

LJUBLJANA. *For you.*

Five-year project report
Ljubljana – European Green
Capital 2016

CITY AS A UNIVERSE OF BIO-DIVERSITY

We created
the Bee Path,
now bringing
together over
40 partners.



VIOLETA BULC, MSc

I wish
my city would
continue its
courageous
development



Archive of the Ljubljana Castle

ALJOŠA BAGOLA

I'm proud
to live and
create in
Ljubljana.



LET YOURSELF BE TAKEN AWAY

We have carried
out extensive
renovations
to the cycling
infrastructure
to make cycling
even more
enjoyable.

In 2016, when we proudly held the title European Green Capital, the opinion of the European Commission that we made the most changes in the quality of life in the shortest time encouraged us to set our goals even higher and to make an even stronger commitment to the sustainable development of our city. Our priorities are our citizens' quality of life, mutual respect and coexistence despite the differences and harmony with nature.

The prestigious title gave us additional drive, and in the past five years we have carried out numerous projects and measures with which we are enhancing the green environment- and people-friendly image of our city. I am proud of the journey we have made, of all the goals we have achieved, and especially of all the citizens of our beautiful Ljubljana who embraced the vision for the development of our city. In these years we have jointly internalized the principles of sustainable living and reinforced them with circular economy practices, which shows that our citizens are highly sensible and, of course, that they love living in Ljubljana. You can read some of their inspiring stories on the following pages.

In the future, we will stay firmly committed to our pledge to pass on to the coming generations at least as well-preserved environment as it is in our care. That is why the City of Ljubljana is going to continue running numerous projects, and in planning every single one of them, we will keep in mind our citizens and the environment we live in. We are aware that only by taking responsibility for the fellow man, nature and material goods we can enter into the future worthy of a decent and full life for all of us. If we want to preserve our planet

The green heart of Ljubljana

Zoran Janković,
Mayor of the
City of Ljubljana



© Uroš Hočevar

for future generations, all cities worldwide have to live according to the European Green Capital rules.

In the past few months we have been faced with challenges we have not been used to. We have been reminded of the importance of mutual respect, tolerance, comradeship, solidarity and a positive outlook on life. These are all values we live

by in Ljubljana each and every day. That is why Ljubljana remains an open city where everybody is welcome, as we know how to and can live together with respect for our differences.

All the best, Ljubljana,
the most beautiful city
in the world!

In the past 14 years we have
carried out over **2200 projects**.

Since 2016 we have carried
out over **700 projects**.

We are recommitting ourselves to
the city's sustainable development
by **adopting a development
vision, this time up to 2045.**

Five impressions of Ljubljana's green year

Tjaša Ficko,
Deputy Mayor
of the City of Ljubljana



© Primož Korošec

GREEN AND ONLY GREEN

Responsible and sustainable development is not one of the alternatives we can choose from, it is our only option if we want to leave the planet as preserved as possible to the coming generations. That is why the question is not whether to cooperate, but how to best take on very difficult challenges.

GREEN TAILORED TO THE CITY

Each city is unique, and its green path should be as well. The exchange of knowledge, experiences and good practices between cities is important and desirable, while the most effective measures and activities are the ones carried out in line with the capabilities, distinctive features, strengths and challenges the city is actually facing.

GREEN EFFECTS

Our green year was marked by exceeded expectations and changes. For the better. We are surprised to receive so much international attention and thrilled with our citizens' response to activities, programmes, and events that have brought us even closer. As a European Green Capital it is easier to introduce sustainable changes and change habits. For the better.

GREEN TOGETHER

Environmentally aware citizens are mindful of their environment, they are interested in the changes in the city. They take care of their city and are prepared to defend it. They are more sensitive and demanding. More critical, as well. Which is good. Namely, together – hand in hand – we are stronger, we grow faster and reach further.

The foundations of trust are not merely plans and promises but tangible results and a higher quality of life.

COURAGE TO CONGRATULATE

Despite the awareness that there are many challenges ahead of us and there is always room for improvement, it is important to know how to congratulate and dare to be proud of all the team members and the victories achieved, serving as motivation to design future solutions. That is why I sincerely thank all of you for your encouragement and support in building a green and sustainable Ljubljana.

We have a better understanding of how important it is to respect nature

dr. Janez Potočnik,
Co-Chair of the UN
International Resource Panel
and SYSTEMIQ Partner

Time flies, five years have gone by since Ljubljana was the European Green Capital, and even more time has passed by since the moment I had the honour as the European Commissioner for Environment, responsible for the initiative, to announce the decision of an independent committee. A pleasant duty with emotions that always fill me with exceptional warmth when it is about achievements at home that are noticeable and resounding abroad. Especially if they are associated with efforts for a green and sustainable future of the environment, where I as a citizen of Ljubljana residing in the suburbs can live in and enjoy.

We are living in a time not lacking in uncertainty and challenges. We have a better understanding of the importance of respect for nature and responsible management of natural resources for our future, actually already the present. But it is not enough to understand, it is important to live and create such a future. Ljubljana is a beautiful city. It is said by everyone who had the opportunity to visit and experience it first-hand. It is right that we strive towards this and are making a joint effort. Is it not nicer to live in a city clad in green where we can deeply inhale the fresh air and even see stars in the clear night sky?



© Personal archive

The Ljubljana star is also internationally recognised



- * The prestigious magazine Monocle included Ljubljana among **the best 25 cities in the Small Cities Index**. In their words, we are »one of Europe's most interesting small capitals«, and they commended Ljubljana primarily for the management of urban green surfaces, pedestrian-friendly city centre, numerous cycling lanes and many other novelties.
- * For six consecutive years already, Ljubljana is on **the Global TOP 100 Sustainable Destinations list**.
- * Conde Nast Traveller ranked Slovenia (and therefore Ljubljana) first on **The Best holiday destinations for 2021 list**.
- * In Breaking Travel News Ljubljana made it among **the top 5 destinations in Europe**.
- * Ljubljana was the city of the month (March 2020) in the **Active Cities** project.

- * Turlane awarded Ljubljana with the title **Best City for Female Solo Travellers**.
- * Conde Nast Traveller listed Ljubljana among **The 10 best winter city breaks**.
- * The Luxury Report ranked Ljubljana among the **Top 10 sustainable destinations for 2020**.
- * Le Monde placed Ljubljana among the **5 great examples by cities which closed their city centres for traffic**.
- * Conde Nast Traveller placed Ljubljana on **The 20 most beautiful cities in Europe** list.
- * BBC Good Food included Ljubljana as Europe in miniature among the **Top 10 destinations for foodies 2019**.
- * Lonely Planet listed Ljubljana among the **eight most sustainable cities in the world**.

 Nik Rovani



The pedestrian zone is one of the most beautiful under the sky

David Urankar,
TV host and model



 Boštjan Podlogar

It could be said that I'm partial because I'm a citizen of Ljubljana since birth. Early in the morning, when I head for the city centre glistening in the first sun rays, I realise again and again how beautiful our capital is. And in the afternoon, when my family goes for ice cream in summer or roasted chestnuts in winter, with two bright boys beside us, my wife Ajda and I always discuss how safe and comfortable we feel in Ljubljana. The pedestrian zone is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful in the world!

As we live in the suburbs, there is a forest close to our home, and there are also farms not that far away. Nevertheless, we are only a half-hour bicycle ride away from the city centre using well-maintained bicycle paths.

I remember when Ljubljana became the European Green Capital, and in my opinion, it never actually gave up the title. All these parks, green surfaces, well-maintained banks of the Ljubljanica River, playgrounds and drinking fountains – one could hardly wish for more. Well, maybe electric buses, that is, buses with lower carbon emissions if I'm already nit-picking.

The constellation of Ljubljana is comprised of people

Nina Gaspari,
yoga instructor
and entrepreneur

Ljubljana is my home. In the past years, it has grown from a shy girl into a confident European capital. Friendly, orderly, clean, safe and green. At every step and in every aspect, you can feel the concern for protecting the environment and space co-created by the citizens. I am happy that the city is continuously encouraging me, and I am giving that energy back. Be it in the form of environmentally responsible and sustainable choices, caring for an elderly neighbour, a brief chat with a restaurant owner in the city centre or organising admission-free summer yoga

gatherings at Špica or in the largest city park Tivoli. Ljubljana is its people. Open, smiling and sincere. When we come together, we are unstoppable. Each year I closely observe the reflection of the city and the people who live in it. On a city park clearing with mighty trees providing shadow. When my eyes run over dozens of smiling faces on a summer evening, I realise that Ljubljana is not only the most beautiful city in the world. Ljubljana is also the most beautiful yoga studio in the world.



Cosmopolitan citizen of Ljubljana

Marko Schwed,

coordinator of the
allotment area on
Ulica Iga Grudna in Vič

In my opinion, in the past fourteen years, Ljubljana has changed for the better in all areas. I appreciate the work done on allotments, bicycle paths, the Rožnik Hill, the Castle and the Golovec Hill, there are many positive changes. Just look at all the greenery around us, along the Ljubljanica River, in the parks, along the Path of Remembrance and Comradeship, I think it's beautiful. It's important not only that the municipality is diligently managing Ljubljana but also that each and every one of us takes care of our surroundings with a positive attitude and community work, thus setting a good example for the youth. Only by working together can we ensure that Ljubljana stays in bloom, green and friendly. Let's use everything it has to offer, live in our city, but still be friendly to nature and each other. I'm very proud of my city, and I like to boast that I'm a citizen of Ljubljana. I wouldn't trade living in Ljubljana for any other city in the world. Ljubljana is top.



Since 2016 we have acquired:

- * **six new managed allotment areas**, that makes already nine in Ljubljana – three of them include educational gardens where people can learn how to grow vegetables and respect the nature and pollinators; only ecological practices are allowed in these gardens;
- * **two beaches along the river**, which immediately became popular;
- * **three dog parks for our four-legged friends to play in**, that makes already six in Ljubljana;
- * **three new public orchards**, and so we can pick fruit in six orchards already;
- * **a new shelter for abandoned animals Gmajnice**, where in addition to the core shelter activities we are also training young staff and developing a centre for responsible guardianship of domestic animals and their wellbeing.



BEFORE The area before setting up garden allotments. **NOW** At the newly designed area Vižmarje-Brod, there are 111 allotments available, 14 of them suitable for people with mobility impairments. Photo: archive of the City of Ljubljana



BEFORE The left bank of the Ljubljanica River before the renovation. **NOW** In parallel with the refurbishment of the brownfield site, we have also renovated a part of the left bank of the Ljubljanica River, where we created a new public space with a walking path, benches and sunbathing surfaces for spending free time (Muste beach). Photo: Helena Regina



In the area of Grba, we have set up two allotment areas (with over 100 allotments) with shared sheds, a water distribution system, compost bins, a children's playground and a honey plant garden with a learning programme. Photo: Helena Regina



In the Natura 2020 area, we renovated the Sava River banks and set up concrete sunbathing platforms (Sava beach). Photo: archive of the City of Ljubljana



The new Ljubljana Animal Shelter has the largest and best-equipped facilities in Slovenia. Photo: Nik Rovar



Caring for trees and the city forest:

- * in five years, **we have planted over 3500 new trees;**
- * in 2019, we joined the initiative **Tree cities of the World;**
- * in 2019, we started choosing the **Tree of the Year**, awarding the title to two trees already. The citizens propose and vote for their favourite tree;
- * the city is surrounded by hills with native forest covering as much as 46 percent of the municipality's total surface. In the **URBforDAN pilot project** (Interreg programme), with the City of Ljubljana as the lead partner, we **have set up urban equipment in the Golovec forest area**, enabling better utilization of the forest space.



BEFORE Seeing an empty planter in the Central Market Ljubljana prompted Staša, a citizen of Ljubljana, to submit a proposal to plant a raised urban garden bed, that is, herbs available to everybody. In her initiative, she wrote: »I'm aware that it will take some time for people to get used to the idea that the planter is not a waste bin, but if someone (me) takes care of this urban garden bed, the mentality and old habits are going to fade away.« Photo: Staša Bizjak **NOW** We were happy to make the citizen's ideas become a reality. The Public Company Ljubljanska parkirišča in tržnice transformed the empty planter into an urban herb garden for her use. Staša checks the herb garden every day and takes good care of it, keeping it clean and tidy. Photo: Nino Kolarev



New urban equipment at Golovec.
Photo: Nik Rován

Implementing citizens' initiatives:

- * on the initiative of citizens, we have planted **new rows of trees;**
- * on the initiative of students at the Bežigrad High School, we **have redesigned a park in front of their school;**
- * we have carried out **over 25 local activities proposed by citizens of Ljubljana within the framework of the project Outside (projekt Zunaj)** together with the ProstoRož Association and the Institute for Spatial Policies;
- * on the initiative of a citizen, we have planted **the first herb garden** for public use in Pogačar Square. Tending the garden is the citizen who submitted the proposal.



The Bike Park Sneberje and community flower garden at the bottom of the Castle Hill are two among 25 activities of the project Outside. Photo: Nejc Trampuž



We are renovating, designing and transforming brownfield areas into surfaces for quality spending of free time:

* We transformed the brownfield area between Nove Fužine and Štepanjsko naselje into one of the **largest green surfaces in Ljubljana, Muste Family Park**, giving people access to playground equipment, a children's playground for all age groups and mobility-impaired children, an urban public orchard, restored steep banks on both sides of the Ljubljanica River, a dog park, trees and urban equipment.

* **With the renovation of the Črnuče Pond Ljubljana gained a new public green surface** for quality spending of free time. And so, we restored another brownfield area, which is now fully adapted to people with mobility impairments.



A decade ago, we transformed a brownfield area next to the largest city cemetery into the beautiful Šmartinski park, and in 2017, we designed, in addition to a large dog park, a spacious and innovative children's playground, which includes playground equipment for children with mobility impairments. Photo: Luka Vidic



We have six urban dog parks already, where dogs can move freely in a safe environment. In the photo is the dog park in the newly built park Muste. Photo: archive of the City of Ljubljana



The Črnuče Pond attracts numerous walkers. Photo: Helena Regina

Rising awareness of citizens in Ljubljana

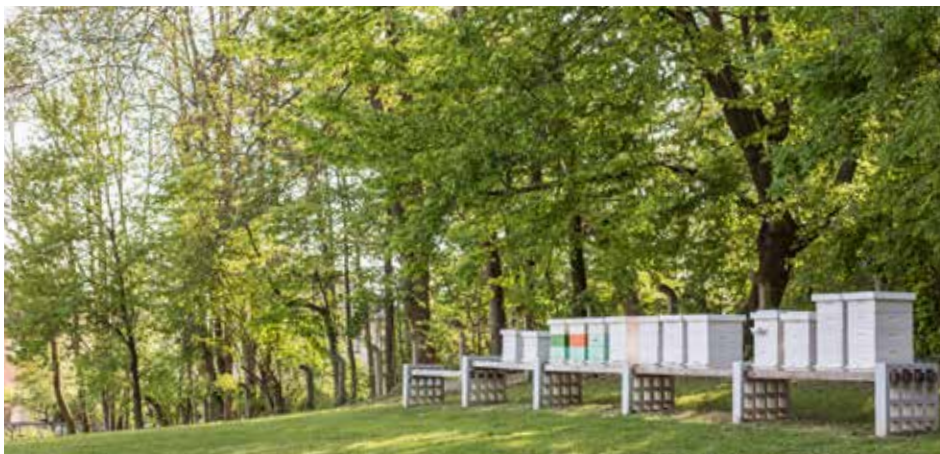
Gorazd Trušnovec,
president of the
Urban Beekeeping
Association

In nature everything is in motion, nothing is permanent, and except in mythological tales there is no primeval unspoiled ideal balance, a paradise from which humanity was supposedly banished. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't strive for this ideal. And cities are not a formation outside nature, they are its constituent part. Considering the predictions that two-thirds of people will soon live in cities, the task of initiatives, such as the European Green Capital, is to try to find a balance by constructing a pleasant and harmonious living environment. I think that the awareness of Ljubljana's citizens has risen, that they are more aware of their right to live in a healthy environment, and that they are willing to take part in its co-creation. Urban beekeeping, which has developed in previous years, is also helping raise awareness of pollinators' role in city bio-diversity and bees as indicators of a healthy environment. There is also more emphasis on the food chains and the significance of self-sufficiency, which could play an increasingly significant role in the future.



In 2016, we created the **Bee Path**, now bringing together **over 40 partners**, promoting the heritage of beekeeping and stressing the significance of bees for our survival.

We are building up the good practice of the Bee Path and expanding it in cooperation with five other European cities within the programme **Urbact III, BeePathNet project in Europe and Slovenia**.



The Bee Path isn't just a physical path connecting the city and the countryside, it is also a network of beekeepers, an educational programme, an incubator for the development of new entrepreneurial ideas and a movement bringing together all interested parties. Photo: Luka Dakskobler



Bees have a new shelter and a grazing area in the city, namely, in cooperation with experts from the Ljubljana Botanic Garden, we planted the bus stop roofs with honey plants. Green roofs also positively impact the environment, as they absorb rainwater and reduce the greenhouse effect. Photo: Dunja Wedam

In the Ljubljana Botanic Garden **we built the City Apiary** based on plans developed by students at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Ljubljana. The apiary is called »Step closer« and its design enables individuals and groups to observe flying bees and beekeepers at work safely from behind a glass wall. It has a green roof with photovoltaic cells generating energy that powers measuring devices. It serves as a research laboratory for beekeeping students at the Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Ljubljana.

Following the example of other European cities, we have **planted three bus stop roofs with honey plants**, attracting bees. **We are going to continue the greening effort.**

In 2017 and 2019, we received the title **Most Bee-Friendly Municipality in Slovenia** from the Slovenian Beekeepers Association.

In 2020, we started introducing **late grass cutting** in three test areas. We marked the spots with signs »We will cut the grass when the bees are fed«, explaining why select areas are unmown.



We are planting honey plants in the city and postponing the cutting of green public surfaces. Photo: Nik Rovani

In 2019, we were the first in Slovenia to develop and launch the API Kindergarten pilot programme.

Once a week, departments of ten selected kindergartens in Ljubljana, taking part in the pilot version of the API Kindergarten programme, carry out activities on the topic of the Carniolan honey bee, bee products, pollinators, biodiversity, environmental protection, healthy lifestyle, nutrition and horticulture. Children learn how to behave around bees, and by doing so, take on responsibility for their safety, the safety of their friends and, of course, the safety of bees.



Children in ten Ljubljana's kindergartens are learning about the life and habits of bees in the framework of the API Kindergarten pilot programme. Photo: Luka Dakskobler

Since 2016, when we planted the first fruit tree and opened the first public orchard in Ljubljana, we have planted **six public orchards with 534 saplings of different fruit tree species.**

Since 2018 we have been celebrating **the World Bee Day** introduced on Slovenia's initiative and dedicated not just one day (20 May) to this celebration but the whole month of May, adding different activities around the year and ending the bee year with the Honey Market in October.

We are systematically **removing invasive alien plants**, such as ambrosia, giant hogweed and milkweed.

We have planted the **Castle Vineyard with 1050 vines.**



Grape harvest in the Castle Vineyard on the south slope of the Castle Hill. The wine produced from harvested grapes can be purchased in the Castle Shop and tasted in bars and restaurants at the Ljubljana Castle. Photo: Nik Rovar

In 2018, we established the Landscape park Tivoli, Rožnik and Šiška Hill Service, operating as a part of the Public Company Voka Snaga, performing nature conservation, expert, supervision and management tasks with important goals, such as preservation of natural values, biological and landscape diversity, favourable level of conservation of protected and endangered wild animal, plant and fungi species and their habitats, and the landscape with its distinctive architecture.

* In the Tivoli, Rožnik and Šiška Hill Landscape Park, we have constructed a walking path alongside the Slovenian Forestry Institute, pleasing many park walkers.

* By planting 20 lime trees, we renovated the tree-lined path between the Restaurant Čad and villa Maria Vera thus contributing to the conservation of a protected and endangered animal species – the hermit beetle.

* In the Tivoli, Rožnik and Šiška Hill Landscape Park and on other green public surfaces in Ljubljana, we have set up over 40 nesting boxes for birds and 6 bat boxes (shelters for bats).



We are setting up nesting boxes for birds in the Landscape Park and other green public surfaces in Ljubljana in cooperation with the Slovenian Bird Watching and Bird Study Society DOPPS – Birdlife Slovenia. Photo: ArtInFoto



One of the many tasks of the Landscape Park Tivoli, Rožnik and Šiška Hill Service is also educating children. Photo: archive of the National Gallery



The walking path alongside the Slovenian Forestry Institute in the Landscape Park Tivoli, Rožnik and Šiška Hill. Photo: ArtInFoto



Check-up of one of the bat boxes – shelters for bats, which we are setting up in the Landscape Park and other green public surfaces in Ljubljana in cooperation with the Slovenian Association for Bat Research and Conservation. Photo: Luka Šparl



From a sleepy city to a star of European capitals

Stella Korošec,
entrepreneur and
co-founder of
trademarks Equa and
GoatStory

I remember a Sunday walk on Ljubljana's main street when I was 18. It was a cold autumn day, and I was the only one walking on the street. At that moment I promised myself that »when I grow up«, I will move to another city where it's never dull. Now I think that happened in a former life. In the past 14 years, Ljubljana has transformed from a boring little city into a wonderfully orderly, lively city, full of beautiful shops, pubs and green corners. Although I could have gone anywhere in the world, I have chosen Ljubljana because it is the warmest, most inspiring, safest and greenest city I know. The people who guide the city towards sustainable development for future generations, a more modern look and city services inspire me to lead a greener lifestyle.



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I'm proud to live and create in Ljubljana

Aljoša Bagola,
creative director
and writer

Ljubljana is a modern and creative city with an understanding of the necessity and power of changes. It makes it possible for creators to absorb the intertwinement of urbanism and green tranquillity and offers insights that can be weaved into eternal life truths. The power of its culture of co-creation and co-responsibility is also inspiring in the field of environmental protection, planning, education, culture, and I could go on. That's why I am happy and proud to live and co-create in Ljubljana, with each year an even greener European capital.

One of Ljubljana's advantages in comparison to other European capitals is its technologically untreated **natural drinking water**.

Since 2016 we have set up nine new drinking fountains. **Drinking water from 44 fountains** comes from Ljubljana's central water supply system, and its quality is regularly monitored.



In 2016, we captured a unique story about water in a bottle with the name Museum Water. The bottle became very popular, and many Ljubljana's restaurants pour tap water in it. Photo: Doris Kordić



During the frost-free period from April to October, you can quench your thirst at drinking fountains set up in different locations in Ljubljana. Photo: Nik Rovar



Over 22,500 residents are going to be additionally connected to the public sewage network. Photo: Jure Kokalj

The Clean for You project

Within the largest cohesion project in the country, »Wastewater Drainage and Treatment of the Ljubljansko polje Aquifer Area«, we are expanding the public sewage network to already settled areas of the City of Ljubljana (and two neighbouring municipalities) and removing almost **6000 septic tanks**. The construction works are underway in 261 streets in Ljubljana (all other infrastructure is being set up in parallel) and will be fully completed in 2021.

- * By the end of **2006**, **68 percent of all households** were connected to the public sewage network.
- * Now, **88 percent of all households** are connected to the public sewage network.

* At the conclusion of the cohesion project **Clean for You**, which is underway, this share will increase above **98 percent** by the end of **2021**.

It was 1983. Every Sunday I took a train from the Dolenjska region to the student dormitory. Already back then, Ljubljana was a lively university city. But the streets, squares, bridges and public areas were overflowing with cars, the air was full of exhaust fumes, and every winter the smell of coal was overwhelming. The fog swirled from autumn all the way to early spring and filled the city with anxiety and gloominess. The streets were everything but friendly to pedestrians and cyclists. The noise of commercial vehicles in the early hours disturbed the morning peace. The house facades were grey and sad.

Today Ljubljana is a green city, friendly to its citizens, tourists and visitors. The streets and squares are full of pedestrians and cyclists. Friendly drivers of Kavalir electric vehicles take people from shops to their homes, to restaurants and city attractions. An electric tourist train connects the city centre with the Castle Hill and brings life into the castle courtyard. Cycling lanes are branching out more each year, connecting neighbourhoods of a growing city. Mobility as a service is successfully spreading among the people, thus reducing the need for private cars.

Commercial vehicles are getting quieter, now rarely disturbing the morning sleep. The ring road around Ljubljana is redirecting transit traffic far away from the city hustle and bustle. The Ljubljanica River is slowly becoming attractive not only for tourist boats but also for different water sports. The main road is shared by all traffic participants (except personal cars), proving that people can be watchful beings who can safely coexist even in traffic regardless of the mode of mobility.

I wish my city would continue its courageous development. We need faster railway connections with other places in Slovenia. I hope we would be among the first to ensure the safe management of urban airspace and facilitate the use of drones and flying cars. I wish we would have a uniform card for all modes of mobility with accessible multimodal hubs enabling nonstop public service from door

Violeta Bulc, MSc,
entrepreneur and
former European
Commissioner
for Mobility and
Transport

I wish my city would continue its courageous development

to door. Smart mobile solutions should be a constituent part of urban planning and urban design, understanding also the sociological, psychological and physical needs of a healthy person.

I love Ljubljana. I'm proudly watching how it's flourishing, and I'm happy I can

boldly look forward to numerous new opportunities that will enable it to stay in the company of the most beautiful, people-, animal- and tree-friendly cities. I wish for Ljubljana to develop the foundations of eco-civilisation as part of its mission.





Nik Rovar

»Our« street is a unique galaxy of cultures

Stevo Pavlovič,

owner of a hair salon
on the renovated
Trubarjeva ulica

At first, Ljubljana was slowly changing after Slovenia became independent. Namely, the first years of our independence were marked predominantly by growing shopping centres on the city outskirts, and in the process, the city centre was gradually losing small shops and craft businesses. Consequentially this part of the city was stagnating, and after seven in the evening, there were only a few people around.

And then, in 2006, the phenomenon of Zoran Janković occurred! Since then, nothing was as before! Just a year later, the city administration closed the city centre for motor traffic, started renovating the Ljubljanica River embankments, and constructing bridges while introducing greenery to public spaces. All of this led to the title European Green Capital. Ljubljana was the first city in this part of Europe to win the title.

But the story didn't end there. Even afterward, the city continued renovating numerous streets and roads, among them Trubarjeva ulica in 2019. For us, who live and work on that

street, this is of immense importance. The street's appearance is entirely new and fresh, but it still preserved its unique identity even after its renovation. Namely, the street is deeply rooted in the consciousness of local residents and it is considered one of the most multicultural areas in our city. That is why »our« street is regarded as a highly inclusive space, successfully bringing together very diverse lifestyles and social groups.

Despite all the achievements, new challenges won't run out. But because of everything that has been achieved, I'm confident all other planned projects will be carried out, making our city even more cosmopolitan. And so, Ljubljana will have »everything the big cities have«, but at the same time, it will stay a small boutique capital in a European country. It will be even more beautiful, even better, ensuring an even higher quality of life and business.



📷 Personal archive

Cyclists from the outskirts to the centre of the solar system

Tine Mahkovec,

president of the Cycling Association Rajd and head of the biggest cycling school in Slovenia and numerous competitive groups

It is truly incredible if we compare the state fourteen years ago with the present. Now we live in a cycling paradise, and if everyone is already discussing how much has been done for cyclists in the past, it has to be added that there are still many projects planned. I like to grow with the city, and I'm proud of all of its projects, even the non-cycling ones. Although I'm a world traveller, I always like to return home. Then I'm even more aware of how happy we can be to live in such a city – green, active and energetic. The city provides the Cycling Association Rajd with all the opportunities for the development of the cycle sport – the space and the infrastructure and understanding and support for good cycling projects, the ordinary, and the more imaginative ones. Rajd makes sure that an increasing number of Ljubljana's citizens rides a bicycle and spreads the word about the cycling capital around the world. For me, Ljubljana will always be a European Green Capital. I can use my bike for recreation almost in the strict city centre or on Ljubljana's outskirts at every city radial road. I like to spend time in nature every day, and I can do that without leaving Ljubljana.

Cycling in Ljubljana is increasingly popular:

- * we can cycle **on 300 km of well-maintained cycling lanes**. We are regularly updating the cycling infrastructure and eliminating the so-called cycling black spots;
- * on over **70 one-way streets**, cycling is also allowed in the opposite direction;
- * with additional stations and bicycles, we will continue to expand the highly successful BicikeLJ bike-sharing system. **Now there are 720 bicycles available at 72 stations in the BicikeLJ system** (in 2016: 380 bicycles at 38 stations);
- * since the start of the operation of the BicikeLJ system, we recorded over **7.7 million rentals** (in 2016: 3.5 million rentals);
- * by the end of 2020, **214,236 users** were registered in the BicikeLJ system (in 2016: 95,048);
- * during the European Mobility Week 2020, we have introduced a permanent measure – **we are going to set up over 350 bicycle stands**;
- * with already acquired European funds, we are renovating **five main roads** where we are going to construct cycling and pedestrian surfaces;
- * since 2016, we have built **three bike parks**, which attract the youngest and also somewhat older users every day;
- * encouraging daily urban cycling is one of our priorities in the area of sustainable city development. Another proof that we are on the right track is already our third consecutive ranking among the **20 most bicycle-friendly cities in the world, The Copenhagenize Index (2015, 2017, 2019)**.



Within the framework of the European Mobility Week, we opened a Mobile Repair Shop together with our partner, the insurance company Triglav, offering quick and easy free-of-charge repairs of (e)bikes, (e)scooters and (e) skateboards. Photo: Nuša Krajnc

Encouraging and participating:

- * during the European Mobility Week, the employees at the City of Ljubljana accepted the **circular challenge and rode a bicycle to work**. As many as 45 cyclists took the challenge seriously, and they jointly cycled over 8083.71 km in two months. For comparison: that is significantly more than the total distance of the Tour de France 2020, which was 3483 km, and Tour de Spain with 2882.8 km.



Bike Park Fužine is the largest in Ljubljana. The whole complex spans over 2000 square metres with 700 metres of riding surfaces, and the track is 200 metres long in total. Photo: Nik Rovar



In 2018, we joined the international network Cities for Cyclists. The international expert public also recognised Ljubljana as a cycling city and our immense progress in the area, and so the European Cyclists' Federation entrusted us with the organisation of the Velocity conference, making us very proud. Photo: Nik Rovar

Encouraging the use of environmentally friendly vehicles in the city for a better quality of air:

- * each year, the LPP fleet is further updated with **new compressed natural gas buses (CNG)**. From 217 city buses 87 use CNG;
- * as the biggest fuel supplier for environmentally friendly CNG vehicles in the country, we have set up **three fuel stations**. Additional two are planned for 2021;
- * since 2016, we have set up **20 new charging stations for electric vehicles** on public surfaces with our partners, and so there are already over 100 stations;
- * in the city centre, citizens and visitors can take **free-of-charge rides with Kavalir electric vehicles throughout the year** – there are already seven of them (there were five in 2016);
- * in 2016, in Ljubljana a 100-percent electric carsharing project was launched. With its help, Ljubljana won second place in the international competition for the **Carshare City Award** in the category up to 750,000 residents;
- * citizens will soon be able to run their errands by boat on the Ljubljanica River as we will **introduce a regular public river transport line**.



In 2016, we introduced an attractive tourist circular route with the electric train Urban, connecting Ljubljana's main attractions. In the past five years, it has transported over 90,000 passengers. Photo: Doris Kordić



Because of the Kavalir electric vehicles' low speed, passengers can stop them as they are driving, and the friendly drivers are also available on-call. Up to five passengers at a time can take a free ride with Kavalir vehicles, which have no set stops, they comply with their passengers' requests. Photo: Miha Fras



With the complete overhaul of the street Trubarjeva ulica and the renovation of the adjoining streets, the whole area completely changed its appearance. Photo: Nik Rovar

Since 2007 when the city centre was closed for motor traffic, we have:

- * additionally expanded the pedestrian zone to **12 ha** (in 2016: 10 ha);
- * introduced the new and improved **electric train Urban** on a circular tourist route;
- * opened a **new, already sixth P+R parking area in Ljubljana** to further reduce car traffic in the city.



The new, already sixth P+R parking area has 392 parking spaces, including spaces for the disabled, electric cars, buses, tourist buses and 15 parking spaces for caravans. There are also 20 bicycle stands under a roof with space for 40 bicycles at a time, and 100 bicycle stands without a roof for 200 bicycles at a time. From those, the first 12 stands are equipped with chargers for 24 electric bicycles, and there are 16 bicycle storage lockers with chargers for electric bikes. The new parking area P+R Stanežiče is, like all others, connected to the city centre with an LPP bus line. Photo: Doris Kordić

Since 2016, we have performed **smaller (road reconstruction, traffic regime change) or bigger (construction of communal infrastructure or comprehensive refurbishments) maintenance and construction works on over 450 streets and roads. This further improved traffic safety and made journeys for cyclists and pedestrians more pleasant.**



For shorter journeys, we renovated the street Pot Roberta Blinca, and to improve flood safety, we constructed a new retention basin at the street Brdnikova ulica. Although watercourse management falls under state responsibility, but to best protect our citizens, Ljubljana prepared a contingency plan for improving flood safety City of Ljubljana 2013–2022, and we are implementing it. Photo: Nik Rovar



The renovated road Poljanska cesta.
Photo: Nik Rovar



At the crossroads of the streets Poljanska ulica and Rozmanova ulica and the embankment Poljanski nasip, we opened the Prekmurje Square at the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of Prekmurje and the unification of Prekmurje Slovenians with the mother nation. Photo: Nik Rovar



The reconstruction of the road Litijska cesta was carried out within the European project Clean for You, with which we are expanding the sewage system, and in parallel with the renewal of the road surface, we are making sure the traffic regulation is appropriate, thus ensuring greater traffic safety. Photo: Kristina Ina Novak



We renovated the road Zaloška cesta, built a roundabout, constructed sidewalks and bicycle lanes on both sides, set up an LPP bus stop... Construction of bicycle lanes and pedestrian surfaces falls under the scope of the cycling network development project of the City of Ljubljana, which is partly co-financed by the EU Cohesion Fund and the Republic of Slovenia. Photo: Nik Rovar

To make cycling even more pleasant, we have carried out **comprehensive renovations of the cycling infrastructure**, among others on the street Drenikova ulica and the roads Vodnikova cesta, Dunajska cesta, Tržaška cesta and Poljanska cesta. The renovations fall under the scope of the **cycling network development project in the City of Ljubljana**, supported by the Integrated Territorial Investment programme.



Part of the renovated road Dunajska cesta.
Photo: Nik Rovar



Within the scope of the renovation of the road Tržaška cesta, in addition to updating the communal infrastructure, we are also constructing new surfaces for pedestrians and cyclists, and renovating bus stops. Photo: Vita Kontić Bezjak



The renovated road Vodnikova cesta.
Photo: Nik Rovar



The renovated street Drenikova ulica.
Photo: Kristina Ina Novak



BEFORE The road Gosposvetska cesta before the renovation. We were receiving initiatives for the refurbishment of this area and limiting motor traffic since 2014. Photo: Nataša Ramovš Žebovec **NOW** The renovation of the important radial road Gosposvetska cesta is part of a comprehensive project of the renovation of the city centre in line with the sustainable mobility policy. Now the road's appearance is similar to the road Slovenska cesta, more space is provided for pedestrians and cyclists, and it is lined by trees. Photo: Natalija Božič

Each of us can contribute to a brighter future

Alma Kochavy,
entrepreneur and
co-founder of the
culinary market
Open Kitchen

I've always loved Ljubljana as it is inseparably connected to many important aspects of my life. I'm pleased that in cooperation with Ljubljana's public services and companies, we have successfully organised the Open Kitchen for already eight seasons, making sure that Fridays in the centre of Ljubljana are even more varied. Since I moved into the suburbs, I'm even more aware of the positive practices the city is introducing to ensure the highest possible quality of life. Measures aimed at allowing all of us, but especially our descendants, to have a green and safer future are noticeable at every step. I'm proud that one of such measures is also the transformation of the Open Kitchen into a sustainably oriented market. We have been preparing this project for quite some time, but this year we finally succeeded in eliminating all unnecessary plastic and offer our visitors food and drinks in biodegradable materials. Maybe it doesn't seem a big step, but it shows that each of us can contribute to a brighter future.



WE SEE CHANGES

We see the neighbourhoods outside the city centre waking up, and there is an increase in the number of independent initiatives and events making these neighbourhoods vibrant.

We see new trees and greenery alongside roads and promenades.

We see new connections between the city and the Ljubljana Marshes, turning the Marshes increasingly into an area for nature observation and spending free time.

We see tidy paths, bridges and banks of the Ljubljanica River and the Sava River, connecting people and neighbourhoods with both rivers.

We see large quantities of waste separated and processed with state-of-the-art methods at the RCERO centre.

We see good practices and organisations, such as the Youth for Climate Justice, the BicikeLJ system, the Public Institute Young Dragons, the fair-trade shop 3MUHE, the Kavalir, the ProstoRož Association, the Institute for Spatial Policies, the Path of Delicacies project (path from farm to farm in Savlje and Kleče villages in Ljubljana) ...

WE RECEIVE AND GIVE

As I'm using a wheelchair (Alenka), the city is also the most easily accessible environment for me. It gives me independence.

The city provides us with a good basis to be socially active. That is why we are living in a mutual relationship with it and are not just its users.

For us, the relationship with the city is primarily a relationship with people.

The city is our home

Alenka Kreč Bricelj
and Maja Rijavec,
Smetumet collective



Personal archive

Ljubljana is a city for socialising, chance meetings with friends and acquaintances are part of everyday life. Many of them continue over coffee and lead to debates and new encounters. In this sense, Ljubljana is truly generous.

We believe that our contribution to the city is principally making a professional and personal effort to build communities. We are helping in campaigns, such as planting a garden at the Moste market, organising a local musicians' performance, garage sales or a school climate strike.

THE GREEN CAPITAL ARE VALUES IN PRACTICE. LJUBLJANA IS GREEN AND WILL STAY THAT WAY IF:

- each citizen can walk from home to a forest;
- we preserve clean and healthy drinking water;
- we preserve and expand green surfaces;
- we plan and make a fair transition to a carbon-free society;
- we produce less waste;
- we ensure the production of healthy local food.

The Ljubljana Regional Waste Management Centre (RCERO Ljubljana) is the most advanced waste processing facility in Europe. Its key mission is to extract as many useful materials, that is, raw materials, as possible, from mixed municipal waste.

* RCERO now receives mixed municipal waste and separately collected biowaste from 57 municipalities, which means 13 more municipalities than in 2016. It processes waste from almost half of the country.

* RCERO Ljubljana processes separately collected biowaste into first-rate compost suitable for use in gardens and fields.

* We plan to build a facility for the energy use of the combustible fraction of waste, a product of mixed waste processing in RCERO Ljubljana. Following the circular economy principle, this would mean that seemingly useless waste could be returned to where it came from in the form of heat and electricity.

Since 2014 we are **the only European capital in the Zero Waste Europe network.**



The waste management facility, as RCERO is commonly called, uses the most contemporary and sustainable technology for waste management on the European scale and provides green jobs. After processing, less than 5 percent of residual waste ends up in the landfill. Photo: archive of the Public Company Voka Snaga

* We are striving to reduce the use of plastic bags, that is why we have appealed to retailers and hospitality service providers in the centre of Ljubljana. The campaign was joined by **over 70 retailers and hospitality service providers who no longer use plastic bags.**

* In Ljubljana's central market, we set up a temporary **bag dispenser** with free-of-charge biodegradable bags available to shoppers. The bag dispenser was set up as part of the **socially responsible campaign titled: I'm not lasting, but therefore less annoying.**

At **72 locations** in the city centre, we built in **underground containers** replacing 9000 regular waste containers.

We are the European capital with the **highest share of separately collected household waste** (in 2020: 69 percent, in 2016: 66 percent).



Underground containers in Ljubljana's centre have replaced some 9000 regular containers for all five types of waste while freeing public surfaces, improving the appearance and increasing traffic safety in the city centre. Photo: Vita Kontić Bezjak



We set up the bag dispenser in Ljubljana's central market in partnership with the life insurance company NLB Vita. Together we have been calling attention to the excessive use of plastic bags since 2016. Photo: Karmen Žirovnik

In the embrace of positive changes

Ladeja Godina Košir, MSc

founder and director of the Circular Change,
president of the European Circular Economy
Stakeholder Platform ECESP

You can touch the stars more easily if you have a secure grip. Since my birth, Ljubljana has been my haven from which life takes me to different parts of the world and to which I'm grateful to return every time. It is a city of my maturation, the birthplace of my three children and the environment in which I've established the Circular Change – the best entry point for circular economy development stories. Due to the cooperation of different stakeholders and Ljubljana's reputation as a Green Capital of Europe, it grew into a global juncture of co-creators of sustainable circular practices. With it, I'm proud to represent »the most beautiful city« in the world, where a bicycle is my means of transport, green surfaces my refuge, tap water my elixir, the city market my shopping centre, cultural institutions my source of inspiration, the Kavalir my taxi... The sense of safety gives momentum to creativity – in the direction of green, sustainable, circular initiatives, and projects are lining up among the young and the old, among start-ups and large organisations, between the city and the suburbs. Ljubljana's pulse fuels my global spirit. I'm grateful I was given a chance to love Ljubljana.



Ljubljana is my planet of inspiration

Mateja Benedetti,

designer of sustainable fashion and winner of a global award in the field of sustainable luxury brands

As a human being, I feel foremost as a resident of this planet, and nature is my home. After finishing my studies, Ljubljana remained my living space for practical reasons, but this wouldn't have happened if I wouldn't have felt good in it and if I wouldn't have found inspiration here or couldn't create. In the creative and business sense, I've worked a lot and often in other places around the world, but I like to say I come from a green capital, and I always like to return to Ljubljana.

Although my work is mostly creative, fashion is primarily a business.

A responsible and mature human being cannot and must not turn a blind eye to the fact that the fashion industry is one of the three most polluting branches of industry in the world. I take this very personally, preoccupying myself with sustainable solutions in technology, materials and processes, and researching them. In the end, the beauty of creations with colours, patterns and designs is what provides inspiration. If we want positive change, it is not enough that we are the only ones doing what we think is right – we have to try to inspire others. And I myself also find inspiration in Ljubljana, as the city is witnessing a persistent and promising creation of a network of competences for a successful transition into a circular economy, encompassing economic, social and environmental dimensions.



I'm co-creating the city's pulse

Petra Filipič,

ideator in the City Incubator at the Public Institute Young Dragons

During my studies, I moved from the small city of Ptuj to Ljubljana, where at the beginning, I couldn't really find my footing as a young person from the Štajerska region. At first, I didn't participate in any youth activities, but I managed to leave my comfort zone after some years. I became active in the youth centre Young Dragons, and within its framework, I participated in projects in the City Incubator, »German through the music« and an animal care project »zMačkane«. Last year I was offered an opportunity to participate in a project to restore a city bus into a mobile youth centre. I found the idea very interesting. I have acquired many skills, met new people, creatively expressed myself, and gained so much more. Now I can socialise with young people on the unique »Ljuba and Drago« bus with a special environmentally friendly green roof and black plating, which is beckoning young creators to leave their mark on it, similarly to how we left ours precisely one year ago. All of this has made it possible for me to become an active citizen and enabled me to co-create the city's pulse.



At the invitation of **the Ellen MacArthur Foundation**, Ljubljana joined the **Circular Cities Network** aimed at the dissemination of good practices and knowledge through a special web platform that can serve as an inspiration to the cities for innovations in the field of »zero waste« and circular economy.

In 2018, to facilitate a faster transition into a circular economy, we created a new job: **circular economy manager**, an associate in the City of Ljubljana.

We are going to continue introducing **smart solutions** to all areas of our operation. We are tailoring good practices to the needs and capabilities of our city. We **support new sharing and circular business models**, we will continue developing electromobility and digitalisation – using modern information and communication technology, we will offer the citizens easier and faster access to city services.

In 2019, we signed the **New Plastics Economy Global Commitment**. The aim of the commitment is to reduce plastic waste and environmental pollution. It brings together over 450 companies, cities, governments, non-governmental organisations, universities, and other organizations worldwide.



BEFORE In 2016, when Ljubljana held the title European Green Capital, we set up the information office Point.For You. in front of the City Hall made up of two wooden pavilions. Throughout the year, it provided an admission-free programme aimed at different focus groups. Photo: Doris Kordić **NOW** At the conclusion of the project, we moved the pavilions to Podutik where the Cycling Association Rajd is very happy and grateful to use them for the promotion of cycling in Ljubljana. Photo: Grega Stopar



With the innovative project CHAIRity – give it another chance we invited citizens to donate old or worn-out chairs, which we then renovated in workshops held by the society Smetumet with pupils from three primary schools in Ljubljana. Refurbished and reclaimed chairs were then used as an example of a circular economy as part of the scenery at the Eurocities conference and then found their place in our public institutes and companies. Photo: Žiga Intihar

In October 2020, we signed the **European Circular Cities Declaration**. And so, we made an additional commitment to the transition from linear to circular economy and creating a resource efficient, low-carbon and socially responsible society, in which resource use is separated from economic growth.

In the tender Cities to Cities, published by the Institute for Spatial Policies – IPoP, as many as **four Ljubljana's projects were recognised as good practises for sustainable urban development** (the environmentally friendly public procurement of office paper and hygienic paper products, electric vehicles Kavalir, transformation of an old city bus into a mobile youth centre, awareness-raising campaign on the significance of late grass cutting for the bees).

Within the framework of the European project APPLAUSE, we used invasive alien plants species (IAPS) to make paper and paper products, wood products and wooden letters for relief printing, we produced dyes and coatings, we established a platform for IAPS management, we detected their growing sites with satellite images analysis, and much more. Each year we presented the project results at the Festival of (re)use of invasive alien plants.

Between 2017 and 2020, within the framework of the APPLAUSE project, we:

- * carried out **143 workshops with 2,980 participants**,
- * prepared **44 educational videos**,
 - * gathered **30,000 new pieces of data for 121 plant species**,
- * prepared **26 DIY plans and recipes**,
 - * we prepared **two exhibitions and 12 publications**, printed on paper made out of invasive alien plants, among them also the DIY catalogue,
- * produced **7,200 kg of IAPS paper** and collected **400 kg of Japanese knotweed** and **247 kg of Canadian and giant goldenrod**.





The mobile youth centre Ljuba and Drago provides space for socializing in locations in Ljubljana where there is a lack of space and programmes for the youth. The bus is a major attraction and the young love it. Photo: Jon Žagar



We decided to introduce a solution on some renovated roads and streets that is unobtrusive in the environment but at the same time informative, useful and interesting enough to engage the citizens. And so, we have set up a smart bench on three streets and roads, making us the first in Slovenia to turn the existing urban equipment into smart furnishing without needing to set up a new type of urban furniture. Photo: Natalija Božič



We encourage responsible circular behaviour among the city administration employees, which is why we have introduced four circular challenges on the topic of mobility, sustainable shopping, nutrition and everyday life. Photo: Branka Trčak

- * Working together with young people, we **transformed a decommissioned city bus into a mobile youth centre.**

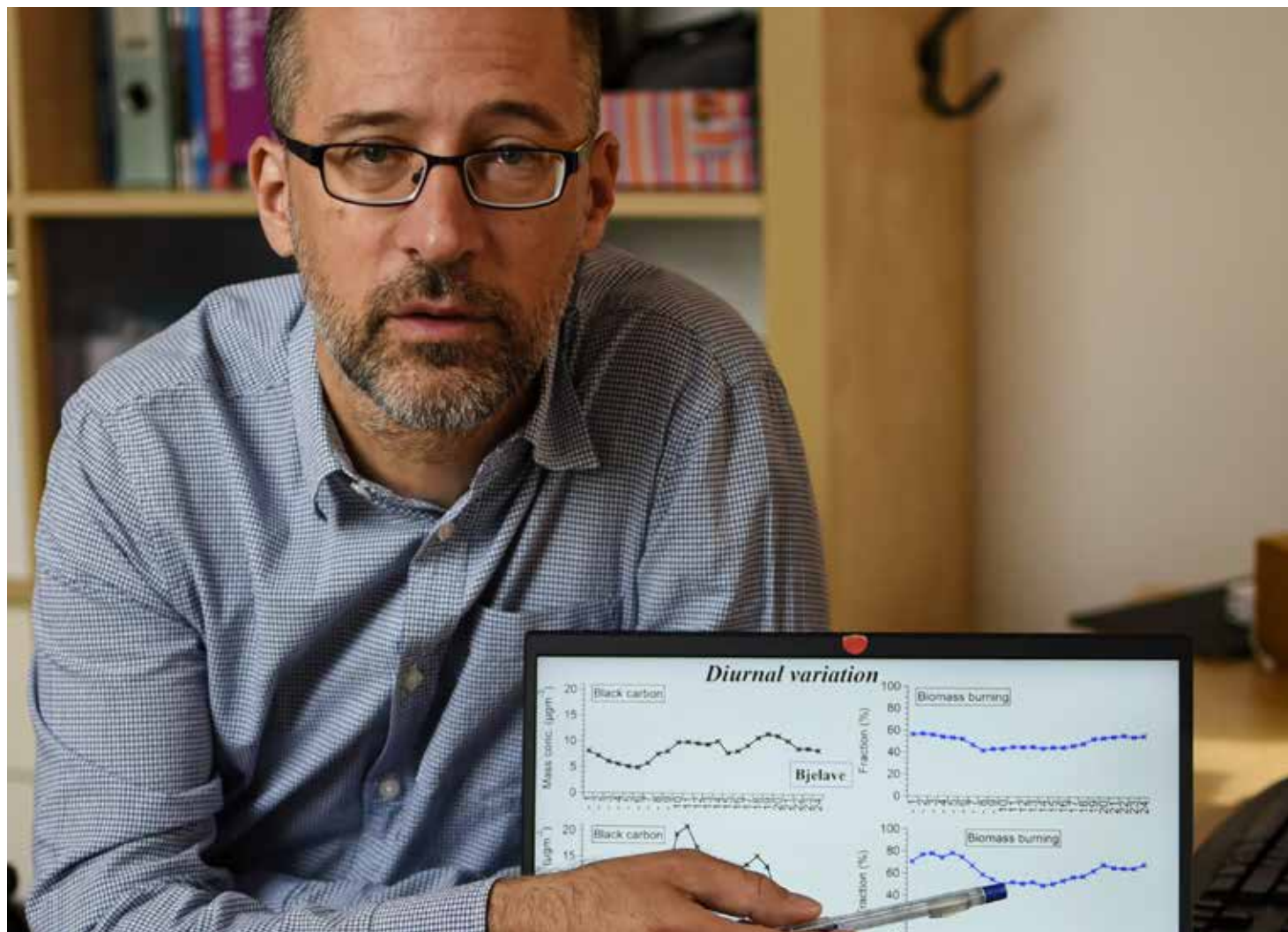
The youth in the project was led and guided by experienced experts in the field of creative industries and youth work. The mentorship followed the »learning by doing« principles – from the idea to the project's final execution.

- * The decommissioned city bus project »Ljuba and Drago« made it into the finals for the Wellbeing Cities Awards, it received the **BIG SEE Interior Design Award 2020**, and was nominated for the **Grand Prix Award** in the civic category.

- * Citizens can charge their smart devices in three locations in Ljubljana, where we have set up **smart benches in 2019.**

- * We have introduced the **exchange of things in three locations of the City Administration.** The aim is to pass on objects from one owner to another. If someone has too many things he doesn't need anymore, he can bring them to the exchange and donate them or exchange them for other items he needs. With the project Exchange of things, we contribute **to the prevention of creating waste and are co-creating a circular economy story.**

- * We have successfully linked energy and pharmacy and created a new circular economy good practice. **The excess heat the company Lek is unable to use in its production processes is now diverted into the district heating system operated by the company Energetika Ljubljana.** By saving fuel this way, we have reduced CO2 emissions by 1000 tonnes per year. The acquired heat covers the heating needs of about 300 apartments.



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Ljubljana – a small city with big lungs

dr. Griša Močnik,
research scientist at
Jožef Stefan Institute

Ljubljana isn't a metropolis in its size but in everything that it offers to its citizens and those who come here every day or only occasionally. And so, the city is changing – often for the better, sometimes slightly less. As my work involves measuring pollution, I'm pleased with the slow but steady improvement of air quality. Increasing the traffic flow seems counterproductive – wider roads attract more traffic, and you end up in equally heavy traffic, there are just more cars on the road. Our black carbon measurements have shown that the traffic ban on the road Slovenska cesta has significantly improved the air quality. The expansion of cycling lanes is very dear to me, as I'm their regular user. Ljubljana could also use the past »success stories«. The elimination of coal as a heating fuel in the eighties of the past century must be repeated with heating with wood, which is becoming an urban fuel. Namely, our measurements have shown that wood is being burnt in the city, not only in the surrounding area.

Developing alternatives to car traffic, avoiding infrastructure that increases traffic and investing in centralized clean district heating can help Ljubljana be a green capital forever. The quality of life makes others green with envy, while Ljubljana's citizens are green because we live in a green capital.

A healthy mind in a healthy body

Deja Doler Ivanović,

former volleyball player and
sports director at the Volleyball
Club Krim Mercator

I'm Deja. Former volleyball player. I'm a woman, a wife, a mother, a friend. Sports director at the Volleyball Club Krim Mercator. And in all of these roles, I am the happiest at home. In the most beautiful city in the world. My favourite place in the world. In Ljubljana.

I'm Deja. A citizen of Ljubljana. I'm living in a beautiful environment. In a European Green Capital, one of the most orderly, cleanest and friendliest places on our planet. As a former top athlete now doing recreational sports, I can say that I live in an environment with outstanding sports infrastructure. The Stožice arena provides us with true luxury, extraordinary ambiance, two halls under one roof. Every European volleyball delegation that comes to visit is impressed by the building. Still, a piece of our heart feels at home at Kodeljevo, the legendary hall that recently underwent energy-saving renovations. »Embellished« in a way that brought together the past and the future, contemporariness.

I'm a citizen of Ljubljana. I'm proud of my city.

A city that in a decade and a half has transformed into a capital, but still likable, in touch with the tradition, and on the other hand full of surprises, surpluses and people-friendly solutions.



© Milan Tomažin



We are looking forward to the completion of the gas and steam unit in the existing heat and power station TE-TOL, with which we are going to reduce the use of coal and ensure even cleaner air in Ljubljana. Photo: Urban Štebljaj and archive of Energetika Ljubljana

We are building a gas and steam unit at Energetika Ljubljana (TE-TOL location) with which we are going to replace two coal units, and with the implementation of cleaner technologies, reduce the use of coal by as much as 70 percent.

With district heating system and natural gas supply system, we provide energy for 75 percent of households.

With the refurbishment and the modernisation of city lighting, **we are actively reducing light pollution and energy consumption.** In 2000 the connected load of lighting was over 9 MW, and now it is below 2.8 MW.

Since 2016 we have **replaced over 10,000 regular lamps with LED lamps,** saving 2000 MWh/year.

The quality of air in Ljubljana is continuously improving. In 2015, we recorded 43 days with exceeded limit value of PM10 particles, and in 2019, only 16.



With the comprehensive renovation of the road Slovenska cesta and the ban on all motorised traffic except public buses on its central part, we have also improved the air quality by reducing the concentration of black carbon by as much as 70 percent above the background. Photo: Doris Kordić



On the Day without Cars 2019, we presented our activities within the framework of the European project Clair City with which we were raising awareness on the significance of air quality in the city environment and the impact of pollution on human health. Photo: Nik Rovčan

In the area of efficient energy use, we have been performing energy renovations of city-owned buildings since 2013. And since 2017, we have significantly increased the number of renovated buildings with the PPP EPC (Public Private Partnership - Energy Performance Contracting) model.

* So far the largest PPP EPC was performed in cooperation with Petrol and Resalta companies. Within this project **we have already renovated 59 municipal buildings, thus saving energy, increasing the share of renewable energy sources and consequently decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, and in the coming two years we plan to renovate additional 27 buildings.**

* With energy renovations of kindergartens, schools, sports and other buildings owned by the City of Ljubljana, we have preserved as many as **170,000 trees so far.**

* The Energy Advanced project is another example of good practice in Slovenia and is well recognized within the European Union countries. In addition to savings, a positive impact on the environment and the satisfaction of end-users, the project's added value is a **new educational programme on the topic on efficient use of water, energy, and renewable resources. In the City of Ljubljana, 10 percent of savings go to children's education in the Ljubljana region.**

* **All energy renovations are carried out at a high level of quality.** With them, we are paving the way towards a healthy, clean and orderly environment so that we and the coming generations may in the future continue to lead a healthy and high-quality life in our city.



BEFORE The Poljane Primary School building before the renovation. **NOW** The Poljane Primary School building after the comprehensive energy renovation. Photo: Peter Irman



BEFORE The Oskar Kovačič Primary School building, Rudnik subsidiary, before the renovation. **NOW** The Oskar Kovačič Primary School building, Rudnik subsidiary, has undergone a comprehensive energy renovation. Photo: Peter Irman



BEFORE The Kodeljevo multipurpose hall with a swimming pool before the renovation. **NOW** The Kodeljevo multipurpose hall with a swimming pool has undergone a comprehensive energy renovation. Photo: Peter Irman

The energy renovated Polje Primary School. Photo: AV studio



The energy renovated Swimming Pool Complex Tivoli. Photo: Peter Irman




The energy renovated Vič Primary School. Photo: AV studio



The energy renovated Kodeljevo Sports hall. Photo: AV studio





Thank you all, who
are helping us take
care of our green
and sustainable
Ljubljana.

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Ljubljana



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

LJUBLJANA:
MESTO/CITY
OF/LITERA-
TURE...

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in 2015

LJUBLJANA.
For you.

Publisher: City of Ljubljana

Executive editor: Karmen Žirovnik

Editor-in-chief: Nuša Krajnc

Contributors: Simona Berden, Tina Capek, Kaja Čurin, Nataša Jazbinšek Seršen, Vita Kontić Bezjak, Doris Kukovičič, Alenka Loose, Maruška Markovčič, Nataša Mavec Oplotnik, Mojca Mohar, Mateja Nose Marolt, Nina Sankovič, Matic Sopotnik, Zala Strojín Božič, Petra Šeme, Marko Taljan

Concept: Karmen Žirovnik

Design and graphic preparation: Pristop, d. o. o.

Print: Salomon, d. o. o.

Circulation: 500 issues

Contact: glavna.pisarna@ljubljana.si

A special edition of the magazine Ljubljana. For You. is a five-year report of the project Ljubljana - European Green Capital. The title Ljubljana proudly held in 2016 significantly strengthened Ljubljana's worldwide recognisability, built up our city's trademark, and put us on the map of the leading sustainable, green, tourist and innovative cities. As the title European Green Capital is an initiative of the European Commission, we are obliged to prepare a five-year report in which we are presenting numerous activities, implemented projects, improvements and key information, which have marked Ljubljana in the past five years and have strongly affected an even higher quality of life in the city.

Thank you all for your cooperation and contributions in preparing the report. Every household in the City of Ljubljana received a free copy of the report in their mailbox.

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environmentally
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