

Slovakia

Reported ODA: EUR 177 million
0.14 % GNI (↑ from 3.90% in 2023)

Non-inflated ODA: EUR 177 million
0.14 % GNI (↑ from 0.01% in 2023)

Total inflated ODA: EUR 0 million
0.52 % of total



“Two decades of commitment, but ODA budgets/GNI remain unchanged”

Ambrela – Platform for Development Organisations

Main trends

Slovakia is shifting away from an initial outlook based more on solidarity and transformation and towards a more pragmatic donor approach with a strong emphasis on economic diplomacy. Despite the 20th anniversary of Slovakia as a donor country and 10 years of DAC OECD membership, ODA remained critically underfunded at just 0.14% of GNI (EUR 182 million)–far below the international commitment of 0.33% by 2030. At the same time it has shown no appetite for bilateral aid budget increase. The entire system is also quite outdated with no major systemic changes be it in the area of instruments, strategy, approach or modus operandi. The world has changed profoundly with some major crises having a direct impact on Slovakia, but the system of the Slovak ODA did not change.

In 2024, Slovakia's ODA system faced unprecedented pressure from a rapidly evolving geopolitical and humanitarian environment as well as domestic fiscal consolidation measures. The real value of Slovak aid continued to decline due to inflation, and the main grant budget for bilateral projects (SAIDC) was cut in the middle of year by nearly 70%, severely limiting the country's ability to respond to global crises and undermining its credibility as a development partner.

Bilateral ODA accounted for only 27% of total ODA, while 73% was channelled through multilateral contributions. The system remained fragmented and unpredictable, with no new mechanisms for rapid humanitarian response introduced. Despite the third draft of the National Strategy for Global Education being introduced, it was not adopted.

Government's relationship with civil society

The relationship between civil society and governmental stakeholders in Slovakia in 2024 became significantly more challenging. While dialogue and consultation channels with MFA technically remained open, **the general environment for NGOs—including Ambrella members—deteriorated due to several government measures.** In addition to the nearly 70% reduction of SAIDC grants for development projects, the government introduced or proposed restrictive policies such as a foreign agent law, a transactional tax or institutional changes at numerous ministries. It curbed public funding to NGOs, limited participatory processes in legislative processes and increased administrative controls; audits also further contributed to a climate of uncertainty and pressure. Compared to previous years, when cooperation was more predictable, these developments have made long-term planning and partnership for civil society actors considerably more difficult.

Recommendations

- **Ensure sufficient, predictable, and stable funding for development cooperation through SAIDC grants**, so that partners can plan effectively, implement high quality projects, and maintain Slovakia's credibility and impact as a development donor.
- **Substantially raise the overall ODA budget to progress toward the 0.33% GNI target by 2030**, as the current level (0.14% GNI) is far below Slovakia's international commitments.
- **Adopt and implement the National Strategy for Global Education** to provide a clear framework and sufficient funding for global education.
- **Develop a modern rapid humanitarian response mechanism to enable Slovakia to react swiftly and effectively to crises**, addressing the persistent gap in institutional preparedness and flexibility.