



THE STATE OF NATIONAL URBAN POLICY IN SLOVENIA

Name of national urban policy	<i>Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia (SDSS)</i>
Date of national urban policy	2004
Explicit or partial	Partial
Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.)	Act of the legislature (approved by National Assembly).
Previous/secondary policies	<i>Spatial Planning Act (2007)</i>
Stage of development	Implementation/monitoring and evaluation; assessment of SDSS implementation done in 2014, currently the SDSS is under the process of revision
How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.)	Participatory approach with different stakeholder groups following the participatory process plan
Implementing body	Spatial planning at national level (for national infrastructures) is co-ordinated by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning. The procedure is initiated by the ministries responsible for the infrastructure in question and planning is performed by contracting parties
Government system	Centralised
Type of national urban agency	General national planning authority
Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination)	The implementation of the Strategy is conducted at national level through other sectoral policy by the mechanism of intersectoral co-ordination and through National Spatial Plans (for spatial arrangements of national importance); and at local level through the Municipal Spatial Plan Act (a mandatory document for every municipality), in co-operation between the municipality and ministry – prepared by the municipality, overseen by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning

Current national urban policy

Slovenia does not have a national urban policy, but the development of the country's urban system is an important feature of the *Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia (SDSS)*, adopted in 2004 by the National Parliament. The SDSS is based on a polycentric urban system and identifies urban centres of national and regional importance (OECD, 2015). The SDSS provides guidelines for spatial development on a national, regional and local level, and is organised around eight priorities:

1. **integration of Slovenia into the European space under equal terms**, including strengthening the competitiveness of Slovenian cities and towns within European urban networks;
2. **polycentric urban system and regional spatial development**, including designating national and regional centres and other urban centres that are priorities for development and services;
3. **vital and well-managed cities and towns**, including comprehensive planning to increase attractiveness and environmental quality;
4. **harmonised development of wider urban areas**, including inter-municipal co-operation and managing traffic flows;

5. **integrated and harmonised development of transport and settlement networks and the construction of public infrastructure facilities**, including development of the transport network;
6. **vitality and attractiveness of rural areas**, including supporting economic diversification and the development of jobs in the urban settlements of rural areas;
7. **enhancing the recognisability of valuable natural and cultural landscape characteristics**, including balancing conservation, cultural, urban and agricultural land uses; and
8. **spatial development in areas with special potential and problems**, including identifying areas in need of strengthened public services and areas at risk of natural disasters (Slovenian Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy, 2004).

The SDSS focuses on promoting vital and attractive cities and other settlements through quality management and planning, considering in particular cultural heritage, revitalisation, provision of infrastructure, access to public services and safety. Reconstruction and revitalisation are considered the key strategic policies for development within existing urban areas. There is a particular focus in cities on renewing residential areas, on rehabilitating and stabilising deprived neighbourhoods, and on reusing derelict and conversion land. In addition to promoting urban renewal and developing social and cultural infrastructure with green and public spaces, the SDSS supports proximity to the workplace and good accessibility. Hierarchically lower spatial planning acts (detailed spatial plans for national infrastructure, municipal spatial plans), have to be in line with the SDSS guidelines, as well as with other documents (programmes, development plans etc.) (OECD, 2015).

An evaluation of the SDSS conducted in 2014, found that key programmes in the area of urban renewal and land-use policy were not implemented, and the preparation and adoption of local spatial development plans were delayed. Obstacles included an absence of sector co-ordination, organisational changes, legislative change and lack of financial resources, including lack of capacity for spatial planning at the local level. The Ministry was however successful in terms of communicating information, promoting spatial planning and increasing public participation (OECD, 2015; Slovenian Ministry of Infrastructure and Spatial Planning, 2014).

Urban development is also addressed in the Spatial Planning Act (Slovenia Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy, 2007), which stipulates principles for directing urban settlement. Municipalities are required to prepare an urban plan that serves as the starting point for detailed urban land-use and planning regimes. The Act's goals include sustainable development, the efficient use of land, integrated urban renewal, and prioritising the development of land with existing infrastructure in urban areas before the development of new settlements (OECD, 2015).

Areas covered by current urban policy

Sector	Sectoral representation in the <i>Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia</i>
Economic development	Low
Spatial structure	Extensive
Human development	Low
Environmental sustainability	Extensive
Climate resilience	Low

Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The *Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia* (SDSS) includes the following characteristics:

Criteria for national urban policies	Appears in the policy
Responds to population dynamics	X
Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages)	X
Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities	X
Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space)	X
Promotes urban land-use efficiency	X
Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change	X
Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment)	
Promotes effective municipal finance systems	
Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors	X
Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.)	X
Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data	

Bibliography

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