D E K L A R A C I J A

Na 1. kongresu o vodah Slovenije, 22. marca 2012, podajajo vodarska društva naslednje ugotovitve, zaključke in predloge:

Osnova trajnostnega razvoja je varovanje voda in njihova vzdržna raba. Zato so Združeni narodi obdobje 2005–2015 razglasili za mednarodno desetletje »Voda za življenje«. Doseganje trajnosti vodnih virov za človeka in naravo je tudi zahteva direktive o politiki do voda, eden od ciljev mednarodnega desetletja izobraževanja za trajni razvoj 2005–2014 in ne nazadnje tudi zahteva slovenskega Zakona o vodah. Evropska poplavna direktiva je opozorilo, da je nujna stalna skrb na področju varstva pred škodljivim delovanjem voda. Problemom erozije in zemeljskih plazov kot oblik škodljivega delovanja voda pa je namenjena evropska direktiva o tleh, ki varuje tla, predvsem kot vir hrane.

Slovenija razpolaga z izrednim vodnim bogastvom, vendar ga še ni sposobna ustrezno varovati in trajnostno rabiti. Na posameznih področjih se stanje v zadnjih desetletjih poslabšuje, kar ima negativne posledice za razvoj posameznih dejavnosti na vodah in njihovo varovanje. Škodljivo delovanje voda dobiva nov razmah zaradi premajhne skrbi in vlaganj v preventivne in strukturne ukrepe v zadnjem desetletju. Zato so se vodarska društva in združenja Slovenije odločila, da organizirajo Prvi slovenski kongres o vodah, ki je bil 22. marca 2012 na Biotehniški fakulteti Univerze v Ljubljani. Pri organizaciji kongresa so sodelovali:

Društvo vodarjev Slovenije
SDZV – Slovensko društvo za zaščito voda
SDNO – Slovensko društvo za namakanje in odvodnjo
SZGG – Slovensko združenje za geodezijo in geofiziko – Nacionalna sekcija za hidrologijo
SDHR – Slovensko društvo za hidravlične raziskave
SLOCOLD – Slovenski komite za velike pregrade
RZS – Ribiška zveza Slovenije
Slovensko kemijsko društvo
Društvo biologov Slovenije
SKIAH – Društvo slovenski komite mednarodnega združenja hidrogeologov – IAH
Zveza prevoznikov po celinskih vodah Slovenije
IHP Odbor za mednarodni hidrološki program IHP UNESCO

Kongresa se je udeležilo 129 predstavnikov društev, ki so po celodnevni razpravi sprejeli naslednje zaključke in predloge:

Predpisi, ki vplivajo na politiko do voda, so nepregledni, odgovornost pa razpršena po različnih ministrstvih. Zahtevne probleme rešujejo pogosto strokovno nezadostno usposobljeni javni uslužbenci, ki nalogam niso kos. Posledica so dolgi postopki, strokovno neustrezni predpisi, pomanjkljiv nadzor na terenu, odlašanje odločitev, velika gmotna škoda in ne nazadnje tudi smrtne žrtve. Poleg neustrezne organiziranosti javnih služb je vzrok za takšno stanje tudi v zapostavljanju strokovnih kriterijev pri zaposlovanju in napredovanju strokovnih kadrov. Načrti upravljanja voda, sprejeti za zadovoljevanje zahtev okvirne direktive o politiki do voda, niso operativen dokument, saj imajo številne pomanjkljivosti, predvsem pa ne vsebujejo osnov za trajno rabo voda. Nacionalni interesi države in interesi razvoja so zapostavljeni.

Posamezni členi Zakona o vodah (2002) so več kot deset let mrtva norma. Dolgoročno nerešeno je tudi vprašanje podeljevanja koncesij na področju vzdrževanja vodnega režima.

Obstoječi slovenski zakonski in podzakonski akti ter iz njih izhajajoči operativni programi s področja varstva okolja in upravljanja voda implementirajo zakonodajo EU hitreje in bolj rigorozno, kot to zahteva in pričakuje EU. Strokovne norme so določene v podzakonskih aktih, kar onemogoča strokovni pristop k posameznim, specifičnim problemom (različna lokalna reliefna, geološka, hidrološka, ekosistemska in socio-ekonomska okolja). Predlagamo, da se v predpisih zajete tovrstne norme izdajo kot specifični tehnični standardi, kar je običajno tudi v drugih državah EU.

Dolgoročnih načrtov razvoja, vodarskih osnov in drugih predpisov, ki bi omogočali usklajen trajnostni razvoj dejavnosti na vodah, nimamo. Pri tem izgubljamo velika sredstva v družbenem proizvodu, številna delovna mesta na podeželju, ne nazadnje trpi tudi varstvo narave. Za raziskovalne in razvojne naloge dobijo raziskovalci v Sloveniji veliko več sredstev iz različnih programov EU kot iz naslova nacionalnih raziskovalnih projektov.

Pri oskrbi z vodo o varstvu vodnih virov odloča Vlada in glede na način odločanja bodo vsi vodni viri v Sloveniji v naslednjih desetletjih zavarovani z vladnimi uredbami. Pri postopku sprejemanja uredb upravljavci vodovodov niso stranke v postopku niti niso povabljeni, da dajo mnenje pri posegih v vodovarstvenih območjih. Upravljavec vodovoda mora zagotavljati tudi kakovost vode na pipi v objektu, ni pa odgovoren za stanje napeljave v objektu.

Ogroženost in onesnaženost vodnih virov se povečuje, kar kaže, da ni ustrezne kontrole nad potencialnimi onesnaževalci. Okoli 43% površine Slovenije pokriva kras in o kraških vodonosnikih, ki napajajo pomembne vodne vire, vemo premalo, da bi jih ustrezno zaščitili in zagotovili varno oskrbo z vodo.

Tehnologija priprave pitne vode ni vedno ustrezna in ne sledi tehnološkemu napredku. Problem so predvsem majhni vodooskrbni sistemi, kjer gospodarska moč lokalnih skupnosti ne omogoča uvajanja moderne tehnologije in ustreznega nadzora.

Vodna infrastruktura je slabo vzdrževana zaradi pomanjkanja sredstev, kar bo stanje v bodoče le še poslabšalo z zmanjševanjem kakovosti javne oskrbe z vodo, povečanjem škod pri nezgodnih dogodkih in ne nazadnje s smrtnimi žrtvami. Pomanjkljivo je urejeno tudi varno vzdrževanje in delovanje pregradnih objektov. Za velike pregrade bi bilo nujno vzpostaviti ustrezno upravno organiziranost in sistem zagotavljanja varnosti, za kar je nujno čim prej sprejeti ustrezno regulativo s področja varnosti pregrad, in to v skladu z mednarodnimi standardi z jasnim ločevanjem odgovornosti med lastniki in upravljavci objektov. Nujno je evidentirati dejansko stanje rabe pregrad in zadrževalnikov, izdelati strategijo upravljanja objektov in urediti formalnopravne odnose glede lastništva in upravljanja objektov, kjer to še ni urejeno, kar je predpogoj za izvajanje politike varnosti pregrad. Pri rabi vodnih moči je trenutno izkoriščenih 4.296 GWh/leto, kar predstavlja 47 % celotnega tehnično razpoložljivega vodnega potenciala. V skladu s strateškimi plani je predvideno, da bo do leta 2030 izkoriščenih okoli 5.800 GWh/leto (63 % tehničnega vodnega potenciala). Gradnja hidroelektrarn predstavlja pomemben vpliv na gospodarski

razvoj in nesporne ekonomske koristi: če bi elektrarne na Savi izgradili po načrtih izpred 30 let, bi se investicija samo iz naslova prodane energije do danes že v celoti povrnila. Pomembna pa je vloga hidroelektrarn pri prevzemu sistemskih storitev v elektroenergetskem sistemu Slovenije ter okoljske koristi – na račun načrtovane proizvodnje iz hidroelektrarn bomo privarčevali 1.800 kT emisij CO_2, kar predstavlja 30 % delež vseh emisij termoelektrarn v letu 2011.

Zaradi časovne stiske Slovenija ne bo izkoristila večine sredstev Kohezijskega sklada 2007-2013, predvidenih za investicije v vodno infrastrukturo, in bodo problemi oskrbe z vodo Primorske in Pomurja ter varovanja pred poplavami ostali za bodoče reševanje z lastnimi sredstvi proračuna RS. Vzrok je v pomanjkanju politične volje pri izvajanju velikih in dalj časa trajajočih projektov. Vzrok je tudi v prehitrem spreminjanju administrativnih postopkov in stalne reorganizacije upravnih služb, kar ima za posledico slabo realizacijo v preteklosti sprejetih in še vedno veljavnih operativnih programov (prometna in vodna infrastruktura, zbiranje in čiščenje odpadne vode) in slabo črpanje sredstev iz finančnih programov EU. Potrebujemo boljšo pripravo projektov s strani stroke ter izboljšano in bolj usklajeno podporo različnih upravnih služb pri njihovi pripravi in izvajanju. Pri tem morajo tako prvi kot drugi delovati proaktivno. Zaradi neizvrševanja določil zakonov o vodah je velik delež vodnih zemljišč v privatni lasti, kar otežuje izvajanje projektov.

Vodotoki so zadnjih dvajset let prepuščeni zaraščanju, pri tem pa niso upoštevane posledice zaraščanja in dražjega vzdrževanja takšnih vodotokov. Vzdrževanje je še dodatno pogojeno s prepovedjo poseganja v strugo in brežine v večjem delu leta. Posledice so poplavljanja okoliških površin in s tem povezana škoda. Pri vzdrževanju sta javna korist vodotokov in zmanjševanje ogroženosti zaradi poplav zanemarjena in podrejena varstvu narave. Zaraščeni deli vodotokov se razvijajo v dragocene ekološke niše, ki jih mora vzdrževalec vodotoka pri intervencijskih posegih potem uničiti. Poseben problem so meteorne vode, ki jih ob poplavi ni sposobna odvesti meteorna kanalizacija in poplavljajo okoliške površine. Nujna je dolgoročna rešitev stabilnega financiranja rednega in investicijskega vzdrževanja.

Vodotoki so neločljivo povezani z obrežnim pasom in zaledjem, zato samo celostno gospodarjenje pomeni zadostno količino in kakovost vode v krajini, kar ima dolgoročno tudi ugodne posledice na kmetijstvo in biotsko pestrost.

V težnji po povečani in izboljšani samooskrbi s hrano bomo morali obseg del agrarnih operacij povečati predvsem s hidromelioracijskimi deli (namakanje, drenaža – sanacija obstoječih sistemov) in s povečanjem obdelovalnih površin zemljišč z intenziviranjem agromelioracijskih del (s sanacijo in ureditvijo – revitalizacijo gozdnih – zaraščajočih kmetijskih zemljišč in s strogimi omejitvami urbanizacije kmetijskih zemljišč), hkrati pa preprečiti, da bi intenziviranje proizvodnje povečalo obremenjenost podzemnih in površinskih voda. Pri tem ureditveni ukrepi agrarnih operacij ne bi smeli povečati erozije zemljišč in hitrosti formiranja poplavnih valov.

Glede na trend spreminjanja rečnih režimov, ki ga označujejo vse večji hidrološki ekstremi, bo, predvsem v vododeficitarnih regijah, nujno zgraditi nove zadrževalnike, namenjene oskrbi s pitno vodo in namakanju, ter s tem povečati delež izrabe razpoložljivih vodnih količin, ki sedaj znaša skromnih 1%.

Prostočasne dejavnosti na vodah so danes najbolj hitro razvijajoče se dejavnosti z izrednim potencialom razvoja. Prepuščene so same sebi, pomanjkljivo nadzorovane, neusklajene z ostalimi rabami voda in brez ustrezne varnosti uporabnikov, kar povzroča tudi smrtne žrtve.
Nismo pripravljeni na vplive podnebnih sprememb in drugih antropogenih posegov ter tudi na vnašanje tujerodnih vrst v vodni in obvodni prostor.

V družbi je nujno opredeliti celosten in dolgoročen pristop upravljanja voda z novimi strokovnimi, organizacijskimi, finančnimi in političnimi rešitvami ter jasno postavljenimi odgovornostmi. Potrebujemo dolgoročno državno strategijo varstva voda, ki bo ob podpori sonaravnega gospodarskega razvoja usmerjena v zagotavljanje zanesljive oskrbe prebivalstva z neoporečno pitno vodo, njene strateške rezerve za primer izjemnih suš in hudih naravnih nesreč z regionalnimi učinki, zadovoljivo majhno ogroženost pred poplavami in plazovi, varno delovanje vodnih objektov in ohranjanje vodnih ekosistemov. Nevladne organizacije, ki delamo na vodah, se obvezujemo, da bomo vzpodbujale proaktivno držo vseh zainteresiranih v procesih usklajevanja politik rabe in varstva voda, delile znanja o vodah in se trudile zagotavljati ekosistemske usluge in dobrine vodnih sistemov tudi v prihodnje.

Da bi dosegli zastavljene zahtevne cilje, morajo strokovnjaki, ki se ukvarjajo z vodami, s pomočjo raziskav oblikovati nove metode in uveljaviti nove prakse pri upravljanju voda (ki pa jih mora državna uprava znati, politika pa hoteti udejanjiti). Celostno upravljanje voda zahteva multidisciplinarni pristop in sodelovanje vrste strok, ki se ukvarjajo z vodami. Da bodo predlagane strokovne rešitve in razvojni projekti tudi uresničljivi, je treba organizirati in omogočiti polja dialoga in soočanja med sektorskimi politikami, javnostjo, deležniki, politiki in strokovnimi institucijami. Za ta namen je treba krepiti zavest, znanje in informiranost vseh državljanov. Prav bi bilo, da bi državljani Slovenije poznali vrednost vodnih ekosistemov, pomen vodozadrževalnih sposobnosti pokrajine in se zavedali posledic preteklih posegov v vode.

Za doseganje omenjenih ciljev in uspešno reševanje ugotovljenih problemov predlagamo:

ustanovitev uprave za vode, kot smo jo poznali že v nekdanji banovini in je uspešno delovala kot Zveza vodnih skupnosti do leta 1989 in jo tudi poznajo razvite države EU. Uprava mora biti usposobljena za celostno in trajnostno upravljanje voda ter doseganje dolgoročnih ciljev. Potrebujemo strokovno nadzorno službo, ki bo imela pooblastila za preventivno ukrepanje na terenu. Nujno je določiti minimalne strokovne kriterijev za zaposlovanje javnih uslužbencev na vodah ter ustrezne delovne izkušnje za vodstvene delavce.

Predlagamo tudi spremembo Zakona o vodah, ki bi odpravil nepotrebne administrativne postopke, dosledno uveljavil princip subsidiarnosti, odpravljanje in ustrezno preoblikovanje delov zakona, ki je ostal mrtva norma. Predlagamo izdelavo ustreznih osnov za upravljanje, tj. dolgoročnih strateških načrtov, sprejetih v parlamentu. Posamezne dolgoročne načrte bi bilo smiselno potrditi tudi z odločanjem na referendumu.

Posebno pozornost zahteva spremljanje mikropolutantov in različnih snovi, ki jih kemijska tehnologija vsakodnevno prinaša na trg. Enako velja tudi za vdor tujih rastlinskih vrst v vodni prostor.

Potrebujemo razvojno-raziskovalne projekte in pilotne projekte, ki bi omogočili preverjanje sodobnih tehničnih in upravljavskih dosežkov v praksi. Posebno pozornost pri tem zahtevajo območje krasa, gorski svet in zavarovana območja, kjer naj bi raziskani vodni režim postal pomembna strokovna podlaga za njihovo delovanje.

Pri izvajanju remediacij je treba izdelati dokumentacijo, ki se jo zahteva za gradbene posege v prostor, z upoštevanjem vplivov na vodni režim in varnost drugih dejavnosti in uporabnikov prostora.

Za doseganje trajnostnega razvoja dejavnosti na vodah in zaščite ter varovanja voda bodo vodarska društva v bodoče tesno sodelovala in usklajevala svoje delo. Naslednji kongres o vodah bo sklican leta 2016.

D E C L A R A T I O N

On the occasion of the 1st Congress on Water of Slovenia, held on 22 March 2012, the Slovenian water-related societies and associations issued the following observations, conclusions and recommendations:

Protection of water and its sustainable use is the key of sustainable development. Therefore the United Nations proclaimed the period 2005–2015 as the International Decade for Action »Water for Life«. Achieving sustainability of water resources for man and nature is also one of the requirement of the EU Water Framework Directive, one of the goal of the international Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005–2014 and, last but not least, the requirement of the Slovenian Water Act. Furthermore, the EU Floods Directive is a warning that a constant care in protection from adverse effects of water is imperative. The problems of erosion and landslides, as forms of adverse action of water, are addressed by the EU Soil Framework Directive, protecting soil, especially soil as food source.

Slovenia is a country abundant in water resources, however, it is still unable to protect and sustainable explore these resources properly. In recent decades, in some areas the situation has deteriorated, with negative implications for the development of water activities and the protection of water. The adverse effects of water rise due to the insufficient care and investment into precautionary and structural measures in the last decade. This is why water-related societies and associations of Slovenia decided to convene the 1st Slovenian Congress on Water, which was held on 22 March 2012, at the Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Ljubljana. The institutions participating in the organization of the Congress were:

Društvo vodarjev Slovenije (Water Management Society of Slovenia)
SDZV – Slovensko društvo za zaščito voda (Slovenian Water Pollution Control Association)
SDNO – Slovensko društvo za namakanje in odvodnjo (SINCID Slovenian National Committee on Irrigation and Drainage)
SZGG – Slovensko združenje za geodezijo in geofiziko – Nacionalna sekcija za hidrologijo (Slovenian Association of Geodesy and Geophysics – National Hydrology Section)
SDHR – Slovensko društvo za hidravlične raziskave (Slovenian Association for Hydraulic Research)
SLOCOLD – Slovenski komite za velike pregrade (Slovenian National Committee on Large Dams)
RZS – Ribiška zveza Slovenije (Fishing Association of Slovenia)
Slovensko kemijsko društvo (Slovenian Chemical Society)
Društvo biologov Slovenije (Biological Society of Slovenia)
SKIAH – Društvo slovenski komite mednarodnega združenja hidrogeologov – IAH (International Association of Hydrogeologists – Slovene Committee)
Zveza prevoznikov po celinskih vodah Slovenije (Association of Inland Waterways Navigators of Slovenia)
Odbor za mednarodni hidrološki program IHP UNESCO (Slovenian Committee for IHP UNESCO)

129 representatives of the societies and associations attended the Congress and, after a full day of discussions, the following conclusions and recommendations were agreed upon:

The regulations related to water policy in Slovenia are non-transparent, while the responsibilities are dispersed among different ministries and organisational units inside these ministries. Complex problems are all too often solved by professionally not adequate skilled civil servants, who are not able to deal with all tasks. This results in long procedures, professionally inadequate regulations, deficiency in field oversight, postpondement of decisions, large material damage and also fatalities. Besides inadequate organization of public services, the reason for such situation is also the disregard of professional criteria in employing and promotion of professional staff. River Basin Management Plans, adopted to satisfy the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, are not operational documents, since they contain many deficiencies, and above all they lack the bases for sustainable use of water. The national interests of the state and interests of development are being neglected. Some articles of the Water Act (2002) have been dead norms for more than a decade. In the long-term, the question of granting concessions in relation to the management of the water regime has also remained unsolved.

The existing Slovenian legislative and regulatory provisions, and corresponding operational programmes of environmental protection and water management have implemented the EU legislation faster and more rigorously than required and expected by the EU. Professional norms have been introduced into regulatory provisions, thus precluding professional approach to individual, specific problems (different local terrain, geological, hydrologic, ecosystem and socio-economic environments). We propose that such norms, covered by regulatory provisions, are issued as specific technical standards, which is the norm in other EU member states also.

There are no long-term development plans, water management bases nor any other regulations enabling coordinated sustainable development of water-related activities. We are potentially losing a lot of resources in GDP, many work places in the countryside and, finally, environmental protection is suffering as a result. Regarding research and development, the Slovenian researchers obtain more funds from the different EU programmes than from national research projects.

Regarding drinking water supply, the protection of drinking water resources is subject to Government's decisions, and, considering the way of the decision-making, only in the next few decades all drinking water resources of Slovenia will be protected by governmental decrees. In the process of adopting the decrees, the drinking water supply operators are not a party in the procedure nor are they invited to offer their opinion refer the planned activities in the drinking water protection zones. The drinking water supply operators are obliged to ensure the quality of tap water, but they are not responsible for the state of installations at the end-user location.

The threat and pollution of water resources are rising, which indicates the lack of proper control over potential polluters. About 43% of Slovenia is Karst area, however, the Karst aquifers recharging important water resources are not researched enough for us to be able to protect them properly and ensure safe water supply.

The technology of drinking water treatment is not always adequate and it does not in line with technological advancements. Small drinking water supply systems are especially critical, where the economic power of local communities fails at introducing modern technology and proper control.

Water infrastructure is poorly maintained due to the lack of funds and the present situation will even deteriorate in the future, resulting in reduction of public water supply quality, increased damage during accidents, and fatalities. The safe maintenance and operation of dam structures is also insufficiently regulated. For large dams, a proper administrative organization and safety system must be set up, which requires the adoption of relevant regulations on dam safety as soon as possible, in accordance with international standards, and a clear division of responsibility between the owners and operators. It is necessary to record the actual state of the of dams and reservoirs, to prepare a strategy for managing the structures and regulate the formal legal relationships regarding ownership and management of structures, where needed, which is a precondition for enforcing the dam safety policy. Regarding the use of water potential, now 4,296 GWh/year is exploited, which is 47 % of the total technically available water potential. According to strategic documents the plan is to exploit approx. 5,800 GWh/year (63 % of technical water potential) by 2030. The construction of hydropower plants has important implications for economic development and undisputed economic benefits: If the Sava river hydropower chain had been built 30 years ago, the investment would have returned in full already, based only on the power sold. Important is the role of hydropower plants in taking over ancillary services in the electric power system of Slovenia, and environmental benefits – it is estimated that with the planned production of the hydropower plants the CO_2 emissions would be reduced by 1,800 kT, which is 30 % of all thermal power plant emissions in 2011.

Due to time constraints, Slovenia will not be able to use most of the Cohesion Fund (2007–2013), planned for new investments of water infrastructure, while the problems of water supply of the Primorska and Pomurje regions and flood protection are to remain and, in the future, will have to be addressed through funding from the Slovenian state budget. The reason lies in the lack of political will in carrying out large and long term projects. The other reasons are also not prepared project documents, changing administrative procedures and reorganization of administrative services to frequent, which results in poor realization of operational programmes adopted in the past and still in force today (traffic and water infrastructure, collection and treatment of wastewater) and ineffective of the funds of EU financial programmes. We need better preparation of projects on the part of professionals and improved and co-ordinated support of different administrative services in the preparation and implementation. Both, the professionals and administrative services, have to act in a proactive way. Due to the non-enforcement of provisions of water acts a large portion of water land is privately owned, which makes the carrying out of projects difficult.

In the last twenty years, river-side space has been left to overgrow, while the consequences of overgrowth and costly maintenance of such rivers are not considered. The maintenance is further conditioned by the prohibition of interventions into the river bed and banks during most part of the year. This results in flooding of surrounding areas and flood-incurred damage. Regarding maintenance, the public

benefit of rivers and flood protection are neglected and subordinated to environmental protection. The overgrown parts of the river space develop into precious ecological niches, which, however, must be destroyed during intervention activities. Storm-water is a special problem, since during floods storm-water cannot be discharged by the storm-water system and the surrounding areas are flooded. A long-term solution of stable funding of regular and investment maintenance is necessary.

Rivers and streams are inseparably connected to the river-side belt and hinterland, and only integrated management can provide sufficient amount and quality of water in the landscape, with favourable consequences for agriculture and biotic diversity in the long term.

When trying to achieve larger and improved food self-sufficiency the scope of agrarian operations will have to be increased, especially through hydromelioration (irrigation, drainage, remediation of existing systems) and through enlargement of agricultural land by intensifying soil amelioration operations (remediation and revitalisation of forest – overgrown agricultural land and with strict restrictions of urbanization of agricultural land), without increasing the load on groundwater and surface water through intensification of production. The amelioration measures of agrarian operations should not increase land erosion and the rate of flood wave formation.

Regarding the trend of changing river regimes, characterised by highering hydrological extremes, especially in water deficient regions, it will be necessary to build new reservoirs for drinking water supply and irrigation, and with these measures to increase the proportion of exploitation of available water quantities, which is today at only 1%.

Today, water recreation activities are developing rapidly with exceptional potential for development. However, they are left to their own devices, being poorly controlled, non-coordinated with other uses of water and without the proper protection of users, which can ultimately lead to fatalities.

We are not prepared for the impacts of climate change and other man-made activities or for the introduction of non-native species into water and water-side space.

In the society it is necessary to define a comprehensive and long-term approach of water management with new professional, organizational, financial and political solutions, and clearly defined responsibilities. We need a long-term national strategy of water protection, which will be, with the support of sustainable economic development, directed into ensuring sustainable supply of the population with safe drinking water, its strategic reserves in case of extreme droughts and devastating natural disasters with regional effects, reduced flood and landscape risk, safe operation of water facilities and preservation of aquatic ecosystems. We, the non-governmental organizations whose work is related to water, undertake to encourage proactive attitude of all the interested parties in the processes of harmonizing the policies of water use and protection, share knowledge about water and ensure ecosystem services and goods of water systems in the future also.

In order to reach the goals set, the water-related professionals will have to design new methods, using research, and introduce new practices in water management (whereby knowledge from the state administration, and political will from policy-makers, will be required). Integral water management requires a multi-disciplinary approach and cooperation of many professions related to water. In order to make the proposed expert solutions and development projects feasible, fields of dialogue and meetings between sectoral policies, the public, stakeholders, politicians and professional institutions should be organized and enabled. To this end, the awareness, knowledge and information of all citizens should be strengthened. The Slovenian citizens should know the value of aquatic ecosystems, the meaning of water retaining capacity of land and the implications of past water-related interventions.

In order to reach the mentioned goals and a successful solutions to identified problems the following is proposed:

Establishment of Water Administration, as was known in the ex-banate and was successfully in operation as the Water Community Association until 1989, while today it is known in some developed EU countries. The administration should be fit for integrated and sustainable water management and achievement of long-term goals. We need a professional supervision service with the authority for preventive action in the field. The minimum professional criteria in employing civil servants in water-related offices and proper work experience for managerial staff should be defined.

Furthermore, we propose changes of the Water Act, to eliminate the unnecessary administrative procedures, to strictly introduce the principle of subsidiarity, abolishment and proper rewriting of those parts of the legislation that have remained a dead norm. We propose the preparation of proper bases for management, that is, long-term strategic plans, adopted by the parliament. It would be sensible to confirm the individual long-term plans by means of a referendum.

A special attention should be given to monitoring of micropollutants and other substances that are introduced by chemical technology to the market each day. Equally, the introduction of non-native plant species into aquatic space should be addressed.

We need research and development projects, and pilot projects, which would enable the checking of modern technical and management achievements in practice. Special attention should be given to Karst, mountain areas and protected areas, where the study of water regimes should provide an important expert groundwork for any activities.

For remediation works the project documentation should be elaborated at same technical level as for the construction works, taking into account the implications for water regime and safety of other activities and users of space.

In order to reach sustainable development of water-related activities and protection of water, the water associations and societies will in future closely co-operate and co-ordinate their work. The next Congress on Water will be convened in 2016.