

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Andrej Spilak

We are members of Youth Club of Velika Polana, a youth organization that combines a lot of youth interests. Everything – from sport activities, informal education, to actions to protect rare species is included. In the society it has a effect of an “interest group”.

Recently we have added another topic: Environmental issues. Main causes for opening this issue were tendencies of our municipality to make an application for building nuclear waste storage, which would increase municipality’s budget. The topic is still actual and it caused very hot polemics. The other cause was increased pollution of the brook Črnec, which also provides the drinking water out of some its wellsprings. The level of pollution exceed the acceptable standards, so the water isn’t drinkable any more.

The youth wants to make a plan, with which we would show, that for better tomorrow we do not need a nuclear waste storage, but that we are able to make a perspective plan.

Municipality Velika Polana is located on swampy land, which was pretty dried up in the past in order to increase agricultural surface. Though Velika Polana swanks with title “European village of storks”, has the biggest “black alder” forest in Europe and some very rare animal and vegetal species, the intensive farming and reclamation of land by drainage heavily loads the ecosystem.

“Clean Črnec – everything clear” program

The base of our program is ensuring the clean water in brook Črnec, which is being polluted by uncontrolled sewage, use of aspergillums and artificial manures. And after that: the redirection to eco farming. This would be really necessary; because Pomurje region (most North-Eastern region of Slovenia) used to have Hungarian principle of inheritance (this means that every son/daughter inherited some of the land), so the fields are splitted among many farmers which won’t be able to endure the market rivalry against big farmers...

We have developed our program into 3 categories:

Project 1: Cleaning

- Ensuring the clean water that flows into municipality Velika Polana by achieving the agreements of acceptable swill level in neighbor villages
- Improving the ability of self-cleaning the brook
- Improving the self-cleaning of the nature in general

Project 2: maintenance of cleanliness

- Building the vegetal purifying plant for decomposition nitrites an phosphates and enlarging the swamp, because the excessive drying was harmful to the nature
- Prohibition of toxic substances and absolute conversion to eco farming or at least making a zone of strict eco farming

Project 3: marketing

Municipality Velika Polana has 16% unemployment, and yet it is increasing, because in Pomurje region there are some big factories with no perspective. In the near past people have occupied themselves with farming, but these days it doesn’t pay off any more, because low produce (which is the cause of aforementioned Hungarian inherit law). We would like to awake the farming in Velika Polana, but on very other way at it was known so far.

Citizens an farmers needs to be educated, and show them different approach to farming. There is much brighter future in growing the vegetables and fruits for little farmers, than grain, corn etc., which dominates these days. And what is more: our vision is in growing vegetables and fruits which are resistant to diseases, unlike the new sorts are. These sorts have grown already in our places, but the farmers have replaced them in order to grow more. With appropriate selection of sorts we will achieve, that use of aspergillums and artificial manures won’t be necessary any more. In the long term we will lower the production costs and we are expecting that our products will reach up to 5-times bigger value, than wholesale products.

For selling these product we will engage the cooperative society “Pomelaj”, which is non-profit organization, with headquarters in Velika Polana which is already launching similar program (with authentic Pomurje products in general). Pomelaj will have to found “eco farming section”, and employ an inspector which will have to watch for quality standards.

In the summer time when rainless period accours, most neighbor towns and villages have problems with sources of drinking water, therefore is an interest to build a common aqueduct in Velika Polana. If Velika Polana will achieve a goal to have faultless water in wellsprings of Črnec (because we will lower the pollution) and will gain a concession to supply water for other municipalities in dry period, we would gain a lot of money in our municipality budget. Without installing the nuclear wastes in Velika Polana.

There is also a big perspective for tourism (we had also very known writer Miško Kranjec, realism) and forming a park “Genetic bank” where we could present a lot of authentic species that have already extinct elsewhere.