



LOCAL ACTION PLAN ON ENERGY POVERTY

Pomurje, SLOVENIA

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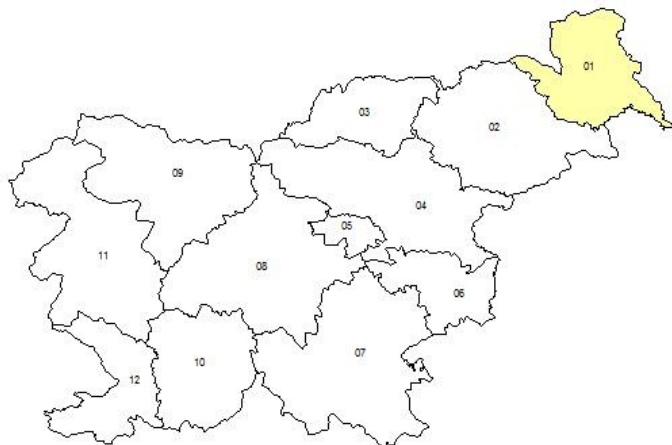
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1. INTRODUCTION

Pomurje region is one of the twelve statistical regions in Slovenia. It is the most north-east, flat and agricultural region. Predominant activity is agriculture. Remote location and poor transport links have an adverse effect on the economic situation of the region. This is reflected in low GDP per capita and high level of unemployment. The region covers 1,337 km² and average age of the population is 43.3 years (data for 2012). Pomurje has 117,005 inhabitants and 45,255 households. Average number of household members is 2.6.

Figure 1: Pomurje statistical region – marked yellow



Source: SURS

Energy poverty in Slovenia and in Pomurje region is becoming an increasing problem as rising energy prices outpace the rise of income of the population. Thus, the expenditure on energy for households in the first income quintile¹ rose sharply in the couple of last years and in 2010 represented 17.4% of all available resources of individual households (in 2000: 13.1%)².

- 1 Income quintiles represent households, arranged by their size of disposable income. First quintile represents 20% households with lowest incomes; fifth quintile represent households with highest income.
- 2 SURS: http://www.stat.si/novica_prikazi.aspx?id=5164



1.1 AIM OF THE ACTION PLAN

The aim of this document is to define stakeholders, target groups and type of activities, that will be implemented in the Pomurje area. Action plan includes a timetable in order to make those actions more effective.

Furthermore this local action plan includes some of the relevant statistical data about the region, in particular social, economic and energy indicators, related to the issue of energy poverty.

2. DATA ABOUT ENERGY POVERTY IN POMURJE

Social, economic and energy indicators in the Pomurje area, that affect the issue of fuel poverty, are presented in this part of the document. Information and data about energy poverty on the national level is presented in the document "*Report on national situation in the field of energy poverty*"³. In the absence of adequate data on energy poverty for the regional level, only available indicators that show the regional picture are presented in this document. For creating a broader picture about the state of energy poverty issue in Slovenia and in Pomurje region, it is advisable to read the above-mentioned report as well.

Extent of the housing stock

In 2011, according to Statistical Office of Republic of Slovenia (SURS)⁴, there are 844,656 apartments in Slovenia. In Pomurje region there are 48,268 apartments⁵.

Average size of dwellings

Average floor space of dwellings is 79.6 m² (SURS, data for 2011). In Pomurje average size of dwellings is slightly higher (86.4 m²), mainly because there are more traditional one-family houses in rural area.

Table 1: Size of dwellings (in %), data for 2002

	Up to 20 m ²	21-40 m ²	41-60 m ²	61-80 m ²	81-100 m ²	Above 101 m ²
Slovenia	1.4	13.4	25.8	27.2	17.5	14.6
Pomurje	1.9	11.7	20.8	21.6	20.3	23.8

Source: SURS

3 REACH, 2014: Report on national situation in the field of energy poverty. Available at: http://reach-energy.eu/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/D2.2-Focus_EN.pdf

4 SURS: http://www.stat.si/novica_prikazi.aspx?id=4771

5 SURS: <http://www.stat.si/PrikaziDatoteko.aspx?id=5930>

GDP per capita

Since 2008, the decline of GDP per capita is noted in Slovenia, which coincides with the start of the financial crisis. Pomurje has second lowest GDP per capita from all regions in Slovenia. The gap when compared to the Central-Slovenian region is especially apparent, because the latter's GDP per capita was 24,170 EUR in 2012.

Table 2: GDP per capita (in EUR)

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Slovenia	18,420	17,349	17,320	17,610	17,172
Pomurje	11,909	11,415	11,367	11,948	11,872

Source: SURS

Average income

The average net salary in Slovenia grow yearly at a minimum rate, but is still below 1000 EUR per month. When compared to other regions, Pomurje has second lowest salaries.

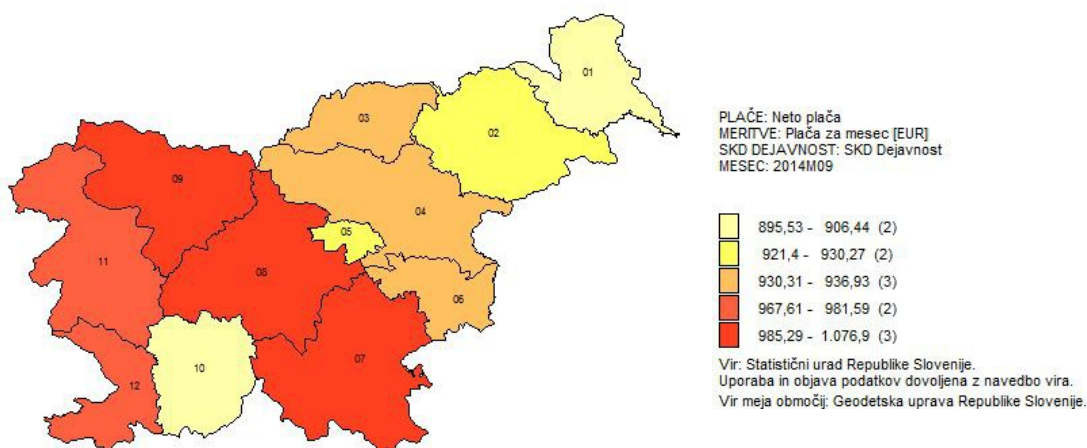
Table 3: Average monthly net earnings for month September in provided years (in EUR)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Slovenia	963.84	978.20	972.73	983.30	994.31
Pomurje	874.88	881.20	889.17	887.37	906.44

Source: SURS



Figure 2: Average monthly earnings for September 2014, in regions,, Pomurje is no. 1



Source: SURS

Unemployment and employment rate

Data on registered unemployment rate shows that unemployment grows every year. In 2013, 13.1% of active population in Slovenia was unemployed. Pomurje has the highest registered unemployment rate (17.8%) and the lowest employment rate among active population, in comparison with other 11 regions.

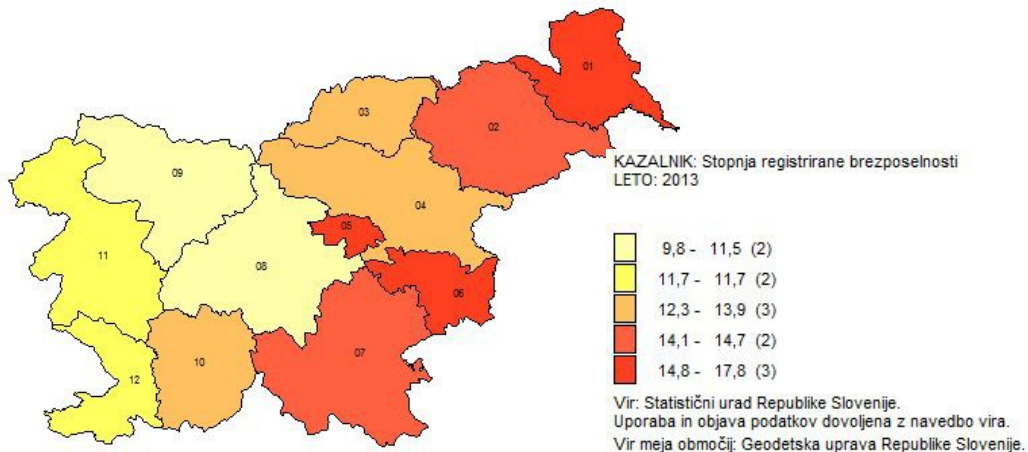
Table 4: Registered unemployment rate according to the proportion of the active population (in %)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Slovenia	9.1	10.7	11.8	12	13.1
Pomurje	15.9	19	18	17.3	17.8

Source: SURS



Figure 3: Registered unemployment rate, for 2013, Pomurje is no. 1



Source: SURS

Table 5: Employment rate among active population (in %)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Slovenia	60.5	58.8	58.1	57.4	-
Pomurje	55.4	52.5	53.2	51.2	-

Source: SURS

Poverty risk rate and number of people below the poverty line

Poverty risk rate represents the percentage of people living below the poverty line. People below the poverty line are those living in households with available income below 60% of median equivalent available income in the country. Risk of poverty rate in Slovenia increases every year. Pomurje is second-worst among the 12 regions according to the indicator for poverty risk rate.

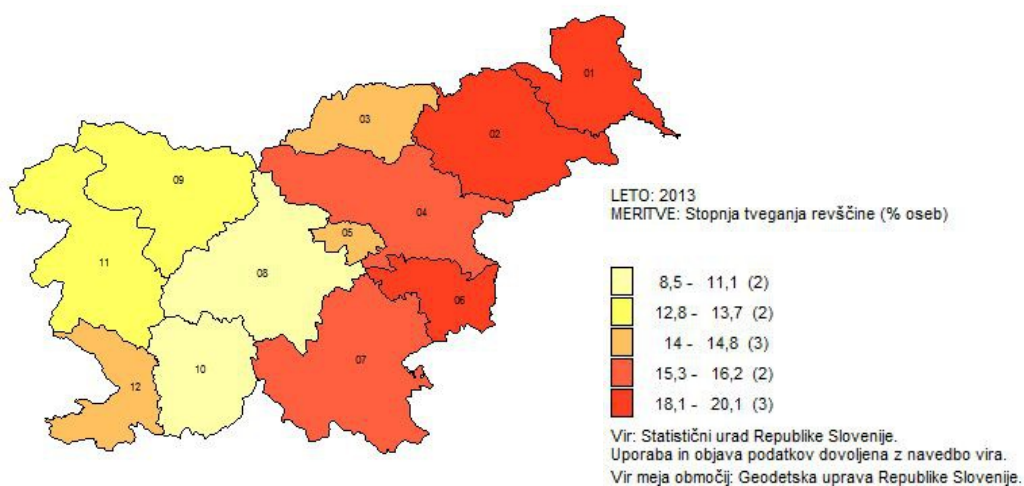


Table 6: Poverty risk rate and number of people below poverty line

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Poverty risk rate (% of people)					
Slovenia	11.3	12.7	13.6	13.5	14.5
Pomurje	18.8	21.2	20.6	19.2	19.9
Number of people below poverty line					
Slovenia	223,000	254,000	273,000	271,000	291,000
Pomurje	22,000	22,000	22,000	21,000	23,000

Source: SURS

Figure 4: Poverty risk rate, Pomurje is no. 1



Source: SURS

Recipients of social support

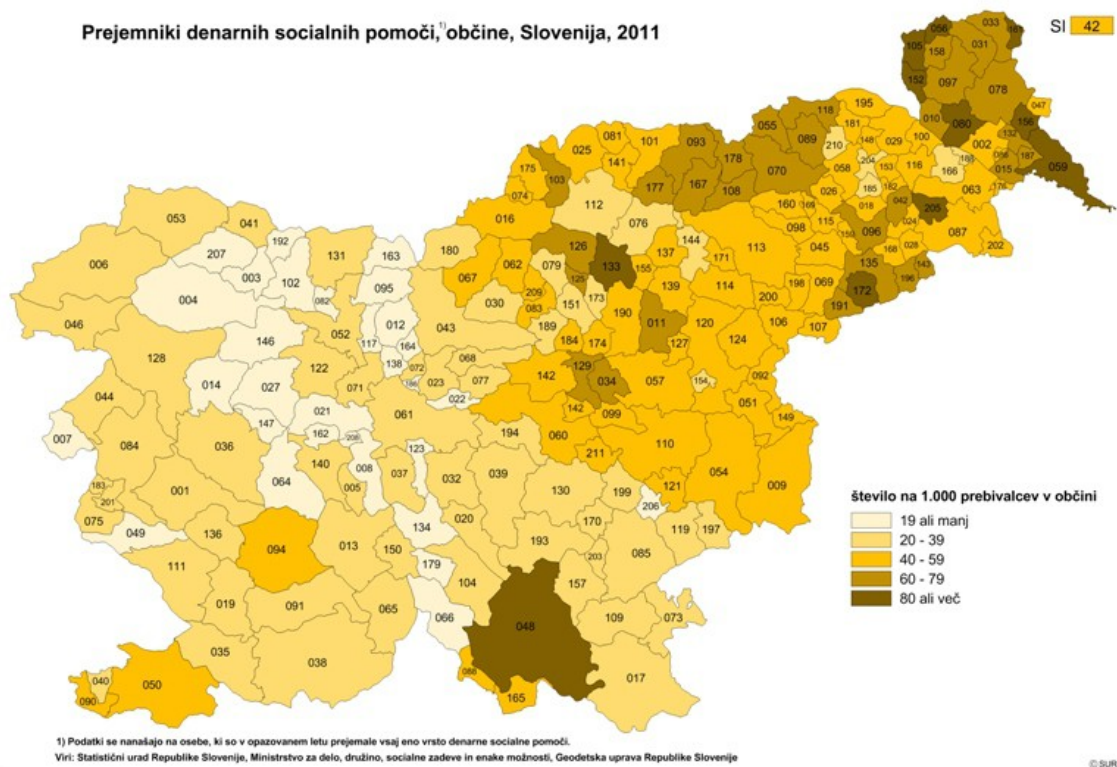
Social support is given to those individuals, who cannot provide means for their minimum survival needs, due to the circumstances, which they cannot control. The average value of state support in 2013 was 253.29 EUR⁶. There is no comprehensive statistics in this area. Data on the number of different recipients of social support are available for 2010 (94,000 recipients⁷) and 2011 (86,000

⁶ MDDSZ: http://www.mddsz.gov.si/si/uveljavljanje_pravic/statistika/denarna_socialna_pomoc/

⁷ SURS: <http://www.stat.si/obcinevstevilkah/Vsebinsa.aspx?leto=2012&ClanekNaslov=SocialnaDenarnaPomoc>

recipients⁸). Geographically, the majority of recipients of social support are in the municipalities of the eastern part of Slovenia, in Pomurje (66.2/1.000 inhabitants) and in the Podravje statistical region.

Figure 5: Recipients of social support by municipalities, 2011



Source: SURS

Heating sources

Data on heating sources in households for various regions is available only for 2002, which means that it is partly out of date. However, it can still be used as an indicator of the situation in the region. In Pomurje region with mostly individual houses in non-urban settlements, mostly individual heating with wood fuel and heating oil is used.

8 SURS: <http://www.stat.si/obcinevstevilkah/Vsebina.aspx?leto=2013&ClanekNaslov=SocialnaDenarnaPomoc>



Table 7: Share of different heating sources in households, Pomurje, Census 2002

	Urban settlements	Non-urban settlements	Total
Coal, coal briquettes	432	1,803	2,235
Wood fuels	1,749	20,426	22,175
Heating oil	5,788	14,021	19,809
Electricity	681	461	1,142
Natural gas	640	347	987
District heating	632	0	632
Boiler room for several buildings	2,497	0	2,497
Apartment is not heated	155	2,145	2,300
Other	173	536	709
Total ⁹	11,680	34,191	45,871

Source: SURS

3. STAKEHOLDERS RELATED TO ENERGY POVERTY

Stakeholder participants are all organizations and institutions that can support the campaign for recruitment and involvement of energy poor households or provide any other kind of support for the implementation of REACH project.

Potential stakeholders:

- Local energy agency Pomurje (LEA Pomurje),
- Centres for Social Work (Murska Sobota and potentially Lendava),
- local and regional social organizations (Caritas and Red Cross),
- Municipalities in Pomurje (Murska Sobota and other smaller ones),
- local pensioners' associations,
- Vocational and Technical High School Murska Sobota,
- other stakeholders on regional level (Employment offices, People's University Murska Sobota...).

Stakeholders already identified

Most of the presented potential stakeholders have already been identified and contacted. Also, cooperation was already established with majority of them:

⁹ Sum of heating sources is not necessarily the same as the total number of housing units, as some housing unit use several heating sources.



- LEA Pomurje (they are partners of the project; will be involved with all key activities);
- Centre for Social Work (are contacting and taking care of applications of households),
- local and regional social organizations (Caritas and Red Cross in Murska Sobota are aware of the project),
- Vocational and Technical High School Murska Sobota (will be included in training and practice of students).

4. TARGET GROUPS

Given the objectives of REACH project, there are two target groups:

- households at risk of energy poverty,
- high schools, teachers and students.

Households at risk of energy poverty are the main target group of this project, as within its duration 200 visits are going to be implemented in Pomurje. The specific aim of the visits is to analyse energy and water consumption, give advice in order to achieve savings, and provide a set of saving devices, with the aim of reducing energy costs.

High schools, teachers and students are the next group to be targeted. The purpose of communication and cooperation with them is to build a partnership in execution of activities of the project.

5. ACTION PLAN

Table 8: Action plan with timetable of planned activities

Activity	2014	2015	2016	2017
Inclusion of the school in the project	September			
Inclusion of Centre for Social Work in promotion the visits and taking care of applications of households – first season	May-	-April		
Agreement with school on implementation of training for students – first generation		April-June		
Inclusion of municipalities in the project (practise of students – first generation)		March-September		
Implementation of training for students (and teachers) – first generation		September		
Implementation of visits (first generation) 100 visits		September-December		
Evaluation of visits – first season		October-	-February	
Award ceremony for students – first generation		December-	-April	
Promotion of visits (Centres for Social Work, leaflets) – second season			August-November	
Agreement with school on implementation of training for students – second generation			April-June	
Inclusion of municipalities in the project (practise of students – second generation)			March-September	
Implementation of training for students (and teachers) – second generation			September	
Implementation of visits (second generation) 100 visits			September-December	
Evaluation of visits – second season			October-	-January
Award ceremony for students – second gen.			December-	-February
Post-training support for students (with implementation of visits and after visits are finished)		September-		-January
Eventual post-visit support for households, if needed		September		-January
Promotion of the project in local media	December-			-March
Searching for solutions with high schools (and municipalities) for sustainability of energy advising as form of a practise for students			January-	-March
Searching structural solutions for energy poverty with municipalities			January-	-March
Potential new partners for promotion of visits and taking care of applications of households		August-December		

Partners



Focus – Association for sustainable development, Slovenja

www.focus.si



DOOR – Society for Sustainable Development Design, Croatia

www.door.hr



EAP – Energy Agency of Plovdiv, Bulgaria

www.eap-save.eu



MACEF – Macedonian Centre for Energy efficiency, Macedonia

www.macef.org.mk

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