

COUNTRY PROFILES

Slovenia

The research into literature on Slovenia's approach to international cultural policy suggests a positive attitude towards cooperation with other European countries, especially in neighbouring South Eastern European countries. Slovenia also strongly supports the promotion of cultural diversity within the framework of European cooperation.

Slovenia regards culture to be an integral part of both national and European policies. Slovenia is strongly in favour of an EU that takes account of cultural aspects in its activities and policies, particularly the respect for and encouragement of linguistic and cultural diversity. In the context of the EU, Slovenia supports qualified majority decision-making on cultural activities that "will allow those countries that look favourably on culture to open up new possibilities for the promotion of cultural diversity, the development of cultural industries, the strengthening of European film, film distribution and European co-productions generally, and the mobility of art, artists and artists' networks." Slovenia emphasises that the process of European integration should not weaken national identities.

The responsibility for international cultural policy is shared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Culture. The Ministry of Education and Science and Sport is active in international educational cooperation.

□ M i n i s t r y o f c u l t u r e a n d M i n i s t r y
o f F o r e i g n a f f a i r s

In October 2003, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs signed an "Agreement on Cooperation in the Implementation of International Cultural Policy 2003-2007". This document provides the foundation for the implementation of Slovenian international cultural policy. It defines Slovenian international cultural policy as outgoing and incoming activities whereby Slovenian culture is presented abroad and foreign cultures are presented in Slovenia. A joint permanent coordination commission has been established that defines geographical and art sector priorities and decides on financial expenditures.

The objectives of the Agreement, in the field of international cooperation, are laid down in the "National Programme for Culture 2004-2007":

- the presence of Slovenian culture in the European cultural arena and the world's cultural capitals, and the promotion of cultural exchanges with them;
- the promotion of programmes and projects that obtain funds from international sources, especially European funds;
- the preservation of cultural values, traditions and contents that unite countries whose inhabitants speak Slavonic languages, and the promotion of cultural exchanges and group projects in these countries.

The National Programme is regarded as a document that binds all government departments, thereby "transforming culture into a government category." This demonstrates the extent to which culture is viewed as a central and integral part of all Slovenian government policy, reflecting Slovenia's historical experience as a community that upheld its integrity through culture rather than by political, economic or military power.

M i n i s t r y o f F o r e i g n a f f a i r s

The Department for International Cultural Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinates Slovenian bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of culture and education. It is also collaborates with the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education in the drafting of bilateral cultural programmes. The Department is responsible for the implementation of outgoing activities

within the framework of the Agreement on the Implementation of International Cultural Policy through the Slovene network of diplomatic missions and consulates in collaboration with the relevant ministries, institutions and individuals. The monitoring of discussions on a common European foreign cultural policy is explicitly mentioned as one of the tasks of the Department. The Office for Slovenes Abroad maintains and develops relations with Slovenes abroad.

M i n i s t r y o f C u l t u r e

The Ministry of Culture has the following departments: Public Relations Service; European Affairs and Cultural Development Section; Section for Cultural Rights of Minorities and Development of Cultural Diversity; Section for Books and Libraries and for Slovenes Abroad; Slovene Language Section; and the Section for Promotion and International Cooperation. The majority of these sections may include aspects of international cultural cooperation within their working field however the activities of the sections are not specified in detail.

N a t i o n a l C o u n c i l f o r C u l t u r e a n d C u l t u r a l C h a m b e r o f S l o v e n i a

The National Council for Culture is an independent body that advises on national strategy for culture, mainly concerning the national programme for Culture. The Cultural Chamber of Slovenia is a voluntary cultural association that evaluates and monitors the implementation of the National Programme for Culture.

□ M i n i s t r y o f E d u c a t i o n , S c i e n c e a n d S p o r t

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport's Department for International Cooperation in Education is responsible for bilateral, regional and multilateral educational cooperation. Cooperation with neighbouring countries and with Slovenes abroad is emphasised.

Other governmental institutions involved in international cultural cooperation are the Government's Public Relations and Media Office. The Office's International department is responsible for large events in Slovenia and abroad that are of special importance for the presentation of the country.

Finally, the Council for the Promotion of the Republic of Slovenia was established in 2002. It consists of the heads of the Government's Public Relations and Media Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the Ministry of Economy, the Slovene Trade and Investment promotion Agency and the Slovene Tourist Board.

P o l i c y f o c u s

The aim of Slovene international cultural policy is twofold: to raise Slovenia's cultural profile abroad and to deepen the knowledge of the other cultures through cultural exchange.

The "National Programme for Culture" (2004-2007) lays down the general priorities for cultural policy:

- the development of the Slovenian language;
- promoting cultural diversity;
- ensuring access to cultural assets and conditions for creativity;
- cultural education as creative education and education for creativity;
- education for professions in culture;
- culture as a developmental category;
- direct support to creators;
- IT in culture;
- modernisation of the public sector in culture;

- cooperation with non-governmental organisations in culture;

□ G e o g r a p h i c a l f o c u s

Slovenia's international cultural policy focuses on neighbouring countries and the EU. Special emphasis is placed upon integration of South East Europe within European cooperation.

Within the EU, international agreements have been signed with Austria, Belgium (Flanders), Italy, Slovakia and Spain.

Slovenia is also a member of the Visegrád Group.

Further examples of cooperation in neighbouring non-EU countries are evident in that Slovenia is: a member of the Central European Initiative; a member of the Quadrilaterale (Slovenia, Hungary, Italy and Croatia); takes part in the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative (Slovenia, Italy, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Greece and Serbia and Montenegro); is active in the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe; belongs to the Central European Cultural Platform; takes part in the Alps-Adriatic Working Group; is cooperating bilaterally with Russia, Israel and Switzerland; is cooperating on the basis of international agreements with Bavaria, Egypt and it has also begun to draw up programmes of cooperation with Turkey and finally is an observer in the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF).

Further afield, Slovenia cooperates bilaterally with the United States, Canada, China, Iran, Japan, Mexico, Australia and Argentina.

H i g h l y r e c o m m e n d e d r e a d i n g □

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Report on the activities and policy developments of Ministry of Culture in 2003.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (1999) Foreign Policy Declaration, E-Doc Link: http://www.gov.si/mzz/eng/foreign_poli/declaration_of_fore_poli.html
"On the basis of geographical, political, economic, cultural and historical facts, the Republic of Slovenia adheres to the basic principles of international law, endeavours to respect basic human rights at home and abroad and offers its good services in settling complex situations in its neighbourhood and elsewhere. The Republic of Slovenia can realise its national interests by the power of its arguments, availing itself, in a balanced manner, of alliances of states, associations and international institutions. The basic values Slovenia follows are: peace, security, prosperity, territorial integrity and protection and development of national identity. Democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law will always remain the underlying principles of activity of the Republic of Slovenia in international relations."

National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, (2004) Resolution on the National Programme for Culture, E-Doc Link: <http://www.culture.gov.si/bin?bin.svc=obj&bin.id=20844>
Defines general priorities, goals, measures and indicators of Slovenian cultural policy.

Suhadolnik, A., (2003) Overview of the Slovene foreign cultural policy, E-Doc Link: http://www.ifa.de/europa-akp/konferenz/download/eu_suhadolnik.pdf
Slovenian contribution to the conference "Europe-a Union of Culture?" of the German Institut fuer Auslandsbeziehungen, Berlin, October 2003.

G e n e r a l / b a c k g r o u n d r e a d i n g □

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Except for Croatia, all the seven states represented in the organisation are members of the European Union. The Alps Adriatic Working Community, being an organic part of the European Union, shall commit herself to supporting the accession of Croatia, today the only non-EU member, to the European Union.

Central European Initiative, (2005) Official website,

E-Doc Link: www.ceinet.org

The Central European Initiative is made up of seventeen states - both EU and non-EU states. It was set up as an inter-governmental forum for political, economical and cultural cooperation.

Copic, Vesna, (2005) Chapter 2.4, International Cultural Cooperation, Slovenia :

Compendium of Cultural Policies,

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Introduction to the main actors and principle institutions working in the field of international cultural cooperation in Slovenia.

Council of Europe, (1998) Cultural policy in Slovenia: national report, report by a panel of European examiners, Strasbourg, Council of Europe, ISBN: 92-871-3681-5, Slovenia Link Report on the state of cultural policy.

EFAH, Interarts (2003) Study on cultural cooperation in Europe: Annex 1 - National reports - Slovenia,

E-Doc Link: http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/eac/sources_info/pdf-word/annex1national_reports3.pdf

Background to structures, competencies and institutes.

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E-Doc Link: www.gov.si

Explains structure and institutions of government.

Ministry of Culture, (2005) Official website,

E-Doc Link: www.kultura.gov.si

The Ministry of Culture is the part of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia responsible for regulating those matters in the sphere of culture which are in the public interest. These include attending to the coordinated cultural development of Slovenia, protection of the cultural heritage, ensuring the plurality of the media landscape, providing suitable conditions for the creation, communication and accessibility of cultural assets, guaranteeing the special cultural rights of minorities, international cooperation in the sphere of culture and the promotion of culture at home and abroad.

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E-Doc Link: http://www.gov.si/mzz/eng/foreign_poli/ten_years_of_slov_fore_poli.html

Overview of Slovenian foreign policy 1990-2000.

National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, (2001) Foreign Affairs Act,

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Public Relations and Media Office, (2005) Official website,

E-Doc Link: www.uvi.si

Overview of Slovenian administrative bodies.