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**ACTION PROGRAMME FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**2022–2030**

**LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**Ministries:**

* MDDSZ – Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
* MF – Ministry of Finance
* MIZŠ – Ministry of Education, Science, and Sport
* MJU – Ministry of Public Administration
* MK – Ministry of Culture
* MNZ – Ministry of the Interior
* MZI – Ministry of Infrastructure
* MOP – Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning
* MZ – Ministry of Health
* MZZ – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
* MP – Ministry of Justice
* MGRT – Ministry of Economic Development and Technology
* MORS – Ministry of Defence

**Government offices:**

* SURS – Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia
* URSZR – Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief

**Professional institutions:**

* IRSSV – Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia
* JŠRIPSRS – Public Scholarship, Development, Disability and Maintenance 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
* ZIZRS – Association of Vocational Rehabilitation Providers of the Republic of Slovenia
* ZPIZ – Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia
* ZRSZ – Employment Service of Slovenia
* ZZZS – Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia

**Organisations for persons with disabilities and other organisations:**

* NSIOS – National Council of Disabled People's Organisations of Slovenia
* FIHO – Foundation for the Financing of Disability and Humanitarian Organisations in the Republic of Slovenia
* ZDUS – Slovenian Federation of Pensioners’ Organisations
* YHD – Association for the Theory and Culture of Disability
* Zveza SONČEK – ‘SONČEK’ Association of Cerebral Palsy Societies of Slovenia

**Other acronyms and abbreviations:**

* API – Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities

1. **INTRODUCTION**

Persons with disabilities, taken together, constitute the largest minority in the world, with more than 650 million individuals according to the United Nations; around 87 million of such live in Europe (European Commission (2021) Union of Equality Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030). There are an estimated 170,000 persons with disabilities and physical impairments in Slovenia. Persons with disabilities are an important part of society; it is therefore essential to ensure their equal participation in the development of society and their activities in society. To achieve this, however, they must have the same opportunities, recognising that they face various obstacles as a result of the interaction of biological and social circumstances, including reduced accessibility.

The Constitution of Slovenia stipulates that human rights and fundamental freedoms are guaranteed to everyone regardless of personal circumstances, and with the amendment of Article 14 in 2004, disability is also stated as a personal circumstance. The Constitution expressly stresses the right of persons with disabilities 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 enabling 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.

With its modern disability protection policy, Slovenia is comparable to other developed European countries. It is a country that strives to implement the principles of social justice and equal opportunities for all. Even prior to the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol in 2008, it adopted its first Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2007-2013 in 2006 and the second version thereof, which is to conclude at the end of 2021, in 2014. Long before that, Slovenia had already adopted the Concept of the development strategy of disability care in 1991. It was 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.

Besides the Convention, the following basic documents of the United Nations and the documents of the European Union have been taken into account in the preparation of the Programme: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, The Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and Global Disability Action Plan, Council Directive 2000/78/EC establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation, the European Disability Strategy 2010–2020: A Renewed Commitment to a Barrier-Free Europe (COM(2010) 636 final), the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030, the European Parliament Resolution of 30 November 2017 on implementation of the European Disability Strategy (2017/2127(INI)) and (2018/C 356/17)), Directive (EU) 2019/882 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the accessibility requirements for products and services, Directive (EU) 2018/1808 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 amending Directive 2010/13/EU on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive) in view of changing market realities, and Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies.

The Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030 follows the development guidelines of Slovenia outlined in the Slovenian Development Strategy 2030 and focuses on the economic and social activities of Slovenia. Special attention needs to be devoted to these during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, as persons with disabilities are part of society and one of the most vulnerable groups most affected by the pandemic. It will be necessary to re-establish the normalisation of the entire system of functioning of the state and dedicate part of it to persons with disabilities. The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting society and exacerbating pre-existing inequalities. Even under normal circumstances, persons with disabilities around the world, not only in Slovenia, have difficulty accessing education, healthcare and livelihoods, as well as the possibility of equal participation and inclusion in the community. The situation is aggravated in humanitarian crises, as COVID-19 has demonstrated. Situations such as these namely increase the risk of poverty and the level of violence, neglect and abuse. It is therefore our duty to develop the future of society in such a manner that any potential new crisis will not bring new surprises, and to analyse the current situation and build a better society in which persons with disabilities will have a better life as well.

According to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. In Slovenia, the status of a person with a disability is defined on the basis of various Acts and through the provisions of these acts; persons with disabilities can exercise their rights. The most important of such Acts include the following:

* The Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act
* The Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities Act
* The Pension and Disability Insurance Act
* The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities Act
* The Placement of Children with Special Needs Act
* The War Veterans Act

The disability policy in Slovenia is not encompassed in a single, umbrella act, but is addressed in a number of acts in various departments under sectoral legislation. Since 2006, when the first action programme was adopted, and since 2008, when the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was ratified, Slovenia has taken many steps in implementing disability legislation. The sequence of new and amended legislation is recorded in this and the previous Action Programme 2014-2021, and the details thereof are stated in the annual reports.

In order 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, disability 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 2022–2030:

Persons with disabilities do not comprise a homogeneous group, but have different functional limitations conditioned by different types of disability: persons with mental development disorders, visually, hearing and physically impaired persons, and other persons confronted with different everyday obstacles in all areas of human life. Due to the rapid growth of the older and very old population, needs as to long-term care are growing as well. Therefore, persons with disabilities must continue to be ensured:

* equal opportunities and non-discriminatory treatment;
* participation in decision-making and participation in society;
* access to all fields of life;
* the creation of opportunities to achieve the highest possible level of health, education and training, employability and socio-economic independence;
* accessibility and the use of information technology, digitalisation and robotisation for better participation in society;
* full and effective participation in society;
* the provision of information and public education;
* respect for diversity and the acceptance of disability; and the
* the implementation of programmes intended for persons with disabilities.

The tasks of the disability protection policy for the period 2022–2030:

* to provide systemic measures to remove obstacles to achieving equal opportunities for persons with disabilities to fully participate at the level of the local community and society;
* to take preventive measures against discrimination affecting 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, the adoption of the Long-Term Care Act);
* to ensure partnerships with persons with disabilities in the planning, selection, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects that are to be financed from EU Structural Funds;
* to provide quality health and disability insurance;
* to provide occupational and vocational rehabilitation of unemployed and employed persons with disabilities;
* to provide personal assistance to all who need it;
* to provide long-term care;
* to provide social protection;
* to devote particular attention to institutional care; and
* to implement deinstitutionalisation.

The document below includes the following:

* thirteen objectives of the Action Programme, first outlined in general, then detailed with specific measures;
* implementation and instructions for monitoring the implementation of the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030, and
* recommendations supporting the objectives of the Action Programme but not falling under specific objectives;
* an outline of legal acts and strategic documents on the protection of persons with disabilities adopted during the implementation of the second Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities, i.e. from 2013 to 2020. Although the second Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities was implemented in the period 2014–2021, the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2014-2021 could not cover the legislation adopted in 2013 as the rapporteurs reported on it only in 2014, when the implementation of the 2014-2021 Action Programme was already under way; therefore, the legislation for 2013 is included in the existing document, which, for the same reason, does not include the legislation for 2021.

**2. ACTION PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES**

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

**Description of the objective**

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

**Measures:**

* 1. Performing activities to raise public awareness 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 to raise awareness of good practices in all areas of social activity.
  2. Raising the awareness of the professional public working in employment, education, public administration and health, as well as in areas addressing issues relating to disability (rehabilitation and social workers, employers, architects, teachers, medical personnel, personal assistants, decision-makers (e.g. deputies, persons responsible for drawing up acts at ministries and the local administration level) and others).
  3. Ensuring that more space in the media is dedicated to topics concerning the life of persons with disabilities, and presenting persons with disabilities as active members of society.
  4. Publishing expert and informative materials to raise awareness and providing information to the general and expert public.
  5. Raising the awareness of persons with disabilities and informing them of their rights, duties and opportunities in all areas of their life, especially regarding changes in recommendations, decisions, rules and legislation.
  6. In crisis situations, it is necessary to devote systematic attention to informing persons with disabilities and providing information in various forms and formats adapted to each group of persons with disabilities. Special attention should also be devoted to support service providers (personal assistants, family assistants, home carers, etc.), who are an important source of information for persons with disabilities.

**Institutions responsible:**

MK, MZZ, MOP, URI – Soča, SOUS, NIJZ, ZIZRS, NSIOS, ZDUS, YHD, Zveza Sonček

**OBJECTIVE 2: Accommodation and integration**

**Description of the objective**

Persons with disabilities should be enabled to choose their way of life independently, and to decide where, with whom, 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 in an institution. For this purpose, the reconstruction of residential areas is often of key importance.

In order to ensure the independent living of persons with disabilities, the state must provide personal help and assistance services as well as appropriate living conditions at the systemic level (enabling access to architecturally adapted housing provided by the state and local communities). Persons with disabilities face many challenges in solving their housing problems, as there are very few housing units on the open market that are suitable to comfortable and quality life (e.g. the inaccessibility of buildings, narrow doors, small bathroom areas, the inaccessibility of balconies and cellars, deficient arrangements for persons with sensory disabilities). Taking into account the aspects of an ageing society, the aspect of architecturally appropriate housing is particularly important. Creating minimum standards that would enable appropriate and safe living in all periods of an individual’s life would largely meet the criteria of ensuring the accessibility of housing for persons with disabilities, as well as enabling them to remain in their home environment even in old age.

The arrangement of living environments (e.g. the removal of architectural barriers, larger living areas to accommodate wheelchair movement) and the installation of possible aids (e.g. personal or ceiling lifts) in home environments can be a very large financial burden for an individual.

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

To enable an independent life, personal help and assistance services must be provided, as well as services ensuring support and assistance for better inclusion in society through systemic arrangements.

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:**

* 1. Providing opportunities for persons with disabilities to make an independent choice of residence and deciding on where and with whom they live.
  2. Providing support and services of social inclusion to persons with disabilities according to the Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities Act, and ensuring appropriately systemically organised support and assistance for independent living for other persons with mental development disorders.
  3. Providing equal opportunities and support for persons with disabilities to start and plan a family and parenthood.
  4. Providing personal assistance and long-term care to persons with disabilities on the basis of the Personal Assistance Act and the Rules on personal assistance.
  5. Providing personal assistance services in crisis situations (e.g. pandemics, natural disasters).
  6. Providing other programmes and services enabling deinstitutionalisation and an independent life for persons with disabilities, irrespective of their residential environment (home care, transport, medical care and others).
  7. Providing the free adaptation of residential buildings and residential surfaces for persons with disabilities (an enlarged minimum surface area for persons with physical impairments), where the state should provide funding for housing adaptations with the aim of ensuring equal access to the living environment (along the same lines as adapting cars).
  8. Providing secure and non-profit rental housing for persons with disabilities (preferential treatment in housing allocation).
  9. Promoting innovation programmes, services and approaches to empower users (the advocacy system).

**The institutions responsible:**

MDDSZ, MK, MOP, NIJZ, NSIOS, YHD, and Zveza Sonček

**OBJECTIVE 3: Accessibility**

**Description of the objective**

Accessibility is a comprehensive concept, covering not only access to the built environment and the removal of architectural barriers, but also access to information and/or communication, which enables a person with a 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 healthcare, social care and other services. Accessibility provides persons with disabilities an opportunity to be included in social, economic and political life.

On 27 May 2021, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted a Constitutional Act enshrining the right to use and develop the Slovenian sign language in Article 62a of the Constitution. The same article provides that the freedom to use and develop tactile sign language shall be governed by law. The freedom to use and develop the Slovenian sign language shall be guaranteed. In those municipalities where also Italian and Hungarian are official languages, the freedom to use the Italian and Hungarian sign language, respectively, shall be guaranteed. The use of these languages and the status of their users as well as free use and development of the language of deafblind persons is governed by law.

**Measures:**

* 1. Implementing Directive (EU) 2019/882 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the accessibility requirements for products and services.
  2. Providing access to transport (in Slovenia, to places within a transport area in which public passenger transport is available on every weekday and to taxi services) – boarding and alighting from vehicles, audio-visual announcement systems and accompaniment services, if necessary.
  3. Ensuring accessibility to the built environment and access to all public buildings and facilities.
  4. Ensuring the accessibility of information and communication (the adaptation of documents relating to decision-making at the national and local levels as to easy-to-read formats); use of the Slovenian sign language for persons who are deaf, and reading subtitles and descriptions of what is shown on screen for persons who are blind; the full accessibility of TV content must be ensured by the public RTV, operators and commercial televisions; encouraging e-accessibility and the use of other information and communication technologies; encouraging producers to attach Braille inscriptions to their products; preserving relay centres for persons with sensory and communication impairments, i.e. centres that provide the transmission of information between persons who are deaf or hard of hearing and others, providing persons who are deafblind access to information with the help of interpreters).
  5. Ensuring access to tourist programmes for persons with reduced mobility; encouraging tourist agencies to create tourist activities for persons with disabilities.
  6. Ensuring compliance with safety requirements for persons with reduced mobility aboard passenger ships and high-speed passenger craft, in accordance with Directive 2009/45/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009 on safety rules and standards for passenger ships (OJ L 163 of 25 June 2009, p. 1), last amended by Directive 2017/2108/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2017 amending Directive 2009/45/EC on safety rules and standards for passenger ships (OJ L 315, 30 November 2017, p. 40), which was amended by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/411 of 19 November 2019 amending Directive 2009/45/EC of the European Parliament and the Council on safety rules and standards for passenger ships, as regards the safety requirements for passenger ships engaged on domestic voyages (OJ L 83 of 19 March 2020, p. 1)and lays down special requirements for passenger ships, and Regulation (EU) No. 1177/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 concerning the rights of passengers when travelling by sea and inland waterways and amending Regulation (EC) No. 2006/2004.
  7. Ensuring safety in all fields of accessibility.
  8. Ensuring access to 112 and 113 emergency numbers in various accessible formats for persons with disabilities.
  9. Ensuring that regular education programmes, especially higher education programmes, include topics on the accessibility of the built environment and information for persons with disabilities and other persons with reduced mobility.

**Institutions responsible:**

MK, MOP, MZI, MGRT, URSZR, NIJZ, NSIOS

**OBJECTIVE 4: Education**

**Description of the 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 and participation of an individual in society, entry into the labour market, and the development of personal capacities. To this end, persons with disabilities should be provided equal opportunities to participate throughout the education system, in regular and special programmes at all levels – from preschool education to higher education, as well as in lifelong learning programmes and other forms of informal education.

In Slovenia, the education of children and youth with special needs is carried out as a public service. Exceptionally, such education can also be carried out in private kindergartens and schools without a concession, in private institutions, or as home education.

The education and training of children with special needs is integrated in all sector-specific laws; these are supplemented by the Integrated Early Treatment of Preschool Children with Special Needs Act, the Placement of Children with Special Needs Act, and the Act on Interventions for Children and Youth with Emotional and Behavioural Disorders in Education, which are an important step towards ensuring conditions for implementing the inclusive paradigm. These Acts establish the conditions for the implementation of providing continuous assistance to children with special needs in education and training. Based on a provision of the Elementary School Act, the Placement of Children with Special Needs Act regulates the possibility of educating persons with severe or serious mental development disorders up to the age of 26. To this end, a new Special Educational Programme was drafted that ensures the above-mentioned population inclusion in such optional subjects in which they can develop their knowledge and skills in order to perform certain simple practical tasks.

The API 2022-2030 also includes persons with disabilities who are defined by the Placement of Children with Special Needs Act as children with mental development disorders, children who are blind or partially sighted, or children with visual impairment, children who are deaf or hard of hearing, and children and adolescents with reduced mobility.

Since persons with disabilities encounter various obstacles during their education – architectural barriers and information and technical obstacles, such as difficulties relating to accessibility to study literature for the persons who are blind or partially sighted, sign language interpreters for persons who are deaf and induction loops for persons who are hard of hearing, etc., it is necessary to ensure measures that remove such obstacles.

**Measures:**

* 1. Ensuring equal opportunities in enrolment in all educational programmes and promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in regular programmes of education and training.
  2. Ensuring a network of expert institutions providing support for the education of persons with disabilities in specialised and regular programmes of education and training.
  3. Ensuring opportunities for persons included in education in the framework of the Special Programme of Education and Training (also at the level of training for life and work) to acquire qualifications enabling them to enter work.
  4. Ensuring practical training (both at school and at employers), traineeships and practice within secondary and university study programmes with employers through programme incentives.
  5. Implementing an apprenticeship system tailored to those young people with special needs for whom such education system is suitable.
  6. Developing and supporting life-long learning for unemployed and employed adults with disabilities.
  7. Ensuring an adequate number of experts and the dissemination of knowledge through educational programmes for preschool teachers, teachers and education counsellors.
  8. Providing textbooks and other teaching aids in suitable forms considering the type of disability, including the provision of textbooks for children attending a programme with a lower standard of knowledge.
  9. Ensuring spatial and technical conditions for carrying out educational and training programmes and adjusted transport (ensuring the accessibility of the built environment in educational institutions must also include the accessibility of premises such as toilets, including the installation of facilities for moving persons with disabilities, such as ceiling lifts).
  10. Ensuring adequate equipment for individual use in the educational process.
  11. Ensuring the right to additional communication equipment necessary owing to a functional impairment.
  12. Ensuring physical assistance to all pupils and students who need such assistance.
  13. Ensuring support during higher education by means of personal assistance, accompanying and counselling to students with disabilities, providing suitable accommodation facilities for students with disabilities and providing a scholarship scheme encouraging the attainment of higher education.
  14. Promoting the learning of sign language, tactile sign language and the bilingual education of persons who are deaf, learning sign language and tactile sign language as an elective subject for everyone in primary and secondary school; promoting sign language learning and tactile sign language for public administration workers and providers of public services who communicate with clients or service users within their workplace.
  15. Providing students with comparable educational pathways in accordance with the type of disability and their abilities.
  16. Providing a system of education for children with a mental development disorder, which will enable more flexible adaptation to educational needs and better conditions for further education (transition between programmes, inclusion in educational programmes, etc.).
  17. Implementing programmes as lifelong preparation for independent living according to the individual type and specifics of the disability, which includes the necessary adjustments according to the nature of the disability (daily tasks, learning social skills, communication methods, use of technical aids, etc.).

**Institutions responsible:**

MK, MDDSZ, MIZŠ, NIJZ, NSIOS

**OBJECTIVE 5: Work and employment**

**Description of the objective**

In addition to education, work and employment are of key social and economic importance for persons with disabilities in order to enable them to lead an independent life. Persons with disabilities need to be provided a work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible. For this reason, measures to increase the employability of employed and unemployed persons with disabilities through different programmes and training, or vocational and occupational rehabilitation, should be implemented. Employers should be informed of the possibility of adapting workplaces and working environments, thus supporting employment services, incentives for employing persons with disabilities, and good practices in the successful and productive inclusion of persons with disabilities, while 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, and which prohibits discrimination due to disability, should be complied with. The objective of the Directive is to increase the employability of persons with disabilities as compared to 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 working and living conditions that will reduce the possibilities of disability, and to provide a working environment adjusted to the abilities of persons with disabilities to perform their work.

In order to ensure the transition of young persons with disabilities to the labour market, system-level preparation for entering the labour market should already begin during schooling, and students should be provided 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 2021–2030 and the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond.

**Measures:**

* 1. Examining the possibility of unifying expert criteria and procedures for establishing special needs and the need to help, support, and assess disability, as implemented by the institutions of the Republic of Slovenia (ZPIZ, ZZZS, ESS, National Education Institute).
  2. Ensuring a support system for employers of persons with disabilities (encouraging reserved public contracts, combining employment-education programmes and temporary employment within non-market employment opportunities and other forms of subsidised employment; establishing education, awareness-raising and publicity programmes for employers; providing free professional advisory services to employers and persons with disabilities in the training and employment of persons with disabilities; encouraging the adaptation of workplaces and supported employment, and ensuring support services for persons with disabilities).
  3. Including content on the employment of persons with disabilities in educational programmes in the field of organisation management, entrepreneurship and labour relations.
  4. Enhancing the employability of employed persons with disabilities; ensuring support in the development of professional careers of employed persons with disabilities and adequate technical devices and workplace adaptations for all persons with disabilities; encouraging the training and employment of 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 termination of their employment contract.
  5. Ensuring the earliest possible inclusion of unemployed persons with disabilities in an active form of treatment (i.e. encouraging a life-long career orientation, the development of adapted forms of active employment policy programmes implementation, vocational rehabilitation services, the provision of systemic support to young persons with disabilities in their transition from education to employment, providing incentive cash benefits for all included persons with disabilities irrespective of their status) and providing early vocational and employment rehabilitation in the process of returning to work at the system-wide level.
  6. Based on the results of the pilot project entitled “ The development and implementation of the transition of young people with special needs to the labour market, a systemic solution for the transition of young people with special needs from school to the labour market should be provided within the existing system of vocational rehabilitation, and the system for the education of young people with special needs should thus be connected with the employment system, which has an impact on increasing the employability and social inclusion of the vulnerable target group of young people with special needs.
  7. Improving the network of providers that involve social inclusion programmes, especially in regions where it has not been possible to include persons who are not employable due to disability (with an unemployability decision).
  8. Raising awareness of employers in order to promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market, and organising a public competition for the awarding of annual prizes for good practice in the field of employment of persons with disabilities.
  9. Encouraging employers to enable, in the context of the COVID-19 epidemic, telework for employed persons with disabilities and distance training for users of vocational rehabilitation services.
  10. In vocational rehabilitation, enabling persons with disabilities to be included in distance vocational rehabilitation services, where persons with disabilities are supported technologically (the purchase of information and communication technology – ICT), by providing funds for wi-fi and training in the use of ICT.

**Institutions responsible:**

MK, MDDS, MGRT, ZPIZ, ZRSZ, URI – Soča, SOUS, ZIZRS, NIJZ, NSIOS

**OBJECTIVE 6: Financial and social security**

**Description of the objective**

Persons with disabilities are exposed to a greater risk of poverty than others; this was already established in the years of the global economic and financial crisis in the Eurozone. This is again evident now, during the COVID-19 pandemic, where an increase in poverty and a higher level of violence, neglect and abuse have been observed. For this reason, appropriate social security measures should be taken to ensure an appropriate standard of living for persons with disabilities. In this connection, the fact that persons with disabilities and members of their families often have higher costs due to disability than other people should also be considered.

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

**Measures:**

* 1. Ensuring a single system of government support and relief intended for services and cash benefits to cover additional costs related to disability. In particular, the system should be based on the needs of persons with disabilities.
  2. Providing a minimum monthly income that ensures adequate social security for persons with disabilities without other adequate income.
  3. Providing income and social security to persons who take care of persons with disabilities.
  4. Ensuring appropriate, at least minimum, cash benefits for persons with disabilities who live in institutions and have no income.
  5. Ensuring longer maternity leave or longer childcare leave for parents with disabilities.
  6. Ensuring particularly vulnerable groups of persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities and older persons with disabilities, access to increased social security and poverty reduction mechanisms.
  7. Setting up a long-term care system to provide equal accessibility and rights to all persons with disabilities.

**Institutions responsible:**

MDDSZ, MF, NIJZ, NSIOS

**OBJECTIVE 7: Health and the provision of medical care**

**Description of the objective**

Access to appropriate medical and healthcare must be an inalienable human right. Healthcare, as well as social security services, are both indicators of the condition and status of development of a society. Health and healthcare are fundamental human rights. To this end, appropriate measures should be taken to provide healthcare to all, irrespective of the health condition, social and economic situation or capacity of the individual. Protecting one’s health and leading a healthy lifestyle are fundamental duties of every individual. Through appropriate programmes, persons with disabilities can maintain and recover their health as well. Particularly important are health programmes of restorative rehabilitation, which are intended to prevent or slow down the progression of disability, manage disability, maintain health and prevent the occurrence of secondary impairments or health complications.

Given the rapid development of medicine, it is important to enable persons with disabilities to access modern methods of treatment and thus achieve the highest possible level of health and functioning.

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

**Measures:**

* 1. Providing comprehensive and harmonised health and social policies (among others, by implementing the “International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health” of the World Health Organisation).
  2. Encouraging innovative organisational approaches, the objective of which is to increase flexibility in providing healthcare adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities.
  3. Increasing the accessibility of healthcare programmes and services irrespective of age, gender, or the nature or severity of disability (e.g. by the ZZZS financing restorative rehabilitation).
  4. Encouraging persons with disabilities to play an active role in solving their own health problems; support programmes for raising awareness of healthy lifestyles and implementing preventive health programmes for various types of persons with disabilities with the aim of maintaining and restoring their remaining health (programmes for strengthening and maintaining health).
  5. Improving systemic regulation regarding medical devices and support technology for persons with disabilities and people working with persons with disabilities.
  6. Ensuring early detection and comprehensive early treatment of children with special needs and their families, with a special emphasis on mobile forms of assistance allowing children to stay with their families.
  7. Ensuring comprehensive rehabilitation (medical, psychological, social and vocational) for adults who are blind or partially sighted and persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, and persons who are deafblind.
  8. Providing professional restorative rehabilitation programmes.
  9. Improving the knowledge and behaviour of staff in medical institutions regarding certain types of disability, so that persons with disabilities are treated according to their disabilities and needs, and taking into account the needs and respecting the dignity of persons with disabilities through treatment, including the need to communicate directly with persons with disabilities whenever possible.
  10. Systematically collecting information on the 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.
  11. Improving the provision of healthcare services to persons with disabilities placed in social care institutions and in special education institutions.
  12. Examining the possibility of establishing a single criterion and subsequently a single multidisciplinary body covering procedures for assessing disability, temporary absence from work, employability, the long-term provision of care, occupational rehabilitation, workplace adaptation, medical devices, the assistance and attendance of another person in all basic daily activities, and rehabilitation.
  13. Providing information and instructions from healthcare services directly to persons with disabilities in a manner adapted to them, to interpreters of Slovenian sign language, interpreters for persons who are deafblind, personal assistants, family assistants or informal caregivers of persons with disabilities.
  14. Providing programmes adapted to persons with disabilities according to their needs.
  15. Adapting standards and norms as regards providing healthcare services to individual types of persons with disabilities.
  16. Providing support in the process of returning to work.
  17. Amending the List of Physical Disabilities and Occupational Diseases.
  18. In case of extraordinary circumstances in the country, vulnerable social groups are included in exceptions or subject to positive discrimination, when measures related to the provision of healthcare services for the purpose of protecting and preserving health do not apply to them (e.g. the cancellation of examinations and rehabilitation, the inability to have visitors during hospitalisation, visits to homes for older persons, etc.).

**Institutions responsible:**

MDDSZ, MZ, ZPIZ, ZZZS, SOUS, NIJZ, NSIOS

**OBJECTIVE 8: Cultural engagement**

**Description of the 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 cultural policy should provide equal rights for everyone to access culture and participate in the creation thereof.

The current projects are 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:**

* 1. Informing the general population of the cultural contributions of persons with disabilities.
  2. Increasing opportunities for co-financing projects intended for persons with disabilities from the budget.
  3. Encouraging public libraries to provide books and newspapers and audiovisual and electronic materials adapted for the persons who are blind or partially sighted, persons who are deaf or hard of hearing and persons with mental development disorders.
  4. Ensuring the development of a special library for persons who are blind or partially sighted and other persons with reading disabilities, and the conversion of books into forms accessible to persons who are blind or partially sighted.
  5. Encouraging the establishment of societies and similar cultural associations, and encouraging artists with disabilities to associate.
  6. Ensuring the system-level financing and publication of adapted newspapers (for persons who are blind or partially sighted and persons with mental development disorders).
  7. Drafting legislation in the field of copyright and related rights, which will ensure, in accordance with international law, that laws protecting intellectual property are reasonable or non-discriminatory in terms of the accessibility of persons with disabilities.
  8. Encouraging the provision of books and newspapers and audiovisual and electronic materials adapted for persons who are blind or partially sighted, persons who are deaf or hard of hearing and persons with mental development disorders in specialised and public libraries.
  9. Including a library for persons who are blind or partially sighted in the national library network and ensuring the systemic financing of its functioning by the government.
  10. Encouraging cooperation between disability organisations, cultural and arts groups and individual artists with disabilities in cultural and artistic creativity at the local, national, inter-governmental, European and international levels.
  11. Increasing the amount of digitised content accessible via the Internet and adapted to the needs of different groups of persons with disabilities.

**Institutions responsible:**

MK, NIJZ, NSIOS, YHD, Zveza Sonček

**OBJECTIVE 9: Sports and leisure activities**

**Description of the objective**

The basic objectives of sports and leisure activities are: the maximum improvement of a person’s psychosomatic condition, the prevention, maintenance and improvement of health, effective rest and recovery, and leisure time rich in cultural and other content. In addition to the positive impact on health, sports and leisure activities are important factors in slowing down and preventing future illnesses.

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

**Measures:**

* 1. Introducing 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.
  2. Ensuring that sports facilities provide 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).
  3. Encouraging recreational activities suitable to the nature or severity of disabilities in disability organisations and other associations.
  4. Making learning sports skills an integral part of the education and rehabilitation of any person with a disability.
  5. Encouraging sports competitions for all persons with disabilities at the national level (in the school system).
  6. Equalising the legal status of athletes and athletes with disabilities (classification, benefits, etc.).

**Institutions responsible:**

MIZŠ, MOP, NIJZ, NSIOS, Zveza Sonček, OKS-ZŠZ

**OBJECTIVE 10: Spiritual and religious life**

**Description of the objective**

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

For this reason, measures ensuring equal participation in spiritual and religious life are needed. In this regard, such persons should be enabled to join religious and spiritual communities in their local communities and wider environment.

**Measures:**

1. Providing permanent spiritual care to persons with disabilities who request it, and in particular those who are immobile and in permanent care, either at home, or in another environment or institution, through visits by a religious worker or another spiritual leader of a registered religious group of their own choice.
2. Providing access to religious buildings or churches (persons with disabilities in wheelchairs, persons who are blind with a guide dog, etc.).

**Institutions responsible:**

MK, Caritas Slovenia

**OBJECTIVE 11: The self-organisation of persons with disabilities**

**Description of the objective**

Persons with disabilities are self-organised in disability organisations and other forms. Persons with disabilities and their legal representatives associated by interest voluntarily join disability associations to establish, justify and fulfil the special needs of persons with disabilities and represent their interests. The objectives of disability organisations to achieve a high quality of life of persons with disabilities are the following:

* to enforce the human rights of persons with disabilities;
* to draw attention to the principle of the non-discrimination of persons with disabilities;
* to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in social life;
* to contribute to public awareness;
* to participate in preventing and removing obstacles, etc.

In representing the interests of individual and common content relating to disability issues, disability organisations, in accordance with the Organisations for Persons with Disabilities Act, should be ensured the strengthening of permanent advisory and representative roles at the national, regional and local levels. The Act also regulates the role of the National Council of Disability Organisations.

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

**Measures:**

1. Developing the role of disability organisations through permanent, sufficient and independent financing from the Foundation for Funding Disability and Humanitarian Organisations and other sources.
2. Regulating the legal status and ensuring the co-financing of the operation of the National Council of Disability Organisations, following the example of the financing of the European Disability Forum.
3. Meeting the criteria and conditions for obtaining the status of a representative organisation of persons with disabilities and periodic monitoring of compliance with these conditions.
4. Complying with the criteria and conditions for financing disability organisations under the programme.
5. Providing permanent, sufficient and independent means for the implementation of advocacy and representation/advocacy of the issues of persons with disabilities before state and other bodies to all representative disability organisations.
6. Regulating the status of the Council for Persons with Disabilities of the Republic of Slovenia and its appropriate position.

**Institutions responsible:**

MDDSZ, NIJZ, NSIOS, YHD, Zveza Sonček

**OBJECTIVE 12: Violence and discrimination**

**Description of the objective**

In addition to physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence and the neglect or abuse to which persons with disabilities are often exposed, violence includes any discriminatory treatment due to disability, as well as exclusion from or the 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 group to all forms of violence and discrimination. Violence may occur in the family or in institutions. A necessary precondition for the prevention of discrimination and violence is that both persons with disabilities and society as a whole are familiar with the concept and content of discrimination, and that there is zero tolerance for violence in society, so appropriate educational and awareness-raising activities and programmes at all levels of education are extremely important for achieving this objective.

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 devoted to women, older people and children, since they are especially exposed to violence and discrimination.

**Measures:**

* 1. Raising the 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.
  2. Drawing public attention to violence and abuse (in particular, violence against children, women and old persons with disabilities) and to the importance of (non)discrimination.
  3. Raising awareness and preventing mobbing in the workplace due to disability.
  4. Educating professional staff on the identification and prevention of abuse and violence and acting against them.
  5. Implementing programmes and services to provide assistance to persons with disabilities and self-help in the detection, resolution and prevention of violence against them (including a safe house accessible to persons with disabilities, the provision of personal assistance in a safe house, etc.).
  6. Prohibiting the performance of medical and scientific experiments on persons with disabilities without their prior and informed consent.
  7. Examining the possibility of obtaining statistical data on violence and discrimination against persons with disabilities.

**Institutions responsible:**

MK, MDDSZ, NSIOS, YHD, Zveza Sonček

**OBJECTIVE 13: Ageing with a disability**

**Description of the objective**

Some people live with a disability all their lives, while others are faced with disability towards the end of their lives; however, what both groups have in common is old age and disability 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.

Due to the demographic trends of an increasing number of pensioners, a new group is emerging, namely parents who are already older and at the same time disabled taking care of their children, or older persons with disabilities taking care of their parents who are also disabled. Such families are socio-economically even more vulnerable and have even more mobility problems, not only physical but also functional (e.g. functional literacy, access to information sources, etc.)

To this end, effective and appropriate measures should be taken by the government to enable older 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 or domestic help and long-term care, to encourage self-help and support from the family, and last but not least, to ensure the training of professional staff. In doing so, concerted action by the government, professionals and non-governmental organisations is necessary.

**Measures:**

* 1. Raising awareness of ageing and promoting the rights and dignity of older people, in particular by combating stereotypes and prejudices.
  2. Including content on the needs of older persons and persons with disabilities in educational programmes for healthcare and social assistance professions, and offering additional education for professional staff in residential homes for older persons, rehabilitation centres and other institutions.
  3. Constructing appropriate living quarters for older and ageing persons with disabilities integrated into an urban environment.
  4. Ensuring that older persons with disabilities enjoy respect for their privacy and participate in decisions affecting their living conditions in an institution.
  5. Providing social security for older and ageing persons with disabilities and programmes to reduce the risk of poverty, and financing and establishing services providing care for people in their usual environment.
  6. Organising professional assistance in social work centres (a special coordinator) for older and ageing persons with disabilities, and establishing the institution of an escort and advocating 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 arise.
  7. Providing long-term care and medical services that older persons and persons with disabilities most often need owing to difficulties related to old age and disability.
  8. Encouraging intergenerational cooperation, voluntary activities and community works that provide help to older and ageing persons with disabilities.
  9. Promoting the operation of organisations that represent older and ageing persons with disabilities at the international, national, regional and local levels.
  10. Providing legal protection to older people who have become disabled.
  11. Providing protection in crises and natural disasters.
  12. Enabling older persons with disabilities to maintain a familiar social environment through a variety of activities tailored to their abilities.

**Institutions responsible:**

MDDSZ, MZZ, NIJZ, SOUS, NSIOS, ZDUS

**3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

* Continue good practices (for example, Municipality Tailored to the Needs of Persons with Disabilities (accessibility), marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, (awareness- raising), etc.).
* Draft the Act on the accessibility of products and services for persons with disabilities based on Directive (EU) 2019/882 on the accessibility requirements for products and services: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/SL/TXT/HTML/?uri=LEGISSUM:4403933)
* Develop an information system to support an increase in the analytical capacity of the disability policy: collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, for the preparation of a comprehensive analysis of the protection of persons with disabilities, which will enable the formation and implementation of policies and measures under this Action Programme in compliance with the European Statistical Classification. The 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 the Action Programme.
* Prepare an information system for the implementation of the Personal Assistance Act.
* Implement and further develop the EU Disability Card: https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1139) in accordance with the recommendations of the European Disability Strategy 2020–2030: [https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1484&langId=en](https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1484&amp;amp;langId=en)
* Amend the Organisations for Persons with Disabilities Act so as to enable systemic support for the implementation of the tasks of the National Council of Disabled People's Organisations of Slovenia (NSIOS) in accordance with the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and prepare research, analysis, reports and development documents.
* Provide funding and other forms of institutional support to strengthen the capacity and activities of advocacy within the National Council of Disabled People's Organisations of Slovenia and disability organisations themselves, to strengthen the advocacy and watchdog role of the NSIOS and disability organisations and increase support for human rights, the empowerment of vulnerable groups and the sustainable development of disability organisations.
* The governing bodies (e.g. the administrative boards) of the institutions should examine the API 2022–2030 and include it in their business plans for the next year.
* The Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022–2030 will be implemented in accordance with the funds earmarked from the budget of the Republic of Slovenia.

**ANNEXES TO THE ACTION PROGRAMME FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES 2022–2030**

**1. API 2022–2030 FOLLOW-UP**

The institutions (Table 1) mentioned in this programme are responsible for the implementation of the objectives and measures under the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2022-2026.

The Commission for Monitoring the 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 2022–2030. The Commission’s task is to submit an annual report to the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the implementation of the Action Programme for the preceding year. On the basis of the reports sent by the members of the API Monitoring Commission, the report for the preceding year is drawn up. 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 and submits it to the Government of the Republic of Slovenia.

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

The table below presents the hierarchy of reporting on the implementation of the API 2022–2026. 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, the institutions responsible and the objectives

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Rapporteurs** | **Objectives and measures** |
| **Ministry of Culture** |  |
| **Directorates and offices** |  |
| **The Media Directorate** (also reporting on Radiotelevizija Slovenija) | Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| Objective 3, measure 4 |
| Objective 4, measures 3, 5, 11, 12, 14 |
| Objective 5, measure 2 |
| Objective 8, measures 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 |
| **The Creativity Directorate** (*covering the Arts Division, the Division for Matters of Status and Statistics and Analysis Division* – also reporting on public institutions from the fields of audio-visual, film, music, and performing, visual and intermedia arts). | Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 5 |
| Objective 3, measures 3, 4 |
| Objective 4, measures 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14 |
| Objective 5, measure 2 |
| Objective 8, measures 1, 2, 4 |
| **The Cultural Heritage Directorate** (comprising the *Division for Museums, Archives and Libraries, the Immovable Cultural Heritage Division and the Information and Documentation Centre for Cultural Heritage (INDOK) –* also reporting on cultural monuments in Slovenia, Slovenian museums, public libraries and other public institutions dealing with cultural heritage protection) | Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 4, 5 |
| Objective 3, measures 3, 4 |
| Objective 4, measures 3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14 |
| Objective 5, measure 2 |
| Objective 8, measures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 |
| **The Cultural Diversity and Human Rights Service** | Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 5 |
| Objective 2, measure 10 |
| Objective 3, measures 3, 4 |
| Objective 4, measure 3 |
| Objective 5, measure 2 |
| Objective 8, measures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 |
| **The Slovenian Language Service** | Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 4, 5 |
| Objective 3, measure 4 |
| Objective 4, measures 3, 5, 8, 11, 14, 15 |
| Objective 8, measures 1, 2 |
| **The Secretariat** (legal and human resource affairs, administrative operations, general affairs and informatics, budget and finance, investments and property management) | Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 4, 5 |
| Objective 3, measures 3, 4 |
| Objective 4, measure 3 |
| Objective 5, measures 2, 4 |
| Objective 8, measure 2 |
| Objective 10, measure 1, 2 |
| **The Archives of the Republic of Slovenia** | Objective 3, measures 3, 4 |
| Objective 4, measures 3, 11 |
| Objective 5, measure 2 |
| Objective 8, measures 1, 2 |
| **The Culture and Media Inspectorate** (a body within the MK) | Objective 1, measures 1, 5 |
| Objective 3, measures 3, 4 |
| Objective 4, measures 5, 8, 11, 12, 14 |
| Objective 5, measure 2 |
| Objective 8, measure 6 |
| Objective 12, measures 1, 2 |
| **The Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities – JSKD** | Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| Objective 3, measures 3, 4 |
| Objective 4, measures 3, 5, 8, 14 |
| Objective 5, measure 2 |
| Objective 8, measures 1, 2, 4 |
| **The Slovenian Book Agency – JAK** | Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 4, 5 |
| Objective 3, measure 4 |
| Objective 4, measures 5, 8, 14 |
| Objective 5, measure 2 |
| Objective 8, measures 1, 2, 3, 7 |
| **The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs**  **and Equal Opportunities** |  |
| **The Directorate for the Disabled** |  |
|  | 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 |
| **The Family Affairs Directorate** | Objective 12, measure 3 |
|  | Objective 2, measure 2 |
| Objective 6, measures 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 |
| Objective 12, measure 2 |
| **The Social Affairs Directorate**  **The Directorate for Deinstitutionalisation and the Elderly** |  |
|  | Objective 12, measure 3 |
| 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 |
| **The Labour Market and Employment Directorate** |  |
| Employment Division | Objective 5, measure 5 (APZ; VKO) |
| Lifelong Learning Division | Objective 4, item 12 |
| **The Labour Relations and Labour Rights Directorate** | Objective 12, measure 3 |
| The European Affairs Service | Objective 12, measure 2 |
| **The Ministry of Infrastructure** |  |
| **The Sustainable Mobility and**  **Transport Policy Directorate** |  |
| Public Passenger Transport Division | Objective 3, measure 1 |
| **The Air and Sea Traffic Directorate** |  |
| Aviation Division | Objective 3, measure 1 |
| Maritime Division | Objective 3, measures 1, 6 |
| **The Land Transport Directorate** |  |
| Roads Division | Objective 3, measure 1 |
| Road Transport and Logistics Division | Objective 3, measure 1 |
| Railways and Cableways Division | Objective 3, measure 1 |
| **The Slovenian Maritime Administration** |  |
| Maritime Inspection Division | Objective 3, measure 6 |
| **The Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning** |  |
| **The Spatial Planning, Construction and Housing Directorate** |  |
| Construction Division | Objective 1, measures 2, 4 |
| Objective 3, measure 2 |
| Objective 9, measure 2 |
| Housing Division | Objective 1, measure 5 |
| Objective 2, measures 6, 9 |
| Permits Division | Objective 1, measures 2, 4 |
| Objective 3, measure 2 |
| Objective 9, measure 2 |
| **The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport** |  |
| **MIZŠ Directorates and offices** | Objective 4, measures 1, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15 |
| Objective 9, measures 1, 5, 6 |
| The National Education Institute of the Republic of Slovenia (ZRSŠ) | Objective 4, measures 2, 5, 6, 15, 16, 17, 18 |
| Higher education institutions (VI) | Objective 4, measures 1, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16 |
| The Olympic Committee of Slovenia – The Association of  Sports Federations (OKS-ZŠZ) | Objective 9, measure 6 |
| **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs** |  |
| Human Rights Division | Objective 1, measure 1 |
| Objective 13, measure 1 |
| **The Ministry of Public Administration** |  |
| The Public Sector Directorate | Objective 5, measure 3 |
| **The Ministry of the Interior** |  |
| Police |  |
| **The Ministry of Health** |  |
|  | Objective 7, measures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 |
| **The Ministry of Finance** |  |
|  | Objective 6, measure 1 |
| **The Ministry of Defence** |  |
| The Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief | Objective 3, measures 4, 8 |
| **The Ministry of Economic Development and**  **Technology** |  |
| The Tourism Directorate | Objective 3, measure 5 |
| The Regional Development Directorate, Social Entrepreneurship Division | Objective 5, measure 2 |
| **The Ministry of Justice** |  |
|  | Objective 1, measure 2 |
| **Rapporteurs** | Objective 2, measures 7, 8 |
| Objective 3, measures 3, 4 |
| Objective 5, measure 3 |
| Objective 7, measure 3 |
| Objective 12, measures 1, 4, 5 |
| **Objectives and measures** |
| **GOVERNMENT OFFICES** |  |
| **The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia** |  |
| SURS | 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 provides 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. |
| **The Public Scholarship, Development, Disability and Maintenance Fund of the Republic of Slovenia** |  |
| JŠRIPSRS | Objective 5, measure 1 |
| **Rapporteurs** | **Objectives and measures** |
| **PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTIONS** |  |
| **The Pension and Disability Insurance Institute**  **of the Republic of Slovenia** |  |
| ZPIZ | Objective 5, measures 1, 4 |
| ZPIZ  **The Health Insurance Institute of the Republic of Slovenia** | Objective 7, measure 12 |
|  |
| ZZZS | Objective 7, measures 3, 5, 7 |
| ZZZS  **The Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia** | Objective 5, measure 1 |
|  |
| IRRSV | It may report on all objectives and measures. |
| **The Employment Service of Slovenia** |  |
| ZRSZ | Objective 5, measures 1, 2, 3, 4 |
| **The Soča University Rehabilitation Institute of the**  **Republic of Slovenia** |  |
| URI – Soča | Objective 1, measures 2, 4 |
| URI – Soča  **The Association of Slovenian Training Organisations for**  **Persons with Special Needs** | Objective 5, measures 1, 3, 6 |
|  |
| SOUS | Objective 1, measures 2, 4 |
| SOUS  **The Association of Vocational Rehabilitation**  **Providers of the Republic of Slovenia** | Objective 4, measure 5 |
| Objective 7, measure 10 |
|  |
| ZIZRS | Objective 1, measures 2, 4 |
| ZIZRS  **The National Institute of Public Health** | Objective 5, measures 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 |
|  |
| NIJZ | It may report on all objectives and measures. |
| **Rapporteurs** | **Objectives and measures** |
| **ORGANISATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS** |  |
| **The National Council of Disabled People's Organisations of Slovenia** |  |
| The NSIOS and members | Objective 1, measures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 |
| The NSIOS and members  **The Slovenian Federation of Pensioners’ Organisations** | 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 |
|  |
| ZDUS | Objective 1, measures 1, 4, 5 |
|  | Objective 13, measures 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 |
| **The ‘SONČEK’ Federation of Cerebral Palsy Societies**  **of Slovenia** |  |
|  | It may report on all objectives and measures from the aspect of  non-governmental organisations. |
| **YHD – Association for the Theory and Culture of Disability** |  |
|  | It may report on all objectives and measures from the aspect of  non-governmental organisations. |
| **Caritas Slovenia** | Objective 10, measure 1 |
|  |  |

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 planned categories. For each objective, data should be written as follows:

1. *Adopted legislation* – provide the list of acts, rules and other implementing regulations and amendments thereof adopted in the previous year, as well as measures, decisions, national programmes, other strategic documents and similar, and briefly outline the content of the adopted legislation on issues relating to disability.
2. *Legislation in preparation* – provide the list of the above-mentioned types of documents that were in preparation in the previous year and briefly outline the disability-related content of the legislation in preparation.
3. *Programmes* – provide the list of long-term activities and projects carried out in the previous year, such as:

* public tenders, invitations and contracts relating to disability issues;
* implemented programmes targeting persons with disabilities or persons closely associated therewith;
* awareness-raising projects on disability issues;
* 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 content of these activities and projects.

1. *Research activities* – provide the list of research activities, studies, test programmes and research projects, etc., that you completed/were engaged in in the previous year and briefly outline their content.
2. *Events* – provide the list of one-off events that you carried out in the previous year, such as conferences, congresses, meetings, exhibitions, seminars, workshops, publications or other events, and briefly outline their content.
3. *Quantity data* – provide the list of quantity data, such as the number of users of services and programmes, the proportion of adaptations, the financial resources used for a certain activity, etc.
4. *Difficulties, warnings, comments, proposals* – focus on possible difficulties and warnings in the implementation of the measures and comments and proposals for future work.

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

**2. LEGAL ACTS AND STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS FOR THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES adopted in the period 2014–2021**

This chapter presents the acts, rules, regulations, measures, decisions, guidelines, resolutions, strategies and action plans and amendments thereto adopted in the period 2014–2021, i.e. during the implementation of the second Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2014–2021.

Although the second Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities was implemented in the period 2014-2021, the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2014-2021 could not cover the legislation adopted in 2013 as the rapporteurs reported on it only in 2014, when the implementation of the 2014-2021 Action Programme was already under way; therefore, the legislation for 2013 is included in the existing document, which, for the same reason, does not include the legislation for 2021.

1. **ACTS**

**The Scholarship Act** - ZŠtip-1 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 56/13, 99/13 – ZUPJS-C, 8/16, 61/17 – ZUPŠ and 31/18):

• In accordance with Article 14, a scholarship holder who has been awarded a state scholarship is also entitled to an allowance for a scholarship holder with special needs in the amount of EUR 51.20 per month.

**The Subsidized Student Meals Act** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 86/14 - official consolidated text and 61/17 - ZUPŠ):

• In accordance with Article 8, a student with special needs is entitled to up to ten additional subsidized meals per month due to severe or severe functional impairment.

**The Parental Protection and Family Benefits Act** – ZSDP-1 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos [26/14](http://www.uradni-list.si/1/objava.jsp?sop=2014-01-1068), [90/15](http://www.uradni-list.si/1/objava.jsp?sop=2015-01-3502), [75/17](http://www.uradni-list.si/1/objava.jsp?sop=2017-01-3595) – ZUPJS-G, [14/18](http://www.uradni-list.si/1/objava.jsp?sop=2018-01-0587), [81/19](http://www.uradni-list.si/1/objava.jsp?sop=2019-01-3720) and [158/20](http://www.uradni-list.si/1/objava.jsp?sop=2020-01-2764)):

* If a person is not insured for parental care, they are entitled to a parental allowance (the same applies to persons with disabilities);
* This right may be granted to one of the parents or another person who cares for and safeguards two or more children with moderate and severe mental disabilities or moderate or serious physical impairment. The right is therefore granted to parents who care for children with special needs.

**The Family Code** – DZ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos [15/17](http://www.uradni-list.si/1/objava.jsp?sop=2017-01-0729), [21/18](http://www.uradni-list.si/1/objava.jsp?sop=2018-01-0887) – ZNOrg, [22/19](http://www.uradni-list.si/1/objava.jsp?sop=2019-01-0917), [67/19](http://www.uradni-list.si/1/objava.jsp?sop=2019-01-2936) – ZMatR-C and [200/20](http://www.uradni-list.si/1/objava.jsp?sop=2020-01-3628) – ZOOMTVI):

* The provisions of the Family Code (which is fully applicable from 15 April 2019 onwards) and the new Non-Contentious Civil Procedure Act (ZNP-1), the placement of an adult under guardianship, and the appointment of a guardian are no longer linked to the deprivation of legal capacity since the deprivation of legal capacity has been abolished.

Relevant case-law:

The Family Code, namely, no longer recognises the deprivation of legal capacity, but has replaced this institute by placing an adult under guardianship as well as transferred the decision on the appointment of a guardian from SWCs to the court.

**The Building Act** – GZ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 61/17, 72/17 – corr., 65/20 and 15/21 – ZDUOP):

* This Act made universal accessibility and the use of buildings one of the essential requirements for buildings, at the same time specifying the obligation to comply with the provisions on the accessibility of public buildings as well as the obligation to build flexible housing. On the basis of the Act, in cooperation with the competent organisations in this field, an implementing regulation is being prepared, which will elaborate this matter and enact the mandatory application of the standards in the field of the universal construction of buildings.

**The Act Regulating the Supplement to Pensions for Work and Outstanding Achievements in Sports** – ZDPIDŠ, (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 34/17):

* A pension supplement is also granted to athletes with disabilities, medallists of the Paralympic Games and the Deaflympics.

**The Motor Vehicles Act –** ZMV-1 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 75/17 and 92/20 – ZPrCP-E):

* This Act contains new provisions facilitating the obligations of persons with disabilities. Paragraph six of Article 28 of the ZMV-1 determines an exemption in relation to establishing the vehicle user when the vehicle owner is a disabled adult without a proper driving licence who was exempted from the payment of the annual fees for the use of vehicles in road traffic on the basis of a decision. Exemption from the payment of the annual fee for the use of a vehicle in road traffic is regulated by the Motor Vehicle Charges Act.

**The Personal Assistance Act** – ZOA (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 10/17 and 31/18):

This Act systemically regulates the right to personal assistance and determines the method of its implementation in order to enable a person with long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments that prevent the person from fully and effectively participating in society like others in all fields of life, to have equal opportunities and more independence, to be active and equally participate in society in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In accordance with the Act, personal assistance is assistance provided to users for all tasks and activities that they cannot do on their own due to the type and degree of disability, but that are needed daily at home or away from home for them to live independently and actively, and to equally participate in society.

**The Sports Act –** ZŠpo-1 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 29/17, 21/18 – ZNOrg and 82/20):

This Act determines the umbrella sports organisation for persons with disabilities, which appoints a member of the Expert Council on Sport of the Republic of Slovenia and a member of the Commission for the Accreditation of Training Programmes in the Field of Sport and is competent for the preparation and organisation of training programmes for the practice of sports by persons with disabilities. The Act determines for the first time the Sports Federation for the Disabled of Slovenia – Paralympic Committee (since 2019: the Sports Federation for the Disabled of Slovenia – Paralympic Committee of Slovenia – ŠIS SPK federation) as an umbrella organisation for sport for persons with disabilities; in addition, the new Act ensures the equal rights of athletes with disabilities and without disabilities.

**The Student Status Act –** ZUPŠ (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 61/17):

Article 7 provides an amendment to Article 69a of the Higher Education Act, which addresses students with special needs and a special status. The article defines students with special needs and a special status and their rights deriving from such status. Article 9 provides that students with special needs and students with a special status exercise the rights under paragraph three of Article 69a of the Higher Education Act as of enrolment in the 2019/20 academic year.

**The Accessibility of Websites and Mobile Applications Act** (ZDSMA) – Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 30/18):

* This Act regulates measures for ensuring the accessibility of websites and mobile applications by persons liable under the Act for all users, especially users with different forms of disabilities.
* The Act transposes into the Slovene legal order Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies (OJ L 327 of 2 December 2016, p. 1).

**The Court Experts, Certified Appraisers and Court Interpreters Act** – ZSICT (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 22/18):

This Act stipulates, inter alia, that a permanent section for Slovenian sign language shall be established in the Council of Experts for Court Expert Opinions, Certified Appraisals and Court Interpretations. The appointment of a member for an (independent) section of Slovenian sign language is a demonstration of efforts through which equality in court proceedings is indirectly ensured also for persons who are users of Slovenian sign language.

**The Promotion of Tourism Development Act** – ZSRT-1 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 13/18):

Indent three of paragraph one of Article 18 provides for exemption from the payment of the tourist tax for persons with disabilities or physical impairments. Article 15 of the ZSRT-1 lists the activity of providing information to tourists, including those with special needs, among the activities and services whose provision at the level of a tourist area is in the public interest.

**The Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities Act** – ZSVI (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 30/18):

* This Act regulates the status and rights of persons with profound disabilities that occurred prior to 18 years of age or during regular schooling prior to reaching 26 years of age. In comparison to the applicable legislation, the range of beneficiaries is wider, which means that, in addition to persons with moderate, severe, and profound mental disabilities and persons with profound physical disabilities, persons with autistic disorders who suffer from a severe form of unadjusted behaviour that prevents them from leading an independent life and acquiring funds for subsistence, persons who are deafblind and persons with moderate to severe brain injury or damage will also be able to obtain disability status.
* The objective of the Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities Act is to provide the following to persons above the age of 18 who cannot by themselves ensure their social security and inclusion in society: the right to compensation, the right to assistance and an attendance allowance, and support services for participation and inclusion in society. Such support services are intended to train individuals for leading an independent life, life-long learning, and living off the allowance, as well as to preserve the social inclusion of older persons with disabilities. All of the aforementioned enables persons with disabilities to live in a community – if possible, with suitable support in their home environment – and, just like other people, to make decisions regarding their lives at all levels that they can, or to obtain support services, suitable counselling, and assistance with decision making when they need such.
* Entry into force: 1 January 2019, except for the provisions on the social inclusion of persons with disabilities in the community (Chapter III), which will enter into force on 1 January 2022.

**The Act on the Payment of the Child Care Allowance** – ZINDNO (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 72/19):

This Act regulates the right to the payment of unpaid childcare allowances under the Act governing parental care and family benefits for beneficiaries who at any time in the period between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2016 met the conditions for obtaining a childcare allowance but did not receive it, while the child received an assistance and attendance allowance in accordance with the Act governing pension and disability insurance, or the child was included in a special programme of education up to 26 years of age in accordance with the Act governing primary school.

**The Non-Contentious Civil Procedure Act** – ZNP-1 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 16/19):

* According to the provisions of the Family Code and the new ZNP-1, which are also important for the situation of persons with disabilities, placing an adult under guardianship and appointing a guardian are no longer linked to the deprivation of legal capacity, as the institutes of the deprivation of legal capacity and the extension of the parental right were abolished or replaced by the procedure for the placement of an adult under guardianship (Chapter 4 of Part 8, Articles 262 to 265 of the Family Code). Section Two of Chapter X of the ZNP-1 further regulates the proceedings for placing adults under guardianship. The proceedings regulated by the ZNP-1 are subject to certain general principles. Paragraph one of Article 6 of the ZNP-1 provides that the court, the participants, and other persons involved in the proceedings must make every effort throughout the proceedings to have the rights and legal interests of the participants established and protected as soon as possible. Paragraph two of the same Article provides that the court must adopt *ex officio* any measures aimed at protecting the rights and legal interests of children and persons who, owing to mental developmental disorders or other circumstances, lack the capacity to look after their own rights and interests. The amendment to the ZNP-1 thus introduced a change in the speed of proceedings compared to the provision of the previously valid ZNP, according to which the court, as well as the parties and other persons involved in the proceedings (e.g. authorised persons, witnesses, representatives, expert witnesses), must make every effort throughout the proceedings to have the rights and legal interests of the parties established and protected as soon as possible. Responsibility for the speedy and economical implementation of proceedings is thus distributed in non-contentious proceedings and, in addition to the court, obliges the parties and other persons involved in the proceedings to act diligently.
* Further security is also provided to participants in proceedings for placing an adult under guardianship by Article 7 of the ZNP-1, which imposes on courts the principle of investigation and provides that in proceedings that may be initiated *ex officio* or in the case of the protection of the rights of children and persons who, owing to mental developmental disorders or other mental health problems or other circumstances, lack the capacity to look after their own rights and interests, the court also establishes facts not stated by the participants and takes evidence not produced by the participants. The court is therefore already a guarantor that all the rights of the person who is in the process of being placed under guardianship will be protected. In addition, the rights of the parties in guardianship proceedings are also protected by the provision of Article 5 of the ZNP-1, which regulates the right to be heard and stipulates in this regard that the court shall grant the participants in the proceedings an opportunity to make a statement regarding the claims of other participants, to participate in the taking of evidence and to discuss the outcome of the entire proceedings. Thus, the determined right to be heard guarantees a person an opportunity to have their say in the proceedings and to be treated by the court as a subject of the proceedings.

**The Act Concerning the Social Care of Mentally and Physically Handicapped Persons** –ZDVDTP (Official Gazette of the Socialist Republic of Slovenia, No. 41/83, Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 114/06 – ZUTPG, 122/07 – Constitutional Court Decision, 61/10 – ZSVarPre and 40/11 – ZSVarPre – A):

The Act Concerning the Social Care of Mentally and Physically Handicapped Persons ceased to be in force on the day of the entry into force of the ZVSI (1 January 2019).

**The Act on the Treatment of Children and Youth with Emotional and Behavioural Disorders in Education** (ZOOMTVI) (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 200/20) was adopted unanimously and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 200/20 on 29 December 2020. This Act entered into force on 13 January 2021. The Act uniformly regulates the educational activities of educational institutions, offers several possibilities for flexible forms of assistance, ensures the necessary cooperation of individual departments, and also introduces mechanisms for better protection of the rights and safety of children, adolescents and professionals. The main goal of the Act is to establish a unified systemic solution for the integrated treatment of children with emotional and behavioural disorders in educational institutions involved in the work of various departments, and to enable the creation of professional centres that can offer preventive activities to children in kindergartens and schools; this will accelerate assistance and thus possibly postpone placement in institutions.

**The Integrated Early Treatment of Preschool Children with Special Needs Act** – (ZOPOPP) (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 41/17), which entered into force in January 2019, was adopted in 2017 and changed the system of providing assistance to children with deficits, impairments or disorders, and to children with risk factors for such. The new Act is intended to provide children assistance as soon as possible and their parents all the necessary information in one place. Children can be identified within the family, in the healthcare system within the implementation of preventive healthcare at the primary level or examinations within this framework and other treatments in kindergarten, in an educational institution, social welfare institution or as part of the services provided by social work centres. Developmental clinics will be gradually transformed into early treatment centres, where the child will be treated by various experts and the most appropriate forms of help will be proposed.

1. **RULES**

**Rules on technical aids and the adaptation of vehicles** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 27/16, 71/14, 37/17 and 57/18) –These Rules regulate in detail the technical aids and the method of adapting vehicles, the conditions for obtaining such (special conditions, expert opinions), the enforcement procedure – the more detailed procedure before administrative units, the issuance of decisions and vouchers, the amount of co-financing for individual aids or vehicle adaptations and the actual method of payment with a voucher.

**Rules on subsidised student accommodation** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 22/01, 35/06, 75/08, 97/10, 46/12, 55/13, 38/16, 13/17, 13/18 and 58/20) – These Rules regulate subsidies for student accommodation, the conditions and procedure for granting subsidies and supervising the use thereof.

**Rules on the inclusion of medical devices on the Medical Devices List, and their exclusion from the List** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 25/14) regulate in detail:

* the content of the list of medical devices (MDs) with data on the types of MDs and on individual devices (items) that meet certain minimum requirements;
* the procedure and criteria for classifying individual devices (items) on the MD list and for excluding them from the MD list;
* the procedure for determining compliance with the minimum requirements for individual devices (items), i.e. the second phase.

**Rules setting references for price standards of medical devices and devices covered by compulsory health insurance** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 25/14):

these Rules set the references for the following:

* price standards for individual types of MDs in cases of issuance and loans;
* contract prices for devices (items);
* prices in cases of exceptional approval of an MD (paragraph three of Article 259 of the Rules on compulsory health insurance).

The purpose of the Rules is also to provide the same devices (items) at the same price, regardless of which supplier (pharmacy or specialty store) issues them.

**Rules amending the Rules on calls for enrolment and enrolment in higher education** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 5/15):

these Rules provide that the list of subsequently accepted candidates also includes candidates with special needs who have acquired this status in the application-admission procedure, have not met the enrolment conditions in the regular selection procedure, meet the conditions for enrolment in the study programme and achieve at least 90% of the minimum points required for enrolment.

The new Rules entered into force on 23 January 2016 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 4/16, 3/17, 4/18, 3/19 and 26/20):

<http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=PRAV12769>

**Rules on universal construction and the use of construction works** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 41/18):

In particular, these Rules stipulate the mandatory use of the standards SIST ISO 21542, SIST 1186 and SIST EN 60118-4 and other detailed requirements regarding the construction of facilities accessible to all and the construction of flexible facilities.

**Rules on personal assistance** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 57/18, 13/19 and 128/20):

These Rules regulate in detail the procedure for exercising the right to personal assistance, communication allowance, a disability care coordinator (hereinafter: coordinator), the implementation of personal assistance, personal assistance providers, training, internal acts of personal assistance providers, reporting and the methodology for calculating the price of an hour of personal assistance.

**Rules on the classification of tourist accommodation facilities** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 22/18, 5/19 and 182/20):

The assessment criteria are laid down in the Annex to the Rules. Some criteria are also related to barrier-free access or criteria for a “disability-friendly” accommodation facility.

**Rules on passenger ships** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 76/19 and 7/21):

In accordance with Directive 2009/45/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 May 2009 on safety rules and standards for passenger ships (OJ L no. 163 of 25 June 2009, p. 1), last amended by Directive 2017/2108/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2017 amending Directive 2009/45/EC on safety rules and standards for passenger ships (OJ L 315, 30 November 2017, p. 40), (hereinafter: Directive 2009/45), the Rules lay down special rules for passenger ships and fast passenger vessels making domestic voyages.

**Rules on the list and references for the value of medical devices from compulsory health insurance** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 4/20):

The Rules on medical devices provided from compulsory health insurance in accordance with the Rules of Compulsory Health Insurance lay down the following:

* the detailed content of the MD list (hereinafter: the list);
* the procedure and detailed criteria for classifying items on the list and for excluding them from the list;
* the references for the price standards of individual types of MDs and for the prices of individual MDs (hereinafter: references for MD values) and the procedure for determining or approving MD values, and
* records on procedures conducted on the basis of the Rules (hereinafter: procedures).

1. **REGULATION**

**Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1300/2014 of 18 November 2014 on the technical specifications for interoperability relating to the accessibility of the Union's rail system for persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility.** The preparation and implementation of projects for the upgrading and renovation of railway stations and stops must be in accordance with the requirements of European and Slovenian legislation on the interoperability of the railway system in the EU and Directive (EU) 2016/797 on the interoperability of the rail system within the European Union.

1. **DECISIONS**

**Decision on the criteria and procedure for determining the amount for covering the costs of the adaptation of premises and work equipment and for training persons with an occupational disability to maintain their jobs** – Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 6/14:

The Decision governs the criteria and procedure for determining the amount for covering the costs assumed by the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for the adaptation of premises and work equipment and for training persons with an occupational disability to maintain their jobs.

**Decision on the reimbursement of travel expenses** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 3/14) entered into force on 11 January 2014.

The Decision does not introduce significant changes.

The reimbursement of food and accommodation costs is no longer determined in fixed amounts. The amount of reimbursement of food costs for insured persons whose absence lasts from 8 to 12 hours is equal to the amount of the food allowance paid to the employees of the ZPIZ. If an insured person's absence lasts more than 12 hours, the amount of reimbursement of food costs is equal to two thirds of the daily allowance set for the employees of the ZPIZ for business trips in the country. If an insured person's absence lasts more than 12 hours, he will also be reimbursed for the costs of accommodation in another location in the same amount as determined for an overnight stay by employees of the ZPIZ on a business trip in the country. For the reimbursement of the costs of public transport, an insured person must enclose a ticket or a certificate of the price of the public transport as proof.

**Decision on the establishment of the Working Group for the Integrated Treatment of Children with Mental Health Problems** (Decision of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia No. 02401-16 / 2016/4 of 30 June 2016):

Tasks of the working group: the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the analysis for the assessment of needs in the integrated treatment of children with special needs, the preparation of the substantive programme for the integrated treatment of children with special needs, the establishment of a network of organisations by activities for the integrated treatment of children with special needs, drafting a proposal for a network of services for the integrated treatment of children with special needs, drafting a proposal for a network of services for the implementation of programmes and services for the mental health of children and adolescents, drafting a proposal for amendments to the legislation that will enable the implementation of a common strategy for the mental health of children and adolescents, drafting protocols for the cross-sectoral cooperation of different organisations in different fields (health, education, social protection).

**Decision initiating the procedure for the implementation of the Public Tender for co-financing the integrated early treatment of children with special needs and their families and strengthening the competencies of professionals:**

issued on 21 January 2016 by the Minister of Health. The public tender was carried out within the Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy in the Period 2014–2020.

**Decision determining medical and other conditions regarding eligibility for certain medical devices** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 64/18)

**Decision on basic quality requirements for medical devices from compulsory health insurance** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 4/20):

This Decision determines the basic quality requirements for the materials that ensure the functional suitability of a medical device and are available on the Slovenian market, and other requirements that ensure the functional suitability of a medical device.

**Decision on medical conditions and other conditions for eligibility for medical devices from compulsory health insurance** – (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 4/20):

This Decision determines certain medical conditions and other conditions under which an insured person has the right to an individual medical device, which is a right in accordance with the rules governing compulsory health insurance (hereinafter: the conditions for medical devices).

1. **GUIDELINES**

**Guidelines for access to libraries for users with disabilities:** issued by the Slovenian Library Association: <https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/publications/professional-report/89-sl.pdf>:

1. **RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution on the National Programme for Language Policy 2014-2018** – ReNPJP14–18 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 62/13):

<http://pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=RESO91>

**Resolution on the National Programme for Culture 2014-2017** – ReNPK14–17 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 99/13):

The measures in the field of film and audiovisual activity include the measure of adapting the public broadcasting of cinematographic and audiovisual works for the sensory impaired. The measure envisages equipping cinematographic and audiovisual works with subtitles for persons who are deaf and persons who are deaf and mute and audio equipment for persons who are blind or partially sighted. The measure especially concerns cinematographic and audiovisual works supported by public funds.

**Resolution on the Family Policy 2018–2028: “A Society Friendly to All Families”** – ReDP18–28 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 15/18). This Resolution lays down the following measures:

* providing a certain number of hours of care for children from single-parent families and children with special needs on a monthly basis;
* increasing the amount of the partial payment for lost income to the amount of the minimum wage in accordance with the regulation governing the minimum wage;
* ensuring that the spouse or common-law partner of a child's mother or father living with them and caring for and safeguarding the child of their spouse or common-law partner is also entitled to a partial payment for lost income (unless this right is exercised by the child's mother or father);
* establishing and strengthening services to facilitate the reconciliation of the family and working life of parents with a child with special needs and parents from single-parent families;
* providing appropriate services to remove barriers to entry into the labour market for those caring for a person with special needs;
* providing early integrated treatment of children with special needs and coordinated assistance to children and their family.

**Resolution on the National Mental Health Programme 2018−2028** – ReNPDZ18–28 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 24/18):

* providing equal access to advocacy and self-advocacy programmes.
* This Resolution shifts the focus of the interdisciplinary treatment of mental disorders to the primary healthcare level.
* The network of mental health centres is based on the regional principle and will eliminate inequalities in access to mental health services for all, especially vulnerable groups, by 2028.

1. **STRATEGY**

**Strategy for the sustainable growth of Slovenian tourism 2017-2021:** This Strategy addresses the accessibility of tourist destinations, attractions and other tourist products and services, especially in terms of appropriate transport links and the accessibility of natural attractions.

<https://www.slovenia.info/uploads/dokumenti/kljuni_dokumenti/strategija_turizem_koncno_9.10.2017.pdf>

1. **ACTION PLANS**

**Action Plan for Language Education:** The draft Action Plan contains a special chapter dedicated to the issue of persons with special needs connected to speaking (with planned, financially evaluated measures to improve their situation).

<http://mk.arhiv-spletisc.gov.si/fileadmin/mk.gov.si/pageuploads/Ministrstvo/raziskave-analize/slovenski_jezik/Akcijska_nacrta/ANJI.pdf>

**Action Plan for Language Infrastructure:** The draft Action Plan contains a special chapter dedicated to the issue of persons with special needs connected to speaking (with planned, financially evaluated measures to improve their situation).

<http://mk.arhiv-spletisc.gov.si/fileadmin/mk.gov.si/pageuploads/Ministrstvo/raziskave-analize/slovenski_jezik/Akcijska_nacrta/ANJO.pdf>

1. **STANDARDS**

**Standards for public libraries for the period 2005-2015 (valid until 2017):**

The expert recommendations build on and complement the aspects which, despite being included in the 2005 expert recommendations, have not been implemented to the fullest extent or are at a point where they need to be viewed from a different perspective. The emphasis of the professional recommendations is therefore on the connection of public libraries with the local community, the management of public libraries, the field of bibliopedagogical services and evaluation of the operation of libraries and the library programme implemented by libraries within such public service.

The basis of the expert recommendations is the mission of public libraries, which promotes the values of development, information, education and culture, as well as social and societal cohesion (eliminating differences, intercultural cohesion, etc.). As providers of the public service programme, public libraries influence the quality of life of individuals and the local community with library materials and services. They contribute to the development of knowledge and culture, the spread of democratic decision-making, the promotion of library use and knowledge of various types of literacy, and social tolerance. They participate in the realisation of developmental social goals at both the local and national levels, and in doing so draw from the needs and challenges of the local community. The expert recommendations seek to establish the developmental vision of a proactive library as a factor in the development of the local community.

**General recommendations and standards for public libraries (for the period 2018–2028)** <https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MK/Zakonodaja-ki-ni-na-PISRS/Kulturna-dediscina/2ffbd52377/Strokovna-priporocila-in-standardi-za-splosne-knjiznice.pdf>:

1. **AMENDMENTS TO LEGAL ACTS AND OTHER STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS:**

**Corrigendum to the Employment Relationships Act –** ZDR-1, (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 21/13, 78/13 – corr): The adjustment refers to the direct payment of overdue unpaid salary compensation to an employee by the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia, which is used for a period of absence from work with the right to salary compensation chargeable to compulsory health insurance after 12 July 2013: it defines a new, more detailed procedure for claiming this compensation.

**The Act Amending the Fiscal Balance Act** – ZUJF-C (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 40/12, 96/12 – ZPIZ-2, 104/12 – ZIPRS1314, 105/12, 25/13 – Constitutional Court Decision, 46/13 – ZIPRS1314-A, 56/13 – ZŠtip-1,63/13 – ZOsn-I, 63/13 – ZJAKRS-A, 99/13 – ZUPJS-C,   
99/13 – ZSVarPre-C, 101/13 – ZIPRS1415, 101/13 – ZDavNepr, 107/13 – Constitutional Court Decision, 85/14 and 95/14). http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO7048

**The Act Amending the Healthcare and Health Insurance Act** – ZZVZZ-M, (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 91/13). http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO6707

**The Act Amending the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act** – ZIMI-A (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 50/14) lays down the following:

* the co-financing of technical aids of people with sensory impairments (persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, partially sighted or deafblind);
* the co-financing of vehicle adaptation for persons with reduced mobility who are able to drive by themselves and persons with disabilities who are not able to drive by themselves but vitally need the adaptation to enter the vehicle and be driven safely;
* the most important change is that the selection of suppliers of technical aids or vehicle adaptation is not carried out in a public procurement procedure; instead, the beneficiaries can purchase the technical aid from any supplier of technical aids in the Republic of Slovenia, or the person entitled to adapt the vehicle may order the adaptation of any vehicle from any contractor in the Republic of Slovenia;
* the Act also introduced a measure that allows persons with severe or profound physical impairments to obtain a trained assistance dog;
* for the first time in Slovenia, technical aids, which are very important for the daily lives of persons with disabilities, will be co-financed by the state, as thus far persons with disabilities have had to pay for these aids themselves.

**The Act Amending the Radiotelevizija Slovenija Act** – ZRTVS-1A, (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 96/05, 109/05 - ZDavP-1B, 105/06 – Constitutional Court Decision, 26/09 - ZIPRS0809-B and 9/14): The Act exempts certain categories of persons with disabilities from paying the licence fee.

**The Act Amending the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Persons with Disabilities Act** **–** ZZRZI-D, (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 16/07 – official consolidated version, 87/11, 96/12 – ZPIZ-2 and 98/14):

* The amending Act was necessary due to the new EU Regulation on state aid that can be received by employers for disabled employees; it entered into force on 1 July 2014. The Act lowers the amount of state aid provided to disability companies which they receive for employees with disabilities. Companies receive benefits only in the amount of up to three times the minimum wage for employees who are not disabled and are employed in disability companies.
* The Act determines the amount of income of a disability company employee who is not disabled under the employment relationship, at which exemption from the payment of social security contributions will no longer be permissible.

**Amendments to the Rules on compulsory health insurance** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 25/14):

With the internal harmonisation of the text of the Rules, the text was harmonised in terms of terminology and legislative drafting. In this context, Article 2 of the Rules has also been amended; it defines the terms used in the Rules, where the definitions of individual terms have been changed and added.

**Amendments to the Rules on compulsory health insurance** – (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 85/14):

* The regulation of the scope and procedure for exercising the right to spa treatment is completely changed.
* The Rules introduce new rights to medical devices: BIPAPs, vacuum collectors for pleural drainage, electric lung massagers, MDs for expectoration, and PEEP valves.
* The maintenance and repair of MDs are redefined.
* The obligations of medical device suppliers are redefined.
* The scope and procedure regarding the right to treatment abroad is specified.

**The Act Amending the Legal Aid Act – ZBPP**-C (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 19/15):

The provision of Article 22, which determines the conditions for granting legal aid, was improved in terms of legislative drafting. According to the new Act, exceptional legal aid may be granted, *inter alia*, due to the applicant's family situation, if the family's living expenses are burdened by the costs of maintaining a family member with physical or mental development disorders, the costs of educating children with special needs or other costs incurred due to *force majeure* or for reasons not on the part of the applicant or family members.

**The Act Amending the Enforcement of Penal Sanctions Act** – ZIKS-1F (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 54/15):

* In 2015, new provisions were added that specifically regulate the serving of sentences by convicts who need additional assistance (due to age, illness or disability). Paragraph two of Article 50 of the ZIKS-1 thus determines that such convicts may stay in a specially adapted room or ward of one of the prisons.
* In addition to the above, the new Article 82 of the ZIKS-1 also regulates in more detail the possibility of suspending the enforcement of a sentence in cases where the convicted person is unable to perform at least one vital necessity without assistance and the prison is unable to provide such assistance (point two of paragraph one of Article 82 of the ZIKS-1).

**The Probation Act** – ZPro (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 27/17) and the **Rules on probation duties** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 21/18 and 73/20) determines the equal treatment of persons with disabilities from the aspect of implementing a probation obligation to work for the common benefit. However, problems arise when work for the common benefit is imposed on an individual who has a recognised category I disability, as the competent ministry interprets such individuals as permanently unemployable or permanently incapable of work. It often happens that an occupational healthcare specialist does not issue a medical certificate but the court insists that such a convicted individual cannot be deemed equal to other employees on the labour market and requires the administration to find a suitable organisation, which is often very difficult or impossible.

**Act Amending the Motor Vehicles Act** – ZMV-A (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 23/15):

A new Motor Vehicles Act was drafted to replace the previous one. The amendments also envisaged the provisions that would ease the obligations of persons with disabilities. The proposal was to add a new paragraph six to Article 29 of the existing Act which provides an exemption in relation to establishing a vehicle user when the vehicle owner is a natural person without a proper driving licence, if they are an adult with a disability.

**Act Amending the Scholarship Act** – ZŠtip-1A (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 8/16):

Article 20 governs the allowance for scholarship holders with special needs. The allowance is granted to scholarship holders who:

* are recognised as disabled or physically impaired on the basis of a decision of the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia or the Employment Service of Slovenia in accordance with the regulations governing the field of pension and disability insurance, or for which one parent is granted an allowance for the care of a child who needs special care according to the regulations governing family benefits, or
* is placed in an adapted education programme in accordance with the Act governing the placement of children with special needs.

A scholarship holder who is entitled to the allowance for scholarship holders with special needs is entitled to an additional EUR 50 per month.

**The Act Amending the Domestic Violence Prevention Act** – ZPND-A (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 68/16):

The text of Article 6 has been amended, and now provides that everyone, in particular health professionals and staff in childcare centres, educational and social institutions, and providers of content for children in sports and cultural associations, must, notwithstanding the provisions on professional secrecy, immediately inform a social work centre, the Police or the State Attorney’s Office if they suspect that a child or a person unable to care for themselves on the grounds of personal circumstances is a victim of violence.

**Amended Rules on the organisation and method of operating relating to the expert bodies of the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 49/18 and 38/20)

In 2018, the Council of the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute adopted the Rules amending the Rules on the organisation and method of operating relating to the expert bodies of the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of 18 July 2018, published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 49/18. The provisions of Articles 21 and 61 of the Rules on the organisation and method of operating relating to the expert bodies of the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 60/13 and 6/15) were amended.

In 2020, the Council of the ZPIZ adopted the Amended Rules on the organisation and method of operating relating to the expert bodies of the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia, which was adopted and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 38/20 on 29 March 2020 and entered into force on 13 April 2020.

The provisions of Articles 36 and 55 of the Rules have been changed so that in the appeal procedure the second-instance disability committee takes into account all the documentation that was created before the date of the panel meeting of the second-instance disability committee. In addition to the amendment of Articles 36 and 55 of the Rules, the provisions of Articles 5, 9 and 40 were also amended.

**The Act Amending the National Assembly Election Act** – ZVDZ-C (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 23/17):

Paragraph one of Article 79a shall be amended to read as follows: “Polling stations must be made accessible to persons with disabilities.” Paragraph one of Article 79a of this Act shall apply as of 1 February 2018.

**The Act Amending the Pension and Disability Insurance Act** – ZPIZ-2B (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 102/15)

Article 11 of the ZPIZ-2 was amended; it determines the procedure for and service of acts of the Institute. A new Article 11a of the ZPIZ-2 was also added; it determines the signing and conversion of decisions.

The amended ZPIZ-2 B determined changes to Articles 116 and 125 of the ZPIZ-2.

The following paragraph was added:

If a recipient of a disability pension resumes work or an activity in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia in a scope leading to the reinstatement of the status of an insured person referred to in Articles 14, 15, 16 and 17 of this Act, they shall lose the right to a pension as of the date the insurance obligation is established.

Notwithstanding the provision of the preceding paragraph, a disability pension recipient under this Act who is categorised as a top athlete and is employed in the state administration as an athlete shall not lose their pension right. Their right to a disability pension shall be suspended from the date when the insurance obligation is established to the date of the termination of the employment relationship based on the employment of top athletes. After the termination of compulsory insurance on these grounds, the payment of the beneficiary's previously recognised and assessed pension shall resume.

The amendment (Article 10 of the ZPIZ-2B) also enacted the following change: the determination of the characteristics of an insured person referred to in Article 18 of the Act does not affect the payment of disability insurance benefits for recipients of disability insurance benefits registered with the Employment Service.

**The Act Amending the Pension and Disability Insurance Act** – ZPIZ-2C (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 23/17)

The ZPIZ-2 C provides insured persons who acquire the right to an old-age or disability pension with a completed pension period in the same amount as determined for acquiring the right to an old-age pension at the lowest age or without an age condition, if not prescribed, a pension of EUR 500 (the amount is adjusted in the same way as pensions) or in its proportional part (if the pension is claimed in a proportional part under international agreements). In a disability pension, the added period for the assessment of rights on the basis of disability under Article 137 of the ZPIZ-2 or under Article 200 of the ZPIZ-? is also taken into account .A guaranteed pension is also granted to the beneficiaries of a disability pension assessed with a disability allowance in the amount of 85% of the pension base, and to those whose disability is caused by an occupational injury or an occupational disease. Beneficiaries of an early pension and beneficiaries of an old-age or disability pension who have been insured for most of their insurance period for a narrower scope of rights are not entitled to the amount of the guaranteed pension or its proportional part. The guaranteed pension amount is not taken into consideration in determining the basis for the assessment of a widow/widower’s or survivor’s pension or in assessing benefits arising from disability insurance.

**The Act Amending the Higher Education Act –** ZViS-L (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 65/17):

* Paragraph one of Article 69 provides that, irrespective of whether a study programme is provided full-time or part-time, students shall have the right to healthcare and other benefits and rights (e.g. food, transport and grants) in accordance with special regulations.
* Paragraphs one and two of Article 69a are amended.

**The Act Amending the Personal Assistance Act** – ZOA-A (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 31/18):

No changes concerning disability care.

**The Act Amending the Pension and Disability Insurance Act** – ZPIZ-2E (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 65/17):

The amendments did prejudice the rights under disability insurance on the basis of remaining capacity for work.

**The Act Amending the Social Entrepreneurship Act** – ZSocP-A (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 13/18):

* The amendment has enabled employment centres and disability companies to acquire social enterprise status.
* The amended Act enables disability companies or employment centres with social enterprise status to apply for all public tenders imposing the condition that applicants be social enterprises. Vulnerable target groups of all public tenders in the field of social entrepreneurship also include persons who have the status of a disabled worker in accordance with national legislation. Vulnerable target groups are determined by Article 2 of the Act based on the provisions of Commission Regulation (EU) 651/2014.

**Amendments to the Rules on compulsory health insurance** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 64/18):

* The changes make home nursing more accessible depending on the residence of the insured person.
* They introduce a new right in dentistry – implantological treatment.
* A new indication for spa treatment in respiratory diseases (idiopathic and chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension).
* Suspension of the restriction on spa treatment if the restorative rehabilitation of persons with disabilities has been carried out.
* The introduction of new medical devices (vacuum splints with a levelling sole, receivers for continuous glucose measurement).

**The Act Amending the Housing Act** – SZ-1D (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 59/19):

This Act provides that the implementation of construction works and improvements to remove architectural barriers, even if they require a building permit, requires the consent of more than 75% of apartment owners – hitherto, if a building permit was required, the required consent was 100%.

**The Act Amending the Criminal Procedure Act** – ZKP-N (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 22/19):

The amended ZKP-N includes, among other things, systemic changes in the regulation of the situation of victims of criminal offences. Since then, the Criminal Procedure Act – ZKP (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 32/12 – official consolidated version, 47/13, 87/14, 8/16 – Constitutional Court Decision, 64/16 – Constitutional Court Decision, 65/16 Constitutional Court Decision – Constitutional Court Decision 66/17 – ORZKP153, 154 and 22/19) has contained a number of provisions that require all competent authorities to treat especially vulnerable victims with care and consideration, both in principle (e.g. the new Article 18a of the ZKP) and at the implementation level (e.g. when summoning to court, at hearings, etc.). Article 143č thus provides that in pre-trial and/or criminal proceedings and with a view to determining specific protection needs, the competent authorities shall, if possible at the time of their first contact with injured parties, assess the level of risk of their secondary and repeat victimisation, of intimidation and of retaliation (individual assessment). Paragraph two of the same article further includes potential disability among the personal characteristics of the injured party.

After the adoption of the amended ZKP-N, a special implementation working group was established, which designed a leaflet on the rights of victims of criminal offences (in Slovenian, Croatian, English, German, Italian and Hungarian). The working group also drafted an individual assessment form (a working tool used by the Police and the State Attorney’s Office). Each victim must be assessed individually (from the point of view of their endangerment and the consequent protective measures provided by the ZKP), taking into account their personal characteristics, the nature, gravity and circumstances of the crime, and the conduct of the accused and the victim. According to the legal provisions, the age and possible disability of the victim are taken into account in the individual assessment.

**The Act Amending the Criminal Procedure Act** – ZKP-O (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 200/20):

The ZKP-O, adopted at the end of 2020, further upgrades the rights of all victims of crime by giving them the opportunity to propose the concealment of their address (especially from the alleged perpetrator).

**The Act Amending the Road Transport Act – ZPCP-2G** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 67/19):

Article 114g of the Act regulates transport for students with moderate and severe physical impairments. The amendment also regulates the field of beneficiaries of subsidised tickets referred to in paragraph one of Article 114b who are educated at an institution for the education of children and adolescents with special needs and are not entitled to the adapted transport of persons with special needs, the right to subsidised transport organised in the form of own transport or special scheduled service by the institution for the education of children and adolescents with special needs in which the beneficiaries are educated, as determined by a contract between the institution and the Ministry. The purpose of the provision is to enable the subsidised transport of this group of passengers.

**The Act Amending the Pension and Disability Insurance Act** – ZPIZ-2F (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 28/19):

The amendments did not prejudice the rights under disability insurance on the basis of remaining capacity for work.

**The Act Amending the Pension and Disability Insurance Act** – ZPIZ-2G (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 75/19):

The amendments in the ZPIZ-2G prejudice the rights under pension and disability insurance on the basis of remaining capacity for work.

Amendments in the ZPIZ-2G include the possibility of heirs entering the procedure for acquiring rights in the field of assistance and attendance allowance and, in part, a fairer regulation of the system of disability insurance benefits.

**The ZPIZ-2G, which entered into force on 1 January 2020, has therefore also brought certain changes for unemployed disabled workers:**

* A change in the amount of the **disability allowance** (in the case of a recognised right to relocation after vocational rehabilitation and in the case of an insured person with a recognised category II disability after 55 years of age), in the event that the insured person was not employed or covered by compulsory insurance: from 60% of the disability pension to **80% of the disability pension** that would have been granted to them upon the occurrence of the disability (the amendment of indent one of paragraph two of Article 85 of the ZPIZ-2).
* A change in the amount of the **disability allowance** (in the case of a category III disability where the insured person’s capacity for work in their own occupation has been reduced by less than 50%, or if he can continue to work in their own occupation on a full-time basis, but are incapable of working in the position of employment they have been assigned to), in the event the insured person was not employed or covered by compulsory insurance: from 40% of the disability pension to **60% of the disability pension** that would have been granted to them upon the occurrence of the disability (the amendment of the indent one of paragraph three of Article 85 of the ZPIZ-2).
* A change in the amount of the **partial allowance** if the insured person’s employment is terminated on the basis of a positive opinion of the committee responsible for establishing the grounds for the termination of the employment contract, or independent of their own will or fault, or if they were unemployed or not covered by compulsory insurance upon the occurrence of the disability: assessment in the amount of 80% of the disability pension upon the occurrence of the disability (an amendment to indent three of paragraph three of Article 86 of the ZPIZ-2).
* A change in the amount of the partial allowance if the insured person’s employment has been terminated through their own will or fault: assessment in the amount of 25% of the disability pension on the date of the occurrence of the disability (the amendment of paragraph five of Article 86 of the ZPIZ-2).
* For a person who was a disability pension recipient and whose health has improved, the period of receiving the disability pension shall not be included in the years of service (Article 12 of the amended Act added the new Article 44a of the ZPIZ-2).

**The Act Amending the Pension and Disability Insurance Act** – ZPIZ-2H (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 139/20) of 9 October 2020, which entered into force on 1 January 2021):

Article 1 of the amended ZPIZ-2H provides that **Point 23** in Article 7 of the Pension and Disability Insurance Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 96/12, 39/13, 99/13 – ZSVarPre-C, 101/13 – ZIPRS1415, 44/14 – ORZPIZ206, 85/14 – ZUJF-B, 95/14 – ZUJF-C, 90/15 – ZIUPTD, 102/15, 23/17, 40/17, 65/17, 28/19 and 75/19; hereinafter: the ZPIZ-2) shall be **amended** by inserting after the text “a period of voluntary admission to compulsory insurance” and after the text “without purchasing any years of pensionable service” the text “after 1 January 2013”.

As the amendment to ZPIZ-2H entered into force on 1 January 2021, the purchase of insurance periods completed until 31 December 2012 **will be considered pensionable service without purchase on 1 January 2021.**

**The Act Amending the Parental Protection and Family Benefits Act** – ZSDP-1C (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 81/19):

* The Act provides that both parents, other persons or one of the parents and their spouse or common-law partner may also be entitled to partial payment for lost income when they start working part-time, with the total use of the right not exceeding 40 hours weekly.
* According to the amendment, the condition for the partial payment for lost income is no longer only the permanent residence of one of the parents and the child, but the permanent or temporary residence of one of the parents and the child.
* The ZSDP-1C also stipulates that the condition for a childcare allowance is no longer only the permanent residence of the child, but the permanent or temporary residence of the child.

**Rules amending the Rules on criteria for exercising rights for children in need of special care** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 89/14, 92/15, 18/17, 17/18 and 3/19):

The Rules determine the criteria for defining children in need of special care and protection, the composition, work and payment of medical commissions that issue opinions in procedures for exercising rights for children in need of special care under the Parental Care and Family Benefits Act, and the list of serious diseases and conditions, which is an integral part of the Rules as an annex.

**Amendments to the Rules on compulsory health insurance** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 4/20):

* The amendments broaden the scope of rights to medical devices.
* Referring doctors may extend the referral themselves.
* The introduction of an electronic certificate on temporary absence from work.

1. **OTHER**

**White Paper on Pensions:**

The White Paper provides expert bases for changes in the field of pension and disability insurance in order to provide a basis for a broad public debate on pension and disability insurance. The proposed measures include the following:

* the introduction of a uniform expert body in the exercise of social insurance rights;
* in the future system, the right to vocational rehabilitation must become a fundamental right under disability insurance also in terms of implementation. The new regulation must be based on shorter training methods and greater connection with scarce occupations in the labour market. Vocational rehabilitation replaces the current disability category III for full-time work.

<https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MDDSZ/pokojnine/Bela-knjiga-o-pokojninah.pdf>

**Court Rules** (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 87/16):

* The Court Rules regulate the field of court operations, namely the internal organisation of courts, the operation of courts in individual types of cases, operations in court administration cases, office operations, the financial operations of courts and the computerisation of courts.
* The Rules also determine the conditions for new court facilities in accordance with Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 laying down minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220 / JHA (OJ L 315/57 of 14.11.2012, p. 57).
* They also provide that participants in court proceedings with disabilities or special needs have the right to participate equally therein. The invitation to a hearing must also include this instruction to the parties and a request that participants with disabilities or special needs inform the court before the hearing that they will exercise the right to equal participation in the proceedings (paragraph three of Article 223). Persons with severe physical impairments may be ensured the use of videoconferencing, which is organised at such person’s home or in another (medical or other) institution where they reside.

**The conditions, rules and criteria for registering and categorising athletes in the Republic of Slovenia:**

<https://www.olympic.si/datoteke/Pogoji%2C%20pravila%20in%20kriteriji%20za%20registriranje%20in%20kategoriziranje%20%C5%A1portnikov.pdf>

**The national implementation plan for the technical specifications for interoperability relating to accessibility of the Union's rail system for persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility of the Republic of Slovenia**

* Its aim is to enable, maintain or increase the technical compatibility of platform infrastructure with rolling stock in any upgrade or renewal in order to increase the accessibility of rail transport for persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility.

<https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/rail-nip/nip-prm-tsi-slovenia.pdf>