



	Table of Contents			
	01		A word from the Mayor	4
	02		Slovenia and Velenje factsheet	6
	03		Economy	9
	04		Investment opportunities	19
	05		Stimulations and reliefs	37
	06	I.I.	Education	41
	07		Supporting environment	49
	08		Awarded content	53
		to Fit (our)		
Carlot II a la l				



Dear entrepreneurs, potential investors,

It is an honour for me to present to you the sixth largest city in Slovenia and one of the country's youngest cities. Velenje is a young city with over 33 thousand inhabitants. It was built after World War II with the help of numerous volunteers, who put a total of over two million hours of labour into its construction. At the opening ceremony of the newly built city 40 years ago, the biggest statue of Josip Broz - Tito in the world was unveiled, and it remains an important tourist attraction to this day. This city in the heart of black diamond country is now home to many companies and industries. As the oldest and one of the most important ones, I must highlight the Velenje Coal Mine (Premogovnik Velenje), where over 245 million tonnes of coal has been dug in its 140 years of operation, as well as Gorenje, which is among the biggest Slovene exporters and has been producing home appliances for over six decades. Velenje is also home to one of the fastest-growing Slovene companies Plastika Skaza, which was among the winners of this year's Creators of the Century Awards, conferred by the International Economic Forum at the regional summit of 300 best entrepreneurs of Central and Southeastern Europe.

In Velenie, we like to say the city is a place of many opportunities. It was conceived as a city of opportunities, was built as one, it grew and developed as one, and it looks ambitiously into the future as one. Today, Velenje is a city that offers many jobs and is home to many companies. The average unemployment rate has been on a constant decline in the recent years, and is currently at around 11-12%, which is a good sign of economic recovery. Over the last year, we have also seen a notable rise in the number of young entrepreneurs refining their business ideas in our local business incubator. Apart from the investment opportunities listed here, existing companies and new investors have the opportunity to grow in Velenje, with 160,000 m² of land available in the new industrial park Stara vas. which has a very attractive location directly next to the planned expressway. Currently, the biggest infrastructure projects in tourism include a stage and venue that will welcome over 30,000 visitors next to the city beach on the Velenje Lake. Adding our park & ride project, floating houses, expanding sports programmes and other projects, we can see great potential for tourism growth in our city.

We constantly pursue technological development and the latest trends, digitalisation of services, strengthening small and medium-sized enterprises, creating high-quality, green and high value-added jobs, creating conditions for the development of circular economy, creating conditions for the development of technologies for smart homes, smart cities, smart rural areas and smart tourism, creating conditions for the development of lake tourism on degraded areas, and creating conditions for the development of shortage trades. old trade crafts and creative industries.

Allow me to invite you to examine this brochure closely, and to visit our city. Please do not hesitate to contact our staff, who can provide you more detailed information and arrange a tour of the city, where you can see for yourself what it has to offer.

I wish you a lot of success,

Bojan Kontič, Mayor of Velenje



Slovenia and Velenje factsheet

SLOVENIA

Capital: Liubliana

Other cities: Maribor, Celje, Kranj, Velenje, Koper, Novo mesto, Ptuj,

Nova Gorica, Murska Sobota, Jesenice, Trbovlje

Area: 20,273 km²
Length of coastline: 46.6 km

Highest peak: Triglav, 2864 m

Population: 2 million

Political system: A democratic republic based on division of power into the legislative, executive and judiciary. The highest legislative body is the National Assembly (90 deputies), which passes laws as the lower chamber of parliament.

Language: Slovene, as well as Italian and Hungarian in ethnically

mixed areas

Currency: euro (€)

TOP 100 sustainable destinations in the world – the Green Destinations foundation

The world's most sustainable country – National Geographic Traveler magazine

6th place among the most liberal countries you should move to – www.movehub.com.

The 15 Most Liberal Countries You Should Move to in 2017

"Small but mighty" – ranking 11th among the most beautiful countries in the world – Rough Guides

 ${\bf 17th~place~among~the~world's~safest~countries} - {\bf World~Economic~Forum~(WEF)}$

VELENJE

Area of the municipality: 83.5 km²
Population: 33,000

The centre of the SAŠA Region, which encompasses the municipalities of the Zgornja Savinjska dolina and Šaleška dolina valleys (Velenje, Šoštanj, Šmartno ob Paki, Mozirje, Nazarje, Rečica ob Savinji, Gornji Grad, Ljubno, Luče and Solčava)

One of Slovenia's biggest economic hubs.

A development-oriented municipality.

The Velenje Beach - Best bathing site in Slovenia in 2016 - the Best of

Summer in Slovenia survey

83.5 sqkm Municipality area



6th largest city in Slovenia

33,000 habitants

The youngest city in Slovenia

TOP 100 2016

Values that will shape the future: citizens' tolerance, environmental awareness, an open mind, integration of different parts of the municipality, and a sense of belonging to the community – the "Velenje lifestyle".

02° Invest i

Velenje

in Slovenia and Europe

EUROPE



SLOVENIA

VELENJE

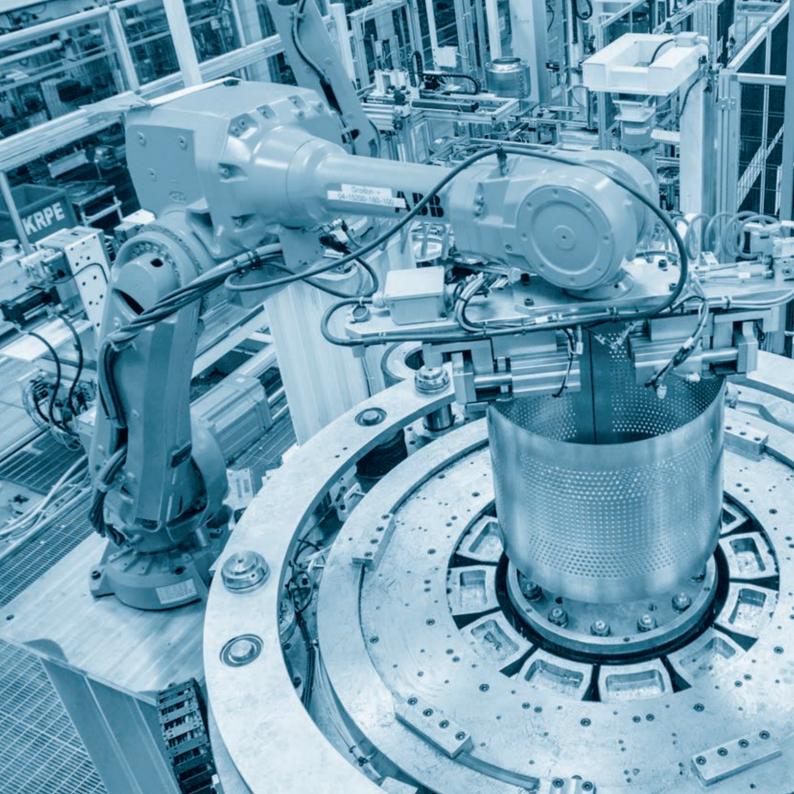


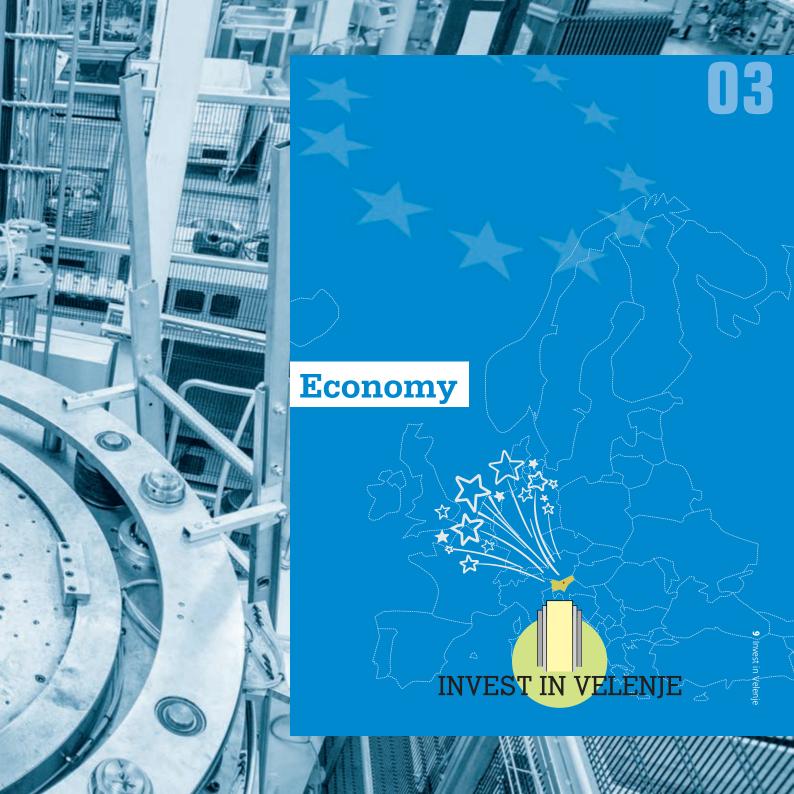


Distance between Cities:

Velenje – Ljubljana 75 km Velenje – Maribor 74 km Velenje – Koper 180 km Velenje – Vienna 330 km Velenje – Munich 478 km 791 km Velenje – Zurich Velenje – Milan 570 km Velenje – Venice 314 km Velenje – Trieste 175 km 409 km Velenje – Budapest 171 km Velenje – Zagreb Velenje – Rijeka 189 km Velenje – Belgrade 563 km







Economy

Velenje is a young city, but economically, it has had one of the most important positions in Slovenia for years.

The local economy is based on two major economic systems: the group around coal mine operator Premogovnik Velenje and the business system of home appliance maker Gorenje, which together employ half the labour force in the Municipality of Velenje. Apart from these two giants, the SAŠA Region also has very successful and innovative small and medium-sized enterprises, which likewise contribute substantially to the development of the region.

On the level of the local community, several important projects have recently been adopted and implemented. For young companies, the most important is surely the opening of the "Standard" business centre, which hosts the SAŠA business incubator and serves as fertile ground for new business ideas and a good place to search for appropriate measures to ensure a supporting environment for existing enterprises. The SAŠA incubator creates a supporting environment for the development of entrepreneurship in the SAŠA Region, and thus helps increase business activity. By promoting and providing supporting services for the establishment and development of innovative companies in the SAŠA Region, we aim to encourage individuals with innovative business ideas to bring them forth and realise them successfully with the help of trained business experts and the resources made available.

To encourage greater competitiveness, development of the economy and entrepreneurship, as well as investments in industry and companies, the Municipality of Velenje passed in 2016 changes to the Ordinance on the maintenance programme for existing utility equipment and rules for setting utility fees, introducing a 50% discount on utility fees for construction of business and administrative buildings, buildings for the services sector, industrial facilities and warehouses, and plant production or animal breeding facilities.

The economy certainly needs to follow technological development and global trends. We used to talk about digitalisation of services, now we live this digitalisation. We have proved many times that we know how to introduce changes with deliberation and employ them to further the development of our municipality.

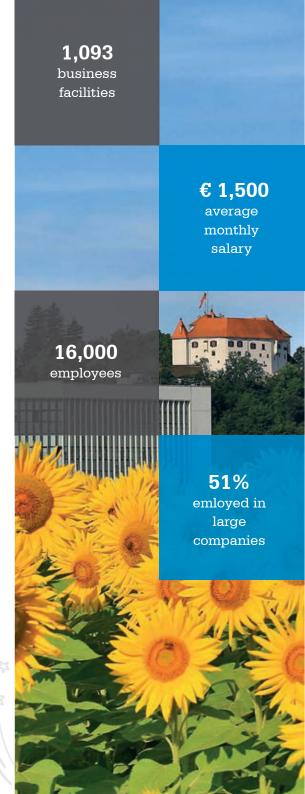
gorenjegroup











Gorenje Group

The Gorenje Group is a leading European producer of home appliances with a 67-year tradition. Our innovative and energy-efficient appliances with topquality design improve the lives of users in 90 countries around the world, offering them a simple and intuitive user experience. We bring together over 11,000 employees of 42 different nationalities, and create 95% of our revenues on the global market. Despite being a notably international group, our headquarters and biggest production facilities remain in Velenje. From the very beginning of Gorenje, integration in the local environment has been crucial both for the operation and development of the Gorenje Group as well as the local community.

gorenjegroup

Franjo Bobinac

President and CEO

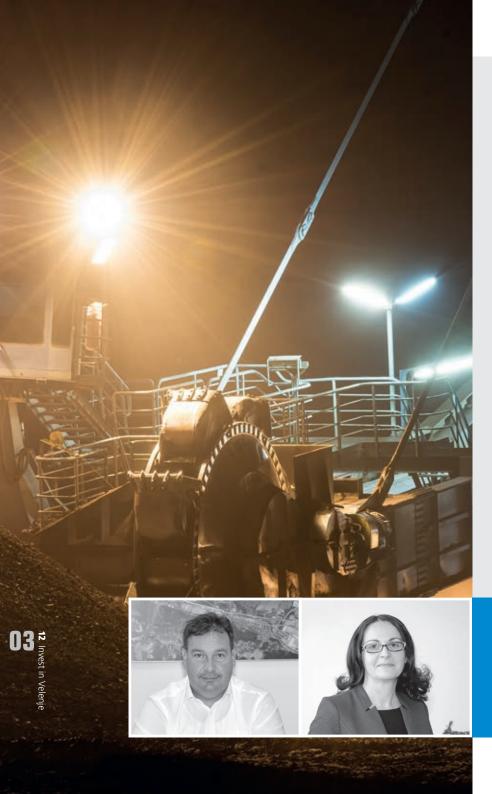
Gorenje, d. d.

Partizanska 12, SI-3320 Velenje, Slovenia

2 00386 3 899 10 00

- ⊠ info@gorenje.com
- www.gorenjegroup.com
- www.gorenje.si





Premogovnik Velenje

Premogovnik Velenje enjoys a reputation of a modern and technologically very advanced coal mine. Throughout its history of over 140 years, the coal mine has helped build the mining city - a quality environment is still given great attention today, with constant work on degraded areas. Worker safety always comes first. The coal mine operator is successful in obtaining EU funding for development projects and technological advancement, which are increasingly becoming the company's reputation around the world. Successful research and development reflect the company's expertise, while investments in production process modernisation and R&D are among its constant and long-term goals. The company is aware that the most strategically important resources are know-how, creativity and ideas. The current conditions on the market are full of challenges, but the company's mission remains unchanged - building a responsible way of living.



Ludvik Golob, MSc General Manager Mojca Letnik, MSc Director

Premogovnik Velenje, d. o. o.
Partizanska 78, SI-3320 Velenje, Slovenia
☎ 00386 3 899 61 00

⊠ info@rlv.si





BSH Hišni aparati

The Nazarje-based company BSH Hišni aparati d. o. o. specialises in the development and production of food and beverage appliances. Their plant in Nazarje is one of the main small home appliance factories in the BSH Group, producing over 7 million pieces a year, which is more than a third of all small kitchen appliances in the entire BSH Group. Slovenia, where the BSH group currently employs over 1400 people, is the centre of the group's Adriatic East sales region, which also includes Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Kosovo and Albania.



Matija Petrin (CTO) Wolfram von Ohain (CEO) Boštjan Gorjup (CFO)

BSH Hišni aparati d. o. o. Savinjska cesta 30, SI-3331 Nazarje, Slovenia ☎ 00386 3 839 82 22







Plastika Skaza

Plastics company Skaza is an innovative, market- and export-oriented family business that models plastic into new solutions, never before seen in the world. The ideas are polished to a level that changes people's expectations. Their products are used in 56 countries around the world. They take particular pride in developing products in their two brands – Skaza Style your life and Skaza Mind your eco.

The company focuses on responsibility towards the environment and their employees and partners, which is one of the things that make them stand out among the competition on the market. They are proud not to have lost the trust of a single business buyer in their 40 years of operation. They attribute this to their dedicated and highly professional staff and the business environment of Velenje and the Šaleška dolina valley, which supports entrepreneurship and the economy in the region on different levels.



Igor Skaza

Managing Director

Plastika Skaza d. o. o. Selo 20 a, SI-3320 Velenje, Slovenia ☎ 00386 3 896 36 00

⊠ info@skaza.com





Esotech

Esotech is a company with long tradition as they launched their business in 1952. For over four decades their predecessors were exceptional building designers and producers of mining and transport equipment such as the planners and constructors of technological systems in various economic activities.

After the complete restructuring in 1992, Esotech is today a modern engineering company directed towards the development and implementation of knowledge/technologies in the area of energetics and ecology.

Their greatest source and potential are their employees who work in teams, are motivated, educated, loyal and ready to face new challenges in increasingly dynamic business environment.

ESOTECH

Marko Škoberne

Chairman of the Board

Esotech, d. d.
Preloška 1, SI-3320 Velenje, Slovenija
© 00386 3 899 45 00

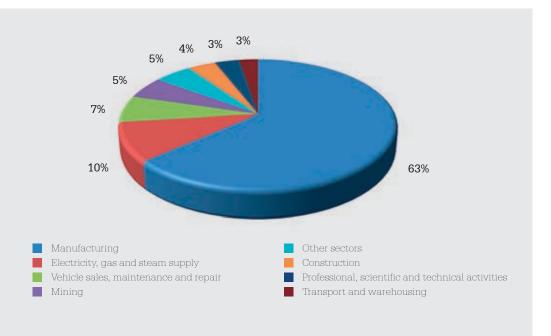
⊠ info@esotech.si

www.esotech.si

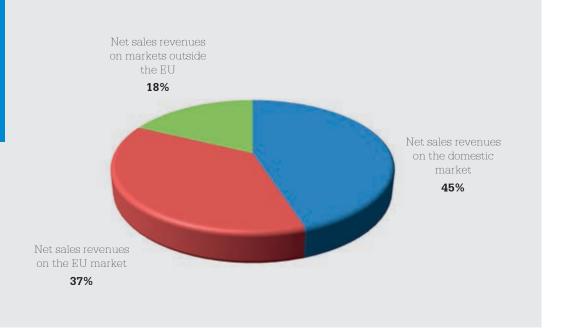


Economic indicators

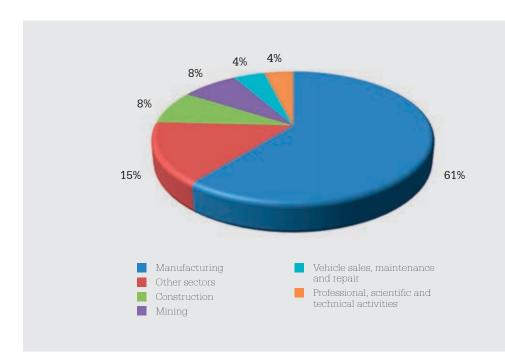
Net Sales revenues of companies by industry



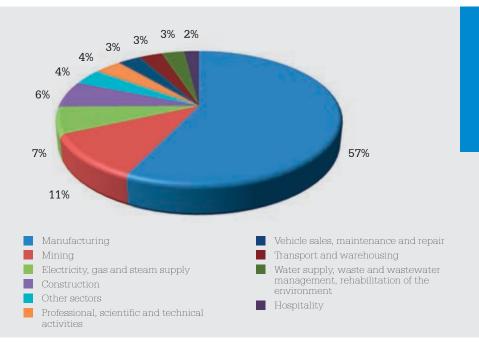
Structure of revenues in the SAŠA region



3 III VEICIIII VEICIIII



Number of employess in companies by industry



Net Value added of companies by industry









Cultural and industrial heritage

Complete facility area: 1,014 m²

BELI DVOR

A manor house that is surrounded by chestnut tree avenue is located on the top of a small hill in the local community Gorica and is accessible by the road. Close to the Court, there is a bus stop for the local traffic that is free in Velenje. Renovation of the building requires the cooperation with The Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia.





STARA ELEKTRARNA (OLD POWER STATION)

The building that has a special meaning in the development of the energy in Šaleška dolina valley and Slovenia is situated in the area of the old shaft Škale, close to the business zone Stara vas and the expected highway path. The old power station is famous for its brilliant modernist industrial architecture and has a status of immobile cultural heritage. Due to height among the floor, the facility can gain additional surface areas.

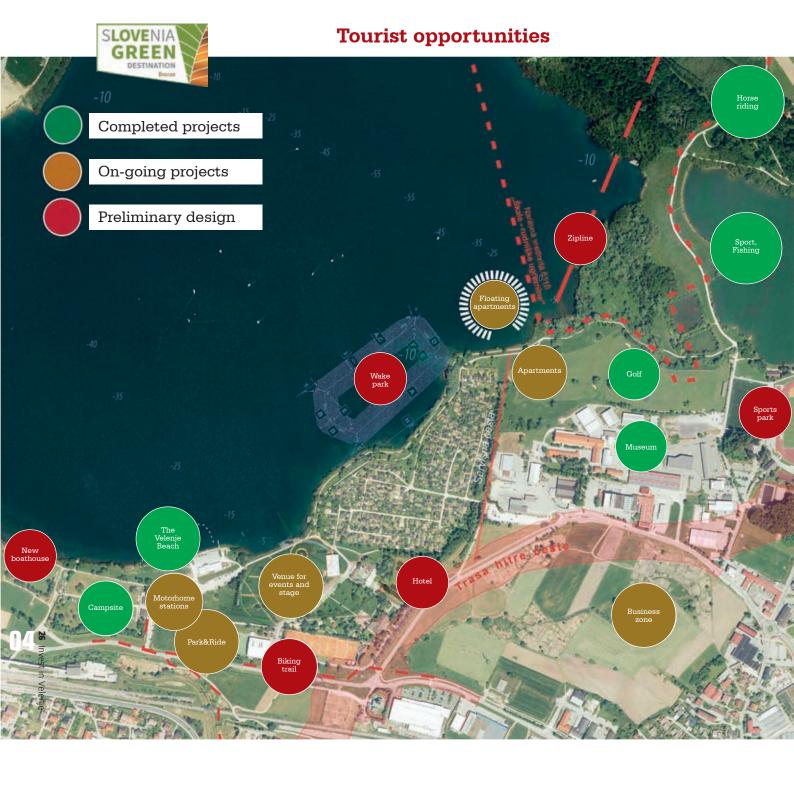
GRAD TURN (CASTLE TURN)

The facility is situated on an exceptional location close to the city, nature and lakes, recreational centre TRC Jezero, natural spa Topolšica and ski resort Golte.

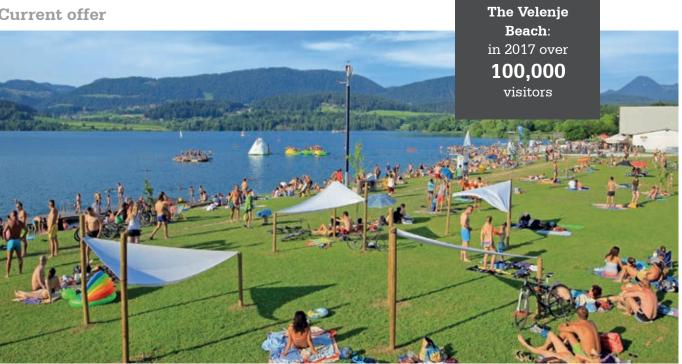
Entering the castle crossing the former front moat you will get to a gallery, supported by two arcade arches. The castle itself is composed by the group of diverse tracts that are built on the irregular floor surface, surrounded by irregular shaped courtyard. In addition to a basement and ground floor, the castle has a floor and illuminated attic.

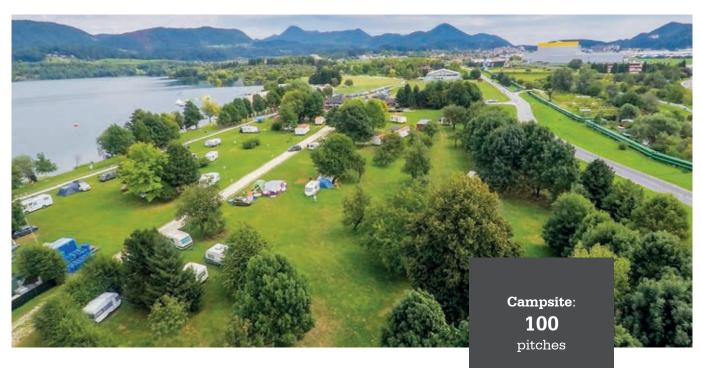


2,316 m²



Current offer









Horse riding:

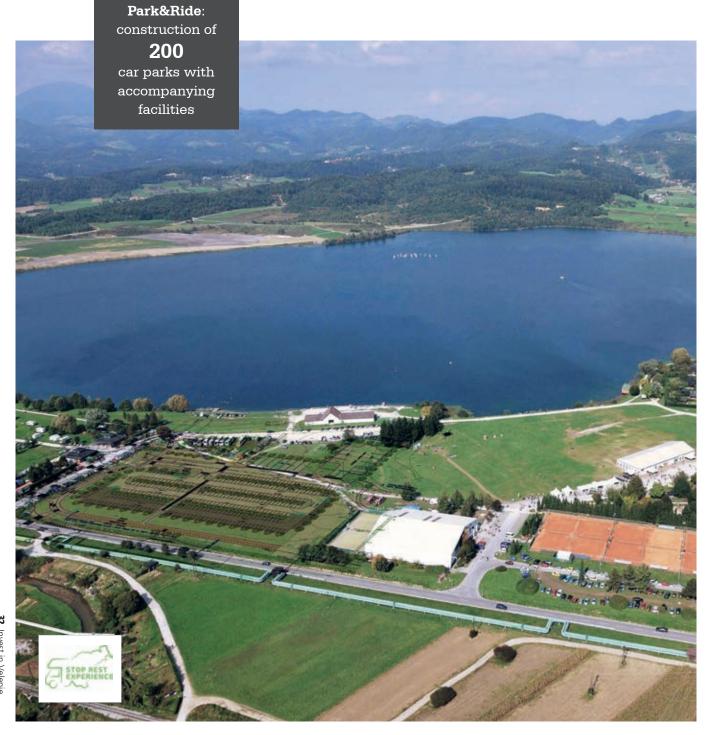


Floating houses: Ongoing projects







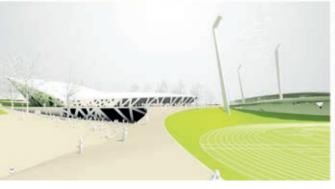


Opportunities for investors

















Stimulations and reliefs

Stimulations/reliefs available for companies when investing and employing in the Republic of Slovenia

General tax relief (to support investments and employment)

- Research and development investment relief
- Investment relief
- Employment relief

Reimbursements of employer's contribution for employment

- Reimbursement of employer's paid contributions for the first employment
- Reimbursement of employer's contributions for elder unemployed persons

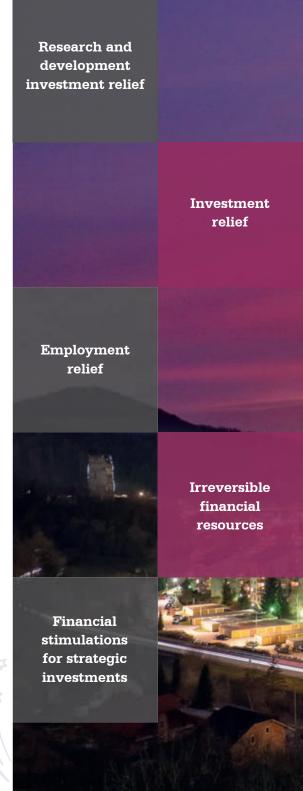
Irreversible financial resources

■ Financial stimulations for strategic investments

Relief by The Municipality of Velenje:

Encouraging entrepreneurship in The Municipality of Velenje ordinance

Helping investors in all procedures (SAŠA incubator)









Education

The Municipality of Velenje gives much attention to ensuring the conditions for education to meet the needs of the economy.

The oldest tradition in vocational education is in mining-related programmes (mining, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering), which were developed with strong support from the Velenje coal mine. These programmes are strongly connected to practice, and practical classes still take place in the real-life work environment of mineshafts.

The economy dictates which competences educational institutions need to give young experts to ensure their successful inclusion in production processes after schooling. The best experts, who take part in the education process as professors, teachers, instructors and mentors, have the possibility of additional in situ practical education in companies and access to modern and well equipped laboratories of the Velenje Inter-Company School Centre.

Below are the educational programmes carried out in Velenje today. However, we are also capable of adding new programmes in a short time frame to educate together with you and our partner educational institutions the experts you will need in your production process. The activities needed for this are coordinated and carried out by the Centre for the Development of New Educational Programmes on the Secondary and Tertiary Level (CRTI SAŠA), set up by the Municipality of Velenje in cooperation with the regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry.





The Faculty of Energy Technology, University of Maribor - the Velenje unit

Environmental Protection College Velenje

College of the Velenje **School Centre**



Study programmes:

- Professionally Oriented Study Programme Energy Technology,
- Academic Study Programme Energy Technology,
- Master's Programme in Energy Technology,
- PhD Programme in Energy Technology.

Study areas:

- Hydroenergy,
- Thermal energy,
- Electrical energy,
- Nuclear energy,
- Alternative energy,
- General energy.



Study programmes:

- Undergraduate study programme of Environmental Protection and Eco-Technologies,
- Master's programme of Environmental Protection and Eco-Technologies.



Programmes:

- Mechatronics,
- Electronics,
- Informatics,
- Mining and geotechnology,
- Hotel management and tourism,
- Environmental protection and utility services.

Fran Korun Koželjski Music School Velenje

Adult Education Centre Velenje



Programmes:

- School of Mining and
 Environmental Protection.
- School of Mechanical Engineering,
- School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science,
- Service Industry School,
- Grammar School.



The Fran Korun Koželjski Music School Velenje is the pillar of cultural and artistic engagement in music in the city. Offering access to general musical and cultural knowledge, primary musical education builds the communal, social and cultural sense of each pupil with the mission of shaping their personality for a better life to come.

The Fran Korun Koželjski Music School Velenje is one of the biggest, most renowned and successful primary music schools in Slovenia, its importance for Slovene culture is well recognised and it boasts numerous international achievements. It is member of the Slovene Music School Association, which celebrated the second centenary of public music education on the territory of Slovenia in 2016.



Adult Education Centre Velenje is a high-quality and dynamic organisation offering formal educational programmes for adults, and is a popular partner for meeting the educational challenges of the economy. The Velenie Adult Education Centre offers adult citizens highly relevant and high-quality educational programmes. The school builds open and creative relations with its students, motivating and advising them, as well as monitoring their progress constantly. The basic programmes include: primary school for adults, secondary school programmes, graduate programmes, national vocational qualification programmes, language learning, computer literacy courses, Slovene language courses for foreigners, consulting and learning assistance.



is a voluntary and non-profit organisation focusing mainly on offering education to senior citizens. The association's programme is an educational programme, tailored to the wishes and needs of its participants. A special highlight are the public events it organises, such as concerts, exhibitions or plays, where participants display their learning outcomes. These events show the creativity and solidarity of participants in the educational programme, illustrating their active inclusion into the cultural life of the community.

The association wishes to bring education, research and socialising closer to the needs, wishes and structure of the older part of the population in the SASA Region. Their wish is to have the closest possible ties with the economy, state and civil-society organisations in the region. The difficulty level and educational pace are adapted to each individual group. They foster creativity, which reflects in the products and services put on display at public presentations.



It is part of the national network Fablab that is being established, and is the first such centre in Slovenia to foster interdisciplinary development, exchange of experience and information. Special focus is put on partnership with the economy, chambers and the local community. It is gaining increasing recognition for successful cooperation in national and international projects.

The centre has set up an energy laboratory, equipped with state-of-the-art didactical tools for all areas of renewable energy. The centre's facilities host a number of different laboratories and specialised classrooms for the fields of mechanical engineering, robotics, welding technologies, electrical engineering, mechatronics, hospitality services, environmental protection and IT.



The ERICo Institute offers environment-related services required by the law, such as environmental monitoring, research and consulting, preparation of studies, plans, environmental rehabilitation and development programmes. The company provides environmental impact, state-of-the-environment and environmental due diligence reports, and environmental communication. Moreover, it performs waste assessments and waste management planning, as well as chemical analyses of liquid, gas and solid-state samples.







Chamber of Commerce and Industry SAŠA



Rudarska cesta 6a, SI-3320 Velenje, Slovenia

2 00386 3 898 42 02

⊠ ssgz@ssgz.si

www.ssgz.si

Regional Chamber of Craft and Small Business Velenje



Stari trg 2, SI-3320 Velenje, Slovenia

2 00386 3 898 20 00

⊠ masa.ipavic@ozs.si

www.ooz-velenje.si



The SŠGZ is the main economic association in the SAŠA Region, which consists of 10 municipalities of the Savinjska dolina and Šaleška dolina valleys. The mission of the SŠGZ is to connect business entities from different industries in the SAŠA Region, and establish communication between them and the communities in order to improve the competitiveness of its members and ensure better conditions for both their operation and social responsibility activities. The SŠGZ offers its members all the support needed to do so.



The chamber is a non-party trade association of professionals that represents the interests of small businesses and works to maintain their reputation and ensure their development.

Its activities are focused on cooperation with the local community in order to realise the interests of its members, to perform the strategic tasks from the small business development strategy, introducing the newest know-how to meet the needs of small businesses and their workers, organise small businesses into interest groups / sections, and offering existing and future craftspeople professional support in the development of crafts.

SAŠA INKUBATOR, družba za podjetniško in poslovno svetovanje, d. o. o.

SAŠA INKUBATOR

SI-Šaleška 2a, SI-3320 Velenie, Slovenia

8 00386 3 777 71 03. M: 51 325 680

☑ info@sasainkubator.si

www.startupvelenje.si

www.sasainkubator.si

SAŠA Region Business Club



Šaleška 2a, SI-3320 Velenje, Slovenia

2 00386 51 32 56 80

⊠ klubsasa@velenje.si

www.klubsasa.si



A business incubator with a 10-year tradition, whose mission is to keep young talents in the region and create conditions for the development and growth of start-ups. It offers mentoring programmes, an investor network, access to start-up capital and affordable infrastructure on 4,000 m² of space. It encourages entrepreneurship in young people and serves as an access point for Slovene and foreign investors.

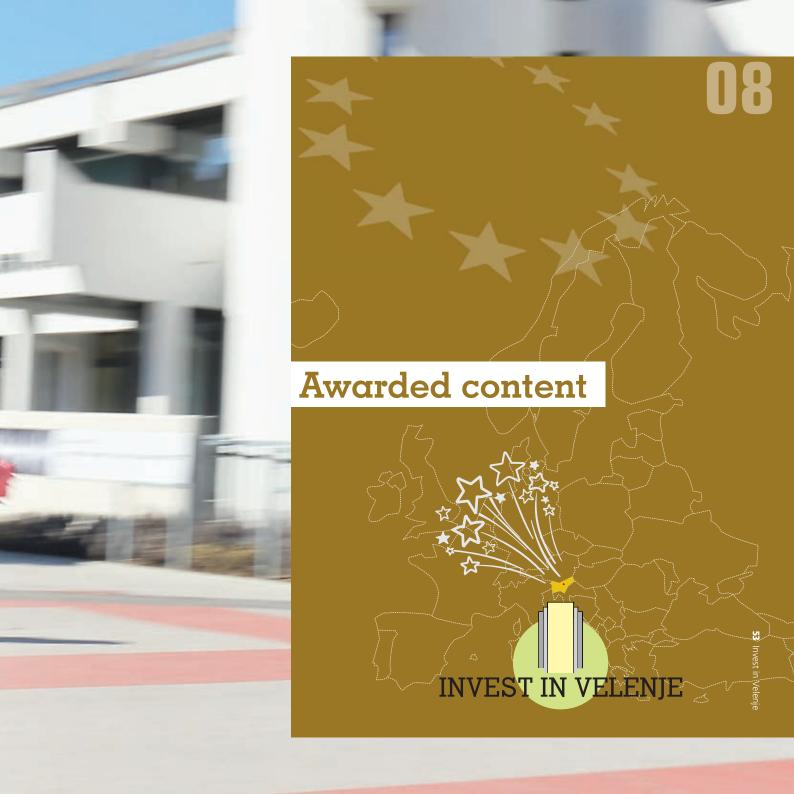
With the services it offers to both start-ups and more experienced companies, with a strong existing economy, an efficient local administration and young educated talents, Velenje is an excellent location for foreign investments.



Business and non-business managers from the SAŠA Region who wish to contribute to sustainable development of the region have set up the SAŠA Region Business Club, where they work together to provide a sound foundation for good business cooperation in the local environment. They are aware that they can enrich each other through cooperation, exchange of knowledge and experience, and that this can help them achieve better business and financial results.

The SAŠA Region Business Club contributes to a higher quality of life and work in the region, which they also see as their mission.





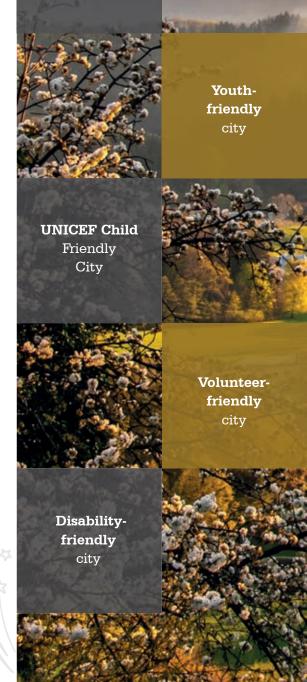
Quality of life

The Municipality of Velenje has won several titles and awards through the years, which points to the strong focus of the local community on programmes that improve the quality of life in the city.

We are constantly improving the perception and reputation of Velenje as a city with an above-average quality of life, both nationally and internationally. We are improving the management and the quality of the urban environment through programmes of comprehensive renovations of residential areas. We create the conditions for expanding urban programmes and content in the city centre and residential areas, and much more.

- Slovenia Green Destination Bronze
- The safest city
- The most beautiful city
- Youth-friendly city
- Age-friendly city
- Volunteer-friendly city
- UNICEF Child Friendly City
- Disability-friendly city





Age-friendly

city



Free services What the city has to offer





Nest in Velenje





Pippi's Festival

International events

















Strategy and investors Public relations

Municipality of Velenje

- Titov trg 1, SI-3320 Velenje, Slovenia
- **2** 00386 3 8961 600
- ⊠ info@velenje.si
- www.velenje.si

SAŠA Region Business Club

- 🗷 Šaleška cesta 2a, SI-3320 Velenje, Slovenia
- **2** 00386 51 325 680
- ⊠ klubsasa@velenje.si

SAŠA inkubator

- 🔁 Šaleška cesta 2a, SI-3320 Velenje, Slovenia
- **2** 00386 3 7777 101
- ☑ info@sasainkubator.si
- www.sasainkubator.si













Published by:

The Municipality of Velenje

Managing editor:

Peter Dermol,

Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Velenje

Editors:

Saša Sevčnikar, MSc,

Vesna Jeličič,

Goran Semečnik,

Karla Sitar

Photos: Archive of the Municipality of Velenje,

Albin Inkret, Aleksander Kavčnik,

Anže Kovač, David Verdnik, Edita Fric, Goran Petrašević, Gregor Pirtovšek,

Katarina Ostruh, Matej Vranič, Milan Marič,

Peter Marinšek, Roman Bor, Alojz Slavko

Hudarin, Uroš Kotnik, Tadej Živko

Scheme, graphic design:

Alojz Slavko Hudarin

Design, print preparation:

Akta Design

Translation:

Sonja Nastran

Print: Eurograf, d. o. o.

Number of copies: 1,000

The booklet Invest in Velenje is free.

It is not allowed to be reproduced, redesigned or to disclose publicly copyright works or their parts into commercial purpose without prior written consent of the Municipality of Velenje.