

Podravje

Podravje is located in the northwest of Slovenia, bordered by the regions of Koroška, Savinjska, and Pomurska. It shares a northern border with Austria and a southeastern border with Croatia. It is the fifth largest region in Slovenia, covering 2,170 km², which accounts for one-tenth of the country's territory.



Main Characteristics:

- In terms of size, location, population, and the number of municipalities, it is the second most important region in Slovenia. It comprises 41 municipalities.
- In 2023, approximately 16% of Slovenia's population lived in the Podravje region.
- Forests cover 42% of the region.
- Water resources are used for electricity generation. The Drava River, with eight large and three small hydro-power plants, is Slovenia's most important river in terms of energy production.
- Podravje is one of the driest regions in Slovenia, with annual precipitation between 900 and 1,100 mm.
- The average annual temperature ranges from 8 to 12 °C.

The region faces several challenges. Modernization of the electricity grid is needed to make it smarter, enabling decentralized energy production, an increase in the share of renewable energy sources (RES), and electrification of transport. Energy poverty is also a key concern, as vulnerable population groups need access to affordable and efficient energy. Technological obsolescence, especially in the use of wood biomass and household heating, also hinders energy efficiency. In the transport sector, the low share of electric vehicles (only 4% in 2023) calls for major investments in infrastructure and the promotion of alternative fuels.

Main Goals:

- Achieve a 33% share of RES in final energy consumption by 2030,
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35–45% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels,
- Improve energy efficiency of buildings by 15% and increase the share of electric vehicles in transport to at least 17% by 2030.

Expected Outcomes include a sustainable region where Podravje becomes energy self-sufficient and climate-neutral through the use of local RES, innovative technologies, and smart grids. The region will offer residents a clean, healthy environment with better energy accessibility. Smart grids will be developed to ensure flexible, reliable, and efficient energy supply and to support distributed energy production. Transport electrification will help reduce emissions from mobility.

