

Global Pro Bono Guide 2026

Pro Bono Practices and Opportunities in Slovenia

Introduction

The provision of pro bono legal services is an increasingly important part of the practice of law in Slovenia, and a number of lawyers accept pro bono cases. Traditionally, the Slovenian Bar Association has organized a Pro Bono Legal Aid Day every year on 19 December¹. This is a special day dedicated exclusively to pro bono activities, on which a large number of lawyers throughout the country simultaneously and in an organized manner provide free pro bono legal assistance to clients.² While national free legal aid is formally regulated under the Law on Free Legal Aid, pro bono work complements it. Lawyers, however, are under no obligations to take or report any pro bono legal work. Nonetheless, while pro bono legal services in Slovenia have been increasing for several years, due to the creation of free legal aid³, many lawyers engaged in pro bono legal services in Slovenia express frustration with administering pro bono legal services due to difficulties in communicating with clients, particularly because many pro bono clients lack access to telephones and internet and are not well educated.

At a glance

Minimum pro bono hours requirement for lawyers?	Specific pro bono licence required?	May foreign lawyers practice pro bono?	Insurance required for law firm pro bono?	Insurance required for in-house pro bono?	Rules to limit advertising pro bono work?	Does pro bono work count to CLE credit?	Limitations for in-house lawyers to do pro bono?
No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes

The landscape

Professional regulation	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the laws or rules that regulate the provision of legal services, including any licensing required to provide legal services. Please highlight any differences for lawyers working as in-house counsel. 	The legal profession in Slovenia is governed by

¹ <https://www.odv-zb.si/odvetniska-zbornica/pravna-pomoc/pro-bono/dan-odvetniske-pravne-pomoci-pro-bono-2025/> (Last viewed on 6 March 2026).

² <https://www.odv-zb.si/odvetniska-zbornica/pravna-pomoc/pro-bono/vec-o-dnevu-brezplacne-pravne-pomoci-pro-bono/> (Last viewed on 6 March 2026).

³ https://files.znu.edu.ua/files/Bibliobooks/lnshi34/slovenia.pdf?utm_source (Last viewed on 6 March 2026).

	<p>Article 137 of the Constitution⁴, the Bar Act⁵, and the Code of Conduct for Lawyers⁶, the Lawyers' Tariff⁷ and by internal acts of the Slovenian Bar Association.</p> <p>All practicing attorneys in Slovenia are required to join the Slovenian Bar Association, which consists of 11 regional assemblies where membership is based on territorial and functional principles, largely coinciding with the territories of the district courts.</p> <p>As per the Bar Act, in order to become a lawyer in Slovenia, an individual must obtain a law degree from one of the three law faculties in Slovenia or abroad (in line with the laws that regulate recognition of diplomas). To become an attorney-at-law, it takes another year of work as an "attorney-at-law candidate" in a legal office, prosecutor's office, state attorney's office, court or notary, after passing the bar exam.⁸</p> <p>In-house counsels that have passed the Slovenian bar exam are entitled to represent their employer in court proceedings (except where the representation by a registered attorney is required, such as, criminal cases or extraordinary legal remedies in a civil proceeding).</p>
<h2>Regulatory landscape for pro bono</h2>	
<p>2. Describe the laws or rules that regulate the provision of pro bono legal services.</p>	<p>In general, any attorney can offer pro bono services to any individual, provided the services are in compliance with mandatory legal provisions, such as those regarding money laundering, or international sanctions. Pro bono services can also be offered by other lawyers, such as in-house counsels. However, even if they have passed the bar exam, non-attorneys are limited in their ability to perform certain legal</p>

⁴ Slovenian constitution: https://zakonodaja.sio.si/predpis/ustava-republike-slovenije/?utm_source (last visited on 6 March 2026).

⁵ Bar Act: <http://www.odv-zb.si/en/regulations/bar-act> (last visited on 20 January 2025).

⁶ Slovenian Code of Conduct for Lawyers:

https://www.ccbe.eu/fileadmin/speciality_distribution/public/documents/National_Regulations/DEON_National_CoC/EN_Slovenia_code-of-professional-conduct-of-the-Bar-Association-of-Slovenia.pdf (last visited on 20 January 2025).

⁷ Lawyers' tariff 2022: <https://www.odv-zb.si/upload/Predpisi/pravilniki/OT-Ur.l.%20RS%2070-2022.pdf> (last visited on 20 January 2025).

⁸ https://spot.gov.si/en/activities-and-professions/permits-and-declarations/entry-in-the-lawyers-register?utm_source (Last viewed on 6 March 2026).

	actions and cannot represent clients pro bono in all types of legal proceedings, including criminal cases or extraordinary legal remedies in a civil proceeding. Moreover, in-house counsels are employed and thus would need to agree with their employer to use a part of their working time for pro bono work.
3. Do lawyers need a license to provide pro bono legal services (beyond usual local qualification to practice law)?	No, there are no additional requirements for providing pro bono legal services.
4. Do foreign-qualified lawyers need any additional license to provide pro bono services (beyond their foreign qualification to practice law)?	<p>No additional license is required for foreign-qualified lawyers to provide pro bono services.</p> <p>Foreign attorneys who wish to represent parties in courts in Slovenia may do that under the principle of reciprocity. Foreign attorneys that wish to practice in Slovenia must have obtained the right to practice law in the country of their citizenship, actively speak Slovenian and pass an exam on the legal order of the Republic of Slovenia.</p> <p>Attorneys from other EU member states may practice in Slovenia under the Slovenian name “attorney” (“odvetnik”) after three years of continuous practice in Slovenia under the title obtained in their own country.</p>
5. Are lawyers required by such rules to work a minimum number of pro bono hours? If so, how many?	No, there is no such requirement under Slovenian legislation.
6. Are aspiring lawyers required to complete a minimum number of hours of pro bono legal services to become licensed lawyers?	There are no requirements for aspiring lawyers to complete a minimum number of hours of pro bono legal services in Slovenia in order to become licensed lawyers.
7. Aside from mandatory targets (if any), are there aspirational pro bono hours targets for lawyers set by the local bar association, regulatory body or other body?	There are no aspirational targets for lawyers set by the bar association or any regulatory body.
8. Do lawyers receive any “Continuing Legal Education” (CLE) or equivalent credit for pro bono hours worked?	Lawyers in Slovenia do not receive any “Continuing Legal Education” or equivalent credit for pro bono hours worked.

Insurance and advertising

<p>9. Do lawyers need professional indemnity legal insurance cover for pro bono legal services they provide? Does the requirement differ for in-house lawyers?</p> <p>If insurance is required, can lawyers meet the requirement by working under the cover of another pro bono provider, e.g. in partnership with a private law firm or organization working on the same pro bono project?</p>	<p>Lawyers are liable for any damages caused by wrongful advice, even if it is given for free, and the Bar Act requires the Bar Association of Slovenia to insure attorneys against liability for damages caused by wrongful legal advice. The premium for such insurance is paid out of the attorney's insurance fee payable to the Bar Association.</p> <p>There is no special additional indemnity insurance required for pro bono work. In-house counsels are in an employment relationship and their personal liability is limited by law. Their employer could be held liable for damages caused by wrongful legal advice. However, there is no statutory obligations for employers of in-house counsels who provide pro bono legal advice, to maintain a professional indemnity insurance.</p>
<p>10. Are there any rules that limit or prohibit advertising of pro bono successes or soliciting new pro bono clients?</p>	<p>There is a general prohibition on advertising of attorneys' successes, turnover, cases won and other similar aspects of attorneys' work (in particular on a law firm's website).⁹ This means that advertising pro bono successes is also not permitted.</p>

Pro bono practice and culture

<p>11. What are the main areas of law which require or present opportunities for pro bono? What are the major unmet legal needs?</p>	<p>Immigration law is an area that requires significant pro bono work. Criminal cases also often involve socially disadvantaged individuals who cannot afford legal representation and do not always qualify for state legal aid¹⁰. Additionally, there is a constant need for general legal advice in areas such as tort, contractual, family, and inheritance law.</p>
<p>12. Who are the main providers of pro bono legal services?</p>	<p>Several Slovenian municipalities have chosen to fund "legal clinics", such as Zavod PIP¹¹, which is supported by the Municipality of Maribor and several other smaller municipalities. There are also private legal clinics, such as <i>Humanitarno</i></p>

⁹ See Article 21 and 21.a of the Bar Act, available at: <http://www.odv-zb.si/en/regulations/bar-act> (last visited on 20 January 2025), and Art 23 of the Code of Ethics (Kodeks odvetniške poklicne etike), available at: [Kodeks odvetniške poklicne etike – Odvetniška zbornica Slovenije](https://www.odv-zb.si/en/regulations/kodeks-odvetniške-poklicne-etike) (last visited on 24 January 2025).

¹⁰ https://e-justice.europa.eu/topics/taking-legal-action/legal-aid/si_en (Last viewed on 6 March 2026).

¹¹ See <https://zavodpip.si/> (last visited on 20 January 2025).

	<p><i>društvo Pravo za vse</i>¹² that offer pro bono legal advice to the individuals. Also, the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana runs a few legal clinics, including those focused on refugees and employment law.¹³</p> <p>Some NGOs such as Anita Ogulin Charity Association, also offer pro bono services.¹⁴</p> <p>Every year, on 19 December, the Slovenian Bar Association organizes a pro bono day, during which many Slovenian attorneys offer their services free of charge. These services mainly consist of legal advice, while any pro bono legal representation would need to be agreed between the relevant client and the attorney.</p>
<p>13. Are there any noteworthy examples of how innovative technology or artificial intelligence is being used to enable access to pro bono or otherwise as part of pro bono cases or matters?</p>	<p>There are currently no such examples that we would be aware of. Activities remain largely academic, experimental, or commercially-focused.¹⁵</p>
Sources of Pro Bono Opportunities and Key Contacts	
<p>14. Describe notable sources of pro bono matters or resources in your jurisdiction.</p>	<p>As stated above, the largest contributors to pro bono work are individual attorneys and firms, while a few municipalities, law faculties and private entities also contribute to some extent.</p>
<p>15. Is there any public or private organization with which a local or foreign lawyer can register to be made aware of pro bono opportunities?</p>	<p>There are no organizations where local lawyers can register to be notified of pro bono opportunities, other than the abovementioned clinics and the Bar Association. Individual attorneys are free to join a legal clinic or offer their assistance with important cases.</p> <p>There are global pro bono clearinghouses and legal services providers such as TrustLaw or PILnet that lawyers can register with.¹⁶</p>

¹² See <https://www.pravozavse.si/pravne-klinike/> (last visited on 20 January 2025).

¹³ <https://arhiv.pf.uni-lj.si/en/extracurricular-activities/legal-clinic-for-refugees-and-foreigners/> (Last viewed on 7 March 2026).

¹⁴ https://www.zveza-anitaogulin.si/en/about-us/general-contacts/free-legal-aid/?utm_source (Last viewed on 6 March 2026).

¹⁵ https://www.pf.uni-lj.si/novice/2025-04-22-v-petek-11-aprila-2025-je-na-pravni-fakulteti-univerze-v-ljubljani-potekala-konferenca-z-naslovom-digitalizacija-in-umetna-inteligenca-v-pravosodju?utm_source (Last viewed on 6 March 2026).

¹⁶ See <https://www.trust.org/trustlaw/> and <https://www.pilnet.org/> (Last viewed on 9 March 2026).

16. Are there any awards, lists or rankings related to pro bono work?	No, there are no such awards or rankings in Slovenia.
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Learn more

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