



YouthPartnership

FACTSHEET

ON SOCIAL INCLUSION/ EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

IN SLOVAKIA



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European Commission



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1) Risk of poverty

	Sources	Year	Age Range	%
At risk of poverty by age (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006	Less than 18	17,00
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: work income	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158	2005		58,70
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: Unemployment benefit	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158	2005		3,20
Distribution of cross income by main sources of income for poor households with children: Family allowance	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.158	2005		13,40
Distribution of children by the type of household (lone parent) and work type of adults of the household: jobless	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		20,00
Distribution of children by the type of household (lone parent) and work type of adults of the household: in full-time job	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		73,00
Distribution of children by the type of household (couple with children) and work type of adults of the household: both in full-time job	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		72,00
Distribution of children by the type of household (couple with children) and work type of adults of the household: both jobless	Children poverty and well-being in EU. Current status and way forward. EC.2008 p.166	2005		3,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: Single parent with dependent children (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006		29,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: Household without dependent children (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006		8,00
Risk of poverty rate by household type: Household with dependent children (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers)	Eurostat	2006		14,00

2) Social Subsistence/Protection

A short description of country's social protection system and list of the benefits young people are entitled to	Annex 5
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3) Equal opportunities

A description of the forms of inequality, which young people may confront in their home country (eg. gender, religion/belief, ethnic origin, disability, geographical location related inequality)	Annex 6
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ANNEX 5

SOCIAL SUBSISTANCE/PROTECTION

In Slovakia the state is the main actor in organizing and operating the social protection system. Within the state there are different government ministries, local governments and specific state institutions that have the responsibility to organize and operate the system that provides social insurance, social assistance, social services and health care. (Svorenova & Petrasova 2005, 61-62.)

The child allowances are offered to all children under age of 16, up to age 18 for children with chronic health problems and up to the age 25 for the students or disabled persons (Social Security Programs 2006, 290). Both the child and parents must be permanent or temporary residents in Slovakia. There is also an Aid for Family in Material Need to which includes e.g. daily meals of pupils in schools, school material twice per year and social scholarship for pupils / students in different school levels. (MISSOC Info 1/2007, 1; 3). The Social Insurance Agency (SIA) handles sickness and pension insurances and the General Health Insurance Company (GHIC) for the public health insurance. The SIA pays sickness benefits for employees in small businesses, the self-employed and their cooperating persons, persons on sickness leave, maternity and parental leave without an employment contract and social assistance recipients. The amount of sickness benefits paid by SIA is however quite small since the most of them are paid through the employers. (Svorenova & Petrasova 2005, 296; 298.) The employer pays sickness benefit for the first 10 days, after which the SIA continues to pay it for a maximum of 52 weeks (Eures 2008 - The European Job Mobility Portal; Social Security Programs, 287). For the self-employed and voluntarily insured persons the SIA pays the benefit from the first day of incapacity (Social Security Programs 2006, 287).

The state pays sickness contributions on behalf of high school and university students and unemployed persons not receiving unemployment benefits. The state also contributes pension insurance on behalf of university students, persons on obligatory or military or similar service and disability pensioners. (Svorenova & Petrasova 2005, 299.) Participation in social health insurance is mandatory and the contributions are income-related. The state pays the contributions for all unemployed and inactive persons e.g. dependents and disabled. Though the individuals can freely enroll with any of the insurance companies the GHIC covers about two-thirds of the population. All insurance companies offer the same benefits, since the Slovak constitution guarantees universal and free-of-charge access to a comprehensive package of health services. (Colombo & Tapay 2004, 9-11.) The services include e.g. medical treatment, hospitalization, medicines, dental care (with limited cost sharing) and preventive examinations. Normally there is however some cost sharing e.g. the patient pays 20 SK for each consultation with the doctor, but for e.g. for patients in dispensary care up to age 18 there is no cost sharing for the consultations. (Social Security Programs 2006, 288.)

The SIA is also the institution responsible for granting entitlement to and paying the unemployment benefit. Unemployment benefit can be paid either for 4 of 6 months. The amount is calculated as 50 % of the daily assessment base. (Eures 2008 – The European Job Mobility Portal.) The person must be registered with the labor office as a jobseeker and have at least 3 years of contributions in the last 4 years to be legitimated for the benefit (Social Security Programs 2006, 290). A person not receiving any income is entitled to a temporary social assistance which is provided in the form of poverty or material distress benefits (Eures 2008 – The European Job Mobility Portal). One of these is The Activation Allowance which is paid e.g. for the long-time unemployed and the jobseekers participating in minor municipal services or voluntary work. Other benefit is called the Income Support which is directed to persons who do not have the possibility to secure income or to raise their income through their own work. (Ministry of Labour 2007, 61-62.)

Sources:

- Colombo, F. & Tapay, N. 2004. [The Slovak Health Insurance System and the Potential Role for Private Health Insurance: Policy Challenges](#). Paris.OECD Health Working Papers No. 11. [Referred 7.9.2008].
- [Eures – The European Job Mobility Portal](#) 2008. [Referred 7.9.2008].
- Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs & Family of the Slovak Republik. 2007. [Report on the Social Situation of the population of the Slovak Republik for 2006](#). Bratislava. [Referred 7.9.2008].
- MISSOC Info 1/2007: [Evolution of Social Protection in 2006, Slovakia](#). [Referred 7.9.2008].
- Social Security Programs Throughout the World 2006: [Europe - Slovakia](#). [Referred 7.9.2008].
- Svorenova, M. & Petrasova, A. 2005. [Social Protection Expenditure and Performance Review – Slovak Republik](#). Budapest. International Labour Office. [Referred 7.9.2008].

ANNEX 6

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

In Slovakia there is higher income imbalance than in most of the EU countries and it has risen during the last years. At risk of poverty rate, which expresses the share of individuals living in households where the income is less than 60 % of the national equivalised median income, reached 21 % in 2002 without difference between genders. Young people aged 16-24 (or 15-29) years are exposed to the risk of poverty and social exclusion, primarily those with a low degree of education or leaving schools not providing an education corresponding to the needs of labour market. Other vulnerable group is families with children, where the risk increases with the numbers of members in family. (Ministry of Labour 2004, 5-6, 9-10.)

An important indicator is also the relative median risk gap, which describes "how poor are the poor". In Slovakia the median income of citizens in risk of poverty is 34% lower than the risk-of-poverty threshold meaning that the income of half of this group is below 66% of the at-risk-of-poverty threshold or is lower than 40% of the median equivalised income, both for men and women. (Ministry of Labour 2004, 5-6.)

Similar to other countries children are among the most vulnerable groups of the population. This is influenced by the fact that in Roma settlements where the poorest population of Slovakia lives children are estimated to represent up to 50% of the population. The material disadvantage of these children is seen in their overall backwardness, the low level of education and limited possibilities of gaining employment. (Ministry of Labour 2004, 8.)

In 2003 employment was increased on a year-on-year basis by 1,8%. The growth in employment was recorded in the case of both genders and in all regions. The number of those working increased most significantly amongst university graduates and those with a secondary-school leaving certificate. In 2003 the unemployment rate fell by 1.1 percentage points, difference between men and women was little. However high variations persisted in the rate of employment between individual regions: from 6,9% in Bratislava region to 23.9% in the Banska Bystrica region. By age structure the most numerous group comprised 35-49 year-olds, 15-24 year-olds and 25-34 year olds. During 2003 the unemployment among young people did however fell. (Ministry of Labour 2004, 4-5.)

The share of persons dependent on material need assistance varies greatly between different regions: the regions with a high rate of unemployment such as Banska Bystica, Nitra, Kosice and Presov also have the highest share of persons dependent on material need assistance. (Ministry of Labour 2004, 9.) A large part of the Roma population belongs to the most vulnerable inhabitants of Slovakia. Their social situation has for a long time been determined by a high rate of unemployment (in particular long-term), dependency of benefits from the social system, a low level of education and housing. The rate of unemployment in Roma settlements is about 100 %. (Ministry of Labour 2004, 10.)

Not only disabled persons but also the persons who care for them are also at the risk of poverty and social exclusion. Certain types of disability represent themselves a complete barrier for entering the labour market and other types lead into discrimination in the labour market. The risk is multiplied by the limited possibilities to gain appropriate education. The disabled persons also have to bear particular costs which life with a disability brings. Persons caring for disabled persons are either excluded from the labour market due to day-long care that the disabled person requires or are at the risk of poverty in consequence of increased costs for providing care via another person or at facilities outside the family. (Ministry of Labour 2004, 11.) Other groups at risk of social exclusion include the homeless, the drug addicted, maltreated and abused children, victims of domestic violence, convicted offenders, citizens undergoing or having undergone punishment through removal of freedom and the children following the termination of institutional or protective care (Ministry of Labour 2004, 12-13).

Source:

Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs & Family of the Slovak Republik. 2004. [National Action Plan on Social Inclusion 2004-2006](#). Bratislava. [Referred 12.9.2008 and 19.9.2008].