

Regional Outlook 2019 SLOVENIA

Regional Development Policy in Slovenia



General policy approach

The Law on the Promotion of Balanced Regional Development provides a framework to make regional development policy more predictable and transparent, as well as fairer and more efficient. One of its main innovations is the creation of a mechanism to avoid the need for ad hoc measures and region-specific legislation in response to shocks. Greater reliance on contractual arrangements for the national co-financing of regional projects, and emphasis on improving monitoring and evaluation are also used to strengthen accountability and co-ordination. Development decisions are adopted by different subnational layers: the 12 regional development councils, the 12 regional councils and the 2 development councils of the cohesion regions. Urban policy is integrated in the Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia, which

is based on a polycentric urban system consisting of (urban) centres of national and regional importance. Given the country's settlement pattern, the regional development strategy also covers rural areas. On the rural side, Slovenia also has access to EU rural development funds, which mainly focus on priorities related to: restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry; the competitiveness of the agri-sector and sustainable forestry; and social inclusion and local development in rural areas.

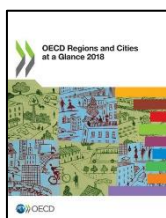
Recent policy changes

- Regional development programmes have been adopted in all 12 development regions, along with programmes to promote competitiveness in areas with high unemployment.
- Two development councils of cohesion were formed in 2014 for the cohesion regions (NUTS-2 level) of both Eastern and Western Slovenia.
- Urban sustainability targets are being implemented for the first time through integrated territorial investments and the European Regional Development Fund. Priority is given to funding projects using an integrated approach in their sustainable urban strategies (SUS), for planning and investments. They have to incorporate the economic, environmental, climate, demographic and societal challenges and objectives of sustainable development of a particular urban area that will relate to the national sustainable urban development objectives.
- There has been an amendment of the regulation concerning the regional development risk index.

Institutional arrangements to prepare for global megatrends

Looking for statistical information to complement this?

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<https://oe.cd/pub/2n9>

The Development Strategy of Slovenia 2030 defines key challenges for improving the lives of current and future generations. It emphasises the sustainable use of natural resources to create a healthy living environment, ensure long-term food safety, create high value-added economic activity and provide quality jobs. It includes environmental objectives such as introducing an ecosystem-based way of managing natural resources that overcomes sectoral silos; managing surface and groundwater effectively; developing forests sustainably to allow them to play an ecological, economic and social role; the prevention of excessive pollution; and maintaining high levels of biodiversity.

An important input into the Development Strategy of Slovenia 2030 was the Vision of Slovenia 2050. The Vision of Slovenia 2050 was developed through a strategic foresight process that was designed and implemented in co-operation with the OECD. Its preparation included discussion with ministries, an extensive civic engagement process, a public opinion survey and a total of 27 events. The vision played a key role in identifying global megatrends that are likely to affect Slovenia over the coming decades, and developing appropriate policy responses to them.

An important element in addressing future challenges is the evaluation of existing strategies and programmes. Slovenia has evaluated the Rural Development Programme 2014-20, including a review of the intervention logic, in order to identify its achievements and optimise similar programmes in the future.

The government operates several long-term investment programmes, some of which target the entire territory, while others are focused on rural areas. They include a variety of issues such as broadband coverage, agricultural advisory services, social inclusion, regional disparities, economic development and cultural heritage.

OECD Regional Outlook 2019: Leveraging Megatrends for Cities and Rural Areas

The 2019 edition of the *OECD Regional Outlook* examines the regional dimensions of global megatrends and their implications for the well-being of people living in different places. It discusses how place-based policies, public investment and multi-level governance reforms can respond to these megatrends to revive productivity growth, reduce inequalities, improve quality of life and increase sustainability.

Consult the full publication and the other country profiles on line: <https://oe.cd/pub/2vq>.

