

DIRECTORATE FOR MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Department for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance



November 2022

**Development cooperation of the Republic of Slovenia**

Slovenia has been an official development assistance (ODA) provider since 2004, when it joined the EU and graduated from the World Bank. Since 2013, Slovenia has been a member of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD DAC). The legal bases for Slovenia’s development cooperation are the **Act****[[1]](#footnote-1)** on development cooperation and humanitarian aid of the Republic of Slovenia of 2018 with the implementing **Decree****[[2]](#footnote-2)** of November 2018 and the **Resolution** on development cooperation and humanitarian assistance of the Republic of Slovenia of September 2017 and the **Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Strategy****[[3]](#footnote-3)** of the Republic of Slovenia until 2030 of December 2018. The Strategy specifies in more detail the objectives and strategic orientations of development cooperation and humanitarian aid, and defines concrete measures for coordinated and effective implementation. A draft action plan on a gradual increase of the GNI share has been drawn up.

**I. Slovenia’s international commitments**

In May 2015, during the preparations for the adoption of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development****[[4]](#footnote-4)**,EU Member States adopted the Council conclusions on a New Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development after 2015 reaffirming the EU's collective commitment to achieve the 0.7% ODA/GNI target within the time frame of the post-2015 agenda. Member States, which joined the EU before 2002, reaffirmed their commitment to achieving the 0.7% ODA/GNI target, and those, which have achieved it, committed themselves to remaining at or exceeding the target; Member States, which joined the EU after 2002, committed **to striving to increase their ODA/GNI to 0.33% within the same time frame**. These commitments are also laid down in the **New European Consensus on Development****[[5]](#footnote-5)**. In its Resolution on development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, Slovenia foresaw the drawing up of an action plan to achieve a gradual increase in the ODA/GNI ratio.

Chart 1: ODA of the Republic of Slovenia in million EUR and as a GNI percentage



**II. Official development assistance (ODA) – general**

The objectives of Slovenia’s development cooperation are to contribute to the eradication of poverty and reduction of inequality and to foster sustainable development in partner countries. ODA is a key ingredient of development cooperation. **Multilateral ODA** accounts for the largest share of Slovenia’s ODA, approximately two thirds of the total ODA in the period between 2012 and 2021. Bilateral ODA accounts for approximately one third of Slovenia’s total ODA. The largest recipients of Slovenia’s **bilateral ODA** between 2011 and 2021 were the Western Balkans countries.

Chart 2: Largest recipients of Slovenia’s bilateral ODA between 2012 and 2021



An important share of bilateral technical assistance in particular is implemented directly by ministries and their affiliated bodies, and also by other direct and indirect budget users. The largest share of bilateral development aid comes in the form of imputed student costs, and it is implemented by universities and higher education institutions in Slovenia. Slovenia’s key partners in the implementation of development cooperation are **ITF Enhancing Human Security****[[6]](#footnote-6)**, **Centre for International Cooperation and Development****[[7]](#footnote-7)**, **Centre for European Perspective****[[8]](#footnote-8)**, **Center of Excellence in Finance****[[9]](#footnote-9)**, Slovenian NGOs, which have an important role particularly in places where Slovenia lacks a diplomatic and consular network, and international organisations with their special development and humanitarian programmes to which Slovenia makes earmarked contributions.

**III. Slovenia’s ODA in 2021[[10]](#footnote-10)**

In 2021, Slovenia allocated EUR 98.25 million or 0.19% of its GNI to ODA.

Chart 3: Breakdown of Slovenia's ODA in 2021 by main categories



**Multilateral development aid** mostly consists of contributions to the EU budget to be spent on development cooperation of the EU, contributions to the extra-budgetary European Development Fund (EDF), contributions and payments for capital increases to World Bank Group institutions and to the UN, including its agencies and funds. Other contributions include payments into the Center of Excellence in Finance’s budget, a part of the Council of Europe and OSCE membership fees, contribution to the Montreal Protocol, etc.

Chart 4: Breakdown of Slovenia's multilateral aid in 2021 by recipients



**Bilateral development aid** is the most consistent with the geographical and thematic priorities set out in the Resolution. The Resolution defines the following **thematic priorities** for development aid in a narrow sense:

* promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies, with particular emphasis on good governance, equal opportunities, gender equality and quality education; and
* the fight against climate change focused on sustainable management of natural and energy resources.

To ensure greater efficiency, the Strategy further narrows these thematic priorities and links them to four sustainable development goals: 8 – decent work and economic growth, 12 – circular economy, 13 – climate change and 16 – peaceful and inclusive society and good governance. Gender equality, women's empowerment and environmental protection are mainstreamed into Slovenia’s development cooperation.

Chart 5: Breakdown of bilateral development aid in a narrow sense in 2021 by thematic priorities



The Resolution determines **the thematic priorities of humanitarian aid** by area of activity:

* emergency aid is allocated independently of thematic and geographical priorities;
* aid in the aftermath of humanitarian crises (reconstruction and rehabilitation), with the following two thematic priorities:
	+ human security and protection, including mine action programmes and mine victims assistance;
	+ assistance in the aftermath of armed conflicts, particularly to children;
* activities to reduce vulnerability to and risk of crises, preventive action and building resilience; the thematic priority of these activities is guaranteeing a stable supply of drinking water and safe, adequate and good-quality food, especially to children.

Chart 6: Breakdown of Slovenia’s humanitarian aid in 2021 by thematic priorities

****

**Slovenia’s geographical priorities** are the Western Balkans, European neighbourhood and Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly its least developed countries (LDCs). In 2021, Slovenia channelled EUR 20.04 million or 55% of its entire available bilateral aid to the Western Balkan countries, the largest shares to Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia. To countries of the Sub-Saharan Africa it channelled EUR 7.36 million or 20% of the available bilateral aid, a huge increase from 2020, and to the countries in the European neighbourhood EUR 3.26 million or 9%, a significant increase as well.

Chart 7: Breakdown of available bilateral development aid in 2021 by regions



The largest share of bilateral development aid comes in the form of imputed student costs; in 2021, together with scholarships, these accounted for 39%. The second largest modality in 2021 are the project-type interventions, which accounted for 36%; a significant growth from 2020 is mostly due to vaccine donations to ODA recipient countries. All other categories accounted for less than 10% each in 2021.

Chart 8: Breakdown of bilateral development aid in 2021 by cooperation modalities



Of all line ministries, the Ministry of Finance provides the largest share of funds (49%) via its contributions to the EU budget, IDA, Centre for International Cooperation and Development and a contribution to the core budget of the Center of Excellence in Finance. The second largest contributor is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (17%) with its development cooperation activities (ITF, Centre for European Perspective, NGOs, etc.), its contribution to the European Development Fund, humanitarian assistance, awareness raising and contributions to international organisations, which in whole or in part are ODA-eligible. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport is in third position (15%).

Taking into consideration only the available bilateral development aid, the largest share (41%) has been contributed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport in the form of imputed student costs in accordance with the protocols in force concluded with the competent institutions of Montenegro, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo. The next largest contributor in 2021 is the Ministry of Health (27%) due to vaccine and drugs donations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs follows (13%) with a wide array of development and humanitarian activities carried out by its implementing partners, while the remaining providers contribute less than 5% of the available bilateral development aid each.

1. www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MZZ/Dokumenti/multilaterala/razvojno-sodelovanje/ZMRSHP\_EN-final.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MZZ/Dokumenti/multilaterala/razvojno-sodelovanje/Uredba\_MRS\_EN-final.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MZZ/Dokumenti/multilaterala/razvojno-sodelovanje/Development-Cooperation-and-Humanitarian-Aid-Strategy-of-the-Republic-of-Slovenia.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/ [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. www.consilium.europa.eu/media/24004/european-consensus-on-development-2-june-2017-clean\_final.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. www.itf.si/about-us/itf-in-a-nutshell [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. www.cmsr.si/en/centre-for-international-cooperation-and-development/ [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. www.cep.si/ [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. www.cef-see.org/ [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Until the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopts the 2021 Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Report, the data are considered provisional. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)