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**Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2014–2021**

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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED**

### **Ministries:**

- MDDSZ – Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
- MF – Ministry of Finance
- MIZŠ – Ministry of Education, Science, and Sport
- MK – Ministry of Culture
- MNZ – Ministry of the Interior
- MZIP – Ministry of Infrastructure and Spatial Planning
- MZ – Ministry of Health
- MZZ – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### **Government office:**

- SURS – Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

### **Professional institutions:**

- IRSSV – Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia
- JPSKLAD – Public Guarantee, Maintenance and Disability Fund of the Republic of Slovenia
- SOUS – Association of Slovenian Training Organisations for Persons with Special Needs
- URI – Soča – University Rehabilitation Institute of the Republic of Slovenia – Soča
- ZIZRS – Association of Vocational Rehabilitation Providers of the Republic of Slovenia
- ZPIZ – Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia
- ESS – Employment Service of Slovenia
- ZZZS – Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia

### **Disabled people's organisations and other organisations:**

- NSIOS – National Council of Disabled people's organisations of Slovenia
- FIHO – Foundation for Funding Disability and Humanitarian Organizations of Slovenia
- ZDUS – Slovenian Federation of Pensioners' Organisations
- YHD – Association for Theory and Culture of Handicap
- Zveza SONČEK – 'SONČEK' Cerebral Palsy Societies' Association of Slovenia

### **Other acronyms and abbreviations.**

- API – Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities

Terms written in masculine grammatical form apply neutrally to both men and women.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

More than 15% of the population of Europe are persons with disabilities; whereas in Slovenia, approximate estimates of the share of persons with disabilities is between 12% and 13% of the population, the percentage does not differ considerably from the EU estimate. Of these, 8% of persons with disabilities were issued disability decisions under different Acts; the remaining 5% (according to estimates of disabled people's organisations and/or their membership) are persons with a serious physical impairment. Persons with disabilities are therefore an important group who can equally contribute to the development of society; however, their abilities are not fully developed, owing to numerous obstacles and the reduced accessibility that persons with disabilities encounter in their life.

Already in 1991, Slovenia adopted the Concept of Development Strategy for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities which is important, in particular, from the following five aspects:

- For the first time, it provided a modern definition of disability based on a philosophy of human rights and not merely on a medical model.
- It includes an integrated method for addressing disability issues; the document presents guidelines per area, as follows: health care, education and training, employment, rehabilitation, cash benefits and relieves, legal protection, state administration operation, status, financing and operation of disabled people's organisations etc.; the document expressly highlights that persons with disabilities have a right to an independent life.
- The strategy defines the status and funding of disabled people's organisations.
- Persons with disabilities, representatives of the state and experts were involved in drafting the document.

Slovenia, a welfare state governed by the rule of law, with its modern disability protection policy is comparable to other developed European countries. Slovenia is also puts into practice the principles of social justice and equal opportunities for all, which it proved on 30 November 2006 with the adoption of the Action Programme for Disabled Persons for 2007–2013, and later when the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia on 2 April 2008 passed the Act Ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. With this, the Republic of Slovenia became one of the first countries in the world to ratify, without reservations, the Convention and the Optional Protocol. Thereby, the two documents became part of national law and directly applicable. In addition to the Convention, in the programme preparation process, the UN basic documents were also complied with: the Standard rules on the equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities and the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, the EU Action Programme (COM 2003 650 and COM 2005 604) and the Council of Europe Action Plan to promote the rights and full participation of people with disabilities in society: improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in Europe 2006-2015 (Committee of Ministers Recommendation, Rec(2000)5). The Slovenian Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2007–2013 follows the development guidelines of Slovenia outlined in the Slovenia's Development Strategy (2005) and the Framework of Economic and Social Reforms for Increasing Welfare in Slovenia (2005).

Before that, the Republic of Slovenia in Article 14 of the Constitution laid down that everyone shall be guaranteed equal human rights and fundamental freedoms irrespective of personal circumstances. In the amendments to Article 14, which entered into force on 15 June 2004, disability is defined as a personal circumstance. The Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia

expressly stresses the right of disabled persons to equality before the law and underlines that no one should be discriminated against for reasons of disability. Therefore, according to the Constitution, persons with disabilities have the same rights and obligations as others. However, in this connection, their special needs should be taken into account, and equal treatment and the realisation of all human rights ensured. To this end, the State must undertake to take effective and appropriate measures, with which it will enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence, full physical, mental, social and vocational abilities, and full inclusion and participation in all aspects of life.

The rights of disabled persons in the Republic of Slovenia are not guaranteed under a single umbrella act, but under sector-specific legislation, under different acts regulating the various rights of disabled persons in different areas:

- Implementation of the Principle of Equal Treatment Act;
- Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act;
- Employment Relationships Act;
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons Act;
- Pension and Disability Insurance Act;
- Act Concerning Social Care of Mentally and Physically Handicapped Persons;
- Construction Act;
- Slovenian Sign Language Act;
- Disabled People's Organisations Act; and others.

To achieve the greater social integration of persons with disabilities and better regulation of the issues relating to disability, closer cooperation between individual line ministries, governmental institutions, disabled people's organisations and other organisations addressing issues relating to disability must be enhanced.

The principles of, and obligations under, the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2014–2021:

Persons with disabilities do not comprise a homogeneous group, but have different functional limitations, i.e. persons with developmental disorders; deaf, blind and physically impaired persons; other persons confronted with different everyday obstacles in all areas of human life. Due to the rapid growth of the elderly and very old population, needs for long-term care are growing. For these reasons, persons with disabilities should be ensured:

- equal opportunities and non-discriminatory treatment;
- participation in decision-making and participation in society;
- access to all fields of life;
- information technology applications beyond the use of computer literacy facilitating their life;
- full and effective participation in society;
- provision of information and public education;
- respect for diversity and acceptance of disability; and
- implementation of programmes intended for persons with disabilities.

The tasks of a disability protection policy for the period 2014–2021:

- to provide systemic measures to remove obstacles to achieving equal opportunity for persons with disabilities to fully participate at the level of the local community and society;
- to take preventive measures against discrimination against persons with disabilities and measures to provide access to fundamental rights;
- to further harmonise future Slovenian legislation with European Union legislation and measures mentioned in this programme (for example, adoption of the Long-Term Care Act);
- to provide partnership with persons with disabilities in the planning, selection, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects which will be financed from European Structural Funds;
- to take care of the needs of voluntary carers of persons with disabilities (health and disability insurance, provision of annual holidays (leave), updating of skills, covering material costs relating to performing carer's duties, provision of assistance to elderly carers after their duties are completed, etc.).

Below, the document includes the following:

- an outline of legal acts and strategic documents on the protection of persons with disabilities adopted during the implementation of the first Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2007–2013;
- thirteen objectives of the Action Programme of which, are first outlined in general, then presented with specific measures;
- implementation and instructions for monitoring the implementation of the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2014–2021, and
- recommendations which support the objectives of the Action Programme but which do not fall under specific objectives.

## **2. LEGAL ACTS AND STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS FOR PROTECTION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES adopted in the period 2007–2013**

This chapter presents the acts, rules, regulations, measures, decisions, guidelines, resolutions, strategies and action plans and amendments thereto adopted in the period 2007–2013, i.e. during the implementation of the first Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2007–2013.

Acts:

- **Act Ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, which is an international act addressing most of the API objectives.
- **Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act** regulating equal opportunities and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities, which is one of the most important documents regulating this field in Slovenia. It addresses most of the API objectives.
- **Mental Health Act**: regulates the health and social care system in mental health, providers of the mentioned activities, the rights of persons treated in special supervision units in psychiatric hospitals, treatment in a secure section of a social care institution and supervised treatment, including the procedures for admitting persons to community treatment.
- **Social Security Benefits Act**.

- **Act Amending the Social Security Benefits Act**, on the basis of which the provisions of the Act Concerning Social Care of Mentally and Physically Handicapped Persons regulating the right to disability benefit and attendance allowance entered into force again;
- **Placement of Children with Special Needs Act.**
- **Exercise of Rights to Public Funds Act.**
- **Patient Rights Act:** lays down the rights of every patient as a user of health-care services of all providers of health-care services. It lays down the procedures for exercising these rights if they are infringed and duties in connection with these rights. The purpose of the act is to facilitate equal, adequate, high-quality and safe health treatment. In 2008, the implementing regulations were also adopted.
- **Act Amending the Health Care and Health Insurance Act** introduces many novelties. For persons with disabilities, it includes a very important stipulation according to which new groups are added to the current groups of illnesses/conditions the health treatment and rehabilitation of which are fully covered by compulsory health insurance; the above-mentioned new groups include the blind and partially sighted, persons with total or severe hearing loss, persons with cystic fibrosis and autism, and persons after accident-related head and brain injuries. An added novelty is the right of insured persons with congenital metabolic disorders to foodstuffs for special medical purposes with a nutrient-adapted formulation. Another new stipulation lays down that for socially disadvantaged people the difference in the full value of health-care services and payment of contributions for complementary health insurance will be covered from the national budget.
- **Medical Devices Act:** ensures access to medical devices meeting the quality standards in place in the European market and prevents the procurement of products not meeting the requirements on safety, performance and quality.
- **Act Amending the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities Act**, which defines supervision of the use of assigned contributions through the introduction of a compulsory revision of the mentioned use; expands the grounds for the withdrawal of the status of a social enterprise or employment centre; regulates in more detail procedures for exercising rights to financial incentive by employers; lays down compulsory training for professional workers carrying out vocational rehabilitation services, for rehabilitation commission members and professional workers in social enterprises and employment centres; introduces changes in financing the adaptation of work posts and tools for work in the supported employment of persons with the most severe disabilities; increases cash benefits during vocational rehabilitation from the present 30% to 40% of minimum pay, with a view to promoting the inclusion of unemployed persons with disabilities in these services.
- **Pension and Disability Insurance Act.**
- **Fiscal Balance Act.**
- **Tasks and Powers of the Police Act:** stipulates that police officers must be particularly considerate in treating victims and persons who need additional attention, assistance and care, such as children, minors, the elderly, persons with disabilities, pregnant women and victims of domestic abuse. It is also expressly states that police officers may not use instruments of restraint on children and the visibly ill, elderly and frail people, visibly seriously disabled persons and visibly pregnant women, unless they must be produced or detained and police officers are unable to control their resistance or assault in any other manner, or if they threaten their own life or the life of other people and property, or if due to other circumstances, their life or health is directly threatened.

- **Act Amending the Ownership Transformation of the Lottery Slovenia Act:** amends the formation of the Foundation for Funding Disability and Humanitarian Organisations of Slovenia (FIHO) Council and lays down the conditions for Council membership. It also stipulates that funds arising from an excess of revenue over expenditure may be used only to increase the property of the foundation or finance the programmes and services of disability and humanitarian organisations in the following year.
- **Family Violence Prevention Act** in accordance with Article 4 under the title Special Protection and Care, the Act stipulates that in providing assistance to victims, special care should be taken in treating the elderly, persons with disabilities and persons who, due to different circumstances, are unable to take care of themselves.
- **Audiovisual Media Services Act:** lays down that the Republic of Slovenia shall encourage providers of audiovisual media services to gradually make their services accessible to people with a visual or hearing disability.
- **Drivers Act:** inter alia regulates the issue of medical examinations regarding physical and the mental (dis)ability to drive due to illness or invalidity.
- **Cultural Heritage Protection Act:** stipulates that immovable cultural heritage shall be accessible to all, particularly the young, the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- **Act Amending the Act Regulating the Realisation of the Public Interest in the Field of Culture:** indirectly applies to artists with disabilities, since it newly regulates the income census for self-employed professionals in culture. It also regulates the co-financing of special tasks of the central regional libraries, including all services and activities of the central regional libraries intended for different groups of persons with disabilities. According to the new stipulations, these may also be co-financed from MIZKŠ intervention funds.

Rules:

- **Rules on criteria for exercising rights with regard to children needing special nursing and protection,** enabling parents of children with special needs to exercise certain rights, in particular, the right to work part-time and the right to partial payment for lost income.
- **Rules on the organisation and work of multidisciplinary teams and regional services and on the activities of social work centres in dealing with domestic violence.**
- **Rules on the treatment of domestic violence for educational institutions.**
- **Rules on cooperation between the police and other authorities in the detection and prevention of domestic violence.**

Decrees:

- **Decree on the method of providing the public utility service of regular scheduled public bus services and on a concession for this public utility service** stipulating that a guide dog can accompany a blind person on means of transport. In inland transport, free transport for guide dogs is permitted on all trains.
- **Decree Amending the Decree on budgetary financing of higher education and other institutions from 2004 up to 2010** provides additional basis for financing additional costs of goods and services relating to carrying out study activities of students with special needs (e.g. for interpreters of Slovenian sign language).
- **Decree on the budgetary financing of higher education and other institutions** provides the basis for financing the creation of conditions to increase the inclusion of students with special needs.

Measures:

- **Measure ensuring the single system of government supports and relief intended for services and benefits in cash for covering additional costs related to disability.** This is a systemic measure which, among inter alia, requires the linking of the public assistance system with the tax relief system; the above-mentioned should be managed by the line ministry competent for the system for protecting persons with disabilities.

Decisions:

- **Decision ensuring traineeship** for at least 16 persons with disabilities at the secondary, higher or university levels of professional education, with each ministry and government service within the General Secretariat of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia ensuring at least one traineeship position and enabling practical training for at least 20 secondary school students with special needs per year. In this connection, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia also recommended that bodies carry out a reserved public procurement procedure as per Article 19 of the Public Procurement Act – reserved public procurement – when the nature of the procurement permits this.
- **Decision of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the possibility of concluding a fixed-duration or permanent employment contract with persons with disabled persons who successfully complete their traineeship.** These hirings shall not be counted in the quota of the permitted number in a certain body as determined by the personnel plan. Through this, the Government sought to encourage the employment of persons with disabilities not only during the traineeship period but also after.
- **Decision amending the code table, medical criteria and price standards of prescribed medical devices chargeable to compulsory health insurance.** The latest amendments to the code book, medical criteria and price standards of medical devices entered into force on 1 July 2013.

Guidelines:

- **Guidelines on the minimum technical requirements for constructing and equipping student homes and other premises for student residence,** which include the requirement that 2% of student bed places within student halls of residence should be ensured for persons with reduced mobility and for student families

Resolutions:

- **Resolution on the National Social Assistance Programme 2006-2010** is a key social assistance strategic document the general objective of which is to improve the quality of life of individuals and families and to increase social cohesion and the social inclusion of all groups of population. The network of social assistance defines services and programmes relating to different groups of persons with disabilities, whereby the resolution strives to improve the availability, variety and provision of improved accessibility and availability of services and programmes. On the whole, it encourages community care for persons with disabilities and other persons who need assistance from another person in their every day life, while it reduces capacities in institutional forms of care. It also envisages the systemic regulation of long-term care through the related health and social services for persons needing such care.
- A key objective of the **Resolution on the National Health Care Plan for 2008–2013** is satisfied users and performers of medical services. The Resolution indicates that in the



Republic of Slovenia, the health care of persons with disabilities is relatively well organised; however, the social and health rehabilitation of persons who lose their sight later in life should be improved and the number of cochlear implants for the deaf should be increased. For persons with reduced mobility, the follow-up rehabilitation should be enhanced and, in particular, an adequate number of medical devices ensured; and for patients with brain damage, transport and personal assistance provided. For the provision of adequate health care to elderly persons with disabilities, additional national care is required. The chapter on physical and rehabilitation medicine provides the basis for the comprehensive multidisciplinary rehabilitation of the blind and partially sighted and for other comprehensive multidisciplinary treatments.

- **Resolution on National Programme for Language Policy:** its programme items include some measures relating to learning, and the promotion and development of sign language for the deaf.
- **Resolution on the National Cultural Programme 2008–2011:** regarding the immovable cultural heritage, the Resolution ensures the realisation of an important objective, which is "Better accessibility to museum materials in order to enhance the general recognisability of important cultural contents and objects (monuments) of cultural heritage by the public and to increase the number of minority groups and vulnerable groups (persons with disabilities, elderly) among museum visitors". The Resolution also ensures the implementation of a measure "to improve the physical accessibility of museums and drafting projects for the presentation of movable cultural heritage, intended for persons with physical and sensory impairments".
- **Resolution on the National Programme for the Prevention of Domestic Violence 2009–2014.** The Resolution covers a wide range of domestic violence. It pays special attention to violence against groups which are particularly vulnerable: children, women, the elderly, the disabled and persons who unable to take care of themselves due to special circumstances. The document takes into consideration the special needs of victims and their personal circumstances. Under the chapter 'Assistance to persons who experience violence' the Resolution specifically and expressly sets the following objective: "Adjustment or establishment of new safe houses and crisis centres for elderly persons, the physically impaired, users with mental health problems and users with special needs." Therefore, special attention has been paid to the needs of persons with disabilities.
- **Resolution on the National Programme for Higher Education 2011-2020:** under the chapter on the social dimension, the Resolution underlines the adaptation of study conditions for students with special needs.

Strategy:

- **Strategy for Promoting Physical Activity to Enhance National Health for the period 2007–2012.** One of the Strategy's objectives is to ensure equal opportunities for health-enhancing physical activity for persons with special needs and/or all disabled persons, in compliance with the measures contained in the API.

Action plans:

- **Action plan for the prevention of family violence 2010-2011:** raises public awareness and the awareness of groups at risk (which include elderly persons with disabilities) regarding all types of assistance.
- **Action plan for the implementation of the Programme for Children and Youth in the Republic of Slovenia 2009–2010:** pays attention to children with special needs.

In the period 2007–2013, the following amendments to legal acts and other strategic documents were adopted:

- The Act Amending the **Personal Income Tax Act** in Article 66 provides that a taxable person may claim a reduction in their tax base for the amount of payments in cash and kind intended for the needs of persons with disabilities via disabled people's organisations.
- Amendments to the **Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act**, which transposes all EU directives and regulations relating to this area into the legislation of the Republic of Slovenia.
- Amendments to the **Health Care and Health Insurance Act**
- Amendments to the **Rules on the requirements for free access to, entry to and use of, public buildings and facilities and multi-apartment buildings**, were enacted since the Constitutional Court set aside the disputed Article 4 of the Rules so that all the buildings for public use have to be constructed without obstacles and not merely those which in terms of capacity and size exceed the stipulations indicated in Article 4 of the Rules.
- Amendments to the **Minimum Technical Conditions for the Construction of Residential Buildings and Dwellings** stipulating minimum requirements for elevators and parking spaces to enable the unobstructed movement of persons with physical impairments.
- Amendments to the **Rules on passenger ships** transpose into Slovenian legislation Directive 2009/45/EC on safety rules and standards for passenger ships, laying down safety requirements for persons with reduced mobility, including the elderly, persons with disabilities and impaired sensory functions and users of wheelchairs, pregnant women and persons accompanying small children.
- Amendments to other legislative documents related to transport.
- Amendments to the **Rules on additional professional and physical assistance for children with special needs**
- Amendments to the **Rules on the organisation and working methods of commissions for the placement of children with special needs and on the criteria for classifying types and levels of deficiencies, impairments and/or disorders in children with special needs**.
- Amendments to the **Rules on compulsory health insurance**: regulate the provision of medical devices.
- Amendments to the **Decree on budgetary financing of higher education and other institutions from 2004 up to 2010** added the basis for financing the additional costs of goods relating to the inclusion of students with special needs. In such a way, special development projects were co-financed that are intended to create opportunities for increasing the inclusion of students with special needs.
- Amendments to the **Rules on employment centres**.
- Amendments to the **Rules on criteria and conditions for the use of funds of the Foundation for Financing Disability and Humanitarian Organisations of Slovenia**. These Rules lay down the principles of financing, conditions and criteria, relations between funds which are allocated to disabled people's organisations and humanitarian organisations, other relations and criteria for the use of funds of the foundation for individual purposes and the procedure for allocating funds.

### **3. ACTION PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES**

#### **1. OBJECTIVE: Raising awareness and providing information**

##### **Description of objective**

Raising awareness and providing information to the general and expert public should ensure the perception of persons with disabilities as equal and equivalent members of society.

##### **Measures:**

- 1.1 Performing activities to raise awareness among the public regarding persons with disabilities, i.e. activities to combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices, including those relating to gender and age, and at the same time raising awareness of good practices in all areas of social activity.
- 1.2 Raising awareness of the professional public working in employment, education, and public administration, as well as in the areas addressing issues relating to disability (rehabilitation and social workers, employers, architects, teachers, medical personnel, personal assistants and others).
- 1.3 Ensuring that more space in the media is dedicated to themes concerning persons with disabilities, and presenting persons with disabilities as active members of society.
- 1.4 Publishing expert and informative materials to raise awareness and provide information to the general and expert public.
- 1.5 Raising the awareness of persons with disabilities and informing them on their rights, duties and opportunities in all areas of their life.

##### **Institutions responsible:**

MK (directorates and services and Public cultural institutions, according to table 1), MZZ, URI – Soča, SOUS, ZIZRS, NSIOS, ZDUS, YHD, Zveza Sonček.

#### **2. OBJECTIVE: Accommodation and integration**

##### **Description of objective**

Persons with disabilities should be enabled to choose their way of life independently, and decide where and with whom they live and how they live; in this regard, it should be ensured that the construction of their residential environment is accessible to anyone and adjusted to the needs of persons with disabilities and their family members, irrespective of whether they decide to live independently in a residential building or live in a care home. For this purpose, the reconstruction of residential areas is often of key importance.

Programmes and education on partnership, sexuality and family for persons with disabilities and for those living with, or in contact with, them should be provided.

To enable an independent life, personal help and personal assistance services should be provided.

Persons with disabilities should not be exposed to arbitrary or illegal intrusion by others into their privacy, family, home, correspondence or other means of communication.

**Measures:**

- 2.1 Provision of facilities for persons with disabilities to make an independent choice of residence and decision on where and with whom they live.
- 2.2 Provision of equal opportunities for persons with disabilities to start and plan a family and parenthood;
- 2.3 Provision of personal assistance to persons with disabilities (systemic and/or legislative regulation of the field).
- 2.4 Provision of other programmes and services enabling an independent life for persons with disabilities, irrespective of their residential environment (home care, transport, medical care and others).
- 2.5 Provision of the free adjustment of residential buildings and residential surfaces for persons with disabilities (enlarged minimum surface area for persons with physical impairments).
- 2.6 Provision of secure and non-profit rental housing for persons with disabilities (preferential treatment in housing allocation).
- 2.7 Promotion of innovation programmes, services and approaches to empower the users (advocacy system).

**Institutions responsible:**

MDDSZ (the Disabled, Veterans and War Victims Directorate, the Family Affairs Directorate, the Social Affairs Directorate), MK (Cultural Diversity and Human Rights Office), MZIP (Construction and Housing Division), NSIOS, YHD, Zveza SONČEK.

**3. OBJECTIVE: Accessibility****Description of objective**

Accessibility is a comprehensive concept, covering not only access to the built environment and removal of architectural barriers, but also access to information and/or communication, which enables a person with disability to be included in a wider social environment and/or all spheres of human life, such as education, employment, sports, and political and cultural life, and access to health care, social care and other services. Accessibility provides persons with disability with an opportunity to be included in social, economic and political life.

In 2005, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the National guidelines to improve the built environment, information and communications accessibility for persons with disabilities in the Strategy for Accessible Slovenia. The legal basis for the Strategy is provided through many acts regulating spatial management, building construction, accessibility of housing, accessibility of the working environment and equipment, air and road transport, electronic communications etc. In 2002, the Use of the Slovenian Sign Language Act was adopted, ensuring the deaf and hard of hearing the right to use the Slovenian Sign Language. Pursuant to the Act, the implementation of the right to be informed, including access to information through techniques adjusted to the deaf and hard of hearing is provided.

**Measures:**

- 3.1 Provision of access to transport (in the Republic of Slovenia to places within a transport area in which public passenger transport is available on every weekday and the provision of access to taxi service) – for boarding and alighting from vehicles and audio visual announcement systems.

- 3.2 Ensuring accessibility to the built environment and access to all public buildings and facilities.
- 3.3 Ensuring accessibility of information and communication (adaptation of documents relating to decision making at the national and local levels for an easy-to-read format); use of the Slovenian sign language for the deaf and hard of hearing, and ensuring reading of subtitles and descriptions of what is shown on screen at least with daily informative, scientific and other educational television programmes; encouraging e-accessibility and the use of other information and communication technologies; encouraging producers to attach Braille inscriptions to their products; preservation of relay centres for persons with sensory and communication impairments, i.e. centres which provide the transmission of information between the deaf and hard of hearing and the others).
- 3.4 Ensuring access to tourist programmes for persons with reduced mobility; encouraging tourist agencies to create tourist activities for persons with disabilities.
- 3.5 Ensuring compliance with safety requirements for persons with reduced mobility with aboard passenger ships and high-speed passenger craft, in accordance with Directive 2009/45/EC on safety rules and standards for passenger ships.

**Institutions responsible:**

MK (directorates and services according to table 1 and all Public cultural institutions), MZIP (all sectors), NSIOS.

**4. OBJECTIVE: Education**

**Description of objective**

In the Republic of Slovenia, in accordance with Article 56 of the Constitution, all citizens must be guaranteed equal rights and opportunities for education and training. Education is important for the development of, and participation of, an individual in society, entry to the labour market and the development of personal capacities. To this end, persons with disabilities should be provided with equal opportunities to participate throughout the education system, in regular and special programmes from pre-school education to higher education.

During their education, persons with disabilities encounter various obstacles: Architectural barriers and information and technical obstacles such as difficulties relating to accessibility to study literature for the blind and partially sighted, sign language interpreters for the deaf, induction loops for the hard of hearing etc. Therefore, ensuring measures to remove such obstacles is necessary.

In the Republic of Slovenia, the education system places children with special needs<sup>1</sup> in educational programmes which are most suitable for them, with emphasis on their inclusion in

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Article 1 and Article 2 of the Placement of Children with Special Needs Act, it also includes children, minors and young adults with special needs and exceptionally, also adults aged between 21 to 26 years (inclusive), who uninterruptedly participate in adapted vocational and technical educational programmes with equal standards of knowledge and in special rehabilitation programmes, and adults aged between 21 to 26 years (inclusive), who are included education and training programme for adults, which is part of a special programme for children with moderate, severe or serious developmental disorders (i.e. children with developmental disorders,

regular educational programmes. At the conceptual and systemic levels, together with other in-line acts, the Placement of Children with Special Needs Act regulates the education and training of children with special needs through the complete vertical, including kindergartens, primary schools and general secondary, vocational and technical education (including post-secondary vocational education). Based on the provision of the Elementary School Act, it regulates the possibility of the education of persons with severe or serious developmental disorders up to the age of 26. To this end, a new Special Educational Programme provides for the above-mentioned population an inclusion in such optional subjects in which they can develop their knowledge and skills to perform certain simple practical tasks.

API 2014–2021 provides for persons with disabilities considering the definition of children with special needs: children with development disorders, blind and partially-sighted children and children with sight impairments, deaf and hard-of-hearing children, and physically impaired children.

**Measures:**

- 4.1 Ensuring equal opportunities in enrolment in all educational programmes and encouraging the increased inclusion of persons with disabilities in regular programmes of education and training.
- 4.2 Ensuring a network of expert institutions providing support for education of persons with disabilities in specialised and regular programmes of education and training.
- 4.3 Ensuring equal opportunities for persons with moderate, severe or serious developmental disorders to be included at all levels of Special Programme of Education and Training (also at the level of training for life and work).
- 4.4 Ensuring practical training, traineeships and practice within secondary and university study programmes with employers through programme incentives.
- 4.5 Developing and supporting life-long learning for unemployed and employed adults with disabilities.
- 4.6 Provision of an adequate number of experts and dissemination of knowledge through educational programmes for pre-school teachers, teachers and education counsellors.
- 4.7 Ensuring text books and other teaching aids in suitable forms considering the type of disability, including provision of text books for children attending a programme with a lower standard of knowledge.
- 4.8 Ensuring spatial and technical conditions for carrying out educational and training programmes and adjusted transport.
- 4.9 Provision of adequate equipment for individual use in the education process.
- 4.10 Ensuring the right to additional communication equipment that is necessary owing to functional impairment.
- 4.11 Ensuring physical assistance to all pupils and students who need such assistance.
- 4.12 Ensuring support during higher education by means of personal assistance, accompanying and counselling to students with disabilities, provision of suitable accommodation facilities for students with disabilities and the provision of a scholarship scheme encouraging the attainment of higher education.
- 4.13 Encouraging the learning of sign language and the provision of bilingual education to the deaf.

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blind and partially-sighted children or children with sight impairments, deaf and hard-of-hearing children, children with speech and language impairments, physically impaired children, long-term sick children, children lacking knowledge in specific areas, children with autistic spectrum disorders, children with emotional and behavioural disorders who need educational programmes with professional assistance or educational programmes for children with special needs or special educational programmes).

**Institutions responsible:**

MK (directorates and services and Public cultural institutions, according to table 1), MDDSZ (the Disabled, Veterans and War Victims Directorate, the Social Affairs Directorate, the Labour Market and Employment Directorate), MIZŠ (directorates and services, the National Education Institute, higher education institutions), SOUS (public institutions and concessionaires), NSIOS.

## **5. OBJECTIVES: Work and employment**

### **Description of objective**

In addition to education, work and employment are of key social and economic importance for persons with disabilities in leading an independent life. Owing to their lower education level, they are usually at a disadvantage when seeking employment; they also lose their jobs more quickly, and it is difficult for them to attain promotion. Work limitations owing to reduced or limited capacity for work additionally aggravate the position of a person with a disability regarding his or her inclusion in the labour market. Owing to his or her limitations, he or she needs adaptations of the workplace and working environment. For this reason, measures to ensure persons with disabilities increased employability through different programmes and training should be ensured. Employers should be informed of the possibility of adaptations of the workplace and working environment, and persons with disabilities should be encouraged to become actively involved in seeking work.

Council Directive 2000/78/EC, which establishes a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation, which prohibits discrimination due to disability, should be complied with. The objective of the Directive is to increase the employability of persons with disabilities in the total number of persons in employment; to provide them with opportunities to obtain vocational qualifications, taking into account their abilities and capacities; to ensure them working and living conditions that will reduce the possibilities of disability incurrence and to provide working environments adjusted to the abilities of persons with disabilities to perform their work.

To ensure the transition of young persons with disabilities to the labour market, preparation for entering the labour market should already begin during schooling, and the pupils should be provided with support in their transition until they find a stable job. Taking measures to effectively develop possibilities and opportunities for young persons with disabilities is also promoted by the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020 and the World Programme of Action for Youth.

### **Measures:**

- 5.1 Unifying expert criteria and procedures for establishing special needs and the need for help and support and for estimating invalidity used by the institutions of the Republic of Slovenia (ZPIZ, ZZZS, ESS, National Education Institute).
- 5.2 Ensuring a support system for employers who employ persons with disabilities: encouraging reserved public contracts, combining employment-education programmes and temporary employment within non-market employment opportunities and other forms of subsidized employment; establishing education, awareness-raising and publicity programmes for employers; providing free professional advisory services to employers and persons with disabilities in training and the employment of persons with disabilities; encouraging the adaptation of workplaces and supported employment and ensuring support services for persons with disabilities through decisions on supported employment.
- 5.3 Enhancing the employability of employed persons with disabilities; ensuring support in the development of vocational careers of employed persons with disability and ensuring adequate technical devices and workplace adaptations for all persons with disabilities; encouraging training and employment for persons with disabilities in public administration bodies; preparing programmes to encourage employers to preserve jobs



- and provide new jobs to persons with disabilities who lose their jobs through the cancellation of their employment contract.
- 5.4 Ensuring the earliest possible inclusion of unemployed disabled persons in one of the active forms of addressing the issues (life-long career orientation, active employment policy programmes, vocational rehabilitation services, provision of support to young persons with disabilities in their transition from education to employment, incentive cash benefits for all included persons with disabilities irrespective of their status).
  - 5.5 Ensuring a network of professional support for the provision of vocational rehabilitation services: improving the ratio between unemployed persons with disabilities and the number of rehabilitation advisers in regional services of the Employment Service; ensuring a network of vocational rehabilitation service providers; reducing waiting periods for inclusion in the services; encouraging the development of employers' network for providing training, additional education and training of all professional workers; the inclusion of non-governmental and/or disabled people's organisations in the system of support services within the framework of supported employment.
  - 5.6 Setting up a system to provide for the transition of a person with disabilities from a status of a social rights beneficiary to the status of a job seeker or employed person and back (provide persons with disabilities with a suspension of their status rights obtained under the Act Concerning Social Care of Mentally and Physically Handicapped Persons).

**Institutions responsible:**

MK (directorates and services and Public cultural institutions, according to table 1), MDDSZ (the Disabled, Veterans and War Victims Directorate, the Social Affairs Directorate, the Labour Market and Employment Directorate, the Public Guarantee, Maintenance and Disability Fund of the Republic of Slovenia), MNZ, ZPIZ, ESS, URI – Soča, SOUS, ZIZRS, NSIOS.

**6. OBJECTIVE: Financial and social security**

**Description of objective**

Person with disabilities are exposed to a greater risk of poverty than others; in particular this has been expressed in the recent years of global economic and financial crisis in the eurozone. For this reason, appropriate social security measures should be taken to ensure an appropriate life for persons with disabilities. In this connection, the fact that persons with disabilities and members of their families often have higher costs due to invalidity than other people should also be considered.

State benefits, i.e. services and monetary benefits for persons with disabilities should therefore be made adequately uniform or brought into line with the nature or severity of their disability. Social security programmes should include incentives to encourage reliance on one's own strength and capacities; they should also ensure the development and financing of vocational training and employment.

**Measures:**

- 6.1 Ensuring a single system of government support and relief intended for services and benefits in cash to cover additional costs related to disability. In particular, the system should be created for the needs of persons with disabilities.
- 6.2 Also ensuring income and social security to persons who take care of persons with disabilities.

- 6.3 Ensuring appropriate minimum monetary benefits for persons with disabilities who live in care homes and have no income.
- 6.4 Ensuring longer maternity leave or longer child-care leave for parents with disabilities.
- 6.5 Ensuring access by particularly vulnerable groups of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities and older persons with disabilities, to increased social protection and poverty reduction mechanisms.
- 6.6 Setting up a long-term care system to provide equal accessibility and rights to all persons with disabilities.

**Institutions responsible:**

MDDSZ (the Disabled, Veterans and War Victims Directorate, the Family Affairs Directorate, the Social Affairs Directorate), MF, NSIOS.

**7. OBJECTIVE: Health and provision of medical care****Description of objective**

Access to appropriate medical and health care must be an inalienable human right. Health care, as well as social security services, are both indicators of the condition and status of development of a society. Health and the provision of medical care are fundamental human rights. To that end, through appropriate measures, medical care must be provided to all, irrespective of the health condition, social and economic situation or capacity of an individual. To protect health and lead a healthy life are fundamental duties of every individual. Through appropriate programmes, also persons with disabilities can maintain and recover their health.

Persons with disabilities, like others, are provided with health and medical care under the Health Care and Health Insurance Act.

**Measures:**

- 7.1 Provision of comprehensive and harmonised health and social policies (among others, implementation of the "International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health" of the World Health Organisation).
- 7.2 Encouraging innovative organisational approaches, the objective of which is to increase flexibility in providing health care adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities.
- 7.3 Ensuring increased accessibility of health-care programmes and services irrespective of gender, nature or severity of disability (e.g. the ZZSZ finances the follow-up rehabilitation).
- 7.4 Encouraging persons with disabilities to play an active role in solving their own health problems, supporting programmes for raising awareness on healthy lifestyle.
- 7.5 Improving systemic regulation regarding medical devices and support technology for persons with disabilities and people working with persons with disabilities.
- 7.6 Ensuring the early detection and comprehensive early treatment of children with special needs and their families, with special emphasis on mobility, assistance, allowing children to stay with their families.
- 7.7 Ensuring comprehensive rehabilitation for adults who go blind and to partially sighted-persons and the deaf and hard of hearing, as well as to deaf-blind persons.
- 7.8 Improving the knowledge and behaviour of staff in medical institutions regarding certain types of invalidity, so that persons with disabilities are treated according to their disability and needs.
- 7.9 Systematic collection of information on health and needs of persons with disabilities and children with special needs and the existing network connections within the community, as well as seeking ways to adapt health-care capacities to the actual needs of persons with disabilities.
- 7.10 Improvement in the provision of health care services to persons with disabilities placed in social care institutions and in special education institutions.
- 7.11 Establishment of a single multidisciplinary body to integrate procedures to assess disability, temporary absence from work, employability, long-term provision of care, occupational rehabilitation, adaptation of the workplace, medical devices, assistance of another person in all basic daily activities, rehabilitation treatment...

**Institutions responsible:**

MDDSZ (the Social Affairs Directorate), MZ, ZPIZ, ZZZS, SOUS (public institutions and concessionaires), NSIOS.

**8. OBJECTIVE: Cultural engagement****Description of objective**

Culture is one of the most important characteristics of humans; it is the world in which people develop and which distinguishes them from other living creatures. Culture mirrors our values and our world. For this reason, an appropriate culture policy should provide equal rights for everybody to access culture and participate in its creation.

The current projects based on the Cultural Heritage Protection Act, the Libraries Act, the Act Regulating the Realisation of the Public Interest in the Field of Culture and the Media Act. Through co-financing projects and the development of technical infrastructure, the government contributes to improving communication accessibility and increasing the diversity of programmes intended for persons with disabilities.

**Measures:**

- 8.1 Informing the whole population on the cultural contributions of persons with disabilities.
- 8.2 Increasing opportunities for co-financing projects intended for persons with disabilities from the budget.
- 8.3 Encouraging general libraries to provide books and newspapers and audio and electronic materials adapted for the blind and partially sighted, deaf and hard of hearing and persons with developmental disorders.
- 8.4 Encouraging the establishment of societies and similar cultural associations and encouraging artists with disabilities to associate.
- 8.5 Systemic provision of financing and publishing adapted newspapers (for the blind and partially sighted and persons with developmental disorders).
- 8.6 Preparing legislation in accordance with international law to ensure that laws on the protection of intellectual property rights do not constitute an unreasonable or discriminatory barrier to access to cultural materials by persons with disabilities.
- 8.7 Encouraging the provision of books and newspapers and audio and electronic materials adapted for the blind and partially sighted, deaf and hard of hearing and persons with developmental disorders in general libraries.
- 8.8 Inclusion of a library for the blind and partially sighted in a national libraries network and ensuring the systemic financing of its functioning by the government.
- 8.9 Encouraging cooperation between disabled people's organisations, cultural and arts groups and individual artists with disabilities in cultural and artistic creativity at local, national, inter-governmental, European and international levels.
- 8.10 Increase in the number of digitised contents accessible via the Internet and adapted to the needs of different groups of persons with disabilities.

**Institutions responsible:**

MK (MK internal organisational units, all Public cultural institutions), NSIOS, YHD, Zveza Sonček.

## **9. OBJECTIVE: Sports and leisure activities**

### **Description of objective**

The basic objectives of sports and leisure activities are to raise a person's psychosomatic status as much as possible, preventive health measures, maintain and improve health, effective rest and recovery, use of leisure time for rich cultural contents. In addition to the positive impact on health, sports and leisure activities are also important factors in slowing down and preventing future illnesses.

Implementing measures to ensure equal opportunities and an improvement in the quality of life by means of sports and leisure time activities for persons with disabilities should be ensured. To that end, persons with disabilities should be provided access to sporting, recreational and tourism venues. Sports and leisure-time activities should become an integral part of the rehabilitation of a person with a disability, irrespective of the nature or severity of the disability, age or level of physical capacity, since the recreation should be adapted to the needs of the person.

### **Measures:**

- 9.1 Introduction of knowledge of the specifics of the sports of persons with disabilities in educational programmes for sports professionals and ensuring high-quality physical education for persons with disabilities.
- 9.2 Provision of sports facilities access to persons with disabilities who engage in sports and to persons with disabilities who attend sports events as spectators (entrance, toilets, markings, information and communications).
- 9.3 Encouraging recreational activities suitable to the nature or severity of the disability of disabled persons in disabled people's organisations and other associations.
- 9.4 Training of sports elements should become an integral part of the education and rehabilitation of any person with disability.
- 9.5 Encouraging in-line sports competitions for all persons with disabilities at the national level (in the school system).
- 9.6 Equalisation of legal status for sportsmen and sportsmen with disabilities (classification, benefits...)

### **Institutions responsible:**

MIZŠ, NSIOS, Zveza Sonček, the Olympic Committee of Slovenia – Association of Sports Federations (OCS-ASF).

## **10. OBJECTIVE: Spiritual and religious life**

### **Description of objective**

The religious freedom of the individual is regulated as a freedom of conscience under 41 Article of the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia and ensures the right of every individual to freely profess his or her religious and other beliefs in private and public life. However, despite the freedom of expression which is a defined constitutional right, owing to many obstacles it is difficult for persons with disabilities to be involved in spiritual and religious life or participate in it.

For this reason, measures providing equal participation in spiritual and religious life are needed. In this regard, it should be ensured that they may join to religious and spiritual communities in their local communities and wider environment.



**Measure:**

- 10.1 The provision of permanent spiritual care for persons with disabilities who request it, and in particular those who are immobile and in permanent care, either at home, another residence or institution, through visits by religious workers or other spiritual leader of a registered religious group of their own choice.

**Institutions responsible:**

MK (Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Religious Communities).

**11. OBJECTIVE: Self-organisation of persons with disabilities****Description of objective**

Persons with disabilities self-organise in disabled people's organisations and other forms. Persons with disabilities and their legal representatives join together in interest voluntary associations in a form of disabled people's organisation to establish, justify and fulfil the special needs of persons with disabilities and represent their interests. The objectives of a disabled people's organisation to achieve quality in disabled persons' lives are the following:

- Enforcing the human rights of disabled persons;
- Drawing attention to the principle of non-discrimination of persons with disabilities;
- Promotion of the inclusion of persons with disabilities in social life;
- Contribution to public awareness;
- Participation in preventing and removing obstacles etc.

In representing the interests of individual and common contents relating to disability issues, disabled people's organisations, in accordance with the Disabled People's Organizations Act, should be ensured the enhancement of permanent advisory and representative roles at regional and local levels. The law also regulates the role of the National Council of Disability Organisations.

Systemic statutory and executive provisions should ensure permanent, sufficient and independent financing to carry out special social programmes and their development investments.

**Measures:**

- 11.1 Developing the role of disabled people's organisation through permanent, sufficient and independent financing from the Foundation for Funding Disability and Humanitarian Organisations and other sources.
- 11.2 Regulation of the legal status of, and ensuring co-financing of, the National Council of Disability Organisations operation, following the example of the financing of the European Disability Forum.
- 11.3 Meeting criteria and conditions for obtaining the status of a representative organisation of people with disabilities and periodic monitoring of compliance with these conditions.
- 11.4 Compliance with criteria and conditions for financing disabled people's organisations under the programme.

**Institutions responsible:**

MDDSZ (Disabled, Veterans and War Victims Directorate), NSIOS, YHD, Zveza Sonček.





## **12. OBJECTIVE: Violence and discrimination**

### **Description of objective**

In addition to physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence and the neglect or abuse to which persons with disabilities are most often exposed, violence is also considered any discriminatory treatment due to disability, as well as exclusion from, or restriction of, human rights and fundamental freedoms in any area of life. Owing to specific limitations resulting from physical, sensory or communication impairments and mental development disorders, persons with disabilities are an extremely vulnerable group, which is more exposed than other groups to all forms of violence and discrimination. Violence may occur in the family or in institutions.

Therefore, the assistance provided by the government, local communities and social networks of non-governmental sectors is necessary. The protection of personal inviolability must be ensured for persons with disabilities also in cases of forced hospitalisation and involuntary treatment. In realising this objective, particular attention should be paid to women, elderly people and children, since they are especially exposed to violence and discrimination.

### **Measures:**

- 12.1 Raising awareness of persons with disabilities regarding their rights and opportunities to act upon possible abuse or violence, also by providing publications adapted for persons with disabilities on the detection and prevention of violence against persons with disabilities.
- 12.2 Drawing the attention of the public to violence against and abuse of (in particular, children, women and old people with disabilities).
- 12.3 Raising awareness and preventing mobbing in the workplace due to disability.
- 12.4 Ensuring professional staff education on the identification and prevention of abuse and violence and taking measures against them.
- 12.5 Ensuring programmes and services to provide assistance to persons with disabilities and to their self-help in detection, resolution and prevention of violence against them.
- 12.6 Prohibiting the performance of medical and scientific experiments on persons with disabilities without their prior and informed consent.
- 12.7 Collection of statistical data on violence and discrimination against persons with disabilities.

### **Institutions responsible:**

MK (Culture and Media Inspectorate), MDDSZ (Family Affairs Directorate, Labour and Labour Rights Directorate, Equal Opportunities and European Coordination Service), MNZ (Police), NSIOS, YHD, Zveza Sonček.

## **13. OBJECTIVE: Ageing with a disability**

### **Description of objective**

Some people live with a disability all their lives, while others are faced with disability towards the end of their lives; however, old age and disability are common to both groups, and often also unequal living, working and other conditions. In the Republic of Slovenia, population ageing has increased considerably, and for this reason, as in other European countries, the issue has an important place in Slovenian national policy that provides appropriate opportunities for the ageing population.

To that end, effective and appropriate measures should be taken by the government to enable the elderly and ageing persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence and full inclusion and participation in all aspects of life. Mutual assistance and intergenerational cooperation should be enhanced. Services related to health, employment, education and social assistance, including comprehensive rehabilitation and social services, should be organised, strengthened and extended.

This is also linked to the provision and realisation of measures to set up appropriate institutional care and domestic help, encourage self-help and support by the family, and last but not least, ensure the training of professional staff. In doing so, concerted action by the government, profession and non-governmental organisations is necessary.

**Measures:**

- 13.1 Raising awareness about ageing and promoting the rights and dignity of the elderly, in particular by combating stereotypes and prejudices.
- 13.2 Inclusion of educational contents on the needs of elderly and persons with disabilities in educational programmes for health care and social assistance professions, and offering additional education for professional staff in residential homes for the elderly, rehabilitation centres and other institutions.
- 13.3 Construction of appropriate living quarters for the elderly and ageing persons with disabilities located near an urban environment.
- 13.4 Ensuring that elderly persons with disabilities enjoy respect for their privacy and participation in decisions affecting their living conditions in the institution.
- 13.5 Provision of social security for elderly and ageing persons with disabilities and ensuring programmes to reduce the risk of poverty, and financing and establishing services the purpose of which is care for people in their usual environment.
- 13.6 Organisation of professional assistance in social work centres (special coordinator) for elderly and ageing persons with disabilities and the establishment of the institution of an escort and advocate at the local level to provide assistance in settling various issues and in the prevention of violence and abuse, as well as in taking action if they should occur.
- 13.7 Provision of medical services that elderly and persons with disabilities most often need owing to difficulties related to old age and disability.
- 13.8 Encouraging intergenerational cooperation, voluntary activities and public works that provide help to elderly and ageing persons with disabilities.
- 13.9 Promoting the operation of organisations that represent elderly and ageing persons with disabilities at international, national, regional and local levels.
- 13.10 Provision of legal protection to elderly people who became disabled.

**Institutions responsible:**

MDDSZ (the Disabled, Veterans and War Victims Directorate, the Social Affairs Directorate), MZZ, SOUS, NSIOS, ZDUS.

**4. API 2014–2021 FOLLOW-UP**

The institutions (Table 1) mentioned in this programme are responsible for the implementation of objectives and measures under the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2014–2021.

The Commission for Monitoring API appointed by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia is responsible for monitoring the implementation of objectives and measures under the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2007–2013. The commission's task is to present an annual report to the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the implementation of the action programme for the preceding. The Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia prepares a draft Report on the basis of reports submitted by members of the Commission for the Monitoring of API. In submitting the information, the members of the Commission follow the Instructions on Reporting mentioned below. The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities produces a report which it submits to the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

**Instructions to members of the Commission for Monitoring API regarding the method of reporting on the activities carried out**

The table below presents the hierarchy of reporting on API 2014–2021 implementation. Rapporteurs (members of the Commission) obtain data from the institutions responsible (budget users and other subcontractors) on activities carried out in connection with the measures stated for the preceding year.

Table 1: Relations between rapporteurs, institutions responsible and objectives

<b>RAPPORTEURS (also institutions responsible)</b>	<b>INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIBLE (budget users and other subcontractors of ministries and other organisations defined as rapporteurs)</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES for which an individual institution is responsible</b>
<b>MINISTRIES</b>		
<b>Ministry of Culture</b>	<b>Ministries and offices</b>	
	Media Directorate	Objective 1, measure 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Objective 3, measure 3 Objective 4, measures 3, 4, 9, 12 Objective 5, measure 1 Objective 8, measures 1, 2, 5, 7
	Creativity Directorate (with the <i>Arts Division</i> and the <i>Division for Matters of Status</i> within it)	Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 5 Objective 3, measures 2, 3 Objective 4, measures 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 Objective 5, measure 1 Objective 8, measures 1, 2, 4
	Cultural Heritage Directorate (with the <i>Division for Museums, Archives and Libraries</i> , the <i>Immovable Cultural Heritage Division</i> and the <i>Information and Documentation Centre for Cultural Heritage</i> within it)	Objective 3, measures 2, 3 Objective 4, measures 3, 4, 9 Objective 5, measure 1 Objective 8, measures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8

Information and Documentation Centre for Cultural Heritage	Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 5 Objective 3, measures 2, 3 Objective 4, measures 3, 4, 6, 9 Objective 5, measure 1 Objective 8, measures 1, 2, 3, 7, 8
Archives of the Republic of Slovenia (body within MK)	Objective 3, measures 2, 3 Objective 4, measures 3, 9 Objective 5, measure 1 Objective 8, measures 1, 2
Cultural Diversity and Human Rights Service	Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 5 Objective 2, measure 7 Objective 3, measures 2, 3 Objective 4, measure 3 Objective 5, measure 1 Objective 8, measures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8
European Affairs and International Cooperation Service	Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Objective 3, measures 2, 3 Objective 4, measures 3, 4, 12 Objective 5, measure 1 Objective 8, measures 1, 2
Slovenian Language Service	Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 4, 5 Objective 3, measure 3 Objective 4, measures 3, 4, 6, 9, 12 Objective 8, measures 1, 2
General Affairs and Personnel Service	Objective 4, measure 3 Objective 5, measure 1
Investments and Property Management Service	Objective 3, measure 2 Objective 8, measure 2
IT and Administrative Affairs Service	Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 4, 5 Objective 3, measure 3
MK Legal Service	Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 5 Objective 8, measure 6
Finance and Budget Service	Objective 5, measure 1 Objective 8, measure 2
Culture and Media Inspectorate (body within the MK)	Objective 1, measures 1, 5 Objective 3, measures 2, 3 Objective 4, measures 3, 4, 6, 9, 12 Objective 5, measure 1 Objective 8, measure 6 Objective 12, measures 1, 2
Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Religious	Objective 3, measures 2, 3 Objective 10, measure 1

	Communities	
	<b>Public cultural institutions</b>	
	General Slovenian libraries (totalling 58 libraries organised in 10 areas – reports by the Division for Museums, Archives and Libraries within the MK)	Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 4, 5 Objective 3, measures 2, 3 Objective 4, measures 3, 4, 6, 9, 12 Objective 5, measure 1 Objective 8, measures 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8
	Ljubljana National and University Library (reports by the Division for Museums, Archives and Libraries within the MK)	Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 4, 5 Objective 3, measures 2, 3 Objective 4, measures 3, 4, 6, 9, 12 Objective 5, measure 1 Objective 8, measures 1, 2, 3, 7, 8
	Archives (reports by the Division for Museums, Archives and Libraries within the MK)	Objective 3, measures 2, 3 Objective 4, measures 3, 9 Objective 5, measure 1 Objective 8, measure 1
	Museums (reports by the Division for Museums, Archives and Libraries within the MK)	Objective 3, measures 2, 3 Objective 4, measures 3, 4, 6, 9, 12 Objective 5, measure 1 Objective 8, measures 1, 2, 4
	Galleries (reports by the Arts Division within the MK)	Objective 3, measures 2, 3 Objective 4, measures 3, 4, 6, 9, 12 Objective 5, measure 1 Objective 8, measures 1, 2, 4
	Theatres (reports by Arts Division within the MK)	Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 5 Objective 3, measures 2, 3 Objective 4, measures 3, 4, 6, 9, 12 Objective 5, measure 1 Objective 8, measures 1, 2, 4
	Public musical institutions (the Slovenian Philharmonic, the Slovene National Theatre Opera and Ballet Ljubljana etc – reports by the Arts Division within the MK))	Objective 1, measure 1 Objective 3, measures 2, 3 Objective 4, measures 3, 4, 6, 9, 12 Objective 5, measure 1 Objective 8, measures 1, 2, 4
	Public institutions for film arts (the Slovenian film Centre (SCF), the Viba film, the Slovenian Film Museum – reports by the Arts Division within the MK)	Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 3, 5 Objective 3, measures 2, 3 Objective 4, measures 3, 4, 6, 9, 12

		Objective 5, measure 1 Objective 8, measures 1, 2
	Cankarjev dom culture and congress centre in Ljubljana (reports by the Arts Division within the MK)	Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 5 Objective 3, measures 2, 3 Objective 4, measures 3, 4, 9, 12 Objective 5, measure 1 Objective 8, measures 1, 2, 4
	Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities (JSKD) (reports by the Media Directorate within the MK)	Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Objective 3, measures 2, 3 Objective 4, measures 3, 4, 6, 12 Objective 5, measure 1 Objective 8, measures 1, 2, 4
	Public Slovenian Book Agency (reports by the Division for Museums, Archives and Libraries)	Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 4, 5 Objective 3, measure 3 Objective 4, measures 4, 6, 12 Objective 5, measure 1 Objective 8, measures 1, 2, 3, 7
	Radiotelevizija Slovenija (reports by Media Directorate within the MK)	Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 3, 5 Objective 3, measure 3 Objective 4, measures 3, 4, 12 Objective 5, measure 1 Objective 8, measures 1, 2, 3, 4
	Cankarjev dom culture and congress centre in Ljubljana (reports by the Arts Division within the MK)	Objective 3, measures 2, 3 Objective 8, measures 1, 2
<b>The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities</b>	Disabled, Veterans and War Victims Directorate	Objective 2, measure 3 Objective 4, measures 10, 12 Objective 5, measures 1, 3 Objective 6, measures 1, 6 Objective 11, measures 1, 2, 3 Objective 13, measure 9
	Family Affairs Directorate	Objective 2, measure 2 Objective 6, measures 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 Objective 12, measure 2
	Social Affairs Directorate	Objective 2, measures 1, 4, 7 Objective 4, measure 2 Objective 5, measure 4 Objective 6, measures 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 Objective 7, measure 1 Objective 13, measures 1, 3, 4,

		5, 6, 8, 9, 10
	Labour Market and Employment Directorate	Objective 4, measure 4 Objective 5, measures 1, 2
	Labour and Labour Rights Directorate	Objective 12, measure 3
	Equal Opportunities and European Coordination Service	Objective 12, measure 2
	Public Guarantee, Maintenance and Disability Fund of the Republic of Slovenia	Objective 5, measure 1
<b>Ministry of Infrastructure and Spatial Planning</b>	<b>Transport Directorate</b>	
	Public Transport and Cableways Division	Objective 3, measure 1
	<b>Infrastructure Directorate</b>	
	Roads Division	Objective 3, measure 2
	Railways Division	
	Aviation Division	
	Maritime Division	
	Port State Control of the Slovenian Maritime Administration	Objective 3, measure 5
	<b>Spatial Planning Directorate</b>	
	State-Level Spatial Planning Division	Objective 3, measure 2
	Local Spatial Planning Division	Objective 3, measure 2
Construction and Housing Division	Objective 3, measure 2 Objective 2, measures 5, 6	
<b>The Ministry of Education, Science, and Sport</b>	MIZŠ Ministries and offices	Objective 4, measures 1, 7, 10 Objective 9, measures 1, 4, 5, 6
	Slovenian Education Institute (ZRSŠ)	Objective 4, measures 2, 5, 6
	Higher education institutions (VI)	Objective 4, measures 1, 11
	Olympic Committee of Slovenia – Association of Sports Federations (OKS-ZŠZ)	Objective 9, measure 6
<b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</b>	Human Rights Department	Objective 1, measure 2 Objective 13, measure 1
<b>Ministry of the Interior</b>		Objective 5, measure 1
	Police	Objective 12, measure 7
<b>Ministry of Health</b>		Objective 7, measures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
<b>Ministry of Finance</b>		Objective 6, measure 1
<b>GOVERNMENT OFFICES</b>		

<b>Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SURS)</b>	SURS	<b>SURS does not directly participate in the realisation of individual objectives and/or measures defined under the Action Programme for persons with disabilities; however, it ensures the provision to different institutions responsible for these tasks the information and data needed to estimate the tasks performed in order to realise the objectives of the programme.</b>
<b>PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTIONS</b>		
<b>Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of the Republic of Slovenia</b>	Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of the Republic of Slovenia	Objective 5, measure 1, 3, 5 Objective 7, measure 10
<b>Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia</b>	Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia	Objective 7, measures 3, 5, 7
<b>Social Protection Institute of the RS</b>	Social Protection Institute of the RS (IRSSV)	IRSSV reports on the objectives in connection with which it carried out tasks in the previous year.
<b>Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia</b>	Employment Service of the Republic of Slovenia	Objective 5, measures 1, 2, 3, 4
<b>University Rehabilitation Institute of the Republic of Slovenia – Soča</b>	University Rehabilitation Institute of the Republic of Slovenia – Soča	Objective 1, measures 2, 4 Objective 5, measures 1, 3, 6
<b>Association of Slovenian Training Organisations for Persons with Special Needs</b>	Public institutes and concessionaires	Objective 1, measures 2, 4 Objective 4, measure 5 Objective 7, measure 2 Objective 13, measure 2
<b>Association of Vocational Rehabilitation Providers of the Republic of Slovenia</b>	Vocational rehabilitation providers	Objective 1, measure 2 Objective 5, measures 1, 3, 5, 6
<b>DISABLED PEOPLE'S ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS</b>		
<b>National Council of</b>	NSIOS and members	Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 3,



<b>Disabled People's Organisations of Slovenia</b>		4, 5 Objective 2, measures 2, 7 Objective 3, measure, 3 Objective 4, measures 1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 12 Objective 5, measures 1, 2, 3 Objective 6, measure 6 Objective 7, measures 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 Objective 8, measures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 Objective 9, measures 1, 2, 3, 6 Objective 11, measures 1, 2, 3 Objective 12, measures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Objective 13, measure 8
<b>Association of Pensioners' Societies of Slovenia</b>		Objective 1, measures 1, 4, 5 Objective 13, measures 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10
<b>Sonček – Cerebral Palsy Societies' Association of Slovenia</b>		They may report on all objectives and measures from the aspect of the non-governmental organisations.
<b>YHD – Association for the Theory and Culture of Handicap</b>		They may report on all objectives and measures from the aspect of the non-governmental organisations.

For data collection and API realisation reports, the rapporteurs should comply with the following instructions:

Provide records annually for the preceding year for all activities performed in that (preceding) year within the framework of the planned categories. For each objective, data should be written as follows:

1. *Adopted legislation* – provide a list in the previous year of adopted laws, rules and other implementing regulations and amendments thereof; also provide a list of measures, decisions, national programmes, other strategic documents and similar; and briefly outline the contents of the adopted legislation on issues relating to disability.
2. *Legislation in preparation* – provide a list of the above-mentioned types of document which were in preparation in the previous year and briefly outline the contents of the legislation in preparation on the issues relating to disability.
3. *Programmes* – provide a list of activities and projects continuing over a longer period carried out in the previous year, such as:
  - public tenders, invitations and orders in connection with issues relating to disability;
  - implemented programmes the users of which are persons with disabilities or relatives or those close to such persons;

- awareness-rising projects on issues relating to disability;
- training projects provided to persons working with persons with disabilities;
- programmes to reduce communication and architectural barriers to persons with disabilities –improved accessibility programmes;
- the introduction of new forms of assistance and services for persons with disabilities, as well as the introduction or adaptation of general services to persons with disabilities etc.;

and briefly outline the contents of these activities and projects.

4. *Research activities* – provide a list of research activities, studies, test programmes and research projects etc. which you completed/ were carrying out in the previous year and briefly outline their contents.
5. *Events* – provide a list of a one-off events which you carried out in the previous year, such as conferences, congresses, meetings, exhibitions, seminars, workshops, publications or other events, and briefly outline their contents.
6. *Quantity data* – provide a list of quantity data, such as the number of users of services and programmes, proportion of adaptations, financial resources used for a certain activity etc.
7. *Difficulties, warnings, comments, proposals* – draw attention to possible difficulties and warnings in the implementation of the measures and prepare comments and proposals for the future.

Along with each of the above-mentioned activities, rapporteurs state the measures under which the activity was performed.

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- The continuation of good practices (for example, Municipality Tailored to the Needs of People with Disabilities (accessibility), marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, (awareness-rising), etc.).
- Developing the information system to support an increase in the analytical capacity of the disability policy: Collection of appropriate information, including statistical and research data, for the preparation of a comprehensive analysis of protection of persons with disabilities which will provide for shaping and implementing policies and measures under this Action Programme in compliance with the European statistical classification. Data collection and storage procedure must be in compliance with the legislation on the protection of personal data in order to ensure confidentiality, secrecy and respect for the privacy of persons with disabilities. The collected statistical data must be used to assist in establishing the implementation of objectives under in the Action Programme.
- Exercising rights according to the European card: the purpose of the European card bearing a working name InclEUusive Card is to provide, in a certain country, equal benefits to national and foreign persons with disabilities. Benefits may be free or allow for a reduced price for services (for example, admission to cultural facilities, free or cheap transport, free admission to performances, possibility of assistance...).
- The governing bodies (e.g. the administrative boards) of the institutions should examine the API 2014–2021 and include it in their business plans for the next year.