



# Slovakia Fact Sheet on Social Care & Support Services Sector for Persons with Disabilities

Part of a series of Country Fact Sheets available on the EASPD website

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## SUBSECTORS OF SOCIAL CARE & SUPPORT SERVICES AND THEIR CHARACTERISTICS

### Early Childhood Intervention

Early intervention centres are available in all eight regions. Firstly, seven centres were established by the Foundation SOCIA as non-governmental organisations between 2014 and 2017. Currently, there are over 22 providers of these services, both public and NGOs. All early intervention centres are non-profit organisations governed by the director of the centre and providing the early intervention free of charge (Act no. 448/2008 on social services). Services include: social counselling, social rehabilitation, and stimulation of the comprehensive development of a child with disabilities. Services are provided at a regional level. Early intervention centres provide services for children from birth until seven years of age. Early intervention is generally targeted at three groups of children.

- Children with developmental delays in one or more of the following areas: motor development, adaptive behaviour, cognitive development, communication, and socio-emotional development.
- Children with a diagnosis of the existence of conditions that have a high probability of developmental deviations, such as the presence of Down syndrome, childhood cerebral palsy, visual, auditory or multiple disabilities.
- Children with unfavourable social situations.

The list of the centres which were established first is provided here: <http://centravi.sk/>. There is the Association of Early Childhood Intervention Providers and Supporters, which was established in January 2017 (<https://asociaciavi.sk/>).

### Education Support

According to the Education Act no. 245/2008, children with disabilities are considered as children with special educational needs (with any kind of health impairments, disabilities, long-term sicknesses, developmental disorders, behavioural disorders, from socially disadvantaged backgrounds and children with special talents). Education of children with special educational needs is ensured primarily in special schools.

The main provider of education support in Slovakia is the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, and the National Institute for Education. Educational programs for pre-primary, primary, and higher education provide the standards for educating children with disabilities. In September 2017, the National Institute for Education introduced an “Education program for children with disabilities in pre-primary education”. Education programs for children with disabilities target the education of children with disabilities in special kindergartens (special education services) and in special classes for children with disabilities in kindergartens and school integration (educational services in mainstream schooling). Special kindergartens are mostly public, while some are private and church-owned. Kindergartens are partially financed by the state budget and municipal budget. Fees paid by parents range up to EUR 20 monthly, based on the municipal order issued by local municipalities. Church kindergartens only provide education for intellectually disabled children, while private kindergartens cater for children with autism, intellectual disability and visual impairment. The list of special kindergartens in Slovakia is provided here: [http://www.cvtisr.sk/buxus/docs//JC/PREHLAD/SMS/sms\\_p0.xls](http://www.cvtisr.sk/buxus/docs//JC/PREHLAD/SMS/sms_p0.xls). Special kindergartens include the following disabilities: autism, mental, hearing, visual, physical, behavioural disturbances.

For primary education (until 18 years of age) and higher education (age not specified; for visually and hearing impaired, the schooling is prolonged by one year), there are “Educational programs for pupils with disabilities” (used in special schools and special classes in the mainstream schools), covering the following disabilities: mental, hearing impairment, visual impairment, physical disabilities, disruptive communication, autism or other pervasive developmental disorders, multiple disabilities, disorders of activity and attention, developmental learning disorders, and disruptive, emotional or social disabilities. Primary education is provided by public, private, and church schools financed by the state budget, with private and church schools partially paid by the pupil (determined individually by the school). The list of special primary schools in Slovakia is provided here: [http://www.cvtisr.sk/buxus/docs//JC/PREHLAD/SZS/szs\\_p0.xls](http://www.cvtisr.sk/buxus/docs//JC/PREHLAD/SZS/szs_p0.xls). Higher education is provided by public, private, and church schools financed by the state budget, with private and church schools partially paid by the pupil (determined individually by the school). Higher education in public schools covers the following types

of disabilities: mental, hearing, visual, physical, and attention disorders. Special private and church high schools provide education only for intellectually disabled people. The list of special high schools in Slovakia is provided here: [http://www.cvtisr.sk/cvti-sr-vedecka-kniznica/informacie-o-skolstve/publikacie-casopisy.../zistovanie-kvalifikovanosti/prehľad-strednych-skol.html?page\\_id=9574](http://www.cvtisr.sk/cvti-sr-vedecka-kniznica/informacie-o-skolstve/publikacie-casopisy.../zistovanie-kvalifikovanosti/prehľad-strednych-skol.html?page_id=9574).

## Employment Support

Employment support for people with disabilities in Slovakia is provided through the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (<http://www.upsvar.sk/>), the state administration body. Concerning the employment of people with disabilities, the Central Office is responsible for the national project "Promoting the employment of disabled citizens", co-financed with the European Social Fund and administered by the Central Office, which is in place until 2019 with the aim of promoting employment, adaptability and reduction of unemployment of citizens with disabilities in the form of providing contributions to: establishment of sheltered workshops and sheltered workplaces by employers; maintaining citizens with disabilities (in general) in employment; supporting the employment of citizens with disabilities with the help of work assistants; and contributing to the operating costs of a sheltered workshop or workplace and the cost of transport to work. The project is provided at a national level from January 2017 until December 2021. The Central Office also provides financial contributions for the self-employment of people with disabilities, depending on the average salary in Slovakia (Bratislava region) and on the average salary in Slovakia and unemployment rate in individual districts (Trnava, Nitra, Žilina, Banská Bystrica, Prešov, Košice regions). There is also an obligation to employ people with disabilities if the employer employs at least 20 employees: the employer should have 3.2% of the total number of his/her employees as people with disabilities. Employers failing to adhere to this legislation are requested to make an annual contribution for every person with disability they should be employing. However, the disproportion between the annual contribution (for 2018: EUR 1,115.36 per disabled person who should be employed) and the annual minimum wage (for 2018: EUR 5,760) is not motivating for employers to employ people with disabilities. The list of branches of the Central Office is provided here: [http://www.upsvar.sk/urady-kontakty.html?page\\_id=287](http://www.upsvar.sk/urady-kontakty.html?page_id=287).

Non-state entities supporting (by giving expert advice to support and help people with disabilities in gaining and retaining jobs and search for suitable employment; and providing consultations and selection of suitable candidates for employers) the employment of people with disabilities include the agencies for supported employment. These are usually non-profit organisations, private companies and natural persons. The list of active agencies for supported employment is provided here: [http://www.upsvar.sk/buxus/docs/download/APZ\\_k\\_10.11.2017\\_\\_ZVR\\_\\_.xlsx](http://www.upsvar.sk/buxus/docs/download/APZ_k_10.11.2017__ZVR__.xlsx). The agencies operate mostly on a voluntary basis at the regional and local levels, and are financed based on the services they provide (employers compensate the agencies for the consultations and selection of suitable candidate).

## Day Care

Day care for people with disabilities, though very rare, is provided by public municipal and regional organisations, non-profit organisations, citizen associations and church organisations. Day care is provided at a local level for elderly people, and organisations are financed from state budget, public finances at a local level, voluntary contributions, and payments from clients. Day care facilities cover people with various disabilities (physical, mental, visual, and hearing) and include: day care centres, rehabilitation centres and day centres, reading services, interpreting services, dining services, laundry services and personal hygiene centres. Services that are provided include: social rehabilitation and counselling, meals, cleaning, laundry, work therapy and leisure time activities.

The list of providers is provided here: <https://www.employment.gov.sk/sk/centralny-register-poskytovatelov-socialnych-sluzieb>.

## Living Support

The Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family is responsible, among others, for compensation for disabled people. Act no. 447/2008 on financial contributions for people with disabilities (all types of disabilities) provides the basis for financial contributions paid, based on the type of disability. Contributions comprise those for personal assistance; purchase of devices; purchase of lifting equipment; purchase of passenger motor vehicles; modifications of flats, houses, and garages; and assistance (daily assistance for a disabled person in self-care and household care to stay in a natural home environment). The financial contribution is based on the degree of disability and income and is paid by the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. The service is provided by regional and local branches of the Central Office. The list of branches is provided here: [http://www.upsvar.sk/urady-kontakty.html?page\\_id=287](http://www.upsvar.sk/urady-kontakty.html?page_id=287).

In 2015 Integrated Service Points were established by the Ministry of Finance to provide assisted electronic services for people with various disabilities from 18 years of age with services including business registry extracts, criminal register extracts and ownership certificates for legal purposes. The points are located at branches of Slovak Post and at registry offices of local municipalities. The list of all Integrated Service Points is provided here: <http://www.informatizacia.sk/register-prevadzka-13918s>. This service is provided at a local level.

## Long-Term Institutional Care and Respite Care

Residential care is provided by public regional and municipal providers, non-profit and church organisations, and civic associations at local level. Organisations are financed by state budget, public finances at local level, voluntary contributions, and contributions from clients. Facilities providing residential care include: supported housing facilities, facilities for seniors, social services homes, facilities of care service (time-limited to a maximum of 3 months), and specialised facilities. All types of facilities provide social counselling, social rehabilitation, accommodation, boarding, and cleaning (boarding and cleaning are voluntary for supported housing). All these facilities provide care for people with various disabilities (physical, mental, visual, and hearing). They provide long-term (annual basis) and short-term (weekly basis) accommodation for people of age 16 until retirement age. Facilities for seniors and specialised facilities provide their services for retired people. Supported housing facilities provide services to disabled people who can lead independent living under supervision from 16 years of age and after the retirement age in case they retire in the supported housing facility. Social services homes provide their services for people until retirement age. Specialised facilities provide services for people of all ages, specialising in certain disability or disease such as health impairments including Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, pervasive developmental disorder, multiple sclerosis, schizophrenia, dementia of a different type of aetiology, deaf blindness, AIDS and severe heavy psycho syndrome. The list of providers of residential care is provided here: <https://www.employment.gov.sk/sk/centralny-register-poskytovatelov-socialnych-sluzieb>.

## Leisure and Social-Life Support

Leisure time activities and social-life support for people with various types of disabilities and ages is provided by public, non-profit and church organisations at local level. Organisations are financed by state budget, public finances at a local level, voluntary contributions, and contribution from clients. Leisure time activities and social-life support for people with disabilities are provided mainly through: facilities for seniors, social services homes, specialised facilities, day care centres and day centres. All the facilities provide various kinds of leisure time activities and hobbies (computer classes, music therapy) for people with various disabilities (physical, mental, visual, and hearing). Leisure and social-life support is provided mainly inside the facilities, therefore people with disabilities have very few opportunities to use community-based services. There are a few civic organisations providing various activities (concerts, sports) for people with disabilities. The list of these organisations is provided here: <http://www.best.sk/www/KlubyZdravPostihnuti.htm>.

The list of other providers is provided here: <https://www.employment.gov.sk/sk/centralny-register-poskytovatelov-socialnych-sluzieb>.

## FUTURE TRENDS

At the end of 2011, Slovakia joined the trend of removing the consequences of the institutional isolation and segregation of people with disabilities in specialised facilities. On December 14, 2011, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and the Family approved the National Action Plan of Transition from Institutional to Community Care in the Social Services for the years 2012-2015. The main goal of this plan was to support the deinstitutionalisation of the social services system through the implementation of pilot projects and the creation of other supporting mechanisms in legislation. The National Action Plan for years 2016-2020 aiming to provide goals and measures for the continuation of processes established by the previous plan, is currently being implemented. The main objectives are listed below.

- The transformation from institutional care provided by the state to the natural social environment of the community for the people with disabilities. The deinstitutionalisation should be finished by the year 2020 with the financial help of the European funds, mainly the European Social Fund.
- The renewal of family and friendship relations; the creation of new social networks relationships; the exploitation and expansion of existing ones; and the creation of new ambulant services used by locals (including people with disabilities) who are dependent on such services.

However, since 2015 there are few activities taking place regarding deinstitutionalisation at the national level. Most of users of social services live in institutions, and there is a lack of community services. The amendment to the Social Services Act no. 448/2008 (effective from January 2018) creates a gap between providers of institutional and community care, and will bring overall more resources towards institutional care and less to community care. Steps and actions taken by state bodies are not adequate in the transition from institutional to community care.

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