

**Interreg
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1st Interregional Thematic Seminar

Integrated green infrastructure and biodiversity conservation



Poslovno podporni center Kranj
Regionalna razvojna agencija Gorenjske

Mateja Korošec, BSC Kranj, 25 JANUARY 2024 | Online



Management of City Forest in City Community Celje

Introduction

- ❖ **Celje, the city of Counts:** The fourth largest city in Slovenia (37.188 people) with rich cultural heritage within green environment
- ❖ Urban forest – **a source of energy**
- ❖ **The Urban forest of Celje** – an exemplary case of sustainable management, protection and conservation of forest areas in the immediate vicinity of the city
- ❖ Developing the forests in the city's vicinity in the terms of its ecological and social function since 1997: Infrastructure development, purchasing of private forests and adapted management





The history of the Urban forest of Celje (1996-)



The key issues

- No legal status
- The ownership and fragmentation
- Unadjusted forest management
- Poor accessibility
- Unused potential



The main measures implemented

Urban Forest of Celje strategy Plan 1996:

- Protection by law, planting of trees annually
- Improvement of ownership
- Adapted management
- Infrastructure development
- Structural financement



The most crucial results

- New recreational/educational infrastructure
- New areas of public urban forests
- Long-term oriented forest management
- Established monitoring system



Purchased forest areas by the Municipality of Celje, 1997-2008

The Celje Urban Forest Story, PROSILVA Conference 2019
Robert Hostnik, Boštjan Hren, Slovenia Forest Service



Newly constructed forest infrastructure, 2000-2008

The Celje Urban Forest Story, PROSILVA Conference 2019
Robert Hostnik, Boštjan Hren, Slovenia Forest Service



mestni
gozd



Adapted Forest Road

paved
width: 2,5 - 3 m
multiple use



Skidding Trail

unpaved
width: up to 2,5 m
multiple use



Walking Path

(un)paved
width up to 1,2 m





The Tree House

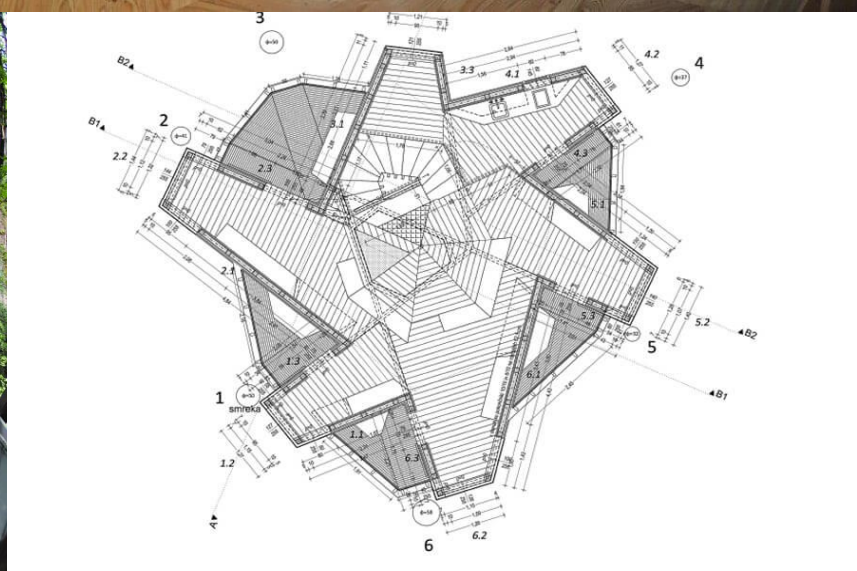
GREEN4GREY – FOREST FOR CITIES (INTERREG SLOVENIA-CROATIA PROJECT)

- ❖ Revitalization of degraded forest areas – Tree house, children's playground and equipped forest paths
- ❖ Raising public awareness of natural and cultural assets of forests through education and promotion

Tree House

- ❖ The house is made of Douglas fir, felled in this urban forest and attached to 6 trees
- ❖ Observatory - a platform for educational and cultural activities, exhibitions, contemplation, team building, events, etc.
- ❖ Forest lab – education through experience





Nature forest experience – forest pedagogy

Educational programmes encourage the experience of nature on the topics of:

- ❖ Diversity and functioning of the forest ecosystem, comparing it with urban, park and grassland ecosystems
- ❖ Tree and animal species in forests,
- ❖ Forest reserves and primary forests
- ❖ The functions of forests and their importance for society and human health
- ❖ Principles and history of Slovenian forest management
- ❖ Sustainable use of forest resources









94 ha of well preserved forest area,
12 well-maintained with total length of 14 km equipped walking trails
1 Adopted Strategy on forest management, protection and conservation
2 Decrees on the protection of forest and trees
1 Educational multi-purpose observatory - tree house
The number of visitors to the forest is increasing year by year: 15,000 in 2000 and 65,000 in 2018 (The Slovenia Forest Service)

Local community cooperation

Main stakeholders

- ❖ Local Unit of Slovenian Forest Service – initiative, expertise, innovation and enthusiasm
- ❖ Municipality of Celje – funding, support
- ❖ Celeia, Development of culture and tourism – promotion, organization of events
- ❖ Urban Forest – Association for the Sustainable Development of Urban Nature (NGO)

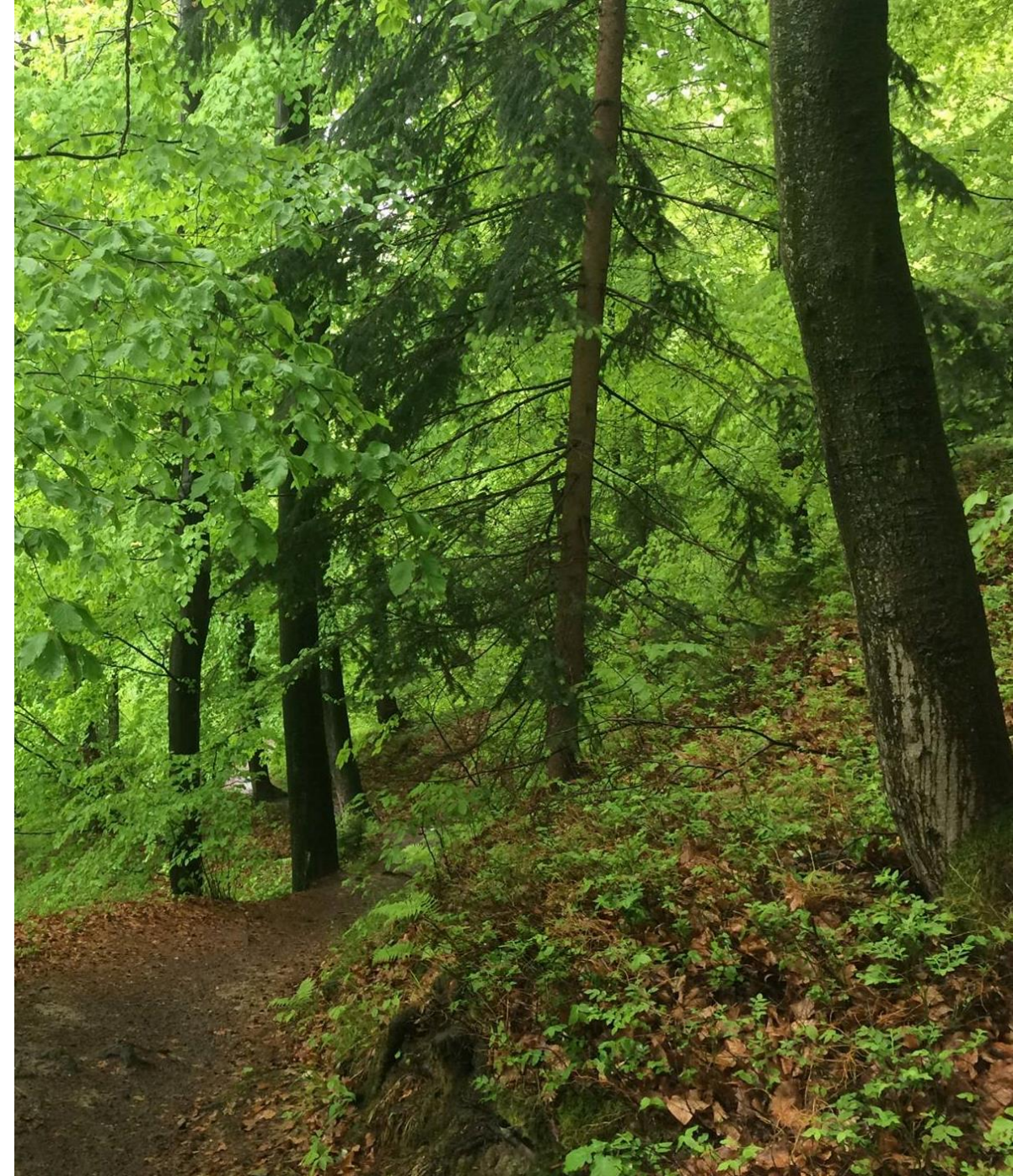
Main beneficiaries:

- ❖ International foresters, biologists, ecologists, artists and architects
- ❖ Residents, visitors, pupils and students



Transfer of experiences

- ❖ Adapted forest management,
- ❖ Model regulation and governance of ownership issues,
- ❖ Innovative educational content to raise awareness of the benefits of forests and biodiversityinovativnega razvoja rekreacijske infrastrukture
- ❖ Particularly successful cooperation between the public forestry service and the local community





Thank you for your attention

Mateja Korošec:
mateja.korosec@bsc-kranj.si

www.bsc-kranj.si



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