



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
COURT OF AUDIT

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## Summary of the audit report

### Efficiency of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning and the Slovenian Water Agency in reducing the flood risks

The Court of Audit of the Republic of Slovenia implemented the audit of efficiency of reducing the flood risks in the areas of significant impact of floods in the period from 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2024. The audit was undertaken at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning and at the Slovenian Water Agency. The Court of Audit established that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning and the Slovenian Water Agency were **partially efficient** in flood risk management.

Floods are natural phenomena which cannot be prevented. In the Republic of Slovenia, floods, together with epidemics of infectious diseases, are defined as disasters with the highest risk level. Aiming at decreasing flood risk, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning defined Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk in Slovenia and developed two Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs).

The Court of Audit disclosed that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning in both Flood Risk Management Plans collected existing data about planned activities in the field of reducing flood risks and presented them by river basins and sub-basins. Nevertheless, it failed to define objectives tailored for each sub-basin, but it rather defined the same objectives for all sub-basins, and it failed to define applicable indicators. For some sub-basins it foresaw the development of comprehensive Hydrological and Hydraulic Studies including an analysis of existing sub-basin situation, flood hazard and flood risk assessment as well as measurable objectives and indicators. At the end of the period covered by the audit, there were two Hydrological and Hydraulic Studies in the development process covering 2 out of 18 sub-basins, while one project (term of reference) for one basin was still in process. For all other sub-basins, the plans of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning and the Slovenian Water Agency related to the development of those studies were not clear.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning predicted the implementation of 20 measures addressing the whole cycle of flood risk management in the Flood Risk Management Plans. The Court of Audit considered measures referred to defining and addressing flood risk areas, protection of natural flood plains, where floodwater can spill and be retained without significant damage, adjustment of land use in sub-basins, and construction measures. According to the opinion

of the Court of Audit, the primary approach to flood risk management in the Republic of Slovenia is carrying out construction measures. In cases where non-construction measures are applied, the Court of Audit assessed that the auditees could be more proactive, namely the Slovenian Water Agency did not have accurate data on location and size of protected natural flood plains that should be safeguarded within the measure Identification, establishment, and protection of important natural high-water flood plain areas. Similarly, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning failed to identify an actual example of the application of the measure Adjustment of the land use in sub-basins. In the areas affected by floods, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning developed Flood Hazard and Risk Maps which shall be supplemented in future, while the Slovenian Water Agency imposed limits on land use changes in the flood risk areas with some delay. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning failed to provide appropriate conditions to set up efficient control over the changes in the landscape that are contrary to legislation and can increase flood risks.

In the period covered by the audit, the environmental objectives were followed in more structured and conclusive manner when planning and implementing measures, and at the end of the period covered by the audit also the climate change impacts were considered. In the field of monitoring the implementation of the Flood Risk Management Plan, the Court of Audit established that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning monitored in detail only the implementation of construction projects, while non-construction measures were not closely monitored.

The Court of Audit proposed to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning and the Slovenian Water Agency several recommendations on improving the efficiency in the field of reducing flood risks. Furthermore, both auditees have already implemented measures to improve the situation.

Ljubljana, 6. November 2025