

SLOVENIA

Key trends in 2023

- 🔍 A vast majority of funds from the NGO fund remain undistributed due to corruption scandal
- 🔍 Support measures in the Law on NGOs have not been implemented thus hampering an enabling environment
- 🔍 Online hate speech and smear campaigns from the opposition party against civic actors remain a significant concern.

Targeted recommendation:

- 🔍 Urgently prioritise the transparent distribution of the National NGO funds.

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Summary

Civic space is rated as “Narrowed” in Slovenia. In the last two Rule of Law Reports by the European Commission (2023, 2022) there were no recommendations for Slovenia linked to civic space. Since the new government came into power in 2022, the environment for civil society and civic actors has become stronger as serious threats to basic freedoms and fundamental rights ceased, but there are some new emerging concerns for civic actors. While there has been cooperation, dialogue, and participation between civil society and government, there is room for further improvement. For example, the government does not respect consultation deadlines for draft legislation which are prepared in a rushed and non-transparent manner. Online attacks and smear campaigns against civic actors by opposition members on X (formerly Twitter) and their media outlets remain a crucial concern for civil society.

There has been a deterioration of the enabling environment for NGOs as the implementation of support measures in the Law on NGOs has come to a halt. The mandate of the Government Council for Cooperation development of voluntarism, voluntary and non-governmental organisations has ended and is yet to be renewed. The draft for the new Government Strategy for the development of NGOs has not been prepared or finalised.

Funding remains a concern, with a vast majority of funds from the NGO fund remaining undistributed, while coalition parties in the Parliament prevented two attempts by the opposition parties to abolish the national NGO fund.