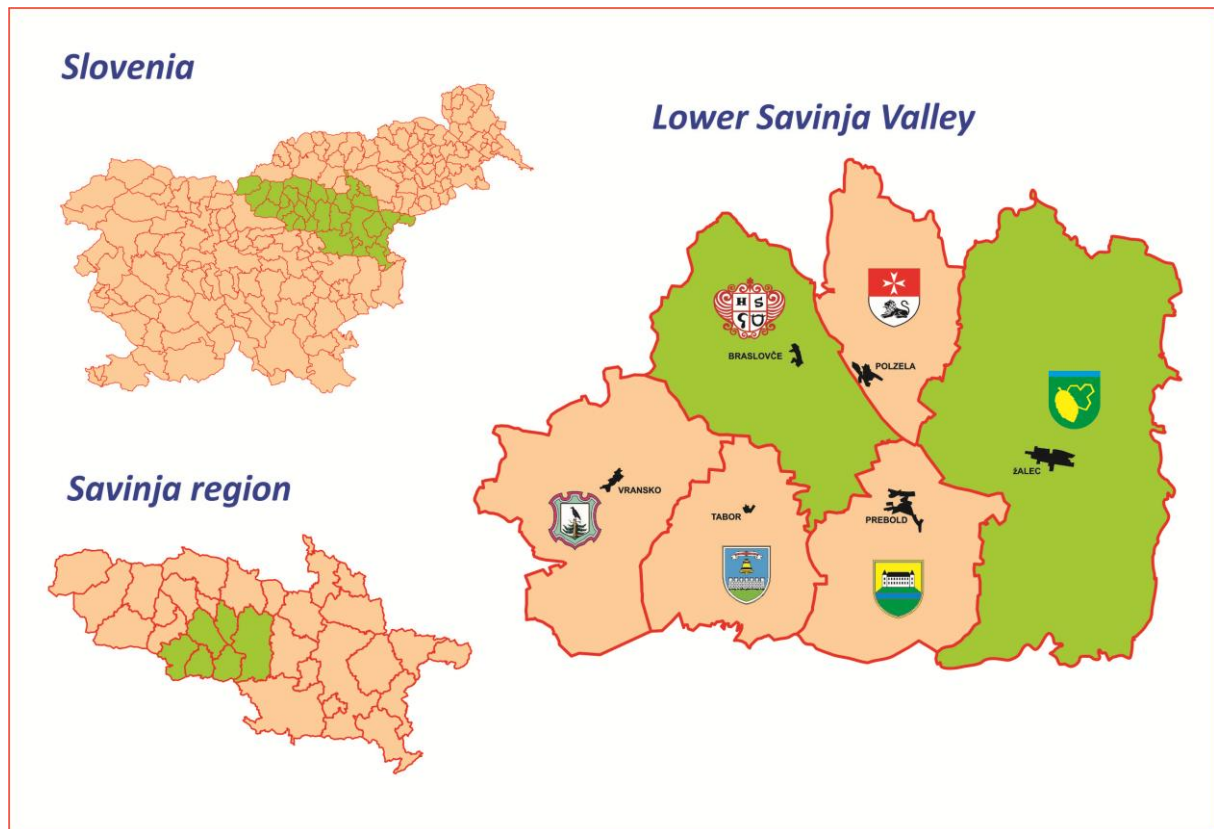


DEVELOPMENT AGENCY SAVINJA, Business Interest group

Development Agency Savinja was founded in 1997 by then still unified municipality of Žalec, and the Chamber of Small Business under the title “Entrepreneurial Centre Žalec – Business Interest Group (BIG)”. It is located in the Lower Savinja Valley (municipalities of Braslovče, Polzela, Prebold, Tabor, Vranksko and Žalec), which is part of the Savinja region.

Map of the area



The area of the Lower Savinja Valley stretches on 334,8 square kilometres and has a population of 42.241.

Contact

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At the present the DA Savinja has 6 employees.

Working hours

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday – 7 am to 3 pm

Wednesday - 7 am to 5 pm

Friday - 7 am to 1 pm

Partners

Founding members:

- the municipalities of Braslovče and Žalec
- the Chamber of Small Business Žalec

Associate member:

- the municipality of Polzela

Other partners:

- the Employment service of Slovenia – Local office Žalec
- the Administration Unit Žalec
- the UPI Adult Education Centre
- the Regional Agricultural Institute.

Tasks

- **Development activities** (coordination and preparation of a regional development plan for the area of Lower Savinja Valley, preparation and implementation of common partnership projects, common promotion)
- **Counselling and providing support for target groups** (present and potential new entrepreneurs, innovators, unemployed, employees, young people, associations, experts, farmers, institutions on local, regional, national level) with:
 - obtaining financial support
 - developing business encouragements
 - drawing up business plans
 - drawing up and realisation of development projects
 - looking for business premises
 - counselling and increasing employment skills in the area (self-employment)
- **Training and education** (for preparation and implementation of development projects, for the entrepreneurship and tourism, for the local tourist guides, etc.)
- **Information**

Vision

Agency is working with different target groups to unite all local and regional development potentials and to get development projects financed with national and EU resources. It stimulates local development and coordinates projects dealing with international cooperation, human resources, entrepreneurship, rural development, tourism, environment, agriculture and infrastructure, etc.

The vision of our agency is: **Together with you we can fire up project ideas!**

Within new program period (2014 – 2020) the Development agency Savinja, in cooperation with target groups, will be more involved in preservation and presentation of our natural and cultural heritage and in implementation of projects to obtain better quality of life for all of us, economic growth, new job opportunities, environmental protection, natural heritage conservation, sustainable tourism, biodiversity etc.

The agency status

The agency is included in:

- promotion network of Slovenian Public Agency for Entrepreneurship Innovation, Development, Investment and Tourism - SPIRIT Slovenia
- One stop shop point
- lifelong learning point
- Local action group (LAG) of the Lower Savinja Valley
- developmental supporting Institution of the Regional Development Partnership of the Lower Savinja Valley

References

- Establishment of Eco-Museum of Brewing and Hop Production of Slovenia
- Integrated arrangements of the water resources of the Savinja River
- The European Network of Mentors for Women Entrepreneurs - Encouraging women entrepreneurs
- SURF Nature - let's improve the use of Regional Funds together, Program Interreg IVc
- Partnership projects with Serbia (Exchange project, bilateral co-operation)
- One stop shop point
- Lower Savinja Valley Rural development programme
- Phare 2003 Slovenia/ Austria - Biodiversity "Eco-tourist enrichment of the Vrbe Pond"
- Phare PPF II "Project TRIO_ERE" Sustainable Collaboration between Economy, R&D and Educational Institutions, Finland
- Phare 2003 – lifelong learning »Knowledge—a key to successful company"
- Leonardo da Vinci "Quality in vocational education – QUTE"
- Clustering of SME's (national and local clusters)
- Transfer of good practices – tourism, ecology, entrepreneurship
- Resource Centre for Vocational Guidance
- Information and guidance in adult education

and many other projects.