



Univerza v Mariboru

Ekonomsko-poslovna fakulteta



# Discovering Slovenia through digital and sustainable lenses





# 1. The Environmental Performance Index 2022

The 2022 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) provides a data-driven summary of the state of sustainability worldwide. Using 40 performance indicators across 11 issue categories, the EPI ranks 180 countries on their progress toward improving environmental health, protecting ecosystem vitality, and mitigating climate change. The EPI offers a scorecard highlighting leaders and laggards in environmental performance and providing practical guidance for countries that aspire to move toward a sustainable future.

According to the 2022 EPI rank, Slovenia is in 7th place among 180 countries and in 1st place among the countries in Eastern Europe.

Figure 1-3. The 2022 EPI Framework, illustrating 3 policy objectives, 11 issue categories, and 40 indicators.

Climate	Environmental Health				Ecosystem Vitality					
Climate Change Mitigation	Air Quality	Waste Management	Water & Sanitation	Heavy Metals	Biodiversity & Habitat	Ecosystem Services	Fisheries	Agriculture	Acid Rain	Water Resources
CO <sub>2</sub> Growth Rate	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Controlled Solid Waste	Unsafe Sanitation	Lead Exposure	Land Biome Protection (National)	Tree Cover Loss	Fish Stock Status	Sustainable Nitrogen Use	SO <sub>2</sub> Emissions	Wastewater Treatment
CH <sub>4</sub> Growth Rate	Household Solid Fuels	Recycling	Unsafe Drinking Water		Land Biome Protection (Global)	Wetland Loss	Marine Trophic Index	Sustainable Pesticide Use	NO <sub>x</sub> Emissions	
N <sub>2</sub> O Growth Rate	Ozone	Ocean Plastics			Marine Protected Areas	Grassland Loss	Trawling and Dredging			
F-Gas Growth Rate	Nitrogen Oxides				Protected Areas Rep. Index					
Black Carbon Growth Rate	Sulfur Dioxide				Biodiversity Habitat Index					
Projected 2050 Emissions	Carbon Monoxide				Species Protection Index					
CO <sub>2</sub> from Land Cover	Volatile Organics				Species Habitat Index					
GHG Intensity										
GHG per Capita										





## 2. The Triglav National Park

*The Triglav National Park is the only Slovenian national park. The park was named after Triglav, the highest mountain in the heart of the park and the highest summit in Slovenia (2864 m). The Triglav National Park is one of the oldest European parks; the first protection dates back to 1924, when the Alpine Conservation Park was founded. The Triglav National Park's priority objectives are the conservation of ecosystems and natural processes, natural assets, diversity of habitats, plant and animal species, landscape quality, and landscape diversity.*

**The park covers 840 square kilometers, which is 4% of the territory of Slovenia.**

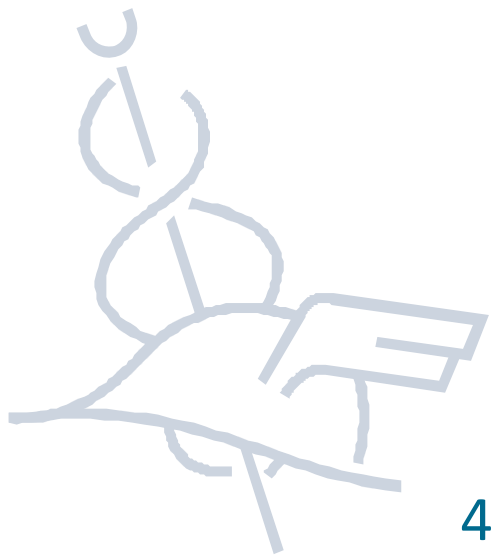
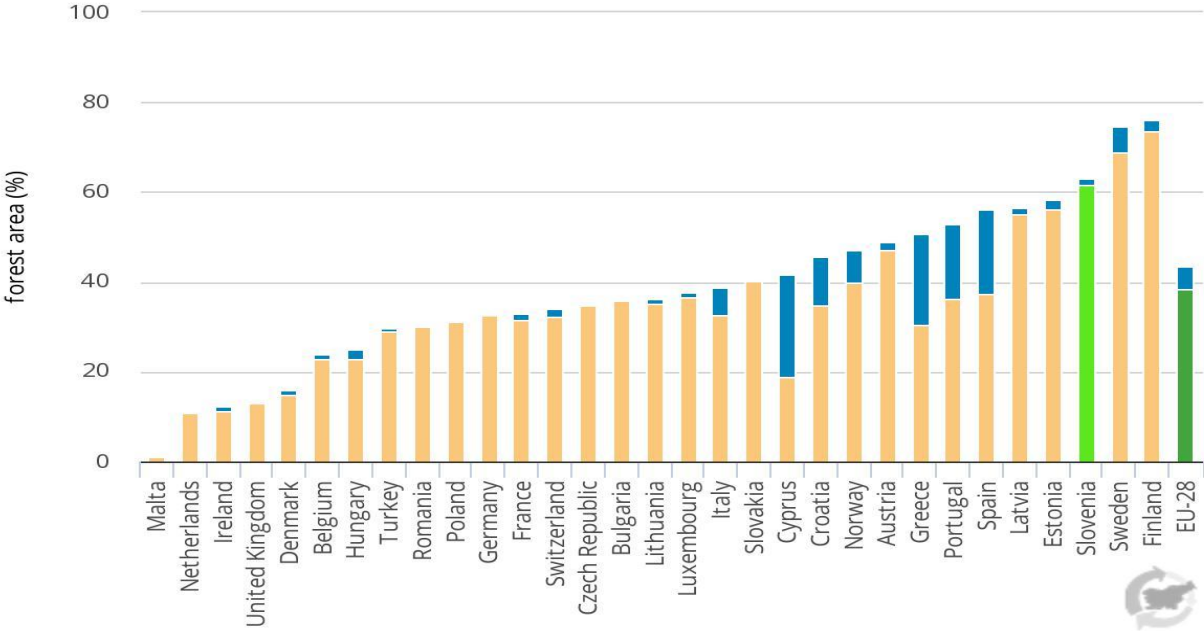




# 3. Forest area

*In the past centuries, the forest area in Slovenia has constantly been increasing since 2010; however, the rate of expansion has slowed and remained relatively stable in recent years. Since 1875, when forests covered only 36 % of the Slovenian territory, forest cover has increased to 58.5 % in 2009 and rests stably today at 58,0 %.*

**Slovenia ranks third in forest share among EU-28 countries, behind Sweden and Finland. (Legend: yellow – share of forests; blue – share of other wooded lands)**



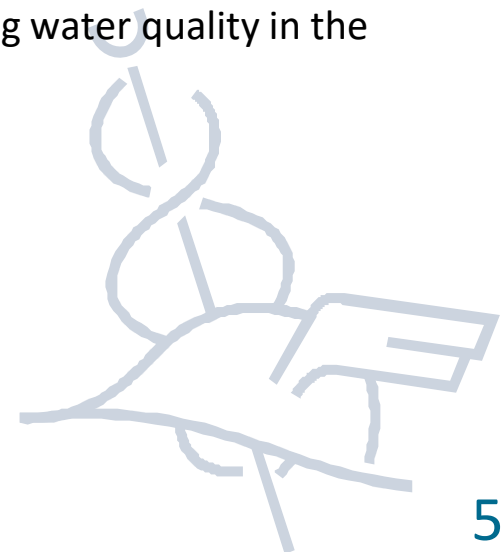


## 4. Implementation of sustainable development goals

*The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all developed and developing countries in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and preserving our oceans and forests. In its Development Strategy 2030, Slovenia is committed to ensuring decent life for all generations.*

**Goal no. 1, "no poverty"** - Slovenia is a country with low-income inequality and a relatively low at-risk-of-poverty rate.

**Goal no. 14, "life below water"** - Slovenia is a country with excellent bathing water quality in the coastal sea, ranking Slovenia among the top EU-28 countries.





## 5. Pay attention to the environment

*“Pay attention(!) to the environment” was a project in Slovenia with which the Goodyear Dunlop Sava Tires company, from 2010 - 2017, made young people aware of a responsible attitude towards nature and encouraged them to adopt good practices and think about how they can help protect the environment. The project's partners played a vital role in this campaign, which tried to bring different aspects of environmental protection to high school students by sharing professional content.*

**The project raises awareness about: energy saving, fuel economy, saving water, waste saving, consumer awareness, the importance of planting plants, and on the importance of spreading environmentally friendly behavior.**

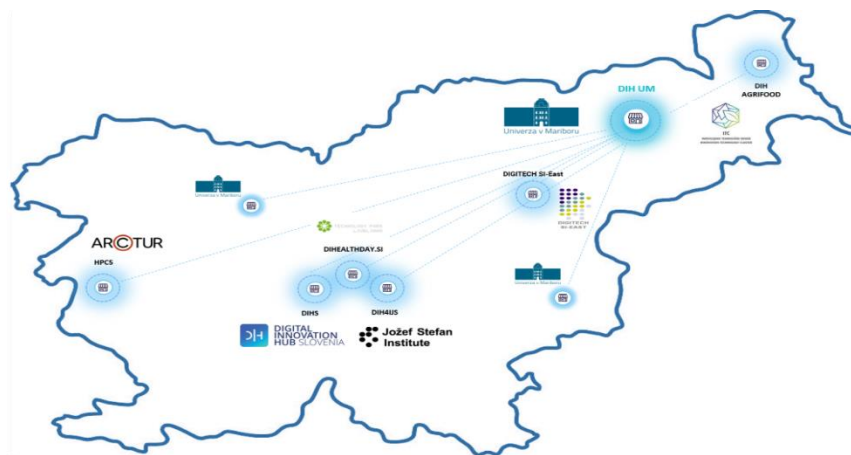




## 6. The DIGI-SI Consortium

*The Slovenian consortium of digital innovation hubs DIGI-SI (DIGI-SI Consortium) consists of six partners (i.e., ožef Stefan Institute, DIH Slovenia, Technology Park Ljubljana, Arctur, ITC – Innovation Technology Cluster Murska Sobota, and TCS – Institute-Center of Slovenian Tool Cluster Celje) and function under the coordination of the University of Maribor, more specifically DIH UM. The DIGI-SI consortium was proposed by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia to the European Commission as the selected national candidate for EDIH (European Digital Innovation Hub). The establishment of EDIH is a plan of the European Commission within the Digital Europe Program to accelerate the European Union's digital breakthrough and bring digital technologies closer to businesses, citizens, and public administration in the EU.*

**The DIGI-SI Consortium gained the status of EDIH in 2022.**





# 7. Primary tasks of the EDIH DIGI-SI Consortium

*EDIHs' purpose is to actively promote the digital transformation of the economy and the public sector through state-of-the-art digital technologies such as artificial intelligence, high-performance computing, mass data and augmented/virtual reality while ensuring cyber security and the necessary digital skills.*

**The EDIH DIGI-SI Consortium will achieve digitalization in these areas by:**

- Providing support to the economy and public administration in education and awareness of advanced digital technologies and how they can be used to accelerate development and operation.
  - Experimenting before investing in advanced digital solutions.
- Conducting digital maturity assessments of companies and organizations.
- Connecting companies and organizations with researchers and the innovation ecosystem.
  - Assisting in finding funding.





## 8. Smart City Maribor

*Smart City Maribor Initiative was launched to activate a sustainable smart city environment, pursuing innovation in the city of Maribor and pilot projects enabling the start provision of smart city activities (services, technology development, products development). The Initiative aims at achieving breakthrough projects which may enhance the territory of Maribor city and wider regionally, encouraging technological, social, and organizational innovation.*

**The following strategic orientations defines Maribor as a smart city: smart mobility, smart environment and energy, smart living and urban planning, and smart economy and cooperation.**

The screenshot shows the website for Smart City Maribor. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo 'Smart City Maribor' and the tagline 'PAMETNO MESTO MARIBOR'. The main content area features four colored boxes representing strategic orientations: Smart Mobility (9), Smart Environment and Energy (3), Smart Living and Urban Planning (6), and Smart Economy and Cooperation (1). Below these boxes, there is a section titled 'Ustvarjamo strategijo pametnega mesta' with a subtext explaining the goal of the strategy and a red button labeled '+ Preberi več'.

