport ministry – government – parliament). We started our march at the ministry, where our view was presented to the state secretary for transport, continued to the government building, where we were not welcomed at all, and finished it at the parliament, where the leader of the transport committee listened to our proposals. Everywhere we hanged our views on the entrance of the building (www.focus.si/index.php?node=150).
- ▶ participation in the decision-making process: Coalition formulated comments and participated in parliamentary debates about the new transport policy.

More information about the Coalition for sust. transport policy is at www.focus.si/index.php?node=149.

Ecotopia Biketour 2006

Ecotopia Biketour is a several weeks project for everyone interested in do-it-yourself "diy" environmentalism, culture, nature, community life and cycling. Moving all the stuff by sheer muscle power, Biketour creates an eco-mobile community building up strong connections between participants coming from different scenes and groups as well as between them and the hosts. While the whole tour is an action demonstrating that less is more, the tour participates also in actions on specific themes suggested by the places the tour visits. The main slogan of 2006 biketour was "bike it yourself". The biketour 2006 travelled from Lithuania across Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Slovenia to Croatia. Focus organised Slovene part of the tour through:

- ▶ organising the route and logistics
- ▶ preparing programme of events and actions
- ▶ publishing of a small leaflet and a booklet about the Slovene part of the tour

Between 4 and 10 September the biketour crossed Slovenia, stopping in Art Centre Hodoš and media event in Ljubljana. Project was done together with World Carfree Network and many local helpers.



Mobility week

Focus marked mobility week 2006 through a few actions: workshop for journalists, climate awareness raising actions in Ljubljana and Maribor, climate exhibition on public transport vehicle and participation in the work of the preparatory committee for mobility week in Municipality of Ljubljana.



Cross-cutting and other activities

Earth Day 2006 To celebrate the day, we finalised our web pages on sustainable consumption and promoted the many sustainable eco tips through a press release and an electronic card.

Media work Focus communicated its activities to the public through 17 press releases in 2006 and participation in numerous shows on radios or TV stations. We co-operated with the papers Finance, Dnevnik, Primorske novice, Svetovalec za energijo, Ekolist and 26!

Upgrading and maintenance of the web page www.focus.si By publishing weekly climate news updates, other news updates and expansion of some sub-pages, we maintained and upgraded the web page to inform the public. Most of upgrades were done in the climate post 2012 field and energy efficiency field. We also moved the address to a more user friendly one: www.focus.si.

Regular communication with various stakeholders We maintain a high level of communication with various stakeholders from Slovenia and abroad. We took part in almost 200 different meetings, events, conferences etc.

Environmental centre In 2006 we continued our three-year progress towards establishment of an environmental centre in Ljubljana. We found suitable offices and the participating NGOs have decided to register as an independent organisation. Opening of the environmental centre is foreseen in the first half of 2007.

National development programme Focus took part in the process of forming national development plan by participating in the stakeholders' consultations and giving comments to proposals. We also reviewed operative programmes for use of EU funds.

Preparing a development education project for the presidency of Slovenia Focus participated in the preparation of a project by Sloga - platform of development NGOs. Focus co-ordinated the environmental component of the project and contributed to its finalisation.

Reviving an abandoned village in Greece Focus co-ordinated application process for participation of Slovenes in a project of reviving an abandoned village in Greece. The selected people used Focus as a platform for developing renovation ideas and communication.

Participation in EU stakeholders consultations Focus participated in some EU stakeholders consultations throughout 2006, mainly in the energy field.



Publications in 2006

Printed publications

- ▶ Leaflet Biketour Ecotopia 2006: http://www.focus.si/files/Publikacije/letak_oblikovanje.pdf
- ▶ Booklet Biketour Ecotopia 2006: http://www.focus.si/files/Publikacije/Slovenia_booklet.pdf
- ▶ Folder Energy diet: http://www.focus.si/files/Publikacije/dieta_final.pdf
- ▶ Policy brochure on sustainable transport: http://www.focus.si/files/programi/brosurica_TPP.pdf
- ▶ Leaflet Climate Deal: http://www.focus.si/files/Publikacije/letak_FoECC_final.pdf

Publications to which Focus contributed

- ▶ NAP report (CAN Europe): www.climnet.org/EUenergy/ET/0506_NAP_report.pdf
- ▶ NAP II Report (CAN, WWF, Agree.net): www.climnet.org/EUenergy/ET/WWF-CAN-CEE.pdf

Electronic media

- ▶ our webpage: www.focus.si
- ▶ RES portal: www.prihodnostjeobnovljiva.org
- ▶ weekly news: <http://www.focus.si/index.php?node=107>
- ▶ emissions trading portal: <http://www.focus.si/index.php?node=156>
- ▶ questionnaire on climate for youth: <http://www.focus.si/index.php?node=164>
- ▶ energy efficiency portal: <http://www.focus.si/index.php?node=61>



Co-operation

Sustainable development demands linking various stakeholders for common goals. We participated with the following organisations or individuals in 2006: Umanotera, Slovene Foundation for Sustainable Development; Slovene E-Forum; Institute for sustainable development; Association Rainbow; Vitra Cerknica; Institute for

Ecology; Cipra Slovenia; Mountain Wilderness Slovenia; Scouts Association; Regional Environmental Center; Sloga – platform for development NGOs; CNVOS – umbrella organisation for NGOs; Institute Jožef Štefan; Ecologic; Ministry of environment; Ekological fund of Slovenia; Technical museum of Slovenia; British Council; European Commission representation in Slovenia; Transport ministry; Ministry of economy; Ministry of agriculture; British embassy in Ljubljana; Wuppertal Institute; Climate Action Network Europe; Agree.net; WWF European Policy Office; World Carfree Network; EYFA; Friends of the Earth Europe; Zelena akcija; Energy club; Centre for Transport and Energy; Terra Millenium III; Za Zemiata; Profos d.o.o.; Albin Keuc; Neja Penca; Igor Hotko; Maja Miklič; Jure Vetršek; Andrej Verlič; Katja Žnidaršič; Igor Sikošek; organisers of Soča Raggae Riversplash festival; organisers of festival Rock Otočec; Varčevanje z energijo – magazine; 26! – youth magazine; Robert Križanič/Loesje; Mateja Medvešek; Renato Rjavec; Alenka Juvan..

Membership Focus is a member of: Coalition for sustainable waste management, Coalition for better National Energy Programme, Coalition for Volovja reber, Environmental center, Coalition for sustainable transport policy, Climate Action Network Central and Eastern Europe, Climate Action Network Europe,

Organisation development

Members and their activities Focus doubled its membership in 2006. To motivate the members, we organised a few meetings, discussion rounds and workshops. We also regularly inform members through an internal mailing list. Members actively contributed to realisation of some projects (Climate Deal, Energy Diet, Greek village revival) and also participated in some international events on behalf of Focus.

Statutory changes Due to change in legislation of Slovenia regarding the NGOs we adapted our statutes to the demands of our work and the law.

Transparency of work Since we demand transparent work from other actors, we attempt to be as transparent as possible through maintaining web page, informing people about our activities and press releases. Annual report is another mean of increasing our transparency.

Financing of our activities

Focus was kindly supported by the following institutions in 2006: British Embassy in Ljubljana, Ministry of Environment, Agree.net, European Commission, Climate Action Network Europe, US Embassy in Ljubljana, CEE Trust, Office of government for informing, Ecological Fund of Slovenia, European Commission representation in Ljubljana, Regional Environmental Centre and FoE International.

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