



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
COURT OF AUDIT

STRATEGY OF THE COURT OF AUDIT 2025–2028



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The Court of Audit is the highest authority for supervising state accounts, the state budget and all public spending. The Court of Audit is independent in performance of its duties and bound by the Constitution and the law.

CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

1. ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT



It is with joy and pride that we launch the new strategy of the Court of Audit for the period from 2025 to 2028.

The years ahead are about to bring several new and demanding challenges for the Slovenian supreme audit institution, the entire society and the State, since being faced with considerable geopolitical, technological, social, environmental and climate changes. At national level, audacious development plans have been drawn up which, among others, include investing in digital technologies, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport and industry, enhancing energy efficiency and using renewable energy, reducing dependence on fossil fuels, as well as pursuing efficient reform of healthcare and pension systems, to mention just a few.

Bearing this in mind, the Court of Audit developed an ambitious strategy which presents the main signpost of its future work in the 4-year period. Through our professional work and commitment

to integrity of the profession of an auditor, we shall fulfil the set strategic objectives and reinforce willingness to face the challenges of the upcoming development period. We shall continue to develop and perfect methods of work in line with the international standards of supreme audit institutions and to ensure the high quality of our audits.

We are aware that sustainable development and the functioning of the audit institution are our fundamental responsibility we have towards society and next generations. We shall thus systematically incorporate principles of sustainability into our business processes in order to become an indispensable part of our organisational culture.

Our guiding belief as regards transparent and unbiased communication with different target audience about our audit findings shall continue to be that audit efforts reinforce responsibility of the entire society for regular and efficient use of taxpayers' money. However, responsible and prudent management raises the citizens' confidence in the integrity and credible functioning of the State institutions and the entire public sector.

We believe that upon the expiry of the next strategic period and with our continuous endeavours to achieve the set strategic objectives, the Court of Audit shall be even more solid and well-anchored when it comes to implementing its fundamental state-building mission – to get to the bottom of things and to watch over public money.

Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank to all my colleagues who have substantially contributed to drawing up of this strategic document with their committed work, unique expert engagement and exemplary cooperation. I am absolutely confident that in the following years, we shall fulfil every set objective by joint endeavours and efficiently face future challenges by joining forces and knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Jana Ahčin', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jana Ahčin
President

2. PRESENTATION

Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia provides that the Court of Audit is the highest authority for supervising state accounts, the state budget and all public spending. The Court of Audit is independent in performance of its duties and bound exclusively by the Constitution and the law.

The Court of Audit exercises auditing and post-auditing powers, provides advice to the users of public funds and organises trainings for obtaining the title of state auditor and certified state auditor, all with the aim to ensure regular and efficient use of taxpayers' money. Auditors of the Court of audit regularly examine, whether the users of public funds obtained, allocated and used financial resources efficiently and in line with the rules. It is therefore essential to ensure that limited financial resources are directed towards meeting the needs of wider social interest and towards activities of public benefit.

Since the scope of public financing resources is limited and often lags behind the scope of public finance needs, it is necessary in every area of its use to carefully watch where public money flows. The implemented audits of the Court of Audit thus cover topics from various fields, ranging from the State budget, local self-government, justice, the State's assets, healthcare, culture and art, education and sports, commercial and non-commercial public utility services, infrastructure, environment and spatial planning, science, sustainable development, information systems, political and social systems to cohesion funds and other funds of the European Union.

Every year, the Court of Audit independently and autonomously develops the programme of work for the exercise of auditing powers, which includes both legally prescribed mandatory annual audits and other audit priorities. In assessing audit priorities, the Court of Audit draws on previously implemented risk analysis and considers various factors, such as: relevance of the audited field or the specific user of public funds for the wider public interest, risks of irregular or inefficient operations, the State's strategic guidelines, knowledge gained through already implemented audits, time span that has elapsed from the last implemented audit at the certain user of public funds, possible impacts of audit control and effectiveness of implemented proposed corrective measures and recommendations.

Auditors of the Court of Audit also with due diligence address and examine initiatives for auditing received from different stakeholders and are up-to date with the latest information in the media and with the publicly accessible findings of other competent authorities and supervisory institutions at national and international level.

3. MISSION

Watching over public money.

Promoting sustainable development of the society.

The Court of Audit carries out its mission by constantly watching over public money and by responding when it detects material risks of irregular and inefficient use of public funds.

The commitment of the Court of Audit remains the same also in the next strategic period, namely to provide audit work of high quality and to timely detect risks, as well as to constantly raise public awareness of the importance of handling public funds, State's assets and assets of local self-governments with the same level of due diligence and prudence as when handling our own assets.

This is the only way that our joint actions and endeavours can grant Slovenia to gain and maintain the status of efficient, competitive, socially just and sustainability-oriented European Union member state.

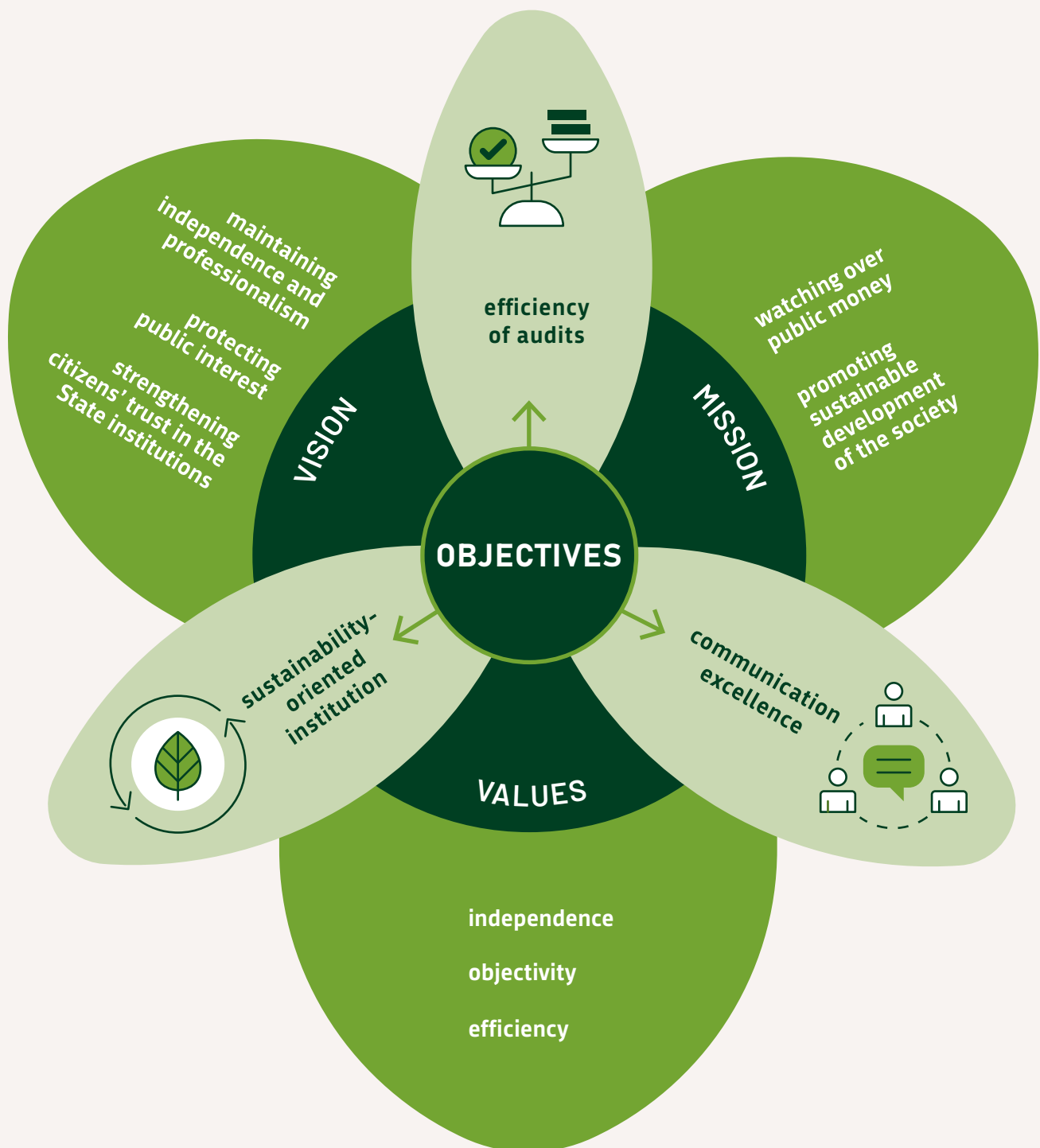
4. VISION

In implementing its mission, the Court of Audit follows the vision of maintaining the independence, professionalism, ethics and integrity of the Slovenian national supreme state institution. By presenting findings of the implemented audits that are transparently presented to the general public, it importantly impacts the protection of public interest and strengthens citizens' trust in the State institutions.

Implementing the vision of the Court of Audit is possible only by joint commitment of all employees who constantly maintain a high level of professional competence in a supportive internal environment and protect auditing standards, whereby they foster mutual respect, motivation and sense of belonging.

STRATEGY OF THE COURT OF AUDIT

2025–2028



5. VALUES

Independence

Independence of the Court of Audit is an indispensable value, which is achieved in both directions – inwards and outwards, thus granting efficient operation of the institution. For the Court of Audit to act autonomously, to express impartial audit view and provide objective assurance, it needs to be formally conferred autonomy in terms of status, finances, personnel and professionalism through external legislative framework. When performing its duties, the Court of Audit is fully independent from the influence or instructions of whatsoever, thus guaranteeing the institution the highest degree of autonomy. It must comply with the legislation, international auditing standards and auditing guidelines, as well as best practice.

Independence related to internal operations is evident already in drawing up, planning and adopting the annual programme of work for the exercise of auditing powers. The annual programme of work for the exercise of auditing powers lays down thematic areas of audits, number of audited entities, audit type and scope, implementation process and time frame. After expert consideration, the Court of Audit develops methods and techniques for audit implementation and freely manages its human and financial resources. All these are the essential factors that enable provision of independent audit assurance and strengthen credibility and confidence of the public in the supreme audit institution.

Objectivity

Objectivity is reflected in all segments of audit operations of the Court of Audit. It is based on the impartial, professional and equal treatment of all users of public funds. The framework for developing methodology, selecting audit approaches, gathering evidence, forming opinions and drawing up audit reports is represented by international standards of supreme audit institutions, professional guidelines and audit best practice. Expert views and audit findings in audit reports must be presented clearly, unambiguously and transparently.

Objectivity of the operations is evident also when positions of the auditees are respected. In addition thereto, the possibility that there may be several approaches to remedy the disclosed irregularities or inefficiencies must be taken into account as well. Care for the protection of all collected data is a necessary part of professional ethics of every employee and a condition for building public trust in the institution.

Efficiency

The Court of Audit closely monitors current affairs in the society and responds to changes in the environment, follows legislative initiatives and adopted systemic solutions. It considers available information from various fields of wider social significance and assesses them in terms of possible risks. On those bases, it can define priority areas where regularity or performance audits should be carried out.

Auditors of the Court of Audit are committed to define well-thought-out corrective measures and constructive recommendations that shall assist audited entities when remedying irregularities and inefficiencies in managing public funds. By setting up regular monitoring of how issued audit recommendations were implemented and corrective measures carried out at the audited entities in the period following the completed audit, the Court of Audit intends to directly strengthen positive impacts of the undertaken audit and to raise the awareness of economic use of public funds among the audited entities and the general public.

6. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Drawing on the fundamental mission of the Court of Audit, pursuing our vision and by fully respecting the values of independence, objectivity and efficiency, we have set the following strategic objectives for the period from 2025 to 2028:



Objective 1

To impact on correct and efficient use of public funds by independent, objective and efficient audits, advising and training.



Objective 2

To operate according to sustainable and inclusive principles and to follow objectives of the 2030 Agenda and to promote this approach at other users of public funds.



Objective 3

To enhance communication excellence in relation to auditees, domestic and international public.

In the rest of this document it is defined, how the set strategic objectives shall be achieved through our joint actions.



Objective 1

To impact on correct and efficient use of public funds by independent, objective and efficient audits, advising and training.

In our endeavours to achieve this objective, we aim at reinforcing the status of trustworthy and respected supreme audit institution, whose professional work is respected and appreciated at home and abroad. We aspire to continue with our constructive cooperation with all key stakeholders, thereby not forgetting to maintain our independent role, conferred to the Court of Audit by the constitution, when making decisions. Through audit findings, we direct users of public funds to correct and efficient use of public money.

We exercise our audit powers in line with the international standards of supreme audit institutions and professional auditing guidelines, which shall be updated if necessary. In order to optimise our processes, we include gained positive experience into further audit work, thereby using available resources in efficient manner. When planning our audits, we, among others, derive from previously carried out risk assessment and thus pay special attention to systemic and cross-sectional audits. The results obtained thereby are thus important lever for upgrading the existing legislation and public policies related to allocating financial resources, which altogether affects efficient management of public funds.

Our mission is also to constantly raise public awareness of efficient use of public funds. We aim to achieve better audit outcomes by well-considered and constructive corrective measures and recommendations, whereby both the measures and the recommendations are in advance discussed in cooperation with the auditees. In future, we shall put greater emphasis on monitoring the implementation of recommendations and corrective measures, which shall contribute to the development of better business practices of auditees. We shall further expand our knowledge by participating in different domestic and international educational events and also make endeavours to promote the profession of state auditor among the young. Additionally, we shall continue to strengthen the renown and reputation of a trustworthy and respected supreme audit institution by active involvement in different EUROSAI and INTOSAI working groups and by entering joint international projects of supreme audit institutions. The key systemic knowledge drawn from audit practice shall be shared through our advisory activities.

By using new digital solutions and by setting up a centralised and integrated information system, we shall enhance and improve the quality of audit process implementation. Furthermore, we shall upgrade analytical tools and methods for data collection from publicly accessible sources and for processing thereof. As regards the project of digital transformation of the institution, we shall, in line with the provision of and compliance with the required safety standards, test and critically assess the use of artificial intelligence tools.

However, a guarantee for professional and efficient implementation of an audit process is primarily provided by the employees of the Court of Audit, who, in this regard, constantly pursue additional education and training, improve their knowledge and upgrade their skills. This is why

our diverse, inclusive and healthy working environment attracts talented people who we encourage to develop their full working and professional potential, thus increasing the collective level of competence. We are well aware that a long-term stimulating working environment largely depends on a stimulating staffing and remuneration structure. We strive to achieve independence also in this area.



To operate according to sustainable and inclusive principles and to follow objectives of the 2030 Agenda and to promote this approach at other users of public funds.

We believe that supreme audit institutions are able to significantly contribute to fulfilment of commitments of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through their operations. By our sustainable development, we support such environmental, social and economic development of our planet that will enable the next generations at least the same if not better quality of life. Slovenia as a UN member state must achieve compliance with the sustainable development goals by 2030 at the latest.

Slovenian Development Strategy 2030, which lays down strategic guidelines for providing a high quality of life for all the population of Slovenia, determines the following 12 goals: healthy and active life; knowledge and skills for a high quality of life and work; decent life for all; culture and language as main factors of national identity; economic stability; competitive and socially responsible entrepreneurial and research sector; inclusive labour market and high-quality jobs; low-carbon circular economy; sustainable natural resource management; trustworthy legal system; safe and globally responsible Slovenia; effective governance and high-quality public service.

At the Court of Audit, we are committed to carefully monitor the progress of public funds users when planning and carrying out audit procedures, since it is closely linked to fulfilment of key sustainable development goals in Slovenia. We are namely aware that we as individuals and as a society will have to make a step towards necessary changes in case we want to maintain competitive advantage of our economy and Slovenia itself within this dynamic global environment. For sustainable performance, it is essential in all segments of social activities to place equal emphasis on each of the 3 pillars of sustainability, namely: social, economic and environmental. As a socially responsible institution, we shall in future more clearly direct our audits onto those fields, which have not been audited before in terms of enhancing sustainable and inclusive goals respectively we shall carry out follow-up audits in those areas where the desired progress on the basis of findings from already implemented audits has not been achieved.

We shall increase the awareness of the importance of sustainable behaviour also in every-day operations of our institution, in the workplace and in private life. Moreover, we are ecologically

aware, therefore, we shall continue with the greening of our premises and shall reinforce the use of natural and environment-friendly materials, in addition to our already somewhat traditional occupation of maintaining our rooftop beehive and production of our own honey. Our aim is to find sustainable ways of operation that shall bring to efficiency and at the same time reduce our environmental footprint. We shall strengthen our efforts to encourage more efficient, effective and economic use of energy and water, to promote appropriate waste management and to increase the share of green public procurement.

Our institution shall pursue the social aspect of sustainability especially in the field of employment, among others by offering hybrid work, flexible working time and facilitating work-life balance. We consider ourselves the employer providing equal opportunities concerning employment, equal pay for equal work and career opportunities. We nurture open and inclusive culture of our institution in the aspiration to spread the feeling of respect and belonging among our employees and to give everyone the opportunity to develop their potential to the fullest extent. We encourage our employees to participate in various training and education with respect to their labour needs and expressed individual interests.



To enhance communication excellence in relation to auditees, domestic and international public.

Our guiding principle is to communicate outcomes of our professional work to the interested public consistently, transparently and objectively. However, there are many different audiences which are directly or indirectly linked with our operations and with whom we regularly cooperate in terms of provision and exchange of information. Among them are the audited users of public funds, representatives of the legislative and executive authorities, the media, international associations of supreme audit institutions and professional associations. Extremely important is also communication with the internal public which consists of 120 high-level and committed employees of the Court of Audit.

The Court of Audit shall also in future respect the principle of transparency and objectivity in communicating and shall provide clear and timely information on its role, performed work and achieved results. We are conscious that open external communication contributes to raising public awareness of efficient management of public funds. This, nevertheless, reinforces responsibility of the entire society for regular and efficient use of public funds. In addition thereto, overall responsible conduct raises the citizens' confidence in the integrity and credible functioning of the State and its institutions.

We shall make efforts to draw the content of our audit reports and our opinions closer to the widest possible range of stakeholders, also by applying additional communication tools. Besides,

we shall be even more consistent in making public funds users and other entities, especially if we assess that the audited issue addresses them directly or indirectly, aware of our audit findings.

The website of the Court of Audit continues to be our central information platform, offering to the public all crucial information about our work in the Slovenian and English language. There can be also found the annual report of the Court of Audit, which is submitted to the National Assembly every year. Moreover, all audit and post-audit reports are publicly accessible through our website which also includes the data on the current stage of an audit process. Via our website, however, all interested may submit an initiative to implement an audit, thus having the possibility to anonymously point out possible detected irregularities and inefficiencies.

Since we are highly aware of the importance of regular, comprehensive and open communication with vast audiences, we have – in addition to using already well established communication channels – decided to remain present on social networks and to proactively examine new and technologically advanced possibilities also in the next strategic period. Additionally, we shall as well continue to diligently improve and update our Intranet page which is indispensable for employees of the Court of Audit, since it is a source of expert information, various internal rules and other useful links.

The Court of Audit shall maintain regular and constructive communication with the international public, especially with INTOSAI, EUROSAI and OECD, namely thorough active participation in international forums of professional auditors' associations and by bilateral relations with other supreme audit institutions. In this way, we shall increase recognition and visibility of the Court of Audit in the international environment and at the same time share experience of best practice with our foreign colleagues, among others by implementing joint audits and cooperating in the organisation of important events.

A detailed selection of measures and activities for achieving each strategic objective, together with activity managers and indicators for monitoring the fulfilment of the strategic objectives, shall be laid down in an action plan which is an internal operational document.



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
COURT OF AUDIT

Watching over public money

**Promoting sustainable development
of the society**

**Računsko sodišče Republike Slovenije
The Court of Audit of the Republic of Slovenia**

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