

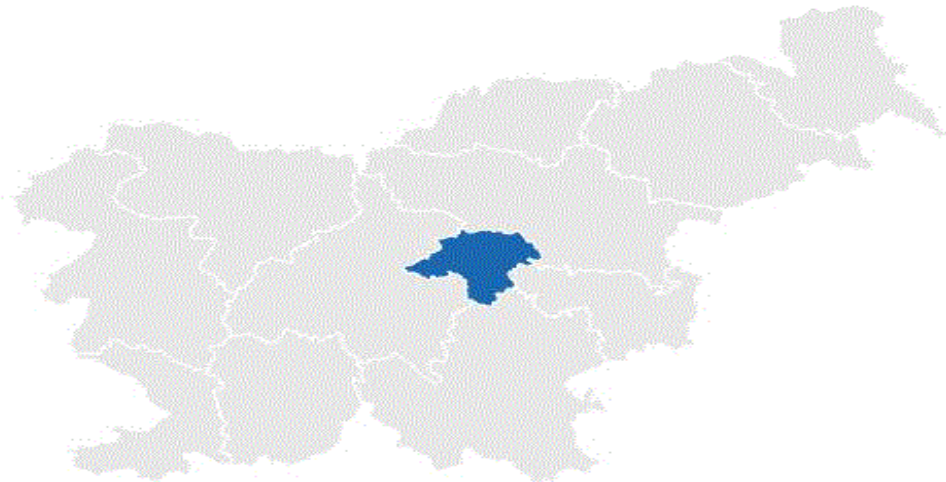


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THE DRAFTING OF TERRITORIAL JUST TRANSITION PLAN OF ZASAVJE COAL REGION

Zasavje region

- Located in the center of Slovenia
- Consist of four municipalities: Hrastnik, Trbovlje, Zagorje ob Savi and Litija
- Population: 60.000 inhabitants





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Zasavje region

- Located in the middle stream of the Sava river, the biggest riverflow in Slovenia.
- Mountainous region with narrow valleys.
- Dencely populated area with 117 people/km2.



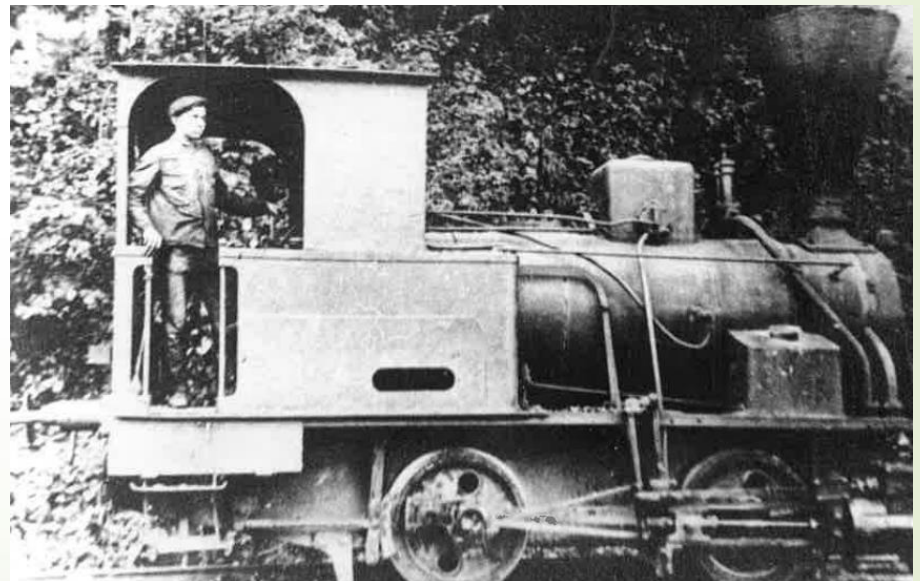
The Energy potential of Sava river

In Zasavje, the construction of three hydro power plants is planned on the Sava river with the installed capacity of 100 MW.



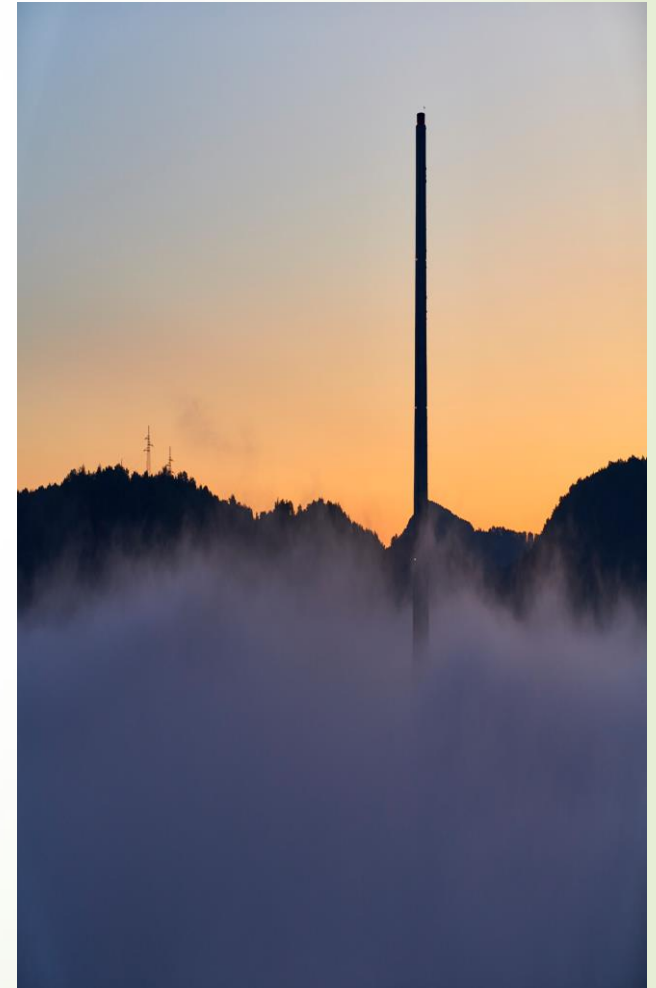
The Mining History of Zasavje region

- Zasavje had more than 250 years of mining tradition. Coal mining started in the first half of 18th century.
- The discovery of coal led to the development of cement, glass, machine, brickyard industries.
- Due to the coal, the railway that connected Vienna with the adriatic port of Trieste was also constructed in the 19th century through the region.



Coal phase-out in Zasavje

- In 1999 the state referendum did not support the reconstruction of Trbovlje Thermo Power Plant (TET).
 - 80 % of the voters were against the reconstruction, in Zasavje 80 % in favour.
- In 2000 the Act Regulating the Gradual Closure of the Trbovlje-Hrastnik Mine and the Economic Development Restructuring of the Region.
- The closure of the mining company was stipulated for 2015. The deadline was later extended by the end of the year 2023.
- The coal phase out and restructuring process was entrusted to the mine company which was also the main beneficiary of the funds.
- In the 2015 the last mine was close & the year after the Thermo Power Plant in Trbovlje was shut down.
- By the end of the year 2015 more than 230 million EUR were spent for the coal phase-out and restructuring.



Coal phase-out in Zasavje

Due to the high rise in unemployment after the beginning of coal phase out, the government adopted the decision on additional development support for the region.

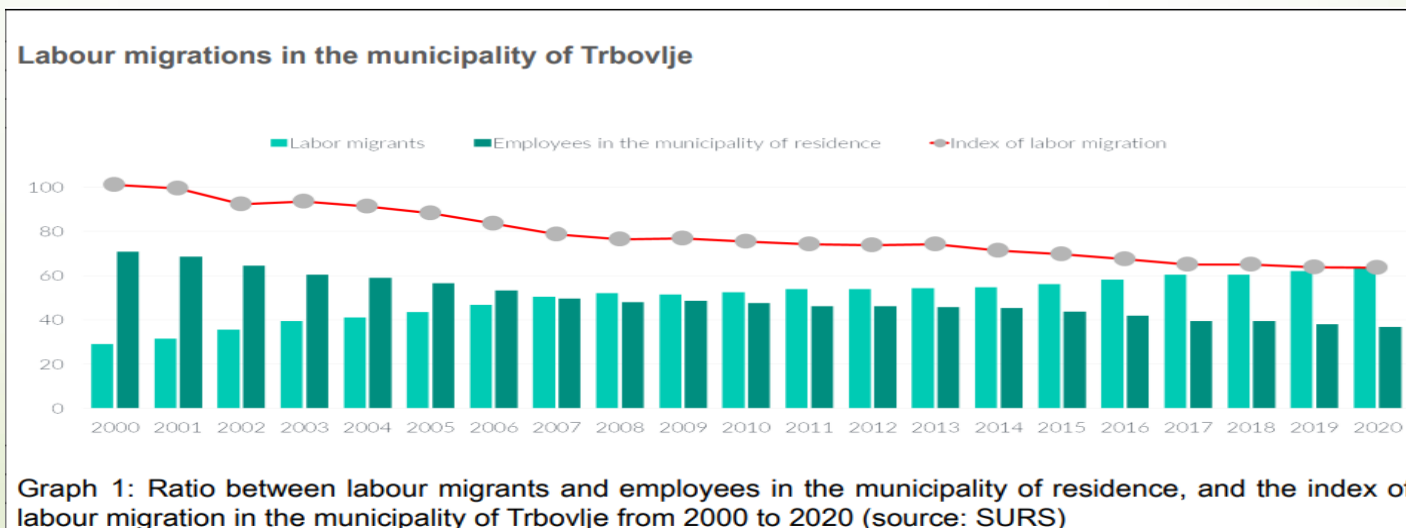
The development measures entailed:

- grants and loans on favourable terms for development projects,
- reimbursement of employer's social contributions,
- tax deduction for the companies for new employment and development investments,
- support for promotion of entrepreneurship among young people and for creation of new jobs.



The Economic and Social Situation in Zasavje in 2019

- The regional GDP was 52 % of the average regional GDP in Slovenia (in 2002 was 72 %),
- region suffered 11 % depopulation since 2000,
- the 49 % of regional active workforce migrated daily to work to other regions (28 % in 2002),
- at risk of poverty rate was 13,1 % .



The EU Platform for Coal Regions in Transition

In 2018 the Zasavje Regional Development Agency attended the first meeting of the EU Platform for Coal Regions in Transition in Brussels.

In the same year the Government of Slovenia applied to the European Commission for technical assistance for the restructuring of Zasavje Coal Region. The Zasavje RDA was envisaged as the main beneficiary.

In 2019 the technical assistance was granted and the consultancy company Deloitte was named as a provider of the assistance.



The Technical Assistance

- The technical assistance was offered for one year, from 2020 to 2021
- First, a comprehensive analysis of the situation and needs in the region was carried out, which confirmed claims about the poor economic and social situation in the region.
- Regional stakeholders could also submit their project ideas:
 - 51 project ideas were submitted in total that were later evaluated on common criteria
 - the ideas were used to draft measures for regional restructuring.
- Based on the analysis, a strategy and action plan for the restructuring of the region were prepared. The action plan envisaged the measures for regional restructuring and laid down the short and long list of projects:
 - short list entailed project ideas that were identified as strategic
 - long list consisted of project ideas that were in line with Just Transition Principles.



The National Strategy for Coal Phase Out and Restructuring of Coal Regions in accordance with principles of Just Transition

The National Strategy for Coal Phase Out and Restructuring of Coal Regions in accordance with principles of Just Transition was adopted by the Government in January 2022

It envisages the Slovenian exit from coal in 2033. This deadline refers mostly to the coal phase-out of Šaleška region.

The strategy acknowledges that the Zasavje still needs support to complete regional restructuring after the coal phase-out.



Territorial Just Transition Plan for Zasavje Coal Region

The Territorial Just Transition Plan is under construction since September 2021.

The first draft was submitted to the EC in April 2022.

As the the National Strategy for Coal Phase Out, the draft Zasavje TJTP stipulates measures for regional restructuring in the sectors of:

- energy production
- economy
- human resources
- regional connectivity.

From JTF, the Slovenian coal regions will receive 236 million EUR (one third, 74,5 million for Zasavje).



Territorial Just Transition Plan for Zasavje Coal Region

TJTP for Zasavje is planned to become operational in the beginning of next year.

The regional just transition process will be managed by different institutions. Zasavje Regional Development Agency will be involved as a intermediary body, responsible for interacting with state and local institutions.

Within Zasavje RDA, Center for Just Transition will be established that will assist stakeholders in drafting their project proposal. The Center will be also responsible for the promotion of Just Transition on local, regional and state level.





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Thank you for your attention!

