



LOCAL ACTION PLAN ON ENERGY POVERTY

Zasavje, SLOVENIA

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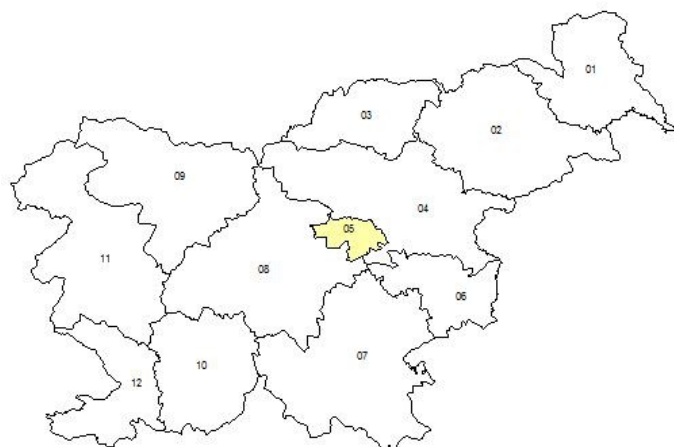
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1. INTRODUCTION

Zasavje region is the smallest region in Slovenia, by surface area (264 km²) and number of inhabitants. At the same time it is second most densely populated region in the country. It covers only three municipalities (Hrastnik, Trbovlje and Zagorje ob Savi). Zasavje has 42,824 inhabitants and 18,698 households. Average number of household members in Zasavje is 2.3. Average age of the population is 43.4 years (data for 2012). More than one third of gross value added comes from manufacturing, mining and other industries, which means that it is an industrial region.

Figure 1: Zasavje statistical region – marked yellow



Source: SURS

Energy poverty in Slovenia and in Zasavje 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

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.



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.

1.1 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 Zasavje 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 Zasavje 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 Zasavje 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 (SURSTAT)⁴, there are 844,656 apartments in Slovenia. In Zasavje region there are 17,974 apartments⁵, the lowest number from all the regions.

Average size of dwellings

Average floor space of dwellings is 79.6 m² (SURSTAT, data for 2011). In Zasavje average size of dwellings is slightly smaller (70.3 m²), mainly because there are more multi-apartment buildings in rural areas, built for miners, who moved to the region.

2 SURS: http://www.stat.si/novica_prikazi.aspx?id=5164

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>



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
Zasavje	0.6	16.4	34.3	28.7	12.9	7.2

Source: SURS

GDP per capita

Since 2008, the decline of GDP per capita is noted in Slovenia, which coincides with the start of the financial crisis. Zasavje has 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
Zasavje	12,291	11,570	11,697	11,794	11,022

Source: SURS

Average income

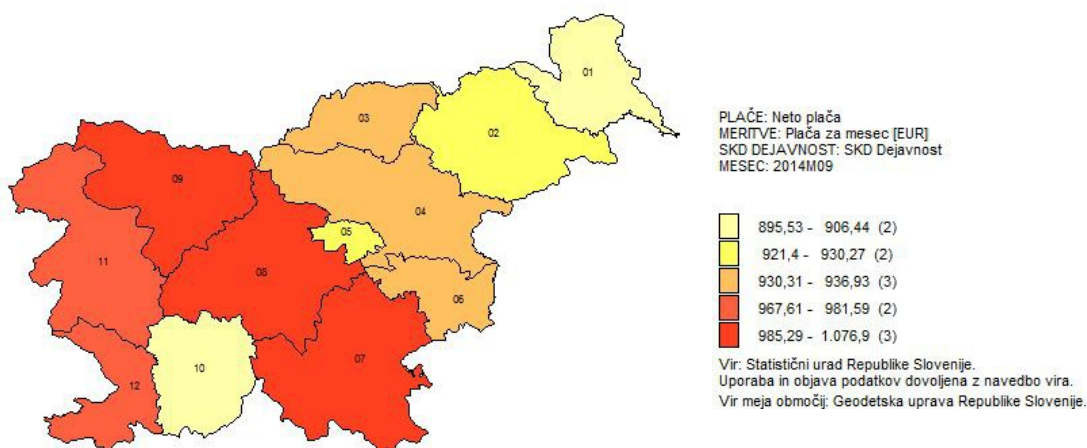
The average net salary in Slovenia grow yearly at a minimum rate, but is still below 1000 EUR per month. When compared to other regions, Zasavje has forth lowest salaries.

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
Zasavje	916.28	920.07	904.17	923.89	930.27

Source: SURS

Figure 2: Average monthly earnings for September 2014, in regions,, Zasavje is no. 5



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. Zasavje has second highest registered unemployment rate (16.6%) and third lowest employment rate among active population, in comparison with other 11 regions.

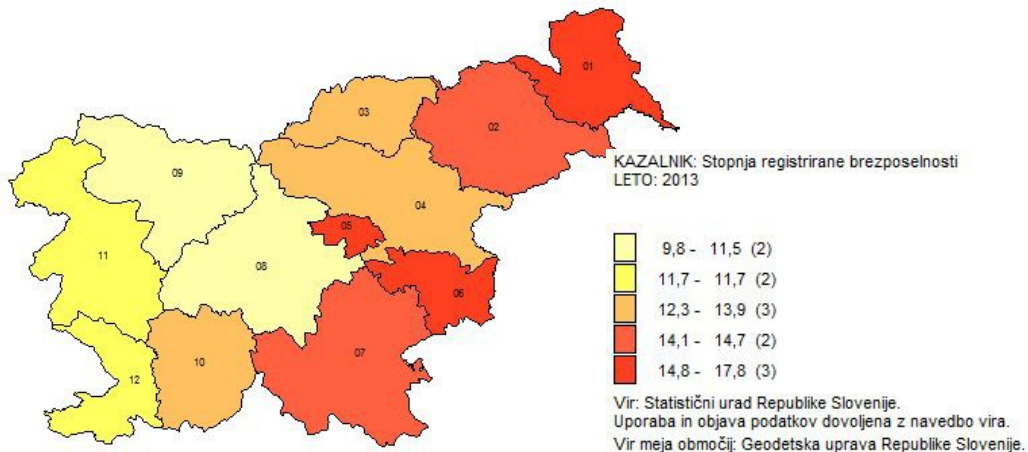
Table 4: Registered unemployment rate according to the proportion of the active population (in %)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Slovenia	9.1	10.7	11.8	12	13.1
Zasavje	11	11.9	13.3	14.7	16.6

Source: SURS



Figure 3: Registered unemployment rate, for 2013, Zasavje is no. 5



Source: SURS

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

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Slovenia	60.5	58.8	58.1	57.4	-
Zasavje	57.8	56.2	55.2	54.8	-

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. Zasavje ranks in the top half of the regions, as only 4 other regions have lower poverty risk rate.

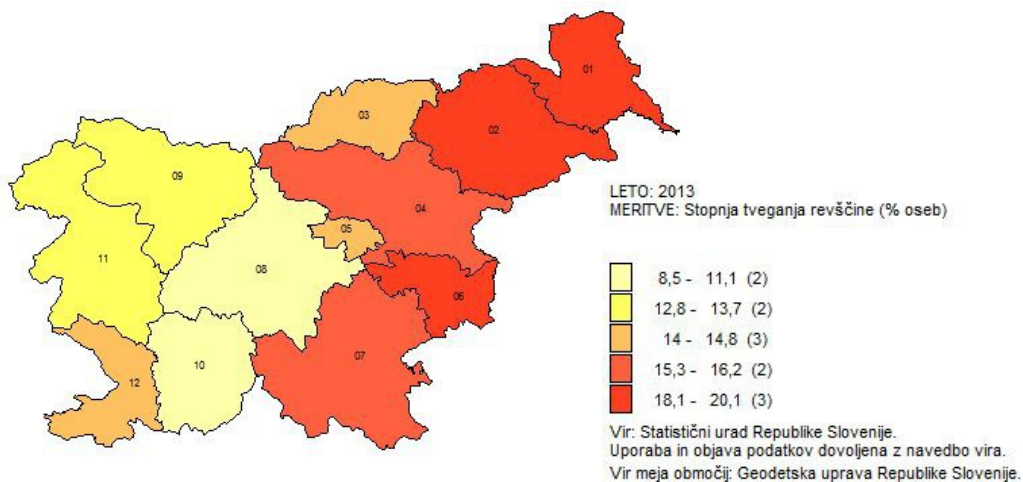


Table 6: Poverty risk rate and number of people below poverty line

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Poverty risk rate (% of people)					
Slovenia	11.3	12.7	13.6	13.5	14.5
Zasavje	11.1	10.6	12.6	13.2	14.0
Number of people below poverty line					
Slovenia	223,000	254,000	273,000	271,000	291,000
Zasavje	6,000	5,000	6,000	7,000	6,000

Source: SURS

Figure 4: Poverty risk rate, Zasavje is no. 5



Source: SURS

Recipients of social support

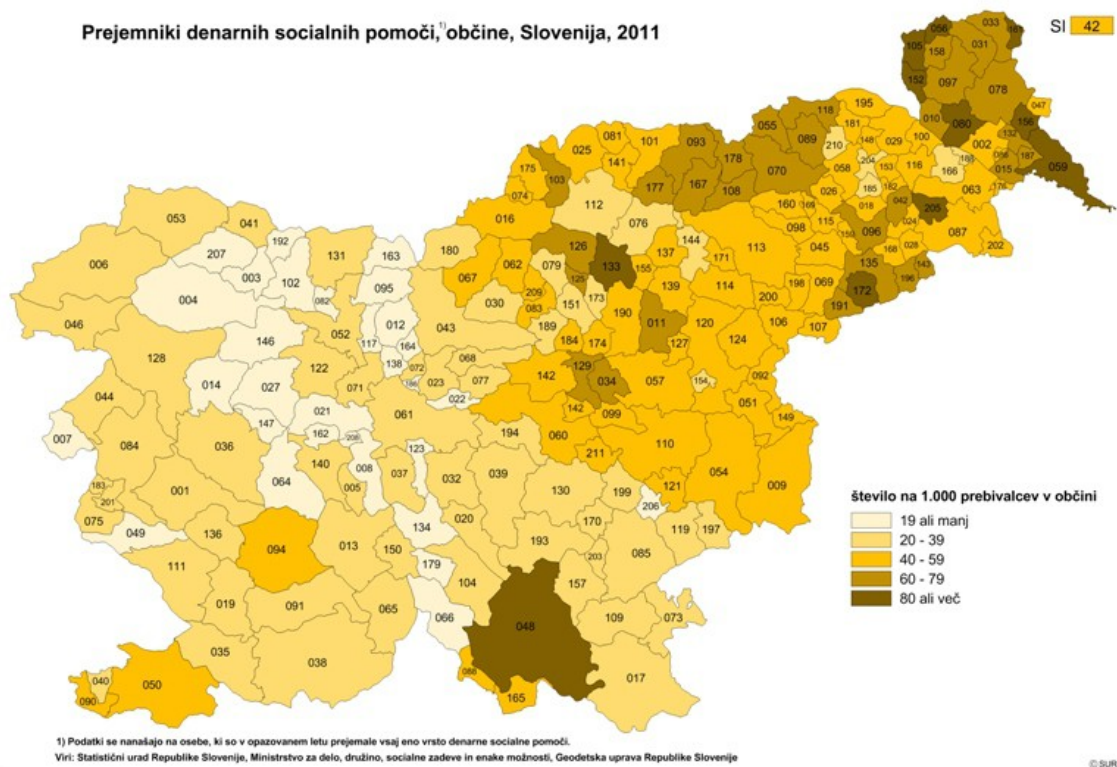
Social support is given to those individuals, who cannot provide means for their minimum survival needs, due to the circumstances, which they cannot control. The average value of state support in 2013 was 253.29 EUR⁶. There is no comprehensive statistics in this area. Data on the number of different 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 Zasavje the number is 60.8/1.000 inhabitants.

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 Zasavje region with mostly multi-apartment buildings in urban settlements, mostly district heating, wood fuels and heating oil are used.

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



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

	Urban settlements	Rural settlements	Total
Coal, coal briquettes	638	362	1,000
Wood fuels	1,740	3,351	5,091
Heating oil	3,197	3,032	6,229
Electricity	562	125	687
Natural gas	441	318	759
District heating	6,017	28	6,045
Boiler room for several buildings	199	61	260
Apartment is not heated	143	150	293
Other	188	185	373
Total ⁹	12,061	6,332	18,393

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:

- Municipalities Hrastnik, Trbovlje and Zagorje ob Savi,
- Centres for Social Work (Hrastnik, Trbovlje and Zagorje ob Savi),
- local and regional social organizations (Caritas and Red Cross),
- People's University Zasavje,
- local pensioners' associations,
- Youth Centres (Hrastnik, Trbovlje and Zagorje ob Savi),
- Technical and Vocational High School Trbovlje,
- other stakeholders on regional level (Employment offices,...).

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.



- Municipalities Hrastnik, Trbovlje and Zagorje ob Savi (interested in project and its results; involved in precise for students),
- Centres for Social Work (Hrastnik, Trbovlje and Zagorje ob Savi) (are contacting and taking care of applications of households),
- local and regional social organizations (Caritas and Red Cross in Zagorje are aware of the project; Caritas Trbovlje is contacting and taking care of applications of households),
- People's University Zasavje (aware of the project),
- Youth Centres (Hrastnik, Trbovlje and Zagorje ob Savi) (helping with implementation of visits - devices for households are stored in their premises),
- Technical and Vocational High School Trbovlje (involved 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 Zasavje. 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	May			
Inclusion of Centre for Social Work in promotion the visits and taking care of applications of households – first season	May – November			
Agreement with school on implementation of training for students – first generation	September-October			
Inclusion of municipalities in the project (practise of students – first generation)	September-November			
Implementation of training for students (and teachers) – first generation	October			
Implementation of visits (first generation) 100 visits	November-	-February		
Evaluation of visits – first season		January-March		
Award ceremony for students – first generation		March-May		
Promotion of visits (Centres for Social Work, leaflets) – second season		August-November		
Agreement with school on implementation of training for students – second generation		June-September		
Inclusion of municipalities in the project (practise of students – second generation)		June-September		
Implementation of training for students (and teachers) – second generation		October		
Implementation of visits (second generation) 100 visits		November-	-February	
Evaluation of visits – second season			January-March	
Award ceremony for students – second gen.			March-May	
Post-training support for students (with implementation of visits and after visits are finished)	November-		-June	
Eventual post-visit support for households, if needed	December-		-June	
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		November-		-March
Searching structural solutions for energy poverty with municipalities		November-		-March
Potential new partners for promotion of visits and taking care of applications of households		September-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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