

# Slovenia – SD Priorities

*Source document: Slovenia's Development Strategy (2005)*

## 1. A competitive economy and faster economic growth (p. 26)

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### 1.1. Fostering entrepreneurial development and increasing competitiveness (p. 26)

- 1.1.1. apply measures aimed at fostering technological development, education and training to detect and promote those areas where Slovenia has competitive advantages, and allow the development of new, potentially successful areas; (p. 26)
  - 1.1.2. encourage development-oriented investment and strategic projects that via networking produce positive effects at the regional and international levels; (p. 26)
  - 1.1.3. encourage business networking in key sectors of the economy (electronic communications and information technologies, pharmaceuticals, chemical industry, electrical and optical equipment, logistics); (p. 26)
  - 1.1.4. accelerate the development of the leading service industries (tourism; business, financial and information services; high-tech services) (p. 26)
  - 1.1.5. develop mortgage banking instruments, particularly in the housing sector (p. 26)
  - 1.1.6. develop instruments for the government's and private sector's joint investment in infrastructure building through concession agreements (p. 26)
  - 1.1.7. develop new models for financing the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (p. 26)
  - 1.1.8. create a supportive entrepreneurial environment and culture; (p. 26)
  - 1.1.9. stimulate and develop an innovative environment and innovation (p. 26)
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### 1.2. Increasing inflows of development - promoting domestic and foreign investment (p. 26)

- 1.2.1. create industrial/technological estates on attractive sites to eliminate the problem of land (availability and price) and administrative restrictions for domestic and foreign investors, and to foster development in specific regions (p. 26)
  - 1.2.2. encourage the expansion of existing foreign enterprises in Slovenia and the integration of foreign-owned enterprises with the Slovenian economy; (p. 26)
  - 1.2.3. promote foreign direct investment (FDI) in high-tech and medium-high-tech industries and quality jobs; (p. 26)
  - 1.2.4. ensure the conditions to promote greenfield FDI; (p. 26)
  - 1.2.5. provide foreign investors with information and consulting on the business environment (p. 26)
  - 1.2.6. grant financial incentives for FDI (p. 27)
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### 1.3. Stimulating the economy's internationalisation (p. 27)

- 1.3.1. develop economic diplomacy, enhance active participation in the EU and the WTO, become an OECD member; (p. 27)
  - 1.3.2. promote the internationalisation of successful Slovenian enterprises and develop models for financing the internationalisation of small and medium-sized enterprises; (p. 27)
  - 1.3.3. encourage economic and technological co-operation with the Slovenian national minorities in neighbouring countries and Slovenians around the world; (p. 27)
  - 1.3.4. stimulate two-way international mobility in secondary and tertiary education and research (p. 27)
  - 1.3.5. promote the international recognition of Slovenia's cultural output and make Slovenia an attractive destination for tourism and international cultural and economic exchange. (p. 27)
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### 1.4. Increasing the competitiveness of services (p. 27)

- 1.4.1. strengthen the factors contributing to the efficiency of services; *(p. 27)*
- 1.4.2. place special emphasis on those services most closely linked to business operations (business, distributive, infrastructural and financial services); *(p. 27)*
- 1.4.3. amend regulations and simplify the business environment for service provision *(p. 27)*

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## 1.5. Successful participation in the exchange rate mechanism ERM II and adoption of the euro *(p. 27)*

- 1.5.1. increase the adaptability of fiscal and incomes policies *(p. 27)*
- 1.5.2. ensure long-term sustainability of public finances and price stability *(p. 27)*

## 2. Effective generation, two-way flow and application of the knowledge needed for economic development and quality jobs *(p. 30)*

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### 2.1. Increasing economic efficiency and the level of investment in research and technological development *(p. 30)*

- 2.1.1. focus R&D activity primarily on those technological areas where research potential can be linked to economic activity to achieve higher value added (electronic communications and information technologies, biotechnology and pharmacy, nanotechnology, new materials, process and environmental technologies) *(p. 30)*
- 2.1.2. apply the criteria of the applicability and two-way flow of knowledge between research institutions and the business sector in public financing; *(p. 30)*
- 2.1.3. create an appropriate organisational structure of research organisations to improve their adaptability to the challenges of modern research work; *(p. 30)*
- 2.1.4. adjust the organisational structure and financing of the R&D sector to ensure a more efficient use of funds available for R&D; *(p. 30)*
- 2.1.5. encourage the recruitment of researchers in commercial companies *(p. 30)*
- 2.1.6. raise public expenditure on R&D to 1% of GDP by 2010; create an appropriate system to stimulate the business sector's investment in order to increase this expenditure to 2% of GDP by 2010 and enhance the capacity to absorb R&D's findings; *(p. 30)*
- 2.1.7. regulate the provision of start-up capital for new high-tech and innovative enterprises; *(p. 31)*
- 2.1.8. encourage Slovenian experts to return from abroad and work in Slovenia, and attract quality foreign experts; *(p. 31)*
- 2.1.9. expand the use of information and communication technologies to boost productivity and entrepreneurship, the efficiency of the public sector's services and general competitiveness of the labour force in the global labour market; *(p. 31)*
- 2.1.10. introduce flexible forms of employment and telework; develop and promote forms of employment that exploit the information society's potential; raise (computer, functional) literacy rates; and boost public access to the Internet and information mediators. *(p. 31)*

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### 2.2. Improving the quality of education and promoting lifelong learning *(p. 31)*

- 2.2.1. encourage mobility and flexibility through credit studies *(p. 31)*
- 2.2.2. combine the research and teaching potential of different institutes and universities and stop the mutual prevention of staff mobility between universities and institutes; *(p. 31)*
- 2.2.3. provide opportunities for research and education work to all who meet the formal criteria; *(p. 31)*
- 2.2.4. supplement and differentiate the expert part of habilitation conditions; *(p. 31)*
- 2.2.5. enhance co-operation between industry and universities in preparing curricula, particularly in technology studies; *(p. 31)*
- 2.2.6. improve the quality of studies (the ratio between the number of teachers and students, infrastructure and equipment) and shorten the duration of studies; *(p. 31)*
- 2.2.7. increase the inclusion of generations of enrolment age in tertiary education to at least 55%; *(p. 31)*

- 2.2.8. boost enrolment in the studies of science and technology; *(p. 31)*
- 2.2.9. develop programmes to enhance the entrepreneurial spirit and knowledge *(p. 31)*
- 2.2.10. systematically revamp programmes to stimulate creativity and innovation in order to facilitate the absorption of technological and organisational innovations (flow of knowledge) and broaden the base of potential innovators; *(p. 31)*
- 2.2.11. ensure a balance between the supply of educational institutions and the needs of the labour market and the business sector by promoting social-partner dialogue in upgrading the national education strategies and by adjusting the curricula so as to ensure the transparency of professional qualifications at national and EU level; *(p. 31)*
- 2.2.12. in the area of lifelong learning, stimulate people's demand for education and training and encourage employers to invest more in it; *(p. 31)*
- 2.2.13. increase the attractiveness and accessibility of education and training and create mechanisms for the recognition of any skills acquired through informal or casual work, particularly those that can provide workers for the new and developing sectors according to the core EU processes (European Qualifications Framework, Copenhagen Process 'Education and Training 2010', credit system); *(p. 31)*
- 2.2.14. -develop and connect networks of vocational and career-related consultancy and integrate them with the existing systems of education, training and mediation of work; *(p. 32)*
- 2.2.15. improve access to education and training by using new technologies (ICT supported regional/local centres of lifelong learning); *(p. 32)*
- 2.2.16. -prepare programmes and systematically promote the use of ICT in active and creative work environments; *(p. 32)*
- 2.2.17. -decentralise tertiary education, especially in the segment of post-secondary vocational and higher professional schools that have a close connection with regional economic development needs, and with regard to lifelong learning; *(p. 32)*
- 2.2.18. -encourage visits of Slovenian lecturers from abroad and neighbouring countries and attract foreign lecturers and students to Slovenia *(p. 32)*
- 2.2.19. -train educators to acquire new skills (OECD indicators) *(p. 32)*
- 2.2.20. prepare education and training programmes; educate and train teachers regarding sustainable development. *(p. 32)*

### **3. An efficient and less costly state *(p. 35)***

#### **3.1. Increasing the state's institutional competitiveness and efficiency *(p. 35)***

- 3.1.1. reduce the state's direct role in the economy; *(p. 35)*
- 3.1.2. withdraw state ownership from companies and financial institutions as part of the public sector's modernisation; reduce the role of KAD (pension fund) and SOD (restitution fund) in company management; *(p. 35)*
- 3.1.3. launch a regulatory impact assessment system to screen regulations for their restrictive administrative and regulatory impact on competition and economic activity and take steps to remove these obstacles; *(p. 35)*
- 3.1.4. determine the procedure for the general public's participation in the preparation of regulations (consultation methodology); *(p. 35)*
- 3.1.5. introduce private-public partnerships (PPP) to the provision, performing and financing of public services and investment in infrastructure; *(p. 35)*
- 3.1.6. partly privatise administrative tasks through public commissioning and outsourcing; apply the private sector's management practices in the public sector (new public management); introduce performance and efficiency standards and comparisons between different bodies; improve the flexibility of promotion and reward systems; *(p. 35)*

- 3.1.7. raise the standards of professionalism and transparency in the public administration; improve the quality of its services and strengthen its consulting function; *(p. 35)*
- 3.1.8. decentralise the administration *(p. 35)*
- 3.1.9. improve the conditions for the operation of non-governmental organisations *(p. 35)*

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### **3.2. Development-oriented restructuring of public finances *(p. 35)***

- 3.2.1. change the structure of expenditure according to the Strategy's priorities and the absorption of EU funds; *(p. 35)*
- 3.2.2. gradually reduce the share of general government expenditure in GDP by at least 2 percentage points; *(p. 35)*
- 3.2.3. carry through a comprehensive tax reform based on the principles of relieving labour, stimulating competition and employment, and generally simplifying the system. *(p. 35)*

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### **3.3. Improving the judicial system's functioning *(p. 35)***

- 3.3.1. ensure greater legal certainty *(p. 35)*
- 3.3.2. improve the efficiency of courts, public prosecutors and state attorneys *(p. 35)*
- 3.3.3. prepare a comprehensive programme to reduce court backlogs and ensure the resolution of cases within reasonable periods of time, and ultimately eliminate the backlogs; *(p. 35)*
- 3.3.4. additionally train judges and state prosecutors in conducting judicial proceedings and particularly for work in the fields of economic crime, corruption and organised crime; *(p. 35)*
- 3.3.5. simplify and standardise judicial proceedings at both regulatory and practical levels (e.g. by exchanging good practices) in order to improve the efficiency of judicial proceedings and professional adjudication by the state as conducted by prosecutors and judges; *(p. 36)*
- 3.3.6. strive for the full computerisation of courts (set up computerised registers, establish full e-communication between clients and courts) to reduce the duration of procedures and simplify the monitoring of efficiency, court backlogs and periods of limitation *(p. 36)*

## **4. A modern social state and higher employment *(p. 38)***

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### **4.1. Increasing the labour market's flexibility *(p. 38)***

- 4.1.1. improve the flexibility of employment and employment relationships (annual calculation of hours worked, part-time work, flexispace, working at home, telework and other atypical types of work); *(p. 38)*
- 4.1.2. replace passive labour market measures with active ones to activate people and stimulate employment and social inclusion; combine passive and active measures; *(p. 38)*
- 4.1.3. reduce absences due to sickness and occupational disability, preserve workers' employability through protective measures, protect workers' health and enable their active ageing; *(p. 38)*
- 4.1.4. reduce structural imbalances in the labour market by pursuing an appropriate formal education policy, by speeding up the launching of other forms of education and training, and by recognising the acquired knowledge and skills in employment; *(p. 38)*
- 4.1.5. reduce employers social security contributions for workers with low employability, first-time employees and the long-term unemployed in depressed regions; *(p. 38)*
- 4.1.6. facilitate the balancing of work and family life: apply family-friendly policies, promote extended working lives, adjust the patterns related to workplace and working culture, allow the distribution of hours worked over one's total active life; *(p. 39)*
- 4.1.7. prepare the necessary changes to the labour market's institutional framework on the basis of a comparative analysis to ensure a sufficient level of competitiveness *(p. 39)*
- 4.1.8. improve the employability of those population groups with low employment prospects by combining the employment-education status and part-time employment within non-market employment opportunities. *(p. 39)*

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### **4.2. Modernising the social protection systems *(p. 39)***

- 4.2.1. institutionalise people's greater personal responsibility for their own social status; (p. 39)
  - 4.2.2. adjust the social protection systems to the needs of the long-living society, tailor the system of collecting social security funds to modern jobs and adopt new regulations in the area of long-term care; (p. 39)
  - 4.2.3. launch activation systems of social security: more precisely define the target recipients of social benefits and services so as to encourage people to seek and accept work; prevent the unjustified accumulation of benefits by a single recipient, decentralise employment services and combine them with the granting of social benefits; (p. 39)
  - 4.2.4. link social protection with the promotion of an active life and social cohesion (with the emphasis on 'flexicurity'); (p. 39)
  - 4.2.5. focus social policy more on the transition between different periods of life (from school to work and from work to retirement; support geographical mobility); (p. 39)
  - 4.2.6. achieve a more equal distribution of labour market risks and social risks which currently affect young generations to an above-average extent; (p. 39)
  - 4.2.7. reform the health protection system to ensure its solidarity, accessibility, transparency, quality, efficiency and fiscal sustainability (p. 39)
  - 4.2.8. -use public-private partnership in programme financing and implementation (p. 39)
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#### **4.3. Reducing social exclusion (p. 39)**

- 4.3.1. ensure equal access to social protection, health, education and cultural services; (p. 39)
- 4.3.2. expand people's possibilities to raise their education levels and involve the unemployed in active employment policy programmes; (p. 39)
- 4.3.3. build over 2,000 non-profit dwellings and enhance their accessibility; (p. 39)
- 4.3.4. improve the status of disabled people (p. 39)

### **5. Integration of measures to achieve sustainable development (p. 41)**

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#### **5.1. Sustained population growth (p. 41)**

- 5.1.1. create adequate working and societal conditions for active elderly citizens and mutual interest on the part of this group and society as a whole; (p. 41)
  - 5.1.2. ease the time pressure through cross-generational assistance and more balanced employers' demands regarding the intensity of work at the beginning of one's career; (p. 42)
  - 5.1.3. create the conditions for easier balancing of family and work obligations of both parents, including more flexible forms of child care, and ensure the competition and non-discrimination of parents in the labour market (p. 42)
  - 5.1.4. public services as well as formal and informal social networks should support the creation and better functioning of families rather than merely help some individuals become more productive; (p. 42)
  - 5.1.5. adjust spatial management to the general demographic and social policy objectives and the anticipated migration developments (p. 42)
  - 5.1.6. increase the supply of tenant dwellings and housing and lower the prices of dwellings by enhancing the supply of land and the efficiency of the housing market (p. 42)
  - 5.1.7. develop mortgage banking in order to increase the supply of favourable housing loans and subsidise the repayment of some level of interest at the beginning of the repayment period for young people; reduce some of the structural deficits in the population through integration policy and the control of migration levels. (p. 42)
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#### **5.2. Balanced regional development (p. 42)**

- 5.2.1. establish regions with their own competencies and resources to promote their development (according to the fiscal decentralisation principle) (p. 42)

- 5.2.2. support the development of a polycentric urban system and of regional centres (particularly centres of national significance); create (innovative) city regions and foster regional economies through technology parks and business incubators; *(p. 42)*
  - 5.2.3. establish regionally spread-out networks of tertiary and lifelong education and other public services *(p. 42)*
  - 5.2.4. provide municipal financial incentives for the development of local economies, social activities and infrastructure (keeping some of the collected taxes in the local communities' budgets), increase the quality of spatial acts in line with development needs, simplify spatial regulations, boost expenditure on housing construction, regulate the area of public utilities *(p. 42)*
  - 5.2.5. ensure the supply of pure drinking water and promote local self-sufficiency in food; *(p. 42)*
  - 5.2.6. upgrade the existing regional development programming and closer co-operation between urban and rural areas based on binding partnerships and active endeavours of the government to establish regions; reinforce cross-border regional co-operation, among other things by involving the Slovenian national minorities; *(p. 42)*
  - 5.2.7. upgrade measures aimed at preserving the population's density and cultural landscape and strengthening the developmental vitality and attractiveness of the countryside; *(p. 42)*
  - 5.2.8. improve the connections of outlying, backward areas with the main traffic corridors; expand and promote the use of public transport and sustainable mobility (the 'modal split') *(p. 42)*
  - 5.2.9. establish regional partnerships for the development of the information society and its integrated regional strategies; *(p. 43)*
  - 5.2.10. with regard to maintaining the population's density and regional development consistently bear in mind the risk of natural or other disasters in certain areas *(p. 43)*
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### **5.3. Ensuring optimal health conditions *(p. 43)***

- 5.3.1. integrate health protection measures and criteria with sectoral policies and reduce the differences in health across regions and population groups *(p. 43)*
  - 5.3.2. promote healthy lifestyles and prevent high rates of disease incidence early in life; *(p. 43)*
  - 5.3.3. improve the accessibility and quality of health care services and modernise health care facilities. *(p. 43)*
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### **5.4. Improving spatial management *(p. 43)***

- 5.4.1. establish a record of the highest-quality agricultural land sites and protect them; *(p. 43)*
  - 5.4.2. continue expanding areas of land intended for organic farming; *(p. 43)*
  - 5.4.3. accelerate the merging of agricultural land and upgrade land for higher quality production while keeping the highest-quality agricultural land intact; *(p. 43)*
  - 5.4.4. increase the supply of building land for industrial and housing construction through the rational expansion of urban areas on populated land, better utilisation of populated areas (concentration of buildings) and revitalisation of degraded urban and other land for renewed use *(p. 43)*
  - 5.4.5. provide economic incentives for a better utilisation of the disposable building fund, support the internal development of populated areas (prioritise the condensing of extensively exploited populated areas over the expansion of new areas); *(p. 43)*
  - 5.4.6. develop the real-estate market (registers, taxation, mortgage loans) *(p. 43)*
  - 5.4.7. stimulate settlement in towns with 7,000 to 30,000 inhabitants *(p. 43)*
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### **5.5. Integrating environmental standards with sectoral policies and consumption patterns *(p. 43)***

- 5.5.1. reduce industry's contribution to climate changes and adjust the economy and settlements to the anticipated climate changes; *(p. 43)*
- 5.5.2. promote the sustainable use of natural resources, decrease energy and material intensity and stimulate waste recycling, raise ecological awareness and the quality of living; *(p. 43)*
- 5.5.3. increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy resources in the public sector, in particular at the local level; *(p. 43)*
- 5.5.4. press forward with the environmental tax reform and introduce 'green' public procurement procedures; *(p. 43)*

- 5.5.5. promote environmentally suitable, sustainable entrepreneurial and consumer practices; (p. 43)
  - 5.5.6. encourage the development and use of environmental technologies; (p. 44)
  - 5.5.7. resolve the environmental problems of transport corridors at the EU level, including by developing intelligent transport systems; (p. 44)
  - 5.5.8. promote sustainable mobility and increase the 'modal split' in favour of public transport; improve the co-ordination between transport supply and the needs or public interest; set up and maintain a national electronic land system as a vital support instrument for spatial planning, groundwater protection (preventing the leaching of nitrates, pesticides and pollutants), the production of quality food and ensuring a healthy environment; (p. 44)
  - 5.5.9. ensure a satisfactory condition of waters (by 2015) and their proper management, increase the protection of the sensitive maritime ecosystem and the coastal zone; (p. 44)
  - 5.5.10. stop the decline in biodiversity by 2010 and establish Slovenia's natural spatial quality as a quality for the whole EU, which also involves care for its maintenance; create protective regimes that will enable the protection of plants and animals and their biocenoses, along with overall economic and social development in protected areas (Natura 2000) (p. 44)
  - 5.5.11. strengthen administrative capacity in the areas of environmental law and environmental economics; (p. 44)
  - 5.5.12. bolster the role of consultative and advisory bodies in the procedure of drafting proposals (council for sustainable development, inter-sectoral consultative bodies, inter-sectoral working and project groups). (p. 44)
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## **5.6. Developing the national identity and culture (p. 44)**

- 5.6.1. develop culture in its entirety, i.e. including its ethical, social, economic and political dimensions established throughout history and open it up to the modern world; (p. 44)
  - 5.6.2. develop cultural diversity and national identity as a synthesis of cultural objectives and aims; (p. 44)
  - 5.6.3. strengthen the awareness that culture is the historical basis of the national identity and that Slovenia's modern image in Europe consists of different cultural identities from national to local, from universal to individual; (p. 44)
  - 5.6.4. enhance the Slovenian cultural space and preserve and develop the Slovenian language; (p. 44)
  - 5.6.5. promote the cultural development of the Italian and Hungarian national minorities, the Romany community and other minorities in Slovenia, as well as immigrants; (p. 44)
  - 5.6.6. set up an environment conducive to creativity and greater accessibility of cultural goods, and open up the media space; (p. 44)
  - 5.6.7. systematically preserve and develop the overall cultural heritage and link it to the modern way of living and creating since present-day society must assume its responsibility for natural and cultural heritage to repay its moral debt to future generations; (p. 44)
  - 5.6.8. establish a cultural environment in which a knowledge-based economy can prosper; (p. 44)
  - 5.6.9. with regard to the country's development, knit culture and science more closely together and transfer their achievements and surpluses to the economy, thereby securing the basis for social welfare; (p. 45)
  - 5.6.10. intertwine culture, science and education more closely in order to lift the quality of studying and teaching and thus stimulate each individual's talent and creativity; (p. 45)
  - 5.6.11. promote investment and develop public-private partnerships in culture (p. 45)
  - 5.6.12. -focus on the ethical principles central to individuals and society in the planning of different areas; ethics must co-direct decisions that will affect the exploitation of natural and cultural resources, of space and the living world (p. 45)
  - 5.6.13. care for the conservation of nature should not only include the cultural, educational and scientific tasks of restricting human intervention in nature known as the protection of nature, but also trust in nature itself and its pre-and post cultural abilities. We must change the anthropocentric view of the world and the way people treat it and adopt a respectful attitude to living nature, rooted in the belief that people must do everything within their power for its preservation. (p. 45)
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*Total number of priorities: 169*

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