

Ivan Eržen was born on 23 June 1957 in Ljubljana. In 1982 he graduated from the Faculty of Medicine in Ljubljana. He earned his MSc in 1987 and successfully defended his PhD thesis in 2004. He began his career as a doctor in the department of epidemiology at the University Institute of Health and Social Care in Ljubljana. After five years of work, he became head of the department for hygiene and epidemiology and assistant director at the Celje Institute of Public Health, where he was responsible for expert matters. In 1992 he took over the Celje Institute of Public Health, where he remained at the helm until he took office at the Ministry of Health.

Among his colleagues, he is known to have extensive knowledge of the health care system. He was educated abroad and in Slovenia; he is also a university lecturer. His professional and research work has so far been linked mainly to the study of the impact of environmental factors on human health. He worked as a teacher and was mentor to students and young professionals pursuing postgraduate studies at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Ljubljana. In 2006, he became assistant professor of public health. The Medical Chamber of Slovenia appointed him as chief mentor in the field of public health, covering epidemiology, hygiene and social medicine.

He is actively engaged in a number of Slovenian and foreign societies and professional organisations. He is president of the Slovenian Biomedical Informatics Society, founder of the Association of Teachers of Public Health of Slovenia, founder and president of the Cancer Society of the Celje region, and vice-president of the preventive medicine section of the Slovenian Medical Association.