

Enabling Social Innovation in Slovenia



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Country Snapshot

Social innovation: "the processes and outcomes of developing novel approaches to address societal challenges facing people and planet." ¹

This snapshot represents a descriptive, non-exhaustive overview of key highlights from Slovenia's social innovation ecosystem.

✓ Direct focus on social innovation 🔗 Connected but indirect focus on social innovation ✗ No focus on social innovation

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK



Official Definition of Social Innovation 🔗

In Slovenia's Sustainable Smart Specialisation Strategy (S5), social innovations ("družbene inovacije") are framed as products, services or models that create social value and sustainable impact while considering economic and environmental constraints. ²



Government Body for Social Innovation ✓

Social innovation-relevant governance is anchored in the social economy:

- The Council for Social Economy (Svet za socialno ekonomijo), established by government decree (2019), serves as an expert and consultative body coordinating social economy policy. ³
- It prepares strategy proposals, reviews programmes, and monitors implementation. ³



Government Strategy for Social Innovation ✓

Relevant strategic elements appear in:

- S5 (smart specialisation), which includes incentives for social innovations linked to societal challenges. ²
- The Strategy for the Development of the Social Economy 2025–2035 and the Programme of Measures 2026–2030. ^{4,5}



Policies, Laws & Regulations ✓

Key enabling frameworks are primarily within the social economy:

- Social Entrepreneurship Act (ZSocP), defining social enterprise status and governance rules. ⁶
- Supporting tools include public asset access, reserved procurement, tax allocation mechanisms, and loan access via SID banka. ⁷
- The 2025–2035 strategy is formalised via Official Gazette decree. ⁴



Official statistics 🔗

Slovenia maintains administrative datasets supporting ecosystem visibility:

- Register of Social Enterprises (open data portal). ⁸
- ENO register of NGOs in public interest (AJ PES). ⁹
- Social enterprises submit annual reports including dedicated sections. ⁷



Government Programs

Public programmes combine strategic implementation and targeted calls:

- Programme of Measures 2026–2030 (€28.4M; 14 measures).⁵
- Targeted calls include: €1.5M (2023–2024), €400K (2024–2025), and €900K ESF+ advocacy support (2025–2029).^{10,11,12}
- Public support includes development of social impact measurement models.⁷

ECOSYSTEM



Stakeholders

- The Council for Social Economy enables cross-sector coordination.³
- The EU Social Economy Gateway maps support actors (e.g. BODI SOC, sPOINT, SPOT, SPIRIT).¹³



Support initiatives

- Mix of formal and informal training and support; many depend on project-based funding.¹³
- Regional initiatives provide outreach, training, and networking.¹³



Collaboration

- OECD collaboration has supported ecosystem reviews and action planning.⁷
- Programme of Measures 2026–2030 includes monitoring and reporting mechanisms.⁵

FINANCE



Financing Schemes

- Grants: €1.5M (2023–2024) and €400K (2024–2025).^{10,11}
- ESF+ ecosystem funding: €900K (2025–2029).¹²
- Fiscal incentives: up to 1% income tax allocation to eligible organisations.⁷
- Loans: micro-loans (€5K–€25K) and larger loans (up to €10M) via SID banka.⁷
- Private finance: EU mapping highlights impact investors such as FUND2740.¹³



Inclusiveness of Financing

- Focus on vulnerable groups and job creation.⁷
- Place-based targeting (e.g. border regions).¹¹

SOCIETY



Public Awareness of social innovation

Public visibility is mainly through social economy and entrepreneurship frameworks, with increased emphasis in recent policy programmes.^{5,7}



Research ✓ 🔗

- Government-supported work includes development of social impact measurement models.⁷
- CEPS (University of Ljubljana) provides a research anchor linked to social innovation.¹⁴



Education & Human Capital ✓ 🔗

- No dedicated degree programmes; relevant content is embedded in broader curricula.¹³



Entrepreneurship



EIU Business Environment Ranking



Innovation Capacity

Slovenia ranks 35th globally in the Global Innovation Index 2025.¹⁵

Global Innovation Index 2025



Social entrepreneurship prevalence



Social & Environmental Consciousness



Solidarity



Political participation



Volunteering



Sustainability

Renewable energy target (25%) achieved via statistical transfer mechanism (2024).¹⁶