

Regional challenges related to the protection of PUOS in

# GORENJSKA



REGIONAL DATA	
Country	Slovenia
NUTS Level	Level 3
Total Area in km² (2015)	2136,5
Population (Census Data 2011)	203.427
Ratio on Total Country population (%)	9,92
Population Density (Persons/Km²; 2015)	96,0

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## Regional Background

PUOS in the region of Gorenjska provide diverse functions, but are still not regulated in a way that would enable strategic solutions of multiple public functions and safeguarding of biodiversity. In Gorenjska, a high touristic pressure on open spaces persists which is generating different challenges. In addition to the traditionally intensive use of nature, especially for free time activities (e.g. walking, biking, running, etc.) among the local inhabitants, there is an ever-increasing use by tourists, particularly in the areas that have a strong touristic character (e.g. in vicinity of Natura 2000 and other nature protected areas).

In addition to the touristic and recreational use, further stakeholders having interests and also responsibilities in PUOS. These are forest owners, farmers in the adjacent cultivated areas (mostly meadows) local communities and other institutions responsible for protection of cultural and natural heritage, for forests, agriculture and NGOs dealing with the topic. Recently, some cooperation among stakeholders regarding the topic took place, but for PUOS so far there are no strategies and action plans that would upgrade their existing usage.

For challenges like these, there is no strategic approach implemented to moderate and in the end to come by. Hence, a consensus between different stakeholders is needed, e.g. regarding preservation as well as the awareness rising towards biodiversity and soft(er) tourism. Above all, it is the local communities that have a responsibility here. Here, the idea is to implement Green Infrastructure (GI) at a local and regional level to better address the named challenges.

Further challenges are the investments happening on greenfield sites on the outskirts of the bigger cities in the region, but also in inner-city areas. In the cities/settlements, many green areas are designated as building land. Unused or partly used fragmented brownfields can be found in the city centers that could increase the level of green areas as well, while developing the redesign of brownfields.

The idea is to work on a development of local plans and then, based on that, on a regional plan, created by experts and stakeholders.

Therefore, work on smaller projects and pilot cases in local communities should serve as guide/role models for further strategic work in PUOS in other local communities and on the regional level of Gorenjska.

In order to provide the legally lengthy planning process with a participatory instrument, the local stakeholders need to be empowered to cooperate and to learn from other good practices that could serve as a starting point for better development of PUOS.

The aim is to propose inputs for policy changes and implementation approaches.

## Regional Challenges

**High touristic pressure on green areas generates different conflicts**

**Investments on greenfields**

**Legally lengthy planning process**

## Needs of Good Practices

**Implementation of green infrastructures on local/regional level**

**Cooperation among stakeholders to mitigate touristic pressure**

**Awareness rising about the relevance of green infrastructures and Peri-Urban Open Spaces**

**Empowerment for development of regional strategies / action plans and local development plans / implementation of actions**



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