



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA  
MINISTRSTVO ZA ZDRAVJE

# Biodiversity and Human Health

Workshop, Helsinki, 23.-25. 10.2017

Breda Kralj,  
Directorat for Public Health  
Ministry of Health, Slovenia



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA  
MINISTRSTVO ZA ZDRAVJE

# Slovenia: the beauty of (bio)diversity



Area: 20,273 km<sup>2</sup>  
Pop.: 2 million  
25% live in  
urban area  
215 municipalities



# Outlines

- Land of forests – percentage of **Forest Cover -58,8**
- Ljubljana – **European Green Capital 2016**,  
Case of good practise: city is dedicated to pedestrians and cyclist - numerous changes was made
- Almost every town/place is surrounded by forests
- Importance of urban forests or green spaces and biodiversity
- Urban forests – used by many walkers and recreationalists



# Environmental Health in Spatial planning in Slovenia

- Legal requirements
- Role of Ministry of Health
- Environmental Health Guidelines
- Main weaknesses/difficulties:



# Legal requirements

- Spatial Planning Act  
Off. Gaz. of RS, 2007 + several amendments
- Act on the placement of the spatial arrangements of national significance in space Off. Gaz. of RS, 2010, + amendments
- The Environmental Protection Act
- Off. Gaz. of RS 1993+ several amendments



## Spatial planning and role of MH - General procedure:

Draft plan based on (among other inputs):

general (environmental health) guidelines set by different official bodies (to be prepared in advance)

specific (environmental health) guidelines for specific plan: prepared by the same bodies as above

- **First opinion of the Ministry of health within SEA:**

Assessment of the rate of compliance with the general and specific guidelines

Assessment whether the plan will have the significant impact on human health (SEA yes/no)

- Amended draft plan - SEA prepared for amended draft plan

- Public disclosure of the amended draft + SEA

- Proposal plan

- **Second opinion of the Ministry of health**

statement on if the first opinion and sectorial legislation were taken into account

statement on environmental acceptability of the plan (in case of SEA)

- Acceptance of the plan



# General environmental health guidelines

Ministry of Health as a stakeholder in spatial planning must prepare guidelines in terms of protection of human health

- Principles of the document based on Decree on Spatial Order of Slovenia. Rules on the content, format and drawing-up of municipal spatial plan (lays down detailed contents, forms of and method of preparation of municipal spatial plan)
- The legal basis of the general guidelines for the protection of human health:  
National program on nutrition and physical activity for health 2015-2025 with 10 pillars ), Action plans (Children's Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe)...
- Guidelines for optional display of the status of the area
- Mandatory part of process of spatial planning is display of the status of the area (mandatory and optional content)

## Optional display of the status of the area

Degraded areas (officially recognized according to Environmental protection act)

Areas where pollution exceeds limit values (ambient air, soil, environmental noise, surface water...)

IPPC and SEVESO facilities

Landfills, WWTP...

Official set bathing areas, noise protection areas

Areas with increased susceptibility to human health (hospitals, kindergartens, homes for elderly....)





REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA  
MINISTRSTVO ZA ZDRAVJE

**DÓBER TEK**  
Slovenija

Zdravo uživaj & več gibaj.

**DÓBER TEK**  
Slovenija

Nacionalni program o prehrani in telesni dejavnosti za zdravje 2015–2025

- **National program on nutrition and physical activity for health 2015-2025 with 10 pillars**

### Intersectoral actions:

EU sustainable mobility week

National food week with traditional school breakfast

EU sport week





## Implementation of National program on nutrition and physical activity for health 2015-2025

- prevention of life-style related diseases
- improving physical activity among population, especially children
- improving active mobility
- provide green infrastructure or safe and attractive pathways to school and kindergarten (non-obese environment)
- we support innovative programmes as „Walking bus or Pedi bus“ (group of children walking to the school under stewardship of adults)
- in procedure of preparation are Special guidelines for planning of green spaces



# Intersectorial actions for biodiversity and health

- Revision of Spatial planning legislation (obligation to implement measures for climate change on local and regional level)
- In procedure of assessing the status of urban forest as outlines for management of urban forest in legislation
- Preparation are Special guidelines for planning of green spaces by Ministry of Health



## Future actions and challenges

It is not necessary that health sector takes the lead; also other sectors may head the concern of health and define environmental health objectives that can be reached through ach. their goals