

Dr. Leo Seserko

## Implementation of Local Agenda 21 in Slovenia and its European Perspective

There were two non-governmental organizations in Slovenia that were actively involved in the implementation process of the local Agenda 21, Umanotera (Slovene Foundation for Sustainable Development) and ZEG (Association of Slovene Environmental Movements). Umanotera organized and published a project "Agenda 21 for Slovenia"<sup>1</sup> which was a cooperation work of nineteen NGO's. They started with the finding that Slovenia is somewhere between the thirty to forty most developed countries in regard to its economic development, its structure of international exchange and overall living standard of its population. But its endeavor for sustainable development is situated internationally far behind its comparable economic position. In the year 1995 the environmental damage (ecological footprint) was estimated by the NGO's as high as 4 - 6% of the BDP, the environmental expenses of the state budget only about 0,6% of the BDP. That means that the economic progress and welfare was due to the intensive degradation of the environment. The ZEG conducted a poll research on the Implementation of Agenda 21 in Slovenian local communities<sup>2</sup>. Situation of implementation of Agenda 21 in Slovenia in this pool is seen from the point of respective municipal administration, mayor and his staff or community council. As such it is subjective and more than less positive in favor of self- promotion of communities. But as such it is still giving a good picture of real situation in the communities.

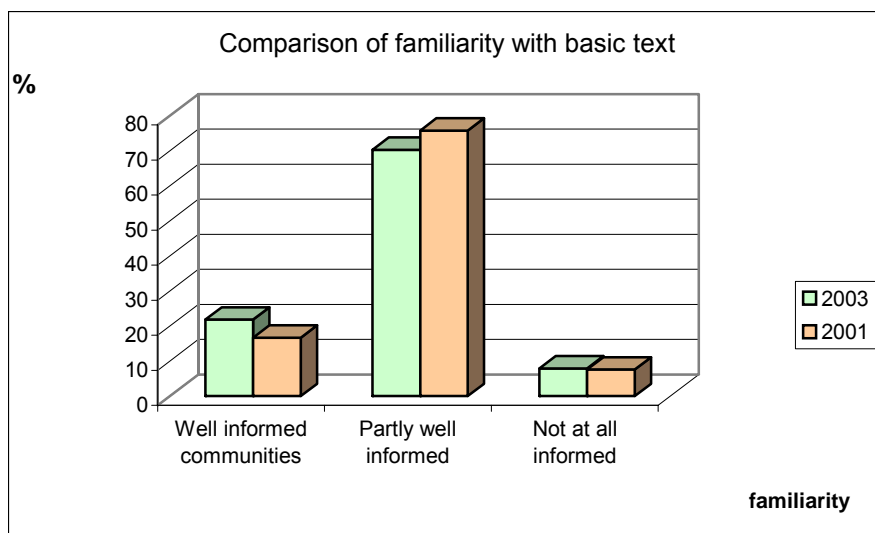
### **1. Is your community council familiar with the basic text concerning the implementation of the sustainable development of AGENDA 21 for Slovenia:**

	<b>2003</b>	<b>2001</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Well informed communities	21,8	16,7
Partly well informed	70,3	75,7
Not at all informed	7,9	7,6
<b>All</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>

---

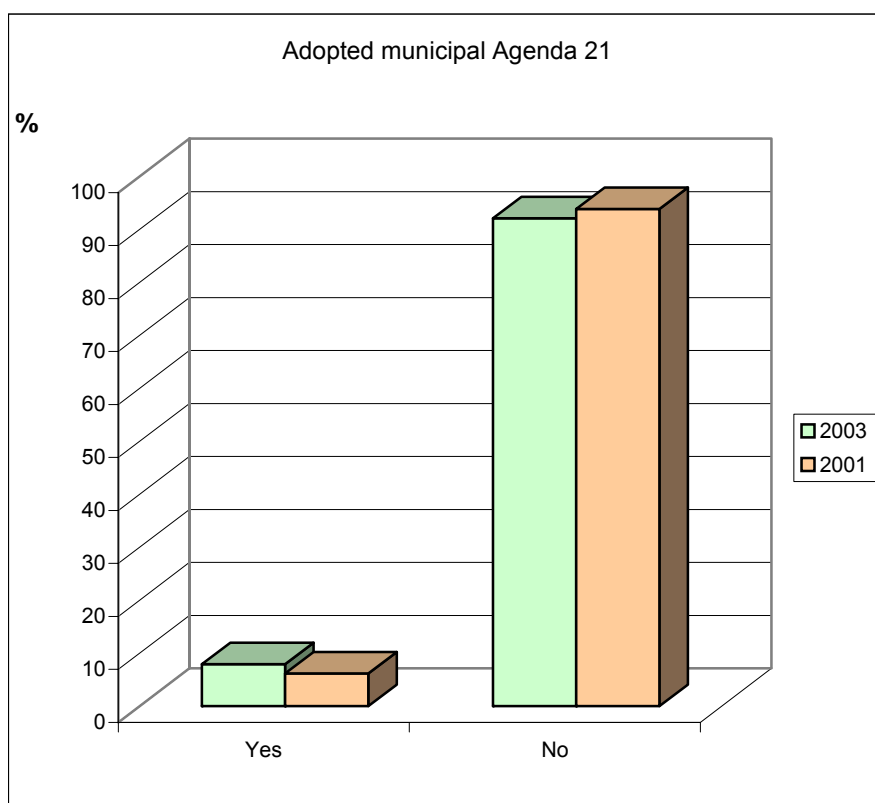
<sup>1</sup> Agenda 21 za Slovenijo (1995). Umanotera, Slovenska fundacija za trajnostni razvoj, Ljubljana.

<sup>2</sup> Lipič, K., Vovk, M. (2004): Analiza stanja izvajanja agende 21 za Slovenijo. ZEG – Zveza ekoloških gibanj Slovenije, Ljubljana.



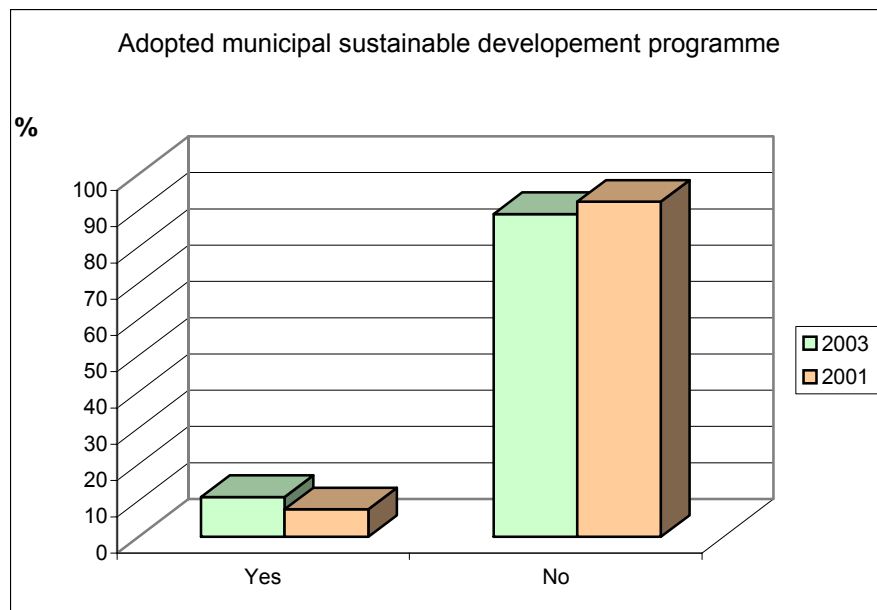
**2. Did your community adopted a municipal Agenda 21?**

	2003 %	2001 %
Yes	7,9	6,2
No	92,1	93,8
<b>All</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>



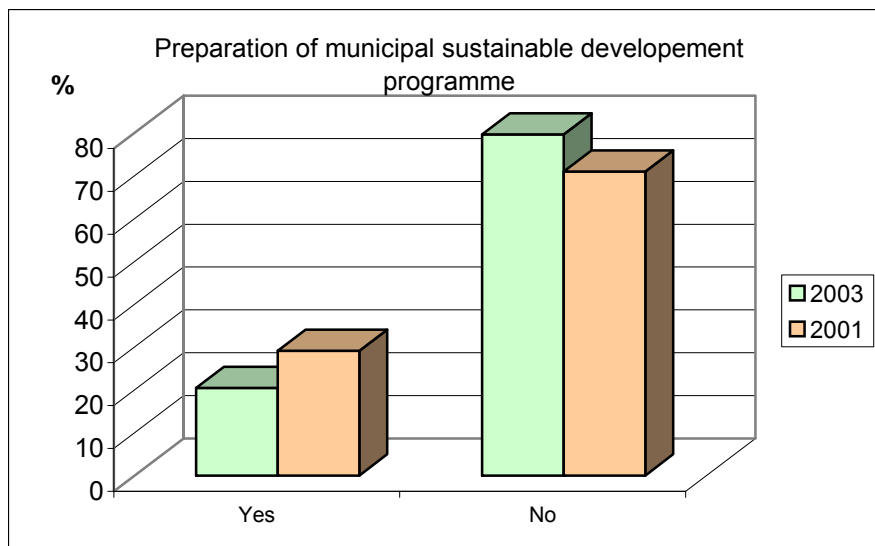
**3. Did your community adopted a municipal sustainable development programme, which is obligatory for urban municipalities according to the Environmental Protection Act?**

	<b>2003</b> %	<b>2001</b> %
Yes	11,1	7,6
No	88,9	92,4
<b>All</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>



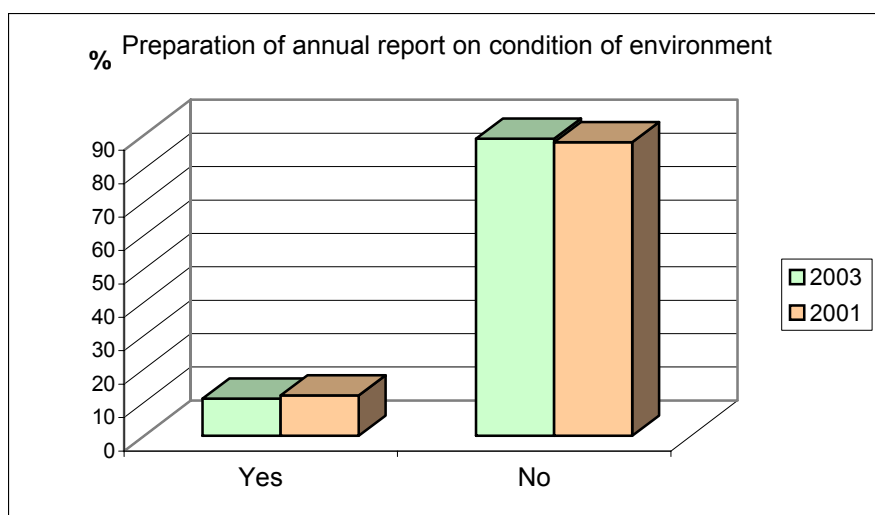
**4. Does your community have such a programme under preparation?**

	<b>2003</b> %	<b>2001</b> %
Yes	20,4	29,1
No	79,6	70,9
<b>All</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>



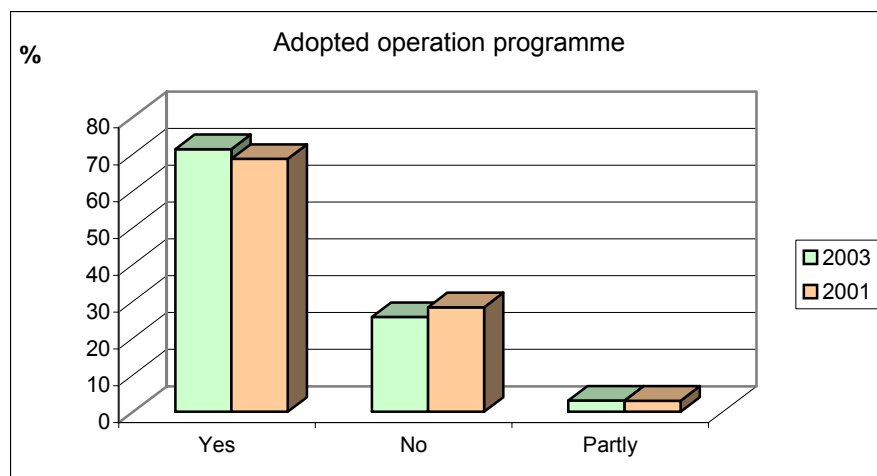
**4. Does your community prepare an annual report on condition of environment?**

	2003 %	2001 %
Yes	11,1	12,1
No	88,9	87,9
<b>All</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>



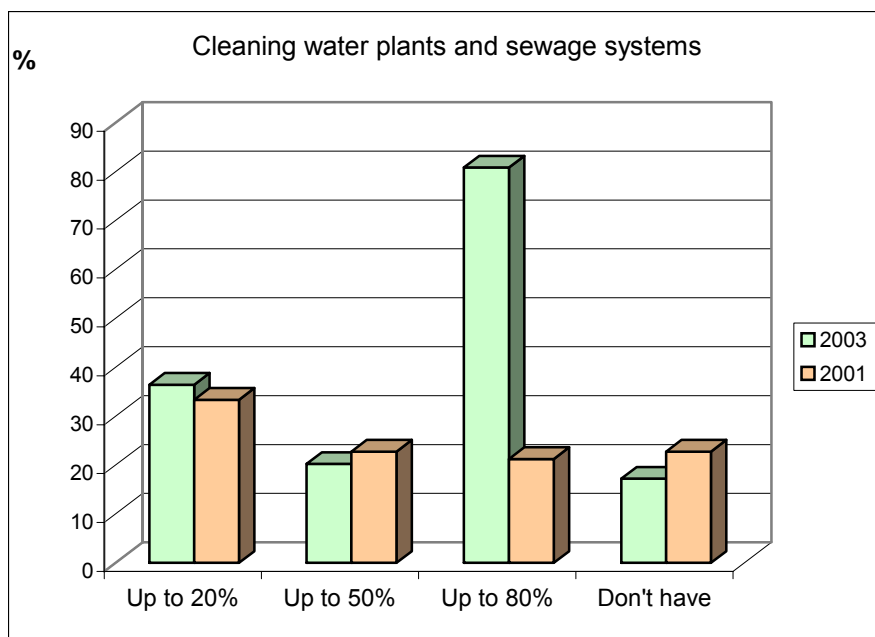
**5. Has your community adopted operation programmes for respective action areas (drinking water, waste waters, waste management, etc.) ?**

	2003 %	2001 %
Yes	71,3	68,7
No	25,7	28,4
Partly	3,0	2,9
<b>All</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>



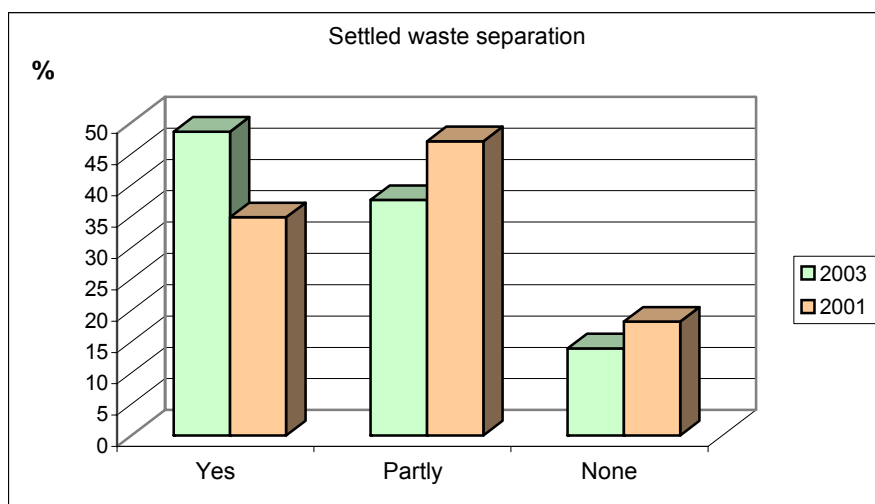
**6. What is the proportion of installed cleaning water plants and sewage systems in your community:**

	2003 %	2001 %
Less than 20%	36,4	33,3
21% to 50%	20,2	22,7
51% to 80%	80,8	21,2
None	17,2	22,8
<b>All</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>



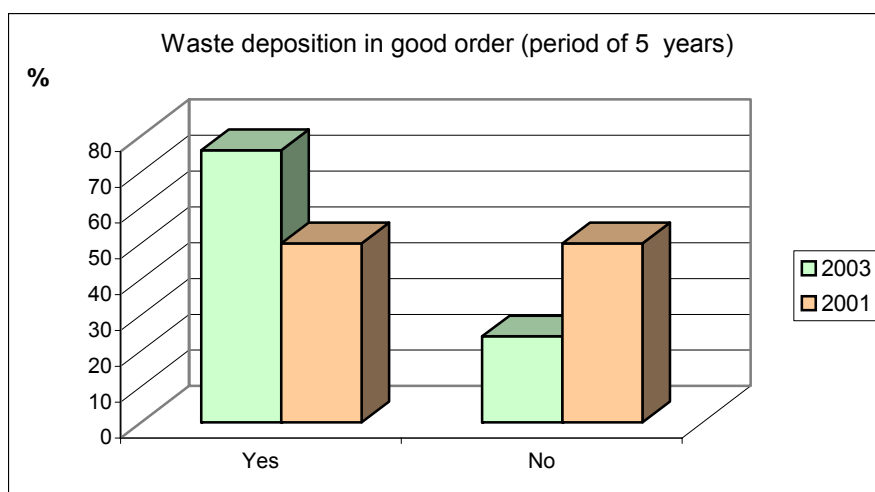
**7. Is there an existing municipal waste separation in households in your community?**

	2003 %	2001 %
Yes	48,5	34,8
Partly	37,6	47,0
None	13,9	18,3
<b>All</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>



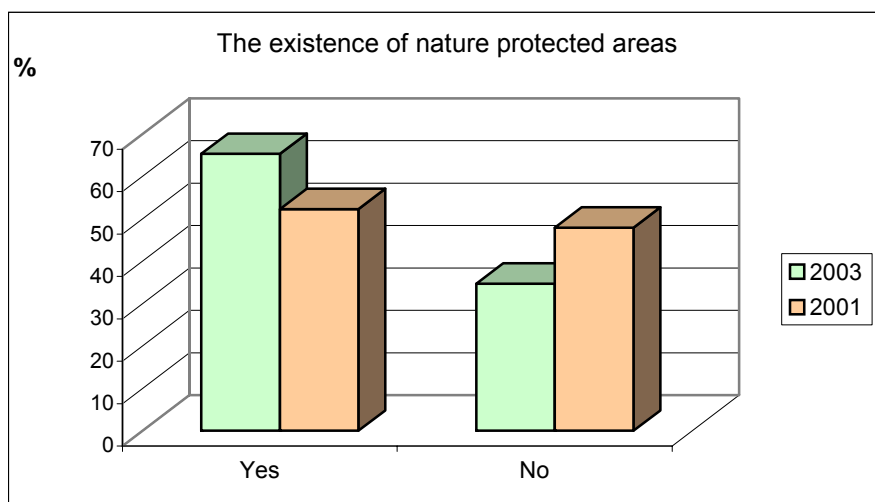
**8. Is there a municipal waste deposition place in good order in your community?**

	<b>2003</b> %	<b>2001</b> %
Yes	76,0	50,0
No	24,0	50,0
<b>All</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>



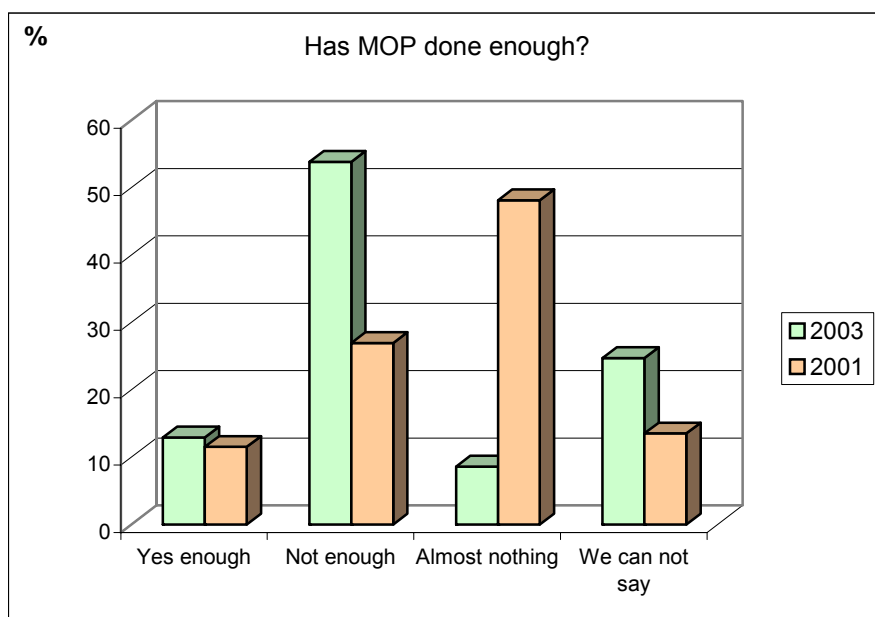
**9. Has your community according to biodiversity protection plans adopted protection measures for any nature protected areas (moor, exceptional nature habitat, forest, etc.)?**

	<b>2003</b> %	<b>2001</b> %
Yes	65,3	52,3
No	34,7	47,9
<b>All</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>



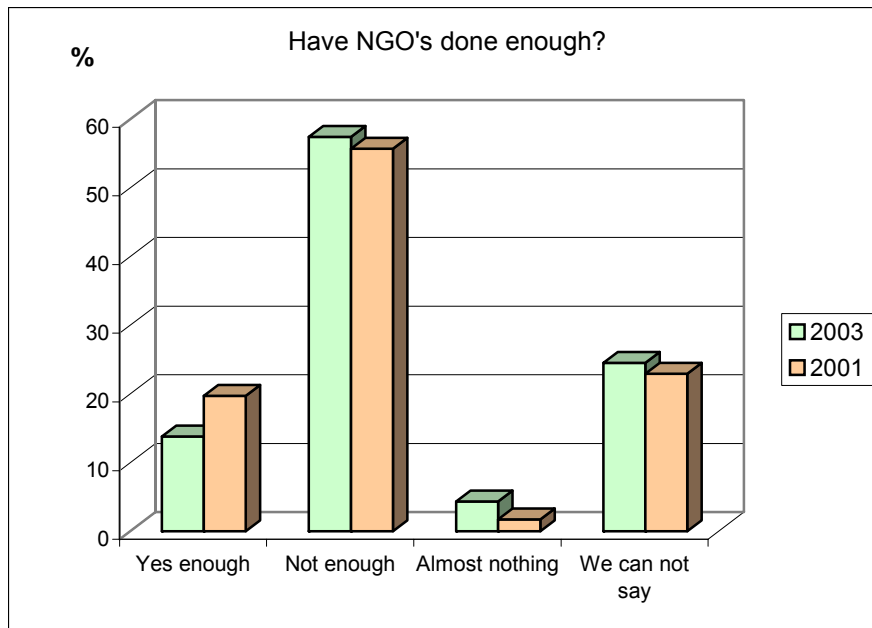
**10. Do you think that the *Ministry of Environment* and other responsible ministries have done enough for the implementation of Agenda 21 for Slovenia?**

	<b>2003</b> %	<b>2001</b> %
Yes enough	12,9	11,5
Not enough	53,8	26,9
Almost nothing	8,6	48,1
We can not say	24,7	13,5
<b>All</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>



**11. Do you think that the *NGO's (nongovernmental environmental organisations)* have done enough for presentation of Agenda 21 in public?**

	<b>2003</b> %	<b>2001</b> %
Yes enough	13,8	19,7
Not enough	57,4	55,7
Almost nothing	4,3	1,7
We can not say	24,5	22,9
<b>All</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,00</b>



On the basis of the situation in municipalities we can make some findings:

1. The financial situation of the great majority of the municipalities is critical, they are even not capable to assure the functioning of the social services and keeping and construction of public infrastructure in good condition. This is probably the most important reason for pending implementation of Agenda 21 in municipalities.
2. Though the idea of Agenda 21 is to implement the sustainable development on local level, there is an important lack of knowledge and information on local level to do it.
3. Very important parts of implementation of sustainable development is outside and above the local level, but at the same time covers partly the local level: un/sustainable urbanization and growth of urban areas, underground water protection, sustainable public transportation, waste management, environmental education, gender issues, pollution, economic growth etc. But the energy of most mayors, municipal councils and local NGO's is absorbed by problems of their positioning in the municipality, so they can hardly concentrate on Agenda 21 issues. On the other side the most important deficits in implementation of Agenda 21 are due to national or regional decision making, not due to local reasons.
4. But in the recent time there is one local phenomenon, which is positive: when the state authorities try to introduce different very unsustainable infrastructure or industrial projects on the level of local municipalities, they confront an important local opposition in form of local "civic initiatives" which are often acting outside of established political municipality structures, but they are very effective in most environmental conflicts.
5. The recent accession of Slovenia to the EU is a kind of disappointment on many levels: Slovenia is at the moment a netto payer in the EU budget, there was no important decrease of alimentation prices, the living condition of the middle class is aggravating rapidly, the state of law is pending a lot, but there is obvious improvement in the atmosphere of public discussion on industrial and infrastructure construction and introduction of environmental improvements.