



Sustainable urban development in Slovenia: redefining policies

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Sustainable urban development in Slovenia

- Urban development policy - state of play
- Assessment and Key Findings
- Future Challenges

Policy in transition – state of play

➤ Revision of Spatial Development Strategy (2004)

↳ redefining urban development policy

FROM „PASSIVE“ TO „ACTIVE“

↳ work in progress – early stages

- Identifying the shortcomings
- Defining future building blocks

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Current urban development policy in brief

GUIDELINES

Guidelines at national level:

Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia

Spatial Order of Slovenia

Regional development programs (no regional level governance):

- **Guidelines for urban development (non obligatory)**

IMPLEMENTATION

• **Intermunicipal plans** (on the basis of agreement)

- Common municipal management board

• **Local Spatial Development Plans** (obligatory)

- Settlement structure and functions
- **Urban development plans for cities**

• Specific local dev. strategies (LEC, SUMP,...), sectoral measures

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Policy at national level - Spatial Development Strategy (2004)

Urban development is a key element of spatial development strategy:

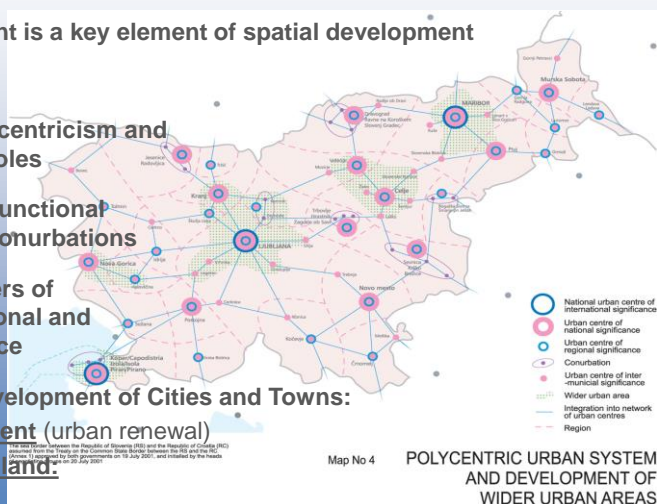
Emphasis on polycentricism and regional growth poles

Further focus on functional urban areas and conurbations

Definition of centers of international, national and regional importance

Guidelines for Development of Cities and Towns:

- **Inner development** (urban renewal)
- **Rational use of land:**

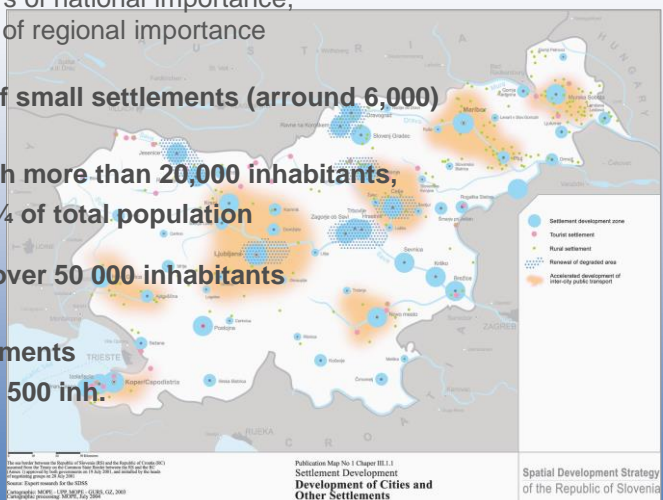


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Development based on small and medium-sized cities

10 000 inh. - centers of national importance,
5 000 inh. - centers of regional importance

- Large number of small settlements (around 6,000)
- Only 7 cities with more than 20,000 inhabitants, accounting for 1/4 of total population
- Only 2 of them over 50 000 inhabitants
- 90% of all settlements have fewer than 500 inh.



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Revision of urban development policy

- Gaps in the implementation
 - lack of instruments
- New development challenges
 - Energy, climate change, aging society, social exclusion,..



- Sectoral policies taking place in cities

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Assessment of existing policy – identified shortages

- Lack of connection of urban development policy with the key sectoral policies
 - Fragmentation of various strategies (integrated approach only within sectors)
- Rigid presentation of settlement system and applied rules
- Lack of instruments for sustainable urban development at national level
 - Specific financial instruments with focus on cities
 - Incentives for intermunicipal cooperation
- Lack of dialog btw levels of governance

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Redefining the policy

SUSTAINABLE?

RESILIENT ?

SMART CITIES

GREEN ?

INNOVATIVE ?

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Redefining policy

**COMPETITIVE
CITIES/SMART CITIES =
SUSTAINABLE AND INNOVATIVE**

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Redefining policy

What can we do to support the cities?



The process:

- Learning from case studies (successful large scale projects)
- Looking into performance of the cities (smaller and larger)

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Redefining policy

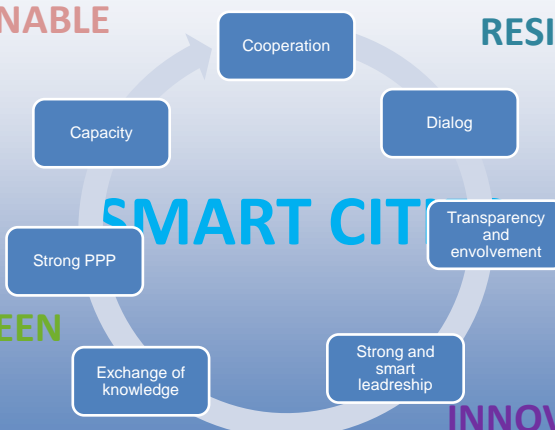
SUSTAINABLE

RESILIENT

GREEN

INNOVATIVE

SMART CITY



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Future policy.....

A need for more explicit urban development policy

- Recognising the role of cities and towns for balanced development

Identifying and linking the key sectoral policies

Shift of focus in investments

- From sectoral to territorial approach
- From isolated actions to integrated actions
- Support for investments with added value (creating new jobs,..)

Development of new instruments for implementation

- Tailor made financial instruments and different incentives

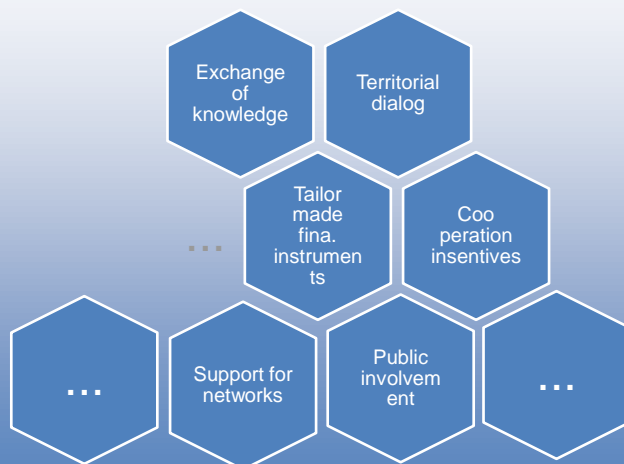
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INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS



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Future building blocks of urban development policy



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Challenges for urban development policy

- **Promoting integrated approach (added value)**
- **Coordinate sectoral policies and tasks**
- **Design policies for specific need;**
- **Continuous territorial dialog;**
- **Improve data base: data at local level (informed policy making)**



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First steps made:

- Including sustainable urban development in the programming period
 - New programming period as an opportunity:
 - 7.5% for sustainable urban development
 - Testing integrated approach
 - Basis for setting up new financial instruments
- Integrated Urban development strategies
- Dialog:
 - with sectors on integrated approach
 - with cities, support for networking
- Initiating urban development policy renewal:
 - Redefining the role of cities for economic development
 - Redefining implementation measures

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Thank you!

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