



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

COUNTRY PROFILE

Slovenia

APRIL 2008

OVERVIEW

Slovenia is economically strong, politically stable, and active in Southern and Eastern Europe. Slovenia's accession to the European Union (EU)



Ljubljana

and North Atlantic Treaty Organization in 2004 reflects the level of political and economic development the country has achieved during its 17 years of independence, and the role it can play in furthering the U.S. priorities of promoting regional stability, market liberalization, and law enforcement cooperation. Slovenia is a member of all major international financial institutions—the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank Group, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development—as well as 40 other

international organizations, including the World Trade Organization, of which it is a founding member.

Between 1993 to 1997, USAID delivered to support Slovenia in its transition from a state-controlled economy and authoritarian government to a free-market democracy. Aid from the American people focused on financial sector reform, private enterprise development, and the strengthening of democratic institutions. Today, Slovenia has one of the strongest economies in Central and Eastern Europe.

PROGRAM LEGACY

INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT A STRONG FINANCIAL SECTOR

USAID financed an array of programs which established an active, viable investment banking division in one of the country's major banks to service emerging private sector companies; advised the Slovenian Stock Exchange on procedures for managing Initial Public Offerings, critical to the development of a primary capital market; established an insurance supervisory agency and the underlying regulatory framework to promote appropriate controls and structures, thereby strengthening the entire insurance industry and readying it for privatization; provided a blueprint for establishing the Slovenian Clearance and Settlement System deemed essential to ensuring investor confidence in the securities markets; and, helped the Government of Slovenia gain an international insight and understanding of pension systems and pension reform. In

SLOVENIA SNAPSHOT

Date of independence:
June 25, 1991
Capital: Ljubljana
Population: 2.009 million
GDP per capita: \$23,400
(purchasing power parity)

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COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

addition, USAID provided private enterprise development support for the privatization and subsequent restructuring of more than 40 companies which collectively in excess of \$1.2 billion.

REFORMS THAT SUSTAIN DEMOCRATIC PROGRESS

In cooperation with the U.S. Information Agency, USAID institution building and training activities supported the growth of independent media, promoted the involvement of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the formulation of government policy, facilitated the distribution of American literature and textbooks to Slovenian educational institutions, and strengthened English language capabilities among teachers and other professionals in the public and private sectors. In-country and off-shore training opportunities constituted a major mechanism for transferring democratic concepts, principles and practices.

Slovenia also benefited from the NGO Legal Reform project managed by USAID's Regional Services Center in Budapest, Hungary. Since 1994, the NGO Legal Reform Initiative has worked to develop an enabling legal environment that promotes sustainability of the NGO sector and the growth of private philanthropy in Central and Eastern Europe.

POST-PRESENCE RELATIONS

A SUSTAINING PARTNERSHIP FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As a graduate of American foreign assistance, Slovenia possesses unique experience in areas such as EU integration, enterprise and Small and Medium Enterprise development, and social rehabilitation in post-conflict areas, that is of great value to neighboring countries engaged in the transition process. The United States seeks opportunities to collaborate with Slovenia, an emerging foreign assistance donor, to promote democracy and economic growth in the region and elsewhere in the world.

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