



City Innovation Snapshot MARIBOR, Slovenia

Overview

- ▶ **Mayor:** Aleksander Saša Arsenovič
- ▶ **Term:** 2018–2022
- ▶ **Population size:** 110 513 (2018)

What is the organisational structure?

Maribor does not have a formal department dedicated to innovation. However, innovation works are sprinkled throughout the municipality with staff members from different departments working on innovation in various areas such as health, mobility, circular economy.



Spotlight | Urban Soil 4 Food

As part of an EU-funded project, Urban Soil 4 Food aims to turn waste into safe and certified soil that could be used to increase food self-sufficiency and reduce negative environmental impacts in Maribor. The project is built around four aspects: material circle (soil production from waste), food circle, open innovation circle, and knowledge circle. The open innovation circle seeks to set up an agri-living lab for testing and piloting innovative concepts such as micro urban gardening and urban soil rehabilitation, as well as helping start-ups with a focus on circular economy.

What is the city's innovation vision?

Like 50% of cities surveyed, Maribor has no **formal innovation strategy**.

The city most closely associates innovation capacity with:

- **Experimentation, pilots and prototyping**
- **Resident engagement**

What is the city's innovation approach?

Similar to 24% of cities surveyed, Maribor approaches innovation capacity in **specific policy areas**.

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

Waste, sanitation,
sewage

Water, public
works

What innovation partnerships exist?

Maribor has developed partnerships to **promote innovation capacity** with other public agencies, private firms, not-for-profit organisations, and city residents/resident associations.

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



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What funding is available?

Like 81% of cities surveyed, Maribor has dedicated funding to support innovation capacity, which comes from the following sources:

- **International/multilateral institution budget**
- **Higher levels of government**
- **Municipal budget** (city council approved funds / operating budget)

Maribor's funding for innovation capacity is generally directed towards **training staff and building capacity, investing in digital systems and physical infrastructure.**



How is innovation helping the city?

- ✓ **Gaining efficiency within the public sector**
- ✓ **Improving service delivery**
- ✓ **Anticipating and managing future challenges**

The most critical success factors in supporting the city's innovation work are **dedicated funding, a dedicated innovation team, Human Resource involvement and leadership from the Mayor.**



How is data used?

Maribor does not currently use data to align its budget process with its strategic priorities. Challenges preventing the use of data to support innovation goals include a **lack of technical infrastructure** as well as **limited compatibility of data across policy areas.** Maribor also reports having **insufficient staff capacity to collect and analyse data** and that **data are seldom shared among agencies.**

Maribor publishes open data to a central, public online location.



How are outcomes measured?

Policy areas **with sufficient data** or **without sufficient data** to support innovation capacity in the city.

Transport / Mobility	Economic Development	Housing	Policing and Law Enforcement	Health
Government Finance	Waste and Sewage	Labour Market and Skills	Environment and Climate Change	Education
Culture	Social Inclusion, Equity	Public Works	Tourism	Digital Governance

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