

A New Initiative for the Recovery of the Climate
Kosice, 26. November 2009

A perspective from education on “climate change and
innovation for sustainable development”

Pizza and Water, Tennis and Restoration



Focus on doings and beings

Think doings and beings
together

A contrast: conquest of things (natural and human)
– the old water paradigm (also known as “hydraulic mission”)



State (agencies in cooperation with large organisations) “improves” the land:
large hydropower and irrigation projects, sealed cities, rectified rivers etc.

The Old Water Paradigm – Hydraulic Mission

Social-environmental implications of the Old Water Paradigm

- Dislocation of people
- Ever-increasing consumption of water and energy
- Flooding of unique ecosystems and promotion of desertification processes
- High financial costs

Innovation (for sustainable development)

Old view: Innovation as a new combination of possibilities for the production of economic goods and services (Joseph Schumpeter)

New view: Social Innovation as a new combination of *human* functionings (doings and beings such as political and economic participation, health, education etc.) for sustainable development

People and Water as social innovator :

- Example Tichy Potok: Political empowerment AND Ecological Security (Blue Alternative Programme)
- Example Kosice Water Protocoll, subproject: work integration project for ethnic minority AND ecological restoration



Innovation (for sustainable development)

Challenge today:

- Financial and economic situation: budget deficits and high **unemployment** (12,4% in Slovakia; 7,7% in Germany)
- Ecological situation: climate change with manifold human impacts (**threats to shelter, food, and health** via storms, floods, desertification etc.)

Innovators take: **Problem marriage**

- Think economic situation and ecological situation together
- New Water Deal (Kravcik): Create jobs for jobs in water harvesting and water retention, thereby reduce risk of floods and droughts, increase vegetation and biodiversity, improved carbon storage capacity

New Deal for Water and Climate

Big questions for New Deal for Water in Slovakia (and elsewhere):

- *How to finance the New Deal?* (green new deal budgets? Via tax on use of natural resources and services [higher tax on run-off]? Via redistribution of money from existing water budgets? Via Climate Change means [Adaption Fund?] Via ILO Green New Jobs Initiative?)
- *How to create jobs?* Via green civil service (à la Roosevelt?), via community programmes? Via NGO pionier projects?
- *Who are the partners?*
 - 1) *What roles can villages and municipalities play* (Kosice application as European City of Culture 2013 as opportunity? Kosice Water Protocoll?)
 - 2) *What role can companies play* (community involvement programmes as part of “corporate citizenship?”; what are “green jobs” in rain water harvesting and retention?)
 - 3) *What is the role of universities?*
 - 4) *What can you and I do?*

ĎAKUJEM! Danke schön! Thank you!

