

SLOVENIA

Youth for science, youth for business, science for business

Good practices: policy measures for circular economy and eco-innovations¹:

- a. Publicly co-funded venture capita funds:
 - ✓ Slovene Enterprise Fund (SEF) – offering financial solutions in the form of: Start-up incentives (wood utilization); seed capital for the entry and expansion of the market; venture capital; microcredits (direct); guarantees for bank loans with interest rate subsidy for current operation and further growth (for young enterprises and SMEs);
 - ✓ Slovene Regional Development Fund - incentives fund grant loans with a favourable interest rate and a long maturity and invitations to tender.
- b. Support for R&D in public sector and industry
 - ✓ Slovenian Research Agency - selects and finances research and infrastructure programmes that provide a public service in the research field
 - Eureka tool in order to encourage companies to participate in research programs;
 - Public tenders for R&D addressed to companies;
 - Use of Eurostarts fund
- c. Fiscal relaxation/release:
 - ✓ The person may claim the tax relief in the amount of 100% of the amount which represents the investment in research and development during this period, but not exceeding the amount of the tax base
 - ✓ Vehicles with electric drive motor are exempted from the payment of the annual duty for the use of the vehicle
- d. Education, training and mobility:
 - ✓ central national management institution for competence centers in different fields connected with companies through „Strategic Research and Innovation Partnerships“ for 9 fields:
 - Smart cities and communities;
 - Smart buildings and homes, including wood chain;
 - Networks for the transition into circular economy;
 - Sustainable food production;
 - Sustainable tourism;
 - Factories of the Future;
 - Health – medicine; Mobility;
 - Development of materials as products
 - ✓ Technology transfer offices of the universities
- e. Free advise/consulting for start ups, companies, entrepreneurs performed mainly by public institutions in the form of „business points“ centers
- f. Support for R&D workers recruitments – „[young researchers](#)“ program dating from 1985
- g. Public procurements: Environmental and sustainability requirements are obligatory for certain products in public procurement procedures
- h. Support of private demand:

Slovenian Environmental Public Fund (Eco Fund) makes use of the following loan programmes:

 - **Loans to legal entities** (municipalities and/or providers of public utility services, enterprises and other legal entities) and sole traders for investments in environmental infrastructure, environmentally sound technologies and products, energy efficiency, energy saving investments, and use of renewable energy sources;
 - **Grants to legal entities** (municipalities and/or providers of public utility services, enterprises and other legal entities) for investments in electric cars and buses for public transport on compressed natural gas or biogas;
 - **Grants to municipalities** for investments in buildings where public education takes place (schools, kindergartens, libraries etc.), newly constructed as low energy and passive buildings or renovated in passive standard;

¹ Crnčec, Daniel, „[Eco-innovations in Slovenia: EIO Country profile 2016 – 2017](#)“, pp. 38 – 45

- **Loans to individuals** (households) for conversion from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, energy saving investments, investments in water consumption reduction, connections to sewage system, small waste water treatment plants, replacement of asbestos roofs;
- **Grants to individuals** (households) for investments in electric cars and for investments in residential buildings (energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources).

Other good practice examples:

- ✓ eco-innovation-related publications and eco-innovation related media with better coverage;
- ✓ Ljubljana, the Green Capital of Europe 2016 (mainly projects for renovation of buildings);
- ✓ Slovenian network of Reuse centres, member of [European Reuse Network](#)
- ❖ „reuse center“ – centers that enable people to submit various products that could be reused with the help of minor repairs, improvements and/or innovative renovation. These products are then sold for symbolic prices.

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