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## Building Resilient, Competitive, and Investment-Ready Communities

**23-24 September 2026 | Celje, Slovenia**



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# PREDSTAVITEV GOVORCEV
# SPEAKERS' PRESENTATIONS

Predstavitve govorcev so navedene po vrstnem redu v programu.
The speakers' presentations are listed in the oder of appearance in the program.



**LAURA HAGEMANN ARELLANO**
**Strokovna sodelavka za politike, Enota za Novi evropski Bauhaus, Skupno raziskovalno središče, Evropska komisija**
***Policy Officer, New European Bauhaus Unit, Joint Research Centre, European Commission***

**Laura Hagemann Arellano** je strokovna sodelavka za politike v enoti za Novi evropski Bauhaus pri Skupnem raziskovalnem središču Evropske komisije. Pri svojem delu se osredotoča na teritorialni in urbani razvoj ter na prenos načel Novega evropskega Bauhausa v konkretne lokalne in regionalne projekte. Sodeluje v razpravah in pobudah, povezanih s trajnostno prenovo grajenega okolja, dostopnimi in kakovostnimi bivalnimi rešitvami, vključujočim razvojem skupnosti ter povezovanjem javnih institucij, civilne družbe in drugih deležnikov. Pred sedanjim delom v Enoti za Novi evropski Bauhaus je v okviru Generalnega direktorata Evropske komisije za regionalno in mestno politiko sodelovala pri evropskih pobudah na področjih kohezijske politike, trajnostnega urbanega razvoja in teritorialnega razvoja.
***Laura Hagemann Arellano*** *is a Policy Officer in the New European Bauhaus Unit at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. Her work focuses on territorial and urban development and on translating the principles of the New European Bauhaus into concrete local and regional projects. She contributes to discussions and initiatives concerning the sustainable transformation of the built environment, affordable and high-quality living solutions, inclusive community development, and cooperation between public institutions, civil society and other stakeholders. Before joining the New European Bauhaus Unit, she contributed to European initiatives related to cohesion policy, sustainable urban development and territorial development within the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy.*

**Novi evropski Bauhaus** je politična in finančna pobuda Evropske komisije, ki povezuje zeleni prehod s kakovostjo grajenega okolja ter vsakdanjega življenja ljudi. Temelji na treh medsebojno povezanih vrednotah: trajnostnosti, estetiki oziroma kakovosti izkušnje ter vključevanju. Pobuda podpira razvoj privlačnih, dostopnih in trajnostnih prostorov, pri čemer upošteva raznolikost evropskih krajev, kultur in skupnosti. Deluje s povezovanjem prebivalcev, lokalnih skupnosti, ustvarjalcev, raziskovalcev, javnih organov in gospodarskih akterjev, z zagotavljanjem strokovnih orodij in usmeritev ter s podporo projektom, ki evropske podnebne in družbene cilje pretvarjajo v konkretne spremembe v stavbah, soseskah, mestih in podeželskih območjih.
***The New European Bauhaus*** *is a policy and funding initiative of the European Commission that connects the green transition with the quality of the built environment and people's everyday lives. It is based on three interconnected values: sustainability, beauty and inclusion. The initiative supports the development of attractive, affordable and sustainable places while respecting the diversity of Europe's locations, cultures and communities. It brings together residents, local communities, creative professionals, researchers, public authorities and businesses, provides practical tools and guidance, and supports projects that translate Europe's climate and social objectives into tangible changes in buildings, neighbourhoods, cities and rural areas.*



**MATIJA KOVAČ**
**Župan, Mestna občina Celje**
***Mayor, Municipality of Celje***

**Matija Kovač** je župan Mestne občine Celje od decembra 2022. Po izobrazbi je magister inženir arhitekture, svoje strokovne izkušnje pa je pridobival na področjih arhitekture, oblikovanja in kulturne produkcije. Je soustanovitelj projektivno-oblikovalskega kolektiva Zgradbazamisli ter eden od ustanoviteljev Hiše kulture Celje, kjer je vrsto let sodeloval pri pripravi glasbenih, gledaliških in drugih kulturnih projektov. V lokalno politiko je vstopil leta 2014 kot član Mestnega sveta Mestne občine Celje. Svojo vlogo župana razume kot povezovanje občanov in občine ter spodbujanje sodelovanja pri razvoju mesta. Pri svojem delu poudarja pomen znanja, vključevanja različnih pogledov in ustvarjanja skupnosti, v kateri lahko vsak prispeva k boljši kakovosti življenja.
***Matija Kovač*** *is the Mayor of the Municipality of Celje, a position he has held since December 2022. He holds a Master's degree in Architecture and has gained professional experience in architecture, design and cultural production. He is a co-founder of the Zgradbazamisli architectural and design collective and one of the founders of Hiša kulture Celje (House of Culture Celje), where he was involved for many years in the development of music, theatre and other cultural projects. He entered local politics in 2014 as a member of the City Council of the Municipality of Celje. He sees his role as mayor as one of connecting citizens with the municipality and encouraging their participation in the city's development. In his work, he emphasises the importance of knowledge, the inclusion of diverse perspectives and the creation of a community in which everyone can contribute to improving quality of life.*

**Mestna občina Celje** je pomembno povezovalno, upravno, gospodarsko in kulturno središče regije, ki skrbi za razvoj mesta ter kakovost življenja skoraj 50.000 prebivalcev. Kljub manjši površini jo odlikujeta visoka gostota poseljenosti in živahno urbano okolje. V občini deluje več kot 6.000 podjetij, kar odraža močno podjetniško kulturo in pomembno gospodarsko vlogo Celja. Občina prek Mestnega sveta, župana, občinske uprave in strokovnih služb usmerja razvoj na področjih okolja, prostora, gospodarstva, financ in družbenih dejavnosti ter zagotavlja strokovno, pregledno in ljudem namenjeno odločanje.
***The Municipality of Celje*** *is an important regional hub for cooperation, administration, business and culture, committed to the city's development and the quality of life of its nearly 50,000 residents. Despite its relatively small area, the municipality is characterised by a high population density and a vibrant urban environment. It is home to more than 6,000 businesses, reflecting a strong entrepreneurial culture and Celje's significant role in the regional economy. Through the City Council, the Mayor, the municipal administration and its professional departments, the municipality guides development in the fields of the environment, spatial planning, the economy, finance and social affairs, while ensuring professional, transparent and people-centred decision-making.*



## JOŽE PETKOVŠEK

**Podsekretar, Ministrstvo za lokalno samoupravo, kohezijo in regionalni razvoj, Sektor za koordinacijo pametne specializacije**

***Undersecretary, Ministry of Local Self-Government, Cohesion and Regional Development, Smart Specialisation Coordination Unit***

**Jože Petkovšek,** magister poslovnih ved z več kot 20-letnimi delovnimi izkušnjami, od katerih sem skoraj 15 let deloval v gospodarstvu, zadnjih deset let pa so mi zaupane naloge na Ministrstvu odgovornem za kohezijo, v okviru Direktorata za kohezijo, večino časa v Sektorju za koordinacijo pametne specializacije.

***Jože Petkovšek*** *holds a Master's degree in Business Studies and has more than 20 years of professional experience, including nearly 15 years in the private sector. For the past ten years, he has been entrusted with responsibilities at the Ministry responsible for cohesion policy, within the Cohesion Directorate, primarily in the Smart Specialisation Coordination Unit.*

**Ministrstvo za lokalno samoupravo in regionalni razvoj (MSLKRR)** je pristojno za področja lokalne samouprave, regionalnega razvoja ter izvajanje in koordinacijo evropske kohezijske politike. Ministrstvo s svojim delovanjem prispeva k skladnemu regionalnemu razvoju, zmanjševanju razvojnih razlik med regijami ter učinkovitemu usmerjanju evropskih in nacionalnih sredstev v razvojne projekte.

*The* ***Ministry of Local Self-Government and Regional Development*** *is responsible for the areas of local self-government, regional development, and the implementation and coordination of European cohesion policy. Through its activities, the Ministry contributes to balanced regional development, reducing development disparities between regions, and effectively directing European and national funds towards development projects.*



## SAŠA HEATH-DRUGOVIČ

### Namestnica direktorja za evropske zadeve, Mestna občina Celje

***Deputy Director for European Affairs, Municipality of Celje***

**Saša Heath-Drugovič** je namestnica direktorja za evropske zadeve MOC in Predsednica Strokovne komisije za izvedbo celostnih teritorialnih naložb (CTN) ter Odbora za evropske zadeve in mednarodno sodelovanje pri ZMOS. Po večletnem delu v gospodarstvu doma in poslovnem svetovanju v tujini se je posvetila delu z evropskim sofinanciranjem, ki je ključno za zagotavljanje razvoja v državi. Na MOC je od leta 2007 vzpostavila ekosistem za delo na evropskih projektih. Sodelovala je pri programiranju dveh minulih programskih obdobij in je aktivna tudi v pripravah na novo programsko obdobje. Od leta 2016 je delovala na vzpostavitvi in izvajanju mehanizma CTN za urbani razvoj mestnih občin v Sloveniji, ki ga je skozi predstavljanje načina dela in rezultatov pri sodelovanju v pripravi Evalvacije obdobja 2014-2020 Evropske komisije umestila kot primer dobre prakse večnivojskega upravljanja. Je avtorica projekta Governance and Public Administration: A Reform to Improve Efficiency of the ESI Funds Absorption Processes in Slovenia, ki ga je financiral DG REFORM. Poleg zastopanja interesov MOC in mestnih občin v Sloveniji je zelo aktivna tudi v delovnih skupinah v Bruslju in drugih institucijah, pomembnih za evropsko sofinanciranje. Pri svojem delovanju si prizadeva za vzpostavljanje sistemskega dela in doseganja učinkovitosti ter skrajšanja poti evropskih sredstev do dejanskega izvajanja razvojnih projektov tako za uspešnost Celja in mestnih občin z mehanizmom CTN kot za njihovo prepoznavnost doma in v Evropi.

***Saša Heath-Drugovič*** *is Deputy Director for European Affairs at the CMunicipality of Celje (MOC), Chair of the Expert Committee for the Implementation of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI) and Chair of the Committee for European Affairs and International Cooperation at the Association of Urban Municipalities of Slovenia (ZMOS). After several years of working in the private sector in Slovenia and in business consulting abroad, she dedicated her career to European co-financing, which plays a key role in supporting development across the country. Since joining the Municipality of Celje in 2007, she has established an ecosystem for the implementation of European projects. She participated in the programming of the two previous programming periods and is also actively involved in preparations for the upcoming programming period. Since 2016, she has contributed to the establishment and implementation of the ITI mechanism for the urban development of urban municipalities in Slovenia. Through presenting its working methods and results as part of the European Commission's evaluation of the 2014–2020 programming period, she helped position the mechanism as an example of good practice in multilevel governance.*

*She is the author of the project Governance and Public Administration: A Reform to Improve Efficiency of the ESI Funds Absorption Processes in Slovenia, funded by DG REFORM.*

*In addition to representing the interests of the Municipality of Celje and urban municipalities in Slovenia, she is highly active in working groups in Brussels and other institutions relevant to European co-financing. Through her work, she strives to establish systematic approaches, improve efficiency, and shorten the path from European funding to the actual implementation of development projects. Her efforts support the success of Celje and urban municipalities through the ITI mechanism, while also strengthening their visibility in Slovenia and across Europe.*



**MATJAŽ RIBAŠ**
**Direktor, Slovenski regionalno razvojni sklad (SRRS)**
***Director, Slovenski regionalno razvojni sklad (SRRS)***

**Matjaž Ribaš,** ki že več kot pet let vodi Slovenski regionalno razvojni sklad (SRRS), združuje 25 let vodstvenih izkušenj in več kot 15 let delovanja v finančnih razvojnih institucijah. Njegovo delo zajema predvsem vodenje, finančno upravljanje, obvladovanje tveganj ter strateško planiranje.
***Matjaž Ribaš,*** *who has been leading the Slovenian Regional Development Fund (SRRS) for more than five years, brings together 25 years of management experience and more than 15 years of experience working in financial development institutions. His work primarily focuses on leadership, financial management, risk management, and strategic planning.*

**Slovenski regionalno razvojni sklad,** kot razvojna finančna institucija z zagotavljanjem finančne podpore usmerja skladen regionalni razvoj. Pri financiranju projektov izpostavljajo načela trajnosti, prehod v krožno gospodarstvo in dolgoročno odpornost lokalnih okolij. Z vlaganjem v razvojne potenciale vseh regij neposredno prispeva k regionalnemu razvoju Slovenije.
***The Slovenian Regional Development Fund****, as a development-oriented financial institution, supports balanced regional development by providing financial assistance. Its approach to project financing emphasises sustainability, the transition to a circular economy, and the long-term resilience of local communities. By investing in the development potential of all Slovenian regions, the Fund makes a direct contribution to the country's regional development.*



**BORUT SEVER**

**Direktor, Fundacije za financiranje invalidskih in humanitarnih organizacij v Republiki Sloveniji (FIHO)**

***Director, Foundation for Funding Disability and Humanitarian Organisations in the Republic of Slovenia (FIHO)***

**Borut Sever** je univerzitetni diplomirani pravnik z dolgoletnimi izkušnjami na področju invalidskega varstva, človekovih pravic in delovanja invalidskih organizacij. Poklicno pot je začel v Zvezi paraplegikov Slovenije, nadaljeval v gospodarstvu, pozneje pa je deloval v Nacionalnem svetu invalidskih organizacij Slovenije, kjer je najprej vodil pravno službo, nato pa organizacijo tudi kot predsednik. Od leta 2022 je direktor Fundacije za financiranje invalidskih in humanitarnih organizacij v Republiki Sloveniji (FIHO), kjer se osredotoča predvsem na zagotavljanje stabilnega, preglednega in učinkovitega financiranja invalidskih in humanitarnih organizacij. Aktiven je tudi na evropski ravni, kjer sodeluje v Upravnem odboru Evropskega invalidskega foruma (EDF), ter je podpredsednik Upravnega odbora Socialne zbornice Slovenije.

***Borut Sever*** *is a university graduate in law with many years of experience in the fields of disability rights and protection, human rights, and the work of organisations of persons with disabilities. He began his professional career at the Slovenian Paraplegic Association, continued his career in the private sector, and later joined the National Council of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities of Slovenia, where he first headed the legal department and subsequently served as President.*
*Since 2022, he has been Director of the Foundation for Funding Disability and Humanitarian Organisations in the Republic of Slovenia (FIHO), where his work focuses primarily on ensuring stable, transparent and effective funding for organisations of persons with disabilities and humanitarian organisations. He is also active at the European level, serving on the Board of the European Disability Forum (EDF), and is Vice-President of the Board of the Social Chamber of Slovenia.*

**Fundacija za financiranje invalidskih in humanitarnih organizacij v Republiki Sloveniji (FIHO)** je ustanovljena z namenom zagotavljanja stalnega, stabilnega in sistemskega vira financiranja programov in storitev, ki jih izvajajo invalidske in humanitarne organizacije, na podlagi javnih razpisov in v skladu s predpisanimi merili, z namenom enakopravnega vključevanja njihovih članov, oziroma uporabnikov njihovih storitev v družbo. Osnovna dejavnost FIHO je financiranje oziroma sofinanciranje izvajanja posebnih socialnih programov in storitev invalidskih organizacij oziroma programov in storitev humanitarnih organizacij za reševanje socialnih stisk in težav oziroma reševanje socialnih potreb posameznikov, delovanja invalidskih oziroma humanitarnih organizacij ter naložb v osnovna sredstva ter njihovo vzdrževanje. FIHO v ta namen upravlja s sredstvi, ki jih pridobiva iz koncesijskih dajatev za prirejanje iger na srečo, upravlja s svojim premoženjem, ter sredstvi, ki jih pridobiva z darili, volili in drugimi prihodki.

***Foundation for Funding Disability and Humanitarian Organisations in the Republic of Slovenia (FIHO)*** *was established to provide a permanent, stable and systemic source of funding for programmes and services delivered by organisations of persons with disabilities and humanitarian organisations, based on public calls for proposals and in accordance with prescribed criteria, with the aim of ensuring the equal inclusion of their members or users of their services in society.*
*FIHO's core activity is to finance or co-finance the implementation of special social programmes and services provided by organisations of persons with disabilities, as well as programmes and services provided by humanitarian organisations aimed at addressing social distress and difficulties or meeting the social needs of individuals. This also includes supporting the operation of organisations of persons with disabilities and humanitarian organisations, as well as investments in fixed assets and their maintenance. For this purpose, FIHO manages funds obtained from concession fees for organising games of chance, manages its own assets, and administers funds acquired through gifts, bequests and other sources of income.*



**KARINA MEDVED BREGAR**
**Vodja EU zadev in projektov, Družba Petrol d.d.**
***Head of EU Affairs and Projects, Petrol Group***

**Karina Medved Bregar,** univerzitetna diplomirana politologinja mednarodnih odnosov in magistra ekonomskih in poslovnih ved, je vodja EU zadev in projektov v skupini Petrol. Z ekipo skrbi za vodenje in koordinacijo evropskih projektov in projektov, sofinanciranih iz nepovratnih sredstev, prijave na razpise in vključevanje v mednarodne konzorcije ter črpanje sredstev za projekte zelenega prehoda. Na področju energetike – projektov ter energetskih politik dela že 15 let, strokovno znanje in izkušnje je pridobivala v Evropskem parlamentu v Bruslju, Združenju proizvajalcev in distributerjev električne energije Eurelectric v Bruslju in Holdingu Slovenske elektrarne d.o.o. Trenutno je tudi podpredsednica slovenske sekcije Eurelectric pri EZS.
***Karina Medved Bregar,*** *who holds a university degree in Political Science specialising in International Relations and a Master's degree in Economics and Business, is Head of EU Affairs and Projects at the Petrol Group. Together with her team, she is responsible for managing and coordinating European projects and projects co-financed through grants, preparing applications for calls for proposals, participating in international consortia, and securing funding for green transition projects. She has been working in the energy sector, focusing on energy projects and policies, for 15 years. She gained her professional knowledge and experience at the European Parliament in Brussels, the Eurelectric Association of Electricity Producers and Distributors in Brussels, and Holding Slovenske elektrarne d.o.o. She currently also serves as Vice-President of the Slovenian Eurelectric Section at the Energy Chamber of Slovenia (EZS).*

**Družba Petrol d.d., Ljubljana,** je največja slovenska energetska družba, največji slovenski uvoznik, največje slovensko podjetje po prihodkih, ena največjih slovenskih trgovskih družb ter vodilni ponudnik naftnih derivatov, plina in ostalih energentov v Sloveniji ter pomemben regijski partner na trgih JVE. Osrednja razvojna dejavnost skupine Petrol je uvajanje novih energetskih dejavnosti in proizvodnja elektrike iz obnovljivih virov. Matična družba in nekatere odvisne družbe pokrivajo več spektrov poslovanja, od prodaje goriv in derivatov do prodaje energije in rešitev, druge pa so usmerjene na ožji krog poslovnih področij. Ponudba celovitih energetskih rešitev je konkurenčna prednost skupine Petrol.
***Petrol Group, Ljubljana,*** *is Slovenia's largest energy company, the country's largest importer, the largest Slovenian company by revenue, one of the country's largest trading companies, and a leading provider of petroleum products, gas, and other energy sources in Slovenia, as well as an important regional partner in the markets of Southeast Europe. The Petrol Group's core development activities focus on introducing new energy services and generating electricity from renewable sources. The parent company and certain subsidiaries operate across a broad range of business areas, from the sale of fuels and petroleum products to the sale of energy and energy solutions, while others focus on a narrower range of business activities. The provision of comprehensive energy solutions represents a competitive advantage for the Petrol Group.*



**TANJA ANTONIČ**
**Pomočnica direktorice za splošno in poslovno področje v Splošni bolnišnici Jesenice**
***Assistant Director for General and Business Affairs at Jesenice General Hospital***

**Tanja Antonič** je univerzitetna diplomirana pravnica in pomočnica direktorice za splošno in poslovno področje v Splošni bolnišnici Jesenice. Njeno več kot dvajsetletno karierno pot povezujejo sistemi, ljudje in odnosi. Izkušnje iz javnega sektorja, podjetništva in mediacije danes združuje pri vodenju kompleksne zdravstvene organizacije, upravljanju sprememb ter povezovanju različnih strok in interesov. Aktivno sodeluje pri razvojnih in mednarodnih projektih, med drugim pri projektu CE-VITA, v katerem Splošna bolnišnica Jesenice nastopa kot vodilni partner. Verjame, da resnične spremembe nastanejo takrat, ko znamo povezati sisteme, ljudi in odnose ter strategijo prevesti v rešitve, ki delujejo v praksi.
***Tanja Antonič** holds a university degree in law and serves as Assistant Director for General and Business Affairs at Jesenice General Hospital. Throughout her career spanning more than twenty years, she has focused on connecting systems, people, and relationships. Today, she draws on her experience in the public sector, entrepreneurship, and mediation to manage a complex healthcare organisation, lead change, and bring together different professional fields and interests. She actively contributes to development and international projects, including CE-VITA, in which Jesenice General Hospital acts as the lead partner. She believes that meaningful change happens when we successfully connect systems, people, and relationships, and translate strategy into solutions that work in practice.*

**Splošna bolnišnica Jesenice** je zdravstvena ustanova z več kot sedemdesetletno tradicijo, ki sega v leto 1948. Približno 700 zaposlenih zagotavlja varno, strokovno in kakovostno zdravstveno oskrbo na sekundarni ravni. Kot edina splošna bolnišnica v Gorenjski regiji ima približno 200 bolniških postelj ter nudi splošno in specialistično zdravstveno oskrbo ter nujno medicinsko pomoč. Njena glavna področja delovanja so kirurgija, interna medicina, ginekologija in porodništvo ter pediatrija. Bolnišnica ima tudi mobilni paliativni tim, oddelek za zdravljenje kroničnih ran in službo koordinatorjev zdravstvene obravnave. Akreditirana je po standardu AACI, ki vključuje zahteve sistema ISO 9001. Deluje tudi kot učni zavod in raziskovalna organizacija ter sodeluje v mednarodnih projektih in kliničnih raziskavah. Njeno delo temelji na strokovnosti, integriteti in odgovornosti do pacientov.
***Jesenice General Hospital** is a healthcare institution with more than seventy years of tradition, dating back to 1948. Its team of approximately 700 employees provides safe, professional, and high-quality secondary healthcare services. As the only general hospital in the Gorenjska region, it operates around 200 beds and provides general and specialist healthcare, as well as emergency medical services. Its main areas of activity are surgery, internal medicine, gynaecology and obstetrics, and paediatrics. The hospital also has a mobile palliative care team, a chronic wound treatment unit, and a healthcare coordination service. It is accredited according to the AACI standard, which incorporates ISO 9001 requirements. The hospital also serves as a teaching institution and research organisation, participating in international projects and clinical research. Its work is guided by professionalism, integrity, and responsibility towards patients.*



**KARMEN SADAR**
**Direktorica občinske uprave, Občina Šmartno pri Litiji**
***Director of the Municipal Administration, Municipality of Šmartno pri Litiji***

**Karmen Sadar,** diplomirana geografinja in etnologinja ter magistrica geografskih znanosti s področja turizma in varstva okolja. Svoje delovne izkušnje sem pridobivala na Institutu za geografijo v Ljubljani, Centru za razvoj Litija (zdaj Razvojni center Srca Slovenije), več kot 20 let pa delujem na Občini Šmartno pri Litiji kot direktorica občinske uprave in odgovorna za področje družbenih dejavnosti, kmetijstva, gospodarstva in turizma. Poleg tekočih nalog na teh področjih imam precej izkušenj tudi pri projektih v okviru različnih evropskih programov in skladov predvsem na področju razvoja podeželja, pa tudi investicijskih projektov za izboljšanje gospodarske in družbene infrastrukture.
***Karmen Sadar*** *holds a degree in Geography and Ethnology and a Master's degree in Geographical Sciences, specialising in tourism and environmental protection. She gained her professional experience at the Institute of Geography in Ljubljana and the Litija Development Centre (now the Heart of Slovenia Development Centre). For more than 20 years, she has worked at the Municipality of Šmartno pri Litiji, where she serves as Director of the Municipal Administration and is responsible for social affairs, agriculture, the economy, and tourism. In addition to her regular responsibilities in these fields, she has extensive experience in projects implemented under various European programmes and funds, particularly in rural development, as well as investment projects aimed at improving economic and social infrastructure.*

**Občina Šmartno pri Litiji** je podeželska občina v Osrednji Sloveniji s približno 5700 prebivalci in 94 km2. Ustanovljena je bila leta 2002, z odcepitvijo od Občine Litija. Znana je predvsem po gradu Bogenšperk, kjer je deloval slovenski polihistor Janez Vajkard Valvasor, in impozantni cerkvi sv. Martina v Šmartnem. V občini deluje več uspešnih podjetij, predvsem na kovinarskem področju (Herz d.o.o., Kopit d.o.o., Kovikor d.o.o.), bogata je tudi obrtna dejavnost. V 20 letih delovanje je občina občutno dvignila kvaliteto bivanja svojim občanom, saj je zgradila prizidek z bazenom k OŠ Šmartno, novo športno dvorano in sodobno šolsko zunanje igrišče, obvoznico Šmartno, kanalizacijski sistem za občinsko središče, posodobila oskrbo s pitno vodo, trenutno pa je v gradnji 17 oddelčni novi vrtec. Bogato društveno dejavnost občina podpira tako finančno kot z zagotavljanjem ustreznih prostorskih pogojev.
***The Municipality of Šmartno pri Litiji*** *is a rural municipality in central Slovenia, with approximately 5,700 inhabitants and an area of 94 km². It was established in 2002 following its separation from the Municipality of Litija. The municipality is best known for Bogenšperk Castle, where the Slovenian polymath Janez Vajkard Valvasor worked, and the impressive Church of St Martin in Šmartno. Several successful companies operate in the municipality, particularly in the metalworking sector, including Herz d.o.o., Kopit d.o.o., and Kovikor d.o.o. The area also has a strong tradition of crafts and small businesses. Over the past 20 years, the municipality has significantly improved the quality of life of its residents by investing in key public infrastructure and facilities. These include an extension with a swimming pool at Šmartno Primary School, a new sports hall, a modern outdoor school playground, the Šmartno bypass, a sewage system for the municipal centre, and improvements to the drinking water supply. A new 17-classroom kindergarten is currently under construction. The municipality supports its vibrant community and civic association life through both financial assistance and the provision of suitable facilities.*



## ANJA ŠERC
## Direktorica, Regionalna razvojna agencija Zasavje
### *Director, Regional Development Agency of Zasavje*

**Anja Šerc** je direktorica Regionalne razvojne agencije Zasavje. Na svoji profesionalni poti se ukvarja z razvojem skupnosti, ljudi in projektov, ki podpirajo trajnostni razvoj. Tako na teoretični kakor tudi na praktični ravni podpira razvoj inovativnih pristopov, ki podpirajo spremembe v skupnostih, organizacijskih kulturah, kompetencah in načinih povezovanja znotraj in izven organizacij.

***Anja Šerc*** *is the Director of the Regional Development Agency of Zasavje. Throughout her professional career, she has focused on community development, people, and projects that support sustainable development. Both theoretically and practically, she promotes the development of innovative approaches that drive change in communities, organizational cultures, competencies, and ways of connecting within and beyond organizations.*

**Regionalna razvojna agencija Zasavje** s Centrom za pravični prehod podpira uravnotežen in trajnostni razvoj Zasavja. Delujemo med lokalnim, državnim in mednarodnim okoljem ter s povezovanjem in strateškim načrtovanjem usklajujemo razvojne pobude štirih občin regije - Hrastnika, Litije, Zagorja ob Savi ter Trbovelj. Prispevamo k razvoju regijskih projektov, ki prispevajo k regeneraciji gospodarstva, naravnega okolja, družbenega življenja in infrastrukture. Kot ena od dveh slovenski regij, vključenih v Mehanizem za pravični prehod EU, namenjamo poseben poudarek spodbujanju procesov in projektov, ki prispevajo k pravični in trajnostni regijski razvojni usmeritvi. Kot partner pobude New European Bauhaus vnašamo v svoje delo vrednote trajnostnosti, lepote in vključevanja skupnosti, da prispevamo h kakovosti življenja v regiji.

*The **Regional Development Agency of Zasavje**, together with the Centre for Just Transition, supports the balanced and sustainable development of the Zasavje region. We operate at the local, national, and international levels, coordinating the development initiatives of the region's four municipalities – Hrastnik, Litija, Zagorje ob Savi, and Trbovlje – through collaboration and strategic planning. We contribute to the development of regional projects that drive the regeneration of the economy, natural environment, social life, and infrastructure.*

*As one of the two Slovenian regions included in the EU Just Transition Mechanism, we place special emphasis on promoting processes and projects that contribute to a just and sustainable regional development direction. As a partner in the New European Bauhaus initiative, we incorporate the values of sustainability, beauty, and community inclusion into our work, thereby helping to improve the quality of life in the region.*



**PRIMOŽ VODOVNIK**
**Strateški vodja, Regionalna razvojna agencija Koroška**
***Strategic Lead, Koroška Regional Development Agency***

**Primož Vodovnik** je strateški vodja na RRA Koroška, regionalni razvojni agenciji za Koroško, in praktik z bogatimi izkušnjami s pripravo in implementacijo razvojnih projektov, ki segajo še v čase predpristopnih programov Evropske unije. S posebno strastjo je predan čezmejnemu sodelovanju s sosednjo Avstrijo.
***Primož Vodovnik*** *is a Strategic Manager at the Regional Development Agency for Koroška (RRA Koroška) and a development practitioner with extensive experience in the preparation and implementation of development projects, dating back to the European Union's pre-accession programmes. He is particularly passionate about cross-border cooperation with neighbouring Austria.*

**Regionalna razvojna agencija Koroška** je osrednja regionalna razvojna institucija Koroške regije, katere poslanstvo je spodbujanje lokalnih razvojnih potencialov ter skrb za trajnostni razvoj regije in širšega območja. Njena ključna področja delovanja so regionalni razvoj, podjetništvo in turizem. Kot subjekt spodbujanja razvoja na regionalni ravni, opravlja t.i. splošne razvojne naloge, ki so v javnem interesu. Z aktivnostmi in projekti intenzivno spodbuja podjetništvo ter gradi celovito podporno okolje. Skrbi za strateško usmerjen razvoj in promocijo turistične destinacije Koroška. RRA Koroška letos obeležuje 25 let delovanja.
***The Koroška Regional Development Agency*** *is the central regional development institution of the Koroška region. Its mission is to promote local development potential and support the sustainable development of the region and the wider area. Its key areas of activity are regional development, entrepreneurship, and tourism. As an institution responsible for promoting development at the regional level, it carries out general development tasks that serve the public interest. Through its activities and projects, it actively promotes entrepreneurship and builds a comprehensive support environment. It is responsible for the strategically oriented development and promotion of the Koroška tourism destination. This year, RRA Koroška is celebrating 25 years of operation.*



**DOMEN VOGELSANG**
**Direktor, LTO Rogla-Zreče, GIZ**
***Director, LTO Rogla-Zreče, GIZ***

**Domen Vogelsang** je direktor LTO Rogla-Zreče, GIZ, ki je zadolžena za upravljanje vodilne turistične destinacijskeRogla-Pohorje. Njegovo delo je usmerjeno v povezovanje turizma, gospodarstva, lokalnih skupnosti in razvojnih institucij z namenom ustvarjanja trajnostnih in konkurenčnih razvojnih modelov znotraj turistične destinacije ter skrbi za povezovanje destinacije na nivoju Slovenije. Je član upravljalske skupine Partnerstva za Pohorje in Regijskega parka Pohorje, kjer prispeva k usklajevanju razvojnih, turističnih in varstvenih interesov na območju Pohorja. Sodeluje tudi v številnih nacionalnih strokovnih združenjih in mrežah, kot so Outdoor Slovenija, Konzorciju Slovenia Green ter Mreži kolektivnih blagovnih znamk Izvorno slovensko, ki povezujejo deležnike na področju trajnostnega razvoja, kakovosti in promocije slovenskega turizma.

***Domen Vogelsang*** *is the Director of LTO Rogla-Zreče, GIZ, the organisation responsible for managing the leading tourist destination of Rogla-Pohorje. His work focuses on connecting tourism, the economy, local communities and development institutions with the aim of creating sustainable and competitive development models within the destination, as well as strengthening the destination's integration at the national level in Slovenia. He is a member of the management groups of the Pohorje Partnership and the Pohorje Regional Park, where he contributes to coordinating development, tourism and nature conservation interests across the Pohorje area. He is also active in a number of national professional associations and networks, including Outdoor Slovenia, the Slovenia Green Consortium and the Originating Slovenian Collective Brands Network, which bring together stakeholders working in sustainable development, quality and the promotion of Slovenian tourism.*

**LTO Rogla-Zreče, Gospodarsko interesno združenje** je organizacija za upravljanje in razvoj vodilne destinacije Rogla-Pohorje, ki povezuje občine Zreče, Slovenske Konjice, Vitanje in Oplotnica. Njeno poslanstvo je usklajeno načrtovanje razvoja turizma, izvajanje promocijskih aktivnosti, razvoj novih turističnih produktov ter povezovanje lokalnih ponudnikov in drugih ključnih deležnikov. Organizacija skrbi za krepitev prepoznavnosti destinacije na domačih in tujih trgih, spodbuja trajnostni razvoj turizma ter povezuje razvojne, gospodarske, kulturne in naravne potenciale območja. Ob tem aktivno sodeluje v nacionalnih in mednarodnih partnerstvih ter mrežah, s čimer prispeva k dvigu kakovosti turistične ponudbe ter dolgoročni konkurenčnosti destinacije in regije.

***LTO Rogla-Zreče, Economic Interest Grouping*** *is the organisation responsible for the management and development of the leading destination of Rogla-Pohorje, bringing together the municipalities of Zreče, Slovenske Konjice, Vitanje and Oplotnica. Its mission is to coordinate tourism development planning, carry out promotional activities, develop new tourism products, and connect local tourism providers with other key stakeholders. The organisation works to strengthen the destination's visibility in domestic and international markets, promote sustainable tourism development, and connect the area's development, economic, cultural and natural potential. It also actively participates in national and international partnerships and networks, contributing to higher quality tourism provision and the long-term competitiveness of the destination and the region.*



**PRIMOŽ ŠPORAR**
**High Impact Designer in CEO, Fund 2740**
***High Impact Designer in CEO, Fund 2740***

**Mag. Primož Šporar,** dolgoletni član Evropskega ekonomsko socialnega odbora, high impact designer in CEO FUND2740 – High Impact Foundation, mentor na seznamu Slovenskega podjetniškega sklada ter SPIRITa, prejemnik 1,0 mio EUR donacije s strani Google.org za razvoj impact design metodologije, inovator in nosilec prvega patenta v impact ekonomiji, lastnik blagovne znamke Wood Belt, pobudnik razvoja AI platforme IMPANOVA+ za reševanje družbenih izzivov, pobudnik mreže WISH – World Impact Sales Hub, član organov več mednarodnih organizacij ter udeleženec preko 500 mednarodnih dogodkov s področja impact podjetništva in družbeno koristnih dejavnosti.
***Mag. Primož Šporar** - Long-standing member of the European Economic and Social Committee, high-impact designer and CEO of FUND2740 – High Impact Foundation, mentor listed by the Slovenian Enterprise Fund and SPIRIT Slovenia, recipient of a €1 million grant from Google.org for the development of impact design methodology, innovator and holder of the world's first patent in impact economics, owner of the Wood Belt trademark, initiator of the AI platform IMPANOVA+ for addressing societal challenges, founder of the WISH – World Impact Sales Hub network, board member of several international organisations, and participant in more than 500 international events in the fields of impact entrepreneurship and socially beneficial activities.*

Poslanstvo **FUND2740 - High Impact Foundation** je razvijati orodja in motivirati ljudi, organizacije in podjetja, da povečajo svoj pozitiven vpliv ter uravnotežijo skrb za ljudi, planet in dobiček. Naše dejavnosti vključujejo impact design, impact investment ter uporabo AI orodij za maksimizacijo pozitivnih vplivov. FUND2740 je neprofitna fundacija, ki ponuja podporo impact podjetjem in organizacijam ter sodeluje s podpornimi okolji. Naše dejavnosti podpira več kot 500 donatorjev in vlagateljev, vključno z Google.org.
*The mission of **FUND2740 – High Impact Foundation** is to develop tools and motivate individuals, organisations and companies to increase their positive impact while balancing care for people, the planet and profit. Our activities encompass impact design, impact investment and the use of AI tools to maximise positive outcomes. FUND2740 is a non-profit foundation that provides support to impact enterprises and organisations and collaborates with supportive ecosystems. Our work is backed by more than 500 donors and investors, including Google.org.*

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