**Appendix to Slovakia’s replies to the List of issues from the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in relation to the assessment of the third periodic report of Slovakia on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

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**Concerning question No. 2**

**CRIMINALITY IN CORRUPTION CASES**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Prosecutions** | **Defendants** | **Plea bargain** | **Conditional cessation of prosecutionm** |  | **Convictions** |  |
|  | Criminal Code 140/1961 |  | Total | Criminal Code 140/1961 |  | Total | Criminal Code 140/1961 |  | Total | Criminal Code 140/1961 |  | Total | Criminal Code 140/1961 |  | Total |
| **2005** | 143 |  | **143** | 78 |  | **78** | not monitored |  |  | not monitored |  |  | 33 |  | **33** |
|  | Criminal Code 140/1961 | Criminal Code 300/2005 |  | Criminal Code 140/1961 | Criminal Code 300/2005 |  | Criminal Code 140/1961 | Criminal Code 300/2005 |  | Criminal Code 140/1961 | Criminal Code 300/2005 |  | Criminal Code 140/1961 | Criminal Code 300/2005 |  |
| **2006** | 72 | 81 | **153** | 59 | 52 | **111** | 3 | 25 | **28** | 0 | 0 | **0** | 32 | 25 | **57** |
| **2007** | 42 | 87 | **129** | 24 | 58 | **82** | 0 | 21 | **21** | 0 | 0 | **0** | 33 | 51 | **84** |
| **2008** | 34 | 130 | **164** | 7 | 92 | **99** | 0 | 28 | **28** | 0 | 0 | **0** | 10 | 51 | **61** |
| **2009** | 19 | 186 | **205** | 9 | 111 | **120** | 1 | 40 | **41** | 0 | 0 | **0** | 8 | 68 | **76** |
| **2010** | 6 | 238 | **244** | 1 | 96 | **97** | 0 | 70 | **70** | 0 | 2 | **2** | 7 | 160 | **167** |
| **2011** | 18 | 205 | **223** | 10 | 85 | **95** | 1 | 65 | **66** | 0 | 0 | **0** | 8 | 122 | **130** |
| **2012** | 2 | 191 | **193** | 1 | 82 | **83** | 0 | 85 | **85** | 0 | 2 | **2** | 3 | 124 | **127** |
| **2013** | 4 | 232 | **236** | 1 | 121 | **122** | 0 | 58 | **58** | 0 | 1 | **1** | 2 | 127 | **129** |
| **2014** | 13 | 196 | **209** | 0 | 100 | **100** | 1 | 72 | **73** | 0 | 1 | **1** | 2 | 147 | **149** |
| **2015** | 13 | 160 | **173** | 9 | 51 | **60** | 1 | 84 | **85** | 0 | 1 | **1** | 3 | 135 | **138** |
| **2016** | 4 | 109 | **113** | 1 | 55 | **56** | 0 | 27 | **27** | 0 | 0 | **0** | 1 | 71 | **72** |

Corruption crimes in 2017:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **§** | **prosecuted persons** | **defendants** | **plea bargains** | **conditional cessation****criminal proceedings** | **convicted persons** |
| 328 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 329 | 17 | 5 | 11 | 0 | 22 |
| 332 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 7 |
| 333 | 75 | 35 | 23 | 0 | 58 |
| 336 | 15 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 5 |
| 336a | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
|  | 117 | 54 | 41 | 0 | 98 |

Corruption crimes in 2018:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **§** | **prosecuted persons** | **defendants** | **plea bargains** | **conditional cessation criminal proceedings** | **convicted persons** |
| 328 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 329 | 30 | 11 | 18 | 0 | 17 |
| 332 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| 333 | 66 | 28 | 28 | 0 | 46 |
| 336 | 16 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 13 |
| 336a | 13 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 8 |
| 336b | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 6 |
|  | 135 | 48 | 63 | 0 | 93 |

**Concerning question No. 3**

**Reduction of poverty and social exclusion**

1. The reduction of poverty and social exclusion is one of the long-term priorities of the public policies in Slovakia. This agenda is present in legislation, policy and strategic documents in Slovakia. As a social country, Slovakia has a defined system of social security, which significantly reduces the risk of poverty by configuring and providing social transfers, while also making services available (social services, social protection of children and social guardianship, active labour market measures, etc.). The reduction of poverty and social exclusion are tackled in a comprehensive manner as a problem related to multiple thematic areas on several levels. This approach requires measures focused on improving employability on the labour market, which opens up job opportunities, and other key aspects, such as measures to reconcile the work-life balance, support for preschool education, housing support, etc. The above means that measures focused on the elimination of poverty are implemented under the auspices of multiple departments.



**Source: Eurostat**

**Table 1 Level of poverty risk in %**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** |
| **Persons, total** | 13.2 | 12.8 | 12.6 | 12.3 | 12.7 | 12.4 |
| **Individual** | 19.3 | 15.5 | 15.7 | 15.0 | 15.5 | 18.2 |
| **Individual with dependent children** | 27.5 | 30.1 | 30.6 | 29.9 | 33.6 | 37.3 |
| **Two adults under 65** | 6.9 | 6.3 | 7.5 | 6.9 | 5.4 | 7.2 |
| **Two adults with 1 dependent child** | 12.4 | 10.0 | 13.2 | 9.2 | 10.5 | 9.8 |
| **Two adults with 2 dependent children** | 14.3 | 13.2 | 11.4 | 14.7 | 14.8 | 14.7 |
| **Two adults with 3 or more dependent children** | 35.1 | 29.9 | 28.4 | 32.9 | 34.8 | 35 |
| **Other households without dependent children** | 9.0 | 7.5 | 8.6 | 7.9 | 7.2 | 7.6 |
| **Other households with dependent children** | 16.5 | 16.3 | 16.0 | 15.7 | 17.2 | 16.2 |

***Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic - SILC. Data for 2017:*** [***https://goo.gl/XeWavK***](https://goo.gl/XeWavK)

**Table 2 Inequality rate**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** |
| **Gini coefficient** | 25.3 | 24.2 | 26.1 | 23.7 | 24.3 | 23.2 |
| **Inequality of income distribution - S80/S20 in %** | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.5 |

***Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic - SILC. Data for 2017:*** [***https://goo.gl/XeWavK***](https://goo.gl/XeWavK)

**Table 3 State budget implementation using national method**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Actual budget implementation** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** |
| **Share of tax revenues to total revenues in %** | 72 | 71 | 74 | 65 | 78 | 80 | 78 |
| **Total revenues in EUR millions** | 11,830.0 | 12,796.5 | 12,496.9 | 16,233.8 | 14,275.9 | 14,014.1 | 15,381.0 |
| **Tax revenues in EUR millions** | 8,463.6 | 9,134.5 | 9,293.1 | 10,612.7 | 11,068.3 | 11,152.4 | 11,966.2 |

***Source: Ministry of Finance:*** [**http://www.finance.gov.sk/Default.aspx?CatID=9702**](http://www.finance.gov.sk/Default.aspx?CatID=9702)

**Table 4 Public expenditures at % of gross domestic product**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** |
| **Housing and community amenities** | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| **Health** | 6.8 | 6.8 | 7.0 | 7.1 | 7.4 | 7.1 |
| **Education** | 4.1 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 3.8 | 3.8 |
| **Social protection** | 15.0 | 15.3 | 15.1 | 15.1 | 15.1 | 14.5 |
| **Total** | 26.5 | 26.6 | 26.7 | 27.1 | 26.8 | 25.9 |

***Source: Eurostat, per COFOG99 classification***

**Concerning question No. 4**

1. Anti-discrimination provisions and other provisions requiring compliance with the principle of equal treatment are contained in a host of generally binding legislation and not just the anti-discrimination law in Slovakia. A special regulation complementing the anti-discrimination law in the legal regulation of disputes was adopted within Act No. 160/2015 Coll. on the Code of Civil Disputes, which specified anti-discrimination disputes and the special standing of the complainant, including the protection of their rights, in § 307 et seq. of the referenced law. The privileged status of regulations concerning equal treatment and protection against discrimination in the given dispute itself over general provisions in the Code of Civil Disputes was also stipulated. Likewise, individual labour disputes were laid down in § 316 et seq. of the Code of Civil Disputes. The Office of the Slovak Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities (“Office”) provides support to Roma in all reported cases of violations involving the principle of equal treatment. Given that Slovak law contains legal means of protection in administrative and other intervention procedures, the Office primarily makes use of such procedures. The Office conducted a total of 19 cases in 2018 and 2019 involving the enforcement of anti-discrimination law, rights or interventions. A total of 6 legal disputes under the anti-discrimination law were concluded with a verdict or resolution in front of the Slovak courts in 2019, and an appeal was filed in one of these cases.

**Concerning question No. 5**

1. The first summary report on the performance of tasks under this national program is the “*Report on the fulfilment of measures under the National Program for the Improvement of Living Conditions for Persons with Disabilities 2014 – 2020 and proposal for updates thereto”*, which was approved by the Slovak government in Resolution No. 587 of 14 December 2016. The material documents the performance of tasks in the 2014 to 2015 period and incorporates the individual concluding observations from the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family received in response to the initial report of Slovakia on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in April 2016.
2. The “*2nd Report on the fulfilment of measures under the National Program for the Improvement of Living Conditions for Persons with Disabilities 2014-2020 and proposal for updates thereto”* was approved by the Slovak government in Resolution No. 357 of 22 August 2018 and is the second summary report, and documents the fulfilment of tasks in the 2016 to 2017 period.
3. These documents were prepared with the involvement of numerous experts from various fields to cover a broad spectrum of individual activities and to ensure the connectedness and compatibility of all the corresponding measures and tasks. Representatives of central state authorities, public authorities, and, under Article 4 (3), persons with disabilities through their representative organisations were all involved in their creation.
4. Fulfilment of measures for 2014 – 2018
* Construct integrated points of service to provide assisted electronic services to persons with disabilities.
* Remove existing interpretative ambiguities, as well as problems encountered in practice, to speed up court proceedings, and eliminate delays in legal capacity proceedings.
* Provide dispensary care and medical care to military veterans after returning from service deployments outside of Slovakia, and to provide spa care and recreational care for military veterans.
* Secure access for the hearing impaired to the 112 emergency call service.
* Reassess the nature, purpose, material content and financing of timely intervention services in accordance with the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
* Create and introduce specific programs of support for the transition from school to the labour market for persons with disabilities.
* Perform counselling and methodological activities related to establishing non-governmental non-profit organisations, especially civic associations, foundations, organisations with an international element as well as non-profit organisations providing services of general interest, non-investment funds, associations of municipalities, interest associations of legal entities and communities of owners of apartments and non-residential premises.
* Complete materials containing information on the development of selected indicators of the social situation of persons with disabilities.
* Conduct research focused on the question of support for the employment of persons with disabilities on the open labour market.
* Conduct research focused on the question of support for independent living among persons with disabilities and in particular on the questions of residential care, de-institutionalisation and personal assistance.

**Concerning question No. 8**

**Right to work**

1. Building on the positive experience from providing this special contribution within the system of assistance in material need, an amendment of the law on assistance in material need took effect on 1 May 2017, the objective of which was to provide greater support to motivate persons unemployed for an extended period of time or long-term inactive members of a household to take and keep lower-paying jobs by providing an exemption equal to 50% of the income of the household member provided with the special contribution from their employment or a similar working relationship within the process of assessing and subsequently providing assistance in material need. The implementation of this amendment has led to a reduction long-term unemployment and inactive persons of working age as they are able to continue to receive this special contribution as assistance in material need and their salary after they are employed or in a similar working relationship.
2. According to statistics from the Headquater for Labour, Social Affairs and Family (“Headquater”), the official unemployment rate decreased by 0.90 percentage points year-on-year (5.94% in December 2017). A total of 169,802 job seekers were registered in December 2018. This represents a year-on-year decrease of 25,781 persons, or 13.18% (195,583 persons in December 2017).
3. With respect to the employment of young people under the age of 29, a comparison with the level at the end of March 2018 confirms the decreasing trend in unemployment of this target group. In the category of job seekers under the age of 25, a year-on-year decrease of 2,256 young people, or 10.92%, was recorded (23,141 in March 2018). In the category of job seekers age 25 to 29, a year-on-year decrease of 1,891 young people, or 9.11%, was recorded (20,761 in March 2018). The data shows that the year-on-year decrease in the number of job seekers under the age of 29 was 4,417 young people, or a 10.06% decrease.
4. With respect to statistical data on the long-term unemployed, a significant decrease in their ranks among job seekers was observed according to the Headquater’s data. While a total of 87,850 long-term unemployed persons were registered on 31 December 2017, accounting for 44.92% of all job seekers, their ranks at 31 December 2018 were 67,549, a 39.78% share of the 169,802 registered job seekers. This is a significant 5.14% year-on-year reduction in the share of long-term unemployment in the total number of registered job seekers.
5. According to the Headquarte’s statistical data, a total of 20,615 (12.14%) young people under the age of 25 were registered as job seekers, with an additional 18,870 (11.12%) young people aged 25 to 29 registered as job seekers. In total, this age category accounts for 39,485 young persons under the age of 29 as registered job seekers (23.36%).
6. According to Eurostat statistics, employment levels for young persons in the 20 to 29 age category fluctuated at a level of 61.4% in 2018, which is below the EU28 average of 64.8%.
7. Strong increase in demand on the labour market, which continued in 2018, resulted in an increase in the average and year-end employment rate in Slovakia to a new and historical high. Actual labour market development in 2018 was even better than expected at the beginning of the year. The imbalance between supply and demand on the labour market was reduced more significantly than expected as a result.
8. According to data from the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic from its labour force survey, the total average employment rate in Slovakia increased by 1.4% or by 36,000 to 2,566.7 thousand in total in 2018 compared to 2017, with the growth in total employment slowing slightly compared to 2017 (by 0.1 percentage points).
9. While the issue of the long-term unemployment rate remains, Slovakia has taken a number of active and passive measures to resolve unemployment in specific vulnerable groups, including the *Action Plan for Reinforcement of the Labour Market Integration of Long-Term Unemployed in Slovakia* (“Action Plan”), which was adopted based on the EU Council Recommendation of 15 February 2016 on the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market. This Action Plan was approved in Resolution No. 4 of 25 November 2016 by the Monitoring Committeefor Operational Programme Human Resources for the programming period 2014 – 2020, and according to which regular, approximately quarterly monitoring of progress in achieving the Action Plan is performed. Intensive implementation of the Action Plan, as the basic strategic instrument for reducing long-term unemployment, began in 2017 and massive implementation and monitoring continued in 2018. These measures should have a significant and positive impact on achieving a gradual reduction in the level of long-term unemployment (expressed as the share of those unemployed for more than 12 months to the total working-age population).
10. A positive impact of the employment strategies and policies adopted in 2014 and contained in documents such as the *National Employment Strategy in Slovakia to 2020*, the *National Plan for Implementation of the National Youth Guarantee in Slovakia*, the Slovak National Program of Reforms 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, Operational Programme Human Resources for the programme period 2014 – 2020 and the *Action Plan for Reinforcement of the Labour Market Integration of Long-Term Unemployed in Slovakia*, numerous national and demand-driven projects to resolve unemployment, especially long-term unemployment, youth unemployment, the low-skilled unemployment, persons with disabilities and Roma, all kicked off fundamental changes in the Slovak labour market.
11. With respect to progress towards achievement of the national employment objective 72% employment (ages 20 to 64) by 2020 within the Europe 2020 strategy, Slovakia managed to accomplish the specified goal in 2018. According to Eurostat data, the average level of employment in Slovakia among persons 20 to 64 in 2018 was 72%, which was 0.4 percentage points higher than the defined national objective, while the intensity of such increase compared to the level in 2013 was above the EU28 average.
12. Within Europe 2020 target indicators, Slovakia staked out the objective of reducing the level of long-term unemployment (more than 12 months) to below 3% by 2020. Eurostat data set the long-term unemployment (more than 12 months) rate in Slovakia at 10.0% in 2013, and its average rate was reduced to 4.0% by 2018. Given expected labour market developments to 2020, the long-term unemployment rate could approach the defined goal of reducing the long-term unemployment rate to below 3% by 2020.
13. In connection with the strategies and policies that have been applied, it can be said that the positive labour market developments experienced in 2015, 2016 and 2017 continued in 2018.
14. This development was reflected in a reduction in differences in the employment rate for the age 20-64 population compared to the EU28 average. While the difference in the average employment rate for the age 20-64 population in the EU28 and Slovakia was 3.4 percentage points in 2013, this difference was reduced to 0.8 percentage points in 2018.
15. Compared to March 2014, which is approximately when the *National Plan for Implementation of the National Youth Guarantee in Slovakia* was adopted, a significant 66.95% decrease in the unemployment of young people under the age of 29 has been observed (119,479 in unemployed job seekers in March 2014).
16. As of 31 March 2019, a total of 3,002 long-term unemployed young job seekers under the age of 25 were registered (14.56% of unemployed young people under the age of 25) along with 3,885 long-term unemployed young job seekers age 25 to 29 (accounting for 20.59% of unemployed young people age 25 to 29). Given the data above, there were a total of 6,887 long-term unemployed young people under the age of 29 (17.44%). The share of long-term unemployed young people under the age of 29 was reduced by 84.90% compared to March 2014 (45,596 long-term unemployed job seekers under the age of 29).
17. However, significant regional differences in economic potential endure among the individual self-governing regions, which results in deviating unemployment rates and a shortage of jobs. Within eligible areas of Slovakia (i.e. excepting the Bratislava Self-Governing Region), the highest official unemployment rate in December 2018 was recorded in the Prešov Region, 8.61%, with the highest unemployment rate recorded in the Kežmarok District at 15.21%. Conversely, the lowest official unemployment rate among the regions was in the Trnava Region, 2.31% (and the Hlohovec District at 1.68%), with the highest district unemployment rate recorded in Rimavská Sobota at 16.15%, which is a part of the Banská Bystrica region. At the end of December 2018, Labour, Social Affairs and Family offices recorded a total of 73,890 job openings, most of which were operators and assemblers for machinery and equipment, specifically 30,358 jobs (with 8,300 jobs in the Bratislava Region).

*More detailed references for this national project are available at*

[*https://www.upsvr.gov.sk/europsky-socialny-fond/narodne-projekty-v-programovom-obdobi-2014-2020.html?page\_id=521401*](https://www.upsvr.gov.sk/europsky-socialny-fond/narodne-projekty-v-programovom-obdobi-2014-2020.html?page_id=521401)

[*www.ia.gov.sk*](http://www.ia.gov.sk/)

1. Act No. 112/2018 Coll. on the Social Economy and Social Enterprises and on amendment of certain acts (Act No. 112/2018 Coll.) took effect on 1 May 2018. According to § 3 of the Act: “the social economy is the sum of productive, distributive or consumer activities carried out through economic activity or non-economic activity independently of the state authorities whose main objective is to achieve a positive social impact”.
2. Act No. 112/2018 defines the social economy sector, social economy entities, a social enterprise, disadvantaged persons and vulnerable persons, including the long-term unemployed, youth, low-skilled workers, national and ethnic minorities and others, as well as other social economy terms. It lays down the conditions for recognition of the statute of registered social enterprises and defines the individual types of registered social enterprises.
3. In terms of support for employment, the development of a social economy offers significant potential, as it offers potential for regional and local development and employment as these entities, specifically social enterprises, create jobs for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, strengthen social, economic and territorial cohesion, create social capital, support active citizenship, solidarity and an economy with democratic values. It also supports sustainable development as well as social, environmental and technological innovations.
4. With respect to evaluating the presence of Roma from marginalised communities on the labour market and their participation in active labour market measures, relevant outputs are now available from the Institute for Financial Policy (IFP) at the Ministry of Finance titled “*Roma Inclusion is a Society-Wide Challenge”* (Accessible at: <https://www.finance.gov.sk/sk/financie/institut-financnej-politiky/publikacie-ifp/komentare/18-inkluzia-romov-je-celospolocenskou-vyzvou-august-2018.html>).
5. The obtained data combines administrative data from partner organisations concerning Roma communities in the municipalities identified in the Atlas of Roma Communities from 2013 in the category of municipalities with at least one concentrated Roma settlement. This data expresses the unemployment rate for Roma from points of concentration compared to the majority population for the period from 2004 to 2017.

**Concerning question No. 10**

**Relevant specifics of Operational Programme Human Resources**

1. Priority Axis 3, Employment, within Operational Programme Human Resources lays out specific objective 3.2.2 as achieving a reduction in horizontal and vertical gender segregation on the labour market and in vocational training. Among the primary activities are support for measures and instruments leading to a reduction in horizontal and vertical gender segregation on the labour market and the gender pay gap (plans/strategies for gender equality at the enterprise level, gender audits, etc.), support for the application of gender aspects within relevant policies and measures and improvements in monitoring, data collection and the evaluation of policies, including reinforcing the expert base for gender research and gender analyses, institutional reinforcement for equality between men and women at the national, regional and local level, support for networking and organisations and institutions that introduce or promote gender equality, support for organisations and employers implementing innovative methods and approaches towards achieving a fair distribution of unpaid work between men and women and active fatherhood.

**Concerning question No. 12**

**Employee's right to remuneration for work done**

1. An employee’s right to remuneration for work done and sufficient remuneration to permit them a dignified standard of living is guaranteed in the Slovak Constitution (Act No. 460/1992 Coll., as amended). The application of this right in practice is laid down in special labour regulations, especially the Labour Code (Act No. 311/2001 Coll., as amended) and the minimum wage law (Act No. 663/2007 Coll. on the Minimum Wage, as amended). The minimum wage law contains a mechanism for annual indexing of the minimum wage through a Slovak government regulation laying down the minimum wage for the following calendar year. It is necessary to emphasise that the modification of the minimum monthly wage for the following calendar year is first taken up by social partners (representative representatives of employers and employees) and then once they agree on the monthly salary, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family then gets involved. Modification of the minimum monthly wage for the following year takes into consideration the overall economic and social situation in Slovakia over the past two years prior to the calendar year for which the proposed minimum wage is recommended, especially with respect to changes in consumer prices, employment, the average monthly wage in the Slovak economy and the subsistence minimum. The minimum wage for the following calendar year is primarily determined as the product of the current monthly wage and the index of year-on-year growth in an average month’s nominal wage for an employee in the Slovak economy.
2. The minimum wage for the hours worked by the employee is guaranteed for employees who are employed and for others who perform work under any of the other specified forms of agreements on work outside of employment. Entitlements guaranteed under the minimum wage law apply equally to employees whose remuneration is subject to provisions of the Labour Code and to employees who perform work in the public interest whose remuneration is subject to a special regulation, as well as to civil servants whose rights, obligations and remuneration are laid down in a special regulation. If the wage of any employee (regardless of working the public or private sector) is below the defined minimum wage, they are entitled to compensation up to the amount the minimum wage.
3. The defined minimum wage itself has risen by EUR 192,80 from 2012 to 2019 (58.9%). Starting at EUR 327,20 in 2012, it rose to EUR 520 in 2019. It is important to emphasise that the ratio of the net minimum monthly wage to the net average nominal monthly wage (the so-called Katiz index) exceeded 50% in 2016 and this trend has continued to the present, it has risen consistently, reaching 52.16% in 2018 and is estimated to reach 52.4% in 2019 according to estimated figures. According to the European Committee of Social Rights in the Council of Europe, on the implementation of Article 4 (1) of the European Social Charter, the Committee tolerates a net minimum wage of at least 50% of the net average wage in a national economy if the contracting state demonstrates that persons receiving the minimum wage are able to secure a decent living from that wage. We also note that the gap between the net salary and the subsistence minimum has grown over the long term, meaning that those working for the minimum wage are moving forward and away from basic survival on the subsistence minimum, which represents the socially recognised minimum income threshold for a natural person below which they would be classified as in need of material assistance.

**Concerning question No. 13**

1. Slovakia is a party to the International Labour Organization Convention on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize (ILO Convention No. 87 published in the Collection of Laws No. 489/1990 Coll.), the ILO Convention on the Implementation of the Principles of the Right to Organise and Collectively Negotiate (ILO Convention No. 98 published in the Collection of Laws No. 470/1990 Coll.).
2. The Slovak constitution guarantees under Article 37 (1) and (2) the right of everyone to freely organise with others to protect their economic, social and cultural rights. The establishment of trade union organisations is stipulated in Act No. 83/1990 Coll. on the Association of Citizens, as amended. Adoption of the collective bargaining law and the creation of the Council for Economic and Social Agreement in 1990 legitimised trade unions in Slovakia and established their equal standing with respect to employers and the Slovak government. Social dialogue at the national level between the state, employers and employees is currently laid down in Act No. 103/2007 Coll. on Tripartite Consultations at the National Level (tripartite law) based on which the Economic and Social Council of the Slovak Republic was constituted as a conciliatory body between the government and social partners at the national level.
3. Trade union organisations are established independently of the state. Limiting the number of such trade union organisations or favouring any of them in an enterprise or a given industry is not permitted. Under §9a of the law on associations, trade union organisations and organisations of employers become legal entities on the date after the petitions for their recognition are received by the Ministry of Interior.
4. Employees at the state and local level are free to establish trade union organisations and be members thereof in Slovakia without restriction. There are no laws preventing the exercise of these rights stipulated in the pact.
5. In accordance with Article 54 of the Slovak constitution, the provisions of § 20 of the collective bargaining act restrict the right to strike for persons in occupations that are absolutely critical to protect lives and prevent injury.
6. Article 37 (4) of the Slovak constitution in general establishes the right to strike as a social right. Strikes are also stipulated in Article 27 (4) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (Constitutional Act No. 23/1991 Coll.) and Act No. 2/1991 Coll. on Collective Bargaining as amended (collective bargaining law). The collective bargaining law is the only legislation that stipulates the basic questions regarding the right to strike and the right to collective bargaining.

**Concerning question No. 15**

1. A total of 192 childcare facilities for children under the age of 3 with capacity for 3,368 children are currently registered in Slovakia. The construction of an additional 90 new facilities is expected using structural funds in the interests of expanding capacity to cover the lack of existing capacity. The corresponding call was announced on 10 July 2018.
2. An employer is obliged to release an employee to care for their child, i.e. de facto paternity leave, under the Labour Code for an impediment to work on the side of the employee.  Entitlement to leave from work without salary compensation to care for a child may thereby be granted to women and men if they are caring for a newborn baby. Entitlement to such parental leave is therefore the non-transferable right of every parent. The mother or father or both may be the caregiver for a child with financial security provided under the social insurance law, with men having the right to benefits paid from social insurance under certain circumstances.
3. The MLSAF is monitoring the final steps in the process involving the proposed Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the work-life balance of parents and careers, repealing Council Directive 2010/18/EU and proposing paternity leave as the right of fathers to take paternity leave in the form of short-term leave of at least ten working days, on the occasion of the birth of their child. This leave may be drawn at the time around the birth of a child and must be associated with the birth itself. Legislative steps will be taken once this directive is adopted to definitely establish it within the Slovak law. We currently operate under the valid provisions specified in §166 (1) of the Labour Code.

**Concerning question No. 16**

**More information on the financial contribution as compensation for the social consequences of a disability**

1. The state provided assistance in the form of financial contributions as compensation to approximately 175,000 individuals in 2018 and expended a total of EUR 143,788,146 on such support. The financial contribution for care (not provided to individuals with disabilities, but instead to their caregivers) was provided to nearly 65,000 individuals in 2018 and the total funding for this financial contribution was EUR 149,431,226.
2. The current number of natural persons with disabilities issued identification cards for such disability is more than 330,000 individuals, while more than 95,000 individuals currently hold a parking card for persons with disabilities.
3. The financial contribution for care is currently provided to 55,917 individuals with an average monthly contribution of EUR 297.94 (for persons providing care and who are of working age the average is EUR 372.87, while those collecting a pension receive EUR 183.70 on average).
4. The financial contribution for personal assistance is provided monthly depending on the number of hours of personal assistance worked. The hourly rate for personal assistance is EUR 3.82. This contribution is currently provided to 10,644 individuals in an average amount of EUR 537.59.
5. The amendment of the social services law that took effect in 2018 contained changes with respect to the funding for dependency-dependent facilities (supported housing facilities, senior facilities, nursing facilities, rehabilitation centres, social services homes, specialized facilities and daycare centres). A priority step in this amendment is the purpose of providing the financial contribution from the state budget is to co-finance the payroll costs for employees, and local authorities simply match this funding with a financial contribution towards operating costs, and payments from clients function as another source of funding. Total state budget expenditures on social services (expenditures provided by the ministry) increased by more than 50% over the past two years.
6. Dependency on the aid of another natural person may be resolved via social services and in the form of financial contributions as compensation (if such person is eligible as a person with a disability) and specifically the financial contribution for care and the financial contribution for personal assistance. The financial contribution for care is provided to natural persons who provide the necessary assistance directly in the household of the person with a disability.

**Concerning question No. 17**

1. The MLSAF provides subsidies to support instruction towards the fulfilment of the educational obligations of children at risk of social exclusion and subsidies to support nutritional education for children at risk of social exclusion. The total for both subsidies from the state budget in 2017 was EUR 10,250,779, which was directed to support a total of 2,136 children.
2. Increasing the number of pedagogical employees in kindergartens was another measure that took place in 2017. The share of qualified educational assistants in kindergartens attended by children from marginalised Roma communities account for 57% of the total number of educational assistants in kindergartens. Likewise, activities to engage students in the full-day educational system continued in 2017, with 13,170 students educated in this system. The strategy also set out the task of implementing continuous education for teachers and educational assistants using Romani language as a support language in teaching. A total of 190 educators were trained through this education aimed at using Romani language in the education process in 2017. The total was increased to 1,199 participants in 2018. The number of Roma students engaged in the full-day educational process in secondary schools in 2018 reached 19,143. A total of 2,449 full-time and 182 part-time Roma students were newly enrolled in lower level vocational education as of 1 September 2018, for a total of 2,631 students. There were a total of 870 graduates during the school year, 757 were full-time and 113 were part-time students. Likewise, a contribution of EUR 6,172,400 was provided to Roma students with special educational needs based on an environment of concentrated poverty in 2018.
3. The number of specialised employees, and specifically special pedagogues and psychologists, was increased in 2018 to 1,951.46 in schools focused on MRC and they are utilised within inclusive education teams. Projects focused on improving the educational outcomes for students from marginalised Roma communities/socially disadvantaged backgrounds, cooperation between schools and the dissemination of best practices in 2018 engaged 180 schools and 19,143 Roma students living in marginalised Roma communities. A total of 297 additional graduates completed continuing education for teachers focused on specific educational and instructional needs and improving educational outcomes for students from marginalised Roma communities/socially disadvantaged backgrounds in 2019. A similar program was expanded to work with parents of students from MRC/socially disadvantaged backgrounds, with another 189 completing the program in 2018. A total of 3,347 students from MRC/socially disadvantaged backgrounds were provided with informational and vocational counselling services in 2018, with 6,240 job candidates from MRC provided with financial support and 2,219 Roma completing re-qualification courses. A call was then announced in 2018 to increase inclusiveness in education named Greater success in primary schools II, and a total of EUR 9,500,000 was allocated. Another call with an allocation of EUR 12,970,435.46 was announced for Standardisation of the system of counselling and prevention for inclusion and greater job market success, with activities focused on improving the diagnostic and re-diagnostic tools used with students to prevent unjustified delay in the start of mandatory school attendance, and to ensure students do not fail to succeed at school or are otherwise unnecessarily enrolled in special classes or schools. Additional calls were focused on the construction and renovation of kindergartens where members of MRC attend, and the status of OPLZ-PO6-SC612-2016-1a at the end of 2018 was as follows: 3 completed, 5 completed extraordinarily, and 25 cases that were contracted and with partial disbursement.
4. Act No. 367/2018 Coll., which amended the law concerning the financing of primary schools, secondary schools and educational facilities, extended the provisioning of the contribution to improve instructional and educational conditions for students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds to all students in families where a member receives assistance in material need. A total of EUR 30,468,303.02 was invested in educational measures within this strategy. An important aspect of this strategy was fulfilment of the objective to introduce mandatory pre-primary education for students from marginalised Roma communities. Within the adopted *National Program for the Development of Education and Instruction*, comprehensive entitlement to pre-primary education for children beginning at age 4 was stipulated with implementation by 2021.
5. Within this strategy and in connection with the adoption of the social economy law, the *Investment Assistance for Social Enterprises – Grant Portion* national project was prepared in 2018. Within this strategy for the start-up of Roma-centric social enterprises, a call is being prepared to support social economy enterprises which will employ Roma in the least developed regions with a total allocation of EUR 13,500,000. A total of EUR 75,060,908.05 was invested in 2018 within the strategy for Roma employment.
6. Subsidies were provided within housing under Act No. 443/2010 Coll. on Subsidies for Housing Development and on Social Housing to support the construction of 142 additional flats. A call was likewise declared in 2018 for Improved housing for municipalities with MRC with elements of transitional housing with a total allocation of EUR 45,000,000 with the goal of increasing the number of Roma households with access to improved housing conditions. A total of EUR 7,370,445.11 was invested in housing measures within this strategy.
7. A call focused on construction, modernisation and the renovation of community centres and in interaction with the “*Community centres in municipalities with marginalised Roma communities - Phase I*” national project provided a total of EUR 15,310,088.69 to 60 approved applications. A call with a focus on the Construction of new community centres, their renovation and expansion in municipalities with the presence of marginalised Roma communities, received an allocation from the ESIF and the state budget of EUR 16,764,705.88. As of January 2018, applications for a total amount of EUR 8,974,946.65 were contracted, while 36 applications were approved in January 2018. A total of 93 contracts were concluded as of 31 August 2018. The call is in accordance with the Community centres in municipalities with marginalised Roma communities – Phase I national project.
8. A call focused on “Support for access to drinking water in separated and segregated MRC by means of water mains, wells and surface water treatment” was allocated EUR 17,882,352.94 from the ESIF and the state budget. Contracted applications totalled EUR 509,581.36 as of January 2018. A call focused on “Construction or expansion of a system for separated collection of municipal solid waste and implementation of remediation measures for illegal dumps, including remediation of negative effects of illegal dumps” received a total allocation of EUR 14,708,565 from the ESIF and the state budget. Another call was announced within Operational Programme Human Resources to submit applications for a grant under code OPLZ-PO6-SC611/621-2016-FN for SZRB Asset Management, a.s. within priority axis 6 - Technical equipment in municipalities with the presence of marginalised Roma communities with a total allocation from the ESIF and the stated budget of EUR 51,218,253.82.
9. New calls are also being added within Operational Programme Human Resources focused on majority Roma communities as well as the national project of the Office of the Slovak Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities named Support for land settlement in marginalised Roma communities.
10. Additional activities focused on reducing poverty within the strategy include the national projects Healthy communities 2A and 3A. The former includes financing of EUR 11,295,885.00 with 254 Roma placed in jobs and a total of 7228 Roma were supported within a project focused on health education and making healthcare more accessible. A total of EUR 3,504,904.35 was invested in health measures within this strategy.
11. Within subsidies to support social and cultural needs and to resolve extraordinarily detrimental situations in Roma communities under Act No. 526/2010 Coll. on Subsidies under the Auspices of the Ministry of Interior, a total of 43 projects were supported in 2018 within seven thematic areas and with a total value of EUR 300,519.01.
12. A total of 16.3% of the population was at risk of poverty or social exclusion in Slovakia in 2017 and this rate is higher with respect to members of marginalised Roma communities. Therefore, despite the fact that EU SILC data will be processed in the middle of 2019, and based on the preliminary report for the revision of social inclusion expenditures from January 2019 issued by the Value for Money Office at the Ministry of Finance and with respect to the outputs produced by the Institution for Financial Policy at the Ministry of Finance within the application of poverty indicators and because the strategy is divided into specific tasks, and the level of poverty risk, the level of social deprivation risk, the level of low labour intensity, the level of early school drop-out, the level of unmet need for medical examinations or treatment and the level of severe housing deprivation, and the fact that the take-away model forms an essential part of national projects under the auspices of the Office of the Slovak Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities, it is beyond doubt that Slovakia’s strategy for Roma integration has a positive short-term and long-term effect on reducing the level of poverty for the members of marginalised Roma communities. A total of EUR 118,027,101.53 was distributed from the funds dedicated to fulfil the strategy’s measures in 2018.
13. Monitoring of selected indicators within priority axes 5 and 6 of Operational Programme Human Resources reveals that the 33.032% of Roma (members of marginalised Roma communities) have access to drinking water, with living conditions for 25.355% of this population improved by sanitation and for 27.994% by building stands.

**Concerning question No. 19**

**Right to an adequate standard of living**

1. The given questions concerning housing fall under the auspices of various state authorities, including the MTC and the MI, and in particular various local government authorities. The responses are provided within the auspices of the MLSAF and therefore do not provide a complete picture of the solutions to this particular topic, and rather they contain information on the activities and results of collaboration with the MLSAF. As an aside, a system of social housing in rental flats exists for low-income groups and supporting instruments under the auspices of the MTC include the acquisition of rental flats pursuant to Act No. 443/2010 Coll. and Act No. 150/2013, including those dedicated for marginalised Roma communities.
2. Legislative development of Act No. 443/2010 Coll. on Subsidies for Housing Development and on Social Housing via Act No. 249/2010 Coll. officially stipulated the new institute of a starter flat, and included the ability to increase the subsidy available to procure such flat by 10%, an additional 10% increase in the subsidy to acquire a flat in the least developed administrative districts and expansion of the term technical furnishings. Legislative development of Act No. 150/2013 Coll. on the State Housing Development Fund taking the form of Act No. 244/2017 Coll. and Act No. 65/2019 Coll. (taking effect 1 July 2019) expanded the ability to provide support to purchase of land conditional upon the construction and use of rental flats with concurrent support provided to procure a rental flat, with an increase in the limit on support to acquire a rental flat raised to EUR 90,000, and the support for the purchase of land set at EUR 12,000 per rental flat. Together with the procurement of a rental flat, support may now be provided at up to 100% of the purchase price to an applicant, which may be a municipality, self-governing region or non-profit organisation if the structure is located in a municipality of administrative district with a low employment rate. Amendment of Decree No. 284/2013 Coll. on support provided from the State Housing Development Fund, general conditions of support and the contents of the application by Decree No. 283/2017 and Decree No. 361/2018 Coll. set the lending limit at 80% of the purchase price with 1% interest for rental flats if the applicant is a municipality, higher territorial unit or non-profit organisation, or 0% interest in the case of the least developed administrative districts. Act No. 65/2019 Coll. stipulated the exclusive standing of young married couples. These stipulates provided municipalities, cities and non-profit organisations with more advantageous conditions in performing their functions or missions, in securing standard flats or flats for social housing and a way to obtain up to 100% financing for rental flats using a combination of public funds through the subsidy and credit. The adoption of Act No. 112/2018 Coll. on the Social Economy and Social Enterprises and on amendment of certain acts included the procurement of housing, and the management, maintenance and renovation of housing stock as socially beneficial services. Another instrument for securing adequate housing is the call to improve the forms of housing available to municipalities with marginalised Roma communities using elements of accessible housing with an EU and state budget allocation of EUR 50,294,117.65. The Office of the Slovak Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities is also implementing the national project “*Support for land settlement in marginalised Roma communities*” which 157 municipalities have joined. The allocated amount of state budget and ESIF sources to support the process of land settlement is EUR 3,094,000. Act No. 330/1992 Coll. on Land Modifications, the Settlement of Land Ownership, Land Authorities, the Land Fund and Land Associations was amended by Act No. 153/2017 Coll. to implement this very project and it permitted land modifications if necessary to settle ownership and usage of land located beneath settlements of marginalised communities. Likewise, for the purposes of securing the settlement of land under these dwellings, Decree No. 213/2017 Coll. was adopted, which amends Ministry of Justice Decree No. 492/2004 Coll. on Definition of the General Value of Property, as amended, which modified the process for defining the value of land located beneath settlements of marginalised communities. Another instrument for securing the availability of housing for moderate income Roma is a call within Operational Programme Human Resources financial instrument no. OPLZ-PO6-SC611/621-2016-FN with a total allocation of EUR 51,218,253.82, which monitors growth in the number of Roma households with access to improved housing conditions and increased employment rates among marginalised Roma communities within social economy entities in areas with the presence of marginalised Roma communities.
3. In response the demand for greater support for the homeless, the MLSAF responded with an amendment of the social services law taking effect last year and which:
* increased state support from the state budget for municipalities operating shelters providing temporary accommodations, social counselling and assistance in exercising rights and legally protected interests,
* reinforced support for field social work, including crisis intervention and social services to support independent living, which permit the identification of persons who are unable to secure the basic conditions needed to meet their basic needs and provide them with the necessary counselling, and to provide these people with the support they need once they manage to secure housing or accommodations.

**Concerning question No. 20**

**Approaches to resolving the housing issue**

1. Data is available on social services facilities covered by state statistical surveys on an annual basis and focused, for instance, on temporary housing, including dormitories, low-threshold day centres or shelters, while providing low-threshold social services that do not identify the client. Activities focused on quantifying the homeless population are performed by local authorities within their local areas in order to obtain reference materials needed for the purposes of planning social services and housing policy.
2. The MLSAF aggregates and analyses potential approaches to resolving the housing issue, including based on the results of scientific and research activities and expert-level activities conducted by the Institute for Labour and Family Research:

• “*The Homeless: preparation and implementation of an empirical study, analysis of the instruments to prevent and resolve homelessness*” (Ondrušová et al., 2015), focused on defining homeless groups and analysis of experience service providers have with homeless people in this area.

• Final report from the census of homeless people in Bratislava in 2016 – presents findings on the size of the population and the individual situations of the homeless in Slovakia’s capital city,

• “*Applicability of an accessible housing system and housing-first in Slovakia*” – focuses on housing, comparing foreign experience in the application of accessible housing and housing-first, two different approaches, to tackling the issue of housing.

• Comparison of the costs of homelessness and housing with assistance in Bratislava (Csomor, 2017) is cost-benefit analysis of the costs to resolve homelessness by providing affordable housing for the homeless in Bratislava against the costs for social services involved in crisis intervention and other services for the homeless.

1. The MLSAF supports the development of selected types of social services using ESF funds, while organisations that systematically focus on social work with the homeless in selected cities in Slovakia were the subject of two national projects: Field social work and Support for select crisis intervention services at the community level.

**Concerning question No. 21**

1. The Slovak constitution guarantees the right to protection of the dwelling and the unassailable nature of ownership rights (Article 20 of the Slovak constitution). This right to protection of a dwelling may not be interpreted as such that an individual is guaranteed to remain in a specific dwelling under any and all circumstances. Failure to meet financial obligations may be resolved under Act No. 527/2002 Coll. on Voluntary Auctions and on amendment of Act No. [323/1992 Coll.](https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/1992/323/) on Notaries and Notarial Activities (Notary Code) as amended introduced the institute of voluntary auctions. This essentially is the mandatory enforcement of a lien, whereby the voluntary element in such case primarily appears in the conclusion of the agreement to establish such lien, at which time the parties voluntarily agree that failure on the part of the debtor to meet its financial obligations in the future authorises the lien creditor to move to enforce its lean via a voluntary auction, and whereby such auction is considered voluntary. [[1]](#footnote-1)
2. As of 1 June 2014, it is impossible to auction real estate if the value of the receivable without any appurtenance secured by the lien at the date of notification of the enforcement of the lien does not exceed EUR 2,000 (under §3 (6) of Act No. 527/2002 Coll.). The party that submits the highest bid thereby obtains the subject of the auction. If a house or flat in which the debtor has registered their permanent address is auctioned off, the lowest bid may not be less than 3/4 of the value of the auctioned property determined by an expert opinion, and if it is the first such action, the lowest bid may not be less than 90% of the value of the auctioned property. In other instances (if the debtor has not registered their permanent address at the property), the lowest bid may not be less than 50% of the value of the auctioned property determined by an expert opinion, and if it is the first such action, the lowest bid may not be less than 80% of the value of the auctioned property. The auction process must be recorded in the form of notary minutes (under §16 (6) of Act No. 527/2002 Coll.).
3. Upon request of the Office of the Slovak Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities and to define the method for determining the general value of land beneath the settlements of marginalised groups and in connection with the adoption of Act No. 153/2017 Coll., amending Act no. 330/1991 Coll. on Land Modifications, the Settlement of Land Ownership, Land Authorities, the Land Fund and Land Associations (in effect on 1 September 2017), the Ministry of Justice submitted a draft decree to amend Ministry of Justice Decree No. 492/2004 Coll. on Definition of the General Value of Property, as amended.
4. Decree No. 213/2017 Coll. on Definition of the General Value of Property, as amended (in effect on 1 September 2017) stakes out the objective of resolving specific issues encountered in applied practices when determining the value of land, especially the individual coefficients used to calculate the general value of such land using the locational differentiation method.
5. The amended act modified the procedure used in matters involving the settlement of ownership and user rights to land under urban settlements of marginalised Roma communities and provided the owners of such land multiple options for settlement (specifically settlement in land for compensatory purposes, in land underneath the settlement or financial settlement). If the owner of the affected land chooses land for the purpose of settlement or money, the land under the settlement transfers to the municipality, while the municipality may not alienate or encumber the land except for the transfer of ownership to the inhabitants of the settlement.
6. A draft of a new building law negating the legality of any processes that would result in discriminatory consequences if applied was submitted within the legislative process in 2019. Process instruments reconciling the legality of urban settlements of marginalised Roma communities with Slovak law and the potential to use public funds to accomplish them over time are being refined in current processes. Slovakia is not interested in extending the viability of Roma settlements that do not meet the basic requirements for healthy housing. It is therefore seeking to identify mechanisms for permanent improvement in housing conditions for marginalised Roma communities without introducing elements of residential segregation and in full respect for individual rights, and therefore respect for the strategies, cultural patterns of behaviour and will to engage in stratification changes among marginalised Roma communities, which must be conceived on a voluntary basis, with active engagement, responsibility and the element of merit in the interest of sustainability. Resolutions to conflicts between the rights of the owners of structures and land owners must also comply with the condition of constitutional conformity. This is certainly not a short-term process. The short-term rental law, with its lower level of tenant protections, does not apply to flats owned by cities and towns. Slovakia previously adopted a host of legal measures containing institutes designed to provide adequate and proportional protection against forced evictions, to resolve conflicts of ownership between land owners and the owners of structures and to improve legal protections for debtors in execution proceedings and auctions. Relevant principles for the use of ESIF funds were configured the same way.

**Concerning question No. 22**

1. Effectiveness in accomplishing the strategy’s tasks is assessed within the national project “*Monitoring and assessing inclusive policies and their impact on MRC*”, which is implemented by the Office of the Slovak Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities with a total allocation of EUR 3,106,720.26. Eligible project activities include measurements using the EU-SILC system derived from Regulation (EC) No 1177/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 June 2003 concerning Community statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC) (OJ L 165, 3.7.2003, p. 1).
2. A total of EUR 51,378,945.45, of which EUR 36,482,786.98 from the ESIF, was and remains allocated to action plans under the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the Integration of Roma to 2020 for the period 2017 to 2020 for the areas of non-discrimination and approaches directed towards majority society – Roma integration initiative via communication. A total of EUR 340,938,596.05, of which EUR 265,962,101.05 from the ESIF, was allocated to updated actions plans under the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the Integration of Roma to 2020 for the period 2016 to 2018 for the areas of education, employment, health, housing and the new action plan for financial inclusion. A total of EUR 120,578,181.63 and EUR 101,323,324.56 was allocated for 2019 and 2020 respectively, of which EUR 188,563,641.00 from the ESIF for the entire period 2019 to 2020, to updated actions plans under the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for the Integration of Roma to 2020 for the period 2019 to 2020 for the areas of education, employment, health, housing and financial inclusion. The following calls are planned in 2019: expansion of basic technical infrastructure (roads) with an allocation of EUR 11,000,000.00, housing assistance (superintendents) with an allocation of EUR 6,000,000.00, better access to drinking water with an allocation of EUR 14,000,000, activities related to the land settlement process with an allocation of EUR 5,000,000, social enterprises with an allocation of EUR 13,500,00 and municipal solid waste management and illegal dumps with an allocation of EUR 5,000,000.

**Concerning question No. 23**

**Right to an adequate standard of living**

1. A significant supporting measure aimed at supporting healthy eating habits in students attending kindergarten and primary schools is the change that occurred in the area of providing support for healthy eating habits among children (hereinafter referred to as “meal subsidy”). An amendment to Act No. 544/2010 Coll. on Subsidies under the Auspices of the MLSAF introduced the ability to provide the meal subsidy to all children attending the final year of kindergarten education effective 1 January 2019. The option was also retained to provide a meal subsidy to children beginning at age 3 (or at age 2) to age 5 or the start of attendance of the final year of kindergarten education, as well as for children meeting their mandatory school attendance requirements in primary schools if they live in a household provided with assistance in material need or if household income at or below the substance minimum or if they attend a kindergarten or primary school where at least 50% of the children are from households to which assistance in material need is provided. The meal subsidy provides EUR 1,20 per day in which the child attends their educational activities at kindergarten or lessons at primary school and received lunch. Beginning on 1 September 2019, the amendment of this law will permit the blanket provisioning of the meal subsidy to all primary school students under the conditions specified in the law itself.

**Concerning question No. 27**

1. Alcohol consumption in Slovakia shows a decreasing trend. Data provided by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic shows that per capita pure alcohol consumption in Slovakia per year decreased from 8.4 l in 2013 to 8.2 l in 2017 (or 10.4 l in 1990). Per capita pure alcohol consumption in Slovakia in the 15+ age category decreased from 9.9 l in 2013 to 9.7 l in 2017 (or 13.9 l in 1990). Per capita consumption of alcoholic beverages (beer, wine and spirits) in Slovakia per year decreased from 97.5 l in 2013 to 96.4 l in 2017 (or 125.7 l in 1990).
2. Regional public health authorities in Slovakia annually conduct educational and instructional activities (lectures and discussions) to prevent addiction focused primarily on children and young people, especially to commemorate important international dates (such as International Day Against Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking, International Foetal Alcohol Awareness Day, and European Drug Week).
3. The Slovak Public Health Authority conducted two years of the nationwide “*Best anti-drug poster*” competition. The competition was intended for students in the 7th form at primary school. More than 350 seventh form students participated in the first year of the competition with an addition 270 seventh form students participating in the second. The second year was implemented with the financial support of the Ministry of Health within a special subsidy to support anti-drug activities for 2016. The competition was designed to work towards creating an active anti-drug attitude, to show the importance of primary prevention, to avoid the use of addictive substances or at least defer such usage to the oldest age possible and to limit or prevent experimentation with addictive substances to avoid the physical and mental health consequences for developing children and adolescents.
4. Monitoring health awareness among Slovaks and their related attitudes, and especially behaviour, provides a critical reference point in efforts to influence health to the desired extent. Recognition and thorough analysis of known risk factors, combined with rigorous study of the sociological and psychological characteristics of a selected population may provide the decisive information needed to ensure any strategy achieves the desired effect. Within the Update to the National Health Support Program of 2014, one of the main goals was to increase health awareness among the population and to initiate a gradual change in their personal attributes towards their own health. Within this context, monitoring of health awareness was conducted among the public in Slovakia in 2013 and 2016. The third year of the survey is being completed in 2019.

**Concerning question No. 28**

**Funds provided as a contribution for** a **student from a disadvantaged socio-economic background**

1. Primary school trustees used a total of EUR 7,182,575 in funding in 2017 allocated via the contribution for students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, specifically EUR 3,878,789 (54%) for the personnel costs of teacher’s assistants, with the remainder of these funds totalling EUR 3,303,786 (45.99%) used to cover operating expenses. A total of EUR 2,976,893 (90.1%) of the EUR 3,303,786 for operating expenses was spent on materials. Data on distribution is sourced from 2017 management reports.
2. The funds provided to improve the conditions for the education and instruction of students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds totalled EUR 7,341,350 in 2017, or EUR 260 per student from a disadvantaged socio-economic background.
3. The per-student contribution to improve the conditions for the education and instruction of students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds in 2018 was EUR 150, with a total of EUR 6,247,500 distributed at the beginning of the year. The reduction in this contribution in 2018 compared to 2017 is related to a change in legislation that took effect in September 2018, where those students from families in which a member of such family is provided with assistance in material need were counted as students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds.
4. Effective 1 January 2018, the standard norms for the educational and instructional process were modified within § 4 (3) of Government Regulation No. 630/2008 Coll., which lays down the details of the breakdown of state budget funds for schools and school facilities as amended, and specifically the standard norm was increased from 108% under Subsection b) for primary schools with a primary language of instruction other than Slovak to 113% of the corresponding standard norm and a new standard norm under Subsection c) for primary schools that teach in a language of a national minority, set to 104% of the corresponding standard norm.
5. The number of students in the first year of special primary schools educated under variant A was reduced by 17% in 2016 compared to 2015. The number of students in the first year of special primary schools educated under variant A was reduced by 32% in 2017 compared to 2015. The number of students newly enrolled in the first year of special primary schools educated under variant A was reduced by 35% in 2017 compared to 2015.
6. The Research Institute of Child Psychology and Pathopsychology manages the activities of psychologists within its monitoring of the implementation of methodology-related information for expert employees of counselling facilities within the bounds of determining the unsuitability of any test for the assessment of school preparedness among Roma children who have not completed pre-primary education; the need to shift diagnostics to such time as after completion of at least one year of education; changes with respect to the philosophy of “testing” children with selective diagnostics to diagnostics to characterise the strengths and weaknesses of a child with respect to the educational and instructional process; a change in perspective away from traditional psychometry towards clinical and qualitative assessment of a child’s performance, both in testing situations and observation of the child’s progression, regression or stagnation.

**Concerning question No. 29**

1. With the goal of mapping the current use of minority languages, the Government Office submits the *Report on the Current Use of the Languages of National Minorities in Slovakia* every two years. The fourth consecutive report on the current usage of minority languages in the 2017 - 2018 period was approved by the Slovak government in Regulation No. 10/2019. The report mapped the application of Act No. 184/1999 Coll. in terms of the domestic legislative and institutional framework, the international law framework and the use of the languages of national minorities among public authorities and organisational units of the Fire and Rescue Corps, armed security forces, the Slovak armed forces and other armed corps. The report was created based on an extensive questionnaire-based survey. Among the previous reports, this current version was the most extensive with respect to the scope of the mapped areas as well as the breadth and depth of the parameters in terms of the use of minority languages. Municipalities showed improvement in the use of the languages of national minorities in official business among all national minorities, with the greatest progress observed in the use of the Hungarian national minority language. The results of analysis into the data obtained from the questionnaire used in the survey, and a comparison with the results of surveys conducted in previous reports, once again exposed persistent limits and room for improvement, and the report also identified areas and extents where the law was not being followed. The plenipotentiary took steps to remedy the individual deficiencies in cooperation with multiple materially competent departments.
2. The agenda of the cultures of national minorities was removed from the Government Office and assigned to the Ministry of Culture when the law concerning the fund took effect. On 1 January 2018, the Cultures of National Minorities Department was established, founded as an efficient and systemically functioning organizational unit of the ministry. This department is primarily responsible for completing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the strategic and policy documents concerning the cultures of national minorities, communication between the ministry and cultural organisations within the trusteeship of local government bodies and other entities in the area of cultures of national minorities and monitoring trends and the contexts of issues facing the cultures of national minorities. It also elaborates the primary objectives, principles and reference points for state policy in the area of the culture of national minorities, strategic, analytical, policy and informational materials within the area of the culture of national minorities, the material aspects of proposed legislative objectives, drafts of generally binding legislation in the area of the culture of national minorities, reference materials for the ministry’s management activities in the area of the culture of national minorities and for analytical and evaluation activities in the area of the culture of national minorities as well as opinions and analyses in response to suggestions, proposals and objections raised by individual organisations, trade and artistic associations and other entities in the area of the culture of national minorities. The Cultures of National Minorities Department provides cooperation to local government authorities in the creation, updating, summing and evaluation of an informational database and in the preparation of strategic and policy materials on the cultures of national minorities, within the organisation of international, nationwide and regional cultural events and festivals and in the area of providing methodological guidance in materially defined areas for local government authorities, their cultural organisations and other entities involved in the cultures of national minorities.
3. The News Agency of the Slovak Republic, which is a public institution, began issuing releases on its wire in Hungarian starting in February 2018. These releases contain critical information about events in Slovakia with respect to the life and events affecting the largest national minority. This activity received a positive response from Slovak and Hungarian media.
4. The promotion of the audio-visual cultures of national minorities has been secured over the long-term and continuously by the Slovak Film Institute, a budgetary organisation under the Ministry of Culture, and it consistently adds films in minority languages in their original form with subtitles to the program at the Lumiére cinema, which it operates. The Slovak Film Institute also regularly presents minority audio-visual culture at various film screenings in which it is involved. Examples include organising the Hungarian Film Days in Slovakia and the Slovak Film Days in Hungary.
5. An important and sustainable tool for the protection of the cultural rights of members of national minorities is the system of specialized museums within the Slovak National Museum (organizations established by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic). These are collecting workplaces focusing on the history and culture of national minorities living in Slovakia (Museum of Czech Culture in Slovakia in Martin, Museum of Culture of Croats in Slovakia in Bratislava, Museum of Culture of Carpathian Germans in Bratislava, Museum of Culture of Hungarians in Slovakia in Bratislava, Museum of Culture of Roma on Slovakia in Martin, Museum of Ruthenian Culture in Prešov, Museum of Ukrainian Culture in Svidník, Museum of Jewish Culture in Bratislava). These museums are specialized documentary, scientific-research and methodological workplaces that systematically research, retrieve, preserve and professionally process material and spiritual evidence of the history, culture, traditions of the respective ethnic groups in the territory of present-day Slovakia, and present the results of their activities to the public through publishing activities. education activities, exhibitions and cultural events aimed at presenting the rich cultural heritage to the public. In 2016, the Slovak National Museum-Museum of Jewish Culture opened the Museum of the Holocaust in Sered, which participates in educational activities and programs aimed at preventing manifestations of anti-Semitism, racism, extremism and radicalization in society.
6. The Museum of the Slovak National Uprising in Banska Bystrica provides continuous accredited educational program Ethnic Purges, Genocides, Racial Intolerance in History for Teachers of History, Civics, Society and Ethics Education, bringing not only new expertise in the field of Jewish solution in Slovakia between 1939 and 1945, addressing the Jewish question in Europe at the time of World War II, persecution of Roma in Slovakia, but also reflects on the modern manifestations of racism, neo-Nazism and xenophobia and brings about the improvement of the key professional competences of the teacher when working with historical sources and methods oral history. The museum organizes a year-round interactive educational program for primary school pupils “Suitcase number ...” focusing on the issue of solving the Jewish question in Slovakia from 1939 to 1945, modern extremism and racism.
7. The MC establishes the Ifjú Szivek Dance Theater, which is a professional artistic organization with nationwide competence in the field of folklore processing and interpretation. As part of its activities, it creates artistic and educational programs that build on the traditional culture of citizens of Hungarian nationality living in the Slovak Republic and preserve, document and present the manifestations of traditional folk culture of Hungarians and other national minorities.
8. An important contribution to informing the majority about Roma culture is the national project Documentation and Information Center of Roma Culture in the State Scientific Library in Prešov, which contributes to the reduction of prejudices and stereotypes. Aim of this project is to build a digital database of Roma culture. The task of the Documentation and Information Center of Roma Culture is to concentrate comprehensive information on Roma culture, history, language, traditions and other areas of the Roma community's life in one place and to create a unique approach to the necessary and required information on everything related to Roma issues.
9. The MJ administers the legal and information portal Slov-Lex (www.slov-lex.sk) and is preparing and publishing the contents of certain legislation translated into the languages of select national minorities, specifically Hungarian, Romani, Ukrainian, Rusyn and German, in collaboration with the Office of the Slovak Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities. These are translations of the laws directly affecting national minorities and the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, but are informative in nature. Only the contents of the Collection of Acts of the Slovak Republic is legally binding, which is accessible in the Electronic Collection of Acts of the Slovak Republic and in its current official printed version.
10. Under Act No. 302/2016 Coll. on Providing Subsidies under the Auspices of the Ministry of Justice, as amended, the MJ provides subsidies within the area of human rights, which are focused on promoting, supporting and protecting human rights and freedoms and avoiding all forms of discrimination, racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other expressions of intolerance. This specific area includes projects to promote the cultures, histories and traditions of minority groups in Slovakia. Projects supported in 2018 include the “Majorita – minorita a ich súžitie II., zrkadlo predsudkov u študentov vysokých škôl, žiakov a pedagógov stredných škôl s vyučovacím jazykom maďarským” (Majority – minority and their confluence II., a mirror on the prejudices of university students and students and educators at secondary schools taught in Hungarian”) project at J. Selye University, and a project of the IN MINORITA civic association ”*Ma bisteren! (2018)*” intended to commemorate the Roma victims of the Holocaust.
11. Among the non-legislative measures within broadcasting for national minorities is financing for radio and television broadcasts on the lives of national minorities and in the languages of national minorities on RTVS via a contract with the state. Based on such contracts, the Ministry of Culture provides significant funding to RTVS on an annual basis, and has done so since 2010 (for instance, EUR 35,228,310 was provided in 2018), for the purposes of producing programs in the public interest, to conduct special-purpose investment projects and to cover expenses for international broadcasting. These funds are used to provide a substantial level of financing for RTVS radio and television broadcasts intended for national minorities.
12. Within support for broadcasts in the languages of national minorities, RTVS reinforced its section for national minority broadcasting in 2018 with four new positions for programming personnel. In the same year, and within budgetary means, RTVS increased the royalties available to the section for national minority broadcasting intended for programs for young viewers and literary-drama programs. All RTVS programs produced for national minorities are archived in the RTVS digital archive and are available to anyone who is interested in Slovakia and abroad via its website at no charge.

**Concerning question No. 30**

1. Slovakia transposed Directive 2004/23/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 laying down quality and safety standards for the donation, procurement, testing, processing, preservation, storage and distribution of human tissues and cells and Directive 2006/86/EC of 24 March 2004 October 2006 implementing Directive 2004/23/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards traceability requirements, reporting serious adverse reactions and events and certain technical requirements for coding, processing, preserving, storing and distributing human tissues and cells.
2. It is a pan-European trend to bring the results of research into the development of society and to focus research activities on current societal challenges with the potential to improve the quality of life of all citizens. The basic strategic document dealing with research and innovation in Slovakia is the RIS3 SK strategy, which lists resolving the most pressing societal issues that pose the greatest burden on Slovak society as one of its key priorities.
3. Within Slovakia, this principle is taken into consideration within the creation of instruments to support research and development, such as in the prepared state programs for research and development.
4. Slovakia is also active within the EU initiative to provide open access to research and development outcomes. The Open Access principle is intended to provide free and unlimited access to research and related publications without violation of applicable copyrights and is based on the claim that research financed by taxpayers should be accessible to taxpayers at no charge. The principle of free access to scientific information was stipulated in the Action Plan for the Initiative for Open Governance for the period 2017 to 2019, which was approved by the Slovak government on 1 March 2017, The Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information, which previously joined the OpenAire project focused on policy in this specific areas and technical aspects, such as the interoperability of data and systems, was defined as the National Point of Reference for the European Commission’s Open Access policy in Slovakia.
1. <http://sopkolegal.sk/uskalia-dobrovolnej-drazby-bytu/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)