

New horizons

The largest Slovenian construction project started in the last century will be soon completed in this one. On completion of the Črni Kal viaduct, Trojane tunnels, Dolenjska branch of the highway and stem to the Hungarian border, the primary road division of Slovenia will be over. Most of the settlements in Slovenia will be connected and easily accessible, as well as all the programmes and functions they can muster. The new spatial horizon will be set.

Just before this happens, the Western, Northern and Eastern border crossing facilities will be dismantled. Following the large project of independence from the last century, the project of new accession will be completed soon, entry into the fast lane of future social development and large economies. The new political horizon will be set.

In the urban design survey, carried out in 2001, titled Views on Ljubljana, the architects Aleš Vrbovec in Jože Peterkoč and associates proposed a concept »Living in BTC (an edge city), shopping in the city centre«. Why couldn't we broaden the idea and say for example, living in Celje, shopping in Ljubljana or living in Maribor, shopping in Novo mesto? All will be feasible and operational. If the mentioned cities and several more, maybe Koper, Kranj and Murska Sobota, would be connected by fast railways, then travelling between them would be even more pleasant, environment friendly and the varied offer of all the cities would be made available to a much wider population. We would set a new horizon for transport, consumption, employment and leisure.

But if that would be the understanding of Slovenian space, a unique settlement area of varied functions, rich programmes and sensible quality offer, then we would be speaking about complete freedom of choice in choosing ones living space or about expanded living horizons. Probably this is the largest project waiting to be started.

Ivan Stanič