

## Slovenia

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### Policy approach

The priority areas of bilateral development cooperation are listed in the Agreement on development cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Hercegovina.

The Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia until 2030 defines in more detail the goals and principles, geographic and thematic focus of future Slovenian development cooperation, humanitarian aid, strategic orientation towards international organisations, institutional set-up for effective development cooperation, partnerships, awareness-raising and plans for results-management. It confirms sustained efforts and continued presence of Slovenia in the Western Balkan countries in the near future. It further specifies the main areas of activity and forms of cooperation.

#### Areas of activity:

- good governance: support for the EU accession process in the countries of the region, i.e. adjusting the standards and legislation to the European *acquis*, strengthening administrative capacity and institution building and assistance in the EU negotiations; development of good governance, the rule of law and civil society; support for the development of democracy, the exercise of human rights, women's empowerment and gender equality;
- economic growth, productive employment and decent jobs for all: efforts focusing on the eradication of poverty, promotion of social progress and economic development, support for the establishment of institutional conditions for equal development, encouraging entrepreneurship among young people and fostering a favourable environment for the development of MSMEs;
- support for the transition to a circular economy, the effective management of natural resources, including access to drinking water and waste management, and the fight against climate change;
- implementation of the initiative Positive Agenda for Youth in the Western Balkans and other projects aimed at young people: enhancing the prospects of young people in the Western Balkan countries, and ensuring alternative options and possibilities for activities, success, employment and life in the countries of the region; the acquisition of relevant education, knowledge and experience, fostering mutual ties and conciliation.

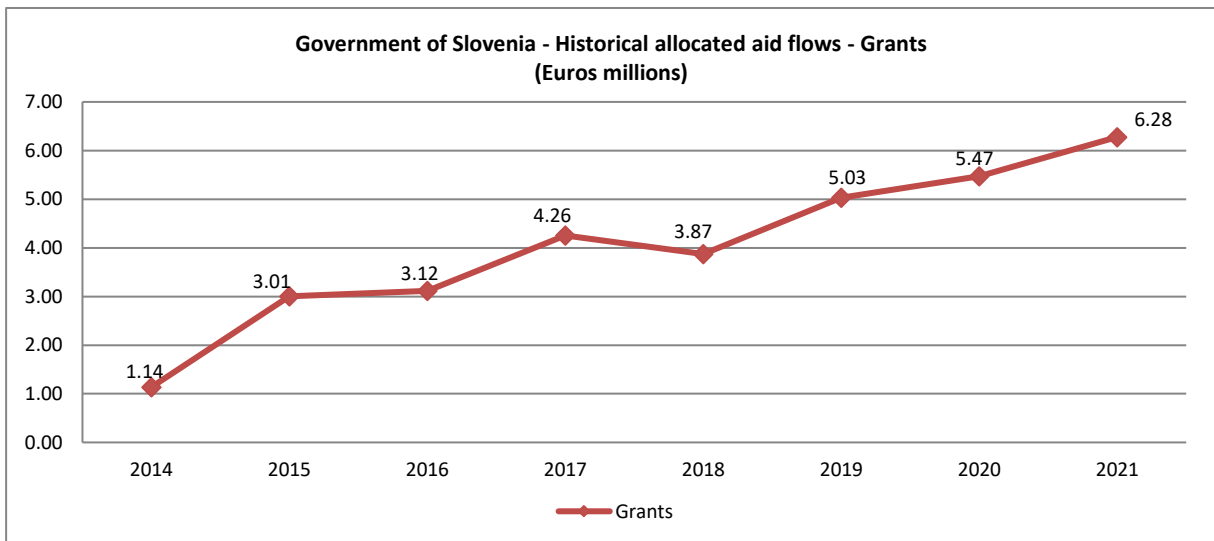
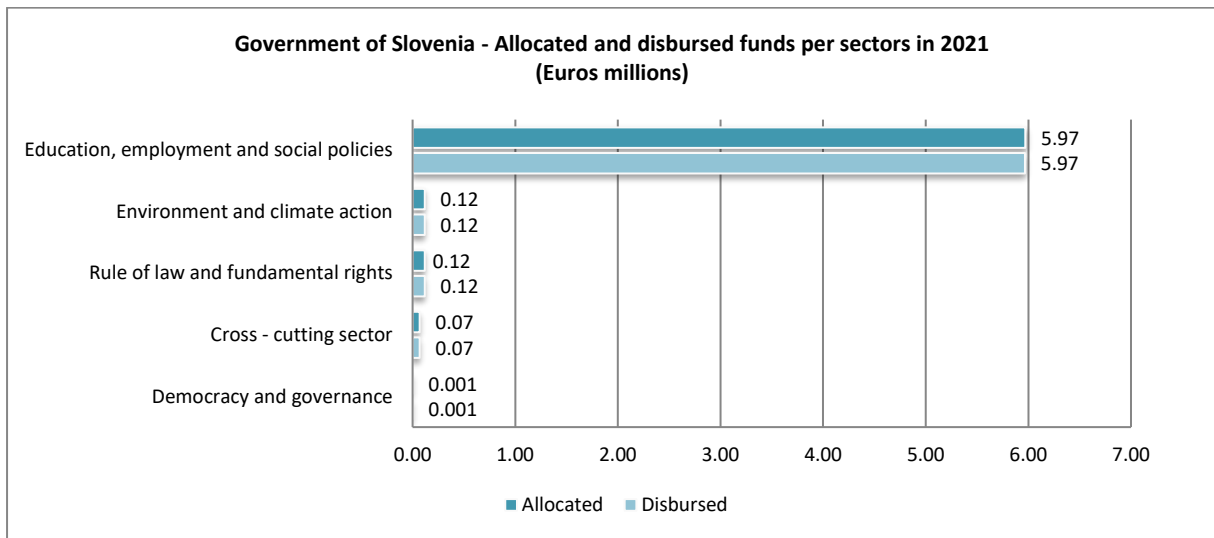
#### Forms of cooperation and implementing partners:

- technical assistance provided either directly between state authorities or through Centre for European Perspective and Center of Excellence in Finance or other implementing partners; attention is devoted to attracting new stakeholders from the public and private sectors;
- building public infrastructure to improve the conditions for development, ensure prosperity for all population groups and promote environmental protection through Centre for International Cooperation and Development;
- tuition fee waivers and scholarships for secondary and vocational education, graduate and post-graduate studies, thereby contributing to higher levels of education of young people in

- partner countries and improved employability, as well as to the sustainable development of partner countries;
- enhancing civil society with NGO projects, especially in women’s empowerment, strengthened prospects for young people in the region and the raising of awareness of users of new public infrastructure.

**Key activities in 2021**

The Government of Slovenia **allocated € 6.28 million and disbursed € 6.27 million in 2021 in the form of grant<sup>1</sup>** to the following sectors: Education, employment and social policies, Environment and climate action, Rule of law and fundamental rights, Cross - cutting sector and Democracy and governance.



<sup>1</sup> Financial data are based on Slovenian entries/updates in the DMD Database in 2022. Submitted data are preliminary data.

### Medium and long-term approach

In the medium term, Slovenia will continue to offer its support to Bosnia and Herzegovina in more or less the same sectors as in the previous period, where Slovenia has a comparative advantage. Based on updated legal and strategic documents on development cooperation, Slovenia will focus on strengthening the rule of law and good governance, particularly in the context of EU integration, employment and decent work agenda, especially for women, and on environmental protection, with an emphasis on sustainable water management, as well as on mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Slovenia will also support projects fostering respect of human rights with an emphasis on women empowerment and on strengthening of the role of young people in the society (teacher-training programmes to work with children with special needs, school and peer mediation, promotion of entrepreneurship among young people and their regional cooperation). Slovenia will also continue to support projects in the field of mine action. In line with the effectiveness principle of ownership, we remain open to receive proposals for cooperation from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In line with the Protocol between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on Cooperation in the Field of Education (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia – International Agreements, No. 6/14), and the rising interest of students from Bosnia and Herzegovina to study in Slovenia, this field will foreseeably continue to play an important part of the development cooperation.

### Development partners coordination efforts

Slovenia participates in meetings of development partners in different formats. Slovenia does not participate in sector working groups but has bilateral contacts with other donor agencies where necessary.

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