

SLOVENIA

The word "SLOVENIA" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. The letter "O" is replaced by a circular graphic consisting of a ring of colored segments (blue, green, yellow, orange, red) surrounding a white silhouette of the map of Slovenia.

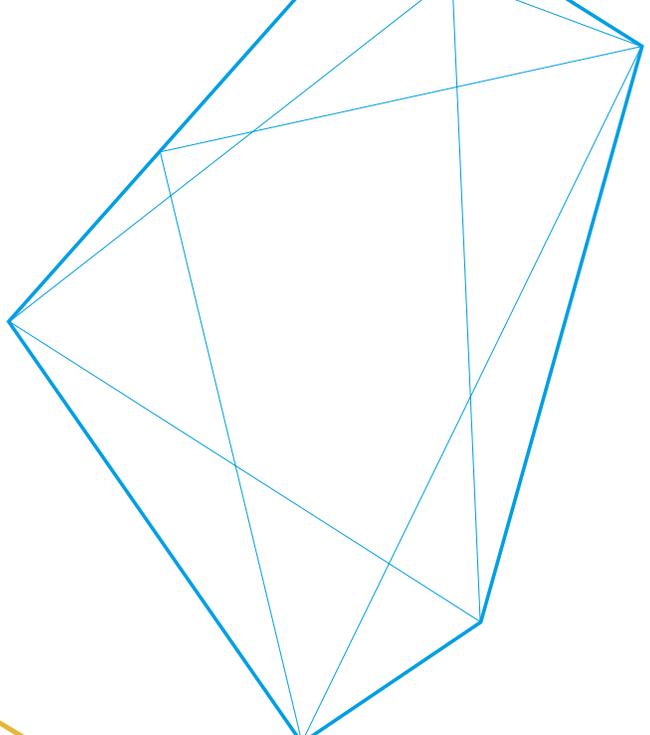
**Voluntary National Review
on the Implementation of the
2030 Agenda**

**Report to the
UN High Level Political Forum 2017
on Sustainable Development**

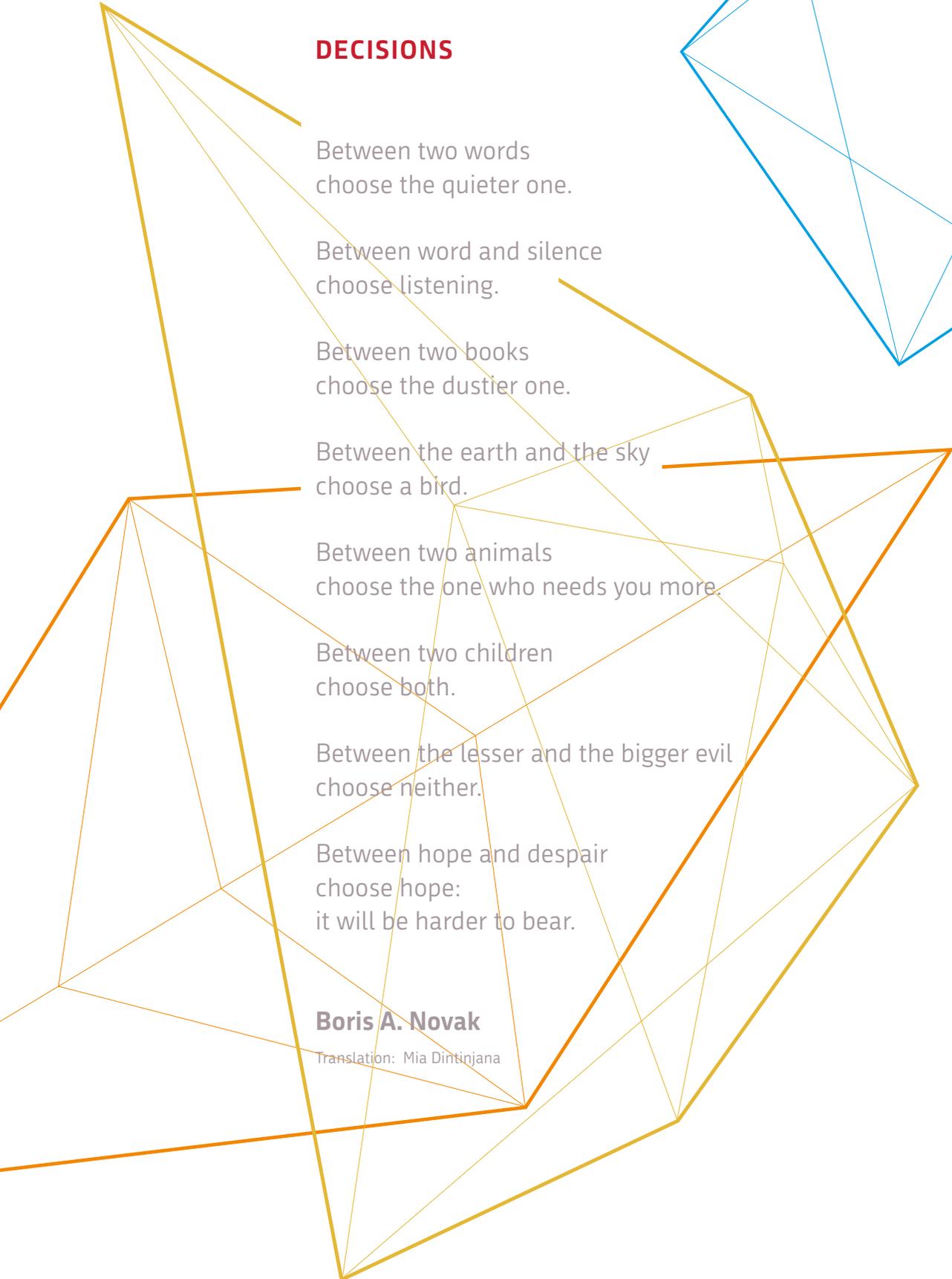
Executive Summary







DECISIONS



Between two words
choose the quieter one.

Between word and silence
choose listening.

Between two books
choose the dustier one.

Between the earth and the sky
choose a bird.

Between two animals
choose the one who needs you more.

Between two children
choose both.

Between the lesser and the bigger evil
choose neither.

Between hope and despair
choose hope:
it will be harder to bear.

Boris A. Novak

Translation: Mia Dintinjana



Photo: Tamino Petelinsek/STA

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Slovenia is fully committed to all 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda, which is the most comprehensive development action plan to date. By adopting the 2030 Agenda two years ago, we demonstrated our strong determination to work together in dealing with the key challenges of our era. The 2030 Agenda is universal and transformative in nature. It is people- and planet-oriented. It is inclusive. It promises to leave no one behind and to ensure a life of dignity and equality for all human beings. Furthermore, it includes a vision that by acting together we can make a better future for the people and our planet.

Slovenia has engaged with the opportunity to prepare its own national review and participate at the High-Level Political Forum in 2017 with great determination. The 2030 Agenda and the voluntary national review process call upon us all to see where we stand, what has been done in the last two years, and which challenges we must tackle to move forward to prosperity and well-being for all. For Slovenia, the preparation of the national review had another significant reason. We are preparing a new National Development Strategy and aligning all 17 sustainable goals of the 2030 Agenda with our own national priorities and targets.

The 2030 Agenda is also closely aligned with the Vision of Slovenia 2050, which foresees Slovenia as a country where:

...in harmony with our environment and our era, we have achieved a balanced, high-quality standard of living. By learning throughout our lives, we are well-equipped to take on the biggest challenges. We are innovative and translate ideas into actions. We create positive relationships based on trust and are building a society of solidarity and

tolerance. With confidence, we open Slovenia to partners willing to cooperate. We are proud that our cultural uniqueness makes a difference around the world.

Slovenia is also committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda globally. The responsibility for global peace and prosperity is reflected in the support to our partner countries and in our continuing contribution to poverty eradication and sustainable development. Our commitment is resolute – to further strengthen our international development cooperation on the basis of updated legal and strategic documents and demonstrate that the efforts of small countries can be a vital contribution to the realization of global development objectives.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offers the opportunity of a lifetime. We need to work tirelessly for its implementation. To be successful, we need to work together, learn from each other and build strong partnerships. Each of us and all of us need to participate.

Today, we are not just planning for the future – we are co-creating the future we want for ourselves and for the generations to come – this is our responsibility. Overcoming presentism bias and taking action toward the future is paramount. This is why Slovenia, together with the global community, strives to build a future that is green, peaceful, fair, and prosperous – a future that ensures human dignity and gives people the opportunity to flourish.

Dr Miro Cerar
Prime Minister of Slovenia

SLOVENIA & AGENDA 2030

Slovenia has a good starting position and more than a decade-long tradition of policy making and leading through sustainable oriented development. The remaining distances to achieving the targets are small in several areas. However, as the review shows, we are not yet achieving all the targets and despite some of the good examples of Slovenian measures, activities, and good practices there are still significant gaps to be overcome to reach all the targets by 2030.

The 2030 Agenda is a sign of hope for the world as it stands at a crossroads. Communities around the world are witnessing catastrophes, the causes of which are manifold – everything from violence and conflict, mass violations of human rights and economic migration, to natural disasters resulting from the increasingly negative effects of climate change. Many still live in poverty, and there is a growing gap between the rich and the poor. At the same time, the speed of technological progress is completely changing the expectations of society, while also significantly overtaking the capacity of social adaptation. For this reason, there has been an increasing paradox of global social progress that is opening new opportunities and increasing growth potentials, but also posing threats and creating numerous challenges. This creates questions on the future of education, labour, social order, the relationship between citizens and the state and, most of all, providing social justice.

However, the need to develop more agile and adaptable policies that consider unpredictable, faster paced, and more fundamental shifts in the world as well as addressing the challenges in Slovene society called upon the Government to develop a new approach towards planning for the future, which includes designing and implementing coherent policies for sustainable development. A clear commitment has been set to prepare a new long-term national development strategy and to continue our development path towards sustainable, inclusive, and responsible development. Slovenia has started its nationwide process of preparing a national development framework that will be forward-looking, close to the people, for the people, and with a clear vision of what Slovenia as a country and a nation wants to become.

In the early days of this process, the Government decided that Slovenia would implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on a national level by embedding them into Slovenia's new development strategy 2030, rather than designing a separate parallel process. The primary goal and strategic directions of the new Slovenian national development strategy, driven by the Vision of Slovenia 2050, will require drafting

the national development goals that share characteristics of the SDGs, such as deep interconnections and cross-cutting elements, tackling and addressing the three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – and inclusiveness in aiming to leave no one behind.

While Slovenia is setting its path towards well-being, it is acutely aware of its shared responsibility for global peace and prosperity. Slovenia has achieved progress in its development cooperation in recent years, supporting development and humanitarian projects in priority geographical areas, in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, and Africa. Slovenian NGOs have also been contributing to women's and children's empowerment, strengthening good governance and the rule of law, environmental protection, and human security. Slovenia is contributing to improving the technical expertise of civil servants in target countries. Continued attention remains devoted to rehabilitation programmes and addressing a broader range of global post-conflict and disruptive challenges that threaten the security of individuals and communities.

The Future is Now

Preparation of the Slovenian national review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was conducted under the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy that functions as a focal point for agenda, among all the ministries and other state institutions. Although the process of preparing the review was government-led and government-driven, the review is driven by contributions from representatives of youth, civil society and private sector that were also included in the drafting of a key national development framework: the whole-of-society Vision of Slovenia 2050 that defines our strategic focus and outlines the Slovenia that we all want to see in the future and represents the foundation for Slovenia's new development strategy, which is currently in preparation. The preparation of the Slovenian voluntary national review of the 2030 Agenda was closely connected and intertwined with the process of drafting the strategy.

Slovenia decided to incorporate the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda in its new national development framework to avoid duplication and to respond to national circumstances, capacities, needs, and priorities. However, the decision to participate in the VNR in the second year since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda also had another reason. Slovenia embraced the VNR process as a significant and helpful tool to raise awareness among stakeholders, to internalise the ownership among ministries, and to understand the universal nature of the 2030 Agenda as well as to foster coordination and cooperation in order to track the progress in implementing the global goals.

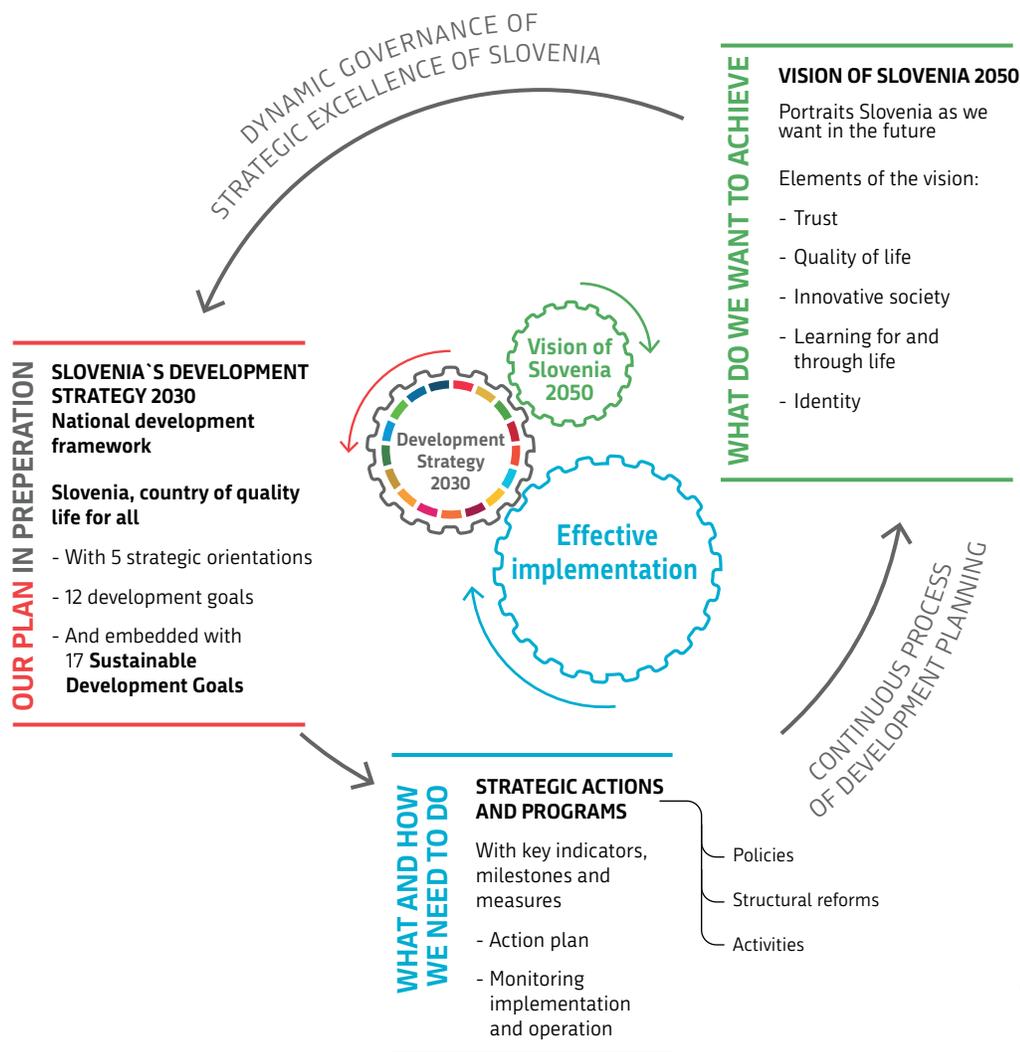


Figure 1: The system of dynamic governance of strategic excellence of Slovenia

Breaking siloes & branching out

To successfully address the 17 SDGs and their 169 associated targets, which are integral and indivisible, a whole-of-government approach is necessary. The Slovenian approach was based on a clear political commitment that Slovenia, while realising its own development path in a sustainable and inclusive way, is also firmly aware of its responsibility for world peace and prosperity, and that an integrated approach is needed to implement the 2030 Agenda. To this end, a coordination mechanism has been set up with the aim of increasing the awareness among the ministries of the 2030 Agenda and the equal responsibility of all departments for its implementation, as well as establishing a long-term partnership with all stakeholders.

Integrated Approach

Through the process of drafting the new national development strategy, the of Slovenia carried out numerous activities involving representatives of ministries and other state institutions, as

well as representatives of non-governmental organisations, local communities, the private sector, professional organisations, and academia. An **integrated approach** is key to implementing the sustainable development goals. None of the three pillars of sustainable development should prevail over the other two and, in this regard, before making policy proposals considering inter-linkages between economic, social and environmental policy areas, as well as ensuring consistency with the international engagements, is of great importance for the successful implementation of the SDG. At the same time, the key governmental representatives from all the ministries have begun to discuss the need to integrate all the areas needed in order to effectively achieve national development goals as well as the Sustainable Development Goals. During discussions and activities, a broader debate was held on how to set up our own effective development plans while simultaneously implementing the 2030 Agenda.

The Permanent Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Development Policies was established by the Government at the beginning of 2017 as a **coordination mechanism** to promote policy coherence and to solve possible policy conflicts. ITS work was crucial in the preparation of the VNR, since the focal points at the ministries represented a communication network with their own coordination architecture at their respective ministries. The coordination mechanism enabled coherent and prompt communication that also resulted in gradually internalising the ownership of the SDGs among ministries, as well as raising awareness of the universal nature of the 2030 Agenda.

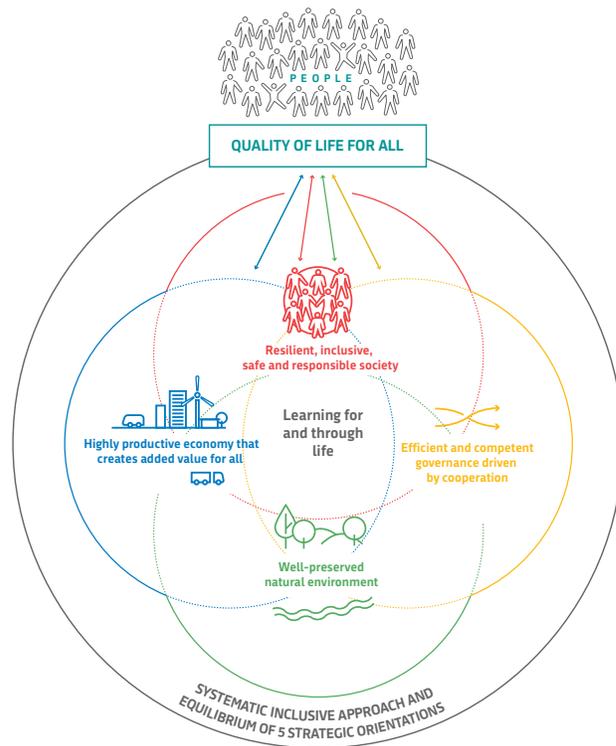
The final and probably most important exercise in **creating ownership** has been done through the (primary) gap analysis of all the policies and measurements that Slovenia already has in place and that are contributing to the SDG and their targets. All the ministries have been asked to closely look and analyse their existing strategies and action plans and all the measurements or programmes they are already exercising through the lenses of the 2030 Agenda, through the goals, targets, and the indicators. A comprehensive analysis provided important inputs for the VNR on where Slovenia stands, which indicators we are already measuring, and what concrete actions we are already taking towards achieving the SDGs (discussed in the next chapter). The analysis was also a significant attempt for all the ministries to systematically consider the effects of policies on the wellbeing of people 'here and now', 'elsewhere', and 'later'. It also provided a valuable overview of trans-boundary and interconnected effects of the policies on the sustainable development. By the end of the year 2017, the analysis will be added to national targets and action plans that will serve as guidelines towards fully achieving the SDGs by 2030.

Building partnerships

In the process leading to the creation of the Vision of Slovenia 2050 and to the drafting process of the upcoming national development goals, the various key stakeholders have been involved, from the civil society, non-governmental organisations, businesses, academia, parliament, and youth.

The partnership between the Slovenian Government and national NGOs has thus far been multi-layered and dispersed covering different areas, fields of work and all line ministries. Initial steps have been taken to establish a more integrated approach, especially in establishing more centralised and integrated partnerships with stakeholders in sustainable development. This goal was not entirely achieved this year due to the large scale and intensity of activities in establishing internal mechanisms and the process of the preparation of a new national development strategy. However, significant first steps have been taken, and the activities will continue in the coming months.

Figure 2: Equilibrium of 5 strategic orientations of Slovenia and the inclusive approach to achieve well-being for all



Internalizing the 2030 Agenda

When adopted, Slovenia's Development Strategy 2030 will present the framework development plan based on the guidelines of Slovenia's Vision 2050, the basis for development and on Slovenia's international commitments and trends and challenges on the national, European, and global levels. To fulfil the goals of the strategy, an active approach to its effective implementation will be required in the next step. The central goal of the strategy will focus on ensuring **a high quality of life for all**. It will be achieved through a balanced economic, social, and environmental development that creates the conditions and opportunities for the current and future generations. At the level of an individual, a high quality of life is reflected in: (i) good opportunities for work, education, and creativity, (ii) a decent, safe, and active life in a healthy and clean environment, and (iii) inclusion in democratic decision-making and in the co-management of society.

In this regard, our national development strategy will set ambitious objectives across all three dimensions of sustainable development and will seek balance between five strategic directions: (a resilient, inclusive, safe, and responsible society, a highly productive economy that provides value for all, learning for and through life as a value and driver of development, efficient and competent governance driven by cooperation, and a well-preserved natural environment.

The national development goals will be embedded in these five strategic orientations as well as intertwined with the Sustainable Development Goals. They will share characteristics of the SDGs, such as deep interconnections and cross-cutting elements, tackling and addressing the three pillars of sustainable development and inclusiveness. Through national development goals, SDGs will be linked to strategic orientations (See Figure 3).

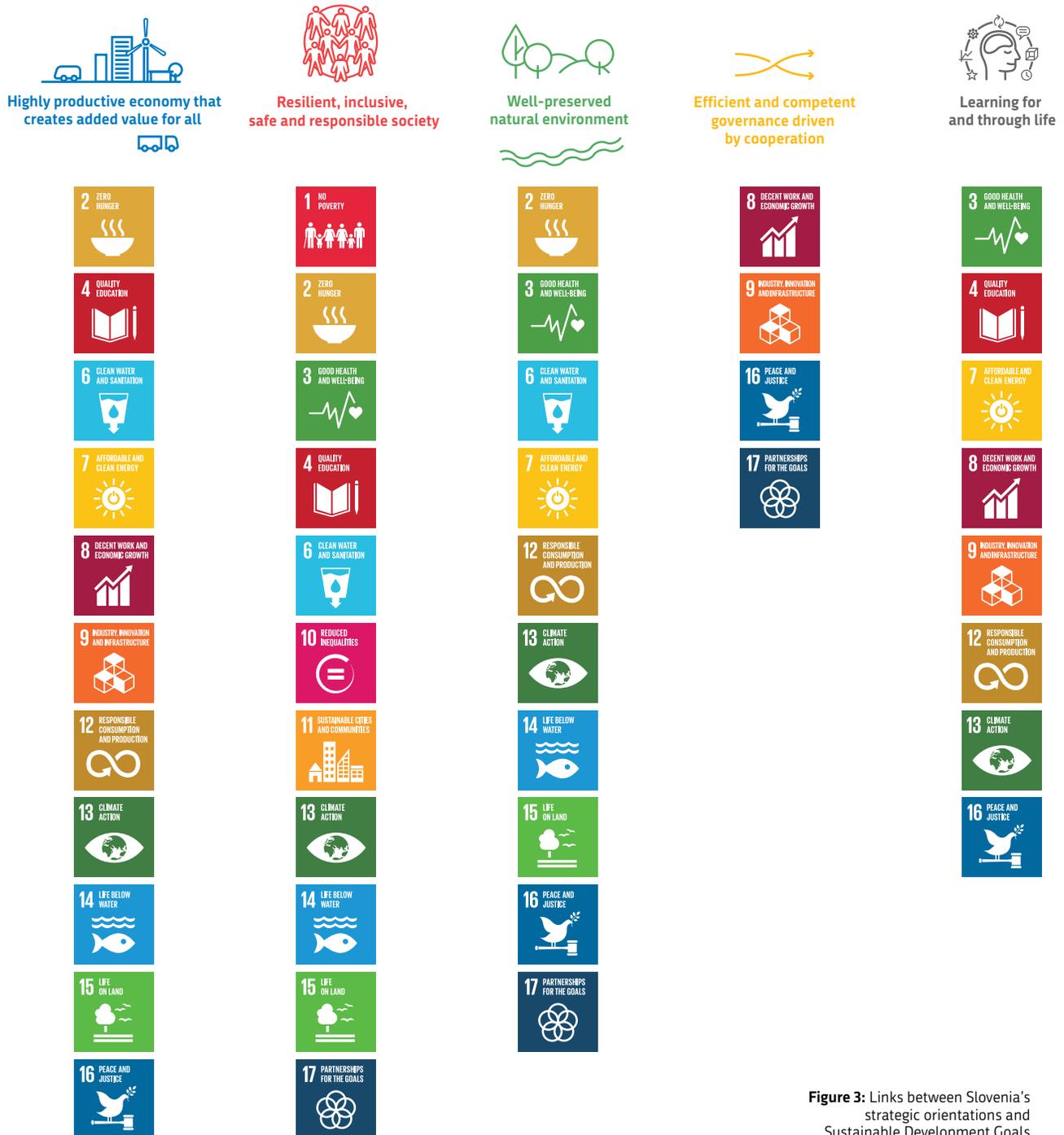


Figure 3: Links between Slovenia's strategic orientations and Sustainable Development Goals

Slovenia as a responsible global citizen

At the regional and global levels, Slovenia contributes to poverty eradication, sustainable development, and gender equality on the basis of updated legal and strategic documents, which were prepared in line with the new paradigm and with the aim of pursuing new trends.

Particular attention in Slovenia's development cooperation will continue to be given to the strengthening of peaceful and inclusive societies, with focus on good governance, equal opportunities, and quality education, as well as addressing climate change, with focus on the sustainable management of natural and energy resources. In the regional context, Slovenia will continue its work in the Western Balkans, European Neighbourhood and Sub-Saharan Africa, with special attention to the least developed countries. We will also work for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the development cooperation of the EU, actively promoting innovative, diverse and inclusive partnerships with civil society and the private sector. We believe that micro, small and medium-size enterprises are important drivers for sustainable development and engines of growth, employment, innovation, and social development, including the empowerment of women, and will therefore continue to promote their role.

Slovenia's international development cooperation in 2016 in numbers:

- Slovenia's ODA in 2016 is estimated to be 80 million USD, which represents 0.18% of the GNI.
- ODA rose by 26% in comparison to 2015.
- Multilateral aid of Slovenia increased by 32% in comparison to 2015, specifically due to increased contribution to the EU ODA budget, increased contribution to the European Development Fund, selected missions of UNDPKO and the International Development Association (IDA).
- Bilateral aid increased by 18% and amounts to around 29 million USD, of which 2.3 million USD is for humanitarian assistance.

How does Slovenia compare?

In evaluating the position of Slovenia in achieving the SDGs, we used international studies and analyses, among which the SDG Index and the OECD Study on Distance Measurement to the SDGs' Goals proved to be the most appropriate ones.

According to the **SDG Index** developed by the Bertelsmann Stiftung and UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Slovenia ranks 17th among 149 countries with an overall SDG performance rate of 76.6%.



Figure 4: SDG Index Dashboard for Slovenia

SDG Index methodology is based on absolute thresholds. To assess a country's progress on a specific indicator, such absolute quantitative thresholds differentiate between situations in which an SDG threshold has been met (green), where significant challenges remain (yellow), and where major challenges must be overcome if the country is to meet the goal (red).

The **OECD Pilot Study on Measuring Distance to the SDG targets**, based on the 126 available indicators allowing coverage of 95 out of the 169 SDG targets, shows that most countries have already achieved between 8 and 23 targets. In 2016, Slovenia fully achieved eight targets, and this year that number has increased to 12. The remaining distances to achieve the targets are small in several areas, but a few open challenges remain (See Figure 5).

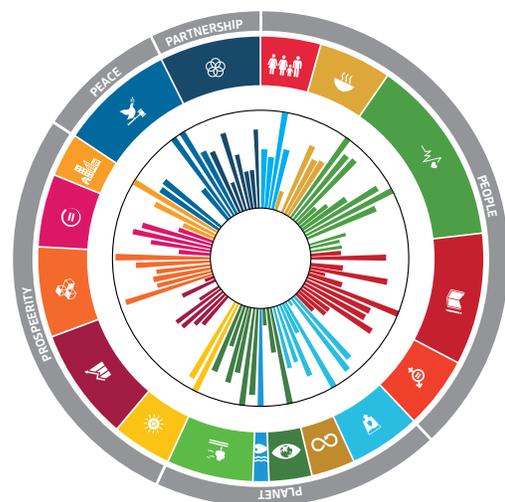


Figure 5: Slovenia's current distance from achieving SDGs' 2030 targets based on OECD Study¹

The chart shows how far Slovenia has already progressed towards each measured target. The longer the bars, the shorter the distance is to be travelled by 2030. Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered according to the '5Ps' of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).

What's next?

Slovenia will implement the inclusive and balanced action in the development of policies domestically as well as at the global level, where we will continue to devote our attention to the strengthening of peaceful and inclusive societies, with focus on good governance, equal opportunities, and quality education, as well as addressing climate change, with focus on the sustainable management of natural and energy resources. The empowerment of women is a cross-cutting priority, in line with our dedication to the respect of human rights. Slovenia will continue to advocate more interconnected cooperation of organisations within the framework of the UN system, as well as better cooperation between international organisations and countries on the bilateral as well as at the multilateral level. As each country needs to strive to establish a comprehensive management approach, international organisations should also do so. This is the only way to truly address the challenges of sustainable development in a comprehensive way. Within the European Union, Slovenia will strive to integrate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda into discussions on the future of the EU, as well as in the forthcoming multiannual financial framework following 2021.

Slovenia will implement the 2030 Agenda at the national level, through the implementation of Slovenia's Development Strategy 2030, which represents the umbrella development plan of the country, and abroad through international development cooperation and humanitarian assistance on the basis of a new resolution regarding it, and the revised International Development Cooperation Act.

The new national development strategy is also significant for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda due to clearly defined ways of achieving national development goals and hence the objectives of sustainable development:

- Policy coherence for sustainable development will be checked at the policy-making stage.
- The implementation of sustainable development objectives at the national level will be systematically monitored on an annual basis together with national development objectives.
- The development of capacities in the horizontal understanding of the national and international development context, together with strategic assumptions, will help to better adapt the implementation of individual development goals.

We are all responsible for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and all its goals. Governments cannot and should not act alone. Slovenia is aware of the importance of establishing partnerships and cooperation with external stakeholders. Thus, we will strengthen cooperation with many stakeholders in the society in the field of sustainable development on two levels:

- Through the introduction of the Slovenian Development Strategy context and a regular dialogue (horizontal aspect) in the Economic and Social Council, the Expert Council for International Development Cooperation the Slovenian network of UN Global Compact, the Government Council for Youth, working bodies of the National Assembly, the National Council, the Government Council for Cooperation with Non-Governmental Organisations, associations of local communities and other stakeholder platforms;
- Finding a systematic way through which all these stakeholders would be involved as equally as possible in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, while simultaneously avoiding creating new institutional forms and more administrative procedures.

To bring the 2030 Agenda to life, which for Slovenia means to bring to life also our own Vision 2050 and the National Development Strategy 2030, the Government is acting alone. The localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals requires strong inter-departmental coordination as well as robust dialogue with multiple stakeholders. Each stakeholder has to act responsibly in partnership with other to achieve these ambitious common goals together for ourselves and for future generations.

Seventeen bits from Slovenia



POVERTY

Good social protection system helped Slovenia reduce proportion of population living below the national poverty line by 42%



FOOD

91% of agricultural area is sustainably utilized



HEALTH

Slovenia has one of the lowest neonatal mortality rates in the world: 0.8 deaths per 1000 live births. Life expectancy for girls is 83.4 years and for boys 77.7 years



EDUCATION

44% of people in Slovenia have completed tertiary education



WOMEN

Eight out of seventeen ministers in the current Slovenian Government are women, and 36% of seats in the Slovenian National Assembly are held by women



WATER

In 2016, Slovenia amended its constitution to make access to drinkable water a fundamental right for all citizens



ENERGY

Only 7% of people in Slovenia are affected by inability to keep home adequately warm



ECONOMY

Slovenia recovered from the economic and financial crisis and returned to stable economic growth (2.5% in 2016 vs. negative growth of 7.8% in 2009)



INFRASTRUCTURE

99% of enterprises have broadband Internet access and 78% of households are connected to the Internet



INEQUALITY

Slovenia remains among the OECD countries with the lowest income inequality with a Gini coefficient at 24.5



CITIES

Ljubljana, the 2016 European Green Capital, boasts 542 square meters of public green space per capita and a 63% share of separately collected waste



SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION

With 54% of municipal waste being recycled, Slovenia ranks 3rd among EU countries



CLIMATE

With a 33% share of consumed electricity generated from renewable sources, Slovenia ranks 9th among EU countries



OCEANS

Slovenia is committed to safeguarding marine ecosystems and conserving its coastal areas



BIODIVERSITY

58% of Slovenia is covered in forests and 38% of its land area is protected for biodiversity



INSTITUTIONS

Slovenia is one of the safest countries in the world and ranks 10th in the Global Peace Index



PARTNERSHIPS

Net Official Development Aid (ODA) reached 0.18% of GNI in 2016 and is set to reach 0.33% by 2030



Seven stories from Slovenia

While there is still a lot to be done, Slovenia has already created several success stories in achieving Sustainable Development Goals.





Right to Water in the Constitution

In 2016, Slovenia declared [the right to water a fundamental human right](#) by including it the constitution. The newly introduced article stipulates that everyone has the right to drinking water, that water resources are a public good managed by the state, that they preferentially and sustainably serve to supply the population with drinking and household water, and that in this regard they are not tradable goods.





Open Education in Slovenia

Almost a decade ago the Jožef Stefan Institute in Ljubljana started adopting the practices of Open Science and Open Access and broke new ground in bringing closer state-of-the-art research and education to everyone, everywhere. As a result, the website [VideoLectures.Net](https://www.videolectures.net), which currently has some 20,000 video lectures by 15,000 authors, was created. UNESCO recognised it as one of the most outstanding examples of creative and innovative e-Content in the world in the last decade, and the institute has successfully established a UNESCO Chair on Open Technologies for Open Educational Resources and Open Learning. In September 2017, Slovenia and UNESCO are organising the [2nd World Open Educational Resources Congress](#), which will focus on the role that Open Educational Resources must play in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



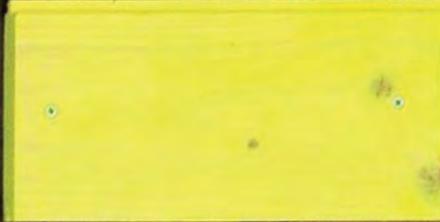




World Bee Day

The Republic of Slovenia proposed to the international community that a World Bee Day be celebrated. The initiative for declaring 20 May as [World Bee Day](#) at the United Nations aims to raise global awareness of the importance of bees and bee products. With this special day, we want to draw attention every year to the importance of preserving bees and to remind people that we rely heavily on them and other pollinators, particularly in terms of global food security. The proposal has already been widely recognised and endorsed by the FAO.







Partnership for Change

[Partnership for Change](#) is a programme involving innovative collaboration between Slovenia's public administration and private sector, who work together by temporarily exchanging employees, sharing best practices, and solving real challenges. Employees in the public administration and the private sector can together remove barriers, break down stereotypes, and create positive stories. The main goal of the programme is to increase understanding and trust between the two sectors. As part of this partnership, a mentoring programme has been established. The role of mentors is also assumed by government ministers as well as the Prime Minister, which demonstrates their willingness to lead by example.

Enhancing Human Security

The [ITF Enhancing Human Security](#) is a humanitarian non-profit organisation. Its mission is to enhance safety and to enable the recovery and development of conflict-affected countries by addressing the immediate and long-term impact of mine/ERW and other hazards following armed violence. Since its establishment, the ITF has raised over USD 415 million and completed more than 3,100 projects. Over 135.9 million square metres of land has been cleared in South-East Europe through the ITF, over 2.1 million square metres in the South Caucasus and over 1.3 million square metres in Lebanon. The ITF has found and destroyed 90,824 mines and other unexploded ordnance in the region of South-East Europe and 1,037 in Lebanon. A total of 1,277 mine survivors have been rehabilitated through the ITF. Over 440,000 schoolchildren and adults living in mine-polluted areas have received mine-risk education directly and over 610,000 family members indirectly. Over 1,100 individuals have been trained in the field of Mine Action (and two countries (Macedonia and Albania) have achieved mine-free status in accordance with Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention.





E-Driving Innovative Solutions and Networking – EDISON

EDISON is a holistic partnership concept, consisting of separate projects aimed at the development, testing and demonstration of green mobility technologies and their transfer to the market. Its projects will contribute to an improvement of the general awareness of the meaning of green mobility, advanced electrification, and infrastructure implementation, which brings green mobility closer to, possible for and friendly to each individual. Slovenia has the potential to become the reference laboratory of green mobility and the leading country in demonstrating and transferring green technologies onto the market.



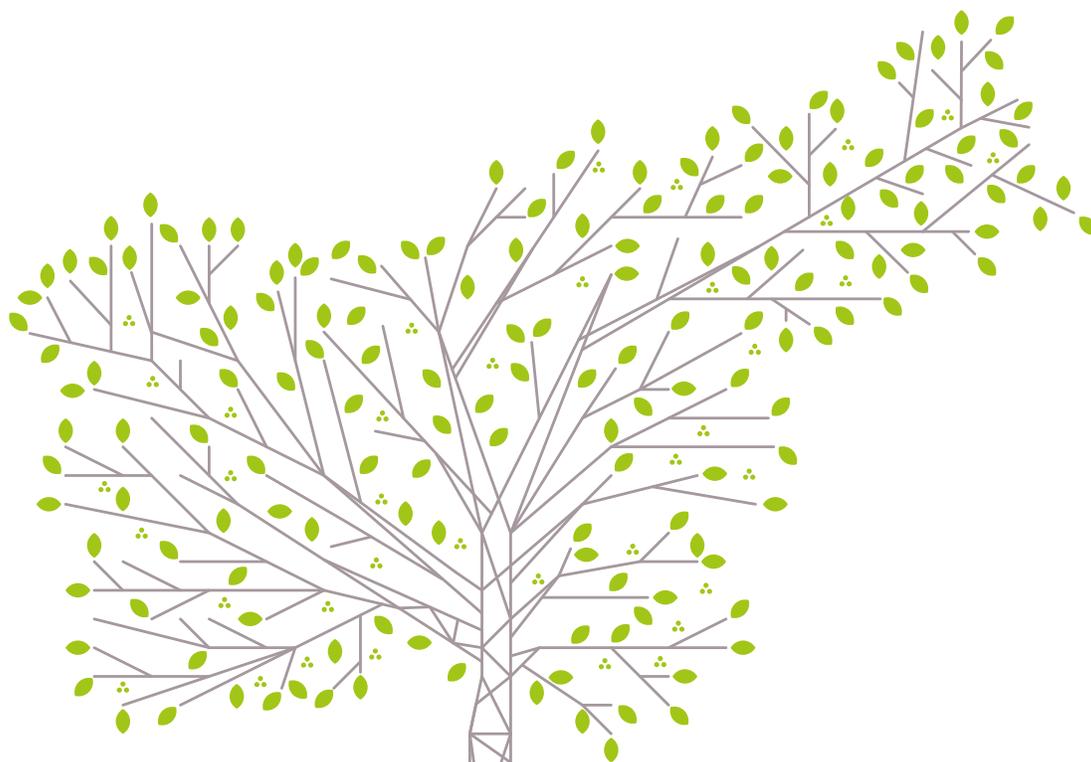


Photo: Municipality of Slovenske Konjice



Green Tourism

Slovenia has a strong commitment to sustainable tourism. Our devotion to green and sustainable tourism, together with appropriate policies and actions secure Slovenia's prominent position among the most environmentally rich and biodiverse destinations in Europe. Earlier this year, Slovenia won the National Geographic World Legacy Award in the Destination Leadership category. This award is given to places that demonstrate environmental best practices, protection of cultural and natural heritage, benefits to local communities, and educating travellers. National Geographic wrote: As the United Nations heralds 2017 as the [International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development](#), one place rises above the rest: Slovenia.



VISION OF SLOVENIA



LEARNING FOR
AND THROUGH
LIFE



QUALITY OF LIFE



INNOVATIVE
SOCIETY



TRUST



IDENTITY

Steps towards the vision

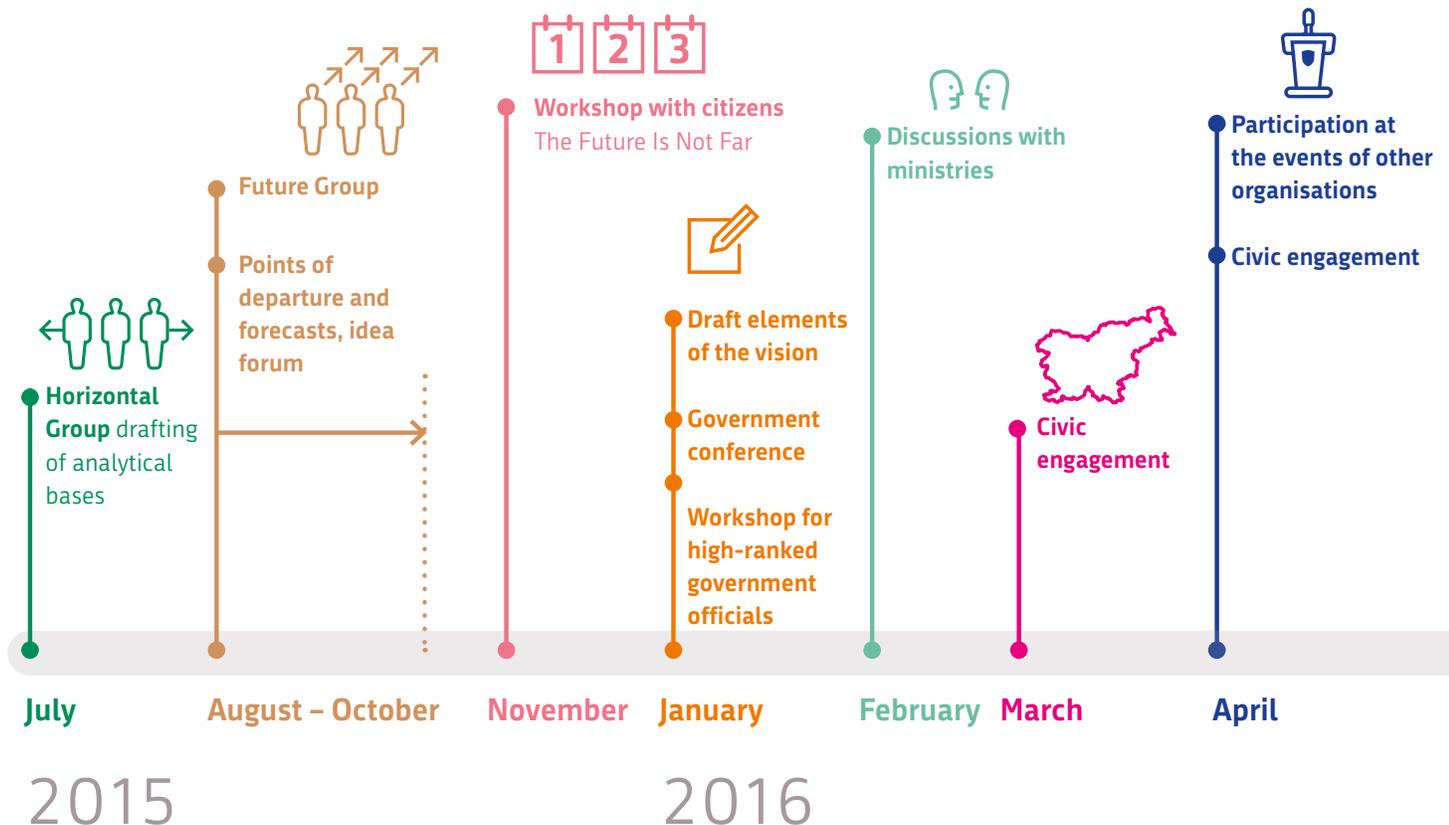
We organised a series of interactive events throughout 2016, at which we discussed the kind of future we want for ourselves, examined the first draft of the vision, identified potential gaps in the text and sought elements for improvements.

27
events

100
hours of
discussions on the
future of Slovenia

611
individuals
involved in
discussions

1,010
individuals' views
on their quality of
life

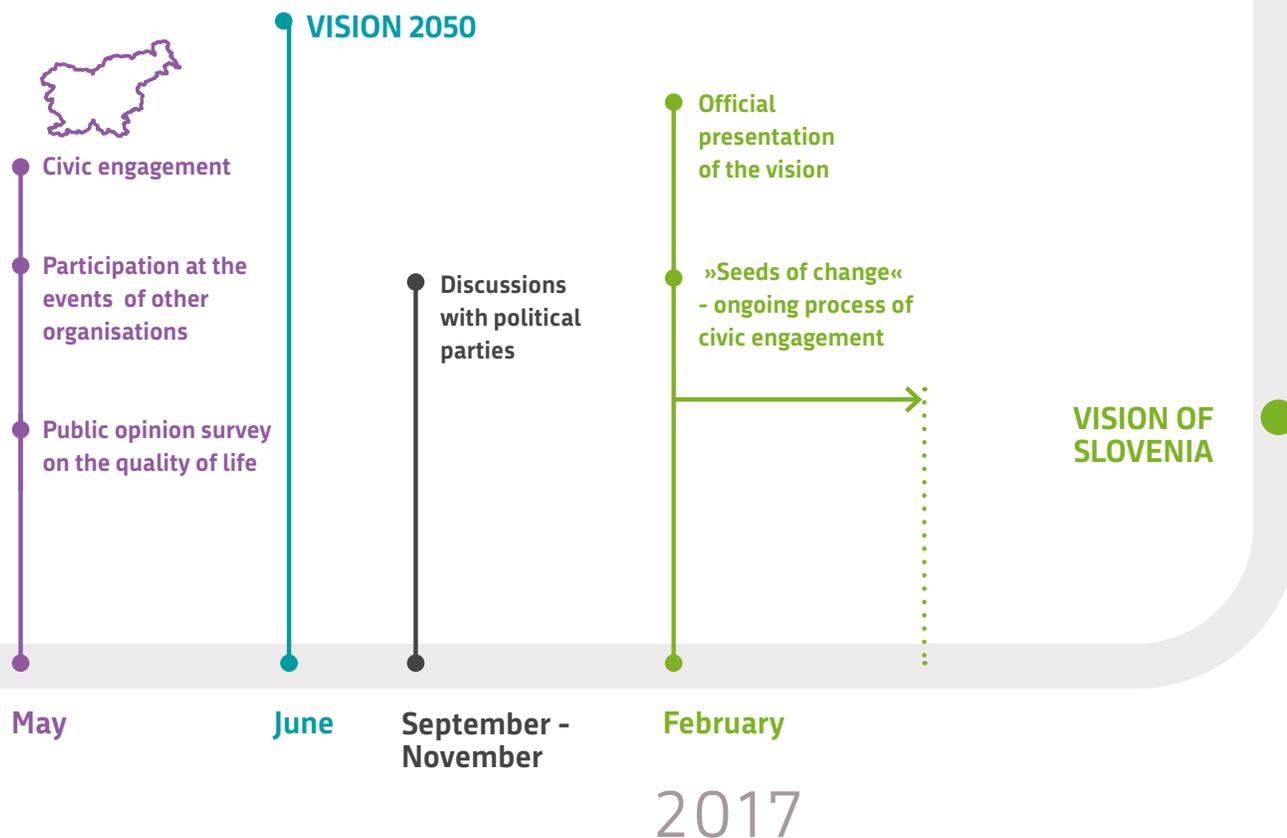


What is a vision? It's a view of the future that we as a society want to become. A strong and clear vision is necessary in a world where global trends affect everyone.

The population in Slovenia as well as around the world is ageing, which means that a diminishing workforce is supporting an increasing number of seniors. Regional instability and risks from climate change are emerging global trends. Technological disruption and rising inequality are immense challenges our society is already facing today. Since the beginning of the financial crisis, we have been especially affected by the slowdown in economic growth.

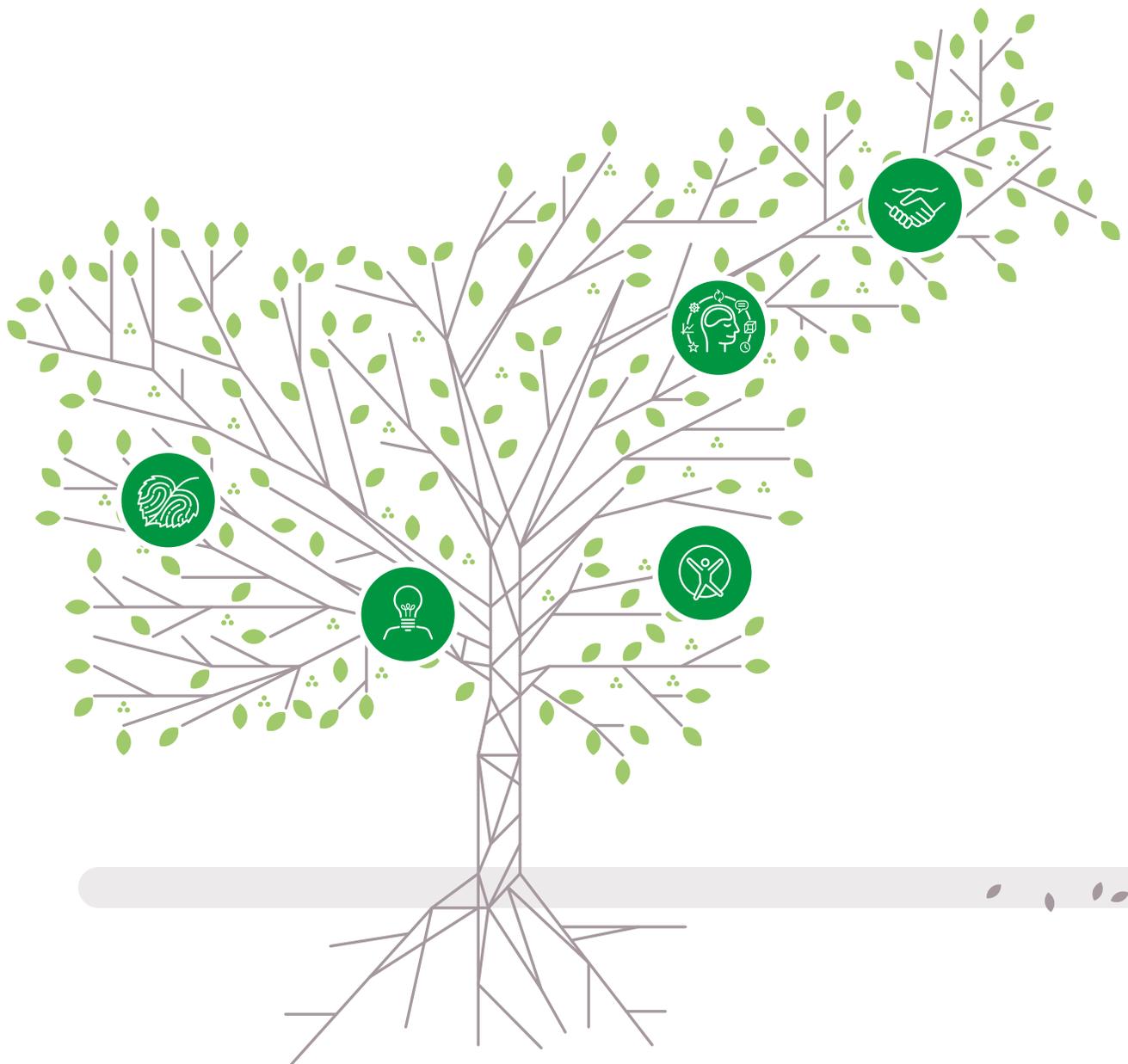
Now more than ever, wise choices are necessary in order to take advantage of the opportunities offered by a globally connected, multipolar world, where added value is shifting from manufacturing to services. All of these are significant global trends, but they alone do not determine our future: What really counts are people, our decisions, and our actions, guided by our common vision.

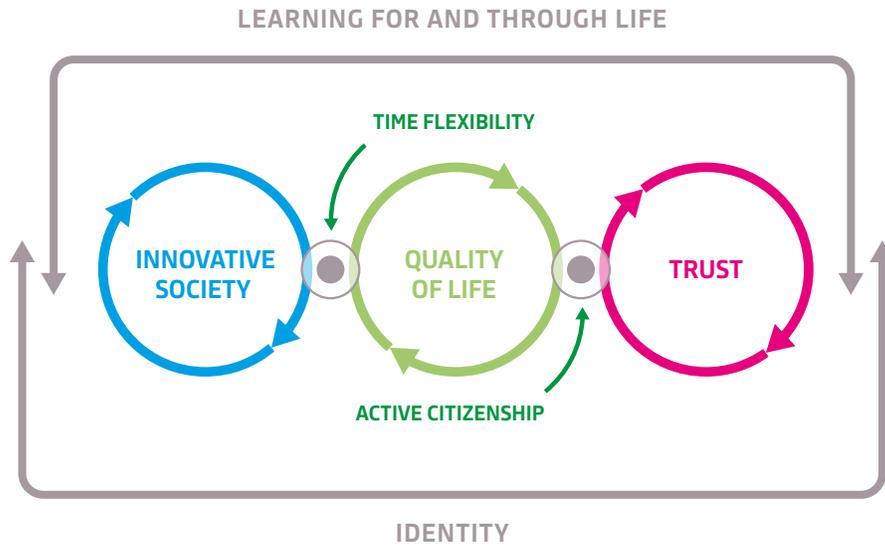
A good vision considers everybody and benefits the greatest number of people and society as a whole. That's how the vision of Slovenia was created – with the input of different people from all parts of the country.



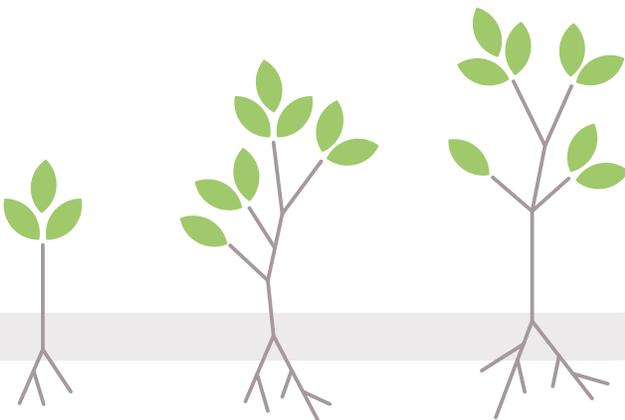
Seeds of change

The vision is like a tree, full of fruit hidden in its crown, which represent the five main elements of the vision. When fruit ripens it transforms into seeds that fall from the tree and sprout into new shoots if they fall on fertile soil. We are planting these small seeds so that they will someday grow into new trees, into a new and better future! The seeds represent the ideas and actions of all of us: actions and commitments to improve our trust in fellow people and institutions that are established to serve the public good. A better future can sprout from even the smallest commitment, change or action by any one of us.





If we want to understand how the elements of our vision fit together, this is the way we can imagine our future: The quality of life in Slovenia strongly depends on developing a high degree of trust and social innovations. This is possible in a society driven by learning for and through life and our Slovenian identity, with its distinctive language and culture.





What did our fellow residents say?

We asked Slovenes about our country. The most frequently mentioned words are presented in the diagram. The larger the words, the more frequently they were mentioned. Highlighted and circled words were frequently used together. Colour indicates which words were tied to one another. The size of circles indicates the frequency of references.

In harmony with our environment and our era, we have achieved a balanced, high-quality standard of living. By learning throughout our lives, we are well-equipped to take on the biggest challenges. We are innovative and translate ideas into actions. We create positive relationships based on trust and are building a society of solidarity and tolerance. With confidence, we open Slovenia to partners willing to cooperate. We are proud that our cultural uniqueness makes a difference around the world.



In the Slovenia of 2050, we create new success stories. As active citizens and critical thinkers, we contribute to the shaping of society. With its unique development model, Slovenia is just the right size to foster flourishing innovation. By **learning for and through life**, we gain new knowledge and skills and increase our resilience to face new challenges.



Creative individuals are at ease in the nexus of the institutional, social, and technological innovations of our **innovative society**. These innovations help us find solutions for pressing social challenges, such as the rapidly ageing population, inequality, and poverty. The relaxed and understanding living environment attracts successful individuals and enterprises to Slovenia. Their attention is first caught by excellent products and services, and then by high-quality scientific research and creative solutions.



The vital generation of 2050 has left behind the divisions of the past. Today, mutual **trust** is of much greater importance and value. We also have trust in transparent and responsible public institutions. People respect their accessibility and user-friendliness, but first and foremost, their smooth and swift procedures. Excellently supported by an efficient legal system, we waste no time and energy in unproductive disputes. Rules are rules – they apply equally to all. We responsibly honour all intergenerational commitments. We respect the values of solidarity, security, tolerance, cooperation, and peace.



In 2050, Slovenians are a happy people. Our everyday life validates the global prosperity rankings that put Slovenia in a top position. We have a high **quality of life**: we live better, healthier, and longer. Societal and environmental responsibility matter. We respect nature and manage natural resources in a sensible manner. Digital excellence and the circular economy drive our economic development and create new employment opportunities. We have made it – because we are bold, enterprising, and responsible. We highly value our time and devote it to things that bring joy to our lives.



The greatest wealth of this country is its people. Ours is an inclusive and dynamic society. Our **identity** and culture foster cooperation in creating synergies and facing challenges. The Slovene language is a precious asset, and our unique culture is a great inspiration. Through determination, we have risen to prominence in global affairs. Owing to our geographic situation, connections and infrastructure, we are part of a broader international context. In it, we assert ourselves with confidence, adaptability, and perseverance. In exchanges with their homeland, Slovenians living abroad add value to our global network. Slovenia's voice, reputation, and visibility reach far beyond its borders.



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