



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY!

**Statement by the Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the UN, OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna, at the Joint Meeting of the three Permanent Council Committees on combatting corruption and strengthening good governance
Vienna, 9 July 2021**

We would like to thank the Swedish Chairpersonship for convening this Joint Committee Meeting on multi-dimensional perspectives of corruption and the panellists for their valuable contribution to the discussion.

We live in challenging times and constant changes of modalities of corruption and related forms of crime demand an innovative approach using digitalisation tools, online registers, public procurement portals and open data. I am pleased to inform you that all these concepts have already been successfully brought into practice in Slovenia.

If the public can effectively access the information and documents produced by the public sector this is essential for gaining trust. In Slovenia, the right of access to public information is enshrined in the Constitution and a pro-transparent law positions the Information Commissioner as an independent and autonomous state body whose decisions are fully binding upon the public institutions.

However, we believe, it is not enough to just have a right to apply for information, what is important is also proactive transparency and the best way to provide it is via web portals.

An online application called Erar, that is run by the Commission for Prevention of Corruption of the Republic of Slovenia, provides the public with a free-of-charge and user-friendly access to information on financial transactions of all public bodies. The application increases the level of responsibility of public office holders for effective and efficient use of public finance, decreases risks for illicit management of funds and limits systemic corruption.

Another field where high transparency has been extremely important is public procurement. A web application called Statist provides a comprehensive and updated publication of data on public procurement contracts awarded from 2013 with user-friendly visualization.

The Slovenian Open Data Portal serves as a single point for publishing open data for the entire public sector, including government documents and data of the National Statistical Office. The data is to a large extent accessible in a machine-readable format that enables researchers, journalists, and entrepreneurs to produce analyses, applications and visualizations.

Recognising the importance of digitalization and technical innovation in the fight against corruption we believe it is crucial that also the staff of supervisory institutions that has a mandate in fighting corruption, is provided with the necessary training to be able to detect and investigate corruption through the use of information technology and online resources.

Finally, we support the inclusion of civil society in anti-corruption programs. Dealing with corruption is always a joint effort, and civil society can provide valuable insight and help combat corruption in a comprehensive manner.

Thank you.