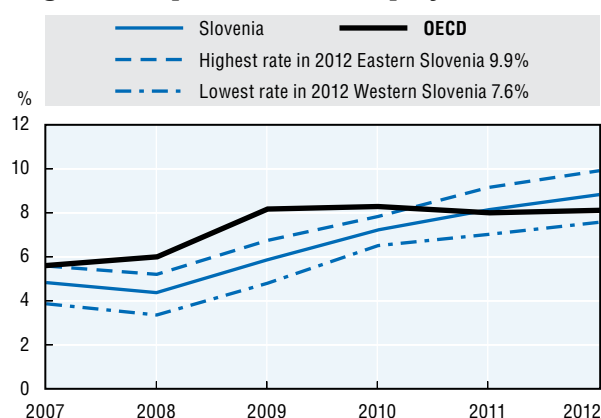


# Slovenia

- Low inter-regional disparities are partly the result of long-standing policies aimed at ensuring polycentric and balanced regional development. While the recent crisis hit Slovenia hard, its aggregate impact on labour markets has been in line with the OECD average. However, it was geographically quite concentrated: more than half of job losses (60%) occurred in only 2 of Slovenia's 12 regions.
- In 2007 13, Slovenia earmarked around 66% of total funds for projects initiated under the EU's so-called "Lisbon Agenda" for sustainable growth, innovation and jobs; one of the highest rates among the ten new member countries.
- The Law on Stimulating Balanced Regional Development, adopted in March 2011, is intended to make regional development policy more predictable and transparent, as well as fairer and more efficient. One of its main innovations is the creation of a mechanism to avoid the need for *ad hoc* measures and region-specific legislation in response to shocks. Greater reliance on contractual arrangements for the national co-financing of regional projects, and emphasis on improving monitoring and evaluation, should also strengthen accountability and co-ordination.
- The 2011 law reorganised regional development councils and regional councils, which are combined to form a Development Region Council in order to rationalise their activities and costs. Membership consists of representatives of municipalities (40%), economic associations – such as chambers of commerce or craft (30%) – and non-governmental organisations (30%). To promote horizontal co-ordination, the law encourages co-operation among regions and ministries in order to prepare inter-regional projects or common development programmes.
- The number of municipalities in Slovenia has grown over the last 20 years. This trend toward fragmentation has been particularly visible in the less-developed parts of the country. At present, there are 211 municipalities for a country of just about 2 million inhabitants. Recently, fragmentation has started to slow, thanks in part to changes in the criteria for establishing municipalities, an increase in the number of competences transferred to municipalities since the late 1990s, deterioration in the ability of the fiscal equalisation system to close the fiscal gap, and the adverse effects of the recent financial crisis.

Government structure	Municipal-level governments	Intermediate-level governments	Regional or state-level governments
Unitary	211		
Regional development policy			
Lead ministry(ies) or committees	Minister of Economic Development and Technology (Regional Development and European Territorial Co-operation Directorate)		
Regional development framework	The Promotion of Balanced Regional Development Act covers regional development policy with a focus on the least-developed regions, lagging municipalities, border areas and areas with ethnic minorities.		
Urban development policy			
Lead ministry(ies) or committees	Minister of Infrastructure and Urban Planning		
Urban policy framework or strategy			
Rural development policy			
Lead ministry(ies) or committees	Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy; Minister of Agriculture and Environment		
Rural policy framework or strategy			

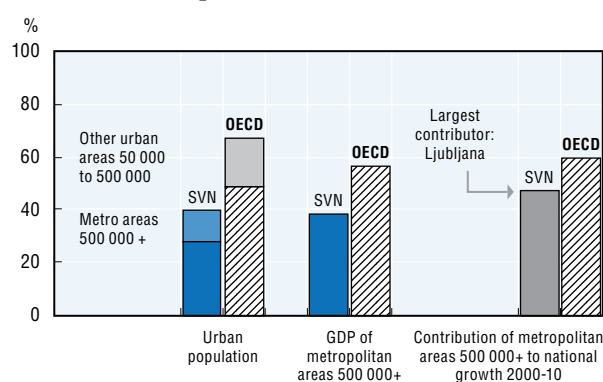
### Regional disparities in unemployment trends



In 2012, the unemployment rate reached 9.9% in Eastern Slovenia and 7.6% in Western Slovenia. The youth unemployment rate soared in the past five years, reaching 22% in Eastern Slovenia, the same value as the OECD average.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933108719>

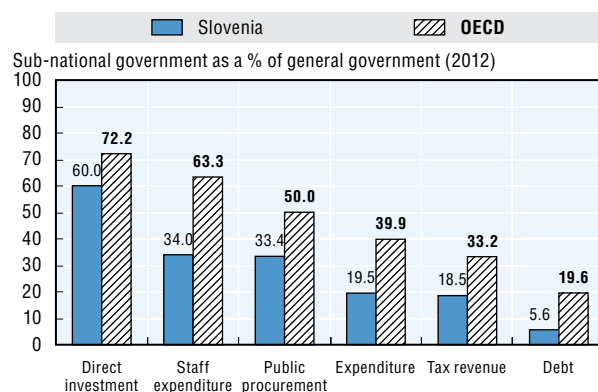
### The importance of urban areas



In Slovenia, 40% of the population lives in cities of different sizes: the share of population in the metropolitan area of Ljubljana (the only urban area with more than 500 000 inhabitants) is 28%, compared to 49% in the OECD area.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933108738>

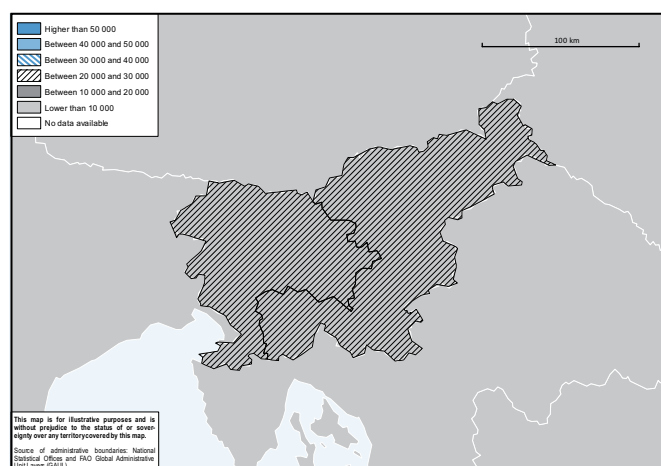
### The role of sub-national governments in public finance



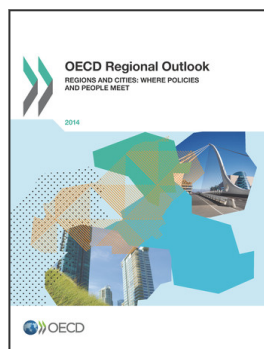
Education and economic affairs are the largest spending items for SNGs in Slovenia; they represent 49% of sub-national expenditure, compared to 40% in the OECD area.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933108757>

### Regional differences in GDP per capita levels



Slovenia had the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest regional disparities in GDP per capita in OECD countries in 2010. In the previous decade, GDP growth in Slovenian regions was above the OECD average; the highest growth occurred in Western Slovenia (+3.1%).



From:

## OECD Regional Outlook 2014

Regions and Cities: Where Policies and People Meet

Access the complete publication at:

<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264201415-en>

### Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2014), "Slovenia", in *OECD Regional Outlook 2014: Regions and Cities: Where Policies and People Meet*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264201415-42-en>

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to [rights@oecd.org](mailto:rights@oecd.org). Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at [info@copyright.com](mailto:info@copyright.com) or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at [contact@cfcopies.com](mailto:contact@cfcopies.com).