

### Slovenia:

## 25 years, achievements and new challenges

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**SLOVENIA** Green. Active. Healthy.

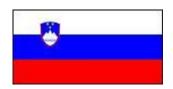
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#### **Republic of Slovenia**

- Independence referendum on 23
   December 1990
- 25 June 1991 Basic Constitutional Charter of the Souvereignity and Independence
- Process of transformation into a modern state
- MS UN SC, president UNSC Danilo Türk, Aug 98, Nov 99
- **2004**: accession to NATO and EU
- 2005 Chairmanship of OCSE
- 2007: Slovenia joined the Eurozone (Jan), Schengen (Dec)
- 2008: rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU



Size / 20 273 km2 Inhabitants / cca 2 mil

**State /** Democratic parliamentary republic since 25 June 1991

Capital / Ljubljana (260 000 inhabitants)
National flag / Horizontal stripes in white,
blue and red with Slovenian coat of arms on
its left upper side

Coat of arms / Three six-pointed yellow stars are symbols of the Counts of Celje with Triglav as a symbol of Slovenehood and underlying two wavy lines symbolizing Slovenian rivers and the sea

**Neighbouring states /** Austria, Italy, Hungary, Croatia

State holidays / June 25 - Statehood Day,
December 26 - Independence and Unity Day
Official Language / Slovene, in some
nationally mixed border areas also Italian and
Hungarian

Highest mountain / Triglav 2 864 m Longest river / Sava 221 km Currency / EUR

# **Economy**

- Among countries that are most affected by the economic crisis
  - GDP growth in 2012: -2,5%
  - Estimates for 2015: 1,2%
- Today, on the right path towards the exit from the crisis
- Priority: to establish stable and predictable business environment, consolidate public finances and increase competitiveness
- Export is the engine of growth
- Hungary is the 6th trading partner trade in goods in 2014 amounted to 1,7 billion EUR



- Slovenia competitive, young, dynamic, diverse, green, modern, environmentally aware (60% forest), biodiversity
- Slovenian tourism promoted under the slogan I feel Slovenia (mainly in tourism but also in sport events)
- Tourism provides jobs for every tenth employee, its share in GDP amounts to 12,3%

#### **Slovenian-Hungarian bilateral relations**

- 15 January 1992 recognized by HU & EU MS
- Excellent political relations, bilateral agreements in all fields (protection of minorities – joint minority commission)
- Strong connecting point: minorities
- HU minority in Slovenia 1 out of 2 autochthon minorities with special rights (1 MP),
- Slovenian minority in HU advocate in HU Parliament
- Unexploited opportunities (economy infrastructure/Port Koper, energy/electricity, gas, culture)

### Facing the challenge of mass migration

- **Smallest country** on the migration route through the Balkans
- Since 17 October, more than **255 000 migrants** have entered Slovenia
- 26 Oct: mini Summit in Brussels improved cooperation and information exchange
- 10 Nov: **technical obstacle** to secure controlled entry and the security of the country and citizens
- Slovenia responsible EU member state and guardian of the
   Schengen border
- Problems to be resolved along the **entire route** from Greece onwards
- International cooperation to protect Schengen borders: Slovenian police officers assisted by foreign officers

#### **Achievements:**

### Role of women in the Slovene society

Focus on and significant progress towards gender equality: support to
 UN Women and #HeForShe campaign

#### Women in political decision-making:

- Legislated candidate quotas equal opportunities to stand as candidates in all elections guaranteed by the Constitution
- Voluntary political party quotas
- High share of female politicians 36% of MPs, 43% of ministers according to Deloitte survey
- Gender pay gap considerably low World Economic Forum's Global
   Gender Gap report ranked Slovenia at 9th place
- 15% of board positions in large companies occupied by women higher share than EU average

# **SLOVENIA** Green. Active. Healthy.

- 11th EU nation to approve same-sex weddings by a law in March 2015, first of the countries that joined the EU in 2004 or after
- The law will be contested in a **referendum** to be held on 20 December 2015
- If the law is implemented, Slovenia will become the **first** country in Central Europe, in the post-communist Europe and first Slavic country to allow same-sex couples to marry
- 2015 Eurobarometer: 54% of Slovenians think same-sex marriage should be allowed throughout Europe (40% oppose)

Thank you for your attention.