

Integrating Slovenian enterprises into a model of IDC with UNIDO to achieve Sustainable Development Goals

Janez Rogelj

Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport, Government of Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia

janez.rogelj@gmail.com

Abstract

In this paper, the author presents the achievement of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the context of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through Slovenia's international development cooperation (IDC) system, integrating public and private enterprises. The SDGs combine three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced way: economic, social and environmental. The legal framework of the international development cooperation of the Republic of Slovenia with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) is presented. Based on the implementation of the seventeen SDGs goals, the long-term strategic plan of cooperation is given, with a presentation of the renewed basic agreement between the two partners. The history of Slovenia's active and fruitful cooperation with UNIDO in the field of IDC is presented. The author devotes special attention to the Long-Term Cooperation, so called Roadmap with UNIDO and the priority areas and regions of cooperation where Slovenia can offer services, knowledge and technologies that are competitive in the developed world. The cooperation presented is based on dialogue between the recipient countries of development cooperation, UNIDO and Slovenia, and is based on the transfer of technology and knowledge that Slovenia, as an open economy, offers to countries and regions in need.

KEYWORDS: Sustainable Development Goals, SDGS, international development cooperation, IDC, Slovenia, UNIDO

Introduction

Slovenia is a small, open, export-oriented economy. Like all other developed countries, it provides substantial resources in the form of funding for international development cooperation projects and direct funding for humanitarian aid in the event of natural disasters (famine, drought, floods, outbreaks of severe infectious diseases, volcanoes, wars and other similar events) to countries

in need. The policy of the Republic of Slovenia in the area of IDCs is based on three important strategic documents on International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid adopted by Slovenia (law on IDCHA of RS): The Resolution, the Law and the Strategy. The Law and the Resolution represent the legal framework for cooperation, while the Strategy represents the framework for Slovenia's action at the multilateral level and provides for the focus of development cooperation and humanitarian aid on geographical and thematic priorities, as well as general criteria for government development cooperation.

The partnership with UNIDO is formally based on the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and UNIDO on Special Dedicated Contributions to the Industrial Development Fund, adopted and ratified by the National Assembly in October 2023, and the Cooperation Plan between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and UNIDO, signed in August 2022. It is based on dialogue between the recipient countries of development cooperation, UNIDO and Slovenia. Slovenia has development advantages where it can successfully participate in IDC projects because, as an open economy, Slovenia can offer knowledge and technology transfer to countries and regions in need.

Slovenia and IDC

Slovenia's strategic goal since independence in 1991 has been to join the European Union (EU) and thus become one of the most developed countries in the world. With its accession to the EU on 1 May 2004, Slovenia became a provider of IDC aid rather than a recipient of it. This represented a major change in policy formulation in the country. It was no longer a question of how Slovenia was going to receive development funds and help from more developed countries, but how it was going to offer and provide part of the funds (as a donor country) and services (to provide benefits) to those countries and international organisations that needed them (partner countries).

Slovenia is considered an economically developed country and has been a donor since independence, but more intensively since Slovenia's accession to the EU in 2004. As a member of the United Nations, Slovenia has adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through which it aims to achieve the 17 universal goals for peace and security, prosperity and a life of dignity for today and future generations. It recognises that sustainable development in all three dimensions - social, economic and environmental - is a shared responsibility for all of us. Through the SDGs in the Agenda, Slovenia aims to contribute to overall economic progress, poverty eradication, women's empowerment and the reduction of inequalities between countries. As a member of the EU and the international donor community, Slovenia is working to address the major challenges of less

developed and developing countries and to achieve a more equitable global development (MFEA, 2020a). As a developed, responsible and active country, co-designs policies and measures to address global development challenges.

Together with partners, it contributes to a sustainable, just, inclusive and secure future for all. It contributes to a more balanced and equitable global development and thus takes co-responsibility for achieving sustainable development not only in partner countries but also more widely. By regularly sending international humanitarian and development aid, Slovenia expresses its solidarity with affected countries and individuals facing emergencies, whether as a result of major natural and other disasters or armed conflicts (MFEA, 2020b). This saves lives, prevents and alleviates suffering and preserves human dignity. It also contributes to building resilience to crises and their prevention.

Development aid, often also called Official Development Assistance (ODA), represents one of the most important mechanisms for the redistribution of wealth in the world. ODA is an instrument of IDC for the promotion of human, sustainable, and gender-equitable development (Sachs, 2012; Ayers & Huq, 2009). One of the modalities of ODA and international cooperation in education for sustainable development is as an agent of change, towards more environmentally conscious citizenship (Oikawa, 2016; Chung & Par, 2016). It is widely accepted that rich countries should help poor ones, and the most common way to do so is through development aid policies.

Over the past 15 years, countries have made serious efforts to reform the development aid system. They have established a shared agenda of minimum social standards; they have revised their practices to improve the effectiveness of aid (the Paris Agenda); they have brought innovation to the governance architecture of the system (the Global Partnership and Development Cooperation Forum); and they have launched a process of reviewing ODA and creating a new and wider complementary concept: Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD). While most of these changes move in the right direction, they still fall short of what is needed to face the development challenges of today's world because the international reality is changing more deeply and rapidly than development aid has been able to do (Alonso, 2018).

Since becoming a donor in 2004, Slovenia has managed to establish a relatively sustainable volume of development and humanitarian aid and to develop expertise and a functioning institutional system. It involves government and implementing institutions, the non-governmental sector, civil society and the private sector. Within the IDC system, Slovenia has established itself as a credible and reliable partner, taking into account the development needs of partner countries, which it has been meeting by allocating a large share of its resources and other forms of development assistance,

given its economic strength, since 2004 (accession to the EU). As an EU Member State, Slovenia committed itself in the context of the negotiations for the New Development Agenda in 2015 to work towards increasing ODA to 0.33% of GDP by 2030 (MFEA, 2022).

The OECD's position is also important, as Slovenia has been identified as a valued and credible partner, which takes into account and adapts to the development needs of partner countries. Table 1 shows Slovenia's ODA between 2010 and 2023 in millions of euros (current prices) and as a share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In 2022, at the peak, Slovenia allocated almost €160 million to ODA, representing 0.29 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), while in 2023 it had allocated €150.67 million, representing 0.24 per cent of GDP.

Table 1

Slovenia's ODA in millions of euros (current prices) and as a share of GDP

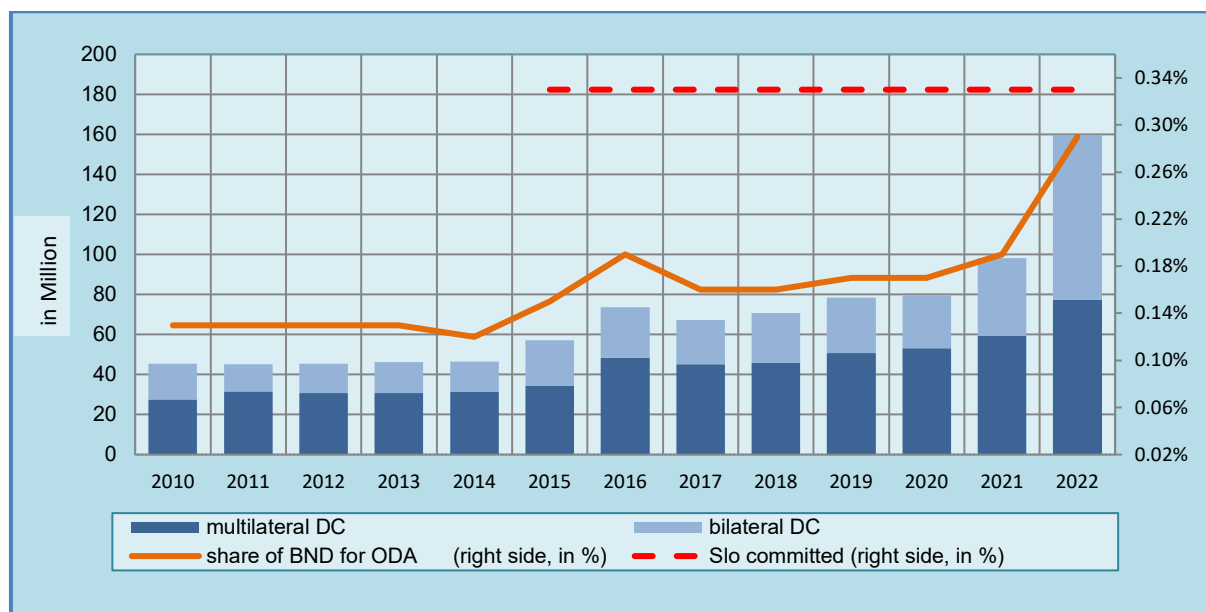
Year	Bilateral Development Assistance - BDA	Multilateral Development Assistance - MDA	Total	Slovenia's ODA in GDP (in %)
2010	17.87	27.47	45.34	0.13
2011	13.53	31.58	45.11	0.13
2012	14.86	30.62	45.48	0.13
2013	15.35	30.87	46.22	0.13
2014	15.19	31.19	46.38	0.12
2015	22.62	34.43	57.15	0.15
2016	25.22	48.33	73.55	0.19
2017	22.11	45.12	67.23	0.16
2018	24.81	45.95	70.76	0.16
2019	27.76	50.61	78.37	0.17
2020	26.49	53.12	79.61	0.17
2021	38.96	59.29	98.25	0.19
2022	82.32	77.34	159.66	0.29
2023	62.67	88.00	150.67	0.24

Source: Author's calculation based on Government data

Slovenia conducts bilateral and multilateral development cooperation following international rules and standards and in line with the strategic documents on IDC adopted by the country. The basis for the preparation of IDC projects is cooperation with IDC organisations, viz., UNIDO, the European Development Fund and other international organisations. In Slovenia, such cooperation is taking place with the Slovenian Export Bank and a specialised development agency, the Centre for International Cooperation and Development. Figure 1 shows Slovenia's ODA volume between 2010 and 2022 in millions of euros (current prices), share of gross national income (GNI) and international commitments of the Republic of Slovenia

Figure 1

Slovenia's ODA volume and international commitments



Note. Left vertical axis shows ODA volume between 2010 and 2022 in millions of euros (current prices)., Right column shows its share of Slovenia's gross national income (GNI) Dotted red line shows the country's commitment.

Source: Author's calculation based on Government data

UNIDO and SDG goals

UNIDO's core mission is to achieve the SDGs goals, as set out in the 2030 Agenda adopted at the United Nations in 2015. Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. It is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. The 2030 Agenda, adopted by all UN Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. Contains the commitments of all the UN members, collected in 17 SDGs, which are an urgent call for action by developed and developing countries in a global partnership. They recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth - all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

SDG goals are universal, integrated and indivisible, and seek to balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental dimensions. The breadth and

scope of the SDGs reflect the complexity and scale of challenges to be addressed in the modern era.

The seventeen Sustainable Development Goals are as follows:

Goal 1: No poverty. Eradicate poverty in all its forms everywhere in the world.

Goal 2: Zero hunger. End hunger, achieve food security and better nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

Goal 3: Good health and well-being. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Goal 4: Quality education. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Goal 5: Gender equality. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation. Ensure access to and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Goal 7: Accessible and clean energy. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth. Promote sustainable, inclusive economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.

Goal 10: Reduce inequalities. Reduce inequalities within and between countries.

Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities. Ensure inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements.

Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Goal 13: Climate action. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Goal 14: Life under water. Conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Goal 15: Life on land. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification.

Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Goal 17: Partnership for the Goal. Strengthen means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

(United Nations, n.d.)

The UNIDO is contributing to the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda through its mandate to support Member States in achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development (hereafter "ISID"). The actions outlined below exemplify how UNIDO contributes to specific SDGs. Due to the interlinked nature of the SDGs, many of UNIDO's activities contribute to more than one SDG.

While UNIDO contributes to all goals of the 2030 Agenda, SDG 9 takes a special position for the Organization, as it recognizes the role of industry, innovation and infrastructure for sustainable development. UNIDO is a custodian agency for six industry-related indicators under SDG 9, collecting and compiling data for the global database of SDG indicators. There is broad evidence for industrialization as the driver of sustained prosperity. Inclusive and sustainable industrialization is a primary source of income generation, and allows for rapid and sustained increases in living standards.

The industrial sector has strong linkages to the other parts of the economy, and serves as an integrator also between agriculture and the service sector. Such linkages ensure that the economic dynamism and growth in one sector spreads to another. The interrelations between industry, innovation and infrastructure are strong, as the industry is an important source of innovation, providing the technological solutions for environmentally sound development and the achievement of green objectives, such as increased resource and energy efficiency, low-carbon production, circular economies and climate action. The cooperation between Slovenia and UNIDO serves as an example to other member states in the field of development cooperation. Slovenia is an example of how a small, developed, open economy can make a significant contribution to the international community. The cooperation of the two partners is based on the following internationally accepted documents which they have committed themselves to implement:

- UNIDO (2013) Lima Declaration of 2 December 2013 for inclusive and sustainable industrial development;
- United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1 of the United Nations (United Nations, 2015a);
- The Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (United Nations, 2015b);

- United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution A/RES/70/293 (United Nations, 2016);
- UNIDO (2019) Abu Dhabi Declaration of 5 November 2019; and
- UNIDO (2021) Medium-Term Programme Framework 2022-2025 with the objective of integration and scaling-up to build back better.

According to UNIDO, Slovenia is one of the most active members. Among UNIDO Member States ranks as the main donor (largest per capita donor) in terms of per capita voluntary contributions. Between 2012 and 2018, Slovenia ranked 6th among more than 170 Member States in terms of the per capita development assistance indicator. The cooperation with UNIDO started with the signing of the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the UNIDO on 11 June 1992 in Vienna. A new, updated Cooperation Agreement was signed on 16 March 2023 in Vienna and ratified by law in the Republic of Slovenia. Under this Agreement, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia makes special earmarked contributions to the Industrial Development Fund of UNIDO for the implementation of joint development projects. Slovenia has financed and implemented most of the projects implemented so far through UNIDO. The Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the UNIDO contains, in addition to the preamble, the following elements:

- technical specifications on the method of mutual communication, the holder and address of the account for voluntary donations of the Republic of Slovenia, the amount of payment in euros for their services for each project (commission);
- a commitment to programme cooperation based on the UNIDO Basic Principles and in line with the substantive priorities of the Republic of Slovenia;
- the modalities of exchange of project documentation and mutual information,
- Method of validation of jointly agreed projects;
- Provisions that UNIDO shall, until the final act of handover of the project to the recipient country, be the owner of all equipment, buildings, infrastructure and other items procured with the funds of the Republic of Slovenia;
- the documents (financial and implementation reports) that UNIDO is obliged to send to the Republic of Slovenia on a regular basis on the financial situation of the account, by project, and the annual and final financial report in the event of termination of the Agreement;
- a commitment that the two parties will meet bilaterally at least once a year to review the financing and implementation of ongoing projects and the proposal and preparation of new joint projects;

- a commitment to publish major matters of mutual cooperation on the websites of each of the parties;

The conclusion of the renewed Agreement means a renewed basis for longer-term and deeper cooperation in the area of IDCs. This will only be based on the demand of partner countries, especially those most in need of development support. In the long term, the new agreement will further strengthen the role of the Republic of Slovenia (a small, open economy) in the international development cooperation environment and its importance within UNIDO.

In addition to the updated Agreement, the partners agreed and adopted a Long-term agreement on mutual cooperation - Roadmap. The Roadmap is an updated version of Annex I of the previous Cooperation Agreement from 1992 between the Government of Slovenia and UNIDO. The Roadmap identifies the thematic and geographical priority areas for which Slovenia is considered a suitable and competitive partner, and the criteria for selecting joint projects. The content priority areas include the following content areas:

- Economic competitiveness through productive employment and quality education
- Innovation and digital transformation through technology development and transfer
- Circular economy and environmental protection in industry
- Clean and efficient energy-related programmes.

The geographical priority areas are defined in line with the geographical priority areas defined in the Resolution and the Strategy on IDCHA of Slovenia. Three priority regions (Western Balkan countries, European Neighbourhood countries and Sub-Saharan African countries) are defined, with exceptions if agreed by both parties. The proposed international cooperation is in line with the Strategy on IDCHA of RS until 2030, as:

- Contributes to achieving sustainable development in third countries by strengthening capacities and creating development models in the biopharmaceutical and other related technologies and IT sectors, which will enable the economic development of the whole sector,
- Strengthen the visibility of Slovenia and its role in the donor community as a development partner and enhance the participation of its contractors/participants,
- Support the development of an enabling business environment and the transfer of good business practices, knowledge and technologies from Slovenian development partners (Universities, Institutes, private sector) to partner countries.

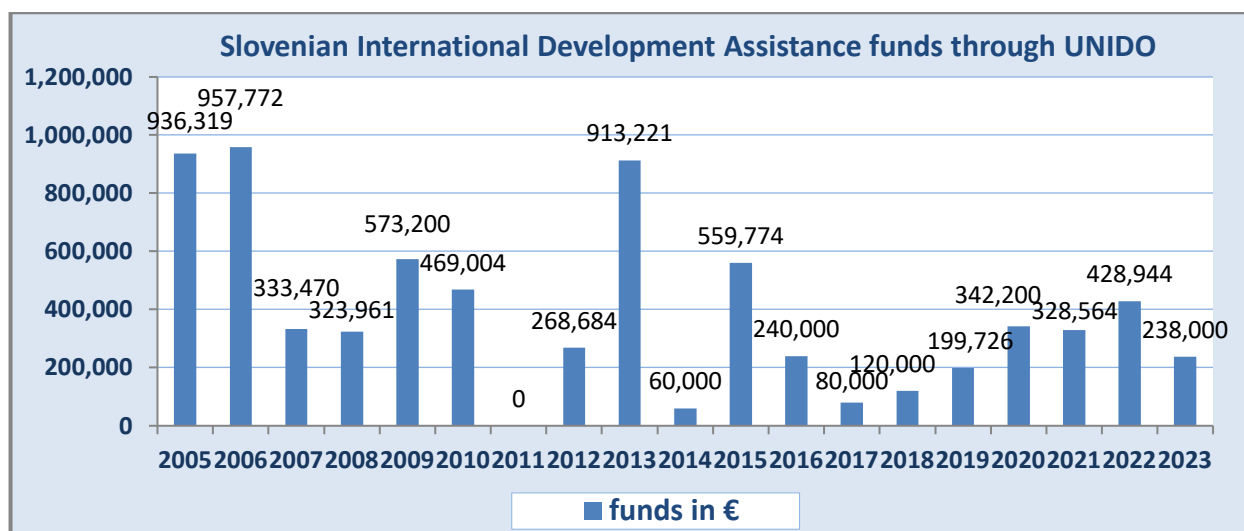
The cooperation plan states that the joint cooperation between UNIDO and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia will be based on the demand of the partner countries, especially those

most in need of development support and most willing to receive it. Both sides will work to promote development cooperation activities by partner countries and beneficiary entities. It is underlined that both Parties understand that only needs-driven development efforts, rooted in local needs, can foster sustainable impact and tangible results in the long term.

Figure 2 shows the volume of funding for Slovenia's MDG projects with UNIDO between 2005 and 2023 in euros at current prices. Between 2005 and 2022, Slovenia allocated a total of €7.1 million to UNIDO for IDC projects; between 2012 and 2022 the allocation was €3.5 million. Since 2011, 23 international projects have been jointly prepared with UNIDO and the partner countries, mostly involving Slovenian institutions, universities, individual researchers and experts, private companies, and other legal entities, in cooperation with experts from UNIDO.

Figure 2

Funding for Slovenia's projects with UNIDO



Note. Figures are in Euros at current prices. Data for 2023 is provisional.

Source: Author's calculation based on the data from Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

International Development Cooperation

The funding is exclusively earmarked for development cooperation projects with partner countries. The projects financed from Slovenia's contributions are selected, monitored and approved by UNIDO and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the basis of priority criteria and are consistent with UNIDO's mission and the fulfilment of the SDG goals. In this way, support to the development efforts of partner countries is ensured. At the same time, for Slovenia, the IDC also

represent one of the general and systemic measures to improve internationalisation through the involvement of the public and private sectors in development cooperation.

Both partners wish to continue their cooperation in the future. Since the first signing of the Agreement Slovenia has been and continues to be an important development partner and donor to UNIDO, contributing financially to technical cooperation activities worldwide. In Slovenia, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MFEA) is responsible for IDC and humanitarian aid. IDC may be implemented by ministries, bodies attached to ministries or government departments participating in bilateral technical assistance programmes in the field of IDC. Accordingly, the Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport (METS) has full competence for the implementation of IDC projects in the economic field.

The IDCs focus, according to mandatory and strategic criteria, mainly on priority content areas and geographic areas where official Slovenian development assistance can be effective. Aid is geared towards supporting the development efforts of partner countries.

In the context of bilateral cooperation, the METS manages the economic policy of the IDC. It is a financier or co-financier of IDC projects or other types of development activities in the partner country where the development projects are being implemented. The Ministry has a specific budget line in the budget of the Republic of Slovenia for this type of financing, from which funds earmarked for development activities (earmarked funds) are drawn.

Development cooperation is guided by a number of criteria, among which the following three are important:

- a clear expression of interest by the country wishing to benefit from the IDC (i.e. the recipient/beneficiary country),
- the implementation of development projects in the context of thematic priority areas where Slovenia has economic and other advantages that enable Slovenia to contribute to the development and other benefits of partner countries,
- countries falling within the geographical priority areas can receive development assistance (exceptions are possible).

The priority content areas are:

- a. promoting the competitiveness of economies through productive employment and quality education

In this area, Slovenia can offer partner countries the opportunity to build inclusive, sustainable and economically competitive industries based on the principle of equal opportunities for all,

including the most vulnerable groups. This can be achieved by building capacity and promoting decent jobs through knowledge and technology transfer, sharing best practices and supporting quality education programmes, including vocational training and lifelong learning.

Among other things, Slovenia offers the following opportunities:

- Providing business development activities, including direct technical support, technology transfer and upgrading, building business networks and partnerships, and developing start-up and business incubators and accelerators;
- Promoting socially and environmentally responsible investment activities, plans and strategies;
- Developing private sector competitiveness and entrepreneurship programmes with a special focus on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), including the establishment of technology parks and vocational training centres;
- Providing support for the development of metrology systems and compliance with international quality standards, based on the policy of the Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport, written in various documents, which were coordinated with UNIDO;
- Developing pilot programmes based on public-private partnerships and public-private academic partnerships.

b. fostering innovation and digital transformation through technology development and transfer

In this respect, while exploiting the potential of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and taking advantage of the industry transition, Slovenia can offer the development of research and high-tech support programmes and contribute to the advancement and application of new technologies and digital solutions in industry (Industry 4.0, Industry 5.0 and Society 5.0).

Slovenia has well-developed industrial sectors with high development potential, such as automotive and mobility, machinery and metal products, pharmaceuticals and bio-pharmaceuticals, including technology in healthcare and (bio)pharmaceuticals, information and communication technology and telecommunications, sustainable tourism, food production and processing, and wood processing, where it can offer its services to partner countries.

Among others, Slovenia offers the following activities and opportunities:

- Design, planning and implementation of training programmes for technology transfer;
- Research and development of technologies for climate impact management, mitigation and adaptation;

- Development and deployment of technologies for smart cities and communities and public institutions;
- Development of smart manufacturing and smart factories;
- Development and application of nanotechnologies and bionics and biotechnological processes in industry;
- Development and application of artificial and virtual intelligence and robotics;
- Development and application of blockchain technologies;
- Creation of technology parks, innovation hubs and clusters for the development of modern high-tech solutions and technological upgrading.

c. promoting circular economy activities and environmental protection in industry

From a development perspective, it is of the utmost importance for Slovenia to improve resource efficiency and waste management by applying circular economy principles and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals on climate change, biodiversity, ecosystem services, including water resources and other environmental resources.

To this end, Slovenia offers the following opportunities and activities:

- Development of industrial products according to the principles of the circular economy;
- Design and implementation of training programmes for the circular economy, transfer of environmentally friendly technologies, safe handling of hazardous chemicals, green chemistry, natural solutions for industrial waste water treatment, transformation of industrial parks into eco-industrial parks;
- Promoting new technologies for air, water and soil protection;
- Promoting the adoption of resource-efficient and environmentally friendly technologies and processes, including metal recovery;
- Providing cost-effective ways to reduce environmental pollution, including persistent organic pollutants and toxic substances;
- Providing support for the development of plastic recycling technologies;
- Advancing the development of biomass technologies.

d. promoting economic activities in the field of clean energy and energy efficiency

Slovenia has an active policy on energy efficiency and clean technologies and can offer such development services to partner countries. It has a good track record in promoting knowledge and the use of technologies to harness access to clean energy, reduce industry-related emissions and promote energy security.

To this end, Slovenia offers the following opportunities and activities:

- Developing green, clean and renewable energy with a focus on ecology and environmental protection;
- Promoting energy efficiency in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and their technological solutions;
- Promoting the construction of small hydroelectric power plants;
- Promoting technologies and methods for energy-efficient metal processing.

Geographical priority areas

In the area of IDC, Slovenia has identified the following three priority regions where it is ready to pursue development projects actively, based on the emerging needs in the global development environment: the Western Balkans, the European Neighbourhood and Sub-Saharan Africa. Exceptions may be made to the geographical areas if agreed with the partner country. While joint development support from UNIDO and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia can be provided at both country and regional levels, special emphasis is given to the least developed countries, taking into account, inter alia, their levels of development, stability, security and their preferences for development assistance.

Conclusion

Slovenia, like all other developed countries, allocates significant resources to countries in need in the form of funding for international development cooperation projects and direct funding for humanitarian aid in the event of natural disasters. This paper presents Slovenia's model of development cooperation, which is based on three criteria: a clearly expressed interest of the recipient country, implementation of development projects within the framework of thematic priority areas involving public and private enterprises and institutions, and targeting of geographic priority areas. Most of the development projects implemented so far have been financed and implemented by Slovenia through UNIDO. All these projects involved public and private enterprises and institutions.

According to UNIDO, Slovenia is one of the most active members and a model of IDC of small Member States and ranks among the largest per capita donors of IDC projects implemented by UNIDO in terms of voluntary contributions per capita. As a member of UNIDO, Slovenia participates in the formulation of UNIDO's policies and strategic programmes through active participation in the organisation's bodies, the pursuit of common development objectives and the implementation of joint development projects. The cooperation with UNIDO started with the signing

of the Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the UNIDO on 11 June 1992 in Vienna. A new, updated Cooperation Agreement was signed on 16 March 2023 in Vienna and ratified by law in the Republic of Slovenia.

In addition to the updated Agreement, the partners agreed and adopted a Long-term agreement on mutual cooperation - Roadmap. The Roadmap identifies the thematic and geographical priority areas for which Slovenia is considered a suitable and competitive partner, and the criteria for selecting joint projects. Slovenia is an example of how a small, developed, open economy can make a significant contribution to the international community. Both partners wish to continue their cooperation in the future. Since the first signing of the Agreement Slovenia has been and continues to be an important development partner and donor to UNIDO, contributing financially to technical cooperation activities worldwide.

References

- Alonso, J. A. (2018). Development cooperation to ensure that none be left behind. *CDP Background Paper No. 39*. United Nations, Department of Economic & Social Affairs.
- Ayers, J.M. & Huq, S. (2009). Supporting adaptation to climate change: What role for official development assistance? *Development Policy Review*, 27(6), 675–692.
- Chung, B.G. & Park, I. (2016). A Review of the Differences between ESD and GCED in SDGs: Focusing on the Concepts of Global Citizenship Education. *Journal of International Cooperation in Education*, 18(2), 17–35.
- Colina Martín, S. (2020). International Development Cooperation in the Fields of Water and Sanitation: A Comparative Study of the United States and the Spanish Approaches in Latin America and the Caribbean. *Journal of International Cooperation and Development*, 3(2), 37–59.
- Doucouliagos, H., & Paldam, M. (2008): Aid effectiveness on growth: A meta-study. *European Journal of Political Economy* 24(1), 1–24.
- Killick, T. (2005). Policy Autonomy and the History of British Aid to Africa. *Development Policy Review*, 23(6), 665–681.
- Landoni, P.; & Corti, B. (2011). The Management of International Development Projects: Moving toward a Standard Approach or Differentiation? *Project Manager Journal*, 42, 45–61.
- MEFA (Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. (2020). Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Government of the of the Republic of Slovenia <https://www.gov.si/podrocja/zunanje->

zadeve/mednarodno-razvojno-sodelovanje-in-humanitarna-pomoc/ (English translation available from author on request)

MEFA (Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia. (2020). *International development cooperation and humanitarian aid. Government of Slovenia. Retrieved June 15, 2024, from <https://www.gov.si/en/policies/foreign-affairs/international-development-cooperation-and-humanitarian-aid/>*

MEFA (Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia). (2022). *Poročilo o mednarodnem razvojnem sodelovanju Republike Slovenije za leto 2020 (Report on international development cooperation of the Republic of Slovenia for 2020). Retrieved June 15, 2024, from <http://www.ds-rs.si/default/files/dokumenti/mrsporocilo2020.pdf>*

Rogelj, J., Bojnec, Š., & Logožar, K., (2023). A model of international development cooperation: the case of Slovenia. *Naše gospodarstvo: revija za aktualna gospodarska vprašanja. 2023, 69(1), 1-9. <https://dk.um.si/IzpisGradiva.php?id=84533>.*

Sachs, J. D. (2012). From Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals. *The Lancet, 379(9832), 2206–2211. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(12\)60685-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(12)60685-0)*

United Nations. (2015a). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. United Nations.*

United Nations. (2015b). *Paris Agreement. United Nations.*

United Nations. (2016). *A Third industrial development decade for Africa. United Nations.*

United Nations. (n.d.). *Sustainable Development Goals. United Nations. Retrieved June 15, 2024, from <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>*

UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development cooperation). (2013). *Lima Declaration: Towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development. Retrieved June 15, 2024, from https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2018-12/UNIDO_GC15_Lima_Declaration.pdf?_token=148554266*

UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development cooperation). (2019). *Abu Dhabi Declaration: Industry 2030 – Innovate, Connect, transform our future. Retrieved June 15, 2024, from https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2019-11/UNIDO_Abu_Dhabi_Declaration.pdf*

UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development cooperation). (2021). *2022-2025 Medium-term Programme Framework. UNIDO.*