



**Janja Kreitmayer McKenzie**

Secretary (Senior Counsellor), Ministry for the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia

Janja Kreitmayer McKenzie is a circular economy and urban development expert and policy counsellor. Since 2014, she has worked on the transition to a green and circular economy in Slovenia. From 2015 to July 2018, she worked as a Deputy Head of Partnership for Green Economy in Slovenia, which was led by the Office of the Prime Minister. Before that, she was responsible for urban development policy and EU territorial cohesion policy. She also has extensive experience in the international environment as a member of various bodies within the EU, UN, and OECD. During the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2008, she was in charge of the urban development dossier, and during the Presidency in 2021 she chaired the EU Lead Expert Group on plastic pollution. She also worked as a coordinator and a researcher for international and national research projects on urban development issues. From 2009 to 2012, she was the Head of Sector for Strategic Spatial Development, and prior to that the Head of the Department for National Spatial Planning, and Deputy Director for territorial development at the Office for National Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia.

Janja started her career as an architect, obtained a postgraduate certificate in Architectural and Urban Heritage Preservation from Academia Istropolitana, Bratislava, and then obtained a Master of Science degree in Urban Planning from Columbia University in New York.