**Annex to the Responses of the Slovak Republic**

**List of abbreviations:**

**BSK** - Bratislava Self-Governing Region

**CMC** - Coordinating-Methodical Centre for Prevention of Violence against Women

**EIGE** - European Institute for Gender Equality

**ESF** - European Social Fund

**EUBA** - University of Economics in Bratislava

**FRA** - Fundamental Rights Agency

**HSAH -** Health Support Assistants in Hospital Environment

**IOM** - International Organization for Migration

**IWFR** - Institute for Work and Family Research

**LGBTI** - lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons

**MoC SR** – Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic

**MoD SR** – Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic

**MoED SR** – Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic

**MoH SR** – Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic

**MoI SR** – Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic

**MoIRDI** **SR**- Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of Slovak Republic

**MoJ SR** – Ministry of Justice of Slovak Republic

**MoLSAF SR** - Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

**MRC** - marginalised Roma communities

**SK** – Slovak Republic

**SNCHR** - Slovak National Centre for Human Rights

**SPDTP** - standard preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic procedures

**TCM** - temporary compensatory measure

**Comments to the specific points of Responses of the Slovak Republic:**

**17.** The purpose and goal of coordinated action is to ensure comprehensive protection of victims, prevent any further violence and enable victims to exercise their rights such as the right to professional assistance and the right to protection against victimization. As a result, in order to ensure such action and to ensure access of victims of domestic violence to guaranteed comprehensive expert assistance, the MoJ SR proposed creation of a network of so-called intervention centres in an amendment of the Act approved on May 7, 2021. This model is based on interconnecting police intervention with crisis intervention and expert assistance provided to a victim or person under threat of domestic violence immediately after domestic violence occurs. Within 24 hours after a violent person is evicted from a shared dwelling, the police informs an intervention centre which will proactively contact the victim of domestic violence within 72 hours and offer professional assistance to the victim. Tasks of the intervention centre include assessing the threat of the risk to life or health and preparing a security plan. Such assessment will evaluate the efficiency of eviction and enable to determine next steps to be taken, e.g. transfer of the victim from the shared dwelling, filing a motion for issuing an immediate action. Competent experts (in the areas of psychology, social work and law) working in the intervention centre ensure expert assistance to and legal representation of victims and accompany victims in criminal proceedings. It will enable creation of a network of entities providing professional assistance, ensure provision of professional assistance on a long-term and available basis and it will also create a room to enhance the quality of the provided assistance. The Act is supposed to become effective on July 1, 2021.´

**31**. In 11 cases, the SNCHR’s clients alleged discrimination in the field of the provision of goods and services. The same number of complaints related to the field of social security. 7 discrimination cases were reported in the field of education and 2 cases were reported in the field of the provision of health care. Finally, one case of the alleged discrimination in the area of equal exercise of fundamental human rights and freedoms within the meaning of Act No. 460/1992 Coll. of the Constitution of the SR. In 20 cases, it was not possible to identify any of the areas of legal relations covered by the discrimination ban normative. In as many as 46 cases, the SNCHR examined the possibility of subordinating the alleged motive of the discrimination ban addressee behaviour within the protected ground of the so-called other status. The second most numerous protected discrimination reason that the SNCHR assessed in the context of the facts established in a particular case was the gender motive, namely in 12 cases. In 9 complaints, the SNCHR dealt with the possible motive of ethnicity, namely belonging to the Roma ethnic group. The SNCHR also assessed the possible motive 27 of prohibited unequal treatment in 9 cases of possible discrimination on the grounds of disability, in 6 cases on the grounds of age, in 4 cases on the grounds of reporting crime or any other asocial activity, in 2 cases on the grounds of sexual orientation, in 2 cases on the grounds of lineage and regarding the grounds of religion, political opinion, education and social origin one case was reported with each reason. In as many as 15 cases, the SNCHR did not identify any motive for the possible behaviour of the discrimination ban addressee that would correspond to the grounds protected by the relevant anti-discrimination legislation. In the context of the form of the discrimination ban violation the discovered facts may have been indicative of direct discrimination. In particular, this concerned 43 cases. In 25 other cases, the SNCHR assessed the fulfilment of the defining characteristics of indirect discrimination, in 33 cases the fulfilment of defining characteristics of discrimination in the form of harassment, in 3 cases of discrimination in the form of sexual harassment and in one case the SNCHR dealt with an alleged encouragement to discriminate. In 4 cases, the found facts were not identifiable with the fulfilment of the defining characteristics of any prohibited form of discrimination at all.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**44.** The application of the horizontal principles of equality between men and women and non-discrimination also aims to eliminate and prevent discrimination based on these characteristics. A specific approach is required for people with disabilities, for whom special accessibility conditions need to be created (such as barrier-free architectural environment, accessible information, etc.). The main objective for ESF programmes is to guarantee the gender equality in the labour market and in preparation for it, and the objective for other ESIF programmes is to mitigate the horizontal and vertical segregation of women and men in individual sectors of the economy. The main objective of the horizontal principle of non-discrimination for ESF programmes is to guarantee equal opportunities in the labour market and in preparation for it, whereas the main objective for other ESIF programmes is to ensure equal opportunities in access to and use of the infrastructure and services. The tools for the effective application of the horizontal principles include the use of a disqualification criterion in the selection and peer review evaluation processes within projects financed by the Funds to make sure that these projects comply with the horizontal principles of the equality between men and women and non-discrimination.

**116.** The staff of the Information Offices facilitates the process of identification of human trafficking victims by sensitively obtaining information suggesting that the person has been trafficked, educating the victim on the Programme for the Support and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking as well as the rights and obligations arising therefrom; they inform the victim about possibilities of being included in the programme and finally inform the relevant entities. Within the national project, the attention has also been paid to setting up the regional cooperation with entities involved in providing assistance and support to victims of crime, including victims of human trafficking. During the monitored period, the Crime Prevention Department of the Office of the Minister of the Interior of the SR of the MoI SR held through the Information Offices initial informative meetings of the entities within the framework of the "Regional Platforms for Victim Assistance". Meetings were held, due to the pandemic measures related to COVID-19, on-line at the level of all regions. Representatives of criminal justice authorities (police, prosecutor's office) and courts, state administration, local and regional self-government, representatives of the civil sector, etc., who within their activities also focus on victims of crime, including victims of human trafficking, have been approached to join the platform. The intention of building a platform of cooperating entities at the level of individual regions is to:

* + establish effective and constructive inter-sectoral cooperation between actors at the regional level;
	+ set up effective processes of communication and information exchange between the entities;
	+ identification of problems in the field of victim assistance;
	+ identification of systemic shortcomings and joint search for solutions of legislative and non-legislative nature;
	+ strengthening prevention in individual regions.

**128.** 7 trainings of first contact persons with a total number of 164 participants, with 139 successful graduates. The trainings were primarily intended for a specific target group of participants (so-called first contact persons), who, due to their position within the public administration, may come into contact with victims or potential victims or their relatives. Within each training, the participants were provided also with information on the issue of trafficking in human beings, in addition to other areas (law, psychology or social advisory). 1-day training of coordinators and assistants of Information Offices. Criminal justice authorities' work with particularly vulnerable victims in criminal proceedings", where 30 people participated in the 8-hour training, of which 24 were successful graduates. 2-day training course (16 hours) for coordinators and assistants of Information Offices focused on topics "Crisis intervention" and "Retraumatization and secondary victimization". 24 persons took part in this educational event. In 2020, a total of 66 lectures, talks (65 in person and 1 online webinar) on human trafficking were also conducted by the Crime Prevention Department of the Office of the Minister of the Interior of the SR of the MoI SR and Information Offices, attended by a total of 2,352 pupils and students from primary, secondary and grammar schools. At the end of the year, an online lecture was also given to the field workers of Smile as a Gift organization.

**155.** NP PRIM II. brings a new position of "parental assistant" to kindergartens in addition to teaching assistants and professional staff. These, together with other staff members of kindergartens, form inclusive teams and introduce systematic measures for increased inclusiveness in the participating kindergartens, e.g. incentive programmes for the development of cognitive abilities. The intensive work with families whose children do not yet attend the kindergarten is an innovation in NP PRIM II., with the intention of improving the relationship of the target groups with the value of education and setting up a functional cooperation with the kindergarten through part of the activities of the parental assistant. In addition, special attention is paid to desegregation and awareness-raising activities related to the pre-primary education of children from the MRC. The project also comprises the cooperation with other projects of the "Take away" package focusing on field social work, support for community services, support for the settlement of legal relations to land in the villages with the presence of MRC and health promotion."[[2]](#footnote-2)

**183.** Trained HSAHs speaking Roma language and coming from MRC environment which the patients come from can considerably help overcome barriers in the healthcare provision process for patients as well as for staff. The project represents a model of a solution which efficiently and actively involves persons from the target group in the process of positive changes and connects all interested parties in order to achieve a common target – improve the health situation in excluded communities.

Assistants from Healthy Regions work in more than 280 locations in the least developed regions in Slovakia and their activities have a direct positive impact on approximately 180,000 members of MRCs. Thanks to their activities we have achieved 100% vaccination rate. Assistants from Healthy Regions have also become important actors in the fight against COVID-19 in locations (active cooperation in nationwide testing, humanitarian support, monitoring the situation).

1. SNCHR ,”Final annual report” [Rocna-zaverecna-sprava-o-cinosti-SNSLP-za-rok-2019.pdf](http://www.snslp.sk/wp-content/uploads/Rocna-zaverecna-sprava-o-cinosti-SNSLP-za-rok-2019.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. National project Support for pre-primary education of children from MRC I. - [National project Support for pre-primary education of NP PRIM, MoI SR - European Programmes (minv.sk)](https://www.minv.sk/?NP-PRIM-predprimarne-vzdelavanie-MRK) See also SNHCR, Report on the Observance of Human Rights Including the Principle of Equal Treatment in the SR for the Year 2018, Bratislava 2019, p. 128, Available in English at <http://www.snslp.sk/CCMS/files/2018_Human_Rights_Report.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)