

Slovenian Healthcare System: Challenges, Reforms, and the Patient's Perspective

Friday, 13 February 2026, from 10:00 – 14:15

In the Hall of the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia

The Slovenian healthcare system is facing increasing pressures on its organization, financing, and accessibility during a period of significant demographic, technological, and social changes. Discussion about healthcare reforms is therefore not merely a professional issue but a key societal challenge that requires a comprehensive perspective, cross-sector dialogue, and a focus on patients' needs. The aim of the consultation is to provide a thorough overview of the functioning of the Slovenian healthcare system from the perspective of policymakers, financiers, healthcare service providers, economists, and – crucially – patients. Special emphasis will be placed on analyzing previous reform steps, the financial sustainability of the system, comparisons with European practices, and finding concrete, feasible solutions for greater efficiency and long-term stability of the system.

The event will be moderated by State Councillor Mr. Danijel Kastelic, President of the Commission for Social Welfare, Labour, Health and Persons with Disabilities, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Draško Veselinović, Director of the Brussels-based Slovenian Business and Research Association (SBRA)

Programme

10:00	Opening address: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marko Lotrič, President of the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia
10:10	Opening address: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Danijel Kastelic, President of the Association of Paraplegics of Slovenia, State Councillor and President of the Commission for Social Welfare, Labour, Health and Persons with Disabilities of the National Council, and• Monika Ažman, Adviser at the Chamber of Nursing and Midwifery Services of Slovenia, State Councillor and Vice-President of the Commission for Social Welfare, Labour, Health and Persons with Disabilities of the National Council
10:20	Opening address: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vesna Nahtigal, Director General of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia

10:30	<p>Introductory remarks by the main co-organiser on the purpose and programme of the conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assoc. Prof. Dr. Draško Veselinovič, Director of the Slovenian Business and Research Association (SBRA)
10:40	<p>Opening address and brief presentation of the main current orientations of health policies and the healthcare system in Slovenia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Dr. Valentina Prevolnik Rupel, Minister of Health of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia
11:00	<p>Dynamics of healthcare expenditure in the national budget of the Republic of Slovenia over the years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Franci Klužer, Head of Sector at the Directorate for Economic and Fiscal Policy, and his colleague Peter Štemberger, Ministry of Finance of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia
11:15	<p>Challenges of the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia (ZZS) / the Slovenian healthcare fund after one year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Ljoljo, Director General of the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia (ZZS)
11:35	<p>Economics of the Slovenian healthcare system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Dr. Petra Došenovič Bonča, School of Economics and Business, University of Ljubljana
11:55	<p>European healthcare systems and policies – challenges and trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Dr. Andrzej Fal, pulmonologist, internist and economist, public health specialist, Chair of the Department of Organisation and Economics of the Healthcare System at the National Institute of Public Health, Head of the Department of Internal Medicine and Allergology at the Central Clinical Hospital in Warsaw, Poland
12:20	COFFEE BREAK
12:35	<p>Meaningful adjustments/supplements to the implementation of the Slovenian healthcare reform – how to make the healthcare system more efficient</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorjan Marušič, MSc, MD, BSc Eng., internist, former Minister of Health and adviser to the Ministry of Health
12:55	The patient in today's and future healthcare system and related challenges

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristina Modic, Executive Director, Slovenian Association of Patients with Lymphoma and Leukemia
13:05	<p>The patient in today's and future healthcare system and related challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milan Čuček, Representative, Association of Patients with Cerebrovascular Disease of Slovenia
13:15	<p>The patient in today's and future healthcare system and related challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ana Žličar, President, Association of Oncology Patients of Slovenia
13:25	Questions, discussion, initiatives
14:15	Conclusion of the conference with adopted conclusions