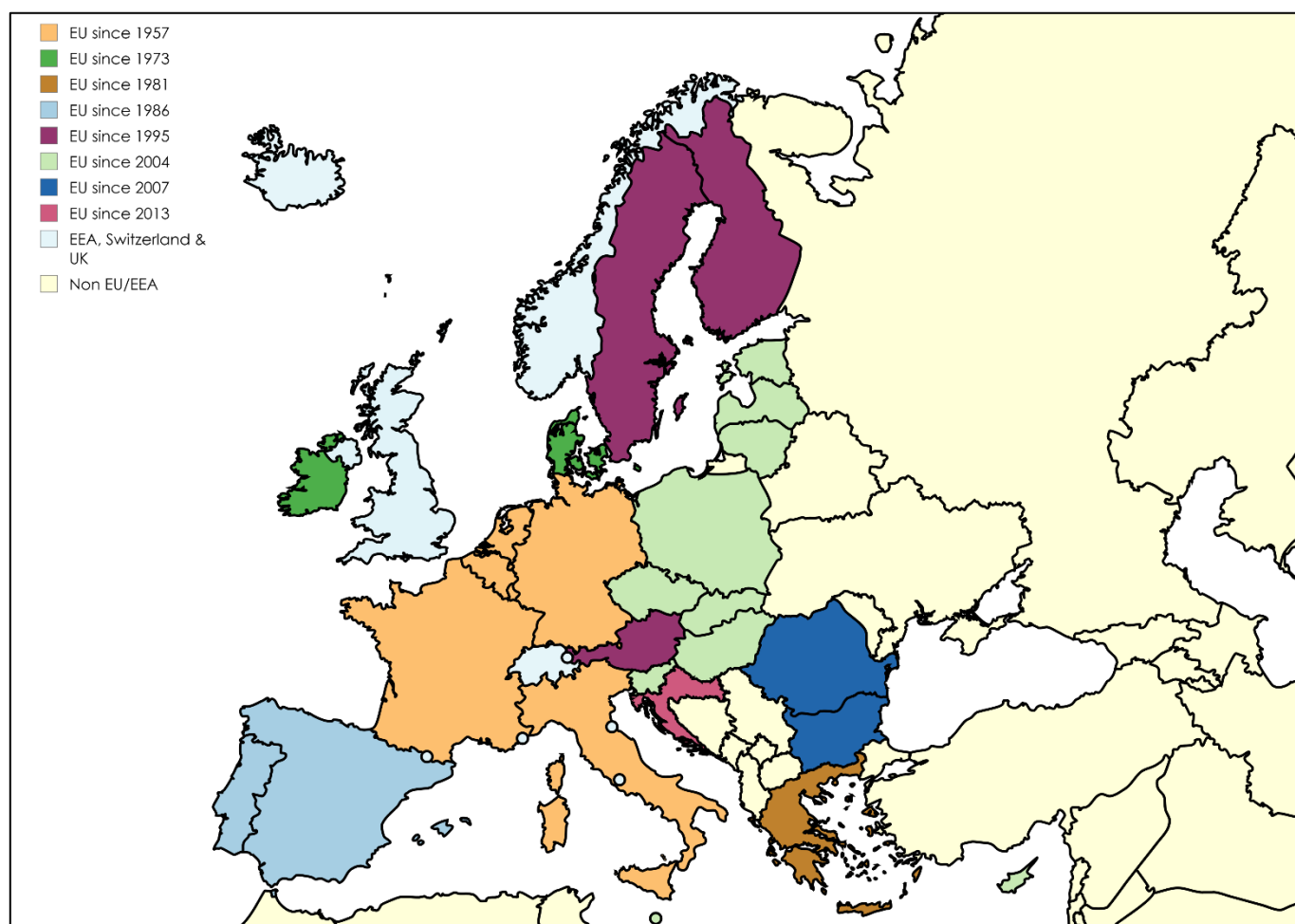


Council of European Dentists

MANUAL OF DENTAL PRACTICE 2026

Slovenia





Slovenia



Date of last revision: 05 October 2026

In the EU since	2004
Population (2024)	2 123 949
GDP PPP per capita (2024)	36 089
Currency	Euro € (EUR)
Official language(s)	Slovenian (and Hungarian, Italian)

Slovenia's healthcare system is based on a fairly centralised system as well as a public social health insurance model, covering over 99% of permanent residents. A mixed source of public and private funding encompasses statutory health insurance contributions, and general taxation. Voluntary health insurance is also widely used to cover for non-contracted private healthcare providers. Dental care is delivered by three types of practitioners: publicly employed dentists in community centres (preventive and curative care) (42%), contracted private dentists (40%), and fully private dentists (15%).

Number of dentists (active), 2025	1 609
(Active) dentist to population ratio (per 100 000 inhab)	75.7
Members of Dental Association	

Slovenia recognises 6 specialties, in addition to the medical specialty of oral-maxillofacial surgery. CPD is mandatory to keep the license to practice. Slovenia is currently undergoing a critical shortage of formal dental chairside assistants.

Government and healthcare in Slovenia

Slovenia is a parliamentary democratic republic. The President of the Republic is elected directly by the people, and the Prime Minister by the National Assembly. The unicameral National Assembly or *Državni Zbor* has 90 seats. Directly elected and proportionally elected seats vary at each election. 2 seats are attributed to representatives from Italian and Hungarian national communities.

Slovenia is divided into 212 municipalities (*občine*), which handle local tasks.

Slovenia's health system provides near-universal coverage through statutory health insurance. The Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia (*Zavod za zdravstveno zavarovanje Slovenije, ZZSZ*) is the single purchaser and covers over 99% of permanent residents through a broad basic benefits package of services.

Primary care, including some dental care services, is typically delivered through municipality-based multidisciplinary community health centres, with outpatient and specialist services predominantly owned by state or public institutions. Healthcare services are funded through a mixed system, including payroll contributions, general taxation, as well as voluntary health insurance covering non-contracted private providers and co-payments.

The Ministry of Health is responsible for healthcare oversight, planning and policy implementation. The National Institute of Public Health (*Nacionalni inštitut za javno zdravje*) carries out governance, and municipalities deliver primary health services. A strong network of community-level primary health care centres deliver public healthcare in each municipality.

Recent reforms abolished most co-payments from 1 January 2025 to strengthen financial protection and replaced the supplementary voluntary health insurance premium with a

		Year	Source
% GDP spent on all healthcare	9.3%	2023	OECD
% of this spent by government	74%	2023	OECD
% of publicly funded dental care	47%	2023	OECD

mandatory flat-rate health contribution. Voluntary health insurance continues however to cover additional fees and private services.

Dental care in Slovenia is traditionally covered under the basic benefits package of the Health Insurance Institute, with a higher level of public coverage than the EU average. Oral healthcare services are principally organized at the primary care level. The planning for dental care is negotiated annually between public and contracted providers and the ZZSZ.

Dental care services are therefore available through a mix of public and private providers, under three different systems: this includes the public system through community primary care centres (*Zdravstveni domovi*), private clinics with contracted dentists, and finally, private clinics outside the scope of the public healthcare system and paid through voluntary health insurance or out-of-pocket.

In the case of contracted dentists under the Health Insurance Institute, all dental healthcare services are covered by statutory health insurance.

Since 2023, endodontic treatments in primary healthcare have been covered under statutory health insurance.

Education, Training and Registration

Undergraduate Education and Training

To enter the dental school a student needs to be a secondary school graduate – and present a school leaving examination, known as the matura exam, with high grades. There is no entry examination and no vocational entry, such as from being a qualified dental auxiliary.

All prospective students must have a minimum C2 level of Slovenian to study dentistry in Slovenia. Admission criteria include grades obtained at the end of secondary school matura exams, grades in the 3rd and 4th year of secondary school, and finally the grades obtained in the topics of mathematics, a foreign language, and in one subject out of biology, physics or chemistry.

Year of data	2022
Number of schools	2
Student intake (2025-2026)	79
Number of graduates a year	NA
Gender balance (% of female students)	NA
Duration of studies	6

Dental studies last 6 years in Slovenia.

Dental students may choose Dental Medicine programmes in two state-funded Faculties of Medicine of either the University of Ljubljana (*Univerza v Ljubljani*) or the University of Maribor (*Univerza v Mariboru*).

Available places are determined by the Ministry of Education and the medical faculty of each university. For the academic year 2025–2026, 55 places were available at the University of Ljubljana, including 5 additional places added compared to the previous year, and 24 places at the University of Maribor.

Registration

Graduating dentists must register to the Medical Chamber of Slovenia upon completion of studies.

Following the notification of entry into the registry, graduate dentists must then carry out a 12-month internship. This is a mandatory requirement in order to receive a notification to practice independently.

All dentists must become member and register to the Medical Chamber of Slovenia to obtain a license to practice.

Cost of registration	€ 0
Yearly membership fee *	
* For apprentice dentists	€176,40
* For dentists having graduated less than 10 years ago	€331,20
* For dentists having graduated more than 10 years ago	€344,40

Vocational Training (VT)

Vocational training is mandatory for all dentists in Slovenia so as to obtain a licence to work, as explained above.

There is a 12-months' period of vocational training necessary following graduation. The Ministry of Health is responsible for the supervision of the supervision of this residency programme.

All residents must rotate through different specialties, supervised by a mentor, followed by a professional exam.

At the completion of the internship and end of internship exam, the dentist obtains the title of Doctor of Dental Medicine and a license to practice independently.

Language requirements

There are language requirements for registered dentists in Slovenia, with a mandatory C1 spoken level and B2 written level.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

CPD is compulsory for all dentists in Slovenia to maintain the license to practice. Every physician and dentist must undergo 75 hours of CPD every 7 years (alongside a minimum of 8 hours of professional work carried out per week). All registered dentists are required to carry out this requirement for the renewal of their professional license.

CPD courses are provided by the Medical Chamber of Slovenia. The responsibility for supervising courses lies within the Chamber.

If the dentist does not fulfil CPD requirements, then he must undertake an examination. If the dentist does not complete this examination, he may lose his license to practice independently.

Specialist Training Requirements

6 specialties are recognised in Slovenia: Orthodontics, Endodontics, Paediatric Dentistry, Periodontology, Prosthetic Dentistry and Oral Surgery.

To enter a specialised residency programme, dentists must apply to the specialisation through a competitive process and public tender, published twice a year by the Medical Chamber of Slovenia.

Admission is based on an interview as well as criteria such as the undergraduate grade average, completion of the 12-month internship, letters of recommendation from mentors, participation in additional training, scientific publications, etc.

According to the Medical Chamber of Slovenia, in 2025, there were 47 residents in 6 different fields of specialty.

Speciality training lasts between 3 and 4 years, divided into 2 phases, including an introduction to basic core public health skills (2 years) and in-depth studies of the specialty and specialty thesis.

The resident must then carry-out an end of residency programme, following which he can then obtain a full license to work in the field of specialty.

Training can be carried out at the National Institute of Public Health, The National Laboratory of Health, Environment and Food, and other national institute and research centres.

Workforce

Dentists

Slovenia has seen a gradual increase in the number of registered and practising dentists over the past 10 years. However a pressing shortage of dental chairside assistants remains.

A shortage of general dentists is however observed in nursing and care homes.

Year of data	2022
Total Registered	2 177
In active practice	1 609
Dentist to population ratio (per 100 000 inhab) *	75.7
Percentage female	68%
Foreign-trained dentists	NA
*Active dentists only	

Dentists in Slovenia may practice as one of the three types of dental providers:

1. Dentists salaried under the public healthcare system, funded by the Health Insurance Institute (ZZZS, *Zavod za zdravstveno zavarovanje Slovenije*) and working in municipal, multiprofessional, community-based primary health care centres (*Zdravstveni domovi*). These constitute 42% of dentists at primary care level.
2. Private dentists contracted by the Health Insurance Institute ZZZS and often working part-time as contracted dentists. Contracted dentists constitute 40% of all practising dentists.
3. Private dentists practising outside the public system and funded by voluntary health insurance or out-of-pocket payments. Fully private dentists represent 15% of all practising dentists.

Quality oversight of dentistry is carried out by a supervisory committee under the Medical Chamber of Slovenia. It is composed of two to five members, all dental practitioners. These are appointed by the executive committee of the Chamber, as the proposal of the committee for professional-medical issues.

Movement of dentists across borders

Most of the foreign dentists working in Slovenia are from the neighbouring Balkan countries, as well as more recently from Ukraine.

Specialists

There are 6 recognised specialties in Slovenia.

All specialists see patients on referral from a primary dentist, only.

- Orthodontics
- Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics
- Preventive and Paediatric Dentistry
- Oral Medicine and Periodontology
- Prosthetic Dentistry
- Oral Surgery

Oral Maxillofacial Surgery is recognised in Slovenia as a medical specialty.

Specialists must register with the Medical Chamber of Slovenia.

Year of data	2022
Oral Surgeons	25
Orthodontists	82
Endodontists	12
Periodontists	29
Prosthodontists	22
Paediatric dentists	34
OMFS (medical specialty)	28

Auxiliaries

The Medical Chamber of Slovenia highlights the on-going shortage of dental assistants, due to lack of existing and appropriate training programs for specially trained dental assistants.

Year of data	2022
Technicians	NA
Chairside assistants	NA
Hygienists	NA

Dental Technicians

Dental technicians are trained in dental technician secondary schools, for 4 years and then may go to colleges. To work, they must register with the Economy Chamber.

Dental technicians normally work in separate dental laboratories and invoice the dentist for the work done. A small number of technicians are employees of dental offices, and they are paid by taking a percentage of the fees for the prosthetics work.

Dental technicians make of all types of working models based on prints, fabricate fixed prosthetic substitutes, carry-out individual modelling, acrylic faceting, facet polymerisation, processing and polishing, design and fabricate of partial and total acrylic dentures, fabricate of metal-porcelain coating; denture repairs and lining.

Dental Chairside Assistants (Dental Nurses)

Practicing dental chairside assistants are commonly general medical nurses, having carried out additional training in dental clinics to work in dentistry. The Dentistry Health Care Committee of the Medical Chamber of Slovenia strongly supports the development of specialized chairside dental assistants through the establishment of an appropriate educational program and the training of dental assistants by healthcare schools.

There are therefore currently no specific schools for dental assistants. Indeed, the majority of dental assistants are nurses, but several are dental technicians and from other professions. They are always salaried and have their own representative organisation, but membership is not obligatory.

Dental Hygienists

Dental hygienists train in private dedicated schools for 2 years.

Dental hygienists must carry-out a higher professional qualification, a traineeship and a professional examination as a dental hygienist.

Dental hygienists are salaried professionals.

Dental Prosthetists

Dental prosthetists train and receive a higher professional qualification, carry-out a traineeship and an end-of-course examination. Dental prosthetics obtain the title of dental prosthetics engineer or a first level (higher education) degree programme, traineeship and professional examination (dental prosthetist laboratory diploma).

Dental prosthetists carry-out independent technical planning, select appropriate technological process and technical execution of oral rehabilitation, implement and verify new technological procedures and prosthetic materials. They are fully part of the dental team.

Other Useful Information

Main national associations

National dental associations and information centres	
The Medical Chamber of Slovenia - Zdravniška zbornica Slovenije <i>(Competent authority for registration and member of the Council of European Dentists)</i>	Slovenian Dental Association - Slovenskega zdravniškega društva (SZD)
Dunajska cesta 162 SI – 1000 Ljubljana Slovenia Phone : + 386 / 1 30 72 202 Email: gp.zzs@zss-mcs.si Website: https://www.zdravniskazbornica.si/	Dunajska cesta 162 1000 Ljubljana Slovenia Phone : +386 (0)1 434 25 80 Email: stomatoloska.sekcija@szd.si Website: https://www.stomatoloska-sekcija.si/en/home/

Competent authorities

Ministry of Education, Science & Sport	Ministry of Health – Ministrstvo Za Zdravje
Masarykova cesta 16, 1000 Ljubljana Slovenia Phone: +386 1 400 52 00 Email: gp.mvi@gov.si Website: https://www.gov.si/en/policies/education-science-and-sport/	Štefanova 5 1000 Ljubljana Slovenia Phone : +386 1 478 6001 Email : gp.mz@gov.si URL : www.mz.gov.si
The Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia (ZZZE - Zavod za zdravstveno zavarovanje Slovenije)	The National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ - Nacionalni inštitut za javno zdravje)
The Directorate of the ZZZE Zavod za zdravstveno zavarovanje Slovenije Direkcija Miklošičeva cesta 24 1507 Ljubljana Slovenia Phone: +386 1 30 77 300 Email: DI@zzzs.si Contact details of regional units of the ZZZE: https://www.zzs.si/en/about-us/contacts/ Website: https://www.zzs.si/en/	Trubarjeva cesta 2 1000 Ljubljana Phone: +386 1 2441 400 Fax: +386 1 2441 447 E-mail: info@nijz.si Website : https://nijz.si/en/

Dental Schools:

Public Universities	
University of Ljubljana – Faculty of Medicine – Dental Medicine	University of Maribor – Faculty of Medicine - Dental Medicine
Faculty of Medicine Department of Stomatology Hrvatski Tr g 6 1000 Ljubljana SLOVENIA Phone: Ms. Karmen Štefančič: +386 1 543 7719 Ms. Ana Mirt, phone: +386 1 543 7720 E-mail (Undergraduate studies): referat@mf.uni-lj.si Email (Postgraduate studies): katja.jeraj@mf.uni-lj.si Website https://www.mf.uni-lj.si/en_GB/study/dental-medicine?q=%2Fen_GB%2Fstudy%2Fdental-medicine	University of Maribor Faculty of Medicine, Maribor, Taborska ulica 8, 2000 Maribor Phone: +386 (0)2 23 55 280 Email (General): mf@um.si Email (Dental Medicine): lidija.kocbek-saherl@um.si Website: https://www.mf.um.si/en/studij/navodila-in-informacije/83-about-the-study-programme Language of instruction: Slovenia