SLOVENIA

SMALL STATE
INFLUENCE IN EUROPEAN UNION
AND IN THE WORLD

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CAPITAL CITY - LJUBLJANA
**GENERAL DATA**

- **Size**: 20,273 km²
- **Population**: 2,056,262 (January 2012)
- **Neighboring states**: Austria, Italy, Hungary, Croatia
- **Capital city**: Ljubljana, 265,000 inhabitants
- **Currency**: euro (EUR), since 1 January 2007
- **Administrative division**: 58 state administrative units, 211 municipalities.
- **Official language**: Slovene; also Hungarian and Italian in their respective ethnically mixed areas near both borders.
- **Universities**: three public (University of Ljubljana, University of Maribor, University of Primorska) and one private (Technical University of Nova Gorica)

- **Membership of international organizations**: Slovenia has been a member of the European Union since 1 May 2004 and a member of NATO since 7 April 2004. It is also a member of many other international organizations.

- **Climate**: There are three different types of climate in Slovenia: continental in the central part, Alpine in the north-west and sub-Mediterranean along the coast and its hinterland.
- **Length of coastline**: 46.6 km
- **Highest peak**: Triglav, 2,864 m
Population

- 1st July 2012: population count 2,056,262.

- **National minorities:** Italians and Hungarians; also Roma community (6,448) has special status and rights.

- **Other ethnic groups in Slovenia are:** Serbs, Croats, Bosnians, Albanians, Macedonians and Montenegrins.

- Slovene people emigrated in particular to both Americas (the USA, Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Venezuela etc) and to Australia, mostly during the end of 19th century and after 2nd WW

- Approximately 50 per cent of the people reside in urban areas and 30 per cent in towns with more than 10,000 inhabitants, whilst the rest live in nearly 6,000 smaller towns and villages.
Religion and language

- As a democratic country, Slovenia guarantees the right to **freedom of religion (2009)**:
  - 57.8% Catholics
  - 2.4% Muslims
  - 2.3% Orthodox
  - 0.9% Protestant
  - 3.5% people of faith who belong to no religion
  - 10.1% atheists
  - didn’t wish to declare for 22.9%.

- Official language is Slovene.

- In nationally-mixed regions Italian and Hungarian are also spoken.

- Slovene has many dialects, with different grades of mutual intelligibility. Linguists generally agree that there are about 48 dialects.
Economy

GDP- composition by sector (2009)

- **agriculture**: 2.2 % (*Products*--wheat, corn, poultry, beef, pork, milk, potatoes, fruits, wine).
- **industry**: 35 % (*Types*--electrical equipment, chemical products, textiles, food products, electricity, metal products, wood products, transportation equipment)
- **services**: 62.8 % (*Types*--retail, transportation, communications, real estate and other business activities).

GDP per capita (nominal):
22.461 USD (2012 est)

GDP real growth rate:
7 % (2007), 3.4 % (2008), -7.8 % (2009), 1.2 % (2010), 0.6 % (2011), -2.3 % (2012 est).

Unemployment rate:
6.7 % (2008); 9.4 % (2009); 10.7 % (2010); 11.8 % (2011)

Public debt:
16,95 billion EUR (2011), i.e. 46.9 % of GDP (source: National Statistical Office)
### Financial crisis

#### 1. GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, quarterly data 2004(I)–2012(III)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Current prices (billion EUR)</th>
<th>Real growth in % Q/Q-4</th>
<th>Real growth in %, Q/Q-1 (seas.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>6,205</td>
<td>6,833</td>
<td>7,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>6,498</td>
<td>7,429</td>
<td>7,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>6,991</td>
<td>7,904</td>
<td>8,034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>7,836</td>
<td>8,793</td>
<td>9,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>8,612</td>
<td>9,675</td>
<td>9,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>8,358</td>
<td>9,059</td>
<td>9,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>8,201</td>
<td>9,170</td>
<td>9,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>8,453</td>
<td>8,369</td>
<td>9,382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>8,547</td>
<td>9,078</td>
<td>9,157</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
## 2. GOVERNMENT DEFICIT AND DEBT, period 2004-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Current deficit (billion EUR)</th>
<th>Current deficit (% GDP)</th>
<th>Debt (billion EUR)</th>
<th>Debt (% GDP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>-612</td>
<td>-2.3</td>
<td>7,429</td>
<td>27.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>-430</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
<td>7,683</td>
<td>26.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>-423</td>
<td>-1.4</td>
<td>8,204</td>
<td>26.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>-16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7,981</td>
<td>23.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>-702</td>
<td>-1.9</td>
<td>8,180</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>-2,127</td>
<td>-6</td>
<td>12,449</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>-2,046</td>
<td>-5.7</td>
<td>13,737</td>
<td>38.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>-2,307</td>
<td>-6.4</td>
<td>16,954</td>
<td>46.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*According to some data, was Debt in December 2012 cca. 19 mio EUR; i.e. debt per capita cca. 9,500 EUR.

Source: Ministry of Finance

## 3. REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, period 2005-2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Registered unemployed persons</th>
<th>Registered unemployment rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/2005</td>
<td>93,353</td>
<td>10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/2006</td>
<td>95,204</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/2007</td>
<td>79,969</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/2008</td>
<td>69,238</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/2009</td>
<td>73,911</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/2010</td>
<td>99,591</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/2011</td>
<td>115,132</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/2012</td>
<td>115,965</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/2012</td>
<td>110,886</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*According to some data, the number of unemployed persons in December 2012 was 117,948.

Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

- modern constitution, adopted on 23 December 1991

- Slovenia is democratic republic, state governed by the rule of law and a social state; state of all its citizens, founded on the permanent right of the Slovene nation to self-determination; territorially unified and indivisable state

- constitution is divided into 10 chapters and has 174 articles

- since 1991 it was amended 5 times:
  - 1997 (foreign citizens granted permission to buy real estate),
  - 2000 (proportional voting system inserted directly into the constitution),
  - 2003 (accession into NATO and EU),
  - 2004 (three less important amendments, the most important are gender quotas)
  - 2006 (articles 121, 140 and 143 were changed that were blocking the establishment of regions)
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

- The Constitution (Article 80) defines the National Assembly as a representative and legislative body, therefore a collegial body of 90 directly elected representatives. MPs are elected for a four-year term and represent all the people of Slovenia.
- Elections must be general and based on an equal right to vote and the secrecy of voting.
- As a legislative authority, it enacts constitutional amendments, laws, national programs, resolutions, etc. It also creates its own internal rules, ratifies the state budget and treaties, and calls referendums.
- As a voting body, it elects the Prime Minister and other ministers, the President of the National Assembly and up to three Vice-Presidents. On the proposal of the President of the Republic, it also elects judges to the Constitutional Court, the Governor of the Bank of Slovenia, the Ombudsman.
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

- According to the Constitution, the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia is the representative body for social, economic, professional and local interests. It is composed of the representatives of labor and social interests (functional interests) and representatives of local interests (territorial interests).

- It has 40 members and its typical corporatist body. The interests they represent, cover all the main segments of society

- The National Council brings together the interests of various social groups within a single institution.
GOVERNMENT

“body with executive power and the highest body of the state administration”

- it passes regulations and adopts legal, political, economic, financial, organizational and similar measures for regulating areas within the state’s jurisdiction
- proposing laws to be passed by the National Assembly, the state budget, national programs and other acts with which political directions for individual areas within the state’s competence are determined
- represents the Republic of Slovenia and makes submissions to EU institutions

Prime minister: Janez Janša

11 MINISTRIES
Ministry of the Economical Development and Technology; Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport; Ministry of Health; Ministry of the Interior Affairs; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Justice and Public Administration; Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Affairs; Ministry of Infrastructure and Spatial Planing; Ministry of Agriculture and Environment; Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Finance.

One minister without portfolio that is responsible for Slovenes living abroad.
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

- Represents the Republic of Slovenia

- Commander-in-chief of its armed forces

- Calls the legislative elections, promulgates laws, proposes a candidate for Prime Minister to the National Assembly, proposes candidates for judges of the Constitutional Court and members of the Court of Audit, appoints and recalls ambassadors, accepts the credentials of foreign diplomats, grants clemencies, etc.

- has no influence over the composition of the government

- President is elected for a five-year term in direct, general elections by secret ballot

Borut Pahor, new President of the Republic of Slovenija, elected in December 2012
SLOVENIA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

The accession process and Slovenia’s admission to the European Union

- Ever since having declared its independence, the Republic of Slovenia was expressing its willingness and objective, both in its strategic documents on development and at highest political levels, to become a full member of the European Union.

- The first diplomatic relations between Slovenia and the EU were established in April 1992, as Slovenia proposed the conclusion of Europe Agreement and asked for support regarding the restructuring and consolidation of its economy. Already in the following year (April 1993) a treaty was signed on co-operation between the two.

- In June 1996, a treaty on the integration of Slovenia into the European Community was enacted.

- In November 1996, Slovenia and the EU signed a provisional agreement on trade, which entered into force in January 1997.

- In May 1997, Slovenia adopted the fundamental points of departure of its strategy on EU accession, confirming the desire to attain full membership in the EU and in June that year, the European Commission presented its opinion on candidate states for joining the EU (the so-called Agenda 2000). The talks officially opened on March 31, 1998.

- Accession negotiations between Slovenia and the EU were completed in 2002 and in April 2003, the Treaty on Accession of Slovenia to the EU was signed. Hence, on May 1, 2004, Slovenia became part of the European family of nations.
The position of Slovenia in the European Union

- **Population:** EU27: 503,679,730 (January 2012); Slovenia 2,055,496 (January 2012)

- **GDP (milions of USD):** EU27: 16,039,412 USD (in 2011); Slovenia: 45,262 USD (in 2011)

- **GDP per capita (nominal):** EU27: 32,004 USD (in 2011); Slovenia: 22,098 USD (in 2011)

The EU *Acquis Communautaire* became part of Slovenian legislation and European affairs became internal affairs of Slovenia and its people. It is crucial for Slovenia to represent its interests in clear and efficient a manner at the supranational level and to do so uniformly and in a coordinated fashion.

Slovenia has its representatives in all institutions of the Union and takes part in all decisions adopted by them:
- 8 representatives in European Parliament
- one European Commissioner Janez Potočnik (Commissioner for the Environment)
Key Events for Slovenia as a Member State of the European Union - I

- **Council of the EU Presidency**
  In the first half of 2008, Slovenia took over a very important and responsible task – the Presidency of the Council of the EU. It led the community uniting 27 Member States and almost half a billion people. Slovenia grasped an exceptional historical opportunity as this was the first Presidency of a Member State that entered the Union in the 2004 enlargement and the first Council of the EU Presidency of a Slavic state ever. The Presidency organised 166 official events in Slovenia.

- **Entry into the Schengen Area**
  Slovenia became a Member State of the Schengen Area on December 22, 2007, when it ceased to execute border control on internal land and maritime borders with the EU Member States. On March 30, 2008, it abolished airspace border control as well. Already at its admission to the EU, Slovenia, much like other new Member States, assumed the responsibility of setting up a suitable new regime on the EU’s external border(s). In accordance with the European legal order, this entailed an introduction of a new regime on the borders between the EU Member States and non-members or the so-called third countries. Slovenia hence established security, customs and inspection control on its part of EU’s external border with the Republic of Croatia and provided for its implementation according to the EU standards.
Key Events for Slovenia as a Member State of the European Union - II

- **Adoption of the Common Currency - the Euro**
  Slovenia introduced the Euro on January 1, 2007 and joined the Eurozone as the first new Member State. The transition from Slovenian Tolar to the Euro ran swiftly and smoothly, causing no major problems as the population had been informed of the new currency in advance, people had a very positive attitude towards its introduction and were expecting mostly positive effects.

- **Partnership between Slovenia and the European Commission**
  In March 2007, the European Commission and the Government Communication Office, acting on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, signed an agreement on management partnership for communicating EU matters, for a period of four years. Slovenia was the second Member State to enter such cooperation, preceded only by Germany. The Partnership’s objective is coordinated communication regarding European affairs on the part of European Commission, European Parliament and Slovenian Government.
Satisfaction of Slovenians with EU Membership and life in the EU

- in the time of referendum on Slovenia’s accession to the EU (spring 2003) support reached its peak at (57 %), followed by a trend of decreasing support to 40 %
- people of Slovenia were expressing their worst fears in relation to increased difficulties for Slovenian farmers (67 % of responses), which was a frequent topic promoted primarily by opponents of Slovenia’s accession to the EU, and the migration of jobs to countries with lower production costs (63 %)
- autumn 2004: EU membership of Slovenia was good thing (52 %), was bad thing (5 %)
- spring 2005: EU membership of Slovenia was deemed good by 49 % of respondens and 9 % said it was bad
- autumn 2010: 48 % of Slovenians included in the survey trusted the EU, whereas 46 % did not
- What does the EU mean to you? (autumn 2010): freedom of travel, studies and employment (54 %); the Euro (53 %); wasting of money (29 %); bureaucracy (26 %); crime (26 %); 25 % of Slovenians associated the EU with peace
- How much trust you have in the EU? (autumn 2012): 39 % of Slovenians included in the survey trusted the EU, whereas 57 % did not
Drawing on the EU Funds

- The most important Funds are: European Regional Development Found; European Social Found; The Cohesion Fund; funds, which financed the European territorial cooperation

- The greatest interest has been in the co-financing of project under European Regional Development Found

- Operative programes – is a document in which an EU Member State specifies its plans for drawing on an individual European fund; it is drawn up by a Member State and submitted to European Commission for approval.

- For the new programme period of 2007–2013, Slovenia prepared three Operative Programmes, which served as a basis for negotiations in which it managed to acquire just over € 4.2 billion of funds for the objective “European Territorial Cooperation” or € 4.1 billion without it.

  → Paid cohesion policy resources - cumulative (from 1st of January 2007 to 30th of September 2012): 2,165,536,523 EUR (54.5 %)
RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBOURS

- Slovenian bilateral relations with its neighbors are generally good and cooperative.

- However a few unresolved disputes with Croatia remain, mostly connected with succession of former Yugoslavia, including demarcation of common border, implementation of the joint management of Krško Nuclear Plant, the financial compensation of the Croatian depositors who lost their savings in the liquidation of the Slovenian-based Yugoslav bank LB.

- Slovenia supported Croatian entry to the EU, but at times demanded that open bilateral question should be resolved prior to the entry.

- Border dispute should now be resolved with the help of arbitral court; and agreement between both governments was supported on the referendum in Slovenia in June 2010.

- Slovenian minority lives in Austria, Italy and Hungary, and in all three cases, bilateral relations are excellent.

- Slovenian relations with Italy improved dramatically after problems with Slovenian accession into the EU in 1990s, and Slovenian relations with Austria have always been good, as Austria was next to Germany and Holy See the most firm supporter of Slovenian independence and is the biggest foreign investment in Slovenia.
NATO

- Slovenia, although socialist country, was never part of Warsaw pact

- Slovenia joined NATO in March 2004 after successful referendum was held in March 2003 (66% of voters supported membership)

- NATO cooperation with Slovenia began in 1990s, with SFOR deployment in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Today, Slovenian soldiers are part of international forces serving in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq, Chad and Lebanon (and also in Cyprus and Golan heights as part of UN forces).

- Slovenia is also leading country in the field of Anti-Personnel Landmines, as ITF Foundation was established in 1998 to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina implementing Dayton agreement by managing mine removing projects, but later assisted also other areas, together in partnership with other EU members and USA, and has so far cleaned 120,000 sq km² and gathered over 360 mio USD.
OSCE AND UNITED NATIONS

- Slovenia is also active member of OSCE (Organisation for security and cooperation in Europe) and was presiding over OSCE in 2005

- Slovenian joined UN on 22nd of May 1992, as 176th member state

- Slovenia was elected member of Security Council in 1998-1999, and election with 82% of majority represented important recognition of Slovenia and its constructive role in the UN

- Slovenia presided over Security Council in August 1998 and November 1999
Thank you for your attention!!

Questions are welcome!!