





2022 SME COUNTRY FACTSHEET'S EVIDENCE BACKGROUND DOCUMENT



Slovenia

This document faithfully reproduces evidence from various relevant sources, thus providing SME-focused “pure facts” in the form of concise facts. This factual information arises from national evidence, data and insights, such as the SME-relevant recent national studies, surveys, publications, policy measures, etc. (including those published only in the national language) as well as relevant international studies and other relevant sources, indicators and statistics.

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
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Factual SME-related evidence	Source
KEY NOWCASTS & FORECASTS  KEY NOWCASTS & FORECASTS	
In 2021, Slovenian SMEs recovered in terms of employment, with a growth rate of 1.0%, following a decline of 0.4 % in 2020. SME value added grew in both 2020 (1.8%) and 2021 (10.3%).	Estimates produced by JRC, based on figures from the Structural Business Statistics Database as well as provisional data for 2020-2021 from the National Accounts Database and the Short-Term Business Statistics Database.
SMEs in the <i>tourism</i> ecosystem only partially recovered in terms of value added in 2021, increasing by 3.5%, following a sharp decline of 16.4% in 2020. In terms of employment, SMEs declined by a further 2.4%, after falling by 4.6% in 2020.	Estimates produced by JRC, based on figures from the Structural Business Statistics Database as well as provisional data for 2020-2021 from the National Accounts Database and the Short-Term Business Statistics Database.
The <i>retail</i> ecosystem grew strongly in value added both in 2020 (6.0%) and 2021 (6.8%). SME employment also increased in 2021, at 0.6 %, following a decline of 1.6 % in 2020.	Estimates produced by JRC, based on figures from the Structural Business Statistics Database as well as provisional data for 2020-2021 from the National Accounts Database and the Short-Term Business Statistics Database.
Based on data from early 2022, it was expected that SME value added and SME employment in Slovenia would continue to grow by 5.8% and 1.4% respectively, but Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine will affect these estimates.	Estimates and forecasts produced by JRC, based on figures from the Structural Business Statistics Database, provisional data for 2020-2021 from the National Accounts Database and the Short-Term Business Statistics Database and forecasts from the AMECO database.
In 2021, SMEs in Slovenia generated 65.6% of value added and 73.2% of employment, well above the corresponding EU averages of 51.8% and 64.4%.	Estimates produced by JRC, based on figures from the Structural Business Statistics Database as well as provisional data for 2020-2021 from the National Accounts Database and the Short-Term Business Statistics Database.
ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABILITY  ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABILITY	
In 2021, a national Resolution on Slovenia's Long-Term Climate Strategy until 2050 was adopted, which aims to achieve net zero emissions or climate neutrality. Through this strategy, special attention is paid to the promotion of SMEs and the creation of start-ups, which can be important actors in the green and digital transformation of the economy. Greater attention will be paid in Slovenia to the creation of appropriate knowledge in a supportive environment for SMEs. A set of mentoring experts will be set up to support start-ups, as well as a system of financial and other support for the realization of low carbon / circular ideas. A system for monitoring the impact on emissions and access to funding will also be set up. Support will be provided to medium-sized, small and micro enterprises through professional assistance and in the form of support for the implementation of circular business models. Slovenia will continue to work in the field of reducing administrative barriers and removing barriers to market access, while improving access to various ways of financing the transition.	Ministry of Environment, Slovenia will achieve climate neutrality by 2050, 2021. https://www.gov.si/novice/2021-04-21-slovenija-bo-do-leta-2050-dosegla-podnebno-nevtralnost/

In 2020, the amount of waste in both production and service activities decreased. In the manufacturing sector, this decreased by 4% on an annual basis, and in the services sector by 13%.	Statistical office of Republic of Slovenia, Environmental goods and services sector accounts, 2021. https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/News/Index/9969
According to the Survey on climate change 2020/2021, 45% of Slovenian companies have set climate targets, which is higher than EU average (41%). However, only 24% of companies in Slovenia invested to tackle climate risks compared to the EU average (45%). Investment plans to tackle climate change of Slovenian companies (37%) are lower than the EU average (41%).	European Investment Bank, European firms and climate change 2020/2021. Evidence from the EIB Investment Survey, 2021. https://www.eib.org/en/publications/european-firms-and-climate-change-2020-2021
SOCIAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABILITY  SOCIAL ASPECTS OF SUSTAINABILITY	
In Slovenia, only 269 companies have acquired the status of a social enterprise in accordance with the Social Entrepreneurship Act in 2021.	Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Records of social enterprises 2021, 2021. https://podatki.gov.si/dataset/evidenca-socialnih-podjetij (gov.si)
In Slovenia, 11 social enterprises were deleted from the Register of social enterprises in 2019, 13 in 2020 and 19 social enterprises in year 2021.	Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Records of social enterprises 2021, 2021. https://podatki.gov.si/dataset/evidenca-socialnih-podjetij (gov.si)
In order to support the social economy ecosystem, two specialised business support projects were supported via the ERDF in 2021. The main goal of the projects is to foster a nationwide support system for social enterprises and social economy subjects.	Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, news, 2022: https://www.gov.si/novice/2022-04-01-vzpostavljena-podpora-socialnim-podjetjem/
In cooperation with the Slovenian Research Agency, the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology commissioned the development of a social impact measurement methodology and of a social impact measurement tool in 2021.	Institute for economic research, 2022: http://www.ier.si/menu-299.php
The OECD conducted an in-depth policy review concerning boosting social entrepreneurship and social enterprises development in Slovenia in 2021. The review includes an action plan and recommendations for policy makers active in the field of social economy.	Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, news, 2022: https://www.gov.si/novice/2022-02-28-poglabljeni-pregled-politik-na-podrocju-spodbujanja-razvoja-socialnih-podjetij-v-sloveniji/ OECD, 2022: https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/fr/industry-and-services/boosting-social-entrepreneurship-and-social-enterprise-development-in-slovenia_8ea2b761-en
Slovenia (represented by the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology) became a partner in the transnational SEED project in 2021. The main aim of the Slovenian partnership is to develop a competence centre for social innovation by 2022.	Noordung center, 2021: https://www.center-noordung.si/projekti/kompetencni-center-za-druzbene-inovacije-projekt-seed/ SEED, 2021: https://www.seedeuproject.eu/
DIGITALISATION  DIGITALISATION	
According to the data from Statistical office for 2020, 60% of companies in Slovenia face various problems in the transition to digital business such as the lack of relevant staff or	Statistical Office of Republic of Slovenia (SURS), Digital entrepreneurship, 2021. https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/News/Index/9885

knowledge, lack of financial resources, running a business or business cannot be quickly adapted to changes in the environment, too many conflicting priorities, company executives responsible for key processes, lack of digital technology capabilities, business processes within companies are not affiliated and employees or managers do not show a willingness to make such changes. This includes 58% of small companies, 68% of medium-sized companies and 73% of large companies. 63% of companies in manufacturing sectors and 57% companies in service sectors have problems with transition to digital business.	
<p>In January 2022, the Government adopted the Digital Economy Transformation Strategy 2021 to 2030 as part of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan. The Strategy aims to re-address and further promote the following priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced digital technologies (data and cloud, IoT, AI, Blockchain, AR, VR, XR, 3D); • Increasing of productivity and competitiveness and strengthening of the ecosystem for digital transformation; • Cross-border multi-country projects (IPCEI – CIS, IPCEI – ME2, EBSI); • Smart digital transformation of the society and digital inclusion (digital skills and competences, knowledge, regulatory environment, hybrid cloud). 	<p>Government of Republic of Slovenia, Vlada Republike Slovenije je sprejela Strategijo digitalne transformacije gospodarstva, 2022. https://www.gov.si/novice/2022-01-06-vlada-republike-slovenije-je-sprejela-strategijo-digitalne-transformacije-gospodarstva/#content</p>
Slovenia ranks 13 th among the EU Member States in the 2021 Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI). Slovenia ranks 8 th among EU countries on the integration of digital technology in businesses. Slovenia performs in line with the EU average for cloud services, SMEs selling online and e-commerce turnover, but falls short on the use of big data analysis at 7% against the EU average of 14%.	<p>European Commission, Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) 2021 Slovenia, 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/dae/redirection/...</p>
In Slovenia, approximately 80% of companies in manufacturing are using at least one advanced digital technology as a part of the business which is more than on average in EU (app. 70%) in 2020. Most companies in Slovenia adopted robotics (app. 60%), followed by IoT (app. 50%) and platforms.	<p>EIB, Digitalisation in Europe 2020-2021, 2021. https://www.eib.org/en/publications/digitalisation-in-europe-2020-2021</p>
In March 2022, a call for projects for the digital transformation of the companies was launched, which foresees a minimum of 20 projects to be approved and financed. Projects shall be implemented through consortia (of large companies and SMEs, including start-up companies, with a share of financing of 77% for large companies and of at least 23% for SMEs). They will be focused on the implementation of advanced digital technologies, digital skills and	<p>https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MGRT/Dokumenti/DIPT/Razpisi/JR-DIGIT-NOO/I-II-Javni-razpis-in-Pojasnila-javnega-razpisa.pdf</p>


competences and business adaptation to regulatory requirements.	
INNOVATION	 INNOVATION
While strong improvements for product innovators, venture capital, and sales of innovative products have led to innovation performance increase from 2020 to 2021, Slovenia's overall performance on innovation relative to the EU average decreased over time and remains below the EU average, according to the European Innovation Scoreboard 2021.	European Innovation Scoreboard 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/statistics/performance-indicators/european-innovation-scoreboard_en
The new Scientific Research and Innovation Activities Act was adopted 18/11/2021 and published in the Official Gazette (Uradni list RS, št. 186/2021 z dne 30.11.2021). The act will improve the efficiency and co-ordination of governance in research, development and innovation. It will also increase the autonomy of public research organisations, implement elements of result-based financing, foster engagement of researchers in research projects on the EU level as well as with the business sector and encourage greater internationalisation and inter- sectoral mobility and knowledge transfer.	the Official Gazette: https://www.uradni-list.si/pdf/2021/Ur/u2021186.pdf
The Research and Innovation Strategy of Slovenia 2021 – 2030 was in the final approval stage. The Strategy is a key strategic document in the field of research and innovation, which will be the basis for policy making related to social and economic development and societal challenges. This strategy includes specific points on SMEs such as the set-up of different measures to co-finance R&D, tax reliefs and researchers' employment.	Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Motion for a Resolution on the Research and Innovation Strategy of Slovenia 2030, 2021. https://www.qov.si/novice/2021-08-16-predlog-resolucije-o-raziskovalni-in-inovacijski-strategiji-slovenije-2030-v-medresorskem-usklajevanju/
In 2022, an amendment to the Corporate Income Tax Act came into force, aiming at creating a more favourable business environment. Companies, including SMEs, are now able to reduce their tax base by 40% of the original amount through investments in the digital transformation and green transition. The aim is to further encourage companies to opt for advanced digital solutions in their business, thereby increasing their efficiency and competitiveness, or for green solutions, thereby having a more positive impact on the environment.	Ministry of Finance, Corporate Income Tax Act https://www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2021-01-3354?sop=2021-01-3354
According to the European Investment Bank's (EIB) Investment Survey 2020, 40% of companies in Slovenia introduced innovation (product, process, service) while the EU average was 42%. Among SMEs, only 36% introduced those innovations (24% new to company, 7% new to the world and 5% new to the country).	EIB, Digitalisation in Europe 2020-2021, 2021. https://www.eib.org/en/publications/digitalisation-in-europe-2020-2021 And https://data.eib.org/eibis/graph
In 2021, the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport started the activities to reform the innovation ecosystem in Slovenia. The reform aims to improve governance, coherence and efficiency of public investment in	Public Agency for Entrepreneurship, Internationalization, Foreign Investments and Technology (SPIRIT Slovenia): https://www.spiritslovenia.si/razpis/382

<p>RDI, to strengthen public and private investment in RDI to enable the achievement of strategic climate goals and to ensure stable financing of RDI instruments.</p> <p>To support RDI in companies, in February 2022, SPIRIT Slovenia – the Public Agency for Entrepreneurship, Internationalisation, Foreign Investments and Technology, published a public call for incentives for green and circular research and development projects in companies, with the amount of 42 million EUR.</p>	
SKILLS	 SKILLS
<p>The lack of appropriate staff and knowledge in digital transformation is a problem for 30% of small and 42% of medium-sized companies in Slovenia (in 2020).</p>	<p>Statistical Office of Republic of Slovenia (SURS), Digital entrepreneurship, 2021. https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/News/Index/9885</p>
<p>Digital skills of employees have improved in recent years, also due to above-average investments of companies in ICT training, but, in the last three years, the share of companies, especially in the segment of medium-sized companies training in ICT decreased (by 3 percentage points). The survey, conducted in the autumn of 2020 among Slovenian SMEs drew attention to the low digital competencies of employees and insufficient investment of companies in their development, as well as difficulties in hiring new staff in the field of digital. This shows that companies are still poorly prepared for the digital business transformation.</p>	<p>Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development (UMAR), Development report 2021, 2021. https://www.umar.gov.si/fileadmin/user_upload/razvoj_slovenije/2021/slovenski/POR2021_skupaj.pdf</p>
<p>As noted by the research "Youth 2020", the share of young people (15–29 years old) that are convinced to gain appropriate knowledge in education system to establish a company and became entrepreneurs increased from 27.7% in 2010 to 35.1% 2020 in Slovenia.</p>	<p>Lavrič, M. et al. Mladina 2020: položaj mladih v Sloveniji,. University of Maribor, University Press, 2021. https://press.um.si/index.php/ump/catalog/view/575/730/1527-5</p>
<p>In 2020, the proportion of enterprises providing ICT skills training to their employees was higher (24.01%) than the EU-27 average (18.28%).</p>	<p>Eurostat, Community Survey on ICT usage and e-commerce in enterprises, 2021.</p>
ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN	 ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN
<p>In 2021, a measure was implemented to enable the transfer of courts' auctions from onsite to online. The benefits for citizens and businesses are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - more transparent and faster procedures, - elimination of administrative barriers without subsequent supplementation of applications, - better (friendly access) and more efficient service. 	<p>Government of Republic of Slovenia, A single set of measures for a better regulatory and business environment – Single Document, 2021. https://enotnazbirkaukrepov.gov.si/realizacija-ukrepov/ukrepi/realizirani</p>
<p>In 2020, the Strategic Council for De-bureaucratization was established, which prepared proposals to reduce administrative barriers in the tax, economic (simplified and unified reporting to state institutions, merging different registers, regulation and simplification of remote work arrangements, shortening procedures for obtaining work permits for foreigners) and the environmental field.</p>	<p>Government of Republic of Slovenia, Proposed measures for debureaucratization in the tax, economic and environmental fields, 2021. https://www.gov.si/novice/2021-04-23-strateski-svet-za-digitalizacijo-bo-deloval-v-okviru-sestih-delovnih-skupin/</p>



<p>In 2020, improvement was made concerning the Slovenian Business Point (SPOT). The key progress was the renewal of the informative part of the SPOT web-portal. All content on the conditions for performing activities and professions has been moved to the new Content Management System (CMS). Content corrections and upgrades are in progress. At the end of 2020, activities for the transfer of English content (eugo.gov.si) to the English version of the SPOT portal started.</p>	<p>Ministry of Public Administration, A single set of measures for a better regulatory and business environment – Single Document, 2021. https://www.enotnazbirkaukreporov.gov.si/realizacija-ukrepov/naloga/739</p>
<p>As part of the review of new and amended legislation under regular or fast-track procedures, the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology supervises SME tests (economic impact assessments). On the basis of a public mandate, representative chambers are involved in the preparation of the SME tests. Since 23 February 2018, web application SME tests are published on the eDemocracy web portal, where the public can comment and give drafting suggestions on these tests.</p>	<p>Ministry of Public Administration and Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, E-democracy https://e-uprava.gov.si/drzava-in-druzba/e-demokracija/predlogi-predpisov.html#eyJmaWx0ZXJzIjpb7ImNvbW1lbNQiOlsiLSJdLCJ0eXBIIjpbIi0iXSvic3RhHVzIjpbIi0iXSvic2F0IjpbIi0iXSvicmlqcyI6WyItMSJdLCJvZmZzZXQiOlsiMCJdLCJzZW50aW5lbF90eXBIIjpbIm9rIl0sInNlbnRpbmVsX3N0YXR1cyI6WyJvayJdLCJpc19hamF4IjpbIjEiXX19 SME test https://presojaucinkov.gov.si/Msp/</p>
<p>Through the STOP the Bureaucracy portal, citizens and businesses have the opportunity to participate in communicating perceived administrative obstacles and take initiatives to overcome them. In 2021, 46 such initiatives were received, aimed to be transposed into concrete measures (with responsible ministries, implementation deadlines, concrete tasks, realisation reports). These can be monitored by the public on the Single Document website. So far, 408 measures have been collected, of which 312 have already been implemented, a further 84 were in the realisation phase and 12 have a longer implementation deadline due to their complexity (expected in 2022 or 2023). In 2021, 18 planned measures were implemented.</p>	<p>Ministry of Public Administration, A single set of measures for a better regulatory and business environment – Single Document, 2021. https://www.enotnazbirkaukreporov.gov.si Ministry of Public Administration, Stop the Bureaucracy https://www.stopbirokraciji.gov.si/domov</p>
<p>In the past, entrepreneurs were required to make a prior announcement of the cessation of activities, which constituted an additional unnecessary administrative barrier in the process of closing and entailed additional costs for entrepreneurs, APJES (the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services) or the state. The obligation to pre-announce the cessation of activities was abolished by the Act amending the Companies Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No 18/21), which entered into force on 24. 2. 2021. The estimated savings from the change amount to EUR 170 000 per year, EUR 150 000 for entrepreneurs and EUR 20 000 for public authorities.</p>	<p>Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, A single set of measures for a better regulatory and business environment – Single Document, 2021. https://enotnazbirkaukreporov.gov.si/realizacija-ukrepov/ukrep/705</p>
<p>On 9 December 2021, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted a programme to promote investment and the internationalisation of the Slovenian economy.</p>	<p>Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, A single set of measures for a better regulatory and business environment – Single Document, 2021.</p>

<p>The programme for the period 2020-2024, which was drawn up by the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, sets out Slovenia's medium-term orientations and objectives in the field of promoting the internationalisation of companies. A set of measures needed to enhance the internationalisation of the Slovenian economy will be implemented during the duration of the programme.</p>	<p>https://enotnazbirkaukrepi.gov.si/realizacija-ukrepov/ukrep/696</p> <p>Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Programme to promote investment and internationalization of the Slovenian economy, 2021. https://www.gov.si/novice/2021-12-09-sprejet-program-spodbujanja-investicij-in-internacionalizacije-slovenskega-gospodarstva/</p>
<p>REGULATORY OBSTACLES</p>	 REGULATORY OBSTACLES
<p>As part of the debureaucratisation processes, the Debureaucratisation Act was adopted on 27 December 2021. The law repeals more than 200 laws and regulations which are no longer applicable. As of 22 July 2022, the possibility to communicate more effectively with individuals through an e-mail address and/or mobile phone number held in the Central Population Register shall be established for officials (including e-services). The requirement to authenticate electronically signed decisions has also been abolished. A register of local community legal acts will be set up, containing information on published regulations and other local community acts. The register will be published on the Official Journal's website and will be accessible free of charge.</p>	<p>National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, Debureaucratisation Act, 2021. http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO8346</p>
<p><i>In June 2021, the Government</i> adopted by Resolution No. 02402-9 / 2021/3 the Final Report of the Interdepartmental Working Group for the Renovation of the Systemic Arrangements in the Field of Handicrafts (FMI). The purpose of the FMI was to examine the regulations applicable to the field of handicrafts and to prepare proposals for changes in legislation or other activities that would enable the preservation and development of handicrafts in Slovenia.</p>	<p>Ministry of Public Administration, A single set of measures for a better regulatory and business environment – Single document, 2021. https://www.enotnazbirkaukrepi.gov.si/realizacija-ukrepov/naloga/1001</p>
<p>ACCESS TO FINANCE</p>	 ACCESS TO FINANCE
<p>While in 2020, due to the Covid-19 crisis, the net needs increased for SMEs and decreased for large companies, in 2021, due to an improved economic situation, favourable sources of funding and state aid, companies reported a sufficient supply of all sources of financing, thus decreasing the financial gap. In 2021, compared to 2020, the net needs of SMEs for bank lending, other external financing and leasing increased less, while access to finance for all sources of financing improved significantly. The number of rejected applications for financing decreased for all sources of financing.</p>	<p>Bank of Slovenia, Survey on Access to Finance for Businesses 2021, 2022. https://www.bsi.si/files/publication-files/analiza-o-dostopnosti-do-fin-virov_2021.pdf</p>
<p>In 2021, companies estimated the conditions of bank financing to have been better than in 2020. The majority of companies (91% of SMEs and 98% of large companies) planned to invest</p>	<p>Bank of Slovenia, Survey on Access to Finance for Businesses 2021, 2022. https://www.bsi.si/files/publication-files/analiza-o-dostopnosti-do-fin-virov_2021.pdf</p>

in the following three-year period, mainly with own sources and bank loans.	
In 2020, access to public financial support including guarantees was higher (22,67%) than the EU-27 average (14.05%) (expressed as the percentage of respondents that indicated a deterioration)	European Commission, SME Performance Review Database, 2021.
<p>In 2021, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Slovene Enterprise Fund continued to provide support to Slovenian SMEs, facilitating their access to finance, through bank loan guarantees with interest rate subsidy (91 million EUR tendered funds, 577 supported projects) and direct (micro)loans, including microloans for border problem areas, Covid-19 liquidity loans and Covid-19 direct loans for tourism and hospitality (118,99 million EUR tendered funds, 2.675 supported projects).</p> <p>Additionally, the Slovene Enterprise Fund granted other measures to strengthen SMEs' resilience to future external shocks, such as special incentives (subsidies) for digital transformation of SMEs (30 million EUR tendered funds, 311 supported projects) and incentives of low value in the form of 14 different vouchers – e. g. digital marketing voucher, digital strategy voucher, voucher for quality certificate, prototyping voucher, etc. (15,51 million EUR tendered funds, 3.293 supported projects).</p>	<p>Slovenian Enterprise Fund, 2022.</p> <p>Slovenski podjetniški sklad (podjetniskisklad.si)</p>
LATE PAYMENTS	 LATE PAYMENTS
46% of the Slovenian companies surveyed in the European Payment Report 2021 say that late payments have a large impact and prohibit growth of their businesses, which is well above the EU average of 37%.	<p>Intrum, European Payment Report 2021, 2021.</p> <p>https://www.intrum.com/publications/europea-n-payment-report/european-payment-report-2021/</p>
According to data from the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services (AJPES), an average of 3,110 legal entities with overdue liabilities and 2,992 sole proprietors and other natural persons engaged in registered activities were registered per month in 2020.	<p>Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services (AJPES), Business entities with overdue liabilities overdue for more than 5 days continuously, 2021.</p> <p>https://www.ajpes.si/Statistike/Statistike-placilnega-prometa/</p>
According to data from Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services (AJPES), in the first 11 months of 2021, there were 2.607 companies with overdue outstanding liabilities of over 5 days continuously in Slovenia. Among them there were 1.864 micro companies, 126 small companies, 2 middle sized and 2 large companies.	<p>Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services (AJPES), Legal entities with overdue outstanding liabilities over 5 days continuously by size, 2021.</p> <p>https://www.ajpes.si/Doc/Statistike/Placilni_promet/Nep_obv/</p>
The multi-year trend of declining outstanding liabilities continued in 2020. The majority of insolvent legal entities and entrepreneurs were in trade, construction, professional, scientific and technical activities, catering and manufacturing. In 2020, the Act on Intervention	<p>Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services (AJPES), Business operations of companies in 2020, 2021.</p> <p>https://www.ajpes.si/novica/...</p>

Measures to Contain the COVID-19 Epidemic and Mitigate its Consequences for Citizens and the Economy (ZIUZEOP) until the end of May 2020 defined a postponement and suspension of the execution of enforcement orders, which in April and May led to a sharp reduction in the number of both legal entities and entrepreneurs with liquidity problems.	
In 2020, there were 3.110 insolvent legal entities in Slovenia (out of approximately 120.000 entities).	Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services (AJPES), Business operations of companies in 2020, 2021. https://www.ajpes.si/novica/...
The latest research by the First Credit Rating Agency in 2021, based on the analysis of the latest available balance sheet data, shows that as many as 22.459 companies and sole proprietors in Slovenia are capital-inadequacy. Because 127.524 companies and sole proprietors are active in Slovenia, for which balance sheet data have been published at least once, the number of capital-unsuitable companies is high. A simple calculation gives worrying statistics, namely that capital inadequacy is detected in almost 18% of defined companies. This means that almost every fifth company in the defined population is insolvent in the long run.	Prva bonitetna agencija d.o.o., Payment indiscipline in Slovenia and abroad threatens the liquidity of companies, 2021. https://www.ebonitete.si/blog/post/placilna-nedisciplina-v-sloveniji
According to data of Dun&Bradstreet Slovenia, the late payments increased during the COVID-19 crisis in 2020 in all industries. They observed longer payment deadlines as well. The analysis of trends in payment habits by Slovenian regions between February and March shows a decline in all regions except one (Posavje region).	Dun&Bradstreet, Neplačila in zamude plačil ogrožajo vaše poslovanje, zato preverite oceno plačilnih navad partnerjev, še preden z njimi sklenete posel, 2021. https://www.dnb.com/sl-si/o-bisnode/o-nas/novice/neplacila-in-zamude-placil-ogrozajo-vase-poslovanje-zato-preverite-oceno-placilnih-navad-partnerjev-se-preden-z-njimi-sklenete-posel/
ACCESS TO MARKETS 	
The Program of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Promotion of Internationalization of Companies 2020 - 2024 is in the process of acceptance in 2021. The Program will determine Slovenia's medium-term orientations and goals in promoting internationalisation of companies.	Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Preparation of the Program of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Promotion of the Internationalisation of Companies 2020-2024, 2021. https://enotnazbirkaukrepi.gov.si/realizacija-ukrepov/naloga/1007
In 2021, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia developed the online tool Export Accelerator, which is an innovative tool intended for export-oriented companies, which, with its immediate application, enables efficient entry into a new or expansion into an existing market. Companies that want to improve their decision-making to enter a foreign market can get involved.	GZS, Export accelerator, 2021. https://pospesevalnikizvoza.gzs.si/
In 2020, the proportion of awards for which the winner was an SME was higher than the EU-27 average (78% compared to 61.07%).	European Commission, Single Market Scoreboard, 2021.

START-UP ENVIRONMENT  START-UP ENVIRONMENT	
Slovenia has suffered a steep drop of 11 spots to rank 46th globally, reversing the growth the country saw in 2020.	The Global Startup Ecosystem Index, 2021. https://www.startupblink.com/startupecosystemreport.pdf
Since 2020, the Startup Plus Programme, implemented by the Slovene Enterprise Fund, brings together all the essential support that innovative start-up enterprises need for rapid global growth. In addition to financial incentives offered by the Slovene Enterprise Fund (subsidies, convertible loans, equity investments), it also includes an intensive mentoring programme and training in several different quality and specialised content programmes.	Slovenian Enterprise Fund, About the Startup Plus program, 2021. https://startup-plus.podjetniskisklad.si/ and https://podjetniskisklad.si/sl/register/register-inovativnih-zagonskih-podjetij
In 2021, the Slovene Enterprise Fund continued to promote the creation, development and growth of Slovenian start-ups through start-up incentives in the form of subsidies (2,16 million EUR tendered funds, 40 supported projects) and seed capital – convertible loans for innovative start-ups (0,86 million EUR tendered funds, 11 supported projects).	Slovenian Enterprise Fund, 2022. Slovenski podjetniški sklad (podjetniskisklad.si)
In 2021, the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology established the so-called "startup in scale-up traffic light". This is a methodological tool that used in Slovenia in order to simplify the review of key measures to improve the business environment for startup and scale-up companies and measure progress in individual countries. In designing the traffic light, the Ministry, in collaboration with experts, pursued the goal of a manageable number of key measures that are necessary to improve the business environment and could potentially have the greatest short- and medium-term impact on accelerating startup and scale-up companies. Eleven key actions were selected, grouped into 5 priority areas, namely: Access to Finance, Talents and Mobility, Promoting Deep Tech, Cooperation with Corporations, Legislation, Taxes and Access to Information.	Start:up Slovenia, Bold ambitions of Slovenia and Europe for startup and scaleup ecosystem improvements, 2021. https://www.startup.si/sl-si/novica/next-round-2021-strateske-usmertive-eu-za-startup-in-scaleup-podjetja
SCALE-UP ENVIRONMENT  SCALE-UP ENVIRONMENT	
To support scale-up companies, SPIRIT Slovenia-Public Agency for Entrepreneurship, Internationalisation, Foreign Investments and Technology has published a tender for preparing the list of individuals in the register of mentors and experts for consulting start-up and scale-up companies that are included in the programs of innovative environment entities for the period 2020-2022.	Public Agency for Entrepreneurship, Internationalization, Foreign Investments and Technology (SPIRIT Slovenia), Public invitation to enter in the register of mentors and experts for startup and scale-up companies, 2020. https://www.spiritslovenia.si/razpis/337
Among the companies in industry, construction and business services, which employed at least 10 people, there were 908 fast-growing companies in 2020 (depending on the growth in the number of employees). This is 23% less than in 2019, due to the fact that the number of employees in these companies grew more	Statistical Office of Republic of Slovenia (SURS), Scale-up companies, 2021. https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/News/Index/10018

slowly in the observed period. The number of fast-growing enterprises decreased in almost all areas of activity, most notably in manufacturing (by 108); followed by trade, maintenance and repair of motor vehicles (by 50).	
Only 6,7% of fast-growing companies were under five years old. The number of such fast-growing companies was 19% lower than in 2019.	Statistical Office of Republic of Slovenia (SURS), Scale-up companies, 2021. https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/News/Index/10018
The Startup Plus Programme of the Slovenian Enterprise Fund also provides financial incentives and substantive support for business scale-ups.	Slovenian Enterprise Fund, 2022. Slovenski podjetniški sklad (podjetniskisklad.si)
In 2021, the Slovene Enterprise Fund continued with its efforts to facilitate the development of scale-ups, through seed capital (as convertible loans for innovative start-ups (0,86 million EUR tendered funds, 11 supported projects) and through a – co-investment mechanism (1,5 million EUR tendered funds, 3 supported projects)) as well as through a cooperation within the Central Europe Fund of Funds (CeFoF), managed by the European Investment Fund (EIF).	Slovenian Enterprise Fund, 2022. Slovenski podjetniški sklad (podjetniskisklad.si)
IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS 	
During the COVID-19 crisis, SMEs adjusted their travel and investment costs the fastest, followed by employment, advertising and fixed costs, and the latest adjusted wage costs.	Bank of Slovenia, Survey on Access to Finance for Businesses 2020, 2021. https://www.bsi.si/files/publication-files/rezultati-ankete-o-virih-financiranja-podjetij-2020.pdf
In 2020, about 60% of SMEs applied for government incentives mainly because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Of this, around 70% of SMEs have applied for reimbursement for waiting for work, payment of contributions to waiting staff and paid crisis allowance. About 50% of SMEs have applied for reimbursement for quarantines and absences due to force majeure.	Bank of Slovenia, Survey on Access to Finance for Businesses 2020, 2021. https://www.bsi.si/files/publication-files/rezultati-ankete-o-virih-financiranja-podjetij-2020.pdf
Since the beginning of the COVID-19 epidemic, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia has adopted 10 comprehensive "packages of measures to mitigate the consequences of the epidemic" in Slovenia (the last one was adopted in November 2021). These measures are estimated at approx. EUR 6 billion, of which EUR 4.5 billion have been spent so far, of which EUR 2.3 billion have been earmarked for the economy (as per data of 16 December 2021). The most important financial measures for companies are to help companies overcome problems with lost income and reimbursement of employees for sick leave or reimbursement of costs for protective equipment and tests. Some measures relate to individual industries, such as tourism, which was severely affected at the time of the epidemic.	Government of the Republic of Slovenia, Tackling the effects of the epidemic, 2021. https://www.gov.si teme/koronavirus-sars-cov-2/odpravljanje-posledic-epidemije/
NATIONAL RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PLAN 	
The National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), published in June 2021, allocates a	European Union, Slovenia's recovery and resilience plan, 2021.

<p>budget of EUR 44 million to support the implementation of advanced digital technologies in companies and strengthen the digital skills of their employees.</p>	<p>https://www.eu-skladi.si/sl/dokumenti/rrf/01_si-rrp_23-7-2021.pdf</p>
<p>The NRRP allocates a budget of EUR 305 million to support private investments. They will be coupled with reforms to improve the business environment, access to finance and cooperation between public and private research.</p>	<p>European Union, Slovenia's recovery and resilience plan, 2021. https://www.eu-skladi.si/sl/dokumenti/rrf/01_si-rrp_23-7-2021.pdf</p>
<p>The NRPP allocates a budget of EUR 79 million to set-up a long-term care system. It will create a new social security system that integrates healthcare and social care services for all age groups and increases their accessibility across the country. Additionally, it will support the development of community-based services while ensuring professional institutional care for those with more complex needs.</p>	<p>European Union, Slovenia's recovery and resilience plan, 2021. https://www.eu-skladi.si/sl/dokumenti/rrf/01_si-rrp_23-7-2021.pdf</p>
<p>NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS *</p>	
<p>The Ministry of Economic Development and Technology and the public agency Public Agency for Entrepreneurship, Internationalisation, Foreign Investments and Technology (SPIRIT Slovenia) are the initiators of the one-year project "Strengthening the Slovenian Innovation Ecosystem", which is taking place in 2021 within the Support to Structural Reforms program. An essential part of the project is dedicated to the research of the Slovenian innovation ecosystem, which, will be compared (benchmarking) other selected countries and will be the basis for preparing a reform in the field of strengthening the innovation ecosystem in Slovenia.</p>	<p>Public Agency for Entrepreneurship, Internationalisation, Foreign Investments and Technology (SPIRIT Slovenia), Strengthening the Slovenian innovation ecosystem, 2021. https://www.spiritslovenia.si/vprasanje/502</p>
<p>OTHER RELEVANT TOPICS</p>	
<p>In 2021, SPIRIT Slovenia launched a pilot national program for small, medium and large companies that are aware that they are at a point where their business model needs to be transformed. The 2021 pilot program is intended for companies that in recent years have faced the need to change existing or set up new business models due to the risks or new business opportunities and employ at least 5 people. The pilot program includes intensive and in-depth training of the companies involved and mentoring in the transformation of existing or setting up new sustainable business models. The program includes at least 20 hours of intensive training / mentoring over a period of 4-6 weeks.</p>	<p>Public Agency for Entrepreneurship, Internationalisation, Foreign Investments and Technology (SPIRIT Slovenia), Transformation of business models 2021 - pilot program, 2021. https://www.podjetniski-portal.si/programi/transformacija-poslovnih-modelov-2021-pilotni-program</p>

* "National industrial ecosystems" refer to the national aspects of the industrial ecosystems as defined by the EC.

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/6355326c-ae95-11eb-9767-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>