

REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE ENVIRONMENT
AND SPATIAL
PLANNING MINISTRY

IN 2006



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING

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Dragica Bratanič

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Dear reader,

I knew that numerous challenges lay ahead when I took over the post of the environment and spatial planning minister two years ago. I believe that we can be proud of what we have achieved and that we have faced our broad scope and variety of challenges well.

In front of you is a document which includes a review of the main activities of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning in 2006. I would, however, like to point to some of the key results of our work and the activities that still lie ahead of us.

We have placed strong stress on the spatial component of our work. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Spatial Planning Act in November, while at the same time the Construction Act is being changed and amended. The basic goal of the spatial legislation was to streamline the activities, shorten the procedures for drafting and passing spatial acts and reduce the scope of the documents, needed for issuing construction and usage permits. In short, we wanted to speed up all the procedures, make them more transparent and thus allow the citizens to carry out their plans more quickly and simply, while staying in line with the legislation.

The Act Amending the National Housing Saving Scheme Act entered into force in March 2006. The act changes the scheme from a general savings scheme into a household savings scheme. We are also drafting expert positions to allow for larger changes to the Housing Act.

The area of property also saw significant changes. The new property legislation paved the way for a more modern and efficient state administration, which satisfies the requirements of the user of its mapping and surveying and property services in a greater scope and in a friendlier manner. I would like to single out a web application that allows its users to access mapping and surveying data and, from October onwards, also allows the preparation of certificates from the mapping and surveying data collection. This allows the users to get a plan of a plot or an ownership certificate at an administrative unit.

The Operational plan for water supply was adopted, tasking the state and the municipalities

with a lot of work in order to set up water management regimes on all drinking water sources. Two large projects are currently underway, namely the supply of drinking water to the Pomurje and the Kras and coastal regions. The area of waste management also saw significant changes. The regional concepts of waste management were enforced, resulting in the construction or operation of many regional waste management centres. The final solutions for the not yet established centres will have to be sought in the future. We have also managed to construct 70% of the necessary water treatment plants that have to be constructed by 2010.

We have seen a boost in investment interest, from private individuals as well as companies in the area of renewable energy sources. The biggest rise was seen in the number of wood biomass boilers. This is also the consequence of the GEF project entitled "Removing Barriers to the Increased Use of Biomass as an Energy Source". The project entered its closing phase.

The new financial perspective (2007-2013) will enter into force next year. It will cause environment-related investments to be focused mainly on waste management, drinking water supply, discharge and treatment of waste waters and reducing the impact of damage caused by water. The abovementioned activities are estimated at EUR 529 millions. These funds will become available in the second half of 2007 and in the beginning of 2008. We have often called on the municipalities to join projects and have thus managed to get over 20 categories of important projects in the new perspective.

Activities always entail cooperation. Without a well organised team at the Ministry, we could not have drafted and adopted or amended ten new acts, seven resolutions and operational programmes and 173 decrees at the government level. Implementing the adopted legislation requires regular and quality cooperation, mainly with the municipalities. On the other hand, the municipalities are responsible for the development of the local communities, which requires cooperation among experts for drafting good investment projects that pave the way to EU funds. I would like to take the occasion of having completed half of my term as a minister to thank everybody for their work by expressing a wish to continue our beneficial cooperation in the future.

Janez Podobnik
MINISTER

Environment

Meteorological Activities Act

The act regulates the meteorological activity within the framework of the national meteorological service, the national network of meteorological stations, the conditions for registering a meteorological station, the use of meteorological data and other issues connected to meteorological activities. The act was passed by the Slovenian National Assembly in April 2006.

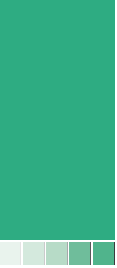
Operational programme for managing electrical and electronic equipment for the period 2006–2008

The main objective of the programme is to set up an environmentally efficient system of managing electric and electronic equipment, including an efficient system of separate collection, storage and treatment in adequate facilities prior to further processing. The programme also calls for efficient processing, including renewable use and recycling and the final disposal of the remains of processing. The operational programme was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in February 2006.

Operational programme for water supply

The operational programme is one of the fundamental documents for meeting the objectives in the National Environmental Action Plan (the Plan) on drinking water supply. It deals with the supply of drinking water to Slovenia's citizens and other types of water supply, especially for public needs. An improvement of the current situation is planned to be achieved by a series of measures, including the modernisation of the existing water supply systems to reduce water losses and improve management and the construction of trunk waterlines in areas where such a solution proves economically sound. The operational programme was adopted by the Slovenian Government in August 2006.

Operational programme for reducing atmospheric emissions from large combustion plants



The operational programme includes a new classification of existing large combustion plants in line with the European Commission rule on the aggregation of input heating power and thus of the consideration of lower threshold values. There are nine large combustion plants in Slovenia. Seven of those will adjust by 31 October 2007 to the limit concentrations from the Decree on emission limit values discharged into the atmosphere from large combustion plants, while two will continue working in line with the provisions on time-limited operation. The operational programme also includes measures for reaching the threshold values, carry out monitoring of polluting emissions and reporting. The adopted operational programme sets the rules for reducing the emissions from thermal power plants, one of the main objectives in preventing air pollution in the Plan. The operational programme was adopted by the Slovenian Government in February 2006.

Operational programme on the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions

The amended operational programme on the reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions includes changes to the records on GHG and updated projections in individual sectors. The existing situation and implementation of planned measures were scrutinised before drafting the amendments. Some effects of CO₂ emissions trading have also been recognised. The existing measures were expanded with other flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol (joint implementation projects and clean development projects). The operational programme has passed the public debate stage and will be sent to government procedure still in 2006.

Remediation of old uncontrolled dumps

Funds, amounting to SIT 150m (EUR 626,000) were allocated for the first time in 2006 for **remediating lead pollution in the Upper Mežica Valley**. Based on the programme of measures for 2006, drafted by a team of experts, the roads and macadam roads in the vicinity of residential objects are getting repaved. The measure costs some SIT 120m (EUR 500,000). Equipment for lead monitoring in the valley is also being purchased. The monitoring, expected to start in 2007, will provide detailed data on air pollution and the reduction of such pollution, giving data for drafting a similar programme of measures for the coming years and supervising the effects of the implemented measures.

A gradual elimination of old dumps is one of the basic goals of waste management, as envisaged by the National Environmental Action Plan and set by strategic documents. Several projects form the key objectives within the framework of a national environmental strategy regarding remediation of uncontrolled dumps and issues from the past. These projects include **completion of remediation of bitumen dump in Pesnica, Studenci and Bohova, regulation of the Metava hazardous waste dump, remediation of the Globovnik dump and remediation of those household waste landfills** that are destined to **close by 2008** in line with the



regional waste management plans, alongside the remediation of other issues. The state budget allocated means for remediation and closure of household waste dumps already in 2005. The Ministry concluded co-funding contracts to the tune of **SIT 361,500m (EUR 1.51m)** with the investors (municipalities) based on the funds already allocated. The dumps of Pobrežje-Maribor, Graščak-Slovenske Konjice and Muta-Radlje ob Dravi, which were destined for closure in line with the operational programme, were completely funded by the municipalities. Waste is not longer deposited on them. The following investments were concluded in 2006: Vranoviči-Črnomelj, Neža-Trbovlje, Kamnolom Zagorje-Zagorje ob Savi, Unično-Hrastnik; planned for completion in 2007 are Bočka-Metlika, Spodnji Stari Grad-Krško, Dobova-Brežice and Širjava-Litija.

Remediation of a bitumen dump in Pesnica

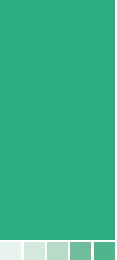
The Ministry and the Petrol company signed in March 2004 an **agreement on the remediation of the bitumen dump in Pesniški dvor pri Mariboru**. The agreement follows the provisions of the Environment Protection Act and the Act Governing the Use of Funds Reserved on a Long-Term Basis for Environmental Rehabilitation. The contracting value, based on the offer by the subcontractor amounts to SIT 2.26bn (EUR 9.43m), with Petrol accounting for over SIT 1bn (EUR 4.17m). The subcontractor Gorenje d.d. acquired the construction permit and launched works which should be completed in 2008.

Waste Management

Based on the demands of the operational programme of waste elimination with the aim of reducing the amount of biodegradable waste several important objects for waste management were constructed in 2006. These include **collecting facilities for waste management** in several municipalities throughout Slovenia. The majority of Slovenian municipalities are implementing separate waste collecting at the source and are setting up suitable infrastructure. All the abovementioned projects were financed mainly from environmental taxes and duties and municipality budgets.

Apart from these buildings, **regional waste management centres**, such as Bukovžlak for the Savinjsko region, Puconci for the Pomurje, the Dolenjsko regional centre, Zasavje and the Koroško regional centre, are also under construction. All these centres will be financed from environmental taxes and duties, EU funds, as well as state and local community budgets. We are also cooperating in talks on positioning a regional waste management centre for the Gorenjsko region and the Obalno Kraska region as well as the Severno Primorsko region.

In order to reduce the amount of deposited biodegradable waste and to make sure that only suitably treated other waste is deposited, the **Decree on the landfill of waste** was adopted. In order



to divert waste from dumps into being reused, recycled and transformed, thus protecting the nature, two decrees were passed. The first, the **Decree on the management of packaging and packaging waste** defines the rules in production and shipping as well as the use of packaging and waste packaging, and the **Decree on the management of waste electronic and electric equipment**, which regulates the area of managing such equipment. Both decrees imposed the principle that the manufacturer or the seller has to guarantee that the product, which turns into waste after use, is treated in such a manner throughout its lifespan so as not to damage the environment. **Decree on the management of waste plant protection products that contain hazardous substances**, regulates the area of managing such waste. Such waste is partially included among the hazardous household waste, and partially into farming waste. Such waste, being hazardous, moreover cannot be deposited on dumps, but rather incinerated. The Ministry is also drafting a **Decree on the management of waste medicaments**, which will regulate the area of waste medicine management in household use, as well as in medicinal and veterinary use. This rule aims at securing proper handling of such waste, which are also not allowed to be deposited.

In 2006 the **system of managing used car tyres** was amended in such a way as to include an **environmental tax** for pollution, caused by tyre wear and tear. Under the changes **the owners of worn tyres do not have to pay for their recycling or removal when they are handed over to a mechanic**. Rather they pay the cost as an environmental tax when purchasing a new tyre, while the expenses of performing the public service are covered by the budget, also the recipient for the means gathered through the environmental tax.

The exact system was implemented for used motor vehicles in December 2005. The last owner of the car can now get rid of his vehicle for free at special reception points, while the car's destruction is paid for by money collected through an environmental tax, paid at the sale of a new vehicle.

Waste Waters

Several important water treatment plants began operating in 2006, including the ones in Bled, Šaleška dolina, Radovljica, Slovenj Gradec as well as several smaller water treatment plants. All larger capacity water treatment plants (over 2,000 p.e. and together having a capacity of 1.6 million p.e.) have a nominal capacity of 2.2 million p.e. They also treat (or are planned to treat) household waste waters from smaller communities and waste waters from several larger industrial buildings.

Also adopted were changes and amendments to the Decree on environmental tax for environmental pollution caused by household waste water discharge. The changes allow municipalities that, based on their own initiative, exempt such buildings from paying this tax that



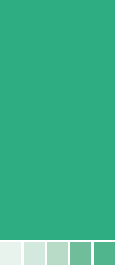
will by 2015 not be connected to the public sewage system, meaning that the discharge and treatment of waste water from such buildings will not be co-funded by the money gathered through the environmental tax. The owners of the buildings that will be exempt from paying the tax, however, have to fulfil certain conditions. The public service for discharge and treatment of household waste water has to be regulated and organised in a set manner, a task for the municipality to enforce. Such measures and regulation of discharge and treatment have to be put into force that would prevent the discharge of untreated (or inadequately treated) household waste water. To ensure compliance, the municipality has to draft a suitable programme of discharge and treatment of household waste water in the areas where such buildings stand and also enforce its implementation.

Waters

The Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia began preparations for an extensive **project of a System for integral monitoring of the water conditions in Slovenia**. A system of monitoring of bodies of water, which will include measurement networks for monitoring the elements that have to be aligned and comparable with EU demands, has to be put into place in line with the demands of the EU Water Framework Directive. The project also stresses the monitoring of the ecological condition of surface waters and monitoring the quantity and chemical condition of subterranean waters. A system for monitoring, predicting and timely warning of flooding will also be established, in line with the guideline for flood assessment and control. The investment is worth a total of EUR 25m. According to the plan, the project would have to be completed in the 2007–2013 period. So far the suitable documents were gathered and a case study and investment programme are about to get drafted. These documents present the basis for drafting the tender documentation that would allow the Ministry to apply for various EU funds.

In line with a new methodology, the **Report on the quality of subterranean water in Slovenia in 2004 and 2005** was drafted. The assessment of the situation for water bodies was made according to the demands of the Framework Water Directive. The report moreover includes data on the quality of tap water, giving a more thorough assessment on the situation of subterranean water in Slovenia.

Also adopted was the **Decree on the detailed content and method of drawing up a water management plan** which defines the contents and the ways of drafting the Water Management Plan (WMP) in more detail. The provisions of the decree concern the drafting of the WMP in water management areas as well as drafting more detailed WMPs. The drafted **Decree on the conditions and limitations of construction in flood risk areas** which sets the restrictions



and conditions for construction in such areas in line with the level of flood risk, will form the basis for issuing water permits and for planning spatial use in flood areas. The published **Rules on the methodology for determining flooding and connected erosion areas** meanwhile set the methodology for defining flooding and connected erosion areas in line with the European legislative methodology. Based on the methodology, the preparations for defining important areas that are at risk from flooding will begin on a national level. On the local level, the preparations for defining such areas of local importance will meanwhile begin as part of drafting the spatial plans. The purpose of defining flood areas is to reduce the risk to the people, environment, economic activities and cultural heritage from floods, based on a comprehensive plan of measures for construction and non-construction activities which are based on analyses of economic efficiency and justification.

Several national spatial plans for carrying out major investments in constructing water infrastructure for increasing flood security are being drafted:

- **Regulating the Dravinja stream between Stogovci and Koritno;** adoption of the national location plan decree: July 2008, construction could begin in 2009,
- **Guaranteeing flood safety of the SW part of Ljubljana;** adoption of the national location plan decree: December 2007, construction could begin in 2009
- **Guaranteeing flood safety in the Lower Savinjska valley;** adoption of the national location plan decree: July 2008, construction could begin in 2010,
- **Regulating the Savinja river for ensuring flood safety of urban areas between Ločica ob Savinji and Letuš;** adoption of the national location plan decree: July 2008, construction could begin in 2010,

Removing the Consequences of Natural Disasters

1. Removing the Consequences of Earthquakes

The plan for remediating the consequences of the **1998 earthquake** was given reconstruction funds amounting to **SIT 850m (EUR 3.55m)** in 2006, while the plan for remediating the consequences of the **2004 earthquake** was allocated **SIT 650m (EUR 2.71m)**.

2. Removing the Consequences of Large Scale Landslides

Removing the consequences of large scale landslides is based on the provisions of the Act on the Measures to be Taken to Repair the Damage Caused by Certain Large-Scale Landslides in 2000 and 2001 (OJ of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 03/06). The plans are in line with the adopted yearly programmes for removing the consequences of the following individual landslides: **Stovže** in the Bovec municipality, **Macesnik** in the Solčava municipality, **Slano blato** in the Ajdovščina municipality, **Strug** in the Kobarid municipality, **Podmark** in the Šempeter-Vrtojba



municipality, **Gradišče** and **Šmihel** in the Nova Gorica municipality.

Based on the adopted programmes of measures to remove the consequences of individual landslides, funds were allocated for the following completed projects in **2006**:

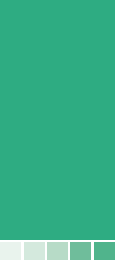
- Maintaining a **monitoring system** of possible landslide sites, including the maintenance of alarm systems, geodetic monitoring of landslide movement, periodic measurements of inclinations and measurements of precipitation and water flows.
- Emergency activities for stopping and preventing expansion of landslides during the implementation of the measures:
 - o **At the Stože landslide**, the bed of the Predelica stream in the area of the new bridge in Log pod Mangartom, until the Predelica flows into the Koritnica was regulated,
 - o **At the Macesnik landslide** the construction of two AB treenail wells got underway at a turn of the panoramic Solčava-Sleme road,
 - o **At the Slano blato landslide**, the construction of four AB treenail wells on the left flank of the landslide and the urgent drainage at the upper part of the landslide are under construction.
- Within the programme of drafting spatial plans for infrastructure on landslide impact areas, expert bases were completed in 2006, proposals were drafted and spatial plans were adopted for the **Gradišče** and **Šmihel** landslides in the Nova Gorica municipality,
- Spatial plans for the impact areas of the **Macesnik** and **Slano blato** landslides were not yet completed, due to constant terrain changes,
- The impact areas of landslides for which spatial plans were adopted – **Stovže, Strug, Podmark, Gradišče** and **Šmihel** – project documentation is being drafted that will serve as the basis for acquiring spatial permissions.

The abovementioned projects were allocated **SIT 521m (EUR 2.17m)** from the 2006 state budget.

3. Removing the Consequences of Floods in October 2004 and Storms in July–August 2005

The passed Programme of Removing the Consequences of Floods and other Damage Caused by Storms on 9, 10 and 31 October 2004 secured **a total of SIT 500m (EUR 2.08m)**, from the budget reserves. The ministry concluded contracts in April 2006 with the municipalities concerned regarding the allocation of funds for reconstructing the municipal road and civil services infrastructure and remediating landslides as well as renovating the buildings and farmlands in private ownership. The programme will be carried out by the end of 2006.

The passed First Partial Programme of Removing the Consequences of Floods and other Da-



mage Caused by Hailstorms in Slovenia on 22 July and between 21 and 24 August 2005, secured **a total of SIT 505m (EUR 2.1m)**, from the budget reserves. The ministry concluded contracts in May 2006 with the municipalities concerned regarding the allocation of funds for reconstructing the municipal road and civil services infrastructure, renovation of municipal buildings and remediation landslides as well as renovating buildings in private ownership. The programme will be carried out by the end of 2006.

4. Removing the Consequences of Small and Medium Scale Landslides

The passing of the Plan of Urgent Remediation Measures and Geological and Geomechanical Surveys for Drafting Urgent Measures on Certain Landslides in 2006 secured **a total of SIT 664m (EUR 2.77m)**, from the state budget for co-funding the elimination of consequences of 26 landslides.

5. Implementation of Urgent Measures at the Paneče Landslide in the Laško Municipality

A larger scale earthquake was triggered in the town of Paneče, Laško municipality, on 30 May 2005. The Slovenian government allocated **SIT 126m (EUR 527,000)** for urgent measures to contain the expansion and deepening of the landslide. The measures were executed in line with the allocated funds.

Emission Coupon Trading

The National Environmental Agency launched the emission coupon registry on 28 November 2005. Emission coupon trading is available both for the operators of equipment as well as other private and corporate law entities. The register includes 98 accounts of equipment operators and 7 accounts by private and corporate legal entities. Free trading with emission coupons can be seen by over 100 completed transactions within a year since the registry began operating, pointing to the trading having expanded beyond Slovenian borders.

The government adopted the Proposal for the National Scheme of Emission Coupon Distribution for the Period 2008–2012, the basic document which will allow the ministry in charge of environment protection to distribute emission coupons by the end of 2007. The Scheme will be valid from 1 January 2008 through to 31 December 2012. The Proposal of the National Scheme includes all the objects for whom their operators secured by 1 January 2006 the permit for greenhouse gases emissions and the operating permit in line with the rules on construction of buildings (95 buildings) that cause greenhouse gases emissions.



Nature

Protected areas. The Decree on the Kolpa Regional Park was passed and a new public institution was established as the park operator. An agreement was signed with the municipalities, located on the Ljubljansko barje marshlands on setting up a Ljubljansko barje Landscape Park. The decree on the park and a plan for its management is currently being drafted. The Logarska d.o.o. company, acting as a coordinator in establishing a new park, drafted the theses for a decree that would set up the park in the area of the Kamniško-Savinjske Alpe mountain range.

The Ministry prepared a draft of an **Operational Programme and Action Plan for Maintaining Biotic Diversity within the Natura 2000 Areas Management Programme** which sets the measures for maintaining biotic diversity for the 2007-2013 period. A total of 214 types and 60 habitats of European significance are present in Slovenia that fall under the scope of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive which aim at preserving the areas of the Natura 200 Programme. This brings Slovenia to the top of the EU-25 list.

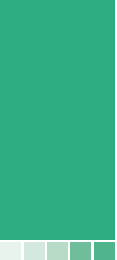
National Seismological Network

A total of 26 seismologic observatories currently operate in Slovenia. These include local networks and the data processing centre on Golovec, near Ljubljana. The Golovec facility functions as an observatory and a back-up data processing centre. The national seismological observation points network has been completed and is already in the testing phase. The automatic calculation of basic earthquake parameters, such as the exact time of the earthquake, the distance to the epicentre, its coordinates and magnitude measurements allow for a much faster notifications of the public and the relevant bodies, as preliminary data appears on the screen within minutes after the event. The network will also improve the accuracy of the final calculations.

Nuclear Safety

The system for monitoring external ionising radiation has been completed. The EUR 735,319 for **updating and modernising the national early warning network (EWN)** were allocated by the budget and the PHARE programme. The National Environmental Agency made available the existing infrastructure on meteorological observation points and secured data transfer. The data is processed by the National Nuclear Safety Administration, which maintains day and night readiness and serves as the consulting body to the National Civil Protection Office in case of radiological accidents. A total of 71 stations for measuring external ionising radiation are currently operating in Slovenia.

The country also successfully presented its report at the May 2006 **review meeting after the**



Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel and Radioactive Waste Management, which took place at the seat of IAEA in Vienna. The discussion that followed the report was used by the meeting's chairing committee to draft a final report. The report praised Slovenia for having suitably regulated the issue. The report also states that Slovenia is facing several important challenges, such as the construction of a permanent storage of low and medium radioactive waste, the strategy for decommissioning the TRIGA reactor. The country also has some model solutions, such as including the public in the search for the storage and monitoring of ionising radiation.

Slovenia was elected a full time member of the 35-strong **Council of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** for the 2005-2007 period. Slovenia's Ambassador to Austria Ernest Petrič took over as the president of the Council in the 2006-2007 period, a great honour and recognition for Slovenia. The National Nuclear Safety Administration was asked by the IAEA to help in the **VIND project by advising in the management of administrative procedures and establishing an administrative regime in the Republic of Serbia.**

Biotechnology

The legislative framework for the area of biological safety as part of the Management of Genetically Modified Organisms Act (GMOs) was completed in the last two years. The biological safety information system was created. The system acts in support of administrative procedures and the GMO register. It will be available to the public on the Internet in the beginning of 2007.

Monitoring of imports of seeds from third countries was in the focus in 2006. A total of 15 samples of maize seed and 5 samples of oil rape were collected. Coincidental evidence of GMOs (less than 0.1%) was found only in two samples of maize, resulting in the withdrawal of both types of seeds from the Slovenian market. Analysis results also show that seeds from third countries do not contain GMO seeds, as both positive samples were imported to Slovenia from EU member states.

Municipal Environment Protection Programmes (MEPP)

The Environment Protection Act tasks the municipalities with drafting environment protection plans and operational plans for their local communities (Article 38). These programmes have to be in line with the **National Environment Protection Programme** and all operational environment protection programmes, national and regional development programmes and policies and international environmental obligations. The Ministry organised a series of workshops for Slovenia's 11 urban municipalities. The basic objective of the municipalities was to hold consultations with experts who are employed on environment protection in city administrations and set up the contextual frame of MEEPs. The Ministry drafted the recommendations for preparing MEEPs in



2006. The Ljubljana city municipality is carrying out a pilot project of drafting the programme.

Climate Change

The Slovenian committee for climate change issues held two sessions in 2006 (March and October). The committee dealt with various issues, including the drafting of the fourth national report within the frame of the climate convention and the Kyoto Protocol, amendments to the Operational programme for limiting greenhouse gas emissions, the issue of transport from the standpoint of greenhouse gases emission, and the proposal of Slovenia's positions for the Nairobi meeting.

The 4th National Report and the Report on Visible Progress of Slovenia in Meeting the Kyoto Protocol Objectives were drafted and sent to the secretariat of the Climate Convention. Slovenia, alongside other EU members was actively involved in drafting the positions for the 12th conference of the signatories to the Climate Convention (COP12) and the second meeting of the signatories of the Kyoto Protocol (MOP2) that took place in November in Nairobi. Slovenia also actively participated in drafting the conclusions of the environmental council on climate change.

Slovenia is Reducing CO₂ Emissions

The Ministry, in cooperation with the British Embassy and the British Council, designed the "Slovenia Reduces CO₂" initiative. The initiative wants to present the facts on climate change, highlight good practices in their prevention, mitigation and adjustments, as well as inform about the events that focus on the issue. At the same time we want to facilitate as many small steps towards reducing CO₂ emissions as possible. The messages of the joint activity are mainly meant for those, who have the most power to act and change the current trend of rising emissions, especially the decision makers. "Slovenia Reduces CO₂" addresses politicians, business representatives, heads of various public establishments and institutions, mayors, farmers, experts, transport and energy officials and all others who can influence climate change through their activities.

A total of 10 major events, consultations and conferences were carried out in 2006, attended by around 800 people. The SeverJugVzhodZahod (NorthSouthEastWest) exhibition, staged by the National Technical Museum in Bistra pri Vrhniki was meanwhile visited by around 30,000 children. As part of the initiative, we have launched the <http://www.slovenija-co2.si/> website and published a booklet entitled "Imate moč. Pokažite še modrost." (You Have the Power. Show Wisdom as Well). One of the most important events was the visit by Elliot Morley, Prime Minister Tony Blair's special representative for the Gleneagles dialogue on climate change within the G8 group. The project will be continued in 2007.

Space

Spatial Planning Bill

The spatial planning bill was drafted with the aim to streamline activities, necessary funds and shorten the procedures of drafting and passing spatial laws. This will also shorten the time necessary for carrying out individual investments.

The Spatial Planning Bill, adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on 16 November 2006, regulates anew the area of spatial planning. The remaining areas, covered by the old Spatial Regulation Act, will gradually be replaced with individual acts that will constitute a spatial code of laws.

The Spatial Planning Bill deals with the following areas:

- **National and municipal spatial acts** which will guarantee higher quality of spatial solutions and fundamentally facilitate the activities of municipalities,
- **Procedures for drafting and passing spatial laws**, including their impact on the environment. The procedures will be shorter than they are now,
- Establishing a **spatial information system**, to allow the municipalities and other spatial bodies a quick and free access to all necessary spatial information,
- **Equipping building plots with the necessary public infrastructure.**

Act Amending the Real Estate Agencies Act

The changes and amendments of the act mainly deal with provisions that bring greater protection for consumers. An important novelty is the obligation of an investor in construction on the market to have employed qualified personnel, who have acquired the license of a property agent. The changes also define the obligatory parts of a real estate contract in more detail, the duration of such contracts, etc. Professional exams and checking additional training qualifications will be carried out in line with the legislation that regulates national vocational qualifications. The act was passed by the Slovenian National Assembly in June 2006.



Real-Estate Recording Act

The Real-Estate Recording Act is based on: Simplifying the procedures for entering property into property registers, ensuring completeness of data in such registers and gradual improvement of quality of property data. The act brings new registers, a multi-purpose property register as a public record of all immovables, including data on flats and their owners, users, tenants and managers. The act was passed by the Slovenian National Assembly in April 2006.

Act Amending the National Housing Saving Scheme Act


The Act Amending the National Housing Saving Scheme Act entered into force in March 2006. The act changes the scheme from a general savings scheme into a household savings scheme, i.e. purpose-based saving. The amendments allow participation in the scheme for a period of at least 5 and at most 10 years and offer the chance to extend the saving to the existing participants in the scheme. The state's loan, added to the savings from the scheme, will be available for use two years after the end of savings. Before the loan could be used one year after the end of the scheme. The amendments also reset the right for young families to acquire certain non-reimbursable funds (grants) when they are trying to get a place to live in for the first time. The grant is available for the families in the duration of 8 years at the most. In the first four years the families will be entitled to EUR 160 per family member and EUR 100 per family member in the last four years.

Act Amending the Act on Construction

The Environment and Spatial Planning Ministry began drafting changes and amendments to the Act on Construction as part of drafting the Spatial Planning Act. The changes and amendments to the Act on Construction will also harmonise the contents that are directly linked with the contents of the Spatial Planning Act, eliminate uncertainties that allowed for differing interpretations of the act and change certain parts that have proven not to be optimal. The objective that we are pursuing through the changes is speeding up all the procedures, make them more transparent and simple and reduce the amount of the necessary documentation accordingly for acquiring building and usage permits to such an extent that would still fulfil the conditions relating to basic characteristics of all building, an issue that is without a doubt in the national interest.

Adopted National Spatial Plan (NSP) Decrees for:

1. The Pluska-Ponikve motorway section (OJ RS 78/06)
2. The Ponikve-Hrastje motorway section (OJ RS 85/06)

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3. The Gruškovje international border crossing-border with the Republic of Croatia motorway section (OJ RS 71/06)
 4. The Naklo motorway connection (OJ RS 4/06)
 5. The Mengeš-Žeje main road section (OJ RS 94/06)
 6. The postponement of the main G-16 road and the R2 404 regional road in the Ilirska Bistrica area (OJ RS 83/06)
 7. the Starod international border crossing (OJ RS 37/06)
 8. the Dragonja international border crossing (OJ RS 73/06)
 9. the Središče ob Dravi international border crossing (OJ RS 65/06)
 10. the 2x400 kV Beričevo-Krško power line (OJ RS 5/06)
 11. the Krško Hydro power plant (OJ RS 103/06)
 12. the Ajdovščina compressor station (OJ RS 55/06)
 13. the remediation of the Šmihel landslide impact area in the Nova Gorica municipality (OJ RS 81/06)
 14. the remediation of the Gradišče nad Prvačino landslide impact area in the Nova Gorica municipality (OJ RS 83/06)

Adopted Decrees on Changes to the National Spatial Plan (NSP) for:

15. the parallel gas pipeline M 1/1 in the Kidričevo-Rogatec section (OJ RS 34/06)
16. The Razdrto-Vipava dual carriageway (OJ RS 75/06)

Supervision of Municipal Spatial Planning Acts

The Spatial Planning Supervision Office reviewed 85 "final" versions of the adopted decrees on changes and amendments to the municipal spatial planning acts, 30 more than in 2005. These plans were deemed as in line with the national obligatory positions by the Slovenian government by July 2004. The part of the review that deals with the supervision of the legality of acts drafted by local communities on the basis of Article 64 of the Act on Public Administration (Official Journal of the RS, 24/05 – official final version; hereinafter APA-1), discovered 36 (28) irregularities and discrepancies and issued as many warnings.

A total of 285 (120) various responses or explanations were given to individuals, civil initiatives, municipalities and various state bodies, including the National Assembly. The responses mainly dealt with the rights of individuals in the procedures of drafting spatial acts, on the distribution of authority between the municipality and the state in the area of spatial planning and the procedures of drafting and adopting spatial planning acts.



Property Registry

Successful preparations for a property census which is aimed at securing better accuracy of property registers, simplify the procedure of entering a property into mapping and land registers and in a more transparent property market.

Mass Valuation of Property


The Real Property Mass - Appraisal Act was passed in 2006. The act which falls under the competence of the Finance Ministry but will be carried out by the National Surveying and Mapping Authority, aims at establishing a new system that would guarantee transparency of the property market on the basis of a new public registry of immovables and at calculating general market values for all property in the state in order to establish a suitable system for setting the tax basis for a new property tax. The new system will give access to data on the property market to all state bodies, local communities, owners and other users as of 2007. This will furthermore create the conditions for monitoring the prices at the property market, based on the real and not nominal prices on the market. It will also allow for decision making in the areas of land, household, tax and other policies, based on empiric analyses. Property valuation models were finalised in 2006 and are ready for the first calculation of property values in 2007. The models are based on property market data between 2003–2006 which was gathered and analysed in 2006. The data was used for setting the trends and indexes of property price growth in Slovenia.

Topographical System

A collective land registry of economic public infrastructure was established in 2005. The registry is used to collect all basic data on buildings and infrastructure of the water, sewage, road, heating and energy systems as well as of electronic communication and other infrastructure, in public use in Slovenia. The data on public infrastructure buildings, which are entered into the registry, is available on the Internet, greatly facilitating the work of all those, who regularly require such data. By the end of 2006, the registry will include the majority of public infrastructure buildings of both, national (state roads, railways, gas pipelines, power grid) and local importance (municipal roads, water pipes, sewage system, gas pipelines and heating).

National Surveying and Mapping System

A network of permanent global positioning system SIGNAL was set up. The network allows various location services and better establishing of locations on the basis of the GPS signal, which will in the future be the signal of the Galileo European navigation system. The preparations for a new European system of coordinates were launched. The system is of key importance



for all data, phenomena and registries which are defined in space. The National Surveying and Mapping Authority received EUR 1.8m in aid from the Norwegian Government to set up the national system of coordinates.

Data Publication

In 2006 the National Surveying and Mapping Authority provided data in printed form and expanded the scope of services and data available on the Internet. It issued 140,000 certificates, 390,000 copies of maps in analogue, printed or digital format, 600,000 addresses, over 150,000,000 information on plots and buildings, etc. Web-based services are used by the general public as well as registered users of the web portal and institutions – mainly public administration bodies, who use their proprietary information systems to link to the distribution system of spatial data.

A free search and display engine for mapping data was enhanced. The system allows all users to check mapping data and search for the desired location by using an address or a geographical name. Over 2,500 registered users use the service of the web portal <http://prostor.gov.si>.

The Internet application that allows data access for registered users from October onwards also offers an option to prepare a certificate from mapping data – plans of plots, tenure sheet, plot description, building information and data on the address. Access to the application was also granted to public administrative units which now have the possibility to issue certificates from mapping registers. The users can also acquire a plan of the plot or a tenure sheet at the administrative unit.

In line with the INSPIRE Directive, which will soon task Slovenia with certain obligations in the area of ensuring spatial data for the EU as well, a prototype of a spatial portal was developed. The portal will present an entry point for all users, not only for mapping but also for spatial data. It will serve as a national geodetic portal. An ISO 19115 standard for meta data is being developed, alongside services, used for distribution, meaning the services that Slovenia will have to offer for domestic spatial data users and EU bodies after the passing of the INSPIRE Directive.

Energy

Energy Act

The Act on Changes and Amendments to the Energy Act was passed in November 2006. The part of the document, important for the Ministry in the area of energy, transposes the directive of energy efficiency of buildings. The act brings obligations for drafting feasibility studies for alternative systems for larger buildings, issuing energy cards for buildings and regular check-ups of air conditioning systems.

The other major novelty in the act is the addition of an extra duty for the use of power grid networks. This duty will be used for financing programmes for promoting efficient energy use and better utilisation of renewable energy sources. The duty will be deposited on a special account of the Environmental Fund of the Republic of Slovenia. The Ministry will issue regular yearly reports to the government on the implementation of these programmes.


Promoting Efficient Energy Use and the Use of Renewable Energy Sources

Raising Awareness and Informing

Apart from six issues of the "Učinkovito z energijo" (Efficient Use of Energy) bulletin and a special web site, several information, awareness-raising and promotional projects were cofinanced and many information publications were published. Awards were also handed out to energy efficient companies, energy efficient projects and energy managers.

Energy Counselling for Citizens

Individuals were, also in 2006, given free counselling within the ENSVET energy counselling network in 34 offices throughout Slovenia, which employed some 65 energy counsellors. A network of consulting offices, based on an agreement between the ministry and the municipality, was also involved in other activities, such as helping individuals in drafting investment programmes in order to apply for the relevant tenders for grants or loans. A total of 6,000



counselling sessions were carried out in 2006 and the energy counsellors published some 170 articles in local newspapers as well as took part in radio and TV shows.

Promoting Quality Investments

Within the frame of **financial incentives for investment** a total of 11 **energy inspections of companies and institutions**, worth SIT 13m (EUR 54,248) were co-financed. A total of 12 contracts, worth SIT 3.5m (EUR 14,605) were concluded within the frame of co-funding **feasibility studies for projects on efficient energy use, use of renewable energy sources and cogeneration of heat and electricity**. Drafting the **municipality energy schemes** included 23 contracts worth SIT 63m (EUR 262,894).

Investment

Cohesion Fund

Implementation of investment projects of environmental household infrastructure, cofunded by the Cohesion Fund (the means from the IPSA until 1 May 2004) and the state budget is progressing in line with the schedule, set in contracts. The drawing of national and European funds was carried out in line with the plan in 2006. **The value of executed cohesion projects in 2006 amounts to SIT 4.7bn (EUR 19.61m)**, with the Cohesion Fund contributing SIT 2.2bn (EUR 9.2m). The Republic of Slovenia contributed SIT 1.2bn (EUR 5m), while the rest was gathered through duties and municipality contributions.

The following **projects** were **completed** in 2006: Main water treatment plant and water collector in Celje, Lendava sewage system, main water treatment plant in Velenje (water supply and treatment of waste water in the Paka-Šaleška vally area), comprehensive water network and water sources protection of the Trnovsko-Banjiška plateau, main water treatment plant in Slovenj Gradec and the sewage system in Obrežje.

The following projects are **still being carried out**:

- The waste management centre for the Dolenjska region, Puconci, Bukov žlak – phases 1 and 2,
- Drainage and treatment of waste waters: Water treatment plant and sewage system for the town of Dravograd and the Mislinja stream, water treatment plants for the lower Sava watershed (Sevnica, Krško, Brežice), middle Sava watershed (Litija, Zagorje, Trbovlje, Hrastnik), Krka watershed, coastal sea watershed (Koper, Izola, Piran) and for the municipality of Tržič (including a renovation of the water supply network)
- Protection of water sources and drinking water supply: Integral protection of the Ptujsko and Ljubljansko area groundwater, integral protection of water sources and drinking water supply for the Nela Krajina, Trnovsko-Banjška plateau and Goriška Brda areas.

Co-funding Environmental Public Services Infrastructure

The co-funding includes projects, financed in part by the state budget, which were chosen at

a public call for applications for preparing and implementing a programme of co-funding the construction of public services infrastructure in the area of environment protection for the 2004-2006 period (OJ RS 13/03). A total of 18 investment projects of local public services infrastructure in the area of environment protection were co-funded in 2006. They include drinking water supply, drainage and treatment of household waste waters and waste management. SIT **513m (EUR 2.14m)** were allocated and paid for these projects in 2006.

The following **projects have been completed**:

- Water treatment plants in the towns of Radovljica, Žužemberk and Sv. Florijan;
- IV and V landfill for household waste at Barje near Ljubljana (phase II) and the Centre for Waste Management in Spuhlja (part of phase I.)
- Sewage systems in the towns of: Koroška Bela, Draženci, Spodnja in Zgornja Hajdina, Spuhlja, Spodnja in Zgornja gorica, Benedikt, Prvačina, Spodnji Duplek, Pesnica pri Mariboru, Jačka Logatec;
- Water systems and networks in the towns of: Ruše, Logatec, Javorniški Rovt.

Water Fund

Investment projects into water infrastructure for guaranteeing flood security and regulating the water regime were worth a total of SIT 3.2bn (EUR 13.35m). Apart from investment and maintenance works, the following larger projects have been or are still being carried out as part of the Water Fund.

- Remediation of the Škocjanski Zatok Nature Reserve: removing sediments from the Škocjanski zatok lagoon and water management remediation of the area,
- Reconstruction and construction of levees alongside the Mura river: Mura LB Dokležovje – Kučnica and Mura DB Cven – Vučja vas, phase 1
- The Ledava Mura repository from km 5+590 until km 7+540, increasing the height and sealing ability of the levee,
- Regulating the Medija stream in the area of relocated regional road through the town of Zagorje,
- Renovating the Rinža river gate in the town of Kočevje,
- Regulating the Sušica stream in the town of Podbočje,
- Drilling an exploratory well for drinking water sources for the Slovenian coast,
- Regulating the Hudinja stream in the town of Vojnik,
- Regulating the Kamniška Bistrica river between the bridge in Bišče and the Jub dam,
- Upgrading the hydrological network of water flow measurement stations,
- Construction of the national and local water infrastructure as part of the Boštanj hydro power plant construction,



Maintenance works on public services used up a total of SIT 1.2bn (EUR 5m). The money was also used for carrying out larger maintenance works at the Mura flood levee between the towns of Banovci and Petišovci. Works on the levee between Kot and Hotiza are still being carried out.

Investments into Efficient Energy Use and the Use of Renewable Energy Sources

Financial incentives for investments into efficient energy use (EEU) and the use of renewable energy sources (RES) totalled SIT 457m (EUR 1.9m) in 2005, which resulted in SIT 1.7bn (EUR 7.09m) of investments. The investments reduced the use of fossil fuels by around 28,000 MWh and resulted in decreasing CO₂ emissions by some 9,800 tonnes a year (according to preliminary assessments).

Financial incentives in 2006 were used for:

- **Investments in increasing the energy efficiency of 9 older multi-storey buildings.** The average incentive for an individual investment stood at SIT 442,000 (EUR 1,844).
- **Use of renewable energy sources in households.** A total of 788 solar water heating systems, 185 heat pumps for central heating and 5 photovoltaic systems were installed.
- **Energy use of biomass for households.** A total of 539 wood biomass central heating furnaces were installed, including 334 that use wood, 164 which use pallets and 41 that run on chopped wood.

The Environmental Fund of the Republic of Slovenia, a public fund granted a total of **SIT 8.3bn (EUR 34.63m)** in loans, including 34 loans **worth SIT 4.94bn (EUR 20.61m)** for companies and entrepreneurs and 1,515 loans worth **SIT 3.37bn (EUR 14.02)** to citizens. A total of 1,420 loan contracts for investments into environment protection were signed in the period, worth SIT 7bn (EUR 29.21m).

The structure of the 29 loan contracts, which were signed with private law entities and entrepreneurs in 2006 and amounted to SIT 3.95bn (EUR 16.48m), shows that almost 79% of the funds were allocated for investments in preventing air pollution and climate change. The majority of the contracts were signed for co-production involving biomass and reducing the use of energy in industry. Some 13% of contracts were signed for prevention of water pollution and less than 9% for waste management. A similar structure can be observed in the 1,391 loan contracts, which were signed with individual citizens. These contracts amounted to some SIT 3bn (EUR 12.51m). The largest chunk of the loans (68%) went for investments in preventing air and climate protection. The majority of the funds was used for installing doors and windows, heat insulation and installation of heat pumps. Loans for replacing and suitably dumping asbestos

roof tiles amounted to almost 30% of all loans signed with citizens.

Four projects of distance wood biomass heating worth SIT 545m (EUR 2.27m) were cofunded in 2006 within the frame of the Global Environment Facility – GEF project "**Removing Barriers to the Increased Use of Biomass as an Energy Source**". Two of the projects were carried out in Mozirje, while one was carried out in Luče and the last in Loče. The projects were cofunded with SIT 405m (EUR 1.69m), contributed by the Republic of Slovenia as capital shares, grants by the Ministry and loans by the Environmental Fund of the Republic of Slovenia. The projects are expected to reduce CO₂ emissions by 1,438 tonnes per year. The investment into a wood biomass distance heating project in the municipality of Črnomelj, worth SIT 485m (EUR 2.02m) is nearing completion. Project documentation was drafted for a similar system in the Todraž industrial zone in the Gorenja Vas-Poljane municipality and wood biomass heating projects for two buildings in the Triglav National Park.

A number of other activities were also carried out within the framework of the GEF project:

- A draft "Operational Plan of Wood Biomass Energy Use (OP WENU)" is being prepared. OP WENU will be submitted for public discussion by the end of 2006;
- Two analyses on wood biomass use for heating secondary schools and homes for the elderly have also been drafted. A total of 19 secondary schools and extracurricular activities centres and a group of 29 homes for the elderly were analysed in cooperation with the Education Ministry and the Labour, Family and Social Affairs Ministry;
- A pilot project on contracting of wood heating, carried out by a group of farmers, is being drafted in cooperation with the Triglav National Park and the National Forestry Institute;
- An international seminar entitled "Contracting of Wood Biomass Energy Supply in Europe" was organised; The seminar was attended by over 120 representatives of companies and potential contractors, municipalities, the state, advisory and project establishments, schools, homes for the elderly, forestry, farming and energy consultants.
- Two training events were organised for over 100 investors, project managers and advisors, entitled "Quality Management in Planning and Installing Wood Boilers";
- The programming tools have been drafted for a comprehensive environmental and economic evaluation of projects that aim to use renewable sources on the reduction of the emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants. The programming tools are known as VEM (Valuation of Effects of Projects of Renewable Energy Sources on Greenhouse Gases Emissions),
- A web portal with data on wood biomass potentials on a municipality level was set up at the ww.gov.si/zgs/biomasa1 address. The website is intended for spreading information on wood as an energy source, presenting modern technologies of acquiring, processing and using wood for energy purposes and presenting the potentials of wood biomass on the level of an individual municipality.

European and international affairs


EU Presidency Preparations

The Ministry is heavily involved in the process of preparations for Slovenia's presidency over the EU Council. It takes part in drafting the presidency programme, including the presidency calendar in the areas under the Ministry, as well as the comprehensive personnel and logistics plans.

Numerous activities are being carried out within this frame. They range from meetings of environment ministers within the EU presiding troika which is drafting the 18-month joint presidency plan in environment protection as well as all meetings on the level of state secretaries and the meetings of experts on individual areas, who are tasked with drafting the plan of activities for individual areas of the presidency. The Environment and Spatial Planning Ministry carried out suitable organisational changes in order to prepare itself for the presidency. It has formed two working groups for EU presidency. One group is headed by the environment and spatial planning minister and is tasked with adopting the strategic guidelines for activities in the area. The operational group for the EU presidency is meanwhile presided over by the head of the EU affairs directorate and is composed from individual key bearers of certain areas who are actively involved in the preparations.

Presiding Over the Barcelona Convention

The 14th regular meeting of states signatories of the **Convention for the Protection Of The Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution and its Protocols (the Barcelona Convention)** took place in the Slovenian coastal town of Portorož between 8 and 11 November 2005. The four-day event was attended by 17 state signatories. The Republic of Slovenia officially assumed the presidency of the Mediterranean Action Plan from the Republic of Italy at the meeting. Slovenia's presidency over the Mediterranean Action Programme (MAP) also included a **June 2006 conference on sustainable development in the Adriatic** which proposed tangible solutions to the obligations undertaken for the Adriatic in November. The event took place in Portorož. The activities aimed at protecting the Mediterranean also form an important part of



the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue that also takes place in other areas of economic and political activities.

International Sava Basin Commission

Slovenia actively took part in the establishment and the commencement of activities of the Secretariat of the International Sava Basin Commission. The body is headquartered in the Croatian capital of Zagreb and includes two Slovenian experts. An inter-departmental group for carrying out the Framework Agreement on the Sava River Basin in the Republic of Slovenia was established with the aim to provide cross-border harmonisation of development projects (construction of hydro power plants, shipping on the Sava) with the other countries located in the Sava watershed.

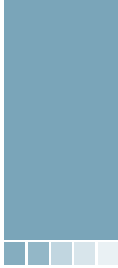
Organising the International Meteorological Conference

The National Environmental Agency successfully organised the largest meteorological conference to date in Slovenia. The event which was attended by some 500 European meteorologists took place in Ljubljana in September 2006. The most important representatives of large international and European meteorological and environmental organisations took part in the event. They included the secretary general of the World Meteorological Organisation, the chairman of EUMETSAT, the chairman of GEO and the president of the European Meteorological Association.

Establishing a Centre for Drought Management in SE Europe

The proposal for setting up a Centre for Drought Management for the countries of SE Europe and Neighbouring States in Slovenia (CMS) came from the Secretariat of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). The CMS aims to substantially reduce the damage caused by droughts in the region through organised drought monitoring, research into ways to reduce damage caused by droughts and through warnings.

The advantages of setting up the centre lie mainly in the results and outputs of the centre that would allow Slovenian agriculture to reduce drought-related damage; the development of policies and strategies for mitigating the consequences of droughts; the establishment and improvements to a monitoring system for the data necessary to ascertain and monitoring drought and the early warning system; facilitating connections and coordination between various services on the national level, whose activities are in any way linked with monitoring, predicting and studying droughts and with drafting drought-related measures.



Calibration Laboratory for the Regional Instrumentation Centre for SE Europe

The World Meteorological Organisation appointed the Calibrating Laboratory of the National Environmental Agency as the Regional Instrumentation Centre for SE Europe in 2005. The laboratory guarantees a high level of expert technical support for international national networks for meteorological, hydrological and ecological monitoring. The laboratory is mainly equipped to direct temperature, air pressure, relative air humidity, solar radiation and air quality parameters. The basic aim of the laboratory is to ensure quality measurement data, used for informing the public, for meteorological models, climate and ecological analyses. Its data is also used in transport, agriculture and other industries.

European (Financial) Programmes

LIFE Programme

Three projects are taking place within the framework of the **LIFE-Nature** programme which promotes measures to maintain favourable conditions in the Natura 2000 areas:

- Establishing a long-term protection for corncrake (*Crex crex*) in Slovenia, carried out by the Bird Watching Society of Slovenia.
- Natura 2000 in Slovenia – models of management and information system, carried out by the National Nature Protection Institute,
- Maintaining the otter population in Slovenia, carried out by the Gornji Petrovci municipality.

Two new programmes were chosen for co-funding by the EU:

- Safeguarding biotic diversity on the Mura river, carried out by the National Water Institute. The project is valued at EUR 1.97m, with the Ministry contributing EUR 670,000. The main objective of the project is to safeguard the existing natural resources and biotic diversity, restore the characteristics of the riverbed and ensure suitable ecological conditions for marshlands.
- The disappearing Cerknjško lake, carried out by the Notranjski regional park. The project is valued at EUR 1.84m, with the Ministry contributing EUR 250,000. The objective of the project is to create long-term favourable conditions for the habitat type – the disappearing lake and other endangered habitat types. This will also create favourable conditions for nesting of endangered birds, the life of amphibians, butterflies and other animals.

The Phare CDC Programme on Cross-Border Conservation of Biotic Diversity and Sustainable Development

The Ministry co-funded 11 projects within the Phare cross-border cooperation with Austria. The Ministry's share amounted to EUR 630,540 out of the total of EUR 2.5m. The projects were carried out in the Gorenjsko, Koroško, Podravsko and Pomursko statistical regions. The implementers of the projects were the municipalities (5), public institutions (2), private institutions (1) and development agencies (3). A total of 78 organisations took the role of partners, mainly municipalities, associations and public institutions. The projects were aimed at activities for ensuring biotic diversity and sustainable development.

The Ministry approved of 30 applications for co-funding 28 projects worth a total of SIT 69m (EUR 287,931) within the EU "**Intelligent Energy – Europe**" programme.

The subjects of the chosen projects include: pilot issuing of energy cards for buildings; drafting tools for energy inspections of buildings; promoting the construction of low-energy consumption buildings and renovation of buildings with non-profit flats; energy management and innovative methods of funding in small- and medium-sized enterprises; promotion of energy technologies (cogeneration, electric motors, lighting, solar systems, etc); training for efficient energy use in transport; training fitters and other target groups in the use of renewable energy sources; establishing regional markets; development of biomass heating networks; and including smart energy use into education curricula. Among these projects the Ministry also co-funds the setting up of a total of four local energy agencies for the areas of Pomurje, Goriško, Podravje, Savinjsko, Šaleško and Koroško.


Inspection services

Environmental Inspection

Supervision area	No. of of supervisions	No. of measures*	No. of violations**
Air Quality	161	69	9
Waste Management	3873	1595	174
Water - all	2890	1495	80
Water quality, discharge	2166	1198	43
Water Management and Use	724	297	37
Nature Protection - all	254	75	12
Buiotic Diversity	48	11	1
Natural Heritage Protection	194	54	8
Driving in Natural Habitats	12	10	3
Chemicals and Genetically Modified Organisms	41	10	0
Industrial Pollution and Risks	1197	588	46
Noise	704	366	28
Electromagnetic Radiation	33	27	0
TOTAL	9153	4225	349

* includes inspection orders and warnings.

** includes 154 payment orders, 188 decrees and 7 bills of indictment.



In line with the annual plan of activities the environment and nature inspectorate carried out the following supervision activities: monitoring storage devices for dangerous and hazardous activities; monitoring the use of compound waste; monitoring contractors of public services for managing used motor vehicles; monitoring the quality of liquid fuels; monitoring the management of waste created in construction; monitoring non-hazardous waste dumps; monitoring cross-border waste shipments, monitoring of polluters who discharge waste water into the public sewage system; and monitoring protected areas.

Construction Inspection

By 26 October 2006, the construction inspection:

- **As an inspecting body:** Issued 1.337 orders and 508 decisions on allowing the execution and carried out 9,856 inspections, 5,783 hearings and managed 171 compulsory demolitions (those against whom such a decision was issued, carried out 50% of the buildings by themselves).
- **As a violation body:** Issued 270 payment orders, 147 decisions on violation and 6 bills of indictment.

Mapping and Surveying Inspection

The mapping and surveying inspection instituted 60 procedures in 2006. The majority of the procedures was, the same as in the past, connected to mapping services in the filed, mainly on disagreements regarding the setting up of the cadastral border. In two cases a decision on eliminating the irregularities was issued. In the remaining cases the mapping and surveying companies mitigated the deficiencies after the issued warning.

Residential Inspection

A total of **694 cases were dealt with** between 1 January and 31 October 2006.

Residential inspectors issued 110 decrees on maintaining joint parts of multi-flat buildings and elimination of irregularities in flats caused by intentionally caused damage or to enable normal use of flats to tenants. A total of 199 inspections were carried out en-site.

As a **violations body**, residential inspectors issued 120 decrees and payment orders. The penalty for private individuals amounted to SIT 100,000 (EUR 417), SIT 1,000,000 (EUR 4,172) for legal entities and SIT 200,000 (EUR 834) for those responsible. The majority of the violations, committed by flat owners, were due to non-payment of expenses into the building maintenance fund and management costs, while the companies operating the flats were guilty of not fulfilling their commitments in handing over their duties, in managing building maintenance fund obligations and in implementing the obligatory informing of flat owners.