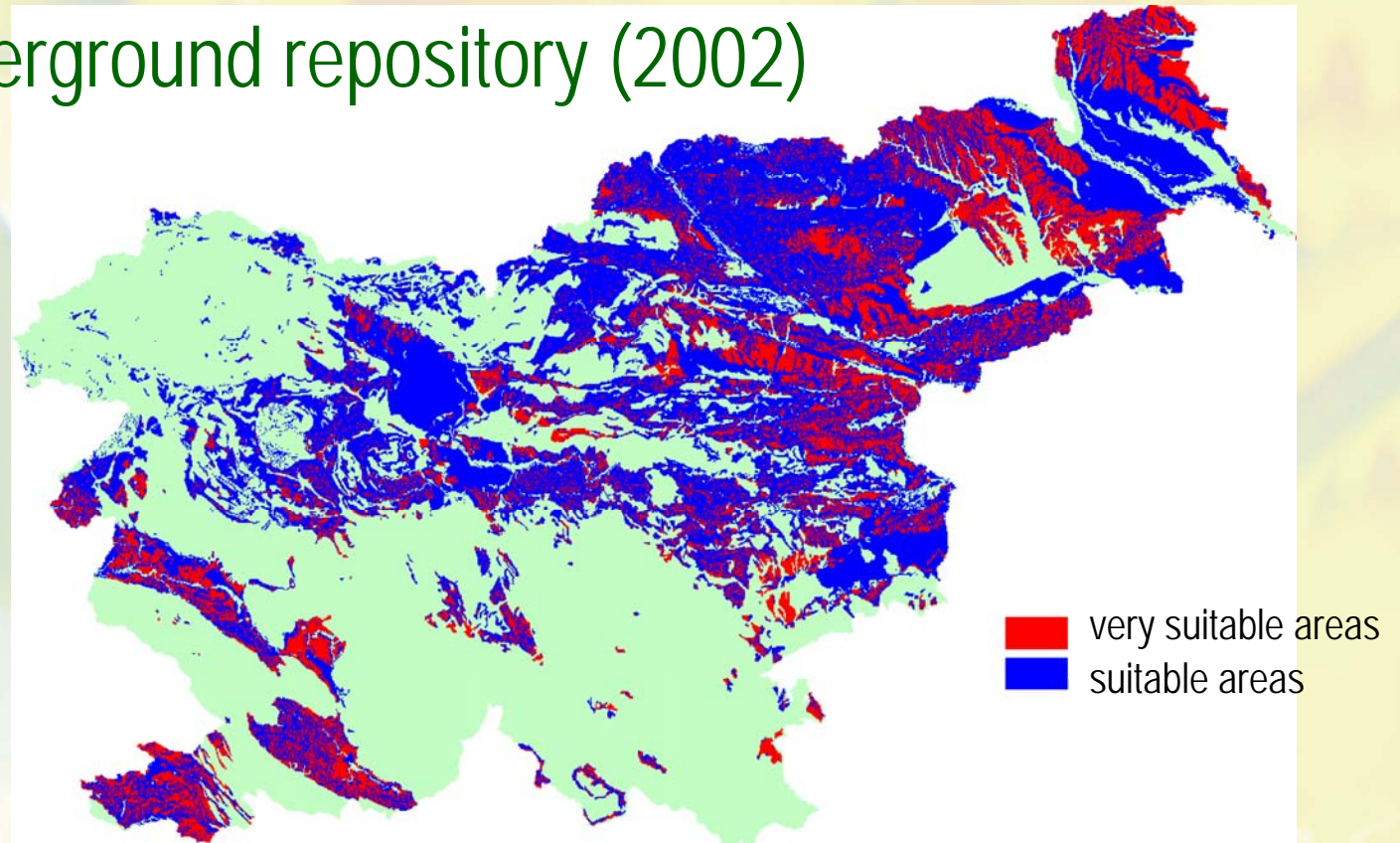


RESPONSES OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO THEIR VOLUNTEERING FOR LILW REPOSITORY SITING IN SLOVENIA

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Siting procedure – area survey

- geological screening (1999-2002)
- a map of potentially suitable areas for surface or underground repository (2002)



Siting procedure – volunteering* of local communities

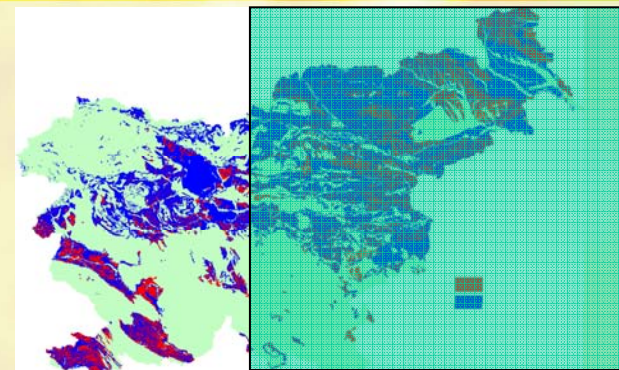
- Public hearing and adoption of the programme for the preparation of the Detailed plan of national importance for the LILW repository (Nov. 2004).
- Invitation to all local communities to participate in the siting procedure (Dec. 2004).
- Announcing of the volunteering communities (Apr. 2005).

** Local community can withdraw with no obligations*

Eight volunteering local communities



**LENART
TRNOVSKA VAS
VELIKA POLANA
ZAVRČ
ŠMARTNO
SEVNICA
KRŠKO
BREŽICE**



Siting procedure – negotiations of sites with local communities

- ❑ Two local communities proposed a definite site – one withdrew under the pressure of the civil initiative before the site characterisation took place, the other was later found to be unacceptable.
- ❑ No potential site was found in one local community – it withdrew from the process.
- ❑ One local community withdrew under the pressure of neighbouring communities during the characterisation stage.

Community response – case Trnovska vas



- Municipality applied on the basis of the decision of the community council, the mayor disagreed.
- CI organised, requested the mayor to resign or to make the council withdraw from the siting procedure.
- The mayor supported CI and resigned.
- Both mayor's resignation and local community withdrawal was accepted by the community council.
- Community council refused the return of the mayor.
- The mayor appealed at the Administrative Court.

Community response – case Trnovska vas



RESULTS

Local community withdrew and ARAO activities stopped.

Local community got a new mayor.

Community response – case Velika Polana



- The application was proposed by the mayor and confirmed by the community council.
- Web-forum on “radioactive waste” with standpoints and explanations on local web pages.
- Big posters in public places against the repository.
- Public meeting organised by the opponents.
- Neighbouring communities opposed because they thought the repository will not be compatible with regional development plans and the natural heritage aspect.

Community response – case Velika Polana



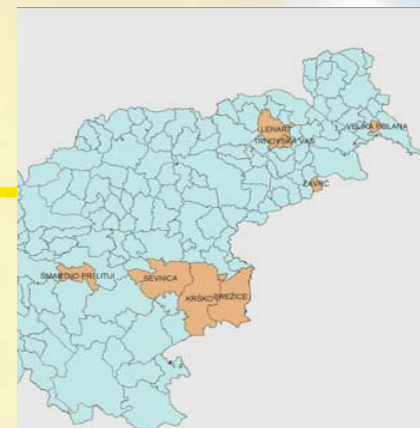
RESULTS

Local community withdrew and ARAO activities stopped.

Vice-mayor resigned because he supported the community volunteering.

Regional interests defeated the local interests.

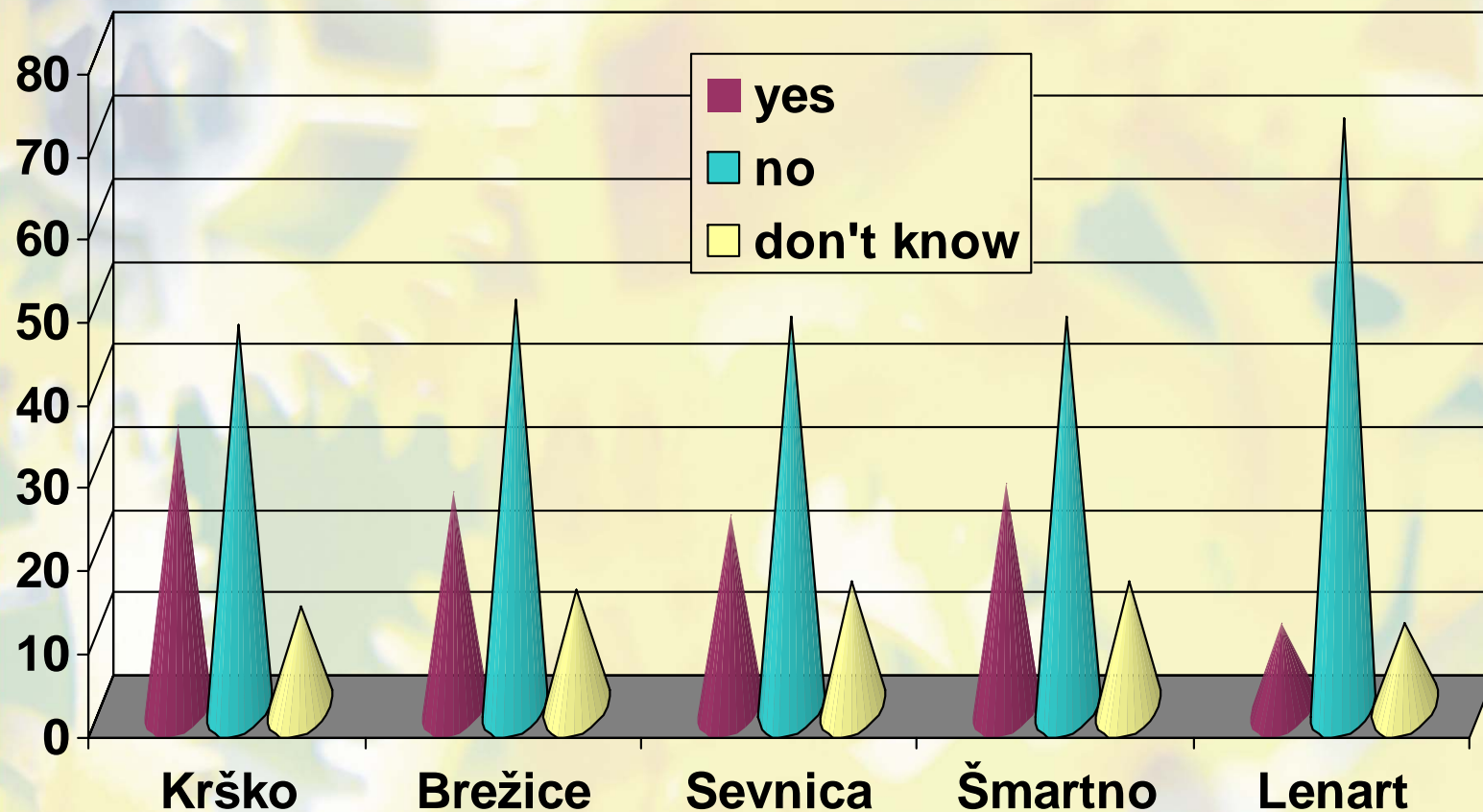
Five remaining local communities



**LENART
ŠMARTNO
SEVNICA
KRŠKO
BREŽICE**

Three local communities have to be selected for further investigation.

Do you support the application of your community to participate in the siting procedure for LILW repository?



Stakeholders' actions

	Krško	Brežice	Sevnica	Šmartno	Lenart
Mayor's support	yes	no	yes	yes	yes
Council's support	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Civil initiative activation	no	no	no	yes	yes
Web forum	no	no	no	yes	no
Public meetings	no	no	no	yes	yes

Community response – case Šmartno



- The mayor sent the application by himself, but had informed the public.
- CI gathered people living very near the potential site.
- CI requested a referendum, organised a public meeting, opposed the volunteering in newspapers.
- CI impeached the mayor of violating the Aarhus convention.
- Web forum was organised to foster objective discussions on positive and negative aspects.
- CI had connections with the “green” NGO.

Community response – case Šmartno



RESULTS

CI couldn't mobilise many people.

CI initiator withdrew very soon, the leadership was taken by a person having connections with the environmental NGO.

CI abused the “nuclear” issue for political purposes and to discredit the mayor.

CI didn't succeed to force the municipality to withdraw its application.

(community was eliminated later on the basis of technical reasons)

Community response – case Lenart (1)



- The mayor sent the application by himself, the community council and the public were surprised by the official announcement in media.
- Most of the public was not interested, decision makers and opinion leaders mostly opposed the “mayor’s autocratic” behaviour, but recognised the LILW repository as a potential opportunity.
- The mayor didn’t respond to any of the criticism and gave no public statement.

Community response – case Lenart (2)



- CI verbally threatened ARAO and the mayor.
- CI opposed the repository in media, requested the referendum and the mayor's resignation.
- At the beginning, CI was supported by the mayors of neighbouring communities.
- CI organised by a recent newcomer.

Community response – case Lenart



RESULTS

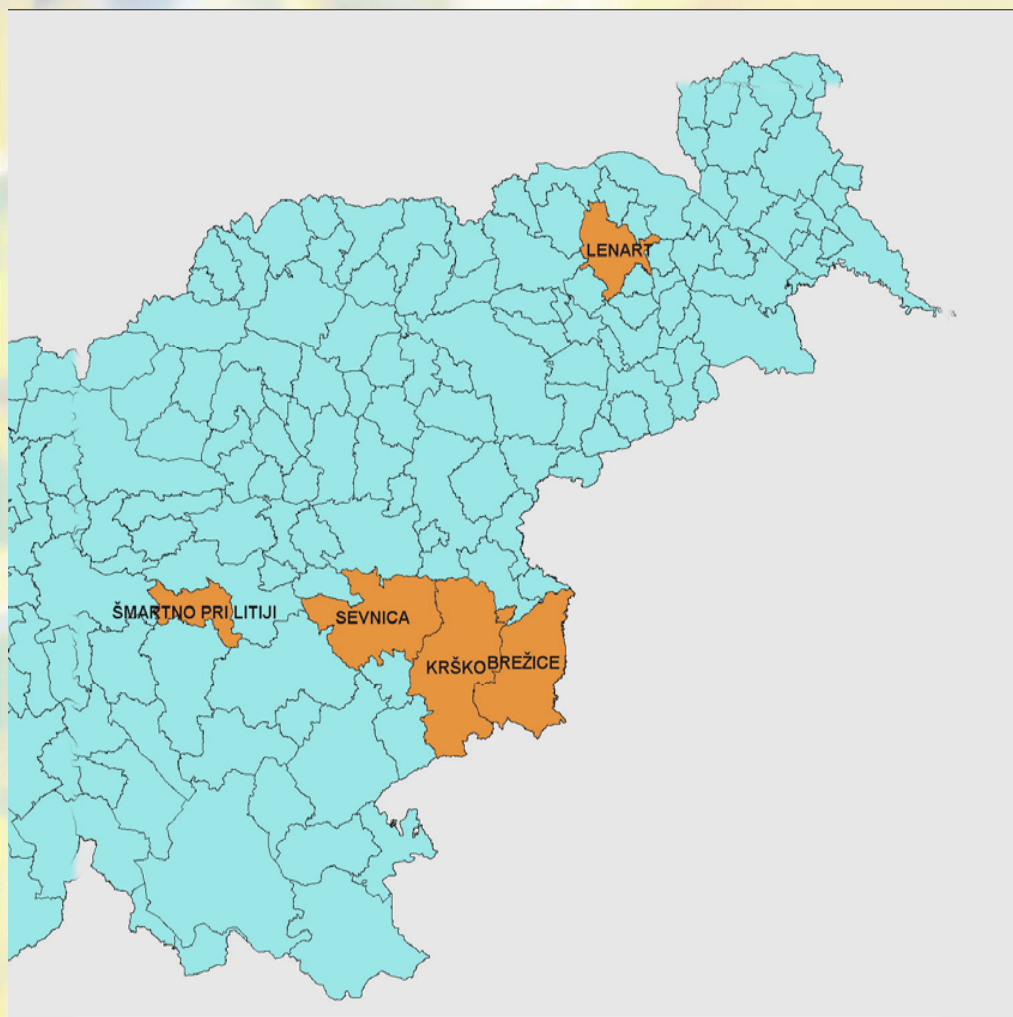
CI couldn't mobilise many people.

Social acceptability was low anyway.

CI didn't succeed to force the municipality to
withdraw its application.

(the community is on the waiting list because of poor social
acceptability)

Results of the prefeseability study



LENART – remaining on the waiting list

ŠMARTNO – eliminated due to technical reasons

SEVNICA, KRŠKO, BREŽICE – site characterisation continues, these local communities are nearest to the NPP

Lessons learnt

- ❑ The promised **financial compensations** encouraged the applications encouraged applications of the smaller and poorer local communities, but most considered only the time of field investigations.
- ❑ There was a **local conflict of interests** in all cases: decision makers stressed the financial issues, general public stressed safety and health issues.
- ❑ **Civil initiatives** abused the LILW repository issue to attack the local political leadership.
- ❑ Civil initiatives were successful only at **the beginning of the process** and acted through the local decision makers.

Conclusions

Financial and political issues were the most important issues in the volunteering stage of siting procedure for LILW repository in Slovenia.

Information and communication activities targeting the general public were less important during the volunteering stage.

arao

Thank you for your attention!