

Regional Development Policy in the Slovak Republic

General policy approach

Regional policy in the Slovak Republic is framed by the 2008 Regional Development Support Act, amended in 2014, and by the 2010 National Strategy for Regional Development, updated and approved by government decree in 2014. Both are in the portfolio of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic. The National Strategy for Regional Development and associated regional and local programmes for economic and social development (PHSRs) provide a cross-sectoral medium-term strategic planning framework for national, regional and local governments. The strategies link development goals to the advantages and opportunities for growth in each region and municipality.



A network of 34 regional development agencies distributed around the country play a role in elaborating regional PHSRs, engaging in social and economic partnerships, organising events and sharing information, and providing advisory services with respect to regional and local development and planning.

Each TL3 region (*kraje*) produces a regional integrated territorial strategy in order to access the Integrated Regional Operational Programme. Urban issues are covered by the Ministry of Transport and Construction and addressed in the Urban Development Policy. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is responsible for the Rural Development Programme, which focuses on quality of life and agricultural production.

Recent policy changes

- The *OECD Recommendation of the Council on Effective Public Investment across Levels of Government* became a part of the updated National Strategy for Regional Development in 2014.
- Political discussions are underway to increase local engagement in local and regional development processes, to help reduce inter-regional disparities, and decentralise new functions to municipalities.
- For the 2014-20 funding period, the Slovak Republic is pursuing an integrated territorial investment strategy in the context of the EU-funded Integrated Regional Operational Programme. This strategy will require each *kraje* (TL3 region) to produce a regional integrated territorial strategy (RIUS) in order to access those funds. Each RIUS is expected to have a partnership council composed of representatives of the region, municipalities, the civil society, government actors and businesses. While higher territorial units will act as the lead authorities for RIUS preparation and implementation, the partnership councils will play an oversight role.
- In January 2018, an Urban Development Policy was adopted after preparations that included broad participation of central administration bodies and municipalities, academics, the business sector, and civil society. The main element of the policy is a strategic, integrated and multi-level governance approach to systematically support liveable and productive cities.
- The “Vision and Development Strategy of Slovak Republic” is currently under preparation and due to be approved by the government in April 2019. The document will direct development policy to 2030 and enable the co-ordination and implementation of relevant national strategies at regional and sub-regional levels.

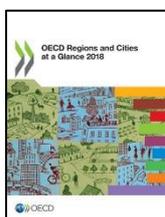
Institutional arrangements to prepare for global megatrends

The Directorate General for Investments Management, a centre-of-government unit within the Deputy Prime Minister's Office for Investments and Informatisation, oversees and co-ordinates (at the level of ministries) long-term strategic planning. For instance, the directorate develops the National Investment Plan, implements the Agenda 2030 at the national level and is currently preparing the "Vision and Development Strategy of Slovak Republic", which will incorporate regional development policy and serve as the national regional and territorial development strategy. As part of the preparation process, the directorate organised workshops on strategic foresight assessment with the support of OECD experts.

In addition, the Slovak Republic has two forward-looking regional development plans: the National Strategy for Regional Development (2014-20) includes short-term development projections to 2020, and the Territorial Development Policy 2001 (last updated in 2011) includes demographic and labour force projections to 2025.

Looking for statistical information to complement this?

Take a look at our publication Regions and Cities at a Glance:



<https://oe.cd/pub/2n9>

OECD Regional Outlook 2019: Leveraging Megatrends for Cities and Rural Areas

The 2019 edition of the *OECD Regional Outlook* examines the regional dimensions of global megatrends and their implications for the well-being of people living in different places. It discusses how place-based policies, public investment and multi-level governance reforms can respond to these megatrends to revive productivity growth, reduce inequalities, improve quality of life and increase sustainability.

Consult the full publication and the other country profiles on line: <https://oe.cd/pub/2vq>.

