

Frant National contribution to the Fundamental Rights Report 2023

Slovakia

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Policy and legal highlights 2022

Franet country study: policy and legal highlights 2022	
Issues in the fundamental rights institutional landscape	<p>The creation of the National Preventive Mechanism underway</p> <p>The Government has taken steps to implement the OPCAT. Throughout 2022, the Ministry of Justice prepared the amendment of the Act on the public defender of rights which gives the three national human rights institutions (Public Defender of Rights, Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and Commissioner for Children) power to carry out inspections in places where people are deprived of their freedom. This development is seen as an important step to improve the protection of the rights of persons living in various types of institutions like psychiatric hospitals, prisons and detention centres as well as care homes for children and people with disabilities. The amendment to the law already approved by the Government has yet to be approved by the National Council of the Slovak Republic.</p>
EU Charter of Fundamental Rights	No developments in 2022.
Equality and non-discrimination	<p>The murder of two LGBTI young people has mobilized civil society in defense of the rights of LGBTI people</p> <p>In October 2022, the Parliament discussed a bill proposing to improve property rights of same-sex couples. The bill was discussed by the Parliament shortly after a terrorist attack against LGBTIQ community committed in Bratislava on 12 October 2022 leaving two dead and one wounded. In reaction to that Initiative Inakosť launched a petition campaign addressing the government and the Parliament with a number of specific demands to put LGBTIQ community on equal footing. The petition was signed by more than 32 000 people within a month. Finally, the bill did not pass.</p>
Racism, xenophobia & Roma Equality and Inclusion	<p>The Government plans to implement measures against radicalization and extremism</p> <p>In November 2022, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved a Monitoring report on the state of extremism in the Slovak Republic for the years 2020 and 2021 and an update of the tasks of the Conception of combating radicalization and extremism until 2024 prepared by the Ministry of Interior. The newly added tasks to Conception involve the measures in prevention of radicalization and extremism in the education and preparation of a deradicalization programme.</p>

Asylum & migration	No developments in 2022.
Data protection and digital society	<p>The Government set its aims in countering the hybrid threats</p> <p>In March 2022, the Slovak Government has given its approval to the Ministry of Defence's proposed Action Plan for the Coordinated Countering of Hybrid Threats for 2022-2024, which sets out Slovakia's ambition to shore up the resilience of the State and society against hybrid threats. This action plan also calls for the use of AI.</p> <p>In April 2022, The Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic (MIRRI SR) announced the intention to prepare a new Act on measures against the dissemination of illegal content. The act will be based on the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Single Market for Digital Services (Digital Services Act). The aim of the MIRRI SR legislation will be to protect the rights and freedoms of natural and legal persons, the constitutional system and internal order.</p>
Rights of the child	<p>The Government has taken steps to adopt the National Action Plan of European Child Guarantee</p> <p>In November 2022, a proposal of the National Action Plan of European Child Guarantee has been prepared and is in the process of inter-ministerial consultation. In the Slovak context, the Action Plan identifies the most vulnerable groups of children as those facing housing deprivation coming from marginalized Roma communities, being at risk of poverty, violence, etc. Their specific situations are reflected in the four areas of measures which are in accordance with the key aims of the EU Child Guarantee.</p> <p>In 2022, there have been several measures and initiatives adopted in order to improve situation of socially disadvantaged families, children included - food and material supplies for people in material need, support of free meals for Ukrainian children in schools, inflation help.</p>
Access to justice, including victims of crime	<p>Help for women experiencing violence available in all Slovak regions</p>

	<p>From the beginning of 2022, all regions of Slovakia are covered by intervention centres to help women experiencing violence. In some regions there are even more than one centre.</p>
<p>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability</p>	<p>Changes in institutional settings of participation of persons with disabilities in public policy</p> <p>The Committee for Persons with Disabilities (<i>Výbor pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím</i>) has been transformed into the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for persons with disabilities (<i>Rada vlády Slovenskej republiky pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím</i>) by the resolution of Government. The newly established Council will deal with various issues related to the life of people with disabilities. Their participation in the Council is secured through the membership of the disabled persons organisations in one of the chambers of the Council.</p>

1 Equality and non-discrimination

1.1 Legal and policy developments or measures relevant to fostering equality and combating discrimination focussing on LGBTIQ people and combating discrimination on the grounds of socio-economic status, health status and physical appearance

LGBTIQ people

In Slovakia, in April 2022, the Ministry of Health Care issued a new guideline unifying provision of health care in cases of gender reassignment. According to the new guidelines persons undergoing the process of gender reassignment will no longer need to go through surgical removal of male/female reproductive organs, nor will they need to undergo castration in order to have their gender changed administratively. Hormonal treatment lasting at least one year will suffice.¹ This guideline was welcomed by the LGBTIQ community² and the Ombudsperson³.

However, the new guidelines also sparked a wave of criticism from the conservative MPs – twenty of them asked the Health Minister to discontinue the guideline.⁴ In reaction, the Ministry of Health Care suspended the guideline until a standard procedure of the Ministry of Health Care of the Slovak Republic on the diagnosis and health care of transgender people is adopted.⁵

¹ Slovakia, Ministry of Health Care of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo zdravotníctva SR*) (2022), '[Odborné usmernenie Ministerstva zdravotníctva Slovenskej republiky na zjednotenie postupov poskytovania zdravotnej starostlivosti ku zmene pohlavia pred vydaním lekárskeho posudku o zmene pohlavia osoby administratívne evidovaného v matrike](#)', *Bulletin of the Ministry of Health Care of the Slovak Republic*, 6 April 2022, Volume 70.

² Iniciatíva Inakosť (2022), '[Ministerstvo zdravotníctva prijalo prelomové usmernenie k právnej zmene pohlavia](#)', press release, 21 April 2022.

³ Slovakia, Office of Public Defender of Rights (*Kancelária verejného ochrancu práv*) (2022), '[Slovenská republika má rešpektovať parvo transrodových osôb na ľudskú dôstojnosť a súkromný život](#)', press release, 28 April 2022.

⁴ Záborská, A. (2022), '[K zmene pohlavia: Na Lengvarského budem reagovať novelou zákona](#)', *Standard*, 22 April 2022; Žureková, M. (2022), '[Dokument o zmene pohlavia priniesol konflikt. Budú muži rodiť deti? \(otázky a odpovede\)](#)', *SME Daily*, 29 April 2022.

⁵ Slovakia, Committee for LGBTI rights (*Výbor pre práva LGBTI*) (2022), '[Uznesenie Výboru pre práva lesbí, gayov, bisexuálnych, transrodových a intersexuálnych osôb č. 27](#)', 12 May 2022; Žureková, M. (2022), '[Lengvarský ustúpil konzervatívcom, usmernenie o zmene pohlavia pozastavuje](#)', *SME Daily*, 18 May 2022.

Suspension of the guidelines was criticized by counselling centres providing services to LGBTIQ people⁶ and by the Slovak Psychiatry Society⁷. Nineteen experts (mostly clinical psychologists, therapists, psychiatrists, social counsellors) launched a petition calling upon the Health Minister to keep the guidelines in place. The petition was signed by 3724 individuals.⁸

On 10 November 2022, 50 representatives of conservative organisations (many of them affiliated with the Catholic Church) addressed the Prime Minister with a request not to adopt the afore mentioned guidelines. They deemed the guidelines ideological and detrimental to transgender people. Instead, they propose to officially sanction treatment "aligning their mind and feelings with their biological sex". They call for complete abolition of the administrative change of gender.⁹

In October 2022, the Supreme Administrative Court overturned the decision of the Regional Court in Banská Bystrica in the matter of administrative change of gender. The decision pertains to a case from 2019 when an applicant applied to the registry office of the city of Zvolen to have her name, birth number and gender changed from male to female (the "Gender Change Application") entered into the relevant register. The registry office did not grant the applicant's request on the ground that the applicant had not undergone a 'surgical procedure' to complete the change of sex. The Supreme Administrative Court argued that the generally binding legislation of the Slovak Republic at the relevant time did not specify what documents are used to prove the applicant's change of sex for the purposes of implementing changes in the civil registry, or what such a certificate should contain, who issues it, as well as the fact that the proof of the change of sex should be exclusively a surgical procedure, etc.¹⁰

In March 2022, the Ombudsperson lodged a petition with the Constitutional Court on the compatibility of the Law No. 404/2011 Coll. on the Residence of Foreigners with the European Convention on Human Rights.¹¹ The petition refers to a complaint lodged by specified individuals which the Ombudsperson received in 2017. The case involves a same-sex couple one of whom is a citizen of the Slovak Republic, while the other is a third country national. They married abroad. The Bureau of Border and Foreigner Police refused to grant permanent residence to the partner with a third country citizenship because Slovakia does not recognize

⁶ Iniciatíva Inakosť (2022), '[Stanovisko poradenských centier k snahám o opätovné zavedenie nútených kastrácií transrodových ľudí na Slovensku](#)', press release.

⁷ Slovenská psychiatrická spoločnosť (2022), '[Stanovisko SPS k Odbornému usmerneniu Ministerstva zdravotníctva Slovenskej republiky na zjednotenie postupov poskytovania zdravotnej starostlivosti ku zmene pohlavia pred vydaním lekárskeho posudku o zmene pohlavia osoby](#)', 25 April 2022.

⁸ Malíková, D., Želinská, I. (2022), '[Toto je cez všetky čiary. Petícia](#)', 2 May 2022.

⁹ Hlavnespravy.sk (2022), '[Zástupcovia organizácií vyzývajú Hegera, aby zastavil Lenqvarského a postavil sa LGBT lobby](#)', *Hlavné správy*, 10 November 2022.

¹⁰ Slovakia, Supreme Administrative Court (*Najvyšší správny súd*) (2022), '[Rozhodnutie: Krajský súd v Banskej Bystrici musí opätovne rozhodnúť vo veci, ktorá sa týka zmeny pohlavia](#)', press release, 14 November 2022.

¹¹ Slovakia, Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic (*Ústavný súd SR*) (2022), '[Uznesenie Ústavného súdu SR PL. ÚS 9/2022-18](#)', 29 June 2022.

same-sex marriages.¹² In her petition, the Ombudsperson argued that the Slovak Act of Foreigners' Residence potentially threatens and actually violates fundamental rights and freedoms under the Constitution.¹³ In October 2022, the Regional Court in Žilina overturned the Foreign Police decision not to grant permanent residence permit to the partner with a third country citizenship. The court argued it was a case of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. According to the court, the Foreign Police also violated the right to respect for private and family life and freedom of residence, as its decision prevented a Slovak citizen from returning to his or her homeland.¹⁴

In May 2022, a coalition MP in cooperation with an opposition MP filed a bill prohibiting public institutions from hanging the rainbow flag on their buildings as a sign of support of LGBTIQ community.¹⁵ On 6 October 2022 a vote was taken on the bill – 44 MPs voted in favour, 28 against and 2 abstained and 55 did not take a vote. The bill thus did not pass.¹⁶ Some of the coalition MPs hanged rainbow flag from their offices' windows or wore the flag or ribbons to the National Council in protest.¹⁷

On 30 September 2022, two opposition MPs filed a bill amending the Law No. 245/2002 Coll. the Schooling Act and proposing to forbid presentations of any content "promoting deviation from the gender identity assigned at birth, gender reassignment or homosexuality for persons under the age of 18".¹⁸ The bill is yet to be discussed.

Two bills introducing registered partnerships or improving rights of same-sex couples were filed in September 2022 to the Parliament. One of them is an amendment to the Civil Code and has not been discussed by the Parliament yet¹⁹.

¹² Biró, M. (2022), '[Homosexuálnym manželom nechcú dať trvalý pobyt. Budú sa súdiť](#)', *Aktuality.sk*, 22 August 2022.

¹³ Slovakia, Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic (*Ústavný súd SR*) (2022), '[Uznesenie Ústavného súdu SR PL. ÚS 9/2022-18](#)', 29 June 2022.

¹⁴ Pravda (2022), '[Súd potvrdil policajnú diskrimináciu. Homosexuálnym manželom dovoľí zostať na Slovensku](#)', *Pravda*, 31 October 2022.

¹⁵ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2022), '[Návrh poslancov Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky Tomáša TARABU a Györgya GYIMESIHO na vydanie zákona, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky č. 63/1993 Z. z. o štátnych symboloch Slovenskej republiky a ich používaní v znení neskorších predpisov](#)', parlamentná tlač 1059, 27 May 2022.

¹⁶ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2022), '[Hlasovanie podľa klubov - Návrh poslancov Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky Tomáša TARABU a Györgya GYIMESIHO na vydanie zákona, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky č. 63/1993 Z. z. o štátnych symboloch Slovenskej republiky a ich používaní v znení neskorších predpisov](#)', parlamentná tlač 1059, 6 October 2022.

¹⁷ See for instance [Instagram account](#) of a then coalition MP Jana Bittó Cigániková; [Facebook page](#) of a then coalition MP Vladimíra Marcinková.

¹⁸ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2022), '[Návrh poslancov Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky Štefana KUFFU a Filipa KUFFU na vydanie zákona, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon č. 245/2008 Z. z. o výchove a vzdelávaní \(školský zákon\) a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov v znení neskorších predpisov a doplnení niektorých zákonov v znení neskorších predpisov](#)', parlamentná tlač 1249, 30 September 2022.

¹⁹ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2022), '[Návrh poslancov Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky Jarmily HALGAŠOVEJ, Jany BITTÓ CIGÁNIKOVEJ, Tomáša LEHOTSKÉHO, Petra OSUSKÉHO a Vladimíry MARCINKOVEJ na vydanie zákona, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon č. 40/1964 Zb. Občiansky zákonník v znení neskorších predpisov a ktorým sa menia a dopĺňajú niektoré zákony](#)', parlamentná tlač 1097, 24 August 2022.

On 19 October 2022 the National Council discussed this amendment (to the Act No. 40/1964 Coll. the Civic Code) that was to improve property rights of co-habiting persons and was to apply to same-sex couples as well.²⁰ The amendment did not pass (only 50 MPs voted in favour).²¹ The amendment was criticised by some representatives of the LGBTIQ community for its insufficiency since it does not introduce registered partnerships. It merely simplifies life of same-sex couples in one area of life.²² Others, such as Initiative Inakosť, however, expressed their disappointment.²³ The other one is a new bill on registered partnerships²⁴ - 31 MPs voted in favour of the bill, while 53 voted against and 56 abstained. The bill thus did not pass.²⁵

On 12 October 2022 a terrorist attack against LGBTIQ people was committed in Bratislava where two members of the LGBTIQ community were shot dead and one was wounded.²⁶ A number of events in support of LGBTIQ community followed – e.g. marches in support of LGBTIQ community in Bratislava²⁷, a series of concerts and events across the country²⁸ etc. An LGBTIQ initiative Inakosť launched a campaign called “Our lives are at stake” (*Ide nám o život*), a call to the government and the parliament to equalize LGBTIQ people in Slovakia.²⁹ They demand a Code of Conduct of a Member of the Parliament to be adopted that would introduce disciplinary liability for hate speech. Furthermore, they demand strengthening specialisation, staff capacity and technical equipment to law enforcement agencies focused on countering extremism to enable them to effectively monitor, detect and clarify extremist crimes, including those motivated by hatred of LGBTI+ people in the online environment. They also demand adoption of registered partnerships for same-sex couples. As of 22 November 2022, 32 414 persons signed the petition.

²⁰ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2022), ‘[Návrh poslancov Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky Jarmily HALGAŠOVEJ, Jany BITTÓ CIGÁNIKOVEJ, Tomáša LEHOTSKÉHO, Petra OSUSKÉHO a Vladimíry MARCINKOVEJ na vydanie zákona, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon č. 40/1964 Zb. Občiansky zákonník v znení neskorších predpisov a ktorým sa menia a dopĺňajú niektoré zákony](#)’, parlamentná tlač 1097, 24 August 2022.

²¹ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2022), ‘[Hlasovanie podľa klubov - Návrh poslancov Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky Jarmily HALGAŠOVEJ, Jany BITTÓ CIGÁNIKOVEJ, Tomáša LEHOTSKÉHO, Petra OSUSKÉHO a Vladimíry MARCINKOVEJ na vydanie zákona, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon č. 40/1964 Zb. Občiansky zákonník v znení neskorších predpisov a ktorým sa menia a dopĺňajú niektoré zákony](#)’, parlamentná tlač 1097, 19 October 2022.

²² Lucia Plaváková – Progresívne Slovensko (2022), ‘[Facebook post](#)’, 18 October 2022.

²³ Initiative Inakosť (2022), ‘[Facebook post](#)’, 19 October 2022.

²⁴ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2022), ‘[Návrh poslanca Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky Tomáša VALÁŠKA na vydanie zákona o životnom partnerstve a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov](#)’, parlamentná tlač 1124, 25 August 2022.

²⁵ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2022), ‘[Hlasovanie podľa klubov - Návrh poslanca Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky Tomáša VALÁŠKA na vydanie zákona o životnom partnerstve a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov](#)’, parlamentná tlač 1124, 4 October 2022.

²⁶ Pravda (2022), ‘[Tražickú strelbu v Bratislave prekvalifikovali na teroristický útok](#)’, Pravda, 17 October 2022.

²⁷ Krištofčová, A., Straňáková, I. (2022), ‘[Prepáčte, že nemôžete cítiť bezpečne, povedala na Námestí SNP prezidentka Čaputová](#)’, *SME Daily*, 14 October 2022.; Pravda (2022), ‘[Dav ľudí v Bratislave demonštroval na podporu LGBTI komunity](#)’, *Pravda*, 16 October 2022.

²⁸ For more information, please see <https://www.slovenskateplaren.sk/>

²⁹ For more information, please see <https://idenamozivot.sk/vyzva/>

Following the terrorist attack in Bratislava more attacks on LGBTIQ people were reported – a violent attack on a gay couple in the city of Nitra,³⁰ in Bratislava³¹. The Police of the Slovak Republic also informed about an unprecedented increase in online hate speech and comments inciting violence against LGBTIQ community.³²

1.2 Findings and methodology of research, studies, or surveys on experiences of discrimination against LGBTIQ people and on the grounds of socio-economic status, health status and physical appearance

LGBTIQ people

Slovakia ranked 26th out of 49 countries in the latest report on human rights situation of LGBTIQ people.³³ The report is based on desk-research and policy analysis in all countries. In the category of Equality and Non-discrimination Slovakia received 46%. In the country analysis it was reported that extremist rhetoric across the political spectrum has greatly increased over the past two years, since the 2020 elections.

Slovak National Human Rights Centre published a brief report in May 2022 on experiences of transgender persons with discrimination in the workplace. The report is a result of an online consultation with a group of four transgender persons in Košice. It was reported that transgender persons felt discriminated against particularly when applying for a job if they explicitly stated their transgender identity in the application. Participants reported that potential employers had never even called them for an interview. Some participants also reported they did not feel fully accepted in their workplace, i.e. their preferred gender was not respected in day to day communication or databases.³⁴

In December 2022 the Faculty of Law, Comenius University in Bratislava published an interdisciplinary analysis of the situation of transgender persons in Slovakia. The publication contains chapters dedicated to contemporary psychiatry's perspective on gender incongruence, the possibilities and limits of health care for

³⁰ Folentová, V. (2022), '[Napadnutý teenager z Nitry: Dali sme si bozk, potom prišli dvaja muži a kopli ma do tváre](#)', *Denník N*, 27 October 2022.

³¹ Baran, M., Šodor, F. (2022), '[Ďalší útok na LGBT+ ľudí. Hamran dal prešetriť incident z bratislavskej reštaurácie](#)', *RTVS*, 20 October 2022.

³² Slovakia, Police of the Slovak Republic (*Polícia SR*), '[Facebook post](#)', 31 October 2022.

³³ ILGA-Europe (2022), '[Rainbow Europe-Slovakia](#)', Brussels.

³⁴ Slovakia, Slovak National Human Rights Centre (2022), '[Diskriminácia transrodových osôb v pracovnoprávných vzťahoch](#)', May 2022, Bratislava.

transgender people, medical vs. human rights discourse on transgender people, attempts to legally restrict the legal recognition of gender, the ECHR's perspective on human rights in Slovakia, litigation as a tool for enforcing the rights of transgender people in Slovakia, the legal implications of transgender transcription within existing marriages, and so on. The publication is not an output of empirical research.³⁵

³⁵ Batka, Ľ. Et al. (2022), [Postavenie transrodových ľudí na Slovensku. Interdisciplinárne pohľady](#), Bratislava, Faculty of Law, Comenius University.

2 Racism, xenophobia and related intolerance

2.1 Data, research findings, studies, or surveys on experiences of ethnic discrimination, racism and hate crime

According to the Monitoring report on the state of extremism, in years 2020 and 2021, the extremist attacks were most often directed against Roma (43.1%), Jews (27.7%), foreigners and migrants, including person of different skin color (12.7%), against Muslims and for religious affiliation to Islam (5.5%) and against members of the LGBTI minority for sexual orientation (4.9%). The data were provided to the report by the National Criminal Agency which is prosecuting extremist crime in Slovakia³⁶.

At the beginning of 2022, the Institute for Financial Policy of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic published a study on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the so-called Roma marginalized communities (Roma marginalized community is a part of a village or town where mostly Roma people live in worse conditions when compared to majority population)³⁷. The most significant impact was recorded in the area of health. Compared to the average between 2015 and 2019, in 2021 the number of deaths of people from Roma marginalized communities increased by up to 44% compared to 21% in the majority population. Thus, residents of Roma marginalized communities died twice as often as members of the majority because of the poorer health and living conditions, lower vaccination rate and lower availability of health care. The impact in the area of employment was very similar to the majority population, however, residents of Roma marginalized communities are more sensitive to the loss of income since they are employed in less stable positions and earn less money. During the pandemic families living in Roma marginalized communities also lost some of the supportive measures like the activation allowances (for unemployed people who work for a certain period of time for public benefit) and subsidized lunches provided by schools since the schools were closed for a long period of time during the pandemic.

In October 2022, the Value for Money Department of the Ministry of Finance published an analysis according to which thousands of people from the poorest

³⁶ Slovakia, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) (2022), [LP/2022/535 Monitoring report on the state of extremism in the Slovak Republic for the period of 2020 and 2021 and updating the tasks of the Concept of Combating Radicalization and Extremism until 2024](#) (LP/2022/535 Minotorovacia správa stave extrémizmu v Slovenskej republike za obdobie rokov 2020 a 2021 a aktualizácia úloh Koncepcie boja proti radikalizácii a extrémizmu do roku 2024), p. 13.

³⁷ Slovakia, Institute of Financial Policy/Value for Money Department (*Inštitút finančnej politiky/Útvar hodnoty za peniaze*) (2022), [The impact of the pandemic on marginalized Roma communities](#) (Vplyv pandémie na marginalizované rómske komunity).

communities change their health insurance company every year³⁸. For health insurance companies, this is a profitable practice since those people use only a little health care. The analysis shows that 26,000 people changed in the recent years their health insurance company six and more times. Most of them live in the poorest regions with high unemployment rates. At the level of municipalities, the data show that the frequent changes in health insurance companies happen in localities with a higher proportion of the segregated Roma population. According to the NGOs present in the localities, the representatives of the health insurance companies offer payments to those willing to change the health insurance company even if this practice is not allowed by the legislation. The cases when the change was done without the person knowing of it were also recorded. The analysis concludes that this practice concerns mainly Roma living in marginalized communities. Moreover, their access to health care can be more difficult if concerned people do not even know with which health insurance company they are insured or do not have the necessary proof of insurance.

2.2 Legal and policy developments or measures relating to the application of the Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia and the Racial Equality Directive

At the end of September 2022, the National Council of the Slovak Republic adopted a definition of anti-Roma racism based on the definition provided by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)³⁹. The manifestations of anti-Roma racism involve for instance: denying and distorting the genocide of Roma, maintaining and confirming discriminatory stereotypes about Roma, inciting, justifying and perpetrating violence against Roma communities and individual Roma, and others. The National Council of the Slovak Republic recommends the Government of the Slovak Republic carry out an analysis of the current legal acts and propose their amendments in compliance with the mentioned definition of anti-Roma racism, as well as ensure the security of nationals of Roma origin by consulting with the civil society organisations and public authorities implementing activities against the discrimination of Roma and

³⁸ Slovakia, Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic/Value for Money Department (*Ministerstvo financií SR/Útvar hodnoty za peniaze*) (2022), [‘Prepoisťovanie medzi najzraniteľnejšími skupinami neprináša lepšie zdravotné výsledky’](#), 25 October 2022.

³⁹ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2022), [Proposal by members of the National Council of the Slovak Republic Peter POLLÁK and Jarmila VAŇOVÁ to adopt the resolution of the National Council of the Slovak Republic on the working definition of anti-Roma racism developed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance \(IHRA\) and adopted by its member states \(including the Slovak Republic\) on 8 October 2020](#) (Návrh poslancov Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky Petra POLLÁKA a Jarmily VAŇOVEJ na prijatie uznesenia Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky k pracovnej definícii protirómskeho rasizmu vypracovanej Medzinárodnou alianciou pre pripomínanie holokaustu (IHRA) a prijatej jej členskými štátmi (vrátane Slovenskej republiky) dňa 8. októbra 2020), adopted on 27 September 2022.

finally, contribute together with the National Council to the cultivation of the public debate by condemning anti-Roma expressions and manifestations and bringing rational arguments to the debate.

The Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic has prepared an amendment to the School Act⁴⁰. According to this amendment, school segregation is defined as actions or omissions, the direct or indirect consequence of which is unjustified spatial, organizational or physical exclusion or separation from other children, pupils or students during upbringing and education or less favourable upbringing or less favourable education. At the beginning of October 2022, the amendment to the School Act was not final, the Ministry of Education evaluated the comments regarding the amendment of the School Act which is expected to be approved by the Government in a short time and then discussed by the National Council of the Slovak Republic. The amendment of the School Act was not approved by the Government nor by the Parliament as of the end of 2022. The NGO Center for Civil and Human Rights advocating for the rights of Roma minority submitted their comments to the prepared amendment of the School Act⁴¹. According to the Centre, besides introducing the definition of segregation into School Act also other measures should be adopted by public authorities to improve the access to education for Roma children, for instance, the school districts should be designed not to support segregation, the diversity at schools should be promoted, the schools should be massively supported to be able to educate children of diverse origin, as well as the residential segregation of Roma communities should be addressed. Besides the mentioned measures the Centre also proposes that segregation should be defined by the Anti-discrimination Act as one of the forms of discrimination. This would provide better possibilities for legal protection against segregation.

In August 2022, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination delivered their Concluding observations on Slovakia⁴². According to the Committee the racism against Roma people and people of African origin remains to be persisting problem in Slovakia. The Committee also expressed their concerns on the court proceedings in racial discrimination cases saying that their lengthy impede victims' effective access to justice. Another issue mentioned by the

⁴⁰ Slovakia, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu SR*) (2022), [LP/2022/502 Act amending Act no. 245/2008 Coll. on upbringing and education \(School Act\) and on the amendment of certain laws](#) (LP/2022/502 Zákon, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon č. 245/2008 Z. z. o výchove a vzdelávaní (školský zákon) a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov v znení neskorších predpisov).

⁴¹ Centre for the Civil and Human Rights (*Poradňa pre občianske a ľudské práva*) (2022), [Comments of the non-governmental organization Center for Civil and Human Rights on the draft amendment to the Act amending Act No. 245/2008 Coll. on upbringing and education \(School Act\) and on the amendment of certain laws](#) (Pripomienky mimovládnej organizácie Poradňa pre občianske a ľudské práva k návrhu novely zákona, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon č. 245/2008 Z. z. o výchove a vzdelávaní (školský zákon) a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov v znení neskorších predpisov).

⁴² UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (2022), [Concluding Observations on the thirteenth periodic report of Slovakia of Slovakia](#). Adopted on 30 August 2022.

Concluding observation is the discrimination and segregation of Roma children in education system.

In September 2022, the Ministry of Interior published a Monitoring report on the state of extremism in the Slovak Republic for the years 2020 and 2021 and an update of the tasks of the Conception of combating radicalization and extremism until 2024 (adopted by the Government in January 2021)⁴³. The Monitoring report summarizes up-to-date information on extremism in Slovakia and the Update of the tasks of the Conception adds additional tasks to the original tasks listed by the Conception. The new tasks involve several measures aimed at supporting the prevention of radicalization and extremism in the educational process. It is also planned that the training of the police officers will involve the issue of antisemitism and other religious intolerance. A proposal of a deradicalization programme will be prepared by the Ministry of Interior. ~~In September, the Monitoring report as well as the update of the tasks of the Conception were put into interdepartmental procedure, after which the Ministry of Interior will evaluate the comments and submit the document for the approval of the Government.~~ The Monitoring report as well as the Update of the tasks of the Conception was approved by the Government on 9 November 2022⁴⁴.

The regular report of Special prosecutor on the activities of the Office of Special Prosecution was submitted to the Parliament at the end of August 2022⁴⁵. Within the report, the information about the situation regarding the extremist crime in 2021 is presented. The extremist crime involve crimes under the article 140a of the Criminal Code – the crime of supporting and promoting of groups denying fundamental rights and freedoms (Article 422), the crime of spreading extremist materials (Article 422b), the crime of defamation of nation, race and belief (Article 423), the crimes of incitement to national, racial and ethnic hatred (Article 424), the crime of keeping extremist materials (Article 422c) and the crime committed with a special motive (Article 140e). The special motive is applied if the crime was committed out of hatred against a group of persons or individual person because of their race, nationality, ethnic identity, origin, skin colour, gender, sexual orientation, political and religious belief⁴⁶. In Slovakia, extremist crime is prosecuted by the Office of Special Prosecution. According to the report, similar

⁴³ Slovakia, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) (2022), [LP/2022/535 Monitoring report on the state of extremism in the Slovak Republic for the period of 2020 and 2021 and update of the tasks of the Concept of combating radicalization and extremism until 2024](#) (LP/2022/535 Monitorovacia správa o stave extrémizmu v Slovenskej republike za obdobie rokov 2020 a 2021 a aktualizácia úloh Koncepcie boja proti radikalizácii a extrémizmu do roku 2024).

⁴⁴ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (*Vláda SR*) (2022), [Monitoring report on the state of extremism in the Slovak Republic for the period of 2020 and 2021 and update of the tasks of the Concept of combating radicalization and extremism until 2024](#) (Monitorovacia správa o stave extrémizmu v Slovenskej republike za obdobie rokov 2020 a 2021 a aktualizácia úloh Koncepcie boja proti radikalizácii a extrémizmu do roku 2024), approved on 9 November 2022.

⁴⁵ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada Slovenskej republiky*) (2021), [Správa špeciálneho prokurátora o činnosti Úradu špeciálnej prokuratúry a poznatky Úradu špeciálnej prokuratúry o stave zákonnosti za rok 2021](#),

⁴⁶ Slovakia, [Act no. 300/2005 Coll Criminal Code](#) (*Zákon č. 300/2005 Z.z. Trestný zákon*), 2 July 2005.

to the previous year, a large share of extremist crime has been committed in virtual space in form of hateful posts and comments. As for the criminal prosecution of extremist crime, the Special prosecution perceives positively that there are more case laws regarding extremist crime available when compared to the past. On the other hand, it is seen as a shortcoming that there are only two official experts in the area of political extremism to whom the judicial authorities can ask for expertise.

According to the report, there was not a significant change in the number of prosecuted extremist crimes recorded in 2021 when compared to the previous year. In 2021, the Special prosecution prosecuted the following numbers of persons charged with committing an extremist crime:

- the crime of supporting and promoting of groups denying fundamental rights and freedoms (Article 422) – 26 convicted persons
- the crime of producing extremist materials (Article 422a) – 4 convicted persons
- the crime of spreading extremist materials (Article 422b) – 21 convicted persons
- the crime of keeping extremist materials (Article 422c) – 13 convicted persons
- the crime of defamation of nation, race and belief (Article 423) – 2 convicted persons
- the crimes of incitement to national, racial and ethnic hatred (Article 424) – 4 convicted persons
- the crime committed with a special motive (Article 140e) – 16 convicted persons⁴⁷.

⁴⁷ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada Slovenskej republiky*) (2022), [Správa špeciálneho prokurátora o činnosti Úradu špeciálnej prokuratúry a poznatky Úradu špeciálnej prokuratúry o stave zákonnosti za rok 2021](#), p. 27.

3 Roma equality and inclusion

3.1 Policy developments in regards to the implementation of national action plans

Development regarding the implementation of the action plans	
Has the Member State adopted one or several action plan(s) for the implementation of the strategy (separately from the strategic framework? If yes, please provide a hyperlink	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The Government of the Slovak Republic approved Action plans for the Strategy for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of Roma for 2022-2024⁴⁸ on 6 April 2022.⁴⁹</p> <p>Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (Vláda SR) (2022), Akčné plány k stratégii rovnosti, inklúzie a pracicipácie Rómov do roku 2030 na roky 2022 – 2024, available at: https://www.romovia.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/1135/04_vlastny-material-akcne-plany-strategie-2030-na-roky-2022-2024_final.pdf?csrt=12977309922689600448</p>
How were Roma and Traveller civil society organizations consulted for the development of the action plan (please check with the competent	Roma were part of thematic working groups to develop action plans, with two Roma women leading two thematic working groups as experts (Education, Combating antigypsyism and promoting Roma

⁴⁸ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (Vláda SR) (2022), [Akčné plány k stratégii rovnosti, inklúzie a pracicipácie Rómov do roku 2030 na roky 2022 – 2024](#) (Action Plans for the Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation Strategy 2030 for 2022-2024).

⁴⁹ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (Vláda SR) (2022), [Uznesenie Vlády SR č. 256 zo 6. Apríla 2022 k Akčným plánom k Stratégii rovnosti, inklúzie a pracicipácie Rómov do roku 2030 na roky 2022 – 2024](#) (Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic 256 of 6 April 2022 on the Action Plans for the Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation Strategy 2030 for 2022-2024).

national authorities and the most significant Roma organizations)?	participation). Representatives of Roma NGOs were invited to each thematic working group. There were three Roma organisations represented in the education working group, two Roma organisations in the housing working group, one Roma representative in the health and employment working group and three Roma representatives in the antigypsyism working group ⁵⁰ .
Was the Equality Body and the NHRI and the Ombuds institution in your country consulted in the development of the action plan (please check with the competent national authority, the Equality body, NHRI and Ombuds institution)?	Yes, the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights, as an Equality Body, was present in the working group on combating antigypsyism and promoting participation. The Ombudsman Office was consulted on one measure in the action plan for this area.
Does the national strategic framework and the action plan foresee a regular monitoring and review? If yes, who will conduct this.	Yes. Monitoring will be carried out by the analytical unit established at the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities. Monitoring and evaluation are not yet underway.
Implications of the war in Ukraine on the situation of Roma	
Have Roma from Ukraine entered your country?	Yes
If Roma from Ukraine entered your country how was this communicated in the media?	In the early days of the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, the Ukrainian refugees were communicated in the media as a group, i.e. no minorities or ethnic groups were mentioned. It was only later that it began to appear in the media that Roma were coming to Slovakia from Ukraine in large family groups. The reports mostly concerned allegations of discriminatory behaviour against Roma from Ukraine.
Is there any evidence (articles, reports, analyses) of the impact of the economic implications of the war (inflation, food or energy prices etc.) on Roma? If yes, provide reference	No. In Slovakia, the impact of the economic consequences of the war has been discussed for the entire Slovak population. There is no discussion about the impact on the Roma but on the whole of Slovak society.

⁵⁰ Roma Civil Monitor (2022), [Civil society monitoring report on the quality of the national strategic framework for Roma equality, inclusion, and participation in Slovakia](#).

	For instance, the analysis of the Ministry of Finance about the impact of rising inflation mentions that the sharp rise in prices will be risky for low-income households. Another group of population that will be threatened by the increase in prices are people who depend on income in the form of social benefits. According to the analysis this concerns, in particular, the marginalized Roma communities, single parents and large families ⁵¹ .
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3.2 Legal and policy developments or measures directly or indirectly addressing Roma/Travellers equality and inclusion

In June 2022, Act No. 232/2022 Coll. on the financing of the child's free time was adopted introducing allowances for children's free time activities in the abridged legislative procedure⁵². It was planned that the act would come into force on 1 July 2022. Article III. § 8(3) of the law states: "During the period of designation of the special recipient of the allowance and the allowance supplement pursuant to Section 12a(1)(a) of Act No. 600/2003 Coll. on child allowance, the allowance and the allowance supplement shall be monthly in the amount of 50% of the allowance and the allowance supplement". This provision will affect

⁵¹ Slovakia, Ministry of Finance/Institute of Financial Policy (*Ministerstvo financií SR/Inštitút finančnej politiky*) (2022), [Odkiaľ sa zjavila vysoká inflácia? Analýza faktorov, ktoré prispievajú k súčasnému rastu cien](#). (Where did the high inflation come from? An analysis of the factors contributing to the current rise in prices), June 2022.

⁵² Slovakia, [Act no. 232/2022 Coll. on the financing of the child's free time and on the amendment of some laws](#) (Zákon č. 232/2022 Z.z. o financovaní voľného času dieťaťa a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov), 22 June 2022.

those Roma children who do not attend compulsory school for various reasons. The institute of the special recipient is intended to ensure that all children receive the child allowance in the same amount, as it is intended to provide the means to ensure that children's participation in the educational process is not jeopardised. The President of the Slovak Republic sent an objection to the Constitutional Court⁵³. The president states, among other things, that in Article III, point 6 of the approved law is contrary to the Convention on the Rights of the Child since it introduces a reduction of the child allowance and the supplement to the child allowance by half during the designation of a special recipient. The paying out of child allowance and the supplement to the child allowance to the special recipient is applied in cases, for instance, when children are not fulfilling the compulsory pre-school education (which also the case of many Roma children). In such a case, the benefits shall be paid to the municipality or, if justified, to the person who directly ensures the fulfilment of the purpose of the benefit. By halving the benefit, the legislator is punishing the child for the neglect of his/her parents in fulfilling their obligations to ensure compulsory school attendance. According to the President, there is a possible conflict with Article 12(1) and (2) of the Constitution and Articles 2(1) and 27(3) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Such unjustified differential treatment and the creation of two categories of children contradicts the fundamental principle of respect for the human dignity of every child, regardless of his or her ethnicity, social origin or other status. ~~As of 11 October, the Constitutional Court has not ruled, however the law was suspended. On 9 November 2022, the Constitutional Court sat on the President's submission. However, it did not render a decision and the next hearing is adjourned indefinitely. Such a procedure may be caused by the fact that On 8 November 2022 an amendment to Act No. 232/2022 Coll. was approved by the National Council of the Slovak Republic. on the financing of children's leisure time, which deletes the disputed point. The law should enter into force on 1 January 2023.⁵⁴ However, the amendment has not been signed by the President of the Slovak Republic yet. On 13 December 2022, the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic ruled that the approval of the package of measures by the Minister of Finance in an abbreviated legislative procedure was not in accordance with the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.⁵⁵ According to the President of the Slovak Republic the decision of the Constitutional Court in the proceedings initiated at her suggestion is an important contribution to strengthening the rule of law, especially in the sense of protecting the constitutional principles of the legislative~~

⁵³ Slovakia, President of the Slovak Republic (*Prezidentka SR*) (2022), [Proposal to start proceedings on the compliance of legal regulations and suspend the effectiveness of the law](#) (Návrh na začatie konania o súlade právnych predpisov a pozastavenie účinnosti zákona), 14 July 2022.

⁵⁴ Slovakia, [Amendment to the Act No. 232/2022 Coll. on the financing of children's leisure time](#) (Návrh zákona z 8. Novembra 2022, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon č. 232/2022 Z.z. o financovaní voľného času dieťaťa a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov).

⁵⁵ Slovakia, Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic (*Ústavný súd SR*), [Press Release No. 76/2022](#).

process. As well as the decision will be a constitutional guard for the ruling parties not to misuse the abridged legislative procedure in the future.⁵⁶

On 29 July 2022, the District Court Bratislava III dismissed the public lawsuit filed by the Center for Civil and Human Rights (NGO) under the Anti-Discrimination Act, which challenged the segregation of Roma women in the maternity ward of the Prešov hospital. The court's judgment is not final since the Centre has appealed against it to the Regional Court.⁵⁷ In 2013, the Center for Civil and Human Rights objected to the existence of separate rooms in the gynaecology and obstetrics ward of the J.A. Reiman University Hospital and Polyclinic in Prešov, where patients of exclusively Roma ethnic origin were accommodated. The Center for Civil and Human Rights Counselling stated that the segregation of Roma women into separate rooms in the maternity ward constitutes an interference with their human dignity and honour, as it creates a feeling of inferiority in them, that the majority society considers them inferior and wants to distance itself from them. The hospital has defended themselves by claiming that Roma women themselves request to be placed in shared rooms with other Roma women due to the fact that they are either relatives or acquaintances. The hospital also stated that all rooms are equipped in the same way, except for rooms that are superior and for which an extra charge is made. The Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Health, as defendants, contested passive standing and also argued that it was not clear on what legal and factual basis they were being sued. The Center for Civil and Human Rights commented on passive standing by stating that the Slovak Republic, as a subject of international law, has ratified a number of international treaties for the protection of human rights, from which it is under a positive obligation to take measures leading to the prevention of all forms of discrimination and, where discriminatory conduct is found, to take measures leading to its elimination. In this context, the adoption of anti-discrimination legislation in itself cannot be considered a sufficiently preventive measure to protect against discrimination, as claimed by the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Health. The Court stated that if a Roma patient was placed in a room with other patients of Roma ethnicity only, this in itself does not prove the existence of discrimination on the basis of ethnicity or segregation of Roma patients, as this is to be further investigated in the case of the provision of health care, whether this was justified by the patient's medical condition, the occupancy of the ward, epidemiological measures or whether, for example, the women in question themselves preferred to

⁵⁶ Slovakia, President of the Slovak Republic (*Prezidentka Slovenskej republiky*) (2022), [Statement by the President of the Slovak Republic from 13 December 2022](#).

⁵⁷ Slovakia, District Court Bratislava III (*Okresný súd Bratislava III*), [Judgment on behalf of the Slovak Republic 14C/288/2013-590](#).

stay in a room with women of their ethnicity as opposed to staying in a room with women of the majority, and also whether there was any disadvantage to them on that basis.⁵⁸

There has been no progress on the issue of illegally sterilised women in Slovakia since 2021, when in November the Slovak Government apologised to all women harmed by the practice. No legislative proposal for compensations has yet been made.⁵⁹

In the 2021 census, 67,479 persons declared the Roma nationality as the first option and 88,985 persons chose it as the second option when answering the question What is your mother language. The largest number of people declared their Roma nationality in the Prešov, Košice and Banská Bystrica regions. While in the Prešov Region the highest proportion of those who indicated their Roma nationality as their first nationality, in the Košice and Banská Bystrica Regions the highest proportion of those who indicated Roma as their next nationality was found.⁶⁰ According to the Governmental Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities, the census does not show the real number of Roma living in Slovakia. He believes this may be due to persistent racism and prejudice against Roma in the country.⁶¹

In the combined municipal and regional elections held at the end of October 2022, 52 Roma mayors and mayoresses were elected. According to data from the Matej Bel Institute, the number of Roma representatives elected to local governments has increased when compared to the 2018 elections when 44 Roma mayors were elected. The largest number of Roma mayors will be in the Banská Bystrica region (19), followed by the Prešov region (15) and the Košice region (14).⁶² The results of Roma elected to the local councils are not yet known.

⁵⁸ Slovakia, District Court Bratislava III (*Okresný súd Bratislava III*), [Judgment on behalf of the Slovak Republic 14C/288/2013-590](#).

⁵⁹ Center for Civil and Human Rights (2022), [‘S poslancom Národnej rady Petrom Pollákom ml. sme hovorili o odškodnení nezákonne sterilizovaných rómskych žien’](#) (We talked to Petr Pollak Jr., member of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, about compensation for illegally sterilized Roma women).

⁶⁰ Slovakia, Statistical Office of Slovak Republic (*Štatistický úrad SR*), [Sčítanie obyvateľov domov a bytov 2021 – Národnosť a materinský jazyk. Census 2021](#).

⁶¹ SME Daily (2022), [‘Hero: Sčítanie neukazuje reálny počet Rómov, je za tým strach z diskriminácie’](#), 21 January 2022.

⁶² Institute of Matej Bell (2022), [‘IMB: Slovensko má po voľbách rekordný počet rómskych starostov a starostiek’](#), 6 November 2022.

4 Asylum, borders, visas, migration and integration

4.1 National legal framework on criminalisation of 'humanitarian assistance' and domestic transposition of sanctions

EUMS	Implementation of Article 3 of Directive 2002/90/EC	
	How has your EUMS implemented Article 3 of Directive 2002/90/EU	Yes. Hyperlinked legal provisions of articles 355(1) and 356 of a Criminal Code in English and Slovak language. http://europam.eu/data/mechanisms/PF/PF%20Laws/Slovakia/Slovakia_Criminal%20Code_2005_en.pdf
	Cases [incident numbers] of criminalisation of humanitarian assistance	
	Number of cases recorded by the police in 2022	Number and details of cases (if available) 0
	Number of investigations initiated in 2022	Number and details of cases (if available) 0

	Number of court decisions taken in 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and type of court decisions, information if decision is final. <p style="text-align: center;">0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of penalties imposed according to Article 1 2002/946/JHA: Council framework Decision of 28 November 2002 on the strengthening of the penal framework to prevent the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and residence • Describe in max three-four sentences the key court decisions in 2022 and add hyperlink to decision (if available)
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4.2 Use of the large-scale IT Systems in the area of asylum, migration and border control

- a) There were no complaints (nor issued decisions), recommendations, and opinions on the use of large-scale IT systems in the area of asylum, migration and border control published in 2022. Only information available online is general information in Slovak language: <https://dataprotection.gov.sk/uouu/sk/content/schengensky-priestor>
- b) Information not provided.
- c) Information not provided.

5 Information society, privacy and data protection

5.1 Initiatives in the use of artificial intelligence in both private and public sectors

Actor	Type	Description	Are Human Rights issues mentioned? (yes/no)	Reference
Independent state institution - Permanent Commission for Ethics and Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (CERAI) (SK)	Statement	Statement on testing AI systems in the context of Artificial Intelligence Act The statement was issued upon request of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic.	No	Slovakia, Standing Committee on Ethics and the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (<i>Stála komisia pre etiku a reguláciu umelej inteligencie</i>) (2022), " Statement on testing AI systems in the context of Artificial Intelligence Act ", May 2022.
Independent state institution - Permanent Commission	Statement	Statement on neuromorphic systems in the context of Artificial Intelligence Act	Yes The fundamental rights are mentioned but discussed only superficially. In answer to the question whether Artificial Intelligence Act provides sufficient,	Slovakia, Standing Committee on Ethics and the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (<i>Stála komisia pre etiku a reguláciu umelej inteligencie</i>) (2022), " Statement on neuromorphic

<p>for Ethics and Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (CERAI) (SK)</p>		<p>The statement was issued upon request of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic.</p>	<p>if any, protection from neurotechnology, CERAI merely states that "AIA provides virtually no (or minimal) protection for neurotechnology. We find the report prepared for DH-BIO2 to be virtually uninvolved and looking at the topic from a biomedical perspective. We consider it important to incorporate a technical perspective and the extent of current technological advances in this area into the AIA proposal." The statement does not engage with fundamental rights in any further detail.</p>	<p>systems in the context of Artificial Intelligence Act", April 2022.</p>
<p>Independent state institution - Permanent Commission for Ethics and Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (CERAI) (SK)</p>	<p>Statement</p>	<p>Statement on the updated definition of artificial intelligence in the Artificial Intelligence Act</p> <p>The statement was issued upon request of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Slovakia, Standing Committee on Ethics and the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (<i>Stála komisia pre etiku a reguláciu umelej inteligencie</i>) (2022), "Statement on the updated definition of artificial intelligence in the Artificial Intelligence Act", March 2022.</p>

<p>Independent state institution - Permanent Commission for Ethics and Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (CERAI) (SK)</p>	<p>Statement</p>	<p>Statement on the parts of the Artificial Intelligence Act proposal relating to prohibited (Red Lines) practices and high-risk artificial intelligence systems</p> <p>The statement was issued upon request of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Slovakia, Standing Committee on Ethics and the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (<i>Stála komisia pre etiku a reguláciu umelej inteligencie</i>) (2022), "Statement on the parts of the Artificial Intelligence Act proposal relating to prohibited (Red Lines) practices and high-risk artificial intelligence systems", March 2022.</p>
<p>Independent state institution - Permanent Commission for Ethics and Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (CERAI) (SK)</p>	<p>Statement</p>	<p>Statement on selected questions on the Artificial Intelligence Act</p> <p>The statement was issued upon request of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Slovakia, Standing Committee on Ethics and the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (<i>Stála komisia pre etiku a reguláciu umelej inteligencie</i>) (2022), "Statement on selected questions on the Artificial Intelligence Act", February 2022.</p>

Parliamentary- Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic (SK)	Action Plan	Action Plan for the Coordinated Countering of Hybrid Threats for 2022-2024	no	Slovakia, Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic (<i>Ministerstvo obrany Slovenskej republiky</i>) (2022) „Action Plan for the Coordinated Countering of Hybrid Threats for 2022-2024“. Available at: https://www.nbu.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/AKCN-Y-PLAN-KOORDINACIE-BOJA-PROTI-HYBRIDNYM-HROZBAM.pdf
Independent state institution - Permanent Commission for Ethics and Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (CERAI) (SK)	Map of experts	AI Ethics and Regulation Expert Map	no	Slovakia, Standing Committee on Ethics and the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (<i>Stála komisia pre etiku a reguláciu umelej inteligencie</i>) (2022) “Map of experts for AI ethics and regulation”. Published on 23 June 2022. Available at https://www.mirri.gov.sk/sekcie/informatizacia/digitalne-inovacie/stala-komisia-pre-etiku-a-regulaciu-umelej-inteligencie/mapa-expertov/index.html
Kempelen Institute for	Web annotation tool	According to the information provided at the official	no	Kempelen Institute for Intelligent Technologies (KInIT) (2022), „ Ako dokáže umelá inteligencia

Intelligent Technologies (KInIT)		webpage of KInIT, the tool enables: 1) quick collection of URLs linking to suspicious (potentially misinformative) content, 2) detailed annotation of textual content on the level of text snippets (sentences, paragraphs) using highlights for pinpoint indication of false claims or manipulative constructs, and 3) comprehensive tagging scheme for classification of the highlighted snippets.		spozorovať hejt “, published on 18 May 2022.
Governmental institution - The Ministry of Health	Announcement	The Ministry of Health announced that it will support the implementation of an innovative method in cancer treatment planning in Slovakia from the Slovak Recovery and Resilience Plan.	no	Slovakia, the Ministry of Health of the Slovak republic (<i>Ministerstvo zdravotníctva Slovenskej republiky</i>) (2022) “ Ministerstvo zdravotníctva chce využívať umelú inteligenciu pri liečbe onkologických ochorení ”, published on 31 August 2022.
The National Bank of Slovakia and the Faculty of Electrical	Cross-sectoral cooperation	The National Bank of Slovakia and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Informatics STU jointly launched INOLab - Centre for Innovation and	no	Slovakia, Slovak Technical University (<i>Slovenská Technická Univerzita</i>). (2022) „ NBS and STU presented successfully

Engineering and Informatics STU		Cyber Security ⁶³ . The role of INOLab is to transfer the results of scientific, research and innovation work of the FEI in the field of artificial intelligence, machine learning, SecDevOps, cyber security and others directly into practical applications at the NBS. It should help the Central Bank to develop and innovate services, processes, cybersecurity and information systems, improve and enhance data collection and analysis.		launched INOLab published on 14 November 2022.
Slovenská konsolidačná, a.s.	Practical use of AI	Slovenská konsolidačná, a.s., a 100% subsidiary of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic, which takes care of debts to the state, has launched a pilot project for the deployment of artificial intelligence as a support	no	Slovakia, Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic (<i>Ministerstvo financií Slovenskej republiky</i>). (2022) „ Slovenská konsolidačná spustila pilotný projekt na vymáhanie pohľadávok štátu “ published on 14 December 2022.

⁶³ Slovakia, Slovak Technical University (*Slovenská Technická Univerzita*). (2022) „[NBS and STU presented successfully launched INOLab](#)“ published on 14 November 2022.

		<p>service in the recovery of debts to the state.</p> <p>With the help of the Kempelen Institute for Intelligent Technologies (KInIT), the project resulted in the deployment of a system that can determine the probability of recovery of acquired receivables using machine learning methods. Thanks to this system, staff are able to prioritise the various actions they take on receivables in a much more flexible way.</p>		
Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry	conference	In November 2022, a conference “Human-centric Artificial Intelligence” took place in Bratislava, Slovakia, with the aim to stimulate an expert as well as broader social discussion on the phenomenon of artificial intelligence (AI) in Slovakia. According to the information made available on	No	Slovakia, the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic (<i>Ministerstvo investícií, regionálneho rozvoja a informatizácie Slovenskej republiky</i>) (2022), „ Ministerstvo investícií, regionálneho rozvoja a informatizácie SR prevzalo záštitu nad konferenciou

<p>of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic</p>		<p>the official webpage of the Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic, the conference programme was divided into three main discussion panels, the first of which was devoted to the issue of AI set in the philosophical-anthropological context of human existence in the time of the current technological advances referred to as the Industrial Revolution 4.0, with regard to the application of human rights in the digital age. In the second panel, representatives of the private sector and organizations introduced the conference participants to specific applications of AI that aim to facilitate and streamline, for example, diagnostics in healthcare, industrial production, energy consumption, banking services or many other activities. They</p>	<p>ČLOVEK A UMEĽÁ INTELIGENCIA", published on 18 November 2022.</p>
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		<p>focused on their own experience with the application of ethical principles in practice. The third panel focused on a key aspect of work and the labour market, which will have to adapt to significant changes as a result of the increasing use of AI.</p>		
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5.2 Legal and policy initiatives on data protection and private life

On 20 April 2022, The Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic (MIRRI SR) announced the intention to prepare a new Act on measures against the dissemination of illegal content. According to the information made available by the ministry, this act will focus on the platforms' obligation to evaluate and eventually remove harmful and illegal content but will also determine the methods of punishment for its dissemination. The act will be based on the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Single Market for Digital Services (Digital Services Act). The aim of the MIRRI SR legislation will be to protect the rights and freedoms of natural and legal persons, the constitutional

system and internal order.⁶⁴ The preliminary information on the preparation of the Act has been published on the Slov-Lex portal. According to the preliminary information, illegal content should be considered as content that contains the elements of criminal offences as defined in the Criminal Code. This should include, for example, the offences of founding, supporting and promoting a movement aimed at the suppression of fundamental rights and freedoms, defamation of nation, race and beliefs, or denial and approval of the Holocaust, crimes of political regimes and crimes against humanity. Crimes such as dangerous threats, spreading of rumours, espionage, endangering classified information or sexual abuse, among others, should also be included.⁶⁵ As of 30 September 2022, the draft Act has not yet been publicly available.

Two more legal provisions touching upon the issue of personal data protection in relation to the data collection using artificial intelligence or other information technology are currently being prepared under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic. Both address the use of biometric data (e.g. in criminal records or face recognition technology in monitoring convicts) or the use of electronic or other devices to monitor the movement of persons (e.g. drones in the pursuit of escaped convicts). The draft of the Criminal Records Act and Amendment of Certain Acts (LP/2021/687) should minimize the range of subjects and purposes for the provision of a criminal record abstract. The draft act is currently in the stage of evaluation of the inter-ministerial comment procedures⁶⁶. The amendment to the Act No 4/2001 Coll. on the Prison and Judicial Guard Corps (LP/2022/418) should clarify certain provisions regulating the rights of members of the Prison and Judicial Guard Corps, which have been brought about by the application practice. A fundamental change is also being made to the provisions relating to complaints by accused and convicted persons, which aims, among other things, to extend the range of persons who will be able to lodge complaints on behalf of a prisoner and thus ensure the protection of the rights and legally protected interests of prisoners. Another objective is the legislation on the authorisation of the Corps to use video and audio recordings, and more

⁶⁴ Slovakia, The Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo investícií, regionálneho rozvoja a informatizácie Slovenskej republiky*) (2022), „[Vicepremiérka Remišová: Nenávisť na sociálnych sieťach rozkladá demokratickú spoločnosť – nový zákon zavedie pravidlá pre platformy, ktoré takto zarábajú milióny eur](#)“. Official website. Published on 2 April 2022.

⁶⁵ Slovakia, The Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo investícií, regionálneho rozvoja a informatizácie Slovenskej republiky*) (2022), “[PI/2022/83 Preliminary information on the draft law on measures against the dissemination of illegal content](#)”.

⁶⁶ Slovakia, The Ministry of Justice (*Ministerstvo spravodlivosti*) (2022), [LP/2021/687 draft of the Criminal Records Act and Amendment of Certain Acts \(LP/2021/687 Zákon o registri trestov a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov\)](#).

specifically the legislation on the wearing of body cameras on the uniforms of Corps officers, which is intended to address law enforcement requirements. The draft act is currently in the stage of evaluation of the inter-ministerial comment procedures⁶⁷.

There is no publicly available information concerning the reactions of the Slovak government to the revelations connected to the Pegasus spyware. None of the public officials has issued any public statement on the issue, nor there have been any measures officially announced by the government. We further requested information from the National Council of the Slovak Republic, which is responsible for the oversight over intelligence services, the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic, Ministry of Interior, and the Ministry of Justice. The National Council of the Slovak Republic stated that it has “not yet received the final version of the final report of the European Parliament's Committee of Inquiry into the use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware (established by the European Parliament's decision of 10 March 2022)” and that it “does not have the investigative powers to respond to any findings of the Committee of Inquiry at this stage”⁶⁸. The Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic stated that it did not adopt any actions⁶⁹. Similarly, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice also replied to the information request by stating they have not taken any actions⁷⁰. The Data Protection Authority also did not adopt any actions⁷².

As of 30 November 2022, no other legal or policy initiatives in relation to the Law Enforcement Directive and Digital Services Act have been made.

⁶⁷ Slovakia, The Ministry of Justice (*Ministerstvo spravodlivosti*) (2022), [LP/2022/418 the amendment to the Act No 4/2001 Coll. on the Prison and Judicial Guard Corps \(LP/2022/418 Zákon, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon č. 4/2001 Z. z. o Zbore väzenskej a justičnej stráže v znení neskorších predpisov\)](#).

⁶⁸ Information provided on request by the National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) on 10 November 2022.

⁶⁹ Information provided on request by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic (*Úrad vlády SR*) on 24 November 2022.

⁷⁰ Information provided on request by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) on 22 November 2022.

⁷¹ Information provided on request by the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo spravodlivosti SR*) on 24 November 2022.

⁷² Information provided on request by the Data Protection Authority of the Slovak Republic (*Úrad na ochranu osobných údajov SR*) on 6 December 2022.

6 Rights of the child

6.1 Measures addressing vulnerabilities of children living in poverty and developments regarding the national implementation of the EU Child Guarantee

Measures addressing vulnerabilities of children living in poverty and developments regarding the national implementation of the [EU Child Guarantee](#).

Legislative changes	<p>In July 2022, a new amendment to the Law on substitute maintenance⁷³ came into force. The amendment has made it possible to enlarge the circle of eligible persons, and this has been reflected in a slight increase in both the number of recipients and the number of children receiving substitute maintenance from the beginning of 2022. All children who are placed in foster care are entitled to substitute maintenance. The entitlement to substitute maintenance for this new group of beneficiaries shall commence from the date of the award of maintenance to the beneficiary by the court decision and shall be provided in advance in the amount of the maintenance determined by the court decision.</p> <p>Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family adopted a change in the law on social services⁷⁴ allowing to establish the new form of pre-school education: so called "children groups". The aim is to support the balancing of family life and working life, as well as the integration of mothers into the labour market and the possibility of employment for those who will provide childcare in the children's group. This measure also helps children living in poverty by allowing their parents (often single parents or mothers) to enter the labour market.</p>
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⁷³ Slovakia, Act No. 107/2022 Coll. amending Act No. 201/2008 Coll. on substitute maintenance ([Zákon č.107/2022 Z.Z, ktorý mení a dopĺňa zákon 201/2008 o náhradnom výživnom](#)), 1 July 2022.

⁷⁴ Slovakia, Act No. 448/2008 on social services and on a change in Act No. 455/1991 on Trade Businesses ([Zákon č.448/2008 o sociálnych službách a o zmene a doplnení zákona 455/1991 Z.z. o živnostenskom podnikaní](#)), 7 June 2022.

	<p>Ministry of Education prepared a new amendment to the School act⁷⁵, which is currently being in inter-ministerial commentary procedure. This amendment aims to introduce a number of measures to help children from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. The changes include the introduction of the the definition of school segregation, the redefinition the term child/pupil with special educational needs, the definition of support measures and the obligation to provide them for children from socially disadvantaged background, the restriction of repeating a grade at each level of education as part of systematic changes to eliminate early termination of compulsory school attendance. This legislative change is the response of Ministry of Education to the long term persistence of school segregation of marginalised children (especially Roma) in education and their inadequate access to quality education⁷⁶.</p>
<p>Policy changes</p>	<p>Implementation of EU Child Guarantee</p> <p>According to Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family⁷⁷, an employee of the National Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Violence against Children has been appointed as the National coordinator of the European Guarantee for Children. This Centre plays a coordinating role in the implementation of the Children's Guarantee. Currently, a proposal of the National Action Plan of European Child Guarantee has been prepared and is in the process of inter-ministerial consultation⁷⁸.</p>

⁷⁵ Slovakia, Act amending the Act No. 245/2008 on upbringing and education – the school act ([Zákon, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon č245/2008 o výchove a vzdelávaní – školský zákon](#)), not valid yet.

⁷⁶ Slovakia Ministry of Education (*Ministerstvo školstva*) (2022) `B.Grohling: Zavádzame systémové opatrenia na podporu detí zo sociálne znevýhodneného prostredia`, press release, 26 August 2022.

⁷⁷ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family upon request by email on 29 September 2022.

⁷⁸ Slovakia, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (*Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*) (2022), Národný akčný plán Európskej záruky pre deti v Slovenskej republike s výhľadom do roku 2030, 16 November 2022.

The Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatisation, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities, the Office of the Commissioner for Children and the Office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities were participating in the preparation of the document. In the future, there is a plan to involve also NGOs, regional structures and children as well. The National Coordination Centre established a working group for the development of the Action plan on the basis of main areas, in order to have representation from all those affected by the areas addressed, but also from the target groups for whom the guarantee is intended⁷⁹.

In the Slovak context, the Action plan identifies the most vulnerable groups of children as those **facing housing deprivation and precarious family situations, coming from marginalized Roma communities, being in foster/institutional care, being at risk of poverty, violence, addiction, delinquency, having a migrant background, disabilities, mental health problems, special education needs, and being outside of the education system**⁸⁰. Their specific situations are reflected in the four areas of measures which are according to the key aims of the EU Child Guarantee. The first area of measures refers to ensuring effective access to education at all levels and to school-based activities. To achieve the objective, the plan proposes measures that aim to increase the capacity of childcare facilities for children under 3 years and support early childhood programmes; promote an inclusive approach in education and training; eliminate segregation in education, reduce the proportion of dropouts from the education system; and develop non-formal education as a tool of inclusion through leisure activities.

⁷⁹ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family upon request by email on 29 September 2022.

⁸⁰ Slovakia, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny) (2022), Národný akčný plán Európskej záruky pre deti v Slovenskej republike s výhľadom do roku 2030, 16 November 2022.

	<p>The second area of measures is linked to effective access to adequate housing and social care. The action plan aims to increase access to housing for families with children in need by programs securing housing for families, legalisation of dwellings of marginalized Roma communities and gathering data about the number of children at risk of homelessness. Moreover, reconstruction and building of new objects of housing are proposed to support affordable forms of housing. In the area of marginalised Roma communities, the development of infrastructure and provision of support in self-building houses is planned. Other measures are concerned with improving the transition from institutional to family care and decreasing the number of children in centres of institutionalised care.</p> <p>The third area of measures targets the objective of effective access to health care. The plan highlights the importance of monitoring the inequalities in health between children from marginalized Roma communities and other children and ameliorating access to health care on a local level by children in need. The proposed policies also intend to increase health literacy and participation in preventive check-ups and vaccinations. The document further incorporates into the plan trainings of health staff on communication with marginalized children also on the topics of reproductive and sexual health. It plans to strengthen the professional qualifications of health assistants and provide support for pregnant women and their newborns according to the BFHI standard practice. Furthermore, measures are introduced for the establishment of an effective system of protection of children from violence.</p> <p>The last area of measures relates to the objective of effective access to healthy nutrition. Slovakia faces the challenge to secure access to healthy food also on non-school days and support healthy lifestyles. The plan proposes to restrict the availability and advertising of foods high in fat, salt and sugar in education spaces. In addition to this, a healthy lifestyle will be promoted through specialists for physical activity and sports at schools.</p>
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	<p>In 2022, the European Child Guarantee does not foresee legislative changes directly related to or based on the European Child Guarantee. By the end of 2022, the National Action Plan for the European Child Guarantee will be submitted to the Government of the Slovak Republic.</p> <p>An integral horizontal component of the National Action Plan is also the participation of children, which will take place in the form of open moderated discussions with children in several regions of Slovakia. The main motive of participation of children is, among other things, building Europe and Slovakia for and with children.</p> <p>All the proposed activities under the objectives, their impact, and financial allocation will be monitored in two-year cycles. Monitoring and evaluation will be carried out through three main sources of data, triangulating them where possible: collecting data through the information systems of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, ensuring children's participation in the evaluation of selected measures with an impact on children, counting off the gestors for each measure⁸¹.</p>
<p>Other measures or initiatives</p>	<p>There have been several measures and initiatives adopted in order to improve situation of socially disadvantaged families, children included:</p> <p>Food and material supplies for people in material need</p> <p>According to the Ministry of Labour, Slovakia will receive EUR 22.9 million from the REACT-EU anti-crisis European fund package, which will be directed to the European Aid Fund for the Most Deprived Persons (FEAD). For 2022, the amount for this fund increased by almost 4 million euros. The increase in the volume of funds will help 60,000 recipients of assistance in material need. It is the outcome of the Revised operational program of food and basic material aid for the years 2014</p>

⁸¹ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family upon request by email on 29 September 2022.

to 2020, which was approved by the Government in February 2022⁸². The impact will be manifested by the reduction of the household's economic burden with the provision of basic commodities such as food for the extended target group. It will be the provision of food packages for people in material need⁸³.

Since August 2022, the Labor, Social Affairs and Family Offices together with 11 partner organizations have been handing out hygiene packages to the most socially vulnerable people in Slovakia. A total of 58,337 packages have been received by families with dependent children who are dependent on assistance in material need⁸⁴.

Support of free meals for Ukrainian children in schools

The Ministry of Labor has made it possible to provide food allowances for children in material need (free meals) also to children from Ukraine who have applied for temporary protection and are in material need. Since the state usually approves the total amount of child support as of August of the previous year, Ukrainian children were not entitled to these allowances. However, the Ministry changed the method of payment in April 2022 and thus enabled these children to receive free lunches retroactively from their arrival in Slovakia in February 2022. There were no changes in other provision of free meals in 2022⁸⁵.

Inflation help

⁸² Slovakia, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (*Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*) (2022), `[Revidovaný operačný program potravinovej a základnej materiálnej pomoci 2014 – 2020](#), 9 February 2022.

⁸³ Slovakia, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (*Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*) (2022), `[Slovensko dostane z EÚ 22,9 milióna eur na pomoc 60-tisíc ľuďom v hmotnej núdzi](#), press release, 9 February 2022.

⁸⁴ Slovakia, Office Of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (*Úrad práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*) (2022), `[Sociálne slabým rodinám rozdáme takmer 60 tisíc hygienických balíčkov](#)`, press release, 12 September 2022

⁸⁵ Slovakia, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (*Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*) (2022), `[Dotácie na stravu upravujeme, doplatok školy dostanú aj späťne](#), press release, 12 April 2022.

In May 2022, the government introduced one off supply 100 EUR for the most disadvantaged people. The government defined several different groups – households in material need, foster care parents and people providing care to their relatives. At the same time, the assistance provided in this way will not be considered as income, so that the persons to whom this form of assistance will be provided do not lose assistance in material need and so that this aid had no effect on the provision or amount of cash contributions to compensate for severe disability⁸⁶. This measure is not directly aimed at poverty of children, but indirectly will help them by providing support to their parents. In May 2022, the government also provided a one-time increased allowance for children in the amount of another 100 EUR. This allowance was given to all dependent children⁸⁷.

A second wave of inflation aid to mitigate the impact of increasing prices of energy, accommodation and food is being distributed during November and December⁸⁸. One-time financial contribution of 100 euros is given to the identified vulnerable social groups who did not receive help in the first wave of inflation help. For instance, help is provided for children born in the period between June and October 2022, orphans who are not entitled to an orphan's pension, or households in material need whose benefits did not increase.

Scholarships for students from socially disadvantaged environment

The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport launched a new scholarship scheme, the purpose of which is to support the most talented high school graduates in continuing their studies at Slovak universities. The scheme also includes 400 annual scholarships intended specifically for talented high school graduates (i.e. above-average graduates in the school year

⁸⁶ Slovakia, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (*Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*) (2022), `[Inflačná pomoc smeruje k najviac zraniteľným skupinám](#)`, press release, 11 May 2022

⁸⁷ Slovakia, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (*Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*) (2022), `[Jednorazový finančný prídavok dostane v júni viac ako 1,2 milióna detí](#)`, press release, 18 May 2022.

⁸⁸ Slovakia, Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (*Ústredie práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*) (2022), `[Úrady práce začnú vyplácať 2. balík inflačnej pomoci](#)`, press release, 4 November 2022.

2021/2022) from socially or otherwise disadvantaged backgrounds who are interested in continuing their studies at Slovak universities⁸⁹.

Financial support for school clubs for children from socially disadvantaged environment

The Ministry of Education prepared call for the compensation of fees for the school clubs for the children from socially disadvantaged environment. More than 200 schools participated in the call, thanks to which 4689 students from socially disadvantaged backgrounds or in material need will be supported. Finances are being provided for the period from 1 September 2022 to end of June 2023. An amount of 703,350 euros is allocated to compensate the fees for the school clubs⁹⁰.

Increased number of teaching assistants in schools

As of September 2022, a total of 91.2 million euros have been allocated for teaching assistants, thanks to which 6,744 teaching assistants will work in schools. In addition, it was possible to increase the number of assistants with funds from the Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Slovak Republic. More assistants should join the schools in October 2022. Another support measure from the Recovery and resilience plan for children with special needs or medical needs is also establishment of the position of health workers in schools⁹¹.

⁸⁹ Slovakia, Office Of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (*Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*) (2022), `[Uzávierka už v máji: Štipendium až 300 eur mesačne pre nadpriemerných absolventov stredných škôl](#)`, press release, 26 May 2022.

⁹⁰ Slovakia, Ministry of education (*Ministerstvo školstva*)(2022), `[Grohling: Aj v novom školskom roku preplatíme ŠKD takmer 5 tisíc deťom`](#)`, press release 15 August 2022.

⁹¹ Slovakia, Ministry of education (*Ministerstvo školstva*) (2022), `[S. Síthová: V novom školskom roku bude na školách pôsobiť 6700 asistentov učiteľa, pribudnú aj zdravotní asistenti`](#)`, press release, 1 August 2022,

6.2 Legal and policy developments or measures in relation to child-friendly procedures for children as victims, witness or suspects/accused in criminal proceedings.

Legislative changes	<p>There have been no legislative changes in this area since January 2022. The last legislative change related to the status of a minor in criminal proceedings was made by Act No. 432/2021⁹² Coll. on the Disciplinary Rules of the Supreme Administrative (valid since December 2021), which indirectly amended Section 34(4) of Act No. 301/2005 Coll⁹³. on the Code of Criminal Procedure. This amendment strengthened the rights of the minor, in particular at the initial stage of the proceedings, when he or she was detained or arrested. Under the amendment, if it would be contrary to the best interests of the minor to inform the minor's legal representative of the fact that the minor has been detained or arrested, the law enforcement authority is obliged to inform another suitable adult (e.g. a relative) instead of the minor's legal representative of the detention or arrest of the minor.</p> <p>No legislative changes have been adopted with the relation to transposition of the Directive 2016/800 on procedural safeguards for children, the Victim's Directive (2012/29) or the Anti-trafficking Directive (2011/36).</p>
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⁹² Slovakia, [Act No. 432/2021 Coll. on the Disciplinary Rules of the Supreme Administrative Court of the Slovak Republic and on Amendments and Additions to Certain Acts](#) (Disciplinary Court Rules) (*Zákon č. 432/2021 Z. z. o disciplinárnom poriadku Najvyššieho správneho súdu Slovenskej republiky a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov (disciplinárny súdny poriadok)*), 1 December 2021.

⁹³ Slovakia, Act No. 301/2005 Coll. on the Code of Criminal Procedure (*Zákon č. 301/2005 Z. z. Trestný poriadok*), 1 December 2021.

<p>Policy developments</p>	<p>No specific guidelines or directives have been adopted in 2022.</p> <p>In 2022 there have been several trainings provided to judges and law enforcement officers.</p> <p>Within the framework of the project Improving the efficiency of the judiciary through the protection/empowerment of victims and vulnerable groups, the following trainings of judges was carried out:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Special Approach to Minors in Court Proceedings - the aim was to deepen knowledge of the position of children in parental conflicts, to practice skills in talking to the child and to strengthen the practical aspect of multidisciplinary cooperation of courts, mediators and other entities and professions in this field. 2. Training to improve skills in dealing with victims, with an emphasis on particularly vulnerable victims and the exercise of their rights throughout the judicial process - The training was designed for judges who come into contact with the juvenile and criminal justice system and for prosecutors. 4. A bilateral activity in Trondheim, Norway, which focused on visits to children's homes, specialised child interrogation, treatment and follow-up work in children's homes and roles in child protection⁹⁴. <p>The Judicial Academy of the Slovak Republic also conducts training for judges, in 2022. According to the study plan for 2022, the following trainings were/will be conducted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Domestic Violence - Detection, identification, how to proceed in the initial actions and subsequently during the HP,
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⁹⁴ Information provided by the Ministry of Justice upon request via email on 30 September 2022.

	<p>2. Trauma-informed approach towards victims of crime,</p> <p>3. Possibilities and limits of psychodiagnostics in the context of domestic violence assessment. Understanding victims of domestic violence,</p> <p>4. Child Interviewing Protocol - Establishing rapport with the child (treating the need to record the interview), developmental specifics and age-appropriate techniques, emotional aspects of interviewing the child (managing the child's emotions), techniques for maintaining the child's attention, contextual factors of interviewing, age-appropriate credibility of the child's statements⁹⁵.</p> <p>As for the law enforcement officers, no specific guidelines or methods or trainings have been provided in 2022. According to the Ministry of Interior, the curriculum of Police Academy and Police Secondary schools contain trainings on situation of minors as suspects, victims or perpetrators in criminal proceeding. No changes in this curriculum have been made in 2022.⁹⁶</p>
<p>Other measures or initiatives</p>	<p>No developments in this regard identified in 2022.</p>

⁹⁵ Slovakia, Judicial Academy (*Justičná akadémia*) (2022), '[Štúdijný plán na rok 2022](#)'.

⁹⁶ Information provided by the Ministry of Interior upon request via email on 29 September 2022.

7 Access to justice – Victims’ Rights and Judicial Independence

7.1 Legal and policy developments or measures relevant to the implementation of the Victims’ Rights Directive and the EU strategy for Victims’ Rights 2020-2025

Ministry of the Interior activities and campaigns

The Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic has joined the campaign to combat trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation. EUROPOL is the originator of the idea and creator of the campaign, as well as the General Directorate for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Bulgaria and the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. The campaign includes posters and videos focusing on sexual exploitation, which, together with labour exploitation, has long been the most common form of trafficking in human beings worldwide. Through the leaflets and videos, the Ministry calls on the public to be considerate and sensitive to the issue and to the victims who are in need of help.⁹⁷

The Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with the Children's Security Line, and in cooperation with experts in the field of law and psychology, created a complete information material with advice and tips on how to respond to cyberbullying, where to seek help and how this pathological behaviour manifests itself. The aim of the booklet is to inform about the basic concepts, what to do if someone is a victim and also to encourage citizens not to be afraid to ask for help.⁹⁸

In May 2022, the Ministry of the Interior began the training of members of the Police Force on the topic - Improving communication with victims of crime. The activity is part of Component 16: Anti-corruption and Anti-money laundering, public safety and security of the Recovery and Resilience Plan, which also aims to invest in the modernisation, digitisation and professional capacity building of the police. The two-day online training was organised by crime prevention experts and was attended by 300 police officers from 230 district police departments and 41

⁹⁷ Slovakia, the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) (2022), ‘[MV SR spúšťa ďalšiu informačnú kampaň zameranú na boj proti sexuálnemu vykorisťovaniu](#)’, 18 January 2022, press release

⁹⁸ Slovakia, the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) (2022), ‘[Podoby agresie v kyberpriestore mapuje aktuálna pomôcka od špecialistov z prevencie kriminality](#)’, 20 May 2022, press release

prevention officers from the Prevention and communication department of the Police presidium.⁹⁹

The Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic has long been engaged in preventive activities for the target group of the elderly people. In the months of September and October 2022, the Ministry of the Interior distributed to elderly people through its own communication channels and also through the partners and networked entities in each region of Slovakia a package of measures and activities focused mainly on internet security and classic scams in the field. Elderly people and their close contacts can and do contact the Ministry of the Interior in the event of a real or potentially imminent problem, if they have been a victim of a crime or feel that they could be. To this aim, between 2019 and 2021, 16 victim information offices have been established for victims of crime.¹⁰⁰

Selected police officers who mainly interview children and other particularly vulnerable victims have received specialised training under the project "Special Interrogation Rooms for Child Victims and Other Particularly Vulnerable Victims of Crime". This is a five-day accredited course at the Police Academy, which is oriented towards all types of particularly vulnerable victims, but also includes training in model situations of working with victims of violence against women and domestic violence. The aim of this training is to enable police officers to identify particularly vulnerable victims and their needs when carrying out criminal proceedings, to be able to communicate with such victims for the purposes of the investigation and to approach them in a respectful, sensitive and professional manner. This training has been ongoing since April 2019. In 2022, 14 courses run under this project, 138 police officers were trained.¹⁰¹

The Department of Crime Prevention of the Office of the Minister of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, in participation with the Department of Order Police, conducted training of police officers on "Improving Communication with Victims of Crime" under the Recovery and Resilience Plan. This training was conducted from 24 May to 26 October 2022 in the form of 10 two-day online training sessions for 300 police officers and 41 police prevention officers.¹⁰²

The Department of Crime Prevention in cooperation with the Department of Criminal Police of the Presidium of the Police of the Slovak Republic and the Coordination and Methodological Centre for the Prevention of Violence against Women have created a brochure entitled "Responsibility for Not Reporting and Preventing a Crime", which explains the basic concepts, legislation, as well as the

⁹⁹ Slovakia, the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) (2022), '[V rámci Plánu obnovy a odolnosti absolvujú policajti školenia zamerané na komunikáciu s obeťami trestných činov](#)', 2 June 2022, press release .

¹⁰⁰ Slovakia, the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) (2022), '[Rezort vnútra spúšťa preventívnu kampaň proti podvodom na senioroch](#)', 26 August 2022, press release.

¹⁰¹ Information provided by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) via email on 16 November 2022.

¹⁰² Information provided by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) via email on 16 November 2022.

possibilities of assistance to victims of crime and contacts to information offices for victims of crime.¹⁰³

Information offices for victims of crime

In order to improve victims' access to services, the Ministry of the Interior has established in the previous years a network of sixteen information offices for victims of crime, which provide basic information to citizens free of charge and discreetly, and provide professional assistance in the field of psychological, social counselling and legal support. In these information offices, the Ministry of the Interior has already helped 2 000 clients and this number continues to grow rapidly. The aim of the Ministry of the Interior is to identify the individual needs of the victims in a timely manner through the staff of the information offices. The staff of the information offices across Slovakia cooperate with various organisations and entities. The use of these services has streamlined the access of victims of crime to the services of state and local government institutions as well as NGOs.¹⁰⁴

On 28 September 2022, the Government approved a draft amendment to the Act on the Prevention of Crime and Other Anti-Social Activities, submitted by Slovak Interior Minister. The draft legislation establishes the functioning of information offices for victims of crime, which the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic has betrayed in 2018 with the support of the EU. The competence of the Ministry of the Interior will be expanded by the amendment in the area of improving protection, support and assistance to victims of crime and other anti-social activities. To this purpose, it is proposed that the Ministry of the Interior should establish victim information offices as part of its organisational structure. They should provide services in district offices in the seats of the regions. The possibility is left open to establish information offices or sub-offices in other locations according to the needs of society at the time. This will build on the national project entitled Improving access to services for victims of crime and establishing contact points for victims, which the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic is implementing with the support of the European social fund through the Operational programme effective public administration. The project will end in December 2023.¹⁰⁵

Special rooms for the interrogation of children and vulnerable victims

¹⁰³ Information provided by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) via email on 16 November 2022.

¹⁰⁴ Slovakia, the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) (2022), '[Informačné kancelárie pre obeť trestných činov prijali už 2-tisíceho klienta](#)', 21 April 2022, press release.

¹⁰⁵ Slovakia, the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) (2022), '[Informačné kancelárie pre obeť trestných činov budú pokračovať vo svojej činnosti](#)', 28 September 2022.

The Ministry of Justice is implementing a project to create special rooms in courts for the questioning of children and vulnerable victims from March 2022. The project Enhancing the effectiveness of the judiciary through the protection/empowerment of victims and vulnerable groups also includes the development of a uniform methodology for judges for ascertaining the views of the child and questioning the victim, as well as an education programme for judges. Already in the period from March to May 2022, special rooms have been established in 8 courts (district courts in Galanta, Spišská Nová Ves, Rožňava, Rimavská Sobota, Zvolen, Bratislava II, Prešov and the Regional court in Prešov) to be used in the questioning of children and particularly vulnerable victims. A methodological manual for judges entitled Increasing the efficiency and quality of the judicial system in the protection of minors as victims of crime and in family law disputes has also been produced and distributed. The aim of setting up special rooms and creating a uniform methodology is to ensure that children and vulnerable victims are provided with the most appropriate conditions during the court proceedings, but also that it is not traumatic for the child .¹⁰⁶

Help for victims of hate crime

The Human Rights League (NGO) has launched free help for victims of hate crime. The project of assistance to victims of hate crimes fills a gap that existed in the provision of such assistance in Slovakia so far, mainly in relation to people coming from abroad. A new free service in the form of legal, social or psychological assistance has been available for victims of hate crimes since January 2022. It has been launched by the League for Human Rights on the basis of accreditation by the Ministry of justice of the Slovak Republic. ¹⁰⁷

Interrogation rooms for victims of human trafficking

The National Unit for Combating Illegal Migration of the Bureau of Border and Foreign Police of the Presidium of the Police Corps is implementing the project "Combating Human Trafficking and Application of Tools for its Prevention". The project will finance the construction of two special interrogation rooms for victims of human trafficking. The planned completion date for the constructions was 2021, but due to the pandemic, the project has been extended until the end of 2022.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁶ Slovakia, the Ministry of Justice (*Ministerstvo spravodlivosti SR*) (2022), '[V období od marca do mája 2022 vznikajú na 8 súdoch špeciálne miestnosti, ktoré pomôžu pri vypočúvaní detí a obzvlášť zraniteľných obetí](#)', 20 July 2022.

¹⁰⁷ Teraz.sk (2022), '[Liga za ľudské práva spustila bezplatnú pomoc pre obeť nenávisti](#)', 13 January 2022.

¹⁰⁸ Information provided by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) via email on 16 November 2022.

7.2 Measures addressing violence against women

Intervention Centres

From the beginning of 2022, all regions of Slovakia are covered by intervention centres. In some regions there are even more. In other regions, the centres operate throughout the whole territory, covering it. The Ministry of Justice the Slovak Republic has registered 10 organisations as intervention centres at this moment. The police are legally obliged to inform the information centre within 24 hours about the violent person being evicted from the home, and the intervention centre then proactively contacts the victim within 72 hours and offers professional assistance.¹⁰⁹

Analysis of police and justice data in partner violence cases for 2021

In 2022, the Institute of Work and Family has published the Analysis of police and judicial data in partner violence cases for year 2021. The report provides an analysis of police and judicial administrative data related to violence committed in close relationships. The basis for the analysis are police statistics provided by the Police Presidium and court statistics provided by the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic. In 2021, the police recorded 1,413 records of crimes of violence in close relationships, a 17% decrease compared to 2020. In 2021, domestic and partner violence cases were split almost in half. Of the records, there are 721 cases of domestic violence, 613 cases of partner violence against women and 79 cases of partner violence against men.¹¹⁰

National action plan for the prevention and elimination of violence against women 2022-2027

The Government approved the proposal of the National Action Plan for prevention and elimination of violence against women submitted by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family¹¹¹. In the document, Slovakia declares to focus on the protection of women experiencing violence and their children, the prevention of violence against women, integrated policies and data collection, and the effective prosecution of violence against women. The plan has a number of priority areas; it wants to focus on ensuring protection, on access to assistance, including long-term assistance, or on eliminating the various effects of violence. The availability

¹⁰⁹ Slovakia, Zastavmenasilie.gov.sk (2022), '[Intervenčné centrá pre ženy zažívajúce násilie v SR](#)', 11 April 2022.

¹¹⁰ Očenášová, Z. (2022), '[Analýza policajných a justičných dát v prípadoch partnerského násillia za rok 2021](#)', Inštitút pre výskum práce a rodiny.

¹¹¹ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (Vláda SR) (2022), '[Národný akčný plán pre prevenciu a elimináciu násillia na ženách na roky 2022 - 2027 - návrh](#)', adopted by the Government on 12 January 2022.

of services should be increased, as should the availability and use of legal protection, including awareness of them. Through the Plan, the Ministry wants to ensure funding, support for NGOs and the sustainability of the measures. Information for women experiencing violence should be improved and made more effective. The Plan also addresses prevention at all levels and ensures that women are protected from all forms of violence, that violence is consistently and effectively prosecuted and that perpetrators of violence are held accountable, including through the effective implementation of protection measures. Implementation of comprehensive legislation on violence against women should also be ensured.¹¹²

Modification of the definition of the crime of sexual violence

In September 2022, the Ministry of Justice submitted a major amendment to the Criminal Code for inter-ministerial commentary procedure. The amendment responds to the demands to modify the concept of crimes of sexual violence to punish sexual intercourse of any kind that is carried out without the consent of the person involved. Sexual intercourse should be consensual in all circumstances. The current concept of the Criminal Act requiring the use of direct violence or the threat of imminent violence does not meet this requirement. The law is proposed to take effect from 1 June 2023 if approved.¹¹³

Assistance to victims of violence in connection with the war in Ukraine

In connection with the outbreak of war in Ukraine, the daily work of the centres for victims of violence against women has changed in all regions of Slovakia. All facilities became subjects of economic mobilisation for the provision of social services to people fleeing to safety.¹¹⁴

The NGO Freedom of Choice (Možnosť voľby) has created leaflets in four languages: Slovak, Ukrainian, Russian and English informing about Slovak legislation on abortions, about the price for it (average total price 414EUR) and especially contacts of facilities that perform abortions. The leaflets also inform on the contact to the crisis line for women who have experienced sexual violence (interpretation is provided) and the line for psychological help (in Ukrainian).¹¹⁵

¹¹² Teraz.sk (2022), ' [Vláda odobrila nový akčný plán proti násiliu na ženách na 2022 - 2027](#) ', 12 January 2022.

¹¹³ Slovakia, Ministry of Justice (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) (2022), ' [Veľká zmena Trestného zákona](#) ', 7 September 2022, press release.

¹¹⁴ Zastavmenasilie.gov.sk (2022), ' [Vojna na Ukrajine ovplyvnila prácu poradenských centier a zariadení núdzového bývania](#) ', 13 April 2022.

¹¹⁵ Freedom of choice (Možnosť voľby) (2022), [FB post](#) from 6 May 2022.

The Coordination and Methodology Centre for the Prevention of Violence Against Women is currently deepening its cooperation with UNHCR and assisting in mapping and identifying the needs for counselling and support services in the area of gender-based violence for women refugees from Ukraine. Centre is also part of the PSEA Task force that focuses on sexual exploitation and abuse. They want to contribute to making the necessary help more accessible for girls, women and their children fleeing Ukraine. ¹¹⁶

The Criminal Police Department of the Police Force is planning to expand the network of special interrogation rooms in the framework of project with the Institute for Labour and Family Research entitled "Improving the protection of the interest of victims - strengthening capacities and procedures to fight against violence against women and domestic violence". Under this project (to be implemented in 2021-2024), eight special intervention rooms are to be set up. In cooperation with the Coordination and Methodological Centre for the Prevention of Violence against Women, this project also plans to open a special training course at the Police Academy in Bratislava, which will be aimed at educating investigators on the protection of victims of violence against women and domestic violence.¹¹⁷

¹¹⁶ Slovakia, the Coordination and Methodology Centre for the Prevention of Violence Against Women (2022), [Vojna na Ukrajine ovplyvnila prácu poradenských centier a zariadení núdzového bývania](#), 13 April 2022.

¹¹⁷ Information provided by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) via email on 16 November 2022

8 Developments in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

8.1 CRPD policy and legal developments & implementation of the European Accessibility Act

The Committee for Persons with Disabilities (*Výbor pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím*) which was one of the committees of the Slovak Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality has been transformed into the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for persons with disabilities (*Rada vlády Slovenskej republiky pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím*). This change was adopted by the resolution of the Government¹¹⁸. The newly established Council for Persons with Disabilities will have a broader focus and will deal not only with issues related to the human rights of persons with disabilities but also with other areas of their life. The tasks of the Council will, for instance, involve issuing positions regarding the prepared legislation as well as their own proposals for improving the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. The Council consists of two chambers. The representatives of the public authorities are the members of the first chamber, and the representatives of civil society organizations are members of the second chamber. The participation of disabled persons organisations is ensured through their membership in the second chamber of the Council. The statute of the Council specifies in detail the number of representatives of the disabled persons organisations. The human rights institutions (for instance Commissioner for persons with disabilities) are not members of the Council but are invited to the Council meetings.

¹¹⁸ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (*Vláda SR*) (2022), [Transformation of the Committee for Persons with Disabilities into the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Persons with Disabilities and Draft Addendum No. 6 to the Statute of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality – draft](#) (Transformácia Výboru pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím na Radu vlády Slovenskej republiky pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím a návrh Dodatku č. 6 k Štatútu Rady vlády Slovenskej republiky pre ľudské práva, národnostné menšiny a rodovú rovnosť – návrh), adopted by the resolution no. 425/2022.

In October 2022, the National Council of the Slovak Republic approved an Act on the accessibility of products and services for persons with disabilities¹¹⁹. This Act implements Directive (EU) 2019/882 on the accessibility requirements for products and services. The main aim of this newly adopted act is to make the goods and services accessible for persons with disabilities and thus create a more inclusive society and conditions for independent living of persons with disabilities. The law also contributes to the fulfilment of commitments stemming from the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. The requirements for accessibility of the products and services are specified by the law as well as the competence of the supervision of the fulfilment of the service provider's requirements and setting of fines for administrative offences are regulated.

In the begging of October, the National Council of the Slovak Republic approved an Act on the inspection in social affairs¹²⁰ that introduces a new control mechanism of providers of social care and social services. Within this mechanism the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family is going to establish a structure within the Ministry with regional branches that will be responsible for carrying out the control activities. According to this new legislation the inspection in social affairs will be entitled to inspect the social services providers, the beneficiaries of the social benefits for the compensation of disability and the subjects carrying out social protection and social guardianship. This new control mechanism is seen as an important step forward within the protection of persons with disabilities receiving social services and social assistance and in improving the provided services¹²¹. The establishment of the inspection mechanism in social affairs is one of the milestones of Component 13 of the Recovery and Resilience Plan adopted in 2021¹²².

¹¹⁹ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2022), [Government draft law on the accessibility of products and services for persons with disabilities and on the amendment of certain laws](#) (Vládny návrh zákona o prístupnosti výrobkov a služieb pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov), approved on 4 October 2022.

¹²⁰ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2022), [Government draft law on inspection in social affairs and on the amendment of certain laws](#) (Vládny návrh zákona o inšpekcii v sociálnych veciach a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov), approved on 4 October 2022.

¹²¹ Slovakia, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny SR*) (2022), ['Inšpekcia v sociálnych veciach bude dozorovať na kvalitou poskytovaných služieb'](#), 28 October 2022.

¹²² Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (*Vláda SR*) (2021), [Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Slovak Republic](#) (Plán obnovy a odolnosti Slovenskej republiky), adopted on 28 April 2021.

In November 2022, the National Council approved several amendments to the legislation that introduce particular changes which are expected to improve the situation of persons with disabilities¹²³. The amount of the care allowance of persons receiving the care allowance and pension at the same time will not be halved as it was before the change (applies as of 1 July 2023). The living wage coefficient will increase from 2 to 2.5 times when assessing a caregiver's income. This determines how much carers can earn to qualify for carer's allowance (this change applies as of 1 July 2024). Parents taking care of their disabled child will be entitled to receive a 100 EUR contribution as of 1 July 2024 (now only parents who do not work are entitled). Persons working in the sheltered workshops will be allowed to carry out the work outside of the reserved area, for instance at home or in the field. Persons living in institutions can apply for an allowance for personal assistance before they terminate the services and assistance provided in the institution. This change is expected to make their transition to independent living easier¹²⁴.

8.2 CRPD monitoring at national level

The mandate of the Commissioner for persons with disabilities will be extended to seniors¹²⁵. The Commissioner for persons with disabilities will have the same competencies and tasks regarding the persons with disabilities, however, the Commissioner will be able to fulfil their competencies also towards the subjects that provide services and assistance to seniors. This change

¹²³ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2022), [Návrh poslankyne Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky Jany ŽITŇANSKEJ na vydanie zákona, ktorým sa mení zákon č. 447/2008 Z. z. o peňažných príspevkoch na kompenzáciu ťažkého zdravotného postihnutia v znení neskorších predpisov](#) (parlamentná tlač 1146), approved on 8 November 2022; Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2022), [Návrh poslankyne Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky Jany ŽITŇANSKEJ na vydanie zákona, ktorým sa mení zákon č. 447/2008 Z. z. o peňažných príspevkoch na kompenzáciu ťažkého zdravotného postihnutia v znení neskorších predpisov](#) (parlamentná tlač 1150), approved on 8 November 2022.

¹²⁴ Slovakia, Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (*Komisár pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím*) (2022), ['Poslanci odobrili významené zmeny na pomoc ľuďom s ťažkým zdravotným postihnutím'](#), 10 November 2022.

¹²⁵ Slovakia, Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (*Komisár pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím*) (2022), ['Komisárka pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím sa uchádza o rozšírenie pôsobnosti na ochranu práv seniorov'](#), 30 September 2022.

is planned in order to increase the protection and support of seniors and improve the enforcement of the basic rights and freedoms of seniors since they belong to the most vulnerable groups. A respective amendment to legislation has been submitted to the National Council of the Slovak Republic, however, it has not been discussed as of 31 December 2022¹²⁶.

The amendment of the Civil Non-dispute Code approved by the National Council of the Slovak Republic in December 2022¹²⁷, gives the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities new competencies to enter some of the proceedings at the courts in order to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. The concerned proceedings involve proceedings on legal capacity, on the admissibility of taking over and holding in a medical facility and on the appointment of a guardian. The involvement of the Commissioner in the mentioned proceedings is important since the fundamental rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities could be threatened.

In the second half of 2022, the Government has taken steps to implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT). In the summer, the Ministry of Justice started the legislation process and prepared the amendment of the Act on public defender of rights and other respective legislation. The interdepartmental commentary procedure ended in July 2022¹²⁸. In November 2022, the Minister of Justice submitted the proposal for the discussion of Government which approved the legislation changes on 11 January 2023¹²⁹. The

¹²⁶ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2022), [Proposal of a group of members of the National Council of the Slovak Republic to issue a law on the Commissioner for Children and the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens and on Supplementing Certain Acts](#) (Návrh skupiny poslancov Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky na vydanie zákona o komisárovi pre deti a komisárovi pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím a pre seniorov a o doplnení niektorých zákonov).

¹²⁷ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2022), [Návrh poslankyne Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky Kataríny HATRÁKOVEJ na vydanie zákona, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon č. 161/2015 Z. z. Civilný mimosporový poriadok v znení neskorších predpisov](#), approved on 2 December 2022; Slovakia, Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (Komisár pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím) (2022), [Komisárka bude mať od januára 2023 posilnené procesné oprávnenia](#).

¹²⁸ Slovakia, Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo spravodlivosti SR*), [LP/2022/336 Act amending Act no. 564/2001 Coll. on the public defender of rights as amended and which amends some laws](#) (LP/2022/336 Zákon, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon č. 564/2001 Z. z. o verejnom ochrancovi práv v znení neskorších predpisov a ktorým sa menia a dopĺňajú niektoré zákony).

¹²⁹ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (*Vláda SR*)(2023), [Draft law amending Act no. 564/2001 Coll. on the public defender of rights as amended and which amends some laws](#) (Návrh zákona, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon č. 564/2001 Z. z. o verejnom ochrancovi práv v znení neskorších predpisov a ktorým sa menia a dopĺňajú niektoré zákony)

amendment of the Act on public defender rights introduces the power to control places where people are restricted of personal freedom in order to strengthen their protection against ill-treatment. This power is divided among the following human rights institutions: the Public Defender of Rights, the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the Commissioner for Children. According to the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, her office will receive additional funds from the state to be able to hire six new employees who will carry out control activities in places where people with disabilities are de jure or de facto restricted of their freedom. The amendment of the Act on the public defender of rights will come into force after being approved by the National Council of the Slovak Republic¹³⁰.

The Commissioner for persons with disabilities published a regular report on their activities in 2021¹³¹. The report informs in detail about the activities undertaken by the Commissioner and their office. It also evaluates if there has been progress made in improving the living conditions of persons with disabilities and observing their rights. Among the important findings, the report mentions, for example, that persons with disabilities still face many barriers in the labour market, the employers very often resist creating suitable working conditions. The state administration in the area of social affairs does not provide assistance to persons with disabilities and their family members when they try to apply for various social benefits. It is still a very usual practice that the courts limit the legal capacity of persons with disabilities to a great extent whilst legal counselling to persons trying to defend against such practices is not available. The availability of health care for persons with disabilities and its quality worsened during the pandemic. Many public buildings are not accessible for persons with disabilities, there are barriers at the entrance, and the elevators and accessible toilets are lacking. Railway transport is inaccessible for immobile persons. As for social services, the number of carers and other employees is very low, the individual planning in the provision of social services is applied only formally. According to the Commissioner, the right of children with disabilities to education is not adequately fulfilled since they face barriers in the education process, for instance, there is no assistance and care provided to the children that would enable them to be educated in regular schools.

¹³⁰ Slovakia, Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (*Komisár pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím*) (2023), '[Slovensko smeruje k vytvoreniu Národného preventívneho mechanizmu proti mučeniu](#)', 19 January 2023.

¹³¹ Slovakia, Commissioner for Persons with disabilities (*Komisár pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím*) (2022), [Report on the activities of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities for 2021](#) (Správa o činnosti komisára pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím za rok 2021).

Annex 1 – Promising Practices

Thematic area	EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION Please provide one example of a promising practice to tackle discrimination against LGBTIQ people or discrimination on the grounds of socio-economic status, health status and physical appearance, such as awareness raising campaigns or training for relevant professionals. Where no such examples are available, please provide an example of an awareness raising campaign held in your country in 2022 relevant to equality and non-discrimination of LGBTIQ people or on the other above-mentioned grounds, preferably one conducted by a national equality body.
Title (original language)	Ide nám o život
Title (EN)	Our lives are at stake
Organisation (original language)	Iniciatíva Inakosť
Organisation (EN)	Initiative Inakosť
Government / Civil society	Civil Society
Funding body	no funding
Reference (incl. URL, where available)	https://idenamozivot.sk/vyzva/
Indicate the start date of the promising practice and the finishing date if it has ceased to exist	October 2022, finishing date was not specified
Type of initiative	petition
Main target group	General public, MPs and the government

Indicate level of implementation: Local/Regional/National	national
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	The initiative aims to call on the government and parliament to create a safe environment for LGBTIQ+ people, their families and children, while putting them on an equal footing with the rest of the society. The call articulates a number of specific demands: politicians should refrain from hate speech against the LGBTIQ+ community, adoption of a Code of Conduct for MPs that would introduce disciplinary liability for hate speech, strengthening the specialisation, staff capacity and technical equipment of law enforcement agencies focused on countering extremism, stepping up the fight against misinformation about the LGBTIQ+ community, preventing bullying of LGBTIQ+ children and young people in schools, systematic support to counselling and support services for LGBTIQ+ people, introduction of registered partnerships for same-gender couples, introduction of standardised procedures and abolishment of the condition of sterilisation for administrative gender reassignment. The call is addressed to MPs and the government.
Highlight any element of the actions that is transferable (max. 500 chars)	The initiative is the first such coordinated effort by the LGBTIQ+ community in a long time, and virtually all organisations representing the LGBTIQ+ community have signed up to it. It articulates in a very clear way very specific demands that would contribute to improving the quality of life of LGBTIQ+ people in Slovakia. Despite the circumstances in which it was created (after the terrorist attack on the LGBTIQ+ community in Bratislava), it uses pragmatic, rational and understandable language with clear reasoning.
Give reasons why you consider the practice as sustainable (as opposed to 'one off activities')	The initiative received more than 32,000 signatures from the general public within a month, demonstrating support for its demands and providing a good basis for further advocacy activities towards the government and parliament. It also builds on the long-standing efforts of various LGBTIQ+ organisations and unites the community in favour of a common goal. At the same time, the LGBTIQ+ community is also gaining allies among organisations outside the LGBTIQ+ community through this initiative.
Give reasons why you consider the practice as having concrete measurable impact	The initiative plans to initiate a dialogue with the government and parliament. It is not possible to say at this time whether it will have a measurable impact.
Give reasons why you consider the practice as	It is build on clear and rational arguments, refers to existing legislation and unifies not only the LGBTIQ community but civil society as such behind a clear goal of putting the LGBTIQ community on equal footing.

transferable to other settings and/or Member States?	
Explain, if applicable, how the practice involves beneficiaries and stakeholders in the design, planning, evaluation, review assessment and implementation of the practice.	N/A
Explain, if applicable, how the practice provides for review and assessment.	N/A

Thematic area	RACISM, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE Please provide one example of a promising practice to address racism and xenophobia. Please give preference to a promising practice about participation and engagement of Equality bodies and CSOs in addressing racism and hate crime. Where no such practice exists, please provide one example of a promising practice related more generally to combating racism, xenophobia, and related intolerances.
Title (original language)	No promising practice has been identified for this thematic area

Thematic area	ROMA EQUALITY AND INCLUSION Please provide one example of promising practice in relation to the two topics addressed in the chapter: regarding the implementation of national action plans and regarding the legal or policy developments addressing Roma/Travellers equality and inclusion.
Title (original language)	Žiadosť o vymazanie výrazu "cigán" (v etnickom zmysle Cigán) z kodifikačných príručiek slovenského jazyka
Title (EN)	Request for the deletion of the term "gypsy" (in the ethnic sense of Gypsy) from the codification manuals of the Slovak language
Organisation (original language)	Rómske advokačné a výskumné stredisko
Organisation (EN)	Roma advocacy and research centre
Government / Civil society	Civil society
Funding body	ERGO Network
Reference (incl. URL, where available)	https://romadata.org/2022/12/13/vymazanie-vyrazu-cigan-v-etnickom-zmysle-cigan-z-kodifikacnych-priruciek-slovenskeho-jazyka/
Indicate the start date of the promising practice and the finishing date if it has ceased to exist	18.10.2022, the proceeding is not finished
Type of initiative	Official request
Main target group	Ministry of Culture of Slovak republic
Indicate level of implementation: Local/Regional/National	National

**Brief description
(max. 1000 chars)**

With this request, the organization asks the Ministry of Culture, as the competent authority, to delete the term "Gypsy" in the ethnic sense of "Gypsy" from all language manuals of the Slovak language, because this term has historically been associated with a predominantly negative and even pejorative connotation. Also in 1971, representatives at the World Roma Congress agreed to use the term Roma to identify this ethnic group. This step is one of the systemic changes in the fight against anti-Roma racism. The request also states that terms from lexicographical manuals of the Slovak language are used in court disputes. An example is the decision of the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic in 20147 in the case of election leaflets of the People's Party Our Slovakia from Banská Bystrica, which contained the text: " (...) with your trust we can certainly (among other things) resist the unfair favouritism not only of gypsy parasites" and the court ruled that this text did not fulfil the factual essence of the criminal offence of defamation of nation, race and beliefs. The court's decision states: "The Supreme Court found from the current lexicographic manuals of the Slovak language (Short Dictionary of the Slovak Language, Slovak Spelling Rules), which were approved by the measure of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic No MK 1501/2008-10/5088 as works currently codifying the state language, that the Slovak language distinguishes the meaning of the nouns 'cigáň' and 'cigán' and that these nouns, together with the adjective 'cigánsky', are among the word forms commonly used in the current form of the codified state language." (...) "In this lexicographical guide, the adjective 'cigánsky' is also mentioned, with specific word phrases (cigánska kapela, cigánsky jazyk, cigánska pečienka, etc.) given as examples of its use in the Slovak language. The current form of the codified state language thus allows members of this ethnic group to be referred to by two terms: 'Roma' and 'Gypsy'. From the point of view of their linguistic meaning, these are identical terms, while the term 'Roma' was used in the Slovak language only in the period following the social changes in 1989, alongside the term 'Gypsy', used both by the majority population and by members of the Roma - Gypsy ethnic group themselves (e.g. the musical group Cigánski diabli, the film and musical Cigáni idú do neba, the film Cigán by M. Šulík, etc.)." The Helsinki Committee on Human Rights issued an opinion⁸ on this decision, stating: "

In our view, the reasoning of the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic is an exemplary example of abstraction from context, easily ascertainable objective facts and the merits of the case. The Court has extensively dealt with the sometimes bizarre linguistic-grammatical analysis of the words Gypsy, Gypsy and Gypsy, the result of which is the defence of the indefensible. It did not analyse the whole of the incriminated statement, the interconnectedness of its parts ("gypsy parasites"), nor its objective effects in the form of defamation of an ethnic group. In its grammatical analysis, the court somehow missed the fact that the entire public activities of the chairman of the People's Party Our Slovakia, Marian Kotleba, and the organisations he founded and of which he is a member are objectively known facts, sufficiently documenting his real intentions." The Strategy for Roma Equality, Inclusion and Participation 2030 has as one of its priority objectives the reduction of prejudices and stereotypes about Roma, and this is also closely related to the terms used in the public space.

	<p>The Ministry of Culture responded to this request on 20.11.2022 in the sense that it approves the codified form of the Slovak language in the codification manuals on the basis of scientific research and social discussion. The Ministry of Culture will stimulate the initiative for codification change. Changes in the codification are based on the research in question and its results, and this research is concentrated in the Slovak Academy of Sciences and public universities. A proposal for a codification change formulated at the relevant scientific workplace (the Institute of Linguistics of the Ľ. Štúr Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences) shall be submitted for consideration to linguistic committees of national competence. After discussion in these commissions, the final draft of the codification with the opinion of the relevant commission shall be submitted to the Ministry of Culture. At the Ministry of Culture, the Central Linguistic Council shall discuss the draft submitted.</p>
<p>Highlight any element of the actions that is transferable (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>An important part of this initiative is the expertise included in the request. The organisation that has elaborated this request has been working for several years on issues of anti-Roma racism and has long been monitoring the public discourse on stereotypes and prejudices about Roma. At the same time, this is the first such request to the relevant ministry to change the codification of the Slovak language and to remove the problematic term Gypsy from the Slovak language.</p>
<p>Give reasons why you consider the practice as sustainable (as opposed to 'one off activities')</p>	<p>This initiative is of a systemic character, because the deletion of the term "Gypsy" from the Slovak language is one of the steps in the fight against anti-Roma racism. Language is one of the basic means of expression and it is therefore important that it contains expressions that do not offend or humiliate any minority.</p>
<p>Give reasons why you consider the practice as having concrete measurable impact</p>	<p>The definition of anti-Roma racism states that it is a type of racist classification of Roma who are stigmatized as "gypsies" in order to construct a false justification and legitimization for the dehumanization of Roma, their discrimination, exploitation and the possibility of committing violence against them. If this term is removed from the language manuals of the Slovak language, it cannot be legitimised as an equivalent for the term Roma.</p>
<p>Give reasons why you consider the practice as transferable to other settings and/or Member States?</p>	<p>If the deletion of the term 'gypsy' from official language manuals is implemented in other countries, the term will no longer be used to refer to Roma, and there will be much better enforcement of the law in the case of racist and hate crimes.</p>

Explain, if applicable, how the practice involves beneficiaries and stakeholders in the design, planning, evaluation, review assessment and implementation of the practice.	N/A
Explain, if applicable, how the practice provides for review and assessment.	N/A

Thematic area	INFORMATION SOCIETY, PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION Please, provide one example of a promising practice related to the topics addressed in the chapter, i.e., in relation to data protection, and/or artificial intelligence systems.
Title (original language)	Mapa expertov pre etiku a reguláciu AI
Title (EN)	Map of experts for AI ethics and regulation
Organisation (original language)	Stála komisia pre etiku a reguláciu umelej inteligencie
Organisation (EN)	Standing Committee on Ethics and the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence
Government / Civil society	Independent state-funded institution
Funding body	Government

Reference (incl. URL, where available)	Slovakia, Standing Committee on Ethics and the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (<i>Stála komisia pre etiku a reguláciu umelej inteligencie</i>) (2022) " Map of experts for AI ethics and regulation ". Published on 23 June 2022.
Indicate the start date of the promising practice and the finishing date if it has ceased to exist	June 2022 - ongoing
Type of initiative	AI Ethics and Regulation Expert Map
Main target group	Academics, experts, and companies working in the field of artificial intelligence, wide public
Indicate level of implementation: Local/Regional/National	National
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	In June 2022, Permanent Commission for Ethics and Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (CERAI) published an AI Ethics and Regulation Expert Map. The map offers a publicly accessible list of experts who are working on the topic of AI ethics and regulation, allowing them to present their work to the wider public and expand their knowledge of the activities and outputs of other leaders in this topic, or to link their activities to other CERAI activities.
Highlight any element of the actions that is transferable (max. 500 chars)	Creating a network of experts
Give reasons why you consider the practice as sustainable (as	The map of experts is publicly available online and can be further expanded as new actors emerge.

opposed to 'one off activities')	
Give reasons why you consider the practice as having concrete measurable impact	The map of experts represents the first attempt to trace and connect all actors working in the field of AI.
Give reasons why you consider the practice as transferable to other settings and/or Member States?	The map of experts represents a specific tool that can be easily reproduced in any political, cultural, and institutional setting.
Explain, if applicable, how the practice involves beneficiaries and stakeholders in the design, planning, evaluation, review assessment and implementation of the practice.	N/A
Explain, if applicable, how the practice provides for review and assessment.	N/A

Thematic area	RIGHTS OF THE CHILD Please provide a promising practice for the related topics addressed in the chapter (i.e., the impact of poverty and exclusion on children and children and justice).
Title (original language)	No promising practice has been identified for this thematic area

Thematic area	ACCESS TO JUSTICE – Victim’s Rights and Judicial Independence Please provide one example of a promising practice in relation to the topic address in the chapter: i.e. Victim’s Rights Directive, the EU Strategy for Victim’s Rights and violence against women.
Title (original language)	Psychosociálne poradenstvo a krízová intervencia pre obeť sexualizovaného násillia a násillia na ženách
Title (EN)	Psychosocial counselling and crisis intervention for victims of sexual and gender-based violence from Ukraine
Organisation (original language)	Liga za duševné zdravie
Organisation (EN)	League for Mental Health
Government / Civil society	Civil society
Funding body	League for Mental Health
Reference (incl. URL, where available)	https://dusevnezdravie.sk/
Indicate the start date of the promising practice and the finishing date if it has ceased to exist	2022

Type of initiative	
Main target group	Refugees from Ukraine
Indicate level of implementation: Local/Regional/National	National
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	<p>The NGO League for Mental Health provides psychosocial counselling and crisis intervention in the form of a free, anonymous, 24-hour helpline „Nezábudka“ in Ukrainian language on the phone number: 0800 222 450 and email address: UAhelpmail@linkanezabudka.sk. The helpline is staffed by 12 Ukrainian female professional counsellors with university degrees in psychology and psychiatry, and with additional specialised training completed in Ukraine or Slovakia.</p> <p>This NGO also provides psychosocial support, prevention and crisis intervention in the form of 9 field teams, which are in each region of Slovakia plus one team is created separately for the large-scale accommodation centre in Gabčíkovo. Each team is made up of a coordinator, a team leader - a top expert, Ukrainian and Slovak psychologists and social workers (mostly women), for all age groups. All teams are mobile, experts come directly to the places, to the communities of Ukrainian refugees, where they provide individual and group intervention, crisis intervention, screening of psychological needs, follow-up connection to assistance services, monitoring of psychological safety, primary psychological prevention and assistance with adaptation and integration in the new environment.</p> <p>Both teams on the helpline and in the field have received specialized training in working with trauma (including sexual violence). The top expert for helping the refugees is a Ukrainian psychologist, psychotherapist and supervisor who has provided assistance and managed teams providing help to victims affected by war trauma in Ukraine since 2014. She is considered one of the top experts in helping women who are survivors of sexual violence.¹³²</p>
Highlight any element of the actions that is transferable (max. 500 chars)	

¹³² Information provided by the League of Mental Health via email on 1 August 2022.

<p>Give reasons why you consider the practice as sustainable (as opposed to 'one off activities')</p>	<p>People are still leaving Ukraine, there is a need to build and support a system of different services. women who have experienced violence need a special system and access, which they should find in the country they are fleeing to.</p>
<p>Give reasons why you consider the practice as having concrete measurable impact</p>	<p>Accessible and free psychological support for women fleeing war in Ukraine can help them overcome other barriers to moving to a new country. It can help people who are falling through the aid system.</p>
<p>Give reasons why you consider the practice as transferable to other settings and/or Member States?</p>	<p>It provides address help and crisis intervention for those who are fleeinf from war in Ukrainian language</p>
<p>Explain, if applicable, how the practice involves beneficiaries and stakeholders in the design, planning, evaluation, review assessment and implementation of the practice.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Explain, if applicable, how the practice provides for review and assessment.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Thematic area	Developments in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Please provide one example of a promising practice of national monitoring bodies (e.g., a well-run outreach campaign, an inclusive survey, a successful effort or initiative to improve legislation, etc.) in relation to projects or programmes implementing the CRPD or promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. Where no such practice exists, please provide one example of a promising practice in relation to projects or programmes implementing the CRPD or promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, focussing on projects and programmes implemented with EU funding.
Title (original language)	No promising practice has been identified for this thematic area

Annex 2 – Case Law

Thematic area	EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION Please provide one high court decision addressing discrimination against LGBTIQ people or on the grounds of socio-economic status, health status and physical appearance (not related to health or disability or to other grounds like ethnic origin, religion). Where relevant, always highlight any relevance or reference to multiple or intersectional discrimination in the case you report.
Decision date	31 October 2022
Reference details	Decision of the Regional Court in Žilina, File Number 30S/168/2020, Identification Number of the Court File 5020200430, available at: https://obcan.justice.sk/infosud/-/infosud/i-detail/rozhodnutie/c912d541-92f4-4913-acf0-cb228ccf654d%3A06df0226-35f2-43b4-b699-615f7692d449
Key facts of the case (max. 500 chars)	<p>On 21 July 2020, the first-instance administrative authority, the Aliens Police Department of the Žilina Police Corps rejected the application for permanent residence submitted by a citizen of Argentina. He applied for residence for the purpose of family reunification on the basis of his marriage to a citizen of the Slovak Republic, which was a same-sex marriage concluded in Argentina. Slovak Republic does not allow same-sex marriages and therefore the applicant could not provide a marriage certificate from the registry office in Bratislava. The Aliens Police Department argued that the marriage was not concluded according to Act No. 36/2005 Coll. on the family. In addition, the Aliens Police also noted deficiencies in the documentation that was required to accompany the application. However, the police did not even ask for the documents to be corrected, as they stated that the applicant could not provide a marriage certificate from the registry office in Bratislava anyway. It therefore considered it pointless to ask for the other documents to be corrected. The applicant appealed against this decision of the Aliens Police in Žilina. The Regional Court in Žilina overturned this decision.</p>
Main reasoning/argumentation (max. 500 chars)	<p>The applicant submitted that he had never claimed that he and his partner were spouses pursuant to the Family Act. Nor did the applicant ever request that their marriage, contracted under Argentine law, be recognised as a marriage under Slovak law, which does not recognise same-sex marriages or unregistered partnerships. The European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg ('the ECtHR') has held, in relation to residence permits, that the refusal to grant a residence permit for the purpose of family reunification to a same-sex couple violates the right of the partners</p>

	<p>concerned to respect for private and family life (Judgment of the ECtHR in Taddeucci and McCall v. Italy, 30.06.2016, Complaint No. 51362/09).</p> <p>As regards the right to family life and the right to freedom of movement and residence, the applicant submitted on appeal, inter alia, that, in accordance with the case-law of the ECtHR, same-sex couples have the right to family life guaranteed by Article 8 of the Convention, since the notion of family life includes a stable same-sex relationship, irrespective of whether that relationship is in any way formally recognised or confirmed by marriage or registered partnership. By submitting an Argentine marriage certificate, the applicant has demonstrated only that he and Mr B., a Slovak national, are in a stable relationship which falls within the protection of Article 19(2) of the Constitution and Article 8 of the Convention.</p>
<p>Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>In June 2020, the applicant's legal representatives addressed a statement to the Aliens Police in Žilina, in which they stated that, in addition to interference with the right to a family life, the refusal to grant permanent residence to the applicant may also constitute interference with the freedom of movement and residence, namely the right to return freely to his homeland, which is granted to the applicant's husband by the Constitution and the Convention. They further submit that the exclusion of persons of the same sex from the right to be granted permanent residence also constitutes discrimination on grounds of sex or sexual orientation. They also submit that the equal treatment of persons of the same sex who are not entitled to validly marry under Slovak law as compared with persons of different sexes in the matter of granting permanent residence constitutes discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation. The applicant pointed out that the Constitutional Court of the Slovak Republic has repeatedly stated in the past that 'the General Court is not absolutely bound by the literal wording of a statute, but may and must depart from it if the purpose of the statute, the history of its creation, its systematic coherence or one of the principles of constitutional law so requires. The Aliens Police Department in Žilina therefore came to an incorrect legal conclusion as it interpreted the Aliens Residence Act in a manner inconsistent with the Constitution and the Convention, instead of interpreting the provision in question in accordance with the applicant's fundamental rights and freedoms, in particular the right to family life, the right to freedom of residence and movement, as well as the principle of non-discrimination.</p>
<p>Results (sanctions) and key consequences or implications of the case (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>The Regional Court in Žilina overturned the decision of the Foreigners Police Department in Žilina. The task of the Aliens Police Department in Žilina, to which the case has been returned by the court for further proceedings, will be to decide again on the application of the party to the proceedings (the applicant) in accordance with the binding legal opinions of the Administrative Court, by which the Department is bound.</p>

<p>Key quotation in original language and translated into English with reference details (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>“Je dôležité si uvedomiť, že šťastný rodinný (partnerský) život v kruhu osôbblízky (resp. možnosť zdieľať svoj život s osobou blízkou) je v zásade nielen základným primárnym cieľom, ale i právom (ktorého realizáciu by mal štát podporovať) každého človeka, a preto v takomto kontexte je potrebné aj posudzovať a chápať žiadosť žalobcu o udelenie trvalého pobytu v krajine, kde má trvalý pobyt jeho partner. Navyše, vydanými rozhodnutiami správne orgány zasiahli aj do práva štátneho občana Slovenskej republiky B. Z. na rodinný (partnerský) život a na návrat do miesta jeho trvalého pobytu v Slovenskej republike, pretože takéto rozhodnutie obmedzuje jeho vstup do krajiny, kde má rodinu a kde chce s partnerom žiť tým, že neumožňuje vstup do krajiny pre jeho súčasného partnera (blízku osobu). Je potrebné si uvedomiť, že rozhodnutie, ktorým sa nepovoľuje pobyt pre osobu blízku štátneho príslušníka Slovenskej republiky má dosah aj na práva tejto osoby.”</p> <p>"It is important to note that a happy family (partner) life in the circle of close persons (or the possibility to share one's life with a close person) is in principle not only a basic primary goal, but also a right (the realisation of which should be promoted by the State) of every human being, and therefore it is in this context that the applicant's application for permanent residence in the country where his partner resides should be considered and understood. Moreover, by the decisions taken, the administrative authorities also interfered with the rights of the Slovak national B. Z.'s right to family (partner) life and to return to his place of permanent residence in the Slovak Republic, since such a decision restricts his entry into the country where he has a family and where he wishes to live with his partner by not allowing his current partner (a close person) to enter the country. It should be noted that a decision not to allow the residence of a person close to a Slovak national also has an impact on the rights of that person."</p>
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<p>Thematic area</p>	<p>RACISM, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE Please provide the most relevant <u>high court</u> decision concerning the application of <u>either</u> the Racial Equality Directive or the Framework Decision on racism and xenophobia, addressing racism, xenophobia, and other forms of intolerance more generally.</p>
<p>Decision date</p>	<p>5 April 2022</p>

Reference details	Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic, no. 4To/1/2021
Key facts of the case (max. 500 chars)	<p>The case concerns a chairman of the opposition political party Kotlebovci - People's Party Our Slovakia who was sentenced by the Specialized Criminal Court in October 2020 for establishing, supporting, and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing basic rights and freedoms. The Specialized Criminal Court sentenced him to four years and four months in prison. The case goes back to donations that the convicted made in 2017, in the form of vouchers worth 1,488 EUR, to three families at an event in Banská Bystrica marking the anniversary of the founding of the (Nazi-Germany inclined) wartime Slovak state. The numbers 14 and 88 are widely known as symbols of neo-nazism.</p> <p>The Supreme Court returned to the original qualification of the case and declared that the handing out of vouchers was "only" an expression of sympathy for extremism, but not its promotion.</p>
Main reasoning/argumentation (max. 500 chars)	<p>The accused defended himself that numbers on the vouchers were coincidental and that there was no connection to extremism.</p> <p>The Supreme Court said that it does not believe this explanation since the accused must have been aware of the meaning of the "1,488" symbol.</p>
Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case (max. 500 chars)	<p>Crime of establishing, supporting, and promoting a movement aimed at suppressing basic rights and freedoms (§ 421 of the Criminal Code).</p> <p>Crime of expressing sympathies to a movement suppressing basic rights and freedoms (§ 422 of the Criminal Code).</p>
Results (sanctions) and key consequences or implications of the case (max. 500 chars)	<p>The Supreme Court found the chairman of the political party Kotlebovci - People's Party Our Slovakia guilty of expressing sympathies to a movement suppressing basic rights and freedoms.</p> <p>The Supreme Court also cancelled the verdict of the Specialised Criminal Court from October 2020, which sent him to prison for four years and four months.</p>

	<p>The Supreme court imposed a suspended sentence of six months with 18-month probation.</p> <p>The convicted automatically lost his position of MP, as he was sentenced for an intentional crime. He will be able to run in an election again after the deed is struck from the criminal record. This will be possible after a year and a half.</p>
<p>Key quotation in original language and translated into English with reference details (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>p. 11 Obhajobe obžalovaného preto ani najvyšší súd neuveril a subjektívnu stránku, teda priamy úmysel [§ 15 písm. a) Trestného zákona] obžalovaného odovzdať spomínaným rodinám finančnú pomoc práve v sume 1488,- Eur s cieľom prejať tak sympatie k ideológiám nacizmu a neonacizmu, považoval vykonaným dokazovaním za spoľahlivo preukázaný. Najvyšší súd sa však nestotožnil so záverom, ku ktorému dospel súd prvého stupňa, v tom smere, že obžalovaný prezentovaním symbolov spájaných s neonacistickými a nacistickými ideológiami zároveň tieto ideológie aj propagoval.</p> <p>p. 12 Obžalovaný verejne teda v prítomnosti viac ako dvoch osôb súčasne počas osláv slovenskej štátnosti odprezentoval symboly spájané s nacistickou a neonacistickou ideológiou, čím sa k týmto hnutiam prihlásil, prejavil sympatie s nimi. Z jeho prejavov na spomínanom podujatí, ale ani ďalšieho jeho konania s tým spojeného, podľa názoru najvyššieho súdu, preukázateľne (zjavne ale ani skryte) nevyplynula snaha adresátov tohto jeho počinu pre tieto myšlienky získať, presadiť ich, odporúčať. Podľa názoru najvyššieho súdu len samotná prezentácia takýchto symbolov alebo hesiel bez ďalšieho pre záver o propagácii nastickej a neonastickej ideológie nestačí.</p> <p>p. 13 Vzhľadom na to, že obžalovaný sa stíhaného skutku dopustil ako predseda samosprávneho kraja a predseda parlamentnej politickej strany, teda verejne známa osoba za prítomnosti desiatok iných osôb, prihliadajúc takto na jeho osobu a okolnosti, za ktorých bol čin spáchaný, pričom ostatné hľadiská vyplývajúce z vyššie citovaného ustanovenia nepôsobia výrazne ani v smere zvýšenia, ale ani zníženia závažnosti konania obžalovaného, nemožno dospieť k záveru, že by závažnosť jeho konania bola nepatrná a teda, že by v prejednávanej veci išlo o trestný čin, ale „len“ priestupok. Prezentovanie symbolov spájaných s fašistickými a neofašistickými ideológiami, podľa názoru najvyššieho súdu, narúša verejný poriadok, a to aj za situácie, že sa ich obžalovaný pokúšal zastrieť finančným dobročinným darom (poskytnutie finančného daru samé osebe samozrejme verejný poriadok nenarúša, narúša ho ale skutočnosť, že obžalovaný úmyselne na</p>

	<p>tento účel použil sumu pozostávajúcu z vyššie uvedených symbolov s cieľom vyjadrenia sympatií k ideológiám, ktoré reprezentujú).</p> <p>p. 11 Therefore, even the Supreme Court did not believe the defendant's defense and the subjective side, i.e. direct intent [§ 15 letter a) of the Criminal Code] of the defendant to hand over financial aid to the mentioned families in the amount of 1,488 Euros in order to show sympathy for the ideologies of Nazism and Neo-Nazism, he considered to be reliably proven by the evidence presented. However, the Supreme Court did not agree with the conclusion reached by the court of first instance, in that the defendant, by presenting symbols associated with neo-Nazi and Nazi ideologies, was also promoting these ideologies.</p> <p>p. 12 Thus, in the presence of more than two people at the same time during the celebration of Slovak statehood, the defendant publicly displayed symbols associated with Nazi and neo-Nazi ideology, thereby signing up for these movements and showing sympathy with them. From his speeches at the mentioned event, nor from his other related actions, according to the opinion of the Supreme Court, there was no demonstrable (overt nor hidden) attempt by the addressees of this act of his to acquire, enforce, or recommend these ideas. According to the opinion of the Supreme Court, the mere presentation of such symbols or slogans without further action is not enough for the conclusion of the promotion of Nazi and neo-Nazi ideology.</p> <p>p. 13 Considering that the defendant committed the prosecuted act as the chairman of the self-governing region and the chairman of the parliamentary political party, i.e. a publicly known person in the presence of dozens of other persons, thus taking into account his person and the circumstances under which the act was committed, while the other aspects resulting from the above of the cited provisions do not significantly increase or decrease the seriousness of the defendant's actions, one cannot come to the conclusion that the seriousness of his actions was insignificant and thus that the present case was not a criminal act, but "just" a misdemeanor. Presentation of symbols associated with fascist and neo-fascist ideologies, in the opinion of the Supreme Court, violates public order, even in situations where the defendant tried to cover them up with a financial charitable donation (the provision of a financial donation in itself, of course, does not violate public order, but the fact that the defendant intentionally this purpose used an amount consisting of the above symbols with a goal to express the sympathy for the ideologies they represent).</p>
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Thematic area	ROMA EQUALITY AND INCLUSION Please provide the most relevant high court decision addressing violations of fundamental rights of Roma and Travellers.
Decision date	2 June 2022
Reference details	European Court of Human Rights, Case of M.B. and others v. Slovakia , Application no. 45322/17
Key facts of the case (max. 500 chars)	On 19 June 2013, a repressive police raid took place in Moldava nad Bodvou on Budulovská Street, during which Roma from this locality were beaten by the police. They subsequently filed charges, but the police inspection investigated that everything was in accordance with the law and the police acted appropriately. Since the inspection questioned the victims' statements about the intervening police officers, the victims of the intervention have been subjected to psychological assessments, a number of interrogations and, subsequently, their statements have been labelled as false accusations against the intervening police officers. The victims became the defendants who were tried from May 2018. The victims legally defended themselves against this conclusion, and after exhausting all legal remedies, their complaints were accepted by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.
Main reasoning/argumentation (max. 500 chars)	The Ministry of Justice adds that the judgment in the similar case of R. R. and R. D. v. Slovak Republic, which concerned the same police action, the ECtHR ruled that the Slovak Republic had violated Article 3 of the Convention, enshrining the prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment, both substantive and procedural, and Article 14 of the Convention, enshrining the prohibition of discrimination, in relation to the applicants. The ECtHR awarded the applicants EUR 20,000 each as just satisfaction and EUR 6,500 jointly as costs. The Government reached an agreement with the applicants in the current case of M.B. and Others v. the Slovak Republic in view of the similarity of the two cases, the conclusions of the ECtHR expressed in the judgment in R. R. and R. R. v. the Slovak Republic and the findings of the ECtHR in R. R. and R. R. D. v. Slovak Republic and other facts mentioned in the agreement. In this way, the case before the ECtHR was finally closed.

<p>Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>On 19 June 2013, more than 60 police officers intervened in the Roma settlement on Budulovská Street in Moldava nad Bodvou. According to the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC), more than 30 Roma, including children, were injured in the raid. The police inspection investigated that everything was in accordance with the law and the police officers acted appropriately. Since the inspection questioned the victims' statements about the intervening police officers, the victims of the raid have been subjected to psychological assessments, a number of interrogations and subsequently their statements have been labelled as false accusations against the intervening police officers. The victims became the defendants who were tried from May 2018. The victims legally defended themselves against this conclusion and, after exhausting all legal remedies, their complaints were accepted by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. As of March 2019, the ECtHR has been hearing the case against the Slovak Republic. The Slovak Republic lost the first case on 1 September 2020, the ECtHR found in favour of the beaten victims and stated that their fundamental rights had been interfered with by the raid and its subsequent investigation. In the second case, the Slovak Republic concluded a settlement agreement with the victims in 2022. A few months after the ECtHR judgment, the prosecutor withdrew 5 of the 6 actions. The Košice court concluded the trials in May and June 2021. In the case of the sixth victim on trial, the criminal proceedings were concluded in May 2022.</p>
<p>Results (sanctions) and key consequences or implications of the case (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has published its decision on the settlement between the State and the complainants in the case of M.B. and others v. Slovak Republic, which concerned a police action carried out on 19 June 2013 in the municipality of Moldava nad Bodvou. The Government and the applicants had concluded a settlement agreement. The agreement between the State party and the applicants was reached in the light of the Government's apology. In the agreement, the Government undertook to pay the eight applicants jointly the total sum of EUR 110 000 to cover any and all non-pecuniary damage, and the applicants waived any further claims against the Slovak Republic in respect of the facts giving rise to this complaint. The payment will constitute the final settlement of the case. In its decision, the ECtHR took note of this agreement of the parties. In the light of the above, it removed the case from its list.</p>
<p>Key quotation in original language and translated into English with reference details (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>Európsky súd pre ľudské práva (ESĽP) zverejnil svoje rozhodnutie o zmieri medzi štátom a sťažovateľmi v prípade M. B. a ďalší proti Slovenskej republike, ktorý sa týkal policajnej akcie uskutočnenej 19. júna 2013 v obci Moldava nad Bodvou. Ôsmi sťažovatelia predložili ESĽP sťažnosť opierajúcu sa o články 3, 8, 13 a 14 Dohovoru o ochrane ľudských práv a základných slobôd v súvislosti s policajnou akciou, ktorá sa uskutočnila 19. júna 2013 v Moldave nad Bodvou, a následným vyšetrovaním obvinení zo zneužitia právomoci, zlého zaobchádzania a diskriminácie zo strany zúčastnených policajtov počas samotnej operácie a neskôr na policajnej stanici. Vláda a</p>

	<p>sťažovatelia uzavreli zmier. K dohode medzi štátom a sťažovateľmi došlo s ohľadom na ospravedlnenie vlády „za spôsob zásahu ozbrojených zložiek štátu v Moldave nad Bodvou v roku 2013“ a „za krivdu a utrpenie, ktoré poškodeným a ich rodinám spôsobilo zdĺhavé hľadanie pravdy“, ktoré vláda vyslovila vo svojom uznesení z 23. júna 2021 a s ohľadom na tlačovú správu úradu vlády z toho istého dňa, v ktorej sa uvádza, že „ospravedlnenie nie je len ľudským gestom voči poškodeným obetiam, je aj záväzkom štátu vyvarovať sa do budúcnosti podobným zlyháním. Ospravedlnenie je aj signálom, že orgány vynucujúce právo majú úprimný záujem získať späť dôveru občianskej spoločnosti.“</p> <p>The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has published its decision on the settlement between the State and the complainants in the case of M.B. and others v. Slovak Republic, which concerned a police action carried out on 19 June 2013 in the municipality of Moldava nad Bodvou. The eight applicants had lodged a complaint with the ECtHR relying on Articles 3, 8, 13 and 14 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in relation to a police operation which took place on 19 June 2013 in Moldava nad Bodvou and the subsequent investigation into allegations of abuse of power, ill-treatment and discrimination by the police officers involved during the operation itself and later at the police station. The Government and the complainants entered into a settlement agreement. The agreement between the State and the applicants was reached in the light of the Government's apology "for the manner of the intervention of the armed forces of the State in Moldava nad Bodvou in 2013" and "for the injustice and suffering caused to the victims and their families by the protracted search for the truth", which the Government had expressed in its resolution of 23. June 2021, and with regard to the press release of the Government Office of the same date, which states that "the apology is not only a human gesture towards the injured victims, it is also a commitment by the State to avoid similar failures in the future. An apology is also a signal that law enforcement authorities are sincerely interested in regaining the trust of civil society."</p> <p>Slovakia, Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (<i>Ministerstvo spravodlivosti SR</i>) (2022), 'Európsky súd pre ľudské práva vyhlásil rozhodnutie týkajúce sa policajnej razie v Moldave nad Bodvou', 2 June 2022.</p>
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Thematic area	ASYLUM, VISAS, MIGRATION, BORDERS AND INTEGRATION
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	Please provide the most relevant high court decision – or any court ruling – relating to the processing of personal data by new technologies in asylum, migration and border management delivered in 2022 (on Eurodac, SIS and VIS).
Decision date	No promising practice has been identified for this thematic area

Thematic area	INFORMATION SOCIETY, PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION Please provide the most relevant high court decision related to the topics addressed in the chapter (i.e. data protection, and/or artificial intelligence systems).
Decision date	No promising practice has been identified for this thematic area

Thematic area	RIGHTS OF THE CHILD Please provide the most relevant high court decision for the related topics addressed in the chapter.
Decision date	No promising practice has been identified for this thematic area

Thematic area	ACCESS TO JUSTICE – Victim’s Rights and Judicial Independence Please provide the most relevant high court decision related topics addressed in the chapter (i.e the Victim’s Rights Directive, the EU Strategy for Victim’s Rights and violence against women).
Decision date	No promising practice has been identified for this thematic area

Thematic area	DEVELOPMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CRPD) Please provide the most relevant High Court decision, which quoted the CRPD or prominently referred to the CRPD in the reasoning.
Decision date	No promising practice has been identified for this thematic area