

ENVIROMAGAZÍN

2/2003

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People form the structure, position and credit of SEA

The article informs about the 10th anniversary of the Slovak Environmental Agency (SEA) and about the special edition of Enviromagazín, which was published on this occasion and in which Sea's professional centres present their activities. (page 2)

Anna Kršáková / SEA

Dreams may be unreal but good plans are always realisable

The director of the Sea's Centre of Landscape Creation stresses in the foreword the significance of planning mainly in connection with the entry of Slovakia to the European Union. Planning, according to her, is a complex process with a demanding methodology. It requires professional background with rich experience. And the Sea's Centre of Landscape Creation has such capacities. (page 3)

Anna Kršáková / SEA

Programme of the Village Restoration – the reliable, transparent, supporting tool for rural area development

Anna Kršáková the co-ordinator of the Programme of the Village Restoration (PVR) evaluates in the article six years of the existence of this programme. She states that the situation six years ago and at present is diametrically different. Progress and successes are evident. About 1,100 projects received financial support in the total amount of 64 mil. Sk

during five years. However, in comparison with requests it is few. This year 1,091 villages and microregions joined the programme (1,267 requests in the total amount of almost 203 mil. Sk). (page 4)

Ivona Cimermanová / SEA

PVR in numbers – or what is hidden behind numbers

The article brings the statistics of five years of the Programme of the Village Restoration (PVR) with graphs showing the number of villages that joined the Programme, villages classified according to regions, requests of individual funds, amount of allocated financial means, participation of villages and microregions in the Programme from 1998 to 2002 and also other data proving that numbers can be very interesting. (page 5)

Iveta Kavčáková / SEA

Local Agenda 21 in the rural microregion development

The author focuses on the programming of the development of villages and their partnerships in Banská Bystrica region. Right at the beginning of this article she states that this region, characterised with a variety of natural and cultural values, has preserved many valuable features that can be conserved and improved. The Local Agenda 21 is understood as the formulation of the local strategy and local priorities through development programmes and documents of the village. The process of the programming of the village development started on the initiative of mayors of villages and civic initiatives. The project “Programming in the Northern Podpoľanie Microregion” is presented here as an example. (page 8)

Jozef Macko / SEA

Programme of the Village Restoration in the Košice region

Under the title “We have been discovering the wealth of villages” the author of the article brings characteristics of villages and rural areas in the Košice region, the territory of which is very variable. 520 thousand of the region inhabitants (excluding Košice), i.e. 62 %, have been living in rural areas (Slovak average is 42%). The author evaluates results of the Programme of the Village Restoration. He puts the emphasis on quality because quantity, he says, makes sense only if it leads to concrete results. (page 10)

Iveta Kavčáková / SEA

Slovak village competes also in Europe

Iveta Kavčáková, the member of the international jury of the competition for the European Award for the Village Restoration gets back to the 1st competition The Village of the Year 2001. Five villages from eastern and western Slovakia participated in it. Soblahov, the winning village, is the first Slovak village that took part in the European contest and won the Award for the Development and Co-operation with a City. It is worth mentioning that Slovakia had for the first time its representative in the international jury of the competition. Conditions of the Village of the Year 2003 the competition respect conditions of the European contest. (page 10)

Michal Šarafín / Faculty of Architecture of the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava
Village restoration – small investments with big significance

Village restoration in Slovakia has its modern history, successes and failures. Results of the village restoration are not measured by the size of constructions but by the initiative of citizens for the benefit of the village. This initiative results in small constructions and many improvements of the environment for the nicer villages. We have villages that can represent us in the world. (page 12)

František Ďurčenka / Club of the Village Restoration (CVR)
CVR – the place for the democratisation of life in rural areas

The author of the article, the chairman of the Club of the Village Restoration (CVR) returns to the year 1991, when the Slovak Government adopted the decree, by which it approved the Programme for the Village Restoration in Slovakia. He evaluates results that were achieved up to the present. The main objective of CVR, which by its work supports the activity of villages and the Slovak Environmental Agency, is the improvement of life in villages. (page 14)

Michaela Heretová / Rural Organisation for Community Activities (ROCA)
Fortunately, not everybody is waiting that somebody else will start

ROCA civil association deals with the development of rural areas. It provides support and assistance mainly during the first stages of the community development in rural areas. The role of ROCA is to activate the local potential and support of the sustainable development under the condition of the cultural heritage preservation. The article informs about programmes and projects of this organisation. (page 15)

Mária Chocholová / SEA
Spatial development of border regions of Slovakia and Poland

On the basis of the agreement between the Government of Slovakia and the Government of Poland about the cross-border co-operation, the Slovak-Polish intergovernmental commission for cross-border co-operation was established in August 1996. The Slovak Environmental Agency was entrusted with works on the project of spatial development of border regions in Slovakia and Poland in 1997. In the near future the co-operation of Slovakia and Poland will focus on the development of the transportation-urban study for the High Tatras, the project of transportation services for the whole border region, preparation of the common design of the balanced development of the Tatra region and the development of the terminological dictionary. (page 16)

Peter Jančura, Iveta Bohálová / SEA
Symbols in the landscape of Central Spiš

The landscape, which has preserved specific landscape character, we consider identical. In Slovakia there are rather few of such landscapes. Spiš can serve as an example. When inscribing the Spiš castle and surrounding monuments in the World Heritage List hardly anybody expected that "Spiš" Jerusalem could be found in this landscape. It has the form of the religious symbolic landscape in Pažica, with signs of real artefacts of Slovak Jerusalem. The authors of the article grippingly talk about Pažica and other symbols of Central Spiš. (page 18)

Michaela Farkašová
Biomass – the chance for rural areas

The Centre for the Support of Local Activism with the seat in Ponická Huta assumed initiative in the field of biomass utilisation. It has prepared the draft project of municipal buildings heating in ten villages near Banská Bystrica with wood chips from local sources of wood waste. Mayors of villages went for the inspiration to Austria where they successfully use wood waste for heating not only municipal but also private buildings. (page 20)

Jozef Stiegel

Solar systems – underrated energy alternative

Solar collectors can become an interesting alternative of conventional energy sources with a chance of changing the consumer approach to them from the conservative to the progressive one. Austria provides a good motivation example as every tenth family house has the solar system. Traditional energy sources are replaced in Hungary by solar collectors in the total extent of 2 million square meters. In Slovakia this is 10 thousand square meters. Solar collectors in Slovakia are still underrated energy alternative. (page 22)

László Miklós / SEA

Has genetically modified maize been at our market already?

Minister of the Environment answers the above-mentioned question: “No such maize is in Slovakia yet and all consumers co-decide about its possible import in future. They will choose products they want to buy. No goods will get on counters of our stores without previous approval and genetically modified products must comply with our legal regulations. (page 24)

EEA

Europe’s environment: the third assessment

The document “Europe’s environment: the third assessment” was prepared for the ministerial conference that was held in Kiev in May 2003 under the auspices of UN ECE. The report stresses big differences in environmental conditions of different regions. However, if environmental strategies are well prepared and implemented they lead to significant improvement in certain fields and to the reduction of environmental load. (The full report in English is at http://reports.eea.eu.int/environmental_assessment_report_2003_10.)

Pavol Hlaváč / Faculty of Forestry of the Technical University in Zvolen

Majority of forest fires is caused by man

Forest fire is very harmful factor. It damages all components of forest biocenoses, i.e. biotopes and also fauna and flora. From the long-term analysis of fire accidents in forest management it follows that the biggest number of forest fires are recorded during the spring as a result of dry grassland burning out. Drought in the summer of this year will surely contribute to unfavourable statistics. (page 26)

Alena Kostúriková, Michal Jurkovec / SEA

Intervention in the very moment

The photo report from the liquidation of the fire epicentre near the Slovak Environmental Agency in Banská Bystrica. Fire, spreading very quickly, was choked thanks to Sea’s employees. (page 27)

Alena Kostúriková / SEA

Hindsight on the 9th Envirofilm

Organisers of the International Festival of Films, TV Programmes and Video Programmes Envirofilm 2003 received the record number of films – 109 films from 20 countries of the world. Photos from the festival, which took place in Banská Bystrica, Zvolen and Banská Štiavnica, are shown here. (page 28)

Anna Gudzová

Péter Bacsó: I always like the place where I am and Slovakia is a wonderful country

Many outstanding personalities visited Envirofilm 2003. One of them is the Hungarian film director Péter Bacsó, who was the member of the international jury. In the interview for Enviromagazín he proves to be not only the outstanding artist but also smart and witty companion. He was pleased to answer questions about his work and privacy. (page 30)

Pavel Jech / AIE Bratislava

AIE – solving industry's impacts on environment for 10 years

The Association of Industrial Ecology (AIE) in Slovakia commemorates this year the 10-year anniversary. On this occasion AIE won this year the Minister's of Environment Award as an appreciation of its activities and achievements. The author of the article - AIE general director brings the survey of the Association's activities during 10 years of its existence and talks about future objectives and perspectives of this organisation. (page 31)

Daniel Vrbjar / SEA

Kostná valley near Hajnáčka – the world-known paleontological site

The Kostná valley near Hajnáčka in the Gemer-Malohont region belongs to significant geological localities of Slovakia. The author of the article writes about this famous paleontological site. The State Nature Protection of SR in co-operation with the local government has been preparing the project of the creation of an educational site or open-air museum directly at the place of findings. (page 32)

ENVIROMAGAZÍN

The journal dealing with the environmental protection and improvement.

The 8th volume, the 2nd issue, July 2003, published by the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic and the Slovak Environmental Agency, www.enviromagazin.sk.

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Editor in Chief: Miroslav Tončík

Editor: Alena Kostúriková

Publisher: EM DESIGN, Zvolen

Orders to be sent to the Editor's Office.

Registration: MK SR, No. 1459/96, ISSN 1335-1877

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Your articles, questions, wishes and comments send please on the e-mail address: enviro@sazp.sk.

Note: On request we can translate the whole article into English.