

**MINISTRY OF LABOUR, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND FAMILY
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**

Report

on the Social Situation of the Population of the Slovak Republic for 2020

Bratislava 2021

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS:

- a. s.** – joint-stock company
ALMM – active labour market measures
b. c. – current prices
BA – Region of Bratislava
BB – Region of Banská Bystrica
COICOP – Classification of Individual Consumption according to Purpose
d. f. – pension fund
d.d.f. – supplementary pension fund
DDS, d. d. s. – supplementary pension fund management company
DOP – demand-oriented project
DSS, d. s. s. – pension fund management company
EA19 – the European Union countries paying in Euros in 2019 (*Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Cyprus, Malta, Slovenia, Slovakia*)
EEA – European Economic Area
EC – European Commission
ESF – European Social Fund
ESSPROS – European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics
ESIF – European Structural and Investment Funds
EU – European Union
EU SILC – European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
EU15 – the first 15 member states of the European Union (*Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Sweden, the United Kingdom*)
EU27 – 27 member states of the European Union (in 2020) (*Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), the Czech Republic (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Greece (GR), Spain (ES), France (FR), Croatia (HR), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Hungary (HU), Malta (MT), the Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovenia (SI), Slovakia (SK), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE)*)
FOC – financial on-the-spot control
FO – natural person
GDP – gross domestic product
CHD – sheltered workshop
CHP – sheltered workplace
CHzP – occupational disease and/or occupational poisoning
ITMS – IT Monitoring System for Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund
YEI – Youth Employment Initiative
KE – Region of Košice
KIDS – information system for the social and legal protection of children and social guardianship
HLCA – higher-level collective agreement
RUR – registered unemployment rate
mil. – million
bil. – billion
MoLSAF – Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic
MRC – Marginalized Roma communities
NACE, SK NACE Rev. 2 – statistical classification of economic activities
NBS – National Bank of Slovakia
NEET – young people aged 15 – 24 who do not attend a school, work or participate in a professional training (i.e. not in employment, education or training)
NP – national project
NR – Region of Nitra
OMC – Open Method of Coordination
OP HR – Operational Programme Human Resources

OPS – professional advisory services
OZP – disabled citizen
pp – percentage point
PM – job
PMIS – multi-institutional cooperation partnership
PO – Region of Prešov
PP – monetary allowance
PPS – purchasing power standard
PÚ – occupational accident
RO – managing authority
DAPS – Department of Advisory and Psychological Services
RSD MIS – management information system for managing social benefits
ROA - registered occupational accident
s. c. – constant prices
SK ISCO-08 – statistical classification of occupations, 2016 version
SOS – secondary vocational school
SLPC&SG – Social and Legal Protection of Children and Social Guardianship
Report – Report on the Social Situation of the Population of the Slovak Republic
SFOA – serious fatal occupational accident
SR – Slovak Republic
SŠ – secondary school
ŠVVP – special educational needs
SZČO – self-employed person
MLW – subsistence minimum amount
SO SR – Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic
thous. – thousand
TN – Region of Trenčín
TT – Region of Trnava
ŽZP – severely disabled person / severe disablement
SOA - serious occupational accident
ŤUZ - occupational accident with grievous bodily injury
UoZ – job seeker
COLSAF, LSAF Central Office – Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family
local OLSAF – office of labour, social affairs and family
VPM – job vacancy
VŠ – university
LFS – Labour Force Survey
WI – work intensity
Coll. – Collection of Laws
ZA – Region of Žilina
ZoZ – job changer
ZŠ – primary school
ZUoZ – disadvantaged job applicant

INTRODUCTION

The Report on the Social Situation of the Population of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter simply the Report) for the previous calendar year is prepared annually by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter simply MoLSAF or the ministry), and is submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter simply the Government of the SR), the Economic and Social Council of the Slovak Republic and the Parliamentary Committee on Social Affairs. The aim of the Report is to inform about the state and development of the social situation of the population in Slovakia based on socio-economic indicators acquired from national statistical surveys, the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family and the Social Insurance Agency administrative data sources.

In 2020 the Slovak economy as well as the entire society was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures to contain it. The impact of the pandemic is described also in individual chapters of the Report – its reflection in the respective legislation, changes and measures adopted in 2020 to mitigate the social and economic impacts as well as the impacts of the pandemic alone.

The first chapter of the Report provides a brief overview of the basic macroeconomic and demographic indicators in Slovakia in 2020.

The second chapter describes the legislative changes in employment services, labour relations and social dialogue in 2020. It focuses on labour market trends from both aggregated and structural perspectives. It monitors individual active labour market policy measures, trends in wages, working conditions in collective bargaining and occupational safety and health. This part of the Report also includes an analysis of full labour costs and a subchapter of the social economy sector, which creates comprehensive regulation of the functioning of and support for social enterprises in the Slovak Republic.

The state, main forms and changes in the system of social protection in 2020 are covered by the third chapter. The chapter provides a year-on-year comparison and analysis of individual elements of social insurance, pension saving, state social support system and social assistance. It also provides information on subsidies provided by MoLSAF and the Operational Programme Human Resources supported by the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund. The chapter includes the outputs of the European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS), one of the fundamental tools of statistical monitoring of the systems, current state and development of the social protection in the European Union (hereinafter also referred to as "EU") member states.

The fourth chapter contains available data from the evaluation of the poverty and social exclusion indicators. It also provides information on the state of equality between men and women and equal opportunities in Slovakia in 2020.

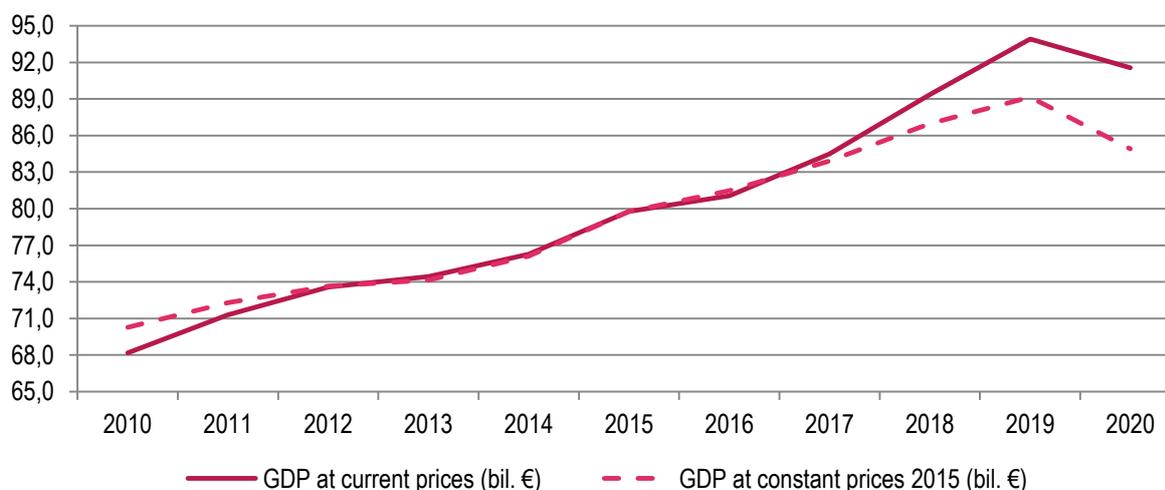
The evolution in EU27 was also affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, what is reflected in the fifth chapter in a description and comparison of selected indicators between EU countries in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy determining the main EU goals in relation to the Lisbon Strategy.

1 MAIN MACROECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

1.1 Basic Macroeconomic Characteristics¹

In 2020 the Slovak economy was mainly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures to contain it. The impact of the pandemic was reflected in the production, foreign trade, labour market or business environment, as well as in the behaviour of the households. **Gross domestic product (GDP)** at constant prices dropped for the first time since 2009, namely by 4.8 %, after several years that it had been growing steadily. GDP at current prices reached € 91.6 billion, representing a decrease by 2.5 % compared to 2019. According to the pension method of GDP calculation, the decrease in GDP was influenced mainly by a drop in the operating surplus and mixed income.

Graph 1.1 Development of the Gross Domestic Product at Current and Constant Prices



Source: SO SR; ESA 2010 methodology; constant prices calculated by chain-linking the volumes as of the reference year 2015; the data is reviewed on the basis of reviewed annual data for 2017-2019 and preliminary data for 2020

In 2020, the foreign demand was lower by 7.5 % compared to the previous year but in the second half it was rising again after it had recovered. The domestic demand decreased by 5.5 % as a result of a drop in the generation of gross capital by 21.3 % (while the gross fixed capital generation dropped by 12 %); however, it was recovering more slowly in comparison with the foreign demand. Total final consumption decreased as well, partly as a result of a decrease in the final consumption of households (by 1.1 %) and an increase in the expenditures in public administration (by 0.3 %). Expenditures in household-serving non-profit institutions continued to grow (by 5.6 %).

A year-on-year **inflation rate** which was measured by the consumer price index averaged 1.9 % in 2020. Compared to 2019, the growth rate of prices slowed down by 0.8 pp, while the monthly development of **consumer prices** fluctuated in 2020. Regulated prices increased as well (by 3.4 %) compared to the previous year. In 2020, the core inflation amounted to 2.0 % and net inflation (without changes to direct taxes) slowed down its growth by 0.4 pp compared to the previous year and reached 1.5 %. According to the classification of individual consumption by purpose (COICOP), the overall price growth was influenced mainly by an increase in the prices for education (by 4.1 %), miscellaneous goods and services (by 4.1 %), health (by 2.6 %), housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (by 2.6 %), restaurants and hotels (by 2.6 %) and food and non-alcoholic beverages (by 2.5 %). Prices increased in almost all categories except for transport where they dropped by 3.4 %.

In 2020 the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures to contain it was also demonstrated in the labour market, e.g. by a decrease in the total employment rate determined according to both methodologies of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (by the Labour Force Survey and statistical reporting), increase in the registered unemployment rate as well as a rise in the unemployment rate ascertained by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic.

¹ Data source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (DATAcube database) and the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

According to the Labour Force Survey (hereinafter referred to as "LFS") carried out by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic in the Slovak households, in 2020 the **total employment** dropped by 2.0 % (by 52.4 thousand persons) and its annual average amounted to 2,531.3 thousand working persons (national employment concept²), while the number of employees dropped by 41.9 thousand persons (by 1.9 %) to 2,153.1 thousand persons and the number of entrepreneurs fell by 9.4 thousand persons (by 2.4 %) to 377.2 thousand persons. According to LFS, the number of short-term migrants decreased by 5.2 % year-on-year (by 6.7 thousand persons) and averaged 121.9 thousand. According to the statistical reporting of SO SR, which is carried out in enterprises in the Slovak Republic, the average number of people employed in the Slovak economy in 2020 decreased by 1.8 % (by 44 thous. persons) to 2,372 thous. persons. According to the statistical reporting, from the point of view of individual industries, the average number of employed persons decreased mainly in the area of mining and quarrying (by 8.1 %), industrial production (by 6.0 %), construction (by 5.9 %) and accommodation and catering services (by 4.9 %). On the contrary, the employment rate increased mainly in the area of expert, scientific and technical activities (by 5.5 %). According to LFS, the **employment rate** in the age group of 20 – 64 dropped by 0.9 pp to 72.5 % compared to the previous year.

According to records of the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family as well as according to the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic³ the **unemployment rate** increased on average for 2020, while the total average number of the registered unemployed persons increased by 41.6 thousand persons (by 24.8 %) to 209,634 persons⁴ compared to the previous year. The number of available job-seekers increased by 48.7 thousand persons (by 35.4 %) to 186,153 persons⁵. According to LFS, the number of the unemployed increased by 15.0 % to 181.4 thousand persons in 2020 compared to the previous year.

The average **registered unemployment rate** increased by 2.65 pp compared to the previous year and reached 7.6 % in the monitored year⁶, representing the first increase since 2012. The **unemployment rate according to LFS** increased as well, namely to 6.7 % per year on average, i.e. by 0.9 pp more than in 2019.

According to SO SR data from quarterly statistical reporting the vacancy rate was by 0.8 % (by 0.3 pp) lower than in 2019. The average **number of vacancies** dropped by 5,857 compared to 2019 (by 26.7 %) to 16,063 vacancies. The highest number of vacancies was in the region of Bratislava (7,538). In other regions their number ranged from 1,056 (region of Košice) to 1,160 (region of Trnava).

The **average nominal monthly wages**⁷ of employees in the economy for 2020 increased on average by 3.8 % to € 1,133 year-on-year. Taking into account the development of consumer prices, the real wages increased to a lesser extent, namely by 1.9 %. A more in-depth structural comparison of macroeconomic indicators and a comparison on an international scale are given in the subsequent chapters of the Report.

Current income of households⁸ increased in nominal terms by 1.5 % compared to 2019. Remuneration of employees (€ 42,142.9 mil.) traditionally accounted for the largest part of the total of € 83,004.3 mil. Gross operating surplus and gross mixed income amounted to € 15,967.5 mil., social benefits⁹ to € 14,878.4 mil., other current transfers to € 8,179.4 mil., and property income (received) to € 1,836.1 mil. The nominal increase in the current income of households may be attributed to an increase in the income from social benefits which went up by 13.9 %. Employee remuneration increased by 0.5 % and other current transfers rose by 2.5 % year-on-year. Other types of income decreased compared to the previous year: gross operating surplus and gross mixed income by 4.8 % and property income (received) by 8.2 %. **Current expenditure of households**¹⁰ amounted to € 24,587.1 mil. and compared to 2019, increased slightly in nominal terms by 1.3 %. Mainly property income (expended) was increasing more significantly (by 90.2 %). Net social contributions increased by 2.0 % and other current expenditure transfers rose by 5.1 %. However, contrary to the previous year, the amount of current taxes from pensions, property and other taxes dropped by 10.9 %.

² Employment according to the Labour Force Survey is employment of the resident population (commonly referred to as "national" or "residential" employment, the so-called *national employment concept*). It refers to the population with usual residence in the country and also includes short-term migration for work abroad, i.e. people who commute abroad for work or travelled abroad for work or plan to stay abroad for a maximum period of one year.

³ according to the Labour Force Survey

⁴ according to the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

⁵ according to the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

⁶ according to the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

⁷ according to quarterly statistical reporting

⁸ according to ESA 2010 methodology, quarterly accounts

⁹ with the exception of natural social transfers

¹⁰ according to ESA 2010 methodology, quarterly accounts

After payment of current expenditure, the households were left with gross disposable income of € 58,417.2 mil., a year-on-year increase of 1.6 %.

Households used € 52,837.1 mil. of their gross disposable income for final consumption and the rest for gross savings amounting to € 6,629.6 mil. Final consumption of households increased by 1.0 % in nominal terms and gross savings rose by 11.0 % in 2020. Gross saving rate (the proportion of gross saving to gross disposable income) increased by 0.9 pp to 11.3 %. In 2020, households expended more money (in current prices)¹¹ on food and alcohol-free beverages (increase by 9.4 %), miscellaneous goods and services (by 6.2 %), housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (increase by 6.0 %), alcoholic beverages and tobacco (by 4.7 %), health (by 3.6 %), as well as some other areas of consumption. Household expenditures dropped in other areas of consumption which were most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and by the measures to contain it, mainly transport (by 20.4 %), recreation and culture (by 11.9 %), restaurants and hotels (by 11.7 %) and education (9.6 %).

Similarly to previous years, the largest part of private consumption expenditure in terms of proportion was spent on housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels, namely 30.7 % (the share of total private consumption increased by 1.4 pp year-on-year), and on food and non-alcoholic beverages, namely by 19.6 % (by 1.5 pp).

During 2020, construction of 19,744 dwellings began; 21,490 dwellings were completed; as of 31 December, there were 76,339 dwellings under construction. There was a total loss of 1,385 dwellings, of which 1,328 by rehabilitation. The number of dwellings under construction decreased by 3.3 % and the number of started dwellings by 8.2 % compared to 2019. The number of completed dwellings increased by 6.5 % year-on-year.

The macroeconomic indicators are summarised in Annex to Chapter 1.

1.2 Selected demographic indicators

In 2020, a total of 56,650 children were born alive in Slovakia according to data from SO SR, which is by 404 fewer than in 2019. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of deaths increased by almost 11 % to 59,089, which represents a year-on-year increase by 5,855 deaths.

The decreasing trend in the marriage rate seen in the previous years overtook the decrease in the divorce rate. 23,753 couples got married and 8,295 married couples got divorced in 2020.

Compared to 2019, the number of marriages decreased by 5,911 and the number of divorces dropped by 1,171. This development has caused an increase in the divorce rate (34.9 divorces per 100 marriages).

With regard to the significant increase in the death rate and the slight decrease in the number of live births compared to 2019, there was a natural drop in the population, namely by 2,439 persons, which the Slovak Republic last saw in 2003.

Compared to the previous year, the total population increase dropped by 5,544 persons to 1,908 and it remained in red numbers thanks to the migration balance which increased by 715 persons year-on-year. Through foreign migration, Slovakia gained 4,347 persons, where 6,775 persons immigrated and 2,428 persons emigrated.

As of 31 December 2020, the total population of the Slovak Republic was **5,459,781 persons**. The share of **women** in the total population was **51 %**.

Table 1.1 Population Increase in SR, 2019 and 2020

Year	Live births	Deaths	Natural population increase/decrease	Net migration	Total population growth
2019	57,054	53,234	3,820	3,632	7,452
2020	56,650	59,089	-2,439	4,347	1,908

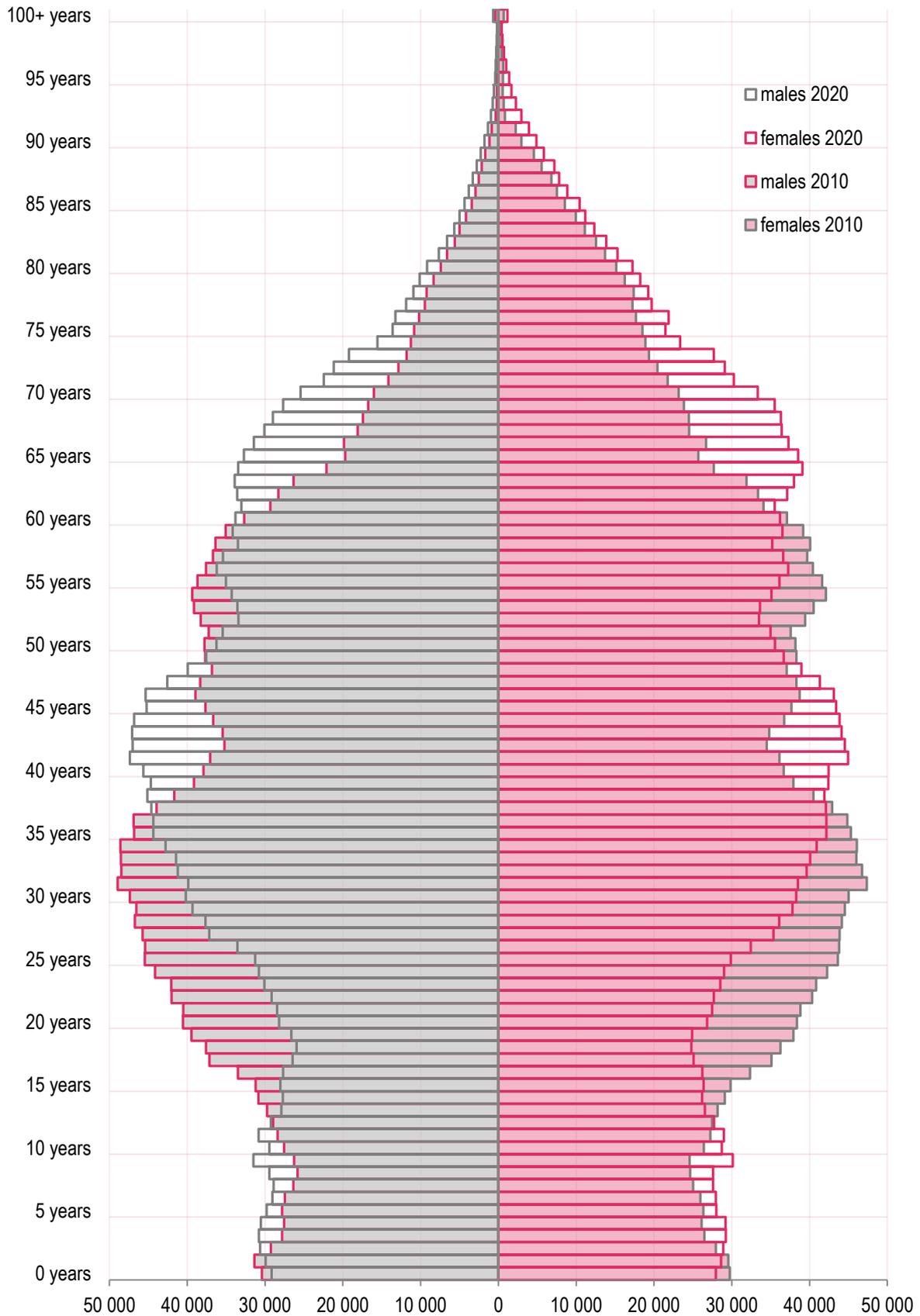
Source: Statistical Office of the SR

At the end of 2020, the number of children aged 0 – 14 reached 868,294, accounting for 15.9 % of the total Slovak population. The number of the post-working-age population reached 932,024 (17.07 % of the total population) and the number of the working-age population reached 3,659,463 (67.03 %). Compared to 2010, the total population increased by 0.45 %, while the number of the pre-working-age and post-working-age population increased (by 4.6 % and 38.5 % respectively), the working-age population decreased by 6.93 %. Compared to

¹¹ Final consumption of households in accordance with the Classification of Individual Consumption according to Purpose (COICOP) at current prices (source: SO SR)

2010, the share of the post-working-age population increased by 4.7 pp, the share of the pre-working-age population rose by 0.6 pp and the share of the working-age population dropped by 5.3 pp.

Graph 1.2 Age Structure of the Slovak Population, 2010 and 2020



Source: Statistical Office of the SR

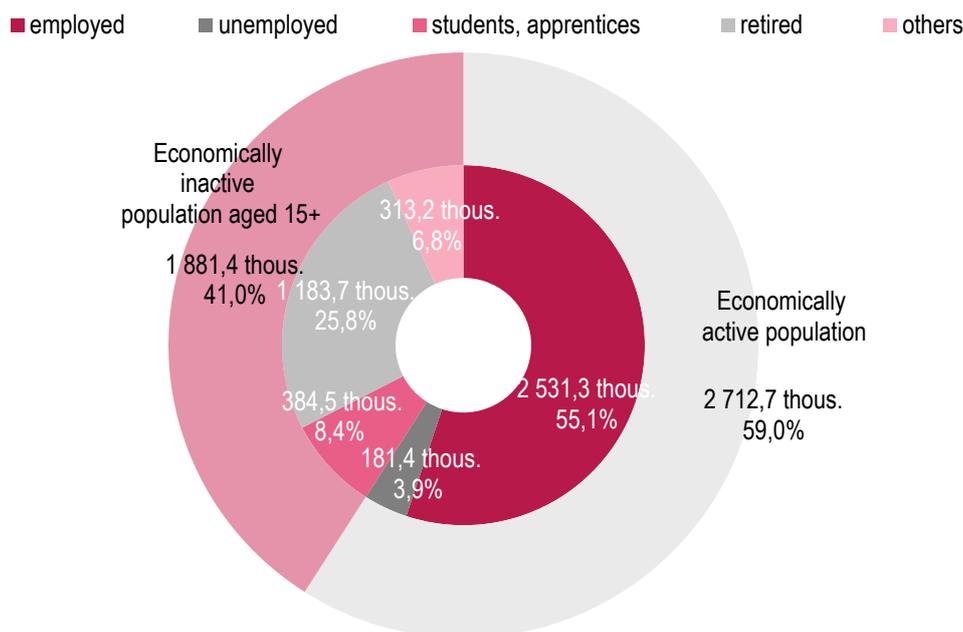
2 LABOUR MARKET, WAGES, WORKING CONDITIONS AND SOCIAL ECONOMY

2.1 Labour Market

2.1.1 Economic Activity of the Population

According to SO SR data from the Labour Force Survey (SO SR, LFS) in 2020, 59.0 % persons were economically active and 41.0 % economically inactive in the total population aged 15+.

Graph 2.1 Balance of the Slovak Population Aged 15+ (2020 average)



Source: Statistical Office of the SR

According to LFS, the average number of **economically active Slovak population** in 2020 declined by 28.7 thous. persons to 2,712.7 thous. persons (1.0 %) year-on-year, while a year-on-year decrease in the number of economically active was recorded for both men (by 19.8 thous.) and women (by 8.9 thousand). The significant decrease in the number of economically active men did not considerably influence the proportion of women in the total number of the economically active population; there was a slight increase compared to 2019 to 45.4 % or by 0.2 pp.

The decline in the number of economically active population was primarily influenced by a decrease in the number of employed, of which only a part was reflected in the overall growth of the number of the unemployed, or they became economically inactive.

Out of the total average number of economically active population, 93.3 % were the employed (94.2 % in 2019) and 6.7 % were the unemployed (5.8 % in 2019).

Compared to the previous year, **the number of economically inactive persons** increased by 30.4 thous. persons and reached 1,881.4 thous.

The structure of the economically inactive population aged 15 and over did not significantly change year-on-year. Pensioners receiving old-age or disability pension accounted for the highest share (62.9 %), while their share in the total number of the economically inactive persons decreased by 0.2 pp year-on-year. Students and apprentices were the second largest group, but their share in the total number of the economically inactive population aged 15+ dropped (from 20.6 % to 20.4 %) year-on-year.

The development of the structure of the **economically active population divided into 5-year age groups** points to the gradual ageing of the workforce in the Slovak Republic. Compared to the previous year, only the number of economically active persons in higher age groups increased, particularly in the age groups of 55+, resulting in a gradual rise in the total number of the economically active population. On the other hand, compared

to 2019, the proportion of the youngest age groups below the age of 34, particularly the age group of 15 – 24, decreased in the total number of the economically active population. More detailed figures are given in Annex to Chapter 2, Table 1.

Table 2.1 Economically Active Population by Selected Age Groups in 2020

Age group	Total		Change compared to 2019	
	thous. persons	%	thous. persons	pp
Total	2712.7	100.0	-28.7	x
of which age group:				
15 – 24 years	156.1	5.8	-12.2	-0.3
25 – 34 years	629.1	23.2	-20.3	-0.5
35 – 44 years	782.1	28.8	-6.7	0.1
45 – 54 years	664.8	24.5	1.1	0.3
55 years and over	480.6	17.7	9.3	0.5

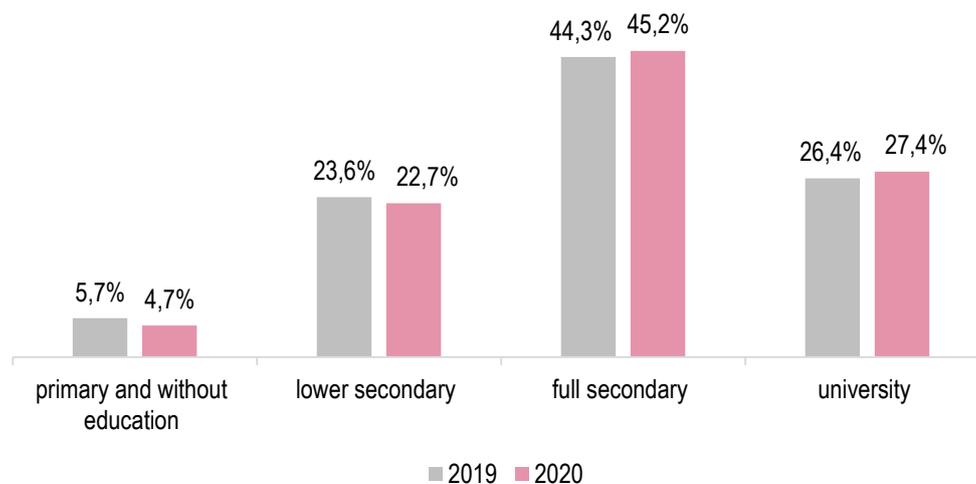
Source: SO SR, LFS

Youth (aged 15 – 24 years) accounted for 5.8 % of the total economically active population in 2020 and, due to an absolute year-on-year decline in their number (by 12.2 thous. persons), their share in the total economically active population decreased slightly year-on-year (by 0.3 pp). In terms of the structure of the economically active youth, 2020 saw a year-on-year decrease in the number of the employed (by 15.3 thous. persons, in relative terms by 10.8 %). On the contrary, there was a year-on-year increase in the number of the unemployed (by 3.1 thous. persons, in relative terms by 11.4 %).

In 2020, the proportion of **older persons (aged 55+)** in the total number of the economically active population represented 17.7 %, while in comparison with 2019, their proportion increased by 0.5 pp. As for the economically active population in the above-mentioned group, the number of the employed increased (by 7.9 thousand persons; by 1.7 % in relative terms) and the number of the unemployed increased by 1.5 thousand or by 7.4 %).

The structure of the economically active population **by education** did not change considerably, while 72.6 % of the total number of the economically active population had complete secondary education or university education. More detailed figures are given in Annex to Chapter 2, Table 1.

Graph 2.2 Comparison of the Educational Structure of Economically Active Population in SR



Source: Statistical Office of the SR

Table 2.2 Comparison of the Structure of Economically Active Population in Individual Regions by Education

Region	Indicator	Economically active population average per year			
		2019 total (thous. persons)	2020 total (thous. persons)	2019 total (%)	2020 total (%)
Bratislava	Total	359.7	354.5	100.0	100.0
	Primary and without education	10.4	7.8	2.9	2.2
	Lower secondary	43.9	45.9	12.2	12.9
	Full secondary	139.1	137.8	38.7	38.9
	University	166.3	163.0	46.2	46.0
Trnava	Total	288.7	288.4	100.0	100.0
	Primary and without education	18.6	15.9	6.4	5.5
	Lower secondary	84.3	78.0	29.2	27.0
	Full secondary	122.1	131.0	42.3	45.4
	University	63.8	63.4	22.1	22.0
Trenčín	Total	296.4	293.5	100.0	100.0
	Primary and without education	7.7	5.4	2.6	1.8
	Lower secondary	91.2	84.6	30.8	28.8
	Full secondary	132.3	135.3	44.6	46.1
	University	65.2	68.2	22.0	23.2
Nitra	Total	342.4	336.0	100.0	100.0
	Primary and without education	18.7	16.4	5.5	4.9
	Lower secondary	90.4	80.5	26.4	24.0
	Full secondary	158.3	165.1	46.2	49.1
	University	75.0	74.0	21.9	22.0
Žilina	Total	346.1	341.6	100.0	100.0
	Primary and without education	9.6	7.5	2.8	2.2
	Lower secondary	95.7	95.9	27.7	28.1
	Full secondary	161.0	158.1	46.5	46.3
	University	79.8	80.2	23.1	23.5
Banská Bystrica	Total	330.9	326.9	100.0	100.0
	Primary and without education	27.2	23.8	8.2	7.3
	Lower secondary	73.2	72.4	22.1	22.1
	Full secondary	150.8	150.3	45.6	46.0
	University	79.7	80.4	24.1	24.6
Prešov	Total	401.6	399.3	100.0	100.0
	Primary and without education	38.6	33.6	9.6	8.4
	Lower secondary	92.5	94.1	23.0	23.6
	Full secondary	179.1	171.8	44.6	43.0
	University	91.3	99.7	22.7	25.0
Košice	Total	375.4	372.4	100.0	100.0
	Primary and without education	25.8	16.3	6.9	4.4
	Lower secondary	76.0	64.2	20.2	17.2
	Full secondary	171.8	177.6	45.8	47.7
	University	101.8	114.4	27.1	30.7

Legend:

Primary education - primary and without education

Lower secondary education - apprenticeship and secondary vocational without a school-leaving exam

Full secondary education - full secondary apprenticeship with a school-leaving exam + full secondary vocational + full secondary general + advanced vocational

University education - the first-, second- and third-level university degree

Source: Statistical Office of the SR

Proportional representation of individual regions in the total number of economically active population remains almost unchanged in the long term. The shares of individual regions in the total economically active population in 2020 ranged from 10.6 % to 14.7 %. The highest number of the economically active population was in the regions of Prešov and Košice (together more than 28.0 % of the total number of the economically active population).

Table 2.3 Structure of the economically active population; employment and unemployment rates by regions in 2020

Region	Total economically active population in thous. persons			Employment rate of persons aged 20 – 64 (%)	Total unemployment rate (%)
	total	of which the employed	of which the unemployed		
SR in total	2,712.7	2,531.3	181.4	72.5	6.7
Bratislava	354.5	342.6	11.9	79.8	3.4
Trnava	288.4	274.1	14.3	74.9	5.0
Trenčín	293.5	282.0	11.5	74.9	3.9
Nitra	336.0	318.4	17.6	72.8	5.2
Žilina	341.6	322.8	18.9	72.5	5.5
Banská Bystrica	326.9	301.0	25.9	72.2	7.9
Prešov	399.3	350.8	48.4	67.7	12.1
Košice	372.4	339.5	33.0	67.6	8.9

Source: SO SR, LFS

The number of the economically active population was decreasing in all regions. The highest year-on-year decrease in the absolute number of the economically active population was seen in the regions of Nitra, Bratislava and Žilina. The number of the economically inactive population increased in all regions as well. The highest year-on-year increase in the absolute number of the economically inactive population was seen in the region of Bratislava.

Table 2.4 Increases/Decreases in the Number of Economically Active and Inactive Population in 2020 by Regions

Region	Economically active population aged 15+ (thous. persons) of which			Economically inactive population aged 15+ (thous. persons)
	total	the employed (thous. persons)	the unemployed (thous. persons)	
SR in total	-28.7	-52.4	23.7	30.4
Bratislava	-5.2	-8.7	3.5	11.4
Trnava	-0.3	-1.4	1.0	0.9
Trenčín	-3.0	-6.0	3.0	1.1
Nitra	-6.3	-8.2	1.8	3.7
Žilina	-4.5	-7.9	3.4	4.0
Banská Bystrica	-4.0	-3.9	-0.1	1.8
Prešov	-2.3	-10.2	7.7	3.2
Košice	-3.1	-6.3	3.3	4.1

Source: SO SR, LFS

The overall **rate of economic activity** of the population aged 15+ reached 59.0 % and dropped by 0.6 pp compared to 2019. It decreased for both sexes; for men (by 0.9 pp to 66.7 %) and to a lower extent for women (by 0.4 pp to 51.9 %).

A year-on-year increase in the rate of economic activity was achieved mainly by the 5-year age group of 60 – 64. A slight increase was seen in the 5-year age group of 55 – 59. In the other 5-year age groups, there was a year-on-year decline or stagnation in the rate of economic activity.

Table 2.5 Rate of Economic Activity of the Population Aged 15+, by Age and Sex (Annual Average in %)

Age group	Total		Men		Women	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
Total	59.7	59.0	67.6	66.7	52.3	51.9
15 – 19 years	6.2	5.5	7.1	6.9	5.3	4.0
20 – 24 years	50.3	48.5	62.8	60.1	37.0	36.2
25 – 29 years	79.8	79.8	92.1	92.1	67.0	66.9
30 – 34 years	82.3	81.5	96.3	95.4	67.8	67.1
35 – 39 years	85.7	85.3	93.5	92.6	77.4	77.6
40 – 44 years	90.5	90.1	93.8	93.5	87.0	86.4
45 – 49 years	91.8	91.0	92.9	91.0	90.6	91.0
50 – 54 years	89.0	87.1	89.9	87.8	88.2	86.3
55 – 59 years	81.8	82.5	83.1	84.3	80.7	80.8
60 – 64 years	38.3	40.1	42.3	44.1	34.6	36.6
65+ years	4.6	4.5	6.6	6.3	3.3	3.3

Source: SO SR, LFS

2.1.2 Development of Employment

Employment can be monitored using several statistical surveys. The surveys differ in concepts of employment, definitions and data collection methodology.

One possibility for monitoring the development of the number of the employed, or employees are the **statistics of the Social Insurance Agency**. The Social Insurance Agency is a public body which administers social insurance, i.e. sickness insurance, pension insurance (old-age and disability), accident insurance, guarantee insurance, unemployment insurance, and old-age pension savings. Given the mandatory nature of social insurance and pension saving, the Social Insurance Agency holds data on all employers and employees, who pay or for whom social security contributions and compulsory pension saving contributions are paid, including persons working under agreements on work performed outside an employment relationship, as well as on self-employed persons with compulsory sickness and pension insurance. Definitions of the employer, employee and self-employed person are based on the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on social insurance, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Social Insurance Act"). The Social Insurance Agency statistics do not include data on members of the Police Force, the Slovak Intelligence Service, the National Security Authority, Corps of Prison and Court Guard, Railway Police, Fire Fighting and Rescuing Corps, Mountain Rescue Service, customs officers, professional soldiers of the armed forces and extraordinary service soldiers, since their social security is covered by specific legislation. Neither they cover the Slovak population working only abroad nor performance of work without the obligation to pay social insurance contributions (e.g. the self-employed with income below the established income which gives rise to compulsory social insurance). Developments in the reporting of the employed in the statistics of the Social Insurance Agency may be affected by legislative changes in social insurance.

The **Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic** carries out two more surveys allowing to monitor the development of employment; they differ from each other in the data collection methodology.

The Labour Force Survey carried out in households by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic provides internationally comparable data on economic activity, employment, unemployment and other important characteristics of the workforce of the Slovak population. An employed person means a person aged 15+ who was carrying out work for at least one hour for pay or profit (employment relation concluded for a determined weekly working time and employment relation for a shorter working time, temporary, casual or seasonal job) in the reference week, as well as contributing family workers of entrepreneurs; including those working abroad for up to one year, commuting abroad for work, performing work under agreements and paid activation work. An employed person also means a person who was not carrying out work in the reference week due to illness, holiday, maternity leave, training, bad weather and strike or dispute, except for persons on long-term unpaid leave from work and persons on parental leave.

The enterprise statistics on employees conducted by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic is based on a statistical survey in enterprises (enterprise reporting) and captures all economic activities. According to enterprise reporting, employees are defined as persons who are in employment agreed for an indefinite or definite period of

time (irrespective of their nationality) and are in the employ, service, civil service relationships or are members of an employer organisation. Practising students of secondary vocational schools (apprentices), persons on maternity and parental leave and persons working under agreements on work performed outside the employment relationship, private entrepreneurs (and their partners) unless they have an employment contract concluded with the organisation, are excluded from the number of employees. Employed persons are defined as employees and entrepreneurs.

2.1.3.1 Employment according to the Social Insurance Agency Statistics

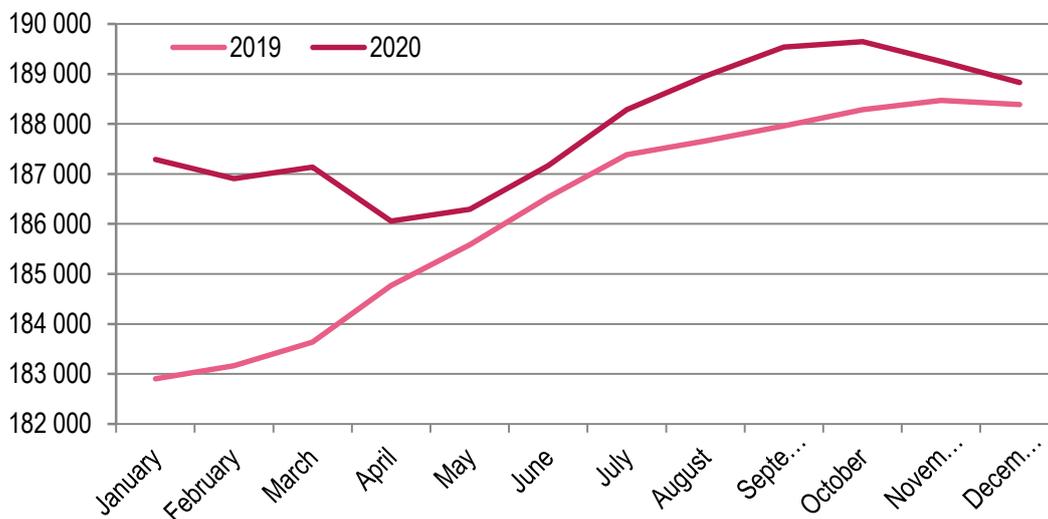
In 2020, the Social Insurance Agency recorded a monthly average of 187,946 employers who had employees in a monthly average of 1,921,870 legal relationships with regular monthly income and 59,043 legal relationships with irregular income. In addition to these legal relationships with regular monthly income and irregular income, employers employed employees under agreements on work performed outside the employment relationship, i.e. work performance agreements, contract works and student holiday (temporary) work agreements, broken down into regular monthly income and irregular income, which reached a monthly average of 374,311 in 2020.

In 2020, the Social Insurance Agency recorded a monthly average of 216,432 self-employed persons with compulsory social insurance scheme.

In 2020, the average monthly number of employers grew by 0.92 % (by 1,718) year-on-year; the average monthly number of employees in legal relationship with regular monthly income decreased by 2.19 % (by 43,120). The average monthly number of employees in legal relationship with irregular income grew by 2.01 % (by 1,166) and the average monthly number of agreements on work performed outside the employment relationship declined by 8.13 % (by 33,135). The average monthly number of self-employed persons with compulsory insurance swelled by 0.28 % (by 598).

Overall, the Social Insurance Agency recorded a monthly average of 2,571,656 insurance relationships in 2020, which was by 74,491 fewer insurance relationships than in 2019 (by 2.82 %).

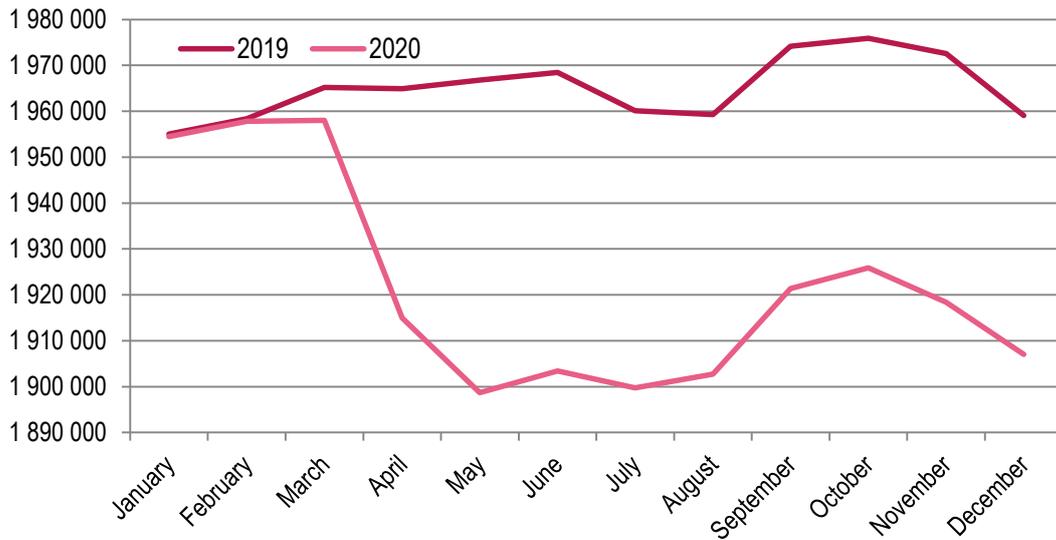
Graph 2.3 Number of Employers Registered in the Social Insurance Agency in 2019 and 2020



Source: Social Insurance Agency

In December 2020, the Social Insurance Agency recorded 188,829 employers, representing an increase by 440 employers in comparison with December 2019 (by 0.23 %).

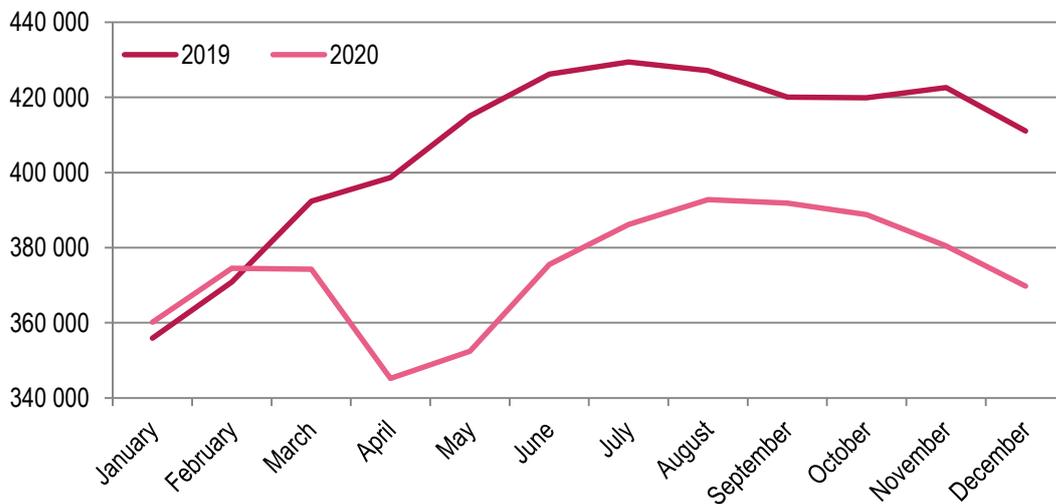
Graph 2.4 Number of Legal Relationships with Regular Monthly Income Registered in the Social Insurance Agency in 2019 and 2020



Source: Social Insurance Agency

In December 2020, the Social Insurance Agency recorded 1,907,062 legal relationships with regular monthly income, representing a decrease by 51,997 legal relationships in comparison with December 2019 (by 2.65 %).

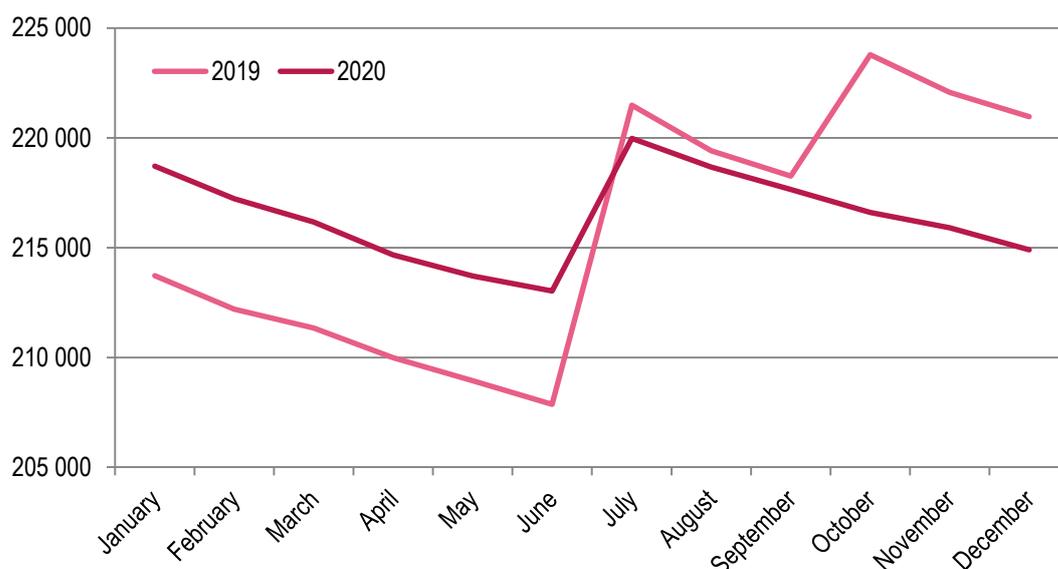
Graph 2.5 Number of Agreements on Work Performed outside the Employment Relationship Registered in the Social Insurance Agency in 2019 and 2020



Source: Social Insurance Agency

In December 2020, the Social Insurance Agency recorded 369,771 agreements on work performed outside the employment relationship, representing a decrease by 41,257 agreements in comparison with December 2019 (by 10.04 %).

Graph 2.6 Number of Self-employed Persons Registered in the Social Insurance Agency in 2019 and 2020



Source: Social Insurance Agency

In December 2020, the Social Insurance Agency registered 214,899 self-employed persons with compulsory insurance, representing a decrease by 6,062 persons in comparison with December 2019 (by 2.74 %).

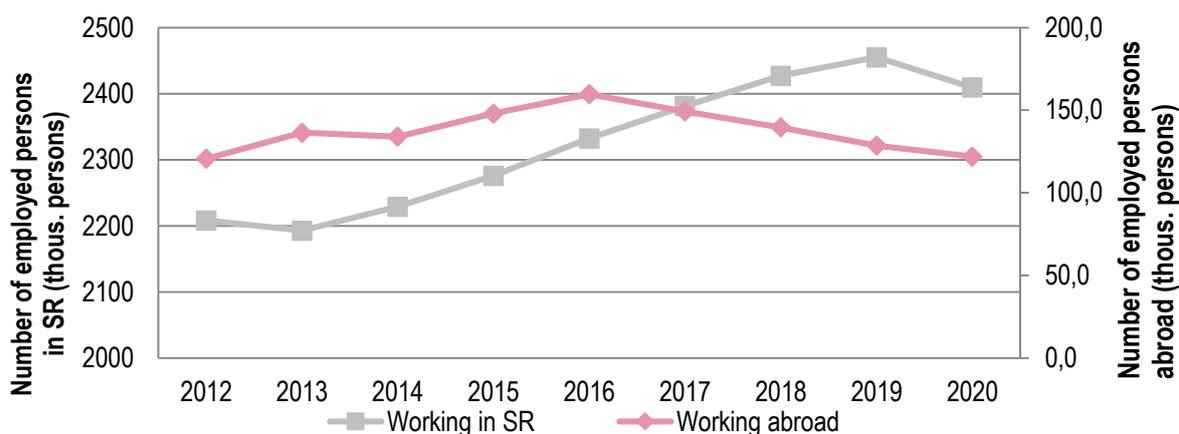
2.1.3.2 Employment according to Labour Force Survey¹² by SO SR

Positive labour market developments, which started with a recovery of the total employment growth in the economy in 2014, was marked by a decrease caused by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. With regard to the financial help provided to employers, there was a slight year-on-year decrease in the employment rate of persons aged 20 – 64 by 0.9 pp.

According to the data of SO SR, LFS, in 2020 the total average number of the employed persons in SR dropped by 2.0 % or by almost 52.4 thous. to 2,531.3 thous. compared to 2019.

¹² LFS methodology is in accordance with international definitions and recommendations of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Eurostat, including persons on maternity leave and working abroad for up to 1 year.

Graph 2.7 Development of the number of the employed Slovak nationals in SR and for a short period of time abroad in thous. persons



Source: SO SR, LFS

From the point of view of work position, the number of entrepreneurs as well as the number of employees dropped (by 2.4 % or by 1.9 % respectively). In the structure of entrepreneurs, the number of entrepreneurs with employees decreased more significantly (by 5.6 % compared to 1.7 % in the case of entrepreneurs without employees).

By gender, the number of employed men decreased more intensely (by 2.1 %) than the number of employed women (by 1.9 %).

Compared to 2019, the share of employees with part-time jobs decreased slightly in 2020. Such work option was used on average by 5.2 % of the total number of employees (5.3 % in 2019). The share was traditionally higher for women (7.4 %) than for men (3.2 %).

In 2020 the **age structure** of employees was influenced mainly by increases in higher age groups, particularly 55+. On the other hand, the number of employed persons in younger age groups dropped considerably. The year-on-year development of the number of the employed by individual 5-year age groups is shown in the table below.

Table 2.6 Number of the Employed by Age in 2020 (Annual Average)

Indicator	Number of the employed (thous. persons)	Share in SR (%)	Index 2020/2019
Total	2,531.3	100.0	98.0
of which age group:			
15 – 19 years	8.0	0.3	87.4
20 – 24 years	117.9	4.7	89.3
25 – 29 years	268.2	10.6	94.1
30 – 34 years	314.0	12.4	97.9
35 – 39 years	343.2	13.6	95.8
40 – 44 years	386.7	15.3	98.7
45 – 49 years	345.7	13.7	103.1
50 – 54 years	288.5	11.4	96.3
55 – 59 years	280.6	11.0	101.7
60 – 64 years	137.9	5.4	101.9
65 years and over	40.4	1.6	101.7

Source: SO SR, LFS

From the point of view of the structure of employment **by education**, in 2020 the number of employed persons increased year-on-year in the education group of persons with completed secondary vocational training with school-leaving exam and university education. In other education groups the number of employed persons decreased compared to the previous year.

Table 2.7 Employed by Level of Education in 2020 (Annual Average)

Indicator	Number of the employed (thous. persons)	Share in SR (in %)	Index 2020/2019
Total	2,531.3	100.0	98.0
of which education:			
Primary	87.0	3.4	81.5
Secondary vocational (apprenticeship) without a school-leaving exam	567.7	22.4	93.6
Full secondary vocational (apprenticeship) with a school-leaving exam	161.6	6.4	92.4
Full secondary general with a school-leaving exam	103.8	4.1	99.1
Full secondary vocational with a school-leaving exam	874.2	34.5	101.2
Advanced vocational	19.7	0.8	88.7
University	717.2	28.4	101.8
Without school education	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: SO SR, LFS

From the regional point of view there was a year-on-year decrease in the number of employed persons in all regions.

Table 2.8 Number of the Employed by Regions in 2020 (Annual Average)

Region	Number of the employed (thous. persons)	Share in SR (in %)	Index 2020/2019
SR in total	2,531.3	100.0	98.0
of which:			
Bratislava	342.6	13.5	97.5
Trnava	274.1	10.8	99.5
Trenčín	282.0	11.1	97.9
Nitra	318.4	12.6	97.5
Žilina	322.8	12.8	97.6
Banská Bystrica	301.0	11.9	98.7
Prešov	350.8	13.9	97.2
Košice	339.5	13.4	98.2

Source: SO SR, LFS

Out of the total number of employed persons in SR in 2020, 121.9 thous. persons **worked abroad**¹³, accounting for 4.8 %. The number of persons working abroad for a short time dropped by 6.7 thous. compared to the previous year, while the year-on-year drop rate was slower than in 2019 (by 5.2 % compared to 7.9 % in 2019), and their proportion in the total number of the employed persons decreased as well (by 0.2 pp).

Migrants are dominated by workers in construction, industry, health service and social work (assistance).

From a long-term perspective, the highest number of persons looking for work abroad come from the region of Prešov. With regard to European countries, Slovak citizens primarily worked in Austria, Czech Republic and Germany.

The number of Slovak citizens working abroad on a short-term basis dropped in 5 regions, while in 3 regions their number rose. The share of short-term workers abroad in the total number of the employed in a given region ranged from 1.3 % in the region of Bratislava to 8.5 % in the region of Prešov.

¹³ It was short-term employment, i.e. persons who worked abroad for up to one year, including commuting to work for an unlimited time period.

Table 2.9 Development of Foreign Labour Migration by Regions in 2020

Region	Employed abroad (thous. persons)	index 2020/2019	Share in SR (%)	Share of employed abroad in total employment in SR, or region (%)
SR in total	121.9	94.8	100.0	4.8
of which:				
Bratislava	4.5	69.6	3.7	1.3
Trnava	7.2	125.5	5.9	2.6
Trenčín	6.9	78.7	5.6	2.5
Nitra	19.5	86.7	16.0	6.1
Žilina	17.9	89.4	14.7	5.5
Banská Bystrica	16.6	85.8	13.6	5.5
Prešov	29.8	107.7	24.5	8.5
Košice	19.5	107.9	16.0	5.7

Source: SO SR, LFS

The employment rate of persons aged 20 – 64 dropped by 0.9 pp to 72.5 % for both sexes compared to 2019. Its decrease was more significant for men (by 1.2 pp to 78.7 %) than for women (by 0.8 pp to 66.1 %).

By age, the highest specific employment rate was reached in 5-year age groups from 40 to 54 years (over 80 %). For men, the specific employment rate of 80 % and over was reached in all 5-year age groups from 25 to 59 years; for women, the specific employment rate of 80 % and over was reached in the 5-year age groups from 40 to 54 years (Annex to Chapter 2, Table 2).

Compared to 2019, the specific employment rate decreased in all age groups from 15 to 55, most significantly in the group of 20 - 24 years (by 3.4 pp), in the group of 25 - 29 years (by 2.1 pp), in the group of 35 - 39 years (by 2.2 pp) and in the group of 50 - 54 years (by 2.0 pp). In other 5-year age groups we saw a year-on-year decrease in the employment rate ranging from 0.5 pp to 1.7 pp. A year-on-year increase in the employment rate was seen only in two older age groups or in the age group of 55 - 59 (by 0.9 pp) and in the age group of 60 - 64 (by 1.3 pp).

The specific **employment rate of young people (aged 15 - 24 years)** reached an average of 22.7 % and was by 2.2 pp lower than in 2019. It decreased year-on-year both for men (by 3.1 pp to 28.5 %) and for women (by 1.4 pp to 16.5 %).

The specific **employment rate of older people (aged 50 - 64 years)** reached 66.4 % and was by 0.2 pp higher than in 2019. It increased for both sexes, more considerably for women (by 0.4 pp to 63.9 %) than for men (by 0.1 pp to 69.1 %).

By education, the highest specific employment rate was reached in groups of persons with full secondary vocational (apprenticeship) education with a school-leaving exam (80.3 %) and university education. On the contrary, the lowest specific employment rate was reached by persons without school education and with primary education (17.9 %). This means that more than 80 % of the population aged 15 - 64 with primary education did not work. Compared to 2019, there was an increase in the employment rate of persons with the university first-level degree – bachelor's degree (by 0.8 pp) and of persons with the university third-level degree – PhD degree (by 3.9 pp). In all other education groups the employment rate decreased. More detailed figures are given in Annex to Chapter 2, Table 3.

Among the individual regions, the highest rate of employment of the population aged 20 - 64 years was reached by the region of Bratislava (79.8 %). On the other hand, the lowest rate was seen in the region of Košice (67.6 %). With the exception of the region of Trnava (increase by 0.2 pp), the employment rate of persons aged 20 – 64 decreased in all regions by 0.4 pp to 1.9 pp.

The decrease in the employment rate in the regions was reflected in a slight reduction of interregional differences in the employment rate of persons aged 20 – 64 compared to 2019. While in 2019 the difference between the lowest and the highest employment rate of persons aged 20 – 64 was 13 pp, in 2020 it was 12.2 pp.

Table 2.10 Employment Rate for the Population Aged 20 – 64 Years by Regions (Annual Average in %)

Region	Employment rate for the population aged 20 – 64		2020//2019 change (pp)
	2019	2020	
SR in total	73.4	72.5	-0.9
Bratislava	81.4	79.8	-1.6
Trnava	74.7	74.9	0.2
Trenčín	75.5	74.9	-0.6
Nitra	73.8	72.8	-1.0
Žilina	73.7	72.5	-1.2
Banská Bystrica	72.6	72.2	-0.4
Prešov	69.6	67.7	-1.9
Košice	68.4	67.6	-0.8

Source: SO SR, LFS

2.1.3.3 Employment according to statistical reports of SO SR

According to the quarterly statistical reports, the average number of the employed in the national economy in 2020 amounted to 2,372,043 persons. Compared to 2019, it decreased by 1.8 %; in absolute terms it represents a drop by more than 44 thous. persons.

As for the **sectoral structure**, out of the total number of the employed persons in SR in 2020, 3.6 % worked in agriculture, 22.2 % in industry, 7.0 % in the construction sector and 67.0 % in services. An overview of the development of employment as per individual sectors in 2020 is provided in the Annex to Chapter 2, Table 4.

From the point of view of the **size categories of enterprises**, employment in the enterprise size category of 500 – 999 employees increased (by 4.1 %) compared to 2019. In all other enterprise size categories it decreased (by 1.0 % to 4.3 %).

Table 2.11 Employment by Size Classes of Enterprises (Annual Average)

Number of employees	2019			2020		
	Persons	Index 2019/2018	Share (%)	Persons	Index 2020/2019	Share (%)
0 – 19	394,978	102.6	16.3	387,681	98.2	16.3
20 – 49	235,550	99.6	9.7	233,194	99.0	9.8
50 – 249	415,074	102.9	17.2	407,872	98.3	17.2
250 – 499	158,316	98.8	6.6	155,619	98.3	6.6
500 – 999	154,866	101.6	6.4	161,192	104.1	6.8
1,000 and over	412,285	98.8	17.1	394,485	95.7	16.6
Sole traders* (estimate)	645,000	101.1	26.7	632,000	98.0	26.6
Total	2,416,068	101.0	100.0	2,372,043	98.2	100.0

Source: SO SR, Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR v 4. štvrtroku 2019 (Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2019, in Slovak only), Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR v 4. štvrtroku 2020 (Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2020, in Slovak only)

*including employees of sole traders

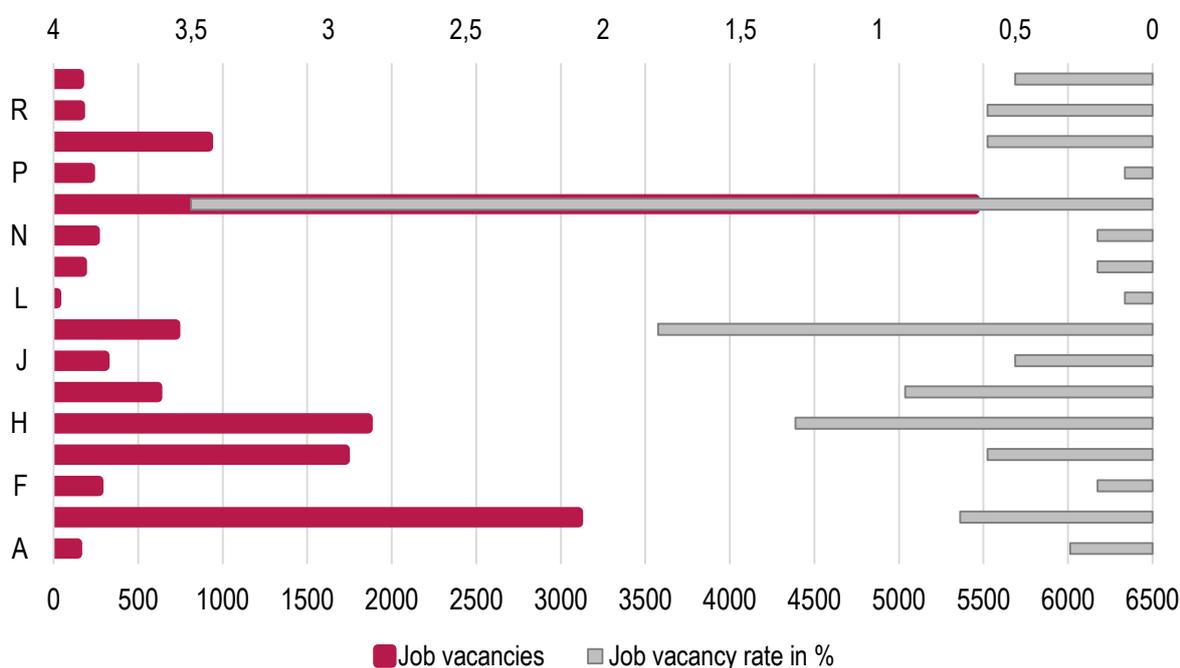
2.1.3.4 Job Vacancies

According to statistical reports, a total of 16,063 job vacancies on average were available in the national economy in 2020. Compared to 2019, their number decreased by 26.7 % (5,857 job vacancies in absolute terms).

From the point of view of individual sectors, the number of job vacancies dropped year-on-year in all areas with the exception of education where it remained the same as in 2019. An overview of the development of the

number of job vacancies as per individual sectors in 2020 is shown in the Graph 2.8 (more detailed data is provided in the Annex to Chapter 2, Table 5).

Graph 2.8 Number of Job Vacancies and Job Vacancy Rate in 2020¹⁴



Source: SO SR, Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR vo 4. štvrťroku 2020 (Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2020, in Slovak only) – based on quarterly statistical reporting including entrepreneurs' data

By regions, in 2020, the most job vacancies were in the region of Bratislava (specifically 7,538 representing 46.9 % of the total average number of job vacancies in SR). The number of job vacancies decreased in all regions by 14.7 % to 44.6 %. A striking decrease in the number of job vacancies was seen mainly in the region of Trnava (decrease by 44.6 %) and in the region of Prešov (decrease by 43.9 %).

¹⁴ Legend for the graph 2.8:

A Agriculture, forestry and fishing

B,C,D,E Industry in total

F Construction

G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles

H Transportation and storage

I Accommodation and food service activities

J Information and communication

K Financial and insurance activities

L Real estate activities

M Professional, scientific and technical activities

N Administrative and support service activities

O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security

P Education

Q Health and social work activities

R Arts, entertainment and recreation

S Other service activities

Table 2.12 Job Vacancies in 2020 by Regions (Annual Average)

Region	Job Vacancies		Increase/decrease in the number of vacancies	Index 2020/2019	Job vacancy rate (%)
	Number	Share in SR (in %)			
SR in total	16,063	100.0	- 5,857	73.3	0.8
of which:					
Bratislava	7,538	46.9	-1,304	85.3	1.3
Trnava	1,160	7.2	-935	55.4	0.7
Trenčín	1,086	6.8	-414	72.4	0.6
Nitra	1,039	6.5	-573	64.5	0.5
Žilina	1,465	9.1	-554	72.6	0.7
Banská Bystrica	1,605	10.0	-542	74.7	0.8
Prešov	1,114	6.9	-871	56.1	0.5
Košice	1,056	6.6	-664	61.4	0.5

Source: SO SR, Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR vo 4. štvrtroku 2020 (Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2020, in Slovak only)

In 2020, the job vacancy rate (percentage of the number of job vacancies to the total number of jobs) in SR was 0.8 % and decreased slightly compared to 2019 (- 0.3 pp). The highest job vacancy rate was seen in the region of Bratislava with 1 job vacancy per 100 jobs. In other regions, the job vacancy rate ranged from 0.5 % in the regions of Košice and Prešov to 1.3 % in the region of Bratislava.

2.1.3 Development of Unemployment

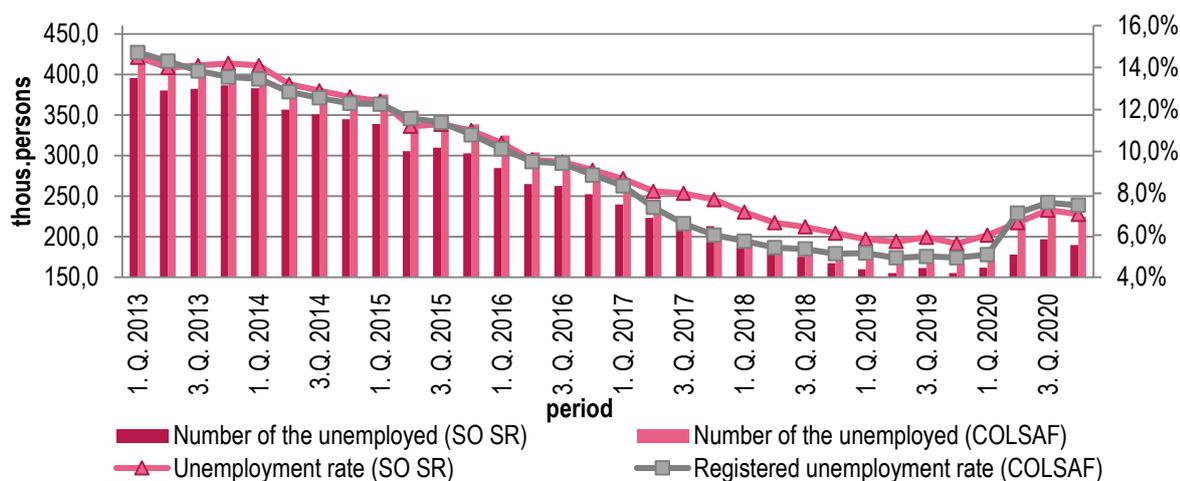
Similarly to employment, unemployment can be monitored using several conceptually different approaches.

The unemployment monitoring methodology **based on registers of offices of labour, social affairs and family** differs significantly from the methodology of unemployment monitoring based on the LFS. It describes different populations due to a different definition of an unemployed person, depends on the motivation to register, as well as the legislative conditions of registration. Although not internationally comparable, it provides administrative data reported on a monthly basis and at the lowest administrative-territorial level.

The Labour Force Survey carried out by SO SR in households, defines the unemployed in line with the ILO definition as persons aged 15-74 years who simultaneously meet the following three conditions:

1. they are not working for pay or profit during the reference week;
2. they are actively seeking work during the last four weeks or who found a job to start within 3 months at the latest; and
3. they are able to start work within the next two weeks following the reference week.

Graph 2.9 Development of Unemployment, Comparison of Data by SO SR and COLSAF

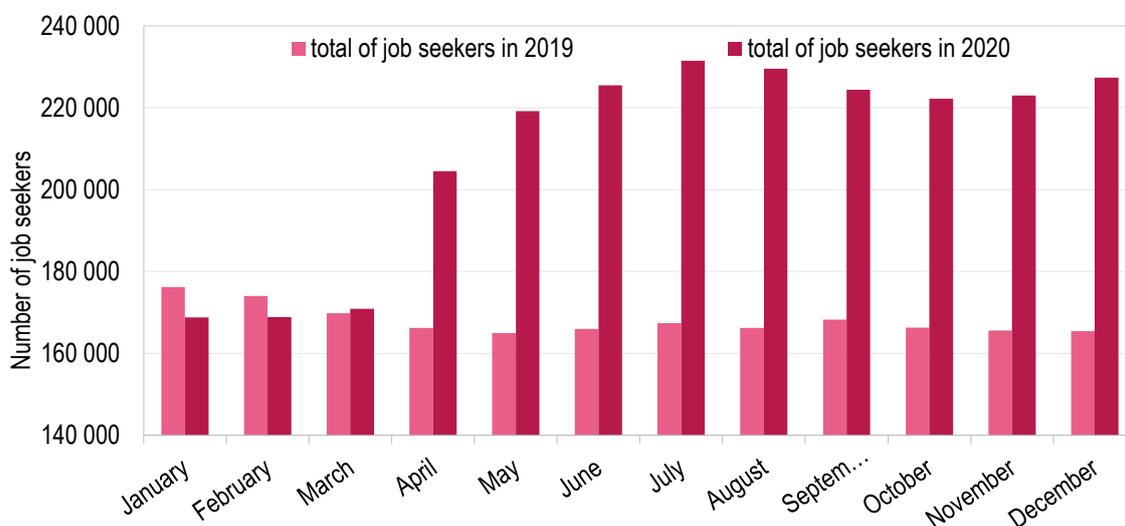


Source: SO SR (LFS), COLSAF

2.1.3.1 Unemployment according to records of the offices of labour, social affairs and family

In Slovakia there were **209,634 registered job seekers on average** in 2020. The development of the registered unemployment in individual months followed a different trend. In comparison with 2019, the average monthly number of registered job seekers rose by 41,604 persons, i.e. by 24.76 % (in 2019, there was an average of 168,030 registered job seekers).

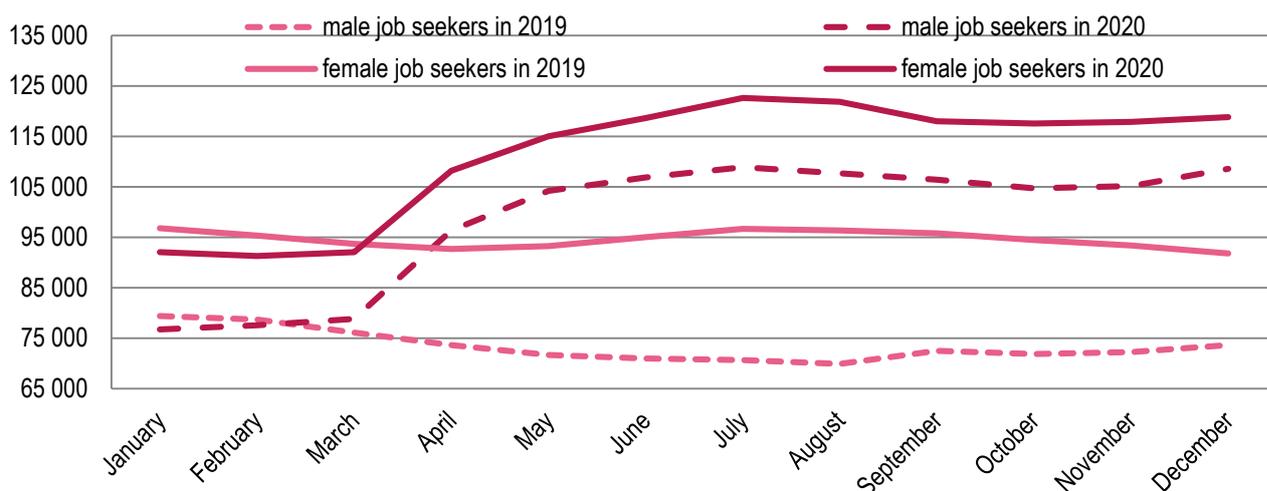
Graph 2.10 Number of Job Seekers in Individual Months of 2019 and 2020



Source: COLSAF

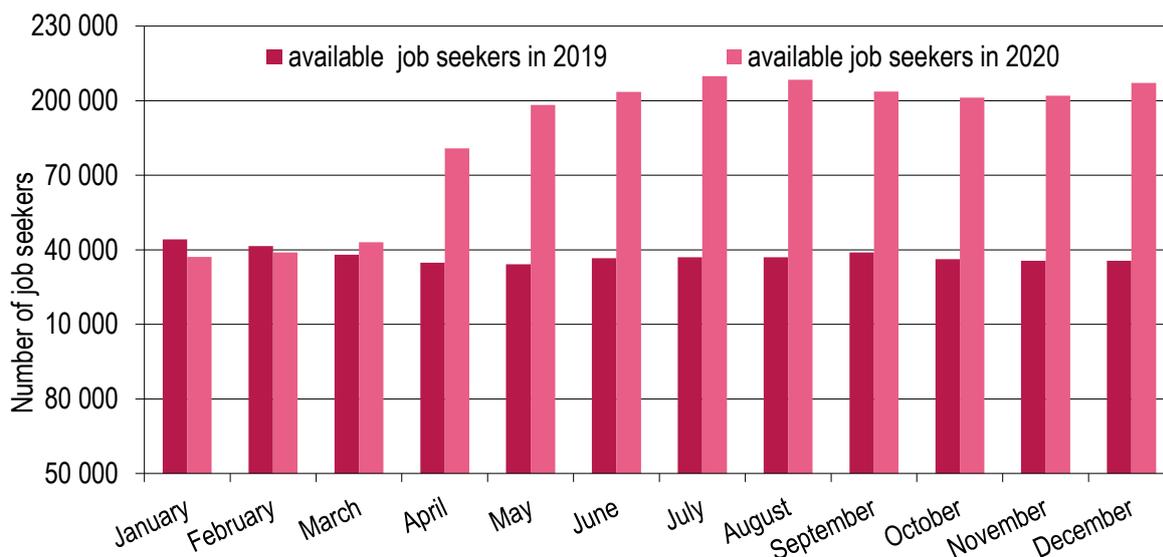
Of the total average number of registered job seekers, 111,151 were women (53.02 %). This represents an increase by 16,553 persons (17.50 %) compared to 2019 (on average 94,598 women). The greatest share of women in the total average number of registered job seekers in 2020 was recorded in the region of Nitra (56.58 %). In other regions, the proportion ranged from 51.30 % (the region of Žilina) to 54.03 % (the region of Banská Bystrica).

Graph 2.11 Number of Unemployed Males and Females in Individual Months of 2019 and 2020



Source: COLSAF

Graph 2.12 Number of Available Job Seekers in Individual Months of 2019 and 2020

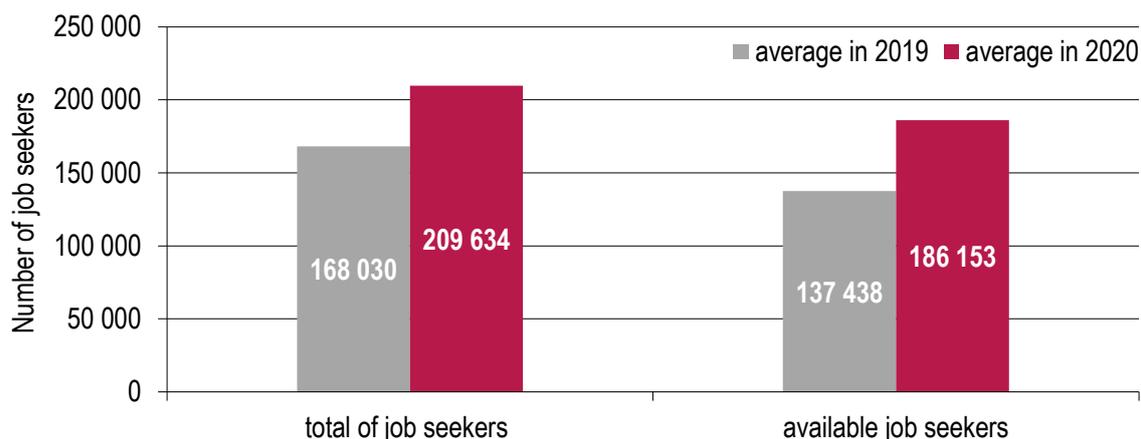


Source: COLSAF

The **average number of available¹⁵ job seekers** reached 186,153 persons in 2020. This represents a year-on-year increase by 48,715 persons, i.e. by 35.45 % (in 2019 there were 137,438 available registered job seekers on average).

¹⁵ An available job seeker is a job seeker who can take up employment immediately after being offered a vacancy. It is a registered unemployed person with no objective obstacles for recruitment.

Graph 2.13 Comparison of Average Numbers of Job Seekers in 2019 and 2020

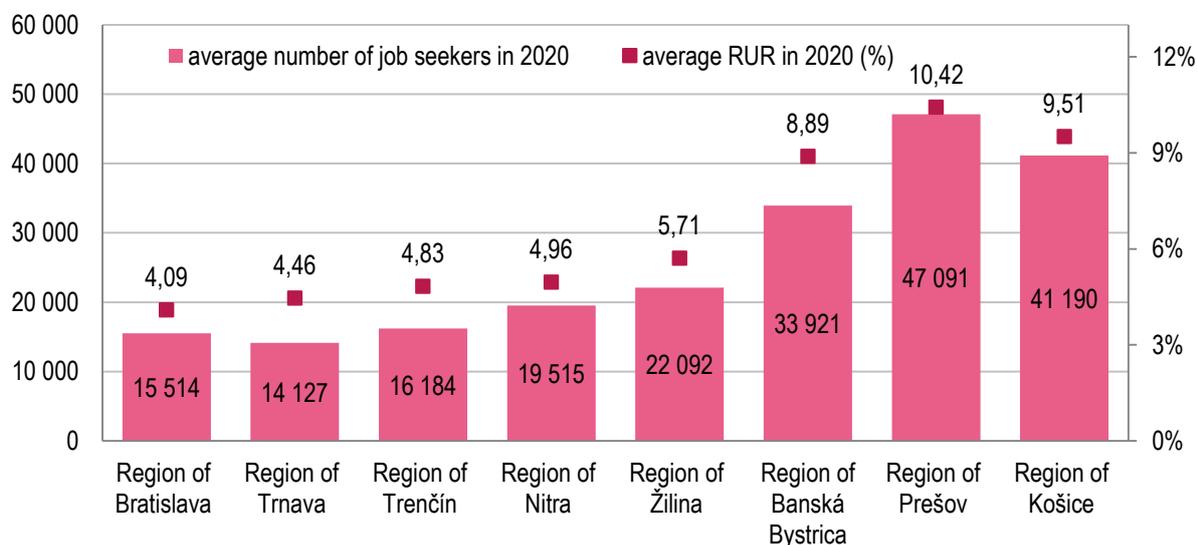


Source: COLSAF

The registered unemployment rate (calculated from the available number of job seekers) in individual quarters rose gradually during the year with the exception of Q3 2020. It was higher in 2020 than in 2019 in all quarters. The average reached for 2020 was 6.78 % (an average year-on-year increase of 1.78 pp).

By regions, in 2020, the highest average rate of registered unemployment was recorded in the region of Prešov (10.42 %) and the lowest in the region of Bratislava (4.09 %). In addition to the region of Prešov, the national average registered unemployment rate (6.78 %) was also exceeded in the region of Košice (with an annual average of 9.51 %) and the region of Banská Bystrica (with an annual average of 8.89 %).

Graph 2.14 Average Registered Unemployment Rate and Average Number of Job Seekers by Slovak Regions in 2020

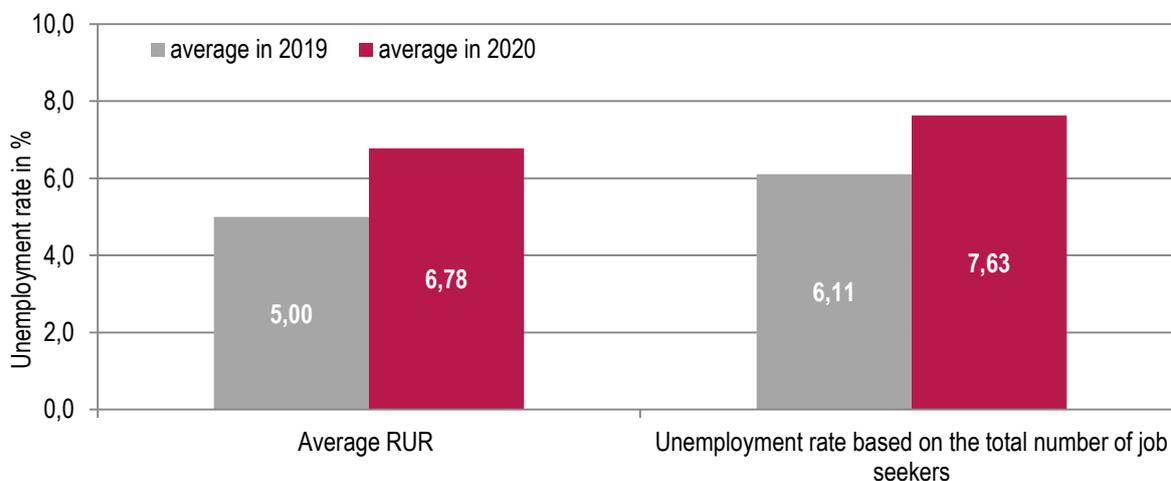


Source: COLSAF

A year-on-year rise in the average registered unemployment rate was observed in all Slovak regions, ranging from 1.23 pp in the region of Bratislava to 2.13 pp in the region of Banská Bystrica. A year-on-year increase in the average registered unemployment rate above the national average (1.78 pp) was recorded in the four regions: Prešov (by 1.88 pp), Trnava (by 1.89 pp), Nitra (by 1.97 pp) and Banská Bystrica (by 2.13 pp). In the region of Žilina the increase was equal to the national average, i.e. by 1.78 p.p. (graphic depiction of the registered unemployment rate is contained in the Annex to Chapter 2, Graph 1).

The unemployment rate calculated from the total number of job seekers reached an annual average of 7.63 % in 2020, representing a year-on-year increase by 1.52 pp compared to 2019.

Graph 2.15 Average Registered Unemployment Rate and Unemployment Rate Calculated from the Total Number of Jobs Seekers in SR in 2019 and 2020



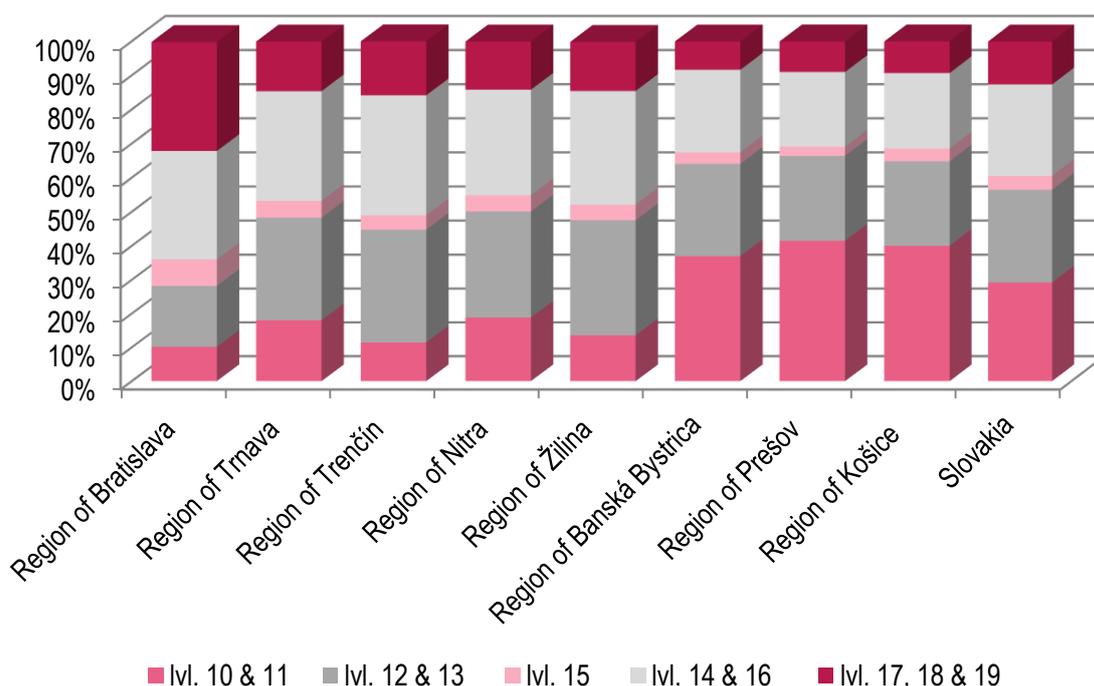
Source: COLSAF

The structure of job seekers by education¹⁶ in 2020 changed in comparison with the previous year. The highest average monthly number was reached by job seekers with primary education (level 11) and with unfinished primary education (level 10), namely 61,199 persons (29.19 %). Job seekers with secondary vocational education (including lower secondary vocational education, i.e. educational levels 12 and 13) accounted for the second highest number (57,152 persons, 27.26 %). The following group is represented by job seekers with full secondary vocational education (level 14) with the number of 55,297 persons (26.38 %). A less numerous group comprised academically qualified job seekers (levels 17, 18, and 19) with the number of 26,386 (12.59 %), where most of them had the second-level degree – master’s degree (21,060 persons, 10.05 %). The smallest group consisted of academically qualified job seekers who earned the third-level degree – PhD degree, with an average number of 775 persons (0.37 %). The least numerous groups also included job seekers with advanced vocational education (level 16), with the number of 931 persons (0.44 %) and job seekers with full secondary general education (level 15), with the number of 8,471 persons (4.04 %).

¹⁶Level of education

10 Unfinished primary education	15 Full secondary general education
11 Primary education	16 Advanced vocational education
12 Lower secondary vocational education	17 University education – bachelor’s degree
13 Secondary vocational education	18 University education – master’s degree
14 Full secondary vocational education	19 University education – PhD degree
N/A Not specified	

Graph 2.16 Percentage of Job Seekers by Levels of Education in Slovak Regions in 2020



Source: COLSAF

By regions, the highest number of registered unemployed job seekers with primary or unfinished primary education (levels 10, 11) was in three regions. These were the regions of Prešov (41.48 %), Košice (40.02 %), and Banská Bystrica (36.95 %). In the regions of Žilina (33.94 %) and Nitra (31.23 %) the largest groups of unemployed job seekers comprised those with lower secondary and secondary vocational education (levels 12,13). In the regions of Trenčín (35.19 %) and Trnava (32.15 %) the highest number of job seekers were job seekers with full secondary vocational education and higher vocational education, i.e. levels 14 and 16. In the region of Bratislava, the highest share (31.96 %) in the number of registered unemployed job seekers was held by academically qualified persons with levels 17, 18 and 19.

By age structure, the largest group of job seekers in 2020 consisted of persons aged 15 – 24 years (28,292 persons, 13.50 % of all job seekers). The second largest group included job seekers aged 40 – 44 years with the number of 25,034 persons (11.94 %), followed by job seekers aged 35 – 39 years with the number of 24,977 persons (11.91 %).

Table 2.13 Structure of Job Seekers by Age in Slovak Regions in 2020 (%)

Area (Slovak regions)	job seekers aged 15–24	job seekers aged 25–29	job seekers aged 30–34	job seekers aged 35–39	of which				
					job seekers aged 40–44	job seekers aged 45–49	job seekers aged 50–54	job seekers aged 55–59	job seekers aged 60+
Bratislava	9.69	12.25	13.93	15.50	14.40	10.38	8.31	9.48	6.05
Trnava	13.37	12.29	11.83	12.84	12.52	10.82	9.82	10.38	6.13
Trenčín	12.63	12.13	11.19	11.71	11.53	10.39	10.83	12.28	7.31
Nitra	12.08	10.87	10.89	11.50	12.08	10.74	11.12	12.80	7.92
Žilina	14.48	12.32	11.36	10.69	10.97	10.59	10.70	12.12	6.77
Banská Bystrica	12.16	10.93	11.06	11.44	12.24	11.54	11.33	12.90	6.41
Prešov	16.20	12.69	11.61	11.86	11.24	10.96	10.10	10.49	4.84
Košice	13.46	11.29	11.37	11.63	11.99	11.56	10.80	11.75	6.15
Slovakia	13.50	11.82	11.53	11.91	11.94	11.01	10.50	11.57	6.21

Source: COLSAF

By duration of registration as a job seeker, in 2020 the average number of job seekers registered for more than 12 months was 67,058, representing a year-on-year increase by 6,378 persons (10.51 %). The share of job seekers registered for more than 12 months in the total number of job seekers declined by 4.12 pp to 31.99 %; the average number of job seekers registered for less than 12 months rose by 35,226 persons (by 32.81 %) year-on-year. The number of job seekers registered for more than 48 months decreased year-on-year to 24,454 persons and accounted for 11.67 % of the total number of job seekers. In the group of job seekers registered for less than 48 months, the most job seekers were in the category of up to 3 months (56,170 persons, 26.79 %). The number of job seekers increased year-on-year in most groups of job seekers except for categories above 37 months.

The highest average number of female job seekers in 2020 was reported in the group of those registered for up to 3 months (27,350 persons, 24.61 %). The second highest number of female job seekers was in the group of registered for 4 – 6 months (20,918 persons, 18.82 %).

The average duration of registration as a job seeker in 2020 increased year-on-year to 11.63 months (8.85 months in 2019).

Table 2.14 Average Number of Job Seekers by Duration of Registration in Months in 2020, by Slovak Regions (in Persons)

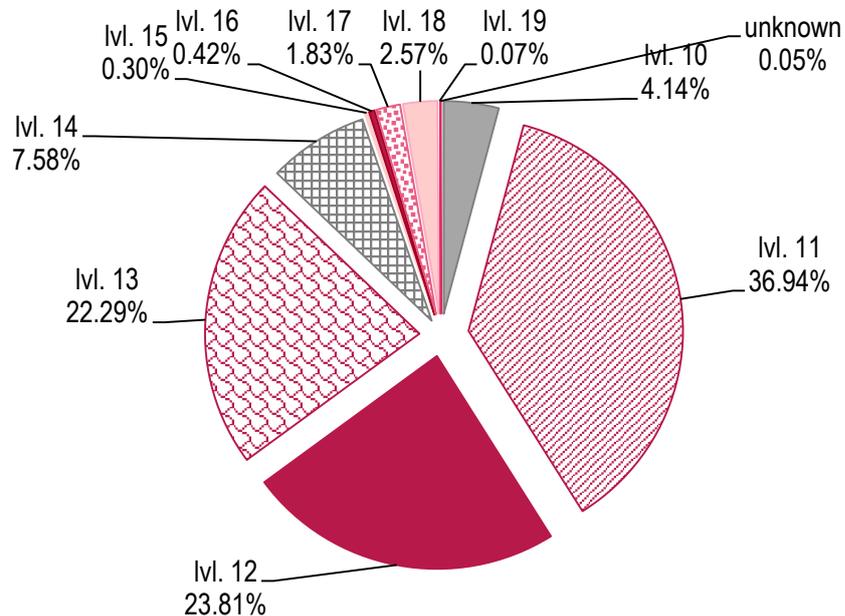
Area (Slovak regions)	Bratislava	Trnava	Trenčín	Nitra	Žilina	Banská Bystrica	Prešov	Košice	Slovakia
Total	15,514	14,127	16,184	19,515	22,092	33,921	47,091	41,190	209,634
up to 3 months	5,183	5,208	5,626	6,698	7,074	7,461	10,511	8,409	56,170
4 – 6 months	4,035	3,780	4,106	4,742	5,117	6,073	7,937	6,909	42,698
7 – 9 months	2,378	2,146	2,361	2,716	3,058	3,991	5,333	4,662	26,644
10 – 12 months	1,331	1,146	1,332	1,538	1,844	2,708	3,858	3,307	17,064
13 – 18 months	1,210	941	1,193	1,455	1,771	3,162	4,594	3,887	18,213
19 – 24 months	478	325	480	626	762	1,807	2,606	2,226	9,310
25 – 30 months	267	169	265	336	443	1,224	1,744	1,534	5,983
31 – 36 months	153	92	160	214	282	822	1,135	1,049	3,907
37 – 42 months	95	62	95	152	221	608	797	844	2,873
43 – 48 months	66	47	68	103	195	486	644	710	2,318
longer than 48 months	317	212	498	937	1,326	5,580	7,932	7,653	24,454

Source: COLSAF

In 2020, a monthly average of 75,561 **job vacancies** was reported at local Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (hereinafter referred to as "local OLSAFs"), representing a year-on-year decrease by 16,800 job vacancies (i.e. by 18.19 %). From a regional perspective, the highest average monthly number of reported job vacancies in 2020 was in the regions of Bratislava (22,174 job vacancies), Nitra (11,916 job vacancies) and Trnava (10,642 job vacancies). The lowest number of job vacancies was offered in the region of Košice (4,280 job vacancies).

Considering demand structured by finished education, in 2020, the most job vacancies required primary education (27,910 job vacancies, i.e. 36.94 %) and lower secondary vocational education (17,994 job vacancies, i.e. 23.81 %). The lowest number of job vacancies was available for job seekers with full secondary general education (224 job vacancies, 0.30 %) and university education with PhD degree (50 job vacancies, 0.07 %). In 2020 there was a shift in the structure – job vacancies requiring lower secondary vocational education represented the second most numerous group; previous year it was job vacancies requiring secondary vocational education. The number of job vacancies requiring elementary education dropped by 0.89 %; the number of job vacancies requiring lower secondary vocational education increased by 0.53 %; the number of job vacancies requiring secondary vocational education dropped by 1.03 % and the number of job vacancies requiring full secondary vocational education rose by 1.39 % compared to 2019. The numbers in other groups did not change significantly.

Graph 2.17 Job Vacancies in 2020 by Education Requirements



Source: COLSAF; levels of education are defined in the footnote 16

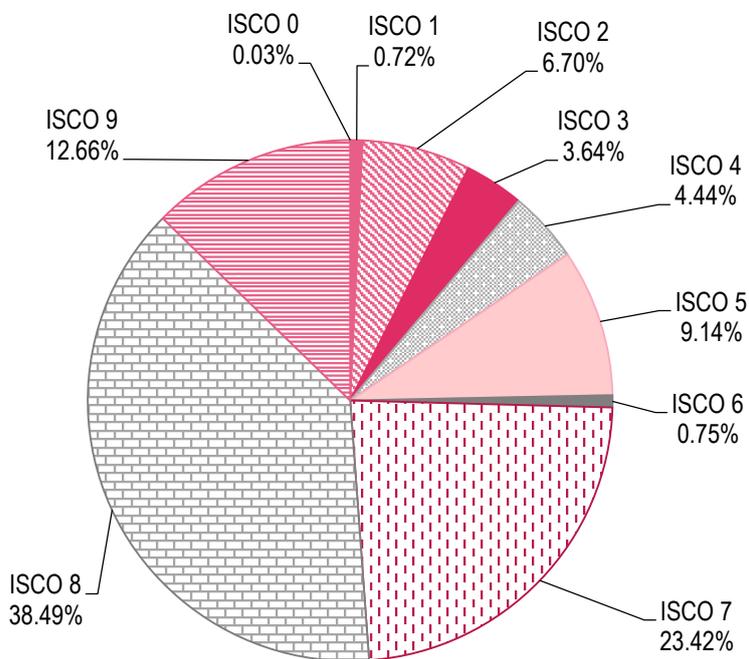
By regions, the highest average number of job vacancies for job seekers with primary education was reported in the regions of Bratislava (9,310 job vacancies) and Nitra (5,153 job vacancies), the lowest in the region of Prešov (602 job vacancies). The highest number of job vacancies for job seekers with lower secondary vocational education was reported in the region of Bratislava (4,835 job vacancies), followed by the region of Nitra (3,441 job vacancies), and the lowest was recorded in the region of Košice (627 job vacancies).

According to SK ISCO-08 classification¹⁷ in 2020, the highest average number of **job vacancies** reported to local OLSAFs were jobs for plant and machine operators and assemblers (29,078 job vacancies, i.e. 38.48 %), for craft and related trades workers (17,698 job vacancies, i.e. 23.42 %) and for elementary occupations (9,565 job vacancies, i.e. 12.66 %). The lowest number of reported job vacancies comprised jobs for staff members of the armed forces (25 job vacancies, 0.03 %). In 2020, the number of job vacancies dropped in almost all groups compared to 2019 (with the exception of ISCO 2 – Professionals), mostly for plant and machine operators and assemblers (by 5,254 job vacancies), skilled workers (by 4,358 job vacancies) and unskilled workers (by 3,465 job vacancies).

¹⁷ SK ISCO-08

- 1 Legislators, senior officials and managers
- 2 Professionals
- 3 Technicians and associate professionals
- 4 Clerks
- 5 Service workers and shop and market sales workers
- 6 Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers
- 7 Craft and related trades workers
- 8 Plant and machine operators and assemblers
- 9 Elementary occupations
- 0 Armed forces occupations

Graph 2.18 Job Vacancies in 2020 according to SK ISCO-08



Source: COLSAF

By regions, the highest number of job vacancies for plant and machine operators and assemblers was reported in the regions of Bratislava (7,962 job vacancies) and Trnava (5,462 job vacancies). The highest number of job vacancies for craft and related trades workers was offered in the regions of Bratislava (4,569 job vacancies) and Nitra (2,895 job vacancies). The elementary occupations were offered the largest number of job vacancies in the regions of Bratislava (3,226 job vacancies) and Nitra (1,881 job vacancies).

Disadvantaged job seekers

A disadvantaged job seeker is defined in Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended, as follows:

- a) a citizen under the age of 26 who has completed continuous full-time vocational training with the appropriate level of education less than two years and has not had a regularly paid job since its completion (hereinafter referred to as a "school graduate");
- b) a citizen over 50 years of age;
- c) a citizen kept in the register of job applicants for at least 12 consecutive months (hereinafter referred to as "long-term unemployed citizen");
- d) a citizen with less than secondary vocational education;
- e) a citizen who has not had a regularly paid job for at least 12 consecutive calendar months before inclusion in the register of job applicants;
- f) a third country national who has been granted asylum or has been granted subsidiary protection;
- g) a citizen living as a single adult with one or more persons dependent on his/her care or caring for at least one child before the end of compulsory schooling;
- h) a disabled citizen.

These conditions define persons who have difficulties entering the labour market due to their age, duration of their job seeker registration, lack of practice, health, inability to continue the previous job, family reasons or position in society, and, therefore, require intensified care.

Table 2.15 Average Number of Disadvantaged Job Seekers in 2020 by Slovak Regions (in Persons)

Disadvantaged job seekers according to Section 8 of Act No. 5/2004 Coll.								
Area	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
Region of Bratislava	704	3,690	2,592	1,596	6,920	0	251	284
Region of Trnava	798	3,711	1,851	2,582	6,167	0	64	572
Region of Trenčín	914	4,912	2,763	1,910	7,192	0	179	856
Region of Nitra	1,048	6,202	3,829	3,696	9,513	0	193	611
Region of Žilina	1,437	6,526	5,007	3,053	11,298	0	57	938
Region of Banská Bystrica	1,254	10,381	13,698	12,692	20,837	0	296	1,183
Region of Prešov	2,262	11,963	19,469	20,142	31,172	0	168	1,728
Region of Košice	1,684	11,808	17,913	16,991	26,984	1	231	1,122
Slovakia	10,101	59,193	67,121	62,662	120,084	1	1,439	7,294

Source: COLSAF

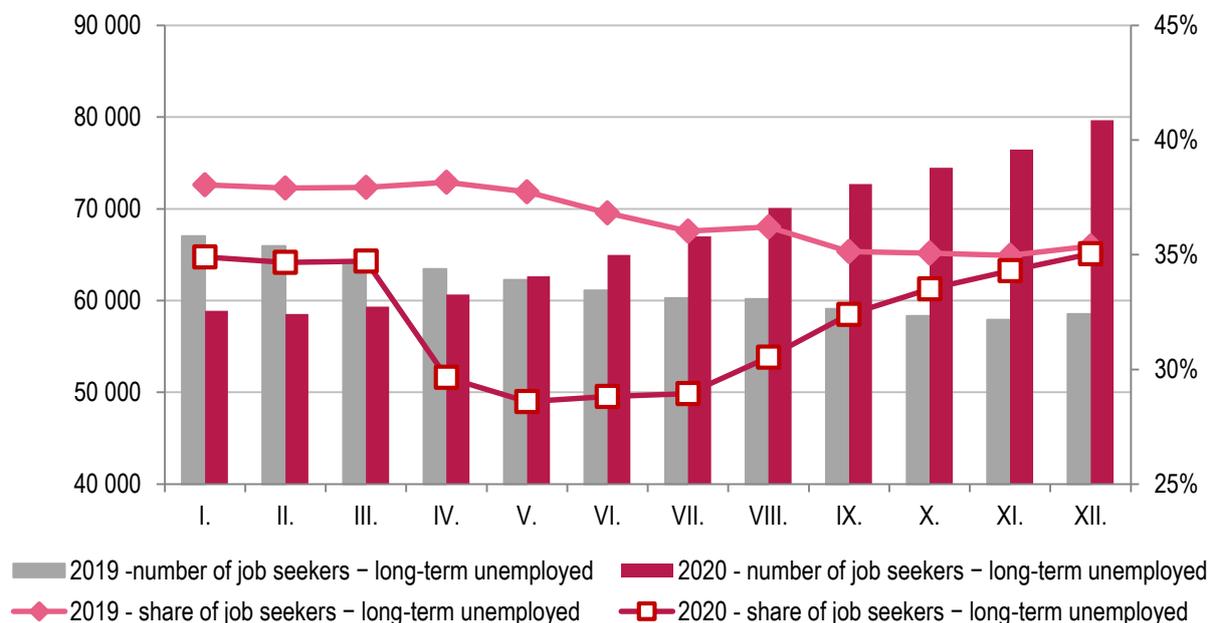
In regional terms, the highest number of disadvantaged job seekers in all groups (except for sub-paragraphs (f) and (g)) was recorded in the region of Prešov. High numbers of disadvantaged job seekers were also recorded in the regions of Košice and Banská Bystrica. In 2020, the most numerous groups of disadvantaged job seekers in all Slovak regions were job seekers with no regularly paid employment for 12 months prior to enrolment (sub-paragraph (e)) and the long-term registered persons (sub-paragraph (c)).

The largest group of disadvantaged job seekers are citizens who **had no regularly paid employment** for at least **12 consecutive calendar months before registering as job seekers**, i.e. had no job that lasted at least 6 consecutive months. In 2020, there were on average 120,084 of them, representing a year-on-year increase by 17,440 persons, i.e. 16.99 % (102,644 persons in 2019). Their share in the total average number of job seekers was 57.28 %, representing a decrease by 3.81 pp (61.09 %) compared to 2019.

The long-term unemployed citizens are the second most numerous disadvantaged group. In 2020, 67,121 long-term unemployed citizens were registered on average. Their number increased by 5,575 persons (by 9.06 %) year-on-year.

The share of the long-term unemployed citizens in the total average number of job seekers in 2020 accounted for 32.02 %, a year-on-year decline by 4.61 pp (36.63 %).

Graph 2.19 The Number of the Long-term Unemployed Citizens in 2019 and 2020 and Their Share in the Total Number of Job Seekers



Source: COLSAF

In 2020, the average monthly number of job seekers from among **school graduates** reached 10,101 persons. It rose by 1,920 persons (23.47 %) in comparison with 2019 (8,181 job seekers). Their share in the total average number of job seekers fell year-on-year by 0.05 pp from 4.87 % in 2019 to 4.82 % in 2020.

The development in the number of school-leaver job seekers is cyclical and affected mainly by the inflow of school-leavers into the register in accordance with the schedule of a school year for secondary schools and universities. The inflow of school-leavers generally peaks in September, when, after the holidays of secondary and vocational schools, the school-leavers get recorded at local OLSAFs. Another high inflow occurs in June due to the inflow of university graduates. Outflow is more pronounced in September, when some of the school-leavers are deregistered to continue their systematic professional education.

At the end of 2020, local OLSAFs registered 10,930 unemployed full-time study school-leavers, accounting for 4.81 % of the total number of registered job seekers (4.60 % in 2019). Compared with the same period of the previous year (7,617 persons), this represented a rise by 3,313 school-leavers (43.49 % in relative terms).

In terms of educational structure, as at 31 December 2020 the largest group comprised 5,544 school-leavers with full secondary vocational education (50.72 % of all registered school-leaver job seekers) and 1,980 university graduates with the second-level degree – master’s degree (18.12 %). The third largest group consisted of 1,974 job-seekers – school-leavers with secondary vocational education (18.06 %).

By the field of study, as at 31 December 2020 the “Social Sciences and Services” graduates accounted for the largest share (48.92 %; 5,347 persons). At the end of 2020, the number of job seekers in this group rose by 1,575 persons compared to 2019, while the percentage dropped by 0.60 pp year-on-year. The second most numerous group included “Technical Sciences” graduates with the number of 3,962 persons (36.25 %). A year-on-year increase by 1,237 persons was observed in this group, while the percentage increased by 0.47 pp year-on-year.

In 2020, the average monthly number of registered job seekers **aged 50+** was 59,193. In comparison with 2019 (48,696 persons), this represented an increase by 10,497 persons (21.56 %). Their share in the total average number of job seekers was 28.24 %, a decrease by 0.74 pp compared to 2019 (28.98 %).

In 2020, there was a registered average of 7,294 **disabled job seekers** and their number increased year-on-year by 1,486 persons. The share of disabled job seekers in the total number of job seekers in 2020 was 3.48 %, a year-on-year increase by 0.02 pp.

The share of job seekers living as solitary adults with one or more persons dependent on their care or caring for at least one child before the end of compulsory education in the total average number of job seekers in 2020 rose (compared to 2019) by 0.12 pp to 0.69 %. In 2020, their registered number reached an average of 1,439 persons, which was by 473 more than in 2019.

Table 2.16 The Share of the Average Number of Selected Disadvantaged Groups of Job Seekers in Total Average Number of Job Seekers (in %)

Disadvantaged job seekers	2019	2020	year-on-year change (pp)
School-leavers	4.87	4.82	-0.05
Job seekers over 50 years of age	28.98	28.24	-0.74
Long-term unemployed citizens	36.63	32.02	-4.61
Citizens with lower than secondary vocational education	33.15	29.89	-3.26
Job seekers who had no regularly paid employment for at least 12 months before registering	61.09	57.28	-3.81
Disabled job seekers	3.46	3.48	0.02

Source: COLSAF

2.1.3.2 Unemployment according to Labour Force Survey by SO SR

The decrease in the total employment was accompanied by a rise in unemployment. According to LFS data, the unemployment was rising during the whole year, while the dynamics of its growth was gradually accelerating (from 1.1 % in Q1 2020 to 22.5 % in Q4 2020). The average number of the unemployed persons increased by 15.0 % year-on-year (by 23.7 thous. persons) and represented 181.4 thous. persons. The unemployment rate increased by 0.9 pp year-on-year and reached 6.7 %.

The average unemployment rate in 2020 increased for both sexes year-on-year (by 1.1 pp to 7.1 % for women and by 0.8 pp to 6.4 % for men). A more considerable rise in the female unemployment rate compared to the male unemployment rate was reflected in an increase in the gender unemployment gap. In 2019, the male unemployment rate was 0.4 pp lower than the female unemployment rate, while in 2020 this difference amounted to 0.7 pp. More details may be found in the Annex to the Chapter 2, Table 6.

The specific **unemployment rate of young people aged 15 – 24** increased year-on-year by 3.2 pp to 19.3 % (more significantly for men, namely by 4.3 pp to 18.3 %; for women by 1.5 pp to 21.2 %).

The specific **unemployment rate of older persons aged 50 – 64** increased year-on-year by 0.1 pp to 4.7 % (it only increased for men, namely by 0.3 pp to 4.4 %; for women it dropped by 0.1 pp to 5.0 %).

By the level of education, persons with primary education (31.1 %) had almost 5 times higher unemployment rate than the total unemployment rate in SR. On the contrary, its lowest rate was seen in the group of university graduates with the third-level degree – PhD degree (2.0 %). The biggest unemployment rate increase was seen in the group of persons with higher vocational education (by 6.5 pp to 8.8 %), while the unemployment rate of persons with elementary education dropped by 0.8 pp. More detailed structure of the unemployment rate by education may be found in the Annex to Chapter 2, Table 6.

According to the economic activity of last employment, the unemployed previously working in industry represented the biggest share (25.1 %), while their proportion in the total unemployment increased by 3.3 pp year-on-year. As many as 20.8 % of the total average number of the unemployed in 2020 were persons who had never had a job, though their proportion in the total number of the unemployed decreased by 4.2 pp year-on-year.

The unemployment rate was rising in almost all **regions** in 2020. The increase in the number of the unemployed ranged from 7.9 % in the region of Trnava to 40.7 % in the region of Bratislava, with the exception of the region of Banská Bystrica where the number of the unemployed dropped by 0.2 % compared to the previous year. The highest absolute number of the unemployed (almost 45 % of the total number of the unemployed in SR) was concentrated in the regions of Prešov and Košice.

The unemployment rate exceeded the Slovak average in three regions (Banská Bystrica, Košice and Prešov). The region of Prešov also saw the biggest year-on-year increase in the unemployment rate from among all regions (by 2.0 pp), what was also reflected in bigger regional differences expressed as a difference between regions with the lowest and the highest unemployment rate from 7.7 pp in 2019 to 8.7 pp in 2020.

Table 2.17 Unemployment by Regions in 2020 (Annual Average)

Region	Unemployed			Unemployment rate	
	thous. persons	Share in SR (%)	Index 2020/2019	(%)	Change compared to 2019 (pp)
SR in total	181.4	100.0	115.0	6.7	0.9
of which:					
Bratislava	11.9	6.5	140.7	3.4	1.0
Trnava	14.3	7.9	107.9	5.0	0.4
Trenčín	11.5	6.3	135.6	3.9	1.1
Nitra	17.6	9.7	111.5	5.2	0.6
Žilina	18.9	10.4	122.1	5.5	1.1
Banská Bystrica	25.9	14.3	99.8	7.9	0.1
Prešov	48.4	26.7	119.0	12.1	2.0
Košice	33.0	18.2	111.2	8.9	1.0

Source: SO SR, Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR vo 4. štvrtroku 2020 (Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2020, in Slovak only)

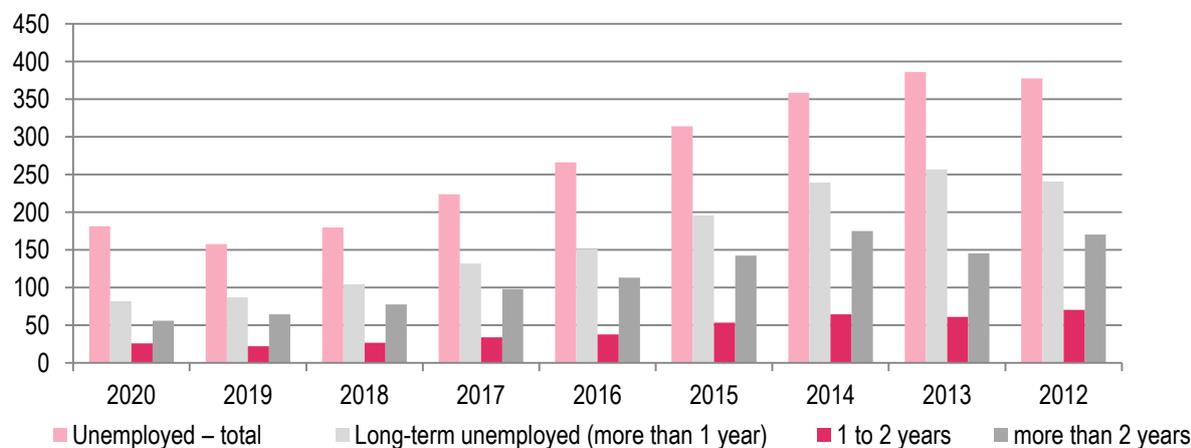
From the point of view of the **period of unemployment**, persons unemployed for longer than 1 year formed the biggest group. According to SO SR data, an average of 81.7 thous. long-term unemployed (for over 12 months) lived in Slovakia in 2020, accounting for 45.0 % of the total number of the unemployed. In spite of the growing total unemployment, in 2020 the number and proportion of the long-term unemployed decreased similarly to previous years (compared to 2019 by 5.0 thous. persons, the proportion by 10.0 pp). The number of the unemployed in other categories increased, while the most significant increase was seen in the group of persons unemployed for shorter than 1 month (by 11.7 thous. to 26.6 thous. persons).

Table 2.18 Unemployment by the Period of Unemployment in 2020 (Annual Average)

Duration of unemployment	Number of the unemployed (thous. persons)	Share of the total number of the unemployed (in %)	Index 2020/2019
Total	181.4	100.0	115.0
of which:			
up to 1 month	26.6	14.7	178.1
1 month to 3 months	22.8	12.6	157.4
3 months to 6 months	23.9	13.2	129.6
6 months to 1 year	26.4	14.5	113.9
1 year or over, of which:	81.7	45.0	94.2
from 1 to 2 years	25.7	14.1	116.1
over 2 years	56.0	30.9	86.7

Source: SO SR, Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR vo 4. štvrtroku 2020 (Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2020, in Slovak only)

Graph 2.20 Development of the Total Number of the Unemployed in SR, of that the long-term unemployed (in thous. persons)



Source: SO SR, <http://datacube.statistics.sk>

2.1.4 Active Labour Market Measures

The start of 2020 was marked by a continued positive development in the labour market and by a decrease in unemployment. According to statistical data of the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the registered unemployment rate (RUR) reached **4.98 %** in January 2020 and the number of available job seekers was **137,087 persons**. Such favourable trend was affected negatively by the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic impacts of which caused a rise in unemployment. In December 2020 RUR rose to **7.57 %** and the number of available job seekers was **207,184 persons**. Compared to the start of the same year, it is an increase in the number of job seekers by **70,097**, i.e. by **51.13 %**. In the course of 2020, we saw a similarly negative trend in the number of the disadvantaged job seekers as defined in the Section 8 of the Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended (Employment Services Act). In December 2020 the number of the disadvantaged job seekers reached **184,035 persons**, representing an increase by **47,706**

persons, i.e. **34.99 %** compared to January 2020. Increases were seen in all categories, while most significant increases were demonstrated in the following ones: persons aged 50+ (increase by 15,121 persons, i.e. by 30.39 %), persons registered as job seekers for at least 12 subsequent months – long-term unemployed persons (increase by 20,775 persons, i.e. by 35.27 %), persons with lower than secondary vocational education (increase by 11,371 persons, i.e. 20.65 %) and persons who had no regularly paid job for at least 12 consecutive calendar months before inclusion in the register of job seekers (increase by 31,243, i.e. by 31.52 %).

In an effort to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the increase in unemployment, the following legislative and non-legislative changes and measures were taken:

The Employment Services Act was amended several times during 2020:

- **Act No. 374/2019 Coll.** which entered into force on 1 January 2020 and brought changes in the area of employment of nationals of third countries, laid down the conditions for providing a contribution to supporting the maintenance of jobs, placement contribution to an integration enterprise and compensatory contribution to an integration enterprise, and extended the definition of projects and programmes which are considered 'active labour market measures' (ALMMs);
- **Act No. 63/2020 Coll.** which entered into force on 27 March 2020. The above-stated amendment lays down that ALMMs also include projects aimed at supporting the maintenance of jobs including jobs where a self-employed gainful activity is performed or pursued, and at supporting the retention of employees in employment in connection with the declaration of an emergency, state of emergency or exceptional situation and removal of consequences thereof which are approved by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family or the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family after the conditions had been approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic, and implemented by the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family or the Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (Section 54 (1) (e)); at the same time the Act lays down suspension of regular obligations (submission of statements) until 30 June 2020 and facilitates job-seekers' registration (it enables to file a request for registration also in electronic form without a qualified electronic signature);
- **Act No. 66/2020 Coll.** which entered into force on 04 April 2020. The above-stated amendment enabled to prove compliance with the conditions for provision of a contribution as referred to in the Section 54 (1) (e) by a solemn declaration of the applicant and created a fiction of meeting the condition of registration in the Register of Public Sector Partners to facilitate disbursement of the contribution within projects in accordance with the Section 54 (1) (e);
- **Act No. 95/2020 Coll.** which entered into force on 25 April 2020. The amendment specified the Section 70 (9), i.e. proving compliance with the conditions necessary for providing the contribution within the Section 54 (1) (e);
- **Act No. 127/2020 Coll.** which entered into force on 21 May 2020. Wordings of several provisions of the Act were amended in relation to the declaration of an emergency, state of emergency or exceptional situation; it particularly enabled job seekers to perform work obligations in accordance with the Economic Mobilization Act. It also amended the validity of confirmation of the possibility to occupy a job vacancy which corresponds to highly qualified employment, confirmation of the possibility to occupy a job vacancy and permission for employment;
- **Act No. 225/2019 Coll.** which entered into force on 1 July 2020 and which laid down the extent of the required data in the Annex 1 (a) of the Employment Services Act;
- **Act No. 198/2020 Coll.** which entered into force on 21 July 2020 and amended the wording of the Section 68a (1) (a), eliminating the possibility to impose sanctions for any violation of the obligation to report a job vacancy in accordance with the Section 62 (6).
- **Act No. 264/2020 Coll.** which entered into force on 29 September 2020. The above-stated amendment introduced a temporary provision of the Section 72ap, laying down the compliance with the conditions as referred to in the Section 29 (3) (b) and Section 70 (7) (a).

National project "First Aid"

In order to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the employment of the Slovak population, a national project (NP) called "**First Aid**" began to be implemented. Its aim is to support maintenance of employment at the time when an emergency, state of emergency or exceptional situation is declared and to remove the

consequences thereof. The aim of the NP First Aid is to mitigate the impact of the declared exceptional situation or state of emergency in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic on the employment and labour market in SR through financial support for employers or sole traders who will maintain jobs also in spite of the obligation to interrupt or limit their operational activities on the basis of a measure of the Public Health Authority (PHA) or in order to protect the health of their employees, due to a loss of revenues or discontinuation of activities of their sub-suppliers. The support of employers to maintain jobs and sole traders to maintain their business activities is divided according to individual areas and according to the subject of their activities into four measures in line with specific measures adopted by the Resolution of the Government of SR and in accordance with the State Aid Scheme according to the currently applicable conditions. The NP First Aid intervention also helps mitigate the economic impacts on employment.

The following measures were implemented within the NP First Aid:

- **Measure 1:** Support for employers who at the time of declaration of emergency, state of emergency or exceptional situation closed their places of business or prohibited their operations based on a PHA measure.
 - contribution to payment of employee wage compensation in the amount of 80 % of their average wage, in any case not exceeding €1,100 per month;
- **Measure 2:** Support for sole traders who at the time of declaration of emergency, state of emergency or exceptional situation closed their places of business or prohibited their operations based on a PHA measure or whose revenues decreased.
 - flat-rate contribution to compensate a loss of income from gainful activities for sole traders in relation to a decrease in their revenues compared to the same period in 2019, in any case not exceeding €540;
- **Measure 3:** Support for employers affected by the exceptional situation.
 - contribution to payment of employee wage compensation in the amount of 80 % of their average wage, in any case not exceeding €880 per month (3A) or
 - flat-rate contribution to payment of a part of wage costs for each employee in the amount of 80 % of their gross wage, depending on the decrease of the employer's revenues, in any case not exceeding €540 per month (3B);
- **Measure 4:** Support of selected groups of natural persons who have no other income at the time of declaration of the exceptional situation.
 - flat-rate contribution to compensate a loss of income from gainful activities in the amount of €210 per month.

Effective from 1 October 2020, the conditions of supporting employers, employees and sole traders within the NP First Aid (the NP was renamed to **First Aid+**) improved as follows:

- The amount of contributions within individual measures increased:
 - Measure 1 and 3A – increase in the contribution from 80 % of the gross wage to 80 % of the total price of work of the employee. In the measure 3A the maximum amount of the contribution increased from €880 to €1,100;
 - Measure 2 and 3B – increase in the contribution depending on the decrease in the revenues to €270 – €810, previously €180 – €540;
 - Measure 4 – increase in the contribution from €210 to €315;
- The aid was available to employers and sole traders who started their business activities at the latest on 2 September 2020, previously at the latest on 1 February 2020.
- Employers could apply for the contribution also for employees who started their employment at the latest on 2 September 2020, previously at the latest on 1 March 2020.
- Aid is provided also to persons who simultaneously perform gainful activities and are employed (Measures 2 and 4).

Eligible project period is a period which starts on the date of closing or prohibiting certain places of business based on a PHA measure, namely from 13 March 2020 during the entire period of the exceptional situation and after its termination, in any case until 30 June 2021.¹⁸ The funds will be provided from ESF resources, SURE loan funding and the state budget.

¹⁸ The Resolution of the Government of SR No. 319/2021 of 9 June 2021 prolonged the project implementation until the end of 2021.

Table 2.19 Summary of the Support Provided within the NP First Aid for 2020 (as at 1 June 2021)¹⁹

	Sent payments	Paid contributions (in €)	Supported monthly jobs
Measure 1 (since 6 April 2020)	33,605	65,026,151.04	169,871
Measure 2 (since 9 April 2020)	361,606	180,834,678.67	360,966
Measure 3A (since 17 April 2020)	38,628	218,504,287.84	751,236
Measure 3B (since 17 April 2020)	145,064	510,137,536.45	1,654,766
Measure 4 (since 23 April 2020)	88,686	20,414,117.93	88,587
Total	667,589	994,916,771.93	3,025,426

Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

In 2020 MoLSAF prepared a concept of introducing "Kurzarbeit", a shortened work mode, in the Slovak legislation. Its aim is to introduce a permanent tool to support maintenance of employment during crisis periods when employers need to limit their activities. The concept foresees that starting from 1 January 2022 a permanent shortened work tool will be introduced, following up on the current measure 3A from the NP First Aid.²⁰

In accordance with the Employment Services Act, the below-stated ALMMs were provided to job seekers in 2020 as well:

The NP **"Supporting Employment"** provided for financing of legally claimable ALMM contributions – contribution to activation activities in the form of smaller municipal services for a municipality or in the form of smaller services for a self-governing region (Section 52), contribution for commuting for work (Section 53), contribution for supporting work mobility (Section 53a) and relocation allowance (Section 53c). The NP **"Promoting the Disabled – 4"** ensured financing of legally claimable contributions within ALMMs for disabled persons in accordance with the Employment Services Act. In particular, it is contribution for the activity of a work assistant (Section 59) and contribution to reimburse the operating costs of a sheltered workshop or sheltered workplace and to reimburse the costs of transporting of employees (Section 60). The NP **"Supporting Integration Enterprises"** provides compensatory contributions in accordance with the Section 53g and contributions to integration enterprises in accordance with the Section 53f of the Employment Services Act which are a special type of contributions to support social entrepreneurship. The NP **"Work and Change your Life"** also focused on supporting job seekers and was divided into 3 activities: 1. *Supporting sole traders* – providing a financial contribution to support creation of a job through self-employment. 2. *Supporting the employment of job seekers through providers of social services* – providing financial contributions to employers who are registered providers of social services and hire a job seeker. 3. *Supporting the employment of job seekers* – providing a financial contribution to any employer who hires a job seeker.

In accordance with the ALMM of the Employment Services Act, job seekers could also use information and advisory services (Section 42), professional counselling (Section 43), work preparation and training of a registered job seeker (Section 46), contribution to a graduate practical training (Section 51), contribution to support the creation of a job in the first regularly paid job (Section 51a) etc. The following was carried out through projects (Section 54): providing a contribution to an independent gainful activity, mentored initiation and practice for job seekers younger than 29, supporting job seekers through retraining or strengthening key competencies and supporting employment of job seekers in agriculture.

ALMM to Support Employability and Employment Growth and Their Implementation in 2020

According to the Employment Services Act, the following ALMMs were offered to job seekers, job changers and employees in 2020 to place or retain them in the labour market:

a) support for increasing the employability of job seekers and job changers

- Information and advisory services (Sect. 42)
- Professional counselling services (Section 43)

¹⁹ More details on using the First Aid are available in monthly updated commentaries available on the web page of the Social Policy Institute on https://institutsocialnejpolitiky.sk/analyticke-komentare/index.html#fws_60cb324f2aee8

²⁰ More details about the concept are available in the legislative process No. LP/2020/333 on <https://www.slov-lex.sk/legislativne-procesy/-/SK/LP/2020/333>

- Work preparation and training of a registered job seeker (Section 46)
- Contribution to a graduate practical training (Section 51)
- Contribution to activation programmes in the form of minor services for a municipality or self-governing region (Section 52)
- Contribution to activation activities in the form of voluntary service (Section 52a)

b) support of employment, job creation and retention

- Employment mediation (Section 32)
- Education and training of the employee for the labour market (Section 47)
- Contribution to self-employment (Section 49)
- Contribution to support the employment of disadvantaged job seekers (Section 50)
- Contribution to support the development of local and regional employment (Section 50j)
- Contribution to support the creation of a job in the first regularly paid job (Section 51a)
- Contribution to commuting to work (Section 53)
- Contribution to support job mobility (Section 53a)
- Contribution to transport to work (Section 53b)
- Contribution to moving due to work (Section 53c)
- Contribution to new jobs created (Section 53d)
- Financial assistance to help maintaining employment in small or medium-sized enterprises (Section 53e)
- Placement contribution to the integration enterprise (Section 53f)
- Compensatory contributions to the integration enterprise (Section 53g)
- Projects and programmes (Section 54)
- Contribution to establishing a sheltered workshop or workplace (Section 56)
- Contribution for keeping a disabled citizen in employment (Section 56a)
- Contribution to a disabled citizen for self-employment (Section 57)
- Contribution to activity of a job assistant (Section 59)
- Contribution to reimburse the operating costs of a sheltered workshop or sheltered workplace and to reimburse the costs of transporting employees (Section 60)

Most of the ALMMs were implemented through national projects financed by the European Social Fund and co-financed from the Slovak state budget.

In relation to the COVID-19 containment measures, in April 2020 the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family issued an instruction suspending the conclusion of new agreements for ALMM contributions for the provision of which there is no legal entitlement, including national projects, what considerably influenced the provision of ALMM contributions. The above-mentioned regulation is still valid. Support within the First Aid project, focused on the financial compensation for closing the places of business and trade licenses as a result of COVID-19, became a priority.

In 2020, a total of **3,417,833 job seekers, job changers, or employees/jobs** were financially supported with a total amount of more than **€1 billion**. An overview of the implementation of individual ALMMs in 2020 is detailed in Annex to Chapter 2 (Overview of the Implementation of ALMMs) and in Table 8.

2.2 Wages and Working Conditions

Evaluation of Legislative changes in Wages and Working Conditions in 2020

Act No. 283/2002 Coll. on Travel Allowances

In relation to adopting measures to deal with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, a **measure related to travel allowances**, consisting in the fact that the **mechanism of increasing the amounts of food allowances for domestic business trips and amounts of a basic allowance for the use of road vehicles for business trips is not going to be applied until 31 December 2021**, was adopted for **employers** to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic.

The above-stated measure was implemented by the **Act No. 127/2020 Coll., amending the Section 8 of the Act No. 283/2002 Coll. on Travel Allowances**, laying down a mechanism of increasing the amounts of food allowances for individual time periods and the amounts of the basic allowance for the use of road vehicles for business trips.

The following measures continued to apply in 2020 in the area of travel allowances:

Measure of MoLSAF No. 143/2019 Coll. on the amounts of the basic allowance for the use of road vehicles for business trips

The amount of the basic allowance for the use of a road vehicle:

- for single-track vehicles and tricycles **€0.053**;
- for passenger road vehicles **€0.193**.

Measure of MoLSAF No. 176/2019 Coll. on food allowances

The amount of food allowances for individual time periods:

- for a 5- to 12-hour business trip **€5.10**;
- for a 12- to 18-hour business trip **€7.60**;
- for a business trip longer than 18 hours **€11.60**.

Maintaining the same amount of the food allowance for the period of 5 – 12 hours has also an impact on the application of the Section 152 (3) and (4) of the Labour Code:

- **the maximum amount** of the employer's food allowance remained at **€2.81** for one warm main meal, including a drink;
- **the minimum value** of a meal voucher remained at **€3.83** for which an employee is to purchase one main meal, including a drink.

Minimum wage

In accordance with the Act No. 663/2007 Coll. on Minimum Wage, as amended, **effective from 1 January 2020** the Government of the Slovak Republic approved a regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic **No. 324/2019 Coll.**, laying down the amount of the minimum wage for 2020. The above-stated regulation laid down the amount of **minimum wage** equal to

- **€580 per month** and
- **€3.333 per hour worked**.

Compared to the minimum wage of €520 applicable in 2019, it was a year-on-year increase by 11.54 %.

The **Act No. 375/2019 Coll.**, amending the Act No. 663/2007 Coll. on Minimum Wage, as amended, and amending the Act No. 311/2001 Coll. the Labour Code, as amended, changed the procedure of determining the minimum wage for a particular calendar year, with **effect from 1 January 2020**. The above-stated amendment enables the representatives of employers and the representatives of employees to discuss and agree on the amount of the monthly minimum wage for the following calendar year. If the representatives of employers and the representatives of employees come to an agreement before 15 July or at a session of the Economic and Social Council of SR before 31 August, the monthly minimum wage for the following calendar year is determined by their

agreement. If the representatives of employers and the representatives of employees fail to come to an agreement, a formula determined by the legislation is used. It is based on the average monthly nominal wage of an employee in the Slovak economy disclosed by the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic for the calendar year that was two years before the calendar year which the amount of the monthly minimum wage is being determined for. The monthly minimum wage is determined as a lawfully specified percentage of such amount. The amount of the minimum wage for 2020 was determined still in accordance with the previously valid legislation and the above-stated procedure was first used to determine the amount of the minimum wage for 2021.

Labour Code

The amendment No. 319/2019 Coll., effective from 1 January 2020, incorporated a **contribution for children sport activities** in the Labour Code. The aim of the amendment was to support the sporting children and youth in the form of a voluntary contribution of an employer which is proportionate to the expenses that the employer's employee expends on regular sports activities of their child. Such form of supporting the sporting children and youth has several positive outcomes, such as an increase in the number of regularly sporting children and economically active parents who lead their children to do sports under the leadership of a qualified sport professional working for a sport organization registered in the register of legal entities operating in the area of sports (in accordance with a special regulation). Such children also represent sport talents which have not been discovered yet and which could represent our country in the future. Also, thanks to sport activities children learn to move regularly and to lead a healthy lifestyle. Other benefits include obesity prevention, stress relief, spending the leisure time in a group, etc.

On a voluntary basis an employer may provide to those employees whose employment with the employer continues for at least 24 months without interruption a contribution equal to 55 % of eligible expenses, from an amount not higher than €500, i.e. not more than €275 in a calendar year and in aggregate for all children of the employee. As a motivation to provide the contribution, employers are exempt from paying the taxes and levies for both the employee and the employer. Employee may ask their employer for such contribution for a child younger than 18; the employee needs to have a permanent or similar residence in the Slovak Republic and for a period of at least 6 months before filing a request for such contribution the employee needs to belong to a sport organization in accordance with a special regulation.

According to the Labour Code, the basic annual leave of employees is at least four weeks and for employees who turn 33 (or are older) by the end of the respective calendar year, the basic annual leave is at least five weeks. **Effective from 1 January 2020, the amendment No. 380/2019 Coll.** extended the basic annual leave to five weeks also for employees who are younger than 33 but **permanently look after a child**. The amendment has a positive impact on marriage, parenting and family, on the education of children and tourism because it extends the time which the parents and the children may spend together as a family.

Effective from 27 March 2020, the Act No. 63/2020 Coll., amending and supplementing the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance, as amended, and amending certain acts, *responded to the current situation related to the spread of COVID-19*. The above-stated legal regulation improved the financial situation of persons receiving sickness and nursing benefits and partially mitigated the negative financial impact on employers. **In this respect the Labour Code was also amended**, harmonizing the definitions of obstacles to work and conditions of the entitlement to nursing benefits.

With the **amendment No. 66/2020 Coll.**, supplementing the Labour Code as well as certain acts and **effective from 4 April 2020**, the Slovak Republic *responded to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in its territory* by declaring an exceptional situation or a state of emergency. The negative impacts of the situation directly affected the employees, employers as well as persons who lost their jobs and could not find work due to a specific situation in the labour market. Such a complicated situation also had to be addressed in the area of employment relations in connection to the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to maintain jobs, to enable employers to respond more flexibly to dynamic changes that have an impact on the organization of work and to protect employees, several modifications were approved in the area of working time (regarding its organisation), annual leave (regarding the possibilities to take it) and obstacles to work (regarding the compensation of wage in the case of an obstacle to work on the part of the employer and regarding the protection of employees with an obstacle to work on their part). As for

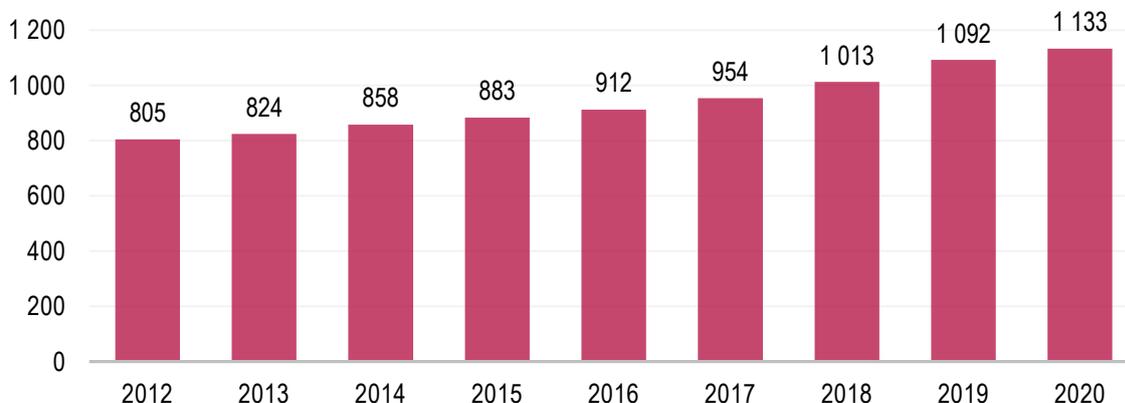
employment relations, the aim of the amendment was to set out a preferential use of provisions of the Labour Code over relevant provisions of the first to tenth part of the Labour Code during a situation when an exceptional situation has been declared in accordance with the Act on the Civil Protection of the Population or a state of emergency or an emergency in accordance with the constitutional act on state security during war, state of war, state of alarm and state of emergency.

Effective from 17 June 2020, an amendment to the Labour Code, the Act No. 157/2020 Coll. with its new temporary provision responded to maintaining jobs and preventing an increase in unemployment *as a result of the crisis caused by the spread of COVID-19*. The aim of the amendment is to enable, for a temporary period of time, to extend or re-negotiate employment for a determined period of time also beyond the existing regulation in the Labour Code.

2.2.1 Wages

According to SO SR data, the **average nominal monthly wage** of employees in the national economy²¹ amounted to **€1,133** in 2020, which represents a year-on-year increase by €41 (3.8 %).

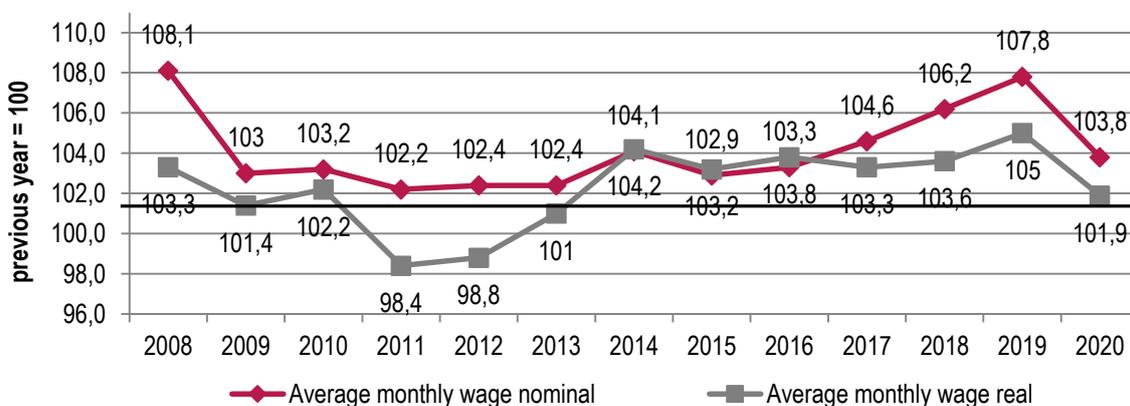
Graph 2.21 Average Nominal Monthly Wage of an Employee in the National Economy (in €)



Source: SO SR, <http://datacube.statistics.sk>

In 2020, the **average real monthly wage** of employees in the national economy rose by 1.9 % year-on-year. Compared to the same period of the previous year, the wage growth dynamics slowed down – the nominal wage growth slowed down by 4 pp and the real wage growth by 3.1 pp. The decrease in the nominal and real wage in the national economy seen in Q2 had a decisive impact on their slower growth in 2020.

Graph 2.22 Development of the Average Monthly Wage since 2008 (in %)



Source: SO SR, <http://datacube.statistics.sk>

As in previous years, 2020 saw significant regional differences in the wage developments. **In the respective regions**, the average nominal monthly wages ranged from €889 (the region of Prešov) to €1,412 (the region of Bratislava), with a difference of €523 (in 2019 it was €515). The average nominal monthly wage was higher than the national average only in the region of Bratislava; in other regions it was below the Slovak average.

The level of the average nominal wage of employees exceeded the 2019 level in all regions, while its most significant rise was seen in the regions of Prešov (by 5.3 %), Banská Bystrica (4.8 %) and Nitra (by 4.2 %).

Table 2.20 Average Monthly Nominal Wage by Regions

²¹ According to quarterly statistical reporting; less entrepreneurs' income; data are adjusted by a statistical estimate of non-registered wages; indices are calculated from comparable data.

	2020 (in €)	Index 2020/2019	Increase/ decrease (in €)	Amount compared to SR (in €) (in %)	
SR in total	1,133	103.8	41	0	100.0
of which:					
Region of Bratislava	1,412	103.9	53	279	124.6
Region of Trnava	1,058	103.2	33	-75	93.4
Region of Trenčín	1,042	102.7	27	-91	92.0
Region of Nitra	947	104.2	38	-186	83.6
Region of Žilina	1,007	102.7	26	-126	88.9
Region of Banská Bystrica	988	104.8	45	-145	87.2
Region of Prešov	889	105.3	45	-244	78.5
Region of Košice	1,026	102.3	23	-107	90.6

Source: SO SR, Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR v 4. štvrťroku 2019 (Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2020, in Slovak only)

By individual sectors, employees in the following sectors had the highest average nominal monthly wage: financial and insurance activities (€1,969) and information and communication (€ 1,967); on the contrary, employees working in the accommodation and food services had the lowest wage (€613). Compared to 2019, the average nominal monthly wage increased in most sectors; in relative terms, its fastest growth was seen in the area of health and social assistance (by 8.7 %), public administration and defence (by 8.5 %) and education (by 8.2 %). All areas of the private and public sectors contributed to the slowdown of the growth of the nominal monthly wage in the national economy for 2020; the decrease in the average nominal monthly wage in accommodation and food service activities (by 6.8 %) and administrative services (by 1.2 %) had the biggest impact in relative terms. The growth rate of the average nominal wage in the area of art, entertainment and recreation slowed down considerably as well (by 11.5 pp, from 12.6 % in 2019 to 1.1 % in 2020).

Table 2.21 Average Monthly Nominal Wage and Its Growth in 2019 and 2020 by Industries

Economic activities (SK NACE rev. 2)	2019		2020	
	average wage in €	index 2019/2018	average wage in €	index 2020/2019
A Agriculture, forestry and fishing	824	106.5	872	105.8
B,C,D,E Industry in total	1,171	104.6	1,188	101.5
B Mining and quarrying	1,240	106.3	1,267	102.2
C Manufacturing	1,153	104.5	1,165	101.0
D Electricity, gas, steam and air-condition supply	1,836	105.0	1,927	105.0
E Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1,056	106.8	1,093	103.5
F Construction	746	104.6	760	101.9
G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	1,002	107.4	1,029	102.7
H Transportation and storage	1,072	106.8	1,084	101.1
I Accommodation and food service activities	658	110.6	613	93.2
J Information and communication	1,922	103.9	1,967	102.3
K Financial and insurance activities	1,941	104.5	1,969	101.4
L Real estate activities	1,004	104.3	1,025	102.1
M Professional, scientific and technical activities	1,210	107.9	1,281	105.9
N Administrative and support service activities	948	105.3	937	98.8
O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	1,523	116.2	1,653	108.5
P Education	1,034	112.4	1,119	108.2
Q Health and social work activities	1,128	111.4	1,226	108.7
R Arts, entertainment and recreation	909	112.6	919	101.1
S Other service activities	720	107.1	727	101.0
Economy in total	1,092	107.8	1,133	103.8

Source: SO SR, Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR v 4. štvrťroku 2019 (Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2019, in Slovak only), Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR v 4. štvrťroku 2020 (Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2020, in Slovak only)

By the size of enterprises, employees in enterprises with 1,000+ employees had the highest average nominal monthly wage. An average nominal monthly wage higher than the national average was seen also in large enterprises with 500 – 999 employees and with 250 – 499 employees as well as in medium-sized enterprises with 50 – 249 employees. Employees of sole traders had the lowest average nominal monthly wage. Compared to 2019, the average nominal wage increased in almost all size categories of enterprises, most significantly in large enterprises with 1,000+ employees (by 6.1 %), while it dropped only in the case of sole traders, namely by 1.4 %.

Table 2.22 Average Monthly Nominal Wage by Size Classes of Enterprises

Number of employees	2019 (in €)	Indices 2019/2018		2020 (in €)	Indices 2020/2019	
		nominal wage	real wage		nominal wage	real wage
0 – 19	778	105.7	102.9	783	100.6	98.7
20 – 49	1,062	107.9	105.1	1,116	105.1	103.1
50 – 249	1,196	108.8	105.9	1,244	104.0	102.1
250 – 499	1,300	109.9	107.0	1,325	101.9	100.0
500 – 999	1,335	107.5	104.7	1,385	103.7	101.8
1,000 and over	1,473	109.3	106.4	1,563	106.1	104.1
Sole traders (estimate) ¹	662	104.3	101.6	653	98.6	96.8
Total	1,092	107.8	105.0	1,133	103.8	101.9

Source: ŠO SR, Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR v 4. štvrťroku 2019, Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR v 4. štvrťroku 2020;¹) (Statistical Report on Basic

Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2019, Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2020, both in Slovak only) wages of employees of sole traders

2.2.2 Total Labour Costs

According to SO SR data²² (the data for 2019 was available at the time of the preparation of the report), the development of the Slovak economy was reflected in the acceleration of the labour costs which increased year-on-year by 6.5 %, i.e. to €20,419 per employee.

Out of the total labour costs in 2019, the total **direct costs** amounted to 72.82 % and the total **indirect costs** were 27.27 %, from which the subsidies received by the employer are deducted.

Table 2.23 Dynamics of Yearly Labour Costs per Employee in SR (in €)

Type of cost	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total labour costs of which costs:	14,554	15,018	15,721	16,121	16,867	17,909	19,172	20,419
– direct costs	10,633	10,902	11,438	11,764	12,301	13,001	13,943	14,868
– indirect costs	3,936	4,132	4,305	4,375	4,578	4,927	5,246	5,568

Source: SO SR, Total labour costs survey

In 2019, the employer spent an average of €1,702 per month per employee, which was by €104 more than in the previous year. The annual growth rate of the average monthly labour costs in 2019 decreased by 0.6 pp compared to 2018.

Direct costs per employee increased in 2019 by 6.6 % to €1,239 and compared to 2018, their development slowed down by 0.6 pp. In the group of direct cost items the wages rose by 6.5 %, of which the basic (tariff) wages and salaries increased by 7.7 % and bonuses and remuneration by 0.5 %. Out of €1,076 paid for wages, €833 were the basic (tariff) wages and salaries, €135 were bonuses and remuneration, and €66 were paid for extra pays and additional payments, wage benefits (an increase by 4.9 %). Bonuses for being on call to work outside the workplace remained the same as in the previous year (€ 3), payments for days not worked rose by 7 % to €152, and bonuses based on profit after taxation increased by 26.8 %.

In 2019, the **indirect labour costs** amounted to €464. Compared to the level achieved in 2018, their development slowed down by 0.4 pp. Mandatory contributions to social insurance increased by 6.6 % to €426 and non-mandatory contributions to social insurance rose by 6.7 % to €9. Of other indirect cost items, social contributions rose by 4.2 %, of which the food allowances remained at the same level as in the previous year (€7) and other contributions to the social fund increased by 8.8 %. Social benefits provided by employers rose by 1.1 %, of which income compensation for an employee's temporary incapacity for work increased by 5.6 % and the costs of severance pay decreased by 6.9 %. The costs of vocational training for employees dropped by 4.3 %. Other indirect labour costs decreased by 17.6 %, of which the costs of recruitment dropped by 4.3 %.

²² STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC, Full labour costs in SR in 2019 (November 2020)

Table 2.24 Structure of Monthly Labour Costs in SR in 2019

Labour cost items	Structure %	€	Index 2019/2018
1. – 16. TOTAL LABOUR COSTS	100.00	1,702	106.5
1. – 7. DIRECT COSTS	72.80	1,239	106.6
1. Wages	63.22	1,076	106.5
2. Payments for days not worked	8.93	152	107.0
3. Payments to employees' savings schemes	0.00	0	---
4. Bonuses for being on call (to work outside the workplace)	0.18	3	100.0
5. Bonuses based on profit after taxation	0.35	6	120.0
6. Other direct costs for employees	0.12	2	100.0
7. Wages and salaries of apprentices	0.00	0	---
8. – 15. INDIRECT COSTS	27.26	464	106.2
8. Statutory social security contributions	25.03	426	106.5
9. Supplementary social security contributions	0.53	9	112.5
10. Social benefits	0.65	11	100.0
11. Employer's social insurance contributions for apprentices	0.00	0	---
12. Social benefits	0.71	12	100.0
13. Employee vocational training costs paid by the employer	0.18	3	100.0
14. Wage-related fees and sanctions	0.00	0	0.0
15. Other indirect labour costs paid by the employer	0.12	2	66.7
16. SUBSIDIES	-0.06	-1	100.0

Source: SO SR, Total labour costs survey

The long-term trend towards increasing differentiation in labour costs between economic activities also continued in 2019. The biggest year-on-year increase in the labour costs was seen in the following economic activities: other service activities (by 12.9 %), public administration, defence and compulsory social security (by 12.8 %), education (by 12.6 %), arts, entertainment and recreation (by 12 %), accommodation and food service activities (by 11.2 %), administrative and support service activities (by 10.2 %), human health and social work activities (by 9.7 %). Compared to the previous year, labour costs did not decrease in any economic activity. From the point of view of the development dynamics of monthly labour costs, their development accelerated compared to the previous year in education; accommodation and food service activities; public administration, defence and compulsory social security; other service activities; administrative and support service activities; human health and social work activities; arts, entertainment and recreation; electricity, gas, steam and air-condition supply; real estate activities and professional, scientific and technical activities. In other economic activities the development of monthly labour costs slowed down, most considerably in wholesale and retail trade (by 3.7 pp), manufacturing (by 3.6 pp), mining and quarrying (3.5 pp) and information and communication (by 3.4 pp). Above-average labour costs were spent in more than a third of economic activities. The economic activity "information and communication" dominated with the highest labour costs (€2,953), which exceeded the average national level by 73.5 %. It was followed by financial and insurance activities (€2,914), electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply (€2,630), professional, scientific and technical activities (€2,145), mining and quarrying (€1,819), public administration, defence and compulsory social security (€1,772), human health and social work activities (€1,729) and manufacturing (€1,714). The rest of economic activities reached values below the national average. The least money per employee was spent in accommodation and food service activities (€1,068), other service activities (€1,188), administrative and support service activities (€1,286), agriculture (€1,378) and arts, entertainment and recreation (€1,444). More detailed figures are given in Annex to Chapter 2, Table 9.

Considering the size of organisations, the most money per employee was spent by organisations with 1,000 or more employees (€2,025). Above-average levels were recorded in organisations with 500 – 999 employees (€1,893), 250 – 499 employees (€1,825), and 100 – 249 employees (€1,796).

The lowest labour costs were recorded in small enterprises with 10 – 19 employees (€1,462) and organisations that employ 1 – 9 people (€1,468).

Regional differences in labour costs increased year-on-year by 4.6 %. Monthly labour costs in individual regions ranged from €1,346 (in the region of Prešov) to €2,134 (in the region of Bratislava), with an above-average level reached only in the region of Bratislava. Compared to 2018, monthly labour costs increased in all regions. As for the dynamics of labour costs, their year-on-year growth accelerated in the regions of Prešov, Bratislava and Trenčín. In other regions, the development of monthly labour costs was slowed down.

Table 2.25 Monthly Labour Costs per Employee in 2019 by Regions (in €)

Labour cost items	BA	TT	TN	NR	ZA	BB	CO N	KE
1. – 16. TOTAL LABOUR COSTS	2,134	1,607	1,599	1,517	1,576	1,474	1,346	1,554
1. – 7. DIRECT COSTS	1,555	1,167	1,167	1,106	1,147	1,071	980	1,128
1. Wages	1,359	1,012	1,009	965	978	939	845	972
2. Payments for days not worked	181	145	149	137	146	127	127	147
3. Payments to employees' savings schemes	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Bonuses for being on call to work	4	2	2	2	3	3	3	4
5. Bonuses based on profit after taxation	5	7	5	1	18	2	4	4
6. Other direct costs for employees	6	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
7. Wages and salaries of apprentices	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8. – 15. INDIRECT COSTS	583	440	433	410	430	403	366	426
8. Statutory social security contributions	529	405	402	382	396	372	340	390
9. Supplementary social security contributions	12	8	6	6	9	8	6	9
10. Social benefits	15	11	11	10	11	11	8	9
11. Employer's social insurance contributions for apprentices	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	-
12. Social benefits	17	11	10	9	10	10	8	12
13. Employee vocational training costs paid by the employer	6	3	2	2	2	2	1	3
14. Wage-related fees and sanctions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15. Other indirect labour costs paid by the employer	3	2	2	1	2	1	1	2
16. SUBSIDIES	- 4	- 0	- 1	- 0	- 0	- 1	- 0	- 0

Source: SO SR, Total labour costs survey

2.2.3 Collective Bargaining

According to the **Act No. 2/1991** Coll. on Collective Bargaining, as amended (hereinafter simply the Collective Bargaining Act), the binding effect of higher-level collective agreements (hereinafter referred to as "HLCAs") was extended to other employers in 2020.

In 2020 the **Collective Bargaining Act provided for a mechanism for a representative HLCA**. Subject to compliance with precisely defined conditions, MoLSAF published a notification in the Collection of Laws of the Slovak Republic to the effect that a HLCA is representative and applies to other employers in the sector (division) or in a part of the sector (group). The range of employers on whom such representative HLCA is binding is set forth directly in the Collective Bargaining Act.

In 2020, MoLSAF received four notifications of a representative HLCA, including an amendment thereto. Moreover, a representative HLCA was also valid and effective in the area of transport in 2020.

- **The HLCA concluded on 20 May 2019** between the Association of Bus Transport representing employer organisations in the public road transport and the KOVO Trade Union representing employees in the public road transport, effective from 1 May 2019 to 31 December 2021, is a representative HLCA in the sector designated at group level 49.3 – other passenger land transport. This representative HLCA is binding on other employees and their employers in the sector designated at group level 49.3 – other passenger land transport.
- **The HLCA concluded on 29 February 2012** between the Association of Slovak Construction Entrepreneurs and the Integrated Trade Union, as amended by the Amendment 1 of 19 February 2013, Amendment 2 of 21 February 2014, Amendment 3 of 24 March 2015, Amendment 4 of 29 March 2016, Amendment 5 of 28 August 2017, Amendment 6 of 19 April 2018, Amendment 7 of 28 March 2019 and Amendment 8 of 31 March 2020, effective from 1 March 2012 until 31 December 2021, is representative in the sector designated at division level 41 – construction of buildings, 42 – engineering constructions and 43 – specialized construction works. Such representative HLCA, as amended by Amendments 1 to 8, is binding for other employees and their employers in the sector designated at division level 41 – construction of buildings, 42 – engineering constructions and 43 – specialized construction works.
- **The HLCA for 2018 – 2022 concluded on 31 May 2018**, as amended by the Amendment 1, effective from 1 May 2019, and by the Amendment 2, effective from 1 May 2020, between the KOVO Trade Union and the Association of Electrotechnical Industry of the Slovak Republic is representative in the sector designated at group level 27.1 – Manufacture of electric motors, generators, transformers and electricity distribution and control apparatus, 27.3 – Manufacture of wiring and wiring devices and 27.4 – Manufacture of electric lighting equipment. Such representative HLCA, as amended by the Amendments 1 and 2, is binding for other employees and their employers in the sector designated at group level 27.1 – Manufacture of electric motors, generators, transformers and electricity distribution and control apparatus, 27.3 – Manufacture of wiring and wiring devices and 27.4 – Manufacture of electric lighting equipment.
- **The HLCA concluded on 1 April 2018** between the KOVO Trade Union, the Independent Christian Trade Unions of Slovakia and the Association of Metallurgy, Mining and Geology of the Slovak Republic, as amended by Amendment 1 with effect from 1 February 2019 and Amendment 2 with effect from 1 April 2020, to 31 March 2021 is representative in the sector designated at group level 23.5 – Manufacture of cement, lime and plaster, 24.1 – Manufacture of basic iron and steel and of ferro-alloys, 24.4 – Manufacture of basic precious and other non-ferrous metals, 33.1 – Repair of fabricated metal products, machinery and equipment, and 82.9 – Business support service activities n.e.c. This representative HLCA, as amended by the Amendment 1 and Amendment 2, is binding on other employees and their employers in the sector designated at group level 23.5 – Manufacture of cement, lime and plaster, 24.1 – Manufacture of basic iron and steel and of ferro-alloys, 24.4 – Manufacture of basic precious and other non-ferrous metals, 33.1 – Repair of fabricated metal products, machinery and equipment, and 82.9 – Business support service activities n.e.c.
- **The HLCA for 2019 – 2022 concluded on 2 May 2019** between the Trade Union KOVO and the Slovak Glass Association, effective from 1 May 2019 to 30 April 2022, as amended by the Amendment 1 with effect from 1 March 2020 is representative in the sector designated at group level 23.1 – Manufacture of glass and glass products and 23.9 – Manufacture of abrasive products and non-metallic mineral products n.e.c. Such representative higher-level collective agreement, as amended by the Amendment 1, is binding for other employees and their employers in the sector designated at group level 23.1 – Manufacture of

glass and glass products and 23.9 – Manufacture of abrasive products and non-metallic mineral products n.e.c.

In 2020, there were 22 HLCAs and amendments deposited at MoLSAF, of which 11 were HLCAs and 11 were amendments to HLCAs; 18 HLCAs in the private sector and 3 HLCAs in the public sector (public and state service). All 11 amendments to HLCAs were concluded in the private sector.

Overall, there was a drop in the number of the concluded HLCAs and amendments to HLCAs, what may be explained by concluding HLCAs for longer periods of time as a result of what it was not necessary to conclude HLCAs in many areas, as well as by economic conditions of employers caused by the pandemic crisis.

In 2020, MoLSAF registered a total of 26 disputes, of which 22 disputes over the conclusion of collective agreements or amendments thereto were settled before a mediator, which is by two disputes less than in the previous year. Fifteen disputes were settled before a mediator on concluding a collective agreement, five disputes concerned conclusion of amendments to collective agreements and two disputes concerned performance of obligations from a collective agreement. Four disputes were settled in the proceedings before an arbitrator of which three disputes concerned designation of the trade union competent to conclude a collective agreement pursuant to Section 3a of the Collective Bargaining Act and one dispute concerned conclusion of a corporate collective agreement before an arbitrator which the contracting parties agreed upon.

The success or failure of the disputes cannot be evaluated at the moment because most disputes still continue, also with regard to the state of emergency and imposition of pandemic measures. All the above-stated disputes concerned the business sector; there was no dispute in the public sector.

2.2.4 Occupational Health and Safety

Legislative changes

The following legislative changes were made in 2020 in the area of occupational health and safety:

- **In the Act No. 124/2006 Coll.** on the occupational health and safety and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended – concerning the regulation of measures during an exceptional situation, emergency or state of emergency declared in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic through **the Act No. 66/2020 Coll.**;
- **In the Acts No. 124/2006 Coll.** on the occupational health and safety and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended, **No. 125/2006 Coll.** on the labour inspection and on amendments and supplements to the Act No. **82/2005 Coll.** on illegal work and illegal employment and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, **No. 355/2007 Coll.** on the protection, support and development of public health and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended - concerning improvement of the business environment through the Act **No. 198/2020 Coll.**;
- **In the Act No. 355/2007 Coll.** on the protection, support and development of public health and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended – concerning exceptional measures in relation to the spread of COVID-19;
- **In the Regulation of the Government of SR No. 236/2020 Coll.** amending and supplementing the Regulation of the Government of SR No. 355/2006 Coll. on the protection of employees against the risks related to the occupational exposure to chemical factors, as amended, transposing the Commission Directive (EU) 2019/1831 establishing a fifth list of indicative occupational exposure limit values to the Slovak legislation.
- **In the Regulation of the Government of SR No. 235/2020 Coll.** amending and supplementing the Regulation of the Government of SR No. 356/2006 Coll. on the protection of employee health against the risks related to the occupational exposure to carcinogenic and mutagenic factors, as amended, transposing two Directives of the European Parliament and the Council (EU) to the Slovak legislation, namely the Directive (EU) 2019/130 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2004/37/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work and Directive (EU) 2019/983 of the European Parliament and of the Council of amending Directive 2004/37/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work;
- **In the Regulation of the Government of SR No. 333/2020 Coll.** amending and supplementing the Regulation of the Government of SR No. 83/2013 Coll. on the protection of employee health against the risks related to the occupational exposure to biologic factors, transposing two Commission Directives (EU) to the Slovak legislation, namely the Commission Directive (EU) 2019/1833 amending Annexes I, III, V and VI to Directive 2000/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards purely technical adjustments, as amended, and the Commission Directive (EU) 2020/739 amending Annex III to Directive 2000/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the inclusion of SARS-CoV-2 in the list of biological agents known to infect humans and amending Commission Directive (EU) 2019/1833.

In 2020, amendment to the Regulation of the Government of SR No. 395/2006 Coll. was prepared in accordance with the new EU Regulation 2019/1832 amending Annexes I, II and III to Council Directive 89/656/EEC as regards purely technical adjustments.

Occupational accidents

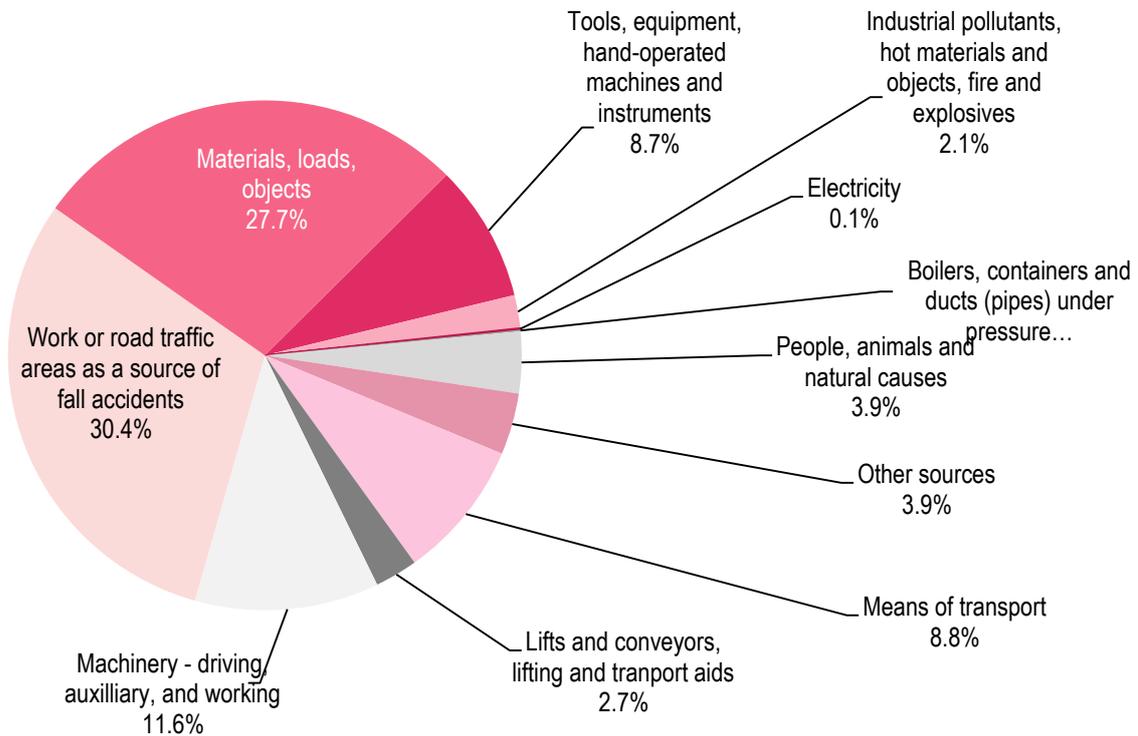
In 2020, a total of 7,606 registered occupational accidents (hereinafter referred to as "ROAs") were reported. Of the said number, 32 were fatal occupational accidents (hereinafter referred to as "FOAs"), which is by 1 FOA more than in 2019 (increase by 3.2 %). In the reporting year, there were 49 occupational accidents with severe personal injury (hereinafter referred to as "SPIs"). Compared to 2019, the number of SPIs decreased by 9 cases (drop by 15.52 %) in 2020. In 2020, a total of 7,525 other registered occupational accidents were documented, i.e. accidents causing incapacity for work for more than 3 days without fatalities and accidents with severe personal injury (hereinafter referred to as "OROAs"), constituting a decline by 1,875 cases (decrease by 19.95 %) compared to 2019.

The most important characteristics of accident occurrences are sources and causes of the occurrence of occupational accidents. Most of FOAs (65.6 %) were aggregated in two main source groups: means of transport

(17 cases – 53.1 %) and work or road traffic areas as a source of fall accidents (4 cases – 12.5 %). The most frequent sources of the occurrence of occupational accidents with severe personal injuries included propulsion, auxiliary and working machinery, machine tools (14 SOAs – 28.6 %) and work or road transport areas as sources of falls of employees (12 SOAs – 24.5 %).

In addition to unascertained causes (16 cases – 41.9 %, especially in traffic accidents where labour inspectors only determine the mode of vehicle driving), the most common causes of SFOAs primarily comprised the use of unsafe working procedures or methods, including unauthorized action (7 cases – 21.9 %). The most frequent cause of occupational accidents with severe personal injuries was the use of unsafe working procedures or methods, including unauthorized action, action against orders, prohibitions and instructions, permanence in an endangered area (15 cases – 30.6 %). The second most frequent cause was a lack of personal skills for proper work performance (14 cases – 28.6 %). The third most frequent cause (6 cases – 12.2 %) was a threat by other persons, e.g. distraction, jokes, quarrels, other wrong and dangerous actions.

Graph 2.23 Distribution of Other Registered Occupational Accidents by Source of Accident



Source: National Labour Inspectorate, 2020

Hazardous work

In 2020, the total number of employees performing hazardous work dropped slightly. Compared to 2019, their number dropped by 4,283 employees (in 2020 the total number was 103,380); the number of women dropped by 1,039 (in 2020 the total number was 22,649).

In 2020, the highest number of employees was exposed to noise (76,173), chemical substances and mixtures (19,128), vibrations (8,634), physical load (8,477), chemical carcinogens, mutagens and reproductive toxicants (5,844), heat and cold stress (4,585) and ionising radiation (4,006).

Monitoring the hazardous work according to the prevailing economic activity did not reveal any significant changes compared to 2019. Similarly to previous years, in 2020 most employees performing hazardous work worked in manufacturing (71,587 employees) and human health and social work activities (9,854 employees). The largest share of female employees (75.5 %) performing hazardous work may be found in manufacturing and in human health and social work activities.

Occupational diseases

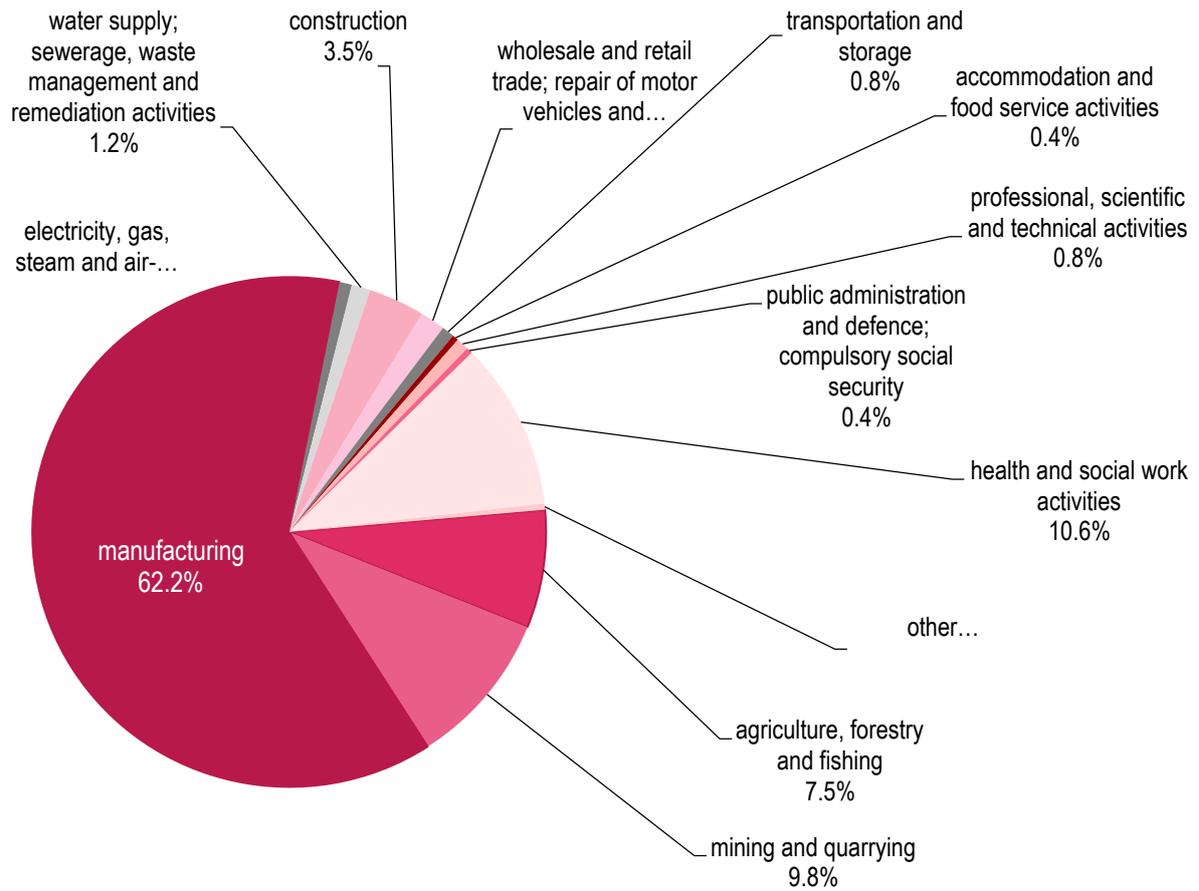
Based on the analysis of data provided by the National Health Information Centre (NCZI), in 2020, there were 252 newly reported cases of occupational diseases (hereinafter referred to as "ODs") and occupational poisonings in SR, while women accounted for 46 % (116 cases) of the total number of newly ascertained cases of ODs.

The most frequently reported ODs in 2020 included:

- limb disorders caused by long-term excessive and one-sided loading – they were reported for 133 employees, i.e. 52.8 % of all reported ODs in SR;
- communicable and parasite-based diseases – they were reported for 28 employees, i.e. 11.1 % of all reported ODs in SR;
- limb disorders caused by vibrations – they were reported for 24 employees, i.e. 9.5 % of all reported ODs in SR;
- extrinsic allergic alveolitis – hypersensitivity pneumonitis – reported for 17 employees, i.e. 6.7 % of all reported ODs in SR;
- noise-induced hearing impairments were reported for 16 employees, i.e. 6.3 % of all reported ODs in SR;
- occupational dermatosis – reported for 12 employees, i.e. 4.8 % of all reported ODs in SR;
- occupational asthma – reported for 8 employees, i.e. 3.2 % of all reported ODs in SR.

According to sectoral classification of economic activities, the highest incidence of occupational diseases was in manufacturing – 157 reported ODs (62.3 % of all reported ODs in SR), in human health and social work activities – 26 reported ODs (10.3 % of all reported ODs in SR), in mining and quarrying – 25 reported ODs (9.9 % of all reported ODs in SR) and in agriculture, forestry and fishing – 19 reported ODs (7.5 % of all reported ODs in SR).

Graph 2.24 Occupational Diseases by Classification of Economic Activities



Source: National Health Information Centre

2.3 Social economy

On 13 March 2018 the National Council of SR approved the **Act No. 112/2018 Coll. on the Social Economy and Social Enterprises** and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Social Economy Act" or "Act") which entered into force on 1 May 2018. The Act reflects the current European direction and trends, mainly in relation to the impact of the current social and economic development. Social entrepreneurship represents a framework of social functioning, namely a quite different, socially responsible way of doing business which connects the general interest, economic performance, social aspects and demographic functioning, while social economy reflects new starting points of a more social Europe and the European Pillars of Social Rights which are under preparation.

2.3.1 Legislative framework – terms and definitions

The Social Economy Act introduced a new comprehensive regulation of the social economy sector, created a new compact regulation of functioning, support and control of social enterprises in the Slovak Republic, laid down and defined individual social economy entities, provision of support, created a legislative framework for the entire social economy sector and introduced and defined terms such as disadvantaged persons and vulnerable persons and other terms from the area of social economy.

The act is part of the overall strategy of the social economy development in the Slovak Republic. It defines the social economy as a summary of non-state activities which are mainly aimed at making a positive social impact. It defines social entrepreneurship as a special type of entrepreneurship which consists of a constant supply of goods or services to the market where a positive social impact may be pursued by a socially beneficial service and is well beyond the framework of work integration or addressing the issues of employment; it covers e.g. creation and protection of environment, research and development, providing housing, etc. It also lays down the conditions of granting a statute of a registered social enterprise and definition of individual types of registered social enterprises. The Act on Social Economy and Social Enterprises amended more than 15 related legal standards.

2.3.2 Disadvantaged and Vulnerable Person

The need to define **disadvantaged persons and vulnerable persons** in the legislation was based on the fact that in EU there are two large groups of social enterprises, i.e. those providing *work integration* and those providing *miscellaneous goods and services* to vulnerable persons.

In accordance with the legislation valid in 2020, a **disadvantaged person** means a natural person who either has not been employed in the previous six months, except for an employment relationship not exceeding 40 days in the aggregate in a calendar year and if the total monthly wage or remuneration has not been higher than the subsistence minimum for one adult person under a special regulation, or is a **person with disability**.

This definition covers, for example, also persons over 50 years of age, persons who completed lower than secondary vocational education, persons who belong to a national or ethnic minority and who need to gain work experience in order to find permanent employment, persons under 26 years of age who completed their systematic professional education in full-time study courses less than two years ago, and other defined disadvantaged groups.

In line with the aim of advanced European legislations, the Act has a broader view of persons with disabilities – it does not only understand them as persons recognised as disabled under specific regulations, but it includes also persons who are not recognised as disabled, but have long-term disabilities reducing their physical, mental and sensory abilities that prevent their full and effective involvement in the work environment compared to a healthy individual.

The definition of **vulnerable persons** is equally extensive and covers, inter alia, natural persons in an unfavourable social situation under a special regulation, natural persons after release from imprisonment, custody or protective rehabilitation, asylum seekers or foreigners who are provided subsidiary protection under special regulations.

The broad definition of disadvantaged and vulnerable persons enables such groups of persons to become not only beneficiaries of a socially useful service but also its direct participants. It also enables them to become employees of social enterprises, many of which act as *intermediate labour markets*, as a result of what they increase their social status and get fully integrated in a functional society.

With its approach, the Social Economy Act promotes not only the idea of employing long-term unemployed persons who are registered at local OLSAFs, but also those who did not work or were not listed in the register of job seekers at local OLSAFs. By adopting this attitude, the act supports not only the idea of employing long-term unemployed persons registered at local Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, but also those long-term unemployed who are not registered at such offices.

2.3.3 Registered Social Enterprise

In the procedure, MoLSAF grants the status of a registered social enterprise (hereinafter referred to as "RSE") to applicants that meet the legal conditions. The conditions for RSEs are exhaustively stipulated by the Social Economy Act. MoLSAF monitors and evaluates compliance with such conditions in accordance with the legislation throughout the period of holding the status. MoLSAF also maintains a list of holders of the registered social enterprise status and updates it regularly. In case of non-compliance with the conditions, obligations or misuse of support, the act directly imposes strict sanctions.

In accordance with the legislation valid in 2020, the Social Economy Act defines **three types** of RSEs according to their activities – integration enterprise, social housing enterprise and general type of registered social enterprise.

Integration social enterprise makes a positive social impact by promoting employment through the employment of disadvantaged and/or vulnerable persons. A positive social impact is measured by the percentage of employed disadvantaged and/or vulnerable persons, where a positive social impact is deemed to be made in the event of employment of at least 30 % of disadvantaged persons, or 30 % of vulnerable persons, or 30 % of disadvantaged and vulnerable persons of the total number of employees.

The purpose of defining a **social housing enterprise** is to create scope for the development of rental housing in Slovakia, following foreign models. A positive social impact of a social housing enterprise means the provision of socially beneficial rental housing on condition that a municipality or a higher territorial unit (self-governing region) may not have a majority interest in this type of registered social enterprise. Socially beneficial rental housing means the provision of housing, management, maintenance and renovation of the housing stock through the construction, conversion or acquisition of flats in order to rent them out to eligible persons, which are defined by the Social Economy Act as natural persons who form a household and whose total monthly income under special regulations does not exceed four times the amount of the subsistence minimum. A positive social impact means the lease of at least 70% of flats to eligible persons for rent corresponding to the cost of the flat.

In accordance with the legislation valid in 2020, **a general type of registered social enterprise** can be engaged in a very wide range of activities, from environmental activities (e.g. recycling, electricity or heat generation from renewable sources) through social and humanitarian aid by means of goods or services (e.g. goods specifically designed for and required by those dependent on such aid) up to cultural activities (e.g. non-profit provision of cultural opportunities for residents of smaller municipalities).

During 2020 MoLSAF granted a RSE statute to **204 applicants** who had met the legally specified conditions, of which 37 were in the region of Košice, 23 in the region of Prešov, 33 in the region of Žilina, 33 in the region of Banská Bystrica, 38 in the region of Trenčín, 13 in the region of Nitra, 17 in the region of Trnava and 10 in the region of Bratislava. All registered social enterprises gained statutes of either an integration enterprise, general type of enterprise or social housing enterprise. More specifically, 201 certificates for an integration social enterprise, 25 for a general type of social enterprise and 2 for a social housing enterprise were issued. Forty-one of the enterprises operate in the least developed districts. 8 RSEs operate in the district of Veľký Krtíš, 6 in the district of Bardejov, 6 in the district of Košice – okolie, 5 in the district of Michalovce, 5 in the district of Rožňava, 3 in the district of Levoča, 2 in the district of Trebišov, 2 in the district of Sobrance, 2 in the district of Rimavská Sobota, 1 in the district of Kežmarok and 1 in the district of Sabinov. In 2020, 2 entities returned the statute of an integration social enterprise and 1 entity returned its statute from 2019 since it had been granted a statute of an integration enterprise and also a statute for a general type of registered social enterprise.

Compared to 2019, in 2020 we saw an increased interest in the registration of social enterprises and in social economy although the Social Economy Act only entered into force in mid-2018 and the awareness of new legislative regulation and social economy as such was not widespread enough. Implementation of the Act No. 112/2018 Coll., as well as implementation of the "Social Economy Institute" national project helped raise the awareness of social entrepreneurship and legislative regulation, what resulted in an increase in the number of applications for RSE in 2020. Good practice examples also had a support function.

2.3.4 Support for Social Enterprises

The economic boom of 2020 provides an opportunity to step up the introduction of social innovation aimed at improving the inclusiveness, resilience and fairness of labour markets, social protection systems, increasing the employment of hard-to-employ individuals, the employability of the low-skilled individuals or redressing regional imbalances, thereby promoting convergence towards better living and working conditions of the Slovak population. As one form of modern innovative tools, the social economy offers social entrepreneurship which prefers a social mission to making profit, thus contributing to solving social problems of society, but also to economic growth. So far incomplete and fragmented legislation and statistics of the third sector, volunteering and social entrepreneurship have been a major problem and barrier to the development of the social economy in SR.

The Social Economy Act is part of the overall strategy of the social economy development in the Slovak Republic. **The social economy is built on three pillars – the legislative environment, advisory infrastructure, and financial support.** However, a lack of information and experience could have led to the fact that the potential and possibilities were not used which the Social Economy Act brings to settle ongoing social issues and absences of the financial assistance system to support the activities of social economy and social enterprises.

2.3.5 Legislation in 2020

Effective from 1 January 2020, the **Act No. 374/2019 Coll.** of 16 October 2019 amended and supplemented the Act No. 112/2018 Coll. on Social Economy and Social Enterprises and on amendments to supplements to certain acts, as amended, and amending and supplementing certain acts. The main goal of the amendment to the act was to supplement the legislative regulation of the social economy sector and to create suitable conditions for the social economy to develop and be beneficial not only for increasing the employment but also to lay down a system of support which will be socially acceptable and will be in full compliance with state aid rules.

The aim of the amendment to the act was to eliminate particular application issues in applying the act. Such changes included *inter alia* a more precise definition of demonstrating long-term disablement decreasing the physical, mental and sensual abilities which prevent the disadvantaged persons with disabilities from becoming fully integrated in the work environment although they have not been recognized as disabled.

The amendment also simplified the regulation of the basic document, particularly the conditions of adapting its structure in the legal forms of the non-profit sector to the legal forms in the "business" sector. It was equally important to redefine the notion of an *enterprise with a social impact* so that more entities could meet the conditions specified for an enterprise with a social impact as an "intermediate step" to meet the conditions determined for a social enterprise. The amendment to the act specified that a registered social enterprise which has been granted a non-repayable form of assistance, service vouchers, compensation contributions in accordance with the Employment Services Act or other advantage (e.g. in public procurement, tax exemptions) needs to respect the restrictions and perform the obligations specified by the legislation; it also specified the limitations related to trading with a registered social enterprise with other persons. The act introduces a social economy information system the aim of which was to create legal conditions for the collection of data about registered social enterprises by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic so that the collected data is updated but also verifiable and relevant for the needs of verifying the facts in the area of social economy.

With its temporary provisions related to duration of an exceptional situation, emergency or state of emergency declared in relation to COVID-19, in 2020, the act reflected measures related to postponement of the compliance with certain conditions for applicants for a statute of a registered social enterprise, as well as for registered social enterprises. Registered social enterprises may also use the First Aid project since they represent entities with different legal forms. Regardless of the status of a registered social enterprise, such entities may represent eligible applicants within the particular project implemented through COLSAF.

2.3.6 Social Economy Infrastructure

The national project called "**Social Economy Institute**", implemented through the Implementation Agency of MoLSAF, is one of the pillars through which functioning of the social economy support infrastructure – built in the entire area of the Slovak Republic through the *Central Social Economy Coordination Unit* and *Regional Social Economy Centres* – has been created and is being verified for the first time. As a part of activities of the project, 8 regional social economy centres are open in the territorial competence of each self-governing region, together with representation in Bratislava at the level of a central coordination unit where the regional social economy centres

together employed 39 employees in 2020. The regional centres raise awareness of social economy, provide the interested and prospective social economy entities with coordinated information on social entrepreneurship, inform about the Social Economy Act and social enterprises and also guide and provide all necessary start-up assistance and support to newly-created social enterprises. The key role of regional centres, open and available for potential clients in the territorial competence of each self-governing region, is to provide primary general information to the general public in a local environment free of charge, to search for potential interested entities and to motivate them to establish social enterprises in order to increase not only the regional employment but also to ensure its subsequent sustainability. The implementation of the project is expected to create a room for socially oriented economy as an integral part of the public economy of the society.

2.3.7 Allowances for Support of Employment of Disadvantaged and Vulnerable Persons

Disadvantaged persons, severely disadvantaged persons and vulnerable persons represent a specific group of disadvantaged citizens who are often dependent on the assistance and support of the environment. Several facts are the main reason why substantial financial support is provided for integration enterprises in the form of allowances that enable the creation of conditions for retaining employment in jobs in integration enterprises and subsequently in the open labour market. This is enabled mainly by financial contributions to wage costs connected to the employment of disadvantaged persons or vulnerable persons, additional costs related to the employment of persons who are disadvantaged persons for a reason consisting in their health condition.

In 2018, MoLSAF prepared and in September 2019 started to implement – through COLSAF – a **national project called Integration Enterprise Support** (NP IES) aimed at supporting registered integration social enterprises. The said national project implements active labour market measures in the regions through local OLSAFs; these measures are aimed at promoting employment and reducing unemployment of disadvantaged persons, severely disadvantaged persons and vulnerable persons through the provision of allowances. Provision of a placement contribution to an integration enterprise in accordance with the **Section 53f** and provision of compensatory contributions to integration enterprises in accordance with the **Section 53g** of the Act No. 5/2004 Coll. on Employment Services and on amendments and supplements to certain acts (Employment Services Act). NP IES financially supports also small and medium-sized enterprises. In 2019, agreements were concluded with registered social enterprises in accordance with the Employment Services Act. From 24 September 2019 to 31 December 2020 the NP Integration Enterprise Support supported **166** entities through the tool of the Section 53g and 2 entities were supported through the tool of the Section 53f. The project's total allocation from ESIF funds and from the state budget amounts to €49,997,240.00 and it achieves the goals of the Operational Programme Human Resources in its Priority Axis 3 Employment.

2.3.8 Investment Aid for Social Enterprises

In Q4 2020, MoLSAF launched a national project called **"Investment aid to social enterprises – non-refundable component" with an allocation of €48.77 million**. The main goal of the project is to support registered social enterprises in the form of providing a non-refundable financial contribution through COLSAF in synergy with refundable aid in the form of a financial tool or a different form of refundable financing (in accordance with provisions of the Section 17 (3) of the Act No. 112/2018 Coll.) with an aim to improve the access to employment and to strengthen employment through supporting social economy entities in relation to the needs of the market, employment of disadvantaged and vulnerable persons. The national project will create conditions for the provision of a non-repayable component of aid for social enterprises, specifically in a compulsory combination with support from repayable financial resources. The activities will include support for social economy entities to foster structurally stable employment by promoting entrepreneurship, establishing and supporting enterprises in a wider area of the social economy and enterprises in relation to the labour market and regional labour market needs, namely through grant support for social enterprises to cover some of the costs of their investment plan. The NP is being implemented through four measures:

Measure 1: Investment aid to SMEs in accordance with the Article 17 of the Block Exemption Regulation (EC) No.

651/214

Measure 2: Aid for start-ups in accordance with the Article 22 of the Block Exemption Regulation (EC) No.

651/2014

Measure 3: Regional investment aid in accordance with the Article 14 of the Block Exemption Regulation (EC) No.

651/2014

Measure 4: Aid to RSEs in accordance with de minimis rules DM Scheme No. 16/2014

As results from foreign experience and from the *ex ante* evaluation for the use of financial instruments in SR in the programming period 2014 – 2020, social start-ups often necessarily need also a non-refundable financing component in addition to refundable aid. The eligible expenditures for RSEs from the non-refundable financial contribution will include expenditures on the acquisition of goods, provision of services and on wages in accordance with the State Aid Scheme to support enterprises in a broader room of social economy or with the *de minimis* scheme. The target groups of the NP include employers (RSEs), employees, job seekers and inactive persons. The NP activities and expenses co-financed from ESF are eligible only for the territory of less developed Slovak regions.

The project is implemented from 01/2020 to 11/2023. The contract on the provision of a non-refundable financial contribution for the project was signed shortly before an exceptional situation and then a state of emergency was declared due to the occurrence COVID-19 in the Slovak Republic, postponing the start of implementation until March 2020. Before the disclosure of the notification of the possibility to submit applications and later after its disclosure at local OLSAFs, consultations were held regarding the conditions of implementation of the NP on the basis of the requirements of potential applicants for contributions. After the notification is disclosed, further consultations are going to be held at local OLSAFs with potential applicants and applications for a contribution are expected to be received and managed. In 2020, communication and cooperation with the Implementation Agency of MoLSAF and with SLSP a.s. was also held under the auspices of the Social Economy Department of MoLSAF. Based on the above-stated cooperation, a procedure has been elaborated and recommended for RSEs to receive investment aid:

- Step 1 – information and consultancy at Regional Social Economy Centres IA of MoLSAF regarding obtaining investment aid and preparing an investment project;
- Step 2 – obtaining a refundable component for financing the investment project from a bank, financial intermediary or other legal entity in accordance with the Social Economy Act;
- Step 3 – obtaining a non-refundable component for financing the investment project within the NP Investment Aid for Social Enterprises.

In 2020, the number of potential applicants for a contribution – registered social enterprises registered in the MoLSAF's Register of Social Enterprises – was constantly rising. The interest in receiving the investment aid from the NP Investment Aid for Social Enterprises is very high and we expect applications for a contribution to be submitted in 2021. No agreement on the provision of a contribution with a registered social enterprise was concluded in 2020.

From the point of view of supporting the employment, development of social economy has a potentially huge importance – it is one of the sectors with the best perspective for regional and local development and for employment thanks to creating jobs for disadvantaged and vulnerable population groups through its entities and social enterprises, strengthening the social, economic and territorial coherence, creating the social capital, promoting active citizenship, solidarity and economy with demographic values, placing people in the foreground; moreover, it supports sustainable development and social, environmental and technological innovation.

Z hľadiska podpory zamestnanosti má rozvoj sociálnej ekonomiky potenciálne obrovský význam – patrí medzi sektory s najlepšou perspektívou pre regionálny a miestny rozvoj a pre zamestnanosť tým, že prostredníctvom svojich subjektov, sociálnych podnikov vytvára pracovné miesta pre znevýhodnené a zraniteľné skupiny obyvateľstva, posilňuje sociálnu, hospodársku a územnú súdržnosť, vytvára sociálny kapitál, podporuje aktívne občianstvo, solidaritu a hospodárstvo s demokratickými hodnotami, ktoré kladie ľudí na prvé miesto, pričom okrem toho podporuje trvalo udržateľný rozvoj a sociálne, environmentálne a technologické inovácie

For more details on the social economy issues, see Annex to Chapter 2, Tables 10.

3 SOCIAL PROTECTION

Social protection in the Slovak Republic is ensured by the social security system, consisting of social insurance, state social support, and social assistance.

3.1 Social insurance

Social insurance protects the economically active population in the event of loss or reduction of earned income due to temporary work incapacity, the need to care for an ill relative or the need to look after a child, in the event of pregnancy or maternity, in old age or in the event of death, in the event of reduced income earning capacity due to long-term ill health, in the case of health damage or death due to an accident at work, an accident in the line of duty or occupational disease. In the event of employer's insolvency, it is intended to satisfy employees' claims and payment of mandatory contributions to old-age pension saving **unpaid by the employer**. It also protects economically active population in the event of **unemployment and provides income in the event of unemployment** when the person concerned is included in the register of job-seekers. In accordance with the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance, the social insurance system is divided into **sickness insurance, pension insurance, accident insurance, guarantee insurance, and unemployment insurance**.

SUBJECT-MATTER CHANGES IN SOCIAL INSURANCE WHICH BECAME EFFECTIVE IN 2020

In 2020, several social-insurance measures became effective which were related to the crisis situation resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the following other measures and changes resulting from amendments of the Social Insurance Act.

Changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic

1. With effect from 27 March 2020

Pandemic measures related to sickness benefit and nursing benefit

Act No. 63/2020 Coll., amending and supplementing the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance as amended, responded to the current situation related to the spread of COVID-19. It modified the conditions of entitlement to sickness benefit and nursing benefit. The aim was to improve the financial situation of the beneficiaries of the sickness and nursing benefits and to help partially mitigate the negative financial impacts of the pandemic measures on employers. In cases of quarantine measures and isolation imposed in relation to the spread of COVID-19, sickness benefit is provided starting from the first day of the temporary inability to work in the amount of 55% of the daily assessment base. Nursing benefit is provided to a new group of policyholders in cases when a child is obliged to stay in quarantine and isolation, when the institution attended by the child is closed or in cases when the person taking care of the child is unable to provide such care for objective reasons. The definition of a child has been amended and it includes also children younger than 11 or 18 with long-term unfavourable health condition. During a crisis situation related to COVID-19, in such cases and in the case when a policyholder looks after a child younger than 16 in person and all day, while based on confirmation of a relevant doctor that the child's health condition requires care to be provided by a different person, the nursing benefit is paid throughout the period when the care/nursing is needed in time of a crisis situation (i.e. also longer than 10 days, at the latest until the end of the crisis situation). The entitlement to the nursing benefit during the crisis situation was extended to cover also policyholders who in person and all day take care of their relatives who were provided social services in now closed facilities in an outpatient or residential form.

2. With effect from 04 April 2020

Extending the period of support in unemployment by 1 month and several other measures

The Act No. 66/2020 Coll., amending and supplementing the Act No. 311/2001 Coll. the Labour Code, as amended, and supplementing certain other acts, responded in the Article II, in Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance to the current needs related to the spread of COVID-19. The period of support in unemployment was extended by one month. With regard to the dynamically changing situation and an unforeseen evolution on the labour market as a result of the spread of COVID-19, the Government of the Slovak Republic was also empowered to issue government resolutions, where necessary, which would enable it to temporarily adjust the conditions of entitlement to the unemployment benefit, conditions of payment of the unemployment benefit, duration of the period of support in unemployment and the amount of the unemployment benefit during the crisis situation related to the spread of COVID-19 and during a period of two months after its termination.

During the crisis situation it was not possible to pay the premium and mandatory contributions to old-age pension saving in cash at cash desks in the branches of the Social Insurance Agency and it was made sure that when permitting repayments of due amounts during the crisis situation the Social Insurance Agency did not increase the due amounts by an interest amounting to a triple of the annual basic interest rate of the European Central Bank valid as at the date when the due amount repayments were permitted or by an annual interest rate of 10%.

In order to prevent COVID-19 from spreading, it was laid down that during the crisis situation assessment activities could be performed also without the policyholder being present.

Effective from 30 April 2020, 30 May 2020 and 3 July 2020 respectively, Resolution of the Government of SR No. 101/2020 Coll., amended two times, namely by the Resolution of the Government of SR No. 137/2020 Coll. and the Resolution of the Government of SR No. 186/2020 Coll., extended the period of support in unemployment which was supposed to end during the crisis situation by other three months, at the latest until 31 August 2020.

3. With effect from 06 April 2020

Postponement of payment of the insurance premium

The Act No. 68/2020 Coll., amending and supplementing the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on social insurance, as amended, and amending and supplementing certain acts, enabled employers and sole traders affiliated to a compulsory sickness insurance and pension scheme to postpone payment of the premium for social insurance and mandatory contributions for old-age pension saving (hereinafter referred to as "OAPS") for March 2020, if as a result of the crisis situation caused by COVID19, their net turnover or income from business and other independent gainful activities (revenues) dropped by 40% or more, until 31 July 2020; the form of determining the drop in revenues is governed by the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 76/2020 Coll. of 9 April 2020.

At the same time, the Act empowered the Government of the Slovak Republic to issue a regulation to set out a different period which the original due date of the premium and of mandatory contributions to OAPS will not apply to, i.e. to postpone the due dates of the premium and mandatory contributions to OAPS for other periods of time as well.

On 22 May 2020 a Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 131/2020 Coll. on the due date of the premium for social insurance during an exceptional situation, emergency or state of emergency declared in relation to COVID-19 entered into force. The above-mentioned Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic and its three amendments (Resolutions of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 172/2020, No. 196/2020 Coll. and No. 380/2020 Coll.) laid down other periods of postponement of the payment of the premium and mandatory contributions for May 2020, June 2020, July 2020 and December 2020. The due dates for the premium and mandatory contributions to OAPS were also postponed for the above-stated periods of time and also for March 2020 until 30 June 2021 in accordance with the rules set out in the Social Insurance Act.

4. With effect from 25 April 2020

Waiver of the obligation to pay the premium for April 2020

With an aim to mitigate the economic impact of the crisis situation caused by COVID-19 on those who pay the premium, the Act No. 95/2020 Coll., amending the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance, as amended, and amending and supplementing certain acts, adopted a measure consisting in a waiver of the obligation to pay the premium for social insurance and mandatory contributions for old-age pension saving for April 2020 or for another period of time which may be determined by the Government of the Slovak Republic in a regulation. Such legislation enables employers or sole traders who had to close at least one place of business for at least 15 calendar days in April 2020 not to pay the premium. The above-stated does not apply to any premium paid by the employee and levied by the employer.

5. With effect from 17 June 2020

Pandemic nursing benefit in the case of concerns about placement of a child/relative to school/school facility/social service facility

The Act No. 157/2020 Coll., amending and supplementing the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance, as amended, ensured a continuous entitlement to the pandemic nursing benefit for those parents who even after the schools had been opened provided personal and all-day care to their children who did not go to school for objective reasons (capacity) or subjective reasons (health concerns). The measure was in line with a plan of gradual opening of the places of business by the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic. The same procedure applied also to persons who were provided social service in social service facilities in an outpatient or residential form.

6. With effect from 21 November 2020

Additional accidental benefit

The Act No. 330/2020 Coll., amending and supplementing the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance, as amended, established the fiction of meeting the conditions of entitlement to an additional accidental benefit, in particular conditions of an occupational illness. With regard to the lengthy and administratively complex process of recognizing occupational illnesses and the still expanding group of employees concerned due to the worsening epidemiological situation, a rule was established for assessing the entitlement to an additional accidental benefit in the case of employees suffering from COVID-19 whose employers confirmed occurrence of the illness in a causal relationship with their employment, that the condition of an occupational illness is considered fulfilled in such cases. The Act extended the group of persons who may become entitled to the additional accidental benefit and persons who have no accident or sickness insurance in relation to performance of activities carried out e.g. as a socially significant volunteering activity related to implementation of pandemic measures during which they are exposed to a high risk of contagion.

Other legislative changes

1. With effect from 1 January 2020

Cancellation of supplementary benefits and taking into account the Czechoslovak period of pension insurance in the pension amount

The Act No. 105/2019 Coll., amending and supplementing the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance, as amended, replaced the legal regulation of the supplementary benefit by introducing a legal regulation of determining the amount of old-age, early or disability pension of the policyholders who as at the date of division of the Czechoslovak Federative Republic were granted the Czechoslovak period of pension insurance for which they were awarded old-age pension or disability pension according to the rules valid in the Czech Republic and after the Czechoslovak Federative Republic was divided they obtained at least one year of pension insurance according to the Slovak legislation. In order to determine the amount of the old-age pension the condition of awarding the old-age pension or disability pension for the Czechoslovak periods of old-age insurance by the Czech Republic has been maintained. The amount of the old-age pension for the policyholders concerned equals to the difference between a fictitious amount of old-age pension determined in accordance with the Slovak legislation and the amount of old-age or disability pension paid in accordance with the Czech legislation, while the fictitious amount of old-age

pension will be determined according to the legal regulation awarding the old-age pension by the Slovak Republic (Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance or Act No. 100/1988 Coll. on Social Welfare), taking into account also the period of insurance/employment and assessment bases acquired before the division of the Czechoslovak Federative Republic which the pension from the Czech Republic applies to. Compared to the previous legislation, the above-stated legislation will have a positive impact on a much higher number of policyholders since only the persons who were awarded at least 25 years of the Czechoslovak period of old-age pension before 1 January 1993 were entitled to the supplementary benefits, while according to the new legislation such condition is not required (Czechoslovak period of old-age pension of any duration is sufficient).

Establishing the retirement age in relation to amendment of the Constitution of SR by the Constitutional Act No. 99/2019 Coll., amending and supplementing the Constitution of SR No. 460/1992 Coll., as amended, effective from 1 July 2019

The Act No. 321/2019 Coll., amending and supplementing the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance, as amended, and amending and supplementing the Act No. 580/2004 Coll. on Health Insurance and on amendments and supplements to the Act No. 95/2002 Coll. on the Insurance and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended, determined the retirement age decisive for the purposes of the start of the entitlement to old-age pension for all groups of policyholders, depending on the year of birth, gender and the number or raised children, directly in annexes to the Social Insurance Act (tables) in relation to establishment of the maximum retirement age depending on the number of raised children in the Constitution of SR since 1 July 2019.

Table 3.1 Retirement Age Effective from 1 January 2020

Year of birth of the policyholder	Retirement age					
	men	women with the number of raised children				
		0	1	2	3 or 4	5 and more
1943 and before	60y	57y	56y	55y	54y	53y
1944	60y 9m	57y	56y	55y	54y	53y
1945	61y 6m	57y	56y	55y	54y	53y
1946	62y	57y	56y	55y	54y	53y
1947	62y	57y 9m	56y	55y	54y	53y
1948	62y	58y 6m	56y 9m	55y	54y	53y
1949	62y	59y 3m	57y 6m	55y 9m	54y	53y
1950	62y	60y	58y 3m	56y 6m	54y 9m	53y
1951	62y	60y 9m	59y	57y 3m	55y 6m	53y 9m
1952	62y	61y 6m	59y 9m	58y	56y 3m	54y 6m
1953	62y	62y	60y 6m	58y 9m	57y	55y 3m
1954	62y	62y	61y 3m	59y 6m	57y 9m	56y
1955	62y 76d	62y 76d	62y 76d	60y 3m	58y 6m	56y 9m
1956	62y 139d	62y 139d	62y 139d	61y	59y 3m	57y 6m
1957	62y 6m	62y 6m	62y 6m	61y 9m	60y	58y 3m
1958	62y 8m	62y 8m	62y 7m	62y 1m	60y 9m	59y
1959	62y 10m	62y 10m	62y 8m	62y 5m	61y 6m	59y 9m
1960	63y	63y	62y 10m	62y 9m	61y 10m	60y 6m
1961	63y 2m	63y 2m	63y	63y	62y 2m	61y 3m
1962	63y 4m	63y 4m	63y 2m	63y	62y 6m	61y 7m
1963	63y 6m	63y 6m	63y 4m	63y	62y 6m	61y 11m
1964	63y 8m	63y 8m	63y 6m	63y	62y 6m	62y 3m
1965	63y 10m	63y 10m	63y 6m	63y	62y 6m	62y 6m
1966 and after	64y	64y	63y 6m	63y	62y 6m	62y 6m

Source: Social Insurance Agency

Change in the form of calculation of minimum pension

The Act No. 382/2019 Coll., amending and supplementing the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance, as amended, tied the amount of the basic minimum pension to the average monthly nominal wage of an employees in the Slovak economy. It stopped to take into consideration only the so-called qualified years of pension insurance (i.e. years of pension insurance with average earnings amounting at least to 24.1% of the average wage in the national economy of the Slovak Republic). Another goal of such legal regulation was a faster year-on-year increase in the minimum pension with regard to the amount of the average monthly nominal wage of employees in the Slovak economy. The form of calculation of the amount of minimum pension is contained in the Table 3.2. Such legal regulation considerably strengthened the principle of solidarity to the detriment of the principle of merits, while the increase in the average wage considerably increased the number of persons receiving minimum pensions who would have the same amount of the pension benefit regardless of the amount of the paid premium.

Table 3.2 Amount and Form of Calculation of Minimum Pension in 2020

OAI period	Determining the amount of minimum pension	Amount of minimum pension in 2020 - after the amendment was approved	Difference in the monthly amount of minimum pension (after the amendment was approved – original amount) in €
30	33% of AW	334.3	48.4
31	33% of AW + 2% of SM	338.5	48.4
32	33% of AW + 4% of SM	342.7	48.4
33	33% of AW + 6% of SM	347.0	48.5
34	33% of AW + 8% of SM	351.2	48.5
35	33% of AW + 10% of SM	355.4	48.5
36	33% of AW + 12% of SM	359.6	48.5
37	33% of AW + 14% of SM	363.8	48.5
38	33% of AW + 16% of SM	368.0	48.4
39	33% of AW + 18% of SM	372.2	48.4
40	33% of AW + 21% of SM	378.5	48.4
41	33% of AW + 24% of SM	384.8	48.4
42	33% of AW + 27% of SM	391.1	48.4
43	33% of AW + 30% of SM	397.4	48.4
44	33% of AW + 33% of SM	403.7	48.4
45*	33% of AW + 36% of SM	410.0	48.4

Note: PI – pension insurance; AW – average wage; SM – subsistence minimum

* The amount for 45 years is stated as the last one but it is not a maximum monthly amount of minimum pension since 46 years of old age insurance will correspond to 33 % AW and 39 % SM etc.

New proportion of cutting the old-age pension of a policyholder who is or was a saver for the period of participation in the old-age pension saving

The Act No. 466/2019 Coll., amending and supplementing the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance, as amended, laid down a new fairer proportion of cutting the old-age pension of a saver for the period of participation in old-age pension saving. For the purposes of cutting, the new legislation takes into account also the premium paid to the solidarity reserve fund.

According to the new legal regulation, the amount of the old-age pension of a policyholder who is or was a saver, for the period of participation in old-age pension saving

- before 1 September 2012, will be decreased by 36/91 of the proportionate amount of the old-age pension for the period of participation in old-age pension saving;
- from 1 September 2012 to 31 December 2016, will be decreased by 16/91 of the proportionate amount of the old-age pension for the period of participation in old-age pension saving;

- c) from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017, will be decreased by 17/91 of the proportionate amount of the old-age pension for the period of participation in old-age pension saving;
- d) from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018, will be decreased by 18/91 of the proportionate amount of the old-age pension for the period of participation in old-age pension saving;
- e) from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019, will be decreased by 19/91 of the proportionate amount of the old-age pension for the period of participation in old-age pension saving;
- f) from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020, will be decreased by 20/91 of the proportionate amount of the old-age pension for the period of participation in old-age pension saving;
- g) from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021, will be decreased by 3/13 of the proportionate amount of the old-age pension for the period of participation in old-age pension saving;
- h) from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022, will be decreased by 22/91 of the proportionate amount of the old-age pension for the period of participation in old-age pension saving;
- i) from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023, will be decreased by 23/91 of the proportionate amount of the old-age pension for the period of participation in old-age pension saving;
- j) after 31 December 2023, will be decreased by 24/91 of the proportionate amount of the old-age pension for the period of participation in old-age pension saving.

In its Articles II and III the amendment ensured that also fire fighters who left for a service pension in the period from 2008 to 2010 could receive a full amount of the service pension when they are entitled to payment of the service pension simultaneously with the pension in accordance with the general regulations on social insurance.

Performance of activities of a sports professional

Since 1 January 2020, any natural person who has concluded a contract on the performance of activities of a sports professional is, for the purposes of social insurance, considered to be in a legal relationship based on a work agreement or agreement on temporary student work. Any student who will work based on a contract on the performance of activities of a sports professional will be considered to be a student working on the basis of an agreement on temporary student work. As a result, the student may apply a levy decrease (exception of not more than €200 monthly). The same possibility applies also to persons receiving old-age pension, disability pension, service pension after they have reached the retirement age, disability service pension with a concluded contract on the performance of activities of a sports professional, since they will be considered persons working based on a work agreement.

2. With effect from 1 April 2020

Compensatory contribution for miners

In relation to the legal regulation of a compensatory contribution for miners (Act No. 385/2019 Coll. on the compensatory contribution for miners and on amendments and supplements to certain acts), social insurance extends the group of policyholders for whom the premium for the pension insurance is paid by the state. Those are persons who receive a compensatory contribution, i.e. former miners who finished employment with a permanent workplace underground due to a downturn in mining activities and who also meet other conditions specified in the Social Insurance Act. The conditions which the persons receiving the compensatory contribution need to meet are the same as in the other groups of state policyholders: such person cannot have mandatory insurance as an employee or a sole trader, he/she cannot be a state policyholder for a different reason and cannot have a disability pension awarded or cannot have reached the retirement age. If a former miner meets the above-stated conditions, he/she will become a state policyholder automatically, i.e. he/she will have no notification obligations in this respect.

Special social insurance of municipal police officers

In relation to the work of municipal police a special social insurance system is being formed with an aim to pay contributions for work in the municipal police. It is based on self-financing. Together with the premium for social insurance paid to the Social Insurance Agency account by their employer (municipality, town), municipal police officers will also pay the premium for a contribution for work in municipal police. Municipal police officers will pay

the premium for the above-stated contribution during the period of employment with the municipal police in the amount of 3 % of the assessment base from which the premium for pension insurance is paid.

3. With effect from 31 October 2020

Introducing the 13th pension as a state social benefit paid by the Social Insurance Agency

The Act No. 296/2020 Coll. on the 13th pension and on amendments and supplements to certain acts cancelled the 13th pension as a social insurance benefit determined in the amount of the average monthly amount of the particular type of pension before its first implementation in practice at the end of 2020. It was replaced with a new legal regulation of the 13th pension as a state social benefit. All persons receiving pension, regardless of its amount, are entitled to the new 13th pension. The amount of the 13th pension differs depending on the amount of the received pension or the aggregate amount of the received pensions. The currently effective 13th pension is also more advantageous for pensioners with a lower level of pension income compared to the original legal regulation.

4. With effect from 18 December 2020

Judgement of the Constitutional Court of SR No. 388/2020 Coll., minimum savers' pension

In its judgement the Constitutional Court stated that in the effective legislation the legislator expressed a different idea of the minimum level of pension income for two groups of persons receiving old-age pension who "performed gainful activities during the major part of their working life" but one of them was a saver in the second pillar and the other one was not. For the above-stated reason the Constitutional Court expressed a discrepancy between provisions of Section 82b (2) of the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance, as amended by the Act No. 140/2015 Coll., amending and supplementing the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance, as amended, and amending and supplementing certain acts, with the Article 39 (1) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic in connection with the Article 12 (1), (2) and (4) of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic. The above-stated provision lost its effectiveness when the judgement was published in the Collection of Acts of SR (18 December 2020).

OTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES IN 2020

In addition to the above-stated changes, in 2020 the National Council of the Slovak Republic approved several bills in the area of social insurance which will become effective in the future.

The most important of them is amendment of the Article 39 of the Constitution of SR, namely by the Constitutional Act No. 422/2020 Coll., amending and supplementing the Constitution of the Slovak Republic No. 460/1992 Coll., as amended, which will enter into force on 1 January 2023 in the area of social insurance. It cancelled establishment of the maximum retirement age in the Constitution; it also laid down a principle according to which the adequate material security in old age scheme enables to pay benefits also to persons who have worked for a specified number of years after reaching a specified period of participation in the scheme. An equally important change is establishment of the principle that any inability to perform a gainful activities due to long-term care for a child during a statutory period of time after his/her birth cannot have a negative impact on the adequate material security in old age, and establishing the right to decide that one's part of the paid tax or a part of the settled payment connected to participation in the adequate material security in old age scheme will be provided to the person who has raised him/her and who is being provided material security in old age. At the same time, such decision cannot have a negative impact on the adequate material security in old age. An implementing regulation is supposed to be prepared by its effective date.

Another change was an adoption of the Act No. 275/2020 Coll., amending and supplementing the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended, which starting from 1 January 2021 decreases the retirement age of policyholders born in the given years (1957 to 1965), depending on the number of raised children, reducing the inequalities related to taking into account the number of raised children compared to other years.

Table 3.3 Retirement Age Effective from 1 January 2021

Year of birth of the policyholder	Pension age					
	men	women with the number of raised children				
		0	1	2	3 or 4	5 and more
1943 and before	60y	57y	56y	55y	54y	53y
1944	60y 9m	57y	56y	55y	54y	53y
1945	61y 6m	57y	56y	55y	54y	53y
1946	62y	57y	56y	55y	54y	53y
1947	62y	57y 9m	56y	55y	54y	53y
1948	62y	58y 6m	56y 9m	55y	54y	53y
1949	62y	59y 3m	57y 6m	55y 9m	54y	53y
1950	62y	60y	58y 3m	56y 6m	54y 9m	53y
1951	62y	60y 9m	59y	57y 3m	55y 6m	53y 9m
1952	62y	61y 6m	59y 9m	58y	56y 3m	54y 6m
1953	62y	62y	60y 6m	58y 9m	57y	55y 3m
1954	62y	62y	61y 3m	59y 6m	57y 9m	56y
1955	62y 76d	62y 76d	62y 76d	60y 3m	58y 6m	56y 9m
1956	62y 139d	62y 139d	62y 139d	61y	59y 3m	57y 6m
1957	62y 6m	62y 6m	62y	61y 6m	60y	58y 3m
1958	62y 8m	62y 8m	62y 2m	61y 8m	60y 9m	59y
1959	62y 10m	62y 10m	62y 4m	61y 10m	61y 4m	59y 9m
1960	63y	63y	62y 6m	62y	61y 6m	60y 6m
1961	63y 2m	63y 2m	62y 8m	62y 2m	61y 8m	61y 3m
1962	63y 4m	63y 4m	62y 10m	62y 4m	61y 10m	61y 7m
1963	63y 6m	63y 6m	63y	62y 6m	62y	61y 11m
1964	63y 8m	63y 8m	63y 2m	62y 8m	62y 2m	62y 2m
1965	63y 10m	63y 10m	63y 4m	62y 10m	62y 4m	62y 4m
1966 and after	64y	64y	63y 6m	63y	62y 6m	62y 6m

Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

Another important change will become effective from 1 April 2021 and it was adopted by the Act No. 426/2020 Coll., amending and supplementing the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance, as amended, and amending and supplementing certain acts. From 1 April 2021 the Social Insurance Agency will send a pregnancy benefit to pregnant policyholders (gainfully employed) as a sickness insurance benefit from the start of the 27th week before the expected due date specified by the doctor. The same benefit will be provided by the relevant educational institution to pregnant students aged 18+. The purpose of the benefit is to provide income to pay the increased expenses related to pregnancy. On 1 April 2021, amendment of the Act No. 467/2019 Coll., amending and supplementing the Act on Social Insurance, will become effective; its aim is to introduce a new category of nursing benefit in sickness insurance, the so-called "long-term nursing benefit". Long-term nursing benefit is supposed to compensate a temporary loss of income of a policyholder who provides all-day personal care for an ill relative who, as a result of a sudden change in his/her health condition, has been taken to hospital and released from an institutional healthcare facility for home care or a relative who is in a terminal stage of an incurable illness or at the end of his/her life. The benefit of the proposed legal regulation is the fact that persons with sickness insurance performing personal care in a natural environment (who, as a result, cannot perform gainful activities during the period of care) will thus receive income in the form of a social insurance benefit during a significantly longer period of time than before, while they may take turns in performing the care with regard to its difficulty, under lawfully stipulated conditions.

Effective from 1 January 2021, the Act No. 372/2020 Coll. amending and supplementing the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance, as amended, approved changes to minimum pension, namely determination of its amount in accordance with a special table depending on the acquisition of a qualified period of pension insurance.

Table 3.4 Amount and Form of Calculation of Minimum Pension in 2021

OAI period	Determining the amount of minimum pension	Amount of minimum pension 2021 – freezing at the level of 2020
30	freezing at the level of 2020 amounts	334.3
31	freezing at the level of 2020 amounts	338.5
32	freezing at the level of 2020 amounts	342.7
33	freezing at the level of 2020 amounts	347.0
34	freezing at the level of 2020 amounts	351.2
35	freezing at the level of 2020 amounts	355.4
36	freezing at the level of 2020 amounts	359.6
37	freezing at the level of 2020 amounts	363.8
38	freezing at the level of 2020 amounts	368.0
39	freezing at the level of 2020 amounts	372.2
40	freezing at the level of 2020 amounts	378.5
41	freezing at the level of 2020 amounts	384.8
42	freezing at the level of 2020 amounts	391.1
43	freezing at the level of 2020 amounts	397.4
44	freezing at the level of 2020 amounts	403.7
45*	freezing at the level of 2020 amounts	410.0

Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic; OAI - old age insurance

* The amount for 45 years is stated as the last one but it is not a maximum monthly amount of minimum pension since 46 years of old age insurance will correspond to 33 % AW from 2018 and 39 % SM valid in the second half of 2019 etc.

In 2019 legal regulations were adopted (Act No. 382/2019 Coll. and Act No. 467/2019 Coll.), binding the amount of minimum pension to the average wage in the national economy of the Slovak Republic and waiving the consideration of exclusively the so-called qualified years of pension insurance (i.e. years of pension insurance with an average earning of at least 24.1% of the average wage in the national economy of the Slovak Republic), with effect from 1 January 2020. The above-stated changes in the form of determining the amount of minimum pension and conditions of entitlement to minimum pension considerably violated the principle of merits in pension insurance, as well as the purpose of introducing the minimum pension itself, i.e. to ensure such amount of pension income to the policyholder so that he/she is not dependent on the benefit in material need. In relation to the above-stated as well as in accordance with the obligation resulting from the Programme Statement of the Slovak Government for 2020 – 2024 "to introduce equity and adjust the conditions of providing minimum pension and to consider fair adjustment of minimum pensions", nominal amounts of minimum pension were "frozen" and remained at 2020 levels.

Adjustment

The Act No. 266/2017 Coll. established a minimum rate of the adjustment of pension benefits for 2018 - 2021 and a minimum rate of the adjustment of the injuries annuity for the same period. In the said period, pension benefits for pensioners increase under the applicable legislation by the percentage of a year-on-year growth in consumer prices for pensioners' households, but at least by a fixed amount of 2 % of the average amount of the relevant type of pension.

As of 1 January 2020, the minimum fixed amounts of pension increase are as follows:

- €9.00 for old-age pension;

- €2.70 for old-age pension paid in the amount of one half;
- €8.70 for early old-age pension;
- €3.20 for early old-age pension paid in the amount of one half;
- €7.60 for disability pension granted due to decreased earning capacity by more than 70 %; disability pension under Section 266 of the Act and social pension;
- €2.90 for disability pension granted due to decreased earning capacity by more than 70 % paid in the amount of one half and disability pension under Section 266 of the Act paid in the amount of one half;
- €4.30 for disability pension granted due to decreased earning capacity by up to 70 %;
- €1.80 for disability pension granted due to decreased earning capacity by up to 70 % paid in the amount of one half;
- €5.80 for widow's and widower's pensions;
- €2.50 for widow's pension paid in the amount of one half and widower's pension paid in the amount of one half;
- €2.70 for orphan's pension;
- €1.40 for orphan's pension paid in the amount of one half.

3.1.1 Sickness Insurance

Sickness insurance covers social events, such as temporary incapacity for work, pregnancy or maternity. The following benefits are paid from the sickness insurance system: **sickness benefits** (normally provided to employees only from the 11th day of the temporary incapacity for work), **nursing benefits**, **maternity benefits**, and **equalization benefits**.

In accordance with the Act No. 462/2003 Coll. on Income Replacement During Temporary Incapacity for Work and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended, for the first 10 days of the employee's temporary incapacity for work the employer pays an employee an income replacement during the employee's temporary incapacity for work, and the Social Insurance Agency pays the employee sickness benefits only from the 11th day of his/her temporary work incapacity.

In relation to the crisis situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, several measures were taken in the area of the provided sickness insurance benefits to improve the position of the policyholders, employers and self-employed persons and to eliminate the negative impact of the gradually adopted pandemic measures. It includes mainly temporary introduction (for the period of the crisis situation and basically two months after its termination) of a pandemic sickness benefit provided to policyholders who are quarantined or isolated by the Social Insurance Agency starting from the first day of their temporary inability to work in the amount of 55 % of the daily assessment base, and pandemic nursing benefit connected to the continuation of the need to look after or take care of a family member, while its duration is conditioned by continuation of the crisis situation and it may be used jointly by several caring persons who take turns to look after the same child/children or dependent persons under specified conditions.

Sickness benefits expenditure²³ paid in 2020 from the Social Insurance Agency budget reached approximately €1,043.4 million. In comparison with 2019, the expenditure was higher by about €283.7 million (growth index of approximately 1.37). The rise in expenditure was due to a higher number of cases, mainly as a result of payment of the so-called pandemic sickness benefits, and an increase in the average amount of sickness benefits paid.

In 2020, the average monthly numbers of paid sickness benefits were as follows:

- sickness benefits: 153,772 cases;
- nursing benefits: 48,558 cases;
- equalization benefits: 44 cases;
- maternity benefits: 33,056 cases.

The average monthly number of cases swelled by 62,000 compared to 2019.

²³ A summary of expenditures of the basic sickness insurance fund (BSIF) and sickness benefits in 2020 is given in Annex to Chapter 3, Table 1.

In 2020, the average monthly number of sickness benefits increased compared to the same period of 2019, mainly as a result of payment of the so-called pandemic sickness benefit in the temporary inability to work and payment of the pandemic nursing benefit for policyholders looking after their family members due to closure of pre-school and school establishments.

The number of paid pandemic benefits from 1 April 2020 to 31 December 2020 reached 715,326, of which 234,404 were sickness benefits and 480,922 were nursing benefits. The table below provides an overview of sickness benefits paid and average amounts of sickness benefits.

Table 3.5 Number of Cases and Average Amount of Sickness Benefits in 2020

Benefit	Number of paid benefits in 2020	Index 2020/2019	Average amount of benefit in 2020 (€)	Index 2020/2019
Sickness benefit	1,845,267	124.0%	315.6	106.3%
<i>of which pandemic benefit</i>	234,404	-	154.5	-
Nursing benefit	582,695	327.4%	265.8	236.9%
<i>of which pandemic benefit</i>	480,922	-	294.8	-
Maternity benefit	396,675	95.6%	778.3	107.7%
Equalization benefit	532	66.6%	116.8	101.2%

Source: Social Insurance Agency

3.1.2 Pension Insurance

Pension insurance is divided into **old-age insurance** (insurance in case of death and to provide income in old age) and **disability insurance** (insurance in case of reduced income earning capacity due to long-term ill health and in case of death). The pension insurance scheme provides old-age pension, early old-age pension, disability pension, widow's pension, widower's pension and orphan's pension. Since 2020 the Social Insurance Agency has also been providing 13th pension as a state social benefit to beneficiaries of pension benefits, replacing the Christmas benefit provided until then.

In the terminology of pension benefits, **overlapping** of pensions means receiving the so-called direct pension (old-age, early old-age or disability) concurrently with the indirect pension (widow's pension or widower's pension) or, alternatively, receiving disability pension with the rate of a reduction in earning capacity of up to 70 % and over 70 % concurrently with orphan's pension.

As of 31 December 2020, a total of 1,699,120 pension insurance benefits were paid (excluding pensions paid by the state, e.g. so-called disability pensions for persons disabled at youth, spousal pensions, social pensions, as well as excluding pensions paid out abroad and pensions not taken into automated registration). A total of 31,114 pensions were paid out abroad.

Compared to the situation as at 31 December 2019, the number of paid pensions remained almost unchanged, increasing by 642, i.e. by about 0.4 %²⁴. Decreases compared to 2019 were seen in the number of paid disability pensions (by about 0.4 %), widow's pensions (by about 0.8 %), orphan's pensions (by about 2.2 %) and early old-age pensions (by about 7.5 %). On the contrary, compared to 2019, increases were seen in the number of paid old-age pensions (by about 0.4%) and widower's pensions (by about 0.8%).

Table 3.6 Number of Paid Pensions and Average Amounts of Pensions in 2019 and 2020

²⁴ More detailed statistical data on the number of beneficiaries and amounts of individual pensions are given in Annex to Chapter 3, Tables 2 - 4.

Pension type	Numbers of paid pensions as of:		Average amount of (single) pension in €:	
	31/12/2019	31/12/2020	31/12/2019	31/12/2020
Old-age (solo + overlapping) in total	1,088,300	1,093,195	460.4	487.4
Early old-age (solo + overlapping) in total	13,194	12,203	433.1	474.5
Disability (solo + overlapping) in total	234,346	233,461	275.5	284.5
Widow's (solo + overlapping)	293,017	290,680	263.1	272.5
Widower's (solo + overlapping)	49,508	49,915	208.7	217.9
Orphan's	20,113	19,666	137.6	142.7
Total	1,698,478	1,699,120	X	X
Pensions not taken into automated registration	45	28	x	X
Pensions paid out abroad	29,377	31,114	x	X

Source: Social Insurance Agency

In 2020, pensions increased by 2.9 %, which is the percentage of a year-on-year growth in consumer prices for pensioners' households reported by SO SR for the first half of 2019, but they increased at least by a fixed amount of 2 % of the average amount of the relevant type of pension reported by the Social Insurance Agency as at 30 June 2019.

Table 3.7 Average Amount of Overlapping Pensions at 31 December of 2019 and 2020

Pension type	Average amount of pension* in €	
	2019	2020
old-age overlapping with widow's (females)	505.4	525.3
old-age overlapping with widower's (males)	593.9	617.1
early old-age overlapping with widow's (females)	519.0	536.8
early old-age overlapping with widower's (males)	550.8	586.6
disability overlapping with widow's (females)	411.4	425.1
disability overlapping with widower's (males)	435.1	446.1

Source: Social Insurance Agency

*average amount calculated from the aggregated amount of both pensions

The threshold amount of the old-age unreduced pension which has already been adjusted by the relevant percentage (and not by using the minimum percentage adjustment of 2 % of the average monthly amount of the relevant pension) was €310.4.

Table 3.8 Pension Threshold Amounts Already Adjusted by the Relevant Percentage in 2020

Pension type	Threshold amount	Pension threshold amount paid in the amount of one half
old-age	310.4	93.2
early old-age	300.1	110.4
disability with a reduction rate over 70 %	148.3	62.1
disability with a reduction rate of up to 70 %	262.1	100.1
widow's and widower's	200.1	86.3
orphan's	93.2	48.3

Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

Expenditure²⁵ on (system) pension insurance benefits in 2020 was almost €7.8 billion, representing a rise in expenditure by about 5.5 % compared to 2019. In addition, the state-paid pension benefits (a spousal pension, social pension, the so-called disability at youth pension, increase for immobility, increase due to sole source of income, resistance pension and increase for rehabilitation, including supplementary allowances for civil service and supplement benefits, a minimum pension) reached approximately €173.8 million, of which expenditure on increasing the amounts of old-age pension and disability pension paid after reaching the retirement age **to the amount of the minimum pension**²⁶ amounted to about €89.7 million.

Expenditures on payment of the 13th salary²⁷ to certain beneficiaries of the pension in 2020 (excluding any surcharges, i.e. excluding expenditures on the Christmas contribution, paid additionally for the previous years) amounted to about €300.1 million, while in 2019 expenditures on the Christmas contribution amounted to about €147.7 million. In 2020, the total number of pensioners who were paid the 13th pension was 1,431,615 persons, while in 2019 it was 1,262,388 persons in the case of Christmas allowances.

The ratio of the average solo old-age pension paid as at 31 December 2020 to the average monthly wage (gross) for 2020 in the Slovak economy was about 43 % (€1,133.00), a slight increase compared to 2019 (by about 0.8 pp). The ratio of the average solo old-age pension newly granted in 2020 (€586.3) to the average monthly wage (gross) for 2020 in the Slovak economy (€1,133.00) was about 51.7 %. As at 30 June 2020, a total of 4,241 recipients of solo old-age pensions (i.e. about 0.4 %) were recorded as exceeding the average monthly wage in the Slovak economy.

3.1.3 Accident Insurance

Accident insurance is the employer's insurance against **damage to health or death due to an accident at work, an accident in the line of duty or occupational disease**. Accident insurance benefits include the additional accidental benefit, injuries annuity, lump-sum settlement, survivor's injuries annuity, lump-sum compensation, professional rehabilitation and rehabilitation benefit, retraining and retraining benefit, compensation for pain and suffering and compensation for difficulties with social reintegration, compensation of cost related to medical treatment and compensation of expenses related to funeral. Under accident insurance, self-employed persons neither act as entities, nor are given the option of voluntary participation in this type of insurance.

In relation to the crisis situation, a temporary principle was adopted in the accident insurance that the condition of occurrence of an occupational illness is considered fulfilled for the purpose of additional accidental benefit for volunteers and persons who come into contact with the infection when performing their work. The employer of any employee who has been infected with COVID-19 or a legal entity from whom a natural person was performing work needs to confirm in a relevant form that the person was infected when performing work activities with demonstrable contact with the disease or with infective material. The additional accidental benefit due to COVID-19 cannot be awarded without such confirmation.

A total amount of benefits paid in 2020²⁸ was about €50.8 million, representing a slight year-on-year decrease in expenditure (by about 1.6 %). The injuries annuity was the most frequent and financially demanding benefit. For 2020²⁹, 85,203 injuries annuities were paid and the average amount of such allowance for 2020 reached about €337, representing an increase by about 2.9 % compared to 2019, and approximately €28.2 million was expended on it (about 55.6 % of all expenditures of the basic accident insurance fund). The additional accidental benefit was the second most frequently paid benefit in 27,354 cases (a year-on-year decrease by about 12.8 %). The highest average amount per one case was a lump sum compensation benefit in accordance with the Section 94 of the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance (€18,795).

The injuries annuity increased by 2.5 % in 2020.

²⁵ An overview of expenditure on pension benefits as at 31 December 2020 is given in Annex to Chapter 3, Table 5.

²⁶ Paid from the state budget.

²⁷ It is a state social benefit.

²⁸ An overview of the basic accident insurance fund expenditure is given in Annex to Chapter 3, Table 6.

²⁹ The average amounts and numbers of paid accident insurance benefits and state-paid accident insurance benefits are given in Annex to Chapter 3, Tables 7 and 8.

3.1.4 Guarantee Insurance

Guarantee insurance is insurance against the employer's insolvency resulting in its inability to settle the employee's claims. The employer of an employee in employment and of a cooperative member who is in employment with the cooperative is compulsorily insured. The insurance benefits include, for example, wage replacement, severance pay to which the employee is entitled upon termination of employment, claims for reimbursement of travel expenses, removal expenses and other expenses incurred in performing work duties, etc., if the employer is unable to meet its obligations towards employees due to becoming insolvent. Guarantee insurance benefits are paid from the guarantee insurance scheme. In addition, the guarantee insurance covers compulsory contributions to pension saving, unpaid by the employer to the basic fund of contributions to pension saving within the legally stipulated time limit. Under guarantee insurance, self-employed persons do not act as entities and, due to the nature of insurance relationships, voluntary participation in this type of insurance is not possible³⁰.

A total of 1,632 benefits were paid in 2020 (Table 3.7), which represents a year-on-year **decrease by about 45 %**. The total expenditure of the basic guarantee insurance fund in 2020 was about €24.9 million (i.e. expenditure on guarantee benefits and expenditure on mandatory contributions to pension saving unpaid by the employer to the basic fund of contributions to pension saving within the legally stipulated time limit), a year-on-year increase by approximately 2.9 %. In 2020, the average benefit amounted to €2,212.50, representing a year-on-year rise by about 1.8 %.

Table 3.9 Guarantee Insurance Benefit Expenditure, Number of Cases and Average Benefit Amount in € in 2020

Period	Number of cases	Average benefit amount in €	Guarantee insurance benefit expenditure in thous. €
January	45	2,127.6	95.3
February	215	2,012.1	432.6
March	65	1,361.3	88.5
April	139	2,052.7	285.3
May	135	2,121.1	286.3
June	151	2,069.1	312.4
July	182	1,767.7	321.7
August	100	2,318.0	228.5
September	312	3,058.3	953.6
October	222	2,183.2	484.9
November	5	3,136.2	15.7
December	61	1,598.7	97.4
Total	1,632	X	3,602.3
Average	136	2,212.5	300.2

Source: Social Insurance Agency

3.1.5 Unemployment Insurance

The unemployment insurance is insurance against loss of income from the employee activity as a result of loss of employment and insurance to provide income in unemployment. The unemployment insurance covers payment of **unemployment benefits**.

In 2020, the average monthly number of unemployment benefit recipients³¹ was 53,138 persons, representing an increase by about 45.6 % compared to the average monthly number in 2019. The above-stated increase is

³⁰ An overview of the basic guarantee insurance fund expenditures is given in Annex to Chapter 3, Table 9.

³¹ More detailed statistics on paid unemployment benefit and unemployment benefit recipients are given in Annex to Chapter 3, Tables 10 and 11.

related to the crisis situation caused by SARS-COV 2 and the gradual extension of the period of support in unemployment in April to August 2020. As a result of extension of the support period, the number of paid unemployment benefits increased by 91,244 and the total increase in expenditures on such benefits represented about €32.3 million. There was a total of 171,410 unemployment benefit recipients in 2020, of which 85,501 were women and 85,909 were men. From the point of view of age structure, the highest proportion of recipients of the unemployment benefit was in the age group of 35 – 39, while a more-detailed age structure of recipients of the unemployment benefit may be found in the Annex.

The unemployment benefit expenditure in 2020 amounted approximately to €329.1 million, representing a year-on-year rise in such expenditure by about 53.7 %. The average monthly benefit in 2020 amounted to about €440.95, which is 0.9 % more than in 2019.

3.2 Pension Saving

Pension saving consists of old-age pension saving and supplementary pension saving:

- II. **pillar – old-age pension saving**, contribution defined, financed through capitalization, carried out by pension fund management companies (hereinafter referred to as "PFMCs") pursuant to Act No. 43/2004 Coll. on Old-Age Pension Saving and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended, which entered into force on 1 January 2005.
- III. **pillar – supplementary pension saving**, contribution defined, financed through capitalization, carried out by supplementary pension fund management companies (hereinafter referred to as "SPFMCs") pursuant to Act No. 650/2004 Coll. on Supplementary Pension Saving and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended, which entered into force on 1 January 2005.

3.2.1 Old-age Pension Saving Insurance

The aim of introducing old-age pension saving, which is a part of the mandatory pension system, was to diversify the risks of different methods of financing pension benefits, i.e. the continuous method of financing and the capitalization method of financing.

Old-age pension saving (II. pillar) is contribution defined and financed by contributions to old-age pension saving paid to personal pension accounts of the savers.

Subject to the terms and conditions stipulated by law, old-age pension and early old-age pension are paid from the old-age pension saving, namely in the following forms:

- certain annuity,
- pension paid by programme withdrawal,
- life annuity.

Payment of a widow's, widower's and/or orphan's pension may be agreed upon along with life annuity. Pension offers are mediated by the Central Information Offering System, which is administered by the Social Insurance Agency.

Changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic

Several amendments of the Act No. 43/2004 Coll. on Old-Age Pension Saving and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended, were adopted in 2020 to mitigate the economic impacts during an exceptional situation, emergency or state of emergency declared in relation to COVID-19. The amendments concerned postponement of payment of mandatory contributions to old-age pension saving payable together with the old-age insurance premium for employers and sole traders with mandatory old-age insurance who in the particular period of time reported a **decrease in the net turnover or trade income** and from other gainful activities by 40 % or more as a result of the crisis situation, namely for March 2020, May to July 2020 and December 2020.

For April 2020 a possibility was laid down to waive payment of mandatory contributions for old-age pension saving for employers and sole traders with mandatory old-age insurance whose places of business were closed for at least 15 days based on a decision of a competent authority in relation to the crisis situation. For the above-stated period of time the amount of old-age pension, early old-age pension and minimum pension from pension insurance (I. pillar) due to participation of the policyholder in the old-age pension saving scheme in such period of time will not be decreased.

Other legislative changes

In 2020, the rate of mandatory contributions for old-age pension saving increased to 5 % of the assessment base for payment of the premium for pension insurance.

For 2020, the Social Insurance Agency determined the reference amount to €464.60. The reference amount is important for the possibility to pay old-age pension or early old-age pension from the old-age pension saving in the form of a programme withdrawal or in the form of temporary pension.

In relation to the Act No. 296/2020 Coll. on the 13th pension and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, which entered into force in 2020, introducing the 13th pension as a state social benefit, it is not necessary to lay down that the benefit is not a pension benefit as referred to in the Act No. 461/2004 Coll. on Social Insurance,

as amended, the amount of which is used in calculation for assessment of the entitlement to old-age pension or early old-age pension paid in the form of temporary pension or programme withdrawal from the old-age pension saving.

Three measures became valid in 2020, issued on the basis of enabling provisions of the Act No. 234/2019 Coll., amending and supplementing the Act No. 43/2004 Coll. on Old-Age Pension Saving and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended, and amending and supplementing certain acts, that came into effect in 2019. It included the following measures:

- Measure of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic No. 138/2020 Coll. on the information about pensions from old-age pension savings. The measure imposed an obligation for PFMCs to draw up and send information about pensions from old-age pension saving which is supposed to help the saver in an appropriate period of time before reaching the retirement age with his/her financial planning in relation to his/her retirement.
- Measure of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic No. 139/2020 Coll., laying down the content, structure, form, conditions and manner of continuous update and period for disclosing key information about the pension fund, obliging the PFMCs to draw up key information about each managed pension fund.

Measure of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic No. 140/2020 Coll., laying down a template of statement from a saver's personal pension account. Compared to the statement sent in accordance with the legislation effective until 31 December 2020, the above-stated measure laid down a uniform template of statement from a saver's personal pension account as well as details regarding rules based on which pension forecasts will be determined.

All the above-stated measures entered into force on 1 January 2021.

As of 31 December 2020 there were 5 PFMCs operating on the old-age pension saving market:

- Allianz – Slovenská dôchodková správcovská spoločnosť, a.s., Bratislava,
- Axa d.s.s., a.s., Bratislava,
- Dôchodková správcovská spoločnosť Poštovej banky, a.s., Bratislava,
- NN d.s.s., a.s., Bratislava,
- VÚB Generali, d.s.s., a.s., Bratislava.

Table 3.8 shows the net value of assets managed by individual PFMCs as per the type of pension fund as at 31 December 2020.

Table 3.10 Distribution of Assets in Pension Funds as at 31 December 2020 (in million €)

Pension fund management company	Bond guaranteed pension fund	Mixed non-guaranteed pension fund	Equity non-guaranteed pension fund	Index non-guaranteed pension fund	Total as at 31/12/2020	Asset share (%)
Allianz - Slovenská d.s.s., a.s.	2,414.7	0.0	751.8	0.0	3,166.5	30.6%
AXA d.s.s., a.s.	1,703.3	0.0	228.3	815.5	2,747.1	26.6%
DSS Poštovej banky d.s.s. a.s.	428.9	0.0	79.2	51.2	559.3	5.4%
NN d.s.s., a.s.	1,357.8	54.3	232.0	354.8	1,998.8	19.3%
VÚB Generali d.s.s., a.s.	1,205.9	59.9	126.9	472.3	1,864.9	18.0%
Total	7,110.5	114.2	1,418.2	1,693.8	10,336.7	100.0%
Percentage of assets	68.8%	1.1%	13.7%	16.4%		

Source: NBS, calculation: MoLSAF

In 2020, the Social Insurance Agency made compulsory **contributions** to pension saving in the amount of approximately **€799.6 million**, representing a year-on-year increase by about 8.5 %. Such an increase is caused by a rise in wages in the national economy, increase in the number of savers and also an increase in the percentage of mandatory contributions to II. pillar from 4.75 % in 2019 to 5 % from the assessment base in 2020. The net value of savers' assets in pension funds increased from about €9.3 bil. as at 31 December 2019 to more than €10.3 bil. as at 31 December 2020, representing a year-on-year increase by about 10.3 %.

Allianz - Slovenská d.s.s, a. s. and Axa d.s.s., a.s. had the largest share in the Slovak old-age pension saving market in 2020 (representing together over 57 % of the market). The most resources still remain in bond guaranteed pension funds, followed by index³², equity and mixed non-guaranteed pension funds.

Table 3.11 Comparison of the Distribution of Assets in Pension Funds for all PFMCs

Date Percentage of the distribution of assets in pension funds for all PFMCs				
Date	Bond guaranteed p.f.	Mixed n.p.f.	Equity n.p.f.	Index n.p.f.
31/12/2019	72.2 %	1.1 %	13.3 %	13.4 %
31/12/2020	68.8 %	1.1 %	13.7 %	16.4 %

Source: NBS, calculation: MoLSAF

All types of pension funds managed by PFMCs saw an average annual increase in spite of the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global financial markets in 1Q and 2Q. Only one non-guaranteed pension fund saw a decrease in 2020 (-3.9 %); other pension funds saw a rise ranging from 0.8 % to 14.3 %³³.

Table 3.12 Annual Appreciation in Individual Pension Funds

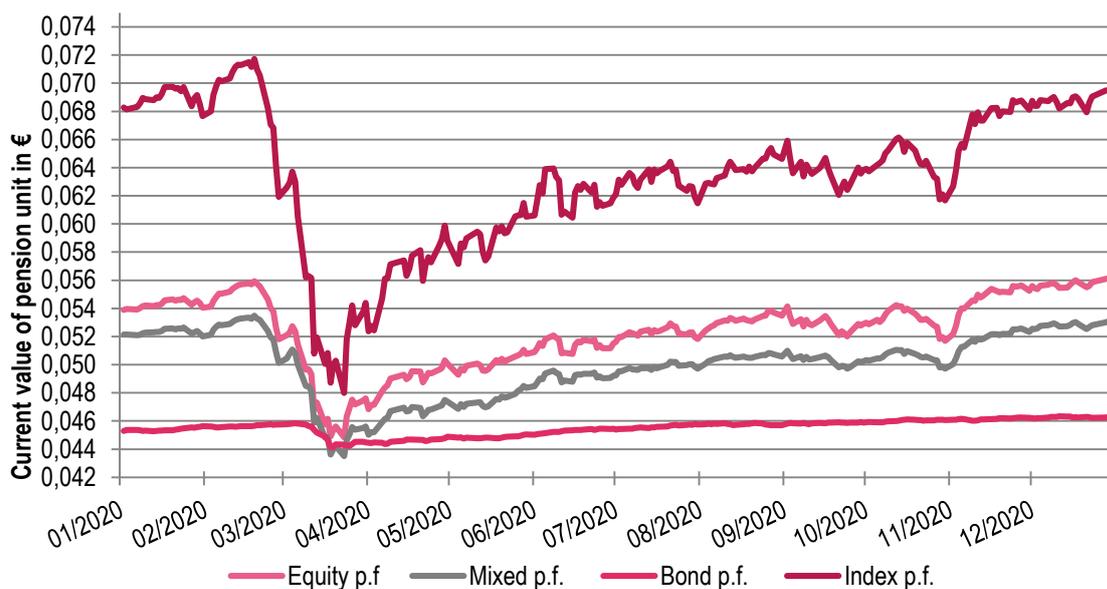
Pension funds	Appreciation in 2019	Appreciation in 2020
Bond guaranteed	1.9 %	1.7 %
Mixed non-guaranteed	12.2 %	2.2 %
Equity non-guaranteed	19.4 %	4.0 %
Index non-guaranteed	28.4 %	3.4 %

Source NBS; calculation: MoLSAF

³² The benchmark for the Index Global fund managed by the NN PFMC and also for index funds managed by AXA PFMC and VÚB Generali PFMC is the broad-spectrum global equity index MSCI World. The benchmark for the index fund administered by the Poštová banka PFMC is also a global equity index Goldman Sachs EquityFactor World Net Total Return. The benchmark for the index fund NN PFMC Index Euro is the regional equity index EURO STOXX 50 whose underlying asset includes shares of 50 leading, so-called blue-chip companies in the euro area.

³³ More details on the values as per individual PFMCs may be found in the Annex to the Chapter 3 in Table 12.

Graph 3.1 Development of the Current Value of Pension Unit in Individual Pension Funds in 2020



Source: NBS; MoLSAF calculation

Number of savers in old-age pension saving was about 1.6 million as at 31 December 2020 (Table 3.11). The distribution of savers in the individual PFMCs did not change considerably compared to 2019.

Table 3.13 Number of Savers in Old-age Pension Saving Funds as at 31 December 2020

Pension fund management company	Number of savers	Percentage of savers
Allianz - Slovenská d.s.s., a.s.	469,367	28.9 %
AXA d.s.s., a.s.	379,839	23.4 %
DSS Poštovej banky d.s.s. a.s.	122,067	7.5 %
NN d.s.s., a.s.	344,476	21.2 %
VÚB Generali d.s.s., a.s.	310,428	19.1 %
Total	1,626,177	100.0 %

Source: Social Insurance Agency; MoLSAF calculation

By age structure of savers³⁴, the largest group in the old-age pension saving scheme comprised savers aged 31 – 50. The above-stated group represents more than 64 % of the total number of savers.

³⁴Graph of the age structure of savers and distribution of savers by age are given in Annex to Chapter 3

Table 3.14 Breakdown of Savers by Age as at 31/12/2020

Age group	Number of savers	Percentage
up to 20	19,825	1.2 %
21 – 30	286,121	17.6 %
31 – 40	526,391	32.4 %
41 – 50	518,763	31.9 %
51 and over	275,077	16.9 %
Total	1,626,177	100.0 %

Source: Social Insurance Agency; MoLSAF calculation

Payment of Pensions from the Pillar II

From January to November 2020, at least one pension insurance contract, or an agreement on pension payment by programme withdrawal was concluded by 2,248 savers. As for the type of pension, about 74 % of all savers are being paid old-age pension and about 26 % are being paid early old-age pension from the old-age pension saving scheme.

In 2020, contracts for pension payment from the old-age pension saving system could be concluded in 2 insurance companies:

- Allianz - Slovenská poisťovňa, a.s.,
- Generali poisťovňa, a.s.,

As of 31 December 2019 Union poisťovňa, a.s. finished its activities in the area of payment of certain annuity or life annuity from the old-age pension saving scheme. However, it continues paying out the agreed pensions from the concluded pension insurance contracts. Agreements on pension payment through a programme withdrawal may be concluded with all PFMCs.

The trend from the previous period of time when the proportion of contracts of savers with PFMCs increased considerably and the proportion of contracts of savers with insurance companies dropped remained unchanged and in 2020 most savers again decided to conclude a contract on pension payment with PFMCs (about 84 % of savers). A change in the breakdown of contracts was introduced by the legislative change of February 2018, which enabled the payment of old-age and early old-age pensions in the form of programme withdrawal or certain annuity if the sum of the amounts of pension benefits exceeds the reference amount.

In 2020, the concluded insurance contracts for pensions paid from the old-age pension saving scheme could be divided into five categories:

- life annuity from the entire saved amount;
- life annuity in combination with programme withdrawal (from a portion of the saved amount) or with certain annuity (from a portion of the saved amount);
- certain annuity from the entire saved amount;
- programme withdrawal from the entire saved amount;
- a pension for savers under the “small saved amount” scheme, which is paid in the form of programme withdrawal or as certain annuity of no more than the median of minimum monthly amounts of life annuity without survivor’s coverage and increase that insurers are willing to pay.

From January to November 2020, a total of 301 (about 13.4 %) savers started to receive life annuities from the entire saved amount, a total of 74 (about 3.3 %) savers started to receive life annuities as well as pensions in the form of programme withdrawal from a portion of the saved amount, or they started to receive life annuities as well as annuities certain from a portion of the saved amount, paid out for 5, 7 or 10 years.

Annuities certain started to be paid from the entire saved amount to 5 savers (about 0.2 %), and a contract for programme withdrawal paid from the entire saved amount was concluded by 1,600 savers (about 71.2 %), where only those savers were entitled to such forms of pensions who met the condition (*valid from 1 February 2018*) that the sum of the amounts of pension benefits is higher than the reference amount. The average saved amount from which the saver applied a programme withdrawal from the entire saved amount reached about €12,157. Pensions under the “small saved amount” scheme began to be paid to 268 (about 11.9 %) savers.

The average monthly amount of pensions in the form of life annuity from the entire saved amount in the period under review reached about €20.2, the average monthly amount of life annuity or certain annuity paid in a

combination was about €16.2, the certain annuity from the entire saved amount reached an average monthly amount of €183.9 and the pension under the “small saved amount” scheme paid in the amount of the median, i.e. mean value of minimum amounts of the paid life annuities reached €13.7 per month.

The average monthly amount of the life annuity paid from the II. pillar since 2015 is about €20.9. The average amount of the programme withdrawal from 100 % of the saved amount is about €11,516.

Table 3.15 Offers and Contracts for Pension Payment from the Old-age Pension Saving Scheme in 2020

Contracts concluded for:	Number of contracts (%)	Average monthly amount (€)
Life annuity from the entire saved amount	301 (13.4 %)	€20.2
Life annuity in combination with programme withdrawal (from a portion of the saved amount)/ or with certain annuity (from a portion of the saved amount)	74 (3.3 %)	€16.2
Certain annuity from the entire saved amount	5 (0.2 %)	€183.9
Programme withdrawal from the entire saved amount	1 600 (71.2 %)	€12,157.3
Pnesion under the "small saved amount" scheme	268 (11.9%)	€13.7
TOTAL	2 248 (100.0 %)	

Source: Social Insurance Agency; MoLSAF calculation, situation as at 30 November 2020

3.2.2 Supplementary Pension Saving

Supplementary (voluntary) pension saving is part of the *so-called III. pillar of the pension scheme*, in which funds of participants are managed by SPFMC.

The aim of supplementary pension saving is to allow participants in the supplementary pension saving scheme (hereinafter simply the participant) to gain a supplementary pension income in old age or supplementary pension income in the event of termination of work included by a decision of a health protection authority in category III or IV or until termination of work of an employee who is a dance artist or wind instrument player.

The participant is an employee who concluded a policy on supplementary pension saving with SPFMC (hereinafter simply the personal pension saving policy), or other natural person who was 18 years or over at the date of the conclusion of the personal pension saving policy.

Employees performing work classified by a decision of a health protection authority in category III or IV and employees who are dance artists or wind instrument players are required to conclude personal pension saving policies and their employers are obliged to conclude employer contracts within 30 days of the commencement of such work. Employers' contribution shall amount to at least 2 % of the assessment base.

Through supplementary pension saving, a participant saves money in SPFMC, which invests them for the purpose of its appreciation. The resulting sum of a supplementary pension saving benefit depends on the amount of funds that the participant and the employer transferred to the SPFMC throughout the saving period and on the appreciation rate.

The following benefits are paid from the supplementary pension saving upon fulfilment of the conditions stipulated in the Act:

- supplementary old-age pension, in the form of
 - lifelong supplementary old-age pension,
 - provisional supplementary old-age pension,
- supplementary long-term service pension, in the form of
 - lifelong supplementary long-term service pension,
 - provisional supplementary long-term service pension,
- supplementary single equalization,
- early withdrawal.

Participants who concluded their personal pension saving policies before 1 January 2014 and did not agree with the relevant SPFMC on the change of the personal pension saving policy (containing the abandonment of the benefit plan) are to continue their personal pension saving policies with benefit plans which stipulate special conditions for receiving benefits. Thus, the option of receiving supplementary compensation remains, but such participants are not entitled to a new benefit of early withdrawal. Neither may they claim the benefit of reducing the tax base by the amount of contributions they paid, up to a total of €180.00 per year.

As at 31 December 2020, there were four SPFMCs active in the market, namely:

- AXA d.d.s., a.s.,
- Doplňková dôchodková spoločnosť Tatra banky, a.s.,
- NN Tatra – Sympatia d.d.s., a.s.,
- Stabilita, d.d.s., a. s.,

Amendments of the Act No. 650/2004 Coll. on Supplementary Old-Age Pension Saving and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended, were adopted in 2020 to mitigate the economic impacts during an exceptional situation, emergency or state of emergency declared in relation to COVID-19.

Their temporary provisions laid down a postponement of payment of contributions for supplementary pension saving for March 2020, May to July 2020 and December 2020, namely for employers on behalf of the employees performing work classified based on a decision of a state public health authority in categories 3 or 4, or employees who are dancers or musicians playing a wind instrument, the so-called high-risk work, whose net turnover or business income dropped by 40 % or more compared to the previous year as a result of the crisis situation caused by COVID-19.

Employers whose places of business had to be closed in April 2020 for at least 15 days based on a decision of a competent authority, were also exempted from payment of such contributions for employees performing high-risk work for April 2020.

The number of participants in the III. pillar with non-zero assets on the contributory pension account was approx. 887 thousand as at 31 December 2020. It was an increase by more than 6 % compared to the end of 2019.

Compared to the previous period, the number of beneficiaries of the benefits remained almost unchanged at about 26 thousand. There was no considerable redistribution of participants among individual SPFMCs year-on-year.

Table 3.16 Number of Participants in the Saving and Pay-out Period as at 31 December 2019 and 31 December 2020

Company	2019				2020			
	Number of participants in the saving period	Number of participants in the pay-out period	Total	Percentage of participants	Number of participants in the saving period	Number of participants in the pay-out period	Total	Percentage of participants
Axa d.d.s., a.s.	145,714	676	146,390	17.0%	142,152	244	142,396	16.0%
DDS Tatra banky, a.s.	231,772	9,617	241,389	28.1%	242,701	10,285	252,986	28.5%
NN Tatry - Sympatia, d.d.s., a.s.	327,334	2,532	329,866	38.4%	348,210	2,469	350,679	39.5%
Stabilita, d.d.s., a.s.	128,776	13,511	142,287	16.6%	128,281	13,456	141,737	16.0%
Total	833,596	26,336	859,932	100.0%	861,344	26,454	887,798	100.0%

Source: Association of Supplementary Pension Fund Management Companies; MoLSAF calculation

Total amount of paid benefits reached about €105 million in 2020, representing a drop by over 6 % compared to 2019. In comparison with the previous year, the amount of paid supplementary old-age pensions increased most, namely by about 8 %; on the contrary, the amount of paid benefits in the form of lump sum settlement dropped by more than 12 % compared to the previous year. Compared to 2019, the average amount of benefits in 2020 was higher for all paid benefits from the supplementary pension saving, except for lump sum settlement the average amount of which saw a year-on-year drop by over 6 %.

Table 3.17 Overview of Supplementary Pension Saving Scheme Benefits as at 31 December 2019 and 31 December 2020

Type of benefit		2019		2020	
		Benefit amount (€ million)	Average benefit amount in €	Benefit amount (€ million)	Average benefit amount in €
Supplementary old-age pension*		41.6	186.5	45.2	191.3
Supplementary long-term service pension*		0.1	262.9	0.3	296.0
Supplementary compensation		14.0	2,446.4	10.4	2,960.8
Early withdrawal		5.6	2,539.1	4.8	2,903.7
Supplementary single equalization		50.6	3,082.9	44.2	2,885.9

* average monthly benefit amount

Source: Association of Supplementary Pension Fund Management Companies; MoLSAF calculation

The net value of assets managed in the supplementary pension funds increased by about 12 % to approximately €2.67 billion compared to 2019.

It is still true that one of the reasons why participation in supplementary pension saving is so attractive is the participation of employers in the supplementary pension schemes of their employees. From 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020, a total of about 535 thousand participants received at least one contribution to the supplementary pension schemes from their employers. The number of participants with at least one participant contribution but at the same time without an employer's contribution reached about 93 thousand in 2020, i.e. by over 13 % more than

in 2019. There were about 259 thousand participants with non-zero assets in the contributory fund, who remained in 2020 without their participant contribution as well as without a contribution from the employer, representing an increase by approximately 1.5 % compared to 2019 (about 255 thousand contracts with no contribution).

The average monthly employer's contribution increased from about €30.3 in 2019 to approximately €31.3 in 2020. The average monthly contribution of participants was about €18.9 in 2019 and increased by approximately 3.6 % to €19.6 in 2020.

In spite of a high volatility and considerable contraction on the financial markets in the first half of 2020, all contributory as well as pay-out supplementary pension funds managed by SPFMCs saw increases in the value of the managed assets (Table 3.16). The increases seen in the contributory supplementary funds ranged from 1.4 % to 8.4 %. The average amount saved by participants with assets in contributory supplementary pension funds rose year-on-year by ca. 8.9 %, i.e. from ca. €2,746 in 2019 to ca. €2,991 in 2020. The increase in the average saved amount of participants was caused by credited contributions as well as by an increase in the value of participants' assets.

Table 3.18 Details of the Amounts of and Appreciation in the Assets in Supplementary Pension Funds as at 31 December 2020

Company	Assets in contributory supplementary pension funds (mil. €)	Assets in pay-out supplementary pension funds (mil. €)	Total assets (mil. €)	Annual appreciation in supplementary pension funds ³⁵
Axa d.d.s., a.s.	389.2	9.6	398.8	2.0 %
DDS Tatra banky, a.s.*	812.1	26.9	838.9	5.3 %
NN Tatro - Sympatia, d.d.s., a.s.	1,007.8	31.4	1,039.2	2.2 %
Stabilita, d.d.s., a.s.**	367.9	28.5	396.4	2.1 %
Total	2,577.0	96.3	2,673.3	3.1 %

Source: NBS, calculation: MoLSAF

* As at 28 September 2020, the supplementary pension fund management company of Tatra banka, a.s. created a new supplementary pension fund Comfort life 2026 which was not included in the annual assessment of supplementary pension funds due to its short existence.

** STABILITA, d.d.s., a.s. created as at 11 March 2020 a new supplementary pension index contributory fund which was not included in the annual assessment of supplementary pension funds due to its short existence

³⁵ The annual appreciation in supplementary pension funds is the average of the annual appreciation in the funds of the relevant supplementary pension fund management company, weighted by the ratio of the net asset value of the relevant fund to the net asset value of all the funds of that supplementary pension fund management company. More details on the values as per individual SPFMCs may be found in the Annex to the Chapter 3 in Table 13.

3.3 State Social Support

Family environment is considered a key living space so family deserves a special support during the family life cycle. Family policy represents an integrated family support policy including the support of young families, socially available housing, ensuring the infrastructure for families with children, harmonization of the family and work life, using the culture and sport opportunities or parenting preparation programmes. State support for families is mainly provided by the system of state social benefits, constituting a set of monetary payments, with which the state participates in dealing with several life events, especially for families with dependent children. Through state social benefits the state contributes to covering the costs of nurture and other personal needs of children and also the costs associated with other social events.

The state social support system in 2020 consisted of the following lump-sum and recurring benefits:

- child allowance,
- child allowance supplement,
- parental allowance,
- childcare allowance,
- birth allowance,
- multiple children birth allowance,
- funeral allowance.

3.3.1 Child Allowance

By the number of beneficiaries, a child allowance is the most extensive state social support benefit. A child's parent and a natural person who was entrusted with the care of a child (including a dependent child of full legal age) by a court's decision are entitled to a child allowance. Effective from 1 January 2004, adoption of the Act No. 600/2003 Coll. on the Child Allowance and on amendments and supplements to the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance, as amended, introduced the provision of a flat-rate child allowance per month for each dependent child under 25 years of age who attends full-time study courses at a secondary school or university regardless of parental income. With effect from 1 April 2004, this Act also introduced a single payer of the child allowance – local OLSAFs.

Effective from 1 January 2020, the MoLSAF Measure No. 429/2019 Coll. adjusted the amount of the child allowance from €24.34 to €24.95 and the amount of the one-off increase in the child allowance changed from €100 to €102.50.

Table 3.19 Child Allowance

Year	Average monthly number of beneficiaries	Average monthly number of dependent children
2019	652,176	1,090,534
2020	654,835	1,097,958

Source: RSD MIS

In 2020, the average monthly number of child allowance beneficiaries reached 654,835 per 1,097,958 dependent children. The average monthly number of beneficiaries increased year-on-year by 2,659 and the average monthly number of dependent children rose by 7,424. In relative terms, the average monthly number of beneficiaries increased by 0.41 % and the average monthly number of children rose by 0.68 % compared to the previous year.

The highest number of beneficiaries is traditionally recorded in the regions of Prešov, Košice, and Žilina (this is related to the total population of each region), and so is the number of children and, consequently, the highest spending. In these three regions, the average number of children per applicant is the highest, while in the regions of Trenčín and Trnava the ratio is the lowest. Beneficiaries receiving the allowance for one dependent child are

traditionally the most numerous group (more than 50 % of the total number of beneficiaries). The overall structure of beneficiaries changed only slightly year-on-year, specifically to the detriment of beneficiaries with one child.

Table 3.20 Child Allowance Beneficiaries by Number of Children

year/number	2019	2020
one child	329,213	328,141
	50.48 %	50.11 %
two children	246,903	249,981
	37.86 %	38.17 %
three children	55,790	56,455
	8.55 %	8.62 %
four or more children	20,878	20,941
	3.20 %	3.20 %

Source: RSD MIS

Effective from 1 September 2019, amendment of the Act No. 600/2003 Coll. on the Child Allowance introduced a one-off increase in the child allowance amount. It is a targeted direct financial support of state for parents of children who will start the first year at elementary schools. The amount of the child allowance will increase by € 100 for such calendar month when a dependent child of an eligible person first started the first year at an elementary school. The payment of the one-off increase in the child allowance is directly bound to the start of school attendance of the child. In 2020, the one-off increase in the child allowance was paid to 52,101 parents for 53,027 children, representing a decrease by 159 parents and 166 children compared to 2019.

The amount paid for child allowances, one-off increase in the child allowance and child allowance supplements in 2020 was €337,955,349, a year-on-year increase by €9,938,489.³⁶

3.3.2 Child Allowance Supplement

Effective from 1 January 2008, the Act No. 532/2007 Coll., amending and supplementing the Act No. 600/2003 Coll. on the Child Allowance and on amendments and supplements to the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance and on amendments and supplements to the Act No. 599/2003 Coll. on Assistance in Material Need and on amendments and supplements to certain acts as amended, put into practice the child allowance supplement, granted to parents who receive an old-age pension, early old-age pension, disability pension due to decreased earning capacity by more than 70 %, or a pension for service after reaching the age of entitlement to an old-age pension, care allowance, provided that they are not in gainful employment and were not granted a tax credit.

The person entitled to claim the child allowance supplement means a child's parent or a person to whom the dependent child is placed in alternative care.

The Act stipulates that the child allowance supplement may be granted to the entitled person only if no tax credit under Section 33 of Act No. 595/2003 Coll. on Income Tax, as amended granted for the dependent child for which the entitled person receives the child allowance.

Effective from 1 January 2019, the MoLSAF Measure No. 429/2019 Coll. adjusted the amount of the child allowance supplement from €11.41 to €11.70.

The average monthly number of child allowance supplement beneficiaries was 1,589, representing a year-on-year decrease of 93 beneficiaries (5.5 %) per month on average. The average monthly number of children for whom the supplement was received decreased year-on-year by 93 children to 2,152 (i.e. by 4.1 %).

3.3.3 Parental Allowance

A parental allowance is a state social benefit which the state grants to the entitled person to provide proper care for a child under three or six years of age, if the child is in long-term ill health. The entitled person means a child's parent, but also a spouse of a child's parent if they share a household, or any other natural person who was entrusted with the care of the child by a court's decision (this person is entitled to such allowance for three years from the effective date of the court's decision, but only until the child reaches the age of six).

³⁶ data from the Draft Closing Account of Budget Section 22 - MoLSAF

A person is entitled to the parental allowance if he/she provides proper care for the child (personally or through other adult natural person or legal entity), so the parents are allowed to engage in gainful activity in any form during the period of receiving parental allowances. The amount of income from those activities and working hours affect neither the entitlement to the parental allowance nor the amount thereof. At the time of engagement in gainful activity, parents may provide care for their child either by other parent, grandparent or other adult natural person, or a by the child's placement in a private, church or state facility, including kindergartens.

Effective from 1 January 2020, amendment of the Act No. 571/2009 Coll. on Parental Allowance and on amendments and supplements to certain acts entered into force. The amendment introduced provision of the parental allowance in two amounts:

- €270
- €370 for parents who were paid maternity benefits to look after such child before they became entitled to the parental allowance.

Effective from 30 April 2020, Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic No. 102/2020 Coll. on certain measures in the area of social affairs, family and employment services during an exceptional situation, emergency or state of emergency declared in relation to COVID-19, as amended, entered into force. The subject of the the Regulation of the Government of SR was to lay down the procedures, activities, entitlements, proceedings periods in the departments dealing with social benefits, assistance in material need, substitute child maintenance and compensation of social consequences of severe disability so as to ensure proceedings on entitlements, the acquired entitlements remained in cases where it is impossible to assess the duration of the entitlement during the pandemic objectively.

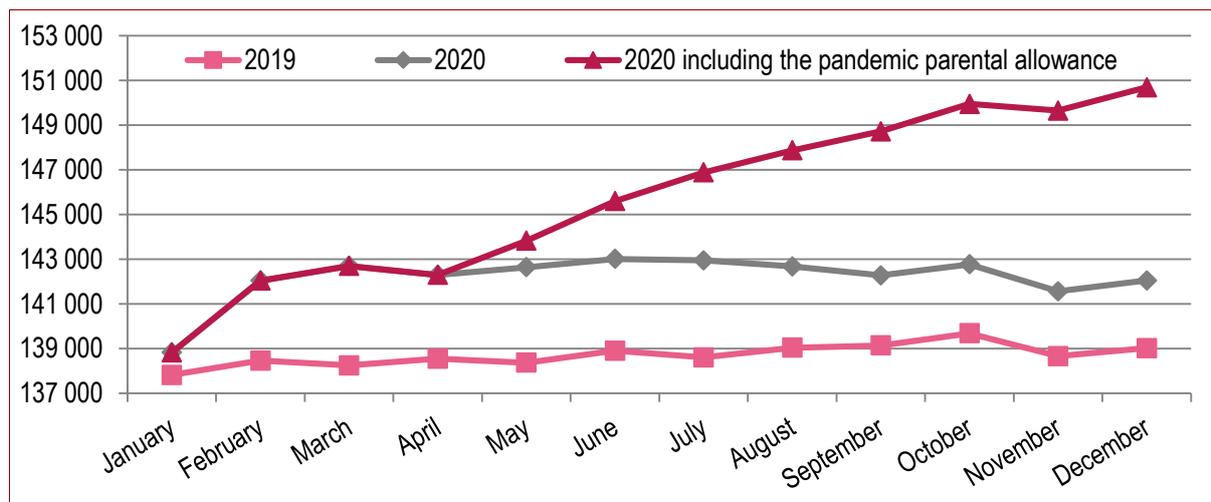
In the case of the parental allowance (pandemic parental allowance), the duration was prolonged for entitlements which would cease to exist during the exceptional situation because the child would reach an age required by law or that a three-year period after the validity start date of the first decision on entrusting a child in the care to an entitled person would expire. It concerns all beneficiaries who are not yet entitled to a nursing benefit or whose nursing benefit is lower than the amount of the parental allowance.

In the event that two or more children were born at the same time, the parental allowance shall be increased by 25 % for each additional child born at the same time.

If an older child in the care of a parent neglects compulsory education, i.e. misses monthly more than 15 lessons without excuse for at least three consecutive calendar months, the amount of the parental allowance is reduced to 50 %. The parental allowance remains reduced for three calendar months.

The development of the number of parental allowance beneficiaries in Slovakia in 2019 and 2020 is shown in the following graph.

Graph 3.2 Number of Parental Allowance Beneficiaries



Source: RSD MIS

In 2020, parental allowances were granted to an average of 142,149 beneficiaries per month, which represents a year-on-year decrease by 3,443 beneficiaries per month on average. Out of the total number of beneficiaries, on average 91,102 beneficiaries received a higher amount of the monthly parental allowance and 51,316 beneficiaries received a lower amount of the allowance.

The pandemic parental allowance was first paid in May 2020. The average number of beneficiaries of the pandemic parental allowance (for May – September 2020) was 5,405. Out of that on average 1,855 beneficiaries received a higher amount of the monthly pandemic parental allowance and 3,351 beneficiaries received a lower amount of the allowance.

In 2020, the total spending for parental allowances was €581,649,374 (representing a year-on-year increase by €204,303,510; i.e. by 54.1 %).³⁷ Out of that the expenses on the pandemic parental allowance represented €13,239,818.

3.3.4 Childcare Allowance

By providing a childcare allowance, the state contributes to a parent or natural person being entrusted with the care of the child to cover the costs incurred in caring for the child.

The childcare allowance is provided in accordance with the Act No. 561/2008 Coll. on Childcare Allowance and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended, within three or six years of the age of the child with long-term ill health if childcare is provided by another natural person or legal entity at the time of work performance or during the full-time study, e.g. by placing the child in a facility (day nursery, kindergarten).

The monthly amount of the allowance varies by type of care provider:

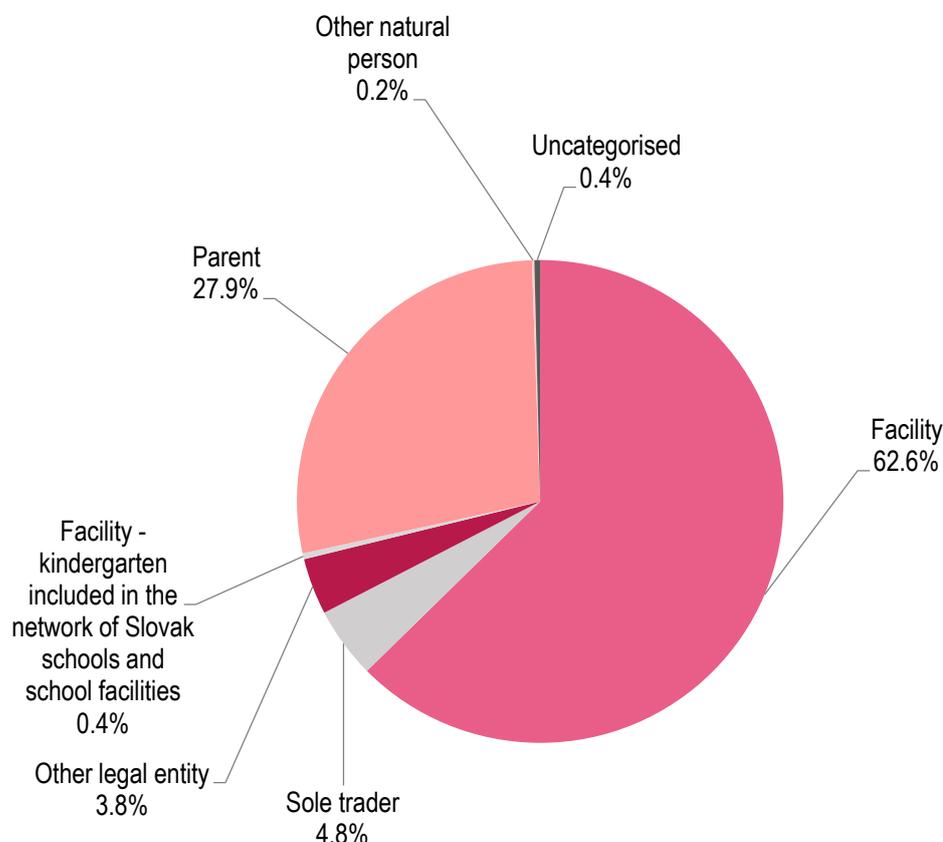
- it amounts to no more than €280.00, if childcare is provided, for example, by a private facility, natural person by virtue of a trade licence, a civic association, and others;
- it amounts to no more than €80.00, if childcare is provided by a kindergarten included in the network of schools and school facilities of the Slovak Republic and established by a municipality or a local government authority;
- it amounts to €41.10 monthly, if childcare is provided by a natural person without a trade licence (e.g. a relative of the child's parent).

The amount of the childcare allowance can be adjusted by the Regulation of the Government of the Slovak Republic as of 1 January of the calendar year.

Distribution of beneficiaries by individual types of care providers is given in Graph 3.4.

³⁷ data from the Draft Closing Account of Budget Section 22 - MoLSAF

Graph 3.3 Overview of the Number of Childcare Allowance Beneficiaries by Care Provider



Source: RSD MIS

In 2020, childcare allowances were provided to a monthly average of 678 beneficiaries (a year-on-year decrease by 2,647 beneficiaries per month on average) for 726 children (a year-on-year decrease by 2,691 children per month on average) with a total spending of €2,138,992 (a year-on-year decrease by 80.9 %).

Introduction of the amendment concerning the parental allowance where the amount of the parental allowance for parents who received a maternity benefit is higher than the amount of the childcare allowance had an impact on the rapid decrease in the number of beneficiaries.

Given that the childcare allowance is linked to the parent's gainful employment, there are considerable regional imbalances in its use.

Table 3.21 Districts with the Most and the Least Use of Childcare Allowances

District	Average monthly number of beneficiaries in 2020
Snina	1
Detva	1
Gelnica	1
Bratislava V	36
Senec	37
Bratislava II	42

Source: RSD MIS

3.3.5 Childbirth Allowance

Childbirth allowance is a *one-off* state social support benefit, regulated in the legislation by the Act No. 383/2013 Coll. on the Childbirth Allowance and Multiple Children Birth Allowance, as amended, effective from 1 January 2014. By providing this allowance, the state enables parents to cover the expenses associated with satisfying the necessary needs of the newborn.

The amount of the allowance depends on the order of childbirth – for the first, second and third childbirth, the amount of allowance is €829.86, for the fourth and next childbirth, it amounts to €151.37. If two or more children were born at the same time and at least two of them lived for 28 days, the amount of the allowance increases at the childbirth by €75.69 for each child who lived for at least 28 days.

A mother who gave birth to the child is entitled to apply for the allowance; a father of the child may also be an applicant for the allowance in cases stipulated by law. Besides childbirth, the conditions for the entitlement include, among others, the applicant's permanent residence and domicile in the Slovak Republic, regular monthly preventive medical examinations from the fourth month of pregnancy to childbirth, and the conclusion of an agreement on general outpatient care of the child.

Table 3.22 Childbirth Allowance in 2019 and 2020

Year	Number of beneficiaries of the childbirth allowance		Number of beneficiaries of increased allowances
	total	of which in the increased amount	
2019	53,958	50,994	622
2020	53,554	50,469	558

Source: RSD MIS

In 2020, childbirth allowances were granted to 53,554 beneficiaries for 54,161 children (of which the increased amounts were granted to 50,469 beneficiaries for 51,030 children), which is by 525 beneficiaries and 590 children fewer than in 2019. The funds spent on childbirth allowances and increased childbirth allowances totalled €42,915,641, which is by €480,980 less than in 2019 (decrease by 1.11%)³⁸.

3.3.6 Multiple Children Birth Allowance

A multiple children birth allowance is a state social support benefit, by which the state contributes annually to parents or entitled persons for the increased costs associated with care for three or more children born simultaneously, or repeatedly born twins or more children at the same time in the course of two years.

With effect from 1 January 2014, Act No. 383/2013 Coll. on Childbirth Allowance and Multiple Children Birth Allowance and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended, adjusted the amount of the allowance to €110.36 per each child regardless of the age of children. But at least three of the children must be under 15 years of age, where the age limit of the children born in the first order is assessed.

In 2020, the allowance was paid to 113 beneficiaries for 351 children (the number of beneficiaries increased by 6 and the number of children by 18 compared to the previous year). €38,736 was expended on the allowance in total.

3.3.7 Funeral Allowance

With effect from 1 January 1999, a funeral allowance is a *lump-sum* benefit of the state social support, legislatively regulated by Act No. 238/1998 Coll. on the Funeral Allowance, as amended. With this benefit, the state financially helps a natural person who arranged a funeral to cover the expenses related to arranging the funeral of the deceased.

³⁸ data on spending were obtained from the Draft Closing Account of Budget Section 22 of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

In 2020, the amount of the funeral allowance remained unchanged at €79.67. In 2020, the funeral allowances were paid for a total of 51,727 deceased persons, which is by 1,153 more than in 2019. To a large extent, the increase was caused by the number of deaths caused by COVID.

The funds spent on payment of funeral allowances amounted to €4,124,840 (year-on-year increase by €87,147; i.e. by 2.16 %)³⁹. The number of beneficiaries is only influenced by one demographic indicator – mortality of permanent or temporary residents of the Slovak Republic.

3.3.8 Substitute Child Maintenance

Substitute child maintenance is the amount granted by the state to provide nutrition of the entitled child in the event that the obliged person (parent or another natural person liable to pay maintenance) does not fulfil the child maintenance obligation.

The amendment of the Act No. 201/2008 Coll. on Substitute Child Maintenance and on amendments and supplements to the Act No. 36/2005 Coll. on the Family and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended by the Judgement of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic No. 615/2006 Coll. modified the provision of substitute child maintenance as a state social benefit through which the state contributes to entitled persons to maintain a dependent child when one parent does not fulfil his/her child maintenance obligation.

The amendment

- increased the income limit from 2.2 multiple of the minimum subsistence to 3.3 multiple of the minimum subsistence, making the substitute child maintenance available to a higher number of families relying on it;
- increased the amount of the maximum provided substitute child maintenance from 1.2 multiple of the minimum subsistence for a dependent child, i.e. €115.15 in 2019, to 3.7 multiple of the minimum subsistence for a dependant child, i.e. €355.05 in 2020;
- streamlined the procedure applicable to the obligation to return a substitute child maintenance in the case of enforcement of the substitute child maintenance from the liable person through an enforcement officer; the process excluded the entitled person who, in such case, is not obliged to return the paid substitute child maintenance based on a decision;
- shortened the condition of the period of enforcement proceedings to enforce child maintenance from three to two months after an enforcement proposal was filed.

In 2020, there was a monthly average of 4,320 recipients of substitute child maintenance due to unpaid maintenance, representing a year-on-year decrease by 119 recipients. A monthly average of 6,683 children received the maintenance for this reason (representing a year-on-year decrease by 229 children).

In 2020, the average monthly number of recipients of substitute child maintenance due to low orphan's pension was 484, representing a year-on-year increase by 44 recipients. In 2020, a monthly average of 863 children received the maintenance for this reason (representing a year-on-year increase by 77 children).

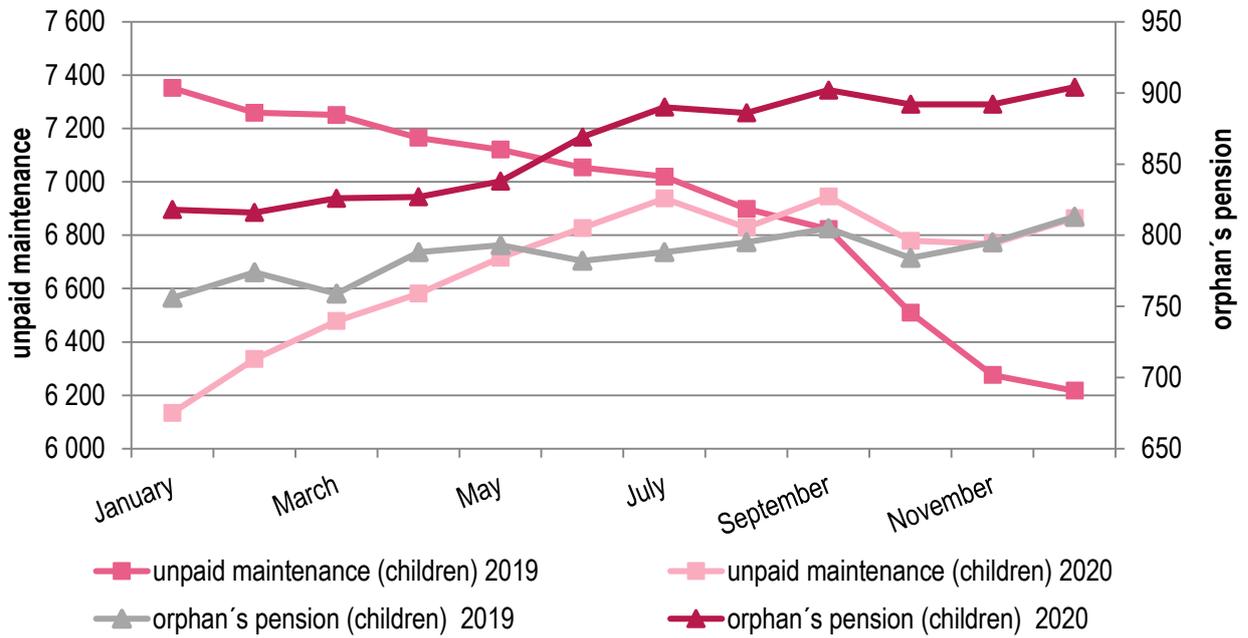
In 2020, OLSAF offices registered 4,326 claims related to substitute child maintenance in accordance with the Act No. 201/2008 Coll. on the Substitute Child Maintenance, as amended, in the amount of €734,539.44, of which €525,904.86 was enforced.

The total spending on substitute child maintenance in 2020 was €6,109,426 (year-on-year increase by €875,957)⁴⁰.

³⁹ data from the Draft Closing Account of Budget Section 22 - MoLSAF

⁴⁰ data from the Draft Closing Account of Budget Section 22 - MoLSAF

Graph 3.4 Number of Beneficiaries (Children) of Substitute Child Maintenance in 2019 and 2020



Source: RSD MIS

3.4 Social Assistance

This chapter provides an overview of social assistance provision by means of material need assistance, social and legal protection and social guardianship, compensation for social consequences of severe disabilities, social services, etc., as well as costs incurred in providing such services in the budget section of MoLSAF (see the Annex to the Chapter 3, Table 39). The chapter is also extended by measures introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The adjustment of the *amounts of the subsistence minimum* according to the Act No. 601/2003 Coll. on the Subsistence Minimum and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended, has an impact on the evolution of the situation within the social assistance scheme consisting of the above-stated areas but also of state social benefits. With respect to the development of indices that adjust the amounts of the subsistence minimum, as of 1 July 2014 the system of the adjustment of subsistence minimum amounts was set not to reduce the standard of living of the population, especially the recipients of individual social assistance benefits as part of social assistance and state social benefits, or other systemic measures concerning the general population.

Based on data from the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, i.e. the coefficient of the growth in the cost of living of low-income households, as of 1 July 2020 the Ministry increased the amounts of the subsistence minimum for the first adult person to €214.83 per month, for the second adult person to €149.87 and for a dependent child or non-dependent minor to €98.08⁴¹.

3.4.1 Material Need Assistance

Effective from 1 January 2014, the material need assistance is governed by the Act No. 417/2013 Coll. on Material Need Assistance and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended. The Act is based on the philosophy of motivation and active participation of household members in solving their unfavourable social situations. The Act aims to ensure directness, merit and the protection of those who cannot, on their own, or are not able to ensure or increase their income by work; this is based on the constitutional guarantee of ensuring basic living conditions. There is also a parallel aim to motivate the long-term unemployed who are granted material need assistance to find a foothold on the labour market, or to get employment even for a lower wage. The subject of the Act is to provide material need assistance, a special allowance and one-off benefit.

Material need assistance includes a *material need allowance* (set at six levels), *protection allowance*, *activation allowance*, *dependent child allowance*, and a *housing allowance*. The amount of a social assistance benefit in material need is determined as the difference between the amount of claims and income of individual household members and is provided in a single amount; the conditions for provision are exhaustively stipulated in the above-mentioned Act on Material Need Assistance.

With effect from 1 May 2017, the condition of allowing for income of household members who receive a special allowance was adjusted, namely from 75 % to 50 % of their income from employment or similar employment relationship. The aim was to increase the motivation of people who are long-term unemployed or long-term inactive in the system of assistance in material need so that they address their unfavourable situation by finding a foothold on the labour market, i.e. by getting employment. This involved strengthening the existing instrument which is to provide a special allowance for a period of twelve months by increasing the assistance in material need for this household group. It primarily concerns those households that, despite the fact that at least one of their members gets employment, remain in the system of assistance in material need. It is a case of making a positive impact on the income situation of these families and reducing the risk of poverty.

Effective from 1 April 2019, amounts of material need assistance were modified in the material need assistance scheme (benefit in material need, activation allowance, protection allowance and allowance for a dependent child), taking into account the fact that they had not been modified or increased for several years and taking into account the state budget possibilities, namely by 5 %. Motivation measures for job-seekers to find employment were also supported by increasing the amount of the activation allowance in the case of income from employment at the level of the minimum wage to €132.40 and extending the period of payment of a special contribution to 18 months, namely to €126.14 for a period of 12 months and to €63.07 for a period of 6 months. Conditions of the application and interpretation practice in the provision of material need assistance have improved as well. In addition, in order to maintain a real value of the amounts of the material need assistance, a regular

⁴¹ According to data from the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, the coefficient of the growth of the cost of living of low-income households for the relevant period (in this case April 2020/April 2019) was 1.022.

adjustment mechanism was introduced in the material need assistance scheme, adjusting the amounts of material need assistance always as at 1 January of the calendar year based on the adjustment of the amounts of minimum subsistence as at 1 July of the previous calendar year.

As of 1 January 2020, based on the adjustment of the amounts of minimum subsistence as at 1 July 2019, the Ministry adjusted the amounts of material need assistance as follows:

Amounts of Material Need Assistance and Special Allowance in 2020 (since 1 January 2020)

MATERIAL NEED ALLOWANCE:	
- individual	€66.30
- single person with a child or a maximum of four children	€126.20
- single person with more than four children	€184.30
- couple without children	€115.30
- couple with a child or a maximum of four children	€172.60
- couple with more than four children	€232.60
MATERIAL NEED SUPPLEMENTS	
PROTECTION ALLOWANCE:	
- for a family member in accordance with the Section 7 (2) (a) to (c), (f) to (h)	€67.90
- for a family member in accordance with the Section 7 (2) (e) and (j) (unfavourable health condition and pregnant woman from the start of the 8th week before the due date)	€37.30
- for a family member who is a pregnant woman (from the start of the fourth month of pregnancy)	€14.60
- for a household member who is a parent of a child under 1 year of age	€14.60
ACTIVATION ALLOWANCE	
- for a family member in accordance with the Section 12 (3) (a) – income from employment at least in the amount of the monthly minimum wage	€135.70
- for a family member in accordance with the Section 12 (3) (b) to (d)	€67.90
DEPENDENT CHILD ALLOWANCE	
	€18.60
HOUSING ALLOWANCE	
- one-person household	€57.20
- multi-person household	€91.40
SPECIAL ALLOWANCE	
- the first 12 calendar months	€126.14
- the next 6 calendar months	€63.07

Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

In 2020, there was a monthly average of 61,946 material need assistance beneficiaries, which represents a year-on-year decrease by 2.1 % (decrease by 1,298 beneficiaries in absolute terms). Based on administrative data, the total material need assistance funding in 2020 reached €114,092,057⁴². Compared to 2019 there was an increase in the funding by €1,950,649; i.e. by 1.5 % due to adjustment of the material need assistance amounts. The **average monthly amount** of material need assistance in 2020 was €145.96, representing a year-on-year rise by €7.64. The development of the number of material need assistance beneficiaries and the total funding were primarily and significantly influenced by emphasizing the principles of directness, merit, protection and active participation of the persons concerned in solving their unfavourable social situations. The evolution of the number of material need assistance beneficiaries as well as the increase in the average amount of material need assistance were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and adjustment of the material need assistance amounts.

In 2020, the system of material need assistance registered a monthly average of 36,906 beneficiaries who were simultaneously registered job seekers, representing 59.6 % of the total number of material need assistance beneficiaries. There was a significant year-on-year decrease in the average monthly number of beneficiaries in the said group, namely by 81 persons (decrease by 0.2 %). In 2020, there were 137,970 jointly assessed household

⁴² data from the Draft Closing Account of the Budget Section of MoLSAF

members in the material need assistance scheme; compared to 2019, their number decreased by 4,918 persons, i.e. by 3.4 %.

Table 3.23 Average Monthly Number of Material Need Assistance Beneficiaries and Annual Funding in 2019 – 2020

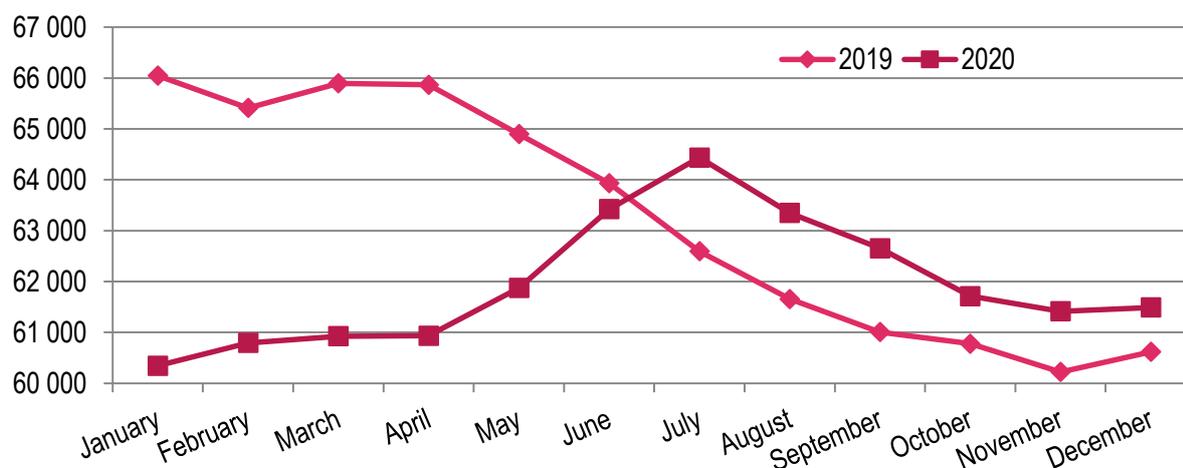
	2019	2020
Total number of beneficiaries	63,244	61,946
<i>of which registered job seekers</i>	36,986	36,906
Number of jointly assessed household members	142,888	137,970
<i>of which registered job seekers</i>	49,487	49,164
Total funding in €	112,141,408	114,092,057
Average amount of material need allowance and supplements in €	138.33	146.96

Source: RSD MIS, funding in accordance with the Draft Closing Account of the Budget Section of MoLSAF, average amount

of the benefit, calculated from the expended funds paid in the standard entitlement

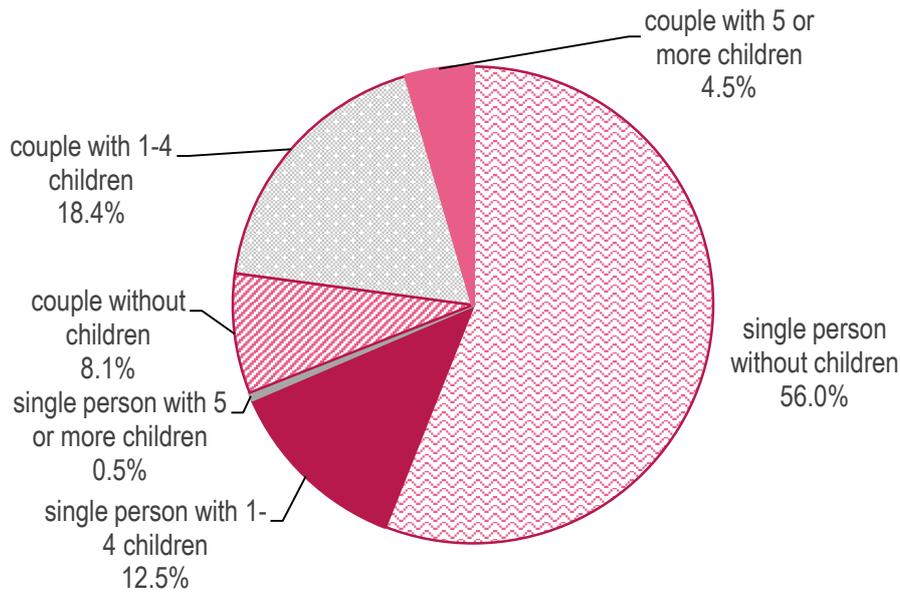
It is obvious from the graph below that the evolution of the number of material need assistance beneficiaries had a rising trend in April to July 2020 (see Graph 3.5) which was reflected in all groups of beneficiaries. It was caused by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was followed by a slight decrease which continued until the end of 2020. Proportions of individual groups within the system changed slightly as well, namely in the case of single persons (+1 pp) and couples with five and more children (-1 pp).

Graph 3.5 Number of Material Need Assistance Beneficiaries in 2019 and 2020



Source: RSD MIS

Graph 3.6 Percentages of Individual Groups of Material Need Assistance Beneficiaries in 2020

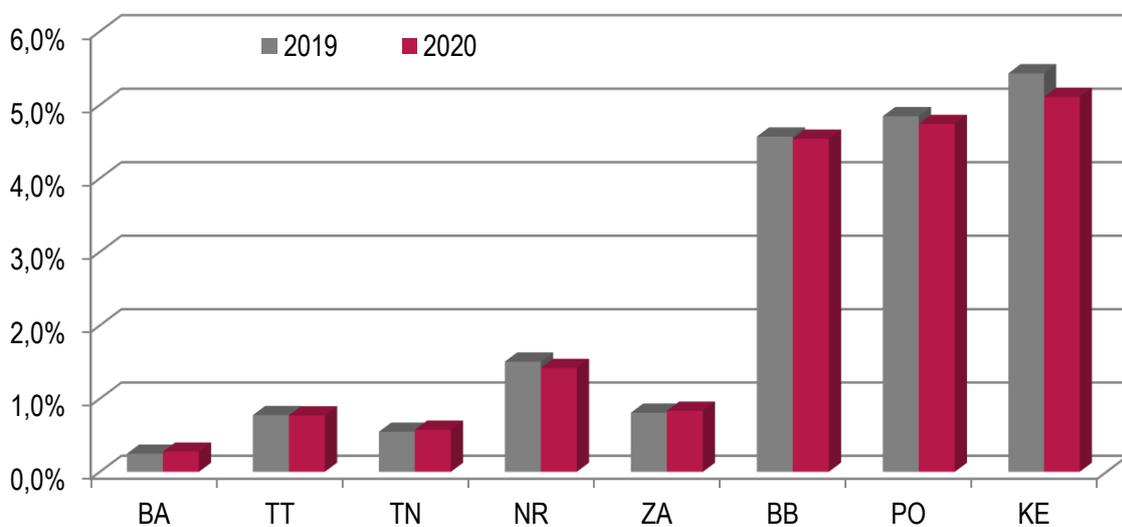


Source: RSD MIS

When comparing the structure of material need assistance beneficiaries between 2019 and 2020, there was a decrease in the number of beneficiaries in all household groups. With regard to individual groups, the number of single persons without children decreased by 0.5 %, single persons with one to four children by 3.9 %, single persons with five or more children only by 1.3 %, couples without children by 4.0 %, couples with one to four children by 2.5 %, and couples with five or more children by 9.2 %. The proportion of individual groups in the total number of material need assistance beneficiaries changed slightly as well, both in the case of single persons without children (increase by 1 pp) and in the case of couples with 5 and more children (decrease by 1 pp).

In 2020, a monthly average of 137,970 household members were jointly assessed in the material need assistance system, accounting for 2.5 % share in the total population of Slovakia. There was a year-on-year fall in the number of household members of 3.4 % (4,918 persons). At the same time, there was a slight year-on-year decrease (0.1 pp) in the proportion of the total number of household members in the material need assistance system to the total population.

Graph 3.7 Share of Household Members in the Material Need Assistance System in Total Populations of Individual Regions in % (at the End of the Year)

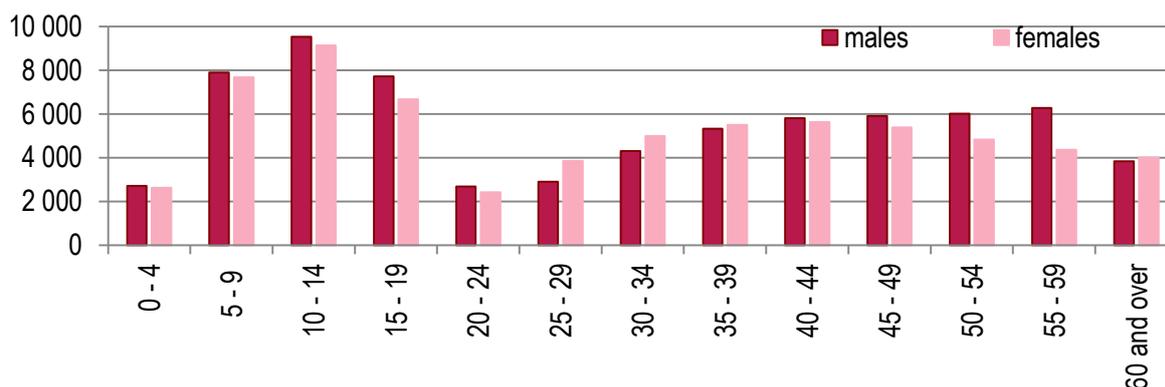


Source: RSD MIS and SO SR

The highest share of household members in the material need assistance system for the reference period (at the year-end) was in the regions of Košice, Prešov, and Banská Bystrica. The lowest proportion was reported in the region of Bratislava. This regional distribution has persisted for a long time. Comparing 2019 and 2020, there was an increase in the region of Trenčín by 0.1 pp and a decrease in the regions of Banská Bystrica by 0.1 pp, Prešov by 0.2 pp and Košice by 0.3 pp.

Of the total number of household members in the material need assistance system, 51.4 % were men and 48.6 % were women. Compared to 2019, there was a slight change in the proportion of women and men, namely by 0.3 pp; in the case of men there was an increase, while in the case of women there was a drop. The following graph shows the structure of household members in the material need assistance system by age and sex. In each age group, there is a higher share of men than women, except for the groups aged 25 – 29 years (32.5 % more women), 30 – 34 years (16.0 % more women), 35 – 39 years (3.3 % more women), and 60 years and over. The number of women in the last mentioned age group is 4.5 % higher than the number of men. Compared to the previous year, the situation improved (in 2019 the proportion of women in such age group was higher by 15.1 %), mainly as a result of adjustment of pensions by a fixed amount. However, such condition has been continuing already since 2006 and in addition to the demographic evolution, it is also influenced by lower pensions of women that result from their lower previous income received during their work careers. This age group primarily lives in households of single adults without children (69.5 % persons in the material need assistance system in this age group), with women accounting for 58.4 % of this subgroup. Compared to the previous year, the share of women in the given age group dropped by 3.3 pp. The share of the target group (persons aged 60+) in the total number of persons in material need is 5.7 %, a year-on-year rise of 0.3 pp.

Graph 3.8 Household Members in the Material Need Assistance System by Age and Sex (2020)



Source: RSD MIS

Based on the purpose and contents of material need assistance, consisting of a *benefit in material need* (at six levels), *protective allowance* (at three levels), *activation allowance* (at two levels, effective from 1 April 2019), *dependent child allowance*, and a *housing allowance* (at two levels), the number of beneficiaries developed as follows:

Protection allowance is designed to cover special expenses of household members, who cannot get or increase their income by work. It is provided under conditions stipulated by law, in the amount of

- €67.90 per month for household members who have reached the retirement age, receive early old-age pension, are disabled with a decrease in earning capacity by more than 70 %, single parents caring for a child under 31 weeks of age, provide personal care for a person with severe disability, participate in re-socialising programmes through a stay in a re-socialising centre, etc.;
- €37.30 per month if they have an unfavourable health conditions which involves an illness, injury or quarantine measure continuing for more than 30 consecutive days, in the case of a pregnant woman from the start of the 8th week before the expected due date; based on a regulation⁴³ it included also persons who, as a result of an obstacle on the part of an organizer or due to an imposed quarantine measure, could not perform activation activities;

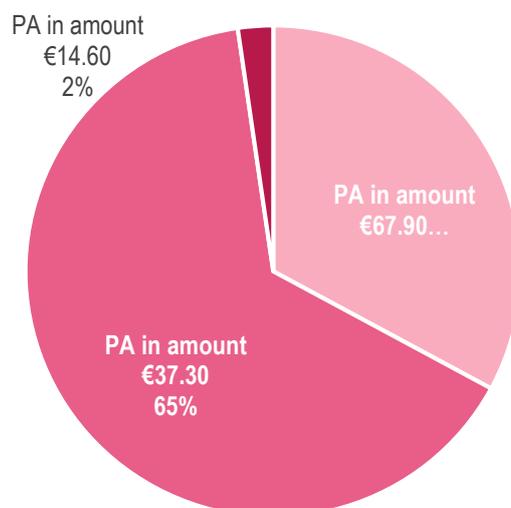
⁴³ Government Regulation No. 102/2020 Coll. on certain measures in the field of social affairs, family and employment services in time of exceptional situation, emergency or state of emergency declared in connection with COVID-19.

- €14.60 per month for pregnant women from the start of the fourth month of pregnancy or parent of a child under 1 year of age.

In 2020, household members were granted a monthly average of 17,674 entitlements to protection allowances, of which 5,789 household members were entitled to €67.90; 11,402 were entitled to €37.30; 405 were entitled to €14.60, of which 154 were parents caring for a child under 1 year of age and 250 were pregnant women⁴⁴. 9,652 entitlements were awarded on average per month (May to December) in the case of persons who could not perform activation activities due to an obstacle on the part of an organiser or imposition of a quarantine measure. Graph 3.9 below shows the share of protection allowances by their amounts in the total number of protection allowances provided.

Compared to 2019, there was a rise by 44.1 % in the total number of awarded entitlements to a protection allowance, namely as a result of implementation of COVID-19 measures.

Graph 3.9 Distribution of Granted Protection Allowances by Amount of Entitlement (Average for 2020)



Source: RSD MIS

Activation allowance is designed to support the acquisition, maintenance, deepening and increasing knowledge, professional skills, practical experience and work habits to enhance career prospects in the labour market. Each member of the household who is employed, registered as a job seeker or is paid a parental allowance is entitled to an activation allowance. In case of registered job seekers, the reasons for granting the entitlement to an activation allowance are: enhancing qualifications, taking part in education and training for the labour market, or carrying out minor municipal services. Effective from 1 April 2019, two levels of the activation allowance were set, namely in a higher amount for a household member earning income from employment equal at least to the minimum wage, and a lower amount for a household member who is a job-seeker or receives a parental allowance, studies at a secondary school or university or performs voluntary military service.

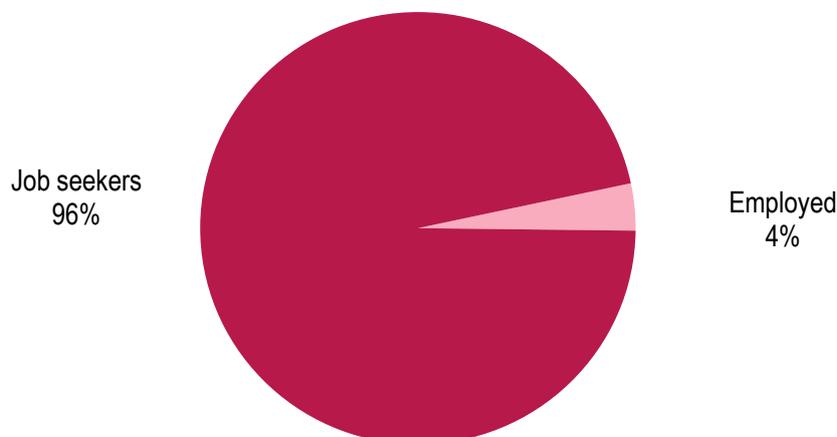
In 2020, the entitlement to activation allowance was awarded on average to 22,519 household members per month, out of whom 793 household members with income from employment equal at least to the minimum wage were entitled to €135.70; 21,720 members – job-seekers and 7 members – students with a parental allowance were entitled to €67.90. Of the total number of registered job seekers entitled to the activation allowance, 20,740 household members were engaged in minor services for a municipality or self-governing region, accounting for 92.1 % of the total number of entitlements granted to the activation allowance.

The number of granted entitlements to the activation allowance decreased by 14.1 % compared to 2019. The graph shows allocation of the awarded activation allowances only due to employment and job-seekers since the number of students receiving parental allowance and performance of voluntary military service is negligible. From the point of view of activation of persons in the material need assistance scheme, 44.2 % of the total average

⁴⁴ from the start of the fourth week of pregnancy.

monthly number of persons who are also job-seekers are entitled to the activation allowance as well; such percentage dropped by 7.2 pp compared to the previous year, partly as a result of a decrease in the number of opportunities to perform activation activities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

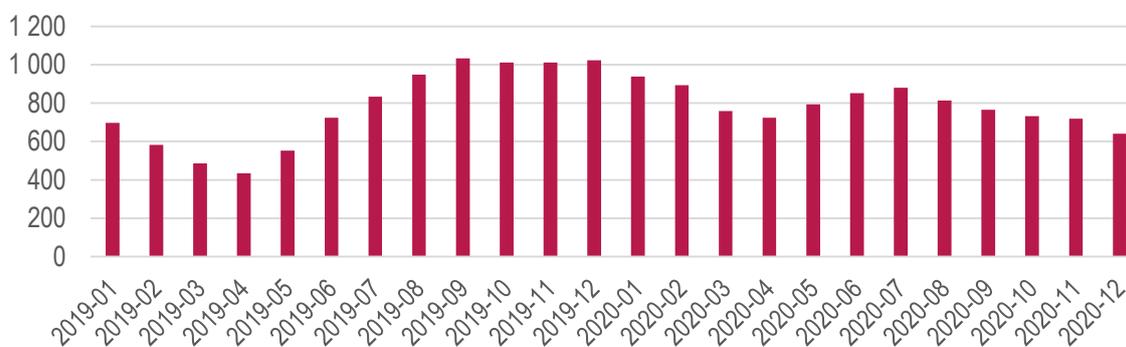
Graph 3.10 Distribution of Granted Activation Allowances by Reason for Entitlement (Average for 2020)



Source: RSD MIS

In accordance with the Regulation⁴⁵ during the COVID-19 pandemic the entitlement to the activation allowance was maintained for household members with income from employment equal at least to the monthly wage also when their income did not reach such threshold during the COVID-19 pandemic. Compared to 2019, there was a slight increase in the number of entitlements in the case of such activation allowance, namely by 1.9 %. The development is shown in Graph 3.11.

Graph 3.11 Number of Activation Allowances Granted to Employed Persons with Income at the Level of the Minimum Wage for 2019 – 2020



Source: RSD MIS

Dependent child allowance is designed to support nurture, education and overall development of the child, who duly fulfils compulsory school attendance. From 1 January 2020, the allowance entitlement amounted to €18.60 per month for each dependent child. In 2020, entitlements to the dependent child allowance were granted for a monthly average of 31,916 dependent children, accounting for 90.6 % of the total average number of dependent children at the age of compulsory education in the material need assistance scheme. It is a higher percentage of children than in 2019 (89.1 %). Compared to the previous year, the number of granted entitlements to an allowance for a dependent child dropped by 3.2 %. The impact of the decrease in the number of material need assistance beneficiaries was demonstrated here as well.

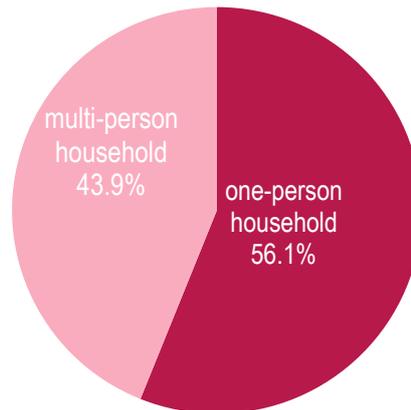
Housing allowance is designed to cover housing costs. The entitlement is granted if any household member is the owner or co-owner of an apartment, the owner or co-owner of a house, a tenant of an apartment, a tenant of

⁴⁵ Government Regulation No. 102/2020 Coll. on certain measures in the field of social affairs, family and employment services in time of exceptional situation, emergency or state of emergency declared in connection with COVID-19.

a house or a tenant of a room in a facility for permanent housing, or lives in an apartment or in a house with lifetime right of use. The entitlement to the housing allowance is also granted if household members live in assisted living facilities, facilities for the elderly, social services homes or specialised facilities with year-round residence, refuges, half-way houses, emergency housing facilities or crisis centres.

In 2020, entitlements to the housing allowance were granted to a monthly average of 28,681 households. The entitlement to a housing allowance was granted to 46.3 % of the total number of households/material need assistance beneficiaries. The number of households entitled to the housing allowance declined by 5.1 % year-on-year. This situation follows the overall state, resulting in the decreased number of material need assistance beneficiaries.

Graph 3.12 Distribution of Granted Housing Allowances by Household Size (Average for 2020)



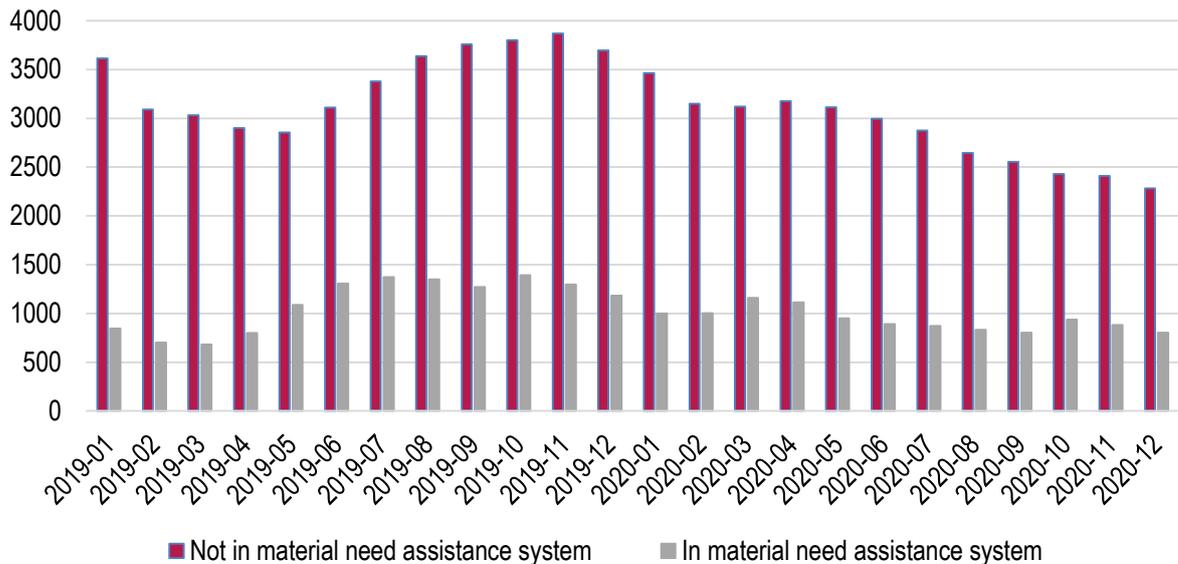
Source: RSD MIS

Special Allowance

The material need assistance system also defined the conditions for granting a special allowance. With effect from 1 January 2015, the overlapping of material need assistance, income from employment, and a special allowance was enabled. This measure focuses on the motivation of the long-term unemployed and long-term inactive persons in the material need assistance system to enter or return to the labour market. Experience shows that a special allowance is an effective and attractive tool that improves the overall situation of families in material need through an active approach to enhancing their social and income situation by labour market participation. Effective from 1 April 2019, the period of receiving a special allowance was extended from 12 to 18 months. A material need assistance beneficiary who enters into employment and his/her income ranges from the one-half of the minimum wage to twice the amount of the minimum wage, may receive a special allowance concurrently with the wage during 18 months (12 months in the amount of €126.14 and 6 months in the amount of €63.07).

In 2020, special allowances were provided to a monthly average of 3,788 persons, of which 75.3 % were not provided material need assistance, more specifically 24.7 % were assessed within households for the purpose of providing material need assistance.

Graph 3.13 Development of the Percentage of Beneficiaries of a Special Allowance Depending on if they Remain or not in the Material Need Assistance Scheme in 2019 and 2020

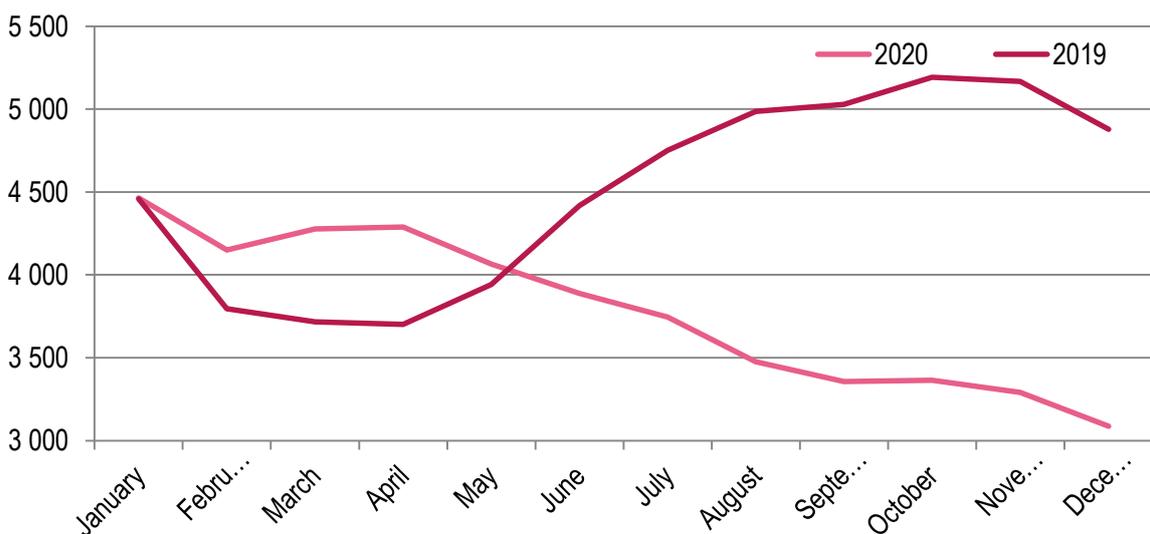


Source: RSD MIS

The monthly evolution seen in the Graph 3.13 shows that as a result of the legislative change effective from 1 April 2019 in the conditions of provision of a special allowance, the number of material need assistance beneficiaries who are also beneficiaries of a special allowance increased slightly. Increased motivation led to finding employment of at least at the minimum wage level (see Graph 3.14) and strengthening the overlapping of wages and state support in the form of material need assistance and special allowance. In 2020, the evolution of the special allowance had rather a decreasing trend. There was a slight increase in February and April but from May a decreasing trend was obvious.

Of the total average monthly number of special allowances provided, 23.45 % (increase by 0.9 pp) were granted in a lower amount, 70.86 % (decrease by 1.1 pp) in a higher amount, and only 5.69 % in an aliquot amount (increase by 0.2 pp). The total spending on special allowances reached €4,954,486. The number of provided allowances decreased by 15.9 % year-on-year.

Graph 3.14 Number of Special Allowances Provided in 2019 and 2020



Source: RSD MIS

3.4.2 Subsidies for children

Subsidies for children in material need are support measures aimed at increasing the motivation of children from low-income families for compulsory school attendance and implemented through the MoLSAF grant programme. Through the grant programme, MoLSAF provides subsidies to support eating habits of a child at risk of social exclusion and subsidies to support school performance of such child. Subsidies are granted to the founder of a school facility which the child attends; the school facility directly provides the child with school supplies or meals from the subsidy.

Provision of a subsidy to support children's healthy eating habits as well as a subsidy to support school performance of children at risk of social exclusion is governed by the Act No. 544/2010 Coll. on Subsidies in the competence of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, as amended. Effective from 1 January 2019, the target group for provision of the subsidies to support children's healthy eating habits was extended to all children in the last year in the kindergarten. The amount of the subsidy also increased to €1.20 per day and child. Effective from 1 September 2019, the target group for provision of the subsidy was extended again, namely to include all elementary school students.

In 2020, a total of €80,610,889 was paid for the subsidy to support children's healthy eating habits (food subsidy)⁴⁶; compared to 2019, it is an increase by €57,622,911 (14.6 %). The average monthly number of children who were granted the subsidy totalled 519,310, representing a year-on-year increase by as much as 89.1 % (increase by 244,730 children). Development of the monthly number of children for whom the subsidy was provided is shown in the Graph 3.15 which demonstrates the impact of the legislative changes concerning the extension of the target group in 2019.

Graph 3.15 Development of the Number of Children for Whom the Food Subsidy was Provided in 2019 and 2020



Source: RSD MIS

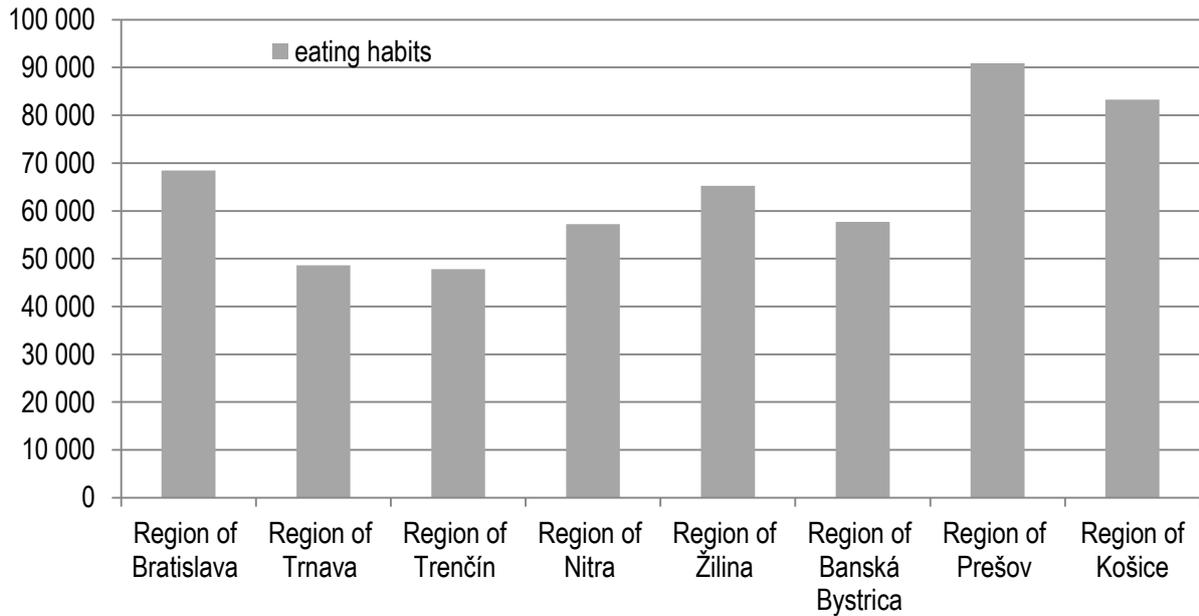
The subsidy to support school performance of a child at risk of social exclusion (subsidy for school supplies) amounted to €1,149,269⁴⁷ and was granted for 35,512 children in the first half of 2020 (a decrease of 16.5 % compared to the first half of 2019) and for 34,098 children in the second half of 2020 (a decrease by 9.9 % compared to the second half of 2019).

⁴⁶ data from the Draft Closing Account of Budget Section 22 - MoLSAF

⁴⁷ data from the Draft Closing Account of Budget Section 22 - MoLSAF

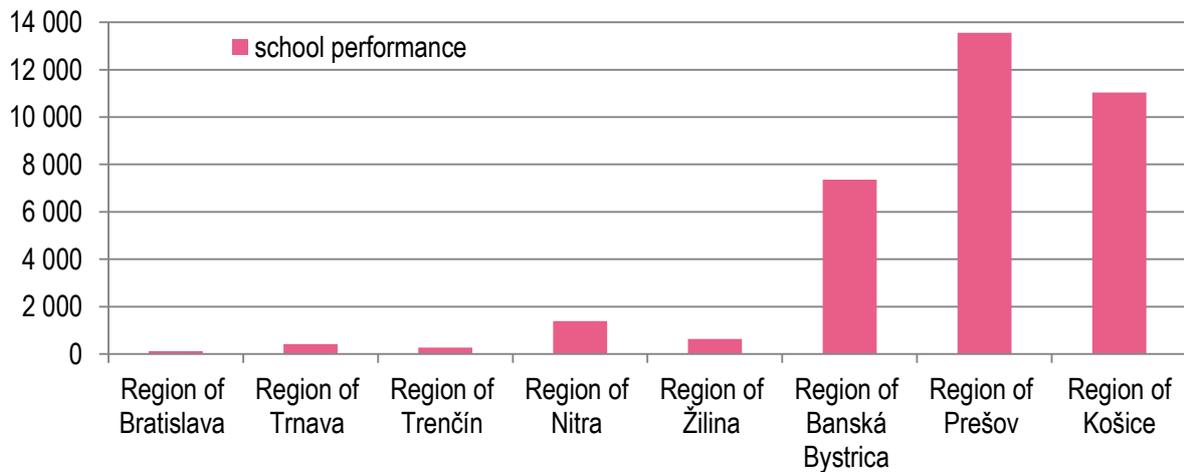
The drop in the number of children for whom the school supplies subsidy was granted was mainly influenced by the decreased number of material need assistance beneficiaries who are households with children.

Graph 3.16 Regional Distribution of Children with Food Subsidies Granted in 2020 (Average)



Source: RSD MIS

Graph 3.17 Regional Distribution of Children with School Supplies Subsidies Granted in 2020 (Average)



Source: RSD MIS

In terms of regional distribution of the children for whom subsidies were granted under the above-mentioned Act on Subsidies within the Authority of MoLSAF, the situation is captured in the previous graphs. The largest number of school supplies subsidies was provided (in terms of regional distribution of the children) in the regions of Prešov, Košice, and Banská Bystrica; in the case of the food subsidies, the regions of Prešov, Košice, Bratislava and Banská Bystrica. In this case the change related to the extension of the target group to include all elementary school children, effective from 1 September 2019, was demonstrated, increasing the number of children for whom the subsidy was provided also in the region of Bratislava within the regional distribution.

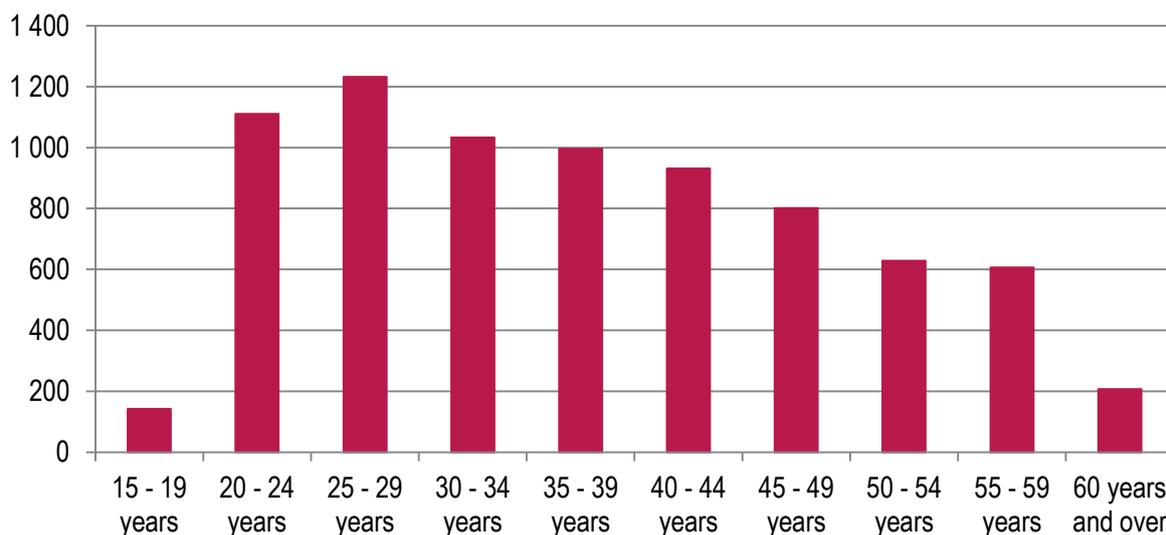
3.4.3 Subsidy to support humanitarian aid for natural persons at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic (so-called SOS subsidy)

In accordance with the Government Regulation No. 103/2020 Coll. on certain measures in the field of subsidies within the competence of MoLSAF in time of exceptional situation, emergency or state of emergency declared in connection with COVID-19, as amended, a subsidy was introduced to support humanitarian aid (hereinafter referred to as "SOS subsidy"), effective from 30 April 2020. The SOS subsidy is intended for natural persons who stopped performing gainful activities during the crisis situation and have no other income from employment, business or other self-employment activities and at the same time they are not entitled to any other form of state aid (e.g. first aid, unemployment benefit) with certain exceptions (e.g. old-age pension). The amount of the subsidy in April – August was €210 per month and in October – December €300.

During 2020, the SOS subsidy was provided from March⁴⁸ to August to 14,388 applicants. In the second wave from October to December the subsidy was provided in November⁴⁹ to 66 applicants and in December to 7,690 applicants. Total funds paid out within the SOS subsidy in 2020 amounted to €15,467,319.

Based on the age structure of the applicants for the SOS subsidy it is obvious that the age group of 24 – 29 was represented most.

Graph 3.18 Age Structure of the Applicants for the SOS Subsidy



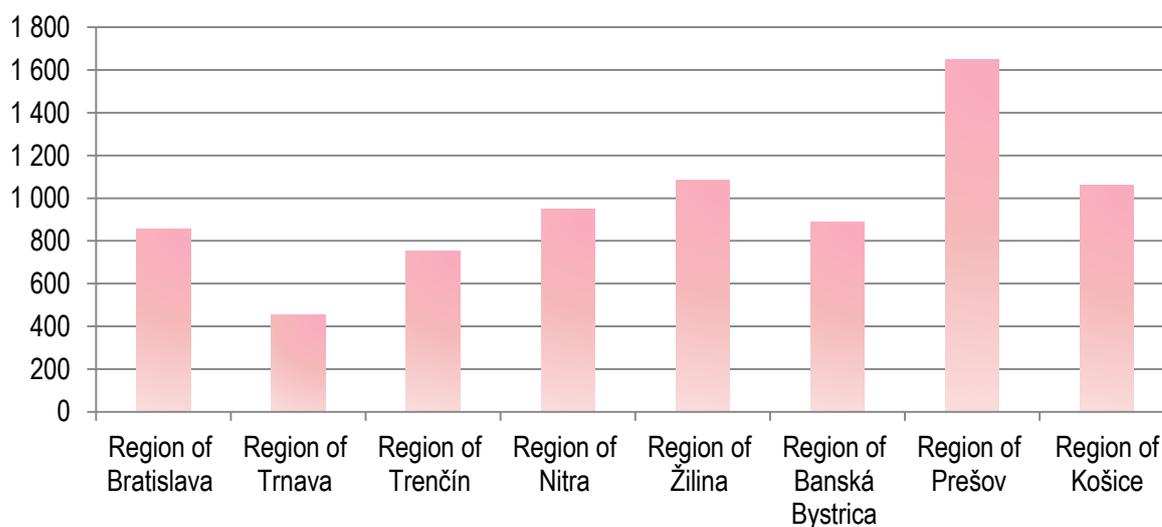
Source: RSD MIS

From the regional point of view, the highest number of applicants for the SOS subsidy in December came from the region of Prešov, followed by the regions of Žilina and Košice.

⁴⁸ The SOS subsidy was paid also retrospectively for March in the amount of €105.

⁴⁹ payment for October

Graph 3.19 Number of Applicants for the SOS Subsidy from the Regional Perspective



Source: RSD MIS

3.4.4 Social and Legal Protection of Children and Social Guardianship

Measures of the social and legal protection of children and social guardianship (hereinafter referred to as "SLPC&SG") are implemented for a child, adult person, family or a group or community in accordance with the Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on the Social and Legal Protection of Children and Social Guardianship and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Act on the Social and Legal Protection of Children"). In 2020, implementation of the measures of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship was significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, measures of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship were implemented by 844 employees of 46 local OLSAFs, namely in the sections of social affairs and family and departments of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship (authorities of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship).

In 2020, the measures of SLPC&SG were implemented for 12,997 new families and 19,150 new children.

The authority of local OLSAFs as SLPC&SG bodies is, *inter alia*, to file motions and suggestions in matters of minor children to competent courts. In 2020, local OLSAFs filed 2,327 motions and suggestions to courts. In 2020, the SLPC&SG authorities submitted 24,963 reports on nutrition and education of minors (25,532 in 2019) to courts or other state authorities.

On their own initiative, the request of a court or another person, the SLPC&SG authorities surveyed a child's opinion on its situation; 25,822 surveys of children's opinions were carried out in total (27,748 in 2019).

If necessary in the interests of the child, the SLPC&SG authority decides to impose an upbringing injunction. In 2020, the SLPC&SG authorities imposed upbringing injunctions for 140 children (for 417 children in 2019). In the course of 2020, courts imposed upbringing injunctions for 1,006 children (for 1,313 children in 2019).

Social Guardianship for Children

In 2018, social guardianship measures were implemented by 114 employees of local OLSAFs – social guardians for children, specialised in this field. In the reference year, the measures were implemented for a total of 12,508 children (Table 3.20). On average, one social guardian addressed the situation of 110 children.

In terms of reasons for imposing, the measures of social guardianship for children were implemented for 1,743 adolescents due to commission of a criminal activity and for 726 children who committed an act that would be criminal if committed by a criminally responsible person. In 2020, assistance and protection in a misdemeanour procedure were provided to 2,746 children. In 2020, the social guardians carried out guardianship measures for 160 children due to drug experimentation and addiction (15 of the children were under 14 years of age). Measures due to other addictions were implemented for 17 children. A total of 4,375 children were in the care of social guardians due to neglect of school attendance. The number of children for whom social guardianship was carried out due to being victims of a crime rose to 222. Social guardianship measures were also provided for 870 children who witnessed a crime.

Table 3.24 Number of Children under Social Guardianship in 2019 and 2020

Year	Total number of children	Number of children			
		under 14 years		15 – 18 years	
		boys	girls	boys	girls
2019	14,717	4,499	2,934	4,871	2,413
2020	12,508	3,666	2,194	4,522	2,126

Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

Social Guardianship for Adults

In 2020, social guardianship measures were carried out by 54 social guardians for 5,396 clients (in 2019 for 5,116 clients) – adult natural persons. On average, one social guardian addressed the situation of 100 clients.

Measures of social guardianship for adults were mainly carried out for clients after release or conditional release on parole. In order to facilitate their social reintegration, it is possible to provide a social reintegration allowance under the Act on Social and Legal Protection of Children. In 2020, social guardians provided social reintegration allowances to 3,489 persons. The total spending on social reintegration allowances in 2020 reached €280,736. A comparison with 2019 is given in Annex to Chapter 3, Table 14.

Domestic Violence, Maltreated, Neglected and Abused Children

In the area of domestic violence, maltreated, neglected and abused children, local OLSAFs carried out SLPC&SG measures based on reasonable suspicion for a total of 1,362 children in the reference year. In 112 cases, the SLPC&SG authorities filed a motion to institute a prosecution. Further information is given in Annex to Chapter 3, Table 15.

Enforcement of judgements in institutions in the residential form and protective care

A total of 5,250 children were placed in all types of institutions for the enforcement of judgements based on judgements on institutional care, upbringing injunction and immediate measure, and 15 children on the basis of judgements on protective care.

As at 31 December 2020, centres for families and children provided care to 809 clients in a residential form based on agreements (to children, parents with children, young adults, adults). In 2020, the centres for families and children performed measures for 10,164 clients in an outpatient and/or field form based on agreements and recommendations of bodies of social and legal protection and social guardianship. According to the purpose, the centres for children and families have a prepared programme or specialised program or re-socialising programme.

As at 31 December 2020, a total of 662 professional families were in the centres for children and families, with 1,426 children and young adults being placed in their care. The forms of care in the centres for children and families and the number of children placed in various forms of the centres for children and families are shown in Annex to Chapter 3, Tables 16 to 19.

Unaccompanied Minors

In 2020, SLPC&SG measures were performed for 89 unaccompanied minors (in 2019 for 86 unaccompanied minors).

Alternative Family Care – Alternative Personal Care, Foster Care, Guardianship, Pre-adoption Care and Adoption

In 2020, a total of 1,262 children were placed in an alternative family environment⁵⁰ (alternative personal care, foster care, guardianship, and pre-adoption care). An overview of the children placed in individual forms of the alternative family environment in 2019 is given in Table 3.21.

As at 31 December 2020, a total of 8,702 children were entrusted to alternative personal care, foster care, and guardianship. The total number of children entrusted to the various forms of alternative family care and a comparison with the previous year are shown in Annex to Chapter 3, Table 18.

In 2020, a total of 194 children were adopted by virtue of a final court decision, of which 4 children were adopted abroad. A total of 96 children were entrusted to pre-adoption care, 2 of which were entrusted abroad.

Table 3.25 Number of Children Entrusted to Alternative Family Care in 2019 and 2020

Year	Adoption (entrusted to pre-adoption care)	Alternative personal care	Foster care	Guardianship	Total
2019	146	976	78	165	1,365
2020	96	947	68	151	1,262

Source: V(MoLSAF) 12-01

Advisory and Psychological Services

In 2020, the Departments of Advisory and Psychological Services (hereinafter simply DAPSSs) of local OLSAFs had 79 employees who provided 40,275 consultations in a total of 6,979 cases. 5.77 consultations on average were provided in one case.

The core activities of DAPSSs were:

a) psychological partnership, marriage and family counselling, psychological assessment, psychological crisis intervention

⁵⁰ Alternative care for a child is defined in the Act No. 36/2005 Coll. on Family and on amendments and supplements to certain acts. Generally, we distinguish several types of alternative family care: entrusting a minor to the personal care of a natural person other than the parent; foster care; guardianship if the guardian personally cares for the child; this does not apply if the guardian personally cares for a child whose parents are not of full legal age; temporary custody of a child awarded to a person who is interested in becoming a foster parent; custody of a child awarded to a natural person by a court's decision ordering interlocutory injunction if the court takes action to place the child in alternative care of such natural person; placing a child in pre-adoption care or custody of a child awarded to a natural person by a court's decision ordering interlocutory injunction if the court takes action to place the child in pre-adoption care. In order to support alternative family care, the state provides various allowances for alternative care support listed in Subchapter 3.4.5.

- to help the child, parent or adult person in dealing with upbringing, marriage, family and other social problems;
- to assist spouses, parents of minor children, as well as their minor children in the process of and after divorce;
- to help with regulation of contact of parents with the child;
- to examine the child's views in matters concerning it if the child and/or the family are clients of DAPs;
- to help individuals and families with problems involving violence and drug addiction;
- to assist individuals and families in crisis situations and major life changes.

b) specialised training of individuals – persons interested in providing alternative family care

- psychological assessments of preconditions and training of individuals – persons interested in providing alternative family care;
- training of individuals for the professional provision of alternative care.

Basic statistics on activities of DAPs are given in Annex to Chapter 3, Tables 20 and 21.

3.4.5 Allowances for alternative care support

The Act No. 627/2005 Coll. on Allowances for Alternative Childcare Support, as amended, supports the performance of personal childcare by a different natural person if the parents do not or cannot ensure such care by themselves.

On 1 January 2019, amendment of the Act No. 627/2005 Coll. on Allowances for Alternative Childcare Support entered into force. The aim of the bill was to improve the financial support of children in alternative care. The amount of the recurring allowance for a child was adjusted to the level of expenses on a child in a professional family. The aim was to strengthen the financial support of alternative care for a child with a recurring allowance for the child so that as many children as possible grow up in a family environment. The group of persons eligible for the entitlement to a recurring allowance for an alternative parent was extended to include alternative parents who have the children entrusted to alternative personal care and are not the children's direct relatives. Due to administrative and legislative-technical simplification, the amount of the allowances was proposed to be expressed as a multiple of the subsistence minimum amount for a dependent child.

Table 3.26 Amounts of Allowances for Supporting Alternative Care in 2020

Allowances for alternative care support	
Lump-sum allowance upon entrusting a child to alternative care	5.53 times the subsistence minimum amount*
Lump-sum allowance upon termination of alternative care	10.2 times the subsistence minimum amount*
Recurring allowance for a child in alternative care	
Under 10 years	2 times the subsistence minimum amount*
From 10 to 15 years	2.3 times the subsistence minimum amount*
Over 15 years	2.5 times the subsistence minimum amount*
Recurring allowance for an alternative parent	1.95 times the subsistence minimum amount*
Increase in recurring allowance for an alternative parent	1.39 times the subsistence minimum amount*
Special recurring allowance for an alternative parent	0.8 times the subsistence minimum amount*

Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

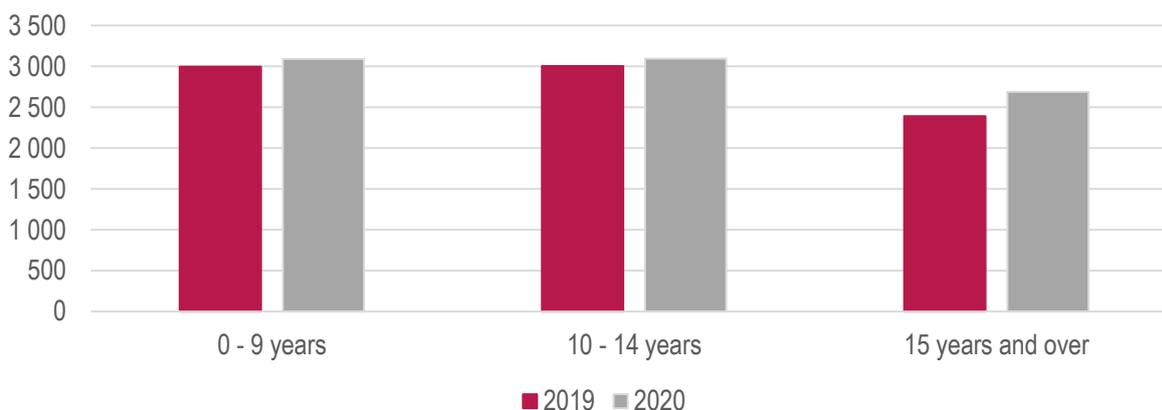
* subsistence minimum amount for a dependent child

Lump-sum allowance upon entrusting a child to alternative care is provided for a child when it is entrusted to alternative care to support the satisfaction of the child's basic needs. In 2020, the allowance was provided for 857 children, which is 17 children more than in 2019. Of the total number of children, 75.5 % were entrusted to alternative personal care, 7.3 % were entrusted to foster care, 6.7 % were entrusted to pre-adoption care by a court's interlocutory injunction, 4.7 % were placed to pre-adoption care, and 5.8% were entrusted to guardians. A total of €457,918 was spent on payment of the allowances, representing a year-on-year increase of €19,753.

Lump-sum allowance upon termination of alternative care is provided to support the child in becoming independent. In 2020, the allowance was granted for 502 children, which is 73 children less than in 2019. Of the total number of children, alternative personal care ceased to exist in 77.3 % cases, foster care in 17.5 % cases, and guardianship terminated in 5.2 % cases. A total of €495,431 was spent on payment of the allowances, representing a year-on-year decrease by €57,782.

Recurring allowance for a child in alternative care is provided for supporting the satisfaction of the child's needs, especially to cover the costs of nurture, upbringing, education and housing of the child. In the reference period, the allowance was paid to a monthly average of 8,880 children (representing a year-on-year increase by 487 children), in a total amount of €20,275,663 (a year-on-year increase by €2,403,007, i.e. an increase by 13.45 %). By respective forms of alternative care, an average of 74 % of children were placed in alternative personal care, 15.4 % of children in foster care, 7.1 % of children in alternative care by a court's interlocutory injunction and 3.5 % of children were entrusted to guardians.

Graph 3.20 Number of Children as per Age Categories for whom a Recurring Allowance for a Child was Paid



Source: RSD MIS

Recurring allowance for an alternative parent is provided to support the performance of personal care of a child entrusted to the alternative care of an alternative parent. In the reference period, the allowance was paid to a monthly average of 2,060 alternative parents for 2,617 children (1,823 alternative parents for 2,300 children in 2019). If an alternative parent personally cared for three or more children who are siblings, the recurring allowance for an alternative parent increased by €129.30 per month. In the reference period, there was a monthly average of 104 such cases. The total spending on payment of the allowances reached €4,997,989 (a year-on-year increase by €467,148).

Special recurring allowance for an alternative parent is provided to support the performance of personal care of a severely disabled child entrusted to alternative care. In the reference period, the allowance was paid to a monthly average of 63 alternative parents caring for a total of 66 severely disabled children (representing a year-on-year increase of 7 alternative parents and 6 severely disabled children). The total spending on payment of the allowances was €66,365 (a year-on-year increase of €1,217).

Foster parent remuneration – Section 19 (3) A natural person, whose entitlement to foster parent remuneration according to regulation in force until 31 December 2005 lasts after 31 December 2005 and the entrusted child is a direct relative, is provided the remuneration until cessation of entrustment of the child. In 2018,

the foster parent remuneration was paid to a monthly average of 4 beneficiaries (a year-on-year decrease of 13 beneficiaries) to whom 4 children were entrusted (a year-on-year decrease of 13 children). The total spending on payment of foster parent remuneration was €2,516 (a year-on-year decrease of €7,547).

In 2020, the total spending on allowances for alternative family care reached €26,296,189, representing a year-on-year increase by €2,752,713,⁵¹ i.e. an increase by 11.7 %.

3.4.6 Compensation for Social Consequences of Severe Disabilities

Legal relations for the provision of allowances for compensation of social consequences of severe disabilities and the issue of a card of a severely disabled person, a card of a severely disabled person with a guide, and a parking card for a severely disabled person are regulated by Act No. 447/2008 Coll. on Allowances for Compensation for Severe Disabilities and on alterations and amendments to certain acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the Allowances Act), which entered into force as of 1 January 2009. The purpose of these legal regulations is to support the social inclusion of persons with severe disabilities with their active participation, while preserving their human dignity in the following four areas: *the area of mobility and orientation, communication area, area of extra costs, and the self-care area.*

Several legislative changes were adopted in 2020 that governed the conditions of providing compensation of social consequences of a severe disability. Some of them were adopted as a result of a worsened epidemiological situation in 2020 and responded to the need to adopt measures in time of exceptional situation, emergency or state of emergency declared in connection with COVID-19.

Act No. 46/2020 Coll., amending and supplementing the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance, as amended, and amending and supplementing certain acts, effective from 1 April 2020, regulated surveying and assessing the income for the purposes of provision of monetary contributions for compensation in the Allowances Act (Section 18) so that the 13th pension is not considered to be income. At the same time, it laid down that the Christmas contribution provided in accordance with the Regulation effective until 31 December 2020 was not considered income for the above-stated purpose.

Act No. 124/2020 Coll. – Judgement of the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic, file No. PL. ÚS 16/2018-104 of 2 April 2020. The Judgement ruled ineffective the provision of the Section 22 (2) first sentence in the part "first from the age of 6 until reaching the age of 65" and second sentence, as well as the provision of the Section 34 (3) in the part "at the latest until the end of the calendar year when he/she reaches the age of 65" of the Act No. 447/2008 Coll. on Allowances for Compensation for Severe Disabilities and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended. The above-stated Judgement of the Constitutional Court cancelled the age limitation for the provision of the allowance for personal assistance and the allowance for the purchase of a passenger motor vehicle.

Act No. 391/2019 Coll., amending and supplementing the Act No. 447/2008 Coll. on Allowances for Compensation for Severe Disabilities and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended, with effect from 1 July 2020, has brought several changes. Some of the most significant ones include:

- it enabled provision of an allowance to compensate extra costs related exclusively to the wear and tear of clothes and shoes also to those natural persons with severe disabilities who are provided year-round residential social service;
- in the case of the care allowance provided to so-called working-age beneficiaries (not receiving any statutory pension allowances), it cancelled the decrease in the care allowance for the reason that the person with the severe disability is provided an outpatient form of social service in the extent of more than 20 hours per week;
- it cancelled the decrease in the care allowance due to a stay of the person under care with the severe disability in an institutional healthcare facility;
- the Annex 7 to the Allowances Act extended the list of chronic diseases accompanied by an excessive wear and tear of clothes, underwear, shoes and furnishings to include other disorders, such as pervasive developmental disorder (e.g. autism or Asperger's Syndrome). The change

⁵¹ data from the Draft Closing Account of Budget Section 22 - MoLSAF

enabled provision of the allowance to compensate extra costs related to hygiene or wear and tear of clothes, underwear, shoes and furnishings also to the specified group of persons with severe disabilities.

Act No. 275/2020 Coll., amending and supplementing the Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance, as amended, and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, was supplemented with effect from 1 January 2021, as well as the Allowances Act in the Section 18 so that the one-off supplement to old-age pension in accordance with a special regulation is not considered to be income for the purpose of surveying and assessing the income with regard to provision of allowances for compensation.

With regard to the epidemiological situation related to COVID-19, several measures were adopted in 2020 in the area of social affairs and family in times of exceptional situation, emergency or state of emergency. The most important measures related to allowances for compensation include:

Act No. 63/2020 Coll., amending and supplementing Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on Social Insurance as amended, and amending and supplementing certain acts, amended and supplemented the Act on Allowances as well. With effect from 27 March 2020, it laid down the conditions of provision of a care allowance and allowance for personal assistance during an exceptional situation, emergency or state of emergency declared in connection with COVID-19. In the case of the care allowance, the period of 30 days was extended to 150 days during which the granted amount of the care allowance will not be decreased if the carer was in an institutional healthcare facility or for other serious reasons could not perform the care in person. However, for such occasion the carer needs to ensure the care for the person with severe disability by a different natural person or social service. In the case of the allowance for personal assistance, it also enabled family members to perform all personal assistance activities, up to a maximum of 10 hours a day.

The Government Regulation No. 102/2020 Coll. on certain measures in the field of social affairs, family and employment services in time of exceptional situation, emergency or state of emergency declared in connection with COVID-19 (as amended by the Government Regulations No. 184/2020 Coll., No. 273/2020 Coll., No. 302/2020 Coll.) adopted measures also in the area of compensation of social consequences of a severe disability. With regard to the evolution of the epidemiological situation in 2020 in time of exceptional situation, emergency or state of emergency declared in connection with COVID-19 (hereinafter referred to as the "crisis situation"), certain conditions of provision of allowances for compensation were amended as well. The most significant changes concerned the conditions of provision of the transport allowance and the care allowance. Summary of changes:

- In the case of the transport allowance, during the period when the crisis situation is declared, it is possible to provide such allowance not only under the condition of using the transportation for work, educational, family or civil activities but also when the natural person with a severe disability uses services of a person licensed to transport goods and items. The aim was to enable persons with severe disabilities to obtain food and other life necessities in a crisis situation. In such case the beneficiary of the allowance is not obliged to submit documents proving expenses on transportation but the transport allowance is provided as a flat amount representing 16.70 % of the minimum subsistence amount (hereinafter referred to as "MSA") for one adult person. The possibility to provide the transport allowance in the amount of not more than 51.2 % of MSA was maintained, under the condition of submitting all documents proving expenditures on transportation for the journeys performed by the person with a severe disability for work, educational, family or civil activities. Provision of the transport allowance in the flat amount of 16.70 % of MSA was possible during the period of time when the crisis situation was declared, i.e. from March 2020 only to 30 June 2020. Following a legislative change, from 1 November 2020 it was again possible to provide the transport allowance under the conditions when it is provided in the flat amount.
- The amount of the care allowance is laid down by the Allowances Act, also depending on the number of persons with severe disabilities under care and on the extent of the provided care. It means that if a person under care is provided an outpatient form of social service in an extent of over 20 hours per week, the allowance is provided in a decreased amount. As a result of the worsened epidemiological situation, a measure of the Public Health Authority suspended provision of outpatient social service in selected social service facilities. As a result, during the period when the crisis situation was declared it was possible to provide the care allowance, granted in a lower amount due to provision of an outpatient social service, in

an amount where the allowance decrease is not applied, if at the time of the crisis situation the person under care was not provided an outpatient form of the social service.

- In the case of recurring allowances for compensation of social consequences of a severe disability, income reassessment is not performed at the time of the crisis situation. Reassessment will only be made within 60 days after the end of the crisis situation. Until the reassessment is made, the income valid in June 2020 is applied for the purposes of provision of recurring allowances.
- Other procedures and obligations also in the area of compensation for severe disabilities during a crisis situation were modified as well. They were related mainly to the mobility of persons and their goal was to eliminate any personal contact due to the epidemiological situation. They concerned e.g. the form of filing requests, personal presence during assessment, delivery of documents, verification of signatures or applicable periods of time.

Allowances for compensation which enable to compensate social consequences of severe disabilities are divided into recurring and lump-sum allowances. The Allowances Act lays down the calculation of their amounts in three forms. Lump-sum allowances are determined as fixed amounts. Transport allowance and allowances for compensation of extra costs belonging to recurring allowances are determined as MSA percentage. The amount of the care allowance and the rate for one hour of personal assistance (belonging to recurring allowances) are determined as fixed amounts but in accordance with the Section 42 (7) of the Allowances Act the Slovak Government may issue a regulation to lay down the amount of the rate for one hour of personal assistance in accordance with the Section 22 (9) and the amount of the care allowance in accordance with the Section 40 (7) and (8) of the above-stated Act always as of 1 July.

The *Regulation of the Slovak Government No. 170/2020 Coll.*, laying down the amount of the rate per one hour of personal assistance and the amount of the care allowance, increased the care allowance with effect from 1 July 2020. The above-stated Government Regulation also incorporated a legislative change in the Allowances Act which, with effect from 1 July 2020, cancelled the decrease of the care allowance for so-called working-age beneficiaries where the care for a person with a severe disability (hereinafter referred to as a "severely disabled person" or "SDP") is provided an outpatient form of social service in the extent of more than 20 hours per week. As a result of the change, the care allowance is provided to the working-age beneficiaries in only two amounts, depending on if the beneficiary looks after one or more persons with severe disabilities. For carers receiving a pension benefit, the original division of the care allowance remained in five amounts depending on the number of persons under care and on the extent of the care. The extent of the care considered also the fact if an outpatient form of social service in the extent of more than 20 hours per week is provided to the person with severe disability under care. Effective from 1 July 2020, the Government Resolution laid down the amounts as follows:

- The rate per hour of personal assistance remained at €4.18. The rate per hour of personal assistance serves for calculation of the amount of the allowance for personal assistance.
- The care allowance provided to a working-age carer was increased as follows, if the beneficiary:
 - a) takes care of one person with severe disability – to €476.74 (increase by €46.39 or by €98.04 respectively);
 - b) takes care of at least two persons with severe disabilities – to €634.06 (increase by €61.70, by €101.76 or by €78.86 respectively).
- The care allowance provided to carers receiving any of the legally stipulated pension benefits was increased as follows, if the beneficiary:
 - a) takes care of one person with severe disability – to €238.37 (increase by €23.19);
 - b) takes care of at least two persons with severe disabilities – to €317.03 (increase by €30.85);
 - c) takes care of one person with severe disability who is provided an outpatient form of social service for more than 20 hours per week – to €209.77 (increase by €20.42),
 - d) takes care of at least two persons with severe disabilities who receive an outpatient form of social service for more than 20 hours per week – to €294.84 (increase by €28.69),
 - e) if a carer takes care of one person with severe disability who receives an outpatient form of social service for more than 20 hours per week and at the same time, that carer takes care of a SDP who does not receive an outpatient form of social service or receives such form of social service for no more than 20 hours per week – to €307.52 (increase by €29.92).

With effect from 1 July 2020, the measure of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic No. 174/2020 Coll. on the adjustment of minimum subsistence amounts increased the minimum subsistence amounts. The amount of minimum subsistence for one adult person was increased from €210.20 to €214.83. Subsequently with effect from 1 July 2020, all types of allowances to compensate extra costs and the maximum amount of the transport allowance were increased.

An overview of maximum amounts of lump-sum allowances is contained in the Table 3.27 and an overview of recurring allowances is contained in the Table 3.28

Table 3.27 Maximum Amounts of Lump-sum Compensation Allowances

Type of lump-sum compensation allowance	Maximum amount in €
Allowance for the purchase of an aid	8,630.42
– for the purchase of a second mechanical wheelchair	1,659.70
– for the purchase of a second electric wheelchair	4,979.09
– for the purchase of a second hearing aid	331.94
Allowance for training of using an aid	8,630.42
Allowance for the adjustment of an aid	8,630.42
Allowance for the purchase of a lifting device	11,617.88
Allowance for the purchase of a passenger vehicle	6,638.79
– for the purchase of a passenger vehicle with an automatic gearbox	8,298.48
Allowance for the adjustment of a passenger vehicle	6,638.79
Aggregate of allowances for adapting an apartment and allowances for adapting a family house in the period of seven years	6,638.79
Aggregate of allowances for adapting a garage over the period of 7 years	1,659.70

Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

Table 3.28 Overview of Recurring Compensation Allowances

Types of recurring allowances	Amount of allowance in € ⁵² until	Amount of allowance in €
	30 June 2020	from 1 July 2020
Personal assistance allowance – rate per hour	4.18	4.18
Allowance for transport	107.25	109.61
Compensatory allowance for extra costs:		
– of special diet		
a) diseases and disorders listed in the first group of Annex 5 to the Act on Allowances	39.02	39.88
b) diseases and disorders listed in the second group of Annex 5 to the Act on Allowances	19.51	19.94
c) diseases and disorders listed in the third group of Annex 5 to the Act on Allowances	11.71	11.97
– of hygiene or wear and tear of clothing, underwear, shoes and household furnishings	19.51	19.94
– of ensuring the operation of a passenger vehicle	35.11	35.88
– of the care of a specially trained dog	46.82	47.85
Care allowance:		

⁵² The calculation of an allowance for transport and a care allowance for carers not receiving a pension benefit is also based on other parameters, such as income of a SDP

- a natural person (carer) does not receive any of the statutory pension benefits:		
a) takes care of one SDP	430.35	476.74
b) takes care of two or more SDPs	572.36	634.06
c) takes care of one SDP who spends more than 20 hours per week in a facility	378.70	476.74
d) takes care of two or more SDPs who spend more than 20 hours per week in a facility	532.30	294.84
e) takes care of one SDP who spends more than 20 hours per week in a facility and at the same time, takes care of another SDP who is not in a facility or spends there at most 20 hours per week	555.20	634.06
- a natural person (carer) receives any of the statutory pension benefits		
a) takes care of one SDP	215.18	238.37
b) takes care of two or more SDPs	286.18	317.03
c) takes care of one SDP who spends more than 20 hours per week in a facility	189.35	209.77
d) takes care of two or more SDPs who spend more than 20 hours per week in a facility	266.15	294.84
e) takes care of one SDP who spends more than 20 hours per week in a facility and at the same time, takes care of another SDP who is not in a facility or spends there at most 20 hours per week	277.60	307.52

Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

Under the Allowances Act, SDPs may, after assessing their state of health, be issued with a card of a severely disabled person, a card of a severely disabled person with a guide, and a parking card for a severely disabled person. These cards allow SDPs to use certain discounts and advantages in various areas, thus contributing to compensation for social consequences of severe disabilities and to social inclusion of such persons. As of 31 December 2020, a total of 337,147 SDP cards were valid, representing an increase by 538 compared to 2019. The number of valid parking cards for a severely disabled person totalled 108,137, a year-on-year increase by 5,136 cards. We suppose that the continuing more significant increase in the number of parking cards is still a result of legislative changes in the Allowances Act which extended the group of SDPs who may be issued a parking card, effective from 1 July 2018.

Table 3.29 Number of Valid Cards

Type of card	Period	
	as at 31 December 2019	as at 31 December 2020
Cards of severely disabled persons (without a guide)	175,645	177,704
Cards of severely disabled persons with a guide	160,964	159,443
TOTAL: Cards of severely disabled persons without/with a guide	336,609	337,147
Parking cards for severely disabled persons	103,001	108,137

Source: MoLSAF (RSD MIS)

In 2020, a total of €453,424,794 was expended on compensation allowances, of which a total of €168,413,961 on allowances provided to an average monthly number of SDPs of 157,930. A total of €285,010,833 was expended on the care allowance, provided per month on average to 61,734 persons (carers) looking after SDPs. From the point of view of the volume of the expended funds, in 2020 the highest amount was spent on the care allowance,

totalling €285.01 million. It is followed by the amounts spent on the allowance for personal assistance in the amount of €78.3 million and on the allowance to compensate extra costs (total for all types) in the amount of €64.97 million.

Table 3.30 Overview of Spending in 2020

Compensation allowances	Average monthly number of beneficiaries	Spending in €
Allowances granted to SDPs	157,930	168,413,961
Care allowance*	61,734	285,010,833
TOTAL	219,664	453,424,794

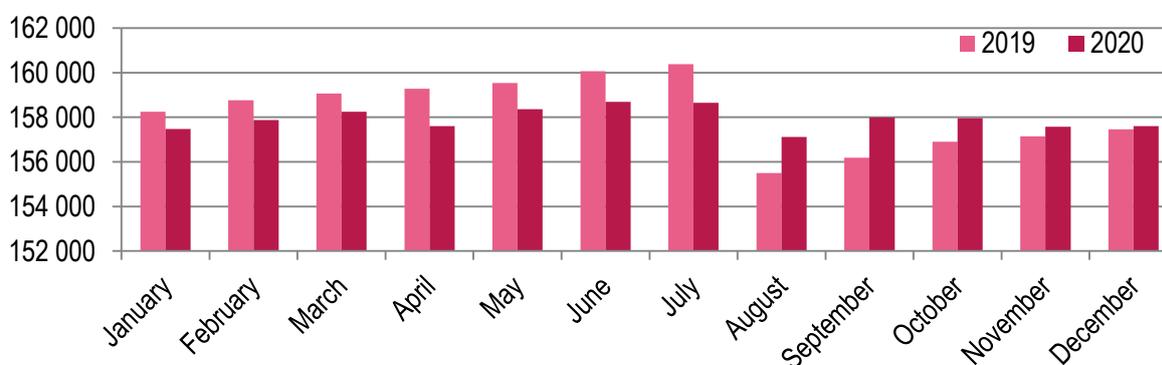
Source: RSD MIS

*A care allowance is granted to a natural person caring for a person with severe disabilities (SDP)

Compared to 2019, in 2020 the total amount of funds expended on all allowances for compensation increased by €57.89 million. In the case of allowances provided to SDPs, the spending in 2020 increased by €3.81 million compared to the previous year, although the average monthly number of the beneficiaries of such allowances dropped by 280 in 2020. In 2020, the increase in the spending on allowances provided to SDPs was most significantly influenced by spending for the purposes of the allowance for personal assistance which increased by €6.82 million. At the same time, the average monthly number of its beneficiaries increased by 460. In the case of the care allowance provided directly to carers, in 2020 its spending increased by €54.07 million and also the average monthly number of beneficiaries of such allowance rose by 4,686.

The increase in the spending on the above-stated allowances in 2020 was influenced by several legislative changes which brought more advantageous conditions of their provision. Some of the most significant ones of them include a higher rate per hour of personal assistance, as well as an increase in the care allowance from 1 July 2019 and from 1 July 2020 another increase in the care allowance, as well as cancellation of its decrease due to provision of an outpatient form of social service to the SDP under care, if the allowance is provided to working-age carers. In relation to the adjustment of minimum subsistence amounts, amounts of recurring allowances for compensation which are bound to MSA have increased as well since 1 July 2020.

Graph 3.21 Number of SDPs with Provided Compensation Allowances



* Each allowance beneficiary figures in the given numbers only once, even if he/she receives more allowances

Source: RSD MIS

In 2020, spending on **recurring allowances** totalled €431.23 mil. By the number of beneficiaries, in 2020 the highest average monthly number (152,566) was recorded for beneficiaries of the compensatory allowance for extra costs (all types of extra costs in total). Such allowance is divided into four groups according to the purpose of provision, and within the division the order according to the number of the average monthly number of beneficiaries in 2020 was as follows:

Compensatory allowance for extra costs:

- related to hygiene or the wear and tear of clothes, underwear, shoes and furnishing was provided on average to 83,217 beneficiaries per month;
- related to operation of a passenger motor vehicle on average to 68,828 beneficiaries per month;
- for a special diet on average to 50,210 beneficiaries per month;

- related to care for a specially trained dog on average to 51 beneficiaries per month.

The second most numerous group of recurring allowances consists of beneficiaries of the care allowance, with an average monthly number of 61,734 beneficiaries.

In 2020, the total spending on the payment of 6,464 **lump-sum compensation allowances** reached approximately €22.19 million. The highest number of allowances were provided for the purchase of aids (2,217), followed by allowances provided for the purchase of passenger vehicles (1,091) and allowances provided for the purchase of lifting devices (1,017).

The total number of lump-sum allowances provided in 2020 decreased year-on-year by 1,178 and subsequently the total spending on the payment of such allowances dropped by €3.87 million. We suppose that the decrease in the provided lump-sum allowances seen in 2020 was largely affected by the unfavourable epidemiological situation related to COVID-19 and the related epidemiological measures (e.g. closing of the places of business, lockdowns, quarantines). The number of the provided lump-sum allowances decreased for seven types of allowances and increased only for three types of allowances as follows:

a) increase in the number of lump-sum allowances provided in 2020 of:

- 92 allowances for repair of an aid (the average amount of the allowance decreased by €63.39)
- 4 allowances for adapting a garage (the average amount of the allowance is €1,288.60)
- 3 allowances for training of using an aid (the average amount of the allowance increased by €119.72)

b) decrease in the number of lump-sum allowances provided in 2020 by:

- 625 allowances for the purchase of an aid (the average amount of the allowance increased by €22.75)
- 345 allowances for the purchase of a passenger vehicle (the average amount of the allowance increased by €32.83)
- 126 allowances for adapting a family house (the average amount of the allowance decreased by €25.23)
- 95 allowances for adapting an apartment (the average amount of the allowance decreased by €15.28)
- 54 allowances for the purchase of a lifting device (the average amount of the allowance decreased by €39.78)
- 27 allowances for the adjustment of a passenger vehicle (the average amount of the allowance increased by €179.76)
- 5 allowances for adjustment of an aid (the average amount of the allowance decreased by €561.31)

The highest number of the lump-sum allowances provided in 2020 is the allowance for the purchase of an aid (2,217). It was most often provided for the purchase of an aid which is a mechanical wheelchair (457), desktop or portable personal computer (223), hearing aid (210) and a portable electronic magnifying glass for reading (172).

An overview of spending on individual types of compensation allowances in 2019 and 2020 is given in Table 3.31.

Table 3.31 Number of Beneficiaries and Spending on Individual Types of Allowances for Compensation of Severe Disabilities

Recurring compensation allowances	Average monthly number of beneficiaries	2019		Average monthly number of beneficiaries	2020	
		Average monthly amount of allowance in €	Spending in €		Average monthly amount of allowance in €	Spending in €
Personal assistance allowance	10,657	551.00	71,507,354	11,117	578.92	78,330,715
Allowance for transport	3,192	85.41	3,325,426	3,084	76.50	2,923,167
Compensatory allowance for extra costs:	153,144	33.93	63,702,474	152,566	34.87	64,966,239
– of special diet	50,716	23.89	14,860,049	50,210	24.71	15,141,092
– of hygiene or wear and tear of clothing, underwear, shoes and household furnishings	83,598	19.23	19,676,347	83,217	19.68	19,993,773
– of ensuring the operation of a passenger vehicle	68,577	34.61	29,135,103	68,828	35.43	29,800,108
– of the care of a specially trained dog	54	46.09	30,975	51	47.15	31,266
Care allowance	57,048	317.87	230,938,455	61,734	363.13	285,010,833
Lump-sum compensation allowances	Number of granted allowances*	Average amount of allowance in €	Spending in €	Number of granted allowances*	Average amount of allowance in €	Spending in €
Allowance for the purchase of an aid	2,842	799.34	2,271,263	2,217	822.09	1,821,990
Allowance for training of using an aid	14	853.34	11,950	17	973.06	18,542
Allowance for the adjustment of an aid	9	1,186.81	10,681	4	625.50	2,502
Allowance for repair of an aid	859	376.48	325,250	951	313.09	296,785
Allowance for the purchase of a lifting device	1,071	9,250.23	9,871,548	1,017	9,290.01	9,449,579
Allowance for the purchase of a passenger vehicle	1,436	6,775.92	9,721,486	1,091	6,808.75	7,435,630
Allowance for the adjustment of a passenger vehicle	139	4,199.31	584,486	112	4,379.07	497,076
Allowance for adapting an apartment	452	2,716.74	1,232,523	357	2,701.46	966,006
Allowance for adapting a family house	820	2,468.70	2,035,465	694	2,443.47	1,700,575
Allowance for adapting a garage	0	0	0	4	1,288.60	5,154
Total spending on compensation allowances in €		395,538,361			453,424,794	

Source: RSD MIS, the calculation of the average monthly amount of recurring allowances is based on spending without any additional fees for a delayed claim

* summary data for 12 months

The total spending on payment of **recurring allowances** in 2020 rose by €57,886,433 year-on-year. The average monthly number of beneficiaries of these allowances in 2020 compared to 2019 was as follows:

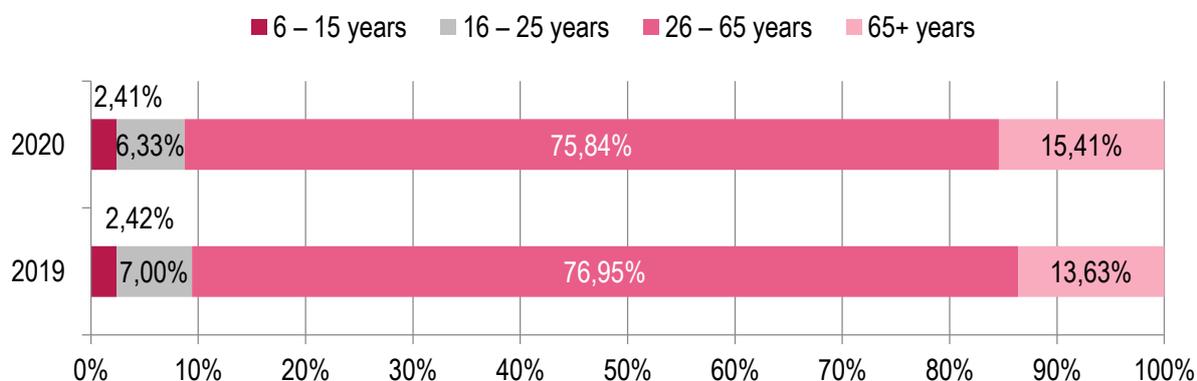
a) increase in the average monthly number of beneficiaries of:

- 4,686 care allowances (an increase in the total spending by about €54.07 million)
 - 460 personal assistance allowances (an increase in the total spending by about €6,82 million)
- b) decrease in the average monthly number of beneficiaries by:
- 578 in total for the allowance to compensate extra costs (total for all types of extra costs but the increase in the expended funds by about €1.26 million)
 - 108 allowances for transport (decrease in the total spending by about €402.26 thousand)

In the case of the personal assistance allowance, there is a long-term increase in the average monthly number of beneficiaries. Compared to 2019, the increase in the above-stated number of beneficiaries in 2020 (460) is slightly lower than the increase in 2019 (551) compared to 2018. The increases seen in 2020 and 2019 were more significant than in the previous years and we suppose that to a large extent it was caused by legislative changes effective from 1 July 2018, extending the group of the eligible beneficiaries and cancelling the examination of the income of SDPs for the purpose of determining the amount of the personal assistance allowance. The average monthly amount of such allowance in 2020 reached €578.92 and corresponds to 138.5 hours of personal assistance per month, for which the allowance was granted. The average monthly number of hours of personal assistance in 2020 is almost the same as the average monthly number of hours in 2019. The average monthly amount of the personal assistance allowance in 2020 increased by €27.92 compared to 2019. It was influenced by the amount of the rate per one hour of personal assistance which was €3.82 until 30 June 2019 and €4.18 from 1 July 2019 and during the entire 2020. The above-stated data does not indicate any impact of the legislative change which during the crisis situation enabled family members to perform all activities of personal assistance on the use of the personal assistance allowance.

An overview of the average monthly number of personal assistance allowance beneficiaries for December 2020 compared to December 2019, divided as per age groups, is shown in the Graph 3.22 and Table 3.32.

Graph 3.22 Distribution of the Average Monthly Number of Personal Assistance Allowance Beneficiaries by Age in December 2019 and December 2020



Source: RSD MIS

Table 3.32 Number of Personal Assistance Allowance Beneficiaries by Age in December 2019 and December 2020

	2019	2020
6 – 15 years	260	269
16 – 25 years	754	707
26 – 65 years	8,284	8,468
over 65 years	1,467	1,721

Source: RSD MIS

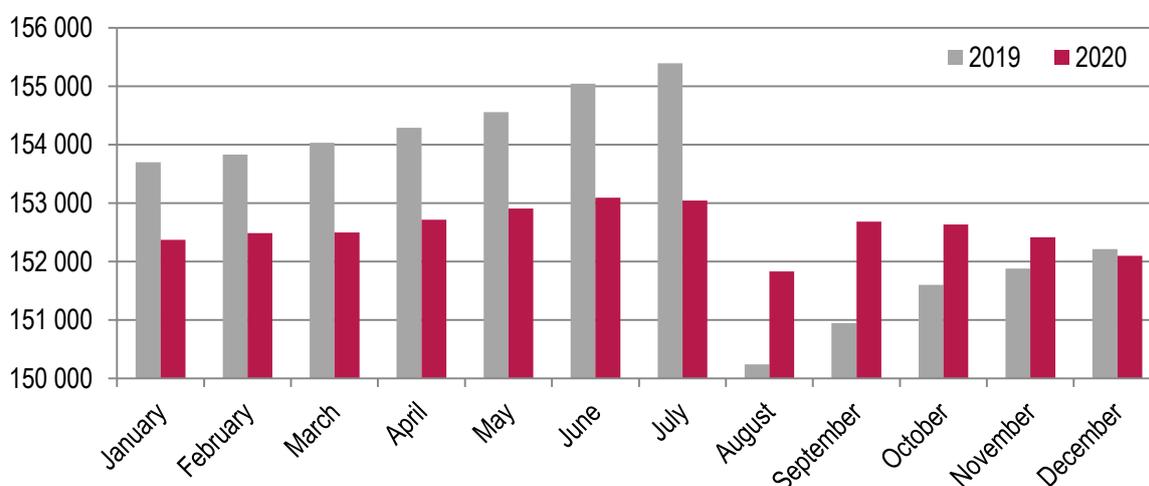
The decrease in the average monthly number of beneficiaries of the allowance to compensate extra costs in 2020 compared to 2019 was demonstrated in each type of extra costs with the exception of an allowance for operation of a passenger motor vehicle. In the case of the compensation for extra costs on a special diet, there was a year-on-year decrease in the average monthly number of beneficiaries by 506; in the case of compensation for

extra costs related to hygiene or the wear and tear of clothes, underwear, shoes and furnishings there was a drop by 381 beneficiaries and in the case of compensation for extra costs related to the care for a specially trained dog the average monthly number of beneficiaries dropped by 3. The decreases in the average monthly number of the above-stated allowances to compensate extra costs were most significantly influenced by the death of the beneficiaries.

There was an increase only in the case of compensation for extra costs related to operation of a passenger motor vehicle, namely by 251 beneficiaries. With regard to the evolution of the number of beneficiaries in the previous years, we suppose that the increase in the number of beneficiaries is still influenced by the legislative change which extended the group of SDPs who may be awarded the allowance, with effect from 1 July 2018.

Monthly amounts of allowances to compensate extra costs and the maximum monthly amount of the transport allowance increased slightly in 2020 in relation to adjustment of minimum subsistence amounts. In spite of that, the average monthly amount of the provided *transport allowances* dropped by about €8.90 in 2020 compared to 2019. The above-stated decrease was influenced by the legislative change laid down in the Government Resolution which enabled to provide the allowance also under changed conditions during a crisis situation (related to COVID-19), i.e. the possibility to use the services of a person authorized to transport goods and items, cancellation of the obligation to submit documents proving the expenses and determining the lump-sum of the allowance in the amount of 16.70 % of MSA. Provision of the transport allowance also under such conditions was possible for March – June 2020 (in the amount of €35.11) and for November and December 2020 (in the amount of €35.88). The fact that SDPs used the option to receive the allowance also under such conditions was reflected in a fluctuation of the monthly number of beneficiaries and the average monthly amount of the allowance depending on the conditions of its provision. For 2020, when the allowance was provided also as a lump-sum, the average monthly number of beneficiaries increased to 3,221 and then the average monthly amount of the provided allowance dropped to €64.7 compared to the period when the transport allowance could be provided only under the conditions laid down in the Allowances Act (obligation to submit documents proving the expenditures, higher maximum amount) when the average monthly number of beneficiaries was 2,985 and the average monthly amount of the allowance was about €85.7.

Graph 3.23 Number of Beneficiaries of Compensatory Allowances for Extra Costs in 2019 and 2020



Source: RSD MIS

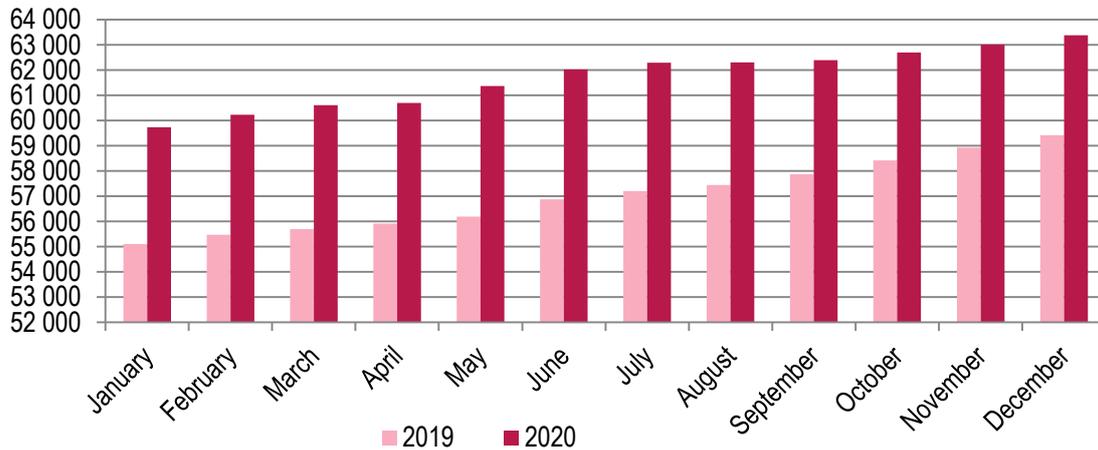
The *care allowance* is the only compensation allowance which is not granted to a SDP, but directly to a natural person caring for (nursing) the SDP (carer). The amount of the allowance depends on several factors. If a carer receives any of the statutory pension benefits, the allowance for nursing is set at a flat rate⁵³. If a carer (of working age) does not receive such a pension benefit, the amount of the allowance is also influenced by the income of a SDP under care. For the purpose of determining the amount of the care allowance for working-age carers, the income of a SDP is protected up to 2 times the SMA, or if a dependent child is a SDP, its income is protected up to 3 times the SMA. From 01 July 2020, after the adjustment of the subsistence minimum amounts, the income protection thresholds for SDPs under care amount to €429.66 per month (2 times the SM) and €644.49 per month

⁵³ If a SDP under care receives an increase in the pension for the lack of mobility, the amount of the care allowance is reduced by such increase, regardless of whether the carer receives or not any of the statutory pension benefits.

(3 times the SM). The care allowance may be increased by €100.00 per month if a carer has no income from employment or does not receive pension insurance benefits or service benefits and cares for a SDP who is a dependent child.

If a SDP under care dies, the care allowance shall be granted to the carer (regardless of the fact if the carer receives a pension allowance or not) for the entire calendar month in which the SPD under care died, as well as for the calendar month following that calendar month.

Graph 3.24 Number of Care Allowance Beneficiaries in 2019 and 2020



Source: RSD MIS

In 2020, the average monthly number of care allowance beneficiaries increased year-on-year by 4,686 beneficiaries; the average monthly number of SDPs under care also swelled year-on-year by 4,905. In the case of individual allowances there was:

- **an increase** by 3,522 working-age beneficiaries (an increase in the number of SDPs under care by 3,699 persons)
- **an increase** by 1,196 beneficiaries receiving a pension benefit (an increase in the number of SDPs under care by 1,241 persons)
- **a decrease** by 32 beneficiaries who are paid the allowance in accordance with a temporary provision, i.e. according to the Act effective until 31 December 2008 (decrease in the number of the persons under care by 33).

The number of beneficiaries of the care allowance, paid in accordance with the temporary provision, continues to decrease and the beneficiaries gradually come under the payment conditions laid down by the Allowances Act effective from 1 January 2009.

More details on the provided care allowances are given in Table 3.33 below.

Table 3.33 Care Allowance in 2019 and 2020 – Detailed Structure of Spending

Care allowance	Average monthly number of beneficiaries	2019 Average monthly number of SDPs under care	Average monthly amount of allowance in €	Average monthly number of beneficiaries	2020 Average monthly number of SDPs under care	Average monthly amount of allowance in €
1. FO* receiving a pension benefit	22,387	22,752	193.48	23,583	23,993	224.32
2. FO not receiving a pension benefit	34,414	35,610	384.26	37,936	39,309	450.23
3. FO receiving the allowance under the transitional provision	247	256	188.48	215	223	223.38
Care allowance TOTAL	57,048	58,618	317.87	61,734	63,525	363.13

Source: RSD MIS

*FO – a natural person receiving the care allowance (beneficiary)

The increase in the number of care allowance beneficiaries was demonstrated in 2020 as well. We suppose that the phenomenon is still influenced also by the changes adopted in the previous period. Changes effective from 1 July 2020 had a positive impact on the conditions of provision and the amount of the care allowance. The total average monthly amount of the allowance in 2020 was €363.13, representing an increase by €45.26 compared to 2019. Out of that, the average monthly amount of the care allowance which was provided to working-age carers in 2020 increased by €65.97. The amount of the allowance for beneficiaries who are paid a pension benefit increased by €30.84 and the allowance paid in accordance with the temporary provision increased by €34.90.

Application of the legislative change which during the period when the crisis situation was declared enabled care allowances awarded in a lower amount due to provision of an outpatient social service to be granted in an amount where the decrease does not apply, led to an increase in the average monthly amount of such care allowance. E.g. in the case of carers receiving a pension benefit who looked after one SDP and were granted an allowance in a decreased amount (due to provision of outpatient social service), the application of the above-stated change led to an increase in the average monthly amount of the care allowance paid for June 2020 compared to the allowance paid for January 2020 by about €11, and in the case of the so-called working-age carers, the increase amounted to about €21.4 per month.

The last few years have seen a continuing increase in the number of beneficiaries of the care allowance. We suppose that it is an effect of the legislative changes adopted in 2018, 2019 and 2020 which made the conditions of provision of such allowance more favourable and also led to an increase in its amount. The total average monthly amount of the care allowance increased from €165.47 in 2017 to €215.48 in 2018, €317.87 in 2019 and €363.13 in 2020. The total average monthly number of beneficiaries increased from 53,209 in 2017 to 53,356 in 2018, to 57,048 in 2019 and to 61,734 in 2020. Looking at the age structure of the SDPs under care we may state that in December 2020 8.4 % of them were younger than 24, 24.9 % were aged 25 – 62 and 66.7 % were aged 63+. Comparing the evolution of the number of SDPs under care in December 2017 to December 2020, we may state the following: the number of SDPs under care who were younger than 24 increased by 401 in December 2020 compared to December 2017, the number of those aged 25 – 62 rose by 1,143 in December 2020 compared to December 2017 and the number of those aged 63+ increased by 8,603 in December 2020 compared to December 2017. The fact that SDPs under care aged 63+ are most numerous as well as their most significant increase in the above-stated period of time indicate a connection with the trend of the increasing Slovak population in post-productive age.

3.4.7 Social Services

Since 2009, social services in SR have been provided in accordance with the **Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on Social Services and on amendments and supplements to the Act No. 455/1991 Coll. on Trade Licensing (Trade Licensing Act), as amended**(hereinafter referred to as the "Social Services Act"). The Social Services Act sets forth legal relations and conditions for the provision of social services aimed at supporting the social inclusion of citizens and satisfying the social needs of persons in an unfavourable social situation.

Social services under the Social Services Act shall be provided by means of professional, service and other activities the provider is obliged to provide or arrange if clearly specified. Professional activities, such as social counselling or social rehabilitation may also be provided independently on the basis of the awarded accreditation. Selected social service facilities provide or ensure provision of healthcare in the extent of nursing care and social services may also be provided in an institutional care facility compliant with statutory conditions.

The Social Services Act divides social services into several groups, depending on the nature of the unfavourable social situation or the target group, namely social services of crisis intervention, social services to support families with children, social services to address the unfavourable social situation due to a severe health disability, ill health or due to reaching the retirement age, social services using telecommunication technologies, and support services.

For the provision of social services with the character of long-term care, provided to individuals in need of assistance of another person, the Social Services Act regulates health and social assessment activities, determining the dependence of the individual on social services.

A special part of the Act provides for the financing of social services from the budgets of local governments and from the MoLSAF state budget section. Social services are public services and are provided without making profit, but the law also allows the provision of social services within a trade or business, i.e. based on profit. For the financing of non-public providers, the Act differentiates between non-profit providers and those that are business entities providing services for making profit which cannot be supported from public funds.

The Social Services Act regulates supervision over compliance with this Act and other generally binding legal regulations in the provision of social services, implemented by the Ministry. The Ministry also assesses the quality of the provided social services based on quality criteria laid down in the legislation, and awards *accreditation* in the area of social services for *educational programmes and professional activities*.

Based on the commitment from the Government Programme Statement to introduce a coordinated above-ministerial system of early intervention for children with disabilities and for children from a socially disadvantaged environment and their families, in 2020 MoLSAF established an inter-ministerial working group which represents a platform for coordination and activities in relation to the issue of early intervention as a social service. The aim of the working group is to draw up a **National Development Strategy for Coordinated Early Intervention and Early Care Services** which will be a result of an active dialogue of representatives from the areas of labour, social affairs and family, education and health, local and regional governments as well as the non-governmental sector and which will define cross-sections in the provision of the early intervention service in order to enhance the efficiency of its provision, financing and availability.

When fulfilling the commitment from the Government Programme Statement to adjust the long-term health and social care system, including its financing, MoLSAF actively cooperates with the Ministry of Health what will require performance of related legislative changes in the Social Services Act and in the healthcare legislation in the next period, which will bring a qualitative change in the area of social services provision and financing, including a reform of integration of health and social care, assessment activities, extension and recovery of capacities of consecutive, long-term and palliative care with regard to the needs and preferences of the affected population, reforms of the system of social care financing and inspection. **Strategy for long-term social and health care** also started to be prepared.

In an effort to ensure the continuity and efficiency of the provided social services and also in an effort to support permanence of persons reliant on assistance in their natural family environment for the longest possible period of time, MoLSAF still continuously focuses on the process of deinstitutionalisation of social services in Slovakia in accordance with the **strategy of deinstitutionalisation of the system of social services and alternative care (DI strategy)** and the National Action Plan for Transition from Institutional to Community Care in the Social Services System for 2016 – 2020. In 2020, preparation of a new strategic material – National Strategy for Deinstitutionalisation of the System of Social Services and Alternative Care – continued and it will reflect the current condition of the process of deinstitutionalisation in SR, and the newly set medium-term goals to be implemented by 2025 will reflect the needs of more active implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Each medium-term goal will contain detailed measures which will be elaborated and applied through a follow-up *National Action Plan for Deinstitutionalisation of Social Services for 2021 – 2026* which is being prepared.

Since August 2018, the **National Project "Deinstitutionalisation of Social Service Facilities – Supporting Transformation Teams"** has been implemented. Its main goal is preparation, creation and systemic methodological support of transformation teams in the creation of transformation plans of social service facilities involved in the process of transition from the institutional to community care and starting up the transformation processes in the communities where such facilities are going to be located. The synergy of project support from the Integrated Regional Operational Programmes of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic focused on deinstitutionalisation will also be ensured through the transformation plans of individual facilities. In spite of the complications caused by the pandemic situation, 48 social service facilities were supported in the previous period and 21 facilities are preparing for entry activities. Trainings, workshops and seminars were moved to the online space in 2020 and support was provided to the facilities on a case-by-case basis.

In order to support the development of the **home care service** and maintenance of jobs, such service continued to be supported, mainly from the European Structural Funds, namely through a combination of several project activities. A call for demand-oriented projects named **"Care Service Support"** with a total allocation of €58 million was finished in 2020 and the financial contribution of €570 supported about 5,000 jobs of carers.

A national project focused on small municipalities (public providers) with fewer than 1,000 inhabitants which find it most difficult to provide the care service due to a lack of financial resources called **"Supporting the Development and Availability of the Field Care Service"** with a total allocation of €5 million supports about 240 jobs as well as other activities, such as the education of carers and representatives of local governments in the area of provision of the home care service. In September 2020, a change in the call was made, extending the period of performance of activities of such national project from 01/2021 to 12/2021 and also increasing the allocation for a created job of a carer from €570 to €750, what led to an increase in the interest of municipalities in involvement in the project as well as the interest of cooperating entities to increase the number of carers. Currently, there are 96 jobs/carers supported from the total of 241 planned supported jobs.

With an aim to support sustainability and development of the home care service, MoLSAF started to prepare a new call named **Care Service Support (CSS) II** that responds to the currently gradual termination of support of the providers as a part of the CSS call. The aim of the CSS II call is to provide better availability of a high-quality care service and thus to avoid placement of clients in residential facilities and also to maintain the jobs of the carers. An amount of €50 million from the REACT-EU funds has been allocated to the CSS II call.

National projects called **"Supporting and increasing the quality of field social work" (NP FSW II)** and **"Building expert capacities at the community level" (NP BECCL)**, implemented in 2019 – 2022, also help support the integration of marginalized groups, including the Roma and individuals or groups at risk of discrimination, poverty or social exclusion.

The main goal of **NP FSW II** is to include persons excluded or at risk of social inclusion and poverty into the society and improve their life situation to enable them to live in decent conditions, namely through performance of field social work and performance of comprehensive activities enabling a real change to their living conditions. The highest number of interventions concerns problems of people from the target groups in the areas of employment, finances, housing, education and social security. The beneficiary is the Implementation Agency of MoLSAF; the financial allocation amounts to €34.6 million with the implementation period of 09/2019 – 06/2023 in all self-governing regions. 204 entities with 476 employees in total are involved in the project.

The main activity of **NP BECCL** is to build expert capacities of selected social services of crisis intervention at the community level in order to provide expert support to individuals and families at risk of poverty and social exclusion to help them solve their social problems on their own, as well as to support the development of the entire communities through targeted use of community sources. Some of the most frequent expert and other activities include mainly customized social counselling (e.g. in the area of debts and solving the financial situation, support of employment of individuals or housing of individuals and families), educational activities intended for children and youth. The beneficiary is the Implementation Agency of MoLSAF; the financial allocation amounts to €23.3 million with the implementation period of 09/2019 – 12/2022 in all self-governing regions. 87 entities with 255 employees are involved in the project.

In relation to the exceptional situation caused by the spreading **COVID-19 disease**, since April 2020 various legislative amendments as well as non-legislative measures, amendments and guidelines have been adopted, the aim of which was to ensure the continuity of the provision of social services also at the time of limited possibilities of performance of the obligations by social service providers as well as by local government bodies, with a focus

on protecting the life and health of recipients and employees of social services during the exceptional situation. From the point of view of legislative amendments, it is mainly the Act No. 66/2020 Coll, effective from 4 April 2020, and the Act No. 89/2020 Coll., effective from 25 April, empowering the Slovak Government to adopt a measure which would regulate the conditions of provision, payment, disbursement, returning and accounting a financial contribution from the budget section of MoLSAF and the conditions of provision of social services and at the same time e.g. also the obligations of local governments in relation to the provision and ensuring social services and assistance to citizens during an exceptional situation. Based on the empowerment laid down in the Act, the Slovak Government approved four Government Resolutions during the year. In the area of the financial contribution provided from the budget section of MoLSAF, the Government Regulations No. 70/2020 and 261/2020 laid down that social service providers are not obliged to return the contribution for any unoccupied beds which arose at the time of the exceptional situation and for the determined percentage of unoccupied beds before the start of the exceptional situation. At the same time, the contribution for 1 bed in a night shelter was increased, namely from €120 to €150 per month. Government Resolutions No. 116/2020 and No. 152/2020 governed e.g. the procedure for receiving new clients, providing a financial contribution for the operation of an outpatient service in the facility also during its interruption, performance of care also without meeting the qualification conditions after the initial instruction, not applying selected obligations laid down in the legislation and suspension of certain periods.

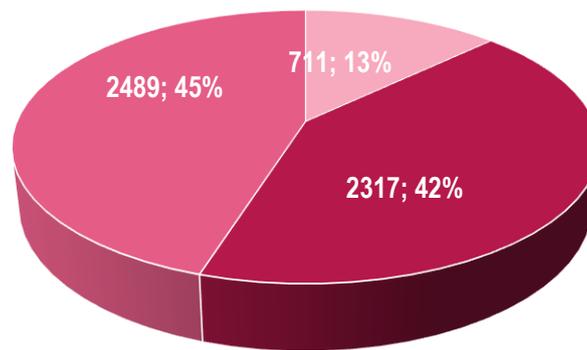
From the point of view of the risk of infection and spread of COVID-19 but also the course of the disease, recipients of social services belong to the population groups which are the most vulnerable. In spite of a number of measures adopted at the national, regional and local level, but mainly at the level of individual providers of social services, it was not possible to prevent the disease from occurring and spreading, affecting the recipients of social services, mainly in residential social service facilities. Exceptional situation in relation to the spread of COVID-19 was reported to MoLSAF by 271 providers of social services while based on the information provided by them, 3,293 recipients and 1,154 employees were tested positive for COVID-19 in the social service facilities in 2020. In the period under review 1 employee and 199 recipients of social services died of the disease.

Social Service Providers

As at 31 December 2020, a total of **5,517 social service providers** were registered in SR, of which 711 (13 %) were established or founded by higher territorial units (self-governing regions) and 2,439 (45 %) were non-public providers. The largest share in the provision of social services (2,317; 42%) was observed for municipalities and social service providers established or founded by municipalities, which is mainly due to the self-governing authority of municipalities in providing and arranging for nursing service, for which a total of 969 “municipal” providers are registered. The proportion of the number of providers as per their type and the type of social services is shown in the Graph 3.26.

More details may be found in the Table 24 in the Annex to Chapter 3. The difference in the number of entities providing social services compared to data from statistical reports is caused by better up-to-dateness of data from the central register, but also by the fact that providers are registered separately for each type and form of social service as well as the place of its performance in the register of providers of social services.

Graph 3.25 Social Service Providers as per Types of Providers

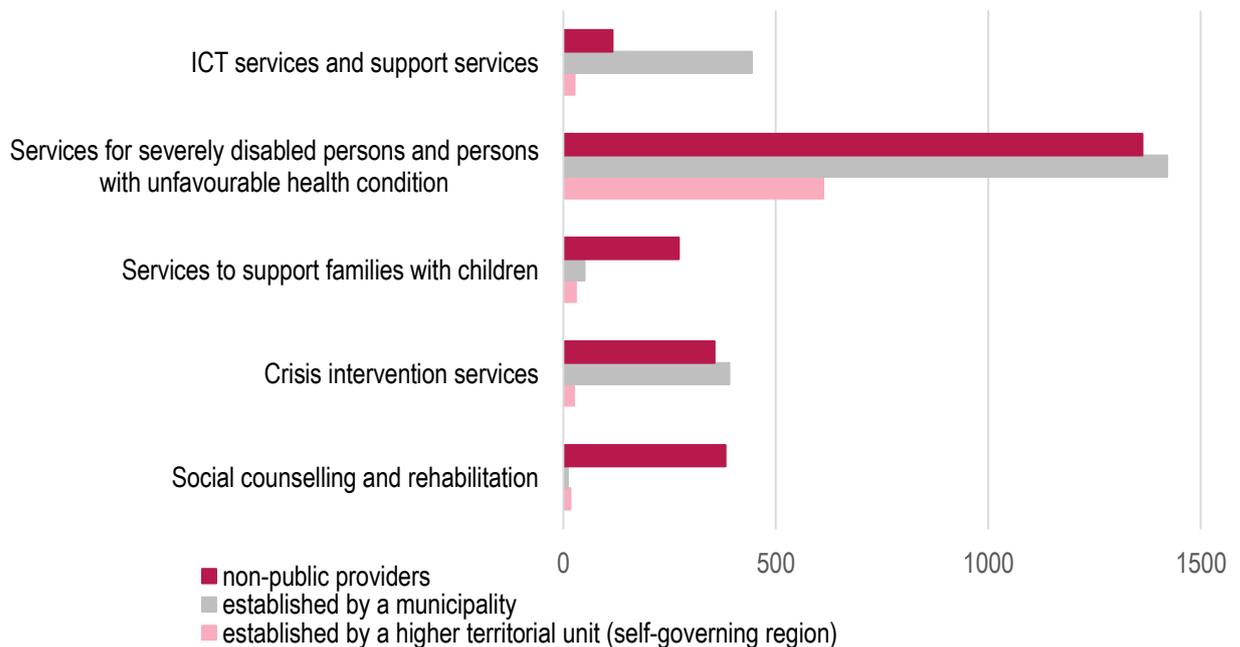


- providers established or founded by a higher territorial unit (self-governing region)
- municipalities and providers established or founded by a municipality
- non-public providers

Source: Central Register of Social Service Providers for Q4 2020

Representation of providers of individual groups of social services as per types of providers is contained in the Graph 3.25.

Graph 3.26 Social Service Providers as per Types of Providers and Social Services



Source: Central Register of Social Service Providers for Q4 2020

Social Service Facilities⁵⁴

As at 31 December 2019, there were 5,457,873 inhabitants in the Slovak Republic, of whom 55,049 (54,536)⁵⁵ recipients (1.0 %) were provided social services in **1,371 social service facilities** of selected types, established by municipalities, self-governing regions or private providers. Social services were provided to 45,303 (44,487)

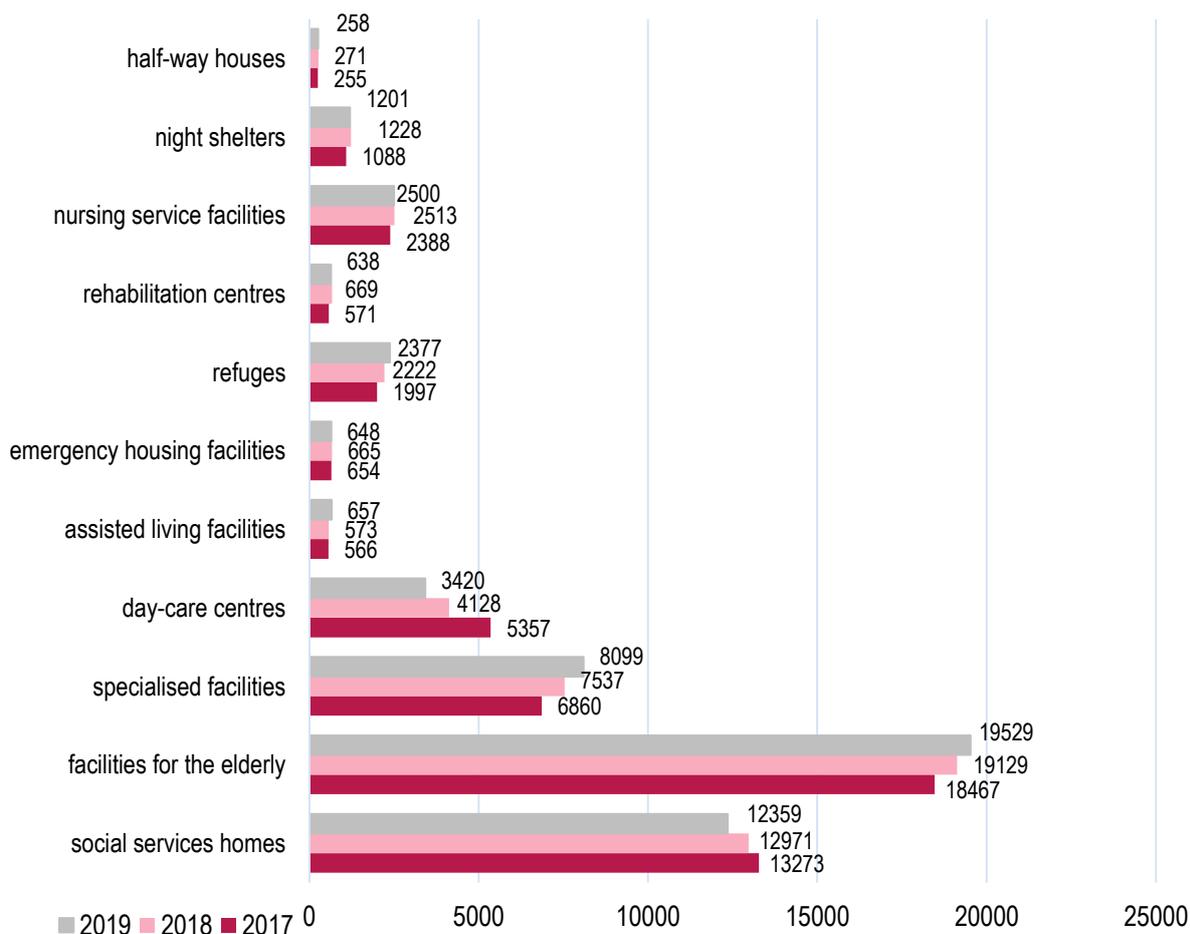
⁵⁴ At the time of publication of this Report, the data on social service facilities monitored by SO SR are available only for 2019

⁵⁵ The figures in parentheses are for 2018

recipients mainly in 1,175 (1,194) facilities conditional upon dependence on the help of others (hereinafter referred to as “DHO facilities”) – facilities for the elderly, social services homes, specialised facilities, day-care centres, assisted living facilities, rehabilitation centres, nursing service facilities.

In 2019, there was a total of **51,686 (51,906) beds** in all monitored types of social service facilities in Slovakia, of which 44,873 (44,406) were associated with year-round care (87 %), 498 (615) with weekly care (1 %), 6,315 (6,885) with daily care (12 %). Of the total number of the beds, 47,202 (47,520) beds (91 %) were recorded in DHO facilities. Graph 3.27 shows the development of capacities of the facilities, indicating that the total decrease in the number of beds in the facilities is caused mainly by a decrease in the number of places in day-care centres, namely by 708 compared to 2018.

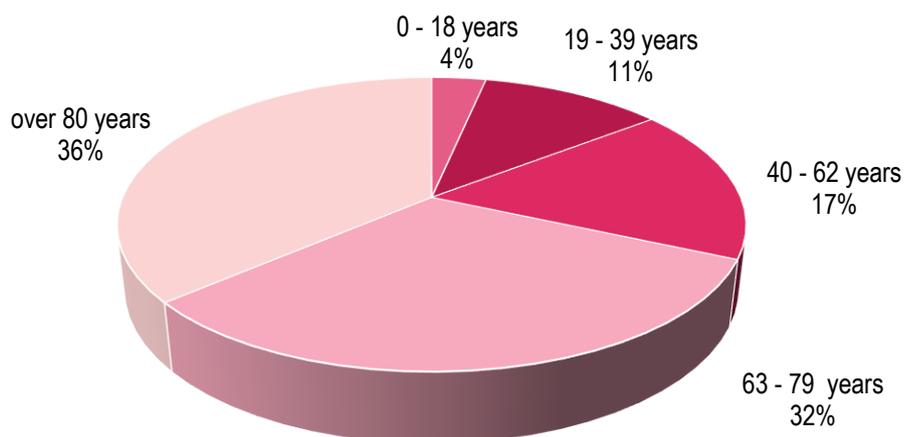
Graph 3.27 Capacities of Social Service Facilities



Source: Selected data from SO SR – Social Service Facilities in the Slovak Republic

Out of the total number of **55,049 recipients** in the social service facilities under review, as many as 45,303 (82 %) recipients were provided social services in DHO facilities, 25,283 (25,009) persons were nursed as bedridden (46 %) and 8,925 (8,889) persons had limited legal capacity or were completely deprived of legal capacity (16 %). As many as 39,635 recipients (72 %) undergo psychotic treatment, use neuroleptics or antidepressants. 33,523 (34,202) persons were in the retirement age (61 %) and, as shown in the Graph 3.28, out of the total number of social service recipients in DHO facilities (45,303) as many as 33,024 (68 %) were in the retirement age.

Graph 3.28 Age Structure of Social Service Recipients in DHO facilities



Source: Selected data from SO SR – Social Service Facilities in the Slovak Republic

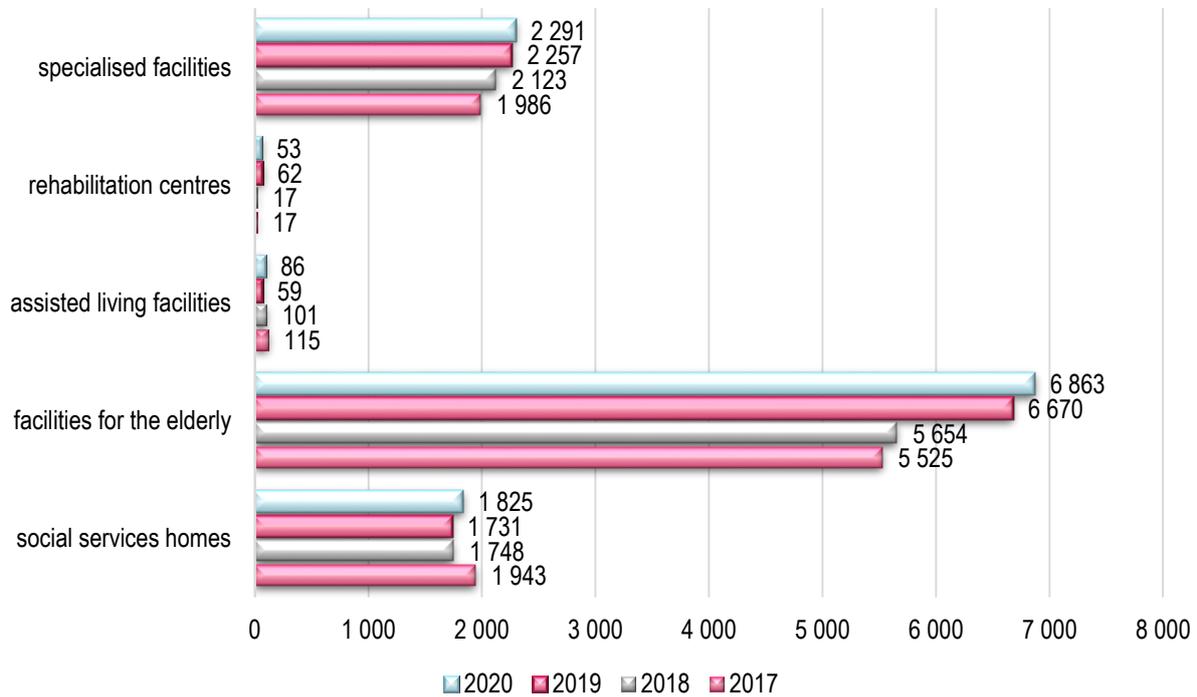
As at 31 December 2019, the total **expenditure** of social service **facilities** reached €551.4 million (€489 million), of which as much as €372 million (€316 million), i.e. 67.5 % was spent on wages and compulsory social insurance contributions. Other expenditure was spent on goods and services, acquisition of fixed assets and healthcare. Expenditure on social services in DHO facilities amounted to €536.7 million (€476 million), accounting for 97 % of the total expenditure in all types of social service facilities monitored by SO SR.

As at 31 December 2019, the incomes of facilities under review reached €548 million (€488 million), of which €121.7 million (22 %) was income from the financial contribution from the MoLSAF budget, €233 million (42.5 %) was provided to the providers by local governments and €162.8 million (30 %) was paid by clients. Out of the total income of DHO facilities providing nursing care amounting to €514 million, only 0.5 %, i.e. €2.5 million consisted of income from insurance companies.

As at 31 December 2019, the monitored social service facilities were employing 26,826 (26,242) employees, with an increase by 584 employees compared to 2018 which, however, is lower than in previous year (1,135). There were 26,067 employees in DHO facilities (97 % of the total number of employees of the facilities under review).

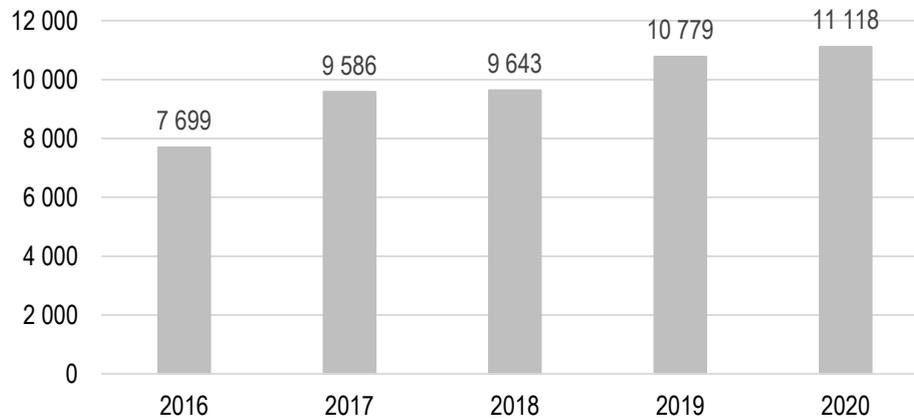
In 2020, there was a total of 11,118 (10,779) individuals - **applicants for the provision of social services** in DHO facilities, most of them in facilities for the elderly (6,863; 62 % persons) and specialized facilities (2,291; 20 % persons). Compared to 2018, the total number of applicants increased by 339 persons. Evolution of the number of applicants for the provision of social service in DHO facilities as per the types of facilities and their total number since 2017 is shown in the Graphs 3.29 and 3.30.

Graph 3.29 Applicants for the Provision of Social Services in DHO Facilities



Source: V(MoLSAF) 10- 01

Graph 3.30 Evolution of the Total Number of Applicants for the Provision of Social Services in DHO Facilities



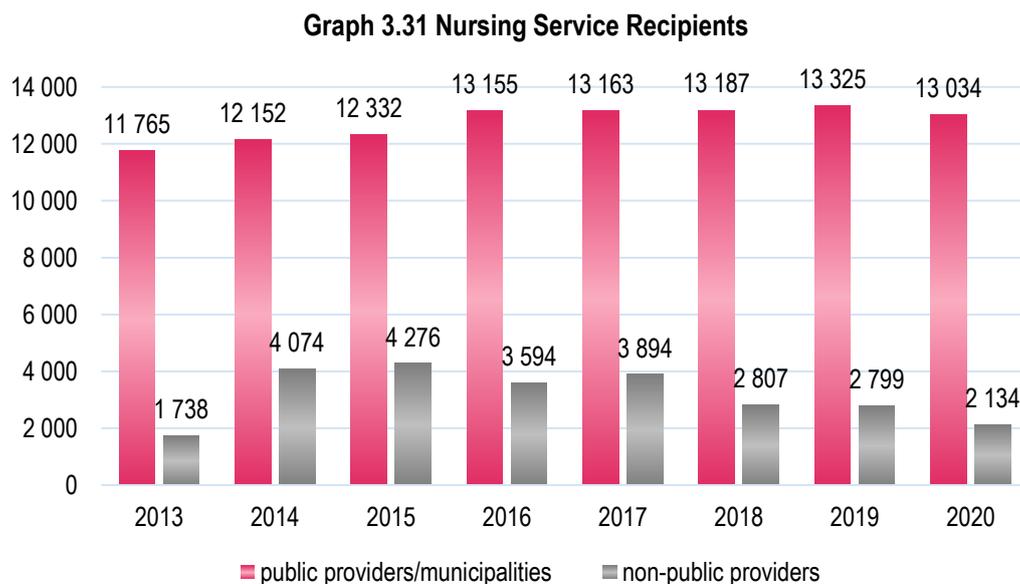
Source: V(MoLSAF) 10- 01

More detailed statistical data about social service facilities, selected types of social services and number of applicants for ensuring the provision of social services are contained in the Tables 26 to 32 in the Annex to the Chapter 3.⁵⁶

⁵⁶ Source: Selected data from the Statistical Office of SR – Social Service Facilities

Nursing Service

In 2020, a total of 15,168 individuals received **nursing service**, of which municipalities provided this social service to 13,034 persons (86 % of the total number of nursing service recipients), representing a year-on-year decrease by 291 persons. **Non-public providers** provided the nursing service to 2,082 clients (decrease by 665 persons under care compared to 2019). Evolution of the number of recipients of the nursing service in 2013 to 2020 is shown in the Graph 3.31, indicating that the evolution of the indicator is basically constant in the case of municipalities, without a significant increase in their numbers, even with a decrease in the number of recipients in 2020, mainly in the case of non-public providers. Fluctuations seen in the number of their clients may be connected to the currently set system of support from EU funds.

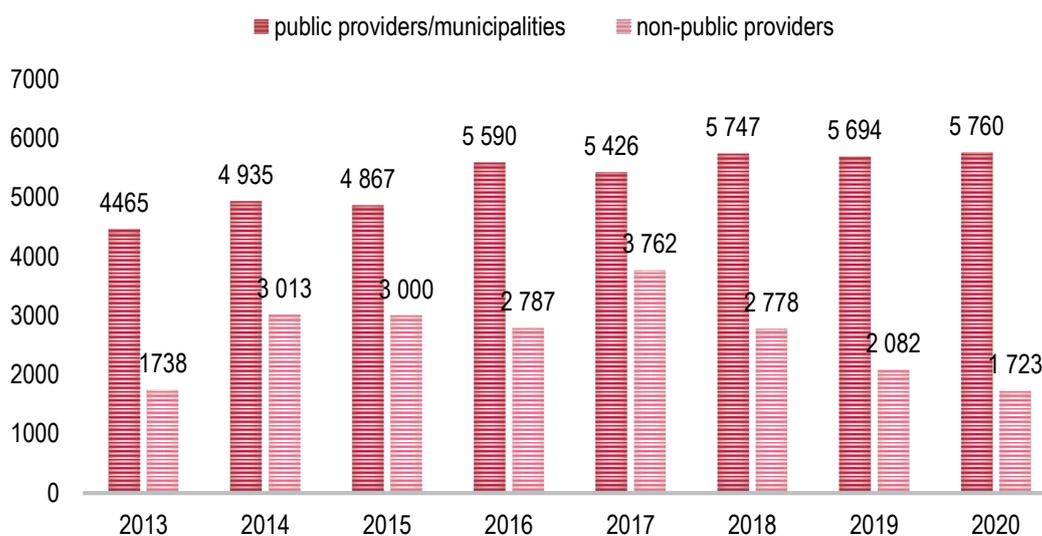


Source: V(MoLSAF) 11-01 and V(MoLSAF) 07-01

In 2020, nursing service was provided by 5,760 employees⁵⁷ of towns and municipalities. Compared to 2019, it is an increase by 66 employees. Non-public providers employed 1,723 carers in the period under review, what is a decrease by 359 compared to 2019. Similarly to the recipients of the nursing service, fluctuations in the numbers of employees may be related to the currently set system of support from EU funds.

⁵⁷ Numbers of employees are calculated as FTEs.

Graph 3.32 Nursing Service Employees



Source: V(MoLSAF) 11-01 and V(MoLSAF) 07-01

In 2020, municipalities spent a total of €56.7 mil. for providing nursing service, while revenue from payments of €7.7 mil. covered only 13.5 % of this expenditure; the remainder had to be paid by municipalities from their own budgets. In the case of non-public providers, revenues from payment amounting to €3.2 million covered about 28.6 % of the expenses on the nursing service (almost €11.2 million). Other statistics on nursing service are given in Annex to Chapter 3, Table 25.

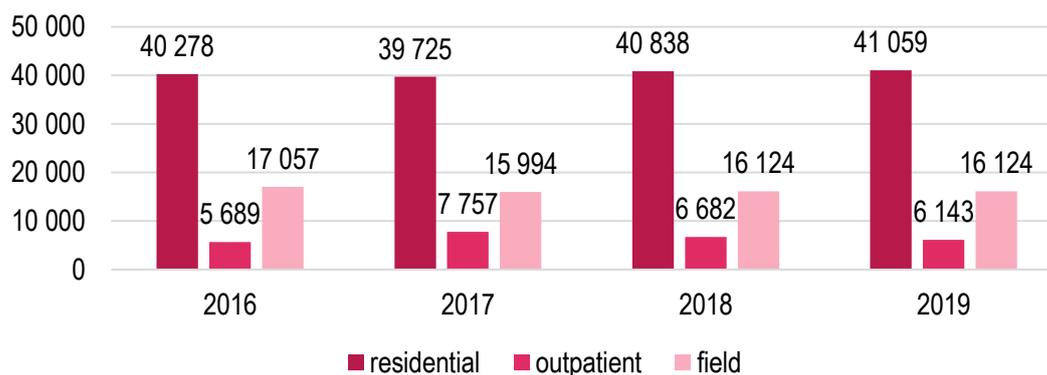
Social Services for Dependence on the Help of Others (hereinafter simply “DHO social services”)

In accordance with the Social Services Act, DHO social services are provided for persons who are dependent on the help of others, which means the provision of **nursing service and social services in DHO facilities**. From among all types of social services, these are the most in-demand services (graphs 3.29 and 3.30); their provision is the most expensive in terms of professional and personnel requirements, and their physical but also financial unavailability are also regularly pointed out. Demand for this type of social services is likely to continue increasing due to demographic trends and population ageing. At the end of the last decade, the 65+ population accounted for about 12 % of the total Slovak population, and by 2030 the percentage is expected to increase to 21.2 %. The 80+ population accounted for ca. 2.5 % of the total Slovak population at the end of the last decade, with an expected increase to 6.5 % by 2030. Given the current age structure of social service recipients in DHO facilities (graph 3.28), the said demographic data implies an increase in demand for DHO social services and a thereto-related rise in the total financial costs of this type of social services covered from public sources.

As stated above, as at 31 December 2019, DHO facilities provided social service to 45,303 recipients in 1,175 facilities. **The age structure** of social service recipients in DHO facilities is shown in Graph 3.28, which clearly points out that persons aged 63 - 70 years and over 80 years accounted for the largest share (68 %) of the total number of these social service recipients.

Data is summarised in the Graphs 3.33 and 3.34 in order to offer a broader overview of the recipients of DHO social services (nursing service and DHO facilities).

Graph 3.33 Numbers of Beds/Recipients as per the Form of the Provided DHO Social Service

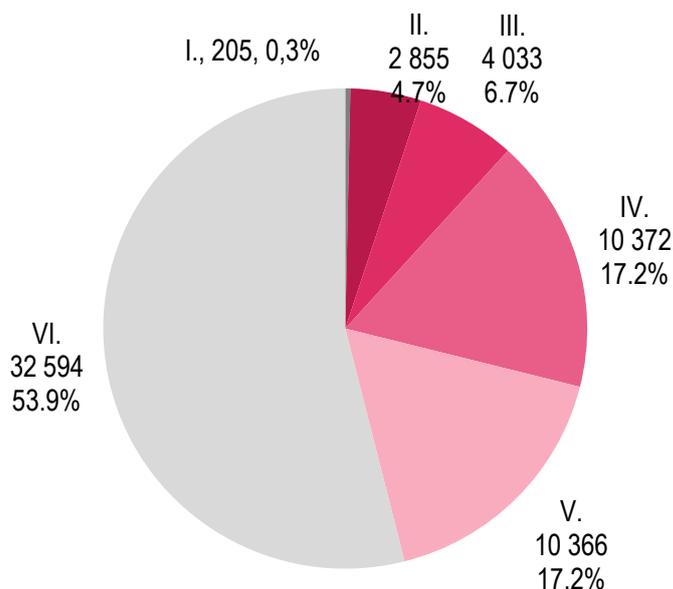


Source: Selected data from SO SR – Social Service Facilities in SR and V(MoLSAF) 11-01

Graph 3.33 provides data on the proportion of capacities of DHO social services by form of **rendered social service**. The graph clearly shows that capacities increase year-on-year for each form of social service, but the proportion of individual forms of social services remains unchanged. This means that despite the started process of the deinstitutionalisation of social services and support for field social service from the European Structural Funds, DHO social services with residence continue to account for the highest share (65 %). The field (nursing) social service makes up 25 %. It can be assumed that the structure of the spectrum of forms of rendered social services remains unchanged mainly due to persistent and ever-increasing demand for residential social services, but also the lack of offered capacities of other forms of social services.

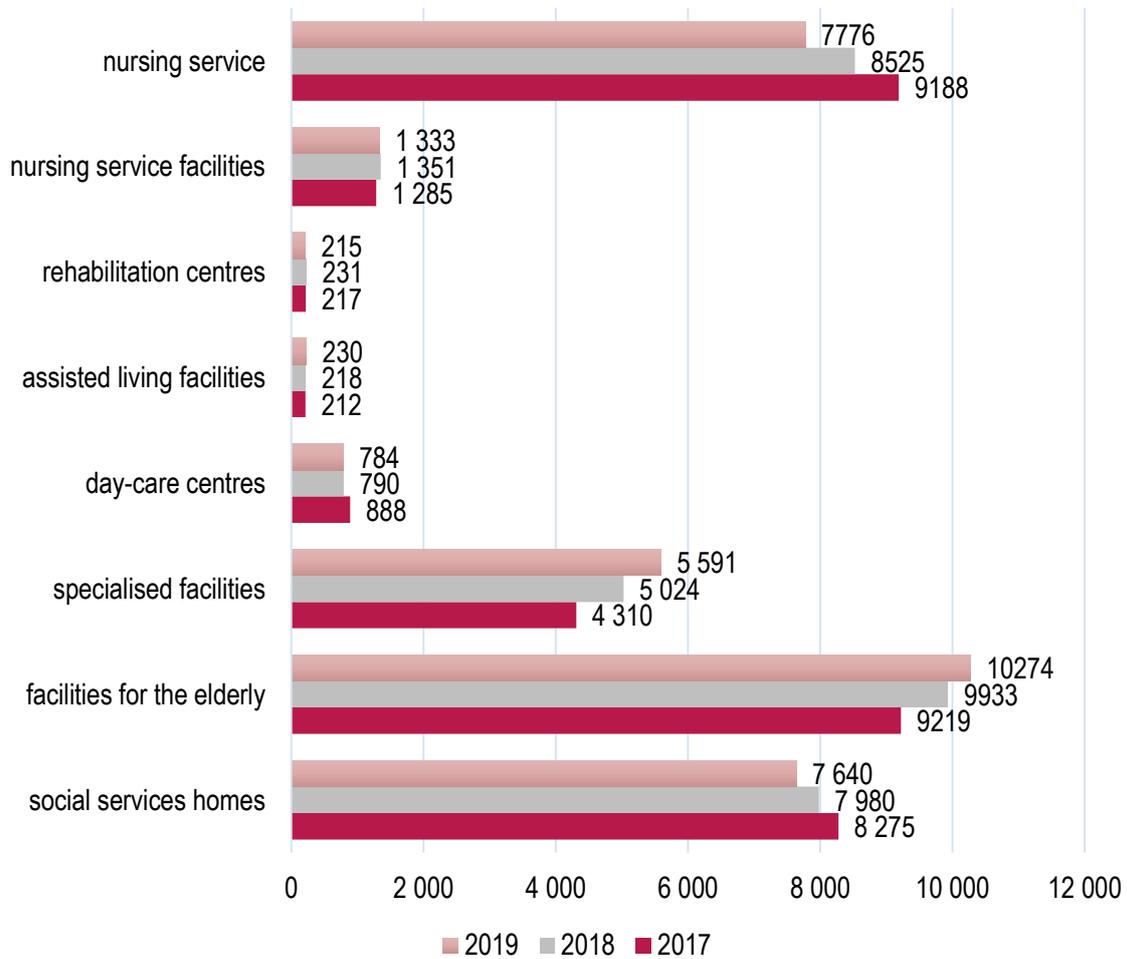
The structure of DHO social service recipients as per the **degree of their dependence on the help of other person** is shown in the Graph 3.34, indicating that the DHO social services are mostly provided to persons dependant on the help of other persons in the degree V and VI (71 % of the total number of recipients of DHO social services).

Graph 3.34 Structure of DHO Social Service Recipients by Degree of Dependence



Source: Selected data from SO SR – Social Service Facilities in SR and V(MoLSAF) 11-01

Graph 3.35 Employees of DHO Social Services

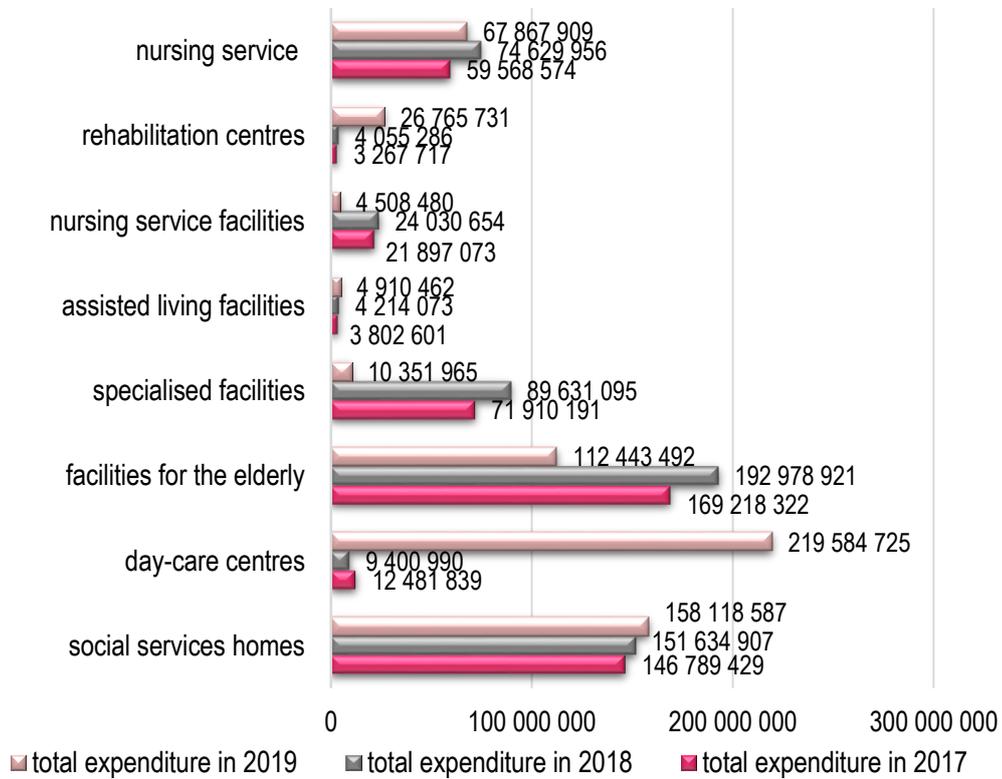


Source: Selected data from SO SR – Social Service Facilities in SR and V(MoLSAF) 11-01

Graph 3.35 on the **employees of DHO social services** shows data about the numbers of employees in 2017 to 2019. A major increase in the number of employees may be seen only in facilities for the elderly; on the contrary, in specialized facilities and in the nursing service the number of employees is decreasing.

The graph on **Expenditure on DHO Social Services** clearly shows that there is an upward trend, regardless of the type of social service, which only confirms the high financial demands for the provision of this type of social services.

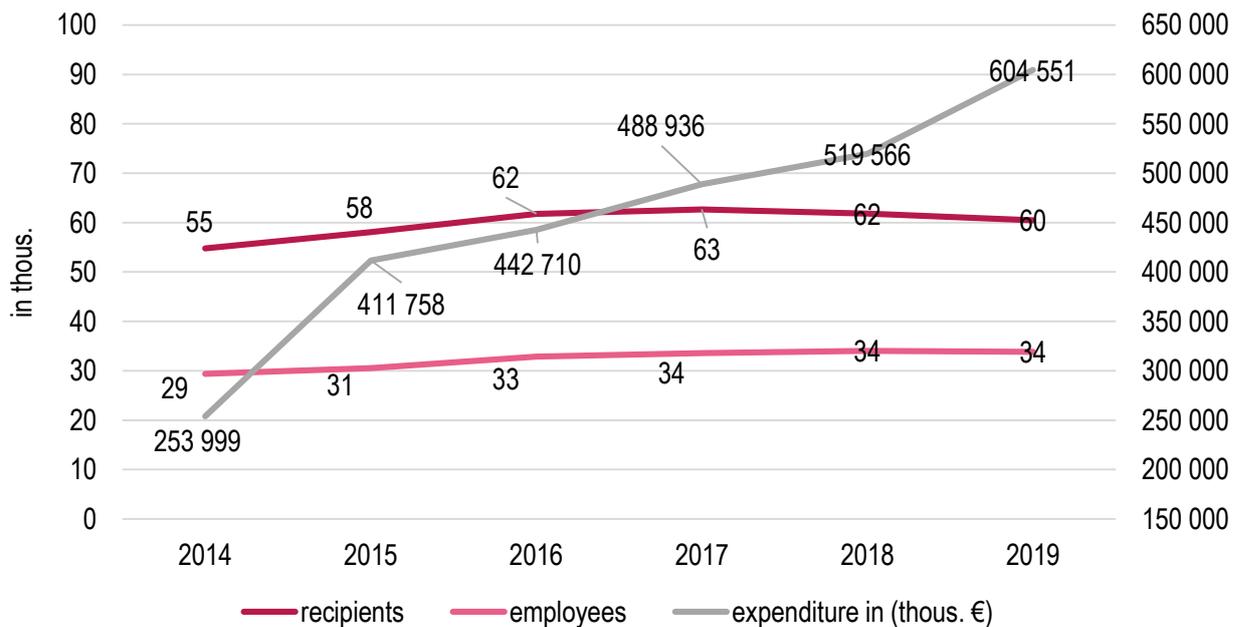
Graph 3.36 Total Expenditure on DHO Social Services



Source: Selected data from SO SR – Social Service Facilities in SR and V(MoLSAF) 11-01

Data in Graph 3.37 represents the **development of the basic indicators of DHO social services**, i.e. the number of recipients, employees and expenditure on these social services between 2014 and 2019.

Graph 3.37 Development of DHO Social Services



Source: Selected data from SO SR – Social Service Facilities in SR and V(MoLSAF) 11-01

Other Social Services

As far as **facilities providing social services and selected types of social services not monitored by the Statistical Office of SR** are concerned, as at 31 December 2020, municipalities, higher territorial units or non-public social service providers established in Slovakia 1,317 social service providers that rendered these social services to 214,292 clients through 3,621 employees, of whom 559 were volunteers, with the total spending of almost €36.3 mil. and revenue of almost €31 mil.

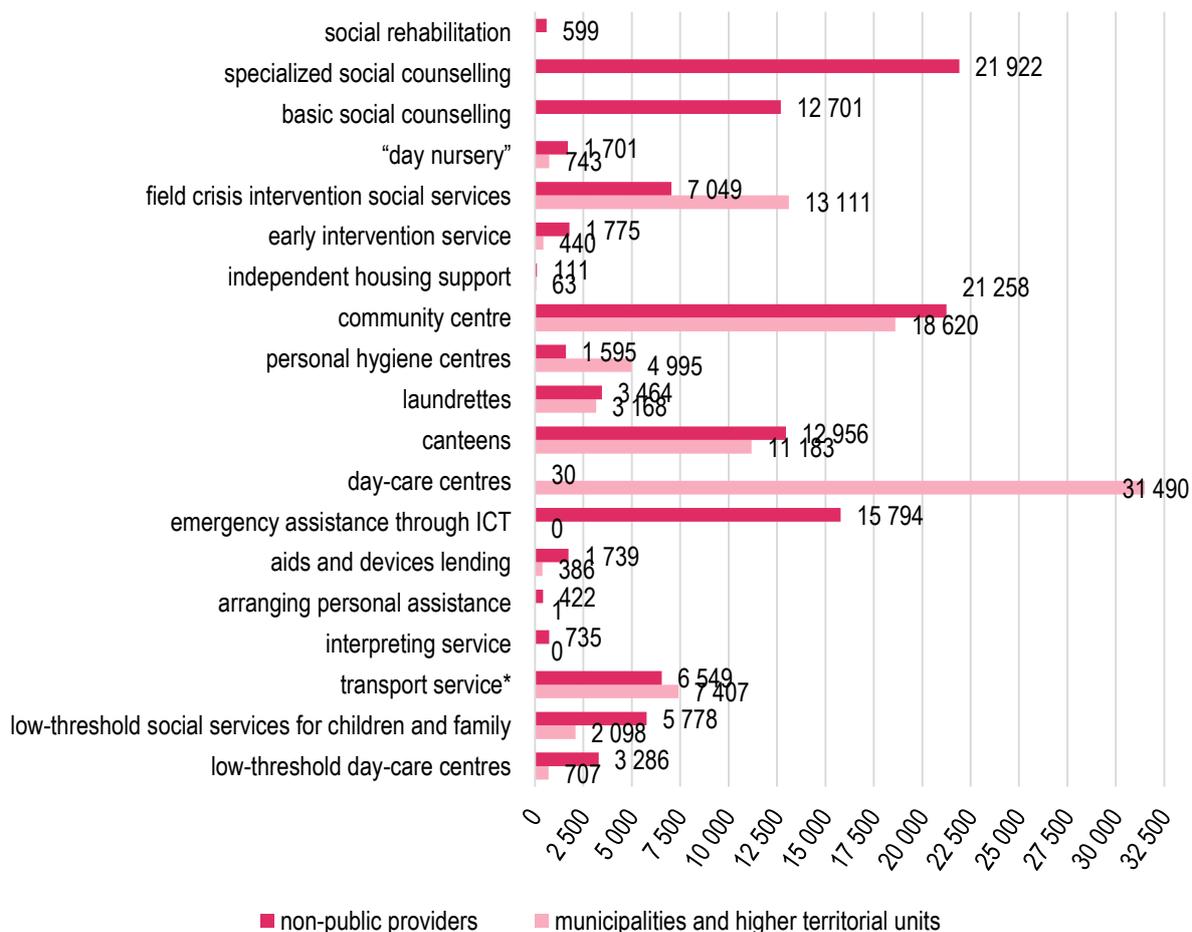
For some social services, the highest number of both providers and recipients was recorded in **municipalities**. These are primarily 230 day-care centres, in which municipalities rendered social services to 31,490 clients, 108 community centres with 18,620 clients, 91 canteens, in which meals were provided for 11,183 clients, but also laundrettes, personal hygiene centres, field crisis intervention social service, and the provision of transport service. Social services, such as low-threshold day-care centres, low-threshold social service for children and family, early intervention service, renting aids, emergency assistance through telecommunication technologies and care facilities for children under three years of age ("day nurseries") were mostly rendered by **non-public providers** (141 day nurseries with 1,701 children). More detailed statistics on selected social services are given in the Annex to the Chapter 3, Table 31.

In accordance with the Social Services Act, selected professional activities (basic social counselling, specialised social counselling, and social rehabilitation) can also be provided separately as a social service. In 2020, such professional activities were provided by 131 non-public providers for 35,222 clients.

Other statistics on such social services are given in the Annex to Chapter 3, Table 31.

An overview of the proportion of clients of public and non-public providers of selected types of social services (where the number of recipients reached at least 100) is provided also in Graph 3.38, showing which types of social services are mostly rendered by public and which by non-public social service providers.

Graph 3.38 Number of Recipients of Selected Types of Social Services by Form of Provider



Source: V(MoLSAF) 10-01, V(MoLSAF) 11-01 and V(MoLSAF) 07-01

Co-financing of Social Services

In accordance with the Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on social services and on the amendment to Act No. 455/1991 Coll. on trade licensing (Trade Licensing Act), as amended, MoLSAF provided budget appropriation to co-finance selected types of social services. Based on the submitted applications and concluded contracts with 197 municipalities (villages and towns) and 392 non-public (private) social service providers, MoLSAF made budget appropriations of €153,592,973 to co-finance social services in 2020, of which €58,715,290 were for public providers (402 facilities) and €94,877,683 were for private providers (792 facilities). The approved expenditure budget of €156,063,072 was not adjusted during the year. The actual expenditure amounted to €149,795,073.

The Government Regulation No. 70/2020 Coll., laying down certain conditions of financing social services in time of exceptional situation, emergency or state of emergency, increased the allocation for night shelters from €120 to €150 per client per month, with effect from 1 March 2000. Pursuant to Section 71 (6) and (7) of the Social Services Act – the financial contribution to finance social services for public providers was made for the following types of social services: day-care centres (€2,655,534), social services homes (€1,085,441), night shelters (€770,432), specialised facilities (€1,454,544), refuges (€1,153,800), assisted living facilities (€21,528), emergency housing facilities (€232,200), nursing service facilities (€7,590,371), and facilities for the elderly (€43,751,440). In accordance with Sections 78a and 78aa of the Social Services Act, the financial contribution to render social services for non-public providers was made for the following types of social services: day-care centres (€5,280,723), social services homes (€13,363,140), night shelters (€1,179,187), specialised facilities (€16,636,927), assisted living facilities (€1,078,946), rehabilitation centres (€753,516), nursing service facilities (€6,315,020), and facilities for the elderly (€50,270,224). As at 31 December 2020, 272 recipients of the financial contribution repaid the total amount of €3,797,900 to the account of MoLSAF, of which €883,160 were repaid by public social service providers and €2,914,740 by non-public (private) social service providers, mostly due to vacancies in social service facilities. In relation to the coronavirus pandemic and the effort to mitigate its consequences in social service facilities, there were some changes in the calculation of refunds for unoccupied beds in the facilities.

Compared to 2019, the expenses provided for co-financing of social services in accordance with the Social Services Act in 2020 were higher by €16,886,894 (12.7 %), mainly due to adjustment of the amount of the financial contribution in accordance with the Government Regulation No. 175/2019 Coll. from 1 January 2020.

In addition to the expenses paid in the form of a financial contribution, funds in the amount of €2,776,597 from the budget intended to support social services were used by the Ministry for social service providers to buy material equipment to prevent the dangerous COVID-19 disease from spreading (face masks, respirators, overalls, shields, disinfection) and distributed through relevant self-governing regions.

Supervision of Social Services Provision

In accordance with the Sections 98 and 99 of the Social Services Act, the Ministry performs supervision of social services provision (hereinafter referred to as "supervision") to check compliance with the Social Services Act and with general binding legal regulations by providers of social services in the provision of social services hereunder.

In 2020, supervisions were performed based on authorization of the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic. The supervision process followed the "MoLSAF Directive No. 13/2019 of 30 June 2019 on ensuring the supervision of the provision of social services", effective from 1 August 2019.

Table 3.34 Overview of Supervision in 2020

Overview of supervision	Number
Number of supervisions carried over from 2019 and completed in 2020	4
Number of commenced and completed supervisions in 2020, according to the action plan	4
Number of commenced and completed supervisions in 2020, beyond the action plan	5
Total number of executed and completed supervisions in 2020	13

Table 3.35 Number of commenced and pending supervisions in 2020

Number of commenced and pending supervisions	Number
Number of commenced and pending supervisions in 2020, according to the action plan	1
Number of commenced and pending supervisions in 2020, beyond the action plan	1
Number of non-performed supervisions according to the action plan	10

Out of the total number of planned supervisions for 2020, 10 supervisions were not performed because: 1 social service provider had been inspected by the Higher Territorial Unit as its founder, 2 social service providers did not provide social services any longer, 4 planned supervisions were shifted to the action plan 2021 and supervisions were not performed at 3 social service providers due to hygienic and epidemiological measures in relation to COVID-19.

Due to the urgency to attend to the delivered motions, 6 supervisions were commenced beyond the action plan 2020, and 5 of them were completed.

Two supervisions were commenced in 2020 but their performance was carried over to 2021. In addition to the above-stated, in 2020 the Supervision Department finished 4 supervisions carried over from 2019. Out of the total number of supervisions performed (13) in 2020, in all 13 cases the material resulting from the supervision was a supervision result protocol.

In 2020, supervisions were performed at social service providers providing social service in a residential form (11) for the target group of the elderly and at social service providers in an outpatient form in childcare facilities for children under three years of age (2).

Table 3.36 Supervisions broken down by type of social service

Supervisions broken down by type of social service	Supervisions performed in 2020	Supervisions carried over to 2021
facilities for the elderly	7	2
specialised facilities	2	0
care facilities for children under three years of age	2	0
combined facilities	2	0

Registration, monitoring and assessment of social service providers' notifications of the use of non-physical and physical restraints

Section 10(5) and (6) of the Social Services Act obliges social service providers, among others, to maintain a register of the use of non-physical and physical restraints on social service recipients (hereinafter simply the "use of restraints"). Pursuant to Section 10(6) of the Social Services Act, social service providers are obliged to notify MoLSAF of the use of restraints on social service recipients immediately after such restraints are used. Data sent from this register were monitored and applied by MoLSAF in planning and execution of supervisions.

On the basis of the received notifications of restraints used on social service recipients in 2020, there were records of a total of 285 restraints. In 2020, social service providers used a higher number of non-physical restraints compared to physical restraints in accordance with the Social Services Act.

Table 3.37 Number of Social Service Providers' Notifications of the Use of Non-physical and Physical Restraints in 2020, by Regions

Region	Number of notifications from public providers		Number of notifications from private providers		Total
	physical	non-physical	physical	non-physical	
Bratislava	8	15	4	2	29
Trnava	3	31	0	8	42
Nitra	3	13	1	2	19
Trenčín	9	40	3	1	53
Žilina	12	12	2	4	30
Banská Bystrica	20	11	1	24	56
Košice	17	21	1	5	44
Prešov	0	6	0	6	12
TOTAL	72	149	12	52	285

Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

From the effective date of the Social Services Act, supervision also includes check of compliance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Social Services Act, concerning the social service provider's obligation to protect the life, health and dignity of a social service recipient, i.e. when using a physical or non-physical restraint on a social service recipient in accordance with the Social Services Act.

The non-physical restraints mean dealing with the situation mainly through verbal communication, distraction, or active listening. Physical restraints mean dealing with the situation using a variety of special grips, by placing the client in a room intended for safe stay or using medications as advised by a physician specialised in psychiatry. The use of non-physical restraints takes precedence over the use of physical restraints.

The restraints may be used on recipients only if all other possible strategies or procedures have been used unsuccessfully to prevent the behaviour of the recipients which directly threatens their life or health or the health and life of others and the risks arising from non-restriction of the recipients are greater than the risks arising from their restriction.

Table 3.38 Overview of the Number of Received Notifications of the Use of Restraints

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
total	70	161	228	305	320	336	265	316	392	502	285
physical	60	125	149	216	256	238	129	147	132	143	84
non-physical	10	36	79	89	64	98	136	169	260	359	201

Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

In 2020, the total number of notifications of social service providers on the use of (both physical and non-physical) restraints of recipients was much lower (285) compared to previous years. The Ministry is currently assessing to what extent and how the total number of notifications of social service providers on the use of the means of restraining recipients is related to the pandemic situation in connection to COVID-19.

Imposing fines for violations of the Social Services Act

In compliance with the Social Services Act, MoLSAF may/shall impose a fine for:

- administrative offences under Section 101;
- the provision of professional, service and other activities without being listed in the register of social service providers maintained by the relevant higher territorial unit;
- a disciplinary penalty;

- a fine for failure to comply with the measures to remove the identified deficiencies within a specified time limit.

In accordance with the Social Services Act, 5 fines were imposed in 2020 for administrative offences in accordance with the Section 101 of the Social Services Act.

Assessment of the conditions of quality of social services and accreditations in accordance with the Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on Social Services and on amendments and supplements to the Act No. 455/1991 Coll. on Trade Licensing (Trade Licensing Act), as amended, and in the section of accreditation of entities performing activities in accordance with the Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on the Social and Legal Protection of Children and Social Guardianship and on amendments and supplements to certain acts

The subject and purpose of assessments of the conditions of quality of the provided social services, performed by the Ministry, is to provide the most objective unbiased opinion on the actual degree of compliance of the assessed entities with the conditions of quality of the provided social service at the time of assessment in accordance with the Annex 2 to the Social Services Act and thus to support the assessed entities as social service providers in the systemic assurance of quality of the provided social service, its maintenance and improvement.

The Supplement 36 of 11 June 2020 to the Rules of Organization of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Ministry") No. 30/2011 of 24 June 2011 brought organizational changes including a change to the original name of the Department of the Assessment of the Conditions of Quality of the Provided Social Service as a result of a merger with the Department of Accreditation, by renaming it to the Department of Social Services and Accreditations Quality Assessment and moving it from the Control Section to the Social Policy Section, effective from 15 June 2020.

As the administrative authority for the area of accreditation in accordance with the Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on the Social and Legal Protection of Children and Social Guardianship and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended, and the Social Services Act, the Ministry decides about awarding accreditations:

- for the implementation of selected measures of the social and legal protection of children and social guardianship pursuant to Act on Social and Legal Protection of Children and Social Guardianship,
- for educational programmes and professional activities under the Social Services Act.

Accreditation Process in 2020

The Ministry decides in matters of accreditation after the previous statement of the Accreditation Commission of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Accreditation Commission of the Ministry") established by the Minister as an advisory body for the assessment of applications for accreditation, for renewal of accreditation, for accreditation change, and assessment of revocation or withdrawal of accreditation. As a result of the unfavourable epidemiological situation related to COVID-19, 7 regular sessions of the Accreditation Commission of the Ministry were held in 2020.

As for the area of social services, the Accreditation Commission of the Ministry adopted statements in the form of *per rollam* voting in March, April, May - twice, August, October and November. As for the area of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship, the Accreditation Commission of the Ministry had sessions in March, April, June and August.

In 2020, the Ministry considered 5 applications for accreditation to perform measures of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship (hereinafter referred to as "measures") for 5 entities. Three applicants were accredited; in two cases for measures to be performed in an outpatient and field form and in one case for a Children and Family Centre in an outpatient and field form (hereinafter referred to as the "Centre"). Accreditation was not granted in two cases for the performance of measures in a residential form in the Centre. The Ministry made decisions about 13 renewals of accreditation (for 9 entities performing measures in the Children and Family Centre in a residential form and for 4 entities performing measures outside the Centre). In 2020, the Ministry made decisions about accreditation changes in 13 cases (for 12 entities), of which 6 changes were in the Centres and 7 in measures. Accreditation changes concerned mainly changes in the person of the responsible representative, capacity, place of performance of measures and extent of the performed measures.

In 2020, the Ministry started 3 proceedings concerning accreditation revocation (for 3 entities). The proceedings were stopped in all the cases. In accordance with the Section 92 (1) (b) of the Act No. 305/2005 Coll. the Ministry also started three proceedings concerning administrative offences where it imposed a fine for violation of obligations in accordance with the Section 83 (5) of the Act No. 305/2005 Coll.

In 2020, accreditation of two accredited entities terminated because the entity asked for or announced termination of its activities in the accredited area; accreditation of one entity was revoked because it did not meet the conditions in accordance with the Section 79 of the Act No. 305/2005 Coll.

As for changes to decisive matters – in the programmes of the Centres, the Accreditation Commission assessed compliance with the conditions of accreditation under the Section 83 (6) of the Act No. 305/2005 Coll. in 19 cases. As for the recommendation to comply with the commission of experience under the Section 82 (4) of the Act No. 305/2005 Coll., the Accreditation Commission assessed 89 applications for 89 employees in accredited entities.

Accredited entities notified the Ministry also of any extraordinary situations and risk situations (39 cases).

With regard to social services in 2020, the Ministry decided to grant 13 accreditations, of which 8 accreditations were for educational programmes (for 7 entities) and 5 accreditations for professional activities (for 5 entities).

In the period under review, 44 decisions on accreditation renewal were issued for 35 entities (20 renewals of accreditations of educational programmes and 24 renewals of accreditations for professional activities).

As for changes to accreditations, the Ministry made decisions about 24 applications, while changes to accreditations concerned mainly a change in the person of the responsible representative for performance of professional activities, place of performance of professional activities, extension of the form of professional activities, change to the name of the educational programme. For the sake of purposefulness and economy, 4 decisions containing 2 statements were issued in the above-stated period of time, i.e. a statement on a change to accreditation together with a statement on the renewal of accreditation for professional activities.

In 2020, accreditation was not granted in the case of 4 applications, of which 2 were accreditations for educational programmes (2 entities) and 2 were accreditations for professional activities (1 entity). One accreditation for professional activities was withdrawn in 2020.

Validity of 21 accreditations for educational activities (of 15 entities) and validity of 8 accreditations for professional activities (of 8 entities) expired in 2020, particularly because the entity did not ask for renewal of the accreditation within the period in accordance with the Section 90 (2) of the Social Services Act, or asked for the renewal of accreditation in a period shorter than 90 days before the accreditation validity expiry date.

Table 3.39 Number of Accredited Institutions to Implement SLPC&SG Measures as at 31 December 2020

Number of accredited institutions	
Institutions implementing measures of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship under Act No. 305/2005 Coll. TOTAL	77

Source: COLSAF-KIDS

Quality assessment in 2020

Although 2020 was an extremely demanding year – in accordance with the Article 5 of the Constitutional Act No. 227/2002 Coll. on state security in time of war, state of war, state of exception and state of emergency, as amended, a state of emergency was declared as the development of the coronavirus-related situation was unpredictable, namely from March 2020 to June 2020 and from 1 October 2020 until further notice – **16 quality assessments** were performed, focused on respecting basic human rights and freedoms, of which 2 in social service facilities providing social services also to children.

15 regular and 24 pilot quality assessments were planned within the approved action plan of the Ministry for 2020 and the National Project "Quality of Social Services". Performance of quality conditions assessment was suspended in the above-stated period of time due to restrictions caused by COVID-19 and in accordance with the MoLSAF Pandemic Plan (hereinafter referred to as the "Pandemic Plan"). Only 3 regular assessments were commenced and completed before 14 June 2020.

Table 3.40 Overview of Quality Assessment in 2020

Number of commenced and completed quality assessments in 2020, according to the action type	
Number of quality assessments commenced in 2019 and completed in 2020	7
Number of commenced and completed regular quality assessments in 2020 (up to 14 June 2020)	3
Number of commenced and completed regular quality assessments in 2020 (after 14 June 2020)	1

Table 3.41 Quality assessment broken down by type of social service as at 31 December 2020

Social service type	Plan	Commenced and completed up to 14 June 2020	Commenced after 14 June 2020 and completed in 2020	Commenced after 14 June 2020 and carried over to 2021	Carried over to 2021
Night shelter	1				1
Refuge	2			1	1
Low-threshold social service for children and family	1				1
Facilities for the elderly	5	2		2	1
Social services homes	4		1	2	1
Specialised facilities	1	1			
Follow-up assessment	1				1
TOTAL	15	3	1	5	6

Table 3.42 Quality assessment divided as per the achieved quality level

Overall assessment	Assessment in %	Number of providers
excellent	90 – 100 %	1
very good	75 – 89 %	2
sufficient	60 – 74 %	2
insufficient	0 – 59 %	2

Assessment of the conditions of quality of social services and accreditations in 2020 was conditioned by activities elaborated within the expected stages of development of the pandemic for individual organisational units and organisations in the competence of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in the Pandemic Plan in case of a pandemic (of 29 September 2020). When implementing the measures according to stages in the Pandemic Plan, the Ministry ensured, responded to and assessed the impacts on the processes of accreditations, and disclosed guidelines concerning the COVID-19 pandemic on the Ministry website. In accordance with the Pandemic Plan of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, in 2020 compliance with quality conditions No. 2.6 of the Annex 2 to the Social Services Act was inspected and plans for dealing with crisis situations were checked in accordance with the relevant MoLSAF guidelines. When providing assistance in the crisis situation in relation to COVID-19 based on notifications of extraordinary occurrences at social service providers, the Ministry communicated by telephone, e-mail and video, performed visits at the above-stated establishments, guided and helped ensure safe provision of the social service by the social service providers affected by COVID-19.

At the same time, the Ministry prepared supporting documents for methodological assistance and creation of methodological teams. The methodological assistance was focused on immediate help, support and guidance for social service providers with a high risk of jeopardizing a safe provision of social services. The task of the methodological team was to focus on ensuring the operation and provision of social service in relation to COVID-19 and application of individual measures, checking the current staffing, possibilities of ensuring the shift system and personnel capacity in the provision of social service, shift work – employee rest, checking the performance of professional activities with a risk of negligence (nursing and care, positioning, drinking regime etc.), checking the fulfilment of material needs related to the performance of nursing and care activities, checking compliance with

epidemiological measures, checking the treatment of hazardous waste including its disposal, checking the layout and facilities in green zones and other spatial conditions, or other problems and risks according to the current situation of the provider.

National project "Quality of Social Services"

In 2020, performance of quality assessment is again supported by implementation of the National Project **Quality of Social Services** (hereinafter referred to as "NP QSS") with implementation period from 6/2019 to 5/2023 (and total allocation amounting to €3.79 million).

The project implements the quality of social services through methodological support of social service providers when implementing quality conditions ('provider aspect' of quality) and also the system of assessing the conditions of social service quality ('assessor aspect' of quality). Project activities are focused on training, performance of assessment of quality conditions and methodological support of assessment teams, revision of quality standards and validation of methodologies. 32 expert seminars for providers in each self-governing region were planned in 2020. 22 seminars were held in 2020, of which 16 expert seminars were held in the face-to-face group form with about 25 attendees, and 6 were held online as a result of an unfavourable social situation in relation to COVID-19. From 1 January to 31 December 2020, altogether 469 representatives of social service providers participated in the expert seminars, of whom 398 in the face-to-face form and 71 online.

24 social service providers were selected based on nominations of key representatives of founders and organisations associating social service providers. The selection took into consideration the type of the social service, the type of the social service provider, regional character and period of registration of the social service. The total number of selected entities – social service providers for the purposes of pilot assessment of quality conditions is 24.

Table 3.43 Pilot assessment broken down by type of social service as at 31 December 2020

Social service type	Plan	Commenced and completed up to 14 June 2020	Commenced after 14 June 2020 and completed in 2020	Commenced after 14 June 2020 and carried over to 2021	Carried over to 2021
Field crisis intervention service	1				1
Low-threshold day-care centres	1				1
Community centres	1				1
Refuges	1	1			
Emergency housing facilities	1				1
Care facilities for children under three years of age	2				2
Early intervention service	1				1
Assisted living facilities	1				1
Facilities for the elderly	3	1			2
Nursing service facilities	1				1
Rehabilitation centres	1				1
Social services homes	3	2			1
Specialised facilities	3	1			2
Nursing Service	4		1	1	2
TOTAL	24	5	1	1	17

Control of the Use of the Financial Contribution to Finance Social Service in Social Service Facilities

In accordance with the Section 9 of the Act No. 357/2015 Coll. on the financial control and audit and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic performs financial on-the-spot controls (hereinafter simply "FOCs") in entities that were granted a subsidy to finance the social service in accordance with the Social Services Act.

Performance of FOCs in social service facilities was restricted in 2020 due to hygienic and epidemiological measures in relation to COVID-19.

6 FOCs were conducted in 2020, 2 of which were carried over from 2019, in social service facilities that had been granted a subsidy to finance the social service. The total amount of audited funds was €862,028.52.

114 violations were identified during the FOCs which included 5 violations of financial discipline in accordance with the Section 31 (1) (a) of the Act No. 523/2004 Coll. on the budget rules of public administration and on amendments and supplements to certain acts (hereinafter referred to as the "Budget Rules Act") in the amount of €35,109.28, and 28 violations of financial discipline in accordance with the Section 31 (1) (b) of the Budget Rules Act in the amount of €112,107.16. Other 81 violations included violations of obligations under the Social Services Act, Act No. 431/2002 Coll. on accounting, as amended, Act No. 311/2001 Coll. the Labour Code, Act No. 553/2003 Coll. on remuneration of some employees performing works of public interest and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, Act No. 461/2003 Coll. on social insurance, as amended, Act No. 580/2004 Coll. on health insurance and on amendments and supplements to the Act No. 95/2002 Coll. on insurance and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, contract on the provision of a financial contribution and violations of internal regulations. The resulting documents of 2 performed FOCs were referred by the Department of Control, Complaints and Petitions to the Government Audit Office to initiate an administrative procedure due to the violation of financial discipline by the obliged person.

- 2 FOCs carried over from 2019 to 2020, focused on the use of the financial contribution to finance social service under Section 78a of the Social Services Act, were performed in non-profit organisations (non-public social service providers). One FOC identified violation of financial discipline pursuant to Section 31(1)(b) of the Budget Rules Act totalling €2,405.10, in addition to other violations. The obliged person sent an amount equal to the violation of financial discipline (€2,405.10) to the account of MoLSAF.
- 4 FOCs performed in 2020 were focused on the use of the financial contribution to finance the social service in accordance with the Section 78a of the Social Service Act in the case of non-public providers (non-profit organisations). Violation of financial discipline was identified in all cases in accordance with the Section 31 (1) (a) of the Budget Rules Act in the amount of €35,109.28 and in accordance with the Section 31 (1) (b) of the Budget Rules Act in the amount of €109,702.06, in addition to other violations. In 2 cases, the obliged persons sent an amount corresponding to the violation of financial discipline (€55,645.98) to the account of MoLSAF and in 2 cases the Government Audit Office received a proposal for initiating administrative proceedings.

3.4.8 Subsidies to Support the Development of the Social Area within the Authority of MoLSAF

In 2020, MoLSAF provided subsidies from the budget in accordance with the Act No. 544/2010 Coll. on subsidies in the competence of MoLSAF, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Act"). In addition to the subsidies provided annually, in 2020 subsidies were also provided in accordance with the new legislation adopted in order to mitigate the consequences of the dangerous contagious human disease COVID-19 and to prevent it from spreading.

Based on the Act valid from 1 January 2020, the provided subsidies totalled €2,740,200, of which €2,127,010 were granted to legal entities. Subsidies to support the development of social services and subsidies to support the implementation of measures of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship (Section 3 of the Subsidies Act) were granted in the amount of €1,435,052 (154 supported applications), of which capital transfers in the amount of €560,131 were used to buy passenger and special vehicles, technical equipment to improve the treatment of clients with limited mobility, material equipment, to create a barrier-free environment and for heating equipment and other technology. As part of this expenditure, the amount of €17,357 was spent on drug policy. Rehabilitation activities (Section 6 of the Subsidies Act) were supported by granted subsidies of €484,500 (7

applications), membership in an international organisation in the social area (Section 7 of the Subsidies Act) was supported by the amount of €52,003 (21 applications) and editorial activities (Section 8 of the Subsidies Act) by the amount of €155,455 (22 applications). Within subsidies to support rehabilitation activities, subsidies aimed at preventing social exclusion and promoting the restoration of mental and physical condition of a natural person who receives old-age, early old-age or service pension and does not perform any activity with entitlement to income from employment or business were approved for three entities, namely expenses in the amount of €685,000. A significant part of the subsidy was returned to the Ministry by the applicants at the end of the year since the recovery stays had not been performed in the expected extent due to hotel service restrictions. The expenses provided for such purpose by 31 December 2020 amounted to €461,100. They were used to provide a recovery contribution for 9,222 applicants.

In accordance with Section 9(1) and (2) of the Subsidies Act, a subsidy of €613,190 to support humanitarian aid was provided for 1,103 natural persons in a critical life situation or an extremely unfavourable social situation to enable them to address such situation, of which €177,800 was provided to 297 applicants to mitigate the consequences of floods and €23,400 was provided to 54 applicants to mitigate the consequences of fire.

A higher number of supported applications for natural persons and, on the contrary, a lower amount provided for "common" subsidies for legal entities resulted from the extraordinary situation in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 3.44 Subsidies provided in accordance with the Act No. 544/2010 Coll. in the competence of MoLSAF

Purpose of subsidy:	Supported projects			Granted subsidy in €		
	2019	2020	Index 2020/2019	2019	2020	Index 2020/2019
– to support the development of social services and the implementation of measures of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship	182	154	84.6	1,642,396	1,435,052	87.4
– to support rehabilitation activities, membership of international organisations, editorial activities and humanitarian aid to legal entities	72	50	69.4	1,012,219	691,958	68.4
– to support humanitarian aid (natural persons)	457	1,103	241.4	236,820	613,190	258.9

Source: Draft final account for 2020

Based on the Government Regulation No. 103/2020 Coll. on certain measures in the area of subsidies in the competence of MoLSAF in time of exceptional situation, emergency or state of emergency declared in connection with COVID-19, as amended by the Government Regulations No. 271/2020 Coll. and No. 301/2020 Coll., conditions were created for the provision of subsidies in a crisis situation which considerably helped deal with the consequences of the pandemic:

- subsidy to support humanitarian aid, the so-called SOS subsidies for natural persons who during the crisis situation stopped performing activities establishing their entitlement to income from employment, business or other individual gainful activities and who have no other income from employment, business or other individual gainful activities, in the amount of not more than €1,800 in the particular budget year, €210 per month, from 1 October not more than €300. Subsidies totalling €15,467,219 were paid (the average monthly number of beneficiaries was 9,152 natural persons from March to December), of which subsidies provided by the Offices of Labour, Social Affairs and Family during the second wave of the pandemic totalled €3,865,516.
- subsidy for remuneration of front-line employees in the area of social services and social and legal protection of children and social guardianship during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic (extension

of the purpose of the Section 3 of the Act No. 544/2010 Coll.). Subsidies for extraordinarily demanding everyday work in facilities, in families and in the field could be provided in the maximum amount of €772 (total price of work) per one eligible employee. The amount paid for the above-stated purpose was €21,985,940 for 836 applicants, namely for 29,227 employees of social service facilities and 767 employees of the facilities of social and legal protection of children and social guardianship.

- one-off subsidy – for the purchase of food supplements, mainly vitamin D3 for the clients and employees of selected types of social services for a period of 5 months (maximum €20/1 client or 1 employee). Budgetary funds amounting to €1,380,968 were provided to 462 applicants to buy food supplements (for 26,517 employees and 42,582 beneficiaries of social service).
- subsidy for a so-called infection contribution for employees of social service facilities quarantined due to the spread of COVID-19, as well as subsidies for their appropriate accommodation and meals. The amount of the subsidy representing "compensation for quarantined employees" for one employee is €405 for the total price of work (€300 gross wage). The amount paid to 35 applicants for the subsidy represented €273,364.
- subsidy for humanitarian aid for legal entities where the subsidies are provided in relation to the pandemic measures mainly to settle or co-finance the costs, e.g. for the purchase of face masks, disposable protective gloves, protective overalls, disinfection, contactless thermometers, respirators, stands for contactless disinfection, germicidal lamps, oxygenators, air cleaners with filters, biolamps, etc. €394,991 was paid to 166 applicants.

Subsidies for the above-stated purposes amounted to €39,502,583, of which €24,035,364 was provided to legal entities (Sections 3 and 9 (3) and (4) of the Act).

The amount of all provided subsidies to support the social area for natural persons and legal entities, paid from the budget according to the Subsidies Act and the adopted legislative amendments reached €42,242,783. In terms of the legal form of a subsidy recipient, in 2020 budget appropriations were made to municipalities and higher territorial units and budgetary and contributory organisations under their responsibility for facilities established/founded by them in the amount of €16,999,038, civic associations in the amount of €2,144,185, trade unions in the amount of €211,100, non-profit organisations in the amount of €5,438,401, religious organisations in the amount of €1,369,549 and natural persons in the amount of €16,080,510.

In 2020, amendment of the Act No. 544/2010 on subsidies in the competence of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of SR was adopted, introducing a new subsidy to support the performance of functions of a family. This form of subsidy enables to support various activities or actions of a preventive or supportive nature (prevention programmes, trainings and awareness-raising activities focused on the stability of family relations, development of parenting competencies, prevention of negative family phenomena, activities to strengthen inter-generation family relations and relations in families with an older family member dependant on the assistance of other persons, self-help groups focused on supporting the performance of functions of a family and supporting families to be independent and self-reliant etc.). Targeted creation of a space to support activities focused on families with children with disabilities or with adult family members with severe disabilities, or creation of a space to support socialization and inclusion of children with health disadvantages in the form of a children playground represent special benefits.

3.4.9 European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS Methodology)

According to the Lisbon Treaty, the EU member states and the European Union as a whole are obliged, when defining and implementing their policies, to put emphasis on full employment, social protection of all citizens and fighting against social exclusion.

For the sake of monitoring the development of social protection in the EU member states, the European Commission (EC) requires access to current and detailed data on systems, current state and development of social protection in the member states. One of the basic tools for statistical observation of social protection is the **European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics (ESSPROS⁵⁸)**. Since 2008 (reference year 2006),

⁵⁸<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/5917481/KS-RA-11-014-EN.PDF/ee86d517-3348-4c20-94ee-a37c330755b1>

EU member states provide data under Regulation (EC) No. 458/2007⁵⁹ of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS), with four implementing Commission Regulations No. 1322/2007⁶⁰, No. 10/2008⁶¹, No. 110/2011⁶² and No. 263/2011⁶³.

ESSPROS consists of the following modules:

- Social protection receipts and expenditure
- Qualitative information
- Number of pension beneficiaries (without double counting)
- Net social protection benefits.

Internationally comparable data on social protection receipts and expenditure for EU member states are available on the Eurostat webpage (the EU member states) and in the SO SR publications⁶⁴. The latest data are for 2018 (means-tested social protection benefits for EU-28 are only available for 2017).

Receipts of social protection programmes comprise social contributions (from employers, employees, self-employed and voluntary contributors), general government contributions (state budget payments, regional and local government payments and compulsory social security funds), transfers from other schemes and other receipts.

Expenditure includes social benefits by functions, administrative costs and other expenditures. Social protection includes all interventions from public or private organisations which aim to relieve households and individuals from the burdens of defined risks or needs, provided there is neither a simultaneous nor an individual agreement.

Eight functions of social protection are specified in the ESSPROS manual:

- sickness/health care
- disability
- old age
- survivors
- family/children
- unemployment
- housing
- social exclusion not elsewhere classified.

Social protection expenditure (gross)⁶⁵ is recorded without deduction of taxes or other compulsory fees paid by beneficiaries (e.g. the social security contributions).

EU member states have significantly different systems for financing social protection, depending on whether they prefer insurance systems (55.4 % of total receipts at EU28 level in 2018). The graph below gives an overview of the structure of social protection receipts per EU member state.

Graph 3.39 Structure of Social Protection Receipts in EU28, 2018

⁵⁹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:113:0003:0008:SK:PDF>

⁶⁰ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/SK/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32007R1322&from=EN>

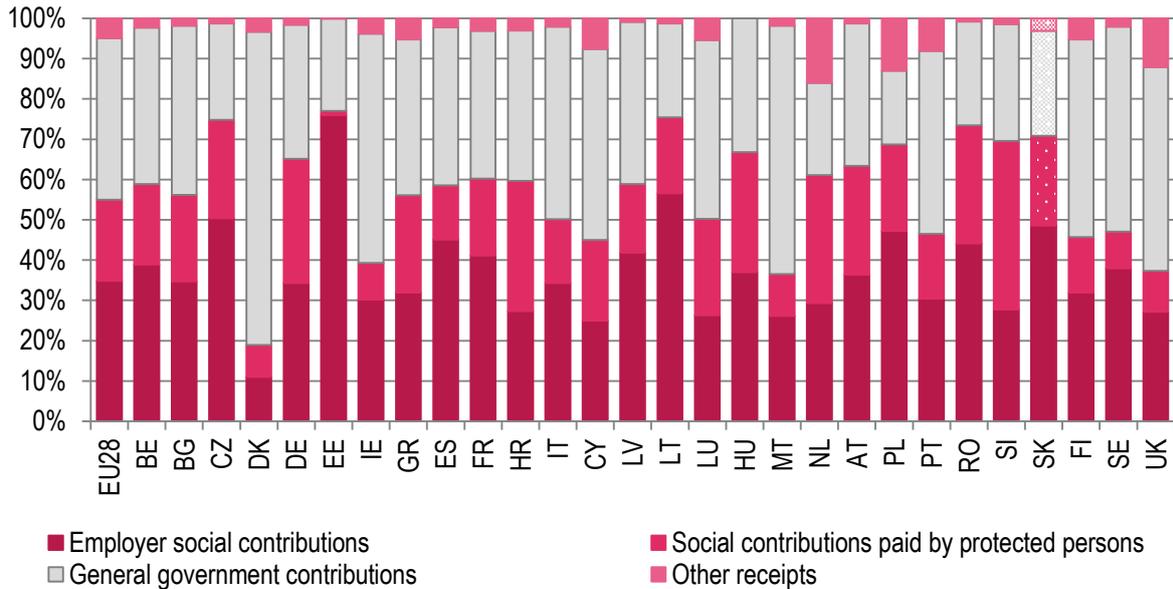
⁶¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/SK/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32008R0010&from=EN>

⁶² <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:034:0029:0032:SK:PDF>

⁶³ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:071:0004:0008:SK:PDF>

⁶⁴ https://slovak.statistics.sk/wps/portal/ext/themes/demography/social/publications!/ut/p/b1/jZLDolwEEW_xS_opZTXsqCUGol8rClbw81YjIAL4_cLBDcmVGc3mXMyd4ZUpCRVV7-aa_1s-q6-j31InzNHur5vcLiWA8ikUMChAGI6AKcBwEJxfPIJvoHc81TKW2aAWbOvAUy_LFLKPSaCdb4Lh3FA3SK2KWDMfiB4xJwYcGNhQfJI5V5mmuDmf_k1C374R1JNiC7BBOhepF_yAZZCCvsHMFyRRH17IY9WKVWikTe2egOmflqs/dl4/d5/L2dJQSEvUUt3QS80SmtFL1o2X1E3SThCQjFBMDg1NzAwSU5TVTAwVIMwME4w/

⁶⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3433488/5280189/KS-SF-09-102-EN.PDF>

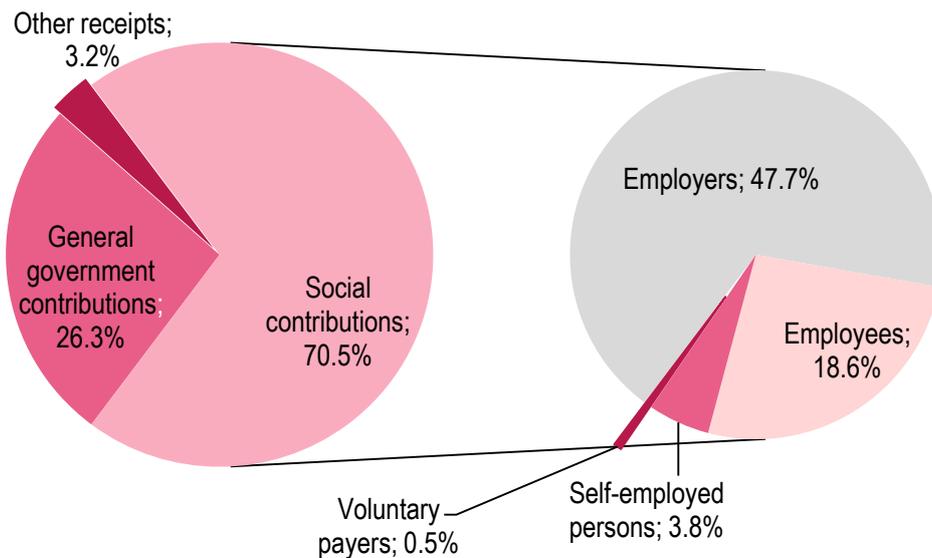


Differences in financing among EU member states are caused by historical development. The highest shares of social contributions were recorded in Romania (80.3 %), Czech Republic (75.5 %), Estonia (74.6 %) and Lithuania (73.2 %), with the lowest share of income from protected persons (1.0 %) and the highest share of income from employers (73.6 %) in Estonia. Income from protected persons reached the largest share in Romania (67.6 %), Slovenia (42.8 %), the Netherlands (32.1 %), Croatia (31.8 %) and Germany (31.3 %), while Romania, Slovenia, Croatia and the Netherlands are also the only countries where the share of income from protected persons is higher than from employers. Social protection is mostly (over 50 %) funded from public administration contributions in Denmark (75.6 %), Malta (62.0 %), and Ireland (57.8 %).

In 2018, the total receipts for the social protection system in Slovakia increased year-on-year by €0.018 bil. and reached €16,357.5 mil. (18.3 % of GDP).

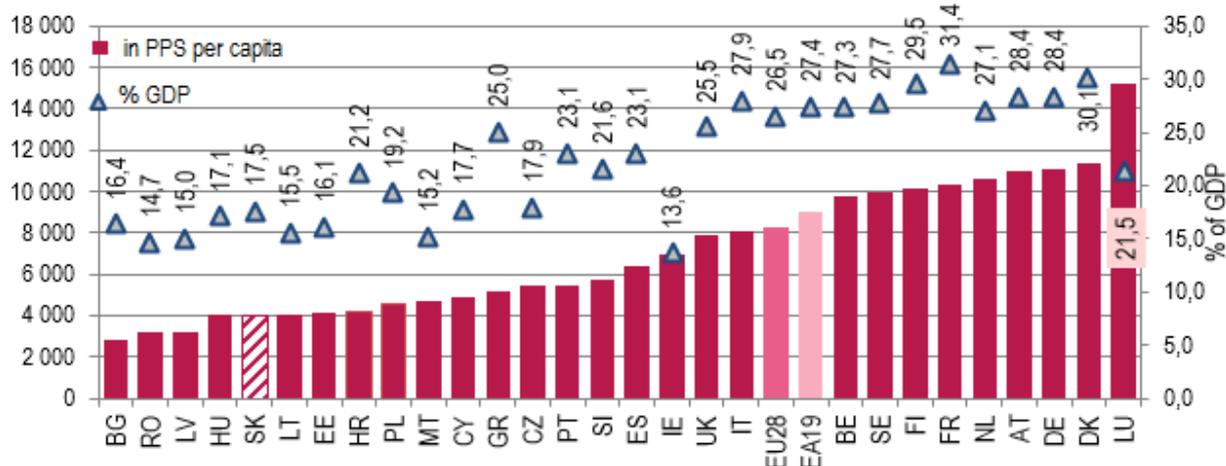
The structure of social protection receipts is shown in graph 3.40.

Graph 3.40 Structure of Social Protection Receipts in SR by Type, 2018



Source: SO SR – ESSPROS

Graph 3.41 Gross Social Protection Expenditure per capita in PPS and in % of GDP, 2018

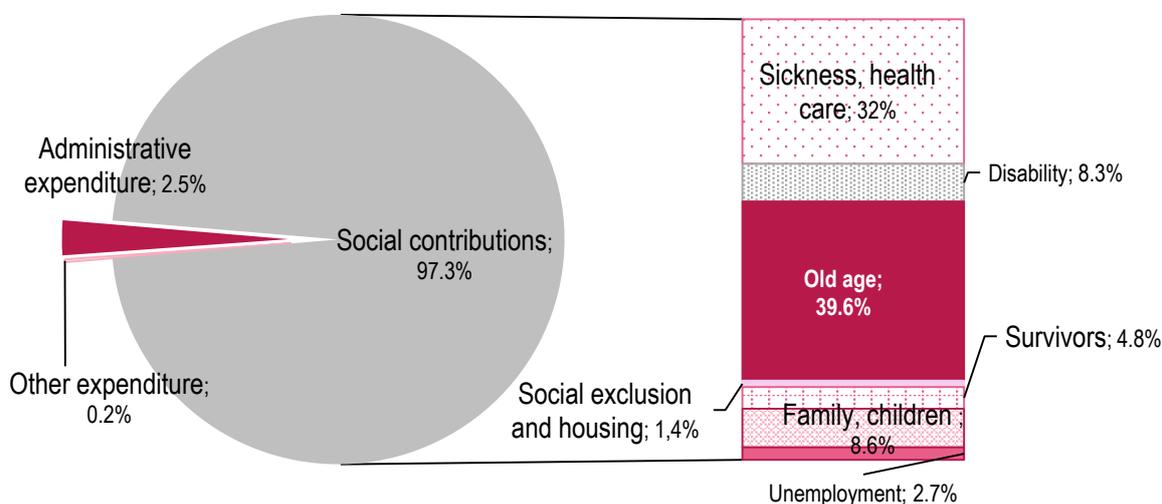


Source: Eurostat – ESSPROS, data valid as at 03/03/2021

The total gross social protection expenditure in EU28 amounted to 8,235 PPS per capita (4,022 PPS per capita in SR) and 26.5 % of GDP (17.5 % in SR). Differences between individual countries are, to a certain extent, proportionate to the levels of wealth; expenditure expressed in PPS per capita traditionally grows slightly year-on-year.

In 2018, the total gross expenditure (without deduction of taxes and social contributions paid by beneficiaries) on social protection in SR increased year-on-year by 4.5 % and reached €16,083.8 mil. (18.0 % of GDP). The structure of social protection expenditure in SR by functions is shown in Graph 3.43.

Graph 3.42 Gross Social Protection Expenditure in SR, 2018

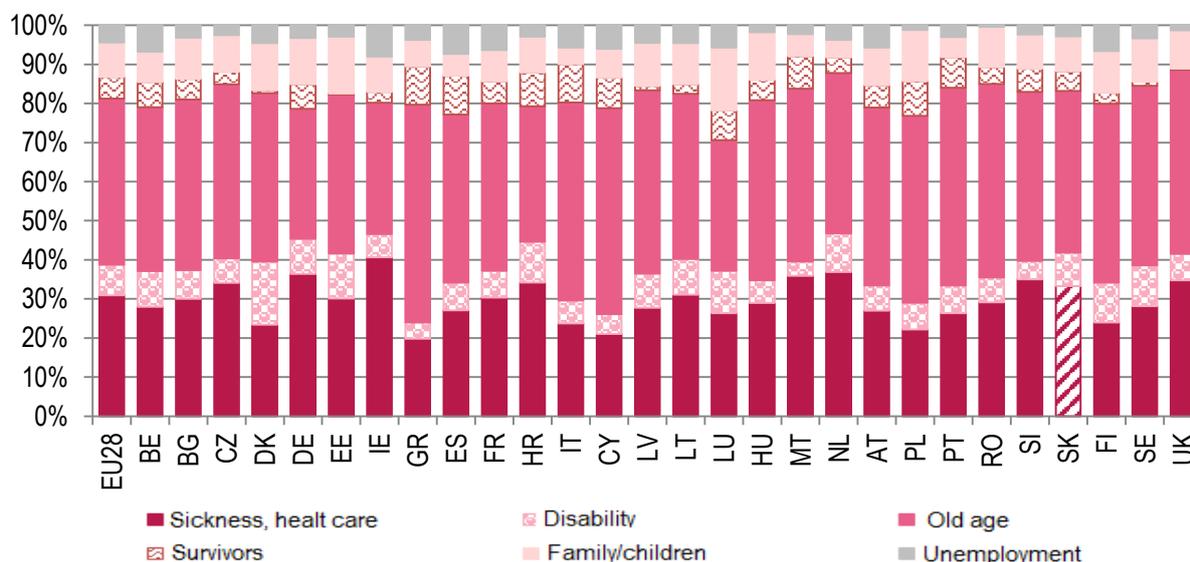


Source: SO SR – ESSPROS

Social benefits expenditure (the following graph) with sickness/health care-related function accounted for 29.7 % of all benefits in EU28, with the highest share in Ireland (38.7 %) and the lowest in Cyprus (19.2 %). The highest share of social benefits expenditure with disability-related function was reached in Denmark (15.0 %) and the lowest in Malta (3.6 %), with the European average of 7.5 %. The lowest proportion of social benefits expenditure with old-age-related function was seen in Ireland (31.9 %) with the youngest population, while the highest proportion of expenditure was used for such purpose in Greece (54.5 %). EU28 average was 40.8 %, representing a similar proportion to the one seen in Slovakia (40.7 %). The share of expenditure with survivors-related function for the EU28 reached 5.3 % on average. The EU28 average of expenditure with family/children-related function accounted

for 8.5 %. The share of this expenditure in Luxembourg reached 15.4 %, while in the Netherlands and Italy it was only 4.2 % or 4.1 % respectively. The highest share of paid unemployment benefits was reached in Ireland (7.6 %), the lowest in Romania (0.4 %), with the EU28 average at 4.2 %. Expenditure on housing and social exclusion accounts for a smaller share of the total expenditure, with 3.9 % at EU28 level.

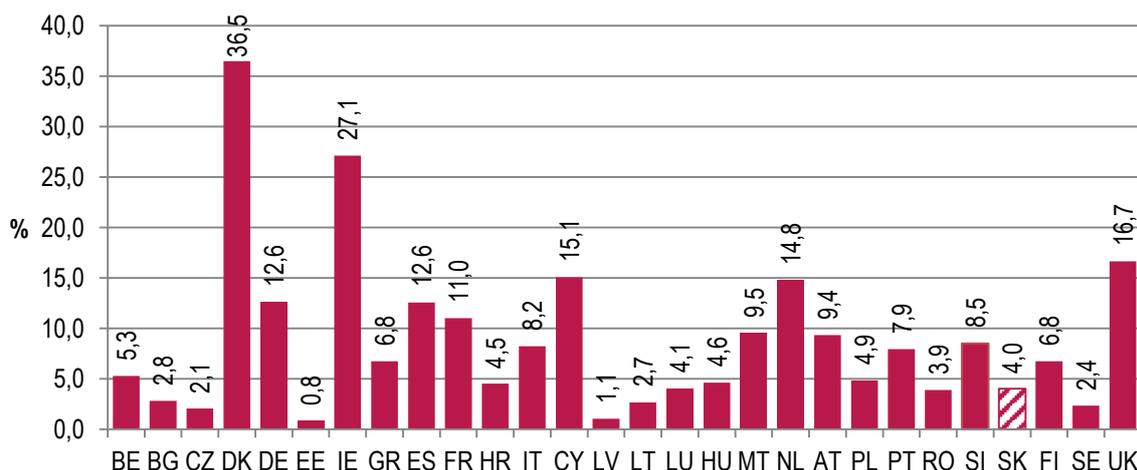
Graph 3.43 Structure of Social Benefits Expenditure by Function, 2018



Source: Eurostat – ESSPROS, data valid as at 03/03/2021

In 2017, 4.6 % of all social benefits in SR were means-tested. The highest proportion of means-tested benefits was observed in Denmark (36.6 %, as more than half of disability and old-age benefits are means-tested) and Ireland (30.5 %, more than half of disability and unemployment benefits paid), and the lowest in Estonia (0.8 %, only housing and social exclusion benefits paid are tested).

Graph 3.44 Means-tested Social Protection Benefits (% of Total Social Benefits), 2017*

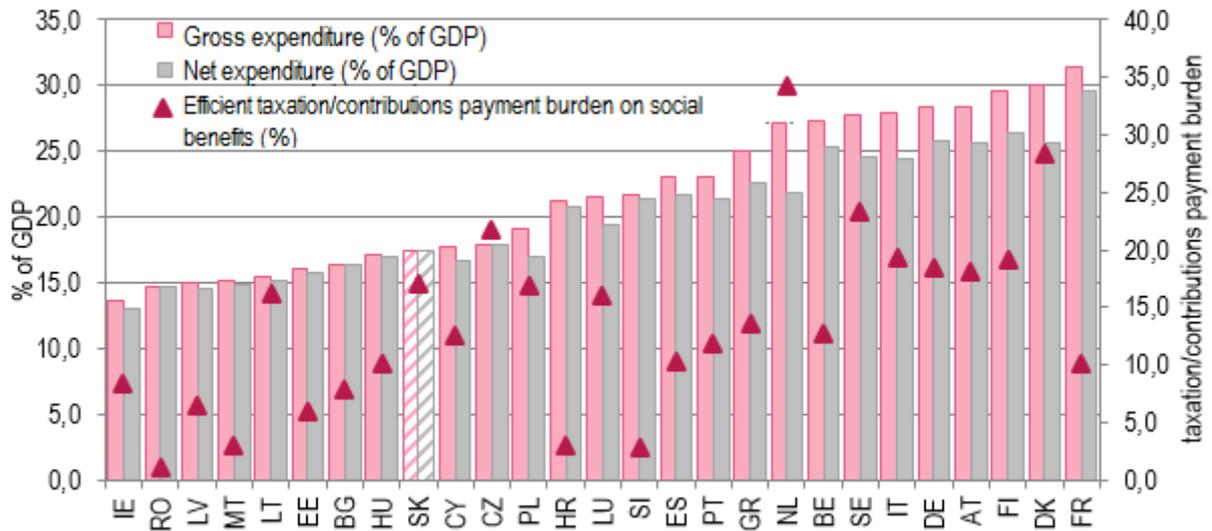


Source: Eurostat – ESSPROS, data extracted on 03/06/2020

The total gross expenditure on pensions in EU28 amounted to 3,850.8 PPS per capita (in SR: 1,930.1 PPS per capita), €3,527.8 per capita at constant prices of 2010 (in SR: €1,221.2 per capita at constant prices) and 12.4 % of GDP (in SR 8.4 %). The lowest expenditure on pensions, expressed as a share of GDP, was reported by Ireland (5.3 % of GDP) with the EU28 youngest population, while the highest expenditure on pensions was recorded in Greece (16.1 % of GDP) and Italy (15.8 % of GDP), ranking among the countries with the highest proportion of the population aged over 65. More significant differences between countries are reflected in expenditure on

pensions expressed in PPS per capita. The lowest expenditure in PPS per capita is reached over a long period in Bulgaria (1,357.5), and the highest in Luxembourg (6,589.6).

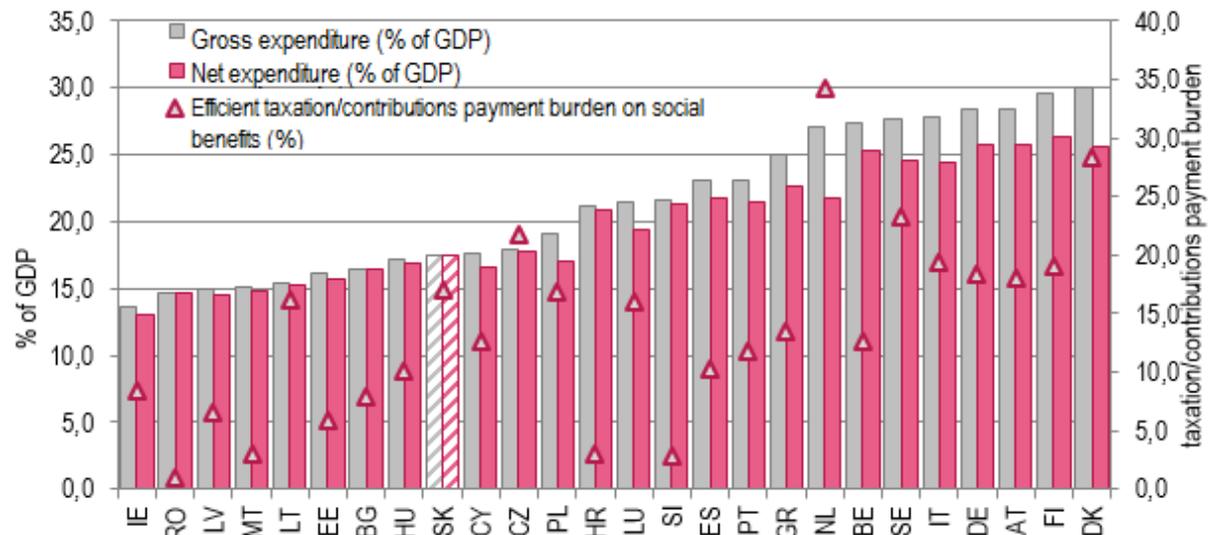
Graph 3.45 Pensions Expenditure, 2018



Source: Eurostat – ESSPROS, data valid as at 03/03/2021

The 2018 results from the net benefits module are available in the Eurostat database for all the EU28 countries, except for Great Britain. The highest proportion of social benefits in 2018 was subject to taxation or payment of social contributions in Greece (69.8 %); more than 60 % was also recorded in Poland, Italy, Switzerland, Portugal and France. The lowest proportion of social benefits which were subject to taxation and payment of social contributions was reported by Slovakia (1.5 %), and the Czech Republic (1.9 %).

Graph 3.46 Gross and Net Social Protection Expenditure (% of GDP), 2018



Source: Eurostat – ESSPROS, data valid as at 03/03/2021

3.5 European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund

In 2020, contracts and projects continued to be concluded and implemented within the Operational Programme “Human Resources” (hereinafter simply “OP HR”) in the programming period 2014 - 2020.

Within OP HR, support is provided for human resources development, employment increase especially with regard to the employment of young people under 29 years of age after graduation, integration of marginalised Roma communities (hereinafter simply “MRCs”), and technical facilities in municipalities with MRCs. The OP HR global objective in education, employment and social inclusion in 2020 was again to support human resources development, lifelong learning, the full integration of the unemployed into the labour market, and the improvement of their social situation. The OP HR global objective is achieved in line with the Europe 2020 strategy, goals of the National Reform Programme and in connection with the Partnership Agreement using soft (non-investment) and hard (investment) measures in seven priority axes through their specific objectives:

1. Education

- to increase inclusiveness and equal access to quality education and enhance the outcomes and competencies of children and pupils;
- to improve the quality of vocational education and training, while reflecting the needs of the labour market;
- to improve the quality of university education and human resources development in the area of research and development in order to achieve the interconnection between university education and the needs of the labour market;
- to improve the quality and efficiency of lifelong learning, with emphasis on developing key competences, deepening skills and increasing qualifications.

2. Youth employment initiative

- to increase the employment, employability and participation of young people in the labour market by introducing a guarantee for young unemployed people who are Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET).

3. Employment

- to increase employment, employability and reduce unemployment, with particular emphasis on the long-term unemployed, the low-skilled, older people and the disabled;
- to improve access to the labour market by applying effective tools to promote employment, including mobility to find employment, self-employment and activities in rural areas;
- to increase the employment of persons with parental responsibilities (women in particular) by improving the conditions for reconciling work and family life;
- to reduce horizontal and vertical gender segregation in the labour market and training for employment;
- to increase the quality and capacity of public employment services to an appropriate level in line with changing labour market needs and requirements, transnational job mobility, and increase the involvement of partners and private employment services in addressing employment problems.

4. Social inclusion

- to increase the participation of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable persons in society, including their participation in the labour market;
- prevention and elimination of all forms of discrimination;
- transition from institutional to community-based care;
- establishing standard clinical procedures and standard procedures for prevention and integrate them into the national health care system.

5. Integration of marginalised Roma communities

- to increase the educational level of members of marginalised communities, especially Roma communities, at all levels of education with emphasis on pre-primary education;
- to enhance the financial literacy, employability and employment of marginalised communities, especially Roma communities;
- to promote access to health care and public health, including preventive health care, health education, and improve standards of housing hygiene;

6. Technical facilities in municipalities with marginalised Roma communities / European Regional Development Fund

- to support the growth of the number of Roma households with access to improved housing conditions;
- to improve access to quality education, including early childhood education and care;

- to improve access of MRC members to social infrastructure;
- to increase the employment rate of MRCs in social economy entities in areas with MRCs.

7. Technical assistance

Soft measures are implemented through the European Social Fund (ESF) within the priority axes focused on education, employment, social inclusion, and MRC integration. Investment measures are implemented through the European Regional Development Fund, namely a priority axis focused on technical facilities in municipalities with marginalised Roma communities. A separate priority axis “Technical Assistance” is intended to implement the operational programme within the managing authority and intermediate bodies under the control of the managing authority (MA) and represents support from such EU funds for the implementation of the other above-mentioned priority axes.

Total allocation for OP HR as at 31 December 2020 is €3,105,330,221, while EU funds amount to €2,613,166,516 and €492,163,705 is from the state budget.

Table 3.45 Share of Priority Axes in the Total Allocation for OP HR

Priority axis	EU funds	From the state budget of SR*	Total
1 - Education	348,741,004	65,646,163	414,387,167
2 - Youth employment initiative	172,270,942	15,200,378	187,471,320
3 - Employment	1,331,222,796	273,023,216	1,604,246,012
4 - Social inclusion	299,669,312	70,139,315	369,808,627
5 - Integration of marginalised Roma communities	161,954,885	26,555,870	188,510,755
6 - Technical facilities in municipalities with MRCs	220,707,577	25,495,010	246,202,587
7 - Technical assistance	78,600,000	16,103,753	94,703,753
Total	2,613,166,516	492,163,705	3,105,330,221

Source: RO OP HR ; * state budget

Two OP revisions were carried out in 2020, namely:

- fifth revision of OP HR (version 6.0), approved by the Commission Implementing Decision No. C(2020) 6332 of 11 September 2020, concerned the priority axes 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6.
- sixth revision of OP HR (version 7.0), approved by the Commission Implementing Decision No. C(2020) 9573 of 21 December 2020, concerned the priority axis 3.

Fifth revision of OP Human Resources for the programming period 2014–2020 (version 6.0) was performed based on motions:

- Government Resolution No. 257/2020⁶⁶ of 28 April 2020 regarding draft measures financed from operational programmes of European Structural and Investment Funds to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and to eliminate and mitigate its consequences;
- Government Resolution No. 344/2020⁶⁷ of 4 June 2020 regarding draft conditions of a project to maintain employment in kindergartens in time of a declared exceptional situation, emergency or state of emergency and elimination of their consequences;
- Regulation (EU) No. 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁶⁸ of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006, as amended by EC legislative measures Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII) and Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus (CRII+).

⁶⁶ <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/24774/1>

⁶⁷ <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RV/Material/24922/1>

⁶⁸ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/SK/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02013R1303-20200424&from=EN>

Reallocations of resources within OP HR and increase in the total allocation to OP HR from €2,218,943,729 to €2,593,166,516 through reallocations from other operational programmes as follows:

Table 3.46 Reallocations within OP HR and reallocations from other operational resources

Reallocations within OP HR		
Reallocation from	Reallocation to	Amount in EUR
OP HR – PA2	OP HR – PA3	36,039,788
OP HR – PA6	OP HR – PA5	8,000,000

Reallocation from other operational programmes		
Reallocation from	Reallocation to	Amount in EUR
OP II – PA2, PA4, PA5	OP HR – PA3	80,000,000
OP II – PA7	OP HR – PA3	60,000,000
OP II – PA9	OP HR – PA3	70,000,000
OP QE – PA1 and PA2	OP HR – PA3	137,250,000
OP EPA – PA1	OP HR – PA3	26,972,787

Note: all amounts are stated as EU funds

Total allocation to OP HR increased by €374,222,787.00, representing an increase by about 14.43 % (from €2,218,943,729 to €2,593,166,516). Based on the allocation increase and the reallocation of funds among the above-stated PAs, the affected measurable indicators were adjusted, supplemented and cancelled in the document.

The aim of the change to OP HR was to adapt the programme document to the above-stated documents and to ensure its compliance with the current requirements and needs of practice, taking into account mainly the measures taken to mitigate the consequences and prevent COVID-19 from spreading.

Sixth revision of OP Human Resources for the programming period 2014 – 2020 (version 7.0) was performed based on the motion:

- Government Resolution No. 725/2020⁶⁹ of 18 November 2020 regarding draft conditions of a project to maintain employment in elementary schools of art in time of a declared exceptional situation, emergency or state of emergency and elimination of their consequences.

Total allocation to OP HR increased from €2,593,166,516 to €2,613,166,516 (by €20,000,000 from the Operational Programme Integrated Infrastructure). The funds are intended for the implementation of measures to mitigate the consequences of COVID-19 for the employees of elementary schools of art through the Priority Axis 3. Measurable indicators were also adjusted in relation to the above-stated. The aim of the change to OP HR was to adapt the programme document to the above-stated and to ensure its compliance with the current requirements and needs of practice, taking into account mainly the measures taken to mitigate the consequences and prevent COVID-19 from spreading.

In 2020, a total of 21 **invitations to national projects (NP)** and 5 **calls for demand-driven projects (DDP)** were announced for Priority Axes 1 - 6. They were divided as follows:

- 4 calls were announced within the Priority Axis 1 *Education* to implement national projects focused mainly on building an inclusive environment through activities of teaching assistants, assistants for students with health disadvantages and members of inclusive teams at kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools, and setting the tools and processes of lifelong learning and professional development of pedagogical and professional staff in the system of educational counselling and prevention, and introducing content-related and performance standards of methodological guidance in the system of educational counselling and prevention with an emphasis on the inclusion of children with diverse needs; at the same time guiding and leading expert teams with regard to elimination of mental and emotional deprivations of children and pupils as a result of quarantine during the COVID-19 pandemic and on closing

⁶⁹ <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/25481/1>

the knowledge gap caused by distance learning during the interrupted operation of schools during the pandemic. The support was also focused on the development of pedagogical and professional staff in introducing and implementing changes in schools and school establishments, including coping with the crisis and post-crisis situation and impacts related to the interrupted education at schools and school establishments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and on connection of the professional education system to the needs of the labour market and increasing the quality of creation of strategies and educational policies at the level of regional self-governance.

- Within the Priority Axis 2 *Youth employment initiative*, in 2020 support continued for target groups in already implemented NPs and DDPs focused on increasing the employment of young people (up to the age of 29) in the form of internships and on the education of young job-seekers which were approved in the previous years (3 calls for NP). The support was focused on increasing the employment of young people (up to the age of 29) in the form of internships and on the education of young job-seekers.
- Within the Priority Axis 3 *Employment*, 8 calls were announced for implementation of NPs for ALMM tools, social economy, the area of cooperation of public and non-public employment services with EU employers – eurES and awareness-raising in the area of gender equality the support of which was focused mainly on maintaining employment and eliminating any unfavourable consequences caused by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as on supporting employability in the Horná Nitra Region which was affected by a decrease in coal mining. It concerned solutions to improve the access to the labour market by applying effective tools to support employment, including the support of mobility to find employment, employee adaptability, independent gainful activities and activities in rural areas, also in the form of education and preparation for the labour market, re-training, strengthening key competencies or learning on one's own initiative. Emphasis was laid on supporting the employment of disadvantaged persons beyond the labour market and building an intermediate labour market through supporting social economy. The call for the NP "Raising awareness of gender equality" was cancelled due to extraordinary measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic which made fluent implementation of activities impossible.
- Within the Priority Axis 4 *Social Inclusion*, 6 calls were announced for implementation of NPs focused on supporting persons with disabilities, namely through proposals of implementation of accessibility and universal designing buildings and public spaces, for integrated access to the performance of social work and development of health mediation with a focus on supporting social inclusion, as well as on supporting the improvement of professional performance and development of human resources in the area of social inclusion performance and services.
- Within the Priority Axis 5 *Integration of Marginalized Roma Communities* (3 calls for NPs and 2 DDP calls), the call was focused on supporting the settlement of property relationships to lands in the municipalities with marginalized Roma communities through simple land adjustments; then there were three calls for national projects focused both on the improvement of the situation of marginalized Roma communities in the area of social determinants, specifically for dealing with the situation in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic called *Korona te merel*; another national project has a similar focus – unfavourable situations related to COVID-19 in municipalities with marginalized Roma communities is being implemented through field assistants and provision of support interventions through crisis counselling teams. The last call for the NP supports pre-primary education of children from marginalized Roma communities II. - NP *PRIM II. - Inclusions in Kindergartens* project. A specific call which covers both PA5 and PA6 is a call supporting a comprehensive access in municipalities with MRCs within the Catching-up Regions initiative of the Prešov Self-Governing Region.
- Within the Priority Axis 6 *Technical Facilities in Municipalities with Marginalised Roma Communities* (3 DDP calls) the calls focused on supporting the access to drinking water in marginalized Roma communities and supporting the finalization of utilities in marginalized Roma communities. A specific call which covers both PA5 and PA6 is a call supporting a comprehensive access in municipalities with MRCs within the Catching-up Regions initiative of the Prešov Self-Governing Region.

An overview of calls (for DDP) and invitations (to NP) announced in 2020 is shown in Annex to Chapter 3, Table 39. In addition, an indicative timetable of calls for the submission of applications for non-repayable financial contribution for 2021 has been published on:

<http://www.employment.gov.sk/sk/esf/programove-obdobie-2014-2020/harmonogram-vyziev/>

More information on OP HR (including the draw-down of financial resources) for 2020 will be available after the publication of the OP HR Annual Report for 2020 on: <http://www.employment.gov.sk/sk/esf/>.

4 STANDARD OF LIVING AND SOCIAL COHESION

4.1 Poverty and Social Exclusion

Monitoring poverty and social exclusion in Slovakia is carried out in the context of the Open Method of Coordination (hereinafter simply OMC), created at the level of the European Union for the joint coordination of member states' policies to combat poverty and social exclusion. One of the main strategic objectives of the EU is to considerably reduce poverty and continue with pursuing this goal by 2020⁷⁰.

To measure the progress in achieving the strategic goals focused on decreasing poverty and social exclusion and mainly to compare individual states in achieving the results, common indicators (the so-called *Laeken indicators*) were approved which were later further developed and are currently called *OMC social inclusion indicators*.

Poverty and social exclusion are measured mainly on the basis of harmonized statistical surveying EU SILC⁷¹ on income and living conditions. The survey is the major source of many income indicators, such as the at-risk-of-poverty rate and the indicators for a more comprehensive assessment of poverty and social exclusion, material deprivation or a cluster of indicators measuring the risk of poverty or social exclusion. This cluster of indicators (the at-risk-of-poverty rate⁷², severe material deprivation⁷³ and very low work intensity⁷⁴) defines the groups of people who live at risk of poverty or social exclusion, i.e. people with low income and/or those who cannot afford some of the critical needs for their lives and/or living in families where nobody works or works only occasionally. At national level, the goal of the Slovak Republic is to reduce the risk of poverty or social exclusion, namely to lift at least 170 thousand people out of the risk of poverty or social exclusion by 2020.

According to the EU SILC 2019 survey, 877 thousand people were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in Slovakia, accounting for 16.4 % of the total population. Compared to the EU SILC 2008 survey results (base period),⁷⁵ ca. 234 thous. people were lifted out of the risk of poverty or social exclusion, which means that the national goal was achieved at 138 %. The measures adopted primarily in the areas of employment policy, social policy and national economic policy had a major impact on the achievement of such goal.

Compared to the EU SILC 2018 survey, the overall rate of the risk of poverty or social exclusion slightly increased by 0.1 pp.

More detailed breakdown of this cluster is shown in Graph 4.1, which represents the composition of the target group by the three indicators above.

70 Lifting at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty and social exclusion by 2020.

71 The first statistical survey in Slovakia was carried out in 2005; complete results of the fifteenth survey conducted in 2019 are currently available.

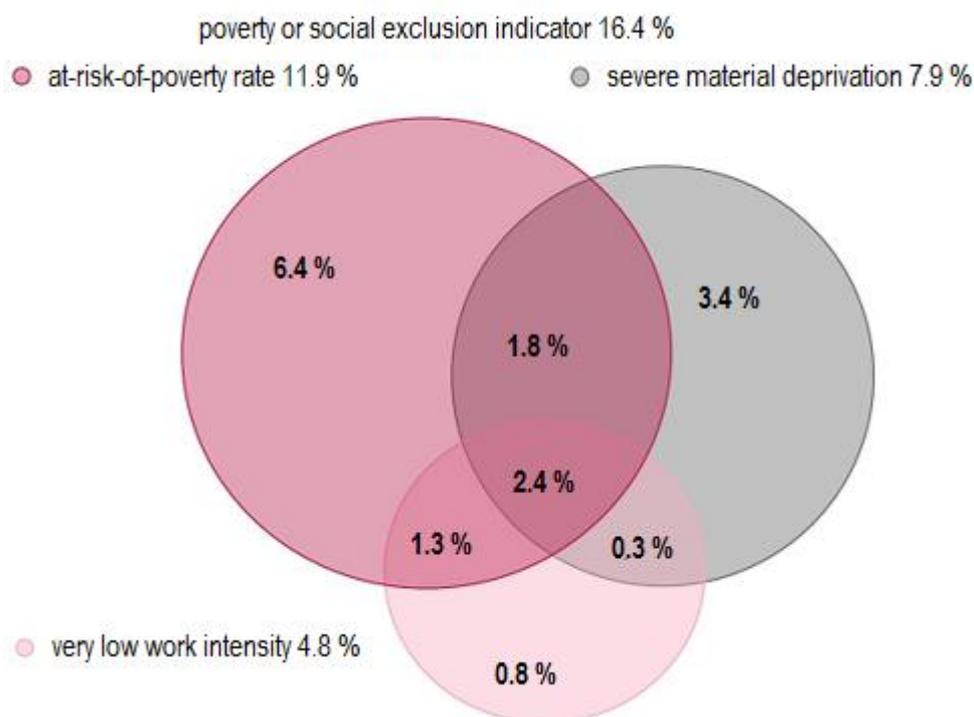
72 The rate expresses the proportion of people living below the poverty line, i. e. below 60 % of the median equivalised disposable income of all residents (after social transfers).

73 It expresses the proportion of people who cannot afford 4 of the 9 items that characterise the economic burden and consumer durables: arrears on mortgage or rent payment, utility bills, hire purchase instalments or other loan payments, the capacity of the household to pay for keeping its home adequately warm, the capacity to face unexpected financial expenses, the capacity to afford going on a one-week holiday away from home annually, the capacity to afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day, or to afford household furnishings including a colour TV, a washing machine, a car, and a telephone.

74 It expresses the proportion of persons aged 0-59 living in the households whose members worked less than 20% of their yearly work potential.

75 For the assessment of the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy

Graph 4.1 Share of People at Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion, EU SILC 2019



Source: SO SR, EU SILC 2019, UDB

Table 4.1 Development of Cluster Indicator of At-risk-of-poverty or Social Exclusion and Indicators It Consists of, in %

	EU SILC 2008	EU SILC 2009	EU SILC 2010	EU SILC 2011	EU SILC 2012	EU SILC 2013	EU SILC 2014	EU SILC 2015	EU SILC 2016	EU SILC 2017	EU SILC 2018	EU SILC 2019
At-risk-of-poverty rate	10.9	11.0	12.0	13.0	13.2	12.8	12.6	12.3	12.7	12.4	12.2	11.9
Severe material deprivation	11.8	11.1	11.4	10.6	10.5	10.2	9.9	9.0	8.2	7.0	7.0	7.9
Very low work intensity	5.2	5.6	7.9	7.7	7.2	7.6	7.1	7.1	6.5	5.4	5.2	6.2
At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate	20.6	19.6	20.6	20.6	20.5	19.8	18.4	18.4	18.1	16.3	16.3	16.4

Source: Statistical Office of the SR

According to EU SILC 2019 results, there were also changes in individual values of indicators forming a cluster of the at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate. Compared to the survey carried out in 2018, there was a decrease only in the case of income poverty, namely by 0.2 pp, and an increase in the case of a very low work intensity by 1 pp and severe material deprivation by 0.9 pp (Table 4.1).

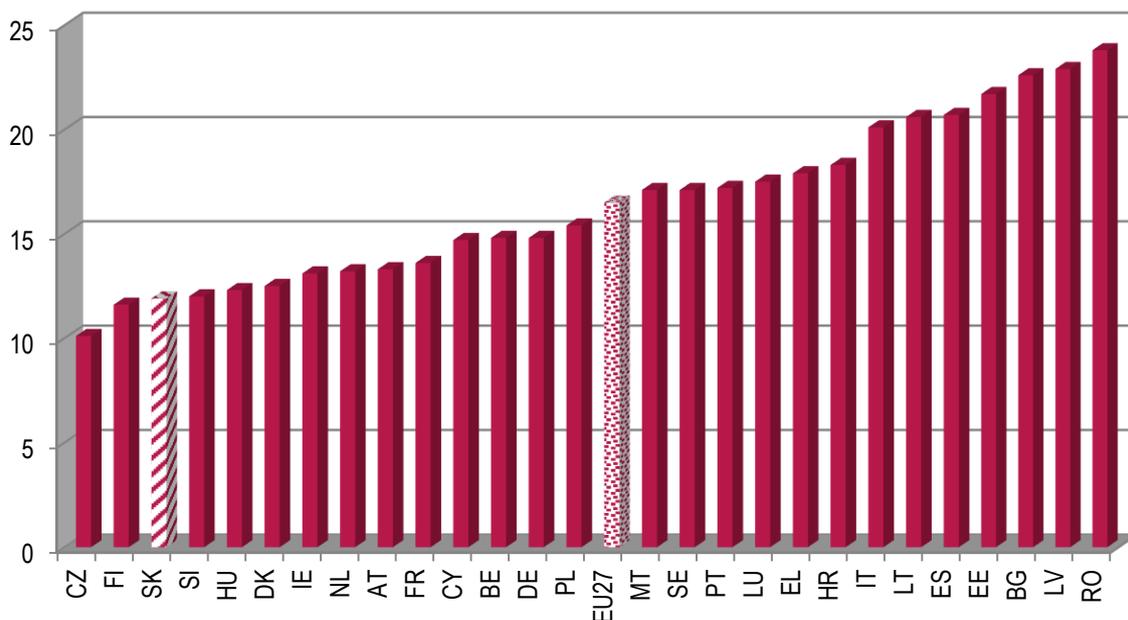
According to EU SILC 2019, the following groups were facing the biggest risk of poverty or social exclusion: incomplete families with children – 40.1 % (almost at the EU27 average – 40.0 %⁷⁶), multi-member families with more than three children – 38.0 % (above the EU27 average – 26.9 %⁷²), individual younger than 65 – 30.8 % (below the EU27 average – 34.1 %⁷²) and, last but not least, also individuals – 29.4 % (below the EU27 average – 31.9 %⁷²). From the point of view of age, the most risky group is the group of children aged 0 - 17 (22.0 %, i.e. below the EU27 average – 22.2 %⁷²), or children aged 0 - 15 (21.4 %, i.e. below the EU27 average – 21.8 %⁷²). Based on the EU SILC 2019 survey there was a drop in the at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate in the case of children aged 0 - 17 by 1.8 pp and in the case of children aged 0 - 15 by 2.2 pp.

⁷⁶ estimated value, Eurostat

At-risk-of-poverty threshold⁷⁷ expressing the proportion of the population living in poverty was set in general to characterize the poor population in the society. It is a relative poverty threshold which measures to what extent the household finances decrease below the mean threshold of income in the society. The indicator expresses mainly the risk of poverty and depends on the social and economic development of the society in the particular country.

Based on EU SILC 2019, the at-risk-of-poverty rate in the Slovak Republic was 11.9 % (men 11.6 %, women 12.1 %), what is below the EU27 average (16.5 %⁷²). Compared to the previous year, there was a drop by 0.3 pp. Compared to individual EU27 countries, Slovak Republic is one of the countries with the lowest at-risk-of-poverty rate (Graph 4.2), influenced by a low income inequality.

Graph 4.2 At-risk-of-poverty rate in individual EU countries, EU SILC 2019



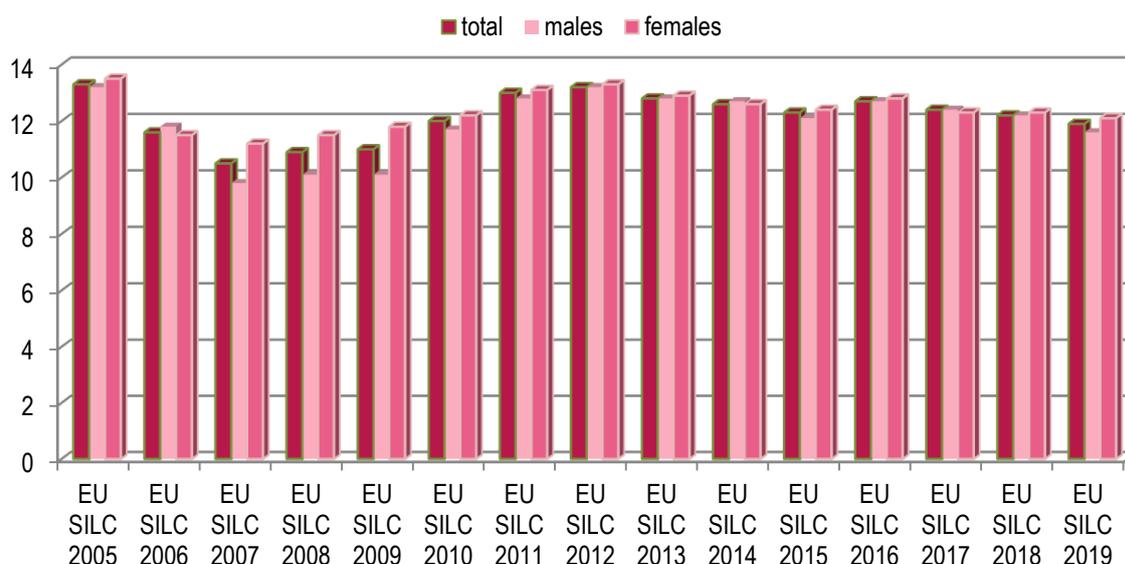
Source: Eurostat

According to the EU SILC 2019 survey, the number of persons at risk of poverty dropped compared to the previous year (by about 17,000 persons). Over the years covered by EU SILC 2005 to 2019 surveys, there was first a significant decrease in the development of the at-risk-of-poverty rate (EU SILC 2007 – 10.5 %), followed by a slight increase (EU SILC 2012 and 2016) and later a slight decrease (see the Graph 4.3). Compared to the first survey year (EU SILC 2005), the survey value for 2019 was lower by 1.4 pp.

Development of the at-risk-of-poverty rate is influenced by the social and economic situation in the country and also by the development of the income situation in households. The development of the at-risk-of-poverty rate identified in the EU SILC 2013 – 2015 and 2017 – 2019 surveys was caused mainly by closing the income gap of households in low-income groups.

⁷⁷ At-risk-of-poverty threshold is expressed as 60 % of the median equivalent disposable income (after social transfers)

Graph 4.3 Development of at-risk-of-poverty rate in Slovakia (2005 – 2019)



Source: SO SR, EU SILC 2005 – 2019, UDB

An important role in reducing the risk of poverty is played by the setting of the social protection system and its expenditure, i.e. social transfers including old-age and survivors' benefits. In the case of non-provision of social transfers excluding old-age and survivors' benefits, the at-risk-of-poverty rate would have increased by 7.3 pp to 19.2 % in 2019, and in the case of non-provision of social transfers including old-age and survivors' benefits the at-risk-of-poverty rate would have increased by 25.3 pp to 37.2 %. Compared to the previous year, there was an increase in both the at-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers excluding old-age and survivors' benefits and the at-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers including old-age and survivors' benefits, namely a decrease of 1.5 pp and 0.1 pp respectively (Annex to Chapter 4). The Impact of social transfers on reducing the risk of poverty (excluding old-age and survivors' benefits) was 38.0 %, while that of social transfers including old-age and survivors' benefits amounted to 68.0 %.

A comparison of the at-risk-of-poverty thresholds (for single-person households) in the respective years of the survey is shown in Table 4.2. The threshold according to the EU SILC 2013 (€337.00) compared to 2012 (€346.00) decreased by 2.7 %, i.e. about €10.00, which was caused by changes in the income situation of the population due to trends in employment and unemployment. A regrowth was recorded in surveys of the EU SILC 2014 and 2015, when the value exceeds the EU SILC 2012 level. According to the EU SILC 2019 data, the at-risk-of-poverty threshold for single-person households increased by 8.8 %, i.e. by €33 to €406 in absolute terms compared to the previous year. Compared to the base year (2005), the at-risk-of-poverty threshold grew by 118 % (€218).

Table 4.2 Development of At-risk-of-poverty Threshold for Single-person Households

EU SILC	Year, €	Month, €
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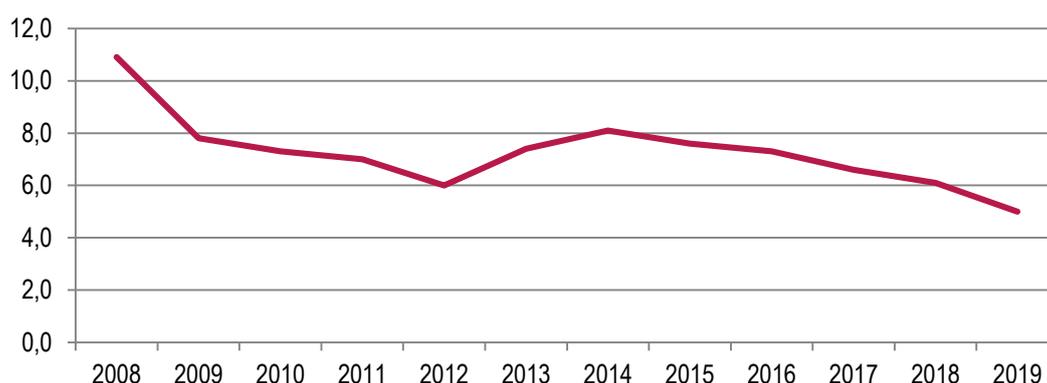
2005	2,256	188
2006	2,547	212
2007	2,945	245
2008	3,223	269
2009	3,403	284
2010	3,670	306
2011	3,784	315
2012	4,156	346
2013	4,042	337
2014	4,086	341
2015	4,158	347
2016	4,171	348
2017	4,310	359
2018	4,477	373
2019	4,872	406

Source: Eurostat/SO SR

Using the at-risk-of-poverty rate anchored at a fixed moment in time,⁷⁸ it is possible to capture the aspect of absolute poverty. According to EU SILC 2019, the value of this indicator (5.0 %) decreased year-on-year by 1.1 pp (males - 5.4 %, females - 4.6 %) (Annex to Chapter 4). A year-on-year decrease was recorded for working-age adults from 5.7 % to 4.9 % (by 0.8 pp). There was also a year-on-year decrease in the case of children aged 0 – 17, namely from 10.9 % to 8.9 % (by 2.0 pp), as well as in the case of elderly persons aged 65+, namely from 1.9 % to 1.1 % (by 0.8 pp). Using this indicator, the standard of living of the population linked to the economic growth of the country can be monitored. Graph 4.4 illustrates the development of the at-risk-of-poverty rate anchored at a fixed moment in time, with the most significant decline recorded in the EU SILC 2012 survey, which was also related to the weakening of the financial crisis impact on the economic development in Slovakia. However, according to the EU SILC 2013 and 2014 surveys, there was a slight increase influenced by the development of the income situation of the population, especially low-income households. A re-decrease was recorded in EU SILC 2015 to 2019 surveys.

⁷⁸ At-risk-of-poverty rate anchored at a fixed moment in time is defined as the percentage of persons living below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold calculated in 2008, uprated by inflation.

Graph 4.4 Development of At-risk-of-poverty Rate Anchored at a Fixed Moment in Time (2008)



Source: Eurostat

In connection with capturing the dispersion around the at-risk-of-poverty threshold, 4.7 % of people (a year-on-year increase by 1.4 pp) in Slovakia had their income below 40 % of the median equivalised disposable income⁷⁹, 7.5 % of people (a year-on-year decrease by 1.2 pp) had their income below 50 % of the median equivalised disposable income and 16.7 % of people (a year-on-year decrease of 2.5 pp) had their income below 70 % of the median equivalised disposable income (based on the EU SILC 2019 survey).

According to EU SILC 2019, the relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap, representing the difference between the median income of people at risk of poverty and the at-risk-of-poverty threshold, decreased by 0.4 pp to 25.2%. This situation is primarily influenced by the population income distribution, reflecting the income distribution inequality (Gini coefficient), which increased to 22.8 % year-on-year (by 1.9 pp).

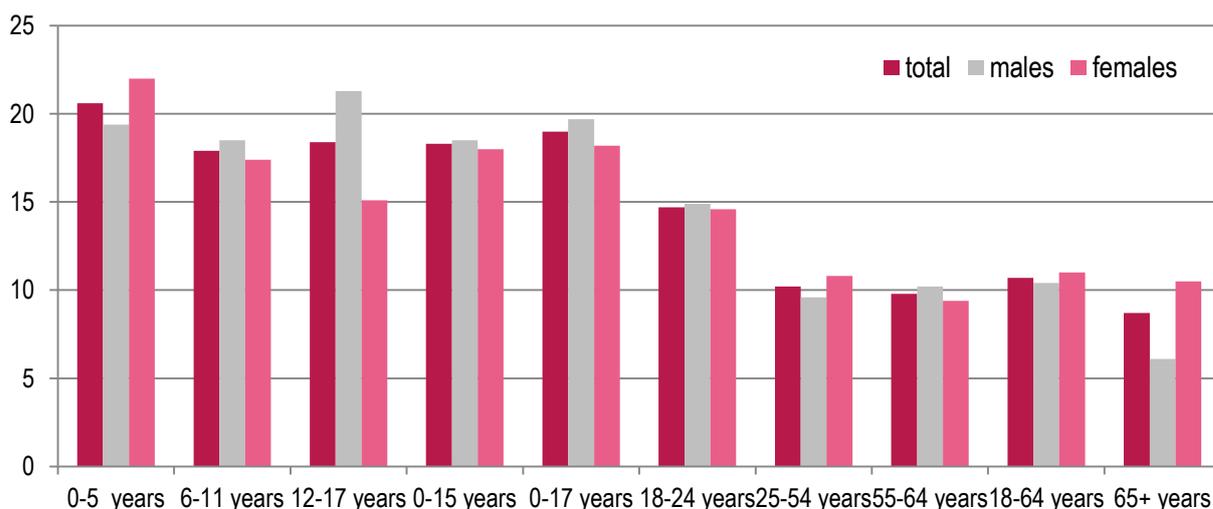
According to income inequality measurements made in the EU SILC 2019 survey, 20 % of persons with the highest income received 3.3 times more income than 20 % of those with the lowest income. Compared to the previous survey (EU SILC 2018), there was an increase of only 0.3 pp.

From the point of view of income poverty, according to EU SILC 2019, the age group facing the biggest risk is a group of children aged 0 – 5 (20.6 %) and aged 12 – 17 (18.4 %); the at-risk-of-poverty rate of children aged 0 – 17 was 19.0 %, decreasing by 1.5 pp compared to the previous year. The age group of 65+ had again the lowest at-risk-of-poverty rate (8.7 %), increasing by 2.3 pp compared to the previous year.

The risk of poverty for children aged 0 - 15 years is being monitored in the Slovak Republic. The 2019 survey findings show that 18.3 % of children of the above-mentioned age were at risk of poverty and the indicator value dropped by 1.9 pp compared to the 2018 survey. The poverty risk of children is connected mainly to the income situation of their families, particularly multi-member families or households with children. In terms of global assessment, it is clear that there are changes in the population structure connected to the risk of poverty due to changes in the income situation of the population. While the total at-risk-of-poverty rate of males and females is relatively even, differences between men and women are significant in the respective age groups, as shown in Graph 4.5. Compared to the previous year, the difference between women and men decreased in favour of women in lower age categories (younger than 18). The difference between the at-risk-of-poverty rates of females and males aged 65+ was 1.9 pp (EU SILC 2018), which increased to 4.4 pp (EU SILC 2019).

⁷⁹ Equivalised household disposable income is the disposable income of households (gross household income after deduction of regular property taxes, regular inter-household transfers, income taxes and social security contributions) divided by the equivalised household size. The equivalised household size is calculated using the so-called modified OECD equivalence scale, which assigns a coefficient of 1 to each first adult household member, a coefficient of 0.5 to each additional adult household member and persons aged 14 or over, and a coefficient of 0.3 to each child under 14 years of age.

Graph 4.5 At-risk-of-poverty Rate by Age Groups (2019)

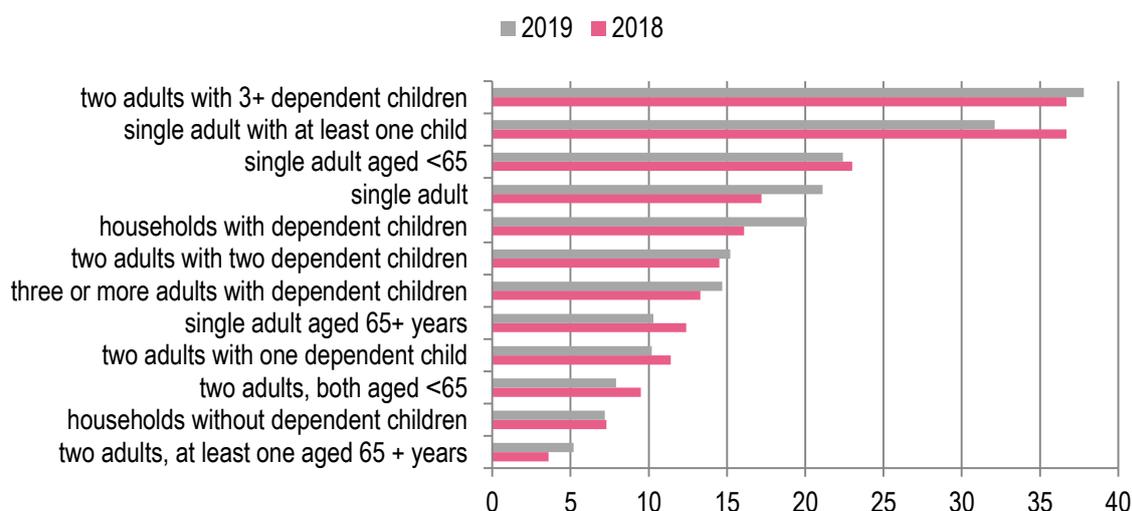


Source: SO SR, EU SILC 2019, UDB

In the group of children aged 0 - 17 years, another relationship can also be observed, namely the share of their population living in jobless households or households with very low work intensity. Based on the Labour Force Survey (LFS) results, the share of children aged 0 - 17 years slightly increased in jobless households from 7.2 % to 7.5 % (by 0.3 pp). A slight increase was recorded in this age group also according to the EU SILC 2019 results if they live in households with very low work intensity (occasional work) from 6.3 % to 6.9 % (by 0.6 pp).

By type of household, families with three or more children (37.8 %), single parents with at least one child (32.1 %) and single adults under 65 years of age (22.4 %) are at the highest risk of poverty. The lowest risk of poverty was reported for households with two adults, where at least one of them is older than 65 years (5.2 %). Compared with the previous year, there was an increase in the risk of poverty among families with three or more children (by 1.1 pp), but a decrease in the group of single parents with at least one child (by 4.6 pp) and single adults under 65 years of age (by 0.6 pp). In the case of individuals aged 65+, there was a significant year-on-year increase in the at-risk-of-poverty rate (by 7.7 pp). The increase in the at-risk-of-poverty rate compared to the previous year was also seen in the overall group of individuals (by 3.9 pp). As seen from the Graph 4.6, it is obvious that overall there was a decrease in the at-risk-of-poverty rate compared to previous year in the case of households with children by 0.9 pp and an increase in the case of households without children by 0.6 pp.

Graph 4.6 Comparison of At-risk-of-poverty Rates by Household Type (2018 and 2019)



Source: Eurostat, SO SR, EU SILC 2018 and 2019, UDB

The EU SILC 2019 results on at-risk-of-poverty rates by economic activity show that the unemployed in Slovakia were at the highest risk of poverty, namely 56.7 % (a year-on-year increase of 5.7 pp). As for the employed, 4.4 % of them were at risk of poverty; compared to the previous year there was a decrease by 1.6 pp. The risk of poverty of households increases with the decreasing work intensity⁸⁰ of household members. In the group of households with dependent children, the risk of poverty increases with the increasing number of people who are dependent on the household income. Low work intensity as one of the indicators for defining the number of people living at the risk of poverty or social exclusion (in this case, $WI < 0.2$) increased year-on-year to 6.2 % (by 1.0 pp) (EU SILC 2018 – 5.2 %). More comparisons relating to work intensity are given in Annex to Chapter 4.

The risk of poverty or social exclusion is also influenced by housing costs. The EU SILC 2019 survey showed that the housing costs of 5.7 % of the population amount to more than 40 % of household disposable income. Compared to the previous survey, there was an increase by 1.6 pp; in spite of that the value is still lower than in the previous years (2009 – 2017). The situation is more serious for people at risk of poverty, as 26.8 % of them live in households with housing costs of more than 40 % of household disposable income. However, compared to the previous survey there was a slight increase by 2.4 pp in this group as well. As seen from the 2019 survey, according to the type of ownership of housing, the biggest and the most cost-burdened group is a group of households living in rented apartments (with market-priced rents) which represents 16.4 % of households. Compared to the previous year, the value of the indicator increased by 2.8 pp. In the case of owners of apartments with mortgages or housing loans, there was an increase from 1.9 % to 12.8 % (by 10.9 pp). As for the housing-cost burden of the population, there was a decrease in the case of tenants renting apartments at a decreased price or for free and the value of the indicator dropped by 3.3 % (from 7.3% EU SILC 2018 to 4.0% EU SILC 2019). Crowded apartments and homes⁸¹ were occupied by 34.1 % of the Slovak population, which is well above the EU27 average (17.1 %⁷²). Households with three or more children (56.9 %) as well as single parents with at least one child (51.5 %) are affected by this situation most frequently. Another important factor is the accommodation tenure status. Most of the people living in overcrowded dwellings are people who are renting the dwelling, either paying the market price (64 %) or at a reduced cost or free of charge (46.9%). The state of the dwelling, or more precisely its quality is also an important factor. According to the EU SILC 2019 survey, 5.7 % of the population lived in dwellings with leaking roofs and damp walls and 2.7 % of the population in dwellings considered too dark.

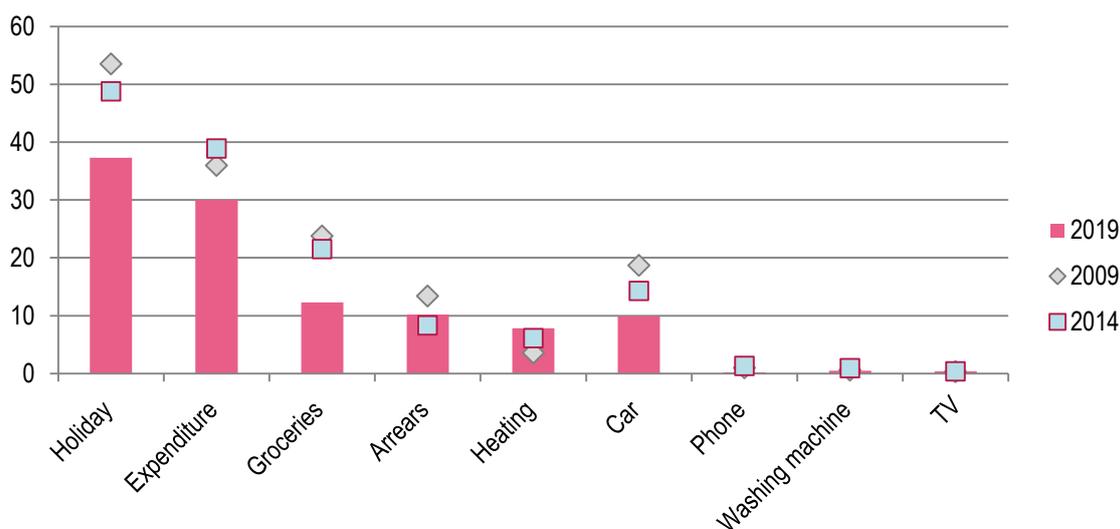
The above-mentioned measurements and evaluations of indicators are based mainly on income. Measurement of absolute poverty can be based on measurements of the lack of material goods, financial difficulties and the inability of people to live a decent life in the studied population. These shortcomings are measured by a methodology based on the indicator of “material deprivation”. Unlike the severe material deprivation, which is part of the cluster indicator of at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion, a citizen was considered materially deprived if he/she could not afford three of nine items in the first two dimensions (economic burden and consumer durables).

Assuming this definition, 15.2 % of persons were materially deprived according to the EU SILC 2019 survey (a year-on-year decrease by 2.0 pp). The severely materially deprived (who could not afford four of nine items) accounted for 7.9 % of the population according to EU SILC 2019 (increase by 0.9 pp compared to the previous year). The highest rate of severe material deprivation was seen in the case of individuals younger than 65 (17.6 %); in the case of individuals and individuals with at least one child or incomplete families with children the value was the same (15.5 %), where in the case of incomplete families with children there was a significant year-on-year drop by 8.0 pp. The severe material deprivation of parents with more than three children, i.e. multi-member families (10.2 %) increased year-on-year by 1.7 pp (EU SILC 2018 – 8.9 %). The most widespread problem within material deprivation items consisted in the inability to afford paying for a one-week annual holiday away from home, which concerned 37.3 % of the population and the ability to face unexpected costs, which involved 30.0 % of the population. The situation has changed significantly during the whole reference period, see Graph 4.7. Preliminary data shows that according to data from EU SILC 2020 severe material deprivation stood at 5.9 %, representing a drop by 2.0 pp.

⁸⁰ It refers to the number of months that all working-age household members have been working during the income reference year as a proportion of the total number of months that could theoretically be worked within the household.

⁸¹ The overcrowding rate expresses the proportion of persons in the population living in households with lack of space by some of the following criteria: a) one room for a household, b) room for a couple in the household c) room for each person aged 18 and over d) room for a pair of same sex aged 12-17, e) room for persons aged 12-17 not included in previous category, f) room for a pair of children under the age of 12.

Graph 4.7 Material Deprivation Items for Selected Time Periods (% of the Slovak Population)



Source: EU SILC 2009, 2014, 2019, Eurostat

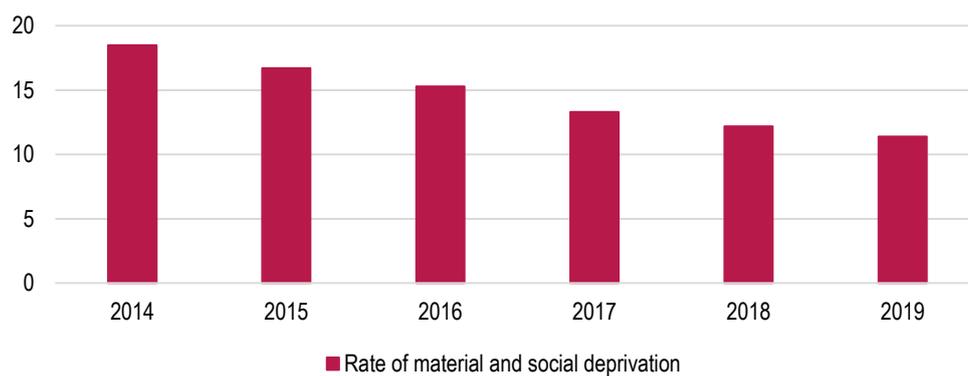
Material and social deprivation

As a part of monitoring the living conditions of the population, mainly in relation to an absence of the possibility to have or own something, the material deprivation indicator concept was extended. It is a new material and social deprivation indicator⁸² which is composed of 13 variables and is defined as a proportion of the population facing a forced lack in at least 5 of 13 basic-needs items, basic leisure-time and social activities and durable goods.

Based on EU SILC 2019, there were 11.4 % materially and socially deprived persons (decrease compared to the previous year by 0.8 pp), what is below the EU27 average (12.4%⁷²). The highest rate of material and social deprivation as per the age structure was seen in the group of children aged 12 – 17 (13.7%) and older persons aged 65+ (13.3%). In the case of the age category of 0 – 17 there were 12.2 % of children. According to the type of households, individuals with at least one child (21.4 %), individuals older than 65 (21.3%), individuals (21.0%) and individuals younger than 65 (20.8%) faced the highest material and social deprivation. Compared to previous year, there was a significant drop by 8.4 pp in the case of incomplete families, though in the case of other above-stated groups there was an increase, namely in the case of individuals older than 65 by 4 pp, individuals by 2.8 pp and individuals younger than 65 by 1.5 pp. The development of the material and social situation is shown in the Graph 4.8.

Graph 4.8 Development of the rate of material and social deprivation

⁸² The persons cannot afford: to replace worn-out clothes with some new ones; have two pairs of properly fitting shoes (including one pair of shoes suitable for any kind of weather), spend a small amount of money each week on him/herself (“pocket money”) without consulting someone; have regular leisure activities; get together with friends/family for a drink/meal at least once a month; have a computer and an internet connection; households cannot afford: replace worn-out furniture, afford a meal with meat, chicken or fish every second day, face unexpected expenses; afford one week annual holiday away from home; pay arrears (in mortgage, rent, utility bills and/or hire purchase instalments and other loans); keeping their home adequately warm; have access to a car/van for personal use.



Source: Eurostat

4.2 Equality between men and women and equal opportunities

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on gender equality

Domestic violence

Measures restricting social contact expose vulnerable family members (children, women, the elderly, persons with disabilities) to a higher risk of violence.

A higher number of reported cases of violence against children and girls is probably connected to distance online learning since children were not leaving their homes. The imposed restrictions of contact increase the social isolation of women and their children and limit the access to emotional, psychological but also to legal support.

The national helpline for women experiencing violence had a twofold increase in the number of *calls* during three months in spring 2020, i.e. when the first special pandemic measures were imposed, compared to the same period in 2019. The number of women calling for the first time doubled as well. Aggressors were mostly identified as husbands, then partners and ex-husbands/partners.⁸³

The total number of calls (3,737) to the National Helpline during 2020 represented a year-on-year rise by 48 %. The number of women contacting the helpline for the first time rose by 37 % compared to the previous year. There was also a significant (almost 43 %) year-on-year increase in the number of calls from the so-called third persons, i.e. relatives and friends of women experiencing violence, who were searching for advice how to help women and children in their vicinity. Women most frequently experienced psychological violence (86 % of the calling women) and physical violence (61 % of the calling women). Almost 31 % of the women experiencing violence and calling the helpline had at least one minor child and 15 % of the women stated that the violent man/persons behaved violently also to their children. 44 % of the women stated that children witnessed violence. During the phone calls the women were asked about the sex and the relationship of the violent person to the woman. Almost 52 % of the violent persons were husbands, 28 % were partners and 17 % were (ex)husbands and (ex)partners. The women usually turned to their family and friends for help but almost 29 % of women also contacted the police.

During the pandemic the number of cases of *domestic violence against children and the elderly* – grand parents increased as well. In such cases both men and women behaved violently. According to the Office of the Prosecutor General, the increase is related to the pandemic, loss of job, income, social security as well as to a higher alcohol consumption.

More information is provided in the graphs and tables in the Annex to the Chapter 4.

The korona.gov.sk portal contains also a section aimed at helping the victims of domestic violence - <https://korona.gov.sk/pomoc-obetiam-domaceho-nasilia/>.

Economic and health risks

During the pandemic, the medical staff was exposed to high workload, contact with contagious persons, and so they faced both economic and health risks. 80.6 % of persons working in the Slovak health system are women. They also represent a dominant element in residential social service facilities (e.g. homes for the elderly) – 86.3%, in nursing services – 83.5% and in field social work – 86.2%.⁸⁴ Women in the front line therefore faced increased economic and health risks also due to the occupations where they have dominant representation.

In 2020, the following national projects and calls for DDPs co-financed from ESF funds continued.

Counselling and Education in the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination II

The approved DDPs also continued performing their activities. The support was focused on the one hand on activities which led to sensitivisation of differences between men and women and also to awareness-raising of the prevention of all types of discrimination and forms of protection against it (for employers with a focus on micro enterprises/SMEs, employees in public administration and first contact workers), and on the other hand on advisory

⁸³ Press release IVPR 1.7.2020, https://ivpr.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/TS_NLZ_jul_2020.pdf.

⁸⁴ IVPR, *COVID-19 and gender equality*, 2020, <https://www.totojervnost.eu/index.php/2020/06/03/covid-19-a-rodovarovnost/>

and other auxiliary services for persons at risk of discrimination. The call also supports awareness-raising activities in the form of conferences and information campaigns. In the last round of the call the assessment of which was published on 22 December 2020, 13 entities obtained funds, two of which will disburse the funds specifically for the purpose of legal consultancy for the victims of violence.

Prevention and Elimination of Gender Discrimination

In 2020, a national project was being carried out the implementation of which was approved for the period of 1/2018 – 2/2022. The aim is to ensure a systemic institutional advisory and research activities in the area of discrimination, including violence against women. A special activity is performance of tasks connected to prevention and elimination of violence, namely through activities of the Coordination and Methodological Centre for the Prevention of Violence against Women including the National Helpline for Women Experiencing Violence. The project is a prerequisite for the creation, stabilization and maintenance of the system of integrated protection and support for victims of violence and the harmonization of efforts to reduce and prevent it. It involves systematising and interlinking various procedures and measures of both legislative and non-legislative nature so that their coordination will lead to a joint effort of public authorities and non-public entities to prevent and reduce violence.

The National Project consists of two main activities:

- promoting effective mechanisms to eliminate the discrimination between women and men through education (the development of original research, methodologies, monitoring and educational campaigns, training in the area of equality between women and men, prevention of gender discrimination) and counselling (providing advice on issues related to discrimination for public authorities and support for research and analytical activities),
- supporting the development of services and measures for victims of violence, especially for women through the activities of the **Coordinating Methodological Centre for the Prevention of Violence against Women** (the development of multi-institutional cooperation, coordination of regional teams of experts, creation of action plans for individual Slovak regions, building of intervention teams in training and education, development of methodological guidances and standards for providing support and protection for people experiencing violence and their children, development of research, monitoring and awareness-raising activities on violence against women. Within this activity, the National Helpline for Women Experiencing Violence continues with and develops its operations (through expert advice it provides 24-hour distance crisis support for victims of discrimination – women experiencing violence).

The project outputs in the form of expert publications, analyses, strategies, campaigns, and organised educational events are posted on www.zastavmenasilie.sk, <https://www.gender.gov.sk/>, <https://www.ceit.sk/IVPR/>, <https://www.totojrovnost.eu/>, as well as on social, electronic and print media.

In 2020, the activities of the Coordination and Methodological Centre for the Prevention of Violence against Women was affected by the negative epidemiological situation in Slovakia. In 2020, 45 experts, who represent various affected institutions and organisations in the region, including authorities of Higher Territorial Units, offices of labour, social affairs and family, municipal authorities, municipal police offices, NGOs – providers of assistance and support to women experiencing violence and universities, were involved in PMIS activities. Compared to 2019, the number of participants involved increased, what contributed to increasing the participative approach. The information campaign from 2019 was followed by preparation of a *Specialized Training Programme Guide*. Implementation of the planned activities in the determined periods of time became more complicated due to the epidemiological situation caused by the start of the spread of COVID-19 in March 2020 which also had an impact on educational activities: 17 out of 32 planned educational activities were held – 11 in the face-to-face form and 6 in an online form; work with perpetrators of domestic violence as well as performance of the first 4 trainings for probation officers of Slovak courts became more complicated too. In 2020, 420 women experiencing violence, who are considered new clients, contacted the national helpline for the first time. 14 men experiencing violence also contacted the national helpline; they were provided contact data of organisations focused on domestic violence.

Promoting the reconciliation of work and family life (work-life balance)

In 2020, implementation of the approved 29 projects in less developed Slovak regions continued, as well as implementation of 17 projects in more developed Slovak regions, while the call from 9 October 2017 finished on 12 October 2018. The projects were focused on creating efficient tools for including mothers of small

children (also with special educational needs) in the labour market, mainly after returning from their parental leaves. Their aim was to apply flexible jobs (part-time jobs) (Section 49 of the Labour Code), shared jobs (Section 49a of the Labour Code), distance work and telework (Section 52 of the Labour Code) and flexible forms of children care (also with special educational needs) in order to balance the family and work life. 43 facilities providing flexible children care were supported by the end of 2020. Smooth performance of project activities was jeopardized by COVID-19 measures, what may have a negative impact on the success of the intervention through the call.

National project "Reconciliation of work and family life"

The project has been implemented since 9/2019 with planned ending in 8/2022 but in relation to compliance with the measures aimed at preventing COVID-19 from spreading, since 1 April 2020 conclusion of new agreements for optional ALMMs was suspended, similarly to all national projects which were being implemented. Therefore, in 2020 only those obligations were being performed which resulted from agreements concluded with users in the preceding period.

The project supports measures such as increasing the employment of persons with parental obligations, mainly women, but also of single parents looking after at least one child and other persons who find it difficult to reconcile their family and work life due to an increased need to care for children and other dependent family or household members. The project was a response to the administrative difficulty of implementation by beneficiaries involved in the call to submit DDPs announced on 9 October 2017, since involvement of small enterprises was difficult and projects with small financial amounts represented an inappropriately high administrative burden for the beneficiaries. The aim of the NP was to increase the employment of persons with parental responsibilities (women and single parents in particular) by improving the conditions for reconciling work and family life. The project focuses on the support of employers who implement measures to help persons from the target group reconcile their work and family life by providing them with the opportunity to return to the labour market through employment. Financial contribution in the amount of 95 % of the total price of work of the employee who was employed was paid to the employer within the project. 883 employers/institutions were involved in the project and supported before 31 December 2020.

In order to support activities of civic associations and non-profit organisations under the Subsidies Act (Section 9a), 3 NGOs were supported in 2020 through the **subsidy scheme of MoLSAF to promote gender equality** for educational, counselling, awareness-raising, publishing and analytical activities. In 2020, subsidies to promote gender equality were approved in the amount of € 21,300, of which €18,180 was disbursed. The Act No. 417/2020 Coll., amending and supplementing the Act No. 544/2010 Coll. on subsidies in the competence of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, as amended, amended the subsidy scheme to support gender equality and the scale of activities and the group of eligible applicants were extended. Subsidies may be provided for educational, counselling, awareness-raising, publishing and analytical activities, after the amendment also for activities and actions supporting gender equality, closing the income gaps between women and men, reconciliation of family and work life, support of pro-family measures at the workplace, support of a fair redistribution of household duties and children care between women and men, preventing feminisation of poverty and addressing the violence against women. The amendment also cancelled the maximum sum of the provided subsidies.

Approved projects with implementation start in 1Q 2020, co-financed from ESF funds:

In January 2020 started the implementation of the **National Project "Gender Equality at the Workplace"** the aim of which is to prepare a support infrastructure for implementing measures in the area of reconciliation of family and work life, including audits with a focus on reconciling family, work and private life, as well as on the equality between women and men at work in the form of concept documents with set professional and methodological conditions.

The eligible period is from 1/2020 to 12/2022. Due to the extraordinary situation in SR which started in March 2020 (due to the COVID-19 pandemic) it was not possible to organise conferences, trainings or seminars, and even now the number of participants in group events is still restricted. Therefore, the number of participants in conferences within the project changed from 150 to 30 – 50. In accordance with the project schedule, active

support of employers is scheduled from the second half of 2021 after analytical and concept documents have been finished.

The aim of the **National Project "Raising Awareness of Gender Equality" approved in 2019** with implementation start in 2020 was to increase the support of equality between women and men and to decrease horizontal and vertical segregation on the labour market through educational training of women and men which are supposed to provide not only knowledge, but mainly practical skills. Since the National Project was approved during the extraordinary situation related to COVID-19, what made the project implementation difficult mainly from the point of view of staffing, the project was terminated on 29 July 2020 on request of the beneficiary.

National Project "Every Child Counts"

MoLSAF reassessed implementation of this project and is preparing a new aim within the NP which would lead to an improvement in early intervention for persons with severe disabilities, in parallel with termination of obligatory requirements from the previous project.

The data available on the gender equality indicators make it possible to watch the development in several areas. Compared to the data available last year, the proportion of women aged 30 – 34 who are university graduates increased from 44.6 % to 48.3 %, while the proportion of men who are university graduates in the same age category is lower and is rising more slowly – from 31.1 % to 32.2 %. The higher proportion of women compared to men in education increased at the national level as well as in comparison with EU countries. The income poverty risk rate decreased slightly in the case of women (from 12.3 % to 12.1 %) and more in the case of men (from 12.2 % to 11.6 %) what represents a slightly smaller difference compared to the average difference in EU countries. In the case of women, the at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate increased compared to the previous year (from 16.6 % to 17 %), in the case of men it dropped (from 16 % to 15.7 %). In the case of both women and men the severe material deprivation rate increased slightly compared to the previous year (by 0.9 pp for women and 0.8 pp for men). In the same period of time, the EU28 average was decreasing, while the difference between men and women decreased by 0.1 pp; as a result there was a relative difference in the comparison of women and men between Slovakia and the EU average. Life expectancy at birth increased compared to the previous year in the case of both women (from 80.8 to 81.2 years) and men (from 73.9 to 74.2 years), but the value of the "number of healthy life expectancy at birth" deteriorated in the group of women (from 56.6 to 56.3 years), while it improved in the group of men (from 55.5 to 56 years).

In 2020, the proportion of women in the National Council increased slightly (from 20.7 % to 22.7 %); compared to the EU average there was no significant improvement. The proportion of women in the government decreased even more. The proportion of women in regional governments increased slightly (by 0.7 pp) as well. The proportion of women at the Supreme Court decreased from 60.8 % in 2019 to 50.6 % in 2020; however, that still represents above-average representation compared to EU countries where the overall average representation of women at supreme courts reaches 41.6 %. There was a positive development concerning participation in economic decision-making – compared to the previous year, the proportion of women in the management of companies listed on the stock exchange increased by 6.2 pp to 19.5 % and Slovakia thus considerably decreased the difference between the Slovak and the European average difference between the participation of women and men.

Table 4.3 Summary of indicators - equality between men and women

Indicator	Women		Men		Difference ⁺	
	SK	EU27	SK	EU27	SK	EU27
Labour Market						
Employment rate	66.1	66.8	78.7	78.1	12.6	11.3

(in %, 20 – 64 years, 2020, Eurostat)						
Employment rate (in %, 15 – 64 years, 2020, Eurostat)	66.4	67.5	78.3	78.3	11.9	10.8
Youth employment rate (in %, 15 – 24 years, 2020, Eurostat)	21	34.8	34.9	40.7	13.9	5.9
Employment rate of older people (in %, 55 – 64 years, 2020, Eurostat)	55.2	53.3	61.7	66.3	6.5	13
Unemployment rate (in %, all age groups, 2020, Eurostat)	7.1	7.4	6.4	6.8	-0.7	-0.6
Youth unemployment rate (in %, 15 – 24 years, 2020, Eurostat)	21.2	16.6	18.3	17	-2.9	0.4
Income and education						
Wage difference between women and men (in % of gross hourly wage, 2019, Eurostat)					18.4	14.1
Population aged 30 – 34 years with tertiary (university) education (in %; ISCED 5-8, 2019, Eurostat)	48.3	46.7	32.2	36.6	-16.1	-10.1
Early leavers from education and training – population aged 18 – 24 years with less than secondary education (in %, ISCED 0-2; 2020, Eurostat)	7.4	8.1	7.7	12	0.3	3.9
Young people aged 15 – 24 years not in education, employment, or training – NEET (in %, 2020, Eurostat)	11.6	11.1	9.7	11	-1.9	-0.1
Poverty						
Income poverty risk rate (in %, 2019, Eurostat)	12.1	17.6	11.6	16	-0.5	-1.6
Income poverty risk rate of older persons (in %, age 65+, 2019, Eurostat)	10.5	18.5	6.1	14	-4.4	-4.5
At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate of single-parent families (in %, at least 1 child, 2018, Eurostat)***					40.1	43
Proportion of persons living in households with low work intensity (in %, population aged 0 – 59 years, 2019, Eurostat)	5.9	8.9	6.5	8	0.6	-0.9
Persistent income poverty risk rate (in %, 2018, Eurostat) (data for Slovakia not published)	n.a.	11.4	n.a.	10.8	n.a.	-0.6
Severe material deprivation rate (in %, 2019, Eurostat)	8.1	5.6	7.6	5.3	-0.5	-0.3
At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate (in %, 2019, Eurostat)	17	22.3	15.7	20.4	-1.3	-1.9
At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate of older persons (in %, 55+ years, 2019, Eurostat)	17	22.3	12.9	18.2	-4.1	-4.1

Table 4.3 Summary of indicators - equality between men and women (continued)

Indicator	Women		Men		Difference ⁺	
	SK	EU27	SK	EU27	SK	EU27
Demography						

Life expectancy at birth (in years, 2019, Eurostat)	81.2	n.a.	74.2	n.a.	-6.9	n.a.
Number of healthy life expectancy at birth (in years, 2019, Eurostat)	56.3	n.a.	56	n.a.	-0.3	n.a.
Decision-making						
Political participation at European level (in %, European Parliament, 2020, EP/EIGE**)	21.4	39.5	78.6	60.5	57.2	21
Political participation at national level (in %, national parliaments, 2020, National Council of SR/EIGE**)	22.7	32.3	77.3	67.7	54.6	35.4
Political participation in national governments (in %, 2020, Slovak Government/EIGE**)	18.8	31.6	81.2	68.4	62.4	36.8
Political participation at regional level - in the leadership of regional councils (in %, 2020, EIGE**)	12.5	21.8	87.5	78.2	75	56.4
Political participation at regional level – representation in regional/county offices (in %, 2020, EIGE**)	14.4	34.2	85.6	65.8	71.2	31.6
Political participation at the level of towns and municipalities – mayor/s (in %, 2020, EIGE**)	DATA NOT AVAILABLE					
Political participation – leadership of political parties with at least 5 % of the seats in national parliaments (in %, 2020, EIGE**)	0	21.5	100	78.5	100	57
The rate of participation in the management of the largest companies listed on the stock exchange (male and female managers in %, 2020, EIGE**)	19.5	21.1	80.5	79.9	61	58.8
Gender composition of the Supreme Court (in %, 2019, Supreme Court of SR/EIGE**)	50.6	41.3	49.4	58.7	-1.2	17.4
GENDER EQUALITY INDEX (in %, 2020, EIGE**)					55.5	67.9

Below the indicator name there is always a relevant year and source stated in the brackets

Notes: Difference between women and men = values for males minus values for females in percentage points (pp), unless otherwise stated.

* European Commission, 2019: 2019 Report on equality between women and men in the EU

**EIGE: European Institute for Gender Equality, <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-statistics/dgs>

***Data for all households of the particular structure (not gender-divided)

5 COMPARISON OF SELECTED INDICATORS ACROSS EU COUNTRIES IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY

Europe 2020 – a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth – adopted by the European Council on 17 June 2010 is the EU strategy for economic growth and employment in the current decade. The Europe 2020

strategy should help turn the EU into a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy with high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion. It is the successor of the Lisbon Strategy, which set the EU targets by 2010. The main targets of the Europe 2020 strategy are measured by eight main indicators, four of which are directly related to the social sphere. These targets have been transferred into national targets, which take into account the specific situation of individual EU countries and also maximize their commitment to achieve the European targets, to ensure the contribution of each EU country to the implementation of the Strategy.

The following data reflect the socio-economic situation in Slovakia compared to other EU countries and in the context of achieving the Europe 2020 goals. The indicators are calculated using uniform methodology, with Eurostat as a source, and may therefore be somewhat different from the data of national statistical institutes. The annex to this chapter contains tables with data for individual EU27 countries for the last year available.

5.1 Macroeconomic Environment

In 2020, the development of **GDP** in EU27 was influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Real GDP dropped in all EU countries with the exception of Ireland, on average by 6.1 %. Recession was demonstrated also in Slovakia where after ten years of rising, the real GDP dropped by 4.8 %. Pandemic measures had an impact mainly on the domestic demand; household consumption dropped mainly in services, leading to an increase in savings. Compared to services, industry was affected less, what helped the Slovak export. From among EU countries, the biggest decrease in GDP was seen in Spain (10.8 %), Italy (8.9 %), Greece (8.2 %), France (8.1 %) and Croatia (8.0 %). Ireland was the only EU27 country where GDP increased, namely by 3.4 %, and the smallest decrease in GDP was seen in Lithuania (0.9 %) and Luxembourg (1.3 %). According to the spring forecast of the European Commission⁸⁵ (EC), quick recovery is expected in Slovakia with lifting the restrictions in 2021 and 2022, namely thanks to an increasing domestic consumption as well as the foreign demand. In 2021, real GDP is expected to increase again by 4.8 %; in 2022 the growth will accelerate even more to 5.2 %. According to the EC estimate, a similar development is expected also in other EU countries; on average the real GDP in EU27 will increase by 4.2 % in 2021 and by 4.4 % in 2022. In 2021, the biggest GDP increase is expected in Spain (by 5.9 %), France (by 5.7 %), Romania (by 5.1 %), Hungary (by 5.0 %) and Croatia (by 5.0 %).

In 2019⁸⁶, the **GDP per capita** (in PPS⁸⁷) in Slovakia was 70.2 % of the EU27 average, representing a decrease by 0.5 pp compared to 2018. Lower values of GDP per capita than Slovakia, when compared to the EU27, were seen in Bulgaria (53.0 %), Croatia (65.1 %), Greece (66.5 %), Latvia (69.0 %) and Romania (69.6 %).

Prices continued to rise on the EU27 average also in 2020, though the price increase slowed down compared to 2019 and it was even negative in certain countries. **Harmonised inflation rate** in Slovakia decreased by 0.8 pp to 2.0 % in 2020. Prices in the EU27 increased by 0.7 % on average. According to EC estimates, in 2021 the inflation in Slovakia will be around 1.5 % since the domestic demand will not recover completely yet. As a result of strengthening the domestic demand, mainly in services, inflation will again increase to 1.9 % in 2022. The inflation in EU is expected to reach 1.9 % in 2021 and 1.5 % in 2022 on average.

Conditions on the labour market in 2020 deteriorated both in Slovakia and in the EU27 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the domestic ESA 2010 concept, in 2020 the **employment** decreased by 1.9 % compared to the previous year (on the EU27 average it dropped by 1.5 %) The biggest decrease in employment was seen in Spain (by 4.2 %); employment dropped by more than 2 % also in Estonia, Latvia, Bulgaria, Hungary and Italy. In spite of the pandemic, the employment increased in Malta (by 2.6 %), in Luxembourg (by 2.0 %) and in Poland (by 0.1 %); in Belgium it remained at the 2019 level. According to the spring European Commission forecast, another slight decrease in employment is expected in Slovakia in 2021 (by 0.6 %). Recovery on the labour market is expected in 2022 when the employment in Slovakia is expected to rise by 0.8 %. On the EU27 average, in 2021 the employment is expected to stay at the same level as in 2020 and recovery will also come only in 2022 when the employment is expected to increase by 1.0 %.

In 2020, the **government deficit** in Slovakia increased by 4.9 pp to 6.2 % of GDP compared to the previous year, mainly due to higher expenses focused on mitigating the impacts of the pandemic and on the pandemic

⁸⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/economy-finance/ip149_en.pdf

⁸⁶ Values for 2020 were not available at the time of preparing the Report.

⁸⁷ PPS (Purchasing Power Standard) is an artificial exchange rate of currencies in individual countries, taking into account the price levels of goods and services purchased in these countries. It can be understood as a price index comparing the prices of goods and services in those countries. It is used to express different economic contexts more realistically than in the official exchange rates of currencies of the countries concerned.

measures, and a lower tax income as a result of the weakened economy. The average EU27 deficit also increased considerably and reached 6.9 % of GDP. The highest deficits in the EU27 were recorded in Spain (11.0 %), Malta (10.1 %) and Greece (9.7 %). According to the EC forecast, in 2021, the deficit in the EU will increase further, on average by 0.6 pp to 7.5 % of GDP. An increase to 6.5 % of GDP is expected in Slovakia. According to the forecast, the government deficits are expected to decrease in all EU countries in 2022. In 2020, the **consolidated government debt** (general government gross debt) in Slovakia rose to 60.6 % of GDP (90.7 % of GDP in the EU27). Its highest value was seen in Greece where it reached as much as 205.6 % of GDP. In addition to Greece, government debts exceeded 100 % of GDP also in Belgium, Spain, France, Italy, Portugal and Cyprus. In 2021, the debt-to-GDP ratio in the EU27 is expected to grow further (to 94.4 %) and to decrease slightly in SR (to 59.5 %).

5.2 Smart and Inclusive Growth

The main target of the Europe 2020 strategy is to increase **the employment rate** for men and women aged 20 – 64 years to 75 %. SR is supposed to contribute to this European target by increasing the employment rate of its population in this age group to 72 %⁸⁸. A higher employment rate in Europe is to be achieved mainly through higher employment of women, older people, young people, people with low qualifications and legal migrants. In 2020, the impact of the pandemic was also reflected in the employment rate which decreased on the EU27 average by 0.7 pp to 72.4 % (by 0.5 pp to 66.8 % for women and by 0.9 pp to 78.1 % for men) in the group aged 20-64 years compared to the previous year. SR achieved its national goal of the Europe 2020 strategy in the area of employment in 2018. In 2020, the employment rate dropped by 0.9 pp but it remained over the target level specified in strategy, at 72.5 %. The decrease in the employment rate was more significant for men (by 1.2 pp to 78.7 %) than for women (by 0.8 pp to 66.1 %). In 2020, as well as in the previous years, the highest employment rate in the EU27 was seen in Sweden, particularly at 80.8 %. A high employment rate (above 80 %) was also seen in Germany (80.1 %) and the Netherlands (80.0 %). As a result of the pandemic, in 2020 the employment dropped below 80 % in the Czech Republic and in Estonia. The lowest employment rate was observed in Greece, where it decreased slightly to 61.1 % in 2020. The lower economic activity rates for women and older people contribute to the lower rate of total employment in Slovakia.

The **female employment rate** lags behind the male employment rate in Slovakia (by 12.6 pp in 2020) as well as on the EU27 average (by 11.3 pp). Gender differences in the employment rate in 2020 in SR dropped year-on-year by 0.4 pp, similarly to the EU27. The largest employment gap between men and women are in Italy (19.9 pp), Romania (19.3 pp) and Greece (18.9 pp). Larger employment gaps between men and women than in Slovakia were recorded in Malta (17.7 pp), Hungary (16.1 pp), Poland (15.7 pp) and Czech Republic (15.3 pp). A high rate of employment of women was seen in Sweden (78.3 %), Germany (76.9 %), Lithuania (75.8 %) and Estonia (75.8 %); more than 75 % was seen also in the Netherlands, Latvia and Finland. From a long-term perspective, only Lithuania has the smallest difference in the employment gap between men and women from among the EU countries (only 1.7 pp in 2020).

Policies to reconcile work and private life are necessary to support female employment. In general, access to childcare services is the main factor affecting the participation of women in the labour market. Since women are more likely to provide care for children and family than men, parenthood and family responsibilities affect their employment to a larger extent, particularly in circumstances where there is a lack of childcare services and other care services for dependent family members, or the services are too expensive and, consequently, less available. The gap between male and female employment rates is most pronounced for care of a child under six years of age, where the gap is 47.2 pp (42.9 % and 88.3 % for women and men aged 15 – 64 years respectively). Compared to the previous year, the difference increased by 1.8 pp and was at the same time considerably above the EU27 average (25.5 pp). Slovakia has the third largest gap in the EU27 with regard to care for a child under six years. It is higher only in the Czech Republic (54.9 pp) and Hungary (52.0 pp). The gap is decreasing with the age of the child. With regard to care of a child aged 6 – 11 years, the employment gender gap in Slovakia is lower than the EU27 average (6.0 pp versus 15.0 pp), and with regard to care of a child over 12 years, the employment gender gap in Slovakia is 2.5 pp (versus 9.8 pp in the EU27). Compared to the previous year, in Slovakia the employment gender gap rate with regard to a child decreased in the age group of 6 – 11 and increased in the age group of 12+.

⁸⁸ according to the Labour Force Survey – LFS

The fact that maternity influences female employment in 2020 can also be proved by data on the employment rate for women aged 25 – 54 years without children in SR (82.3 %), which exceeds the employment rate for women without children in the EU27 (76.8 %) and is very similar to the employment rate for men in this age group without children (83.6 %). The low employment rate for women with a child under 6 years of age reflects a lack of childcare facilities (especially for children under 3 years of age) and low use of flexible working arrangements. The European Council advises the Slovak Republic to improve the opportunities for women employment, particularly by expanding the provision of affordable and quality childcare.

One of the priorities of the European Union is to ensure the availability of affordable and good quality care services for children between 0 years and the mandatory school age. The Barcelona target from 2002, included in the Lisbon Strategy, based on the requirement *to remove barriers to women's participation in the labour market, while taking the demand into account and, in accordance with the national systems, to establish care facilities for at least 90 % of children between three years and the mandatory school age and at least 33 % of children under three years of age by 2010*, is also incorporated in the Europe 2020 strategy. According to the last available EU SILC data, **formal childcare** was provided in facilities for 35.3 % of children under three years of age in the EU27 in 2019. In Slovakia, the use of such care has been very low in the long term. According to EU SILC, only 6.6 % of children under three years of age used formal childcare facilities in 2019 (by 5.2 pp more than in 2018).⁸⁹ Formal childcare for children aged 3 – 6 is provided to a larger extent in Slovakia. In 2019, such care was provided for 82.8 % of children (the EU27 average: 89.6 %), 68.1% of children were provided with care for 30+ hours a week (the EU27 average: 59.7 % of children of this age), and 14.7 % of children were cared for 1 to 29 hours a week (EU27: 29.9 % of children). Providing quality care services and universal access to quality pre-school education are included not only in the preventive measures to increase female employment, but also in those against early school leaving. The data indicates that access to childcare in the early age is gradually improving in Slovakia, though it remains low for children under 3 years of age.

Achieving the employment rate of 75 % also largely depends on the development of the employment of older people. The demographic challenges associated with the ageing of population motivate the EU to jointly increase the participation of older people in the labour market and support further extension of their work lives. The **employment rate for older people** (55 – 64 years) in Slovakia has been increasing lately, with a year-on-year increase of 1.3 pp to 58.3 % in 2020. This rate of employment has also been increasing in the EU27, where it is higher on average (59.6 %). In 2020, the year-on-year increase in the employment rate in SR was slightly higher in the case of older men (by 1.4 pp to 61.7 %) than older women (by 1.3 pp to 55.2 %) and it slowed down compared to the previous year. In the long-term, the highest employment rate for older women has been observed in Sweden (75.3 %); a high employment rate has also been achieved in Estonia (74.8 %).

Longer work lives and raising employment rates should also be supported through better access to lifelong learning. Inclusive growth also means investing in training and upgrading skills with a view to helping people of all ages to prepare for expected changes in the labour market. Slovakia is still lagging behind in this area. In 2020, the **participation of adults in education** was the third lowest one in EU27. In 2020, 2.8 % of persons aged 25 – 64 were participating in further education or training in Slovakia, what is by 0.8 pp less than in 2019. The EU27 average was 9.2 %. A lower share of adults involved in lifelong learning in 2020 was only in Romania (1.0 %) and Bulgaria (1.6 %). The highest share of adults involved in lifelong learning in 2020 was in Sweden (28.6 %), Finland (27.3 %), and Denmark (20.0 %). A low rate of further education or training of adults may have an adverse effect on employability, especially among low-skilled workers; it thereby weakens the efforts to reduce structural unemployment.

The **unemployment rate** of persons aged 15 – 74 in Slovakia was decreasing steadily since 2014 but it increased in 2020 as a result of the pandemic. It increased year-on-year by 0.9 pp to 6.7 %, thus remaining under the average EU27 level (7.1 %). The unemployment rate in Slovakia increased more for women (by 1.1 pp to 7.1 %) than for men (by 0.8 pp to 6.4 %). In EU27, the unemployment rate increased in most countries (with the exception of Greece, France, Italy and Poland), on average by 0.4 pp. Unemployment rates higher than in Slovakia were seen in 13 EU countries. The highest unemployment rate was seen in Greece (16.3 %) and Spain (15.5 %). The lowest unemployment rate was in the Czech Republic (2.6 %), Poland (3.2 %), Netherlands (3.8 %) and Germany (3.8 %). According to the spring EC forecast, the unemployment rate in SR will continue to increase in 2021, namely by 0.7 pp to 7.4 %. An increase in the unemployment rate is expected also in the EU27 average (by

⁸⁹ The administrative data from 2020 also shows that 6.6 % of children under 3 years of age used formal childcare institutions. In 2020, nursery schools provided care for 7,913 children under 3 years of age, and facilities for children under 3 years of age registered in 2019 had the capacity for 3,787 children, i.e. a total of 11,730 children, accounting for ca. 6.6% of the total number of children aged 0 - 2 years. Source: MoLSAF; Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information; Infostat (VDC).

0.5 pp to 7.6 %). In 2022, the unemployment rate is expected to start decreasing again, both in Slovakia and in the EU average.

The key to achieving the smart and sustainable growth for all are the young people, especially their successful entry into the labour market. Young people today face challenges in education and training systems, as well as when entering the labour market. The **youth unemployment rate** (aged 15 – 24 years) in the EU has always been higher than the overall unemployment rate. Young people rank among the main target groups of the active labour market policy in Slovakia. The youth unemployment rate in Slovakia, which rocketed mainly in the crisis and post-crisis period, was decreasing every year from 2013 to 2018; however, in 2019 it rose again. In 2020, the increase in the youth unemployment rate in SR was more significant, also as a result of the pandemic. Compared to the previous year, it rose by 3.2 pp to 19.3 % (almost a triple of the total unemployment rate). Other EU27 countries also saw an increase in the youth unemployment rate (on average by 1.8 pp to 16.9 %). In 2020, the highest youth unemployment rate was seen in Spain (38.3 %) and Greece (35.0 %). A higher youth unemployment rate than the one seen in Slovakia in 2020 was also recorded in Italy, Sweden, Luxembourg, Portugal, Finland, Croatia, France and Lithuania. On the contrary, the lowest youth unemployment rate was observed in Germany (7.2 %), the Czech Republic (8.0 %), and the Netherlands (9.1 %).

A higher rate of youth unemployment highlights the difficulties of the labour force in this age group to find employment. On the other hand, when comparing countries, it must be taken into account that the size of this labour force (i.e. economically active population in this age) differs among individual countries, since it depends on the number of young people in education. A high proportion of young people in Slovakia are students, resulting in a **low rate of economic activity of young people aged 15 – 24**. In 2020, the labour force represented 28.1 % of the total population aged 15 – 24 (34.9 % of young men and 21.0 % of young women). On the EU27 average, the proportion of the labour force is higher among the young people aged 15 – 24 years (34.9 %). 92.1 % of the young people aged 15 – 24 in Slovakia were economically inactive in 2020 due to participating in the education process (the EU27 average is 74.5 %). Taking into account the number of young people in education, the proportion of **young people aged 15 – 24 years who are not in education, employment, or training** (the so-called **NEET**) in Slovakia amounted to 10.7 % in 2020, which is slightly below the EU27 average (11.1 %). Based on a recommendation of the European Council on introducing a youth guarantee, Slovakia is creating a Youth Guarantee Scheme in SR the aim of which is to make sure that all young people under the age of 29 are offered a high-quality job, further education, apprenticeship or internship in a period of four months after they lose their job or finish formal education.

Another main target of the EU in the Europe 2020 strategy is to ensure that at least 40 % of the population aged 30 – 34 years complete university (tertiary) or equivalent education. High-skilled population is crucial for dealing with issues related to demographic changes and social inclusion in Europe. According to EC, a growing number of jobs require e-skills, while the EU economy suffers from a shortage of highly skilled workers in information and communication technologies. In 2020, the **proportion of the university graduates** aged 30 – 34 decreased slightly year-on-year in Slovakia, namely by 0.4 pp to 39.7 %. It thus dropped below the target determined in the Europe 2020 strategy. Gender division shows that the rate of the university graduates aged 30 – 34 decreased only in the case of men (by 2.2 pp to 30.0 %). On the contrary, it increased in the case of women, namely by 1.6 pp to 49.9 %. On the EU27 average in 2020, 40.9 % of the population aged 30 – 34 had tertiary education.

Dropping out of school with less than secondary education limits the potential of young people and can prevent their successful transition to the labour market. In the EU27, quite a large proportion of young people leave school prematurely and do not get further education. Despite the long-term decline, 10.1 % of people aged 18 – 24 years dropped out of education prematurely in the EU27 in 2020. Lack of qualifications is a major barrier to inclusion, since education is essential for inclusion in the labour market, quality of work, remuneration, but also for a successful continuation of lifelong training for the labour market. To achieve smart and inclusive growth, the target was set to keep young people in education and reduce **the share of early school leavers** to at least 10 %, what was almost achieved in 2020. In the long-term, the Slovak Republic has been ranked among the EU countries with a relatively low share of early school leavers. In 2020, the share decreased year-on-year by 0.7 pp to 7.6 %, while Slovakia's target was to reduce this percentage below 6 %. By gender, there were more male than female early school leavers (7.7 % and 7.4 % respectively) in the year under review. Early school leaving in marginalised Roma communities requires significant attention as well. In this context, the European Council advises the Slovak Republic to strengthen the participation of Roma children in the mainstream of education from early childhood.

Low-skilled workers are in a particularly difficult position in the Slovak labour market. Their unemployment rate has long been the highest and the employment rate has long been among the lowest in the EU27. **The unemployment rate of persons aged 25 – 64 with education level comparable to ISCED 0 – 2** (not higher than

primary education) in Slovakia dropped by 0.6 pp to 27.8 % in 2020 compared to the previous year after two years of increasing slightly. Nonetheless, its level was still the highest one from among EU countries and more than a double compared to the EU27 average (12.5 %). The lowest unemployment rates of low-skilled people was recorded in the Netherlands (4.6 %), Malta (5.1 %), Portugal (6.2 %), and Ireland (6.4 %). **The employment rate of low-skilled people** (ISCED 0 – 2) aged 25 – 64 years in SR is well below the EU27 average. In 2020, it was 36.4 % in SR, while it decreased, partly as a result of the pandemic, by 1.4 pp compared to the previous year, being one of the lowest ones in the EU27. In addition to SR, an employment rate of low-skilled people lower than 40 % was also seen in Croatia; the EU27 average was 55.8 %. The highest employment rate of low-skilled people was seen in Portugal (69.7 %), Malta (64.9 %) and Cyprus (64.2 %); a high rate (above 60 %) is also seen in the Netherlands, Estonia, Germany, Latvia and Denmark.

In 2020, the increase in unemployment in Slovakia was accompanied by a slight decrease in the long-term unemployment rate. **The long-term unemployment rate** in Slovakia decreased year-on-year already for a seventh year in a row, in 2020 by 0.2 pp, and reached 3.2 % (3.2 % for men and 3.3 % for women). However, it is still one of the highest ones from among the EU27. The share of the long-term unemployed in the economically active population slightly decreased on the EU27 average, namely by 0.3 pp to 2.5 %. The highest long-term unemployment rate continues in Greece (10.9 %), while a higher one than in Slovakia is also in Spain (5.0 %) and Italy (4.7 %). In 2020, a long-term unemployment rate lower than 1 % was seen in the Czech Republic (0.6 %), in Poland (0.6 %), in Denmark (0.9 %) and in the Netherlands (0.9 %). The higher long-term unemployment rate in the Slovak economy points out the presence of structural imbalances in the labour market. Long-term unemployment results in the marginalisation of a part of the economically active population and thereto-related high social costs. A very high long-term unemployment rate is observed in the group of people who only completed primary education. Therefore, the European Council advises Slovakia to take additional measures to address long-term unemployment, namely to improve the activation measures for the long-term unemployed and other disadvantaged groups, including personalised services and targeted training.

High tax and insurance contribution payments on earned income can affect employment in a negative way. These effects can pertain mainly to certain groups, especially the low-skilled workers or low-wage earners, as the supply of and demand for the work of these groups are generally more sensitive to changes in this respect. The Slovak system of taxes and insurance contributions as well as the social system generally motivate people to accept a job and seek to increase earned income, as evidenced mainly by the indicators of the unemployment trap and the low wage trap.

In 2020, **tax wedge for low earnings**⁹⁰ (the share of taxes and insurance contributions paid by employees and employers in the total labour cost) in Slovakia dropped by 0.9 pp and was below the EU27 average (38.8 % in SR versus 39.3 % in the EU27).

The **unemployment trap indicator**⁹¹ allows to measure disparities in income during the transition from the social benefits system to the labour market. The unemployment trap in Slovakia is one of the lowest ones in Europe, which means that the Slovak social and tax system motivates an unemployed individual to get a job, even a low-paid one. While in the EU27 the trap was relatively high also in 2020 (73.5 %), in Slovakia it was considerably lower (45.5 %). That means that after accepting a job with a wage at 67 % of the average wage, the previously unemployed individual in SR gains an increase in the net income of 54.5 %. In the EU27, an individual in such a situation would hypothetically gain an increase in the net income of only 26.5 % on average. In 2019, a lower unemployment trap than in Slovakia was only seen in Greece (30.5 %) and in Estonia (31.4 %).

Low wage trap,⁹² just like the unemployment trap, expresses incentives or disincentives to work, in this case for higher wages. In 2020, the low wage trap for an individual without children in Slovakia dropped year-on-year (by 0.9 pp) to 31.0 % so similarly to previous years, it remained below the EU27 average (38.8 %). It means that if the gross wage increases from 33 % to 67 % of the average wage, the net income of an individual in Slovakia increases by 69 % (while in the EU27 on average only by 61.2 %).

Another goal of the Europe 2020 strategy and the support for inclusive growth is to reduce the **population at risk of poverty or social exclusion** by at least 20 million. (to 19.4 %). The goal is monitored by means of the

⁹⁰ The indicator refers to a single person without children and with earnings of 67 % of the average wage.

⁹¹ The unemployment trap refers to a situation where the net employment earnings are relatively low in comparison with the benefits provided in unemployment. Conversely, it is a percentage increase in disposable income when the employee returns to employment after a period of unemployment and receives a wage of 67 % of the average wage. The indicator applies to single persons without children.

⁹² The low wage trap is measured as a percentage of decrease in gross earnings combined with income tax, social contributions and any other social benefits if the wage increases from 33 % to 67 % of the average wage. In other words, it expresses the increase of net income in % if gross income increases.

indicator composed of three sub-indicators. People at risk of poverty and social exclusion were either living in households with very low work intensity⁹³, and/or they were living at risk of poverty after social transfers⁹⁴ and/or they were severely materially deprived⁹⁵. These are people who live in households where nobody works or works only occasionally and/or low-income households and/or who cannot afford one of the critical needs for their lives. People are counted only once, although they may be present in a number of sub-indicators. The total number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion is less than the sum of the number of people in each of the three forms of poverty and social exclusion, as some people may suffer from various forms simultaneously.

Due to unavailability of data from EU SILC 2020, the following values concerning the risk of poverty or social exclusion are stated for the last year available (i.e. 2019). The following values thus reflect the status of the society before the COVID-19 pandemic the impact of which will be reflected in the poverty and social exclusion indicators only in the EU SILC 2020 data.

The number of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion has been decreasing on the EU average since 2013. The trend continued also in 2019 when the number of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion dropped by 3.37 million within the EU27 (their proportion dropped by 0.7 pp) and by 2.33 million within the EU28 (their proportion dropped by 0.4 pp). In 2019, there were estimated 91.37 million persons (20.9 %) persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion (107.54 million persons or 21.4 % within the EU28) in the EU27. Compared to the starting point in 2008, their number dropped by 11.95 million persons in the EU27 and by 9.86 million persons in the EU28. Within the Europe 2020 strategy, the Slovak Republic has set the goal to reduce the total number of such persons by 170 thousand (to 17.2 %) by 2020 (compared to the base year 2008). It achieved the goal already in 2017. In Slovakia, there were 877 thousand people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2019, which was 234 thousand less than in 2008, but by 5 thousand persons more than in 2018. The proportion of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in SR thus increased slightly by 0.1 pp to 16.4 %. In 2019, there were 11.9 % **persons at risk of poverty** in SR (decrease by 0.3 pp compared to 2018), 7.9 % **severely materially deprived persons** (increase by 0.9 pp compared to 2018) and 6.2 % **persons living in households with a very low intensity of work** (increase by 1.0 pp compared to 2018). Women were more at risk of poverty or social exclusion (17.0 %) than men (15.7 %).

In 2019, the highest share of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion was observed in Bulgaria (32.8 %), Romania (31.2 %) and Greece (30.0 %), and the lowest in the Czech Republic (12.5 %) and Slovenia (14.4 %). As for individual elements defining the risk of poverty or social exclusion, the highest proportion of persons with disposable income below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold in 2019 was seen in Romania (23.8 %), Latvia (22.9 %), Bulgaria (22.6 %) and Estonia (21.7 %). The lowest share of people with such low income was in the Czech Republic (10.1 %). The share of people in the EU27 who are severely materially deprived was the lowest in Luxembourg (1.3 %) and Sweden (1.8 %), while the highest was recorded in Bulgaria (20.9 %), Greece (16.2 %) and Romania (14.5 %). The highest share of people under 59 years of age living in households with low work intensity is in Greece (13.8 %), Ireland (13.6 %) and Belgium (12.4 %), while the lowest was recorded in the Czech Republic (4.2 %), Poland (4.7 %) and Malta (4.9 %).

In terms of age, children are at higher risk of poverty or social exclusion than other age groups in most EU27 countries, including Slovakia. In 2019, 22.2 % of children under 18 years of age (20.6 % of people aged 18+ and 18.5 % of people aged 65+) experienced at least one of the three forms of poverty or social exclusion in the EU27. In Slovakia, 22.0 % of children under 18 years of age were at risk of poverty or social exclusion versus 15.1 % of those aged 18+ and 14.2 % of those aged 65+. In 2019, the proportion of the children at risk of poverty or social exclusion in Slovakia decreased year-on-year (by 1.8 pp); on the contrary, it increased in other age groups (by 0.5 pp in the case of persons aged 18+ and by 2.3 pp in the case of persons aged 65+).

Table 5.1 Development of the Selected Key Indicators of the Europe 2020 Strategy

⁹³ Population living in households with very low work intensity are people aged 0 – 59 years living in households where adults work less than 20 % of the total possible time during the past year (students are excluded).

⁹⁴ Persons with equivalised disposable income under at-risk-of-poverty threshold, defined as 60 % of the national median equivalised disposable income (after all social transfers counted as part of income). Equivalised income is calculated for every individual as household disposable income divided by the size of the household, which uses the following weights for individual household members: 1.0 for the first adult, 0.5 for all other household members over 14 years, and 0.3 for a child under 14 years of age.

⁹⁵ Material deprivation covers indicators relating to economic strain, durables, housing deprivation, and environment of the dwelling. Severely materially deprived people have living conditions limited by a lack of resources and experience at least 4 of the following 9 deprivation items: they cannot afford a) to pay mortgage or rent payments on time and utility bills, b) to pay for keeping their home adequately warm, c) face unexpected financial expenses, d) eat meal with meat, chicken, fish or vegetarian equivalent every second day, e) a one-week holiday away from home annually, f) a car, g) a washing machine, h) a colour TV, i) a telephone (including mobile phones).

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Europe 2020 key indicators		Employment rate of people aged 20-64 years (EU target = 75 %, SR target = 72 %)			Share of early school leavers without qualifications (EU target = 10 %, SR target = 6 %)			Share of tertiary educated population aged 30- 34 years (EU target = 40 %, SR target = 40 %)			Population at risk of poverty and social exclusion in % (EU target = 19.4 %, SR target = 17.4 %)	- persons living in households with very low work intensity in %	- persons living at risk of poverty after social transfers in %	- severely materially deprived persons in %
		year	total	women	men	total	women	men	total	women				
SR	2010	64.6	57.4	71.9	4.7	4.9	4.6	22.1	26.2	18.2	20.6	7.9	12.0	11.4
	2011	65.0	57.4	72.5	5.1	4.6	5.4	23.2	27.3	19.4	20.6	7.7	13.0	10.6
	2012	65.1	57.3	72.8	5.3	4.6	6.0	23.7	28.2	19.4	20.5	7.2	13.2	10.5
	2013	65.0	57.8	72.2	6.4	6.1	6.7	26.9	31.8	22.3	19.8	7.6	12.8	10.2
	2014	65.9	58.6	73.2	6.7	6.6	6.9	26.9	31.5	22.5	18.4	7.1	12.6	9.9
	2015	67.7	60.3	75.0	6.9	6.8	6.9	28.4	34.4	22.8	18.4	7.1	12.3	9.0
	2016	69.8	62.7	76.9	7.4	7.2	7.6	31.5	39.4	24.0	18.1	6.5	12.7	8.2
	2017	71.1	64.7	77.5	9.3	10.3	8.5	34.3	42.4	26.7	16.3	5.4	12.4	7.0
	2018	72.4	65.5	79.2	8.6	8.8	8.3	37.7	44.6	31.1	16.3	5.2	12.2	7.0
	2019	73.4	66.9	79.9	8.3	7.9	8.8	40.1	48.3	32.2	16.4	6.2	11.9	7.9
	2020	72.5	66.1	78.7	7.6	7.4	7.7	39.7	49.9	30.0	:	:	:	:
EU27	2010	67.8	61.2	74.5	13.8	11.6	15.9	32.6	36.3	28.9	23.9	9.9	16.5	8.9
	2011	67.9	61.4	74.3	13.2	11.1	15.2	33.4	37.3	29.4	24.5	10.4	16.9	9.4
	2012	67.6	61.5	73.8	12.6	10.6	14.5	34.5	38.8	30.2	24.9	10.2	16.9	10.2
	2013	67.5	61.6	73.4	11.8	10.0	13.6	35.6	40.1	31.2	24.6	10.6	16.8	9.8
	2014	68.2	62.4	74.0	11.1	9.4	12.7	36.5	41.0	32.0	24.5	11.1	17.3	9.1
	2015	69.1	63.3	74.9	11.0	9.4	12.5	37.3	42.2	32.5	23.8	10.5	17.4	8.4
	2016	70.1	64.3	76.0	10.6	9.1	12.1	37.8	42.9	32.7	23.7	10.4	17.5	7.9
	2017	71.3	65.5	77.2	10.5	8.9	12.1	38.6	43.9	33.3	22.5	9.4	16.9	6.9
	2018	72.4	66.5	78.3	10.5	8.8	12.1	39.4	44.8	34.1	21.6	8.8	16.8	6.1
	2019	73.1	67.3	79.0	10.2	8.4	11.8	40.3	45.6	35.1	20.9	8.3	16.5	5.5
	2020	72.4	66.8	78.1	10.1	8.1	12.0	40.9	46.2	35.7	:	:	:	:

Source: EUROSTAT, SO SR

Notes: Data on poverty are calculated by SO SR on the basis of EU SILC; the previous year is the reference year for the survey of income; in 2011 a change in the time series for the employment rate of people aged 20 – 64 years in SR; in 2011 and 2014 a change in the time series for the share of early school leavers and in the time series for the share of tertiary educated population in SR (in 2014 also in EU27).

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ANNEX TO CHAPTER 1

Table 1 Basic Indicators of Economic Development in the Slovak Republic

Indicator	Unit of measure	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT ¹⁾							
Gross domestic product at current prices	bil. €	79.8	81.1	84.5	89.4	93.9	91.6
index, same period of previous year = 100	%	104.6	101.6	104.2	105.8	105.1	97.5
Gross domestic product at constant prices ²⁾	bil. €	79.8	81.5	83.9	87.0	89.2	84.9
index, same period of previous year = 100	%	104.8	102.1	103.0	103.7	102.5	95.2
INFLATION ³⁾							
Annual inflation rate							
on average for the period	%	-0.3	-0.5	1.3	2.5	2.7	1.9
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY ACCORDING TO LFS⁴⁾							
Number of the employed	thousand persons	2,424.0	2,492.1	2,530.7	2,566.7	2,583.7	2,531.3
index, same period of previous year = 100	%	102.6	102.8	101.5	101.4	100.7	98.0
Employment rate for the population aged 20 – 64 ⁵⁾	%	67.7	69.8	71.1	72.4	73.4	72.5
Number of the unemployed	thousand persons	314.3	266	224	179.5	157.7	181.4
index, same period of previous year = 100	%	87.6	84.6	84.2	80.1	87.9	115.0
Unemployment rate	%	11.5	9.7	8.1	6.6	5.8	6.7
EMPLOYMENT							
Average number of persons employed							
in the economy, in total ⁶⁾	thousand persons	2,251.6	2,307	2,348.9	2,392.80	2,416.10	2,372.0
index, same period of previous year = 100	%	102.1	102.5	101.8	101.9	101.0	98.2
AVERAGE MONTHLY WAGE							
of employees in the Slovak economy in total ⁷⁾							
nominal	€	883	912	954	1013	1,092	1,133.0
index, same period of previous year = 100	%	102.9	103.3	104.6	106.2	107.8	103.8
real – index, same period of previous year = 100 ⁸⁾	%	103.2	103.8	103.3	103.6	105.0	101.9

Source: Statistical office of SR (DATAcube database)

*Data for previous years were revised in May 2021.

¹⁾ ESA 2010 methodology, data in 2020 are based on refined quarterly estimates

²⁾ at constant prices calculated as chain-linked volumes by reference year 2015

³⁾ calculated from consumer prices, since 2005 with annual weights updates

⁴⁾ LFS – Labour Force Survey; on average per period; working person according to LFS are all persons aged 15 years or older who work, in the reference week, at least 1 hour for wage, salary or other form of remuneration or work for profit, including persons performing contractual work, seasonal workers, persons on maternity leave, persons working abroad for less than one year, migrant workers and persons performing activation work; respondents are included in individual sections according to the economic activities of the local unit, not the entire enterprise

⁵⁾ proportion (%) of the number of the employed aged 20 – 64 of the total number of the population of the same age

⁶⁾ according to quarterly statistical reporting, employed persons are employees and entrepreneurs, less women on maternity leave

⁷⁾ according to quarterly statistical reporting; less entrepreneurs' incomes; data are adjusted by statistical estimate of non-registered wages

⁸⁾ index of real wages is calculated as a proportion of nominal wage index and consumer price index

Table 2 Consumer Price Indices

Same period of previous year = 100					
COICOP classes	Constant weights in o/oo ¹⁾	June	September	December	year
SR total	1,000.000	101.8	101.4	101.6	101.9
of which:					
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	181.959	102.6	100.1	100.6	102.5
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	53.722	100.9	101.1	101.2	101.1
Clothing and footwear	47.949	99.8	100.3	100.1	100.5
Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels	248.377	102.6	102.6	102.4	102.6
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	71.938	101.8	101.9	101.6	101.7
Healthcare	26.527	102.6	103.7	103.7	102.6
Transport	76.017	94.6	93.6	96.6	96.6
Post and communication	33.682	102.0	100.0	100.0	101.0
Recreation and culture	89.957	101.8	102.0	102.1	102.1
Education	17.518	104.5	102.4	102.9	104.1
Hotels and restaurants	71.766	101.8	104.4	103.9	102.6
Miscellaneous goods and services	80.587	104.6	104.6	104.1	104.1

Source: SO SR, Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR - 4. štvrťrok 2020 (Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2018, in Slovak only)

¹⁾ weights of individual sections are updated annually

Table 3 Construction and Decline in the Number of Apartments

Indicator	Number of apartments - construction			Decline in the number of apartments		
	commenced in 2020	under construction as at 31 December 2020	completed in 2020	total in 2020	of which by clearance in 2020	
Apartments in total	a)	19,744	76,339	21,490	334	1,328
	b)	91.8	96.7	106.5	79.9	94.9
Of which (sector):						
public	a)	246	801	250	1	5
	b)	100	71.7	128.2	10.0	33.3
private	a)	19,498	75,538	21,240	333	1,323
	b)	91.7	97.0	106.3	81.6	95.6
Of total apartments						
Apartments in family houses	a)	13,917	48,854	13,421	x	x
	b)	97.8	100.3	100.6	x	x

Source: SO SR, Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR vo 4. štvrťroku 2020 (Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2020, in Slovak only)

a) number

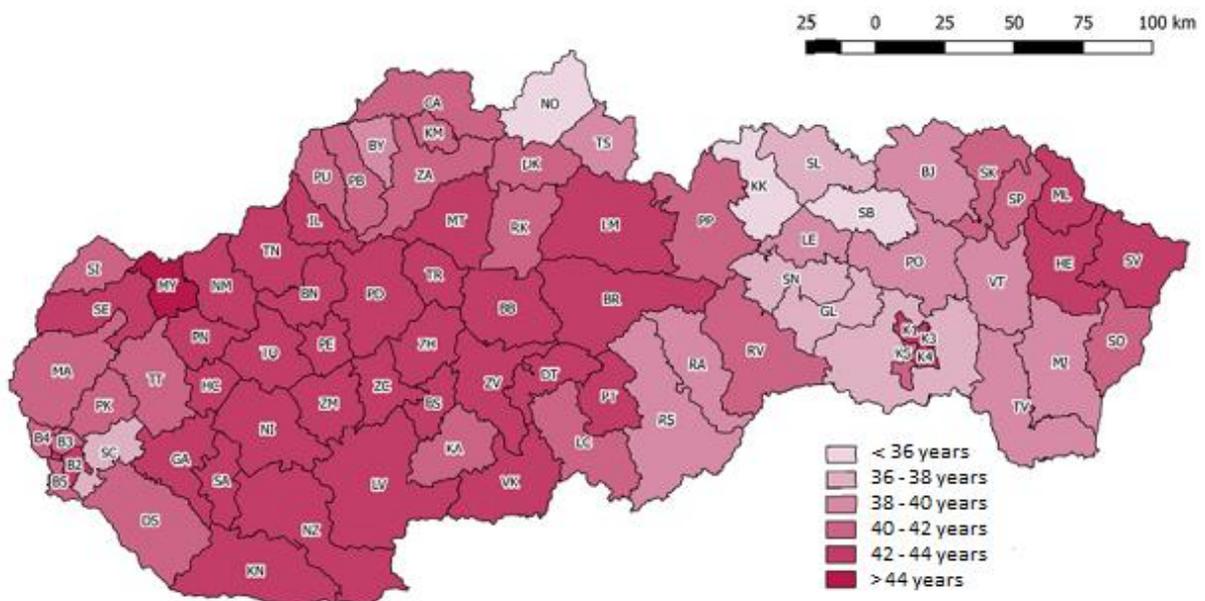
b) index, same period of previous year = 100

Table 4 Population of the Slovak Republic by Regions

	Number of permanent residents as at 31 December 2020	Share of the total number of permanent residents in SR	Index 2020/2019
Region of Bratislava	677,024	12.4%	101.1%
Region of Trnava	565,324	10.4%	100.1%
Region of Trenčín	582,567	10.7%	99.7%
Region of Nitra	671,508	12.3%	99.6%
Region of Žilina	691,136	12.7%	99.9%
Region of Banská Bystrica	643,102	11.8%	99.7%
Region of Prešov	827,028	15.1%	100.1%
Region of Košice	802,092	14.7%	100.1%
Slovak Republic	5,459,781	100.0%	100.1%

Source: Statistical Office of the SR

Graph 1 The Average Age of the Population in 2020 in the Slovak Districts



Map background ©Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of Slovak Republic

Source: Statistical Office of the SR

ANNEX TO CHAPTER 2

Table 1 Economically Active Population in 2020

Level of education	in thous.			index 2020/2019		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
15+	2,712.7	1,481.4	1,231.3	99.0	98.7	99.3
By age groups						
15 – 19 years	14.4	9.3	5.1	87.3	96.9	73.9
20 – 24 years	141.7	90.1	51.6	93.3	92.6	94.5
25 – 29 years	293.6	173.2	120.4	96.7	96.8	96.6
30 – 34 years	335.5	200.2	135.2	97.0	96.9	97.1
35 – 39 years	372.0	208.1	164.0	98.0	97.6	98.7
40 – 44 years	410.1	218.9	191.2	100.2	100.4	99.9
45 – 49 years	362.7	184.3	178.4	103.5	102.6	104.5
50 – 54 years	302.1	151.9	150.2	96.4	96.4	96.3
55 – 59 years	295.4	147.6	147.7	101.3	101.9	100.6
60 – 64 years	144.5	75.0	69.5	103.4	103.0	103.7
65 years and over	40.8	22.8	18.0	102.3	100.0	105.3
By education (15+ years)						
Primary and without education	126.7	69.8	57.0	80.9	78.9	83.7
Lower secondary	615.7	400.8	215.0	95.1	96.8	92.2
Full secondary	1227.0	676.3	550.7	101.0	101.9	99.9
University	743.2	334.5	408.7	102.8	99.8	105.4

Source: SO SR, LFS

Table 2 Employment Rate by Age in 2020 (Annual Average in %)

Indicator	Total	Men	Women
15 – 64 years	67.5	73.3	61.7
20 – 64 years	72.5	78.7	66.1
By age groups			
15 – 19 years	3.0	3.8	2.3
20 – 24 years	40.3	50.8	29.4
25 – 29 years	72.9	85.2	60.1
30 – 34 years	76.3	89.0	63.1
35 – 39 years	78.7	86.4	70.5
40 – 44 years	84.9	88.6	81.1
45 – 49 years	86.7	87.2	86.2
50 – 54 years	83.2	83.9	82.5
55 – 59 years	78.4	80.7	76.2
60 – 64 years	38.3	42.0	35.0
65 years and over	4.5	6.3	3.3

Table 3 Employment Rate by Education in 2020 (Annual Average in %)

Indicator	Total	Men	Women
By education (15 – 64 years)			
Primary	17.9	20.8	15.2
Secondary vocational (apprenticeship) without a school-leaving exam	70.5	75.4	62.7
Full secondary vocational (apprenticeship) with a school-leaving exam	80.3	86.9	70.7
Full secondary general	48.7	55.9	43.7
Full secondary vocational	78.7	84.6	72.3
Advanced vocational	78.1	81.4	76.5
University – bachelor's degree	59.5	61.5	58.5
University - master's degree	83.7	90.5	78.7
University - PhD degree	89.3	96.8	83.3

Source: SO SR, LFS

Table 4 Structure of Employment by SK NACE Rev. 2 Sectors

	2019			2020		
	Average number of persons employed	growth index 2019/2018	Percentage (%)	Average number of persons employed	growth index 2020/2019	Percentage (%)
Economy in total	2,416,068	101.0	100.0	2,372,043	98.2	100.0
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	87,450	100.9	3.6	84,398	96.5	3.6
of which agriculture	69,455	103.1	2.9	66,457	95.7	2.8
Industry	558,005	99.8	23.1	526,077	94.3	22.2
Construction	177,339	106.4	7.3	166,870	94.1	7.0
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	370,349	98.3	15.3	364,525	98.4	15.4
Transportation and storage	158,181	102.1	6.5	157,799	99.8	6.7
Food service activities	65,240	101.8	2.7	62,061	95.1	2.6
Information and communication	76,007	103.4	3.1	77,590	102.1	3.3
Financial and insurance activities	42,131	100.3	1.7	41,472	98.4	1.7
Real estate activities	23,905	97.0	1.0	23,575	98.6	1.0
Professional, scientific and technical activities	111,664	100.4	4.6	117,860	105.5	5.0
Administrative and support service activities	143,787	102.3	6.0	142,134	98.9	6.0
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	151,083	101.2	6.3	152,795	101.1	6.4
Education	173,522	101.5	7.2	174,828	100.8	7.4
Health and social work activities	167,086	102.8	6.9	167,760	100.4	7.1
Arts, entertainment and recreation	51,801	100.4	2.1	50,820	98.1	2.1
Other service activities	58,518	100.6	2.4	61,481	105.1	2.6

Source: SO SR, according to quarterly statistical reporting, employed persons are employees and entrepreneurs, less women on maternity leave

Table 5 Total Job Vacancies and Job Vacancy Rate as per Economic Activities in SR (Average for 2020)

Statistical classification of economic activities SK NACE Rev. 2	Job Vacancies – Total	growth index 2020/2019	Job vacancy rate (in %)
Slovak economy in total	16,063	73.3	0.8
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	141	35.5	0.3
Industry	3,104	67.4	0.7
Construction	267	20.3	0.2
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles	1,725	84.3	0.6
Transportation and storage	1,859	73.2	1.3
Food service activities	616	63.7	0.9
Information and communication	303	70.4	0.5
Financial and insurance activities	722	83.0	1.8
Real estate activities	18	14.7	0.1
Professional, scientific and technical activities	169	46.2	0.2
Administrative services	245	53.9	0.2
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	5,450	89.1	3.5
Education	218	100.1	0.1
Health and social work activities	915	90.5	0.6
Arts, entertainment and recreation	159	79.9	0.6
Other service activities	152	58.6	0.5

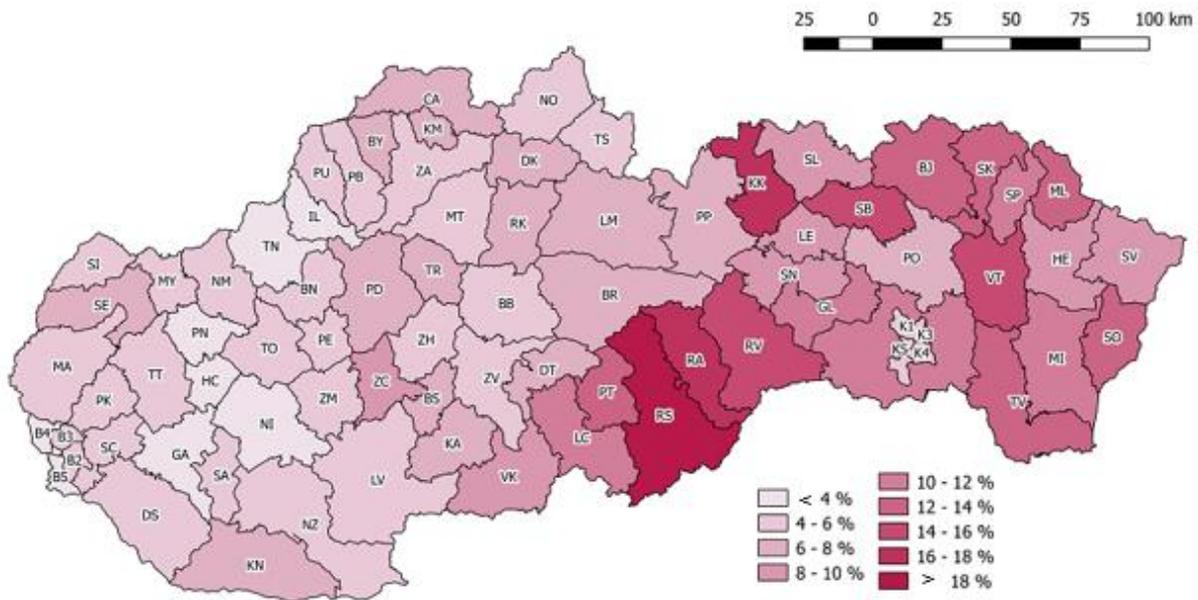
Source: SO SR, Štatistická správa o základných vývojových tendenciách v hospodárstve SR vo 4. štvrťroku 2020 (Statistical Report on Basic Development Tendencies in the Slovak Economy in Q4 2020, in Slovak only) – based on quarterly statistical reporting including entrepreneurs' data

Table 6 Unemployment Rate by Age and Education in 2020 (Annual Average in %)

Indicator	Total	Men	Women
Total	6.7	6.4	7.1
By age groups			
15 – 19 years	44.0	44.5	42.7
20 – 24 years	16.8	15.6	19.0
25 – 29 years	8.6	7.5	10.1
30 – 34 years	6.4	6.7	6.0
35 – 39 years	7.7	6.7	9.1
40 – 44 years	5.7	5.3	6.1
45 – 49 years	4.7	4.1	5.3
50 – 54 years	4.5	4.5	4.5
55 – 59 years	5.0	4.2	5.7
60 – 64 years	4.6	4.7	4.4
65 years and over	1.0	0.8	1.2
By education			
Primary	31.1	29.8	32.6
Secondary vocational (apprenticeship) without a school-leaving exam	7.8	7.5	8.4
Full secondary vocational (apprenticeship) with a school-leaving exam	6.1	5.1	7.8
Full secondary general	7.1	7.1	7.2
Full secondary vocational	5.1	4.4	6.1
Advanced vocational	8.8	12.3	6.8
University – bachelor's degree	6.4	5.5	6.8
University – master's degree	3.1	3.1	3.1
University – PhD degree	2.0	0.8	3.0

Source: SO SR, LFS

Graph 1 Registered Unemployment Rate in the Slovak Districts (Average for 2020)



Map background ©Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of Slovak Republic

Source: COLSAF

Table 7 Number of Job Seekers – School-leavers by the End of 2020

Indicator	Number of job seekers
School-leavers in total	10,930
of which	
Lower secondary or secondary vocational education (education levels 12, 13)	1,974
Secondary specialised education (education level 14)	5,544
Secondary general education (education level 15)	834
Advanced vocational education (education level 16)	70
University education – bachelor's degree (education level 17)	528
University education – master's degree and PhD degree (education levels 18, 19)	1,980

Source: COLSAF

Table 8 ALMM Instruments

ALMMs according to relevant sections of the Employment Services Act	2019		2020	
	Number of job seekers/ persons enrolled, or number of supported jobs/ job seekers/ persons	Spending (€)	Number of job seekers/ persons enrolled, or number of supported jobs/ job seekers/ persons	Spending (in €)
Section 32	2,222	27,382	817	12,416
Section 42*	731,445	0	275,585	0
Section 43	25,043	241	10,927	52
Section 46	20	7,959	351	210,219
Section 47	44	283,294	0	0
Section 49	1,561	7,766,003	136	2,897,016
Section 50	856	3,577,936	224	1,900,746
Section 50j	3,412	15,965,704	633	8,252,318
Section 51	3,575	1,977,148	2,402	1,564,523
Section 51a	751	2,676,457	338	2,593,583
Section 52	7,206	2,123,541	3,191	1,633,926
Section 52a	4,840	5,885,337	1,242	2,813,604
Section 53	19,082	6,670,144	11,299	5,138,884
Section 53a	458	1,021,491	226	748,447
Section 53b	0	31,698	0	3,761
Section 53c	212	521,343	127	585,124
Section 53d	697	1,659,011	696	1,624,073
Section 53f	3	99	1	2,940
Section 53g	333	623,088	1,654	5,356,860
Section 54	100,546	95,213,933	46,133	92,735,074
Section 54 First Aid	0	0	3,019,782	770,397,613
Section 54 Supporting the maintenance of employment in kindergartens	0	0	24,270	59,343,897
Section 54 Work and Change your Life	0	0	7,672	48,748,097
Section 56	123	443,273	43	129,396
Section 56a	32	53,018	24	46,589
Section 57	54	320,921	17	123,871
Section 59	1,253	6,599,428	1,229	7,246,594
Section 60	9,480	32,022,270	8,814	32,056,936
Total	913,248	185,470,719	3,417,833	1,046,166,559

Source: COLSAF

* Section 42 Information and advisory services – These are ALMMs provided by own employees of the local OLSAFs, without entitlement to financial resources allocated to ALMMs.

Overview of the Implementation of Active Labour Market Measures

Employment mediation (Section 32)

For the purpose of employment mediation, Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family provides reimbursement to job seeker for part of the travel expenses related to attending an initial interview or selection procedure with an employer or participating in a group employment mediation organised by the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family or the local Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in the territory of the Slovak Republic for an employer or for an employer from a Member State of the European Union.

In 2020, a total of 817 job seekers were included in this instrument, which was 1,405 registered job seekers less than in 2019. The total spending amounted to €12,416, which is €14,966 less than in 2019.

Information and counselling services (Section 42)

Information and counselling services for job selection (Section 42 (2) (a))

Preventive and counselling activities for primary and secondary schools - career choice

The main purpose of group and individual meetings carried out within the framework of information and counselling services in career choice (hereinafter referred to as "preventive counselling") was to help pupils and their parents in choosing a suitable study or employment in order to prevent their possible inclusion in the job seeker registration in the future.

In terms of content, preventive career counselling for primary school pupils was mainly focused on familiarising pupils with the characteristics of professions, identifying the prerequisites and requirements for a particular profession and providing information on the choice of secondary school type and the possibilities of further study (via the Internet labour market guide software application). Pupils of secondary schools were acquainted with the regional labour market, preferred professions, the unemployment rate, the number of graduates of individual schools on the job seeker register and ways of appropriate communication with a potential employer.

In 2020, preventive counselling for job selection was provided to 1,601 persons, of whom 815 were primary school students (50.91 %) and 786 secondary school students (49.09 %). These services were provided to 54 schools (30 primary schools and 24 secondary schools). Preventive counselling for job selection was provided in the premises of primary and secondary schools.

Information exchanges

Information exchanges are organized annually as a part of preventive counselling for primary school students. Their main objective is primarily to increase interest of PS pupils in craft and technical jobs in connection with their shortage in the labour market. One information exchange was held in 2020, organized by 1 local OLSAF. 28 primary schools participated in and 10 secondary schools were presented at such information exchange.

Professional advisory services (Section 43)

A local OLSAF may provide a registered job seeker and a job changer with professional advisory services (hereinafter simply "PASs") aimed at influencing the choices and behaviour of registered job seekers, harmonising the personal qualities of registered job seekers and requirements for particular occupations, contributing to the social and working adaptation of registered job seekers, via

- **finding out the personal preconditions, abilities of job seeker and evaluation of his/her competencies,**
- designing individual action plans to support employment prospects of disadvantaged job seekers,
- **diagnosing and recognizing barriers to entry into the labour market,**
- creating a personal profile of job seeker to determine the activities, measures and services needed for his/her inclusion into the labour market.

20,753 PASs were provided to clients within the Section 43 in 2020 (such PASs provided within the Section 43 are also called "non-project PASs"). Most frequently used forms of non-project PASs include mainly preparation of a customized action plan with regular sessions and one-off group counselling activity.

In 2020, PASs within the Section 43 were provided to 10,927 clients, all of whom were job seekers. The total number of job seekers who were provided PASs within the Section 43 in 2020 comprised 5,884 women (53.85 %) and 5,043 men (46.15%). The highest number of PASs within the Section 43 were provided to job seekers aged 30 – 49 (4,503 persons; 41.21 %), followed by job seekers aged 50+ (2,980 persons; 27.27 %).

From the point of view of education, job seekers with completed secondary vocational education represented the biggest group (30.05 %; 3,282 persons), followed by job seekers with secondary vocational education (25.14 %; 2,746 persons) and job seekers with primary education (20.53 %; 2,242 persons).

As for the structure of clients registered as job seekers, according to the length of registration, the biggest group of job seekers who were provided PASs within the Section 43 was the group of job seekers registered for 0 – 3 months (3,339 job seekers; 30.56 %) and those registered for 4 – 6 months (2,664; 24.38 %). PASs within the Section 43 were provided mainly to disadvantaged job seekers – as many as 8,438 job seekers had at least one disadvantage, representing 77.22 % of the total number of job seekers whom PASs were provided to. The biggest group of them were job seekers who during at least 12 consecutive calendar months before they were registered as job seekers had not had a regularly paid job (5,842 job seekers, representing more than 69 % of all disadvantaged job seekers registered for PASs within the Section 43).

Only €52.43 was expended to reimburse the travel costs and costs of accommodation and meals for the job seekers who had participated in the PASs within the Section 43 in 2020.

Education and training of the job seeker for the labour market (Section 46)

Education and training of job seeker for the labour market (hereinafter referred to as "training") is the theoretical or practical training of job seeker, which is required for his/her employability on the labour market and which allows to acquire new expertise, skills and abilities for the purpose of job seeker's employability in a suitable job. Training within the meaning of the Employment Services Act is not an increase in the level of education.

Training of job seeker was implemented in the form of:

- training provided by the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family,
- a training provided on the job seeker's own initiative.

The Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family may provide training for job seeker within the meaning of Section 46 (4) of the Employment Services Act on the basis of an assessment of job seeker's abilities, work experience, professional skills, the level of education attained and medical fitness for work. Job seeker, for whom the Office provides training, is provided with training free of charge on the basis of an agreement concluded with the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. The training is provided by a training service provider selected in accordance with Act No. 343/2015 Coll. on Public Procurement and on Amendments and Supplements to Certain Acts, as amended.

Training organised by a local OLSAF in 2020 was provided to 348 job seekers, of whom 175 were men (50.29 %) and 173 women (49.71 %). From the point of view of age, the largest group comprised job seekers aged 30 – 49 years (161 job seekers, accounting for 46.26 % of the total number of the registered). By level of education, the largest share (34.77 %) was recorded for job seekers with primary education (121 persons). There were 291 disadvantaged job seekers in total (83.62 % of the total number of the registered), while the largest group consisted of 217 job seekers (62.36 %) who, under Section 8(e) of the Employment Services Act, had no regularly paid employment for at least 12 consecutive calendar months prior to being registered as job seekers.

In 2020, the allowance for education was provided to 342 job seekers. The provided allowance totalled €206,994.42, of which the allowance for course fees provided by the supplier reached €179,614.81 and the allowance for auxiliary expenses for job seekers (reimbursement of travel costs, expenses on accommodation and meals and allowance for services for families with children) amounted to €27,379.61.

If the training cannot be provided for job seeker by the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, job seeker may, in accordance with Section 46 (7) of the Employment Services Act, also obtain the required training on his/her own initiative. This education is acquired by job seeker him/herself individually and the direct consequence of which is the entry into an employment relationship with the employer for the performance of a work activity, or the start of the operation or pursuing self-employment, while the performance of a work activity must be related to the completed education. If the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family approves an application for the contribution

to training obtained on the own initiative, it will pay to job seeker 100% of the costs, up to a maximum of EUR 600, but only after taking up employment or starting to operate or pursue self-employment.

In 2020, agreements on self-initiated training were concluded with 8 registered job seekers, of which 3 job seekers started to attend the agreed training sessions (2 men and 1 women). From the point of view of age structure, 1 job seeker was under the age of 24, 1 job seeker was aged 30 – 49 and 1 job seeker was aged 50+. There were 2 disadvantaged job seekers in total, representing 66.67 % of the total number of registered job seekers.

In 2020, an allowance for self-initiated training by job seekers was provided for 8 job seekers, of which 5 job seekers concluded agreements on providing a self-initiated training allowance in 2019 and other 3 job seekers concluded such agreements in 2020. The total spending on payment of such allowance in 2020 reached €3,224.50. A low interest in this active labour market measure (hereinafter referred to as "ALMM") instrument may be explained by COVID-19 as well as by preferring other forms of education (REPAS+ and KOMPAS+).

Education and training of the employee for the labour market (Section 47)

Education and training of employees for the labour market (hereinafter referred to as "employee training") is carried out by the employer in the interest of further employability of its employees, in order to increase their educational level, work potential and adaptability on the labour market, and at the same time also in this way to prevent mass redundancies and to contribute to increasing their competitiveness. Employee training takes place during working hours and is an impediment to work on the part of the employee. The Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family provides the employer with a contribution to the training of employees on the basis of a concluded agreement up to a maximum of 70% of the eligible costs incurred to the employer in direct connection with the implementation of education and training of employees for the labour market.

In 2020, the employers were not interested in training their employees, no agreement on employee education was concluded and no contribution for employee education was provided.

National Project "Supporting the Employment of Job Seekers through Selected ALMMs 4"

This national project (hereinafter referred to as "NP") was implemented in 2020 as a fourth part of supporting the employment of job seekers through selected ALMMs. The following ALMM contributions were financed from the NP within the main activity in accordance with the Employment Services Act.

Contribution to self-employment (Section 49)

The contribution may be provided by local OLSAFs to job seekers who meet the conditions specified in the Employment Services Act. In terms of supporting job creation, the instrument facilitates the entry of job seeker into the open labour market as self-employed persons who will operate a trade under the Trade Licensing Act or carry out agricultural production, including forest management under the Act on Private Enterprise of Citizens. The contribution is of an optional nature (there is no legal claim to such contribution).

136 job seekers were supported through the contribution in 2020, what is 1,425 job seekers less than in 2019. In 2020, the total amount spent was €2,897,016, what is €4,868,987 less than in 2019.

Contribution to support the employment of a disadvantaged job seeker (Section 50)

The contribution to support the employment of a disadvantaged job seeker is provided to an employer who employs a disadvantaged job seeker by placing him/her in a job created. It is a widely designed contribution to support the employment of disadvantaged job seekers registered as job seekers for at least 3 months and is provided to cover a portion of the total labour costs. The amount of the contribution depends on the average registered unemployment rate in the district concerned. The contribution is provided for a maximum of 12 calendar months for disadvantaged job seeker and for job seeker, kept in the register for more than 24 months for a maximum of 24 calendar months. The employer is obliged to retain the created job for which the contribution has been provided to it, at least to the extent corresponding to half of the agreed period of providing the contribution.

As a result of the exceptional situation and emergency declared due to COVID-19, on 1 April 2020, conclusion of new agreements for all ALMM contributions which there is no legal entitlement to was suspended, so it is possible to evaluate the use of the Section 50 of the Act only for the first 3 months of 2020.

224 disadvantaged job seekers (86 men and 138 women) found employment thanks to the contribution in 2020 (1st – 3rd month). The spending totalled €1,900,746, what is €1,677,190 less than in 2019.

Contribution to support the development of local and regional employment (Section 50j)

The contribution may be provided to the employer, which is a municipality or self-governing region, or a legal person whose founder or establisher is a municipality or self-governing region and which recruits for a definite period of time a disadvantaged job seeker on the job seeker registration for at least three months, if the employment relationship is agreed upon at least in the scope of half of the stipulated weekly working time. The monthly amount of the contribution is 80 % of the total labour costs of an employee, at most 60 % of the total labour costs calculated from the average wage of an employee in the economy of the Slovak Republic for the first three quarters of the calendar year preceding the calendar year in which the contribution is provided. The contribution shall be provided for a maximum of nine calendar months, without the possibility of its repeated provision for employment of the same employee for a period of two years immediately following the termination of the employment relationship.

As a result of the exceptional situation and emergency declared due to COVID-19, on 1 April 2020, conclusion of new agreements for all ALMM contributions which there is no legal entitlement to was suspended, so it is possible to evaluate the use of the Section 50j of the Act only for the first 3 months of 2020.

In 2020, a total of 633 disadvantaged job seekers were supported, of which 384 were citizens over 50 years of age and 332 were the long-term unemployed. The total spending on the contribution to support the development of local and regional employment in 2020 reached €8,252,318, what is by €7,713,387 less than in 2019.

Contribution to a graduate practical training (Section 51)

Practical trainings for graduates were aimed at ensuring the acquisition of professional skills and practical experience with an employer, which correspond to the educational attainments by graduates, as well as the acquisition and deepening of professional skills or practical experience that will extend the opportunities of graduates in the labour market, thus having a direct impact on increasing the employability of job seekers. Graduate practical training helps graduates find a job in the field they studied. It enables them to get the first contact with the practice when obtaining the necessary skills.

In 2020, a total of 2,402 job seekers were enrolled for graduate practical trainings (of which 2,332 job seekers were enrolled for Activity 1 of the national project "Graduate Practical Trainings Start Employment"), which is 1,173 job seekers less than in 2019. The 2020 spending on this contribution totalled €1,564,523 (of which €1,513,682 was spent on Activity 1 of the national project "Graduate Practical Trainings Start Employment"), which is €412,624 less than in 2019. The decrease in the number of job seekers enrolled for graduate practical trainings and the related lower spending compared to 2019 is also connected to the fact that on 1 April 2020 the Minister stopped commitment of graduate practical trainings as a result of the exceptional situation and emergency declared due to COVID-19. On 1 June 2020 the Minister again permitted commitment of graduate practical trainings. On 31 October 2020 the commitment of graduate practical trainings as the main activity 1 within the NP "Graduate Practical Trainings Start Employment" was stopped based on a decision of MoLSAF as the managing authority of the Operational Programme Human Resources to decrease the non-refundable financial contribution within the implemented NPs in the Priority Axis 2 so as not to exceed the total allocation for the priority axis.

Contribution to support the creation of a job in the first regularly paid job (Section 51a)

The aim is to support the creation of a job in the first regularly paid job with employers who will create a job for job seeker under 25 years of age who have been on the job seeker register for at least 3 months or for job seeker under 29 years of age who have been on the job seeker register for at least 6 months and who did not have a regularly paid job prior to recruiting, if the employment relationship is arranged in the scope of at least half of the stipulated weekly working time. In 2019, a total of 751 job seekers were supported by this ALMM (of which 748 job seekers were enrolled for Activity 1 of the national project "Succeeding in the Labour Market"), which is 119 job seekers more than in 2018.

In 2020, a total of 338 job seekers were supported by this ALMM (of which 337 job seekers were enrolled for Activity 1 of the national project "Succeeding in the Labour Market"), which is 413 job seekers less than in 2019. The 2020 spending on this contribution totalled €2,593,583 (of which €2,581,924 was spent on Activity 1 of the national project "Succeeding in the Labour Market"), which is €82,874 less than in 2019.

Contribution to activation programmes in the form of minor services for a municipality or self-governing region (Section 52)

Activation activities in the form of minor municipal services for a municipality or in the form of minor services for a self-governing region are support for maintaining work habits of a long-term unemployed citizen who is a recipient of benefits in material need and contributions to benefits in material need. Minor municipal services for a municipality or minor services for a self-governing region shall be performed by a long-term unemployed citizen

continuously for a maximum of six calendar months of a maximum of 20 hours per week except the week in which the activation activity started, with the possibility of its repeated performance, for a maximum of another twelve calendar months. The Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family provides a municipality or self-governing region with a contribution that can be used to cover part of the costs of personal protective equipment, accident insurance for long-term unemployed citizens, part of the cost of working tools and part of other costs related to the provision of minor municipal services for a municipality or minor services for self-governing region, and to cover part of the total labour cost of the employee who organizes the activation activity.

In 2020, a total of 3,191 registered job seekers were placed in the activation programmes in the form of minor services for a municipality or self-governing region, which was 4,015 registered job seekers less than in 2019. The total spending on this contribution in 2020 amounted to €1,633,926, which is €489,615 less than in 2019.

Contribution to activation programmes in the form of voluntary service (Section 52a)

Voluntary service is a form of activation of job seeker by performing voluntary activities aimed at gaining practical experience for the needs of the labour market. During the volunteer service, the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family provides job seeker with a lump-sum contribution in the amount of the subsistence minimum provided to one adult natural person to cover the necessary expenses for meals, accommodation and travel expenses from the place of his/her permanent or temporary residence to the place of the volunteer service. The Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family provides legal entities or natural persons with a contribution that can be used to cover part of the cost of personal protective equipment, accident insurance for long-term unemployed citizens, part of the cost of working tools and part of other costs associated with the implementation of minor municipal services for a municipality or minor services for a self-governing region and to cover part of the total labour cost of the employee who organizes the activation activity.

In 2020, a total of 1,242 registered job seekers were placed in the activation programmes in the form of voluntary service, which is 3,598 job seekers less than in 2019. In 2020, the total spending on the contribution amounted to €2,813,604, which is €3,071,733 less than in 2019.

Contribution to commuting (Section 53)

The contribution is provided monthly to cover part of the travel expenses for commuting from the employee's place of permanent or temporary residence to the place of employment specified in the employment contract and back.

In 2020, a total number of 11,299 persons received the contribution, which is 7,783 persons less than in the previous year. The total amount spent on this contribution was €5,138,883, which is €1,531,261 less than in 2019.

Contribution to support job mobility (Section 53a)

The contribution to support job mobility is provided to cover part of the housing expenses related to the change of residence in connection with obtaining employment for at least six months to the employee who has been on the job seeker register for at least 3 months and who has been removed from the job seeker register for a reason in accordance with the Section 36 (1) (a), if he/she applies for the contribution in writing no later than 3 months from the date of removal from the job seeker register.

In 2020, a total of 226 job seekers received the contribution, which is 232 job seekers less than in the previous year. The total amount spent on this contribution was €748,477, which is €273,044 less than in 2019.

Contribution to transport to work (Section 53b)

The contribution to transport to work may be provided by the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family to the employer on the basis of a concluded written agreement if the employer provides daily transportation of employees to and from work on the grounds that public transport does not demonstrably perform transport at all or to an extent appropriate to needs of the employer.

Since conclusion of new agreements for all ALMMs which there is no legal entitlement to was suspended, no employer was supported by the contribution in 2020. €3,761 was spent on one agreement concluded in 2019.

Contribution to moving due to work (Section 53c)

In connection with obtaining employment, the contribution to relocation for work is provided to job seekers as reimbursement of a portion of the costs they demonstrably incur in relocation and the costs of changing the current permanent residence to new permanent residence in the Slovak Republic.

In 2020, a total of 127 job seekers received the contribution, which is 106 job seekers less than in 2019. The total amount spent on this contribution was €585,123, which is €63,780 more than in the previous year.

Contribution to creating new jobs (Section 53d)

In 2020, the contribution to creating new jobs was granted to investment aid recipients in the total amount of €1.62 million; the investment aid was granted to 6 eligible investors. In 2020, the contribution was provided for the implementation of 1 investment plan in Banská Bystrica Self-governing Region, 3 investment plans in Prešov Self-governing Region, 1 investment plan in Košice Self-governing Region, and 1 investment plan in Trenčín Self-governing Region. Of the total regional investment aid granted to investors in 2020, investment aid in the form of a contribution to creating new jobs amounted to €1,624,073 for 199 jobs retained for one year and 497 jobs retained for 2 years. From the point of view of the size of enterprises, the investment aid was provided in the form of contributions for creation of new jobs for 6 large companies in the total amount of €1,624,073.

Comparing 2019 and 2020, the investment aid provided in the form of contributions for creation of new jobs decreased by €34,938 in 2020. Comparing 2019 and 2020, the number of new jobs which the investment aid was provided to for the first year of maintenance decreased by 217 jobs and for the second year of maintenance it increased by 216 jobs.

Placement contribution to the integration enterprise (Section 53f)

A local OLSAF grants this contribution under a concluded written agreement to an integration enterprise that terminates an employment relationship upon agreement no later than two years from the commencement of such employment relationship with an employee who was a disadvantaged person pursuant to Section 2(5) of the Social Economy Act and who has been employed by an employer that is neither an integration enterprise nor a dependent person of an integration enterprise provided that the employment relationship with such employer is arranged for at least half of the stipulated weekly working hours and if the number of such employees is at least 10 % of the employees of the integration enterprise for six consecutive calendar months.

One person was supported in 2020 and the spending amounted to €2,940.

Compensatory contributions to the integration enterprise (Section 53g)

A local OLSAF grants compensatory allowances under a concluded written agreement to an integration enterprise to cover the wage costs of the employment of disadvantaged or vulnerable persons pursuant to the Social Economy Act, the additional costs of the employment of persons who are disadvantaged due to their state of health and the costs incurred in providing assistance for employed disadvantaged persons other than persons who are disadvantaged due to their state of health.

1,654 persons were supported in 2020, what is 1,321 more than in 2019. Spending amounted to €5,356,860, what is €4,733,772 more than in 2019.

Projects and programmes (Section 54)

Active labour market measures include also:

- national projects approved by MoLSAF and implemented by COLSAF or a local OLSAF,
- projects aimed at improving the status of registered job seekers in the labour market, approved by MoLSAF and implemented by COLSAF,
- projects aimed at improving the status of registered job seekers in the labour market, approved by COLSAF and implemented by a local OLSAF,
- projects to improve the status of registered job seekers or job changers, approved by MoLSAF or COLSAF and implemented by a local OLSAF, legal entity or a natural person,
- projects to support job retention, including those where a self-employed gainful activity is performed or pursued, and to support the retention of employees in employment in connection with the declaration of an emergency, state of emergency or exceptional situation and removal of consequences thereof which are approved by the Ministry or the Central Office after approval of the conditions by the Government of the Slovak Republic and implemented by the Central Office or the Office,

- pilot projects to test new active labour market measures, approved by MoLSAF and implemented by COLSAF,
- pilot projects or pilot programmes to support the development of regional or local employment, which are approved by COLSAF and implemented by a local OLSAF,
- projects and programmes to improve the position of natural persons on the labour market through a comprehensive approach to the provision of tools and services supporting their employment, improving their employability and increasing and maintaining their employment, which are approved by the Ministry and implemented by the intermediary body of the Ministry.

The projects and programmes are financed by the European Social Fund and co-financed from the state budget, or are funded from the state budget or other resources.

Centrally approved projects

A total of 18 projects were recommended and approved in 2020 through centrally approved projects in accordance with the Section 54 (1) (c), (d) and (f) by the COLSAF Evaluation Committee for Assessment, Evaluation and Approval Recommendation of Submitted Projects and Programmes within ALMMs.

National Project "Practice to Employment 2"

The project began to be implemented in July 2019. The aim of the project was to gain or enhance and deepen the professional skills, knowledge and practical experience of young people – NEET under 29 years of age (minus one day) who were registered as job seekers for at least one month – by means of mentored initiation and practice with an employer that created a job for at least 6 months in order to enter and remain in the labour market, while the job could be a part-time or full-time job and it is supported for maximum 9 months. In 2020, a total of 2,339 job seekers were included in the NP, which was 688 job seekers more than in 2019. The total spending amounted to €18,305,221, which is €18,089,172 more than in 2019. Originally, the NP was scheduled to finish in August 2023, while the commitment was scheduled to finish in November 2022.

As a result of the exceptional situation and emergency declared due to COVID-19, on 1 April 2020 the Minister of LSAF suspended commitment for the "Practice to Employment 2". On 20 July 2020, commitment within the NP "Practice to Employment 2" was relaunched again, while on 31 October 2020 it was completely stopped based on a decision of MoLSAF as the managing authority of the Operational Programme Human Resources. It means that from 1 November 2020 no agreements could be concluded for mentored initiation and practice, what also influenced the statistical indicators of the number of job seekers enrolled for mentored initiation and related practice, as well as the amount of spending.

Project "Practice to Employment in Bratislava Self-governing Region 2"

The project began to be implemented in the Bratislava Self-governing Region (BSK) in December 2019. It was financed exclusively from the state budget. Its aim is to gain or enhance and deepen the professional skills, knowledge and practical experience of young people – NEET under 29 years of age (minus one day) who were registered as job seekers for at least one month – by means of mentored initiation and practice with an employer that creates a job for at least 6 months in order to enter and remain in the labour market, while the job may be a part-time or full-time job and it is supported for maximum 9 months. Since the project began to be implemented in December 2019 when local OLSAFs only started to receive requests of employers for contributions for mentored initiation and practice, job seekers were included in the project only in 2020 when 11 job seekers were involved in the project and the amount of spending reached €53,577. Originally, the project was scheduled to finish in August 2021, while the commitment was scheduled to finish in March 2021. As a result of the exceptional situation and emergency declared due to COVID-19, on 1 April 2020 the Minister of LSAF suspended commitment for the project, which was not relaunched in the year under review. Agreements could thus be concluded only during the first three months of 2020, what also influenced the statistical indicators of the number of job seekers enrolled within the project, as well as the amount of spending.

National Project "Graduate Practical Trainings Start Employment"

The objective of the NP was to increase the employment and employability of young people and integrate them into the labour market, especially those unemployed, without education or training, and the possibility of creating jobs for young people in the business of an employer where they underwent graduate practical trainings. The project was targeted at NEETs under 29 years of age who, at the time of joining the project, meet the definition of a school graduate under the Employment Services Act: citizens below 26 years of age who have completed their systematic professional education in full-time study courses less than two years ago, failed to obtain their first regularly paid

employment and are registered as job seekers at local OLSAFs in the authorised area of the project. The project was implemented through two main activities as ALMM under Sections 51 and 54 of the Employment Services Act.

Main activity 1:

Providing a flat-rate financial contribution to graduate practical trainings pursuant to Section 51 of the Employment Services Act. Graduate practical training was carried out for a minimum of three months and a maximum of six months, without the possibility of its extension and repeated performance, to the extent of 20 hours per week. Once it is completed, the employer will issue a certificate of completion of the graduate practical training to the school graduate. A total of 2,332 job seekers were included in Activity 1 in 2020, which is 1,118 job seekers less than in 2019; the total spending amounted to €1,513,682 (€407,614 less than in 2019). Originally, the main activity 1 was scheduled to finish in August 2021, while the commitment was scheduled to finish in March 2021. As a result of the exceptional situation and emergency declared due to COVID-19, on 1 April 2020 the commitment of funds for the main activity 1 was suspended by the Minister of LSAF. On 1 June 2020 the commitment of funds for the main activity 1 was again permitted by the Minister of LSAF. On 31 October 2020 the commitment of funds for the main activity 1 was completely stopped based on a decision of MoLSAF as the managing authority of the Operational Programme Human Resources with an aim to decrease the non-refundable financial contribution within the implemented NPs in the Priority Axis 2 (PA2) so as not to exceed the total allocation for the priority axis. This fact also influenced the statistical indicators on the number of the enrolled school graduates to perform graduate practical trainings and the related amount of spending.

Main activity 2:

Providing a financial contribution to an employer who gave employment to a registered job seeker from the eligible target group without undue delay, but in any event within 30 calendar days of the completion of the graduate practical training in such employer's business (unless otherwise agreed with the local OLSAF) in accordance with Section 51 of the Employment Services Act. The employer undertook to create a full-time job for a period of at least 9 months, and this job will be supported by a financial contribution for a maximum of 6 months. Subsequently, the employer was required to retain this job for the next 3 months. The commitment of funds for the main activity 2 finished on 28 February 2020 in accordance with the schedule of the main activity 2 of the project. No graduate performing graduate practical trainings with an employer was included in the activity 2 in 2020. Financial contribution in the amount of €539 was provided per one job seeker involved in the activity in 2019 who finished it in 2020.

National Project "Succeeding in the Labour Market"

The aim of the NP is to improve the status of young people under 29 years of age in the labour market, increase their employability and employment. The project is targeted at NEETs under 25 years of age registered as job seekers for at least 3 months and NEETs under 29 years of age registered as job seekers for at least 6 months, focusing mainly on the long-term unemployed (in accordance with the Youth Guarantee in the Slovak Republic). The project is implemented through two main activities as ALMM under Sections 51 and 54 of the Employment Services Act.

Main activity 1:

Providing a financial contribution to support the creation and subsequent retention of jobs for young job seekers who had no first regularly paid employment before entering into employment, which means they have never obtained regularly paid employment lasting for at least six consecutive months, if the employment relationship is arranged for at least half of the stipulated weekly working hours and the employer applies for such contribution in writing. The financial contribution is not provided for the employment of a job seeker whose employment for the same period was supported by a financial contribution under Sections 50, 50j, 56a or 60. A total of 337 job seekers were included in Activity 1 in 2020, which is 411 job seekers less than in 2019; the total spending amounted to €2,581,924 (€78,990 less than in 2019).

Main activity 2:

Providing a financial contribution to support the creation of a job through self-employment of young people who will create a job, where they will carry on a trade for at least 2 years. In 2020, a total of 150 job seekers were included in the activity 2, which is 165 registered job seekers less than in 2019. The total spending amounted to €690,599, which is €235,509 less than in 2019.

As a result of the exceptional situation and emergency declared due to COVID-19, on 1 April 2020 the Minister of LSAF suspended commitment for the project activities which were relaunched in the year under review on 3 August 2020. On 31 October 2020 the commitment of the project activities was stopped again based on a decision

of MoLSAF as the managing authority of the Operational Programme Human Resources with an aim to decrease the non-refundable financial contribution within the implemented national projects in the priority axis, what also influenced the statistical indicators of the number of job seekers enrolled within the project, as well as the related amount of spending.

National Project “Involvement of the Unemployed in the Restoration of Cultural Heritage 2”

The project supported creation of short-term jobs for job seekers and disadvantaged job seekers. In 2019, 33 employers (within the authority of 21 local OLSAFs) were involved in the cultural heritage restoration project. Compared to the previous year, the number of affected offices decreased by one and the number of employers by three. Only entities whose subsidy was approved by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic within a call of the programme **Let’s Restore Our House**, subprogramme 1.4 Restoration of Historical Parks and Architectural Areas in a Critical Structural and Technical Condition, could be involved in the project. During the implementation of the NP, the involved unemployed gained work habits and experience in historic masonry, blacksmithing, carpentry, and archaeology.

As a part of restoration of cultural monuments, the employers created 537 jobs for 655 job seekers and disadvantaged job seekers, what is by 30 jobs less than in 2019. In 2020, 655 job seekers and disadvantaged job seekers were placed in such jobs, which is 9 persons less than in the previous year. In 2020, the total amount spent was €3,273,235, which is €113,662 more than in 2019.

National Project “We Want to Be Active in the Labour Market (50+)”

The aim is to improve the status of disadvantaged job seekers pursuant to Section 8(1) (b) of the Employment Services Act – citizens over 50 years of age (hereinafter simply the “job seekers aged 50+”), increase their employability and employment through the provision of financial contributions to support the creation of jobs in less developed regions. The target group comprises disadvantaged job seekers under Section 8 (1) (b) of the Employment Services Act. A financial contribution is provided to an employer that employs a disadvantaged job seeker aged 50+ by placing him/her in a job created if such employment is concluded for at least 12 months. The financial contribution is granted for a maximum of 12 months. The employer is obliged to maintain the created job for at least those 12 months.

In 2020, only previously established commitments were funded since in September 2019 the possibility to establish commitments was stopped. In 2020, €792,431 was spent within the project, which is €725,808 less than in 2019. The project finished in 2020 according to the original project schedule.

National Project “Path to the Labour Market”

This NP is aimed at improving the position of job seekers in the labour market, increasing the employability and employment of job seekers and disadvantaged job seekers by promoting job creation, reducing unemployment, especially long-term unemployment, and supporting the development of local and regional employment in the least developed districts with high rates of registered long-term unemployment.

Activity 1 Promoting job creation for job seekers

The activity involves providing a financial contribution to an employer that employs a job seeker from the eligible target group if the employment relationship is arranged for at least half of the stipulated weekly working hours: for a definite period of time, for at least 20 months or for an indefinite period of time, under the condition of employment for at least 20 months.

No job seeker was involved in the activity in 2020 since the commitment finished on 31 July 2018.

Activity 2 Supporting job creation for disadvantaged job seekers, with particular regard to long-term registered job seekers in social enterprises of labour integration

This activity includes providing a financial contribution to support job creation for disadvantaged job seekers, with particular regard to long-term unemployed citizens in social enterprises of labour integration. A local OLSAF will provide financial contributions to an employer that employs a disadvantaged job seeker from the eligible target group by placing him/her in a created job if the employment relationship is arranged for at least half of the stipulated weekly working hours: for a definite period of time, at least 24 months or an indefinite period of time, subject to a condition of employment for at least 24 months.

No disadvantaged job seeker was involved in the activity in 2020 since the commitment finished on 31 October 2018.

Activity 3 Promoting job creation by public providers

The activity involves providing a financial contribution to an employer that employs a job seeker, registered as unemployed for at least 3 months, under the employment relationship arranged for at least half of the stipulated weekly working hours and for a definite period of time (of 3 to 12 months) or an indefinite period of time.

No new jobs were created in 2020 since on 31 July 2018 the commitment of funds for Activity 3 was stopped.

Activity 4 Promoting job creation through self-employment (Self-employment also in primary agricultural production)

The activity involves providing a financial contribution for self-employment of job seekers who will, as self-employed persons, carry on a self-employed activity in various sectors. Job seekers may also create a job for self-employment in agricultural primary production. The creation of such job means the commencement and continuous conduct of a self-employed activity for at least two years.

No new jobs were created in 2020 since on 31 July 2018 the commitment of funds for Activity 4 was stopped.

Activity 5 Providing a financial contribution to commute for work

The activity involves providing a financial contribution to an applicant who was a job seeker and was removed from the register of job seekers due to the reason specified in the Section 36 (1) (a) of the Employment Services Act, to cover a portion of travel expenses incurred in commuting for work and who commutes from the place of permanent residence or temporary residence to the place of employment specified in the employment contract, even in one municipality. The financial contribution is granted for a maximum of 12 consecutive months.

In 2020, a total of 2,894 job seekers were involved in the activity, which is 2,222 job seekers less than in 2019. In 2020, the total amount spent was €1,874,369, which is €275,217 more than in 2019. The 2020 spending is a follow-up to the 2019 spending. On 30 September 2020, commitment of funds for the activity 5 was ended.

Activity 6 Provision of individualised services to job seekers

The activity 6 of the project involves provision of professional advisory services (PASs). The aim of the activity is to encourage a job seeker to find employment through an intensive and individualised counselling programme that takes into account the job seeker's individual social situation. From the point of view of its content, the programme is aimed at developing the employability of job seekers (increasing motivation, setting career goals, communicating with employers, job search techniques, etc.).

PASs provided to job seekers as a part of this activity represent 13 activities with the total duration of 35 hours per one job seeker. The planned number of job seekers to be involved in this activity is 36,000. Subject to compliance with the stipulated conditions, a job seeker may receive a lump-sum allowance to cover a portion of the costs of his/her participation in the counselling programme (travel allowance, food allowance, etc.) in the amount of €6.18 per each day of the participation. The maximum amount of a lump-sum allowance for full participation in the counselling programme is €80.34.

From the start of implementation of the activity (July 2017) until 31 December 2020 the individualised services were provided to 22,328 job seekers, of which 2,451 job seekers were included in the activity in 2020, while 53.73 % of them were long-term unemployed.

As a part of implementation of the activity, €212,994 was paid to job seekers for 2020 in the form of flat fees to reimburse a part of expenses related to involvement of the job seekers in the counselling programme.

Implementation of the activity 6 Path to the Labour Market was interrupted on 10 March 2020 in relation to measures the aim of which was to prevent COVID-19 from spreading. On 3 August 2020 the implementation of the activity was fully relaunched to be interrupted again on 26 October 2020 due to a worsening epidemiological situation. Implementation of the activity was not relaunched by the end of 2020.

National Project "Path to the Labour Market 2"

The NP is aimed at improving the position of job seekers in the labour market, increasing the employability and employment of job seekers and disadvantaged job seekers by promoting job creation, reducing unemployment, especially long-term unemployment, and supporting the development of local and regional employment in the least developed districts with high rates of registered unemployment.

Within the project, a financial contribution can be provided in the following districts:

Region of Banská Bystrica - districts of Lučenec, Rimavská Sobota, Poltár, Revúca, Veľký Krtíš;

Region of Košice – districts of Rožňava, Sobrance, Trebišov, Gelnica, Košice-okolie, Michalovce;

Region of Prešov – districts of Kežmarok, Sabinov, Svidník, Vranov nad Topľou, Bardejov, Medzilaborce, Snina, Levoča, Stropkov.

The NP started to be implemented in June 2018.

Three measures were implemented in the NP "Path to the Labour Market 2":

Measure 1 Promoting job creation for job seekers

The measure involves provision of a contribution to an employer that employs a job seeker from the eligible target group if the employment relationship is arranged for at least half of the stipulated weekly working hours: for a definite period of time, at least 20 months or an indefinite period of time, subject to a condition of employment for at least 20 months.

No job seeker was included in the Measure 1 in 2020 because commitment of funds in this Measure was ended on 15 October 2019.

Measure 2 Promoting job creation at public employers

The measure involves providing a financial contribution to an employer that employs a job seeker under the employment relationship arranged for at least half of the stipulated weekly working hours and for a definite period of time (of 3 to 12 months) or an indefinite period of time. The job must be retained for at least 3 months. The financial contribution is provided according to the agreed duration of the employment relationship, however, for a maximum of 12 months.

No job seeker was included in the Measure 2 in 2020 because commitment of funds in this Measure 2 was ended on 15 October 2019.

Measure 3 Provision of contributions for self-employment

The measure involves providing a financial contribution for self-employment of job seekers who will, as self-employed persons, carry on a self-employed activity in various sectors. Job seekers may also create a job for self-employment in agricultural primary production. The creation of such job means the commencement and continuous conduct of a self-employed activity for at least two years.

In 2020, a total of 348 registered job seekers were placed in the Measure 3, which is 519 job seekers less than in 2019. The total spending amounted to €2,810,692, which is €610,589 less than in 2019. The 2020 spending is a follow-up to the 2019 spending.

National Project "Path to the Labour Market 3"

The NP is aimed at improving the position of job seekers in the labour market, increasing the employability and employment of job seekers and disadvantaged job seekers by promoting job creation, reducing unemployment, especially long-term unemployment, and supporting the development of local and regional employment in the least developed districts with high rates of registered unemployment.

Within the project, a financial contribution can be provided in the following districts:

Region of Banská Bystrica - districts of Lučenec, Rimavská Sobota, Poltár, Revúca, Veľký Krtíš;

Region of Košice – districts of Rožňava, Sobrance, Trebišov, Gelnica, Košice-okolie, Michalovce;

Region of Prešov – districts of Kežmarok, Sabinov, Svidník, Vranov nad Topľou, Bardejov, Medzilaborce, Snina, Levoča, Stropkov.

The NP started to be implemented in November 2019.

Three measures are implemented in the NP "Path to the Labour Market 3":

Measure 1 Promoting job creation for job seekers

The measure involves providing a financial contribution to an employer that employs a job seeker, mainly a disadvantaged job seeker from the eligible target group, for a definite period of time of at least 17 months or an indefinite period of time of at least 20 months. Employers are provided the financial contribution for no longer than 12/15 months, depending on the fact if the job seeker has been employed for a definite or indefinite period of time.

In 2020, a total of 1,619 job seekers were involved in the activity, which is 1,482 job seekers more than in 2019. Spending equalled to €8,465,473 in 2020. On 1 April 2020, the commitment of funds within the Measure 1 was suspended by MoLSAF in relation to the exceptional situation declared due to COVID-19.

Measure 2 Promoting job creation at public employers

The measure involves provision of financial contributions to public employers to support creation of jobs: during 3 – 9 months when the employment relation was concluded for a definite period of time and for 3 – 12 months when the employment relation was concluded for an indefinite period of time.

Job creation is understood as creating a job for a period of at least 3 months. In 2020, a total of 1,370 job seekers were involved in the activity, which is 1,256 job seekers more than in 2019.

Spending equalled to €7,732,590.57 in 2020. On 1 April 2020, the commitment of funds within the Measure 2 was suspended by MoLSAF in relation to the exceptional situation declared due to COVID-19.

Measure 3 Providing a financial contribution to commute for work

The measure involves providing a financial contribution to an applicant who was a job seeker/disadvantaged job seeker and was removed from the register of job seekers due to the reason specified in the Section 36 (1) (a) of the Act, to cover a portion of travel expenses incurred in commuting for work and who commutes from the place of permanent residence or temporary residence to the place of employment specified in the employment contract. The financial contribution is granted for a maximum of 12 consecutive months.

In 2020, a total of 4,954 job seekers were involved in the activity, which is 4,598 job seekers more than in 2019. Spending equalled to €1,017,235 in 2020.

National Project “Support for Personalised Counselling for Long-term Unemployed Job Seekers”

Long-term unemployed job seekers are provided project PASs within both activities of the NP.

Activity 1

The balance of competencies for long-term unemployed job seekers is a counselling programme performed through external suppliers selected in accordance with Act No. 343/2015 Coll. on Public Procurement. The activity is designed for long-term unemployed job seekers who have no idea of how to find a foothold on the labour market or who, for objective reasons, need to change their speciality and in this respect, need advisory support in the form of a balance of competencies. From the point of view of its content, the ‘balance of competencies’ activity is focused on providing assistance to job seekers looking for a career direction and obtaining skills for managing their own careers.

The PASs provided within this activity represent 10 sessions of 38 hours per one long-term unemployed job seeker. The planned number of long-term unemployed job seekers to be involved in this activity is 30,000.

Subject to compliance with the stipulated conditions, a long-term unemployed job seeker may receive a lump-sum allowance to cover a portion of the costs of his/her participation in the counselling process (travel allowance, food allowance, etc.) in the amount of €4.64 per each day of the participation. The maximum amount of a lump-sum allowance for full participation in the counselling programme is €46.40.

From the start of implementation of the project activity (December 2018) until 31 December 2020, the balance of competencies was provided to 11,299 long-term unemployed job seekers, of whom 2,046 were included in the activity in 2020.

As a part of implementation of the activity, €1,987,213.45 was paid in 2020 for course fees payable to providers of the counselling programme and €148,725.92 for a flat fee for long-term unemployed job seekers to pay a part of expenses related to their participation in the counselling programme.

Implementation of the activity 1 of the NP (Support for Personalised Counselling) Balance of Competencies was interrupted on 10 March 2020 in accordance with measures the aim of which was to prevent COVID-19 from spreading. On 1 June 2020 the activity was partly relaunched for clients who had been included in the Balance of Competencies counselling programme before 10 March 2020 what means that the clients could continue to be involved in the counselling programme and finish it. New groups of clients were not opened by the end of 2020.

Activity 2

Support for personalised counselling for long-term unemployed job seekers is a counselling programme performed by internal professional counsellors of local OLSAFs and is aimed at encouraging hard-to-place long-term unemployed job seekers to find employment through individual and group counselling activities. From the point of view of their content, these activities are primarily aimed at the analysis and comprehensive assessment of the overall potential of long-term unemployed job seekers in terms of employability on the labour market, identifying barriers, establishing measures to enhance employment opportunities on the labour market, mobilising individual resources and strengthening incentives to proactively address long-term unemployment.

The PASs provided within such activity represent 14 – 15 sessions of 41 – 45 hours per one long-term unemployed job seeker. The planned number of long-term unemployed job seekers to be involved in this activity is 50,000.

Subject to compliance with the stipulated conditions, a long-term unemployed job seeker may receive a lump-sum allowance to cover a portion of the costs of his/her participation in the counselling programme (travel allowance, food allowance, etc.) in the amount of €4.64 per each day of the participation. The maximum amount of a lump-sum allowance for full participation in the counselling programme is €69.60.

From the start of implementation of the project activity (February 2018) until 31 December 2020, the counselling programme was provided to 24,863 long-term unemployed job seekers, of which 1,735 long-term unemployed job seekers were included in the activity in 2020.

As a part of implementation of the activity, €214,039 was paid to job seekers for 2020 in the form of flat fees to reimburse a part of expenses related to involvement of the job seekers in the counselling programme.

Implementation of the activity 2 of the NP Support for Personalised Counselling for Long-term Unemployed Job Seekers was interrupted on 10 March 2020 in accordance with measures the aim of which was to prevent COVID-19 from spreading, and it was not relaunched by the end of 2020.

National Project "Integration Enterprise Support"

The project is focused on improving the work integration of disadvantaged and vulnerable persons and their subsequent retention on the labour market through new ALMMs in accordance with the approved social economy legislation. Integration enterprise is a type-defined registered social enterprise the positive social impact of which consists in employing disadvantaged persons, severely disadvantaged or vulnerable persons who – as employees – will thus acquire working habits, expert skills and experience and who will also look for permanent employment on the open labour market through the integration enterprise. That will be easier for them thanks to the acquired work experience.

Measure 1 Provision of a placement contribution to an integration enterprise in accordance with the Section 53f of the Employment Services Act. Within the Measure 1, 2 integration enterprises were involved and 1 person was supported in 2020. The amount drawn totalled €2,940.

Measure 2 Provision of compensatory contributions to an integration enterprise in accordance with the Section 53g of the Employment Services Act. Within the Measure 2, 193 integration enterprises were involved and 1,576 persons were supported in 2020. The amount drawn totalled €5,147,001.

National Project "Investment Aid for Social Enterprises – Non-repayable Component"

The goal of the NP is to support registered social enterprises (hereinafter referred to as "RSEs") in the form of providing a non-refundable financial contribution in synergy with refundable aid in the form of a financial instrument or a different form of refundable financing (in accordance with provisions of the Section 17 (3) of the Social Economy Act) with an aim to improve the access to employment and to strengthen employment through supporting social economy entities in relation to the needs of the market. The target groups of the NP include employers (registered social enterprise in accordance with the Section 11 of the Social Economy Act), employees, job seekers and inactive persons. Eligible applicants include integration enterprises, social housing enterprises and general type of registered social enterprises. Investment aid within the NP may be provided in all self-governing regions with the exception of the Bratislava Self-governing Region. The eligible implementation period is October 2020 to November 2023. The total project budget is €48,779,328.

The main activity of the NP is to support social economy entities with an aim to strengthen the employment through investment aid for regional social enterprises.

The activity is implemented through ALMMs in accordance with the Section 54 (1) (a) of the Employment Services Act and also through investment aid for RSEs in accordance with the Section 17 (1) (d) and Section 25 (4) of the Social Economy Act (in the form of provision of a non-refundable financial contribution).

Obtaining investment aid in the form of a non-refundable financial contribution in accordance with the Section 17 (1) (d) of the Social Economy Act is conditioned by approval of the investment aid in the form of a financial instrument in accordance with the Section 17 (1) (a) or (b) of the Social Economy Act in the amount of at least 20 % of the total costs of the approved investment project or other form of financing which is connected to the obligation to return the provided funds in the amount of at least 10 % of the total amount of costs of the investment plan for the same purpose of use of the investment aid.

The support in the form of non-refundable financial contributions will be provided to RSEs through four measures which are divided according to the user type and the corresponding rules for the investment aid in accordance with the Block Exemption Regulation or *de minimis* aid rules:

- **Measure 1** Investment aid to SMEs in accordance with the Article 17 of the Block Exemption Regulation (except for start-ups),

- **Measure 2** Aid for start-ups in accordance with the Article 2296 of the Block Exemption Regulation,
- **Measure 3** Regional investment aid in accordance with the Article 14 of the Block Exemption Regulation,
- **Measure 4** Aid to RSEs in accordance with the *de minimis* aid rules within the *de minimis* aid scheme to support employment No. 16/2014, as amended.

No non-refundable financial contribution was provided to RSEs in 2020 to implement an investment plan since no request for provision of investment aid was submitted in the period under review.

National Project "Restart for Young Job Seekers 2"

The objective of the project is to improve the position of young people under 29 years of age in the labour market, increase their employability, employment and support the development of local and regional employment in selected regions by promoting the motivation and activation of young people under 29 years of age to look for employment. The target group is composed of job seekers (NEETs) under 29 years of age (29 years minus one day). The NP is being implemented since August 2018.

The NP involves providing a financial contribution to active young job seekers who will find employment and will be removed from the register of job seekers due to entering into an employment relationship and proven commencement of employment. The financial contribution is provided monthly for a period of one to twelve months under a concluded agreement between the employee (former young job seeker) and a local OLSAF. MoLSAF suspended the project on 1 April 2020 in relation to the exceptional situation declared due to COVID-19 and on 3 August 2020 the project was launched again. On 31 October 2020 the commitment of the project was stopped again based on a decision of MoLSAF as the managing authority of the Operational Programme Human Resources with an aim to decrease the non-refundable financial contribution within the implemented NPs in the Priority Axis 2, what also influenced the statistical indicators of the number of job seekers enrolled within the project, as well as the related amount of spending.

3,602 job seekers (employees) were supported within the measure in 2020. In 2020, €9,406,386 was spent within the project, which is €6,871,057 less than in 2019. The lower spending is a result of not only suspending the project but also of the fact that certain local OLSAFs had already spent up all funds for the implementation.

National project "Reconciliation of work and family life"

Employment of women is closely connected to the division of work and family duties between women and men. Women who have children usually work less in a paid job, while they spend more time doing unpaid childcare duties, and men have a tendency to work more in paid jobs.

In relation to the above-stated, COLSAF started to implement a NP "Reconciliation of work and family life" the aim of which is to improve the conditions for reconciling family and work life and to increase the employment of persons with parental responsibilities. The target group are job seekers with parental responsibilities or job seekers with an emphasis on persons having difficulties reconciling work and family life who are registered as job seekers for at least 3 months and simultaneously meet at least one of the following conditions:

- job seeker – woman with parental responsibilities who looks after children aged 0 – 6;
- job seeker living as a single adult with one or more persons dependent on his/her care or caring for at least one child before the end of compulsory schooling (Section 8 (1) (g) of the Employment Services Act).

694 job seekers were involved in the project in 2020 (an increase by 358 job seekers compared to 2019) and €5,973,451 was spent (€5,946,362 more than in 2019). On 1 April 2020 the Minister stopped commitment of the funds due to COVID-19.

Project "Reconciliation of work and family life in the Bratislava Self-governing Region"

The project began to be implemented in the Bratislava Self-governing Region in December 2019. With its focus and content it corresponds to the above-mentioned NP "Reconciliation of work and family life". It is financed exclusively from the state budget.

The target group of the project are also job seekers with parental responsibilities or job seekers with an emphasis on persons having difficulties reconciling work and family life who are registered as job seekers for at least 3 months and simultaneously meet at least one of the following conditions:

- job seeker – woman with parental responsibilities who looks after children aged 0 – 6;

⁹⁶ In accordance with the paragraph 3 (c) of the Block Exemption Regulation

- job seeker living as a single adult with one or more persons dependent on his/her care or caring for at least one child before the end of compulsory schooling (Section 8 (1) (g) of the Employment Services Act).

In 2020, 8 job seekers were involved in the project and the spending totalled €43,628. On 1 April 2020 the Minister stopped commitment of the funds due to COVID-19.

Project "Work in a school canteen"

The aim of the project is to improve the position of job seekers on the labour market, to increase the employability and employment of job seekers, to decrease long-term unemployment and to support the development of local and regional employment. Implementation of the project will increase the number of employees working in school canteens in primary schools providing food services. Project implementation started in August 2019. The activity involves provision of financial contributions to support creation of jobs in school canteens. The eligible activity within the project is provision of financial contributions to support creation of a job to an employer who will employ a job seeker from the eligible target group for a period of at least 6 months. The project was completed in September 2020.

In 2020, a total of 48 job seekers were included in the project, which is 957 job seekers less than in 2019. In 2020, a total of €5,051,949 was spent within the project, which is €4,077,983 more than in 2019.

Project "Help your municipality"

The project began to be implemented in December 2019. The aim of the project is to support and motivate job seekers to help their community in the form of activation activities always when it is necessary. The target group of the project are job seekers in accordance with the Section 6 and disadvantaged job seekers in accordance with the Section 8 of the Employment Services Act from the date they are registered as job seekers, who do not receive benefit in material need and are not persons or members of households in material need. It involves provision of a financial contribution for performance of activation activities in accordance with the Section 54 (1) (c) of the Employment Services Act. Activation activities in the form of services for a municipality or self-governing region motivate the unemployed to be active within their own community. The project was ended in December 2020. Based on a decision of MoLSAF the NP was suspended on 1 April 2020 as a result of the exceptional situation declared due to COVID-19. In 2020, a total of 1,227 job seekers were included in the NP with the total spending of €1,016,838.

Project "Work and Change your Life"

The aim of the project is to increase the employability and employment of job seekers through supporting the creation of jobs, also in the area of social services, as well as through self-employment.

The target group are job seekers in accordance with the Section 6 of the Employment Services Act, registered as job seekers for at least one month. The eligible territory is the entire Slovak Republic. The Project is being implemented through three activities:

Activity 1 Supporting self-employed persons

The activity 1 involves providing a financial contribution for self-employment of job seekers who will, as self-employed persons, carry on a self-employed activity in various sectors. Job seekers may also create a job for self-employment in agricultural primary production. The creation of such job means the commencement and continuous conduct of a self-employed activity for at least two years. All applications in this activity had to be submitted by 4 December 2020 and local OLSAFs provided the contributions by the end of 2020.

2,642 jobs were created and €14,713,239 was spent within the above-stated activity.

Activity 2 Supporting employment through providers of social services

The activity 2 involves providing financial contributions to employers who have employed a job-seeker from the eligible target group, registered as a job seeker for at least 1 month. The financial contribution was granted as a single payment for a period of 9 months. All applications in this activity had to be submitted by 4 December 2020 and local OLSAFs provided the contributions by the end of 2020.

Social services were provided to 2,423 job seekers and the spending totalled €15,801,250.

Activity 3 Promoting the employment of job seekers

For the purposes of the project, employment of job seekers from the eligible target group is supported in such a manner that any employer who has created a job and occupied it with such a job seeker will be provided a financial contribution for creation of the job. The main goal of the activity 3 is to support the creation of jobs for job seekers

in various industries, to improve the position of the job seekers on the labour market and to increase employment by supporting job creation.

All applications in this activity had to be submitted by 4 December 2020 and local OLSAFs provided the contributions by the end of 2020. The financial contribution was provided to employ 2,607 job seekers and the spending totalled €18,233,608.

Activity 3 was implemented through two measures:

Measure 1

The measure involves providing a financial contribution to an employer that employs a job seeker from the eligible target group if the employment relationship is arranged for at least half of the stipulated weekly working hours: for a definite period of time, for at least 6 months, without the obligation to maintain the job.

Measure 2

The measure involves providing a financial contribution to an employer that employs a job seeker from the eligible target group if the employment relationship is arranged for at least half of the stipulated weekly working hours: for a definite period of time, for at least 9 months, with the obligation to maintain the job for 3 months.

Project "Supporting the employment of job seekers in agriculture"

The aim of the project is to support the creation of jobs for job seekers, mainly long-term unemployed job seekers and job seekers with no education or low education in the area of agriculture. The main activity of the project is provision of a contribution to the employer for the payment of advance compulsory health insurance contributions, social insurance contributions and compulsory old-age pension contributions paid by the employer and the employee. The project involves provision of a financial contribution to an employer who has employed a job seeker from the eligible target group. The contribution is provided on a monthly basis, for a maximum period of 6 months.

For 2020, a total of 50 job seekers were included and the spending totalled €20,257.

National Project "Employment support"

The aim of the NP is to support mobility for people who were job seekers and found a job as well as to increase the employability of disadvantaged job seekers, to support maintaining the working habits, to activate disadvantaged job seekers, to support voluntary service and to develop local and regional employment.

The NP is being implemented through two activities:

Activity 1 Supporting the disadvantaged job seekers to find employment - through providing four types of contributions intended to stimulate the interest of employers in employing disadvantaged job seekers:

- employment contribution for disadvantaged job seekers;
- contribution to support the development of local and regional employment;
- contribution to activation activities in the form of minor municipal services for the municipality or in the form of minor services for the self-governing region;
- contribution to activation activities in the form of voluntary service.

Employment contribution for a disadvantaged job seeker

Local OLSAF may provide a contribution to support the employment of a disadvantaged job seeker to an employer that hires a disadvantaged job seeker kept in the register of job seekers for at least 3 months for the created job, if the employment is arranged at least for half of the established weekly working time and if the employer applies for the contribution in writing. The contribution is provided to pay a part of the total labour costs of an employee for a maximum period of 12 calendar months or for a maximum period of 24 calendar months in the case of a disadvantaged job seeker registered as a job seeker for at least 24 months. The employer is obliged to retain the created job at least to the extent corresponding to half of the agreed period of providing the contribution.

As a result of the exceptional situation and emergency declared due to COVID-19, on 1 April 2020 MoLSAF stopped the commitment. No employees were supported with the contribution and no funds were spent in 2020.

Contribution to support the development of local and regional employment

Local OLSAFs may provide a contribution to an employer who occupies a created job with a disadvantaged job seeker employed for a definite period of time if the disadvantaged job seeker is older than 50 or has lower than secondary vocational education, is registered as a job seeker for at least 3 months, or for at least 12 consecutive months if the employment is arranged at least for half of the established weekly working time. The contribution may

only be provided to an employer who is a municipality, self-governing region or legal entity founded or established by a municipality, or a self-governing region. The contribution shall be provided for a maximum of nine calendar months, without the possibility of its repeated provision for employment of the same employee for a period of two years immediately following the termination of the employment relationship.

As a result of the exceptional situation and emergency declared due to COVID-19, on 1 April 2020 MoLSAF stopped the commitment. No employees were supported with the contribution and no funds were spent in 2020.

Contribution to activation activities in the form of minor municipal services for the municipality or in the form of minor services for the self-governing region

The project involves payment of a contribution to reimburse a part of costs related to performance of minor municipal services for the municipality or minor services for the self-governing region.

In 2020, 2,378 long-term unemployed job seekers, recipients of benefits in material need and contributions to benefits in material need were placed in the activation programmes. The spending totalled €173,920.

Contribution to activation activities in the form of voluntary service

Contributions within the project are paid to legal entities or natural persons to reimburse a part of costs related to the performance of voluntary service. The contribution is provided to cover part of the costs necessary for the qualified performance and operation of voluntary service, for accident insurance of jobs seekers, for the payment of the fee for a document proving the medical fitness of the job seeker, to cover part of the cost of personal protective equipment, tools and other costs related to the performance of voluntary activities and to cover part of the total labour cost of the employee who organizes voluntary service.

During the volunteer service, the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family provides job seeker with a lump-sum contribution in the amount of the subsistence minimum provided to one adult natural person to cover the necessary expenses for meals, accommodation and travel expenses from the place of his/her permanent or temporary residence to the place of the volunteer service.

In 2020, a total of 1,502 job seekers were placed in the activation programmes in the form of voluntary service. The spending totalled €679,499.

Activity 2 Supporting work mobility through provision of three types of contributions:

- contribution to travelling to work;
- contribution to support job mobility;
- contribution to relocation for work.

Contribution to commuting (Section 54)

The contribution is provided monthly to cover part of the travel expenses for commuting from the employee's place of permanent or temporary residence to the place of employment specified in the employment contract and back. In 2020, the contribution was provided to 3,865 persons. The total spending on this contribution amounted to €548,338. The activity was not carried out in 2019.

Contribution to support job mobility (Section 54)

The contribution to support job mobility is provided to cover part of the housing expenses related to the change of residence in connection with obtaining employment for at least six months to the employee who has been on the job seeker register for at least 3 months and who has been removed from the job seeker register for a reason in accordance with the Section 36 (1) (a), if he/she applies for the contribution in writing no later than 3 months from the date of removal from the job seeker register. In 2020, the contribution was provided to 66 persons. The total spending on this contribution amounted to €39,361. The activity was not carried out in 2019.

Contribution to relocation for work (Section 54)

In connection with obtaining employment, the contribution to relocation for work is provided to job seekers as reimbursement of a portion of the costs they demonstrably incur in relocation and the costs of changing the current permanent residence to new permanent residence in the Slovak Republic. In 2020, the contribution was provided to 38 persons. The total spending on this contribution amounted to €27,432. The activity was not carried out in 2019.

Commitment of all contributions within the NP which have an optional nature was suspended on 14 April 2020 due to COVID-19, with the exception of the activation programmes in the form of voluntary service the commitment for which was relaunched on 1 June 2020.

Education of employees (Section 54 (1) (f))

In 2020, education of employees was carried out also under the Section 54 (1) (f) of the Employment Services Act (within regional projects). Local OLSAFs provide contributions to employers for the education of their employees in the maximum amount of 50 % of eligible costs, if the employers continue employing the employees for at least 6 months after the end of the education.

In 2020, the contribution to employee education was provided to 1 employer. 1,537 employees were enrolled in the education, of which 1,156 were men (75.21 %) and 381 women (24.79 %). For this purpose, a total amount of €213,584 was spent by the end of 2020.

Support for job seekers' retraining (Section 54 (1) (d))

Retraining (REPAS+) means preparing a job seeker for finding employment so that he/she acquires professional knowledge and skills in a retraining course. A job seeker who has difficulties finding a job can choose a type of employment for which he/she wishes to retrain and a retraining provider which conducts retraining. A local OLSAF pays the job seeker 100 % of the retraining costs (a retraining course fee), as well as travel and food allowances of €4.76 for each day of attendance at the retraining course.

In 2020, 4,841 job seekers were enrolled on retraining courses, of which 2,228 were men (46.02 %) and 2,613 were women (53.98 %). By age, the largest group comprised job seekers aged 30-49 years (2,266 job seekers, 46.81 %). By level of education, job seekers with full secondary vocational education accounted for the largest share (1,876 job seekers, 38.75 %). Of the total number of job seekers included in a retraining course (REPAS+), 3,359 were disadvantaged (69.39 %) and the largest group under Section 8 of the Employment Services Act consisted of those job seekers who had no regularly paid employment for at least 12 consecutive calendar months before being registered as job seekers (2,283 job seekers, 47.16 %).

In 2020, the allowance to support job seekers' retraining was provided to 5,416 job seekers. The total spending on the provision of this allowance was €4,158,319, of which €3,570,011 was spent on retraining course fees and €588,308 was spent on travel and food allowances.

Support for job seekers' core competencies (Section 54 (1) (d))

Competency courses (KOMPAS+) support selected job seekers' core competencies they can use on the labour market, such as communication skills (including social competencies), personal development (including managerial and entrepreneurial competencies), computer skills, language skills. With a view to strengthening core competencies, a job seeker can choose a competency course he/she wishes to attend and a competency course provider that conducts such competency course. A local OLSAF pays the job seeker 100 % of the competency course costs (a competency course fee), as well as travel and food allowances of €4.76 for each day of attendance at the competency course.

In 2020, 1,072 job seekers were enrolled on competency courses. The total number of included job seekers consisted of 398 males (37.13 %) and 674 females (62.87 %). By age, the largest group comprised job seekers aged 30-49 years (559 job seekers, 52.15 %). By level of education, job seekers with second-level degree – master's degree accounted for the largest share (376 job seekers, 35.07 %). Of the total number of job seekers included in a competency course (KOMPAS+), 674 were disadvantaged (62.87 %) and the largest group under Section 8 of the Employment Services Act consisted of those job seekers who had no regularly paid employment for at least 12 consecutive calendar months before being registered as job seekers (472 job seekers, 44.03 %).

In 2020, the allowance to support job seekers' core competencies was provided to 1,399 job seekers. The total spending on the provision of this allowance was €1,163,077, of which €944,749 was spent on retraining course fees and €218,327 was spent on travel and food allowances.

Project "Ready for Work" (Section 54 (1) (d))

The project "Ready for Work" is implemented in accordance with the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic on the Basis for Measures to Remove Barriers to the Sustainable Development of the Automotive Industry in Slovakia. This project is divided into 2 phases and its implementation is ensured by an external provider selected in 2017 by COLSAF in cooperation with MoLSAF in accordance with the Act No. 343/2015 Coll. on Public Procurement and on amendments and supplements to certain acts, as amended. Phase 1 is characterised by the implementation of the Inclusive Education programme aimed at increasing the competencies necessary for easier placement of project participants in engineering and automotive manufacturing. Upon completion of Inclusive Education, job seekers are prepared for the position of production operator. Phase 2 of the project is focused on vocational trainings in accredited training programmes (Mechatronic Engineer, Industrial Mechanic, Toolmaker, Jigs Mechanic, Electrical Automation Technician, Auto-Electrician, Auto-Mechanic, Mechatronic Engineer in

Automotive Industry, Logistics and Warehouse Management Worker, CNC Machine Operator, Metalworker, Machine Engineer – Locksmith and Automation Worker in Engineering Manufacturing). The target group is composed of participants selected from the first phase of the project.

In 2020, 1,998 job seekers were involved in the project. The total number of job seekers consisted of 1,125 males (56.30 %) and 873 females (43.70 %). By age, the largest group comprised job seekers aged 30-49 years (917 job seekers, 45.90 %). By level of education of job seekers, the largest share (34.43 %) was recorded for job seekers with primary education (688 persons). Of the total number of job seekers included, 1,626 were disadvantaged (81.38 %) and the largest group under Section 8 of the Employment Services Act consisted of those job seekers who had no regularly paid employment for at least 12 consecutive calendar months before being registered as job seekers (1,249 job seekers, 62.51 %).

The total amount of funds paid in 2020 on the "Ready for Work" project reached €3,528,611, of which the €3,015,209 was paid to the external provider as a contribution to the course fees and flat-rate contributions paid to job seekers amounted to €513,402.

Regional project "Targeted education of job seekers" (Section 54 (1) (d))

The regional project "Targeted education of job seekers" is implemented in accordance with the Section 54 (1) (d) of the Employment Services Act. The aim of the project is to increase the chance of job seekers to find employment by supporting their targeted education in order to increase their competitiveness on the labour market.

In 2020, 42 agreements in the agreed amount of €239,873 were concluded within the project. Two job changers were included in the targeted education, both of them men aged 30 – 49.

Since the project began to be implemented in November 2020, no funds were paid for 2020.

"First Aid" project

In April 2020, COLSAF and local OLSAFs started to implement a "First Aid" project the aim of which was to support employers to maintain jobs by providing contributions to the employers, and to support self-employed persons to continue operating their businesses, due to declaration and continuation of the exceptional situation. The project helped mitigate the economic impacts on employment as a result of the spread of COVID-19 and the subsequently declared exceptional situation and the related measures taken. In order to minimize any additional negative economic and social consequences of the worsened epidemiological situation in the second half of 2020, in October 2020 the "First Aid" project was replaced by a new "First Aid+" framework which was a follow-up of the "First Aid" project and which extended the range of the aid and enlarged the group of eligible persons with higher amounts of aid for a larger group of people hit by the pandemic.

The main activity of the project was focused on providing financial contributions to support maintenance of jobs to employers who have maintained job/s in spite of the continuous presence of serious operational reasons for which the employers have temporarily interrupted or restricted their business activities, with an aim to strengthen a structurally stable employment, and on providing financial contributions to self-employed persons to continue operating their businesses. The contributions are not provided to support maintenance of the job of an employee whose employment was supported by a different contribution for wage/total price of labour of the employee within other ALMM instruments during the same period of time. Four measures were implemented within the main activity of the project:

Measure 1: Support for employers who at the time of declaration of emergency, state of emergency or exceptional situation closed their places of business or prohibited their operations based on a Public Health Authority ("PHA") measure.

Eligible applicant: employer (except for public administration bodies), including self-employed persons who are employers, who maintains jobs during the declared exceptional situation, even if the employer is obliged to interrupt or restrict their operational activities based on a PHA measure (or decision of a different competent authority).

In 2020, 33,519 entities and within them 169,759 employees/self-employed persons were supported by the measure. The financial contribution provided for such measure totalled €64,950,150.80, while the average support per one working person reached €382.60.

Measure 2: Support for self-employed persons who at the time of declaration of emergency, state of emergency or exceptional situation closed their places of business or prohibited their operations based on a PHA measure or whose revenues decreased.

Eligible applicant: self-employed person who interrupted or restricted performance or operation of their self-employment activities based on a PHA measure (or decision of a different competent authority) or whose revenues decreased during the period of time when the exceptional situation was declared.

In 2020, 359,814 self-employed persons were supported by the measure. The financial contribution provided for such measure totalled €180,046,660.70, while the average support per one self-employed person reached €500.39.

Measure 3: Support for employers hit by the exceptional situation.

Eligible applicant: employer (except for public administration bodies), including self-employed persons who are employers, who maintains jobs during the declared exceptional situation, even if the employer interrupts or restricts their operational activities or if their revenues decrease.

Option 3A - compensation of wages of the employees whom the employer cannot assign work tasks due to an obstacle on the part of the employer.

38,385 entities and within them 749,689 employees/self-employed persons were supported by the measure in 2020. The financial contribution provided for such measure totalled €218,124,281.15, while the average support per one working person reached €290.95.

Option 3B - flat-rate contribution to reimburse a part of wage costs for each employee, depending on the decrease of the employer's revenues.

144,197 entities and within them as many as 1,652,536 employees/self-employed persons were supported by the measure in 2020. The financial contribution provided for such measure totalled €508,534,504.99, while the average support per one working person reached €307.73.

Measure 4: Support of selected groups of self-employed persons who have no other income at the time of declaration of the exceptional situation.

Eligible applicant: self-employed person who has had no income (from business, non-business and employment activities) since 13 March 2020 and who has interrupted performance/operation of their activities but has not suspended or cancelled the license enabling their performance/operation.

87,984 self-employed persons were supported by the measure in 2020. The financial contribution provided for such measure totalled €20,226,449, while the average support per one self-employed person reached €229.89.

The total amount of funds provided within the "First Aid" project for 2020 reached €991,882,047, while the actual spending as of 31 December 2020 totalled €770,397,613.

"Compensation Project – First Aid" (Section 54 (1) (e))

The "Compensation Project – First Aid" (hereinafter referred to as the "Compensation Project") is implemented to support the employers or self-employed persons who have applied for a financial contribution within a wrong measure of the "First Aid" project, as a result of what they were obliged to return the contribution which they were not eligible to. The aim was to support the highest possible number of eligible applicants, what in end effect helped maintain employment during the period of time when the exceptional situation and the emergency were declared.

The Compensation Project is subject to the conditions of the Notification of the possibility to submit applications for the provision of financial contributions within the "First Aid" project. Approval of the support within the project is conditioned by assessing the eligibility for the contribution by a COLSAF committee.

260 applicants were supported with an amount of €345,236 from the state budget within the Compensation Project in 2020.

Project "Supporting the maintenance of employment in kindergartens"

"Supporting the maintenance of employment in kindergartens" project was implemented through local OLSAFs as ALMM in accordance with the Section 54 (1) (e) of the Employment Services Act. The aim of the project was to support kindergartens to maintain jobs in the form of providing financial contributions to reimburse a part of wage costs due to declaration and continuation of the exceptional situation and elimination of its consequences.

The amount of the contributions earmarked for the implementation totalled €86,319,581.

The main activity of the project was provision of financial contributions to maintain jobs in kindergartens.

Eligible applicant: employer who during the period of time when the emergency, state of emergency or exceptional situation is declared maintains jobs in the kindergarten, even if the employer is obliged to interrupt or restrict their operational activities based on a PHA measure.

For the purposes of the project, 'employer' is:

- kindergarten with legal personality;
- founder of a kindergarten, in the case of a kindergarten without legal personality.

Eligible target group:

- pedagogical and professional staff employed in kindergartens in accordance with the applicable legislation or with the founder, who perform their work in the kindergarten, if the kindergarten has no legal personality;
- non-pedagogical staff employed in kindergartens or with the founder, who perform their work in the kindergarten, if the kindergarten has no legal personality.

Eligible expenses: eligible expense means a contribution for reimbursement of a part of the wage of an employee in the amount of 80 % of the employee's gross monthly wage, in the maximum amount of €1,100 per employee per month.

Employers could apply for the contribution in the form of a refund of a part of their wage costs for the period from 13 March 2020 to 30 June 2020. Applications for the financial contribution could be submitted from 15 July 2020 to 31 December 2020. The aid was provided to employers as a single reimbursement of eligible expenses.

The total amount of the provided funds for 2020 reached €59,366,303 while the actual spending totalled €59,343,89.

In 2020, contributions to support the employment of persons with disabilities were financed within the national project "Support for employment of persons with disabilities 4" in accordance with the Part 8 of the Employment Services Act, namely:

Contribution to establishing a sheltered workshop or sheltered workplace (Section 56)

A local OLSAF may provide a contribution to establishing a sheltered workshop or workplace to an employer who employs a disabled citizen registered as a job seeker for at least one month by placing him/her to a job created in such sheltered workshop or workplace. The contribution is provided to cover part of the costs of establishing a workplace for disabled citizen in sheltered workshop/sheltered workplace, which are necessary to ensure the performance of work activities of disabled citizen and are related to the establishment of this job. The amount of the contribution is linked to the total labour cost calculated from the average wage of the employee in the economy of the Slovak Republic, and it is also dependent on the average registered unemployment rate in the district in which the employer establishes the sheltered workshop/sheltered workplace. The duration of retention of an established job in the sheltered workshop/sheltered workplace is at least 2 years.

In 2020, this contribution supported 22 jobs (94 jobs in 2019), in which 43 disabled citizens (123 in 2019) were placed; the total spending on this ALMM reached €129,396 (€443,273 in 2019).

Contribution to retaining the employment of a disabled citizen (Section 56a)

A local OLSAF may provide an employer who employs more than 25 % disabled citizens of the average registered number of employees under Section 63 (3) of the Act and does not have the status of a sheltered workshop or workplace with a contribution to retaining the employment of a disabled citizen if it applies for such contribution in writing. The contribution is provided to the employer for the payment of advance compulsory health insurance contributions, social insurance contributions and compulsory old-age pension contributions paid by the employer on a monthly basis from the wages of an employee who is a disabled citizen. The contribution is provided based on a written agreement concluded between a local OLSAF and the employer.

In 2020, this ALMM supported 24 disabled citizens. The total spending on this measure amounted to €46,589.33 (a year-on-year decrease in the number of the supported persons with disabilities by 8 and a drop in the total spending of €6,428.32).

Contribution to self-employment of a disabled citizen (Section 57)

The Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family may provide a contribution to disabled citizen for self-employment operated at the sheltered workplace for a continuous period of at least two years. The contribution is provided to job seeker - disabled citizen who will operate a trade under the Trade Licensing Act or carry out agricultural production, including forest management, according to the Act on Private Enterprise of Citizens. The amount of the contribution depends on the legally defined multiple of the total labour costs and the average registered unemployment rate in the particular district.

17 job seekers were supported through the contribution in 2020, which is 37 job seekers less than in 2019. In 2020, the total amount spent was €123,871, which is €197,050 less than in 2019. On 1 April 2020, provision of the

contribution which there is no legal entitlement to was suspended based on a decision of the Minister in relation to the exceptional situation declared due to COVID-19.

Contribution to activities of an assistant at work (Section 59)

A contribution to activities of an assistant at work is provided to an employer who employs a disabled citizen or a self-employed person who is a disabled citizen. The contribution is provided if the need for a job assistant arises from the type of disability and the working activity performed by disabled citizen. The maximum amount of the contribution is 70% of the total labour cost as defined by the Employment Services Act.

In 2020, local OLSAFs supported 890 (843 in 2019) beneficiaries (of which 471 were employers and 419 self-employed persons with disabilities), with a total of 1,229 work assistants being assigned to work assistant posts, representing a decrease of 24 work assistants compared to 2019.

In 2020, the total spending on these contributions reached €7,246,594 (representing a year-on-year increase of €647,166).

Contribution to cover the operating costs of a sheltered workshop or sheltered workplace and transportation costs of employees (Section 60)

The Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family provides an employer for employing disabled citizen in a sheltered workshop or sheltered workplace or a self-employed person who is a disabled citizen and who operates or pursues self-employment at a sheltered workplace with a contribution to the operating costs of the sheltered workshop or sheltered workplace and to cover the transport costs of the employees, if the employer applies for the contribution in writing. The contribution is provided based on a written agreement concluded between a local OLSAF and the employer or between a local OLSAF and the self-employed person with disability.

8,814 disabled citizens employed in a sheltered workshop or sheltered workplace were supported through the measure in 2020 (year-on-year drop by 666 disabled citizens). The total spending on the contributions to cover these costs reached €32,056,936, representing a year-on-year increase of €34,666.

Table 9 Monthly Labour Costs per Employee in SR in 2019 by Economic Activities

in €/employee/month

Sections according to SK NACE Rev.2	Total labour costs	direct costs – total	of which					subsidies
			wages	payments for days not worked	indirect costs – total	statutory social security contributions	supplementary social security contributions	
Average for SR	1,702	1,239	1,076	152	464	426	9	-1
A Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1,378	998	866	123	380	347	5	-2
B Mining and quarrying	1,819	1,288	1,105	172	531	450	24	-
C Manufacturing	1,714	1,239	1,070	163	475	429	11	-0
D Electricity, gas, steam and air-condition supply	2,630	1,859	1,578	241	771	648	37	-23
E Water supply	1,463	1,066	914	139	419	371	17	-0
F Construction	1,484	1,087	939	137	397	374	4	-0
G Wholesale and retail	1,640	1,200	1,049	130	440	412	4	-11
H Transportation and storage	1,525	1,103	961	136	433	391	13	-0

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I Accommodation and food service activities	1,068	782	700	80	285	271	1	-1
J Information and communication	2,953	2,173	1,906	234	782	729	10	-3
K Financial and insurance activities	2,914	2,090	1,811	261	824	703	27	-
L Real estate activities	1,611	1,182	1,042	134	428	398	4	-0
M Professional, scientific and technical activities	2,145	1,583	1,387	173	562	531	8	-0
N Administrative and support service activities	1,286	940	828	104	346	324	3	-0
O Public administration and defense	1,772	1,283	1,142	134	489	436	16	-0
P Education	1,590	1,158	963	192	432	402	9	-0
Q Health and social work activities	1,729	1,270	1,099	146	460	436	8	-1
R Arts, entertainment and recreation	1,444	1,061	946	112	383	358	4	-
S Other service activities	1,188	873	773	96	315	301	2	-1

Source: SO SR, Total labour costs survey

Explanation:(-) – no occurrence

Table 11 Number of Social Enterprise Facilities by Types in 2020

Registered enterprise type	2020
Integration social enterprise	201
General type of registered social enterprise	25
Social housing enterprise	2
Total	228

Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

Table 12 Number of Registered Social Enterprises in the Least Developed Districts (LDD) in 2020

RSE name	District	LDD
KUKURIENKA, civic association Bariak, s.r.o. Obecný podnik Vinica, s.r.o. PAPUČA VK s.r.o. ATAX SERVICE s.r.o. ERCE pack, s.r.o. COBAK, s.r.o. PRIMA TIMBER s.r.o.	Veľký Krtíš	8
Obecný podnik Kľušov, s. r. o. Služby Šarišské Čierne, s.r.o. ZBOR - STAV, s.r.o. OP Varadka, s.r.o. Obecný podnik Beloveža s. r. o. JAS Bardejov, s. r. o.	Bardejov	6
SWEET REVELATION s.r.o., r.s.p. ALLEGRIA KOŠICE ISP, s. r. o. SP-Cesty s.r.o. MIJAST s.r.o. CHUŤ BIO,s.r.o. AGAPE LUX s.r.o.	Košice-okolie	6
ABALSTAV spol. s r.o. SINTEGRA s.r.o. TVORÍME, s.r.o., r.s.p. DRAHŇOV - služby, s.r.o., r.s.p. LIPA s.r.o.	Michalovce	5
BUZGÓ s.r.o. Obecný podnik služieb Betliar, s.r.o. GEMGAL s.r.o. Rejdovka s.r.o. TK HORSE SPORT s. r. o. s. p.	Rožňava	5
SEMY s.r.o. registrovaný sociálny podnik Sociálny podnik mesta Levoča, s.r.o. Dvakrát dobre, civic association	Levoča	3
SortPro s.r.o. Eustach s.r.o.	Trebišov	2
DOZA, výrobné družstvo Jumilso, s. r. o.	Sobrance	2
Sociálny podnik Lenka s. r. o. Handy služby, s.r.o.	Rimavská Sobota	2
Sociálny podnik Toporec, s. r. o.	Kežmarok	1
Lilly enviro, s.r.o.	Sabinov	1
Total		41

Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

ANNEX TO CHAPTER 3

Table 1 Basic Sickness Insurance Fund (BSIF) Expenditure and Sickness Benefits in 2020

Paid benefits (in thous. €)	January	February	March	April	May	June	1st half of 2020
Sickness benefit	41,261.0	41,317.6	42,859.9	51,214.3	61,307.5	52,718.3	290,678.6
<i>of which pandemic benefit</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,709.5	3,229.7	1,380.6	6,319.8
Nursing benefit	1,701.9	1,667.3	2,996.7	15,428.5	46,654.4	45,291.3	113,740.2
<i>of which pandemic benefit</i>	0.0	0.0	0.0	13,045.8	45,934.9	44,935.0	103,915.7
Maternity benefit	25,826.0	25,889.3	23,957.8	25,362.6	24,628.2	26,000.1	151,664.0
Equalization benefit	5.8	5.7	6.4	6.1	2.3	6.7	33.0
Total	68,794.8	68,879.9	69,820.8	92,011.4	132,592.5	124,016.5	556,115.9
Clearance of benefits Section 112 (9)	0.0	-0.9	3.5	0.0	-0.1	0.0	2.6
Total BSIF expenditures	68,794.8	68,879.0	69,824.3	92,011.4	132,592.5	124,016.5	556,118.4
of which pandemic benefit	0.0	0.0	0.0	14,755.3	49,164.6	46,315.6	110,235.5

Paid benefits (in thous. €)	July	August	September	October	November	December	2020
Sickness benefit	44,582.6	43,951.2	43,024.0	41,574.8	52,789.2	63,704.7	580,305.1
<i>of which pandemic benefit</i>	788.3	548.4	913.0	1,463.3	8,306.5	17,873.7	36,213.1
Nursing benefit	17,688.1	7,543.6	7,016.7	2,532.4	2,928.2	3,044.4	154,493.6
<i>of which pandemic benefit</i>	17,194.9	6,859.7	6,421.4	2,100.7	2,535.8	2,768.4	141,796.6
Maternity benefit	25,636.4	26,845.8	26,908.4	25,903.1	26,441.3	25,129.3	308,528.23
Equalization benefit	3.6	3.3	4.2	6.1	4.6	7.3	62.1
Total	87,910.6	78,343.9	76,953.3	70,016.4	82,163.4	91,885.6	1,043,389.1
Clearance of benefits Section 112 (9)	0.0	0.0	-2.1	2.1	-3.5	0.0	-0.9
Total BSIF expenditures	87,910.6	78,343.9	76,951.2	70,018.5	82,159.9	91,885.6	1,043,388.2
of which pandemic benefit	17,983.2	7,408.1	7,334.4	3,563.9	10,842.3	20,642.1	178,009.7

Source: Social Insurance Agency

Table 1 Basic Sickness Insurance Fund (BSIF) Expenditure and Sickness Benefits in 2020 (continued)

Number of cases of settled benefits	January	February	March	April	May	June	1st half of 2020
Sickness benefit	129,785	134,966	143,257	193,587	195,391	146,830	943,816
<i>of which pandemic benefit</i>				19,915	27,627	9,187	56,729
Nursing benefit	14,937	14,108	24,854	80,407	149,856	131,852	416,014
<i>of which pandemic benefit</i>				62,289	144,096	129,002	335,387
Maternity benefit	34,028	34,275	33,205	32,808	32,412	32,879	199,607
Equalization benefit	59	52	70	56	31	45	313
Total	178,809	183,401	201,386	306,858	377,690	311,606	1,559,750
of which pandemic benefit				82,204	171,723	138,189	392,116

Number of cases of settled benefits	July	August	September	October	November	December	2020
Sickness benefit	125,596	120,113	119,299	122,236	181,358	232,849	1,845,267
<i>of which pandemic benefit</i>	5,315	3,142	4,960	9,977	51,948	102,333	234,404
Nursing benefit	56,264	26,217	24,060	15,840	23,692	20,608	582,695
<i>of which pandemic benefit</i>	52,444	21,305	20,058	12,569	20,687	18,472	480,922
Maternity benefit	32,947	33,154	33,307	33,030	32,579	32,051	396,675
Equalization benefit	25	26	29	55	37	47	532
Total	214,832	179,510	176,695	171,161	237,666	285,555	2,825,169
of which pandemic benefit	57,759	24,447	25,018	22,546	72,635	120,805	715,326

Source: Social Insurance Agency

Average monthly amount of benefit in €	January	February	March	April	May	June	1st half of 2020
Sickness benefit	319.1	307.2	300.2	265.6	314.9	360.5	308.0
<i>of which pandemic benefit</i>				85.8	116.9	150.3	111.4
Nursing benefit	114.4	118.7	120.9	192.3	312.0	344.1	273.4
<i>of which pandemic benefit</i>				209.4	318.8	348.3	309.8
Maternity benefit	759.5	755.7	721.7	773.6	760.3	791.2	759.8
Equalization benefit	98.2	109.2	91.8	108.7	75.9	149.0	105.5
of which pandemic benefit	319.1	307.2	300.2	265.6	314.9	360.5	308.0

Average monthly amount of benefit in €	July	August	September	October	November	December	2020
Sickness benefit	356.4	367.3	361.7	341.2	292.0	274.4	315.6
<i>of which pandemic benefit</i>	148.3	174.5	184.1	146.7	159.9	174.7	154.5
Nursing benefit	315.4	288.7	292.3	160.5	124.0	148.2	265.8

of which pandemic benefit	327.9	322.0	320.1	167.1	122.6	149.9	294.8
Maternity benefit	778.6	810.3	808.3	784.7	812.2	784.5	778.3
Equalization benefit	142.2	128.0	144.0	111.5	124.6	155.7	116.8
of which pandemic benefit	356.4	367.3	361.7	341.2	292.0	274.4	315.6

Source: Social Insurance Agency

Type of benefit	Number of beneficiaries			Average monthly amount of benefit in €		
	men	women	total	men	women	total
Sickness (including the beneficiaries of pandemic benefits)	394,887	418,768	813,655	326.7	303.8	315.6
Nursing (including the beneficiaries of pandemic benefits)	115,945	219,452	335,397	299.0	248.1	265.8
Maternity benefit	14,881	63,425	78,306	973.7	736.1	778.3
Equalization benefit	-	228	228	-	116.8	116.8
Total	525,713	701,873	1,227,586	-	-	331.4

Source: Social Insurance Agency

Table 2 Number of Beneficiaries of Solo Paid Pensions and Overlapping with Widow's/Widower's Pension as of 31 December 2020

Pension type	Number of beneficiaries of solo old-age pensions (separately)	Number of beneficiaries of pensions paid overlapping (with widow's/widower's pension)	Total pensioners
Old-age	794,903	298,293	1,093,196
Early old-age	11,596	607	12,203
Disability (including 18,010 persons disabled at youth)	243,711	7,760	251,471
Widow's – solo	28,482	x	28,482
Widower's – solo	5,453	x	5,453
Orphan's	19,666	x	19,666
Spousal pension	199	x	199
Social	1,206	x	1,206
Total	1,105,216	306,660	1,411,876

Source: Social Insurance Agency

Table 3 Number of Pension Beneficiaries and Amount of Solo Pension Insurance Benefits by Sex

Pension type	Number of beneficiaries as at 31 December 2020	Average amount as at 31 December 2020
Old-age	1,093,195	487.4
men	440,245	534.6
women	652,950	440.3
Early old-age	12,203	474.5
men	7,064	510.6
women	5,139	421.7
Disability	233,461	284.5
men	114,487	307.6
women	118,974	261.3
Widow's (women) solo	28,482	272.5
Widower's (men) solo	5,453	217.9
Orphan's	19,666	142.7
men	5,969	138.6
women	13,697	144.5
Total	1,392,460	x

Source: Social Insurance Agency

Table 4 Breakdown of Pension Beneficiaries by Pension Amount as at 31 December 2020

Amount of pension in €	Number of beneficiaries of pensions: total for men and women					
	Old-age solo + old-age paid overlapping with widow's and widower's pension	Early old-age solo + early old-age paid overlapping with widow's and widower's pension	Disability solo + disability overlapping with widow's and widower's pension	Widow's – solo	Widower's – solo	Orphan's
up to 130	5,175	8	13,375	1,049	441	9,626
130.1 – 200	12,552	17	62,020	3,663	1,935	6,826
200.1 – 265	17,770	326	47,390	9,375	1,962	1,980
265.1 – 325	24,294	1,870	40,094	8,622	725	747
325.1 – 425	308,003	3,415	57,030	4,252	298	395
425.1 – 530	355,421	2,835	19,395	1112	70	76
530.1 – 665	234,101	1,949	7,785	350	18	15
over 665.1	135,880	1,783	4,382	59	4	1
Total	1,093,196	12,203	251,471	28,482	5,453	19,666

Source: Social Insurance Agency

* including disability at youth pensions

Table 5 Overview of Expenditure on Pension Benefits as at 31 December 2020

	Basic old-age insurance fund (BOAIF) in thous. €	Basic disability insurance fund (BDIF) in thous. €	Total in thous. €
Pension type	Expenditure	Expenditure	Expenditure
Old-age	6,097,062	x	6,097,062
Early old-age	90,073	x	90,073
Disability	x	825,245	825,245
Widow's	537,994	95,217	633,211
Widower's	61,859	14,524	76,383
Orphan's	1,495	35,038	36,533
Total	6,788,483	970,024	7,758,507
clearance of benefits Section 112 (9) of Act No. 461/2003 Coll.	131	413	544
sum	6,788,614	970,437	7,759,051
State-paid benefits			
spousal pension			51
social pension			3,955
increase for immobility			2,677
increase due to sole source of income			10
pension increase for resistance, rehabilitation and deportation			2,568
pension supplement for political prisoners			3,555
pension supplement for participation in the national fight for liberation and for widows and widowers of such persons			1,515
single financial contribution for political prisoners in accordance with the Act No. 462/2002 Coll.			0
supplementary allowances for social service			498
disability at youth pension			69,338
increasing the amount of the old-age pension and the amount of the disability pension paid after reaching the retirement age to the amount of the minimum pension and payment of expenses related to proceedings on entitlements			89,673
supplementary benefit			521
contribution for a sport representative			64
Christmas contribution – additional payment for previous years			3,150
13th pension – 2020			300,149
Total			477,724
Total sum			8,236,775

Source: Social Insurance Agency

Table 6 Basic Accident Insurance Fund (BAIF) Expenditure in 2020

in thous. €

Benefits by types	January	February	March	April	May	June	1st half of 2020
additional accidental benefit	454	519	429	438	454	427	2,721
injuries annuity	2,264	2,368	2,334	2,360	2,382	2,408	14,116
supplementary single equalization	8	8	6	8	6	9	45
survivor's injuries annuity	26	28	28	27	26	26	161
lump-sum compensation	22	0	14	29	44	18	127
professional rehabilitation and rehabilitation benefit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
retraining and retraining benefit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
compensation for pain and suffering and compensation for difficulties with social reintegration	1,258	975	1,091	1,203	1,095	1,195	6,817
compensation of expenses related to medical treatment	20	9	14	10	6	11	69
compensation of expenses related to funeral	5	4	5	0	1	0	15
payment of insurance benefits from previous years	0	6	0	3	0	42	51
Total	4,058	3,915	3,921	4,077	4,014	4,137	24,123
clearance of benefits in accordance with the Section 112 (8)	-4	-2	-2	-35	-6	-4	-53
18 % transfer of funds to BOAIF for receiving the injuries annuity	304	284	299	301	312	310	1,809
Total BAIF expenditures	4,357	4,197	4,218	4,343	4,320	4,443	25,879
Benefits by types	July	August	September	October	November	December	2020
additional accidental benefit	418	438	424	423	451	429	5,304
injuries annuity	2,416	2,343	2,283	2,425	2,327	2,304	28,214
supplementary single equalization	6	9	3	11	4	8	87
survivor's injuries annuity	26	26	24	28	27	26	320
lump-sum compensation	0	118	69	12	52	0	377
professional rehabilitation and rehabilitation benefit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
retraining and retraining benefit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
compensation for pain and suffering and compensation for difficulties with social reintegration	1,058	794	883	995	1,186	882	12,615
compensation of expenses related to medical treatment	12	9	12	20	19	13	154
compensation of expenses related to funeral	4	9	3	4	7	1	43
payment of insurance benefits from previous years	0	5	0	1	0	0	57
Total	3,941	3,751	3,702	3,920	4,073	3,662	47,172

clearance of benefits in accordance with the Section 112 (8)	-5	-2	-11	-4	-8	-21	-104
18 % transfer of funds to BOAIF for receiving the injuries annuity	317	331	305	290	345	301	3,697
Total BAIF expenditures	4,254	4,079	3,996	4,205	4,410	3,943	50,766

Source: Social Insurance Agency

Table 7 Average Amounts and Numbers of Paid Accident Insurance Benefits in 2020

Accident benefit type	Total number of paid benefits as of 31 December 2020	Average amount of paid accident insurance benefit in €
Compensation for a loss of income during the period of incapacity for work*	0	0
Compensation for a loss of income after the end of the period of incapacity for work	0	0
Compensation for a loss of pension	0	0
Compensation of survivors' subsistence costs	0	0
Compensation for pain and suffering	2	471
Compensation for difficulties with social reintegration	5	12,478
Compensation of expenses related to medical treatment	26	52
Compensation of expenses related to funeral	0	0
Lump-sum compensation of survivors	0	0
Compensation for a loss of income during the period of incapacity for work after 1 January 2004	0	0
Compensation for pain and suffering in accordance with the Section 99 of the Social Insurance Act**	6,522	883
Compensation for difficulties with social reintegration in accordance with the Section 99 of the Social Insurance Act	1,284	5,348
Compensation of expenses related to medical treatment in accordance with the Section 100 of the Social Insurance Act	797	196
Compensation of expenses related to funeral in accordance with the Section 101 of the Social Insurance Act	23	1,951
Lump-sum settlement in accordance with the Section 90 of the Social Insurance Act	37	2,407
Lump-sum compensation in accordance with the Section 94 of the Social Insurance Act	20	18,795
Additional accidental benefit in accordance with the Section 85 of the Social Insurance Act	27,354	194
Professional rehabilitation and rehabilitation benefit	0	0
Retraining and retraining benefit	0	0
Injuries annuity	85,203	337.0
Survivor's injuries annuity	2,020	165.6

Source: Social Insurance Agency

* Benefits specified in lines 1 – 10 are paid in accordance with the legislation effective until 31 December 2003

** Benefits specified in lines 11 – 23 are paid in accordance with the Social Insurance Act (including reclassified injuries annuities)

Table 8 State-paid Accident Insurance Benefits

	Amount of paid benefits in 2020 (in thous. €)
Compensation of occupational accidents and occupational diseases of employees of cancelled employers founded by the state or the National Property Fund of the Slovak Republic	385
Settlements resulting from the employer's liability for damage in the case of occupational accidents and occupational diseases occurring before 1 April 2002 at employers' who had a position of a state authority in accordance with a special regulation	43
Accident benefits provided to persons specified in the Section 17 (2) and (3) of the Social Insurance Act	12
Liability of the state for the damage to the health of soldiers doing obligatory military service (settlement in accordance with the Section 293 (6))	19

Source: Social Insurance Agency

Table 9 Basic Guarantee Insurance Fund (BGIF) Expenditure in 2020

Period	BGIF expenditure in thous. €		
	for guarantee insurance benefits	settlement of contributions to old-age pension saving	Total
January	95	1,645.6	1,741.0
February	433	1,612.9	2,045.5
March	88	1,453.4	1,541.9
April	285	1,806.5	2,091.8
May	286	2,232.4	2,518.8
June	312	1,690.1	2,002.6
July	322	1,987.4	2,309.1
August	229	1,608.6	1,837.1
September	954	1,829.0	2,782.6
October	485	1,822.9	2,307.7
November	16	1,715.8	1,731.5
December	97	1,851.2	1,948.5
2020	3,602.3	21,255.8	24,858.1

Source: Social Insurance Agency

Table 10 Paid Unemployment Benefits, Number of Cases and Average Benefit Amount in 2020

Month	Number of recipients of the paid unemployment benefits		Number of paid unemployment benefits		Average unemployment benefit amount in €		Total expenses on the benefits in thous. €	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
January	34,012	38,118	38,255	42,370	427.4	463.8	16,336	19,608
February	36,763	40,887	41,792	46,200	419.0	452.0	17,499	20,851
March	35,607	39,698	40,473	45,094	389.3	432.1	15,714	19,461
April	35,165	38,010	39,876	42,572	418.0	450.2	16,667	19,125
May	34,162	50,132	38,439	61,350	418.1	428.8	16,044	26,313
June	35,271	64,111	40,311	85,559	439.3	412.6	17,714	35,311
July	35,507	69,020	39,767	83,351	436.2	425.2	17,342	35,363
August	37,378	72,573	41,818	86,424	452.0	442.7	18,879	38,241
September	38,395	76,033	42,975	90,649	462.1	428.9	19,843	38,815
October	39,065	53,612	43,620	59,836	440.9	443.6	19,201	26,417
November	37,972	48,033	42,359	53,648	460.3	467.7	19,482	24,973
December	38,694	47,428	43,295	54,459	447.1	453.6	19,352	24,617
Total	137,086	171,410	492,980	751,512	x	x	214,073	329,094
Average	36,499	53,138	41,082	62,626	437.0	441.0	x	x

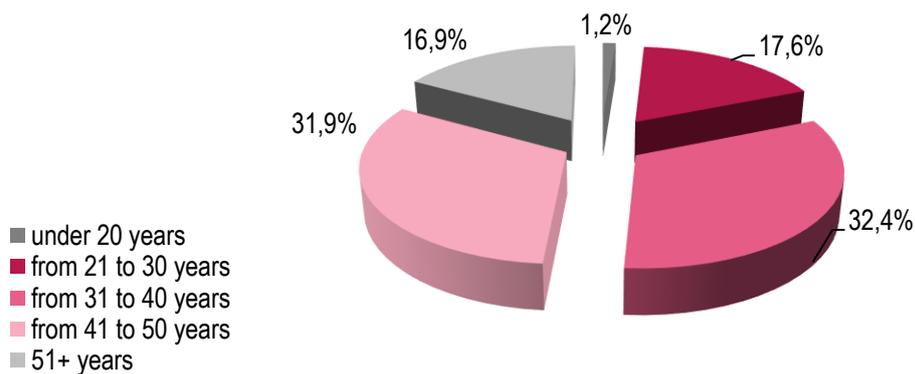
Source: Social Insurance Agency

Table 11 Number of Unemployment Benefit Recipients by Age and Gender in 2020

Age groups	Sex		total
	men	women	
under 19 years	11	13	24
20 – 24 years	6,123	4,658	10,781
25 – 29 years	12,755	10,804	23,559
30 – 34 years	12,840	11,579	24,419
35 – 39 years	11,691	12,074	23,765
40 – 44 years	11,104	12,347	23,451
45 – 49 years	9,385	11,105	20,490
50 – 54 years	8,109	9,516	17,625
55 – 59 years	7,971	8,946	16,917
over 60 years	5,867	4,409	10,276
unknown	53	50	103
Total	85,909	85,501	171,410

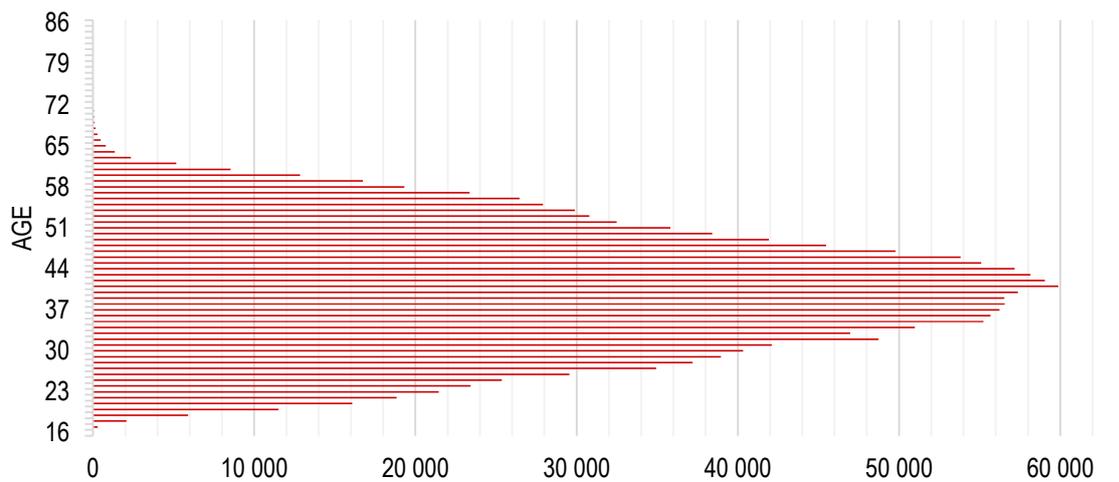
Source: Social Insurance Agency

Graph 1 Distribution of Savers in the II. Pillar by Age as at 31 December 2020



Source: Social Insurance Agency, processed by: MoLSAF

Graph 2 Age Distribution of Savers in the II. Pillar as at 31 December 2020



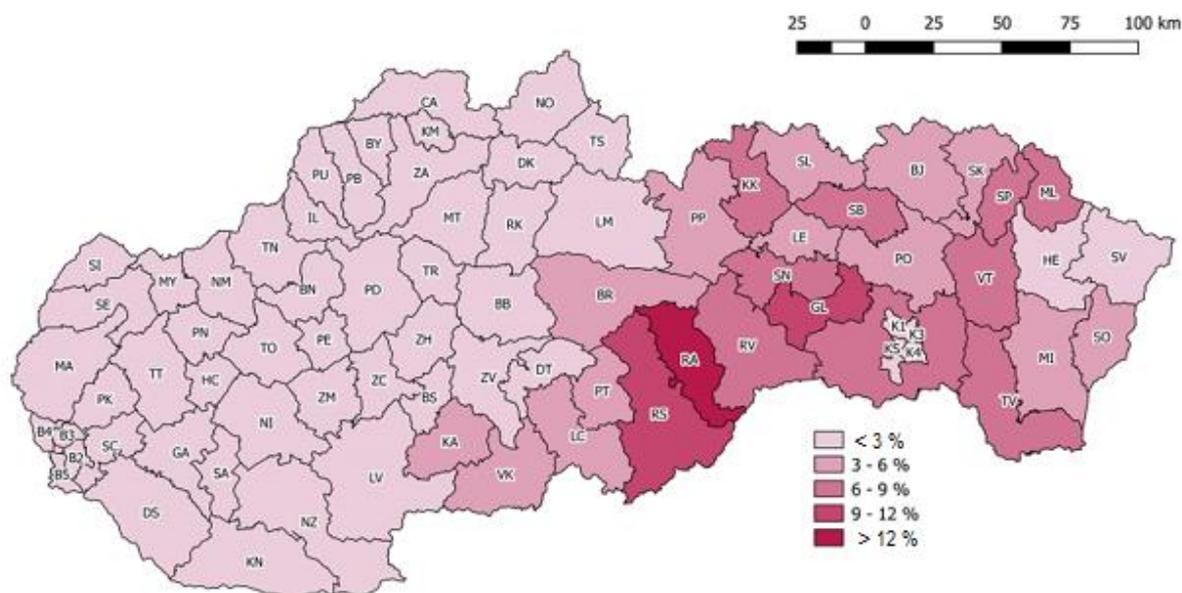
Source: Social Insurance Agency, processed by: MoLSAF

Table 12 Increases in the Pension Funds Managed by PFMCs for 2020

PFMC	Fund	Performance in 2020
Allianz - Slovenská d.s.s., a.s.	GARANT dlhopisový garantovaný d.f.	1.3%
AXA, d.s.s., a.s.	Dlhopisový garantovaný d.f.	1.1%
DSS Poštovej banky, d.s.s., a.s.	STABILITA dlhopisový garantovaný d.f.	4.8%
NN, d.s.s., a.s.	Solid dlhopisový garantovaný d.f.	2.7%
VÚB Generali, d.s.s., a.s.	KLASIK dlhopisový garantovaný d.f.	0.9%
Allianz - Slovenská d.s.s., a.s.	PROGRES akciový negarantovaný d.f.	4.2%
AXA, d.s.s., a.s.	Akciový negarantovaný d.f.	3.0%
DSS Poštovej banky, d.s.s., a.s.	PROSPERITA akciový negarantovaný d.f.	14.3%
NN, d.s.s., a.s.	Dynamika akciový negarantovaný d.f.	2.2%
VÚB Generali, d.s.s., a.s.	PROFIT akciový negarantovaný d.f.	2.3%
AXA, d.s.s., a.s.	Indexový negarantovaný d.f.	4.4%
DSS Poštovej banky, d.s.s., a.s.	PERSPEKTÍVA indexový negarantovaný d.f.	0.9%
NN, d.s.s., a.s.	Index Global - indexový negarantovaný d.f.	2.7%
NN, d.s.s., a.s.	Index Euro - indexový negarantovaný d.f.	-4.0%
VÚB Generali, d.s.s., a.s.	INDEX indexový negarantovaný d.f.	4.4%
NN, d.s.s., a.s.	Harmónia zmiešaný negarantovaný d.f.	2.9%
VÚB Generali, d.s.s., a.s.	MIX zmiešaný negarantovaný d.f.	1.4%

Source: Association of Pension Fund Management Companies

Graph 4 Regional Distribution of Persons in the Material Need Assistance System, Share of These Persons in the Total Population as at 31 December 2020



Map background ©Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Authority of Slovak Republic

Source: RSD MIS, SO SR

Table 4 Number of Beneficiaries and Social Reintegration Allowance Spending in 2019 and 2020

	number of beneficiaries	Spending
2019	3,361	237,770
2020	3,489	280,736

Source: RSD MIS

Table 15 Assistance Provided to Maltreated, Sexually Abused and Bullied Children in 2020

Help for children battered, sexually abused and bullied		Physical abuse	Psychological abuse	Sexual abuse	Bullying	Use for commercial purposes (pornography, prostitution)	Neglect (CAN syndrome)	Total	
Number of registered children	Total	158	74	158	9	9	954	1,362	
	of which	44	20	9	2	0	353	429	
		94	45	87	5	4	473	708	
		20	9	62	2	5	128	225	
Number of motions of the authority to initiate criminal proceedings		total	29	6	25	0	1	51	112

Source: OLSAF

Table 16 Children Placed in Facilities for Court Decision Enforcement /Preliminary Injunction, Upbringing Injunction, Institutional Care and Protective Care/ as at 31 December

Court decision execution facilities		2020
Centres for children and families (programme)		4,685
Centres for children and families (specialized programme)		19
Centres for children and families (reintegration programme)		23
Social services homes		9
Medical-educational sanatoriums		31
Diagnostic centres		63
Re-education facilities	Url, Upl, IC	420
	PC	15

Source: V(MoLSAF)12-01

Note: Url – urgent injunctions, Upl – upbringing injunctions, IC – institutional care, PC – protective care

Table 17 Individual Forms of Care in Centres for Children and Families with Programme

Form of care	2019	2020
Professional substitute families	614	662
Independent groups	290	291
Other groups	144	153

Source: V(MoLSAF) 5-01

Table 18 Number of Children and Young Adults in Individual Forms of Care in Centres for Children and Families with Programme as at 31 December

Number of children in individual forms	2019	2020
in professional substitute families	1,315	1,426
in an independent group	2,682	2,719
in other groups	754	841

Source: V(MoLSAF) 5-01

Table 19 Total Number of Children Entrusted to Individual Forms of Alternative Family Care in 2019 and 2020

Year	Alternative personal care	Foster care	Guardianship	Total
2019	6,820	1,256	619	8,695
2020	6,879	1,183	640	8,702

Source: OLSAF

Table 20 Basic Statistics on Activities of DAPs in 2019 and 2020

Year	Number of cases	Number of clients	Number of consultations
2019	7,731	16,368	44,692
2020	6,979	14,666	40,275

Source: OLSAF

Table 21 Activities of the Departments of Advisory and Psychological Services in 2019 and 2020

Topic/issue	2019		2020	
	Number of cases	Number of consultations	Number of cases	Number of consultations
Family	2,029	10,398	1,791	9,008
Divorce, post-divorce	2,958	17,381	2,561	15,414
Partner, spouse	721	3,959	647	3,387
Personality	672	3,669	693	3,856
Substitute family care	833	7,274	777	6,504
Other/miscellaneous	312	729	287	812
Drug and other addictions	146	1,125	122	855
Professional substitute family	4	5	2	0
Crisis intervention	56	152	99	439
Total	7,731	44,692	6,979	40,275

Source: OLSAF

Table 22 Allowance for the Provision of Social Services in Facilities Conditional upon Dependence for 2020

Degree of person's dependence on a different person	Amount of allowance for the provision of residential social service/month/spot	Amount of allowance for the provision of outpatient social service/month/spot occupied for at least 8 hours
II. Degree	€104	€70
III. Degree	€234	€156
IV. Degree	€312	€208
V. Degree	€442	€295
VI. Degree	€546	€364

Table 23 Allowance for the Provision of Social Services in Crisis Intervention Facilities

Type of social service	Amount of allowance per spot in a facility per month	Amount of allowance per spot in a facility for a budget year
night shelters	€120	€1,800
refuges	€150	€1,800
half-way houses	€150	€1,800
emergency housing facilities	€150	€1,800

Table 24 Number of Registered Social Service Providers

Type of social service	Total number of registered social services	providers established or founded by a higher territorial unit	of which municipalities and providers established or founded by a municipality	non-public providers	Capacity
Basic social counselling	193	5	10	178	x
Specialised social counselling	195	12	1	182	x
Social rehabilitation	22	0	0	22	x
Crisis intervention services (of which)	772	25	391	356	4,654
Field crisis intervention social services	82	0	27	55	x
Low-threshold day-care centres	32	0	8	24	x
Integration centres	7	1	1	5	x
Community centres	381	0	260	121	x
Night shelters	51	0	31	20	1,232
Refuges	104	17	31	56	2,479
Half-way houses	26	3	0	23	277
Low-threshold social services for children and family	55	0	26	29	x
Emergency housing facilities	34	4	7	23	666
Services to support families with children (of which)	352	30	50	272	3,790
Personal childcare assistance	10	0	9	1	x
Temporary children care facilities	2	2	0	0	4
Service to support work-life balance	28	0	1	27	x
Care facilities for children under three years of age	220	0	40	180	3,786
Early intervention service	92	28	0	64	x
Services for severely disabled persons and persons with adverse health condition (of which)	3,396	612	1,421	1,363	49,148
Assisted living facilities	78	39	3	36	628
Facilities for the elderly	512	80	144	288	20,119
Nursing service facilities	144	0	76	68	2,603
Rehabilitation centres	40	19	0	21	424
Social services homes	485	307	32	146	12,377
Specialised facilities	306	156	10	140	8,935
Day-care centres	214	1	76	137	4,062
Nursing service	1,287	0	969	318	x
Transport service	176	6	82	88	x
Guide and reading service	10	0	0	10	x
Interpreting service	22	0	0	22	x
Arranging interpreting service	2	0	0	2	x
Arranging personal assistance	14	0	2	12	x
Renting aids	106	4	27	75	x
ICT services and support services (of which)	587	27	444	116	9552
Monitoring and signalling the need for assistance	18	0	11	7	x
Emergency assistance provided through telecommunication technologies	24	0	1	23	x
Assistance in the performance of carer's rights and obligations	9	2	2	5	x

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Day-care centres	260	2	256	2	9,552
Support for independent living	19	5	0	14	x
Canteens	196	18	130	48	x
Laundry service	32	0	25	7	x
Personal hygiene centres	29	0	19	10	x
TOTAL	5,517	711	2,317	2,489	67,144

Source: Central Register of Social Service Providers for Q4 2020

Table 25 Nursing Service

	Number of clients		Providers' employees (equivalents)		Income in 2020 in €		Expenses in 2020
	2019	2020	2019	2020	Total income (of which)	Income from payments	
municipalities	13,325	13,034	5,694	5,760	31,106,324	7,666,501	56,672,331
non-public providers	2,799	2,134	2,082	1,723	14,157,986	4,183,617	15,042,153
TOTAL	16,124	15,168	7,776	7,097	41,500,583	10,838,936	67,867,909

Source: V(MoLSAF) 11-01 and V(MoLSAF) 07-01

Table 26 Number and Capacity of Social Service Facilities

Type of facility	Number of social service facilities as at 31 December 2018	Number of beds as at 31 December 2018 of which the care provided				Number of social service facilities as at 31 December 2019	Number of beds as at 31 December 2019 of which the care provided			
		Total	all year round	weekly	daily		Total	year-round	weekly	daily
Social service facilities in total	1,371	51,906	44,406	615	6,885	1,357	51,686	44,873	498	6,315
of which										
social services homes	288	12,971	10,829	519	1,623	276	12,359	10,208	416	1,735
facilities for the elderly	386	19,129	19,018	1	110	388	19,529	19,390	11	128
specialised facilities	166	7,537	7,282	46	209	174	8,099	7,790	40	269
day-care centres	186	4,128	0	0	4,128	168	3,420	23	0	3,397
assisted living facilities	35	573	567	6	0	40	657	657	0	0
emergency housing facilities	30	665	665	0	0	29	648	648	0	0
refuges	86	2,222	2,222	0	0	90	2,377	2,377	0	0
rehabilitation centres	26	669	62	19	588	27	638	42	7	589
nursing service facilities	107	2,513	2,465	24	24	102	2,500	2,451	24	25
night shelters	46	1,228	1025	0	203	45	1,201	1,029	0	172
half-way houses	15	271	271	0	0	18	258	258	0	0

Source: Selected data of SO SR – Social service facilities in SR, data for 2020 was not available at the time of the Report preparation

Table 27 Number of Social Service Recipients in Social Service Facilities

Type of facility	Recipients as at 31 December 2018	Recipients as at 31 December 2019	of which in 2019									
			persons in the retirement age	diabetics	with psychotic treatment	with dementia and using neuroleptics	taking antidepressants	nursed as bedridden	deprived of legal capacity (and with limited legal capacity)	foreigners	men/ boys	women/ girls
social services homes	11,962	11,767	3,400	1,310	5,640	2,423	2,716	7,044	5,772	5	6,477	5,290
facilities for the elderly	18,521	18,851	18,779	4,524	5,061	5,585	4,992	11,050	570	20	5,076	13,775
specialised facilities	7,268	7,967	6,134	1,485	3,706	3,586	2,545	5,657	2,009	7	3,099	4,868
day-care centres	3,336	3,210	2,550	262	153	190	185	146	219	G	1,064	2,146
assisted living facilities	526	561	53	26	214	77	157	130	198	0	342	219
emergency housing facilities	575	568	12	G	6	0	12	0	7	7	200	368
refuges	2,169	2,180	333	44	144	39	127	29	13	G	1,267	913
rehabilitation centres	626	636	123	9	95	21	57	65	48	0	320	316
nursing service facilities	2,248	2,311	2,130	476	529	741	605	1,162	89	G	740	1,571
night shelters	7,051	6,739	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
half-way houses	254	259	9	0	12	5	12	0	0	G	173	86
TOTAL	54,536	55,049	33,523	8,136	15,560	12,667	11,408	25,283	8,925	47	18,758	29,552

Source: Selected data of the SO SR statement – Social service facilities in SR /Soc 1-01 statement/, data for 2020 was not available at the time of the Report preparation

Table 28 Expenditure of Social Service Facilities

Type of facility / founder	2018			of which			2019			of which		
	Total expenditure (in €)	current expenditure	wage costs	compulsory social insurance contributions	acquisition of assets	on healthcare	Total expenditure (in €)	current expenditure	wage costs	compulsory social insurance contributions	acquisition of assets	on healthcare
TOTAL	488,927,636	152,133,327	232,938,714	83,059,531	15,832,519	846,598	551,380,166	152,133,327	275,301,432	96,663,709	13,582,425	1,316,132
social services homes	151,634,907	41,183,727	73,782,535	26,528,875	8,401,055	124,338	158,118,587	41,183,727	80,936,808	28,816,056	4,935,217	180,011
facilities for the elderly	192,978,921	68,966,420	87,054,968	30,761,011	4,029,354	537,382	219,584,725	68,966,420	103,985,597	36,281,148	5,270,126	741,611
specialised facilities	89,631,095	25,377,686	44,987,318	16,096,488	2,608,856	132,146	112,443,492	25,377,686	58,563,514	20,547,027	2,580,170	301,878
day-care centres	9,400,990	2,324,185	5,251,442	1,810,679	53,823	1,035	10,351,965	2,324,185	5,918,938	2,021,101	144,226	13,548
assisted living facilities	4,214,073	1,282,300	2,069,727	731,536	80,608	303	4,910,462	1,282,300	2,542,541	881,464	43,138	1184
emergency housing facilities	2,594,396	764,391	1,231,238	460,373	68,692	401	2,840,530	764,391	1,432,575	487,385	55,899	573
refuges	6,925,017	2,367,690	3,088,171	1,128,638	189,965	5,625	8,209,560	2,367,690	4,035,493	1,386,508	132,008	9,328
rehabilitation centres	4,055,286	1,005,196	2,172,000	760,048	56,996	2099	4,508,480	1,005,196	2,494,916	872,831	44,967	98
nursing service facilities	24,030,654	7,592,349	11,833,467	4,244,392	275,829	41,269	26,765,731	7,592,349	13,735,294	4,828,573	336,416	66,016
night shelters	2,623,305	989,137	1,107,439	409,575	20,562	860	2,768,672	989,137	1,281,419	415,499	11,760	233
half-way houses	838,992	280,246	360,409	127,916	46,779	1140	877,962	280,246	374,337	126,117	28,498	1,652

Source: Selected data of the SO SR statement – Social service facilities in SR /Soc 1-01 statement/, data for 2020 was not available at the time of the Report preparation

Table 29 Income of Social Service Facilities

Type of facility / founder	Total income (in €) in 2018	Contribution from MoLSAF	of which					Total income (in €) in 2019	Contribution from MoLSAF	of which				
			income from the budget of the Self-governing Region	income from the municipality budget	income from health insurance companies	income from payments	other income			income from the budget of the Self-governing Region	income from the municipality budget	income from health insurance companies	income from payments	other income
TOTAL	487,714,978	106,276,692	176,380,216	21,257,961	996,177	156,607,730	23,765,993	548,213,745	121,733,968	205,706,022	27,282,983	2,453,929	162,798,107	30,225,842
social services homes	151,888,987	10,507,924	101,617,817	196,206	138,827	34,665,936	4,305,962	158,102,105	11,390,993	107,181,531	210,807	433,032	33,338,875	5,862,084
facilities for the elderly	191,896,392	65,096,335	19,138,006	13,647,519	468,647	81,592,244	11,127,468	217,471,814	74,647,574	24,480,800	18,562,784	1,078,294	85,540,944	13,877,242
specialised facilities	89,204,816	10,997,539	45,128,558	607,164	291,651	27,476,871	3,824,465	112,061,752	13,063,417	61,329,903	1,155,426	803,202	30,832,144	5,442,682
day-care centres	9,145,597	5,583,433	54,289	1,399,765	7,378	1,058,866	1,065,009	10,094,809	7,177,764	84,871	1,325,105	876	931,631	675,133
assisted living facilities	4,224,242	783,247	2,347,908	45,417	419	911,595	204,902	4,947,726	946,833	3,042,227	74,142	0	869,512	113,179
emergency housing facilities	2,632,382	363,856	1,375,135	170,871	0	147,514	419,549	2,840,938	304,778	1,548,809	337,310	0	158,970	493,874
refuges	7,493,604	1,075,993	3,741,330	350,235	288	1,009,437	717,438	8,230,914	1,034,146	4,672,301	581,898	302	1,209,968	811,721
rehabilitation centres	4,049,917	1,101,464	2,215,746	14,648	853	173,111	572,844	4,494,624	1,352,691	2,591,809	17,673	205	173,162	515,901
nursing service facilities	23,721,416	9,279,236	64959	4,295,143	88,114	9,223,275	1,133,916	26,314,704	10,361,565	139,722	4,303,551	137,818	9,362,506	1,898,833
night shelters	2,632,706	1,483,835	149,464	525,118	0	226,160	251,198	2,727,928	1,454,207	72,000	700,406	200	237,951	325,303
half-way houses	824,919	3,830	547,004	5,875	0	122,721	143,242	926,431	0	562,049	13,881	0	142,444	209,890

Source: Selected data of the SO SR statement – Social service facilities in SR /Soc 1-01 statement/, data for 2020 was not available at the time of the Report preparation

Table 30 Employees of Social Service Facilities

Type of facility	Average registered number of employees	
	2018	2019
social services homes	7,980	7,640
facilities for the elderly	9,933	10,274
specialised facilities	5,024	5,591
day-care centres	790	784
assisted living facilities	218	230
emergency housing facilities	164	163
refuges	369	417
rehabilitation centres	231	215
nursing service facilities	1,351	1,333
night shelters	138	141
half-way houses	43	41
TOTAL	26,241	26,829

Source: Selected data from the Statistical Office of SR – Social Service Facilities in SR, data for 2020 was not available at the time of the Report preparation

Table 31 Selected Types of Social Services Provided by Municipalities, Higher Territorial Units or Non-public Social Service Providers as at 31 December 2020

Type of social service	Number of services		Number of recipients		Employees (recalculated numbers)				Providers' revenue (in €)		Providers' expenditure (in €)	
	municipalities and higher territorial units	non-public providers	municipalities and higher territorial units	non-public providers	Total		of which the number of volunteers		municipalities and higher territorial units	non-public providers	municipalities and higher territorial units	non-public providers
					municipalities and higher territorial units	non-public providers	municipalities and higher territorial units	non-public providers				
low-threshold day-care centres	6	10	707	3,286	7.3	83.9	0	26	114,634	668,028	114,228	659,895
personal childcare assistance	3	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	1035	0	17,553	0
temporary childcare facilities	3	0	57	0	24	0	0	0	374,780	0	374,614	0
low-threshold social service for children and family	13	13	2,098	5,778	20	141.5	0	23	296,249	470,278	361,966	455,089
transport service*	88	53	7,407	6,549	47	91.1	0	5	412,654	489,790		707,545
guide and reading service	0	2	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
interpreting service	0	13	0	735	0	101	0	0	0	431,310	0	370,647
arranging interpreting service	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
arranging personal assistance	1	6	1	422	0	12.1	0	3	9,324	26,198	9,324	26,947
renting aids	19	34	386	1,739	6.7	36.7	1	13	28,564	106,801	29,100	118,684
monitoring and signalling the need for assistance	9	1	105	0	7.57	0	0	0	20,070	0	18,972	0
emergency assistance through ICT	0	13	0	15,794	0	90.6	0	34	0	104,962	0	73,572
assistance in exercising the nursing rights and obligations	5	2	10	21	3	2	0	2	11,570	0	30,145	10
day-care centres	230	1	31,490	30	377	8	15	0	1,833,326	66,809	2,968,650	66,275
integration centres	1	2	10	135	1	25	0	14	18,323	38,098	18,323	40,738
canteens	91	22	11,183	12,956	295	114.1	4	31	5,212,438	1,156,606	6,554,600	1,265,287

table continued 31

Type of social service	Number of services		Number of recipients		Employees (recalculated numbers)				Providers' revenue (in €)		Providers' expenditure (in €)	
	municipalities and higher territorial units	non-public providers	municipalities and higher territorial units	non-public providers	Total		of which the number of volunteers		municipalities and higher territorial units	non-public providers	municipalities and higher territorial units	non-public providers
					municipalities and higher territorial units	non-public providers	municipalities and higher territorial units	non-public providers				
laundrettes	20	5	3,168	3464	18	8	2	4	87,430	9,951	156,670	9,590
personal hygiene centres	18	8	4,995	1,595	6	31.4	0	11	23,682	69,904	61,812	79,400
community centres	108	43	18,620	21,258	269	330.4	7	117	3,172,502	1,673,564	4,221,013	1,693,354
support for independent living	4	6	63	111	5	23.5	0	3	81,019	167,803	81,019	100,956
early intervention service	16	23	440	1,775	53	171.3	5	32	657,161	1,571,199	667,174	1,562,772
field crisis intervention social services	65	27	13,111	7,049	122	155.7	0	31	1,350,135	805,653	1,548,195	757,857
service to support reconciliation of work and family life	1	18	0	68	0	15.6	0	0	0	93,997	0	65,380
care facilities for children under 3 years of age	41	141	743	1,701	272	480	0	13	3,022,082	4,818,399	4,619,436	4,773,322
basic social counselling		62		12,701		279		116		864,443		1,040,896
specialised social counselling		62		21,922		249.7		47		2,455,778		2,465,684
social rehabilitation		7		599		15		0		333,871		304,793
TOTAL	742	575	94,598	119,694	1,535.57	2,465.3	34	525	16,726,978	16,423,442	21,852,794	16,638,693.3

Source: V(MoLSAF) 10-01, V(MoLSAF) 11-01 and V(MoLSAF) 07-01

* data from the central register of social service providers

Table 32 Number of Applicants for the Provision of Social Services in Selected Types of Social Services Facilities

Number of applicants for the provision of social services in facilities	2017	2018	2019	2020
Social services homes	1,943	1,748	1,731	1,825
Facilities for the elderly	5,525	5,654	6,670	6,863
Assisted living facilities	115	101	59	86
Rehabilitation centres	17	17	62	53
Specialised facilities	1,986	2,123	2,257	2,291
TOTAL in SR	9,586	9,643	10,779	11,118

Source: V(MoLSAF) 10- 01

Most Frequently Identified Violations by Social Service Facilities

In 2020, particularly the following violations of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, the Social Services Act and other general binding legal regulations were identified at social service providers:

a) Violations of the Act No. 460/1992 Coll. the Constitution of the Slovak Republic:

- restriction of the freedom of movement of social service recipients (restriction of the number of days spent outside the facility, conditioned by approval of the request by the manager of the facility)
- imposing bans and orders not supported by any legislation (in internal directives – defined visiting hours, prohibited visits in the rooms, ban on alcohol in a facility for the elderly under the threat of terminating the contract, ban on remaining outside the facility without a consent of the manager – under the threat of terminating the contract, etc.)

b) Violations of the Social Services Act

- not respecting the rights of recipients of social services of a year-round residential social service – unavailability of information for the recipients of social services about payment for the social service in an understandable form, unavailability of house-keeping rules for the facility, not allowing the recipients of social services to participate, through selected representatives, in determining the living conditions in the facility, in addressing the issues related to the conditions and quality of the provided social service, concealment of the right of the recipients of social services to compensation of any damage caused by the social service provider (Section 6)
- failing to perform the obligations of social service providers – not respecting individual needs of the recipients of social services (not specifying individual needs when specifying the expert, service and other activities in social service provision contracts, placing a recipient of social services with reduced mobility on an upper floor without ensuring barrier-free movement (e.g. lift, ramp), accommodating a recipient of social services with reduced mobility in a room with a low bed, unavailability of signalling equipment (Section 7)
- failing to perform the obligations of social service providers when planning the provision of social service according to individual needs, abilities and goals of the social service recipient – failing to prepare individual plans (explained by a lack of interest of the social service recipient) or preparing them only formally, not assessing individual plans at all or assessing them without the social service recipient present, failing to prepare social rehabilitation programmes, lack of cooperation with social service recipients (Section 9 (1) and (2))
- not respecting the maximum number of social service recipients per one employee and the minimum percentage of professional staff in the total number of employees (due to a lack of staff, shift of employees between individual places of operation, if the social service provider has more of them) (Section 9 (4))
- failing to meet general technical requirements for the construction and general technical requirements for constructions used by persons with reduced mobility and orientation/barrier-free constructions (Section 9 (5))
- failing to make the employees and social service recipients familiar with the procedures, rules and conditions of social service provision (social service recipients often do not know that the social service provider has house-keeping rules, they do not know that they have the right to know about the management of their funds, they do not know what steps to take and whom they should turn to if they are not satisfied or if any employee is rude to them, etc.) (Section 9 (9))
- not preparing and organising a supervision programme (explained by a lack of supervisors or high costs) (Section 9 (12))
- failing to perform the obligations of social service providers in the protection of life, health and dignity – not keeping a register of non-bodily and bodily restrictions of social service recipients, not registering the restrictions in the register, using not permitted means of restriction (isolation room as a room without stimuli, fixing on beds, fixing on wheelchairs), failing to notify the Ministry, the carer designated by court or relative of the entries on the use of non-bodily and bodily restrictions, lack of education of employees about this social service provider's obligation, employees did not know the wording of the Section 10 of the Social Services Act, the social service provider notified the Ministry of the use of non-bodily and bodily restrictions also in cases not concerning the use of non-bodily and bodily restrictions (Section 10)
- violation of the obligation of social service providers in performing expert, service and other activities, ensuring the provision of such activities or creating the conditions for their performance in the extent

specified by law for the type of the social service which is provided (not providing expert activities, service activities and other activities for the particular type of social service, not providing or not ensuring the provision of a nursing care, providing only basic social counselling, not providing assistance in cases of dependence of social service recipients in accordance with the dependence assessment) (Sections 15 to 18, 35, 38, 39, 40)

- not registering the social service provider in the register of providers kept by a relevant higher territorial unit (Section 62)
- not respecting diet needs of a social service recipient, providing meals unsuitable for diabetics, not allowing the social service recipients to consume and pay for a lower number of meals (Section 17 (4) and (5))
- incomplete identification of the place of social service provision or place of social service provision without identification (Section 67)
- publishing an annual report on activities and financial management in the public part of the register of financial statements (if the non-public social service provider is a non-profit organisation, only in accordance with the Non-Profit Organisations Act, without stating the data in accordance with the Social Services Act) (Section 67a (1))
- not disclosing economically eligible costs per one social service recipient in the annual report on activities and financial management of a non-public social service provider in the public part of the register of financial statements in accordance with the Social Services Act (Section 67a (3))
- not disclosing a price list on the website (even if the social service provider has it) or if the social service provider does not have it, at any other accessible place, determining the amounts payable without a price list, determining the amounts payable according to several price lists valid at the same time, determining the amounts payable for the social service in contradiction to the valid price list in the case of a non-public social service provider (Section 72 (3))
- charging for expert activities which social service recipients do not pay for according to the Social Services Act (Section 72 (6))
- charging for the provision of other, so-called "extra" activities, without respecting the interest of the social service recipient, as a part of payment for the social service, e.g. lump-sum charging for a health package, handling/administration fee for the start and termination of provision of the social service, fee for arranging administrative matters
- not taking into account the income and assets of the social service recipients for the purposes of specifying the amount payable, not requesting a declaration of assets of a person with verified signature, or accepting a declaration without a verified signature or without specification if the person has/does not have assets in the amount exceeding €10,000 (Section 72 (8))
- checking the income of the social service recipient (for the purposes of specifying the amount payable) for a wrong period of time, not checking the income of co-assessed persons (Section 72a)
- not guaranteeing the balance of income of the social service recipient or guaranteeing the balance of income in contradiction to the Social Services Act (Section 73)
- determining the amount payable for the social service in full amount, not guaranteeing the balance, with explanation that the recipient refuses to demonstrate their income and assets in accordance with the Section 93 (4) (all social service recipients signed a pre-printed declaration) - according to the recipients they signed the form together with the social service provision contract (Section 72 (3), Section 73 (1) to (10), Section 93 (4))
- concluding social service provision contracts in a form which is not understandable for the social service recipient (Section 74 (1))
- concluding contracts with a nature of a mixed contract, binding only a different, so-called "acceding person" – and not the social service recipient – to pay for the social service in the social service provision contract, or binding both the social service recipient and a different person to pay for the social service (Section 74 (1))
- concluding contracts not containing all particulars designated by legislation, specifying the amount payable not broken down into individual expert, service and other activities (Section 74 (7) and (8))
- increasing the amount payable for the social service without a basis in the Social Services Act or without concluding an amendment to the social service provision contract (Section 74 (12))
- defining their own reasons for terminating the social service provision contract by the social service provider in contradiction to the Social Services Act (Section 74 (14))

- violation of the statutory obligation in the area of qualification requirements for the employees of social service providers (Section 84)
 - signing a social service provision contract with a different person on behalf of the social service recipient without authorization or without medical confirmation of the health condition of the recipient (Section 92 (6))
- c) **Violations of the Act No. 40/1964 Coll. the Civil Code**, as amended, when concluding social service provision contracts or when concluding contracts on other activities – Section 43, Section 710 (3) and (4)
- d) **Violations of the Act No. 447/2008 Coll. on the allowances for compensation of severe disability**, as amended, in connection to the Section 72 (8) of the Social Services Act
- e) **Violation of provisions of a general binding regulation of the founder** (public social service provider)
- f) **Violations of provisions of the social service provision contract**, particularly not performing the obligations from the contract.

On the basis of a comparison of the deficiencies identified in 2020 with the findings of previous years, it can be stated that the aforementioned deficiencies are mostly repeated every year.

Table 33 Gross Social Protection Expenditure, 2018

Area	Social protection expenditure as % of GDP	Social protection expenditure in PPS per capita	Social benefits expenditure by purposes (in %)					Housing, social exclusion
			Old age + survivors	Sickness/health care	Disability	Family/children	Unemployment	
EU28	26.5	8,235.0	46.1	29.7	7.5	8.5	4.2	4.0
EU15	27.4	9,036.6	45.5	29.7	7.5	8.6	4.4	4.3
EA19	27.4	9,056.7	46.1	29.6	7.4	8.4	5.1	3.4
Belgium	27.3	9,735.0	46.7	27.0	8.9	7.5	6.5	3.4
Bulgaria	16.4	2,835.0	48.3	29.6	7.3	10.4	3.1	1.3
Czech Republic	17.9	5,424.4	46.7	33.4	6.2	9.2	2.5	2.0
Denmark	30.1	11,370.6	40.6	21.7	15.0	11.2	4.2	7.3
Germany	28.4	11,112.7	38.4	35.4	8.7	11.5	3.2	2.8
Estonia	16.1	4,101.8	40.6	29.9	11.4	14.4	2.9	0.8
Ireland	13.6	6,981.4	34.6	38.7	5.7	8.6	7.6	4.8
Greece	25.0	5,136.4	64.1	19.4	4.1	6.6	3.7	2.1
Spain	23.1	6,346.1	52.1	26.7	7.0	5.5	7.2	1.5
France	31.4	10,342.8	45.8	28.7	6.5	7.6	6.0	5.4
Croatia	21.2	4,204.1	42.5	33.6	10.3	9.0	2.9	1.7
Italy	27.9	8,073.6	58.5	23.0	5.7	4.1	5.5	3.2
Cyprus	17.7	4,884.1	55.3	19.2	4.6	6.7	5.5	8.7
Latvia	15.0	3,234.7	47.5	27.4	8.7	10.9	4.4	1.1
Lithuania	15.5	4,055.6	43.7	30.4	9.0	10.3	4.5	2.1
Luxembourg	21.5	15,243.4	39.4	25.3	10.4	15.4	5.5	4.0
Hungary	17.1	4,015.9	49.7	28.1	5.6	11.8	1.7	3.1
Malta	15.2	4,721.8	51.4	35.1	3.6	5.5	2.2	2.2
Netherlands	27.1	10,612.9	41.9	34.4	9.2	4.2	3.5	6.8
Austria	28.4	10,965.5	50.1	26.4	6.3	9.4	5.6	2.2
Poland	19.2	4,601.6	56.2	22.0	6.8	13.0	1.2	0.8
Portugal	23.1	5,466.5	57.8	26.1	7.0	5.1	3.0	1.0
Romania	14.7	3,210.6	53.3	28.9	6.3	10.2	0.4	0.9
Slovenia	21.6	5,714.6	47.5	33.8	4.6	8.4	2.3	3.4
Slovakia	17.5	4,022.2	45.7	32.8	8.5	8.8	2.8	1.4
Finland	29.5	10,173.7	45.8	22.6	9.6	10.0	6.2	5.8
Sweden	27.7	9,927.3	45.0	26.9	10.0	10.6	3.2	4.3
United Kingdom	25.5	7,859.0	44.3	32.5	6.4	9.2	1.2	6.4

Source: Eurostat ESSPROS, data valid as at 03/03/2021

Table 34 Social Protection Income, 2018

Income	Income in % of GDP	Income in PPS per capita	Social contributions of employers	Income structure (%)		
				Social contributions of protected persons	Public administration	Other income
EU28	29.0	9,008.1	35.1	20.4	39.8	4.8
EU15	30.0	9,911.5	34.5	20.1	40.6	4.8
EA19	29.8	9,849.9	36.7	23.1	37.0	3.3
Belgium	29.2	10,411.3	39.2	20.2	38.8	1.9
Bulgaria	18.1	3,132.9	35.8	22.2	40.2	1.8
Czech Republic	19.9	6,023.7	51.2	24.3	23.3	1.2
Denmark	36.1	13,622.5	10.9	7.7	75.6	5.8
Germany	31.6	12,362.3	34.3	31.3	32.9	1.5
Estonia	15.9	4,057.5	73.6	1.0	25.3	0.1
Ireland	15.9	8,174.0	27.2	11.4	57.8	3.6
Greece	27.8	5,702.7	31.4	23.0	40.7	5.0
Spain	22.4	6,163.7	45.6	13.4	39.8	1.2
France	34.2	11,246.2	41.1	17.0	38.8	3.0
Croatia	23.1	4,597.8	28.1	31.8	36.8	3.3
Italy	29.7	8,604.6	36.0	15.1	47.0	1.9
Cyprus	20.4	5,629.1	27.9	19.8	46.5	5.8
Latvia	15.4	3,327.3	41.7	17.4	40.4	0.5
Lithuania	16.9	4,421.0	55.3	18.0	25.7	1.1
Luxembourg	23.1	16,360.5	27.3	25.1	46.6	1.0
Hungary	17.2	4,030.3	36.7	30.9	32.1	0.3
Malta	15.4	4,773.7	26.2	9.8	62.0	2.0
Netherlands	33.2	13,013.0	29.7	32.1	22.9	15.4
Austria	28.9	11,144.7	36.1	26.8	35.7	1.4
Poland	19.7	4,733.2	48.2	22.4	17.6	11.7
Portugal	25.6	6,068.6	31.4	16.2	44.2	8.2
Romania	15.2	3,319.6	12.7	67.6	19.1	0.6
Slovenia	22.0	5,802.0	28.4	42.8	27.1	1.7
Slovakia	18.3	4,202.7	47.7	22.8	26.4	3.1
Finland	30.8	10,619.3	31.0	13.9	49.2	6.0
Sweden	30.9	11,088.1	38.8	9.0	49.9	2.3
United Kingdom	28.6	8,812.3	27.6	11.1	48.9	12.4

Source: Eurostat ESSPROS, data valid as at 03/03/2021

Table 35 Pensions Expenditure and Pensions Expenditure Structure, 2018

Area	Total pensions expenditure			Structure of pensions expenditure by categories (%)						
	in € per capita (constant prices 2010)	in PPS per capita	in % of GDP	old-age pension	expected old-age pension	partial old-age pension	disability pension	early retirement as a result of decreased work capacity	survivor's pension	early retirement for the reasons of the labour market
EU28	3,527.8	3,850.8	12.4	77.2	3.2	0.0	6.6	1.8	11.0	0.2
EU15	4,133.6	4,199.0	12.7	77.3	3.1	0.0	6.5	1.9	11.0	0.2
EA19	4,061.7	4,320.0	13.1	75.0	3.6	0.0	6.0	1.9	13.2	0.3
Belgium	4,425.7	4,474.3	12.6	70.5	0.0	0.0	14.6	0.0	12.9	2.0
Bulgaria	551.2	1,357.5	7.9	78.1	9.5	0.0	8.9	0.0	3.5	0.0
Czech Republic	1,439.4	2,443.1	8.1	82.8	1.1	0.0	9.4	0.0	6.7	0.0
Denmark	5,977.2	4,638.5	12.3	77.8	3.5	0.0	2.5	14.5	1.7	0.0
Germany	4,282.0	4,602.2	11.8	74.8	2.8	0.0	0.6	7.1	14.6	0.1
Estonia	1,183.1	1,950.8	7.7	60.2	23.2	0.0	16.0	0.0	0.6	0.0
Ireland	3,265.3	2,718.7	5.3	80.0	0.0	0.0	13.7	0.0	6.2	0.0
Greece	2,799.0	3,314.6	16.1	81.8	0.0	0.0	3.5	0.0	14.6	0.1
Spain	2,966.8	3,446.4	12.6	65.4	6.6	0.0	10.2	0.0	17.9	0.0
France	4,938.9	4,891.9	14.9	82.0	0.0	0.0	7.2	0.1	10.6	0.1
Croatia	1,215.9	2,014.4	10.1	53.9	14.7	0.0	14.6	0.0	16.8	0.0
Italy	4,266.2	4,568.7	15.8	70.4	8.9	0.0	3.8	0.2	16.0	0.8
Cyprus	2,202.8	2,513.9	9.1	74.2	8.1	0.0	1.7	2.0	13.8	0.0
Latvia	928.7	1,604.5	7.4	86.0	2.7	0.0	9.7	0.0	1.6	0.0
Lithuania	961.5	1,834.4	7.0	80.0	3.4	0.0	12.8	0.0	3.8	0.0
Luxembourg	8,027.4	6,589.6	9.3	55.1	19.1	0.0	7.4	0.0	16.9	1.5
Hungary	990.8	1,789.1	7.6	79.9	8.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.4	0.0
Malta	1,543.0	2,096.1	6.8	78.4	0.0	0.0	4.8	0.0	16.6	0.2
Netherlands	4,970.5	4,777.2	12.2	77.6	0.0	0.0	14.3	0.0	8.1	0.0
Austria	5,193.1	5,400.9	14.0	75.4	6.2	0.0	7.0	0.0	11.4	0.1
Poland	1,375.9	2,647.2	11.0	72.9	5.8	0.0	6.9	0.0	13.7	0.6
Portugal	2,546.6	3,273.0	13.8	74.5	3.2	0.0	9.8	0.0	12.4	0.1
Romania	726.5	1,726.5	7.9	85.8	0.5	1.5	3.0	2.8	6.4	0.0
Slovenia	2,014.9	2,591.0	9.8	76.8	8.8	0.6	2.8	0.0	11.0	0.0
Slovakia	1,221.2	1,930.1	8.4	74.7	2.7	0.0	11.3	0.0	10.1	1.2
Finland	4,957.7	4,570.9	13.3	80.3	3.8	0.6	9.5	0.0	5.8	0.0
Sweden	4,705.5	3,901.1	10.9	84.3	5.5	0.0	7.7	0.0	2.4	0.0
United Kingdom	3,592.2	3,342.6	10.9	89.2	0.0	0.0	10.1	0.0	0.6	0.0

Source: Eurostat – ESSPROS, data valid as at 03/03/2021

Table 36 Number of Pension Beneficiaries by Sex, Indices 2018/2017 and 2018/2007

Area	Number of pension beneficiaries*			Index 2018/2017	Index 2018/2007	Proportion of pension beneficiaries in the population (%)
	sum*(persons)	men (%)	women (%)			
Belgium	3,003,452	48.6	51.4	103.4	128.5	25.4
Bulgaria	2,160,248	41.6	58.4	99.5	95.5	31.0
Czech Republic	2,953,701	41.7	58.3	100.0	106.5	27.7
Denmark	1,541,553	45.3	54.7	100.1	111.8	26.5
Germany	23,359,209	43.8	56.2	100.2	102.3	28.1
Estonia	420,195	39.6	60.4	100.6	110.3	31.5
Ireland	1,003,284	49.6	50.4	103.2	140.3	19.8
Greece	2,547,461	47.3	52.7	99.2	99.2	24.0
Spain	9,782,544	50.8	49.2	101.2	115.3	20.6
France	20,036,318	47.1	52.9	104.3	117.0	28.6
Croatia	1,236,258	45.8	54.2	100.3	:	30.2
Italy	15,633,707	47.6	52.4	99.6	94.0	26.2
Cyprus	163,388	47.3	52.7	101.5	151.6	18.4
Latvia	583,811	37.8	62.2	99.7	98.8	30.5
Lithuania	936,007	38.9	61.1	100.2	102.0	33.4
Luxembourg	191,566	54.9	45.1	103.1	142.3	30.3
Hungary	2,156,622	35.9	64.1	99.7	77.7	22.1
Malta	91,945	56.9	43.1	100.9	125.1	18.5
Netherlands	4,235,779	46.5	53.5	100.6	113.3	24.4
Austria	2,458,362	45.1	54.9	100.8	107.7	27.5
Poland	10,079,935	38.7	61.3	104.1	100.5	25.5
Portugal	2,905,666	44.5	55.5	97.5	100.2	29.0
Romania	5,192,880	41.9	58.1	99.3	90.8	26.9
Slovenia	644,136	44.5	55.5	100.7	112.1	30.8
Slovakia	1,475,667	41.8	58.2	101.8	115.1	26.6
Finland	1,600,225	44.9	55.1	100.9	115.1	28.7
Sweden	2,715,940	46.6	53.4	100.4	108.9	26.4
United Kingdom	15,724,604	46.4	53.6	100.5	110.2	23.5

Source: Eurostat – ESSPROS, data valid as at 03/03/2021

* Number of pension beneficiaries without double loading

: - data not available

Table 37 Taxes and Social Contributions Paid from Social Benefits, 2018

Area	Social protection expenditure		% of benefits subject to taxation	Social benefits	
	Gross expenditure (% of GDP)	Net expenditure (% of GDP)		% of benefits which social contributions are paid from	efficient taxation/contributions payment burden
Belgium	28.7	26.8	57.6	47.3	12.6
Bulgaria	16.9	16.9	0.5	0.5	7.9
Czech Republic	18.5	18.4	1.9	1.3	21.7
Denmark	31.4	27.0	52.3	:	28.3
Germany	29.7	27.0	50.6	48.0	18.4
Estonia	16.4	15.9	54.9	0.4	6.0
Ireland	14.2	13.6	47.8	17.6	8.4
Greece	25.3	22.9	70.5	68.3	13.5
Spain	23.5	22.1	58.9	7.9	10.2
France	33.7	31.8	60.5	36.9	10.0
Croatia	21.5	21.2	53.0	53.0	3.0
Italy	28.8	25.3	64.8	0.8	19.4
Cyprus	18.1	17.0	49.5	:	12.6
Latvia	15.2	14.7	54.8	2.7	6.5
Lithuania	15.9	15.6	10.9	10.9	16.2
Luxembourg	22.6	20.6	59.6	59.6	16.0
Hungary	17.4	17.2	12.1	9.6	10.1
Malta	15.3	15.1	50.2	:	2.9
Netherlands	28.9	23.5	57.4	57.4	34.2
Austria	29.2	26.4	53.5	52.4	18.1
Poland	19.7	17.6	66.2	58.4	16.8
Portugal	24.0	22.4	61.0	0.1	11.8
Romania	15.0	14.9	52.2	:	1.0
Slovenia	22.0	21.7	54.4	:	2.8
Slovakia	18.0	17.9	1.5	0.9	17.1
Finland	30.1	26.9	56.5	56.5	19.1
Sweden	28.3	25.1	49.1	:	23.3
United Kingdom	25.7	:	:	:	:

Source: Eurostat – ESSPROS, data extracted on 03/03/2021
: - data not available

Table 38 Announced Invitations to National Projects and Demand-Driven Calls for 2020

Call/invitation code	Call type	Call/invitation name	Description	Call/invitation announcement date	Call/invitation end date	Financial allocation of the non-refundable financial contribution (€)	Financial allocation EU (€)	Fund	Call announced by	Applicant
Priority Axis 1 Education										
OPLZ-PO1/2020/NP/1.1.1-01 adapted due to Covid-19 to OPLZ-PO1/2020/NP/1.1.1-04	Direct invitation	Professional development of teachers (TEACHERS)	The aim of the call is to support the professional development of pedagogical and professional staff in introducing and implementing changes in schools and school establishments.	Originally 14/2/2021, new version 3/9/2020	30/7/2020 withdrawn new version 30/09/2020	Originally 6,808,486.43 new amount 5,084,538.09	Originally 5,037,769.32 new amount 5,084,538.09	ESF	Intermediate body Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR	Methodological and Pedagogical Centre
OPLZ-PO1/2020/NP/1.2.1-01	Direct invitation	Improving secondary vocational schools in the Prešov Self-governing Region	Improvement of secondary vocational education and training with an overall goal to improve the quality and relevance of secondary vocational education and training so as to meet the needs of the labour market in the Prešov Self-governing Region.	28/2/2020 CuRI	30/4/2020	4,214,101.53	4,214,101.53	ESF	Intermediate body Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR	Prešov Self-governing Region
OPLZ-PO1/2020/NP/1.1.1-03	Direct invitation	Helping professions in the education of children and pupils II	The project is a follow-up of the inclusive education projects implemented in the Slovak Republic so far. It is strengthening the verified procedures and activities aimed at inclusive education and upbringing.	31/05/2020	31/08/2020	63,312,209.90	63,312,209.90	ESF	Intermediate body Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR	Methodological and Pedagogical Centre

Call/invitation code	Call type	Call/invitation name	Description	Call/invitation announcement date	Call/invitation end date	Financial allocation of the non-refundable financial contribution (€)	Financial allocation EU (€)	Fund	Call announced by	Applicant
Priority Axis 1 Education										
OPLZ-PO1/2020/NP/1.1.1-02	Direct invitation	Updating the system of guidance and development of other elements in the counselling and prevention system (Guide for practice)	The aim is to ensure the conditions and tools for a smooth implementation of the amendment of the Act No. 138/2019 Coll. in harmony with the vision of inclusion of children with diverse needs at schools; to set the tools and processes of lifelong learning and professional development of teaching and professional staff in the system of educational counselling and prevention; to eliminate the impacts of the pandemic on the mental deprivation of children, pupils and students and to eliminate the knowledge gap caused by the interrupted operation of schools.	31/05/2020	31/07/2020	4,366,914.09	4,366,914.09	ESF	Intermediate body Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR	Research Institute for Child Psychology and Pathopsychology
OPLZ-PO1/2019/NP/1.1.1-04	Direct invitation	Inclusion and success on the labour market through standardization of the system of counselling and prevention	The aim of the NP is to set the standards of the system of counselling and prevention and implementation of an efficient counselling and prevention system through a multidisciplinary approach to children to help them successfully complete the compulsory schooling and find a job.	25/04/2019	28/06/2019	18,107,673	12,970,435	ESF	Intermediate body of the OP Human Resources – Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of SR	Research Institute for Child Psychology and Pathopsychology

Call/invitation code	Call type	Call/invitation name	Description	Call/invitation announcement date	Call/invitation end date	Financial allocation of the non-refundable financial contribution (€)	Financial allocation EU (€)	Fund	Call announced by	Applicant
Priority Axis 1 Education										
OPLZ-PO1/2019/NP/1.1.1-05	Direct invitation	Helping professions in the education of children and pupils	The aim of the NP is to support implementation of the principles of inclusive education in kindergartens, primary and secondary schools.	23/08/2019	28/10/2019	40,607,050	40,607,050	ESF	Intermediate body of the OP Human Resources – Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of SR	Methodological and Pedagogical Centre
OPLZ-PO1/2019/NP/1.4.1-01	Direct invitation	Comprehensive setting of the system of verification of qualifications and results of informal education and informal learning in the Slovak Republic	The aim of the NP is comprehensive setting of the system of verification of qualifications and results of prior informal education and informal learning in the Slovak Republic	15/03/2019	28/06/2019	10,379,473	8,822,552	ESF	Intermediate body of the OP Human Resources – Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of SR	State Institute for Vocational Education

Call/invitation code	Call type	Call/invitation name	Description	Call/invitation announcement date	Call/invitation end date	Financial allocation of the non-refundable financial contribution (€)	Financial allocation EU (€)	Fund	Call announced by	Applicant
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Priority Axis 3 Employment										
Call/invitation code	Call type	Call/invitation name	Description	Call/invitation announcement date	Call/invitation end date	Financial allocation of the non-refundable financial contribution (€)	Financial allocation EU (€)	Fund	Call announced by	Applicant
OP LZ NP 2020/3.1.1/01	Direct invitation	Investment Aid for Social Enterprises – Non-repayable Component	The aim of the NP is pilot verification of functionality of the set system of investment support for RSEs to cope with the demanding initial stage of operation and reach a level of stability which will then enable them to improve the access to employment and to avoid unemployment in relation to the needs of the labour market and regional labour markets through investment support for RSEs (registered social enterprises). The purpose of the NP is to provide investment aid to RSEs in the form of non-refundable financial contributions in synergy with refundable aid in the form of a financial tool or a different form of refundable financing (in accordance with provisions of the Section 17 (3) of the Act No. 112/2018 Coll.) with an aim to improve the access to employment and to strengthen employment through supporting social economy entities in relation to the needs of the labour market and regional labour markets. Integration enterprises, social housing enterprises and general type of registered social enterprises are eligible for provision of the investment aid from the NP.	29/01/2020	04/05/2020	48,779,382.33	41,462,474.98	ESF	OP Human Resources managing authority	Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Priority Axis 3 Employment										
OP LZ NP 2020/3.1.1/02	Direct invitation	Employment support	The aim of the project is to improve access to the labour market by applying effective tools to support employment in order to: – increase the employability of job seekers and disadvantaged job seekers; – support maintenance of working habits; – support work mobility; – increase the chance of job seekers and disadvantaged job seekers to find employment through self-employment; – support voluntary service, development of local and regional employment.					OP LZ NP 2020/3.1.1/02	Direct invitation	Employment support
OP LZ NP 2020/3.2.2/01	Direct invitation	Raising awareness in the area of gender equality	The aim of the project is to raise awareness in the area of gender equality and to decrease the horizontal and vertical segregation on the labour market through gender training the aim of which is to provide not only knowledge but mainly practical skills.	19/02/2020	25/05/2020 /cancelled/	435,942.42	370,551.06	ESF	OP Human Resources managing authority	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

Call/invitation code	Call type	Call/invitation name	Description	Call/invitation announcement date	Call/invitation end date	Financial allocation of the non-refundable financial	Financial allocation EU (€)	Fund	Call announced by	Applicant
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contribution (€)										
Priority Axis 3 Employment										
Call/invitation code	Call type	Call/invitation name	Description	Call/invitation announcement date	Call/invitation end date	Financial allocation of the non-refundable financial	Financial allocation EU (€)	Fund	Call announced by	Applicant
OP LZ NP 2020/3.3.1/4.1.1/01	Direct invitation	Establishment of a MoLSAF education centre	<p>The project consists of two specific objectives: 3.1.1 – Increase the quality and capacity of public employment services to an appropriate level in line with changing labour market needs and requirements, transnational job mobility, and increase the involvement of partners and private employment services in addressing employment problems and 4.1.1 – Increase the participation of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable persons in society, including their participation in the labour market.</p> <p>The aim of the activities is to increase the professionalisation of employment services through building technical infrastructure and through an exchange of experience and knowledge of experts working in employment services in EU countries and to support increasing the professionalism of performance and development of human resources in the area of performance and services of social inclusion, for state administration, local governments and non-governmental organisations.</p>	02/06/2020	14/08/2020	2,128,289.52	1,809,046.09	ESF	OP Human Resources managing authority	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic – Department of Education in the Sector

contribution (€)										
Priority Axis 3 Employment										
OP LZ NP 2020/3.1.2./02	Direct invitation	Supporting the maintenance of employment in kindergartens	The aim of the project is to "Support the maintenance of employment in kindergartens" through a contribution for maintaining jobs and thus to help stabilize human resources and employment in the kindergarten network. It is a key tool to avoid a negative impact of consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the area of employment – on kindergarten staff or on employed parents of children who could not attend kindergartens due to measures aimed at slowing down the spread of the virus. It is a "First Aid for Kindergartens".	16/06/2020	18/09/2020	86,319,581.12	70,000,001.10	ESF	OP Human Resources managing authority	Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Call/invitation code	Call type	Call/invitation name	Description	Call/invitation announcement date	Call/invitation end date	Financial allocation of the non-refundable financial contribution (€)	Financial allocation EU (€)	Fund	Call announced by	Applicant
Priority Axis 3 Employment										
OP LZ NP 2020/3.1.2./01	Direct invitation	NP First Aid	The aim is to mitigate the impact of the declared exceptional situation or state of emergency in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic on the employment and labour market in the Slovak Republic through financial support for employers or sole traders who will maintain jobs also in spite of the obligation to interrupt or limit their operational activities on the basis of a measure of the Public Health Authority or in order to protect the health of their employees, due to a loss of revenues or discontinuation of activities of their sub-suppliers. The support of employers to maintain jobs and sole traders to maintain their business activities is divided according to individual areas and according to the subject of their activities and in accordance with the State Aid Scheme. The conditions are specified in the Notification of the possibility to submit applications for the provision of financial contributions disclosed on www.pomahameludom.sk .	21/06/2020	21/09/2020	481,247,164	390,262,575	ESF	OP Human Resources managing authority	Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Call/invitation code	Call type	Call/invitation name	Description	Call/invitation announcement date	Call/invitation end date	Financial allocation of the non-refundable financial contribution (€)	Financial allocation EU (€)	Fund	Call announced by	Applicant
Priority Axis 3 Employment										
OP LZ NP 2020/3.1.2./03	Direct invitation	Supporting employability in the Horná Nitra region	To mitigate the impact of termination of mining activities on the employees of Hornonitrianske bane Prievidza, a.s. (HBP, a.s.) and to create the conditions for their smooth transition from the brown coal mining sector, the activities of which are being reduced, to new employment in other sectors of the economic activity in the region. Main activity: Preparing labour force to find new jobs on the labour market.	06/08/2020	06/10/2020	11,736,348.72	10,177,878.00	ESF	OP Human Resources managing authority	Trenčín Self-governing Region

Call/invitation code	Call type	Call/invitation name	Description	Call/invitation announcement date	Call/invitation end date	Financial allocation of the non-refundable financial contribution (€)	Financial allocation EU (€)	Fund	Call announced by	Applicant
Priority Axis 3 Employment										
OP LZ NP 2020/3.3.1./01	Direct invitation	We Are Looking for a Job Together II	The aim is to increase the availability and quality of expert services provided in the area of labour force mobility in EU/EEA and Switzerland through EURES (European Employment Services). Increasing the quality of public employment services, services of EURES, will help improve the position of job seekers on the labour markets in EU/EEA and Switzerland, increase their employment and employability, improve the connection of public and non-public employment services and cooperation with employers and schools. Implementation of the NP will help facilitate the free movement of the labour force within EU/EEA and decrease the unemployment both in Slovakia as well as in EU/EEA countries overall.	08/09/2020	13/11/2020	4,458,948.34	3,790,106.00	ESF	OP Human Resources managing authority	Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Call/invitation code	Call type	Call/invitation name	Description	Call/invitation announcement date	Call/invitation end date	Financial allocation of the non-refundable financial contribution (€)	Financial allocation EU (€)	Fund	Call announced by	Applicant
Priority Axis 4 Social Inclusion										
OP LZ NP 2020/4.1.1/01	Direct invitation	We are equal	The aim is a pilot verification of an innovative system of social inclusion of persons with disabilities, mainly persons after a sudden change to their health condition as a result of an accident or a disease, by establishing a network of regional centres of early aid, counselling and mobility motivation when leaving medical and/or rehabilitation facilities. They are expected to increase the quality and improve the access of persons with disabilities to the system of services provided for persons with disabilities and to improve the possibilities of their active inclusion in the society through a Peer-to-Peer support system (in this case it is assistance provided to persons with disabilities by persons with disabilities themselves as so-called "coaches").	05/02/2020	09/04/2020	5,625,162.92	5,033,041.00	ESF	OP Human Resources managing authority	Slovak Paralympic Committee

Call/invitation code	Call type	Call/invitation name	Description	Call/invitation announcement date	Call/invitation end date	Financial allocation of the non-refundable financial contribution (€)	Financial allocation EU (€)	Fund	Call announced by	Applicant
Priority Axis 4 Social Inclusion										
OP LZ NP 2020/4.1.2/01	Direct invitation	Supporting universal designing	The aim is to propose the forms of implementation of accessibility and universal designing of buildings and public areas in accordance with the Articles 2 and 9 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Slovak Republic so that all people could use them in the biggest possible extent without the need for adjustments or special design.	19/05/2020	22/07/2020	1,235,033.51	1,054,250.60	ESF	OP Human Resources managing authority	Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava
OP LZ NP 2020/4.1.1/02	Direct invitation	Supporting the enhancement of professionalism of performance and development of human resources in the area of performance and services of social inclusion for state administration and local governments II.	The aim is to create a functional system of sectoral education (specialization education, post-secondary education and continuous education) which is still missing therein, based on a common educational strategy of the sector.	01/06/2020	03/08/2020	5,996,720.41	4,862,981.00	ESF	OP Human Resources managing authority	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic – Department of Education in the Sector

Call/invitation code	Call type	Call/invitation name	Description	Call/invitation announcement date	Call/invitation end date	Financial allocation of the non-refundable financial contribution (€)	Financial allocation EU (€)	Fund	Call announced by	Applicant
Priority Axis 4 Social Inclusion										
OP LZ NP 2020/3.3.1/4.1.1/01	Direct invitation	Establishment of a MoLSAF education centre	<p>The project consists of two specific objectives: 3.1.1 – Increase the quality and capacity of public employment services to an appropriate level in line with changing labour market needs and requirements, transnational job mobility, and increase the involvement of partners and private employment services in addressing employment problems and 4.1.1 – Increase the participation of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable persons in society, including their participation in the labour market.</p> <p>The aim of the activities is to increase the professionalisation of employment services through building technical infrastructure and through an exchange of experience and knowledge of experts working in employment services in EU countries and to support increasing the professionalism of performance and development of human resources in the area of performance and services of social inclusion, for state administration, local governments and non-governmental organisations.</p>	02/06/2020	14/08/2020	2,128,289.52	1,809,046.09	ESF	OP Human Resources managing authority	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic – Department of Education in the Sector

Call/invitation code	Call type	Call/invitation name	Description	Call/invitation announcement date	Call/invitation end date	Financial allocation of the non-refundable financial contribution (€)	Financial allocation EU (€)	Fund	Call announced by	Applicant
Priority Axis 4 Social Inclusion										
OP LZ NP 2020/4.1.1/04	Direct invitation	Healthy communities 3B	The aim is to build a systemic provision of health support services through a network of workers on a community and regional level, i.e. to prepare human resources for extraordinary, emergency and crisis situations, particularly in the case of epidemics and pandemics (in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic). Compared to the first stage (NP ZK 3A), the project develops and innovates development elements which proved efficient in the performance of field activities. It includes mainly extending methodologies, more targeted setting of field activities, new jobs directly in hospitals as well as a change to names of work positions.	15/10/2020	10/12/2020	978,192	489,096	ESF	OP Human Resources managing authority	Healthy Regions, state budgetary organisation of the Ministry of Health of SR

Call/invitation code	Call type	Call/invitation name	Description	Call/invitation announcement date	Call/invitation end date	Financial allocation of the non-refundable financial contribution (€)	Financial allocation EU (€)	Fund	Call announced by	Applicant
Priority Axis 4 Social Inclusion										
OP LZ NP 2020/4.1.1/03	Direct invitation	Integrated access to the performance of social work by employees of offices of labour, social affairs and family	The aim of the national project is to support a comprehensive approach in the provision of assistance to clients of the Department of Social Affairs and Family through developing social work in their natural environment with a focus on strengthening the building of social networks in favour of clients on a territorial or regional level. Such approach will ensure a targeted and accessible assistance to clients of the Department of Social Affairs and Family, efficient cooperation of assisting entities in the presence of the client, thus increasing the quality of the process of integration of persons from the target group in the society and their success on the labour market. The achieved results will have an impact on decreasing the risk of poverty and social exclusion, as well as on increasing employability.	21/10/2020	21/12/2020	18,043,812.78	14,788,080.13	ESF	OP Human Resources managing authority	Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Call/invitation code	Call type	Call/invitation name	Description	Call/invitation announcement date	Call/invitation end date	Financial allocation of the non-refundable financial contribution (€)	Financial allocation EU (€)	Fund	Call announced by	Applicant
Priority Axis 5 Integration of marginalised Roma communities										
OPLZNP-PO5-2020-1	Direct invitation	Support for pre-primary education of children from marginalized Roma communities II (NP PRIM II. – Project of inclusion in kindergartens)	The main goal is a systemic support of involvement of children from marginalized Roma communities in pre-primary education, by creating an inclusive environment in kindergartens and through support measures focused on improving the cooperation with families.	29/06/2020	01/01/2021	17,647,058.8	15,000,000	ESF	Intermediate body Ministry of Interior of the SR	Ministry of Interior of the SR
OPLZNP-PO5-2020-2	Direct invitation	"Korona te merel" (we will defeat the coronavirus)	The aim is to improve the situation of the marginalized Roma communities in the area of the social determinants of health, specifically in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, implementation and development of health mediation and awareness-raising.	30/06/2020	01/01/2021	1,407,100	1,196,035	ESF	Intermediate body Ministry of Interior of the SR	Healthy Regions as a state contributory organisation of the Ministry of Health of SR
OPLZNP-PO5-2020-3	Direct invitation	Supporting the activities focused on dealing with unfavourable situations related to COVID-19 in municipalities with marginalized Roma communities	Dealing with unfavourable situations related to COVID-19 in municipalities with marginalized Roma communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving the access to healthcare; • monitoring the degree of risk, possibility of infection and development of the disease; • targeted actions in social intervention, also through material, food, hygienic, technical and communication support. 	29/ 6/ 2020	01/01/2021	6,465,500	5,495,675	ESF	Intermediate body Ministry of Interior of the SR	Ministry of Interior of the SR

Call/invitation code	Call type	Call/invitation name	Description	Call/invitation announcement date	Call/invitation end date	Financial allocation of the non-refundable financial contribution (€)	Financial allocation EU (€)	Fund	Call announced by	Applicant
Priority Axis 5 Integration of marginalised Roma communities										
OPLZ-PO5-2020-4	Call	Supporting the settlement of property relationships to lands in the municipalities with marginalized Roma communities through simple land adjustments	Supporting the settlement of property relationships to lands in municipalities.	18/08/2020		2,235,294.12	2,000,000	ESF	Intermediate body Ministry of Interior of the SR	N/A
OPLZ-PO5a6-2020-1	Call	Supporting a comprehensive approach in municipalities with marginalized Roma communities (hereinafter referred to as "MRCs")	Supporting a comprehensive approach in municipalities with MRCs, support within specific objectives 5.1.2, 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3 of OP HR.	22/10/2020/ CuRI		0.5 million PA5 and 9.5 million PA6	0.5 million PA5 and 9.5 million PA6	ESF, ERDF in PA6	Intermediate body Ministry of Interior of the SR	N/A
Priority Axis 6 Technical Facilities in Municipalities with Marginalised Roma Communities										
OPLZ-PO6-SC611-2020-1	Call	Supporting the access to drinking water in marginalized Roma communities	The supported activities include: construction and extension of local water supply systems and drinking water distribution systems, water source execution, construction of dispensing sites, construction of surface water treatment plants.	21/04/2020		10,000,000	10,000,000	ERDF	Intermediate body Ministry of Interior of the SR	N/A

Call/invitation code	Call type	Call/invitation name	Description	Call/invitation announcement date	Call/invitation end date	Financial allocation of the non-refundable financial contribution (€)	Financial allocation EU (€)	Fund	Call announced by	Applicant
Priority Axis 6 Technical Facilities in Municipalities with Marginalised Roma Communities										
OPLZ-PO5a6-2020-1	Call	Supporting a comprehensive approach in municipalities with marginalized Roma communities (hereinafter referred to as "MRCs")	Supporting a comprehensive approach in municipalities with MRCs, support within specific objectives 5.1.2, 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3 of OP HR.	22/10/2020 CuRI		0.5 million PA5 and 9.5 million PA6	0.5 million PA5 and 9.5 million PA6	ERDF, ESF in PA5	Intermediate body Ministry of Interior of the SR	N/A
OPLZ-PO6-SC611-2020-2	Call	Call focused on supporting the construction of utility networks (sewage system, access to drinking water) in marginalized Roma communities	The outcome serves to all citizens; a special condition is that the applicant will ensure sewage collection/treatment for at least 50 persons from MRC or access to drinking water for at least 50 persons, of which at least 30 persons from MRC.	27/11/2020		17,500,000	17,500,000	ERDF	Intermediate body Ministry of Interior of the SR	N/A

Note: Calls for submission of applications of demand-driven projects are marked with bold; * CuRI - Initiative of EC and the World Bank "Catching-up Regions" i.e. assistance to regions which are "catching up" or "lagging behind"

Source: MA, ITMS2014+

Table 39 Spending in the Budget Section 22 - MoLSAF, by Programme Budgeting

Programme code	Programme name	Approved budget	Adjusted budget	Actual spending as at 31 December 2020	%
07C	Social inclusion	2,447,118,813	2,790,141,466	2,773,674,898	99.4
07C0A	Social services support	156,063,072	156,063,072	152,571,670	97.8
07C0B	OP of European Aid for the most deprived persons	12,653,879	5,453,734	5,453,734	100.0
07C0B01	- Social inclusion of the most deprived persons	12,653,879	5,453,734	5,453,734	100.0
07C01	Material need assistance	139,130,000	122,221,377	121,728,048	99.6
07C0101	- Material need allowance	123,400,000	114,497,501	114,092,057	99.6
07C0102	- Subsidy for performance of a special beneficiary	160,000	121,998	114,419	93.8
07C0103	- Food subsidy for a child in material need	8,120,000	299,953	262,879	87.6
07C0104	- School supplies subsidy for a child in material need	1,600,000	1,166,756	1,149,267	98.5
07C0106	- Substitute child maintenance	5,850,000	6,135,169	6,109,426	99.6
07C02	Support for Families	1,248,559,066	1,371,750,383	1,367,795,655	99.7
07C0201	- Child allowance	334,472,320	338,448,185	337,955,349	99.9
07C0202	- Parental allowance	551,270,100	581,673,663	581,649,374	100.0
07C0206	- Other benefits to support families	48,800,000	47,125,144	47,079,218	99.9
07C020A	- State-paid insurance	309,260,796	320,260,796	320,260,796	100.0
07C020B	- Childcare allowance	4,755,850	293,618	240,029	81.7
07C020D	- Subsidy to support children's healthy eating habits	0	83,948,977	80,610,889	96.0
07C03	Compensation of social consequences of severe disabilities	423,467,850	453,614,332	453,504,569	100.0
07C04	Initiatives in the area of social inclusion	3,209,702	48,208,773	42,295,291	87.7
07C040A	- Other initiatives	3,209,702	48,155,173	42,244,095	87.7

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07C040H	- Compensatory contribution for miners	0	53,600	51,196	95.5
07C05	Caring for Vulnerable Children	143,378,869	150,315,670	149,836,338	99.7
Programme code	Programme name	Approved budget	Adjusted budget	Actual spending as at 31 December 2020	%
07C0501	- Substitute family care	25,110,746	26,391,086	26,373,708	99.9
07C0502	- State centres for children and families	90,788,463	101,190,179	100,759,285	99.6
07C0503	- Non-state centres for children and families	26,279,660	21,869,888	21,848,524	99.9
07C0504	- Prevention and remediation (NGOs)	1,200,000	864,517	854,821	98.9
07C06	Non-systemic social insurance benefits	167,980,661	174,980,661	174,980,661	100.0
07C07	13th pension (before 2020 Christmas contribution for pensioners)	152,675,714	307,533,464	305,508,932	99.3
07E	Creation and implementation of policies	203,341,055	220,196,890	220,151,616	100.0
07E03	Management, conceptual and research activities	18,150,459	20,749,315	20,749,313	100.0
07E0301	- Apparatus of the Ministry	18,150,459	20,749,315	20,749,313	100.0
07E04	Performance of state administration in the section of social affairs, family, labour and employment	181,695,319	198,004,450	197,998,768	100.0
07E0401	- Specialized state administration	165,668,835	181,123,630	181,119,215	100.0
07E0402	- Other state administration	16,026,484	16,880,820	16,879,553	100.0
07E05	Implementation of ESF projects	1,675,277	1,246,125	1,246,123	100.0
07E0501	- Implementation Agency	1675277	1246125	1246123	100.0
07E06	European Labour Authority – ELA	1,820,000	197,000	157,412	79.9
	Inter-ministerial programmes and sub-programmes where the budget section is a manager and participant				
06G	Human resources	258,639,761	1,312,720,132	1,171,076,647	89.2
06G04	Active labour market policy and increasing employment - MoLSAF	41,713,813	752,308,791	610,665,306	81.2
06G0404	- National programmes for the development of ALMMs and increasing employment	36,529,052	747,124,030	609,041,233	81.5

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06G040J	- Individual state aid	5,184,761	5,184,761	1,624,073	31.3
06G1S	OP Human Resources 2014 – 2020 – MoLSAF	216,925,948	560,411,341	560,411,341	100.0
06G1S01	- Employment	137,749,630	467,818,180	467,818,180	100.0
06G1S02	- Social inclusion	54,870,442	52,755,294	52,755,294	100.0
Programme code	Programme name	Approved budget	Adjusted budget	Actual spending as at 31 December 2020	%
06G1S03	- Technical assistance	11398751	10214756	10214756	100.0
06G1S04	- Youth employment initiative	12,907,125	29,623,111	29,623,111	100.0
	Sub-programmes where the budget section is a participant of an interministerial programme				
0EK	State-funded information technology	18,503,783	38,083,590	38,080,336	100.0
0EK0H	State-funded information technology from the MoLSAF budget	18,503,783	38,083,590	38,080,336	100.0
0EK0H01	- Internal management systems	250,259	616,227	616,227	100.0
0EK0H02	- Specialized systems	443,448	3,222,615	3,222,615	100.0
0EK0H03	- Supporting infrastructure	10,119,406	17,552,219	17,548,965	100.0
0EK0H04	- IS management of social benefits	1,536,700	3,723,593	3,723,593	100.0
0EK0H05	- IS KIDS	383,900	572,220	572,220	100.0
0EK0H06	- IS employment services	855,144	3,323,856	3,323,856	100.0
0EK0H07	- Online Labour Market Guide	298,800	0	0	0.0
0EK0H08	- IS SAP	2,221,022	4,462,767	4,462,767	100.0
0EK0H09	- IS SOFTIP	805,104	927,818	927,818	100.0
0EK0H0A	- IS DMS	1,590,000	3,682,275	3,682,275	100.0
06H09	Economic mobilisation – MoLSAF	45,189	45,189	44,372	98.2
09706	Contributions of SR to international organizations - MoLSAF	510,000	568,321	568,320	100.0

0AR05	MoLSAF - Anti-drug policy	50,000	19,260	17,357	90.1
	Total expenditure for the section	2,928,208,601	4,361,774,848	4,203,613,546	96.4

Source: MoLSAF, Draft state final account (actual amounts as at 31 December 2020)

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Table 1 List of Selected Indicators of Social Inclusion (2016 – 2019)

	2016			2017			2018			2019			Difference		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women									
At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate of single-parent families	18.1	18.1	18.2	16.3	16.3	16.2	16.3	16.0	16.6	16.4	15.7	17.0	0.1	-0.3	0.4
At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate of older persons (0 - 15)	24.8	23.9	25.8	22.2	22.7	21.7	23.6	23.9	23.2	21.4	20.7	22.2	-2.2	-3.2	-1.0
At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate of older persons (0 – 17)	24.4	23.7	25.1	22.5	22.7	22.3	23.8	24.0	23.5	22.0	21.9	22.1	-1.8	-2.1	-1.4
At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate of older persons (18 – 64)	17.6	17.7	17.5	15.5	15.7	15.3	15.2	14.8	15.6	15.3	14.9	15.7	0.1	0.1	0.1
At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion rate (65+)	12.3	10.3	13.5	12.1	9.8	13.7	11.9	10.0	13.1	14.2	10.4	16.7	2.3	0.4	3.6
Impact of social transfers on reducing the risk of poverty (with the exception of pensions)	31.0	29.8	31.6	29.1	29.1	29.7	31.1	29.5	31.7	38.0	38.0	38.3	6.9	8.5	6.6
Impact of social transfers on reducing the risk of poverty (including pensions)	66.5	63.9	68.4	66.8	64.9	68.9	67.1	65.1	68.5	68.0	66.8	69.3	0.9	1.6	0.7
At-risk-of-poverty by sex (entire population)	12.7	12.7	12.8	12.4	12.4	12.3	12.2	12.2	12.3	11.9	11.6	12.1	-0.3	-0.6	-0.2
At-risk-of-poverty rate (aged 0 – 5 years)	19.4	18.1	20.6	16.9	16.5	17.2	19.8	19.9	19.7	20.6	19.4	22.0	0.8	-0.5	2.3
At-risk-of-poverty rate (aged 6 – 11 years)	22.7	22.4	23.0	20.5	23.1	17.7	18.8	19.6	18.0	17.9	18.5	17.4	-0.9	-1.1	-0.6
At-risk-of-poverty rate (aged 12 – 17 years)	20.2	19.6	20.9	21.9	20.7	23.2	22.9	23.8	22.0	18.4	21.3	15.1	-4.5	-2.5	-6.9
At-risk-of-poverty rate (0 – 15)	21.4	20.5	22.4	19.7	20.3	19.0	20.2	20.9	19.5	18.3	18.5	18.0	-1.9	-2.4	-1.5
At-risk-of-poverty rate (0 – 17)	20.8	20.2	21.5	19.9	20.4	19.4	20.5	21.2	19.8	19.0	19.7	18.2	-1.5	-1.5	-1.6
At-risk-of-poverty rate (18 – 24)	14.8	11.2	18.5	14.5	12.6	16.5	14.0	12.9	15.1	14.7	14.9	14.6	0.7	2.0	-0.5
At-risk-of-poverty rate (25 – 54)	12.2	12.5	11.9	11.5	11.4	11.7	11.3	10.9	11.7	10.2	9.6	10.8	-1.1	-1.3	-0.9
At-risk-of-poverty rate (55 – 64)	9.5	10.5	8.6	9.4	10.5	8.4	9.6	9.7	9.5	9.8	10.2	9.4	0.2	0.5	-0.1
At-risk-of-poverty rate (18 – 64)	12.0	12.0	12.1	11.5	11.4	11.6	11.3	10.9	11.6	10.7	10.4	11.0	-0.6	-0.5	-0.6
At-risk-of-poverty rate (65+)	5.7	4.3	6.5	6.9	4.9	8.3	6.4	5.2	7.1	8.7	6.1	10.5	2.3	0.9	3.4
At-risk-of-poverty threshold – household of an individual (EUR)	4,171			4,310			4,477			4,872			395.0		
At-risk-of-poverty threshold – household of an individual (PPS)	6,280			5,763			5,846			6,302			456		
At-risk-of-poverty threshold – household with 2 adults and 2 children (EUR)	8,758			9,051			9,402			10,230			828		
At-risk-of-poverty threshold – household with 2 adults and 2 children (PPS)	13,187			12,103			12,278			13,234			956		
Persistent at-risk-of-poverty rate (all population)	7.7	7.4	8.0	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Persistent at-risk-of-poverty rate (0 – 17)	15.0	11.6	18.5	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Persistent at-risk-of-poverty rate (18 – 64)	7.3	7.4	7.3	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Persistent at-risk-of-poverty rate (65+)	2.7	2.6	2.7	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap (entire population)	26.1	27.8	24.3	26.0	28.8	23.9	25.6	26.0	22.9	25.2	27.9	23.1	-0.4	1.9	0.2
Relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap (0 – 5)	34.1	35.2	30.6	29.5	25.4	37.4	25.1	8.3	26.1	24.8	24.8	22.5	-0.3	16.5	-3.6
Relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap (6 – 11)	26.6	32.0	24.7	31.5	29.5	33.1	26.1	26.2	26.1	27.1	33.3	24.6	1.0	7.1	-1.5

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Relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap (12 – 17)	35.0	28.6	35.9	29.5	32.3	29.4	26.4	26.4	26.8	40.2	44.5	25.2	13.8	18.1	-1.6
Relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap (0 – 17)	31.6	33.1	30.6	30.3	28.2	31.5	26.1	26.1	26.3	27.9	33.5	25.2	1.8	7.4	-1.1
Relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap (18 – 64)	26.4	27.1	26.1	28.0	29.7	25.0	26.0	26.3	26.3	27.5	28.7	26.1	1.5	2.4	-0.2

	2016			2017			2018			2019			Difference		
	Total	Men	Wo men												
Relative median at-risk-of-poverty gap (65+)	10.3	11.6	9.8	9.6	9.3	9.7	7.4	3.6	8.6	12.4	12.1	12.6	5.0	8.5	4.0
Long-term unemployment rate (15 – 74)	5.8	5.5	6.2	5.1	5.2	4.9	4.0	4.0	4.1	3.4	3.4	3.3	-0.6	-0.6	-0.8
Population living in households with very low work intensity (population 0 – 59)	6.5	6.6	6.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.2	5.3	6.2	6.5	5.9	1.0	1.3	0.6
Population living in households with very low work intensity (aged 0 – 5)	8.6	8.0	9.3	6.8	5.1	8.4	6.5	5.0	8.0	7.5	8.5	6.3	1.0	3.5	-1.7
Population living in households with very low work intensity (aged 6 – 11)	8.6	7.8	9.5	7.1	6.2	8.0	5.7	5.7	5.6	6.5	7.6	5.3	0.8	1.9	-0.3
Population living in households with very low work intensity (aged 12 – 17)	7.5	6.5	8.7	7.5	7.5	7.4	6.9	6.5	7.3	6.8	7.9	5.6	-0.1	1.4	-1.7
Population living in households with very low work intensity (aged 0 – 17)	8.2	7.4	9.2	7.1	6.4	7.9	6.3	5.8	6.9	6.9	8.0	5.8	0.6	2.2	-1.1
Population living in households with very low work intensity (aged 18 – 59)	6.0	6.4	5.5	4.8	5.0	4.6	4.9	5.0	4.8	6.0	6.0	6.0	1.1	1.0	1.2
Children living in jobless households (0 – 17)	7.7	:	:	8.0	:	:	7.2	:	:	7.5	:	:	0.3	:	:
Population living in jobless households (18 – 59)	6.4	6.3	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	6.2	6.1	6.3	0.4	0.4	0.5
Early school leavers not in education or training	7.4	7.6	7.2	9.3	8.5	10.3	8.6	8.3	8.8	8.3	8.8	7.9	-0.3	0.5	-0.9
Severe material deprivation (entire population)	8.2	8.1	8.3	7.0	7.2	6.8	7.0	6.8	7.2	7.9	7.6	8.1	0.9	0.8	0.9
Severe material deprivation (0 – 15)	9.7	9.2	10.2	8.9	9.5	8.2	8.9	8.5	9.3	8.4	7.6	9.2	-0.5	-0.9	-0.1
Severe material deprivation (0 – 17)	9.7	9.4	10.1	9.1	9.2	8.9	9.0	8.4	9.7	8.7	8.2	9.1	-0.3	-0.2	-0.6
Severe material deprivation (18 – 64)	7.9	8.0	7.7	6.5	6.8	6.1	6.5	6.5	6.4	7.7	7.6	7.7	1.2	1.1	1.3
Severe material deprivation (65+)	8.0	7.0	8.6	6.9	6.1	7.4	7.0	6.1	7.6	7.9	6.6	8.8	0.9	0.5	1.2
Material and social deprivation (entire population)	15.3	14.5	16.0	13.3	12.6	14.0	12.2	11.8	12.7	11.4	10.6	12.1	-0.8	-1.2	-0.6
Material and social deprivation (0 – 15)	17.9	17.4	18.5	15.7	16.3	15.0	15.2	14.4	15.9	11.9	11.3	12.5	-3.3	-3.1	-3.4
Material and social deprivation (0 – 17)	17.8	17.3	18.4	15.8	15.9	15.8	15.3	14.4	16.2	12.2	11.9	12.4	-3.1	-2.5	-3.8
Material and social deprivation (18 – 64)	14.0	13.5	14.6	12.0	11.5	12.6	11.0	10.9	11.1	10.7	10.2	11.2	-0.3	-0.7	0.1
Material and social deprivation (65+)	17.8	15.5	19.3	16.1	14.2	17.2	13.8	12.7	14.5	13.3	10.5	15.2	-0.5	-2.2	0.7
Material deprivation rate (entire population)	19.1	18.4	19.7	16.4	15.9	16.9	17.2	16.4	18.0	15.2	14.4	15.9	-2.0	-2.0	-2.1
Material deprivation rate (0 – 5)	16.3	16.2	16.4	15.1	14.8	15.5	17.5	19.2	15.9	12.9	11.9	14.0	-4.6	-7.3	-1.9
Material deprivation rate (6 – 11)	22.7	23.0	22.4	17.8	17.9	17.7	18.1	18.3	17.8	15.8	16.0	15.6	-2.3	-2.3	-2.2
Material deprivation rate (12 – 17)	23.0	21.7	24.3	20.1	18.5	22.0	20.9	19.1	22.9	18.5	17.8	17.1	-2.4	-1.3	-5.8
Material deprivation rate (0 – 17)	20.9	20.7	21.2	17.8	17.2	18.5	18.9	18.9	18.8	15.3	15.1	15.5	-3.6	-3.8	-3.3

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	2016			2017			2018			2019			Difference		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women									
Material deprivation rate (18 – 64)	17.7	17.6	17.8	14.9	15.0	14.9	15.8	15.5	16.1	14.3	13.9	14.6	-1.5	-1.6	-1.5
Material deprivation rate (65+)	22.9	19.4	25.1	21.3	19.3	22.6	21.5	17.8	23.9	18.9	15.9	20.8	-2.6	-1.9	-3.1
At-risk-of-poverty rate by household types:															
one adult aged <65 years	22.7	:	:	25.8	:	:	23.0	:	:	22.4	:	:	-0.6	:	:
one adult aged 65+ years	9.0	:	:	11.9	:	:	12.4	:	:	20.1	:	:	7.7	:	:
single person	15.5	21.9	12.2	18.2	25.1	14.5	17.2	20.6	15.4	21.1	22.9	20.2	3.9	2.3	4.8
two adults household, at least one aged 65+ years	2.5	:	:	4.0	:	:	3.6	:	:	5.2	:	:	1.6	:	:
two adults, both aged <65 years	8.1	:	:	7.2	:	:	9.5	:	:	7.2	:	:	-2.3	:	:
single parent with at least one child	33.6	:	:	37.3	:	:	36.7	:	:	32.1	:	:	-4.6	:	:
two adults with one dependent child	10.5	:	:	9.8	:	:	11.4	:	:	10.3	:	:	-1.1	:	:
two adults with two dependent children	14.8	:	:	14.7	:	:	14.5	:	:	10.2	:	:	-4.3	:	:
two adults with 3+ dependent children	34.8	:	:	35.4	:	:	36.7	:	:	37.8	:	:	1.1	:	:
three or more adults with dependent children	15.7	:	:	13.6	:	:	13.3	:	:	14.7	:	:	1.4	:	:
households with dependent children	17.2	:	:	16.2	:	:	16.1	:	:	15.2	:	:	-0.9	:	:
households without dependent children	7.2	:	:	7.6	:	:	7.3	:	:	7.9	:	:	0.6	:	:
At-risk-of-poverty rate by work intensity of the household members (aged 18 – 59 years)															
households without children – very low work intensity(0 – 0.2)	50.5	54.2	43.5	55.1	55.9	53.7	63.1	64.0	61.6	53.7	57.3	48.6	-9.4	-6.7	-13.0
households without children – low work intensity other than very low work intensity (0.2 – 1)	5.2	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.6	5.0	4.8	4.9	4.6	3.7	3.7	3.6	-1.1	-1.2	-1.0
households without children – low work intensity (0.2 – 0.45)	35.7	40.9	29.7	22.9	38.5	27.1	39.5	41.6	36.5	20.0	16.2	24.0	-	-	-12.5
households without children – medium work intensity (0.45 – 0.55)	12.9	12.9	12.9	16.5	15.3	17.6	19.6	22.3	16.0	17.9	20.3	15.0	-1.7	-2.0	-1.0
households without children – high work intensity (0.55 – 0.85)	2.7	1.9	3.8	3.1	2.2	4.2	3.7	3.6	3.9	1.6	1.6	1.7	-2.1	-2.0	-2.2
households without children – very high work intensity (0.85 – 1)	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.5	2.4	1.9	1.4	2.3	1.6	1.6	1.7	-0.3	0.2	-0.6
households without children – very low work intensity (0 – 0.2)	87.7	88.9	86.8	89.7	91.9	88.0	83.5	86.3	81.5	90.1	92.3	88.3	6.6	6.0	6.8
households with children – low work intensity other than very low (0.2 – 1)	11.6	11.3	11.8	11.3	11.0	11.5	11.1	10.5	11.7	9.0	8.5	9.4	-2.1	-2.0	-2.3

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households with children – low work intensity (0.2 – 0.45)	52.1	55.9	48.8	60.3	60.9	59.8	44.2	38.9	49.1	54.6	47.9	59.9	10.4	9.0	10.8
households with children – medium work intensity (0.45 – 0.55)	29.8	29.4	30.3	26.2	25.6	26.8	24.1	24.2	24.1	28.8	28.7	28.8	4.7	4.5	4.7
households with children – high work intensity (0.55 – 0.85)	11.1	9.6	12.6	8.1	8.4	7.8	10.2	10.3	10.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	-5.1	-5.2	-5.1
households with children – very high work intensity (0.85 – 1)	5.0	5.1	4.8	6.3	5.8	6.8	6.4	5.5	7.1	2.6	2.4	2.8	-3.8	-3.1	-4.3
At-risk-of-poverty rate by the most frequent economic activity (18+)															
unemployed	47.6	49.8	45.2	49.2	53.2	45.1	51.0	54.9	46.6	56.7	60.3	52.6	5.7	5.4	6.0
employed	6.5	6.9	6.0	6.3	6.8	5.8	6.0	6.2	5.8	4.4	5.2	3.4	-1.6	-1.0	-2.4
retired	6.0	4.9	6.8	7.6	6.2	8.6	7.0	5.8	7.8	8.6	6.5	10.1	1.6	0.7	2.3
other inactive person	19.8	17.4	21.2	19.6	17.0	21.0	19.8	16.9	21.4	19.5	14.2	22.1	-0.3	-2.7	0.7

	2016			2017			2018			2019			Difference		
	Tot al	Me n	Wom en	Tot al	Me n	Wom en	Tot al	Me n	Wom en	Tot al	Me n	Wom en	Tot al	Me n	Wom en
At-risk-of-poverty rate by accommodation tenure status															
owner or accommodation provided for free	12.0	12.0	12.1	11.2	11.2	11.2	11.0	11.1	10.9	10.6	10.2	10.9	-0.4	-0.9	0.0
tenant	19.7	19.9	19.6	24.4	24.1	24.7	27.0	25.2	28.7	27.0	27.6	26.4	0.0	2.4	-2.3
Dispersion around the at-risk-of-poverty threshold – 40 % of national median equivalised disposable income	5.5	5.8	5.3	5.3	5.6	5.0	3.3	3.5	3.1	4.7	5.2	4.3	1.4	1.7	1.2
Dispersion around the at-risk-of-poverty threshold – 50% of national median equivalised disposable income	8.1	8.2	8.0	7.8	8.0	7.6	6.3	6.3	6.3	7.5	7.8	7.1	1.2	1.5	0.8
Dispersion around the at-risk-of-poverty threshold – 70% of national median equivalised disposable income	19.5	18.8	20.2	18.3	17.9	18.6	16.7	16.3	17.1	19.2	18.3	20.2	2.5	2.0	3.1
Population with low educational level (25 – 39)	81.7	40.6	41.2	102.5	50.4	52.1	99.4	52.1	47.2	109.1	58.0	51.0	9.7	5.9	3.8
Population with low educational level (40 – 59)	118.2	51.5	66.6	116.6	50.3	66.3	110.9	20.0	60.9	114.9	52.2	62.7	4.0	32.2	1.8
Population with low educational level (55 – 64)	97.9	33.1	64.9	84.7	26.9	57.8	84.3	26.5	57.7	83.0	28.9	54.1	-1.3	2.4	-3.6

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Population with low educational level (25 – 64)	258.4	110.1	148.5	272.2	116.7	155.5	263.2	117.0	146.1	271.8	125.0	146.8	8.6	8.0	0.7
Depth of material deprivation	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.9	3.9	3.9	0.2	0.2	0.3
Housing cost overburden rate (entire population)	7.7	6.9	8.5	8.4	7.7	9.1	4.1	3.4	4.8	5.7	5.4	6.0	1.6	2.0	1.2
Housing cost overburden rate (0 – 5)	10.1	11.3	9.0	9.8	9.9	9.7	4.6	5.4	3.8	11.6	10.6	12.8	7.0	5.2	9.0
Housing cost overburden rate (6 – 11)	8.9	7.0	11.0	8.4	8.6	8.1	3.0	2.6	3.4	6.3	6.2	6.3	3.3	3.6	2.9
Housing cost overburden rate (12 – 17)	8.7	8.9	8.5	8.6	10.3	6.6	4.4	4.0	4.8	6.4	6.9	6.0	2.0	2.9	1.2
Housing cost overburden rate (0 – 17)	9.2	8.9	9.5	8.9	9.6	8.1	4.0	3.9	4.0	8.2	7.9	8.4	4.2	4.0	4.4
Housing cost overburden rate (18 – 24)	6.9	5.3	8.4	6.7	5.5	7.8	3.6	3.6	3.6	5.9	6.1	5.6	2.3	2.5	2.0
Housing cost overburden rate (25 – 29)	5.8	5.7	5.8	6.4	4.3	8.7	3.4	2.9	3.9	3.8	2.9	4.9	0.4	0.0	1.0
Housing cost overburden rate (18 – 64)	7.2	6.6	7.9	7.3	6.9	7.8	3.8	3.3	4.2	5.4	5.3	5.5	1.6	2.0	1.3
Housing cost overburden rate (65+)	8.1	4.9	10.1	12.8	9.2	15.1	5.7	3.3	7.3	4.0	1.5	5.6	-1.7	-1.8	-1.7
Housing cost overburden rate – poor	35.6	34.5	36.7	38.9	38.1	39.6	24.4	21.8	26.9	26.8	26.5	27.1	2.4	4.7	0.2
Housing cost overburden rate – not poor	3.7	2.9	4.4	4.1	3.4	4.8	1.3	0.9	1.7	2.8	2.6	3.1	1.5	1.7	1.4
Housing cost overburden rate (I. quintile)	27.9	:	:	31.1	:	:	17.5	:	:	19.1	:	:	1.6	:	:
Housing cost overburden rate (II. quintile)	6.8	:	:	7.2	:	:	2.4	:	:	3.8	:	:	1.4	:	:
Housing cost overburden rate (III. quintile)	2.5	:	:	2.3	:	:	0.3	:	:	2.7	:	:	2.4	:	:
Housing cost overburden rate (IV. quintile)	0.9	:	:	1.2	:	:	0.1	:	:	1.7	:	:	1.6	:	:
Housing cost overburden rate (V. quintile)	0.5	:	:	0.4	:	:	0.3	:	:	1.1	:	:	0.8	:	:

	2016			2017			2018			2019			Difference		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women									
Housing cost overburden rate by accommodation tenure status															
owner, with a mortgage or housing loan	15.1	:	:	8.6	:	:	1.9	:	:	12.8	:	:	10.9	:	:
owner, without a mortgage or housing loan	5.7	:	:	6.7	:	:	3.1	:	:	2.5	:	:	-0.6	:	:
tenant, lease at market price	13.9	:	:	20.9	:	:	19.2	:	:	16.4	:	:	-2.8	:	:
tenant, lease at a reduced price or for free	17.6	:	:	21.3	:	:	7.3	:	:	4.0	:	:	-3.3	:	:
Housing cost overburden rate by degree of urbanisation															

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densely populated area (towns/cities)	7.0	:	:	7.8	:	:	5.6	:	:	8.9	:	:	3.3	:	:	
moderately populated area	7.9	:	:	9.1	:	:	4.9	:	:	5.8	:	:	0.9	:	:	
sparsely populated area	8.0	:	:	8.2	:	:	2.7	:	:	4.0	:	:	1.3	:	:	
Housing cost overburden rate by household type																
single adult aged <65 years	27.4	:	:	33.1	:	:	17.7	:	:	19.2	:	:	1.5	:	:	
single adult aged 65+ years	22.3	:	:	32.1	:	:	19.5	:	:	14.5	:	:	-5.0	:	:	
single adult	24.7	23.9	25.2	32.5	32.7	32.5	18.7	15.0	20.7	16.6	17.3	16.3	-2.1	2.3	-4.4	
two adults household, at least one aged 65 + years	3.1	:	:	7.3	:	:	1.8	:	:	1.4	:	:	-0.4	:	:	
two adults, both aged <65 years	8.4	:	:	8.3	:	:	6.4	:	:	7.8	:	:	1.4	:	:	
single adult with at least one child	32.3	:	:	24.9	:	:	18.9	:	:	19.9	:	:	1.0	:	:	
two adults with one dependent child	11.3	:	:	9.0	:	:	4.7	:	:	8.9	:	:	4.2	:	:	
two adults with two dependent children	8.2	:	:	8.3	:	:	3.5	:	:	6.3	:	:	2.8	:	:	
two adults with 3+ dependent children	8.6	:	:	11.4	:	:	2.2	:	:	13.0	:	:	10.8	:	:	
three or more adults with dependent children	3.6	:	:	3.8	:	:	1.6	:	:	3.4	:	:	1.8	:	:	
households with dependent children	7.5	:	:	9.5	:	:	3.3	:	:	6.5	:	:	3.2	:	:	
households without dependent children	7.9	:	:	7.5	:	:	5.1	:	:	4.7	:	:	-0.4	:	:	
Overcrowding rate (entire population)	37.9	38.5	37.4	36.4	36.8	36.1	35.5	35.3	35.6	34.1	34.5	33.8	-1.4	-0.8	-1.8	
Overcrowding rate (0 – 5)	39.4	37.0	41.7	37.8	35.6	40.0	36.1	34.2	37.9	35.1	35.4	34.9	-1.0	1.2	-3.0	
Overcrowding rate (6 – 11)	48.3	49.5	47.0	43.3	45.1	41.3	44.4	45.2	43.7	41.1	42.8	39.4	-3.3	-2.4	-4.3	
Overcrowding rate (12 – 17)	59.8	59.6	60.0	55.0	52.9	57.5	55.3	50.7	60.6	53.9	55.6	52.0	-1.4	4.9	-8.6	
Overcrowding rate (0 – 17)	49.8	49.8	49.9	45.7	45.1	46.3	45.5	43.9	47.3	43.0	44.3	41.7	-2.5	0.4	-5.6	
Overcrowding rate (18 – 64)	39.1	39.4	38.9	37.9	38.0	37.8	36.7	36.5	37.0	35.9	35.6	36.1	-0.8	-0.9	-0.9	
Overcrowding rate (65+)	17.1	14.0	19.0	18.4	16.1	19.8	17.6	15.6	18.8	16.7	13.8	18.7	-0.9	-1.8	-0.1	
Overcrowding rate – below the poverty threshold	54.2	54.7	53.7	55.6	55.6	55.7	54.9	54.8	54.9	56.9	58.0	55.8	2.0	3.2	0.9	
Overcrowding rate – above the poverty threshold	35.6	36.2	35.0	33.7	34.1	33.3	32.7	32.6	32.9	31.1	31.4	30.8	-1.6	-1.2	-2.1	

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	2016			2017			2018			2019			Difference		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women									
Overcrowding rate by accommodation tenure status															
owner, with a mortgage or housing loan	28.2	:	:	29.0	:	:	26.5	:	:	28.8	:	:	2.3	:	:
owner, without a mortgage or housing loan	36.8	:	:	35.4	:	:	35.1	:	:	32.2	:	:	-2.9	:	:
tenant, lease at market price	57.6	:	:	57.1	:	:	59.3	:	:	64.0	:	:	4.7	:	:
tenant, lease at a reduced price or for free	56.5	:	:	51.1	:	:	45.4	:	:	46.9	:	:	1.5	:	:
Overcrowding rate by population density															
densely populated area	35.9	:	:	34.3	:	:	35.5	:	:	36.1	:	:	0.6	:	:
moderately populated area	45.7	:	:	42.5	:	:	42.5	:	:	39.3	:	:	-3.2	:	:
sparsely populated area	32.4	:	:	32.3	:	:	29.4	:	:	28.9	:	:	-0.5	:	:
Overcrowding rate by household type															
single adult aged <65 years	23.4	:	:	19.3	:	:	21.9	:	:	19.4	:	:	-2.5	:	:
single adult aged 65+ years	17.5	:	:	17.8	:	:	15.8	:	:	15.6	:	:	-0.2	:	:
single adult	20.3	22.1	19.4	18.5	19.4	18.0	18.6	24.1	15.6	17.3	22.9	14.5	-1.3	-1.2	-1.1
two adults household, at least one aged 65+ years	9.4	:	:	8.3	:	:	9.1	:	:	8.8	:	:	-0.3	:	:
two adults, both aged <65 years	11.1	:	:	11.6	:	:	13.3	:	:	14.9	:	:	1.6	:	:
single adult with at least one child	59.8	:	:	53.4	:	:	53.7	:	:	51.5	:	:	-2.2	:	:
two adults with one dependent child	26.7	:	:	27.2	:	:	25.1	:	:	28.1	:	:	3.0	:	:
two adults with two dependent children	40.8	:	:	37.4	:	:	41.4	:	:	35.8	:	:	-5.6	:	:
two adults with 3+ dependent children	70.0	:	:	62.0	:	:	55.5	:	:	56.9	:	:	1.4	:	:
three or more adults with dependent children	61.0	:	:	58.4	:	:	53.9	:	:	53.3	:	:	-0.6	:	:
households with dependent children	49.7	:	:	47.3	:	:	45.8	:	:	44.4	:	:	-1.4	:	:
households without dependent children	23.1	:	:	23.1	:	:	22.3	:	:	21.6	:	:	-0.7	:	:
Inequality of income distribution – S80/S20 – income quintile share ratio	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.3	3.4	3.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Inequality of income distribution – Gini coefficient	24.3	:	:	23.2	:	:	20.9	:	:	22.8	:	:	1.9	:	:
Life expectancy at birth	77.3	73.8	80.7	77.3	73.8	80.7	77.4	73.9	80.8	77.8	74.3	81.2	0.4	0.4	0.4
Life expectancy at age of 65 years	17.5	15.3	19.2	17.4	15.3	19.1	17.6	15.4	19.3	17.9	15.7	19.7	0.3	0.3	0.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate anchored in time (2008) – entire population	7.3	7.5	7.1	6.6	6.9	6.2	6.1	6.2	6.0	5.0	5.4	4.6	-1.1	-0.8	-1.4
At-risk-of-poverty rate anchored in time (2008) – aged 0 – 17 years	13.1	13.0	13.2	11.5	11.3	11.7	10.9	11.2	10.6	8.9	10.7	7.1	-2.0	-0.5	-3.5
At-risk-of-poverty rate anchored in time (2008) – aged 18 – 64 years	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.3	6.6	6.0	5.7	5.7	5.8	4.9	4.9	4.8	-0.8	-0.8	-1.0
At-risk-of-poverty rate anchored in time (2008) – aged 65+ years	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.9	1.1	2.4	1.1	0.3	1.6	-0.8	-0.8	-0.8
At-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers, excluding pensions	18.4	18.1	18.7	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.7	17.3	18.0	19.2	18.7	19.6	1.5	1.4	1.6
At-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers, including pensions	37.9	35.2	40.5	37.4	35.3	39.5	37.1	35.0	39.1	37.2	34.9	39.4	0.1	-0.1	0.3
In-work poverty (18+)	6.5	6.9	6.0	6.3	6.8	5.8	6.0	6.2	5.8	4.4	5.2	3.4	-1.6	-1.0	-2.4

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Unemployment trap	45.3	:	:	15.7	:	:	16.1	:	:	45.2	:	:	29.1	:	:
Low wage trap	30.9	:	:	31.6	:	:	32.5	:	:	31.9	:	:	-0.6	:	:

	2016			2017			2018			2019			Difference		
	Tota l	Me n	Wome n	Tota l	Me n	Wome n									
Housing deprivation by items															
dwelling with a leaking roof, damp walls, floors or foundation or rotten window frames	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.7	7.0	6.4	5.1	5.3	4.9	5.7	5.6	5.9	0.6	0.3	1.0
dwelling having neither a bath, nor a shower	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
dwelling not having indoor flushing toilet	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.8	1.9	1.7	0.2	0.1	0.2
dwelling too dark	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.9	3.1	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7	-0.1	-0.2	0.1
Severe housing deprivation (entire population)	4.3	4.3	4.3	5.2	5.3	5.0	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	-0.1	-0.2	0.1
Severe housing deprivation (0 – 5)	3.6	4.3	2.9	5.0	5.3	4.7	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.1	3.9	4.3	0.0	-0.3	0.3
Severe housing deprivation (6 – 11)	7.4	7.7	7.1	8.3	8.7	7.8	4.8	5.4	4.2	3.4	4.4	2.5	-1.4	-1.0	-1.7
Severe housing deprivation (12 – 17)	10.0	8.3	12.1	11.0	9.7	12.6	5.8	5.7	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.8	0.0	0.1	-0.2
Severe housing deprivation (0 – 17)	7.2	6.9	7.5	8.3	8.1	8.5	4.9	5.1	4.7	4.4	4.6	4.1	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6
Severe housing deprivation (18 – 64)	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.9	5.0	4.7	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.8	3.6	3.9	0.2	-0.1	0.4
Severe housing deprivation (65+)	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.8	2.1	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.7	2.0	-0.2	-0.6	0.0
Severe housing deprivation – below the poverty threshold	16.0	16.3	15.7	20.7	21.9	19.5	14.3	15.8	12.9	14.9	15.4	14.4	0.6	-0.4	1.5
Severe housing deprivation – above the poverty threshold	2.5	2.5	2.6	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1
Median of the housing cost burden distribution	16.7	16.2	17.1	16.9	16.5	17.3	14.3	14.1	14.6	14.9	14.5	15.2	0.6	0.4	0.6
Median of the housing cost burden distribution (0 – 17)	18.9	18.7	19.0	18.0	18.0	18.1	14.7	14.9	14.5	16.6	16.7	16.5	1.9	1.8	2.0
Median of the housing cost burden distribution (18 – 64)	15.7	15.3	16.1	15.9	15.8	16.0	13.5	13.2	13.9	13.9	13.4	14.3	0.4	0.2	0.4
Median of the housing cost burden distribution (65+)	19.3	17.9	20.2	20.8	19.6	22.1	18.5	17.6	19.1	16.7	16.6	16.7	-1.8	-1.0	-2.4
Median of the housing cost burden distribution – below the poverty threshold	30.6	30.2	31.4	33.1	1.7	34.6	26.8	25.8	28.3	24.4	24.2	24.7	-2.4	-1.6	-3.6
Median of the housing cost burden distribution – above the poverty threshold	15.6	15.1	16.0	15.9	15.7	16.2	13.5	13.2	13.9	14.0	13.6	14.3	0.5	0.4	0.4

Source: Eurostat

Explanations: u – low reliability, b – interruption in time series, n – not significant, x – data not available at the time of preparation

Forms of violence and its expressions

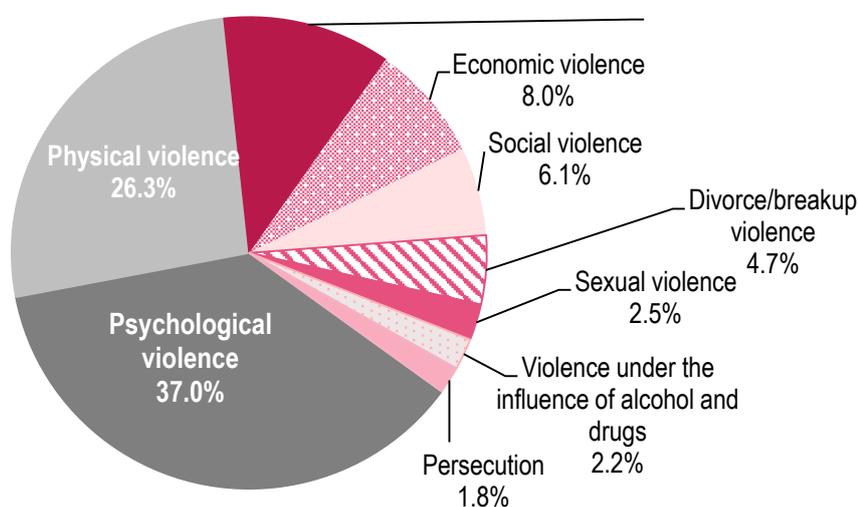
The most common **form of violence** that calling women encounter is **psychological violence**, which was reported by almost 37 % of the total number of new calling clients. The second most frequent form of violence identified by the calling women is **physical violence** (26.3 %) and **dangerous threats** (11.4 %). 8 % of women were exposed to economic violence, 6.1 % of women to social violence and 2.5 % of women experienced at least one sexual assault. More details may be found in the table below.

Table 2 Forms of Violence Identified for Calling Women

Forms of violence	Present/identified violence
Psychological violence	360
Physical violence	256
Economic violence	78
Social violence	59
Sexual violence	24
Dangerous threats	111
Following	18
Violence under the influence of alcohol and drugs	21
Violence after separation	46

Source: Report of activities of the national helpline for women experiencing violence for 2020

Graph 1 Forms of Violence Identified for Calling Women in Percentage



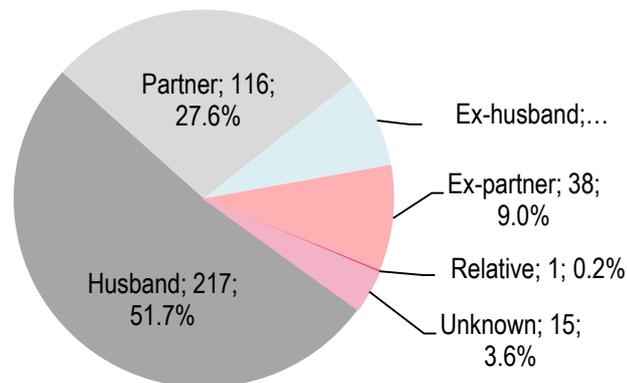
Source: Reporting system of the call centre operating the national helpline for women and internal databases of the national helpline for women

A Violent Person's Relationship with Calling Women

When identifying violence, in all cases the calling women stated who the person was or in what relationship they were with the person behaving violently to them. Activities of the national helpline for women are primarily focused on violent acts committed by men to women. In most cases the calling women were experiencing violence from the husband (217 cases). The second most numerous category were partners (116 cases), followed by ex-

husbands and ex-partners where we may speak about "post-separation violence" (71 cases). The relationship of the violent person to the calling client was not identified in 15 cases. Clients identified the violent person as her acquaintance in one case.

Graph 2 A Violent Person's Relationship with Calling Women

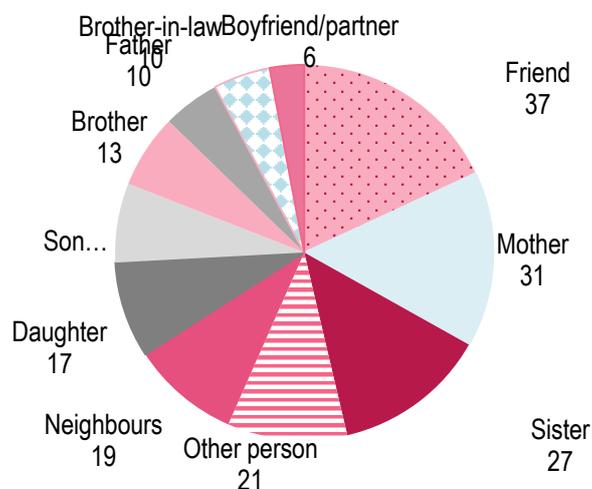


Source: Reporting system of the call centre operating the national helpline for women and internal databases of the national helpline for women

Third persons from the surroundings of the women experiencing violence

The national helpline for women identifies third persons as persons who contact the national helpline for women on behalf of the woman experiencing violence. In addition to basic information given to "third persons", the aim of such phone calls is to make sure the calling persons motivate the woman experiencing violence to call the national helpline for women or to take other steps to change her situation. Most calls were made by relatives (121), most frequently by mothers of the women experiencing violence (31) and also by their daughters (17) and sisters (27). The second most numerous category of the calling "third persons" were friends and other acquaintances of the women (77) and also neighbours who often ask for calling the police under the condition of anonymity for fear of their lives.

Graph 3 More Specific Identification of Third Persons⁹⁷



⁹⁷ The category of other relatives includes e.g. brothers/sisters-in-law, grandmother for her granddaughter, aunt for her niece, etc. The category of other helping professions included professionals calling on behalf of their female clients experiencing violence (social workers and counsellors from the counselling centre), doctors, teachers, police officers, etc.

Source: Reporting system of the call centre operating the national helpline for women and internal databases of the national helpline for women

ANNEX TO CHAPTER 5

Table 1 Selected Indicators in the Context of Europe 2020 Strategy in the EU27 Countries in 2020 – Macroeconomic Environment

	eu27	be	bg	cz	dk	de	ee	ie	el	es	fr	hr	it	cy	lv	lt	lu	hu	mt	nl	at	pl	pt	ro	si	sk	fi	se
GDP per capita in PPS, (EU28=100)*	100.0	117.9	53.0	92.7	130.0	120.4	83.8	193.0	66.5	91.0	106.1	65.1	95.7	89.5	69.0	83.5	260.0	73.2	100.6	128.2	126.4	73.0	79.5	69.6	88.7	70.2	111.1	118.7
Real GDP growth (%)	-6.1	-6.3 ^p	-4.2	-5.6	-2.7	-4.8 ^p	-2.9	3.4	-8.2 ^p	-10.8 ^p	-8.1 ^p	-8.0 ^p	-8.9 ^p	-5.1 ^p	-3.6	-0.9	-1.3	-5.0 ^p	-7.0	-3.7 ^p	-6.6	-2.7 ^p	-7.6	-3.9 ^p	-5.5	-4.8	-2.8	-2.8
Real GDP growth – 2021 forecast	4.2	4.5	3.5	3.4	2.9	3.4	2.8	4.6	4.1	5.9	5.7	5.0	4.2	3.1	3.5	2.9	4.5	5.0	4.6	2.3	3.4	4.0	3.9	5.1	4.9	4.8	2.7	4.4
Employment growth (%)	-1.5	0.0 ^p	-2.3 ^p	-1.5	-0.7	-1.1 ^p	-2.7	-1.5	-1.3 ^p	-4.2 ^p	-1.1 ^p	-1.2 ^p	-2.1	-0.6 ^p	-2.3	-1.5	2.0	-2.2	2.6	-0.6 ^p	-1.7	0.1 ^p	-1.7 ^e	-1.8 ^p	-1.0	-1.9	-1.5	-1.3
Harmonised inflation rate	0.7	0.4	1.2	3.3	0.3	0.4	-0.6	-0.5	-1.3	-0.3	0.5	0.0	-0.1	-1.1	0.1	1.1	0.0	3.4	0.8	1.1	1.4	3.7	-0.1	2.3	-0.3	2.0	0.4	0.7
General government balance (%GDP)	-6.9	-9.4	-3.4	-6.2	-1.1	-4.2	-4.9	-5.0	-9.7	-11.0	-9.2	-7.4	-9.5	-5.7	-4.5	-7.4	-4.1	-8.1	-10.1	-4.3	-8.9	-7.0	-5.7	-9.2	-8.4	-6.2	-5.4	-3.1
Public debt (%GDP)	90.7	114.1	25.0	38.1	42.2	69.8	18.2	59.5	205.6	120.0	115.7	88.7	155.8	118.2	43.5	47.3	24.9	80.4	54.3	54.5	83.9	57.5	133.6	47.3	80.8	60.6	69.2	39.9

Source: Eurostat, European Commission,

* data for 2019; data for 2020 was not available at the time of preparation of the Report; p – preliminary data, e – estimate

Table 2 Selected Indicators in the Context of Europe 2020 Strategy in the EU27 Countries for the Last Year Available – Smart and Inclusive Growth

		eu27	be	bg	cz	dk	de	ee	ie	el	es	fr	hr	it	cy	lv	lt	lu	hu	mt	nl	at	pl	pt	ro	si	sk	fi	se
Employment rate for the population aged 20 – 64 (according to LFS) (1)	total	72.4	70.0	73.4	79.7	77.8	80.1 ^{bp}	78.8	73.4	61.1	65.7	71.4	66.9	62.6	74.9	77.0	76.7	72.1	75.0	77.4	80.0	75.5	73.6	74.7	70.8	75.6	72.5	76.5	80.8
	women	66.8	65.9	68.9	71.9	74.3	76.9 ^{bp}	75.8	67.4	51.8	60.0	68.0	61.3	52.7	69.1	75.2	75.8	68.5	67.0	68.0	75.5	71.5	65.7	71.9	61.0	72.4	66.1	75.0	78.3
	men	78.1	74.1	77.8	87.2	81.3	83.2 ^{bp}	81.8	79.5	70.7	71.4	75.0	72.5	72.6	81.1	79.0	77.5	75.6	83.1	85.7	84.4	79.5	81.4	77.8	80.3	78.6	78.7	77.9	83.2
Employment rate for the population aged 55 – 64 (according to LFS) (2)	total	59.6	53.3	64.2	68.2	71.4	71.7 ^{bp}	72.0	61.8	44.6	54.7	53.8	45.5	54.2	61.0	68.6	67.6	44.0	59.6	52.9	71.0	54.7	51.8	60.7	48.5	50.5	58.3	67.5	77.6
	women	53.3	48.0	59.4	61.3	67.1	67.9 ^{bp}	74.8	54.3	33.5	48.0	51.8	38.2	44.6	49.3	67.9	66.9	40.6	49.2	38.1	62.6	47.0	41.0	56.5	37.5	46.6	55.2	68.4	75.3
	men	66.3	58.7	69.4	75.2	75.8	75.5 ^{bp}	68.7	69.6	57.0	61.6	56.0	53.4	64.5	73.2	69.5	68.4	47.3	71.6	67.2	79.4	62.7	63.7	65.6	60.4	54.4	61.7	66.6	79.8
Lifelong learning rate (25 – 64) (3)	total	9.2 ^p	7.4	1.6	5.5	20.0	8.0 ^{bp}	17.1	11.0	4.1	11.0	13.0	3.2	7.2	4.7	6.6	7.2	16.3	5.1	11.0	18.8	11.7	3.7	10.0	1.0	8.4	2.8	27.3	28.6
	women	10.0 ^p	7.7	1.7	5.5	23.6	7.9 ^{bp}	21.1	12.6	4.0	12.0	14.6	3.8	7.4	4.5	8.4	8.7	17.3	5.7	12.7	19.8	12.7	4.3	10.4	1.0	9.5	3.0	31.7	35.5
	men	8.4 ^p	7.1	1.4	5.6	16.4	8.2 ^{bp}	13.1	9.2	4.3	9.9	11.2	2.6	7.0	4.9	4.6	5.6	15.3	4.4	9.6	17.9	10.8	3.1	9.6	1.0	7.4	2.6	23.0	21.9
Unemployment rate (according to LFS) (4)	total	7.1	5.6	5.1	2.6	5.6	3.8 ^{bp}	6.8	5.7	16.3	15.5	8.0	7.5	9.2	7.6	8.1	8.5	6.8	4.3	4.3	3.8	5.4	3.2	6.9	5.0	5.0	6.7	7.8	8.3
	women	7.4	5.4	4.8	3.0	6.0	3.4 ^{bp}	6.6	5.7	19.8	17.4	8.0	7.6	10.2	7.6	7.1	7.7	7.0	4.5	4.4	4.0	5.2	3.3	7.1	4.7	5.6	7.1	7.5	8.3
	men	6.8	5.7	5.4	2.2	5.3	4.2 ^{bp}	7.0	5.6	13.6	13.9	8.1	7.5	8.4	7.6	9.1	9.3	6.6	4.1	4.2	3.7	5.5	3.1	6.6	5.3	4.4	6.4	8.0	8.3
Youth unemployment rate (15 – 24) (according to LFS) (5)	total	16.9	15.3	14.2	8.0	11.6	7.2 ^{bp}	17.9	15.3	35.0	38.3	20.2	21.1	29.4	18.2	14.9	19.6	23.2	12.8	10.7	9.1	10.5	10.8	22.6	17.3	14.2	19.3	21.4	23.9
	women	16.6	15.1	13.7	9.2	10.6	6.4 ^{bp}	18.4	15.3	39.3	39.7	19.9	25.0	31.8	12.3	15.5	17.3	21.3	14.0	8.0	9.0	9.5	11.5	24.4	16.5	16.2	21.2	19.4	22.8
	men	17.0	15.5	14.6	7.2	12.6	7.9 ^{bp}	17.4	15.3	31.4	37.1	20.3	18.7	27.9	24.4	14.4	21.5	24.8	11.9	13.1	9.2	11.3	10.3	21.0	17.9	12.7	18.3	23.2	25.0
Youth economic activity rate (15 – 24) (according to LFS) (6)	total	37.8	28.4	21.9	27.3	60.2	51.9 ^{bp}	43.0	43.7	21.2	29.9	35.6	32.5	23.8	38.3	34.8	36.6	32.4	31.2	54.1	68.7	56.1	31.8	30.2	29.7	31.5	28.1	52.2	52.1
	women	34.9	26.5	18.2	21.4	60.4	50.1 ^{bp}	41.2	43.1	19.3	27.5	33.1	25.3	18.8	36.6	31.5	34.2	31.0	26.9	52.1	69.9	52.8	27.4	28.0	23.6	28.7	21.0	51.4	51.9
	men	40.5	30.3	25.4	32.9	60.1	53.5 ^{bp}	44.8	44.2	23.1	32.2	38.2	39.2	28.5	40.2	37.9	38.9	33.7	35.3	55.8	67.7	59.5	36.1	32.2	35.5	33.9	34.9	53.1	52.2
Economically inactive youth (15 – 24) in education or training (according to LFS) (7)		74.5	93.0	82.9	93.8	72.6	:	90.7	79.7	89.6	86.5	88.5	91.5	86.4	85.2	91.9	89.7	79.5	86.7	87.2	72.4	87.6	90.1	89.4	82.8	93.2	92.1	68.2	68.4

Report on the Social Situation of the Population of the Slovak Republic for 2020
Annex to Chapter 4

	total	11.1p	9.2	14.4	6.6	7.4	7.4bp	8.9	12.0	13.2	13.9	11.4	12.2	19.0	14.4	7.1	10.8	6.6	11.7	9.2	4.5	8.0	8.6	9.1	14.8	7.7	10.7	9.3	6.5
	women	11.1p	8.6	15.2	9.1	7.2	7.2bp	9.8	11.3	13.3	12.9	11.1	12.3	18.8	13.5	7.2	9.2	4.8	14.1	8.0	4.4	6.9	9.5	8.8	18.1	8.5	11.6	8.2	6.4
	men	11.0p	9.8	13.7	4.3	7.7	7.6bp	8.0	12.7	13.1	14.8	11.7	12.2	19.1	15.3	7.0	12.2	8.3	9.5	10.4	4.7	9.0	7.8	9.3	11.6	6.9	9.7	10.4	6.6
		eu27	be	bg	cz	dk	de	ee	ie	el	es	fr	hr	it	cy	lv	lt	lu	hu	mt	nl	at	pl	pt	ro	si	sk	fi	se
Young people (15 – 24) who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) (according to LFS) (8)	total	40.9p	47.8	33.3	35.0	49.8	:	44.3	58.1	43.9	44.8	48.8	34.7	27.8	59.8	49.2	59.6	62.2	33.2	39.7	54.0	41.6	47.0	39.6	26.4	46.9	39.7	49.6	52.2
	women	46.2p	55.5	40.2	41.2	58.0	:	56.8	61.2	48.5	50.9	52.1	41.4	34.3	70.4	59.9	70.9	65.7	39.3	46.5	58.8	45.4	57.7	47.3	30.2	59.1	49.9	57.6	61.5
	men	35.7p	40.2	26.6	29.2	41.9	:	33.1	54.7	39.2	38.7	45.3	28.2	21.4	49.0	39.1	48.8	58.7	27.4	34.1	49.2	38.0	36.9	31.6	22.9	36.8	30.0	41.5	43.3
Share of population with tertiary education aged 30 – 34 (according to LFS) (9)	total	55.8	46.9	49.1	57.0	60.0	63.0bp	63.0	52.0	50.2	56.5	53.3	39.1	51.7	64.2	63.0	52.1	59.3	55.6	64.9	63.1	53.9	46.9	69.7	56.2	48.3	36.4	54.0	59.7
	women	44.3	36.6	38.5	48.9	50.0	55.9bp	51.2	36.6	35.7	44.9	45.4	29.6	34.8	49.9	53.4	47.6	53.3	46.7	45.5	52.7	49.3	32.4	62.0	40.6	41.1	30.0	44.5	47.4
	men	66.7	55.8	59.0	67.0	67.9	70.1bp	68.7	63.2	65.3	66.4	61.5	52.0	66.9	77.6	68.2	54.4	65.0	66.5	81.0	73.7	60.6	60.1	76.9	73.9	56.2	43.9	59.3	69.7
Low skilled employment rate (ISCED 0-2) aged 25 – 64 (according to LFS) (10)	total	12.5	10.7	13.8	9.6	7.3	8.3bp	10.4	6.4	19.4	20.0	11.8	9.1	11.9	7.2	17.8	21.9	8.1	10.0	5.1	4.6	11.7	8.2	6.2	7.9	9.6	27.8	12.4	20.7
	women	14.1	11.2	15.7	10.1	8.5	7.2bp	14.1u	:	24.1	25.0	12.2	8.9u	14.5	8.4	18.5	20.9u	9.2	10.4	6.6	5.0	10.0	9.5	7.1	7.1	8.0u	30.3	13.3	25.3
	men	11.4	10.3	12.5	9.2	6.6	9.2bp	9.0	6.8	16.4	16.7	11.5	9.3u	10.6	6.5	17.4	22.3	7.1	9.7	4.3	4.3	13.6	7.6	5.5	8.4	10.8u	25.6	12.0	17.8
Low skilled employment rate (ISCED 0-2) aged 25 – 64 (according to LFS) (11)	total	2.5	2.3	2.3	0.6	0.9	1.1bp	1.2	1.3	10.9	5.0	2.9	2.1	4.7	2.1	2.2	2.5	1.7	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.3	0.6	2.3	1.5	1.9	3.2	1.2	1.1
	women	2.6	2.1	2.0	0.6	1.2	0.9bp	1.0	1.3	13.5	6.1	2.9	2.2	5.3	2.0	1.7	2.4	1.9	1.1	0.7u	0.9	1.2	0.7	2.3	1.2	2.4	3.3	1.1	1.1
	men	2.4	2.5	2.6	0.5	0.7	1.3bp	1.3	1.4	8.8	4.1	3.0	2.1	4.3	2.3	2.7	2.5	1.6	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.5	0.6	2.2	1.7	1.5	3.2	1.3	1.2
Long-term unemployment rate for the population aged 15 – 74 (according to LFS) (12)	total	10.1p	8.1	12.8	7.6	9.3	11.0bp	7.5	5.0	3.8	16.0	8.0	2.2u	13.1	11.5	7.2	5.6	8.2	12.1	16.7	7.0	8.1	5.4	8.9	15.6	4.1	7.6	8.2	7.7
	women	8.1p	5.9	12.1	7.6	6.8	9.0bp	5.8	4.7	3.1	11.6	6.3	2.0u	10.4	8.4	4.7u	3.4u	5.7	11.3	13.9	5.3	6.3	3.7	5.1	16.6	3.4u	7.4	7.0	6.3
	men	12.0p	10.2	13.4	7.5	11.7	13.0bp	9.2	5.4	4.4	20.2	9.7	2.4u	15.6	15.0	9.5	7.7	10.7	12.9	19.3	8.7	10.0	7.0	12.6	14.7	4.6u	7.7	9.4	9.0
Tax wedge in the case of low wages (4)		39.3	44.1	34.9	41.6	32.4	45.0	33.1	24.1	35.3	35.8	40.0	34.0	40.0	18.1	38.1	33.3	29.9	43.6	28.1	29.0	42.7	34.1	37.1	38.3	40.1	38.8	34.6	40.5
Unemployment trap – single person (15)		73.5	93.0	82.4	80.9	88.4	73.1	31.4	55.8	30.5	82.1	71.4	82.4	74.0	64.4	83.0	86.9	92.0	77.5	50.1	80.2	70.6	71.5	80.4	54.7	80.5	45.5	73.5	77.9
Low wage trap – single person (15)		38.8	58.4	22.4	31.1	49.6	43.9	20.4	30.2	23.4	26.5	46.3	26.0	38.1	10.3	34.0	42.0	51.6	33.5	31.4	49.3	42.0	29.5	32.9	44.3	38.6	31.0	34.7	28.5
Population at risk of poverty and social exclusion in % (16)	total	20.9e	19.5b	32.8	12.5	16.3	17.4	24.3	20.6	30.0	25.3	17.9	23.3	25.6	22.3	27.3	26.3	20.6	18.9	20.1	16.5	16.9	18.2	21.6	31.2	14.4	16.4	15.6	18.8
	women	21.8e	20.0b	34.7	14.6	16.1	18.5	26.3	21.5	30.8	26.0	18.5	24.3	26.6	23.3	29.6	28.4	21.6	19.6	21.4	17.0	18.3	18.7	22.2	32.1	15.6	17.0	15.9	19.6
	men	20.0e	18.9b	30.9	10.4	16.6	16.3	22.0	19.6	29.2	24.6	17.3	22.1	24.5	21.2	24.6	23.8	19.6	18.0	18.8	16.1	15.4	17.7	20.8	30.3	13.2	15.7	15.4	18.0
Population at risk of poverty and social exclusion, aged <18, in % (17)		22.2e	22.3b	34.1	13.0	13.2	15.0	20.3	23.2	30.5	30.3	22.5	20.7	27.8	23.0	18.9	26.5	25.4	22.4	23.6	15.5	19.5	16.0	22.3	35.8	11.7	22.0	14.3	23.1
Population at risk of poverty and social exclusion, aged 18+, in % (18)	total	20.6e	18.7b	32.5	12.4	17.1	17.9	25.2	19.7	29.9	24.2	16.6	23.8	25.2	22.1	29.2	26.2	19.5	18.1	19.3	16.8	16.4	18.7	21.4	30.2	15.1	15.1	15.9	17.6
	women	21.7e	19.9b	34.5	15.1	16.8	19.0	27.5	21.6	31.1	24.7	17.6	25.2	26.5	23.2	32.0	29.0	20.8	18.8	21.2	17.5	17.8	19.2	22.2	31.8	16.6	15.9	16.2	18.5
	men	19.4e	17.4b	30.4	9.6	17.4	16.7	22.5	17.7	28.6	23.6	15.5	22.3	23.7	21.0	25.9	22.9	18.1	17.3	17.6	16.0	14.8	18.1	20.5	28.4	13.5	14.2	15.6	16.6
At-risk-of-poverty rate (19)	total	16.5e	14.8b	22.6	10.1	12.5	14.8	21.7	13.1	17.9	20.7	13.6	18.3	20.1	14.7	22.9	20.6	17.5	12.3	17.1	13.2	13.3	15.4	17.2	23.8	12.0	11.9	11.6	17.1
	women	17.1e	15.0b	24.3	12.1	12.5	15.7	23.7	13.6	18.0	21.1	13.9	19.3	20.8	15.5	25.1	22.8	17.9	12.8	18.1	13.4	14.3	15.8	17.8	24.9	13.0	12.1	12.1	17.8
	men	15.8e	14.6b	20.9	8.1	12.5	13.9	19.3	12.6	17.7	20.2	13.3	17.2	19.3	13.9	20.3	18.0	17.2	11.7	16.1	13.1	12.3	15.0	16.6	22.7	10.9	11.6	11.2	16.3
	total	8.3e	12.4b	9.3	4.2	9.3	7.6	5.4	13.6	13.8	10.8	7.9	9.2	10.0	6.8	7.6	7.5	7.5	5.0	4.9	9.2	7.8	4.7	6.2	6.0	5.2	6.2	9.7	8.6

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Persons living in households with very low work intensity, aged 0 – 59, in % (20)	women	8.7 ^e	12.9 ^b	9.2	4.7	9.3	7.9	4.7	14.3	15.0	11.7	8.3	8.7	10.6	7.1	7.2	6.8	8.2	5.0	5.9	9.6	8.2	4.9	6.1	6.9	5.5	5.9	8.8	9.1
	men	7.9 ^e	11.9 ^b	9.4	3.8	9.2	7.3	6.2	12.9	12.6	10.0	7.5	9.6	9.4	6.5	8.0	8.2	6.9	5.0	4.1	8.9	7.3	4.6	6.3	5.0	5.0	6.5	10.6	8.2
Severely materially deprived in % (21)	total	5.5 ^e	4.4 ^b	20.9	2.7	2.6	2.6	3.3	5.4	16.2	4.7	4.7	7.2	7.4	9.1	7.8	9.4	1.3	8.7	3.6	2.5	2.6	3.6	5.6	14.5	2.6	7.9	2.4	1.8
	women	5.6 ^e	4.5 ^b	21.9	2.9	2.3	2.8	3.5	5.5	16.5	4.8	4.9	7.4	7.7	8.9	8.4	9.6	1.2	8.8	4.0	2.4	2.8	3.5	5.7	14.5	2.8	8.1	2.6	1.8
	men	5.3 ^e	4.2 ^b	19.9	2.5	3.0	2.4	3.0	5.3	15.9	4.6	4.4	7.1	7.0	9.3	7.1	9.1	1.3	8.7	3.3	2.6	2.3	3.6	5.5	14.5	2.4	7.6	2.3	1.8

Source: Eurostat; (1) – (15) – data for 2020, (16) – (21) – data for 2019;

: - data unavailable, b – change in the time series, bp – change in the time series, preliminary data, e – estimate, u – low reliability

eu27 – European Union (27 countries), be – Belgium, bg – Bulgaria, cz – Czech Republic, dk – Denmark, de – Germany, ee – Estonia, ie – Ireland, el – Greece, es – Spain, fr – France, hr – Croatia, it – Italy, cy – Cyprus, lv – Latvia, lt – Lithuania, lu – Luxembourg, hu – Hungary, mt – Malta, nl – Netherlands, at – Austria, pl – Poland, pt – Portugal, ro – Romania, si – Slovenia, sk – Slovakia, fi – Finland, se – Sweden