

Reinforcing Strategic Planning in Slovenia for Balanced Regional Development and a Just Transition

August 2024 to January 2026

About the Project

Strategic planning for regional development provides direction to all levels of government and relevant stakeholders on the actions to be taken and the allocation of resources to achieve specific territorial objectives. In this context, it is essential to support individual regions in addressing their unique challenges, taking a place-based approach. The transition of regions highly dependent on fossil fuel-based industries is a challenge for many countries, including Slovenia. Slovenia is preparing a new long-term national regional development strategy until 2042. To support this process,

the Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development (MCRD) is working with the OECD on an 18-month project funded by the European Commission to assist in the strategy's practical preparation and to strengthen the multi-level governance framework that supports its design and implementation. The project will also support the regions of Savinjsko-Šaleška and Zasavska in their transition away from coal mining, coal-fired electricity generation and related industries. The OECD will work with the regions as they prepare regional plans to guide their economic transition, focusing on the Just Transition 2028-2034.

Project Components

Diagnostic Report

This report takes stock of Slovenia's multi-level governance system, which supports the government in achieving its regional development objectives and identifies current gaps and possible adjustments.

Capacity Building Workshops

These multi-stakeholder workshops are designed to build skills, knowledge and expertise that can help Slovenia advance in its regional development and Just Transition objectives at all levels of government, while providing opportunities for dialogue and exchange.

Report and Action Plan to Support a National Regional Development Strategy

This report and action plan will help all levels of government prepare for and contribute to the national regional development strategy. It will highlight how national and subnational governments can work together and with external stakeholders to achieve development objectives in a sustainable and effective manner.

Report and Action Plan for Savinjsko-Šaleška and Zasavska

This report and action plan will offer concrete steps to address the main development challenges and capture opportunities in the Savinjsko-Šaleška and Zasavska coal regions as they develop their 2028-2034 Just Transition plans and provide analysis of international good practice from other coal regions in transition.

What do we expect to achieve?

- Improve understanding of the major regional development challenges affecting Slovenia at all territorial levels
- Support the preparation of a national Regional Development Strategy to enable its adoption in 2026
- Support the drafting of new regional plans 2028-2034 for the Just Transition of the Savinjsko-Šaleška and Zasavska regions
- Build new and strengthen existing partnerships among regional development stakeholders
- Improve horizontal and vertical coordination for regional development planning and prioritisation
- Develop new strategic planning skills and capacities in the Slovenian public sector
- Foster a culture of openness, collaboration and data sharing to support effective policy and decision-making

About the MCRD

The Ministry of Cohesion and Regional Development (MCRD) is responsible for the implementation of the European cohesion policy and regional development. It handles the absorption of funding provided by the European Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund, as defined by the applicable legislation of the European Union.

About the OECD

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives. Together with governments, policy makers and citizens, the OECD provides a unique forum and knowledge hub for data and analysis, exchange of experiences, good-practice sharing, and advice on public policies and international standard-setting.

About CFE

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE) provides comparative statistics, analysis and capacity building for local and national actors to work together to unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises, promote inclusive and sustainable regions and cities, boost local job creation, and support sound tourism policies.

Contacts

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