



We are co-creating an open  
and modern Zasavje

integral development programmes

**RCROblika**  
text and photography: ROMAN ROZINA  
translation: NATAŠA JERMAN RAJH  
design: NATAŠA GALA  
illustration: BLAŽKA DRNOVŠEK

**RCR** REGIONALNI CENTER ZA RAZVOJ  
**RDC** REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE



**REGIONALNI CENTER ZA RAZVOJ**  
(Regional Development Centre)  
Podvine 36  
1410 Zagorje ob Savi  
Slovenia

tel.: + 386 (0)3 56-60-500  
fax.: 56-60-510  
e-mail: info@rcr-zasavje.si  
<http://www.rcr-zasavje.si>

development of human potentials



Regional Development Centre is a non-profit company, whose mission is **development of the Zasavje region**.

Regional Development Centre has prepared some crucial development documents among those the **Zasavje 2000+** Development Strategy and **Regional Development Program for the period 2001-2006 and 2007-2013**. We have conducted

extensive SWOT analyses for the region and establish mechanisms, that enable realisation of development programs and regional social partnership, through which all levels and fields of civil society of the region have become involved in preparation of development programmes.

The first step in establishing Regional Development Centre was a **Memorandum on regional cooperation** signed by mayors of all five regional municipalities at the end of Phare technical assistance programme in 1995. On the 22nd of May 1996 municipalities, chambers of craft and commerce, and different development institutions signed a contract on establishment of a development agency for the Zasavje region.

There are three main fields of our activities: **development of human potentials, promotion of entrepreneurship, environment and spatial planning**.

development of entrepreneurship

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## Knowledge and capacities

**Human resources** projects are targeted at reducing the rate of unemployment and increasing the level of knowledge. We offer a variety of **training programs and workshops**. The two strongest active policy measures for unemployed persons are labour fund and **job club**. Since our region lacks entrepreneurial tradition, we organise various **trainings for entrepreneurs beginners**. In order to restrain the brain-drain we have established a **scholarship scheme** for students from our region.

## Development of entrepreneurship

Due to closure of coal-mines and break-down of heavy industry related to coal-mining, which used to be the region's core business, modern mechanisms and approaches in **development of entrepreneurship** were initiated. Special **guarantee schemes** and some other financial measures offer better credits and credit guarantees. Entrepreneurs and companies, who have just started their businesses, can rent business premises in the **Zasavje Business Incubator** under good conditions. Entrepreneurs are offered legal and business consultancy, help in seeking foreign markets and conducting market research. **The Zasavje Regional Technology Centre** is connecting science and economy, accelerates development of know-how, new technologies and products. **Tourism Development Centre** is specialised for preparation and implementation of tourist projects and gives special attention to development of rural areas, which were overlooked in the past.

## Environment and spatial planning

Preparation of **environment-friendly spatial strategy** represents the third pillar of our work. Cleaner environment, development of regional communal infrastructure and reasonable use of space are the signposts we believe will contribute to a better quality of living in the Zasavje region. Regional spatial plan and revitalisation of damaged former coal-mining and industrial areas represent an important step forward.

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## Networking

Regional Development Centre has always been open for new ideas and experience from elsewhere and has proved as a flexible and reliable partner. Therefore it managed to establish an efficient network of contacts with development institutions all over Europe – in the current EU member states as well as in countries, which endeavour to join the EU. We have organised several **international conferences** in Slovenia and abroad, hosted or carried out **numerous business meetings and study tours**. We carried out many successful transfer of knowledge projects aimed at forwarding **good practice examples** in regional development and have gained a status of an effective link between the EU and countries of Southeast Europe.

## New image

We are **accelerators of the information stream** within and outside our region. Regional Development Centre is setting up data bases of available workforce, business premises and actual calls for proposals. We organise **cultural events and publish promotional material** about the region. It is our goal to show our near and remote neighbours a greener image of our small region, change the existing stereotypes of Zasavje, and promote our creativity. We **organise debates on development issues**, where we try to involve all levels of the civil society, which are usually less included in the decision-making process. This is how we are strengthening the Zasavje region on the inside and increasing its power on the outside.

We are co-creating an **open and modern** Zasavje

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