

Overview

- ▶ Mayor: Zoran Jankovič
- ▶ Lead staff on innovation: Tjaša Ficko; Janez Koželj; Jelka Žekar; Zdenka Šimonovič
- ▶ Population of municipality: 279,631 (2016)
- ▶ Innovation/open data website: www.ljubljana.si/en/ljubljana-for-you/innovative-city/

Spotlight on Ljubljana | Innovative Paper

Ljubljana obtained the title of European Green Capital in 2016 as the city promoting sustainable development. One of the selected innovation examples is the **“innovative paper”**. In response to the issue of Japanese knotweed (an invasive non-native plant), the project aims to prevent excessive overgrowth of the plant and reuse it for beneficial purposes. The project was jointly developed by the municipality, the Pulp and Paper Institute, Snaga, the University Botanic Gardens and the Re-generacija collective. The programme has produced paper out of Japanese knotweed collected by citizens. As a result, the city has collected 3,200kg of plants and produced 415kg of paper. Furthermore, the city now produces paper bags, notebooks and city magazines.

Vision and approach to innovation capacity

The city's innovation strategy

Along with 56% of cities surveyed, Ljubljana does not have an **explicit innovation strategy**.

The city most closely associates innovation capacity with the following terms:

Experimentation

Bold leadership

Approaches to innovation capacity

Similar to over one-third of cities surveyed, Ljubljana approaches innovation capacity in **specific policy areas**.

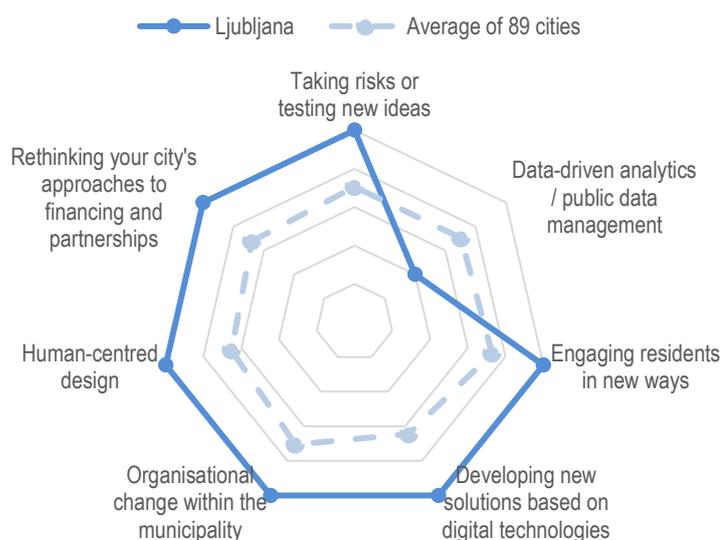
The **top two priority policy areas** for the city's innovation work include:

Transport / mobility

Environment / climate change

Most common innovation activities

Ljubljana's most common innovation activities are **taking risks and testing new ideas; engaging residents in new ways; developing new solutions based on digital technologies; facilitating organisational change within the municipal administration; promoting human-centred design; and rethinking the city's approach to financing and partnerships**.



Funding for innovation capacity

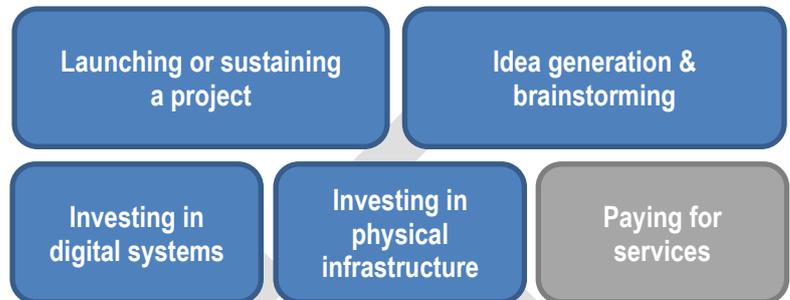
Funding to support innovation capacity

Like 77% of cities surveyed, Ljubljana has dedicated funding to support innovation capacity, which originates from the following sources:

- ✓ **Multilateral institution budget**
- ✓ **Municipal budget** (operating budget)
- ✓ **External funding** (private sector)

Types of activities being funded

Ljubljana's funding for innovation capacity is generally directed towards **launching or sustaining a project**, and **generating ideas & brainstorming**. These are the two most commonly funded activities among all cities surveyed. Ljubljana also **invests in digital systems and physical infrastructure**.



Organisational structure & staffing



Ljubljana's innovation work is sprinkled throughout the municipality.

Staff skills and profiles include:

- ✓ **Project manager**
- ✓ **Data scientist**
- ✓ **Engineer**
- ✓ **Communication officer**
- ✓ **Community engagement staff**
- ✓ **Sociologist**
- ✓ **Experts in fields of work related to circular change, smart city, energy efficiency, and economic development**

Partnerships for innovation & data



Ljubljana has developed partnerships to promote its innovation capacity with **other public agencies, private firms, not-for-profit organisations, city residents/resident associations, and international partners from EU co-funded projects**.

To improve data use, the city has also developed **data partnerships with the private sector, academia, and think tanks** to collect and analyse data, as well as **with other cities**.

Measuring outcomes

Policy areas that **benefit from sufficient data**, or **lack sufficient data**, to support innovation capacity in the city:



Innovation is **helping the city** to:

- ✓ **Improve service delivery**
- ✓ **Simplify administrative procedures for firms and residents**
- ✓ **Improve internal government operations**

The most **critical success factors** in supporting the city's innovation work:

- ✓ **Dedicated funding**
- ✓ **Dedicated innovation team**
- ✓ **Leadership from Mayor**

NB: No response provided by the city for the policy areas in grey.