

Slovenia



GDP real growth rate: 4.5% (2008)
GDP per capita: 30,800 \$ (2008 est.)
GDP per sector: Agriculture 2.2%,
Industry 34.2%, Services 63.6%
Human Development Index: 0.929 (rank 29)
Number of inhabitants (in 000 's) : 2,039
Major industries: lead and zinc smelting, electronics,
trucks, automobiles, electrical equipment, wood
products, textiles, chemicals, machine tools.

Main Issues related to SCP

Slovenia has shown constant growth in the last few years. Structural reforms designed to improve the business environment have enabled greater foreign participation in the economy and have reduced unemployment. However industrial activity in certain parts of the country is generating increased stress on ecosystems.

Energy & Atmospheric Emissions:

Intense use of primary energy consumption has declined. Major reasons are greater energy efficiency, a change in fuel type and in the structure of added value, more service and less manufacturing-related activities. The consumption sector (households and services) is the largest consumer of final energy, followed by transport and industry. Most air pollutants are found in higher concentrations than the national limit values. Major sources of emission derive from energy production and consumption in different sectors.

Waste:

One of the country's major environmental problems is the lack of capacity to manage waste in disposal facilities. Measures to manage domestic waste have not yet been outlined. Various regional waste management facilities and regulatory instruments have been introduced in the last few years.

Water:

Several large water treatment plants began operating in 2006. In recent years, the Environmental Protection Agency has begun development of an integrated monitoring system for water conditions, which includes the ecological and groundwater conditions, quantities, early warning of floods etc.

Policies and Strategic Framework

There is currently no global policy related to sustainable consumption and production.

The National Environmental Action Plan is the most important strategic plan to integrate aspects of SCP. Areas addressed include drinking water supplies and the phasing out of old landfills.

In 2004 the National Energy Programme of Slovenia was approved. The Department of Efficiency Use of Energy and the use of Renewable Energy Sources within the Ministry of the Environment, is responsible for the current execution of the National Programs of Energy Efficiency in different sectors.

Recently public authorities have begun to incorporate sustainability criteria in public procurement. The Green Public Procurement Action Plan for the period 2009-2011 will explore potential for SPP legislation.

Legal and Regulatory Framework

Slovenia has implemented the IPPC EU Directive. Currently 105 of 180 companies have obtained the permit.

A number of different operational programmes related to energy efficiency and waste have been adopted. They include measures on the reduction of greenhouse gases, the reduction of atmospheric pollution from large combustion plants and the management of electrical and electronic equipment.

Additionally a system on CO2 emission quotas has been launched.

Related to economic instruments, several energy efficiency programs are supported by the "Eco Fondo", an Ecological Fund that provides loans with favourable conditions for investments in energy efficiency measures and other environmental projects. Taxes on fuels have a double role and also serve as an important source of funding the state budget.

The 2006 Public Procurement Act was the first explicit presentation of energy and environmental criteria within procurement documents

Greening Industry and Society

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a relatively new concept and has gained importance since the incorporation of the country in the EU.

Since 2007 the UN Global Compact integrates a Slovenian chapter.

No initiatives related to Eco labelling or other voluntary measures have been reported.

Environmental education takes place at all academic levels, from early to secondary education. In higher education, in addition to environmental studies, some interdisciplinary approaches such as ecology and health and ecology have been developed.

In recent years environmental consulting services have been developed and various non-profit organizations have initiated activities in the field of SCP.

Main Actors and Projects

The **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** coordinates regulatory and administrative tasks related to the environment nationally.

The **Regional Environmental Centre office for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)** in Slovenia has aimed its activities and knowledge dissemination particularly at the industrial sector and to the establishment of public-private partnerships.

The program "Slovenia reduces CO2 emissions" (2006-2007) developed by the **Ministry of the Environment**, the British Embassy and the British Council, has worked on establishing good practice in the prevention, mitigation and adaptation of climate change and has instigated action to reduce CO2 emissions.

The Coastal Area Management Program (CAMP), as part of the Mediterranean Action Plan programme led by the Priority Action Program/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) focuses on the sustainable management of Slovenia's Coastal Zone.

