

## Slovakia – ANED country profile

The information contained in this summary was compiled by the Academic Network of European Disability experts (ANED) in April 2009.

### Academic networks and resources

There is no academic network on disability studies in Slovakia. Systematic research in this field is carried out by [Inštitút pre výskum práce a rodiny](#) (the Institute for Labour and Family Research ILFR) and by [Výskumný ústav detskej psychológie a patopsychológie](#) (the Research Institute for Child Psychology and Patopsychology RICPP). Both research institutions are state sponsored.

There is no general disability focused journal. RICPP publishes the journal [Psychológia a patopsychológia dieťaťa](#) /Psychology and Patopsychology of a Child. ILFR publishes the bulletin [Rodina a práca](#) /Family and Labour. Some of the bulletins', issues are focused on disability affairs.

Research focused on disability is carried out by The Slovak academy of science or by universities, but not on a permanent or systematic basis.

### Policy and enforcement bodies

The key national bodies with responsibility for disability law and policy implementation include:

[Rada vlády SR pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím](#) /The governmental council for persons with disabilities in the Slovak Republic. This is a government body that has primary responsibility for disability policy in Slovakia.

### Organisations of disabled people

The national organisation representing disabled people at the European level (European Disability Forum) is:

[Národná rada občanov so zdravotným postihnutím v SR](#) /The National council of persons with disabilities in the Slovak republic (NCPD). This is an umbrella civil/non-governmental organisation of persons with disabilities in Slovakia, the national partner of the European Disability Forum and the official partner of the Slovak government for decision making about disability issues.

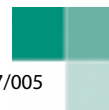
Other significant national organisations of disabled people include:

[Únia nevidiacich a slabozrakých Slovenska](#) (Slovak Blind and Partially Sighted Union)

[Asociácia organizácií sluchovo postihnutých](#) (Association of Deaf Disabled Persons in Slovakia)

[Združenie na pomoc ľuďom s mentálnym postihnutím v SR](#) (Association on help for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities in Slovakia)

[Slovenský zväz zdravotne postihnutých](#) (Slovak Association of Persons with Disabilities)



[Slovenský zväz telesne postihnutých](#) (Slovak Association of Persons with Physical Disabilities)

[Liga za duševné zdravie](#) (League for Mental Health)

### **National law and strategy**

The Slovak Republic has signed the [United Nations Convention](#) and the [Optional Protocol](#).

Important national laws, policies and strategies concerning disabled people include:

The Slovak Republic, is currently aligning its legal framework with the UN Convention.

Important national laws, policies and strategies concerning disabled people include:

Zákon č. 365/2004 Z.z. o rovnakom zaobchádzaní v niektorých oblastiach a o ochrane pred diskrimináciou a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov (antidiskriminačný zákon)/ The Act on Equal Treatment in Certain Areas and Protection against Discrimination (Antidiscrimination Act)

Zákon č. 5/2004 Z. z. o službách zamestnanosti/ The Act on Employment Services  
This act establishes various active measures to support employment of persons with disabilities

Zákon č. 447/2008 Z. z. o peňažných príspevkoch na kompenzáciu ťažkého zdravotného postihnutia/ The Act on Direct payments on compensation of severe disabilities. The Act includes direct payment for personal assistance to support independent living.

Zákon č.448/2008 Z.z. o sociálnych službách/ The Act on Social Services, including social services for persons with disabilities.

Zákon č.461/2003 o sociálnom poistení/ The Act on Social Insurance. This stipulates legal conditions for providing disability pensions.

Zákon č. 50/1976 Zb. o územnom plánovaní a stavebnom pozadku a jeho vykonávací vyhláška/ The Act on civil engineering and regulation. It establishes standards and general technical conditions for buildings used by persons with limited mobility and orientation.

Vyhláška Ministerstva školstva č. 212/1991 o špeciálnych školách/ The Regulation on Special Schools. General conditions for education of children with special needs and disabilities in special settings are established. (Education in mainstream school settings is regulated by mainstream educational legislation.)

Zákon č. 140/1998 Z. z. o liekoch a zdravotníckych pomôckach/ The Act on Drugs and health devices.

Zákon č. 576/2004 Z.z.o zdravotnej starostlivosti, službách súvisiacich s poskytovaním zdravotnej starostlivosti/ The Act on health care and related services.

More information about the laws is available at: [JASPI](#)

[Národný program rozvoja životných podmienok občanov so zdravotným postihnutím vo všetkých oblastiach života/ The National Programme of Living Conditions Development in all Living Areas for Persons with disabilities; Opatrenia Národného programu na roky 2006-2007/ Provisions of National Programme for years 2006-2007](#)

### **Facts and figures**

Data on population indicate that:

8.2% of the general population aged 16-64 have 'long standing health problems' (LSHPD). ([Men and women with disabilities in the EU: statistical analysis of the LFS ad hoc module and the EU SILC](#))

In 2007, 89,1 % of those reporting LSHPD were restricted in kind of work of which 48.6% were restricted considerably and 40.5 % restricted to some extent. ([" Men and women with disabilities in the EU: statistical analysis of the LFS ad hoc module and the EU-SILC"](#) (2007)

In 2007, the population aged 16-64 with long standing health problems included 36% people with physical impairment (arms or hands, legs or feet, back or neck problems); 2,6% visual impairment; 1,5% hearing impairment; 0,7% speech impediment, 1,6% skin disease, 6,7 % respiratory disease, 20,2% heart and blood pressure disease, 4,9% alimentary tract disease, 5% diabetes, 1,9 % epilepsy, 9,3% mental disorders, 3,4% other progressive illness and 2,4% other long standing health problems. ([Men and women with disabilities in the EU: statistical analysis of the LFS ad hoc module and the EU SILC](#))

Data on employment indicate that:

In 2007 there were 26,000 employed disabled people, of which 54 % were male and 46 % female. (SK Labour Force Survey, 4 q 2007)

Share of employed disabled people on total employment was 1,1 %. (SK Labour Force Survey, 4 q 2007)

In 2002 the employment rate of disabled people was 19% compared to 56% for non-disabled people (LFS ad hoc module on health problem and disability 2002)

In 2002 the unemployment rate of disabled persons was 8,5% compared to 13% for non-disabled persons ((LFS ad hoc module on health problem and disability 2002)

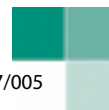
Data on education indicate that:

In 2007, there were 18 695 pupils/students with disabilities in mainstream education,(Časové rady, [Individuálna integrácia](#))

In the school year 2007/2008 there were:

66 special kindergartens for disabled children with 1,135 children and 196 full-time teachers

200 special primary schools for pupils with mental disability with 16,780 pupils and 2,454 full-time teachers



76 special primary schools for pupils with other kinds of handicaps with 3,506 pupils and 481 full-time teachers

There are on average 30.0 pupils with special educational needs per one special grammar school, 30.3 pupils per one specialized secondary school and 86.8 pupils per one vocational school and apprentice training centre. ([Eurybase 2006/7](#))

Data on accessibility indicate that:

General information concerning accessibility in Slovakia is missing. There are only partial data from different settings/departments:

Local state administration – there are 117 offices of employment, social affairs and family; of these 111 have barrier-free entrances, but not barrier-free access to toilets ([Vyhodnotenie realizácie Národného programu 2006-2007](#) )

All buildings of the Social Insurance company's offices (38) have barrier-free entrances, 24 buildings have full barrier-free access to toilets, 35 have special parking places for persons with disabilities and 21 have accessible elevators ([Vyhodnotenie realizácie Národného programu 2006-2007](#)).

Details from other departments (e.g. Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Transport) concerning accessibility are available in Report of National Programme ([Vyhodnotenie realizácie Národného programu 2006-2007](#) )

There is provision to provide financial allowances (e.g. for adapting houses; from 2002-2008 the number of recipients reached 22,272). ([Databázy Ústredia práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny](#))

Data on poverty and incomes indicate that:

Most adults receive disability/ invalidity pensions; the majority of disabled people do not have income from a regular job and almost half of disabled people reported that their general economic situation had become worse in last 5 years;

([Repkova, K., 2006](#))

Around 65% of disabled persons feel they do not have enough money for daily living costs; 30% are able to afford only the cheapest meals or clothes; disabled people are facing serious problems in covering expenses on health care services and medicines, on leisure time activities and transport services (data based on an empirical survey see: [Repkova, K., 2006](#))

Data on attitudes indicate that:

Almost 30% of Slovaks attributed their ADL-limitations to health problems ([EÚ-SILC, 2006](#))

In 2007, 31% of Slovaks experienced limitations, for at least the past six months, in activities people normally do, because of physical or mental conditions ([Special Eurobarometer 283/Wave 67.3](#))

According to the [Slovak National Centre for Human Rights](#), for 82% of adult persons health status is taken into account when employers recruit people into jobs ([Kotvanová et al, 2007](#))

Data on public spending indicate that:

In 2005 the Slovak republic spent 9.2 % of the total social benefit expenditure on disability benefits compared to an EU 27 average of 7.9% ([Eurostat, 2008](#))

### **Social protection**

Key features of the national system include (including adapted items from the [MISSOC](#) database December 2008):

#### Disability benefits

In 2008:

Disability pensions: the average amount of money paid for recipients was approx. 7 000 SK (230 EUR/month) and the total number of recipients was approx. 200 104 (December 2008), [www.soc.poist.sk](#))

Financial allowances for severe disability compensation were available for: personal assistance, purchasing and repairing aids (assistive devices), , purchasing a personal motor vehicle, housing adaptation, additional expenses (special diets, hygiene or clothing, footwear and furnishing replacement, operating a personal motor vehicle, care for an assistance dog) and for caring.

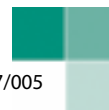
Since July 1999 up to now financial benefits can be received only by persons recognised as persons with severe disability (minimal 50% of functional impairment). As well as a medical condition the person has to fulfil other legal conditions to provide her/him with special disability benefits (e.g. to be employed, to attend school or social rehabilitation in social facilities, receive assistance or help, to pay for increased expenses).

All benefits are means tested. Total number of recipients up to December 2008: 195,169, total expenditure: 5 billion 390 thousand SK (178, 944 mil. EUR). There was some increasing in recipient number between 2005 and 2006 (from 183 700 recipients in 2005 to 195 650 in 2006), since 2005 the number has been stabilised (around 195 thousand). What concerns total expenditure in this field the rate went slightly down (from 5 billion 793 thousand SK in 2006 to 5 billion 390 thousand SK in 2008). ([Ústredie práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny, štatistiky](#))

#### Rehabilitation and re-training

Occupational rehabilitation is defined as the training needed to obtain the skills for performance of a present job or other appropriate job. Occupational rehabilitation is insured by the Social Insurance Company and provided by employers, by health care facilities or other facilities designated for the occupational rehabilitation providing. ([Law № 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance](#))

Re-training and supported employment are provided by the [Act № 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services](#)



## Preferential employment and quotas

All employers with 20 or more employees must employ at least 3.2% disabled persons. Employers can receive from employment public services various financial benefits to support them in establishing and operating job places for persons with disabilities. ([Act № 5/2004 on Employment Services](#)).

## Long-term support and care

There is no unified/single system of long-term care for persons with ADL-assistance needs.

The most frequent and preferred solution is care provided by relatives with care allowance (provided by local state administration, about 50,000 recipients). Other types of support are direct payment for personal assistance (provided by local state administration, about 6,000 recipients), care service provided in client's home (provided by municipalities, about 20,000 recipients) or residential care organised in daily, weekly or permanent pattern (provided by local or regional self-government, about 25,000 recipients with disabilities, more than 90% as permanent scheme). ([Správa o sociálnej situácii 2007](#))

Various direct payments for long-term care are provided by the local state administration to compensate for social consequences of severe disability – e.g. for devices, individualised transport, housing adaptation, different types of additional costs ([Správa o sociálnej situácii 2007](#)/Report on social situation 2007).

Most relatives providing care are women (about 80%), aged 51-64 years. 40% are daughters

More than 70% of family care allowance recipients share a common household with care dependent persons; about 45% were unemployed when they began to provide care, only about 2% of family caregivers have a job as well as caring. ([Repková, 2008](#)).

Since January 2009 there has been a legal possibility to provide care allowance recipients with respite care (max. 30 days in calendar year + 8 days/monthly of municipal care service for ADL-dependent person). Act No.448/2008 Coll. on Social Services)

## Additional information

Useful sources of more detailed information about the situation of disabled people, and the policies and support available, include:

Various projects of [National council of persons with disabilities in the Slovak republic](#)

More detailed country reports on selected themes are available on the ANED website: <http://www.disability-europe.net/en/countries/Slovakia>