

## Covid developments on advocacy in Slovenia in five chapters

In Slovenia, the beginning of the Covid pandemic in March 2020 coincides with the change of the government.

1. All financial support for NGOs (calls for proposals) from the Ministry for the Environment and Spatial Planning was blocked (except already ongoing calls) – it remains so in the 2021. Outsource consultants were hired to prepare new legislation.
2. At the end of April 2020 the “Intervention Covid Act” set new additional conditions for NGO to participate in the EIA procedures – if not they could no longer be a party in the current procedures. Three NGOs challenged the act at the Constitutional Court in the beginning of May; in July, the Court suspended the implementation of the challenged provisions until the final decision – it is not adopted yet.
3. Afterwards the Ministry for the Environment and spatial Planning prepared new Building Act and Environmental Protection Act - with new additional conditions for NGOs to have a legal standing in the environmental procedures (and other capital driven solutions); some similar amendments to the Nature protection Act were adopted (in the end of May).
4. In the end of March 2021 the Parliament adopted some harmful amendments to the Water act (in the shortened procedure) – it allowed the construction of a broad range of facilities in coastal areas. The procedure and solutions were a subject of criticism by civil society and experts. In April some NGOs started to collect signatures for the referendum – referendum took place in July 2021 and was successful (45/87).
5. In August the Ministry was in the process of finalisation of the new Environmental Protection Act – the minister invited all NGOs that sent comments in public discussion on the meeting – almost all demands of NGOs were accepted – now we are waiting to see this to happen in the Environmental protection Act and Building Act.