

## **Municipality of Slovenska Bistrica**

Municipality of Slovenska Bistrica is one of the oldest and the largest municipalities in Slovenia, both in terms of population as per its area. Geographically it is situated in the east part of Slovenia, between Maribor and Celje. The city of Slovenska Bistrica was built on the remains of a Roman town known as Civitas Negotiana and it has long been endowed with a commercial vocation. On the territory of the municipality there are a large number of natural attractions and cultural and historical monuments, which provide for variety of tourism activities. A number of them are protected as natural and cultural heritage. The best known natural attractions in the municipality include: Pohorje ridge with its famous peat bogs and marshes, and the characteristic flora and fauna, the Black Lake in Pohorje, Maroltova fir as an example of dendrological monument.

Local economy is dominated by manufacturing, which represents approx. 2/3 of the economy in the municipality (dominated by wood processing, manufacture of metal products - aluminum and food processing industry). The municipality is also a home to about 800 craftsmen. Municipality of Slovenska Bistrica successfully received funding from EU in the pre-accession period and during the period 2004-2006. The most important projects completed in this period are the construction of a central sewage treatment plant, and the construction of enterprise zone. Municipality continued with obtaining the EU Funds in the period 2007-2013 for 12 projects operations nine projects financed by the European Regional Development Fund and three projects co-financed by the Cohesion Fund. Most recently, the municipality has expressed increased interest in participating in Horizon 2020 projects.

For further information, please visit <http://www.slovenska-bistrica.si/>