



# **WATER AND SANITATION IN ROMA SETTLEMENTS IN SLOVENIA: GOOD PRACTICES**



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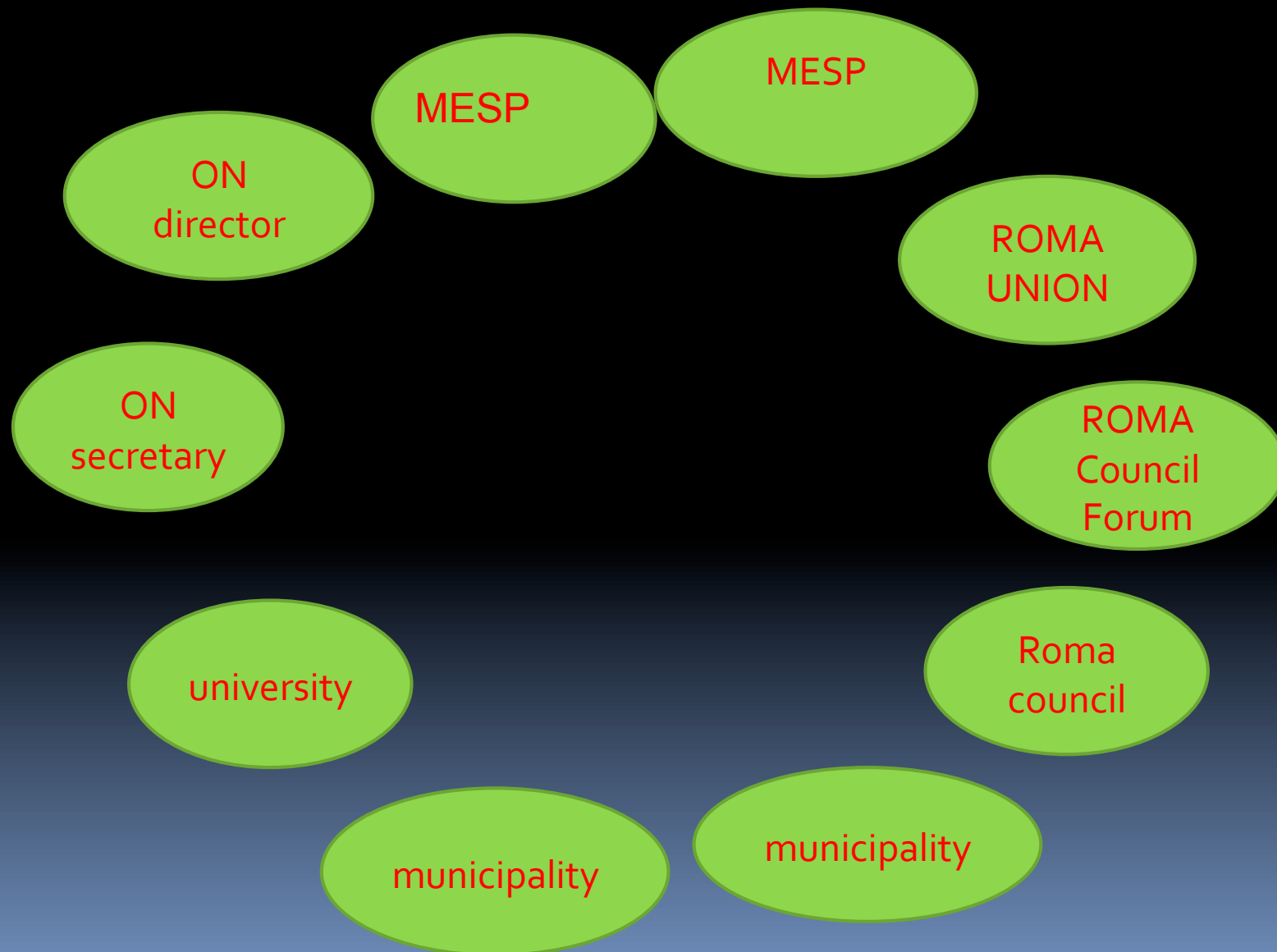
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# INTRODUCTION

- Working group on solving spatial problems in Roma-settlements /Slovenia
- IN FRAME OF:
- Ministry for environment and spatial planning , SINCE 2006

# Structure of working group



# SITUATION OF ROMA in Slovenia

- 105 - small sized settlements
- Local, mainly -peripheral areas
- No more nomads; our Roma are "lokalised"
- The majority of houses are built illegally and many settlements are without legal framework
- Poor -infrastructural equipment

# KEY Q.: water and sanitation

- Access to quality water through public infrastructure (aqueducts)
- Modern way of use of quality drinking water: quality of housing!
- Sanitation: the way to protect local water sources
- Water and sanitation facilities are PART OF LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE

# ILLEGALITY is a PROBLEM!

- The local community cannot invest into public infrastructure, when the houses and settlements are illegally built
- Local authorities cannot acquire resources by public tenders
- The local Roma cannot invest in their houses; no credits or assurances are available...

# QUICK LEGALIZATION? NO, THANK YOU!

- 1993, the public tender opened an opportunity for QUICK LEGALIZATION
- Poor results, many problems still exist
- Was an option for a provisional (cheap, but not sustainable) solution
- Later, some tenders tried to solve the problems individually (by communes)

# WHAT TO DO?

- ... was a challenge for our **Working group** ... in frame of the Ministry of the environment and spatial planning, to begin solving the problems SYTEMATICALLY



# KEY TARGETS

- Analysis, research, monitoring
- Strategy for spatial development of all Roma-settlements
- KEY- decision: to include ROMA SETTLEMENTS into Slovenian settlement system (integration)
- “Legalization” as a dominant tension
- To “pressure” local communities
- Education programmes for Roma councillors and local authorities about the necessary procedures (how to do that...)
- Stimulate state institutions to open public tenders in local infrastructure investment

# FORMAL SUPPORT


- Constitution of R. Slovenia
- Roma community act (2007)
- Pilot tenders for legalization procedures
- Roma National Action plan.. (2010)
- Commission for Roma- issues
- Tenders of the Government Office for Local Self -Governement and Regional Policy, dedicated to public infrastructure in Roma-settlements
- Roma councillors are very active

# LEGALIZATION... and WHY this is so important

- ..it means, that a **settlement is formally included into planning system**
- ..**legalized ALL locations** (settlements), where this is possible (excluded just locations on risky areas)
- ...**legalization and reconstruction together:** structural adoption to “normal” circumstances as in other settlements



## ...furthermore...

- ..on all legal spaces the **public investment** is possible...
  - ..join to national or/ and **international tenders**
  - ..introduce interesting **developmental projects** and other activities & practices
- 

# WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

- Through formal inclusion, the way to better water supply and sanitation is open...
- ...much more sustainable and rational
- ... this process demand ACTIVE PARTICIPATION of local Roma: introduce communication, “open” their settlements
- LEGAL FRAMEWORK is a necessary condition for better water- and sanitation supply

# Why not PROVISIONAL solution?

- Small quick steps are convenient : but not ambitious neither developmental
- Sure: after some years, the situation will be bad (again)
- We do not want support “Roma ghettos” in those settlements
- IMPORTANT: Slovenian Roma WANT an equal standard of living

# WHO WILL DO WHAT?

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES**



**Make local planning documents (OPPN)**  
**Formal procedures**  
**infrastructure**

**ROMA**



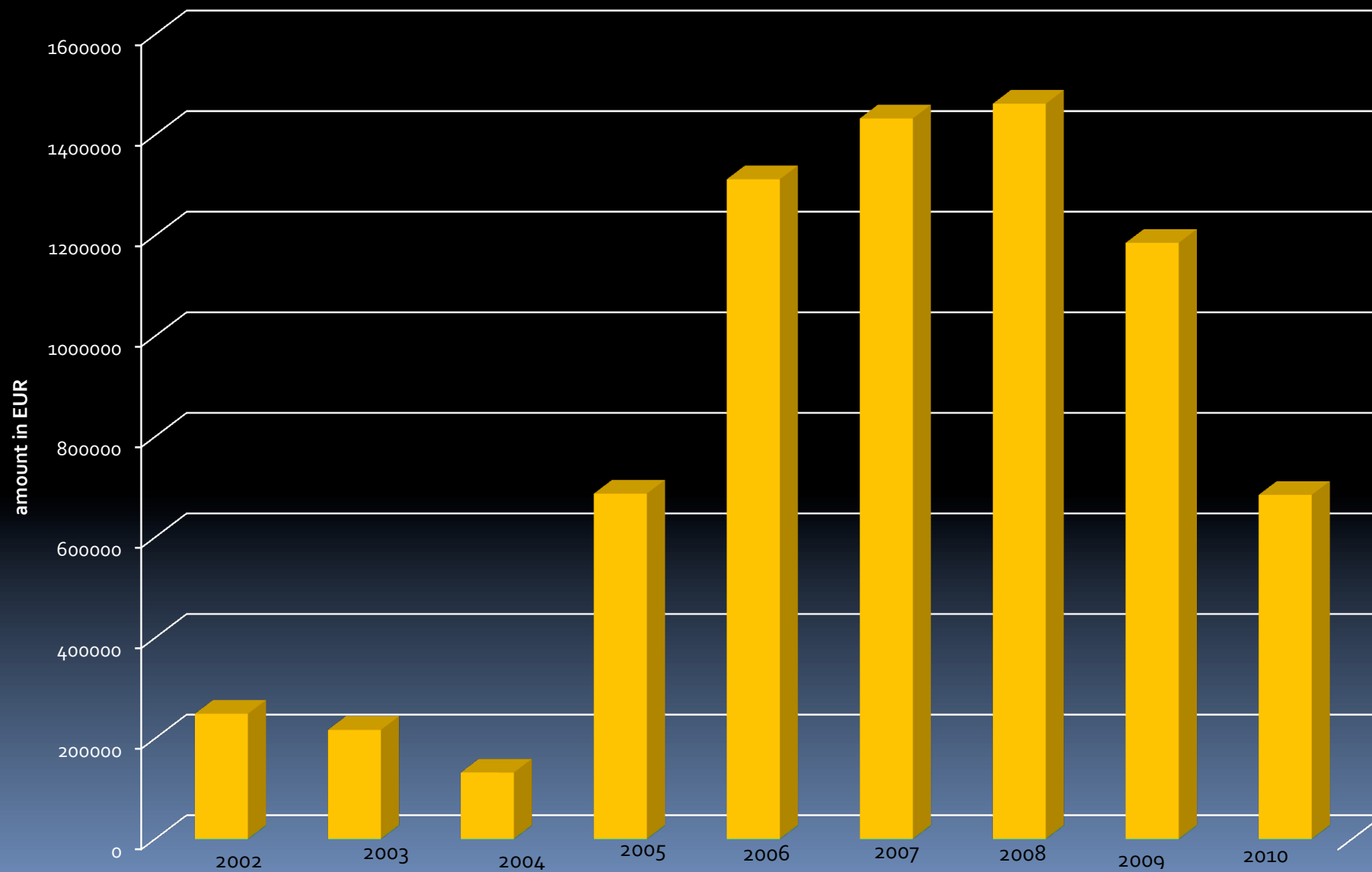
**Collaboration**  
**Good practices (care For environment)**  
**Co-financing (partnership)**

**STATE INSTITUTIONS**



**Project solutions (by tenders)**  
**Strategy**  
**Education & employment**  
**coordination**

# INVESTMENT INTO INFRASTRUCTURE IN ROMA-SETTLEMENTS 2002-2010



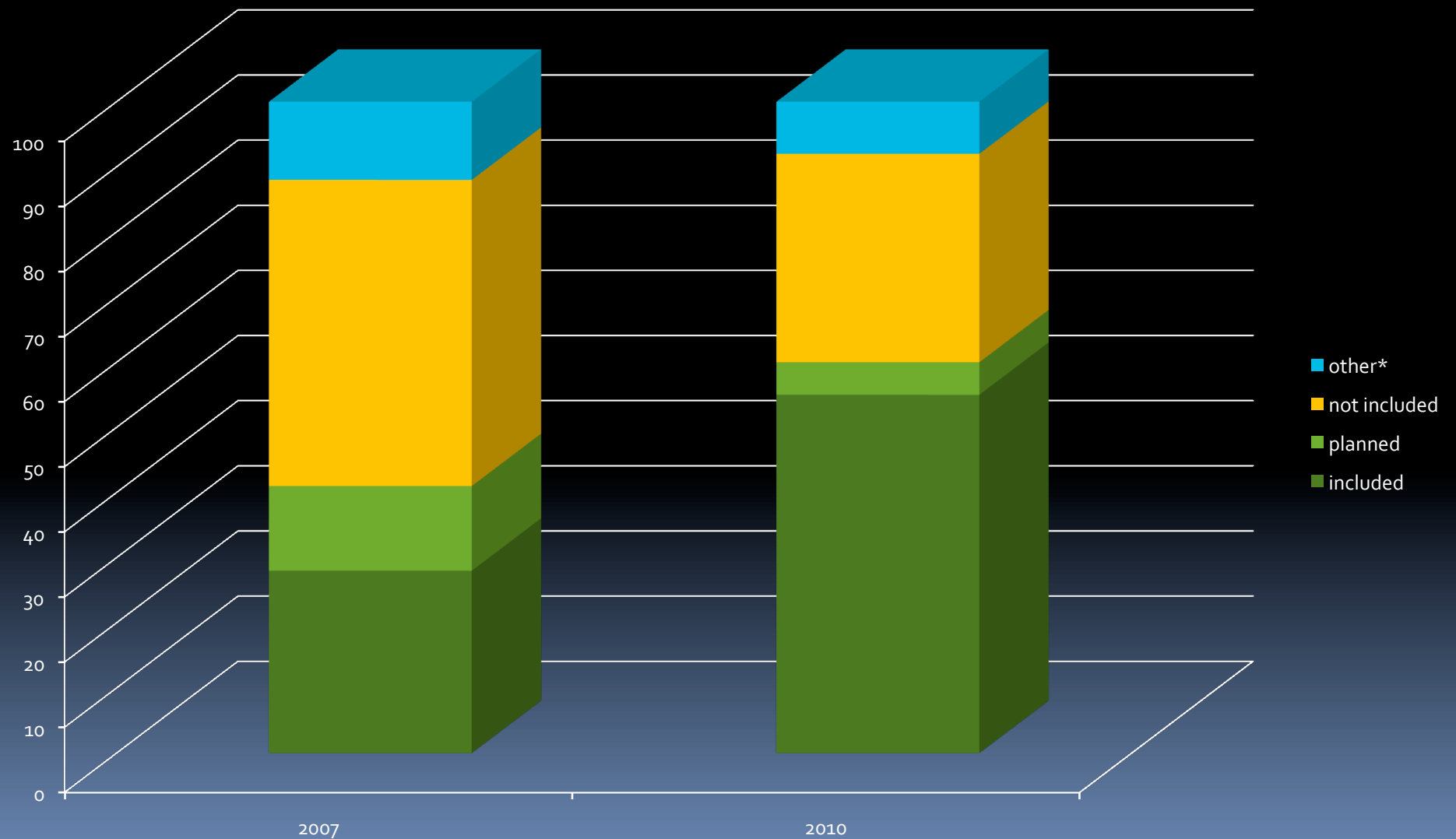




Or...

- **7.725.000 EUR** in the period 2002-2010
- or 858.000 per year
- or near 100 EUR /year / capita
- ... for infrastructure in Roma settlements

# Estimation of planning status of Roma-settlements 2007 and 2010



# Intermezzo:

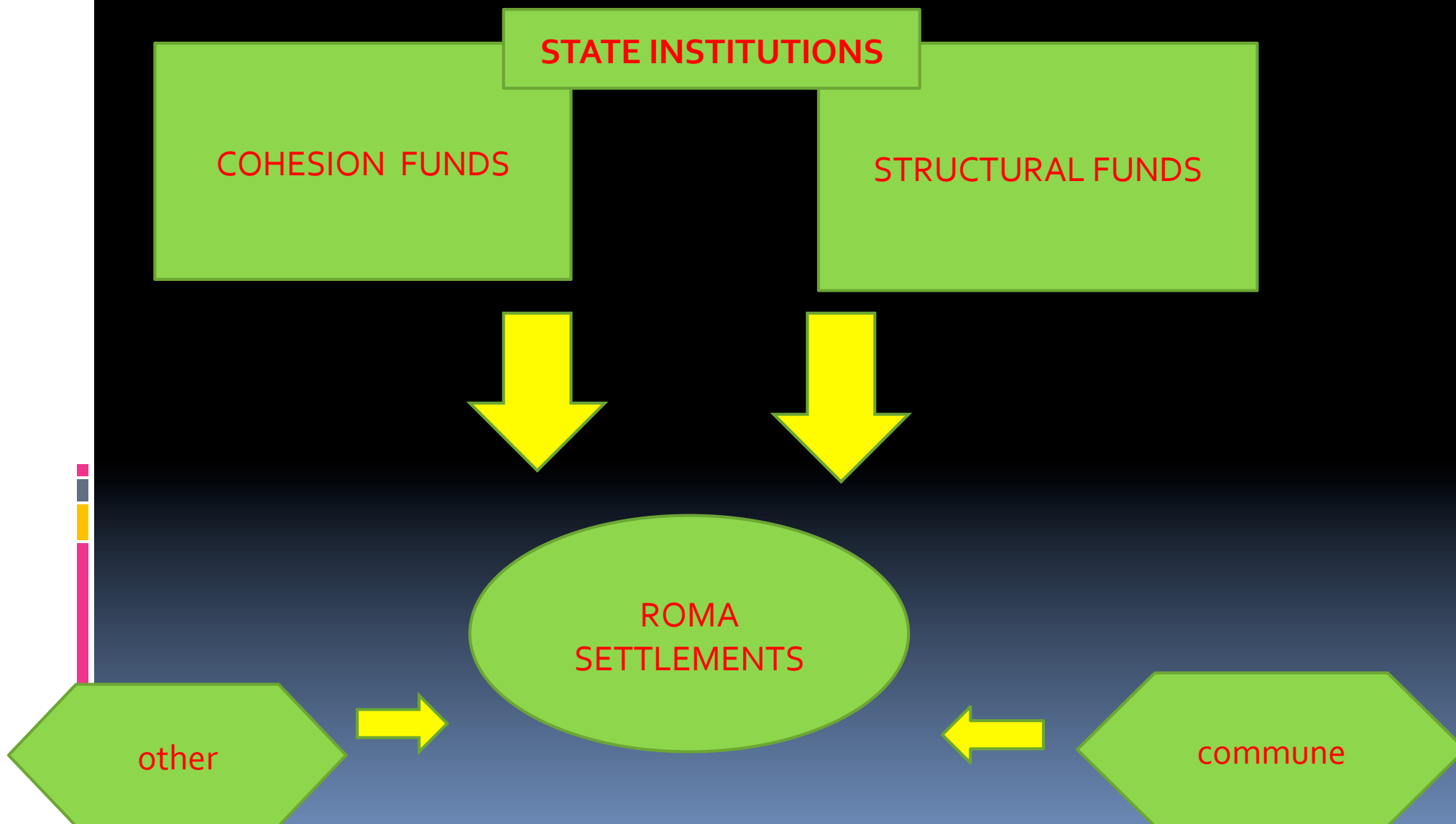
## A “MODEL” OF LEGALIZATION

- Local communities include Roma settlements (if possible!) into spatial planning document
- Through this, the investment into infrastructure gains financial support (by state or international tenders)
- Ownership: municipality buy a land (if necessary) and sell it to Roma, who became owners and participate in this process
- Individual decisions regarding their own property

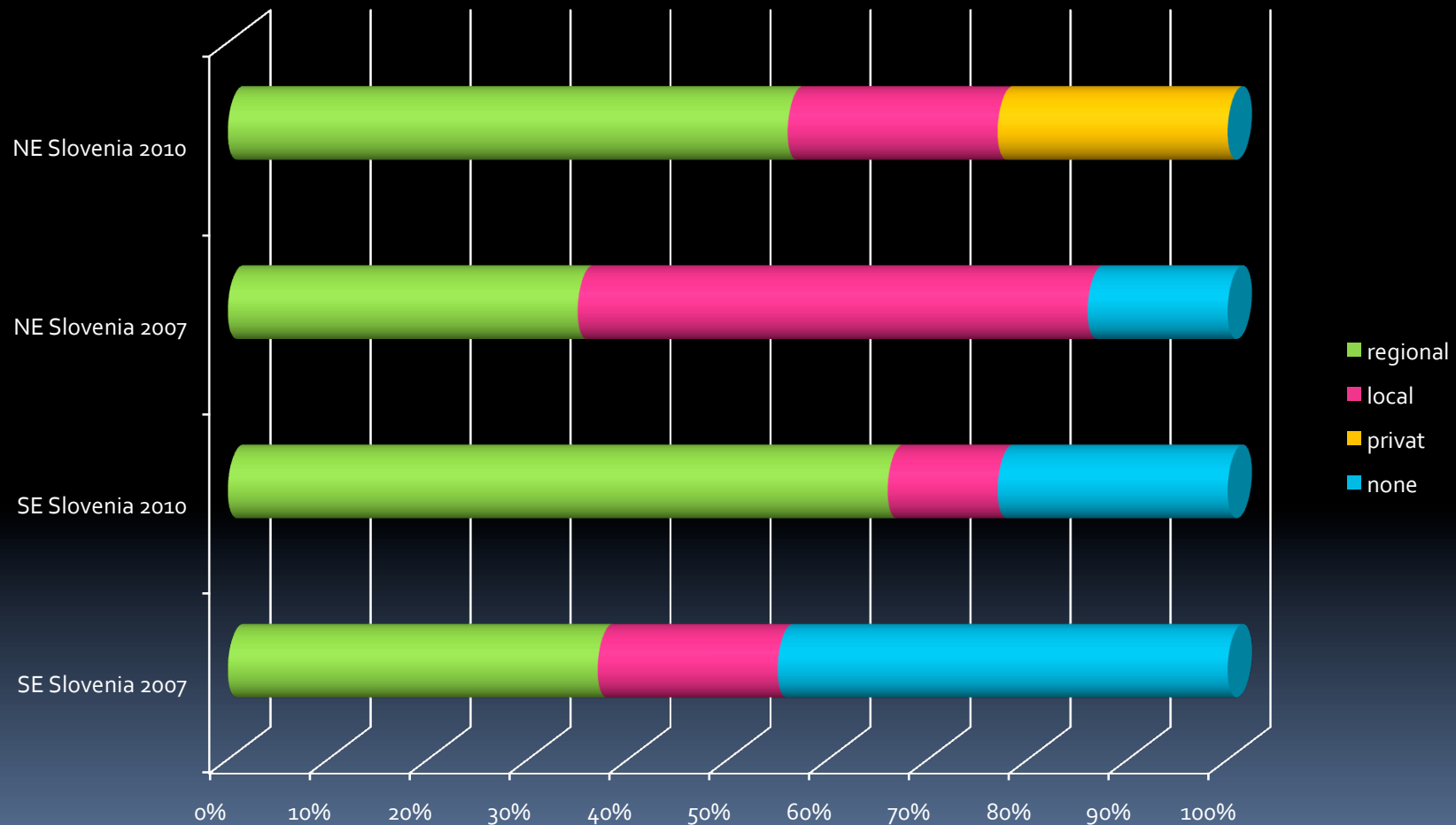
# IMPOPRTANCE OF SOCIAL ASPECTS

- Roma settlements were mostly closed, poor communication with the “surrounding”, many conflicts, that is why the local population has a negative attitudes
- Necessary to OPEN THE SETTLEMENTS, to support communication
- Necessary, that local Roma cooperate actively, became more responsible (PARTNERSHIP)

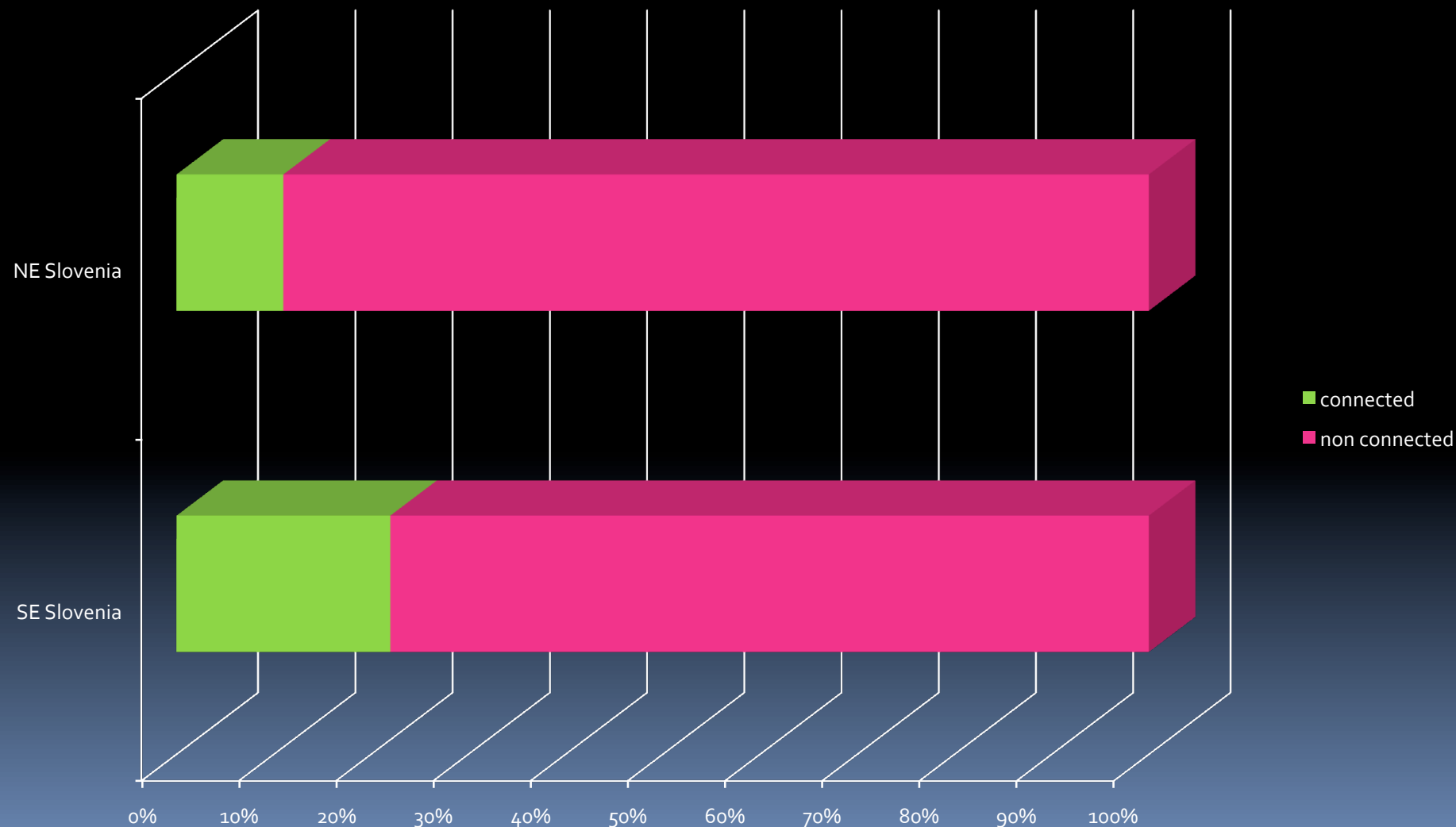
# INVESTMENTS INTO ROMA-SETTLEMENTS, the sources



# Water supply in Roma settlements 2007 and 2010



# Sewerage system in Roma settlements 2010



# GOOD PRACTICES

- Three communes, three attempts
- Not partial but COMPLETE INFRASTRUCTURAL SOLUTIONS
- PARTICIPATION OF ROMA – Partners
- Some outer social FACTORS



# Case 1: Community Trebnje





Giselle



A

V Blatih

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# STILL in 2005, in Hudeje..

- Very bad living conditions
- Many local conflicts
- Very poor communication
- No infrastructure

# WHAT MADE THE SITUATION BETTER?

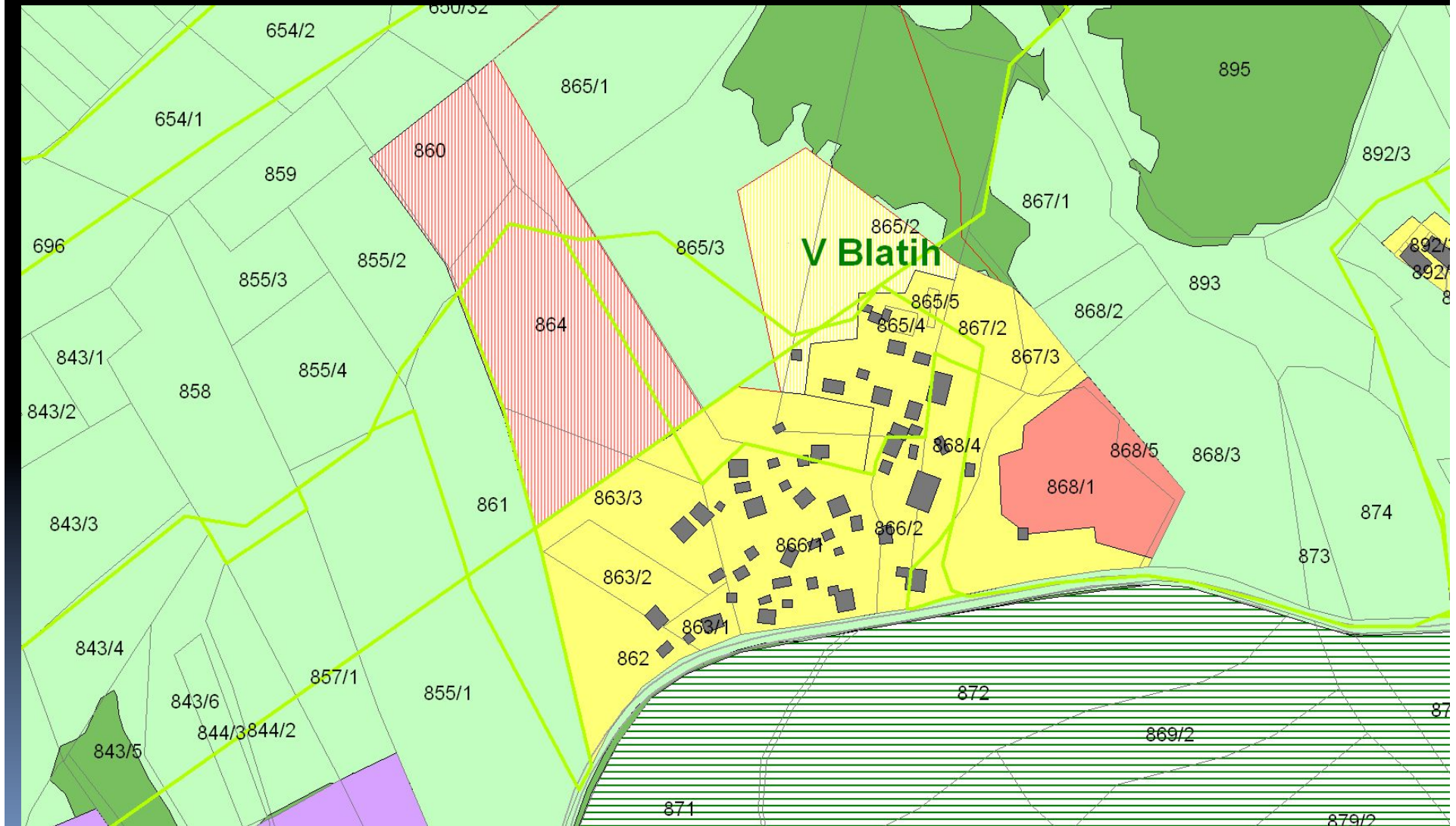
- Decision of local authorities (municipality)
- Centre for social work
- University of Ljubljana / Institute for ethnic Studies
- National structural funds
- Roma councillor
- School (decision to create kindergarten in Hudeje); public institution came to the village; some of teachers take special attention

# INVESTMENT

- The “complete” solution: legalization
- Reconstruction and adoption measures
- 2006-2010: 682.000 EUR for complete local infrastructure (public aqueducts, sewerage system, electrification , roads network )
- Adoption of kindergaten in a village
- Daily –centre for pupils and cultural activity



# Of course, legalization and reconstruction



## Case 2: KOČEVJE municipality

- A part of settlement Željne
- poor communication at local level
- A lot of troubles

# Practice:

- Education of adult Roma in order to get some jobs. 15 of them are now employed in local Sewerage company.
- This changes the values among local Roma,
- In between, commune prepare planning documents (legalization in process)
- The project of local infrastructure (water, sewerage, road communication) for 191.200 EUR (different sources)
- Local waste water treatment plant



Giselle



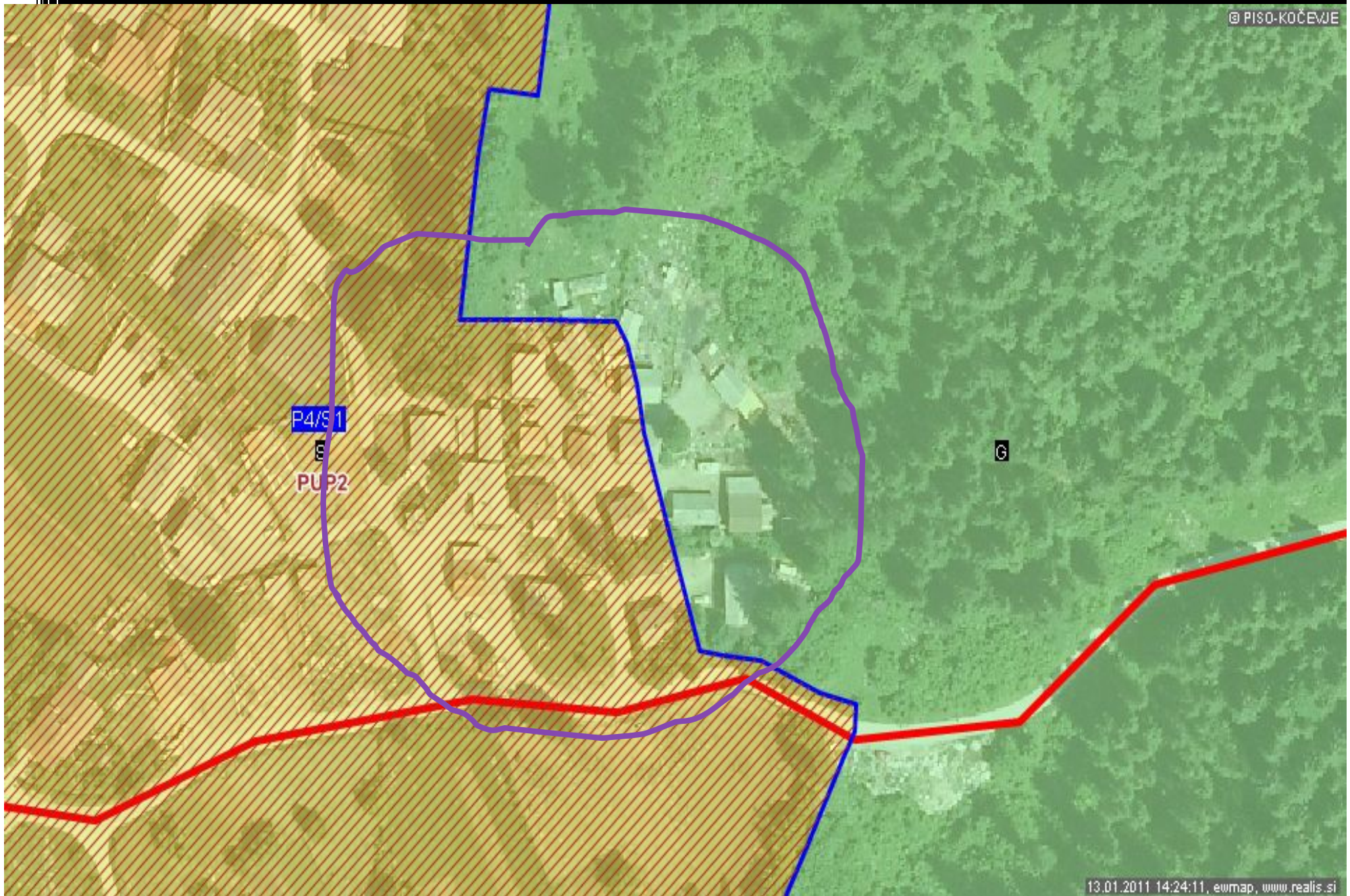
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# WHAT MAKES THE SITUATION BETTER?

- Employment of some Roma attracts others
- Active, efficient Roma- councillor
- Primary school created many educational programmes
- Activity of local priest



# Planning situation in Željne





# THE OLDEST, THE BEST: Tišina



# VANČA VAS-BOREJCI

- Roma settlement, established already in 1960-ies
- All Roma are owners of the land
- Good cooperation with local community
- Some mixed marriages
- some young Roma are students
- All children successful in primary school
- Vital cultural & sport activity among Roma
- Roma participated in local infrastructural investment

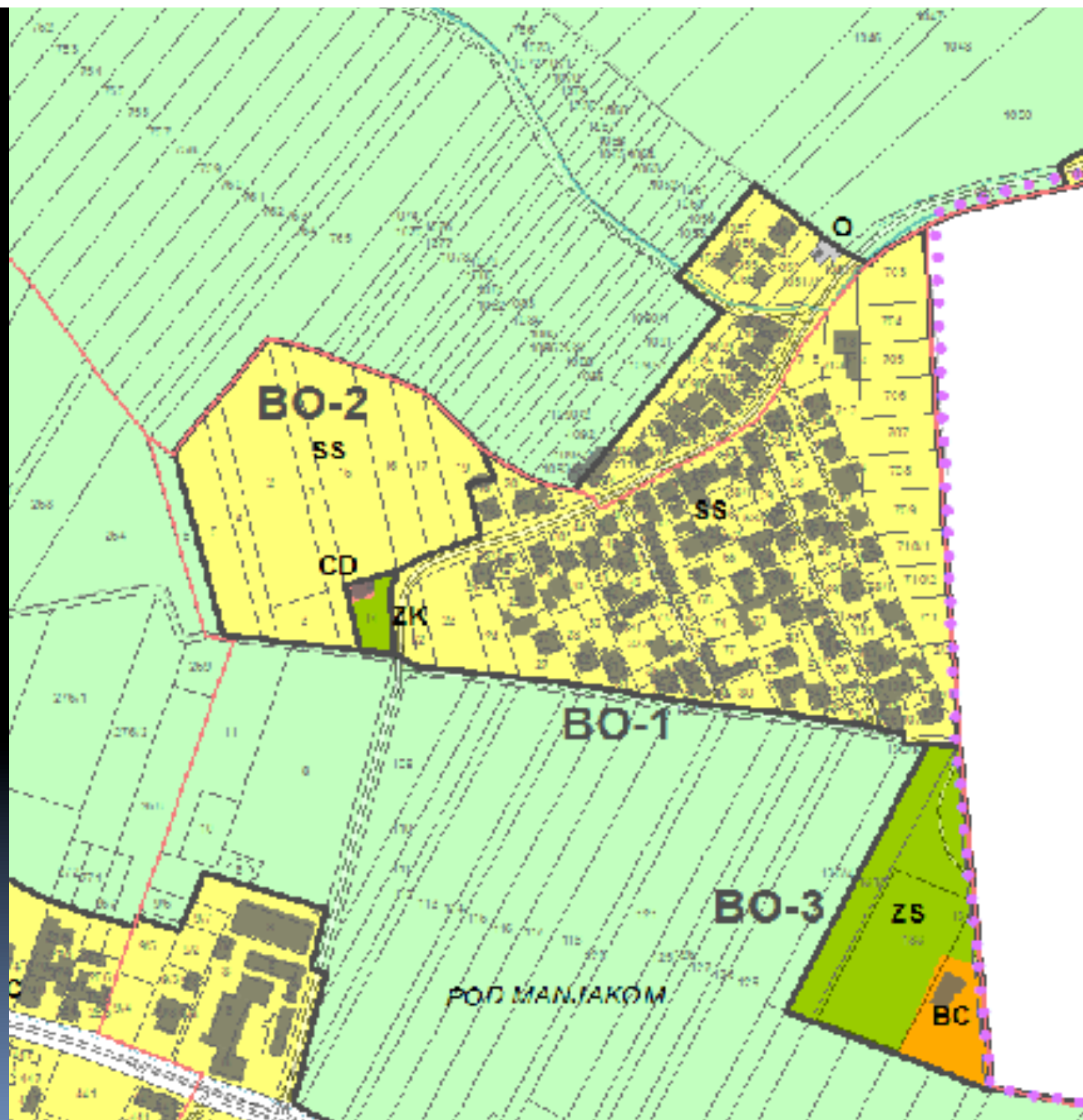


Cirelle

07/2019



# Spatial situation in Vančavaš-Borejci



# WATER SUPPLY: local sources

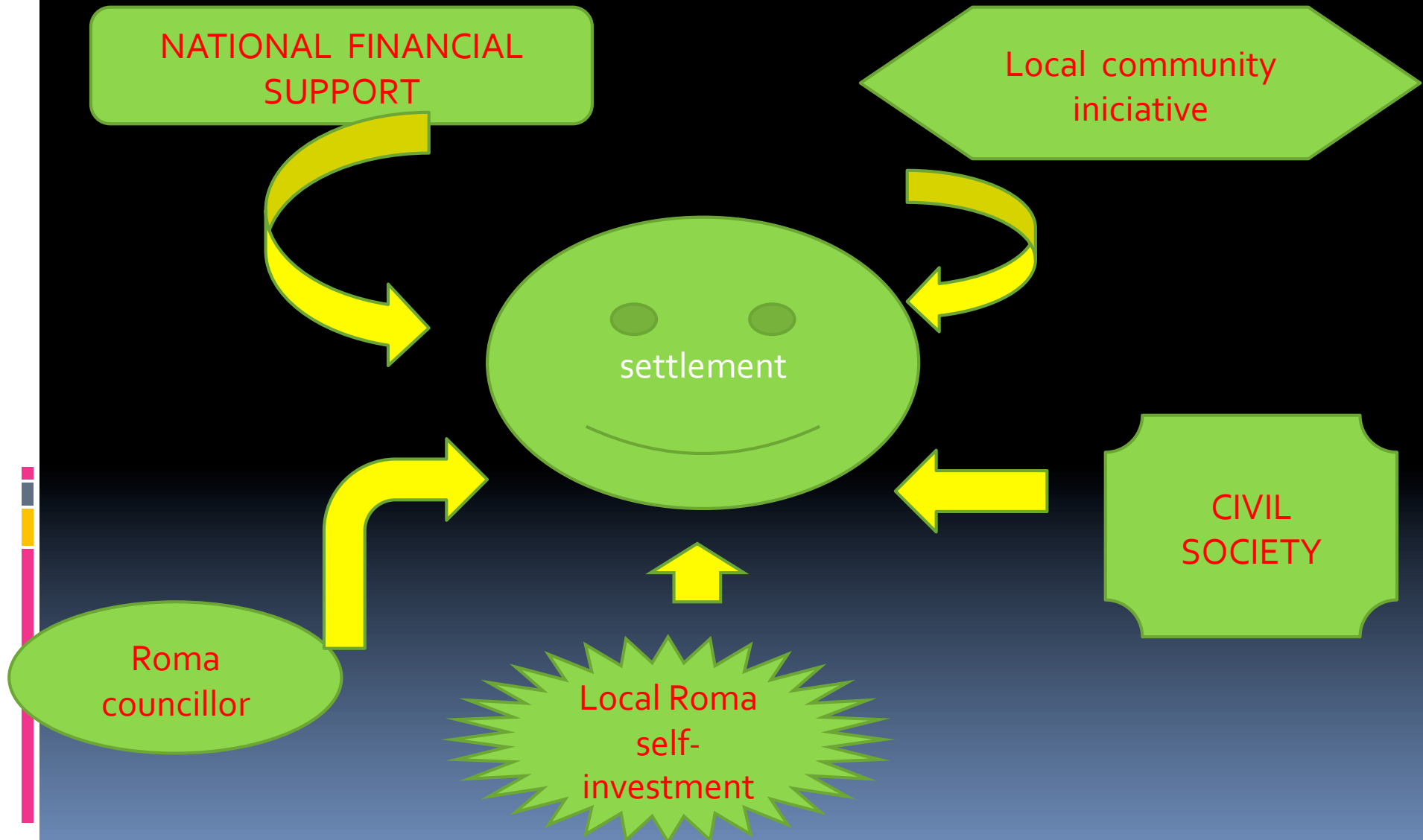
- In the region many villages use just local sources; also in Roma-settlement
- Planning to guarantee the water supply by regional aqueduct; same as for other settlements in surrounding
- The only Roma-settlement (in SLO) where people do not collect old metals
- The project for a health village: green-belt around



# Investments during 10 years

- Together 550.000 EUR in last 10 years  
(300.000 EUR by national sources; 250.000 by municipality)
- Local sewerage system
- Local waste water treatment plant
- Roads and communication facilities
- 
- Nex project: cable network!

# CONCLUSION: GOOD PRACTICE





THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION