

SLOVENIA

Country Outline

- GDP: 9.848 mil. euros / - GDP Per capita: 18.093 euros
- Areas of marked S&T specialisations:
INVESTMENT AND EXPORT PROMOTION at the Public Agency SPIRIT Slovenia
(operating under Ministry of Economic Development and Technology)

Contact Information

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National Flag



1. Policies and Strategies in Science, Technology and Innovation

The main goal of the science, technology and innovation policy is to establish a modern research and innovation system that will allow for a higher quality of life for all through critical reflection of society, efficiency in addressing social challenges, increased value added per employee, and assurance of more and higher quality workplaces.

Main strategic documents regarding STI policies:

- Research and innovation strategy of Slovenia 2011-2020 (RISS 2011-2020):
http://www.arhiv.mvzt.gov.si/fileadmin/mvzt.gov.si/pageuploads/pdf/odnosi_z_javnostmi/01.06.2011_dalje/01.06._RISSdz_ENG.pdf
- Slovenian industrial policy: Slovenian Industrial Policy - SIP
- Smart specialization strategy of Slovenia (under preparation)
http://www.svrk.gov.si/nc/en/media_room/news/article/1328/6054/

Some statistics: According to the 2015 Innovation Union scoreboard Slovenia is an innovation follower, with performance below but close to the EU average. The country is also a growth leader in this group of countries. According to the scoreboard, its relative strengths are in international scientific co-publications, R&D expenditure in the business sector, community designs and public-private scientific co-publications. Its relative weaknesses are in non-EU doctorate students and knowledge-intensive services exports.

While Slovenia's relative performance to the EU has improved from 85% in 2007 to 96% in 2014 and the country experiences high innovation intensity at 2,6% of GDP, several challenges exist that put into question the sustainability in the long run: There is a low number of innovative firms, patents and trademarks. The low performance regarding research and innovation outputs calls into question the quality of the investments mainly also financed in the past by structural funds. However, this can be partly also explained by usual time lag between R&D inputs and outputs. In addition, recent increase in the number of Community trademark applications and registered Community designs both filed by Slovenian applicants with the OHIM can be also linked to high R&D expenditures in

previous years. Key measures included in the 2011 Research and Innovation Strategy like the introduction of institutional funding linked to an assessment of research performance of universities and public research institutes or the removal of obstacles to university spin-outs and to cross-border venture capital has not been implemented. Furthermore, the complex national innovation governance is a further source that drags down innovation outcomes.

2. National Programmes and Initiatives

Program for internationalization 2015-2020

Program has been approved by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on 28th May 2015, which covers both internationalization and also the field of attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).

Measures for internationalization are used to improve the integration of companies and the business sector in international trade, and promote an innovative manner of inclusion and introduction of the business sector to international markets (even more distant markets). Measures will stimulate companies, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, to restructure their development which includes internationalization of operations, especially in order to produce end products/services with higher added value. More focus on the development of niche products, including new technological and design solutions, would be reasonable.

Measures to support exporters are: establishment and operation of the “One-stop-shop” concept for exporters and investors, E-vouchers (support for companies at presentations at international fairs, market research of foreign markets, participation at international B2B events,...) and promotion of partnerships and business models for easier inclusion in global value chains.

Regarding FDI, program is focused on active promotion of attracting FDI, which includes information, advisory and other services for foreign investors, promotion and marketing of Slovenia and its regions as a location for FDI, etc. The measures that have already been carried out will also be carried out in the future. Certain measures will be upgraded, and certain new, modern measures and tools will be added in order to achieve a more active policy regarding attracting FDI and greater promotion of Slovenia. The emphasis will be on attracting first entries of foreign investors in Slovenia. We will strive to position Slovenia as an R&D hub, a logistics hub and a green hub.

International Challenges 2015-2016

Additionally to the Program for internationalization, in cooperation with partners, Ministry of Economy and Development has prepared an action plan “MI 2015-2016” (International Challenges 2015-2016).

Document “MI 2015-2016” specifies activities in selected target markets abroad. Markets are divided into three groups - the priority markets (Japan, USA and Turkey), traditional markets (the EU, the Balkans, RF) and promising regions (China, Gulf countries, Central Asia, India). The purpose of the document is to create a basis for effective and efficient promotion and stimulation of internationalization by stakeholders. Only such an approach can provide effective support for the

Slovenian economy to enter / expand into foreign markets, as well as in the field of attracting foreign direct investments.

3. Joint Activities with China in 2015

Public Agency SPIRIT Slovenia, which is operating under the Ministry of economic development and technology of the Republic of Slovenia, actively participate in the field of foreign direct investment promotion and entrepreneurship development in the CM China – CEEC 16+1!

Joint Committee meeting Target participants - representatives of implementing ministries, universities and academies of sciences.