

Waste prevention country profile

Slovenia

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European Environment Agency



Country profile: Slovenia

General information

Name of the country/ region	Slovenia
Geographical coverage of the waste prevention programme (national/ regional)	National
Type of programme (stand alone or integrated into waste management plan or into the circular economy strategy)	Integrated into the national waste management plan
Title of programme and link to programme	”Program ravnanja z odpadki in program preprečevanja odpadkov Republike Slovenije” (2022) https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MOP/Operativni-programi/op_odpadki_2022.pdf
Duration of programme	2022-
Language	Slovenian
Contact person in the country/region	Jana Miklavčič (jana.miklavcic@gov.si), Waste Division, Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy
Development process of the programme/ revision	<p>The program is revised every four years (or at the end of a program) to develop/update an operational program for waste management and waste prevention.</p> <p>According to the current program, regardless of the frequency of a prescribed audits, the appropriateness of the selected measures is assessed annually to monitor the goals for the period between 2020 and 2035.</p>
Foreseen budget for implementation of the programme	No costs of waste prevention measures are specified.

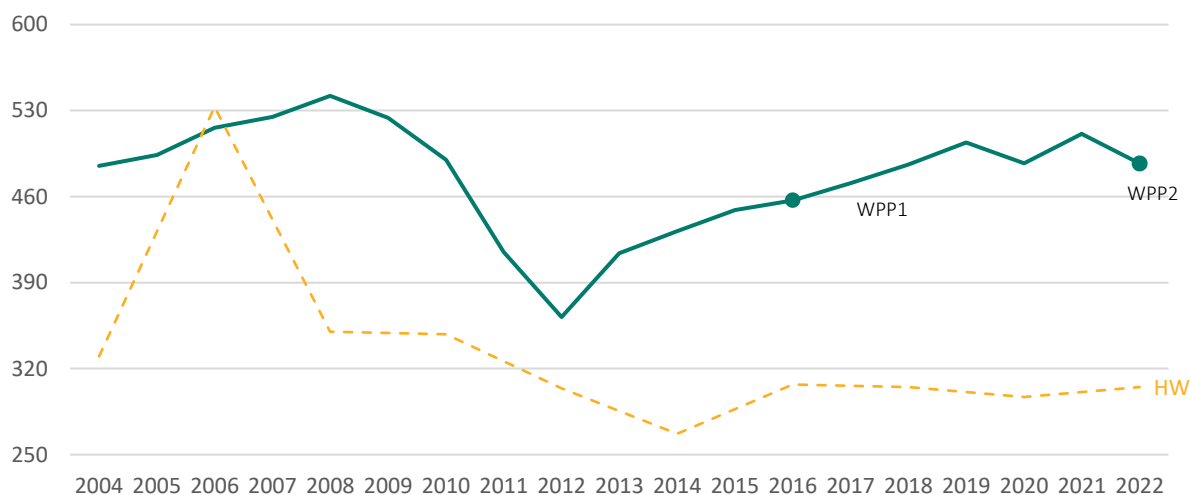
WASTE GENERATION

The following figures illustrate the progress towards waste prevention and decoupling of waste generation from economic growth in Slovenia.

Municipal solid waste (MSW)

Municipal waste generation in Slovenia has increased between 2010 and 2022 (Figure 1). In 2022, the country generated 487 kg/cap of municipal waste, which is slightly below the estimated EU27 average of 513 kg/cap in the same year.

Figure 1 Municipal waste generation in Slovenia (kg per capita), 2004-2022



Source: Eurostat [ENV_WASMUN] and [ENV_WASGEN].

Note: There is a break in series in 2013. As of reference year 2020, new reporting rules apply for calculating recycled municipal waste pursuant to the targets laid down in Article 11.2(c-e) of Directive 2008/98/EC. Slovenia has implemented the new reporting rules since reference year 2021. Data for household waste in the odd years are extrapolated.

Total waste

The total amount of waste generated in Slovenia increased over the last 12 years (Figure 2). This trend is primarily driven by the largest waste categories, namely soils and mineral waste from construction and demolition (which are part of major mineral wastes). Excluding major mineral wastes results in an overall reduction trend in generated waste, primarily driven by decreases in mixed and combustion wastes, while recyclable wastes, the largest category, showed a slight increase. Slovenia's GDP showed a steady growth from 2014, but dropped in 2020, most likely due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Waste generation followed a similar trend. There are no clear signs of decoupling between total waste generation and economic development. However, when excluding major mineral waste decoupling can be observed.

Figure 2 Generation of waste (total and excluding major mineral wastes), population and economic development, 2010-2022



Source: Eurostat [ENV_WASGEN, NAMA_10_PC, DEMO_GIND]

Note: Waste generation data for odd years are interpolated.

WASTE PREVENTION PROGRAMME

Objectives and priorities

1.	Waste prevention objectives of the Programme - quantitative objectives (waste reduction) - qualitative objectives (reduction of hazardous substances/environmental impacts)	The Slovenian Waste Prevention Programme sets the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• reducing material consumption as well as environmental burdens,• creating closed material loops,• supporting technologies and techniques that use less resources,• encouraging a transition to sustainable patterns of production and consumption,• stimulating market demand for efficient services by public procurement,• reducing the risks to human health and damage to the environment,• reusing items, materials or products,• reducing the levels of pollutants in products,• reducing emissions released to air, water and soil throughout the life cycle of products.
2.	Sectors covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• households,• public and private sectors.
3.	Priority waste types	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• construction and demolition waste,• food waste,• household/municipal waste,• waste electrical and electronic equipment,• waste single use plastic products• bulky waste,• waste textile and waste clothing,• waste lightweight plastic carrier bags.
4.	Target groups	N/A

Targets, indicators and monitoring

1.	Indicators used to monitor progress	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) For waste prevention in households: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the amount of municipal waste generated in households, b. the amount of plastic bags; 2) For prevention of food waste: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the amount of food loss and food waste; 3) For prevention of WEEE: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the amount of reused EEE and WEEE prepared for reuse ; 4) For prevention of certain waste from single-use plastic products and prevention of littering: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the amount of single-use plastic products put onto the market and their waste; 5) For prevention of bulky waste: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the amount of bulky waste and amount prepared for reuse; 6) For prevention of waste textile: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the amount of waste textile and waste clothing; 7) For prevention of waste in the public sector: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the amount of waste from the public sector.
2.	Quantitative targets	The Slovenian waste prevention programme refers to existing quantitative targets (e.g., reducing single-use plastic items at the EU level), but it does not set any additional quantitative targets for the programme itself.
3.	Monitoring mechanism of the programme	The Slovenian waste prevention programme is derived from scenario assessments and the evolution of the generation of major waste streams and their recycling rates. The progress of the programme is assessed by monitoring the indicators developed for this programme (see above).
4.	Evaluation of the programme	N/A

Prevention measures

Implemented prevention measures according to Article 9

The waste prevention programme includes the following measures that are proposed to avoid waste generation (Chapter 1.5):

Table 1: Specific waste prevention measures structured according to Art 9 WFD

<p>Promote and support sustainable consumption models</p>	<p>Regarding the aim to prevent waste from the public sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - registration of generated waste; - extended use of products used for business purposes; - double-sided printing or storing documents in electronic form; - sustainable furniture; - green public procurement; - training and awareness-raising for employees to reduce waste generation at work; - raising awareness and giving initiatives to promote best practices to other ministries and public services.
<p>Encourage the design, manufacturing and use of products that are resource-efficient, durable (including in terms of life span and absence of planned obsolescence), reparable, re-usable and upgradable.</p>	
<p>Target products containing critical raw materials to prevent that those materials become waste.</p>	<p>Include measures to promote WEEE prevention, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - awareness raising and information campaigns regarding the reuse of EEE; - promotion of servicing (e.g. explaining the opportunity of and facilitating the accessibility of repair and maintenance services closer to users); - establishment of an infrastructure/networks for the collection of WEEE for the preparing for re-use; - formalising the regulation regarding the preparing for re-use of WEEE; - implementation of reporting and measurement systems for WEEE prevention.
<p>Encourage the re-use of products and the setting up of systems promoting repair and re-use activities, including in particular for electrical and electronic equipment, textiles</p>	<p>See above and see below (in the case of bulky waste).</p>

<p>and furniture, as well as packaging and construction materials and products.</p>	
<p>Encourage, as appropriate and without prejudice to intellectual property rights , the availability of spare parts, instruction manuals, technical information, or other instruments, equipment or software enabling the repair and re-use of products without compromising their quality and safety.</p>	
<p>Reduce waste generation in processes related to industrial production, extraction of minerals, manufacturing, construction and demolition, taking into account best available techniques.</p>	
<p>Reduce the generation of food waste in primary production, in processing and manufacturing, in retail and other distribution of food, in restaurants and food services as well as in households as a contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to reduce by 50 % per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and to reduce food losses along production and supply chains by 2030.</p>	<p>Measures that address food waste prevention in general:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establish the starting points, milestones, and goals for food waste prevention; - improve the planning of procedures, such as monitoring, evaluation and knowledge exchange regarding food waste prevention; - include food waste reduction as a part of the environmental and climate action plans or strategies; - improve data quality related to social, economic, environmental impacts; - expand measures to prevent food loss and prevent food waste in food supply chains. <p>Primary production:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organize and carry out training on food waste prevention. <p>Food processing and production:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - organize and carry out training on food waste prevention. <p>Food retails and distribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increase consumer awareness about food waste in local retail chains (e.g., use advertising about waste prevention), - address behavioural issues related to food labelling; - educate about proper food storage. <p>Restaurants and catering activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop and disseminate educational and guidance materials for businesses; - organize, enable and implement information and/or campaigns, such as, e.g.: "<i>take all you can eat - but don't forget eat all you take</i>",

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - introduce a possibility (including consumer information) for the catering companies to allow consumers to take home the leftovers; - inform the local community about catering services that offer leftover food that is still good to be use to people in need. <p>Households:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to influence the change in the behaviour of consumers, that could influence the entire food supply chain; - actively cooperate with non-governmental and organizations responsible for consumer protection to influence and inform consumers about food waste protection; - develop and distribute guidelines for consumers to correctly understand labels of food expiration dates; - - organize education activities targeting the prevention of food waste generation.
<p>Encourage food donation and other redistribution for human consumption, prioritising human use over animal feed and the reprocessing into non-food products.</p>	<p>See above</p>
<p>Promote the reduction of the content of hazardous substances in materials and products, without prejudice to harmonised legal requirements concerning those materials and products laid down at Union level, and ensure that any supplier of an article as defined in point 33 of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council provides the information pursuant to article 33(1) of that regulation to the European Chemicals Agency as from 5 January 2021.</p>	
<p>Reduce the generation of waste, in particular waste that is not suitable for preparing for re-use or recycling.</p>	<p>Reuse measures to prevent bulky waste:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - analysis of material flows of bulky waste by individual fractions; - incentives for reuse; - ensure access to preparing for re-use for bulky waste at waste collection centers; - awareness raising of reuse through education. <p>Regarding prevention of waste textile and reuse of clothing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raising awarness and promoting the reuse of clothing;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - incentives for dialogue on enhanced cooperation between producers, importers and collectors of used clothing; - ensure access to preparing for re-use for suitable - waste textile at collection centers; - awareness raising about reuse for adults and schoolchildren.
<p>Identify products that are the main sources of littering, notably in natural and marine environments, and take appropriate measures to prevent and reduce litter from such products, where Member States decide to implement this obligation through market restrictions, they shall ensure that such restrictions are proportionate and non-discriminatory.</p>	<p>Measures to prevent plastic waste from single-use products including the prevention of littering (mainly based on requirements of EU Directive 2019/904):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ban certain single-use plastic products on the Slovenian market and control over it; - reducing the consumption of cups for beverage and food containers (e.g., single use containers intended for immediate consumption, ready to be consumed food without any further preparation) (period 2022-2026); - achieving the goal for reduced consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags (until 2025); - establishing extended producer responsibility for certain single-use plastic products, including an obligation for raising awareness of available alternative reusable products (until 2023); - obligation to produce caps and stoppers for beverage containers up to a volume of 3 liters so that they cannot be removed from containers during and after their use (until 2024); - the minimum goal of separate collection of waste bottles is 77% by 2025 and 90% by 2029, including the introduction of a deposit-refund schemes; - implementation of commitments from the European Plastic Pact regarding waste prevention.
<p>Aim to halt the generation of marine litter as a contribution towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds.</p>	<p>Recording the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags and their monitoring.</p>
<p>Develop and support information campaigns to raise awareness about waste prevention and littering.</p>	<p>Information campaigns to raise awareness throughout various media channels (also see above).</p>

FOOD WASTE PREVENTION

Food waste generation

In 2022 in Slovenia, the food waste amounted to 72 kg/per capita or 150,839 tonnes. The edible part accounted for 39% of food waste, and the inedible part, i.e., bones, pits, husks, eggshells, etc., for 61%. The largest share 47% (70.3kt) of food waste was generated in households, followed by restaurants and food services with 37% (55.8kt), retail and other distribution of food with 9% (14.1kt), and food production, processing and manufacturing (incl. primary production) with 7% (10.6kt).

Measures to prevent food waste:

In Slovenia, measures to reduce food losses and food waste are included in the National Strategy for Reduction of Food Loss and Food Waste, developed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MKGP/MAFF) with the cooperation of the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy (MECE/MOPE). The strategy was adopted at the end of 2021 and is accompanied by an action plan, which was adopted on September 28, 2023). The action plan outlines the specific measures and actions to achieve the strategy's goals, including the following activities:

- improving the efficiency of sustainable production and processing, more efficient distribution, marketing and sales;
- information, awareness raising and cooperation;
- education and training;
- stakeholder cooperation; and
- supporting legislative measures.

For example, through the EAT Circular project, sponsored by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology - Climate Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC), different training sessions are offered for the public and private actors on strategies to reduce the 'food print' (the amount of food waste). Topics covered included policy aspects, best practices, processes, business models and technologies to measure food waste/surpluses, divert it from being lost (wasted), including final disposal.

Furthermore, a non-governmental organisation, Ecologists Without Borders (Ekologi brez meja) carried out a project '*Food waste prevention in the public sector and households – Don't throw away food!*', which was co-financed by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning (nowadays Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy). The main focus was to prevent food waste in hospitals and retirement homes. Its results include a toolkit for monitoring food waste, the awareness-raising campaign '*Just eat it!*' and workshops for inter-generational integration (e.g. elderly teaching children about good practices in food waste prevention).

The Agriculture Act defines the possibility to co-finance the purchase of technical equipment for humanitarian organizations that distribute donated food, together with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food. Within the framework of tax legislation (Act on rules on the implementation of the Value Added Tax), the own price or purchase price of donated food is equal to 0 if the total value of donated goods does not exceed 2% of the donor's revenue. A working group for food donation, established in 2013, aimed to solve the issues that humanitarian organizations face when redistributing food.

REUSE OF PRODUCTS

Data

According to data reported to the EEA under Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/19 in 2023 for the reference year 2021, Slovenia reused:

- 17 tonnes of textiles;
- 2,000 tonnes of electrical and electronic devices;
- 5,000 tonnes of furniture.
- 400,000 tonnes of construction products

Measures to support reuse

According to the Waste Management and Waste Prevention Program of Slovenia, following reuse measures to prevent bulky waste are proposed:

- analysis of the material flow of bulky waste by individual fractions;
- incentives for re-use;
- raising awareness of re-use through education.

Measures for the reuse/prevention of waste textile and waste clothing include, e.g.:

- raising awareness and promoting the re-use of clothing;
- incentives for a dialogue and cooperation between manufacturers, importers and collectors of used clothes;
- raising awareness of re-use through education for schoolchildren and adults.

In addition, there are 10 preparation for reuse facilities of other waste fraction representing the total amount of ca. 5,000 tonnes:

- waste cartridges (waste printing toners);
- waste wooden packaging (pallets);
- waste clothing, footwear and textiles;
- bulky waste.

Waste cartridges are to be cleaned and refilled. Waste wooden pallets are to be replaced for damaged parts. Waste footwear, clothing and textiles are to be sorted by type and quality. Waste clothing and footwear of better quality are preparing for re-use and directed to the second-hand shops, inferior quality waste textiles are to be cut into cleaning cloths for industrial applications. Waste wooden furniture is to be inspected and, if necessary, repaired and painted and intended for re-use for the same purpose. The remaining other bulky waste is to be transformed into new usable items.

Best practice examples

Slovenian Network - Centers of reuse CPU¹

Reuse Centre Ltd., Social Enterprise is the first social enterprise in Slovenia, established in 2012, with the main objective to solve the environmental and social problems. The Reuse Centre developed a new model for implementing socially responsible businesses in Slovenia, which connects municipalities and public waste management companies, allowing the development of new green jobs and promoting resource savings.

The USE-REUSE network runs centres across the country which takes in unwanted, but viable products, before selling them on as second-hand goods. They are also members of the international RREUSE network.

¹ <https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/item/313/slovenian-network-centers-of-reuse-cpu/>

Reuse centres within this network carry out:

- environmental management to support the principles of reuse and recycling;
- focus on developing awareness about environmental services;
- facilitate the employment of hard-to-employ and disadvantaged persons;
- processing, repairing and innovatively renovating particular types of still useful products (upcycling);
- selling second-hand products (goods);
- working on increasing awareness about waste generation and reusing old things and about sustainable consumption;
- encourage and promote the reuse of upcycling products;
- training and employing people from vulnerable groups with the purpose of returning them to the labour market and ensuring social safety.

Reuse Centre has an important effect on the general public in raising its environmental awareness and spreading the awareness about the limited resources, conservation, recycling and reuse.

The NGO Ecologists Without Borders has launched a website called LESS IS MORE, which gives the user an overview of:

- Map of the masters
- Map of ZW shops
- Reuse Map
- Loan Map
- For users of electrical and electronic equipment there is a link to a map of re-use, sharing and repair shops for electronic products.

Initiative Zero Waste Slovenia²

Zero Waste Slovenia manages a national network of municipalities, hotels and events, and validates and monitors the progress of their Zero Waste commitment or plan. It promotes Zero Waste at national level and establishes a platform for cooperation and networking with business and politics.

The 16 municipalities in the network (23.4% of the population) have collectively prevented at least 25 thousand tonnes of mixed municipal waste. The network also includes two zero waste hotels, two restaurants and 15 events.

The new Zero Waste Business Certificate, managed by MiZA, has so far been awarded to five municipalities and Ribno Alpine Resort, which is also the first business ever to achieve this certificate. The Zero Waste Tourism project was part-funded by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning (now Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy).

Flea market Ljubljana: Breg Embankment Antique Market³

Traditionally held on Sundays in the old city centre of Ljubljana, Breg Embankment Antique Market, which has a high esteem among the locals. It showcases various objects from the recent and distant past, many of which are still fit for use, such as antiques, art pieces, furniture, decorative items and kitchenware, and all kinds of bric-a-brac of collectible or simply nostalgic value.

² <https://ebm.si/zero-waste-slovenija>

³ <https://www.fleamarket.com/listing/breg-embankment-antique-market/>

Links to circular economy

Waste prevention is an integral part of the comprehensive transformation towards a circular economy. It reduces the input of natural resources into the economy as well as the necessary efforts to collect and recycle waste.

Approaches for improving circularity are often highly interlinked with successful waste prevention. The following table shows which circular strategies are explicitly integrated into the Slovenia's waste prevention programme.

Topic	Addressed in the programme	Comments
Eco-design	Yes	e.g. in construction sector
Repair, refurbishment and remanufacture	Yes	e.g. of bulky waste and textiles
Recycling	No	Not explicitly mentioned
Economic incentives and finance	Yes	e.g. payments for lightweight plastic bags
Circular business models	Yes	e.g. start-up programmes to identify and implement potential waste prevention in businesses;
Eco-innovation	No	
Governance, skills and knowledge	Yes	e.g. provide an incentive to change the school curriculum, so there is a greater focus on education about the prevention of food waste;