

# Development of bioenergy village Dole pri Litiji, Slovenia



Oglarska dežela

DOLE PRI LITJI

# Dole pri Litiji, Slovenia – Charcoal Land

- Dole pri Litiji is a part of Litija municipality and is located in a hilly forest area northeast of Ljubljana
- Local community expands over an 55 km<sup>2</sup> area on the edge of Posavsko hribovje, consisting of 800 residents on the average altitude of 700m, with a local parish and primary school
- Forest covers almost 65% of the area,
- Local community is maintaining and implementing the traditional way of producing coal from wood, which gives them the name of Charcoal Land
- Primary activities are livestock, milk production, forestry, sawmills, charcoal...
- Farms and villagers have multiple various supplementary activities registered (micro-companies)



# Charcoal production and its meaning

- Charcoal production satisfies and activates various forest roles and functions; social and productive function especially.
- Charcoal production enables identity preservation.
- Its a paradigm for self-sufficiency through natural and constructed features.
- Producing charcoal has multiple meanings for a charcoal producer:
  - Social
  - Economic
- Charcoal pile is a medium for social connection
- Unique way of volunteer work
- Personal growth
- Countryside development (inovations)
- Countryside supplemental activity
- Preservation of cultural heritage



# Charcoal and tourism



# STEPS FORWARD

- ***Increasing the use of sustainable bioenergy***
  - ***»Bioenergy Village«***
  - ***» Bioenergy Village« is a village, municipality, settlement or community which produces and uses most of its energy from local biomass and other renewable energies.***
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- ***As written for Dole pri Litiji***



# Basis:

- Local community Dole pri Litiji is **already working towards village development** with a **local initiative.**
- PLANNED WORK

# Vision of future development

1. Infrastructure reconstruction (water supply, sewer, fibre internet, electricity and road renovation)
2. New building „Charcoal center“ (as a part of a new firestation)
3. A joint boiler room (of DHS) on wood chips and seriously starting to develop an energy self-sufficient village (by using other examples of renewable sources not only wood biomass)



## Contribution of the project:

- District heating system:
  - The boiler room is the basis to construct the fire station and the charcoal centre
- Business model to guarantee energy self-sufficiency
- Synergy of various renewable energy sources:
  - Wood chips in DHS;
  - Small biogas plant, wind and/or solar power plant;
  - Transport – use of biodiesel, biogas

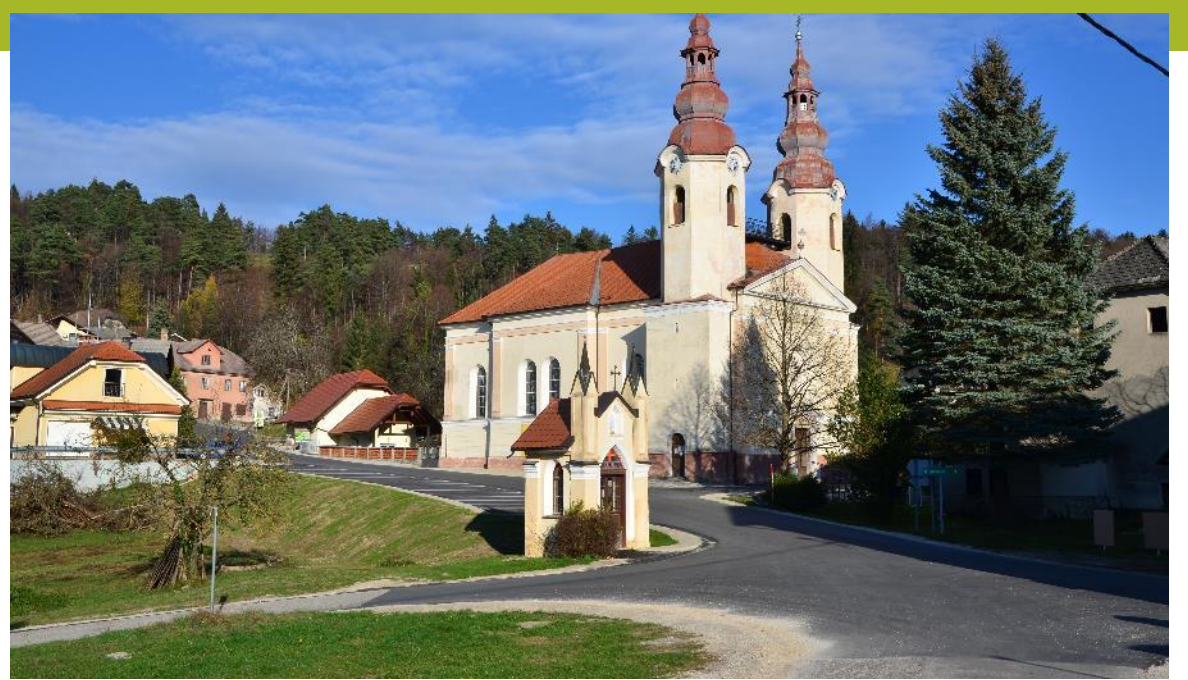






**Dole pri Litiji –  
The first energy self-sufficient village in  
Charcoal Land,  
where tradition goes  
hand in hand with  
the future!**





# Dole pri Litiji, Slovenia

## What have we accomplished:

- Strategic goals forming for local community Dole pri Litiji
- Feasibility study of the DHS
- Land negotiation, needed for construction of new building
- Negotiations with the municipality about co-funding
- Business model forming
- Activation of the local population (an active citizen)
- Project documentation for the „Charcoal center“
- Joint events in the village
- Social capital growth

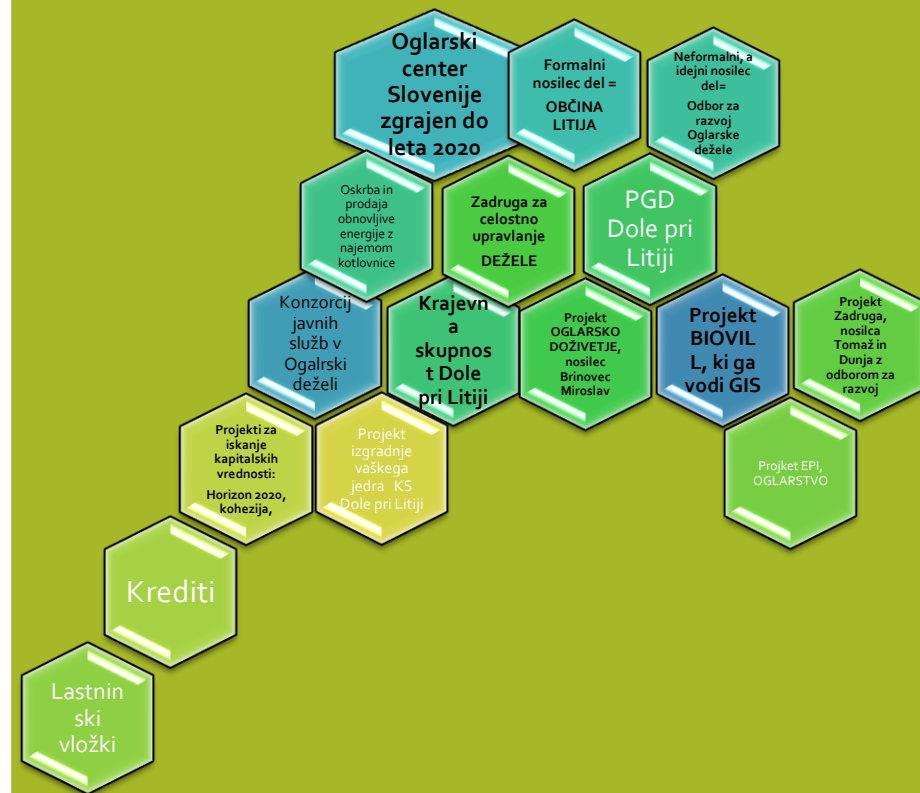


## What have we learned:

- The importance of adapting to local conditions
- Main responsible person has to be chosen at the start of the project
- Presentations of good practice examples in person works positively and motivational
- Info days, cooperation and project presentation at other local events contributes to project recognizability

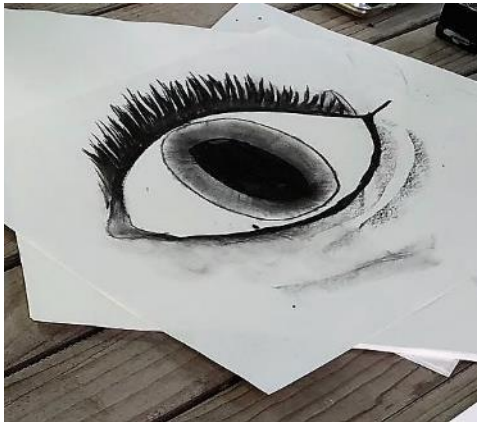
## Countryside development

- Countryside development has succeeded, when it is a part of a broader sustainable development (interdisciplinary approach, identity awareness): THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL.
- Development should be supplementary to the traditional way of life.
- Local initiative should be “enriched by the country”.
- Working with the people is the key.
- Education of the villagers is important.
- Various forms of connection and cooperation: formal and informal.



Business model for the survival of the „story“

- Forming tourism capacity
- Tourism infrastructure (hiking, winter sports, cycling, aviation,...)
- Energy supply and sale
- Charcoal museum and a charcoal production school
- Education
- Cooperation is the future (Dežela kozolcev, Jatna-Magolnik, Dolina Sopote, Velika Preska – Polšnik, Čatež in Gabrovka, Litija ... and wider with Ljubljana's tourism)





Welcome to Charcoal Land