



Vesna Marinko

● WORK EXPERIENCE

06/2023 – CURRENT Ljubljana, Slovenia

Director General, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia, Public Health Directorate, Tivolska ulica 50, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

- Lead the Public Health Directorate, overseeing national public health strategies, initiatives, and policy implementation impacting the health and well-being of two mio citizens.
- Directed the formulation and execution of national public health programs, focusing on prevention, health promotion and protection, etc.
- Spearheaded the country's response to public health emergencies, coordinating with governmental agencies, WHO, and other international organizations.
- Managed a multidisciplinary team of 32 professionals and senior staff, ensuring effective cross-departmental collaboration and high operational standards.
- Developed and championed public health policies at tobacco and alcohol legislation, Right to Be Forgotten, etc.
- Leading and participating in press conferences in the field of public health plays a vital role in informing the public, health professionals, stakeholders, and policymakers about significant health issues, legislative changes and health campaigns.
- Cultivated partnerships with international health bodies (e.g., WHO, UN) to align national strategies with global public health objectives.
- Advocated for increased funding for public health initiatives to support ongoing programs and research.

12/2020 – 05/2023 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Head of Health Promotion and Addiction Prevention Division, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia

- leading the legislative process for adopting the Resolution on the National Program on the Field of Illicit Drugs for the Period 2023-2030 in Slovenia and the Action Plan for 2024-2025, focusing on strategic development, implementation, and evaluation of drug policy.
- Assisted in other drug-related materials, including financing, policy, legislation, and harm reduction chapters for annual reports, international reviews of cannabis regulation in the EU, and preventive programs.
- Collaborated on amendments to the Ordinance on the Classification of Narcotic Drugs and on the preparation of government documents related to drug legislation and international cooperation.
- Participated in EU Horizontal Working Group on Drugs, DG SANTE Expert Group on Tobacco Policy, Pampidou Group (Council of Europe), and UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

- contributed to drafting and negotiating the adoption of the Promoting comprehensive and scientific evidence based early prevention at the 65th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs
- Oversaw four targeted research projects on public attitudes toward cannabis, alternative approaches to drug offenders, police preventive training, and the societal impacts of cannabis regulation.
- Lead different WG of the Workplace Health Promotion, Resolution on the National Drug Program for the period 2023-2030, Amendments to the Law on the Use of Tobacco and Related Products, Amendment of the Law on Restricting Alcohol Consumption and Medicinal Use of Cannabis.
- Participated in co-organizing different international events during the Slovenian Presidency to EU,
- Organizing conferences, both domestic and international, on addiction prevention requires careful planning, effective coordination, and a focus on creating an impactful event that fosters collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and the development of innovative strategies for tackling addiction.
- Contributed to various public health initiatives, including proposals for sugar-sweetened beverage.

05/2020 – 12/2020 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Secretary, Slovenian Traffic Safety Agency

- Leading and organizing research on traffic accident factors on Slovenian roads
- Representative of Slovenia in International Organizations (ETSC - European Traffic Safety Council, ITF - International Transport Forum, FERSI - Forum of European Road Safety Research Institutes, Central European Member States Group within the Slovenian Insurance Association.
- Developing initiatives and strategies to address the public health issues of alcohol and drug use, especially in the context of traffic safety and prevention.
- Contributed and implemented research studies on issues related to road safety.
- Preparation of Expert Contributions and Presentations at Online Seminars and Conferences in Slovenia and the EU.
- Developing analytical reports and preparing content for preventive actions against traffic accidents, in cooperation with the police.

05/2019 – 05/2020 Ljubljana, Slovenia

- Lead the Agency, overseeing national road safety strategies, initiatives, and policy implementation impacting the road safety of two mio citizens.
- Managed a multidisciplinary team of 106 professionals and senior staff, ensuring effective cross-departmental collaboration and high operational standards.
- Lead of the Interministerial Working Group for Implementing and Monitoring the National Road Safety Program Resolution
- Engaging in cooperative efforts with various national and international bodies to enhance traffic safety and related public health policies.
- Representing the agency in various media outlets (press conferences, TV news appearances, radio interviews, etc.)
- Prepared different Legislative Proposals for Amendments for Ministry of Infrastructure of Republic of Slovenia.
- Conducting research and content for the development of preventive measures, strategic solutions, and interventions to improve road safety.

- Organizing and moderating key international discussions on various aspects of road safety (Driving under the influence of alcohol, Alcohol interlocks, International consultations on infrastructure-related issues, National consultations to improve the state of road safety, Bicycle safety and health promotion events, etc.).
- Leading National Road Safety Campaigns
- Writing professional papers and preparing presentations on road safety topics and offenses law in traffic-related legal studies.

● ADDITIONAL RELEVANT EXPERIENCE AROUND EU HEALTH POLICYMAKING

Representative of the STI Working Group – Republic of Slovenia, Eurostat

- This section provided information and data on **science and technology** for the EU and EU countries, countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), and EU enlargement countries. The EU legislation which was relevant for R&D (including GBARD) are applicable as of 1 January 2021:
 - [EU regulation 2019/2152](#) on European business statistics
 - [EU implementing regulation 2020/1197](#) on technical specifications and arrangements for European business statistics.

Statistics on research and development (R&D) and business innovation are provided on the basis of the [European business statistics \(EBS\) regulation](#) starting with reference periods in 2021. More information on the changes and new data requirements introduced by the EBS regulation can be found in the article on [European business statistics](#).

- She figures 2023; the working group on research and development (R&D) personnel, researchers, human resources in science and technology (HRST) and doctorate/PhD students in the European Union (EU). Statistics on science and technology personnel are key indicators for measuring the knowledge-based economy and its developments, for example, providing information on the supply of and demand for, highly qualified science and technology specialists. The EU legislation which was relevant for that field was:
 - [Decision No 1608/2003/EC](#) of 22 July 2003 concerning the production and development of Community statistics on science and technology
 - [Summaries of EU legislation: Science and technology statistics](#)
 - [Regulation \(EC\) No 753/2004](#) of 22 April 2004 implementing Decision 1608/2003/EC
 - [Regulation \(EU\) No 995/2012](#) of 26 October 2012 implementing Decision 1608/2003/EC.

● EDUCATION

University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
B.Sc. in Analytical Sociology

University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
M.Sc. in Cognitive Science (unfinished)

● YOUR EU HEALTH POLICY INTERESTS

- ☒ **Health prevention and control** – Fight burden of (non-)communicable diseases (including cancer, mental health, and the fight against antimicrobial resistance)
- ☐ **Crisis preparedness and response** – Identify, monitor, and act on (potential) cross-border health threats
- ☒ **Global health** – Tackle global health challenges and ensure strong connection to crisis preparedness/response
- ☒ **One Health** – Promote an integrated approach to health unifying and balancing the health of people, animals and ecosystems (e.g., zoonoses).
- ☐ **Climate change impact on health** – Help mitigate the impact of climate change (e.g., heatwaves, disease spread)
- ☐ **Pharmaceutical and medical devices strategy for Europe** – Ensure access to medical products, foster innovation and competitiveness, and secure supply chains
- ☐ **Digital health initiatives** – Create a safe European Health Dataspace to give patients control on their data, improve care, and drive innovation

☐ **Health equity, diversity & inclusion** – Drive inclusive and equitable healthcare and reduce inequalities within the EU

☐ **EU healthcare workforce crisis** – Define solutions for the (expected) shortage of medical professionals

☐ **Other (please specify)**

● **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

Mother tongue(s): Slovenian

Other language(s):

| | UNDERSTANDING | | SPEAKING | | WRITING |
|----------------|---------------|---------|-------------------|--------------------|---------|
| | Listening | Reading | Spoken production | Spoken interaction | |
| English | C1 | C1 | C1 | C1 | C1 |
| German | B1 | B1 | A2 | A2 | A2 |
| Spanish | A2 | A2 | A1 | A1 | A1 |

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user