

Standing and operational space of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in contributing to respecting and promoting fundamental rights in EU Member States

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1 Regulatory environment for the work of non-governmental organisations

Title of legislation and reference	Topic (please make reference to categories A-F see guidelines)	Effect on civil society (positive or negative) Please include reference to source of information
<p>1. Slovenia, Act Amending the Integrity and Prevention of Corruption Act (<i>Zakon o spremembah in dopolnitvah Zakona o integriteti in preprečevanju korupcije, ZIntPK-B</i>), 1 June 2011, available at: www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2011-01-2043/zakon-o-spremembah-in-dopolnitvah-zakona-o-integriteti-in-preprecevanju-korupcije-zintpk-b.</p>	E	<p>Positive effect.</p> <p>The act defines what constitutes lobbying and stipulates the obligation to report lobbying contacts. The amendment exempts from lobbying and thus from all corresponding obligations (registration, reporting) of civil society individuals and/or groups working in the field of human rights.</p> <p>New Article 56a determines as exemptions from lobbying "Actions of individuals, informal groups or stakeholder organisations made in order to influence governmental decision-making bodies, local communities and holders of public authority when considering and adopting regulations and other general acts in fields directly related to systemic issues of enhancing the rule of law, democracy and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. These are not to be regarded as lobbying</p>

		<p>under provisions of this Act." (own translation)</p> <p>Original text of Article 56a: »<i>Delovanje posameznikov, neformalnih skupin ali interesnih organizacij z namenom vplivanja na odločanje državnih organov in organov samoupravnih lokalnih skupnosti ter nosilcev javnih pooblastil pri obravnavi in sprejemanju predpisov in drugih splošnih aktov, na področju, ki se neposredno nanaša na sistemska vprašanja krepitve pravne države, demokracije in varstva človekovih pravic in temeljnih svoboščin, ne sodi med lobiranje po določbah tega zakona.</i>«</p> <p>URL: www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2011-01-2043?sop=2011-01-2043.</p>
<p>2. Slovenia, Protection Against Discrimination Act (<i>Zakon o varstvu pred diskriminacijo, ZVarD</i>), 9 May 2016, available at: http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7273 and implementing Rules on the appraisal of persons under private law that have acquired the status of entities operating in the public interest (<i>Pravilnik za</i></p>	<p>D</p>	<p>Positive effect.</p> <p>Article 41, paragraph 3 allows private establishments and institutions (<i>zasebni zavodi</i>) to obtain the status of working in the public interest (<i>delovanje v javnem interesu</i>) for the fields of non-discrimination and protection of human rights. Previously, this status was only possible for societies (<i>društva</i>). As</p>

<p><i>valorizacijo oseb zasebnega prava, ki so na podlagi zakona pridobile status delovanja v javnem interesu</i>), 21 October 2016, available at: www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=PRAV12757.</p>		<p>explained below in point 2.2., analysis shows that organisations with such a recognised status of working in the public interest are significantly more successful in obtaining public funds, than organisations without such a status.</p>
<p>3. Slovenia, Protection Against Discrimination Act (<i>Zakon o varstvu pred diskriminacijo, ZVarD</i>), 9 May 2016, available at: http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7273.</p>	<p>D</p>	<p>Positive effect.</p> <p>Pursuant to Article 41, paragraph 1 (a), a discriminated person may authorise an NGO working in the field of protection against discrimination and human rights to represent him or her in court proceedings.</p> <p>The office of the Advocate of the Principle of Equality may receive the same authorisation (<i>Zagovornik načela enakosti</i>, hereinafter: <i>Zagovornik</i>).</p>
<p>4. Slovenia, Act amending the Environmental Protection Act (<i>Zakon o spremembah in dopolnitvah Zakona o varstvu okolja, ZVO-1F</i>), 6 November 2013, available at: www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2013-01-3337?sop=2013-01-3337.</p>	<p>D</p>	<p>Positive effect.</p> <p>The amendment eased requirements for organisations working in the field of environment to obtain the status of working in the public interest. This enables organisations to represent the public interest (e.g. human rights in the field of environmental protection) in administrative and judicial proceedings.</p>

The contacted stakeholders did not report any relevant case law,¹ or state that to their knowledge such case law does not exist.²

2 EU Member State government funding for non-governmental organisations – trends and developments 2011-2016

2.1 Overall amount of government funding

The most reliable data analysis is provided by an umbrella NGO, namely the Centre for information service, co-operation and development of NGOs (*Center za informiranje, sodelovanje in razvoj nevladnih organizacij – CNVOS*).³ Although it would be beneficial, the government is not keeping such records.⁴

According to CNVOS: the total amount of public funding⁵ obtained by NGOs grew until 2011, when there was a slight decline compared to the previous year. From 2012 onwards, the amount of these funds has been decreasing.⁶

2009	2012	2013	2014	2015
€ 272,349,071. 16	€ 298,431,063. 56	€ 291,612,486. 17	€ 291,501,541. 51	€ 288,439,537. 09

In total, NGOs obtain more funds from municipalities than from ministries (i.e. from government funding).⁷

¹ Peace Institute (*Mirovni inštitut*) reply via e-mail on 24 February 2017.

² Joint reply prepared by the *Služba za nevladne organizacije* ('Office for non-governmental organisations') at the Ministry of Public Administration (*Ministrstvo za javno upravo, MJU*), and by the Center for information service, co-operation and development of NGOs (*Center za informiranje, sodelovanje in razvoj nevladnih organizacij – CNVOS*) sent via email on 24 February 2017.

³ All info on CNVOS website, available at: www.cnvos.si/article?path=/podrocja_dela/zagovornistvo/nvo_sektor_dejstva_in_stevilke.

⁴ Explanation provided by the 'Office for non-governmental organisations' at the MJU via telephone on 20 February 2017.

⁵ Meaning 1) government funding, funding distributed by the government/ministries (i.e. provided from the national budget) or 2) municipal funding.

⁶ CNVOS, available at: www.cnvos.si/article/id/10632/cid/359.

⁷ CNVOS, available at: www.cnvos.si/article/id/10632/cid/359.

2.2 Distribution of government funding

Information is not available or cannot be obtained from public databases, since it is not recorded according to the types of activity.⁸ Info is only available regarding the way in which the amount of funds are allocated through public tenders (not even the amount which will be eventually spent). More detailed monitoring in this area would be beneficial.⁹

Analysis by CNVOS shows that NGOs who have been recognised as operating in the public interest (*delovanje v javnem interesu*), are very successful in obtaining public funds. NGOs may be granted this status from the government by being issued an administrative decision, while the work of some NGOs is determined to be in the public interest directly by law (i.e. charity organisations). Despite the fact that **only 20 % of NGOs in Slovenia have obtained the status of operating in the public interest**, in 2015, **these NGOs received 76.78 % from the total amount of all government funds** allocated to NGOs by ministries (€ 55.84 million from the total of € 79.5 million). At the municipal level, their share was slightly lower, as they received 70.94 % of all municipal public funds allocated to NGOs (€ 70.50 million from € 99.46 million).¹⁰

2.3 Restrictions (or other changes) on NGO funding from other sources

No restrictions reported.¹¹

Trends and developments in government funding to support CSOs working on fundamental rights inside your Member State:

The contacted stakeholder, the Peace Institute (*Mirovni Inštitut*), emphasised in its reply that it did not carry out such an analysis and can only provide an assessment based on its observations via its activities in this field. In general, in Slovenia **“there is almost no public funding available for work in the field of human rights”**. There are **no public tenders for advocacy in the field of human rights, only for service provision and networking**. Advocacy is thus completely side-tracked. Strategic litigation, which is crucial to achieve positive changes in the field

⁸ Joint reply prepared by the ‘Office for non-governmental organisations’ at the *MJU* and by *CNVOS* (umbrella NGO) sent via email on 24 February 2017.

⁹ Explanation provided by the ‘Office for non-governmental organisations’ at the *MJU* via telephone on 20 February 2017.

¹⁰ *CNVOS*, available at: www.cnvos.si/article/id/10632/cid/359.

¹¹ Stakeholders contacted did not report of any restrictions: Joint reply prepared by the ‘Office for non-governmental organisations’ at the *MJU* and by *CNVOS* (umbrella NGO) sent via email on 24 February 2017. Peace Institute (*Mirovni inštitut*) reply via e-mail on 24 February 2017.

of human rights, has to date never even been funded. A large obstacle for advocacy work is the lack of opportunities to obtain government co-funding which is necessary for EU projects (they usually only cover 80 % of project costs). This is a large obstacle, as funding for advocacy work in the field of human rights is available mainly only via EU projects.¹²

The Peace Institute also replied regarding a change in the distribution of government funding across different types of activities (such as: service provision, advocacy, litigation, campaigning, public education) between 2011 and 2016 for CSOs working on fundamental rights. According to their assessment, funds for advocacy and campaigning have certainly not increased; they have either remained the same or decreased. **Funds are mainly available for services (counselling, support, assistance, etc.).** NGOs working in the field of human rights rely mostly on international funding, advocacy work carried out in the context of research projects, or in 'free time' as un-paid volunteers. The field of human rights in Slovenia is so undernourished in terms of public funding that there are only very few active organisations, and eventhey must combine work in this field with other activities. Consequently, a great deal of improvising is carried out; meaning a lot of work is done in an ad hoc, inadequately organised manner. There are not many possibilities for conventional work of human rights organisations, for example, preparation of shadow reports to assist in the consideration of periodic reports on Slovenia before UN bodies. Almost no strategic litigation is taking place, with the exception of an occasional individual pro bono case. The debate on fundamental rights has almost entirely disappeared, and those people still using basic human rights discourse are labelled as extremist or naive.¹³

¹² Peace Institute (*Mirovni inštitut*) reply via e-mail on 24 February 2017.

¹³ Peace Institute (*Mirovni inštitut*) reply via e-mail on 24 February 2017.

3 Access to the decision-making process for non-governmental organisations working on fundamental rights

General framework: Legislative initiative: a law may be proposed to the National Assembly (to vote on) by at least 5,000 voters, any MP or by the government.¹⁴

Explanation regarding access for NGOs: There exists no general law obliging the government or individual ministries to include NGO representatives in advisory bodies or working bodies in which legislation is prepared, policy formed, etc.¹⁵ Some sectoral laws envisage advisory bodies and participation of NGO representatives in them. For example, the Volunteering Act¹⁶ stipulates the establishment of the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for promotion of the development of volunteering, volunteer and non-governmental organisations (*Svet Vlade Republike Slovenije za spodbujanje razvoja prostovoljstva, prostovoljskih in nevladnih organizacij*). The Environmental Protection Act¹⁷ provides for the Council for Sustainable Development (*Svet za trajnostni razvoj*), an advisory body to the competent ministry "for assessment of policies in the field of environmental protection" (Article 149.a, paragraph 1). NGO representatives are included in government and municipal level advisory and interdepartmental working bodies also in other fields.¹⁸ However the practice is not homogenous. Although guidelines, promotion and monitoring exist (explained below), they are still only guidelines.

"Different fields – different ministries vary in their openness to the participation of NGOs in decision-making processes."The Ministry of the Environment has quite a tradition, while the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Foreign Affairs are in practice very

¹⁴ Slovenia, Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia (*Ustava Republike Slovenije*) with subsequent amendments, Art. 88, 28 December 1991, available at: www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=USTA. Unofficial English translation available at: www.us-rs.si/en/about-the-court/legal-basis/.

¹⁵ Joint reply prepared by the 'Office for non-governmental organisations' at the MJU and by CNVOS (umbrella NGO) sent via email on 24 February 2017. Also stated in Divjak, T. and Forbici, G. (2014), *Public participation in the decision-making process, International analysis of the legal framework with a collection of good practices*, p. 43, available at: www.cnvos.si/UserFiles/File/Zagovornistvo/PUBLIC%20PARTICIPATION%20IN%20DECISION%20MAKING%20PROCESS_comparative%20analysis_December%202014_CNVOS.pdf.

¹⁶ Slovenia, Volunteering Act (*Zakon o prostovoljstvu*), 18 February 2011, available at: <http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO5532>.

¹⁷ Slovenia, Environmental Protection Act (*Zakon o varstvu okolja, ZVO-1*), 22 April 2004, available at: <http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO1545>.

¹⁸ Joint reply prepared by the 'Office for non-governmental organisations' at the MJU and by CNVOS (umbrella NGO) sent via email on 24 February 2017.

closed for such cooperation. Much also depends on the concrete matter which is being adopted.¹⁹ For example the latest amendment of the Aliens Act (*Zakon o tujcih*) was adopted by the National Assembly in the emergency legislative procedure, meaning it did not even provide time for the otherwise necessary phase of public consultation,²⁰ let alone that it included NGOs in the preparation phase taking place in working bodies.²¹

The question of selection: which NGOs are representative? Since 2003, CNVOS has been conducting a unified procedure for selection of NGO representatives²² to participate in various government and local government consultation bodies and commissions, which is based on principles of openness, equal opportunity and transparency.²³ According to rules of procedure, selected representatives are obliged to act publicly and inform all interested NGOs about their work, as well as to select and forward proposals of other NGOs. Since 2003, CNVOS has carried out approximately 150 of such procedures.²⁴

Legal basis:²⁵

Legal obligation to publish draft legislation on the internet: Article 10 of the

¹⁹ Explanation provided by the 'Office for non-governmental organisations' at the MJU via telephone on 20 February 2017.

²⁰ Website of the National Assembly (*Državni zbor*), available at: www.dz-rs.si/wps/portal/Home/deloDZ/zakonodaja/izbranZakonAkt?uid=C1257A70003EE6A1C12580A4002F8C9C&db=kon_zak&mandat=VII.

²¹ According to many human rights lawyers the amendment undermines Slovenia's human rights guarantees. Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland sent a letter to Prime Minister Cerar on this matter, 11 January 2017, available at: <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016806d4e41>. See also Peace Institute, *Ten reasons why the draft amendments to the Aliens Act violate Slovenian Constitution and international law*, 11 January 2017, available at: www.mirovni-institut.si/en/ten-reasons-why-the-draft-amendments-to-the-aliens-act-violate-slovenian-constitution-and-international-law/.

²² Joint reply prepared by the 'Office for non-governmental organisations' at the MJU and by CNVOS (umbrella NGO) sent via email on 24 February 2017.

²³ The procedure is explained in Slovene at: www.cnvos.si/article?path=/podrocja_dela/zagovornistvo/nvo_predstavniki.

²⁴ CNVOS, available at: www.cnvos.si/article?path=/english/areas_of_work/advocacy.

²⁵ Information provided in joint reply prepared by the 'Office for non-governmental organisations' at the MJU and by CNVOS (umbrella NGO) sent via email on 24 February 2017. Summarised from: Divjak, T. and Forbici, G. (2014), *Vključevanje javnosti v pripravo predpisov, Mednarodna analiza pravnega okvirja z izborom dobrih praks*, CNVOS, available at: www.stopbirokraciji.si/fileadmin/user_upload/mju/Boljsi_predpisi/Vkljucevanje_javnosti/Mednarodna_analiza_pravnih_okvirjev_za_vkljucevanje_javnosti_v_pripravo_predpisov_CNVO_S_2014.pdf.

Access to Public Information Act²⁶ stipulates that government bodies have the obligation to publish legislative proposals, programmes, strategies and other similar documents which relate to their working area. Since 2010, this obligation is also defined in the Rules of Procedure of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

Legislation defining minimum standards for public participation (general principles, deadlines etc.): The Rules of Procedure of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia (Articles 9 and 9a).²⁷

Non-binding documents (official recommendation, guidelines, etc.) defining minimum standards for public participation: the umbrella document governing public consultation is the Resolution on Legislative Regulation,²⁸ adopted by the National Assembly on 19 November 2009. It represents a political commitment of each respective government that it will implement the principles for better preparation of regulations and to involve the public in decision-making processes, either when preparing policies in a given area or when preparing new regulations. The resolution, inter alia, defines the minimum duration of the phase of public consultation (30 to 60 days) – “with the exception of proposals for which participation of the public is not possible (e.g. adoption of the national budget, legislation being adopted in the emergency legislative procedure)”. In 2010 the Rules of Procedure of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia,²⁹ were **amended to follow the standards set in the resolution.**

Obligation or guideline defining minimum deadlines for public consultations: Pursuant to Article 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, as amended in 2010:³⁰ “The minimum deadline for the public to send remarks to a proposed draft regulation is 30 to 60 days from publication on websites or in accordance with an agreement for co-operation”.³¹

²⁶ Slovenia, Public Information Access Act (*Zakon o dostopu do informacij javnega značaja, ZDIJZ*), 7 March 2003, available at: <http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO3336>.

²⁷ Slovenia, Rules of Procedure of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia (*Poslovník Vlade Republike Slovenije*), 31 May 2001, available at: <http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=POSL32>.

²⁸ Slovenia, Resolution on Legislative Regulation (*Resolucija o normativni dejavnosti, ReNDej*), 24 November 2009, available at: <http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO5516>.

²⁹ Slovenia, Rules of Procedure of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia (*Poslovník Vlade Republike Slovenije*), 31 May 2001, available at: <http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=POSL32>.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ For more info see: Divjak, T. and Forbici, G. (2014), *Public participation in the decision-making process, International analysis of the legal framework with a collection of good practices*, Overview for Slovenia, pp. 43–45, available at: www.cnvos.si/UserFiles/File/Zagovornistvo/PUBLIC%20PARTICIPATION%20IN%20DECISION%20MAKING%20PROCESS_comparative%20analysis_December%202014_CNVOs.pdf.

Monitoring and promoting the inclusion of NGOs in the decision-making processes³²

Since 2006, CNVOS advocacy experts have been monitoring the openness of the governmental institutions toward the public and NGOs in policy making within the framework of the project 'The Mirror to the Government'. A special breaches counter (*Števec kršitev*) counts how many cases and how severely different state bodies have breached consultation deadlines that are set in the government's rules of procedure.³³ Since its adoption in 2009 until 1 March 2017, the Resolution on Legislative Regulation (*Resolucija o normativni dejavnosti*) was breached 709 times.³⁴ In the period from 20 to 27 February 2017, CNVOS recorded 10 violations.³⁵ CNVOS regularly and actively promotes public participation in the decision-making process. In 2015, in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Administration (*Ministrstvo za javno upravo*, MJU) CNVOS conducted several trainings of public officials and issued guidelines for public participation (in Slovene)³⁶ and a tailor-made manual for public officials (in Slovene)³⁷ on how to go about public participation.³⁸

Title of legislation/policy	Reference	Short summary (max 500 characters)
Slovenia, Act Amending the Public Information Access Act (<i>Zakon o</i>	Available at: www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2015-	Since amendment ZDIJZ-Em, all authorities are obliged to publish online all

³² CNVOS, available at: www.cnvos.si/article?path=/english/areas_of_work/advocacy.

³³ *Števec kršitev*, Findings published on website, available at: www.stevec-krsitev.si/.

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ Divjak, T., Forbici, G. and Škrl Marega, M. (2015), 'Guidelines on inclusion of the public in decision-making processes: Recommendations and forms' (*Smernice za vključevanje javnosti v pripravo predpisov: Priporočila in obrazci*), Ministry of Public Administration (*Ministrstvo za javno upravo*), available at: www.mju.gov.si/fileadmin/mju.gov.si/pageuploads/SNO/Smernice-vkljucevanje_2015.pdf.

³⁷ Divjak, T., Forbici, G., Kronegger, S. And Škrl Marega, M. (2015), 'Involving the public in the preparation of regulations: Manual for planning and implementation of processes of consultation' (*Vključevanje javnosti v pripravo predpisov: Priročnik za načrtovanje in izvajanje posvetovalnih procesov*), Ministry of Public Administration (*Ministrstvo za javno upravo*), available at: www.mju.gov.si/fileadmin/mju.gov.si/pageuploads/SNO/Prirocnik-vkljucevanje_javnosti.pdf.

³⁸ CNVOS, available at: www.cnvos.si/article?path=/english/areas_of_work/advocacy.

<p><i>spremembah in dopolnitvah Zakona o dostopu do informacij javnega značaja, ZDIJZ-E), 24 December 2015.</i></p> <p>Slovenia, Decree on the provision and re-use of public information (<i>Uredba o posredovanju in ponovni uporabi informacij javnega značaja</i>), 1 April 2016.</p>	<p>01-4086?sop=2015-01-4086.</p> <p>Available at: www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=URED6941.</p>	<p>documentation concerning public procurement and public tenders for the allocation of funds, grants, loans and other forms of co-funding from national or municipal budgets. This increases transparency regarding the use of public funds, enabling NGOs to monitor the distribution of public funds intended for non-governmental sector.</p> <p>To implement amendment ZDIJZ-E, the decree stipulated in Article 10, responsible authorities are obliged to publish online information concerning public tenders. This includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the public tender and all corresponding documents; 2. the members of the committee responsible for the implementation of tendering procedure; 3. the recipients and amount of funds received; 4. the final report or a summary on how the funds were spent and results achieved.
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<p>Project: Strengthen the capacity to implement regulatory impact assessments and public participation in the preparation and implementation of policies (<i>Krepitev usposobljenosti za izvajanje presoje učinkov predpisov ter vključevanja javnosti v pripravo in izvajanje politik</i>)</p>	<p>Publications:</p> <p>In Slovene: Divjak, T., Forbici, G. and Škrl Marega, M. (2015), 'Guidelines on inclusion of the public in decision-making processes: Recommendations and forms' (<i>Smernice za vključevanje javnosti v pripravo predpisov: Priporočila in obrazci</i>), Ministry of Public Administration (<i>Ministrstvo za javno upravo</i>), available at: www.mju.gov.si/fileadmin/mju.gov.si/pageuploads/SNO/Smernice - vkljucevanje 2015.pdf</p> <p>In Slovene: Divjak, T., Forbici, G., Kronegger, S. And Škrl Marega, M. (2015), 'Involving the public in the preparation of regulations: Manual for planning and implementation of processes of consultation' (<i>Vključevanje javnosti v pripravo predpisov: Priročnik za načrtovanje in izvajanje posvetovalnih procesov</i>), Ministry of Public Administration (<i>Ministrstvo za javno upravo</i>), available at: www.mju.gov.si/fileadmin/mju.gov.si/pageuploads/SNO/Prirocnik_za_nacrtovanje_in_izvajanje_posvetovalnih_procesov.pdf</p>	<p>In 2015, the Ministry of Public Administration in cooperation with CNVOS carried out a half-year project on strengthening public participation in preparing regulations, other strategic and policy documents.</p> <p>Guidelines for public participation and a tailor-made manual for public officials (both in Slovene) on how to go about public participation were issued. CNVOS conducted a series of trainings for civil servants intended to improve and more systematically involve the public and civil society in decision-making processes. 130 representatives from ministries, the office for legislation, General Secretariat of the government and external stakeholders attended. A one-day basic training was followed by a series of nine three-day in-depth trainings. The aim was to train a 'multiplier' for and from each ministry: an employee who would have in-depth knowledge of the public consultation</p>
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	<p>min/mju.gov.si/pageuploads/SNO/Prirocnik-inkljujevanje_javnosti.pdf</p> <p>Translation to English: Divjak, T. and Forbici, G. (2014), Public participation in the decision-making process, International analysis of the legal framework with a collection of good practices, available at: www.cnvos.si/UserFiles/File/Zagovornistvo/PUBLIC%20PARTICIPATION%20IN%20DECISION%20MAKING%20PROCESS_comparative%20analysis_December%202014_CNVO.pdf.</p> <p>Original: Divjak, T. and Forbici, G. (2014), <i>Vključevanje javnosti v pripravo predpisov, Mednarodna analiza pravnega okvirja z izborom dobrih praks</i>, CNVOS, available at: www.stopbirokraciji.si/fileadmin/user_upload/mju/Boljsi_predpisi/Vkljujevanje_javnosti/Mednarodna_analiza_pravnih_okvirjev_za_vkljujevanje_javnosti_v_pripravo_predpisov_CNVO_2014.pdf.</p>	<p>processes who will then spread this knowledge throughout their ministry, via annual internal trainings and with advisory support. The trainings produced 18 multipliers.</p>
<p>Project: Development of information tools designed to improve the quality of</p>	<p>Website Stop to Bureaucracy (<i>Stop Birokraciji</i>), available at:</p>	<p>In October 2011, the Ministry of Public Administration established a web portal Stop to</p>

<p>consultation processes (<i>Razvoj informacijskih orodij namenjenih izboljšanju kakovosti posvetovalnih procesov</i>)</p>	<p>www.stopbirokraciji.si. Information on MSP test available at: www.stopbirokraciji.si/msp-test/. Web portal eDemocracy (<i>eDemokracija</i>) available at: https://e-uprava.gov.si/drzava-in-druzba/e-demokracija.html.</p>	<p>Bureaucracy, which, inter alia, allows for citizens or civil society to submit proposals to simplify existing legislation. In 2016, the MSP test was developed, which is a web applications that enables for draft proposals of legislation to undergo a qualitative assessment of affects they are to have on the economy. As of March 2017, the MSP test will be connected to web portal eDemocracy (<i>eDemokracija</i>) and will enable public participation in the preparation of regulations so that the public will be able to carry out their own assessment of alternative solutions.</p>
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4 Further information

Please see the answer of Peace Institute in Section 2.

As provided by CNVOS and the Office for non-governmental organisations at the MJU:³⁹

i) In the financial plan for 2007–2013, as well as in the current plan for 2014–2020, the Ministry of Public Administration is, via public tenders, strengthening support structures for NGOs with horizontal and substantive

³⁹ Joint reply prepared by the 'Office for non-governmental organisations' at the MJU and by CNVOS (umbrella NGO) sent via email on 24 February 2017.

networks and regional junctions. The co-funded projects also aim to strengthen advocacy capacity of NGOs. **Due to reduction of funds available** (in 2007–2013 € 16.6 million, currently in the 2014–2020 plan only slightly more than € 6.2 million is available) the MJU is currently co-funding only four substantive networks, while 10 such networks were co-funded in the previous period.

ii) The eDemocracy Web portal (*eDemokracija*)⁴⁰ is one of the most important tools for consultation with the public in the drafting of regulations. It enables easy monitoring of existing legislation and draft legislation on one site.

iii) A historical overview of civil dialogue is available in the publication Rakar, T., Deželan, T., Vrbica, S., Kolarič, Z., Črnak-Meglič, A. And Nagode, M. (2011), *Civil society in Slovenia (Civilna družba v Sloveniji)*, Ministry of Public Administration (*Ministrstvo za javno upravo*), available at: www.dezelan.si/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Civilna_druzba_v_Sloveniji_SLO.pdf.

Since 2013, pursuant to the Act Amending the Elections and Referendum Campaign Act, the election campaign organiser is obliged to remit for humanitarian purposes (as provided by the law governing humanitarian organisations) any illicitly acquired funds within 30 days from receipt.⁴¹ Similarly, since 2013 pursuant to the Act Amending the Political Parties Act,⁴² political parties must remit for humanitarian purposes any surplus and/or illegally acquired funds.⁴³

A cautionary note regarding information requests in general: the substantive scope is extremely broad aiming for overall answers regarding the entire NGO sector or all CSOs dealing with fundamental rights. Their situation depends very much on the substance they cover. This is a diverse area deserving of a much more in-depth report.

⁴⁰ Available at: <https://e-uprava.gov.si/drzava-in-druzba/e-demokracija.html>.

⁴¹ Slovenia, Act Amending the Elections and Referendum Campaign Act (*Zakon o spremembah in dopolnitvah Zakona o volilni in referendumski kampanji, ZVRK-B*), 29 November 2013, available at: www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2013-01-3490?sop=2013-01-3490.

⁴² Slovenia, Act Amending the Political Parties Act (*Zakon o spremembah in dopolnitvah Zakona o političnih strankah, ZPoIS-E*), 3 December 2013, available at: www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2013-01-3550?sop=2013-01-3550.

⁴³ Information provided in a joint reply prepared by the 'Office for non-governmental organisations' at the MJU and by CNVOS (umbrella NGO) sent via email on 24 February 2017.