European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, selection of relevant and recent passages from published reports related to Slovakia and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

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Emphasis in **bold** added

# Article 2

“In some Member States, **hate crimes** are identified with certain political categories, such as extremism. This can lead to hate crime being overlooked unless they are committed by certain groups – for example, by Neo-Nazis. […] For example, in **Slovakia**, one interviewee from a victim support service claimed that hate crimes are still perceived as a phenomenon closely connected to the propagation of neo-Nazism or Nazi symbolism. The police do not pursue hate speech as a crime unless it contains explicit neo-Nazi statements. As a result, inciting hostility or defamation of race – which is common in online national newspaper discussions or right-wing politics – is underestimated, practically missing in **Slovak** crime statistics and generally considered standard behaviour.” *(FRA,* [*Ensuring justice for hate crime victims: professional perspectives*](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2016/ensuring-justice-hate-crime-victims-professional-perspectives)*, April 2016, p. 22)*

# Article 4

“The **Slovak** governmental Committee for the prevention and elimination of racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and other forms of intolerance (VRAX) has established, as a reaction to increasing **hate speech on the internet**, a Working group that will deal with online hate crime and hate speech. Members of the group include representatives of public authorities, non-governmental organisations, as well as IT company representatives and an external IT expert.” *(FRA,* [*Current migration situation in the EU: hate crime*](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2016/current-migration-situation-eu-hate-crime)*, November 2016, p. 13)*

# Article 5

“The Council of the European Union also raised concerns over inequalities in education regarding **Roma children** in the Czech Republic, Hungary and **Slovakia**. […] With regard to **Slovakia,** it stressed that the “recently adopted anti-segregation legislation has yet to be implemented to bring about positive change and increase Roma participation in mainstream education, including pre-school education.” *(FRA,* [*Fundamental Rights Report 2017*](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/fundamental-rights-report-2017)*, May 2017, p. 86)*

“EU-MIDIS II results show that almost half (46 %) of Roma children aged 6–15 attend schools where all or most of their schoolmates are Roma. The highest percentages were in **Slovakia** (62 %), Hungary (61 %) and Bulgaria (60 %). In response, the European Commission sent a letter of formal notice to Hungary in May 2016, the first step of an infringement procedure (see Chapter 3 for more details). The Commission similarly sent letters of formal notice regarding **educational segregation** to the Czech Republic in 2014, and to **Slovakia** in 2015.” *(FRA,* [*Fundamental Rights Report 2017*](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/fundamental-rights-report-2017)*, May 2017, p. 104)*

“In **Slovakia**, NGOs reported that Romani families had been evicted from the Romani suburb Lunik IX in Košice and then set up a temporary settlement in nearby woods, and that the city of Žilina had resumed evicting Romani families living there and demolishing their houses.” *(FRA,* [*Fundamental Rights Report 2017*](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/fundamental-rights-report-2017)*, May 2017, p. 111)*

“In April, the European Commission initiated proceedings against **Slovakia**, alleging discrimination against **Roma children** in the educational context, both in terms of legislation and practice. The allegations targeted both mainstream education and special education for children with mental disabilities, since disproportionately high numbers of Roma children are systematically misdiagnosed as mentally disabled and attend special schools and classes for children with mental disabilities. In addition, the Council of the European Union called on **Slovak** authorities to “increase the participation of Roma children in mainstream education and in high-quality early childhood education”. In June, the **Slovak** Republic adopted amendments to its Education Act to address issues in the legislation.” *(FRA,* [*Fundamental Rights Report 2016*](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2016/fundamental-rights-report-2016)*, May 2016, p. 85)*

# Article 6

“The Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia penalises racist and xenophobic hate speech and hate crime. In December 2015, the European Commission initiated formal inquiries with Member States in which major transposition gaps remained, with a view to launching infringement proceedings where necessary. This prompted notable legislative developments in Cyprus, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy and **Slovakia**. […] Similarly, **Slovakia** amended its Criminal Code of Criminal Procedure. Pursuant to the changes, **all trials for racist and extremist crimes** will be handled by a Special Criminal Court. The amendments also introduce a new type of crime: apartheid and discrimination of a group of people.” *(FRA,* [*Fundamental Rights Report 2017*](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/fundamental-rights-report-2017)*, May 2017, p. 80-81)*

“In **Slovakia**, the Ministry of the Interior recorded 25 complaints of hate speech crimes on the grounds of Roma ethnic origin in 2016. The police are investigating four of them. Furthermore, there were 17 complaints of **incitement to racial hatred on the grounds of Roma ethnic origin**. Out of these, the police rejected 11 petitions and are continuing to investigate the remaining six cases.” *(FRA,* [*Fundamental Rights Report 2017*](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/fundamental-rights-report-2017)*, May 2017, p. 112)*

“A number of countries reported incidents of **hate crime against Roma**. (…)In **Slovakia**, the Public Defender of Rights (Verejný ochranca práv) reported that a Roma man had been beaten during his detention at the police station in Lučenec in May 2016. The case is currently under review, as is another complaint reported to the Ministry of the Interior.” *(FRA,* [*Fundamental Rights Report 2017*](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/fundamental-rights-report-2017)*, May 2017, p. 113)*

“In 2006, the Ministry of Interior in **Slovakia** implemented a project that envisioned 230 police specialists working with **Roma communities** within their own community. The idea was that, by breaking the barrier between the police and the Roma minority, the project would encourage members of the Roma minority to report possible hate crime. However, a robust assessment of the initiative’s outcomes is not available*.” (FRA,* [*Ensuring justice for hate crime victims: professional perspectives*](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2016/ensuring-justice-hate-crime-victims-professional-perspectives)*, April 2016, p. 43)*

# Article 7

“**Slovakia** adopts a mix of targeted and mainstreamed approaches and relies predominantly on ESIFs to implement **Roma integration policies**. The Implementation Agency of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (*Implementačná agentúra Ministerstva práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*), using the ESF, supported national social field work and community work projects in some areas with particularly concentrated Romani populations. The projects had a specific focus on young people and children*.”(FRA,* [*Fundamental Rights Report 2017*](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/fundamental-rights-report-2017)*, May 2017, p. 109-110)*

“In others, such as in **Slovakia** – where the Centre for Continuing Education at Comenius University in Bratislava offers systematic **training for teachers** in the programme ‘Slovak as a Foreign Language’ – the influx of migrants and refugees has encouraged the production and provision to teachers of ad hoc training courses, information portals and material about improving their skills in dealing with a diverse classroom and teaching children of migrants and refugees.” *(FRA,* [*Fundamental Rights Report 2017*](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/fundamental-rights-report-2017)*, May 2017, p. 114)*

**“Promising practice: Promoting integration at schools**

The organisation eduRoma started offering assistance in the process of **desegregating a school** in Šarišské Michaľany, **Slovakia**, in 2013. The effort followed a regional court decision and was part of a project financed by the Open Society Foundations’ Roma Initiative Office and Education Support Program and the EEA grants. The goal was finally accomplished in September 2015, following a wide range of activities at the local level, such as training and other extracurricular activities, with all key stakeholders  – teachers, municipality representatives and parents of both Roma and non-Roma children. In parallel, eduRoma engaged in advocacy activities at the central level, especially with the State School Inspection (*Štátna školská inšpekcia*). The organisation has developed a model of desegregation that is sensitive to, and takes into consideration, the particular local context. The approach specifically involves engaging local stakeholders, developing tailor-made plans for a specific community, improving the capacity of teachers, supporting Roma children to achieve better academic performance, and improving interaction between Roma and non-Roma children. It is transferable to other settings in **Slovakia** and possibly to other Member States. For more information, see: [www.eduroma.sk](http://www.eduroma.sk)” *(FRA,* [*Fundamental Rights Report 2016*](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2016/fundamental-rights-report-2016)*, May 2016, p. 101)*

“In January 2016, the government of **Slovakia** adopted an action plan to **prevent and eliminate racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and other forms of intolerance**, covering the period 2016–2018. The plan’s main aims are to prevent racist stereotyping, prejudice and hate crime, as well as to actively combat racism, xenophobia and related intolerance*.” (FRA,* [*Fundamental Rights Report 2017*](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/fundamental-rights-report-2017)*, May 2017, p. 90)*