



Time means changes and the change brought by the pandemic in 2020 has been a major determinant of our health and our social and economic environment. Still, while the pandemic may have paralysed many aspects of life and economies around the world, it has not paralysed our ambition to continue to pursue sustainable economic development.

Even during this period of uncertainty and deglobalisation, as a small country and economy Slovenia remains sufficiently open and flexible to sustain this change. Both exports and imports fell in 2020 largely due to less trade with the most important trading partners in the EU, whereas trade with some larger non-EU trading partners even grew. Such statistics show the Slovenian economy and its companies have managed to quickly adapt and are agile and capable of maintaining their international cooperation, even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Slovenian companies are known for their high level of flexibility, innovative ways of cross-border co-operation as well as green and sustainable products that provide a source of competitive advantage in international markets. Foreign investors may thus be reassured that Slovenia remains attractive as an investment destination and Slovenian companies are a reliable business partner, also amidst unforeseeable circumstances and times of uncertainty.

SID Bank, as the country's promotional, development and export bank, wishes to make the path of international cooperation easier through its financing and insurance services. It is precisely cooperation and connectivity, along with green and innovative business models, industries of the future, new ways of work and digitalisation that will underpin the economic recovery and future sustainable development of our economy. These areas are also SID Bank's objectives as it works to facilitate the Slovenian economy's strong recovery after the anticyclical measures. Namely, in 2020 SID Bank mostly acted in an anticyclical manner to finance more than 2,200 companies and municipalities in a total amount of EUR 500 million, realising close to EUR 1.8 billion in insurance transactions at home and abroad.

SID Bank is continuously developing and supplying the market with complementary, long-term financial services with the end goal to promote economic competence while ensuring sustainable development, job creation and the shift to a greener, circular economy. Its financing and insurance services are tailored to cover market gaps and complement what commercial banks and insurance companies provide. This explains our focus on financing SMEs, especially those operating in the areas of research, the environment and energy efficiency. Not only do we encourage small companies to grow to become medium-sized and then enter international markets, but offer them a full range of financial services for RDI, export and project financing as well as their financing of environmental investments and green and circular business models. Moreover, as the nation's Export Credit Agency, SID Bank provides export credit and investment insurance for companies to reduce risk in international markets.

SID Bank is also a founder of the Centre for International Cooperation and Development (CMSR) as well as a partner of its Doing Business in Slovenia publication. We believe Doing Business in Slovenia publication is an excellent guide and will give you all the information you need to start a business in Slovenia or find suitable opportunities to expand your business abroad and cooperate with us.

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