

Zoran Janković was born on 1st January 1953 in the village of Saraorci in Smederevo, where he spent his childhood. Subsequently, his family moved to Ljubljana, where he first attended Poljane High School and then graduated successfully from University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Economics.

Zoran Janković's professional career began before he had finished his studies in 1978 in the investment sector at the Slovenian Post Office. His extremely successful and brilliant business career took him to appointed CEO of retailer Mercator, which he successfully led until November 2005.

Almost exactly a year later, on 22 October 2006, receiving 62.99% of the votes cast by the citizens of Ljubljana, he was overwhelmingly elected Mayor of the capital of the Republic of Slovenia. In October 2010 he won the second time with an overall majority of the votes (64,79%) , while his list once again has an absolute majority in the city council, where they hold 25 of the 45 seats.

As well as in his office on Mestni trg (City Square), the people of Ljubljana can come across him seven days a week anywhere, at the market, sports grounds, in nursery schools and on construction sites. His personal communication is still characterized by his broad smile and instantaneous perception of a problem, knowing how to listen to each application submitted, above all, how to solve multiple problems effectively, always for the benefit of the majority and never to the detriment of minorities.

His tolerance and multicultural awareness are confirmed by providing the conditions for the construction of the Islamic religious-cultural centre and the start of construction in Ljubljana of a Serbian Orthodox Church cultural and pastoral centre. Under the leadership of the current mayor the city has gained new impetus; above all, as a European capital with an adopted vision of spatial development to 2025, he has given Ljubljana back its sense of optimism in a future that is modern, but to the individual a friendly, well-kept and safe place.

In strong competition between global capitals (Vienna, Lisbon, St Petersburg, Riga, Guadalajara and Wellington), as its programme was the most persuasive, the UNESCO commission awarded Ljubljana the title of **World Book Capital 2010**. Ljubljana was 5th on Forbes magazine's list of "Europe's Most Idyllic Places To Live", while Ljubljana won a Readers Digest magazine survey conducted to find the most honest city in the world. According to research data it is also the safest city in SE Europe.

Zoran Janković has won as many as 13 top prizes and awards for his successful work in the field of economics:

- the Slovenian Chamber of Commerce's award for outstanding economic achievement (2001);
- 'Manager of the Year 2002' from the Manager's Association (2002);
- 'Best Director of 2003' awarded by Kapital magazine;
- 'Foremost Manager' awarded by Manager magazine, the Primus award for excellence in communication awarded by the Slovenian Public Relations Society, the Slovenian Chamber of Commerce and Manager's Association (all in 2003);
- 'Director of 2004' by Kapital magazine and 'Foremost Director' by Manager magazine and Kline & Partner (2004);
- 'Director 2005' by Kapital magazine and 'Foremost Director' researched by Kline & Partner (2005);
- 'Best Director 2006' from Kapital magazine and 'Best Director' as chosen by the readers of Nedeljski dnevnik newspaper;
- 'Person of the Year' in the field of politics (2006) and
- 'the 'Best manager' award (2009) awarded by Direkcija for the selection of the best manager in Bosnia and Herzegovina, South East and Central Europe (in Sarajevo).

At the end of May 2008 French newspaper Libération, prior to the official start of the French Presidency of the Council of the EU, published a list of 36 individuals from the 27 EU member states that will shape tomorrow's Europe. Among them there are politicians, business leaders, theatre and film directors, fashion designers, lawyers, commissioners of the EU and ministers, teachers, religious leaders, journalists, diplomats and just one mayor – Zoran Janković, Mayor of the City of Ljubljana.

In his private life Zoran Janković is also a great sports' lover. He was President of the Slovenian Handball Association for eight years and the 2004 European Men's Championship was organised under his leadership, in which the Slovenian team took the silver medal. In 2005 the Slovenian Handball Association awarded him the title of its first and only Honorary President. In his own words, handball remains one of his greatest loves.