

New Development Model in Slovenia

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Abstract

The Development Council of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the Engineering Academy of Slovenia organized in December 2024 a roundtable on the topic: Why is Slovenia lagging behind comparable EU countries? The meeting concluded that Slovenia needs significantly higher economic growth, and particularly a new development model (NDM). Five consultations were organized in 2025: Consultation with the economy, Capital market development, Knowledge-based society, Social and environmental development, and NDM of Slovenia. Major developmental weaknesses include economic backwardness, capital outflows, defensive development, fragmented innovation ecosystem, and the “valley of death”. The NDM therefore synthesizes the conclusions of the five consultations, proposes a unified NDM, an institutional solution – the establishment of the National Council for Strategic Assessment as the central strategic “think tank” of the country, proposes a transition from a fragmented university and research system to the “University of Slovenia” network, and draws out the concept of three vertical axes of breakthrough (economic-capital, scientific-innovative, sustainable). The NDM includes several common principles: a unified framework rather than a new set of strategies; an interactive innovation ecosystem; the quadruple helix; measurability and accountability; negotiation skills; and social consensus. Three pillars of the Slovenian breakthrough shall be: economic and capital breakthrough; knowledge, universities, and the innovation ecosystem; and sustainable development, climate, and environmental resilience. The fundamental basis is good governance, the rule of law, ethics, integrity, and efficient public administration. This allows for clarity of communication, recognition, and concentration of measures into a limited number of priorities.

Keywords New Development Model (NDM), Economic Growth, Capital Development, Innovation Ecosystem, Strategic Governance, Sustainable Development and Resilience



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