

EASPD Provider Forum in Slovakia

14-15/06/2016

Narrative Report

1. CONTEXT

The Annual Conference SocioFórum (member of EASPD) with 8th Slovak Service Providers' Forum took place on June 14 and 15, 2016 in Bratislava. 132 people attended the conference. Main topics were Inclusive labour market from disabled people point of view, Good examples of community based services - Support in independent living – alternative not only for people with disability and What can a city offer to its community and cooperation with NGO and new ideas for financing of social services of Platform SocioFórum (it follows up to legislative proposal supportive to community based services, proposal of SocioForum from last year).

2. PROVIDER FORUM PROGRAMME AND DISCUSSIONS

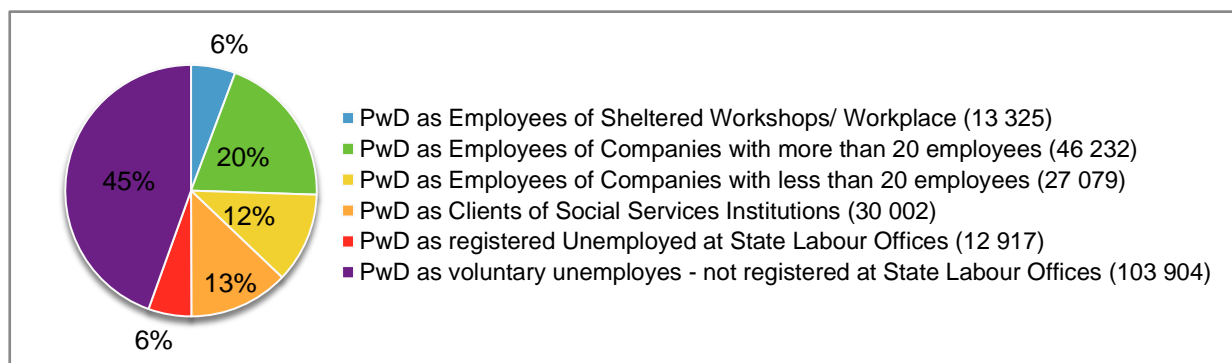
Ministry officials presented the planned changes in legislation relating to the provision of social services and services for people with disabilities during the term of this government. They presented the priorities of the national projects to support employment of disadvantaged jobseekers.

The main topic was the management and expert opinions on an inclusive labor market in terms of employing people with disabilities. This issue resulted in the report on the inclusive labor market in Slovakia for EASPD.

The situation of people with disabilities (PwD) in Slovakia in connection with their positions in the labor market is not very favorable, and significantly not improving during the time. There are 2.7 million of economically active people in total and 261,914 people of them are registered as unemployed (9.64% unemployment rate). As for PwD (as defined in the Act 5/2004 Law of employment services) based on the statistics of the Social Insurance State Company, which pays a total of 233,459 disability pensions. Slightly more than half of the recipients receives partial disability pensions, others live on full disability pensions – updated at the end of May 2016. PwD represent 8.6% of the economically active population in Slovakia.

CHART 1 - The structure of PwD in connection with the labor market in the Slovak Republic (Source: Labour office, the Labour Ministry and Slovak Statistical Office, Social Insurance Institution - requested statistics, 31/5/2016)

The rate of decline in the ability of employment must be higher than 40% for partial retirement and



more than 70% for gaining a full invalidity pension. Each year, the number of invalidity pension approvals increases by almost 20,000 per year (which is almost 1% of the economically active population). The most common reasons for gaining of invalidity pensions are musculoskeletal diseases, cancer, mental disorders.

The participation of people with disabilities in various segments of the labor market is shown in the graph no.1 and the result is that **7 people out of each 10 people with disabilities** in Slovakia are excluded from the labor market.

We presented to conference participants examples of good practice from services in the community including: support for independent living not only for people with disabilities also experienced population relying on these services (examples from the Czech Republic and Slovakia) and similar examples of two places - Kroměříž (CR) and Nitra (Slovakia) - what the city can offer to the community.

The final part of the conference followed up on last year, where Platform SocioFórum presented a proposal to divide the law into three laws, namely: Law on Social Inclusion (mostly people with disabilities), Act on long-term care (especially for seniors) and the law to prevention and crisis intervention. This year we introduced another section which designs a model of financing services. Financing Proposal was based on workshops with foreign lecturers, where we were looking for useful models and ways to use them in our conditions.

Place: Conference Hall of the Ministry of Health, Limbova 2, Bratislava

PROGRAM

Tuesday June 14, 2016

11:30 registration

12:00 – 12:15

Conference opening – Vladislav Matej (SocioFórum) and Franz Wolfmayr (EASPD)

12:15 – 13:15

BLOCK 1 – Program statement of new government and national projects

Moderator: Vladislav Matej

- **Program statement of new government – what can we expect**
Branislav Ondruš, State deputy Ministry of Social Affair
- **National project in field of employing disadvantage groups**
representative of Ministry of Social Affair
- **What national project does not reflect – what could be changed?**
Imrich Holečko, NGO People and Perspective

13:15 – 13:30

This event has received financial support from the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation “EaSI” (2014-2020)



Coffe break

13:30 – 16:00

BLOCK 2 – Inclusive labour market from disabled people point of view

Moderator: Anna Šmehilová

- **EASPD and Austrian examples – national strategy on ILM**
Franz Wolfmayr, EASPD/Chance B
- **Making an impact on EU Policy**
Tim Ghilain, EASPD
- **Report from Slovakia**
Elena Kopcová, TENENET
- **Three experts view**
Viera Záhorcová, APZ BA, Zuzana Polačeková EPIC and Michal Páleník, IZ,
- Panel discussion

Wednesday June 15, 2016

9:00 – 11:00

BLOCK 3 – Good examples of community based services

Support in independent living – alternative not only for people with disability

Moderator: Soňa Holúbková

- **Lenka Skálová, Eva Lorenzová** – NGO Rytmus, Czech republic
couple Michaela and Stanislav Jachkovi
- **Denisa Nincová, Žaneta Kučerová** - DSS Slatinka, public social service provider
Angelika Oláhová, Milan Vojtek, Jaroslav Koleda, Roman Vrábel
- Discussion

11:00 – 11:15

Coffe break

11:15 – 13:00

BLOCK 3 – Good examples of community based services - continues

What can a city offer to its community, cooperation with NGO

Moderator: Mária Filipová

- **Gabriela Činčurová** – city of Nitra, Slovakia
- **Marie Sumcová** – City of Kroměříž, Czech republic
- **Jaroslav Forýtek** – Social services of the city of Kroměříž, Czech republic

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- Discussion

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 16:00

BLOK 4 – Financing of social services

Moderator: Vladislav Matej

- **New ideas for financing of social services of Platform SocioFórum**
Lýdia Brichtová
- Discussion

16:00

Closing the conference

3. OUTCOME AND FOLLOW-UP

Ministry officials were invited to participate in the seminars about models of financing social services. They also attended the conference. We sent a request for meet to State Secretary of the Ministry of Labour about our proposals and we also applied for participation in the working groups on the amendment to the law on social services.

At present, we have prepared a collective commentary to a small amendment to the law on social services, where we ask for solving of acute problems but calls for a comprehensive, systematic and non-discriminatory solution for the financing of services in major amendment.

Our proposal for the financing we have published in newspapers for representatives of municipalities and we expect their comments.

We consider it important that the participants of the conference heard examples of good practice and the experience of clients. It is important to discuss together (service providers, recipients of services and their relatives and legislators - representatives of the Ministry).

Full report of the inclusive labor market in Slovakia was sent to EASPD. See Attachment.

Following the report of the inclusive labor market we are preparing (autumn - winter 2016) a series of roundtables on employment services for the disadvantaged.

4. PARTICIPANT LIST (attachment)

