

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)

 Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum.)

PROJECT	
Participant:	6 - PIC PRAVNI CENTER ZA VARSTVO CLOVEKOVIH PRAVIC IN OKOLJA LJUBLJANA (PIC)
PIC number:	931013082
Project name and acronym:	Discussions and Actions on Climate and Environment — DACE

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	D15.1		
Event name:	Meetings with experts on climate issues SI		
Type:	Single and group interviews		
In situ/online:	<i>Online</i>		
Location:	Slovenia, Ljubljana		
Date(s):	28.6., 29.6., 30.6., 4.7., 6.7., 8.7., 11.7., 12.7., 14.7.		
Website(s) (if any):	https://pic.si/varstvo-okolja/intervjuji-z-delezniki-s-podrocja-podnebnih-sprememb/ https://pic.si/dace/		
Participants			
Female:	10		
Male:	15		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Slovenia]:	25		
From country 2 [name]:			
From country 3 [name]:			
...			
Total number of participants:	25	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
1. Introduction			

This report presents the findings of interviews performed with various persons from different stakeholder backgrounds in Slovenia with one trait in common – all of them are engaged in climate issues in their professional and/or personal or activist life and have expert or above-than-average knowledge from the field.

The main objective of this activity within the DACE project was to gather input from relevant stakeholders in the field of climate issues regarding the topics of:

- climate rights,
- climate adaptation and mitigation, with the emphasis on adaptation,
- gender and climate nexus,
- national climate goals,
- national climate policy implementation and
- access of the general public to the rights arising from environment-related rights.

This report addresses:

- methodology,
- analysis of results,
- conclusions,
- a link to the recordings of all the interviews and their authorized transcribed texts in the national language and to the publication of the results on pic.si in national and English language and
- the full questionnaire in English language.

2. Methodology

Legal Center for the protection of Human Rights and the Environment (PIC) performed interviews with relevant Slovenian stakeholders and experts in the field of climate issues. In the name of PIC, the interviews were performed by Aljoša Petek.

The interviews were performed between the 28th of June and 14th of July 2023.

There were **8 individual** and **5 group** interviews in total, with a supplemental (extra) interview performed for a member of 'MZPP'¹ because of his inability to join the interview performed with his fellow movement members.

There were **25 people** included in the interviews, of which:

- 10 were female and
- 15 were male.

All the interviewed persons agreed to have their names and place of employment and/or activist group or organization known, but were interviewed as individuals and their opinions

¹ Slovenian Youth for Climate Justice, stemming from the Fridays for Future movement (Mladi za podnebno pravičnost).

do not necessarily represent the official position of their places of employment or the organizations of which they are a part of.

The interviewed stakeholders included:

- politicians,
- decision-makers,
- climate experts,
- legal experts,
- members of the environmental NGOs, active in the field of climate issues and
- members of activist organizations or individual activists in the field of climate and the environment.

The interviewees were:

- Andrej Gnezda, acting director of the Directorate for Climate Policies from the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy,
- Senka Šifkovič, an environmental NGO lawyer having experience on several national environmental NGOs and their networks,
- Maša Kovič-Dine, an international law expert and associate professor at the Faculty of Law at the University of Ljubljana,
- Erik Valenčič, a member of the civil initiative 'Guardians of Rivers' and a war correspondent and journalist,
- Jurij Stritih, an employee at Stritih d.o.o., Sustainable Development Consulting, and one of the environmental and climate experts working on the SEA procedure for the Slovenian NECP,
- Milan Brglez, a Slovenian member of the European Parliament and member of the national Social Democratic Party,
- Lena Penšek, an employee of the Slovenian branch of Greenpeace and an activist, member of MZPP,
- Andreja Urbančič, an employee at the Institute 'Jožef Stefan' and an expert in creating climate-energy models and analyses,
- Katarina Žemlja and Dijana Čataković, employees of CIPRA Slovenia, NGO association for the protection of the Alps (group interview)
- Robert Godina, Klemen Belhar, Uroš Macerl in Urša Zgojznik, members of the Slovenian political party VESNA,
- Nejla Kambič, Primož Ribarič, Martin Lunder, Jakob Sever Klasinc and Gaj Kolšek, members of the Slovenian Youth for Climate Justice (MZPP),
- Ajda Cafun and Jonas Sonenschein, employees of Umanotera, a Slovenian environmental NGO and

- Lenart Žavbi, Miha Lamut, Aleš Rezar and Tamara Vonta, members of the Slovenian political party Svoboda and members of the Slovenian Parliament.

In all the interviews the full questionnaire, which is in Appendix 1, was used. Analysis in this report is done in detail only for questions up to 9, since the other questions are directly related to the national climate situation in Slovenia regarding mostly climate goals and their implementation and are not necessarily directly related to the DACE project. They will be presented in September, when the Slovenian NECP will be in public discussion (and these activities will be reported within the DACE project).

The interviews were recorded for later transcript – the recordings and transcripts are found in this report in the title 'Interview materials'.

3. Analysis of results

Analysis includes the input of every participating person by every question asked, highlighting interesting statistics and stakeholder differences.

1. To what extent are you familiar with the issue/phenomenon of climate change?

The participants, in great majority (19), answered, that they are, in various degrees, familiar with the phenomenon of climate change. Some representatives of the NGO sector (3) and activists (2) expressed the opinion of there being a lot more to learn about climate change, while 1 politician expressed he does not know the topic in great detail, but is familiar with it.

The same stakeholders often expressed, that climate change is a very sophisticated and wide topic, and that there is always something new to learn. Knowing everything about climate change is thus almost impossible.

2. To what extent are you concerned about the effects of climate change?

All participants (25) expressed direct concern regarding the effects of climate change, while the majority expressed either grave, serious or high concern (21), while 2 representatives of the NGO sector expressed, that they are not concerned yet or that it doesn't affect them emotionally yet. 2 politicians of political parties expressed a similar sentiment, whilst one focused on being concerned less than the younger generation. The other expressed his lack of everyday panic regarding the topic, while he is still concerned by it.

There were 5 participants who even expressed frustration or emotional, mental effect of their concern on their everyday life – an expert, an activist, 2 members of an NGO and a politician.

Another politician expressed, that the climate crisis is connected to all the existing and coming crises and that the topic can simply no longer be avoided.

3. Do you feel the effects of climate change in your personal, family or work environment? Assess whether your lifestyle has changed in any way due to climate change.

A vast majority (18) of participants expressed concern regarding the increasing average temperature and heat waves, especially in summer, during which these interviews were performed.

1 participant from the activist sphere expressed, that he is not feeling the effects of climate change in his personal life, while 6 politicians did not address the rising heat or heat waves.

2 members of an NGO located in Ljubljana expressed, that life in the city is becoming unbearable, especially thinking about the future.

9 participants expressed concern regarding other effects, such as drought from the point of view of private food cultivation, avalanches, disappearing of certain fish, plant and trees species in the local environment etc.

4 participants expressed, that they are not strongly personally affected (while they still are), but that they willingly adapt in their personal life (prevention, voluntary measures).

1 expert expressed that climate change is making his profession more desired, thus making the company he works for have more work regarding climate and sustainability issues.

4. Do you agree with the following statements (yes or no question):

- it is the state's responsibility to take measures to protect citizens from the negative effects of climate change.

All participants (25) believe, that the state is responsible to take measures to protect citizens.

- The Republic of Slovenia takes sufficient measures to protect residents from the negative effects of climate change (e.g. floods, droughts, natural disasters, price of gasoline, price of electricity, price of cars, ban on the use of certain fuels...).

3 participants believe, that Slovenia is taking sufficient measures to address the effects of climate change, them notably being 1 expert and 2 politicians, while they all believe, that the state could do more in this field.

The majority (22) believe that Slovenia is not addressing the effects in a sufficient manner.

- I have rights that are affected by climate change.

18 participants said that they have rights, which are affected by climate change, while the majority asked for more information before answering the question. The needed explanation made it clear, that general knowledge of this topic is low amongst the majority of participants.

6 participants, most notably 5 from the activist sector, said they do not have rights, affected by climate change. 1 member of NGO said she can't answer.

5. Would you personally be willing to take legal action to protect your rights affected by climate change?

18 participants stated, that they would be willing to take legal action, 4 stated that they would not (2 politicians, an expert and an activist), while 2 others expressed that they would be willing to engage as a community with other plaintiffs, or that they would need a good support system. 1 politician expressed that he cannot answer the question.

6. Would the cost of taking legal action to protect your rights affect your willingness to take such action?

The majority of participants (15) think the cost of such action would impact their willingness to do it, while 6 said it would not, most notably 4 politicians and 1 legal expert, who would engage in a class action lawsuit, while one politician and one expert expressed, that their financial status enables them to not be affected by such a cost. 1 member of NGO said, that it would fully depend on what right she would be affected by, saying that in case of life threatening events or lack of access to potable water, she would not be affected by cost.

Those who said no in question 5, did not answer this question (4 participants).

6.a. Do you think that such an expense would affect the initiation of a lawsuit by a regular resident of Slovenia?

21 participants believe such a cost would affect the willingness of the general population for taking legal action, while noticeably 4 politicians expressed, that from the point of view of a class action lawsuit, such a cost would not present an obstacle and thus believe that the cost would not affect people.

There was a strong sentiment present, even amongst those who answered yes to this question, that a class action suit in a wider community is the appropriate way to address the question of cost.

7. Apart from a lawsuit, what would you personally be willing to do to protect your rights affected by climate change?

Whilst the politicians (9) generally emphasized political activation, formation of political parties and deemed establishing civil initiatives or NGOs not appropriate for their work, experts (3) mostly added, that they would participate in their expert fields and channels available to them through their work.

The others (13) would engage in anything that is needed (forming a civil initiative, NGO, protesting) whilst especially the activists were not inclined towards creating a political party or engaging in it and even expressed the need for creating massive support for better policies (2) or more radical engagement, whilst being non-violent (2).

8. Do you think that the impact of climate change on an individual person is greater or smaller depending on that person's gender?

The question was focused on the national level, where the majority (16) expressed their opinion, that there are significant differences in impacts regarding the person's gender. They mostly supported their answers with seeing no effect in their local environment, or seeing negative effects in different jobs, rather than on gender, but also stressing that marginalized or economically and socially weaker members of society in general feel more severe effects of climate change, regardless of gender. Several participants (5) additionally expressed, that there are certain, especially physically intensive jobs (construction, forestry, agriculture), where men are generally represented in majority and suffer the effects of warming and heat waves.

9 participants expressed, that women are more effected by climate change, based on their statistical representation in the reproductive sector and other traditionally female jobs,

and their family obligations. The inequality in payment between men and women was mentioned by 3 participants.

The answers were not affected by the stakeholder sector of participants.

9. Regarding gender, which people do you think are most affected by global climate change? Could you explain why?

Compared to the national level, a slightly stronger emphasis was given to the female gender and the more severe impacts of climate change on women. 12 participants expressed a greater impact on women globally, emphasizing their traditional roles in the families, their access to water and hygiene, their work in food production and supplying the family with resources. The small majority of 13 participants kept their opinion regarding the impacts on climate change regarding gender, while mostly stressing that gender is not the main factor in severity of the impacts, but that it is rather the socio-economic status of people, their marginalization, their direct environment and the state of its degradation.

10 – 14.

Through questions 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 the general findings are, that:

- the climate goals of Slovenia are not sufficient;
- the implementation of climate policy in Slovenia is not sufficient or is severely inefficient;
- that the main polluters, states and companies, also from the historical perspective, should be financially responsible for climate mitigation and a just transition;
- that people in Slovenia are in general not acquainted with their environmental rights and that a mixture of state and NGO activity in this area regarding education and awareness rising is needed.

4. Conclusions:

Based on the interviews, the opinions of the interviewees and the analysis of the results, the conclusions are as follows:

- 1. All the stakeholders are sufficiently familiar with the concept and phenomenon of climate change.*
- 2. All the stakeholders are concerned with the effects of climate change, though in various degrees.*
- 3. A vast majority of stakeholders defines the effect of heat waves and increasing temperatures in their personal life as the main or most felt consequence of climate change.*
- 4. All the stakeholders believe, that the state is responsible to protect its inhabitants from the effects of climate change.*
- 5. The majority of stakeholders believe, that Slovenia is not adopting sufficient measures to protect its citizens from the impact of climate change.*

6. *The majority of stakeholders believe, that they have rights, which are affected by climate change.*

7. *The majority of stakeholders would take legal action to protect their rights, which are or would be affected by climate change, but are generally more inclined towards a class action suit or legal engagement in a wider community.*

9. *All the stakeholders believe, that cost of a legal procedure would affect the general populations willingness to engage in legal procedures to protect their rights, which are or would be affected by climate change.*

10. *The majority of stakeholders believe, that nationally or globally, gender is not the main factor in the severity of negative impacts due to climate change, but that the socio-economic status or general ability to adapt is the prevalent factor.*

11. *The majority of stakeholders believe that:*

- *Slovenian climate goals are insufficient,*
- *implementation of climate policies in Slovenia is ineffective,*
- *that past and present greenhouse gasses emitters and developed states are financially responsible for climate mitigation and just transition,*
- *that residents of Slovenia are in general not aware of their environmental rights, and that the state and NGOs should play the key role in improving the situation.*

The analysis of all the questions (including the ones not analyzed in this report) will be presented at the national DACE event planned on the 1st of September 2023.

5. Interview materials:

All the interviews were audio recorded. All the interviews were transcribed in national language. All the participants formally agreed to the authenticity and limited use of their input.

All the materiel mentioned above is available here ->

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1uf1MjtKx6LKCGUsPse75ZSMhUUSHHnLu?usp=sharing>

The results of the interviews are published on the website pic.si in English and national language.

The results will be further adopted into easily understandable visual materiel and graphs and disseminated amongst the participants of the interviews, the public and the decision makers.

APPENDIX I - Full questionnaire

1. To what extent are you familiar with the issue/phenomenon of climate change?

2. To what extent are you concerned about the effects of climate change?

3. Do you feel the effects of climate change in your personal, family or work environment? Assess whether your lifestyle has changed in any way due to climate change.

4. Do you agree with the following statements:
 - it is the state's responsibility to take measures to protect citizens from the negative effects of climate change.

 - The Republic of Slovenia takes sufficient measures to protect residents from the negative effects of climate change (e.g. floods, droughts, natural disasters, price of gasoline, price of electricity, price of cars, ban on the use of certain fuels...).

 - I have rights that are affected by climate change.

5. Would you personally be willing to take legal action to protect your rights affected by climate change?

6. Would the cost of taking legal action to protect your rights affect your willingness to take such action?
 - 6.a. Do you think that such an expense would affect the initiation of a lawsuit by a regular resident of Slovenia?

7. Apart from a lawsuit, what would you personally be willing to do to protect your rights affected by climate change? (Multiple answers are possible)

8. Do you think that the impact of climate change on an individual person is greater or smaller depending on that person's gender?

9. Regarding gender, which people do you think are most affected by global climate change? Could you explain why?

10. Who do you think is financially responsible for climate change mitigation and just transition?

10.a In your opinion, do these responsible stakeholders in mitigation and just transition differ?

11. Do you think that the legal basis in Slovenia is adequate for addressing adaptation to climate change? (If you do not know the legal basis, what do you think is not appropriate in practice?)

11.a Why?

12. How do you assess the objectives of climate policy in Slovenia?

12.a What is your assessment based on?

13. How do you assess the implementation of climate policy in Slovenia?

13.a What is your assessment based on?

14. Do you think that the inhabitants of Slovenia are sufficiently aware of their rights arising from environmental law - including international, EU and national binding documents?

14.a IF NO, or if not enough - What do you think should be the first step in raising awareness and who should take responsibility for raising awareness?

Any comment you might have in the context of questions?

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).