



ECOLOGISTS WITHOUT BORDERS, OUR YEAR 2024



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

74

**workshops and
lectures**

30

**legislative initiatives (our
own and co-signed)**

6

projects

24,6 %

**residents in
municipalities with zero
waste strategies**



WE CELEBRATED

10 years of Zero waste Slovenia program



THE MORE THE MERRIER

After 10 years of the Zero waste program, **19 municipalities** (25% of population) have joined the network. Through systematic work they have **prevented at least 20,470 tonnes of mixed municipal waste** and in some cases even reduced the total amount of waste.

Good practices of responsible management of natural resources and waste have over the years, been transferred by Ecologists Without Borders to the tourism sector, where we have successfully collaborated with **19 events, 4 accommodation providers and 3 hospitality businesses** in preventing waste generation.

We celebrated the anniversary together with representatives of best zero waste practices, partners and Zero Waste Europe on 10.10.2024 in Ljubljana.



WE HAVE NEVER TALKED THIS MUCH ABOUT

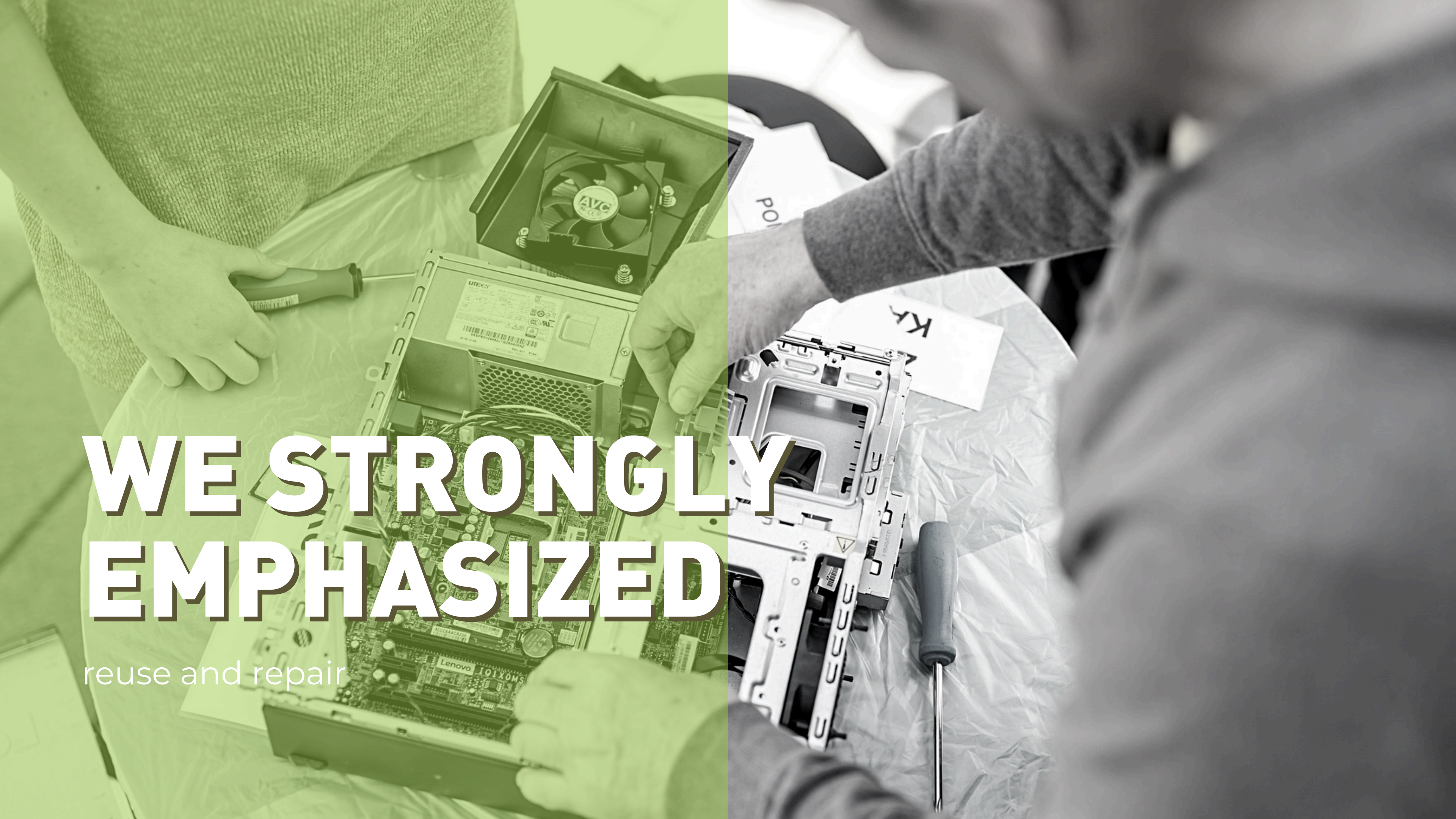
digital waste



CLICK AWAY THE DIGITAL WASTE

The first nation-wide digital clean-up campaign was in collaboration with the communication group o28. **1288 individuals** joined our initiative and eliminated **26,000 GB of data** from their digital devices which amounted to 5 tonnes of reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

The implementation of this year's campaign was supported by Zavarovalna skupina Sava, GENI-I, A1, Loterija Slovenije, Genis, Ljubljanske mlekarne, Hofer and Spar Slovenia.



WE STRONGLY EMPHASIZED

reuse and repair



COMMUNITIES GO CIRCULAR

Within 24 months of partnership with Knof, Green action and Green Istria from Croatia and with Zero Waste Italy we created some wonderful stories:

- the international conference on repair
- **6 repair events** in 5 cities, attended by 114 participants from 4 different countries
- **Festival of reuse** in Maribor and Vrhnika
- review of the state of the right to repair with an outline of legislative updates and shortcomings at the national and European level
- guidelines for encouraging reuse projects across communities



BACK ON OUR PLATES

food



PROJECT KROŽNIK 12.3 (PLATE 12.3)

Project Krožnik 12.3 is tackling food waste reduction in restaurants. At the same time it promotes local, seasonal and plant-based food menus.

We will conduct an **analysis** in three restaurants, based on the review of offerings and procurement policies, implement appropriate measures and assess the success through re-weighing. We will identify the measures based on existing **good practices used in Slovenian and foreign restaurants**. We are gathering this information by interviewing the leading representatives in the field of sustainable hospitality and **involving students from hospitality and tourism tracks**.

The results of this project will be presented at the Slovenian day of zero food waste 2025.



CLEAN FOREVER

our programme guidelines



ZERO WASTE MUNICIPALITIES

In 2024, three new municipalities developed zero waste strategies. **Laško, Zreče and Gorenja Vas-Poljane** are stepping towards more efficient resource management and reducing negative impacts of waste. At the end of the year, the municipalities of **Jeruzalem** region started on their path: Ormož, Sveti Tomaž, Središče ob Dravi and Gorišnica.

We audited zero waste achievements of the municipalities of the Island of Krk, Croatia.

ebm.si/zw/obcine/



This year we continued with our activities within the zero waste network, working with the municipalities to find custom-tailored solutions for reducing single-use plastic. Within this scope we developed a guide for promoting reusable diapers on the local level and proposed the implementation of a regulation that would enable the co-financing their purchase. The three new municipalities that became the Zero Waste Candidates cities have accepted plans for single-use plastic reduction within their zero waste strategies.

We also reviewed green public procurement and provided recommendations for improvements that take incorporate environmental criteria for packaging selection. We also participated the training on plastic waste prevention strategies in Berlin



ZERO WASTE TOURISM

We accepted a new member into the zero waste network, **Vetrinjc BarCoda**.

At a professional event TURBO (TURizem **Bled** Odpadki) we presented an analysis of waste management in relation to tourism, the results of good zero waste practices and suggestions for better resource and waste management.

We continued the collaboration with **Turizem Ljubljana** and **Voka Snaga** on a project of "Implementation of zero waste strategies in Ljubljana's hotels." We conducted waste weighing and analysis and continued with education of hoteliers in six hotels.

<https://ebm.si/zw/turizem/hoteli/>



ZERO WASTE EVENTS

In 2024 we **updated the system of zero waste event evaluation**. Lahinja trail became the first event on the path to zero waste to earn all **three stars**. Alongside our traditional partners new events managed to separately collect over 90% of waste: Cankar's hike in Vrhnika, Slovenian book day in Maribor and Family park picnic in Krško.

Red Bull Flugtag event in Maribor also implemented waste reduction measures.

On average the events produced **59 grams** of waste per visitor per day.

<https://ebm.si/zw/turizem/prireditve/>

- We participated in the 6th global brand audit and contributed with Slovenian data
- At our initiative we commemorated the World Refill Day in Slovenia on June 16th
- We actively monitored the SUP directive implementation and prepared an analysis of its implementation in Slovenia
- We invested time to work at the European level, including for the upcoming Packaging and packaging waste regulation.



PLASTICS

- For the Slovenian day of zero food waste we attended an interesting presentation of the new term "food consciousness" and took part in the discussion "Respect the food, respect the planet" and co-created a critical debate about sustainable food systems in the Alumniteka podcast.
- We visited the agricultural and food fair Agra, participated at the conference about sustainable health care (Zdravstvo na zeleni poti), another with the national institute of health, and we opened a discussion for World Food Safety Day at the National assembly.



FOOD WASTE



LESS IS MORE

*Manj je več (Less is more) is the main Slovenian portal for encouraging reuse. In 2024 we tackled the popularization of repair, rental and the second-hand goods with the Festival of reuse in Vrhnika. We added **19 new providers** and **213 events** promoting reuse to the portal.*

manjjevec.si



ADVOCACY

We participated in **35 local and foreign initiatives** and public consultations. Since the key national waste legalization remains uncertain (ZVO-2 in courts, the deposit refund system in a drawer) we put more effort into the **international arena**. From the Global plastics treaty to mostly European legislation on packaging, microplastics, repairs and chemicals.

RESEARCH

Alongside project research we tackled the analysis of unwanted spam mail in households and analysis of Directive (EU) 2019/904 implementation about reducing the influence of certain plastic products on the environment in Slovenia.

EVENTS IN NUMBERS

78

**of our own lectures,
workshops and guest
appearances**

5835

minutes of programe

45

**different topics that
were presented at
events**

104,5

hours of internal training

9

appearances for an international audience

2177

participants at our lectures and workshops

INTERNATIONAL



In the past year the need for study visits at home and abroad has increased. In Slovenia we presented good practices to delegations from **France, Belgium, Italy, Montenegro, Croatia, North Macedonia and Kosovo**. In Ljubljana we guided visitors through zero waste treasure hunts in Slovenian, English and French. Our projects also lead us to **Estonia, Belgium, Poland, Austria, Croatia and Germany**.

- In collaboration with **Gorenjska banka** we designed and conducted sustainable walks in Kranj and Ljubljana
- In collaboration with **SPAR Slovenia**, we published a Sustainable shopping guide, which we presented to journalists and influencers on Earth Day.
- For two companies, we carried out **cleanup actions** with a waste brand audit

BUSINESSES

We are members of networks

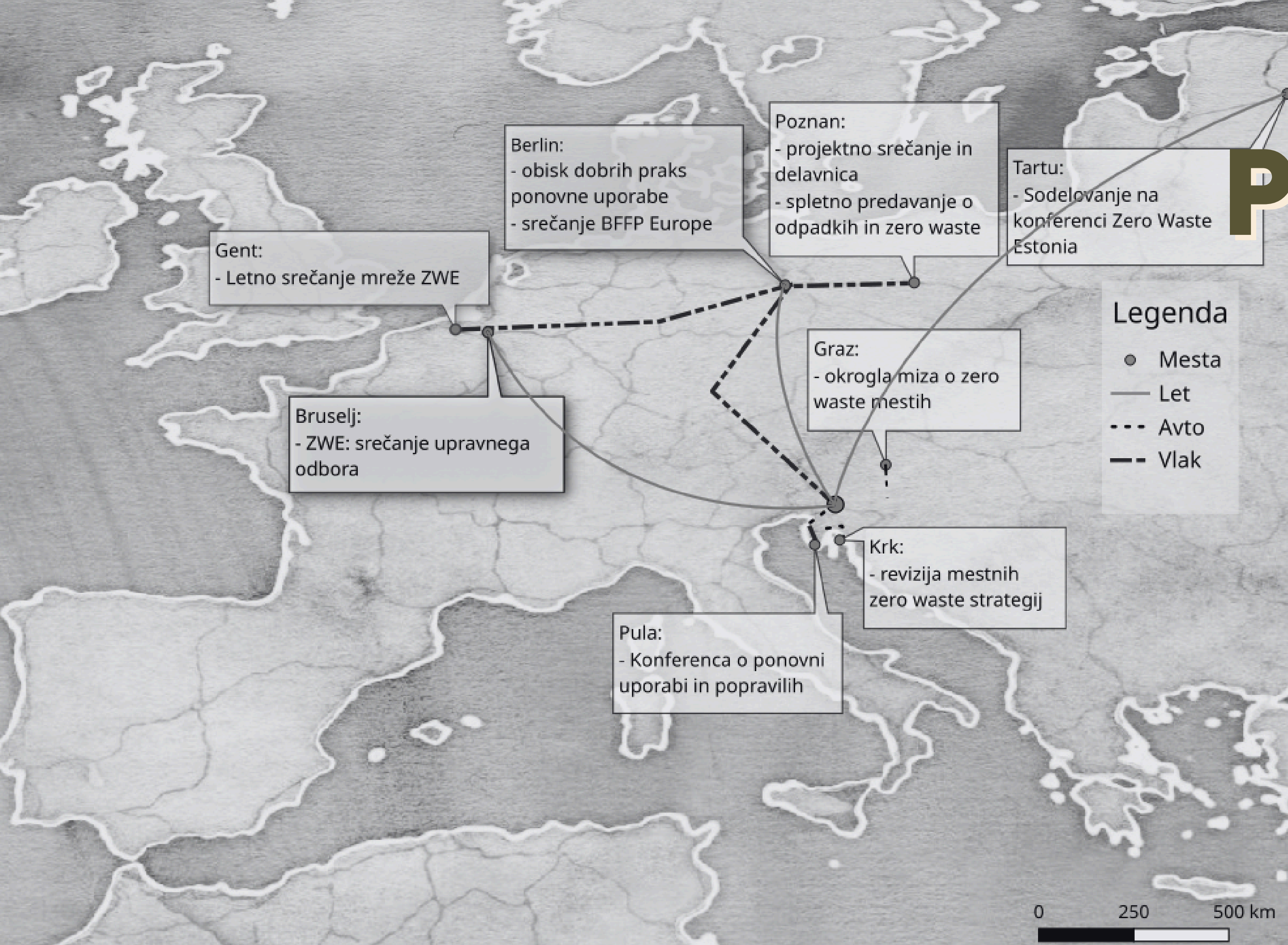
- Plan B for Slovenia: network for sustainable development (network of Slovenian environmental non-profit organizations)
- Zero Waste Europe (network of European national zero waste organizations)
- Let's Do It! (mass clean-up actions movement)
- Break Free From Plastic (movement against plastic pollution)
- Right to Repair (coalition for encouraging repairs)

**WE ARE NOT
ALONE**

Museum of Contemporary History Celje, Plastika Skaza, Interafval, Sava Insurance Group, GEN-I, A1, Lottery of Slovenia, Genis, Ljubljanske Mlekarne, HOFER, SPAR Slovenia, Fraport, Gorenjska Bank, JYSK, Tourism Ljubljana, Institute for Tourism and Development Lendava, JKP Vrhnika, JKP Slovenske Konjice, LAS Rural Development, Planet Positive Events, Ministry of the Environment, Climate, and Energy, RRA Posavje, City Municipality of Ljubljana, We Global, City Library Ljubljana, BSC Kranj, Ljubljana Geographical Society, SGGOŠ Ljubljana, Municipality of Laško, Ribno Alpine Resort, Tourism Institute Ormož, Heart of Slovenia Development Center, Institute for Entrepreneurship, Tourism, and Youth Brežice, Roiss, KUD Coda, Institute for Tourism, Culture, Sports, and Youth Metlika, City Municipality of Velenje, Faculty of Economics UL, MKC Maribor, Radenska, Tourism Institute Radovljica, Tourism Institute Vrhnika, Otok Institute, European Greens, Alpik, National Home Maribor, Rokus Klett, Philip Morris d.o.o., Karla Destovnika-Kajuha Primary School Šoštanj, Komunala Idrija, Voličina Primary School, RIC Bela Krajina, Zero Waste Europe, Velika Planina, Municipality of Zreče, Rera d.o.o., Hiša Mrak, Inter es d.o.o., Alpik, Verpact, Makom, Bunker, Tourism Institute Kranj, Andraž Ravnikar, Matija Mazi, Tina Dular, Natalija Godeša, Lora Kočan, Samanta Kerčmar, Artjom Vassiljev, Anže Rifelj Tričkovič, Marcel Heing-Becker, Franja Zorko.

**SUPPORTERS AND
CLIENTS**

OUR PATHS I



Our trips included:

- project events
- international network and strategy meetings
- good practice site visits
- panels
- audits



OUR PATHS II

We use public transport or electric vehicles for parts of our journeys across Slovenia

WE RESONATE

1819

media mentions

461.070

individuals reached

11372

subscribers to
our newsletter

67

articles on our websites

Klara A. Žagar, dr. Boštjan Aver, Joan Marc Simon, dr. Marinka Vovk, Nara Petrovič, Maša Šprajcar-Rančič, Peter Torkar, dr. Emilija Stojmenova Duh, Maja Kalan, Tina Roškar

NEWSLETTER

We hosted
insightful
columnists and
conversed with
interesting
personalities



All our reports are public

SHARES OF USED RESOURCES:



TRANSPARENCY

implementation
**of the nationwide "Let's
clean Slovenia's digital
waste"**

expansion of the zero
waste network and
certification
**of municipalities and
companies**

raising awareness
through video content

implementation of projects
**on food waste, reuse and
textiles**

strengthening the
connection
**between culture and
environmental care**

strengthened
advocacy work

FUTURE PLANS

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[Zero Waste Slovenija](#)
[Manj je več](#)
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We encourage you to invite us to your town or organization, where we gladly present our interesting lectures and workshops. We also write successful stories together with companies, contact us so we can write one with you!

THANK YOU

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