Snaga Sazine for a Better Lifestyle







We are not dreamers

This year marks 150 years since the first publication of *Capital*, the key work of Karl Marx, the German philosopher, and economic and political theoretician, who predicted the current state of affairs: continuously growing, yet cheaper production, constantly creating new and cheaper products, new markets and consumers. The real cost of the overabundance of products is social and environmental.

Ever-expanding globalisation causes social inequalities and injustices. We explored these issues in last year's magazine, where we shed light on how everyday goods such as clothing, and everyday treats such as chocolate, are manufactured and produced under conditions resembling slave labour.

This year we build on the story begun last year: we talked to people who live, work and think differently from the prevailing logic that dictates that we should buy as much as possible for as little as possible. We explore less readily available, but more sustainable practices which are better for society as a whole.

Slavoj Žižek, one of the most prominent contemporary philosophers, believes this is possible. In 2011, he addressed the Occupy Wall Street protesters by saying: "They tell you we are dreamers. The true dreamers are those who think things can go on indefinitely the way they are. We are not dreamers. We are the awakening from a dream that is turning into a nightmare."

Janko Kramžar, Director of Snaga, on his BMW K75s, 1987

The sheer amount of choice today creates chaos

Interview with Vesna Vuk Godina

Coffee without a bitter aftertaste

It does not matter
how famous you are, but
how you use your voice

Double interview with Ana Roš and Massimo Bottura

Photo: Reuse Centre, 4 Povšetova Street, Ljubljana, www.cpu-reuse.com.

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Beautiful and responsible



COVER STORY

The excellently preserved vintage and haute-couture second-hand clothes are modelled by Snaga employees Karmen Prhat, Marta Malus, Nina Sankovič, Tamara Vidic Perko, Črt Feldin, Marjan Rus and Tomaž Corn who were joined by Valentina Rutar Polanec from Kabiné Šerinjon team and Eva Rebeka Sankovič.

Clothing: Divas Vintage Store, 5 Gosposvetska Street, Ljubljana

Make-up: Ida Horvat Lebar, Eko pleme Hair: Martin Oder, M.ODER Hair salon

Furniture and equipment: Ljubljana Reuse Centre Location: Škuc Gallery, 21 Stari trg, Ljubljana

Photo: Primož Bregar

ZAO - ETHICAL COSMETICS IN BAMBOO PACKAGING

ZAO cosmetics are made of environment-friendly and exclusively fair trade ingredients using natural procedures. All the products are free of talc. parabens, mineral oils, paraffin and other harmful ingredients. ZAO cosmetics are not tested on animals. The truly natural products are sold in bamboo packaging, which can be refilled or reused. The name was inspired by the love of China. its people and philosophy, by the love of a land that is still in contact with nature and shows respect to animals and other living organisms. ZAO brand encompasses the values underpinning both philosophies.

ZAO cosmetics can be bought in NAMA, ZELENA TRGOVINA in BTC shopping centre or online at www.ekopleme.si.





ŠKUC GALLERY HAS BEEN PROMOTING CONTEMPORARY ART SINCE 1978

Škuc Gallery in Ljubljana's Old Town has been a feature of the contemporary European art scene for forty years and has become one of the main venues for alternative culture and contemporary visual arts. It has launched the career of many recognised artists, including IRWIN collective, OHO group and Marjetica Potrč. The gallery hosts solo exhibitions of emerging and established international artists, collaborates with visiting curators and recognised European institutions and venues, publishes expert books, and organises lectures, concerts and workshops. More information is available at www.galerijaskuc.si.

MOVINUN, SLOVENIAN BRAND WITH A CONVINCING STORY

Movinun group make timeless urban minimalist clothing that can be worn for many years to come. Their unique and comfortable clothes with carefully handcrafted details are designed and made in Slovenia. Maša Černovšek Logar and Boštjan Bajec make sure that all materials bear the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) certificate. This means that throughout the supply chain (from planting to processing and production) the material is made in an environmentally and socially responsible way. Movinun means "Move now": the Movinun team believes that together we can move and make our world a better place. You can check out Movinun at www.movinun.com, or visit their shop at 18 Trubarjeva Street in Ljubljana.



DIVAS VINTAGE STORE, STYLISH VINTAGE AND SECOND-HAND FASHION STORIES

Divas Vintage Store at 5 Gosposvetska Street in Ljubljana sells vintage clothing for women and men made between 1920 and 1990, and stylish second-hand designer clothes. Barbara Por Horvat selects exquisite pieces made of high-quality materials and special gems. such as male suit with a top hat from the 1930s, an evening gown from the 1950s or beautiful Louboutin shoes worn only a few times. The charming well-stocked shop also sells fashion accessories, including handbags, jewellery, hats, belts and scarves. More information is available at www.divaspreloved.com.



Schlager is ours – everything else is imported

obert Pešut aka Magnifico has been a household name on the Slovenian music scene for twenty-four years. He has released twelve albums on which, in his own words, he 'recycled' many of his old songs by rerecording them. We talked with him about recycling in music, why we are still attracted to *schlager* music (traditional catchy pop tunes) and why videos and films made today often feature waste collectors and lorries.

You once said: "I recycle often – most often myself." Naturally, we are very supportive of recycling in general. You recycle fashion trends, music – how come?

I often use the word 'recycle' in connection with my music. I have a pool of notes, which is what it is, and when I think that I've created something fresh and different, everyone says 'this is so your style'. Over the years, I've come to realise that my artistry has limitations that are the result of my knowledge, understanding of music and my feelings.



I've recycled many songs by recording them again (for example, the song *Montevideo*, *bog te video*). First I felt bad about it, but then I thought that I'd revived the song in this way and brought it closer to a new audience. This must have become my signature trait, but is not really something I do consciously.

Your recent songs also fall into the context of recycling and reuse. You have revived schlager music: we grew up with it, now our children listen to it when we're driving on holidays. Schlager must be a music genre with no expiry date, which still attracts every generation. What makes it so attractive?

France has its own original genre of pop music, the *chanson*, while Italians have serenades and *canzone*. In Germany, Russia, Poland and Yugoslavia, we had *schlagers*, which, in addition to folk songs and their scope, provided us with a basic musical education. *Schlager* is a Central-European genre, our form of musical expression; everything else has been imported from the Brits or Americans: blues, rock'n'roll, hip hop, etc. *Schlager* tunes were made to be easy listening: a simple form, three minutes long, introduction, verse and chorus, which is repeated twice, and simple lyrics.

If schlagers have remained more or less the same over the years, consumerism is quite the opposite: we do not buy out of need, but rather because we have been convinced that new clothes will make us happier, provide more gratification...We are not interested in who made them or what the circumstances were. Do you ever think about that?

Many times. I've recently bought a tool and could not believe that it cost 80 cents. A product, hand-made from a material. It is unbelievable that a product can even be sold at such a low price, as this means that someone is left out of the equation, and that someone is usually the worker, who is paid a couple of cents a day. As consumers, we are not moral. I also find it immoral that someone eats or uses only certain parts of chicken or beef, and throws away the rest. When we ceremonially slaughter a lamb, we do not throw anything away, we use and eat everything, and this gives sense, expresses some sort of gratitude to the animal. We should be able to make a good meal out of all the parts. We are too used to shopping meaning

buying as much as possible for as little money as possible, and do not care to think about how someone suffers so that we can buy cheaply. Nothing mass produced, from tourism to consumerism, is good. It kills the local. The same is true in music. Music for the mass market has no soul.



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You mentioned food. Do you cook?

I make meals for the whole family every day. Dishes that we're used to, more local stuff. When I buy food, I pay attention to the ingredients. I go to the farmer's market every day and try to buy local produce. Everyone advertises their produce as coming straight from the farm, but I know that is not always true. I do think that most vendors are genuine, have a moral compass. What I miss is agricultural co-ops, which would offer different products in one place.

Morals stem from human freedom, the individual's ability to create, and their feeling of responsibility. According to experts, parenting in the past led to excessively responsible people, while modern parenting results in too many irresponsible adults. What do you think?

Hope is the last to die. I know many people are smart, and this thinking, critical mass will have an influence. It is always the minority that leads the majority. Some people understand what is going

on and why this is bad, they know how to tell the good from the bad. Our mayor Zoran Janković is a good example. In ten years he and his colleagues have managed to turn around the city I was born in. I find it almost revolutionary. Today, Ljubljana is nice and clean, much more than it used to be. People have only become aware now of how good it is that the centre is closed to traffic.



In one of your interviews you said that your first band were called The Komunala [waste management] Brothers. How did you come up with the name?

It's true, but I don't remember how we got it. I also don't remember why I was called Magnifico anymore. We must have found it funny when we were in year 7 or 8. We often hung around basements with waste bins. So waste collectors were often nearby. That's probably how we came up with the name.

Today, Snaga's crews are also always nearby. Do you ever talk to them?

I am happy to greet them when I see them on the street. I adore waste collectors; I find that their job has purpose, and it's not the last thing I'd do. Anyway, they are better dressed today than they used to be. I've seen them catching the eye of a beautiful woman several times. The job of waste collectors is not what it used to be, when people thought of waste collectors as someone akin to trash.

Have you noticed that waste collectors and lorries are featured in many music videos and films?

It seems that they've become an attractive subject, a pop icon.

Let's go back to recycling. What is your attitude to recycling?

I find separating waste sexy. At the beginning, like many other people, I think, I found it very 'snobby'. Then I thought it was just pretence. Now I understand that waste separation is good. I like the change in my mentality in this respect. It bothers me very much now if people do not separate waste. I also like the principle that bulky waste is not collected on a given date anymore. I can call when I need bulky waste collected, and the guys come when I need them; they even clean up.

In addition, I gave up my car. I found that I don't need it urgently, and now that I don't have it anymore I am happier. Before, every member of the family had one, my wife, my son and me. Now I prefer to ride a bike, Bicike(LJ), or take a taxi if necessary. I'd like cars to be used like the Bicike(LJ) is today. I can't wait for the car-sharing service to spread, like bicycle sharing has: we will borrow a small electric car to take a ride around the city and then leave it at one of numerous locations. We were all sceptical about the Bicike(LJ) system at first. We thought people would destroy the bicycles. But now I see the system is operating smoothly. I hope the same happens with electric cars. ■



Why should we eat seasonal and locally produced food?

any consumers have greater trust in locally produced products. According to data compiled by the agriculture ministry, in 2010, thirty per cent of consumers looked for local products in shops, while by today that figure has jumped to almost seventy per cent. Local production means that produce is grown locally, i.e. in Slovenia, which should be clearly marked when fresh fruit and vegetables are sold. Seasonal food that grows locally is picked during a certain season, when it is also cheapest to buy. When it comes to food prices, low prices usually mean low quality.

Jure Kristan is a third-generation member of the Kristan family, who have been growing various vegetables on 35 hectares of land and selling them at Ljubljana's open market for a long time. He says they grow human- and environment-friendly vegetables without using pesticides or other harmful substances.

"The advantage of locally sourced produce is the proximity of the fields and consequently freshness. The vegetables we sell are fresh every day. We pick lettuce at 5 am and sell it at the market at 7 am. Our vegetables are driven seven kilometres to reach the market, whereas tomatoes from the Netherlands that can sit on supermarket shelves for days have travelled a few thousand kilometres. Young people have been returning to the market. Many visit us on our farm to see where the vegetables come from and how they are grown. We always welcome such visits, as this proves that people care and support local production."



Luka Košir, chef and owner of Gostišče Grič cooks with ingredients from his own garden, and with what he finds in the local meadows of the Škofja Loka Hills, and gets meat from local farms and forests. He lives by the principle of using what is closest.

"We have a big garden and are mostly self-sufficient in this respect. We want to use what we grow and pick in the meadows and in the forest ourselves as much as possible. We are happy to find any herb, clover, wild hops, even weeds. We also focus on winter stocks and storage a lot: how to extend the shelf life of ripe produce, how to preserve them in brine, as marmalade, vinegar, juice... In meat and fish, we also consider the quality of a type of meat in a certain season."





Alja Kramar, music editor, wife and mother of two toddlers. She buys high-quality food and always reads the labels on the packaging.

"When buying food, particularly fruit and vegetables, we are careful to buy local as much as possible. We have a vegetable garden and grow our own lettuce, tomatoes, peppers and herbs in the summer. In other seasons, we enjoy home-made dishes: we bake our own bread and desserts, etc. When we buy in supermarkets, we always read the ingredients list on the packaging carefully, and avoid preservatives, additives and other artificial substances as much as possible."



Tanja Ribič, Slovenian actress and singer believes that self-sufficiency is the best solution.

"When there is nothing left in the garden, I buy seasonal produce. I am careful where I buy food, because food from mega markets is dead. We are mere mortals, and the only purpose of a plantation is to make corporate profit. It is best to rely on oneself. The menu shouldn't be hysterically diverse, as it is easier to digest fewer ingredients. It is only important that the ingredients are varied and wholesome."

It does not matter how famous you are, but how you use your voice

ou've probably heard of Ana Roš and Massimo Bottura. Ana Roš from Hiša Franko restaurant in Kobarid has shown how clear goals, precision, abundant imagination and hard work can lead to being crowned the best. She was named World's Best Female Chef last year, the first Slovene to win the award. Massimo Bottura, celebrated chef of the globally renowned

three-Michelin star restaurant Osteria Francescana, and a man with a big heart, who has been committed to his work, has followed similar goals for many years. Within the non-profit organisation Food for Soul, which is also supported by Grunding, the Italian chef tries to return to the food the respect it deserves. When talking to us, Ana seems calm and determined, while Massimo strikes us as visionary.

By supporting local producers, we make sure that we have the freshest ingredients, help preserve tradition, and save money when shopping.



It seems that a cooking fever has been raging for the last few years: there has been an abundance of television shows, blogs, cookery books, videoblogs, etc. What is your opinion about the phenomenon; what attracts us to cooking so much?

A: We needed new heroes. In my opinion, the current obsession with chefs and cooking won't last long, but while it lasts it makes sense to show what really matters when cooking and what tricks people can use to achieve this at home.

M: It's great! Twenty or twenty-five years ago, hardly anyone talked about cooking. Today, everyone wants to become a chef or at least see the chefs work. It is a great responsibility, and all chefs are aware that we must consider the public. It does not matter how famous you are, but how you use your voice to benefit change. That's the best effect of the phenomenon.

What effect has this had on everyday life? Has it affected how an individual or a family shops and cooks, or is it more about the pleasure of watching shows and seeing exquisitely prepared dishes?

A: I sincerely hope that our work promotes better and, in particular, higher-quality food at home, respect for food, and cooking with seasonal ingredients, and thereby supports local farmers, fishermen, bee-keepers and herbalists. By supporting local producers, we make sure that we have the freshest ingredients, help preserve tradition, and save money when shopping.

M: It is a good sign that people are talking and thinking about food. It means that they pay more attention to what they buy, cook and eat. It means greater awareness. This is an excellent opportunity to improve the food systems, from our everyday food to agriculture in general. We take on hunger and malnutrition issues, obesity, and food waste with the same amount of seriousness. Where there is dialogue, there is room for change.



We should take time to prepare food, so that we see beyond the appearance of the ingredients. 99

When you eat in a restaurant, what are your criteria for saying "This is a very good dish"?

A: In my everyday life, I like eating simple food. I like clear flavours and good ingredients. When we do 'fine dining', my criteria are very high. Many chefs prioritise visual impression and presentation over taste. Although visual appeal is important, we shouldn't forget that smell, taste and service play an important part as well. If I am not enjoying dinner, I want to run away from the table.

M: While there are too many factors to consider, food falls into two categories: good food and bad food. That's it. The difference between the former and the latter is not only a chef's talent, but also the source of ingredients, the stories behind them, the atmosphere and culture, and, naturally, flavour. It is about balance, sincerity, modesty, and honesty about who you are and where you come from as a chef and head of a restaurant. When these elements combine, a good or a bad dish is created. When we consider all of this the dish will most likely be good.

Pupils often complain that food in school tastes bad. How would you organise food in schools and encourage children to move beyond French fries, pizza and fried chicken in restaurants?

A: It starts with upbringing at home. I honestly hope that my children are not among the fussiest when it comes to school meals. They tell me that food in their school in Kobarid is sometimes better than at home. They adore fruit and sometimes prefer it to a sandwich or pizza. Naturally, it is important that such food is available at school. At school, food should be high quality, because school lunch is the only hot meal of the day for some kids.

M: I think schools should not only improve the food they offer, but also teach about nutrients, nutrition and sustainable farming, to teach children not only to read and write, but also eat and respect food. School cafeterias should be open spaces where pupils can connect with the world outside and where children – our next generation – can meet chefs, producers, manufacturers and farmers to become aware that chocolate milk is not produced by brown cows and that apples don't grow in plastic bags. This can be an excellent start, where children transfer their wider education to their parents.

What do you think are the main shortfalls or mistakes we make when preparing everyday food, in addition to bad ingredients and overly or insufficiently cooked food?

A: Overuse of animal fat and sugar is the greatest enemy of healthy eating. We should eat a little of everything and moderately. I believe that we don't devote enough time to preparing meals and eating. One must be organised to prepare food every day, as this is the only way to use all ingredients before getting new ones. This allows us to buy high-quality and seasonal ingredients, which reflect the taste of the prepared dish.

M: We should take time to prepare food, so that we see beyond the appearance of the ingredients. A brown banana or deformed fruit still have great potential in terms of smell, taste and texture. It is our responsibility to find inner beauty in every food and to be able to use it as much as possible in its life cycle. When a loaf of bread comes out of the oven, it is so good that we can eat it on its own. The next day, it is perfect for making pappa al pomodoro (a rustic dish from Tuscany made of leftover bread and tomato) or bread souffle, while in two days we can use it to make bread crumbs for meat balls or pastry. That's real beauty: to make something useful out of something which may seem to have no value.

Coffee without a bitter aftertaste

n the north of Columbia, in Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, the Red Ecolsierra cooperative, which holds the certificates for fair trade and organic cultivation of coffee, brings together 600 families. One of its members is the seventy-year old Juan Martin, who lives in a single-storey home made of natural materials with his wife, their children and their grand-children. They live off the plantation bought by Juan. Because coffee yield has been deteriorating due to



climate change, and coffee purchase prices have been falling, they have been complementing their income by growing cocoa. The harvest of coffee, which is grown organically and picked by hand, is once a year and lasts about three months, providing work to the family and seasonal workers, who are paid more than those in the central regions. In addition to fair prices, the advantages of membership in the fair-trade cooperative are the funding of education of Juan's children and grand-children.



Fair-trade products can be easily recognised by the Fairtrade Labeling logo.

Fair-trade high-quality food, cosmetics, toys and home products are available in 3 MUHE fair-trade shop at 30 Stari trg in Ljubljana. ■

The sheer amount of choice today creates chaos

Dr Vesna Vuk Godina, a social and cultural anthropologist, has been critical of capitalist production logic for a long time. It leads to an overabundance of products, which creates chaos, lack of transparency and uncontrollability. According to the author, the amount of choice that consumers have every day causes a lot of displeasure, even anxiety.

The capitalist system of quick production has also developed a quick method of consumption based on the principle: shop, use, discard. What does such pattern of consumerism satisfy?

Such consumerism satisfies the capitalist logic of a constant increase in production, which is

necessary if the profit and wealth of centres of capital are to grow continuously. In reality, products are no longer meant to be used, particularly not in the long-term. They should be thrown away as soon as possible, as long-term use would decrease current production, which is not in the interest of those who make production plans and manufacture.

Billboards try to convince us that happiness is a matter of choice. Why does the promise of happiness convince us to make purchases so quickly?

The promise could not convince us if there were no libidinal basis. Advertisements do not promise happiness in general, but a particular form of

The sheer amount of choice today creates chaos, lack of transparency and uncontrollability, and the feeling that an individual has missed something in the murky conundrum.

happiness – happiness linked to closeness, family, acceptance, the presence of love, etc. Today, almost every product from food to cars is advertised in the same way: purchasing anything will increase the amount of pleasure, gratification and satisfaction; it will make the buyer feel 'good'. This means that more or less all advertising is based on addressing and manipulating the individual's pleasure principle. People, particularly the functionally immature, find it difficult to resist.

Today, choices are almost unlimited in all areas. How does this define us personally? Do you think that overabundance and saturation have made us more anxious?

The sheer amount of choice creates chaos, lack of transparency and uncontrollability, while at the same time creating the feeling that a person has missed something among this messy disorder. All this is definitely linked to a range of unpleasant feelings, even with some anxiety.

You say that society has a tremendous influence on the formation of the growing individual, greater than upbringing. How can we prepare a child to meet the challenges of consumer society? How can we teach children to select the right thing?

Well, yes, socialisation as the process of comprehensively aligning a child with the social and cultural environment to which they were born forms the child to a much more significant extent than upbringing. In today's consumer capitalist society, narcissistic upbringing¹ and socialisation form individuals who are pathological narcissists², as in terms of its operating logic, their dependence on



social praise is forced consumerism. This is also the case because social praise most easily obtained by buying things others want, but don't have. If we want to protect our children from this type of psychological functioning, we should raise them to develop consciousness in the traditional sense of the word. This means that upbringing should include authority, discipline and punishment, which, of course, should not be violent, like spanking.

Due to limited resources and the financial burden of ownership, there is an increasing trend of sharing and borrowing in many European cities. Can the sharing economy change our way of thinking and consumerism?

No. Because it is mainly guided by the same logic as our consumer capitalism. For providers, such practices are only disguised means of profitable income and, as such, no alternative to the consumer capitalism of today, as many would like to imagine. Individuals take part in sharing and borrowing schemes because it is to their financial benefit, because it means more pleasure for less money. Regardless of their appearance, such schemes are often only an extension of the basic logic underpinning today's consumer capitalist society, while their method makes them acceptable to people who are often critical of consumerism in capitalist societies. ■

¹ The child-rearing typical of contemporary Western society is in sync with the capitalist logic of creating a consumer society, which needs individuals who shop to support the existing capitalist system.

Individuals acting in accordance with the existing consumer society, i.e. individuals who buy what they do not have.

Examples of good practice in Ljubljana

TISSUE PAPER FROM COATED MULTI-PLY PAPERBOARD

Slovenia produces seven tonnes of waste coated multi-ply paperboard used for milk and juice packaging annually. These cartons can be used to make tissue paper. Ljubljana's public companies, institutions and institutes use the most sustainable tissue paper (paper towels and toilet paper) on the market. It is made of recycled coated multi-ply cartons for milk and juices. All separately collected packaging is handed over to a packaging company that treats it appropriately, then hands it over to a paper manufacturer. This creates a closed loop and closes material flows, creating environmental and financial benefits based on 'zero waste' principles.





PERFUMED CANDLES FROM WASTE COOKING OIL

Traditional paraffin candles, which are a heavy burden on the environment, have the greatest share in the candle market. Paraffin is a non-renewable resource, which is obtained by dry distillation of coal and by-products of petroleum derivatives. 'Bolje' social enterprise offers a better option: it makes environment and health-friendly vegetable-based perfumed candles. Made from waste cooking oil, the ingredients do not interfere with the food chain, are CO₂-neutral and hand made by people with mental disabilities.



THREE PEOPLE, ONE CAR

The average European car is parked 92 per cent of the time, stuck in traffic jams for one per cent of the time, and looking for a parking space 1.6 per cent of the time. The average car is in actual use for only five per cent of the time. Because a five-seater carries only 1.5 passengers on average, the actual use amounts to only 1.5 per cent. Because Peter, Aleksander and Janez are well-aware of that, they bought their car together. "None of us needs the car every day. We mostly travel by bicycle, on foot or use public transport. We occasionally need the car to make a trip that is difficult to make using public transport. Sometimes we need the car for transport, and we also use it to go on trips and longer journeys," says Janez. This also saves money, because, according to Janez, the main benefit is that each of them pays only a third of the costs, while the car use rate is three times the average.



REUSE CENTRE AND REPAIR CAFÉ AT 4 POVŠETOVA STREET

Ljubljana has been part of the global network for promoting repairs, the so-called Repair Café. Repair Café operates within the Reuse Centre at 4 Povšetova Street: every last Thursday of the month different professionals (an electrician, a seamstress, a carpenter) and volunteers are available to help repair and transform products brought by visitors. In addition to a repair workshop, the Reuse Centre also runs a retail outlet. In the four year since its establishment, the number of products sold by the centre increased from an average 50 to an average 190 a day.



EXTENDING PRODUCT LIFETIME

In RCERO Ljubljana, we extend the lifetime of products and materials through creative reuse and upcycling. Trash Design collective has used over 500 pallet boards, and renovated and given new life to sixteen chairs, seven desk lamps, over twenty bicycle wheels, five bath tubs, a wardrobe, eight chests of drawers and four stainless steel barrels, and has transformed 100 beer and wine bottles, over 400 paper tubes, and 70 metres of worn-out construction beams to make part of new products.

TACKLING WEEDS ORGANICALLY

This year, Ljubljana has stopped using herbicides on public green and road surfaces. The machine used for controlling weeds uses steam, biologically degradable active vegetable-oil substances (from coconut, palm and oil seed rape oil) and glucose (from potato, corn and wheat).





STREETS ARE CLEANED WITH RECYCLED AND RAIN WATER

Snaga cleans the streets of Ljubljana using machines that recycle water and use biologically degradable detergent.

The wet-cleaning sweepers use five brooms to clean the streets and suck back all the water used. For flushing streets, Snaga mostly uses rainwater collected from the roofs of Snaga facilities in Barje.



AMONG THE FIRST IN THE WORLD TO PRODUCE PAPER OUT OF JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Japanese knotweed (Fallopia japonica) is an invasive foreign species of plant, which spreads aggressively and can grow in different soils. It is harmful to the environment, as it spreads quickly and destroys local vegetation, while its invasive root system and strong growth can damage infrastructure and cause economic damage. In Liubliana. we found a solution how to exploit the unwanted invasive species in order to prevent its overgrowth. The City of Ljubljana teamed up with REGENERACIJA society, Botanical Gardens of the University of Ljubljana, Pulp and Paper Institute and Snaga to make practical use of the plant. In volunteer clean-up days to root out Japanese knotweed, the dry stems of the plant were harvested, ground and processed into paper from which final products were made. Ljubljana has thus become one of the first in the world to produce paper out of Japanese knotweed at a semi-industrial level.

RCERO Ljubljana, a unique waste treatment facility in Slovenia

jubljana Regional Waste Management Centre (RCERO Ljubljana) is the biggest environmental project in Slovenia supported by the Cohesion Fund and the most modern facility for waste treatment in Europe, which processes waste from over 50 Slovenian municipalities, i.e. a third of all waste produced in Slovenia. The main part of the regional centre consists of three facilities for mechanical-biological waste treatment, where two types of waste are processed: separately collected biowaste and residual mixed municipal waste. Bulky waste is also accepted and assorted.

WHY RCERO LJUBLJANA?

Waste recovery is needed in order to extract raw materials and reduce the quantity of disposed waste. The regional centre has the crucial mission of extracting the greatest possible amount of usable material and of composting separately collected biowaste.



THE BEST WASTE RECOVERY PLANT

- As much as 95 per cent of seemingly useless mixed waste can be used as recyclable materials or fuel.
- Biological treatment of biowaste relies
 on the processes that occur naturally, but
 are accelerated in the plant and take place
 without the presence of oxygen. The gas
 produced during biological treatment is
 captured and used to produce electricity
 and heat for the operation of the regional
 centre.
- RCERO Ljubljana recovers natural resources, practices re-use and closes loops.
- A joint project of the City of Ljubljana, over fifty municipalities of the wider central region and Snaga waste management company is an example of good practice in cooperation of municipalities.



TIME FOR THE CIRCULAR REVOLUTION

For over a decade, we have been using a planet and a half to satisfy our needs and wishes. This means that we have been using fifty per cent more resources (energy, food, etc.) than the Earth can produce. Our mission is to put all our efforts into achieving higher economic value and quality of life using less natural resources. Our goal is circular economy, where we do everything to keep different resources in the production and consumer cycle for the longest time possible. RCERO Ljubljana is of exceptional importance for our transition into circular economy.



Fast fashion and toxins on your skin

ou are probably unaware that you are most likely wearing at least five items that were made in slave conditions. Why can clothing cost 10 euros or less? Because workers on the other side of the world made them in hazardous factories, earning 60 euros a month for a six-day working week. Children working in textile companies earn considerably less. These people pay the price of fast couture once more, because many spinning mills and textile factories release harmful substances into the environment.

It does not stop here: together with your trousers, T-shirts and other clothing you are also wearing various chemicals used in the manufacturing and treatment of fabric. These include pesticides, artificial dyes and heavy metals, for example cadmium, a known carcinogen. Because clothes are in direct contact with the skin, harmful chemicals may cause irritation and rash, and enter and accumulate in the body, which may affect the kidneys, liver or destroy the balance of the hormonal and immune systems, causing symptoms such as headaches, etc.

Do you take your used clothing back to the shop to receive five or ten euros off the next purchase? What a bargain! In reality, you have fallen for a cheap marketing trick: they have managed to convince you to buy something again. Unfortunately, constant shopping of the latest fashion items encourages companies to expand their offer and output, lower their prices and pay workers even less. This is detrimental to us and the environment.



A GUIDE TO BETTER SHOPPING CHOICES

WE HAVE SELECTED A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR MAKING BETTER SHOPPING CHOICES, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO BUY LESS: BUY QUALITY INSTEAD. CLOTHING SHOULD FIT WELL AND FEEL COMFORTABLE. YOU WILL BE HAPPY TO WEAR NICE, GOOD-FIT ITEMS YOU LOOK GOOD IN FOR A LONG TIME. WHICH WILL JUSTIFY SPENDING A BIT MORE.



1 CLOTHES SWAP

What can you do with clothes and shoes that you do not wear anymore? You can sell them, swap them or donate them. Attend a swap event for great finds at enviable prices: they are organised once a month by Tekstilnica, and also by SWAPjeTOP, while vintage clothing can be exchanged for food, cleaning agents and school supplies at Izmenjevalnica.



2 SHOPS THAT SELL SECOND-HAND **CLOTHING**

Ljubljana's second-hand clothing shops offer many beautifully preserved or almost new items of clothing, shoes and fashion accessories. Some shops also offer clothing designed by recognised Slovenian and international designers and/or vintage pieces. There's something in every price range. For great choices, check Vintage Divas Store at 5 Gosposvetska Street, Moje TVOJE and Kilo shop at 8 Mestni Square, Garderoba, fine clothing second-hand shop at 71 Vodnikova Street, Gvant 2nd hand at 152 Šmartinska Road, 2nd Chance at 16 Lepodvorska Street and Reuse Centre at 4 Povšetova Street.



Slovenia has many talented and successful designers, tailors, dressmakers and cobblers. Because output is lower, the cost of material and labour per item is much higher than with mass production, and the final retail price is higher. Many people say they would love to buy unique styles but they are too expensive. While it is true that the price of well-tailored clothing made in Slovenia cannot be compared to the price of clothing sold by Zara, Gap or H&M, it is not as high as it may seem considering the production method, material, fit and durability. Check out Pentlja concept store and Zoofa co-op, which bring together several Slovenian designers.



RESPONSIBLE CLOTHING

An increasing number of brands and clothing manufacturers use certified fabric. The relevant certificate for the clothing industry is called GOTS – global organic textile standard, which assures an environmentally and socially responsible production of textiles throughout the entire production chain. Each part of the chain must meet several criteria on environment protection and responsibility to the people. In Slovenia, GOTS-certified clothing is made by Movinun, Mila. Vert and Lanabe brands, among others.



5 FAIR-TRADE **CLOTHING**

There is a variety of clothing based on fair-trade principles available. Buying such clothing entails a guarantee that workers were paid fairly, that the making of the product did not involve forced or child labour and that women were paid the same as men. Fair-trade products are available in 3 MUHE fair-trade shop and online.









Kabiné Šerinjon: borrow, wear for two weeks, then let someone else enjoy it

veryday, we are surrounded by fast fashion that promotes quick spending and replacement of 'old' items of clothing with new ones. We pay less for a bag full of clothes than we do for a week's worth of groceries, and do not care to think about how the price is paid by exploiting workers and destroying the environment. An e-library of clothing is an answer to fast fashion and blind consumerism, which was developed by students of three faculties in Ljubljana – the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Engineering and the Faculty of Computer Science – and Snaga Ljubljana.

THE FIRST SLOVENIAN E-LIBRARY OF CLOTHING

Kabiné Šerinjon is the first e-library of fashionable and vintage clothing in Slovenia. Over sixty items of clothing and fashion accessories by Slovenian designers, fair-trade clothes and vintage items from the Reuse Centre are available free of charge.





Kabiné Šerinjon's e-library promotes critical thinking, seeks to change our attitude to consumer goods and uncover the dark side of fashion that exploits individuals in far-off places, and promotes collaborative consumption and sharing.

BORROWING CLOTHES IS AN ALTERNATIVE TO SHOPPING. HOW DOES IT WORK?

Users can borrow high-quality, sustainable and ethical clothing from Kabiné Šerinjon using the mobile application available at www.kabine-sherinjon.si. Items of clothing circulate among different users, who wear them for two weeks, then give them to the next user. Borrowing clothes is free of charge.

















Seven steps to a happy and critical consumer



Do I really need the product? Do I really have to buy it, must I have it? Can I borrow it? Can I rent it? Can I share it? Can I buy it second hand?

2 BORROW

How many things in your home are used on a regular basis? How many items are used very rarely, while taking up a lot of space and perhaps even entailing costs?

3 DONATE

Think about whether there are other options for disposing of old tools, unused ceramic tiles and old but working gadgets other than throwing them away. Donate things you do not need to relatives or friends, or take them to the closest reuse centre.

4 EXCHANGE

There is an increasing number of swap events where you can exchange clothing, toys, books, seeds, produce, New Year's gifts, etc.

5 BUY USED

Choose things with lasting value and higher quality. By buying second-hand items you can get higher-quality products much cheaper, so price performance is much better. In addition, buying second hand means exploiting no workforce.

6 FOLLOW THE TEN-SECOND RULE

Before taking an item to check-out, stop for ten seconds and ask yourself why you are buying it and if you really need it. If you cannot come up with a convincing answer, return the product to the shelf.

7 THINK ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR PURCHASE

Was the product made in acceptable circumstances? Can it be used for a long time? Have workers who made the product received fair payment? Do they work in safe and healthy conditions? ■



We can't do it without you

Snaga's responsibility is to make sure that waste management is quick, simple and reliable. However, the system cannot function smoothly without you, residents, who separate waste and follow basic rules on properly placing bins and disposing of different types of waste, including bulky and hazardous waste.



The first step in waste management is separating waste. This means that waste should be disposed of in appropriate bins. Snaga is obliged to collect only appropriately* collected and disposed waste, while residents should ensure the correct position of bins and disposal of waste.¹

Other waste (hazardous waste, bulky waste, cut greenery, etc.) should be taken to a collection centre or disposed of at an appropriate site, or collection should be ordered.

* WHAT DOES APPROPRIATE WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL MEAN? Appropriate disposal of waste means always disposing

Appropriate disposal of waste means always disposing of waste in the correct bin, and not by its side. Municipal regulations prohibit waste disposal (in bags or boxes, bulky waste, branches and other material) by bins or underground collection units.





THE ONLY BAG THAT CAN BE PLACED BY BINS IS SNAGA'S BAG

If you occasionally produce more residual or biological waste than usual, use Snaga's bags, which can be bought online at www.vsezaodpadke.si/snaga-d.o.o, in larger Mercator shops or Reuse Centre at 4 Povšetova Street in Ljubljana.

¹ Incorrect waste disposal can be reported to the City of Ljubljana inspectors (T: +386 (0)1 306 16 00, E: glavna.pisarna@ljubljana.si) or the relevant intermunicipal inspectors in your municipality. A report can be made anonymously by telephone, e-mail or ordinary mail. Oversight and fines are the responsibility of relevant municipal or intermunicipal inspectors. Snaga has no authority in this respect.

SIZE AND REPLACEMENT OF BINS

If you regularly produce bigger quantity of waste than can be collected in your bin, please order bigger or additional bins.

Remember that the size of black or brown bins affects the price of Snaga's services.

responsible for determining the size of bins, which is based on standard quantities of waste per person per month: 30 litres for residual waste, 60 litres for packaging, 20 litres for paper, 10 litres for glass and 15 litres for biological waste. In addition, the frequency of waste collection from a unit is taken into account. If Snaga's employees notice that additional bags are often placed by bins or the bin is overflowing, they assume that the size of the bin is not sufficient and can replace the bin with a bigger one without your prior consent.

SNAGA'S RESPONSIBILITY: Snaga is





If waste is disposed of improperly, Snaga will place a notification sticker on your bin or post box. If irregularities continue, Snaga will notify the City of Ljubljana or intermunicipal inspectors who may issue fines.

BIN COLLECTION

On the day of collection, bins should be at collection points, which means on the edge of public land where waste collection vehicles can stop and empty the bins. Snaga does not collect bins from courtvards.

In general, bins should not stand on public land/sidewalks. In accordance with municipal legislation, bins should be placed on private land and only taken out for collection. The same rules applies to all Slovenian and European towns, the only exception being large containers for packaging, paper and glass on ecological islands/ collection sites, which are on public land.

If your black and brown wheelie bins or bins for packaging and paper are on public land, please place them on private land. Violations of relevant regulations are cited by the City of Liubliana inspectors, who may issue a fine.



SNAGA'S RESPONSIBILITY: In accordance with legislation, Snaga hands over separately collected packaging, paper and glass to companies specialised in managing waste packaging. Residual and biological waste is taken to the RCERO Ljubljana waste recovery plant.



Why should waste be recovered?

Waste recovery is needed in order to extract raw materials and reduce the quantity of disposed waste. In Ljubljana Regional Waste Management Centre (RCERO Ljubljana), biological waste is composted, while the greatest possible amount of usable material is extracted from residual waste.

HOW MUCH MONEY DOES SNAGA MAKE FROM WASTE?

Very little. Glass, plastic packaging and cardboard are handed over to specialised companies free of change, while it pays to companies that collect hazardous and construction waste from collection centres. Only paper, metal and batteries can be sold according to market prices; profit from sales lowers the cost billed to users.



REPORT CHANGES ON TIME

In order to perform and charge for waste treatment services, we need accurate information. Please report any changes in your surname, billing address, and the like to Snaga on time, or in **five days** at the latest. You can do this by completing the special form for reporting changes that is available at www.snaga.si/en and www.mojiodpadki.si.

If you do not have internet access, please contact the User Support and Assistance Centre (+386 (0)1 477 96 00) and you will receive the form by post, or collect it in person from the centre at 6 Povšetova Street.

All reported changes will be registered promptly and applied to the next bill.



REPORT THEFT OF PAPER FROM A BIN

Theft of paper can cause considerable harm and/or damage. By selling paper, Snaga can partly offset its cost of waste handling and can then reduce your bill. Therefore, stealing paper hurts both Snaga and you, the users. Any suspected theft of paper from a bin can be reported by calling +386 (0)1 477 96 66. Please report the location of theft, and, if possible, the make and registration number of the vehicle used to take the paper.

NOTE

Mobile phones, tablets and other smart devices are powered by li-ion batteries. Batteries should not be included in mixed municipal waste, so they should not be disposed of in black bins for residual waste. When residual mixed municipal waste is treated in RCERO Ljubljana, the presence of li-on batteries can disrupt the treatment process and the battery may even catch fire in some circumstances.



MIND YOUR BIN

Bins should stand on private land. This applies to all types of bins, including the bins for packaging and paper. Snaga has neither the authority nor the responsibility to collect bins from courtyards and other private property, so bins should be placed at the edge of public land. When the bins are empty, please bring them back to private land.

PREOSTANEK ODPADKOV

RESIDUALWASTE



snaga



The ABC's of paying for Snaga's services

The bill issued by Snaga does not only cover waste collection but also other services, including the replacement of damaged bins, cleaning of biological waste bins, operation of collection centres, collection of bulky items, recovery of residual municipal and biological waste, and collection of hazardous household waste.



A CALCULATING COSTS

The cost of Snaga's services is based on the size of the bins for residual and biological waste (if you have one) and the frequency of bin collection.

For users of underground collection units, the actual number of disposals per month is billed, but no fewer than six disposals for residual waste and four for biological waste. Every active card is billed. You can check the number of your disposals via a special app (www.mojiodpadki.si/odpadki/uporaba-zbiralnic): all you need is the number of your card and the user reference number, which is printed on your bill. Both numbers should be entered without the first zeros.

The cost for users living in multi-residential buildings or neighbourhoods depends on the size and the number of bins, the average number of monthly bin collections, the number of people sharing a household and the number of building tenants. In multi-residential buildings, the building's manager usually receives the bill, and then divides it in accordance with the legislation or agreement among tenants.

Exact costs can be calculated using formulas available at www.snaga.si/en.

Average monthly cost per household is eight euros. Compared to the costs billed by other waste management companies, it is among the lowest in Slovenia.

B ACCURATE INFORMATION

Please check the information on your bill.

If you find information or figures to be incorrect, please notify Snaga in eight days by writing to *snagalj@snaga.si* or calling the User Support and Assistance Centre (+386 (0)1 477 96 00).



Some payment methods save time and money. Snaga's bills can be paid without a transaction fee at the City of Ljubljana offices at 1 Mačkova Street or 90 Vodovodna Street. You can also set up a standing order (more information is available on page 43) and receive an e-invoice instead of a printed copy. The e-invoice will arrive in pdf-form in your inbox or your online banking system. Change to receiving e-invoices by completing the e-form available at www.snaga.si/en and www.mojiodpadki.si.

Please complete the form by entering your personal details, e-mail address, the number of your bank account and the user reference number.



SEE YOU
FONDAMENTALL
IN TWOLE

After direct debit

Set up a direct debit by post or arrange everything in person at the ground floor of JAVNI HOLDING Ljubljana. If you have any enquiries, please contact us at



080 86 52 and 080 28 82



posta@jhl.si

Easy access to information

At Snaga, we make sure that relevant information is always easy to find using your mobile phone, computer, in person or on paper. Snagazin magazine is •••• Si.mobil 🕏 published once a year (we Skupine Premična zbiralnica are legally obliged to publish a printed publication once a year), and our User Support and Assistance Centre is open every working day. ziroma zabojnik za ih odpadkov lahko arne odpadke iz anjšo odpadno električno remo, in sicer motorna in silina sredstva, barve, lake, rije, akumulatorje, zdravila, kartuše/tonerje, žarnice, monitorje, niške pripomočke, male kuhinjske e, električna orodja, plinske sijalke, onske medije, odslužene teletone in rične igrače.

GO ONLINE

Go to *www.mojiodpadki.si* to place orders, view and print the timetable for bin emptying, set free text message reminders, check the number of deposits in underground collection units or use the e-search system to check where specific waste goes. Everything you need to know is just a click away.

CONTACT US

Send an e-mail to **snagalj@snaga.si**, call **+386 (0)1 477 96 00** or visit our User Support and Assistance Centre at 6 Povšetova Street in Ljubljana.

You can also contact us on Twitter @Snaga_reuse or Facebook @SnagaLjubljana.

DOWNLOAD SNAGA'S MOBILE APPLICATION

Use **Snaga's app** to check the opening hours of collection centres, the timetable for collection of all types of waste and Snaga contact information. You can also use the app to set up free reminders for emptying of bins. Downloading the app is easy and free. It is available for smart phones using iOS (iPhone) and Android operating systems.

USE A TEXT MESSAGE REMINDER

You can be alerted to upcoming waste collection one day in advance by a **free SMS text reminder**. You can set the reminder at the website *www.mojiodpadki.si* using the Moji odvozi (My collection day) application or at the User Support and Assistance Centre. ■







One click to check the schedule and two clicks to...

...order a trip to the Moon or book a journey with a time machine. Well, while the latter two are still wishful thinking, it is true that arranging most services regarding waste collection is just two clicks away.

For more information, please visit www.mojiodpadki.si.

In focus: handling bulky waste

erhaps your gadget stopped working and cannot be repaired anymore or it is the time of year to trim trees and hedges.

Where can you take such waste?

Are there any limits on the quantities? Will anyone help me get things out of the car?

Take a look at the frequently asked questions below.

Q: OUR OLD TV SET CANNOT BE REPAIRED. WHERE CAN WE TAKE IT?

A: Waste electronic and electrical equipment can be taken to one of Snaga's nine

collection centres (locations and opening hours are listed at www.snaga.si/en) where it can be disposed of in special bins. Attendants working in the centre will assist you, as well as clarify any questions about permitted quantities and the like.

Q: WHAT ABOUT ASBESTOS WASTE?

A: You can also bring small quantities of asbestos waste without charge to the Barje Collection Centre once per calendar year, but it must be prepared in line with the instructions laid down in the Decree on Waste Management.





Q: IS THERE ANY CHARGE ON BRINGING WASTE TO A COLLECTION CENTRE?

- A: Bringing waste to special bins at waste collection centres is free of charge, but you must be careful not to exceed the quantity limits. You can bring construction waste and insulation materials for construction to the collection centre once per calendar year. Tyres, cut greenery, bulky waste and furniture wood can be brought in twice a year. The quantity limits must be observed. Construction waste is only accepted at Barje and in Cerklje na Gorenjskem (for residents of Cerklje) centres.
- Q: IN ADDITION TO THE OLD TV SET, WE WOULD LIKE TO GET RID OF OLD CAR TYRES THAT HAVE BEEN IN THE BASEMENT FOR YEARS. CAN WE BRING THEM AT THE SAME TIME?
- A: You can, but you have to make sure not to exceed the annual quantity limit. Quantity limits apply to construction waste and insulation materials (0.5 m³), car tyres (5), bulky waste (3 m³), cut greenery (waste produced when tending to gardens and trimming trees) (1.5 m³), AC sheets (EUR-pallet to a height of 0.5 metres) and furniture wood (2 m³).

Q: CAN YOU HELP ME TO REMOVE BULKY WASTE, AS I DO NOT HAVE AN APPROPRIATE VEHICLE?

A: You can bring waste with your car, trailer or van. If you do not own a car, you can ask a friend or neighbour, or call Snaga and order bulky waste collection. For Snaga users, collecting bulky waste is free of charge once a year. After receiving your order, you will be contacted to arrange the date of collection. You should prepare bulky waste a day ahead after 8 pm or in the early hours of the collection day.

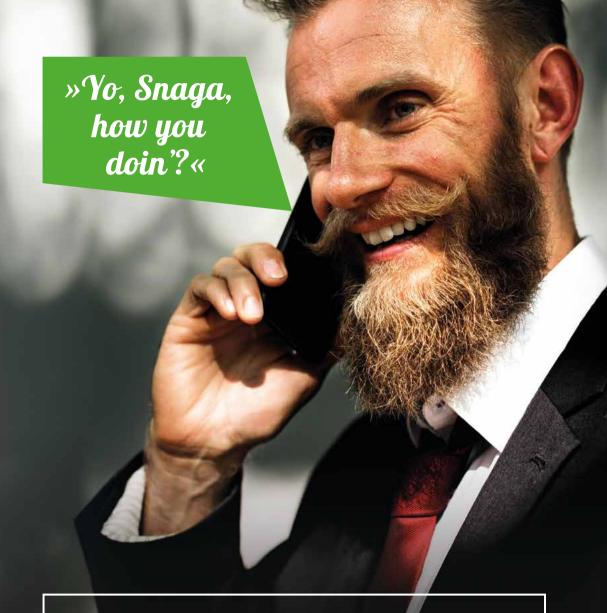
NOTE: Hazardous waste (automotive batteries, li-on batteries, paints and solvents, oil, medicine, cosmetics containing hazardous substances and anything else bearing the hazardous substances symbol) and waste electronic and electrical equipment should not go into your bins or free-access collection sites ('eco-islands'). Such waste should be taken to the closest collection centre or disposed of at the mobile collection unit, which is stationed at various locations in Ljubljana and nine suburban municipalities between March and November in accordance with a set timetable.

The timetable for the mobile collection unit is published at www.mojiodpadki.si.



Collection of bulky waste is still free of charge once a year for all Snaga users. To order collection of bulky waste, please complete a form on Snaga's web site and we will call you to arrange the collection date.





Staff at Snaga's User Support and Assistance Centre will be happy to respond to all your enquiries. Please visit us at 6 Povšetova Street in Ljubljana or contact us at



+386 (0)1 477 96 00



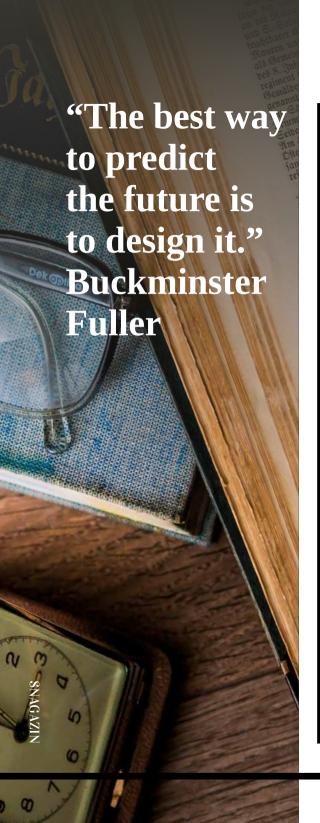
🔀 snagalj@snaga.si





f Snaga Ljubljana





Colophon

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Contact number +386 (0)1 477 96 00. Follow our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SnagaLjubljana and Twitter profile at https://twitter.com/Snaga_reuse.

You can also contact us at Snaga, d. o. o. Povšetova ulica 6 1000 Ljubljana

Visit our User Support and Assistance Centre every weekday from 8. to 16.30, or to 16.00 on Tuesdays at 6 Povšetova Street in Liubliana.

We look forward to your visit.





City of Ljubljana



NO ORDINARY PAPER

By now you must have noticed the peculiar characteristics of the paper used for this magazine. What you may not know, however, is that this paper was made from Japanese knotweed, one of world's worst invasive plant species.

The City of Ljubljana has been implementing a campaign to eradicate all invasive alien species and from 2016 the City of Ljubljana has been successful in using Japanese knotweed as an alternative source of raw material in the papermaking process.

Snagazin is just one of many sustainable and innovative solutions to have emerged from Ljubljana's never-ending desire to continue improving the living environment for its residents and visitors. Instead of focusing on the consumption of natural resources, we support and encourage innovative solutions to be sought for a transition towards circular, resilient cities.





