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I was born in Velenje, Slovenia, in 1959. I graduated in 1983 and in 1990 gained a master's degree from the Economics Faculty of the University of Ljubljana.

I worked for Slovenia's central bank, the Bank of Slovenia, from 1983 to 1991. Until 1986 I worked as an analyst preparing detailed analyses of monetary, fiscal and balance-of-payments data, and was involved in building up databases and analytical bases. From 1986 to 1990 I worked as a senior analyst conducting independent analyses of monetary and fiscal policy, balance-of-payments developments and trends in the real economy, and prepared information on economic developments for the most important government and parliamentary bodies.

From 1990 to 1991 I worked as assistant to the Director of the Bank of Slovenia on a project to prepare the legislation for monetary and banking independence and practical measures for establishing monetary independence and an independent central bank of the Republic of Slovenia in the context of establishing an independent and sovereign state.

From autumn 1991 until 1997 I worked as an economist with the World Bank in Washington D.C., USA. I worked on the banking and business reforms in several of the transition countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and headed projects for economic recovery in Macedonia and post-war recovery in Bosnia-Herzegovina. I was part of a team of experts which received the World Bank symbol of excellence for work on rescheduling the loans of several countries.

From 1997 to 2000 I worked as an economist for the World Bank in Slovenia. From 1998 to mid-2000 I was state secretary for the budget and public finances at the Ministry of Finance, responsible for the introduction of public finance reforms in Slovenia in preparation for Slovenia joining the European Union in 2004. This included preparing the new public finance legislation and methodology, projects which I either headed or cooperated on, including the legislation on public finances, public procurement and auditing of public contracts, accountancy and the relevant methodological material for preparing and implementing the budget.

I headed the EU entry negotiations on economic and monetary union and preparations for a modern central government budget, which made it possible to move from a cost-based budget to a programming-functional budget for

targeted use of public funds. As part of that work I headed the Slovenian side of an inter-institutional cooperation project with the Swedish Ministry of Finance aimed at improving the effectiveness of budget preparation. I was a member of the negotiating teams for the other public finance-related chapters of the negotiating process, particularly in the area of 'financial supervision'.

During that same period I was also the National Authorising Officer (NAO) for drawing on EU funds, and directly headed the Central Finance and Contracts Unit, which under the decentralised financial management system was responsible for drawing on EU pre-accession funds. Slovenia's planned and trouble-free accession to the European Union was substantially helped by the system for efficiently drawing on EU pre-accession funds, which, as the state secretary for public finances and the NAO, I was closely involved in setting up. In 2000 I was involved in the preparatory work for setting up a Center for Excellence in Finance.

From autumn 2000 to spring 2004 I worked for Nova Ljubljanska banka d.d., Ljubljana, which is Slovenia's most important bank and one of the major financial institutions in the region. From 2001 to 2002 I was the Executive Director responsible for drawing up and monitoring financial management policies and activities for the bank and for the Nova Ljubljanska banka (NLB) financial group. From 2002 to 2004 I was Director of the Centre for Financial Management and assistant to the Management Board of NLB d.d., and was the bank's Chief Financial Officer for formulating and monitoring the implementation of financial management policies and activities for the bank and for the NLB financial group.

In 2004, as the Government minister without portfolio responsible for European affairs at the time when Slovenia joined the EU, I coordinated the work on European affairs.

From 2004 to 2008 I was a Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia and chairman of the parliamentary Committee on Public Finance Control. During that period I headed an inter-institutional cooperation project with the UK's National Audit Office, which led to significant changes in cooperation between the National Assembly and the Court of Audit of the Republic of Slovenia in the preparation and treatment of audit reports in line with the good practice of the British Parliament's Public Accounts Committee. Strong emphasis was put on auditing the proper use of public money. Rules of Procedure were adopted for the work of the Committee on Public Finance Control, enhancing the supervisory role of Parliament over the executive through the process of debating the Court of Audit's audit reports. In that way I was acting directly as controller of public finances.

Since 2008 I have been the Secretary-General of the Slovenian Government. In accordance with the Government's Rules of Procedure and the Resolution on the General Secretariat, I ensure that the technical work to prepare and implement sessions of the Government and its committees, expert councils and other Government bodies is carried out.

During my professional career I have contributed to the development of knowledge about effective public finance management in Slovenia by (co)writing two books: *Zakon o javnih financah s komentarjem* ('Public Finance Act with Comments') (Milan Martin Cvikl and Petra Zemljič, Bonex, first published 2000, revised edition Bonex 2005) and *Proračunsko pravo* –

Priprava, izvrševanje in nadzor proračunov ('Budget Law - Preparation, Implementation and Control of Budgets') (Milan Martin Cvikl and Etelka Korpič-Horvat, GV Založba 2007). As an expert on European Union issues I have also published a book on EU law entitled *Prenovljeno pravo Evropske unije* (Milan Martin Cvikl, published by the Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, 2008). These books form part of my bibliographical and publishing work, which numbers 41 Slovenian and foreign titles included in the COBISS (Co-operative Online Bibliographic System & Services) system.

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