

This country profile was compiled by the OECD Secretariat and reflects information available as of March 2015. Further information and analysis can be found in the publication: OECD (2015) [Water Resources Allocation: Sharing Risks and Opportunities](#), OECD Studies on Water, OECD Publishing. Country profiles for all of the 37 allocation regimes in 27 OECD and key partner countries surveyed for this project are available for download at: <http://www.oecd.org/fr/publications/water-resources-allocation-9789264229631-en.htm>.

## SLOVENIA

### Overview and highlights

Slovenia is a country abundant in water resources, although they are not uniformly distributed across the country. Recent reforms to the water allocation regime include specifying the type of water use which requires permit or concession and prescribing the procedure for granting and terminating rights. There is an ongoing reform to enable minor use of water, which has no impact on the water regime, to be carried out without a water permit (but recorded in the water register).

Key characteristics of the prevailing allocation regime in Slovenia include:

- Ground water and surface water is publicly owned;
- Water resources are considered as neither over-allocated or over-used;
- Water entitlements are unbundled from property titles;
- If the entitlement is not used in a given period, it will remain in place for the period it is issued for;
- Before a new entitlement can be granted, assessment of third parties impacts and an environmental impact assessment are required;
- Allocation trading is not allowed;
- Abstraction charges apply to all user categories. The basis for charges is either volume or Mega Watt Hour. Charges do not reflect water scarcity;
- During episodes of scarcity, the Ministry of the Environment may limit the exercise of water rights.

### Legal and institutional setting for water allocation

Institution	Scale	Main Responsibilities
Ministry of Agriculture and Environment	National	Policy, Planning
Environment Agency	National	Issuing entitlements (water permit)
Inspectorates for Agriculture and the Environment	National	Control
Government	National	Issuing entitlements (concession)

**Legal context for water allocation:** Roman/ Statutory Law

**Legal definition of ownership of water resources:** Ground water and surface water are publicly owned.

### Tracking water scarcity

A mapping exercise has been undertaken to identify areas where the scarcity of ground water and surface water is becoming a problem in the River Basin Management Plans.

### Allocation Regime Example: Slovenia (national scale)

#### Physical features of the water resource

Slovenia is one of the most water-abundant countries in Europe, although water resources, are not uniformly distributed across the territory. Water covers about 272 km<sup>2</sup> of Slovenia's territory, while geologic units, which may store and transmit groundwater, contain about 50 m<sup>3</sup>/s of dynamic supply. Water allocation is dealt with at the national level.

The **flow rate is managed or controlled** to some extent, as water systems are partially regulated.

There is **significant non-consumptive use** in hydro power.

#### Defining the available resource pool

**Are limits defined on consumptive use?** Yes.

- There are restrictions on who can abstract the water. These limits are linked to a river basin management plan, prepared by the government. It is a statutory instrument that must be followed. There is no limit on the volume of water that can be abstracted.

**Are environmental flows clearly defined?** Yes.

- Ecologically acceptable flow is determined depending on the type of water use, ecological type of the stream and the average middle-low flow in the stream.
- Freshwater biodiversity is taken into account in the factor of ecological type of the stream. The Institute for Nature Conservation and Fisheries Research Institute can also change the ecologically acceptable flow.
- Terrestrial biodiversity is also taken into account. The Institute for Nature Conservation is involved in the procedure for granting water.

**Are there arrangements to deal with impacts of climate change?** Yes.

- Monitoring and updating.

**What is the status of resource pool?** Neither over-allocated or over-used.

#### Factors taken into account in the definition of the available resource pool

Factor	Taken into account?	If taken into account, how?
Non-consumptive uses (e.g. navigation, hydroelectricity)		
Base flow requirements	✓	Through the establishment of ecologically acceptable flow
Return flows (how much water should be returned to the resource pool, after use)		
Inter-annual and inter-seasonal variability	✓	Through the establishment of ecologically acceptable flow
Connectivity with other water bodies		
Climate change		

### Entitlements to use water

Definition of entitlements	Characteristics of entitlements
<p><b>Are entitlements legally defined?</b> Yes.</p> <p><b>Are private entitlements defined?</b> Yes, as an individual entitlement (to an individual person) or as a collective entitlement (to the municipality, large irrigation system manager in case of supplying drinking water). In the latter case, allocating water among individual users within a group of users is based on the internal arrangements in the municipality.</p> <p><b>Nature of entitlement:</b> Defined as both the purpose that water may be used for and the maximum volume that may be taken in a nominated period. Water entitlements are unbundled from property titles.</p> <p><b>Period granted for:</b> A term of a given number of years with expectation of periodic renewal.</p> <p><b>Return flow obligations:</b> Specified. The obligations depend on the type of uses, and environmental flows are taken into account.</p>	<p>If the entitlement is not used in a given period, it will remain in place for period it is issued for.</p> <p><b>Are entitlements differentiated based on the level of security of supply (or risk of shortage)?</b> No.</p> <p><b>Is there a possibility to trade, lease or transfer entitlements?</b> Yes. The right can be transferred to another person in the same manner that a new water permit is granted.</p>
<p><b>Type of users not required to hold a water entitlement to abstract water:</b> "Common water use", which has no impact on water quantity and quality and the overall state of water, and does not limit or preclude equal rights of others, such as drinking, swimming, diving, skating, or other personal needs. A common use of water is free and does not require the acquisition of a specific entitlement.</p> <p><b>Requirements to obtain a new entitlement or to increase the size of an existing entitlement:</b> Assessment of third parties impacts and environmental impact assessment (EIA).</p>	

### Abstraction charges

User category	Abstraction charge?	Basis for charge	Reflects water scarcity?
Agriculture	✓	Volume	No
Domestic	✓	Volume	No
Industrial	✓	Volume	No
Energy production (not including hydro power)	✓	Mega Watt Hour (mWh)	No
Hydro power	✓	Mega Watt Hour (mWh)	No

### Dealing with exceptional circumstances

**Distinction between the allocation regimes used in “normal” and extreme/severe water shortage times?** Yes.

**How is the amount of water made available for allocation adjusted:**

**Definition of “exceptional” circumstances:** “natural phenomenon that causes a temporary water shortage” Stakeholders are not involved in the definition.

**Legal bodies declaring the onset of “exceptional” circumstances:** Ministry of the Environment, which has the authority to limit the exercise of water entitlements. Changes in the legislation are being considered to enable collective declaration of limitations on the exercise of water entitlements.

#### Pre-defined priority classes



### Monitoring and enforcement

**Responsible authority:** Environmental Agency, Inspectorate.

**Types of withdrawals monitored:** Agriculture, domestic, industrial, energy production, environment, transfer to the sea or another system and national security (e.g. protection of infrastructure and critical dikes, nuclear plants).

**Monitoring mechanisms:** Metering and inspection.

**Sanctions:** Fine.

**Conflict resolution mechanisms?** Yes. It is possible to file an appeal to the issued decision.