

**LEGISLATION REGARDING
PREVENTION OF COMMUNICABLE
DISEASES IN SLOVENIA, ROLE OF HEALTH
CARE INSTITUTIONS**

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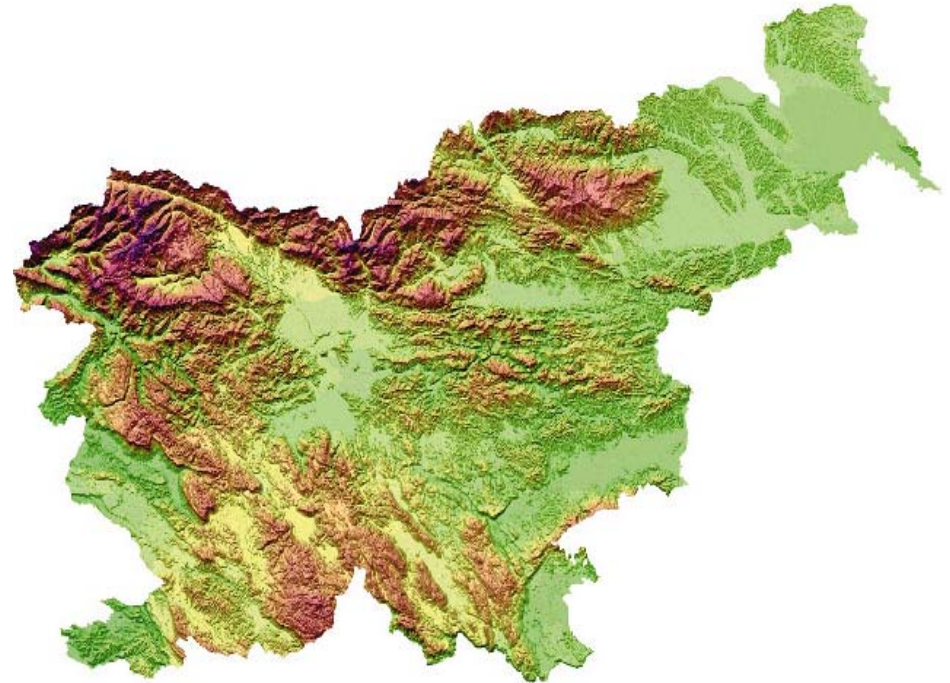
SLOVENIA, Country background

Slovenia is mountainous, with the highest regions in the Slovenian Alps in the northwest.

Almost half of the land is densely forested. There are areas of lowland in the west, near the coast.

The centre and east of the country consists to a great extent of undulating plains. The most fertile region is the east. The territory of Slovenia covers an area of about 20.256 sq. km.

The human population in Slovenia is about 2 million people.



Prevention of communicable diseases

- is a multistep process, which necessitates multisectoral approach. Important background of prevention is legislation. In Slovenia the field of prevention of communicable diseases is covered by Contagious Diseases Act;
- Contagious Diseases Reporting Act,
- Rules on Immunization,
- Immunization programme published yearly
- Rules on expert supervision over implementation of the programme on prevention and control of hospital infections,
- Rules on drinking water,
- and others.

Communicable Diseases Act (CDA)

- The CDA comprises the following rubrics: I. General provisions, II. Measures for the control and prevention of communicable diseases. III Prevention and control of hospital infections; IV. Monitoring and implementation of measures; V. Funding; VI. Special provisions; VII. Penal provisions; and VIII. Transitional and final provisions.
- Measures include:
 - targeted health education and advice;
 - early detection and diagnosis;
 - notification of communicable diseases and outbreaks;
 - epidemiological investigations;
 - isolation, quarantine, compulsory treatment, and special transport of patients;
 - vaccination, immunoprophylaxis, and chemoprophylaxis;
 - disinfection, disinsection, and deratization;
 - compulsory health examinations and advice; and other special measures.

Notification of CD

Communicable Diseases Reporting Act

- According to the CDA the notification (passive monitoring) of communicable diseases is obligatory.
- Details are regulated in the Contagious Diseases Reporting Act
- Within the area of human health 75 communicable diseases are notifiable.
- Notifiable CD are divided in 4 groups.
- CD of 1st group are diseases, dangerous to the society, and with the urgency for investigation of contacts and source of infection.

Notification of CD

- Most of notifiable communicable diseases, belong to 2nd group;
- CD, dangerous to the society, but with the relative urgency for investigation of contacts and source of infection;
- 3 rd group
- 4th group



- The National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) and the nine regional Institutes of Public Health represent a network of public health institutions, responsible for prevention and control of communicable diseases in Slovenia in cooperation with other institutions. Health care institutions on primary level play important role in prevention of communicable diseases.



NIPH

- Epidemiology of communicable diseases is covered by Communicable Diseases Centre (CDC).
- CDC covers:
- surveillance,
- prevention and coordination of control of CD and nosocomial infections.
- It issues professional opinions, recommendations and proposals for acts, regarding CD.
- CDC prepares every year immunization programme, which is confirmed and issued by Ministry of Health of Slovenia. Implementation of IP is coordinated by CDC.

- The CDC manages several national databases with reported data on communicable disease cases, including sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, and vaccinations.
- CDC of National institute of Public Health is also contact point / competent body for several European networks for epidemiology, which are mostly covered by European Center for Disease Control in Stockholm (ECDC).
- The ECDC Competent Bodies for communicable diseases in Slovenia is also University Clinic for Pulmonary and Allergic diseases Golnik., which is responsible for epidemiology of tuberculosis.
- CDC of National institute of Public Health (NIPH) supports Ministry of Health as expert authority.

RIPH

- RIPH are institutes of primary care which work is closely connected with people's everyday life.
- They cooperate with primary health care institutions on daily basis in fields:
 - notification / surveillance of CD;
 - identification and management of health risks, clusters, outbreaks,
 - risk communication;
 - vaccination, immunoprophylaxis and chemoprophylaxis of infants, children and adults;
 - disinfection, disinsection, deratization;
 - health of travellers etc.
- They cooperate with NIPH and other institutions as well.

- Health care programmes on primary level are specially oriented to children. finding out health problems, giving advices to parents.
- In first year of life there are five regular examinations (at 1,3,6,9,12 months), later, when the child is 18 months, three and five years old.
- In primary school, preventive examinations are in first, third, and sixth and eighth class.
- In secondary school they follow in first and third year.
- Students are examined in first and last year of study programme.

CONCLUSION

- list of obligatory notifiable communicable diseases should be shorter and in accordance with demands of EU commission/ECDC;
- data, available for certain CD, should encompass more information;
- surveillance of CD should include data from laboratory, physicians and epidemiological surveillance;
- CDA should include more sentinel based data about CD.

CONCLUSION

- Despite great progress in controlling communicable diseases, new diseases (West Nile virus, SARS, pandemic influenza) and traditional diseases that can become resistant to drugs (malaria, tuberculosis, bacterial pneumonia) are still of great concern and a potential threat to the health of the public.
- Beside, communicable diseases do not respect national frontiers and can spread rapidly.
- Strong public health system for control of CD, good cooperation between public health and other health care institutions, good intersectoral cooperation, last, but not least international cooperation are crucial for prevention and management of infectious diseases.