

**Organisation: Slovenian Red Cross**

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The Slovenian Red Cross is one of more than 90 humanitarian organizations in Slovenia. The organisation has its roots in the year 1866, when the *Women's Association for assistance to wounded and sick soldiers* was established in Ljubljana. Since then, the Slovenian Red Cross has worked uninterruptedly. However, not until 1993, namely after the independence of the Republic of Slovenia, was it officially recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross. During its work Slovenian Red Cross implemented programs such as Blood donation, First aid, Disaster preparedness and Disaster response.

The Slovenian Red Cross – Federation of Associations is an independent humanitarian volunteer Federation of Red Cross Associations in Slovenia. It acts on the principle of unity and in accordance with the Law of the Slovenian Red Cross, the Law on Societies, the Law on humanitarian organizations, the Geneva Conventions, the Statute of the International Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement and the Slovenian Red Cross Statute. It is composed of 56 local branches and each of them covers one to three local municipalities.

The Slovenian Red Cross has a network of more than 900 local organizations and all its activities and programs are carried out by approximately 19,000 volunteers. Additional activities of the Slovenian Red Cross take place also in its special branch, namely Slovenian Red Cross Youth and Health Resort Debeli Rtič, which is placed on the Slovenian Coast. Yearly 15,000 children spend part of their holidays there.





**Pictures 1 and 2: Slovenian Red Cross Youth and Health Resort Debeli Rtič**

The Youth and Health Resort Debeli Rtič is also closely connected with help that Slovenia provides for Ukrainian children who were affected by the Chernobyl accident. In 2010 the Slovenian Red Cross with cooperation and financial support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the sixth time carried out the project “Rehabilitation of the Chernobyl children”.

Within the project the Slovenian Red Cross provides the Ukrainian children with transport, accommodation, nutrition, basic medical treatment, a rehabilitation program and a program of spare time activities.

The goal of the project, which started in 2005 when the first group of 30 children came for rehabilitation to Slovenia, is to give these children the needed rehabilitation and thus contribute to the improvement of their health. In 2006, a group of 31 children came to Slovenia, where they stayed in The Youth and Health Resort Debeli Rtič. A year later, in 2007, the program was expanded and a group of 41 children arrived in August. The same number of children arrived also in 2008 and 2009.



**Picture 3: Children from Ukraine visiting Slovenia**

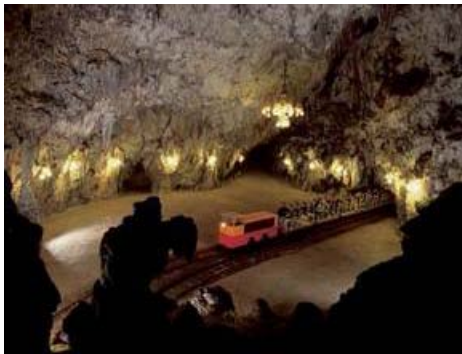
In 2010, a group of 42 children and 5 attendants arrived from Ukraine to Slovenia. Children who arrived to the Resort Debeli Rtič within the framework of the project “Rehabilitation of the Chernobyl children” attended the rehabilitation program, during which they participated in rehabilitation medical treatment, respiratory physiotherapy, hydrotherapy and endurance exercises.



**Pictures 4, 5 and 6:  
Children participating in different activities while spending time in Debeli Rtič**

However, the children also took part in different activities, such as sport (swimming, volleyball, basketball, football, kayak ...), art, evening shows, creative workshops and presentations of Ukrainian culture to other children in the resort. During the time of their stay in Debeli Rtič children from Ukraine also went on an excursion to the maritime province of Slovenia, where they visited salt-works, the shell-graveyard, the Postojna caves and the Predjama castle. They also took a trip with a boat to Piran and an excursion to Ljubljana. While they were in Ljubljana they also visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where they were greeted by the State Secretary and where children presented their dancing and singing program, which reflected Ukrainian culture.





**Pictures 7, 8, 9 and 10: Piran, the Predjama Castle, Salt-works and the Postojna caves**



**Pictures 11 and 12: Within the framework of the project “Rehabilitation of the Chernobyl Children” children visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ljubljana**