

GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES USED TO ELIMINATE
THE IMPACT OF THE EARTHQUAKE IN THE SOČA VALLEY

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The earthquakes of May 6th and 9th and later of September 11th and 15th, 1976 which struck Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Resia Valley, a region where a minority of the population is Slovene, and other places in Italy, also reached our region with destructive power. Frequent minor earthquakes throughout the summer between the two major shocks caused additional losses. A large volume of social and communal buildings, houses and industrial premises were destroyed or damaged. Fortunately, there were no fatalities.

Particularly heavy damage occurred in frontier settlements such as the villages in the Breginje corner, Ladra-Smast, Kobarid and places between the villages of Zaga and Tolmin. Many of the areas most severely affected were the less developed regions of the commune, frontier areas with little economic base, where the age structure of the population is very high and from which for many years there has been high out-migration.

The earthquake affected to one degree or another all inhabited settlements in the commune of Tolmin, as ascertained and estimated by the commissions of civil-engineering professionals that inspected all settlements and buildings in the commune. Groups of civil-engineering professionals from all over Slovenia working under the direction of the Secretariat for Town Planning and Institute for Research and Testing Materials and Structures of Ljubljana determined the situation after May 6th and September 15th in 1976 as follows:

Period	Buildings to be Repaired	Buildings to be Demolished		Total
		Industrial	Housing	
May 6th	4,329	226	496	5,050
September 16th	4,467	522	1,187	6,175

The losses were high: 22% of the population in the commune was left homeless, not to mention other losses and the impact on the development of the region. On the basis of an incomplete estimate of damage, because complete data were difficult to obtain primarily for infrastructure and some other buildings, it was ascertained that after the first earthquake, the loss amounted to 243% of annual social production and that 63% of the total housing fund was affected. Special problems existed for schools, health services, child care services, cultural and industrial buildings.