

SUSTAINABLE REPORT 2019

Sustainability in the Solčava region is a tradition that has been our homeland right for centuries now. The wider community has recognized it in modern times as the best model for balance between man, the environment and the economy. Just how else would centuries-old high mountain estates today been preserved in harmony with small villages homesteads and in balance with everything that consolidates sustainability in the community and defies the harmful effects of modern society.

We have been doing this in the Solčava region for centuries, but the new challenges of modern times require different approaches, greater attention and care for preserving the authenticity of the area, with a touch of archaism and nostalgia for something not yet lost.

The concept of sustainable development, as we understand it today, is written orientation in strategies in the Solčava region since 1992. Throughout, the concept was consolidated in the case of landscape park - Logar Valley. By transferring the idea of balanced economic and social development that is also acceptable for the environment, it has become the basic direction of balanced development for the entire Solčava region area. Many visits of various interest groups from Slovenia and abroad has transferred our knowledge and experience to their environments.

Review of achievements in the fields of environmental, economic and social protection in 2019

Concern for the environment and waste

From the reports of the PUP Saubermacher concessionaire it is shown that in 2013 there were 69.91% of mixed municipal waste, and in 2018 there were 47.54%. In the period 2016–2018, the amount of mixed municipal waste decreased by 2.26%. We have our own ecological island, we are currently collecting 11 separate waste fractions. A waste paper collection container is also installed at the primary school and so the youngest ones are already involved in incentives to collect paper for recycling. Waste collection takes place regularly according to the concessionaire's schedule. In the Logarska dolina landscape park, we have installed containers for waste separation for park visitors. We encourage local citizens with letters and publications in the municipal newspaper Utrip for waste prevention at the time of its generation and more

consistent separation. We co-financed the purchase of water bottles for tourist providers.

Energy

In the field of rational energy use, we acquainted citizens and companies with the Eco Fund tenders and encouraged them to use more energy-efficient boilers and energy renovation of buildings. We strived to promote the use of renewable energy sources - wood biomass. The community, which has a population of 530, has two district heating systems on wood biomass, to which all public buildings in the center of the village of Solčava are connected, and in the Logar Valley major tourist providers. In addition to the two district heating systems, there are already around 50 modern wood biomass boilers in the Solčava region. Of these, nine new heating systems have been installed in the years 2017–2019. We can say that almost half of households heat with modern wood biomass systems, and the other half of households also heat their premises with wood biomass on existing systems. Virtually no household is heated with fossil fuels anymore. In the Logar Valley landscape park, we have an electric car for the needs of the park; We have electric charging stations at six locations. During the construction of the sidewalk in Solčava, we updated the public lighting. In the Municipal Spatial Plan, we have initiatives for the renovation of old energy facilities (small hydroelectric power plants, mills...) in order to increase energy self-sufficiency with new investments.

Drinking water supply and municipal wastewater treatment

In the area of the municipality, we have two public water supply systems - the Solčava water supply system and the Logar Valley water supply system, which was newly built in 2018. The quality of drinking water in both water supply systems is regularly checked by internal control. We warn residents, tourist providers and guests about the rational use of water. We currently have two tourism providers in the process of verification for obtaining the environmental label, which is recognized by the Green Scheme of Slovenian tourism. Providers are already striving to use technologies to minimize water consumption and appropriate municipal wastewater treatment in the process of adapting to standards and verification. In 2018, our area was included in the project of cooperation of the Local Action Groups of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps, entitled Water Stories of the Kamnik-Savinja Alps. We are aware of the richness of water resources and the potential for the development of tourism, as well as the responsibility to protect water resources and maintain their quality. The

municipality encourages the installation of small cleaning plants through tenders and through their municipality subsidiary takes care of the correct operation of joint cleaning plants. The results of the monitoring of cleaned municipal wastewater at the Medica and Logar Valley cleaning plants were adequate in the last two years.

Soft mobility

The municipality of Solčava is the manager of the Logar Valley landscape park. By collecting the entrance fee, it takes care of calming traffic and arranging public tourist infrastructure in the Logar Valley landscape park. At the end of June 2018, we built a sidewalk in the center of the village of Solčava. We enlarged and arranged the parking lots, re-marked them and moved the bus station. We are working on soft mobility and strengthening the public transport. We have four places to rent bikes. In 2019, we additionally purchased four electric and two mountain bikes. In 2017, we installed a speed display outside the settlement, on the Logar Valley – Solčava section, to ease the traffic. In August 2019, we installed a speed display at the Solčava primary school, which we have borrowed from the Road Safety Agency for ten months. Visitors are encouraged to leave their cars in the parking lots and continue exploring the destination on well-maintained footpaths or by bicycle.



Citizens support in the Local Community

The local community and organizations working in the field of tourism are open to questions and initiatives from citizens to find solutions to their proposals. We participate in various educational projects and support intergenerational socializing. In the Rinka center, members of various interest groups of residents and members of associations meet. The latter also pursue their interests through active work in associations. To support the operation of associations, the municipality of Solčava published three public tenders, on which 15 associations applied, and received a total of EUR 7,123.32 in aid. EUR 9500.00 is the Municipality's amount for activities in the field of sports every year. Cooperation with young people takes place through social activities and involvement in holiday work in TIC Center Rinka and TIC Landscape Park Logar Valley, where they gain their first work experience. Cooperation with primary school and kindergarden is very good. Residents are also being helped to deal with the consequences of natural disasters. We make them aware of climate change, its possible consequences and the need to adapt to it.



Communication with visitors

We communicate with visitors in the tourist information centers in the Rinka and Logar Valley tourist information centers, through the website of the Municipality of Solčava, the Rinka Center, the Logar Valley Landscape Park and through social networks. The website of the Rinka Center is being renovated, where residents and visitors have access to comprehensive information in the field of tourism and sustainable development projects for the entire area of the green destination Logarska dolina - Solčavsko. Promotional materials are also available to visitors, in which we encourage them to come as welcomed guests. Their respect and the attitude towards nature and the environment of their hosts is highly appreciated, so that they leave as returning friends.

Support for agriculture and the economy

Every year, the municipality of Solčava publishes public tenders to support investments in agriculture and the economy. In 2019, the Public Tender for the Allocation of Financial Resources for the Preservation and Development of Agriculture and Rural Development in the Municipality of Solčava received 25 applications from applicants, who were awarded EUR 21,278.51 in aid. The public tender for the allocation of aid to promote the development of small businesses in the municipality of Solčava in 2019 received 12 applications, of which five applications for investments in tourism. A total of EUR 17,019.93 of aid was granted to applicants. The local community also supports the development of organic farming and the processing of home-grown raw materials into quality products and the integration of these products into tourism consumption. The municipality cooperated with the providers in establishing mutual cooperation and in connecting for common points of sale for local products that can be sold in vending machines. The vending machine is already installed in the Logar Valley Landscape Park at the Rinka turnaround. Additional one is installed in the village of Solčava.

Protection of natural and cultural heritage

We cooperate with the competent institutions in the protection of natural and cultural heritage. The Municipality of Solčava addressed an initiative to the coordinator of the protection of intangible cultural heritage, the Slovenian Ethnographic Museum, for the entry of the Solčava dialect in the Register of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The initiative was recognized by the Slovenian Ethnographic Museum as justified. In 2018, the renovation of the interior of the cultural monument of the parish church of Marija Snežna was completed. We

work well with the Parish of Solčava. We include the interpretation of natural and cultural heritage in tourist products. In this way, the heritage is kept alive, and the pressure on the most besieged natural values is partially relieved, as visitors get to know them through various forms of interpretation (exhibitions, events, feature scenes, multivision, guided tours).



Challenges in the field of sustainable development for the period 2020-2021

- Nature protection and green job development ...
- Restricting transport, enhancing soft mobility and public transport ...
- Increasing self-sufficiency ...
- Adapting to climate change ...
- Strengthening intergenerational cooperation and care for young people ...
- Consolidating the identity of the place and strengthening its own organization in the field of tourism ...
- Inventory and protection of cultural and natural heritage