

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE OF SLOVENIA

Redefining Energy Resilience as a Key Defence Capability

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Shaping the Future of European Energy Resilience.

A strategic proposal to strengthen European cooperation on Energy Resilience through strategic dialogue, collaborative innovation and capability development.

Maribor, Slovenia
16 September 2026



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE



Why now?

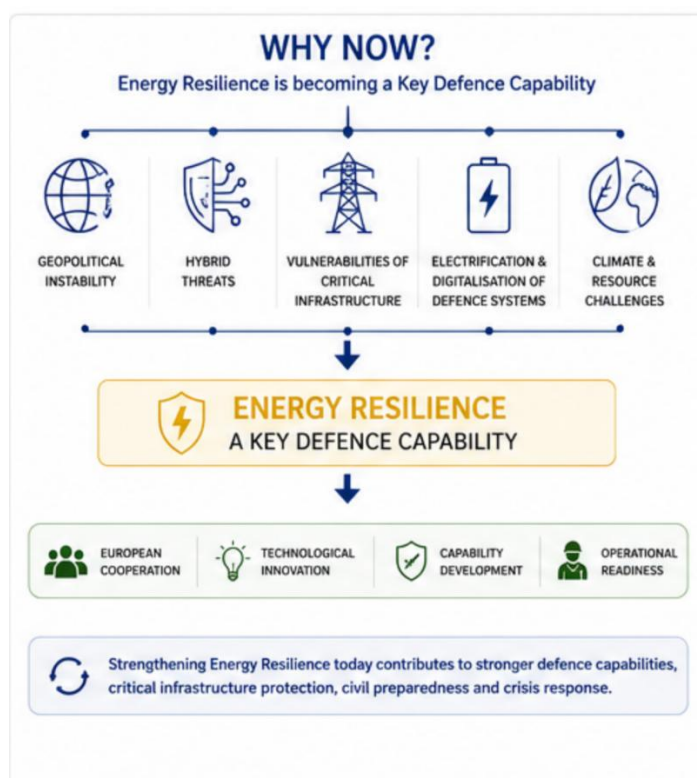
Energy Resilience is becoming a Key Defence Capability

The security environment facing Europe is changing rapidly. Geopolitical instability, hybrid threats, vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure and the increasing electrification and digitalisation of defence systems are fundamentally changing the way armed forces operate.

Energy is no longer simply a logistical enabler. It has become a critical operational capability that underpins military readiness, resilience and mission effectiveness.

Across Europe, the European Union, the European Defence Agency, Member States and NATO are placing increasing emphasis on strengthening Energy Resilience through collaborative research, technological innovation and capability development.

In parallel, many defence energy technologies also offer significant dual-use potential, contributing not only to future defence capabilities but also to stronger critical infrastructure protection, civil preparedness and crisis response.



Why Slovenia?

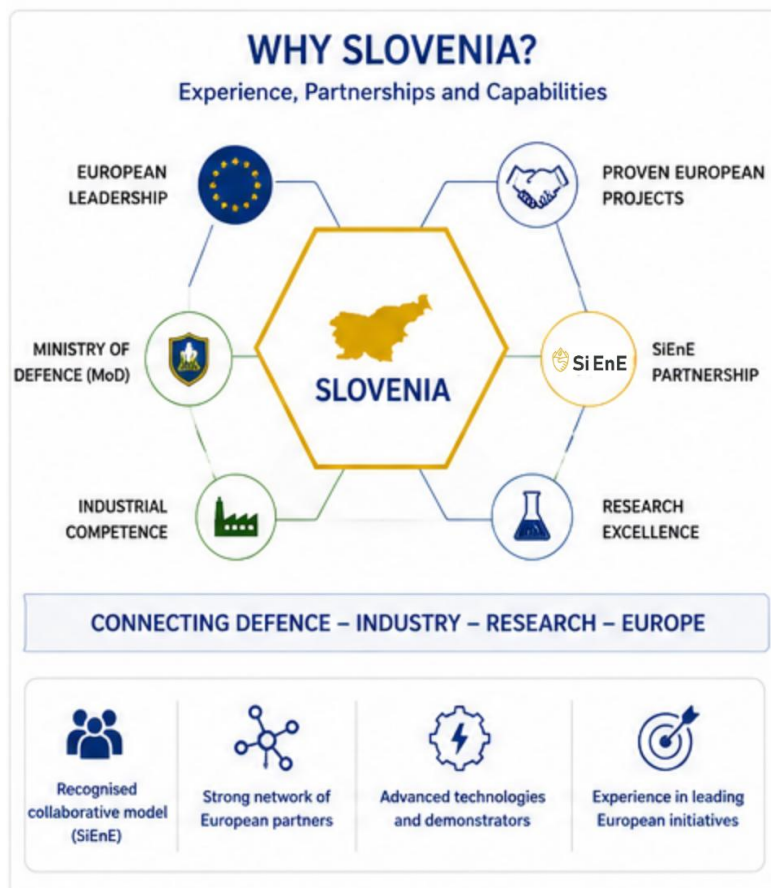
Slovenia offers the experience, partnerships and capabilities to contribute more actively to shaping Europe's future Energy Resilience agenda.

Over the past years, Slovenia has developed an effective and internationally recognised collaborative model bringing together the Slovenian Ministry of Defence (MoD), industry, research organisations and a broad network of national and international partners. This model integrates operational defence requirements with national scientific excellence, research capabilities and industrial expertise, while actively participating in European collaborative research, development and innovation initiatives.

A cornerstone of this approach is the Slovenian Energy and Environment Partnership in Defence (SiEnE), established in 2020 by the Slovenian Ministry of Defence and the Slovenian Green Technologies Cluster

(TECES). The partnership has enabled Slovenia to assume a more active role in initiatives of the European Defence Agency (EDA), the European Defence Fund (EDF) and other European and Euro-Atlantic programmes addressing Energy Resilience.

Through this collaborative approach, Slovenia has gained valuable experience in connecting defence stakeholders, industry and research organisations, coordinating multinational research and innovation initiatives, and developing advanced technological solutions that strengthen Energy Resilience and future defence capabilities.



Today, Slovenia offers Europe a number of strategic advantages:

- an internationally recognised collaborative model integrating defence, industry and research through the SiEnE Partnership;
- proven experience in preparing, coordinating and implementing large-scale European collaborative RDI projects;
- a well-established network of European Ministries of Defence, industrial partners and research organisations;
- advanced technological capabilities supported by validated demonstrators;
- recognised experience in initiating and leading European Energy Resilience initiatives;
- a demonstrated contribution to the development of future European defence capabilities.

Building upon these achievements, Slovenia is now ready to take a more active role in shaping Europe's future Energy Resilience agenda. The Strategic Initiative of Slovenia provides the framework for this next phase of European cooperation.

Its objective is to transform Slovenia's successful participation in European programmes into a more active role in shaping future European priorities, fostering new partnerships and launching collaborative research, development and innovation initiatives in the field of Energy Resilience.

The Strategic Initiative

Transforming National Experience into European Cooperation

The Strategic Initiative of Slovenia provides a long-term framework for strengthening Slovenia's contribution to the future development of Energy Resilience as a Key Defence Capability. Rather than remaining a purely national initiative, the initiative aims to connect European strategic dialogue with practical collaborative implementation, creating new opportunities for partnerships, research, innovation and capability development.

The initiative builds upon Slovenia's recognised collaborative model and seeks to transform national experience into a European platform that supports future defence capability development through closer cooperation between Ministries of Defence, European institutions, industry and research organisations.



The Strategic Initiative is built around five strategic elements:

- **European Strategic Dialogue** on the future development of Energy Resilience as a Key Defence Capability.
- **Presentation of the Slovenian Collaborative Model**, demonstrating how defence organisations, industry and research communities can effectively work together.
- **Showcasing advanced technological solutions and demonstrators** developed through Slovenian and European collaborative programmes.
- **Facilitating new partnerships and stimulating future** European collaborative research, development and innovation initiatives.
- **Strengthening Slovenia's contribution** as a recognised European partner supporting future Energy Resilience capability development.

Together, these two pillars create a unique framework supporting future European cooperation, capability development and collaborative innovation.

SIDEC 2026 – Launch Platform

SIDEC 2026 International Defence Exhibition and Conference (10–12 November 2026, Slovenia) will serve as the launch platform for the Strategic Initiative.

More than simply an international defence exhibition, SIDEC 2026 is conceived as a European collaboration platform that brings together Ministries of Defence, European institutions, industry, research organisations and other key stakeholders to exchange strategic perspectives, strengthen cooperation and stimulate future collaborative initiatives.

Rather than representing the final objective, SIDEC 2026 marks the beginning of a long-term European cooperation process.

The Strategic Initiative is structured around two complementary pillars.

- Strategic Pillar 1 – European Strategic Dialogue**
"Redefining Energy Resilience as a Defence Capability"

In cooperation with the European Defence Agency (EDA), Ministries of Defence, European institutions, industry and research organisations, Slovenia will facilitate a strategic dialogue on the future development of Energy Resilience as a Key Defence Capability.

The objective is to strengthen the common European understanding of future capability needs, identify strategic priorities and encourage new collaborative research, development and innovation initiatives.

- Strategic Pillar 2 – Slovenian Collaborative Model**
"Slovenian Approach towards Strengthening Energy Resilience – Enhancing Defence Capabilities"

Slovenia will present its collaborative model demonstrating how European strategic priorities can be translated into practical national implementation through close cooperation between the Ministry of Defence, industry, research organisations and other development partners.

The initiative will showcase advanced technological capabilities, European collaborative projects, demonstrators and innovative solutions contributing to stronger Energy Resilience and future defence capabilities.



Connecting National Experience with European Cooperation

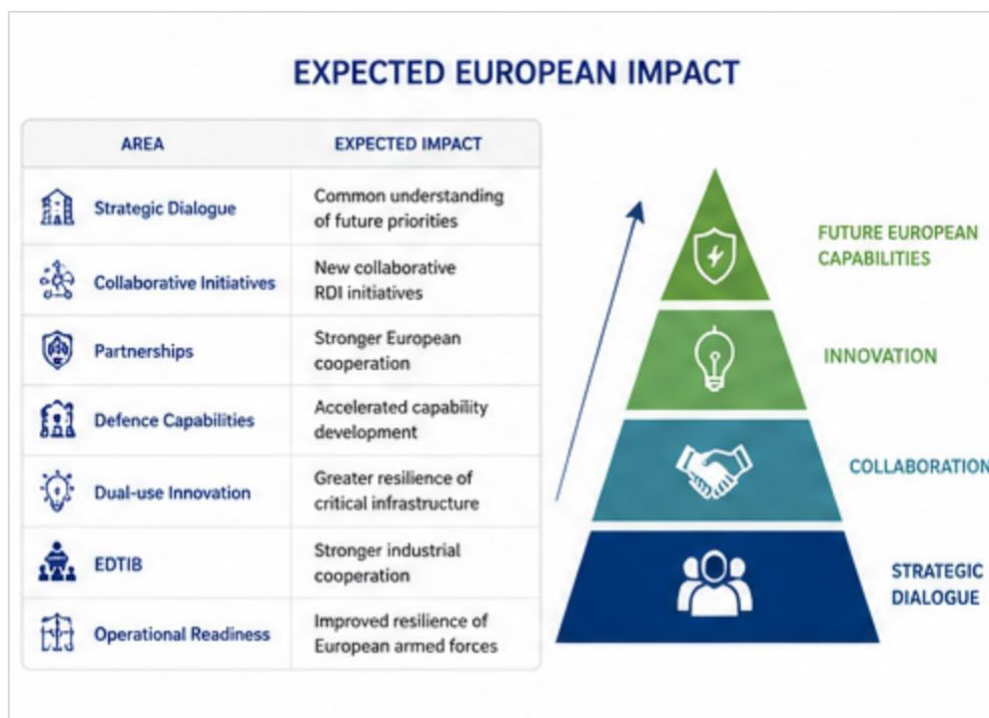
Together, these two pillars establish a coherent Slovenian contribution to strengthening European defence capabilities.

By combining strategic dialogue with collaborative implementation, the initiative establishes a platform for deeper European cooperation, the development of new partnerships and the launch of future collaborative research, development and innovation initiatives well beyond SIDEC 2026.

Expected European impact

Strengthening European Cooperation

Area	Expected Impact
Strategic Dialogue	Common understanding of future priorities
Collaborative Innovation	New collaborative RDI initiatives
Partnerships	Stronger European cooperation
Defence Capabilities	Accelerated capability development
Dual-use Innovation	Greater resilience of critical infrastructure
EDTIB	Stronger industrial cooperation
Operational Readiness	Improved resilience of European armed forces



Shaping the Future of Energy Resilience Together

Europe is entering a period in which **Energy Resilience is becoming a fundamental enabler of future defence capabilities**. Ensuring operational readiness, strengthening critical infrastructure protection and enhancing the resilience of armed forces will require closer cooperation between Ministries of Defence, European institutions, industry, research organisations and other strategic stakeholders.

No single nation or organisation can address these challenges alone. Future capability development depends on stronger European collaboration, the effective exchange of knowledge and experience, and the joint development of innovative technologies and solutions.

Through this Strategic Initiative, Slovenia seeks to contribute as a trusted facilitator of European cooperation, building upon its recognised collaborative model, international experience and active participation in European defence research, development and innovation programmes. The initiative is designed to connect strategic dialogue with practical implementation, creating new opportunities for collaboration that extend well beyond a single event or project.

SIDEC 2026 represents the first step of this long-term European initiative.



Looking Beyond SIDEC 2026

SIDEC 2026 is not an end in itself. It is intended to become the starting point for a long-term European cooperation platform that:

- strengthens strategic dialogue on Energy Resilience;
- facilitates new multinational partnerships;
- supports future collaborative research, development and innovation initiatives;
- accelerates the transition from research to operational capability;
- contributes to the development of future European defence capabilities.

The ambition is clear: to strengthen Europe's ability to cooperate, innovate and build a more resilient and operationally prepared defence ecosystem.

Invitation to Collaborate

The Strategic Initiative is open to all European stakeholders committed to strengthening Energy Resilience as a Key Defence Capability.

The Strategic Initiative welcomes the active participation of:

- Ministries of Defence and national defence organisations;
- the European Defence Agency (EDA), the European Commission and other European institutions;
- NATO organisations and international partners;
- industry, SMEs and technology developers;
- research organisations, universities and innovation centres;
- existing and future European collaborative programmes and projects.

Together, we can strengthen European cooperation, accelerate capability development and create innovative solutions that enhance both defence capabilities and the resilience of Europe's critical infrastructure.



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