

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Slovenia is a unitary republic, with a single tier of local government consisting of 212 municipalities (*Občine*). 11 of them have the special status of urban municipality (*Mestne občine*).¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).²

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Slovenia's Development Strategy 2030 has as its main objective "a high quality of life for all" and finds in the SDGs important goals and actions that contribute to this end. The Strategy lists five strategic orientations and twelve development goals. SDGs that relate to the strategic orientations and development goals were also incorporated into the strategy.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Development and European Cohesion Policy (GODC)** acts as the national coordinator for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs and is responsible for raising awareness and coordinating the flow of information between key stakeholders. Also, all ministries have appointed a contact person for the 2030 Agenda.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2020 VNR was coordinated by the **GODC**. The preparation process was highly inclusive and it was reinforced with a specific website as a tool for socialization.³ The GODC held introductory meetings with the representatives of ministries, regional development agencies and other key national level stakeholders, which involved different levels: national level (cooperation among line ministries and other affiliated bodies); local level (regional development agencies and local stakeholders); regions, including municipalities and cities; civil society (NGOs and other non-state actors operating at the national level).

1.3 MONITORING

The implementation of Slovenia's Development Strategy 2030 is monitored annually by the **Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development (IMAD)** in its development reports. In the framework of the 2020 VNR, the ministries and the GODC, in cooperation with the **Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SORS)** and the IMAD, drafted a set of 54 indicators that best reflect the situation regarding sustainable development in the country. The indicators are, to a large extent, in line with the SDGs. Certain indicators are specific and are monitored at the national level in the scope of the Slovenian Development Strategy 2030.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

11 urban municipalities adopted in 2016 **sustainable urban strategies** based on guidelines of the Ministry for the Environment and Spatial Planning. The municipalities set out their development vision, identifying goals, measures and methods for implementing the strategies. The **Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia until 2050** highlights the role of cities and

1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

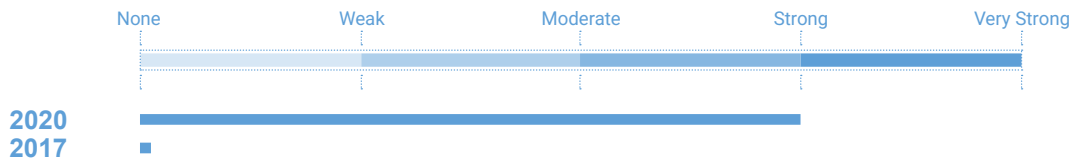
2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16313Slovenia.pdf> (2017); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26450VNR_2020_Slovenia_Report.pdf (2020)

3. The website is available at <https://slovenia2030.si/>. It provides information about all the indicators for Slovenia from 2015 onwards, as well information regarding the process of inclusive preparation, reports from individual consultations and a tab with topical content.

identifies strengthening of their competitiveness as one of its primary goals. Slovenia supports the cities that have already prepared or implemented circular models or circular economic strategies, including [Ljubljana](#), [Maribor](#), [Kranj](#) and others.

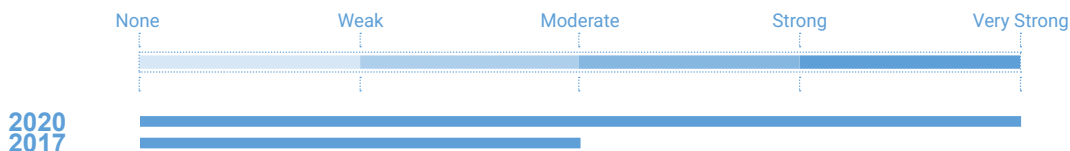
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: In 2020, the GODC involved local level representation in the VNR process.⁴

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: LRGs collaborate with the GODC, developing an important partnership (GTF Survey 2020).

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNRs and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There is no dedicated section for LRG actions, but the 2020 VNR has, at the end of each SDG review, a "Good practices" section in which, in some cases, it is possible to identify local initiatives and experiences coming from the municipalities in order to contribute to that specific SDG.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

- The network business incubator *Mrežni podjetniški inkubator Vrelec d.o.o.* was established in 2009 by the municipality of [Rogaška Slatina](#) along with its partner, the municipality of [Šentjur](#). Their vision was to spread business ideas and innovation and to provide a stimulating entrepreneurial environment in the Obsotelje and Kozjansko regions.
- The Climate Path 2050 project included the [Local Climate Action Scoreboard](#), an online application that enables Slovenian municipalities to comprehensively compare their performance in preventing climate change. It also encourages the exchange of good practices between municipalities and gives insight into the actions of individual municipalities in several areas, such as buildings, transport, agriculture, etc.
- Slovenia has seven local energy agencies, which support municipalities in the implementation of their energy concepts.
- Thirty-seven of the municipalities are signatories of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, which brings together thousands of local governments that have made a voluntary commitment to achieving the EU climate targets.

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No specific mention is made for the LRGs regarding the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The 2020 VNR highlights the importance of the 'Trade for All' strategy introduced by the European Union. Member States are obliged to ensure responsible trade and investment policy as an instrument for the implementation of the SDGs.

⁴. Answers to the GTF Survey in 2020 indicate that some associations of municipalities were taken into account at the beginning of the process (introductory meetings). Actually, they mention that they were not taken into account for the first VNR, but recognize that they were included for the update in 2020. They said they had the opportunity to exchange experiences and dialogue with the national government.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2020 VNR mentions the importance of the EU development strategy, and in particular, the European Green Deal, as it is conceived as a roadmap with specific goals (elimination of net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, the decoupling of economic growth from resource use and the fair inclusion of all social groups). In this sense, at the intersection of the economic and environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, Slovenia has designed a second priority area, namely the transition to a low-carbon and circular economy and society.

Besides, one of the main conclusions of the 2020 VNR is that the common sensation among local stakeholders in most regions is that there exists excessive centralisation of the state. Local stakeholders largely wished for **more integration and cooperation** in deciding on matters that directly affect their local environments. The VNR ends by mentioning that the development of Slovenia needs to take into account the diversity of the individual regions, which is currently not entirely possible at the level of statistical data collection, since statistical data for several indicators are not collected separately by region.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Slovenia made the most progress over the last decade in the domain of women's participation in political decision-making, which is the result of the amendments made to the electoral legislation. Electoral quotas were introduced: 35% gender quota on candidate lists for national parliamentary elections and **40% gender quota** and zipper system for candidate lists for local elections.

3.2 COVID 19

Slovenia was not only the first European country but the first country in the world to declare the end of the pandemic in May, 2020. One of Slovenia's measures was an increase in the volume of public procurement from local providers by public institutions.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		33.6 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		3.7 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		-
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		16.3 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2020)

5. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/UNSDG/IndDatabasePage>. More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/svn>