



2021-1-FR01-KA220-VET-000032978

Map Export Dynamics, Challenges & Opportunities for female-run businesses.

A transnational needs assessment

Country Snapshot Slovenia

Prepared by RRA severne Primorske d.o.o. Nova Gorica

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Introduction

Equality between men and women in education, economic decision-making and political power, and women's economic independence and equal earning potential are key for Europe's future and feature strongly on the EU's agenda. The European Commission's strategic engagement for gender equality set the framework for EU action in 2016-2019 to promote equality between women and men, as one of the Union's fundamental values. The good news is that progress is being made. However, this progress could be accelerated.

The von der Leyen Commission has recently communicated the new gender strategy for the period 2020-2025, presented as one of the priorities of the new Commission. The strategy underlines the importance of gender equality for achieving an economy that works for people, including when it comes to female representation and involvement in the financial environment. The gender priority is reiterated also in other key Commission documents, notably in the Recovery Plan for Europe package, the massive and innovative long-term EU budget boosted by Next Generation EU, which is aiming at recovering the economy while making it greener, fairer, more digital and resilient; and in the proposal for vocational education and training, in which one of the objectives is to promote equality of opportunities, including promoting gender balance between traditional 'male' and 'female' professions by encouraging participation in vocational training.

InvestEU, the new investment programme to be launched in 2021 under the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework and financed by the Next Generation EU, is aimed at mobilising private and public investment in Europe for more sustainable, inclusive and innovative growth. It places a clear focus on social investment and a strong emphasis on measures to promote gender equality.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/economy-finance/dp129_en.pdf

According to the RS Statistical Office the employment rate in Slovenia was 57.3%, an increase of 2.4 percentage points compared to the third quarter of 2020. The employment rate increased both for men and for women; 61.5% of men and 53.0% of women aged 15 and over were employed.

On the International Women's Day 2021, the United Nations highlights the role of women in leadership positions in the "COVID-19 world". The COVID-19 pandemic has affected every aspect of life, and women have taken on the burden of reconciling careers with family life more than ever.

Despite the fact that the total number of persons in employment increased in the 3rd quarter 2021, the number of employees in labour relation decreased by 2.5% compared to a year ago. The ratios remained approximately the same: 81% of the employed persons were employees in labour relation, 12% were self-employed, 4% worked through the student employment service, while the rest performed other forms of work or helped on family farms or with the family business.

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Population by activity, Slovenia (number in 1,000)

	IV–VI 2021			VII–IX 2021		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Residents of private households – total	2,062	1,042	1,020	2,060	1,040	1,020
Labour force	1,023	552	470	1,046	566	479
employed	979	533	445	998	539	459
...employees	836	438	398	859	446	412
...self-employed	123	87	36	119	84	35
...employed over the student service	27	11	15	43	19	24
...unpaid family workers	19 ^M	8 ^M	11 ^M	21 ^M	8 ^M	12 ^M
unemployed	44	19	25	47	27	20
Inactive	722	326	396	697	310	387

Source: SURS

Sign:

M - less precise estimate - use with caution

If we compare the employment rate of women aged 15-64 with two children in European countries, Slovenia is at the top of the EU-28 among all member states. In 2019, 88% of women in Slovenia with two children were in employment, followed by Sweden in the second place with 87%.

A little less than a half of all employed persons are women. Among 449,000 employed women in the 4th quarter of 2020, there were 90% employees and 10% self-employed together with family workers. Women in employment have higher education than men: almost half of employed women and a little more than a quarter of employed men had tertiary education.

Women are still in the minority in leading positions, but their share in this group is slowly increasing. According to the data of the internationally comparable Labour Force Survey, 40% of managers in Slovenia in 2019 were women. With this figure, Slovenia ranked fourth among the EU-28 member states (after Latvia, Poland and Sweden).

An important aspect of reconciling work and family life is working part-time, as well as the possibility of working from home. 20% of employed women in Slovenia were working from home in 2019, which is slightly more than the EU average. In the EU-28, 16% of employed women were usually or sometimes working from home in 2019.

Concerning investments to boost female-led entrepreneurship, in 2018 more than 1,500 Slovenian women have benefited from a governmental financial support programme designed for unemployed women. Called Entrepreneurship Is Female, the programme has helped 90 per cent of participants to start their own business. The project was 100 per cent funded by the Economy Ministry, while the Labour Ministry and the Employment Service provide 5,000 euros in subsidies for each participant. The participants attended a traineeship programme where they learned how to develop their ideas and design a good business model, and also get some legal advice.

Slovenia had been faring very well in pay gap rankings, however, the country is doing very poorly when it comes to the entrepreneurial activity of young women (Marlen Skarlovnik, the head of the Entrepreneurship Sector at the Economy Ministry), underlining the importance of those additional services helping women starting their business.

Quantitative indicators on the phenomenon of internationalisation of EU female-led SMEs

Here please insert all the available quantitative indicators on the phenomenon of internationalisation for female-led businesses.

Guiding points might be:

- Historic evolution of the phenomenon (e.g., pre and post pandemic)

Economic transition in Central and Eastern Europe has led to a dramatic increase in CEE firms' participation in international markets. This applies to different types of firms – from large emerging market multinationals to small international new ventures.

Article The influence of women on SME innovation in emerging markets by Kristen Madison, Curt B. Moore, Joshua J. Daspit, Joyce Komakech Nabisaalu, first published on 20 March 2022 (<https://doi.org/10.1002/sej.1422>) provides novel insights into how women influence SME innovation in emerging markets, despite the resource-constrained and gender-restrictive contexts in which they are embedded. Building from transactive memory (TM) theory and using data from 741 SMEs in 33 emerging markets, we develop and test a contextualized framework of SME innovation that considers gendered effects in ownership, workforce composition, and communication. Findings indicate that in emerging markets, female-led SMEs employ more women than male-led SMEs, and more women in SMEs (even at modest levels) enhance and enable the TM system to deliver more innovation outcomes. Findings also suggest that emerging-market SMEs can be innovative through differing configurations of women in ownership and workforce composition, underscoring the importance of gendered and contextual considerations in innovation research.

Innovation is vital to the social progress and economic development of emerging markets. Even though institutionalized gender bias in emerging markets tends to constrain (rather than empower) women's entrepreneurial activities, our study reveals how women can be an important source of innovation. We find that women in emerging markets are stronger together: women in ownership advocate for and support other women by employing them in their SMEs, and in turn, as women's representation increases in SMEs, women are empowered to collectively share and leverage their endowed resources for innovation. Thus, our study challenges the general perception that men are more innovative than women by revealing that the presence of women in emerging-market SMEs yields greater innovation outcomes.

Fast-growing companies (gazelles) are the main creators of new jobs, revenue growth and vibrant, competitive economy. This paper reviews (a) conditions for dynamic entrepreneurship in Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia and recent studies on dynamic enterprises (gazelles) conducted in these countries.

- Gender and demographic connotation

Slovenia is fully committed to all 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda, which is considered to be the most comprehensive development action plan thus far. By adopting the Agenda 2030 two years ago we demonstrated our strong determination to work together in dealing with the key challenges of our era. Agenda 2030 is universal and transformative in nature. It is people- and planet-oriented. It is inclusive. It promises to leave no one behind and to ensure a life of dignity and equality for all human beings. Furthermore, it includes a vision that by acting together we can make a better future for the people and our planet.

GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

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

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

5.4 Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

In Slovenia, legislation and other measures ensure formal gender equality in public and private life. Despite the established legal framework, however, we are still falling short of actual gender equality, which would guarantee women an equal position, equal treatment and equal opportunities. Thus, women still carry a larger burden when it comes to child and family care, despite higher levels of education than their male counterparts, they earn less and are less likely to hold leading positions both in business and in politics; also, women are more often subject to sexual violence. Among the more pressing issues are the feminisation of poverty, the lack of a comprehensive approach towards long-term care, deepening of the pay gap and the persistence of gender stereotypes. The importance of these issues is further corroborated by the European Commission's 2017 Report on Equality between Men and Women in the EU, according to which 81% of Slovenes are of the opinion that when making decisions, women rely on their feelings more than men, and 55% of Slovenes think that the most important role for women is to take care of their home and family. It is not surprising that, regarding the role of women, 81% of women spend at least one hour a day doing household chores and cooking, in comparison to only 28% of men. The same proportion of men spend at least one hour per day providing care for family members, compared to 35% of women. Women therefore perform considerably more unpaid work than men (2019 data from the European Institute for Gender Equality). In the case of affluent families, care services are transferred from women to migrant women, who mainly perform their work as part of the grey economy, which deepens the class differences in society and among women. Considering the perception of the role of women, it is therefore almost impossible to expect gender equality in the public sphere. The Employment Relationships Act guarantees that the "employer is obliged to provide the same pay for the same work and for the same values to all, regardless of gender". Still, the pay gap in Slovenia is a reality. While it remains below the European average, it, nevertheless, has the

highest growth-rate: according to the Eurostat statistical office, the rate was only 0.9% in 2010, while it had grown to 8% by 2017. Data from the Slovenian Association of Free Trade Unions show that the greatest difference between the income of men and women is in the financial and insurance sectors (men are paid 24.5% more than women), health and social care (23.2%) and education (16%). The pay gap then continues into retirement, resulting in the feminisation of poverty in Slovenia, where the pension gap currently amounts to 24% and every third woman above the age of 70 lives in poverty. The growth of the pay gap shows that the position of women on the labour market is deteriorating, which reflects broader discrimination on the labour market and the increase of gender inequality in society. Compared to women-citizens of Slovenia, migrant women are in an even more disadvantaged position. Legislation prevents them from becoming economically independent, as they mainly come to Slovenia under family reunification regulations, and do not have equal rights to employment until they receive their permanent residence permit. Work visas can only be arranged by employers, but employers (unless they really need female workers) are usually reluctant to do make these arrangements. We also note the lack of empowerment programmes for migrant women, while the programmes that do exist are not backed with research on the real needs in the field (one such example is the social activation programmes for women with various cultural backgrounds, issued by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and financed by the European Social Fund). It also has to be noted that migrants are not able to get involved in political and public life, as the equitable representation of migrant positions is virtually non-existent. Despite Slovenia having legally regulated gender quotas for political representation, the number of women Members of Parliament fell drastically after the recent election (from 37% in the 2014-2018 term to 24% in the current term of office). In the Government, too, only 23% of ministerial positions are held by women. These statistics clearly show that gender equality is not addressed systematically in Slovenian politics, where it is difficult for women to break through to the forefront, or to maintain continuity in their political career after their first election, gender quotas notwithstanding.

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- Spatial distribution of SMEs in Slovenia

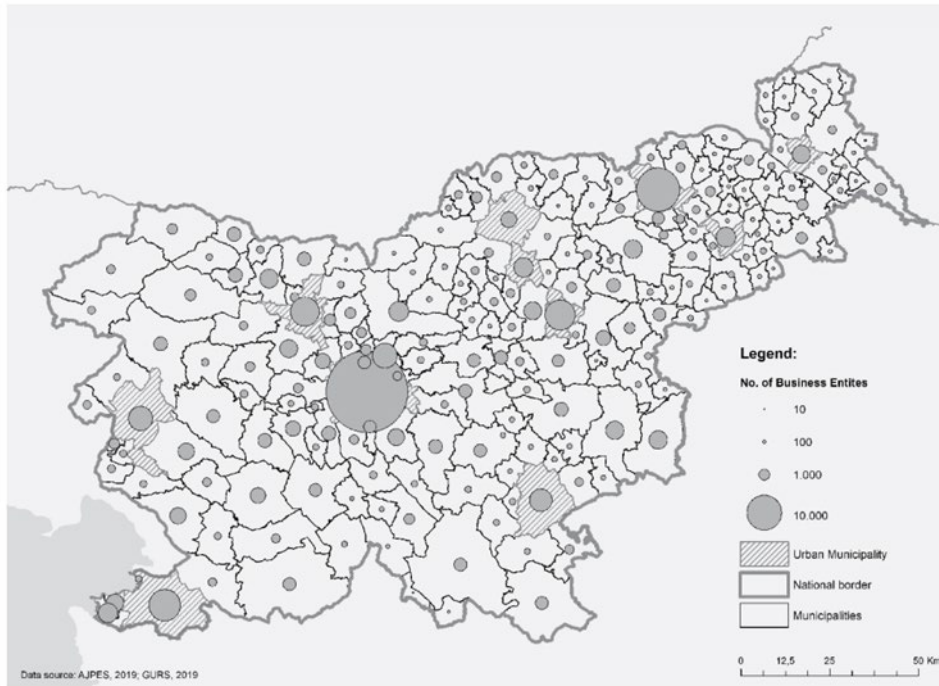


FIG. 1 MUNICIPAL DISTRIBUTION OF BUSINESS ENTITIES IN SLOVENIA
SL. 1. RASPODIJELA POSLOVNIH SUBJEKATA PO OPCINAMA U SLOVENIJI

The post-war socialist industrialization, which in the period after 1945, in parallel with the urbanization of space, formed an important part of the existing urban system with a hierarchy of economic and administrative centers, which have more or less remained unchanged. During this period, many industrial plants were introduced, both in the form of monoculture activities and mixed, storage and manufacturing facilities.

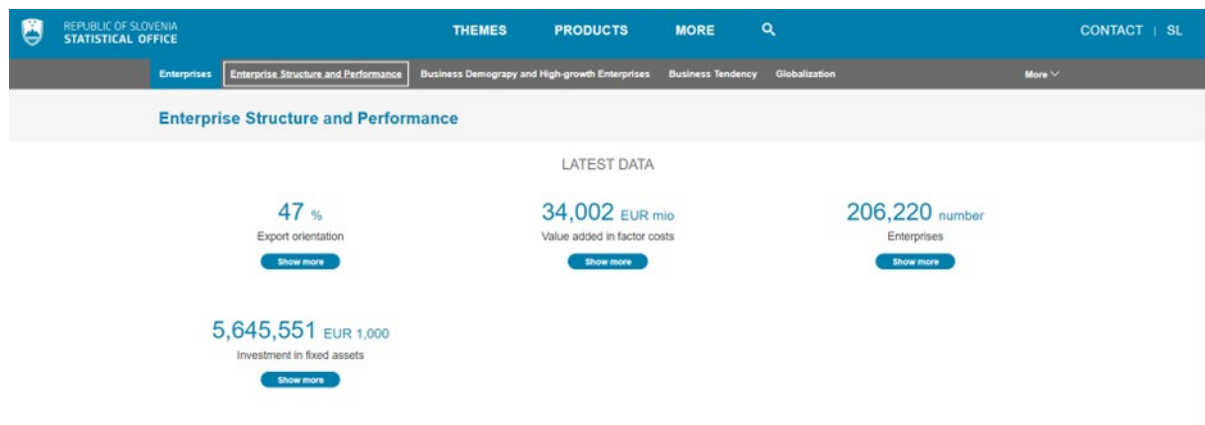
The post-independence development of business sector was marked by the ownership restructuring and the program reorganization of conventional industrial zones, the additional establishment of new zones and the expansion of home-based work. The end of Yugoslavia in the 1980s also caused an economic crisis in Slovenia (GDP decline, unemployment, etc.), which reached its peak in 1992-93. The former state sector retained only part of its employees after privatization and restructuring, while the rest were employed in the newly created private sector, retired or remained unemployed.

Source: <https://hrcak.srce.hr/file/348267>

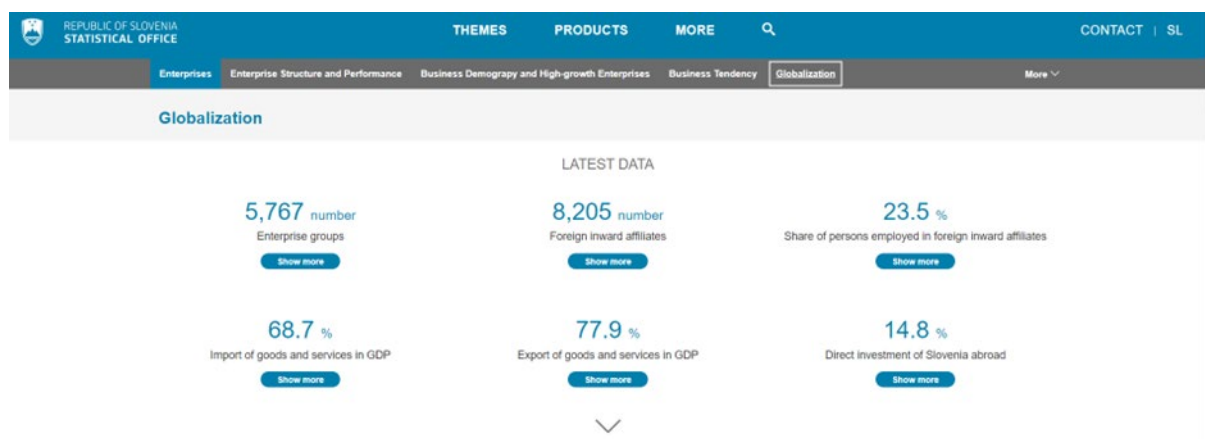
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- Statistics (insert graphs and/or diagrams): please insert any statistics you have available. If own generated, please insert the excel object (easy to translate if needed).

Enterprise Structure and Performance – Republic of Slovenia Statistical Office



<https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/en/Field/Index/16/103>



<https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/en/Field/Index/16/46>

- Any other relevant quantitative reference

In Slovenia, equal opportunities for women and men are enshrined by law in the Slovenian constitution (Article 14) as well as the Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act and the Implementation of the Principle of Equal Treatment Act (ZUNEO-UPB1). The provisions of the Employment Relationships Act are also important for employment and promotion. Based on the Protection against Discrimination Act Slovenia established as a separate and independent authority the Advocate of the principle of equality.

The Republic of Slovenia's strategic document for achieving gender equality in various areas of the lives of women and men in Slovenia is the Resolution on the National Programme for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men 2015–2014.

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The Slovenian Government adopted in 2016 guidelines on gender mainstreaming in ministries for the period 2016 - 2020. Based on it the ministries prepare two-yearly report (first edition 2016 - 2017). In addition, within the Interdepartmental Commission on Human Rights, an interdepartmental expert subcommittee was set up, which prepared National Action Plan for Respecting Human Rights in the Economy (adopted in August 2018).

Source: <https://competitiveness.danube-region.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/sites/4/2019/11/Policy-Paper-on-Female-Entrepreneurship-in-the-Danube-Region.pdf>

Qualitative indicators on internationalisation in Slovenia: skills-gap and need assessments

Please provide a qualitative description of the internationalisation phenomenon and export competitiveness of EU female-led businesses.

What should be the areas of interest of our training curricula?

In this section you are kindly asked to provide us with clear competences' gaps that can be tackled by the training programmes developed in PR3

Please always quote the source and list the source in the references (see also the bibliography file in Excel)

Opportunities: training available and operational tools

The objective of E4F is to develop trainings that are relevant and timely. Hence, any input/information/data describing the training needs and trends in the provision of training and coaching material for internationalisation.

- Is there a structured training offer tailored for female businesses?

Today's complex and dynamic business environment requires business support institutions to adapt and proactively provide their expertise and support to meet the changing needs and challenges of companies operating abroad on a daily basis. However, today's challenges are greater than ever and it is time to upgrade our support in the future in line with the needs of businesses.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia (CCIS) has set a new milestone in its own development. It has taken up this challenge, considered the gaps that companies have, and created a new and unique tool for developing the export capacity of companies - the Export Accelerator.

We have created an environment for generating business opportunities outside Slovenia. By moving from academic and theoretical models to practical areas with the immediate application of the programme, supported by market information data and analysis along with a wide network of experts.

With the new tool, companies are supported by:

- WIDE NETWORK OF EXPERTS; 7 experts from CCIS - International Relations Department, 7 experts from CCIS, 11 experts from institutions and companies, a wide network of partners abroad.
- MARKETING AND INFORMATION PACKAGES; directories, checklists, market analyses, website analyses, global demands, contact lists according to individual needs.
- DIGITAL PROMOTION; Business Newsletter, Business Talks, publication on businessslovena.si, virtual events, digital catalogue.
- BUSINESS DELEGATION; organisation of B2B delegations.
- CERTIFICATE "Trusted partner by CCIS"

Six short, "to the point" modules in three phases where we prepare companies to enter the target market. Zoom Meetups with experts, follow-ups via the WhatsApp community and much more. We create a dynamic and stimulating environment where innovative ideas come together, connect, and create business opportunities.

Source: <https://businessslovena.gzs.si/vsebina/About-the-Export-Accelerator>

- Is there a formal provision of educational services both at formal and non-formal level (VET, HEI, others)?

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The Small Enterprise Assistance Fund and CEED Slovenia concluded in February 2022 the selection of the 24 women entrepreneurs for the WE Inspire: Women Entrepreneurs Inspire program, which is designed to support women entrepreneurs at the beginning of their entrepreneurial journey and those who are already active in their entrepreneurial projects and endeavours. Over 100 entrepreneurs applied and the selection process took into consideration the entrepreneurs' business model, market potential and entrepreneurial abilities.

CEED Slovenia launched this project in early 2017 in a partnership with the US Embassy in Ljubljana with the aim to establish a supportive environment in terms of education and individual support for the implementation of business ideas. This program intends to support young women, women who remain unemployed at the end of maternity leave or towards the end of their careers, women with disabilities, women belonging to different ethnic groups or minorities and immigrant women.

Source: <https://ceed-global.org/blog/2017/03/16/supporting-women-entrepreneurs-in-slovenia/>

In 2018 more than 1,500 Slovenian women have benefited from a governmental financial support programme designed for unemployed women. Called Entrepreneurship Is Female, the programme has helped 90% of participants to start their own business.

The project was 100% funded by the Economy Ministry, while the Labour Ministry and the Employment Service provided 5,000 euros in subsidies for each participant," - project head of the SPIRIT agency for entrepreneurship.

The participants had to attend the 100-hour programme to be eligible for the funds. They learned how to develop their ideas and design a good business model, and also get some legal advice. They got equipped with entrepreneurial knowledge to help them start out on their own entrepreneurial path.

Slovenia had been faring very well in pay gap rankings. However, the country is doing very poorly when it comes to the entrepreneurial activity of young women," commented Marlen Skarlovnik, the head of the Entrepreneurship Sector at the Economy Ministry, underlining the importance of those additional services helping women starting their business.

After completing the programme, the participants also had access to a number of free-of-charge assistance services provided by the state.

Source: <https://emerging-europe.com/news/slovenias-female-entrepreneurs-get-government-kick-start/>

Challenges

In here we want to look at any challenge that might impact the development and implementation of targeted-oriented capacity building programme; further difficulties faced by female SMEs in internationalising their businesses.

Potential impacts of the COVID-19 health crisis on women entrepreneurship in Slovenia

On 27 April 2020, the Slovenian Women's Lobby sent a public initiative to the women Members of Parliament, in which it drew attention to the difference in impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and men. The pandemic worsened the position of women in society, among other reasons, due to i) increased partner violence resulting from quarantine, the victims of which are mainly women, ii) shut-down of childcare centres and schools and distance learning in a society where traditional gender roles still persist, which is why women took the lion's share of the burden, remained home more often and did not go back to work; iii) a larger proportion of women employed in the most affected sectors, such as healthcare, underpaid long-term care and childcare, tourism and catering; iv) due to the suspension of social protection mechanisms, the poorest groups of the population, the majority of which are women, fell into even deeper poverty. The impact of the pandemic on the position of women will be long-term, especially in case of potential new waves of crisis, since government measures did not consider the gender aspect and, based on previous global health crises, we can assume that the Government will continue to ignore it in the future. During the COVID-19 crisis, the Institute of Gender Equality Studies (Inštitut za proučevanje enakosti spolov – IPES) carried out a study entitled Atmosphere in intimate partnership relationships during quarantine and uncertainty. A total of 700 people participated in the study. The Institute examined the persistence of gender stereotyping, how people experienced quarantine and how they dealt with distress. Based on the study data, the Institute concluded that by the time the pandemic is declared to be over, the deterioration of equality for women will be paired with financial uncertainty, along with the psychological consequences of fear and violence. The study showed that 34.7% of responding men and 18% of responding women did not agree that it is always the perpetrator who is responsible for and guilty of violence. A total of 5% of all respondents (entirely) agreed with the statement that violence is sometimes justified, with an additional 10% who neither agreed nor disagreed. As many as 30% of all respondents agreed that, during the crisis, it is appropriate to expect women to ease conflicts and avoid putting their own problems forward. In reference to these findings, the Institute points out that it is inappropriate for any community to perpetuate such gender stereotypes that show women as having to adapt their opinion and needs to the care and happiness of others all the time. Almost 65% of respondents in the survey also agreed that quarantine caused a surge in domestic violence and violence in partner relationships. This was explicitly denied by 25%, while the remaining respondents offered a neutral opinion. 45% of the respondents did not enjoy staying at home during the quarantine, while 11% did. Based on these answers, the Institute concluded that people faced difficult situations during the pandemic that resulted, among other problems, from unequal distribution of power between women and men. The IPES assumes that half of the relationship problems and abuse in Slovenia resulted from excessive alcohol consumption exacerbated by the pandemic, as 54% of respondents agreed that during the quarantine, addiction problems were much more pronounced. 12% of the respondents said in the study that they had lost their job during the corona crisis, while 4% said their job was threatened. In reference to this finding, the Institute also noted that, for the same work, women receive a salary that is 8% lower than that of their male co-workers, on top of the fact that they are more likely to be employed in more precarious forms of work. This has led to a period of increased dependence on a woman's partner's income. 15% of women said that their survival now depends on their partner even more, while 11% said that this dependence

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had been established before the pandemic. The study also showed that in 43% of cases, chores such as cooking, tidying up and cleaning, help with home schooling and care for sick or elderly family members were performed by women. More than half of the respondents said that chores were distributed equally. In the remaining 6% of cases, the majority of these chores were performed by men. 89% of the respondents agreed or entirely agreed that not enough is being said about violence in Slovenia. The Institute notes that a high rate of awareness about domestic violence is usually the result of life experience, where the majority had experienced violence personally or were at least closely present when an act of violence was committed.

Source: https://www.sloga-platform.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/POROC%cc%8cILO-NVO_ENG_NET.pdf

Conclusions

Please provide for a list of lessons learned and recommendations that are of relevance both for readers and E4F's future implementation.

Internationalisation as an important factor of economic growth, added value and competitiveness is of strategic importance to the Slovenian economy.

Internationalisation is one of the key elements of current and future economic growth, which is why it is regarded it as the central orientation of Slovenian strategic development. Slovenian economy is open, export-oriented and highly integrated in global value chains, with exports accounting for almost 80 % of GDP (2020).

Slovenia's main trading partners are within the EU, which indicates the country's high level of integration into the EU market and EU supply chains. However, Slovenia's geographical and product versatility are also some of the key factors that explain the success of the country's export sector. Moreover, the government is striving further to diversify its exports and support export companies with various measures. An important part of its work is an active promotion of Slovenian business and investment environment as well as an active trade policy that improves the conditions for Slovenian companies on international markets.

Internationalisation measures are designed to boost Slovenian companies in all phases of their export-oriented development, ranging from the preparatory phase, market entry, export operations to consolidate their position on a foreign market and diversify into new foreign markets. In this context, it is important to emphasise the importance of maintaining a presence in traditional markets as well as seeking opportunities in new foreign markets in order to increase the diversification of exports.

Key measures relate to:

- promoting the competitiveness and resilience of Slovenian exports,
- attracting, supporting and retaining foreign investors in Slovenia,
- supporting Slovenian companies investing abroad,
- improving the international visibility of the Slovenian economy,
- improving the functioning of the internationalisation support ecosystem itself.

In addition to traditional measures such as co-financing market research and activities related to trade fairs and business events to encourage companies to enter foreign markets, support is also targeted at new forms of encouraging the internationalisation of companies, i.e. the digitalisation of companies, e-content as part of business operations, new business models, partnerships with the aim of jointly entering selected foreign markets and similar.

The majority of the measures are implemented through the public agency [Spirit Slovenia](#) and the [Slovenian Enterprise Fund](#). Additional export financing measures are implemented by [SID Bank](#), while the [Centre for International Cooperation and Development](#) implements part of the Republic of Slovenia's bilateral international development cooperation.

In addition, support is focused also towards **suppliers**, which includes tailor made information about Slovenian suppliers, database of Slovenian exporters [Sloexport](#), distribution of your inquiry among Slovenian exporters, organisation of fact-finding missions, links with industry and local authorities, and advice on practical matters. More detailed information for Slovenian potential suppliers, business environment, industries and other business-specific information can be found on the portal [Slovenia Business](#).

Slovenia offers a supportive environment for emerging businesses looking to thrive internationally through its technically-savvy workforce and pro-business infrastructure.

The Slovenian economy is [green, creative and smart](#), which is evidenced by its focus on the green economy and sustainable development to become an advanced, low-carbon society that actively responds to global challenges and co-create new trends. Slovenia will continue with its creative and smart vision towards the faster development of a digital society based on science and information technologies. The country's central geostrategic position at the heart of Europe with direct access to the Adriatic Sea and modern infrastructure are important elements of its competitiveness. But its most important advantage lies in its people who are highly motivated, educated and experienced with a good knowledge of languages and have strong regional connections.

Slovenian government and public institutional bodies provide many free-of-charge services to existing and potential Slovenian partners, investors, suppliers and exporters, helping them to enhance their cross-border operations, increasing the geographical diversification of Slovenian exports and creating better conditions for Slovenian companies on foreign markets. [SPOT Global](#) run by SPIRIT Slovenia works as one-stop-shop for every information you may need.

Source: [Ministry of Economic Development and Technology](#)

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Insert here all your references and the sources you used to compile the Country Profile

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