



SLOVENIA

“ A promising year and, at the same time, a missed opportunity ”

By Sloga - Slovenian Global Action

Main trends

In 2022, preliminary numbers for Slovenia show an unprecedented increase of its ODA from 0.19% to 0.27% of GNI. This was primarily due to the increase in bilateral grants, in-donor refugee cost, and contributions to multilateral organisations. Major reasons for this were the multiple humanitarian crises plaguing 2022, as Slovenia almost doubled its funding for humanitarian aid compared to 2021, as well as a higher contribution to the EU ODA budget. Slovenia increased its bilateral ODA by almost EUR 39 million or by 101% compared to 2021, mainly due to the cancelled interest on the clearing debt owed by the Republic of Angola (representing over EUR 18 million). At the same time, Slovenia is continuing the decreasing trend in terms of funded projects to NGOs and increasing the size of individual projects in order to reduce the administrative burden of the MFA. Another trend highlighted is the inclusion of the private sector as a part of the partnerships in 2022 MFA calls for NGOs.

Slovenia also adopted Guidelines for Inclusion of Gender Equality into the International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of the Republic of Slovenia, accompanying the renewal of the MFA Guidelines for cooperation with NGOs in 2023. The new guidelines do not include private sector organisations as actors in development cooperation, thus missing the opportunity to provide guidelines for their engagement. They do, however, include commitments that have yet to be tested to see whether they can be implemented and evaluated.

Government's relationship with civil society

The new government assumed office in June 2022. The new Foreign Minister, Ms. Tanja Fajon, confirmed the government's commitment to cooperate with CSOs. In the following six months, the ministry showed good will toward NGOs to build their capacities. A call for proposals for NGO projects was also published, a very good sign in principle. Unfortunately, the Ministry's decision to not select any organisation for Slovenian NGDO capacity-building was a big shock for the national NGO platform and its member

Reported ODA: EUR 146 million
0.27% GNI (↑ from 0.19% in 2021)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 93 million
0.17% GNI (↑ from 0.15% in 2021)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 53 million
35% of total



organisations. It is currently unknown how the funds reserved for the call will be spent. This will have unprecedented consequences for the future capacity of the sector in terms of national and European advocacy and awareness raising work. Alongside the above-mentioned trend of narrowing the funding space for NGOs with opening calls for fewer and slightly larger projects, with well defined “asks” from the finance provider, there is talk of implementing future strategic partnerships in other fields. This might be in the field of global citizenship education, in which smaller organisations are implementing projects and who may not necessarily be equipped to apply for bigger projects.

The Slovenian government should:

- **Continue to scale up its ODA to meet its commitments by revising, adopting and implementing a national action plan to increase ODA to the 0.33% target and the 0.2% target to LDCs, limiting the trend of increasing inflated aid, and extending bilateral ODA to at least half of total ODA, thus increasing the share of priority-targeted and monitored aid.**
- **Strengthen financial support to NGOs, re-establishing the support for small NGO programmes in advocacy and capacity-building. The MFA should also rethink providing core support to the Slovenian national NGDO platform in accordance with the 2018 NGO Act. These actions would significantly contribute to strengthened public support for development and humanitarian policies, the latter needed for Slovenia to fulfil its ODA commitment.**
- **Urgently develop guidelines for private sector engagement in international development cooperation and humanitarian aid. The guidelines for institutional setup should be supported by a permanent, open, inclusive and participatory PCSD assessment mechanism, in line with the 2030 Agenda.**