

Frnet National contribution to the Fundamental Rights Report 2022

SLOVAKIA

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Policy and legal highlights 2021

Franet country study: policy and legal highlights 2021	
Issues in the fundamental rights institutional landscape	No developments in 2021.
EU Charter of Fundamental Rights	No developments in 2021.
Equality and non-discrimination	Several legislative changes were proposed aiming to curb rights of LGBTI people. The bills proposed to rule out legal change of gender for transgender persons, prevent same-sex couples from adopting children, forbid content portraying homosexuality or transgender persons and forbid public institutions from hanging the rainbow flag on their building in support of LGBTI community. Most of the bills were either rejected or withdrawn, one of them proposing to ban portrayals of homosexuality and transgender persons from being accessible to children is still pending.
Racism, xenophobia & Roma integration	The crime of dangerous electronic harassment was introduced into the Criminal Code . If the crime is committed with a special motive like out of hatred against a group of persons or individual person, it can be punished by a higher penalty.
Asylum & migration	No developments in 2021.
Data protection and digital society	<p>The draft of the new Data Act, which has long been in preparation, has finally entered legislative procedure in 2021. As of 1 December 2021, it has been subjected to the interdepartmental comment procedure and is now in the phase of the evaluation of this procedure. The Act regulates data protection and data management in 13 areas, including rights of natural persons and legal entities.</p> <p>Permanent Commission for Ethics and Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (CERAI) established by the Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic, which is the first expert body working in the field of artificial intelligence in Slovakia, published documents that specify its mission, goals and activities.</p>
Rights of the child	The Ministry of labor, social affairs and family continued to provide several social benefits and donations to families in social need to help them to overcome the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

<p>Access to justice, including victims of crime</p>	<p>The Amendment to the Act on Victims of Crime coming into effect on 1 July 2021 significantly strengthens the rights of victims and their protection against further victimization in several areas, such as simplifying access to compensation or creating a network of so-called intervention centers providing assistance and protection for victims.</p>
<p>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability</p>	<p>The National strategy for the deinstitutionalization of the system of social services and substitute care was adopted by the Government. The document reflects on the progress made since the adoption of the first DI strategy in 2011 and sets out a commitment to continue in the DI process.</p> <p>The Government of the Slovak Republic adopted the Recovery and Resilience Plan that refers to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The listed reforms involve for instance debarrierization of schools, the improvement of long-term social and health care, deinstitutionalization of residential care facilities by supporting the establishment and operation of community-based service.</p>

Chapter 1. Equality and non-discrimination

1.1 Legal and policy developments or measures relevant to fostering equality and combating discrimination against EU citizens based on their nationality and against LGBTI people

LGBTI people

The Government Committee for LGBTI met on 11 June 2021 and discussed (among others) support services available to LGBTI people and their families and their funding opportunities. The Committee created a working group for sustainability of services for LGBTI people to better assess the issue.¹

On 28 July 2021 a group of MPs proposed to adopt a Parliament Resolution expressing support to all minorities and communities in Slovakia as a reaction to a violent assault on a group of gay men in Bratislava.² The proposed resolution acknowledged continuing discrimination and stigmatisation of minorities in Slovakia and called upon the public institutions to monitor hate in public space, including hatefull expressions of elected representatives.³ The resolution was not adopted, only 55 MPs out of 125 present supported it.⁴

Several legislative initiatives have also been identified aimed at curbing LGBTI people's rights. As of September 2021, several bills have been presented to the Parliament by various groups of MPs, both from opposition and coalition parties. The bills proposed to rule out legal change of gender for transgender persons,⁵ prevent same-sex couples from adopting a child⁶, forbid any content portraying

¹ Slovakia, Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo spravodlivosti SR*) (2021), ['17. Zasadnutie výboru LGBTI osôb'](#), press release, 11 June 2021.

² Gehrerová, R. (2021), ['Len tretina parlamentu sa zastala menšín, časť OĽaNO nie je spokojná a chce viac práv pre páry rovnakého pohlavia'](#), *Denník N*, 21 September 2021.

³ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2021), ['Návrh skupiny poslancov Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky na prijatie uznesenia NRSR, ktorým sa vyjadruje podpora všetkým menšinám a komunitám žijúcim na Slovensku'](#).

⁴ Gehrerová, R. (2021), ['Len tretina parlamentu sa zastala menšín, časť OĽaNO nie je spokojná a chce viac práv pre páry rovnakého pohlavia'](#), *Denník N*, 21 September 2021.

⁵ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2021), ['Návrh poslancov NRSR Mariana KOTLEBU, Rastislava SCHLOSÁRA, Martina BELUSKÉHO a Magdalény SULANOVEJ na vydanie ústavného zákona, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa Ústava Slovenskej republiky č. 460/1992 Zb. v znení neskorších predpisov'](#), Parliamentary Press No. 429, 12 February 2021; Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2021), ['Návrh poslancov NRSR Mariana KOTLEBU, Rastislava SCHLOSÁRA, Martina BELUSKÉHO a Magdalény SULANOVEJ na vydanie ústavného zákona, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa Ústava Slovenskej republiky č. 460/1992 Zb. v znení neskorších predpisov'](#), Justification report, 12 February 2021.

⁶ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2021), ['Návrh poslancov NRSR Mariana KOTLEBU, Rastislava SCHLOSÁRA, Martina BELUSKÉHO a Magdalény SULANOVEJ na vydanie ústavného zákona, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa Ústava Slovenskej republiky č. 460/1992 Zb. v znení neskorších predpisov'](#), Parliamentary Press No. 429, 12 February 2021; Gehrerová, R.,

homosexuality or transgender persons⁷ and forbid public institutions from hanging the rainbow flag on their buildings as a sign of support of LGBTI community.⁸ Some of the bills were subject to criticism, e.g. more than 100 psychologists, therapists and educators addressed an open letter to the MPs and started a petition against the bill preventing same-sex couples from adoptions.⁹

Bill proposing to rule out legal change of gender for transgender persons and to prevent same-sex couples from adopting a child¹⁰ and one bill proposing to forbid any content portraying homosexuality or transgender persons¹¹ were rejected in the Parliament on 26 October 2021. One bill proposing to forbid content portraying

Osvaldová, L., Barčíková, M. (2021), '[Poslanci tvrdia, že nie sú za odoberanie detí gejom a lesbám, podobný návrh vznikol aj v koalícii](#)', *Denník N*, 19 March 2021; Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2021), '[Návrh poslancov NRSR Mariana KOTLEBU, Rastislava SCHLOSÁRA, Martina BELUSKÉHO a Magdalény SULANOVEJ na vydanie ústavného zákona, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa Ústava Slovenskej republiky č. 460/1992 Zb. v znení neskorších predpisov](#)', Justification report, 12 February 2021.

⁷ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2021), '[Návrh poslancu NRSR Miroslava URBANA na vydanie zákona, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon č. 305/2005 Z.z. o sociálno právnej ochrane detí a sociálnej kuratele a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov v znení neskorších predpisov](#)', Parliamentary press No. 733, 1 October 2021; Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2021), '[Návrh poslancu NRSR Miroslava URBANA na vydanie zákona, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon č. 305/2005 Z.z. o sociálno právnej ochrane detí a sociálnej kuratele a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov v znení neskorších predpisov](#)', Justification report, 1 October 2021; Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2021), '[Návrh poslancov NRSR Tomáša TARABU, Štefana KUFFU, Jána PODMANICKÉHO 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 o doplnení niektorých zákonov](#)', Parliamentary press No. 732, 1 October 2021.

⁸ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2021), '[Návrh poslancov Tomáša TARABU, Štefana KUFFU, Jána PODMANICKÉHO, Filipa KUFFU a Martina ČEPČEKA na vydanie zákona, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon NRSR č. 63/1993 Z.z. o štátnych symboloch Slovenskej republiky a ich používaní v znení neskorších predpisov](#)', Parliamentary press No. 725, 1 October 2021; Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2021), '[Návrh poslancov Tomáša TARABU, Štefana KUFFU, Jána PODMANICKÉHO, Filipa KUFFU a Martina ČEPČEKA na vydanie zákona, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon NRSR č. 63/1993 Z.z. o štátnych symboloch Slovenskej republiky a ich používaní v znení neskorších predpisov](#)', Justification report, 1 October 2021.

⁹ SME Daily (2021), '[Verejná výzva odborníčov a odborníkov z pomáhajúcich profesií. Odmietame politický diskurz postavený na predsudkoch a na politickej agende](#)', *SME Daily*, 4 April 2021.

¹⁰ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada Slovenskej republiky*) (2021), '[Uznesenie č. 1030 Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky z 22. októbra 2021 k návrhu poslancov Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky Mariana Kotlebu, Rastislava Schlosára, Martina Beluského, Stanislava Mizíka a Magdalény Sulanovej na vydanie ústavného zákona, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa Ústava Slovenskej republiky č. 460/1992 Zb. v znení neskorších predpisov \(tlač 710\) – prvé čítanie](#)', 22 October 2021.

¹¹ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada Slovenskej republiky*) (2021), '[Uznesenie č. 1048 Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky z 26. októbra 2021 k návrhu poslancu Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky Miroslava Urbana na vydanie zákona, ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon č. 305/2005 Z. z. o sociálnoprávnej ochrane detí a o sociálnej kuratele a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov v znení neskorších predpisov a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov \(tlač 733\) – prvé čítanie](#)', 26 October 2021.

homosexuality or transgender persons¹² is, however, still pending. Bill proposing to forbid public institutions from hanging the rainbow flag on their buildings was withdrawn by the proposers.¹³

On 3 November 2021 The Government Committee for the the Rights of LGBTI People adopted a resolution declaring their concerns about rights of LGBTI people in relation to the above mentioned legislative proposals.¹⁴

EU citizens

In the beginning of the covid vaccination roll out in Slovakia EU citizens faced difficulties accessing the vaccine. It was caused by lack of clarification as to who was eligible to be vaccinated.¹⁵ EU citizens had no difficulties registering for vaccination as the online system recognized EU health insurance. However, there were numerous instances of EU citizens being turned away at the vaccination centres because the staff did not accept their EU health insurance.¹⁶ In April 2021, in reaction to the situation the Health Ministry amended the Law No. 580/2004 Coll. on Health Insurance¹⁷ and issued an instruction regarding EU citizens' access to vaccination which standardized the process.

Other than that, no legal or policy changes have been adopted in Slovakia that would foster equality and non-discrimination of EU citizens on the grounds of nationality.¹⁸

Following the decision of the Court of Justice of the European Union¹⁹ a debate started in Slovakia on how the decision will affect situation in Slovakia. At the

¹² Slovakia, Chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Predseda Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky*) (2021), '[Rozhodnutie predsedu Národnej rady SR č. 762 zo 4. októbra 2021 o pridelení návrhu zákona, podaného poslancami Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky na prerokovanie výborom Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky](#)', 4 October 2021.

¹³ Slobodná Európa (2021), '[Tri zákony proti LGBTI ľuďom neprešli v parlamente. Jeden zákon stiahli, o jednom sa bude rokovať](#)', *Slobodná Európa*, 26 October 2021.

¹⁴ Slovakia, The Government Committee for the Rights of LGBTI People (*Výbor pre práva lesbič, gejev, bisexuálnych, transrodových a intersexuálnych osôb*) (2021), '[Uznesenie č. 3 z 3. novembra 2021 k Vyhláseniu Výboru pre práva LGBTI osôb k poslanceckým návrhom zákonov obmedzujúcim ľudské práva LGBTI ľudí na Slovensku](#)', 3 November 2021.

¹⁵ Chudžíková, A.H. (2021), '[Vírus si podľa občianstva nevyberá, nemala by si ani vakcinačná stratégia](#)', *Minority Policy in Slovakia 1/2021*, 19 May 2021.

¹⁶ Franclová, N. (2021), '[Niektorí cudzinci nemajú nárok na očkovanie proti covidu](#)', *SME Daily*, 7 March 2021; see for instance Gehrerová, R. (2021), '[Cudzincov na Slovensku neočkujeme, nestačí im potvrdenie odporúčané ministrom](#)', *Denník N*, 13 April 2021.

¹⁷ Slovakia, [Law No. 133/2021 Coll. that changes and amends certain laws in health care with respect to combating the second wave of the covid-19 pandemic](#) (*Zákon č. 133/2021 Z.z. ktorým sa v súvislosti s druhou vlnou pandémie ochorenia COVID-19 menia a dopĺňajú niektoré zákony v oblasti zdravotníctva*), 13 April 2021.

¹⁸ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak republic via email on 7 October 2021.

¹⁹ Court of Justice of the European Union (2021), '[Press Release no. 221/21. Judgment in Case C-490/20](#)', 14 December 2021, Luxembourg.

moment if same-sex couple has a child and only one parent is a citizen of Slovakia, Slovak authorities do not automatically acknowledge Slovak citizenship of the child but require proof that the child is actually a biological offspring of the parent with Slovak citizenship. According to the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, the issue concerns them, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. None of these ministries were clear on how they will proceed in case similar case occurred involving a Slovak citizen in order to ensure their right to free movement.²⁰

1.2 Findings and methodology of research, studies, or surveys on experiences of discrimination against EU citizens on the grounds of nationality and against LGBTI people

An online lifestyle news portal Interez.sk conducted an online survey on their Instagram account exploring attitudes of their audience to same sex couples. 40,000 people took part in the survey; however, no further information on the sample was provided. Up to 38% of the respondents objected to a gay couple publicly displaying affection; in case of a lesbian couple it was 15%. Furthermore, 35% of respondents would mind if their relative had a same sex partner. However, up to 70% of the respondents supported registered partnerships for same sex couples.²¹

²⁰ Zmušková, B. (2021), '[Čo naozaj znamená rozhodnutie súdneho dvora pre slovenské dúhové rodiny](#)', *Euractiv.sk*, 23 December 2021.

²¹ Kalinčák, M. (2021), '[Na lásku má každý rovnaký nárok a je jedno, či muž miluje ženu alebo muža](#)', *Interez.sk*, 27 February 2021.

Chapter 2. Racism, xenophobia and related intolerance

2.1 Findings and methodology of research, studies, or surveys on experiences of ethnic discrimination, racism and hate crime

In 2021, the NGOs Human Rights League and Islamic Foundation in Slovakia have started to map the hatred incidents towards foreigners living in Slovakia because of their migrant origin, faith, or skin colour. The mapping took place from April to August 2021 and was carried out through an online questionnaire. Altogether 127 persons of migrant origin participated in the mapping. According to the findings, 59,1 percent of persons involved in the research reported that they personally or their close persons experienced discrimination, bullying, intimidation and other assaults because of their origin or religion. Out of them, 73 percent experienced verbal assaults, 39,2 percent experienced hateful shouts, 27 percent were denied communication, 20,3 percent experienced threats via e-mail or phone communication, 14,9 percent were exposed to psychological violence, 6,8 percent reported physical attack and 2,7 percent experienced property damage. 50 percent of participants experienced hatred incidents repeatedly, mainly in public spaces, on the internet, but also at work or school. Most of the participants (89,1 percent of those who experienced negative manifestations of behaviour) did not turn to the police since they feared that the police would not take their experience as seriously or would defend the aggressor. 55,9 percent of the respondents witnessed discrimination, bullying, threats, intimidation, attacks or other acts of hatred against another person or persons of different origin, or religion²². Altogether 127 people participated in the survey, out of them, 55 were men and 72 women, most of the participants had Slovak citizenship, and 75,6 percent declared of being of the Muslim faith.

A survey among foreigners living in Slovakia carried out by NGO Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture in 2021²³ asked the participants on how often they encountered negative manifestations of behavior because of their nationality. The results show that such behaviour was experienced:

- Constantly by 0,6% of the participants,
- Often by 5,8% of participants,
- Occasionally by 20,8% of the participants,
- Very rarely by 50,3% of the participants,
- Never by 22,4% of the participants.

²² League for Human Rights (*Liga za ľudské práva*) (2021), [Utečenci a migrant ako obeť nenávisťných trestných činov – prevencia, pomoc a ochrana](#), pp. 51-55.

²³ Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture (*Centrum pre výskum etnicity a kultúry*) (2021), [Cudzinci na Slovensku. Hľadanie nového domova](#).

The survey was carried out on the sample of 312 foreigners living in Slovakia at least for three months.

Another survey representative for the whole population indicates an increase in social distance the majority population shows towards foreigners²⁴. People in Slovakia are less willing to accept foreigners in the municipality they live in, in their neighborhood or as a member of their family than in the past. The survey was carried out by the NGO Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture on a sample size of 1012 participants.

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

a) Racial Equality Directive

The European Commission has brought proceedings against Slovakia for the disproportionate placement of Roma children in special education and for their practical segregation in mainstream schools²⁵. In 2020, the Ministry of Education took steps to address the situation of Roma children who are over-represented in special schools. The public authorities acknowledged the problem and also adopted the Zero Action Plan of the Strategy of Inclusive Approach in Education (*Nultý akčný plán Stratégie inkluzívneho prístupu vo výchove a vzdelávaní*)²⁶. In 2021, several steps have been taken to promote inclusive education. An amendment of the so-called School act has been adopted that introduced the definition of inclusive education into legislation²⁷. The amendment introduces also the reform of the advisory system in education which means that all pupils with special needs in education will be eligible to ask for support and assistance.

²⁴ Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture (*Centrum pre výskum etnicity a kultúry*) (2021), [Cudzie nechceme, svoje si nedáme. Postoje majoritnej populácie k migrácii a cudzincom na Slovensku](#).

²⁵ European Commission (2019), [‘October Infringements Package: key decisions’](#), 10 October 2019.

²⁶ Slovakia, Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo školstva SR*) (2020), [Nultý akčný plán Stratégie inkluzívneho prístupu vo výchove a vzdelávaní](#).

²⁷ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2021), [Vládny návrh 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](#) (*Government Act amending Act no. 245/2008 Coll., On upbringing and education (School Act) and on amendments to certain acts*).

In November 2021, the policy document Strategy of inclusive approach in upbringing and education has been sent to interdepartmental commentary procedure²⁸. In December 2021, it was approved by the Government²⁹.

As for the problem of segregation of Roma children in special schools and in separate classes in regular schools, the measures to carry out desegregation have been involved as one of the proposed reforms in the Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Slovak Republic which was adopted by the Government in April 2021³⁰.

The state secretary of the Ministry of Education informed that the number of special schools will not be reduced³¹.

On 1 December 2020, the ruling of ECtHR in case of police violence in Roma settlement in Moldava nad Bodvou (*R.R. and R.D v. Slovakia*) came into force³². In June 2021, the Government of the Slovak Republic adopted a statement expressing regret and apology for the way in which the police intervened in the Roma settlement in Moldava nad Bodvou in 2013³³. Throughout 2021, all victims who had been charged with perjury were acquitted³⁴. The NGOs point to the fact that after the ruling of ECtHR no systemic changes have been adopted so far that would prevent the violent and unlawful action of the police force in the future³⁵. In December 2021, the Ministry of Interior started the process of consultations with regard to launching a public procurement in 2022 to obtain body-cams that will be worn by police officers during interventions³⁶. This was one of the recommendations of the latest ECRI report³⁷.

²⁸ Slovakia, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu SR*) (2021), [LP/2021/659 Stratégia inkluzívneho prístupu vo výchove a vzdelávaní – medzirezortné pripomienkové konanie](#).

²⁹ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (*Vláda SR*) (2021), [Stratégia inkluzívneho prístupu vo výchove a vzdelávaní](#) (*Strategy of inclusive approach in upbringing and education*), adopted by the Government on 8 December 2021.

³⁰ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (*Vláda SR*) (2021), [Plán obnovy a odolnosti Slovenskej republiky](#) (*Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Slovak Republic*), adopted by the Government on 28 April 2021.

³¹ Slovakia, Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo školstva SR*) (2021), [‘Svetlana Síthová: Špeciálne školstvo je pre nás prioritou’](#), press release from 23 September 2021.

³² Slovakia, Public Defender of Rights (*Verejná ochrankyňa práv*) (2020), [FB post from 7 December 2020](#).

³³ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (*Vláda SR*) (2021), [Ospravedlnenie vlády SR za spôsob zásahu ozbrojených zložiek štátu v Moldave nad Bodvou v roku 2013](#), adopted by the Government on 23 June 2021.

³⁴ Policajnarazia.sk (2021), [‘Päť zo šiestich obetí je nevinných – súd zastavil konania trom obžalovaným’](#), 10 June 2021.

³⁵ Policajnarazia.sk (2021), [‘Tlačová správa: 8 rokov čakania na spravodlivosť’](#), 18 June 2021.

³⁶ Slovakia, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) (2021), [‘Začali sa prípravné trhové konzultácie k obstarávaniu telových kamier na monitorovanie policajných zásahov’](#), 7 December 2021.

³⁷ European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) (2020), [ECRI report on the Slovak Republic \(sixth monitoring cycle\)](#).

The lockdown of several localities inhabited by Roma because of the coronavirus pandemic continued also 2021 even if this practice was criticized by NGOs, international organizations³⁸ and other stakeholders. Public Defender of Rights (ombudsperson) asked the General Prosecutor to review the legality of this measure since in her view it is a discriminatory practice that is not in accordance with existing laws³⁹.

b) Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia

Policy Development

The Conception of the fight against radicalization and extremism until 2024 (*Koncepcia boja proti radikalizácii a extrémizmu do roku 2024*) was approved by the Government on 13 January 2021⁴⁰. The Conception lists 45 tasks divided into five main areas: 1. Protection of democracy against extremism, 2. Awareness-raising of the society on democracy and human rights, 3. Strengthening confidence in institutions, 4. Promotion of deradicalization, integration and social prevention, 5. Strengthening of the coordination, management and communication platform⁴¹. Among the listed tasks, an activity aimed at supporting the collaboration of relevant stakeholders on the local/regional level is included in the Conception (task no. 2.1). The first line workers of police, education institutions, CSOs, churches and other relevant public authorities will have methodical support in order to prevent radicalization of youth and displays of extremism and to protect the vulnerable groups. The implementation of the task is planned for 2022 and following years⁴². As for the other tasks, the application of paragraphs of the Criminal Code regarding extremism and hate crime will be evaluated with the aim to propose an amendment to the Criminal Code if needed. The analytical capacity of the police regarding collection, processing, classification and evaluation of information in the field of combating extremism shall increase. The Conception put stress on the monitoring of the displays of radicalization and extremism, be it in the education institutions, on the internet or elsewhere. It also wants to strengthen the cooperation of relevant stakeholders on the national level, as well as on the regional level. Several tasks mentioned by the Conception focus on tackling prejudices and negative stereotypes on minorities like people

³⁸ Amnesty International (2021), [Výročná správa Amnesty International 2020/2021](#).

³⁹ Slovakia, Public Defender of Rights (*Verejná ochrankyňa práv*) (2021), [‘Slovensko je jedinou krajinou v Európe, v ktorej sa karantenujú celé rómske komunity’](#), 25 February 2021.

⁴⁰ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) (2020), [Koncepcia boja proti radikalizácii a extrémizmu do roku 2024](#).

⁴¹ Slovakia, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) (2020), [Koncepcia boja proti radikalizácii a extrémizmu do roku 2024, Príloha č. 2 – Úlohy](#).

⁴² Slovakia, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) (2020), [Koncepcia boja proti radikalizácii a extrémizmu do roku 2024, Príloha č. 2 – Úlohy](#).

of migrant origin, refugees, Roma, etc. and informing on the negative impact of spreading hatred⁴³.

Shortly after approving the new Conception of the fight against radicalization and extremism until 2024, the General prosecutor announced organizational changes at the office of special prosecution which is entitled to prosecute extremist crimes in Slovakia. The policy document stating the new organization of work at the Office of special prosecution was approved by the Government on 10 February 2021⁴⁴. The change was that the prosecutors who were entrusted with the prosecution of extremist crimes were newly entrusted also with the prosecution of the crimes of terrorism and organized crime which could reduce their capacity for dealing with extremist crime. This step raised concerns about the effectiveness of prosecution of extremist crime in the upcoming period⁴⁵.

As for the changes in legislation, the amendment of the Criminal Code introduced a crime of dangerous electronic harassment (Article 360b)⁴⁶. This crime involves actions committed by using the means of electronic communication like for instance cyberstalking, harassment, intimidation, threats and extortion, dissemination of personal or false information about the victim, exclusion from the group, identity theft, creation of false and ridiculous profiles and hate groups. The crime can be punished with the penalty of imprisonment of up to three years. ~~If the crime is committed out of specific motive (f.e. hate) it can be punished by a higher penalty~~ If the crime is committed on the basis of a special motive like out of hatred against a group of persons or individual person for their actual or alleged affiliation with any race, nation, nationality, ethnic group, for their actual or alleged origin, skin color, gender, sexual identity, political opinion or religion⁴⁷ it can be punished with a higher penalty (from one to four years of imprisonment)⁴⁸.

Extremist Crime

⁴³ Slovakia, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) (2020), [Konceptcia boja proti radikalizácii a extrémizmu do roku 2024, Príloha č. 2 – Úlohy](#).

⁴⁴ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (*Vláda SR*) (2021), [Návrh na zvýšenie počtu osôb určených na plnenie úloh Úradu špeciálnej prokuratúry Generálnej prokuratúry Slovenskej republiky a ich funkčné zaradenie](#), approved by the Government on 10 February 2021.

⁴⁵ Centre for the Research of Ethnicity and Culture (*Centrum pre výskum etnicity a kultúry*) (2021), [‘Pár poznámok k novej Konceptcii boja proti radikalizácii a extrémizmu’](#), *Menšinová politika 01/2021*.

⁴⁶ Slovakia, [Act no. 236/2021 Coll which amends the Act no. 300/2005 Coll Criminal Code as amended](#) (*Zákon č. 236/2021 Z.z., ktorý mení a dopĺňa zákon č. 300/2005 Z.z. Trestný zákon v znení neskorších predpisov*), 27 May 2021.

⁴⁷ Slovakia, [Act no. 300/2005 Coll Criminal Code as amended](#) (*Zákon č. 300/2005 Z.z. Trestný zákon v znení neskorších predpisov*), 2 July 2005, §140e).

⁴⁸ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada Slovenskej republiky*) (2021), [Návrh skupiny poslancov Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky na vydanie zákona, ktorým sa dopĺňa zákon č. 300/2005 Z.z. Trestný zákon v znení neskorších predpisov – schválené znenie zákona, §360b\)](#)

In Slovakia, the term hate crime is not introduced into legislation, rather the term extremist crime is used. The extremist crime include 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 belief⁴⁹.

According to the report on the activities of the Special Prosecutor's Office for 2020 submitted to the Parliament in October 2021⁵⁰, a large share of extremist crime has been committed in virtual space in form of hateful posts and comments. This may stem from the fact that during the pandemic, people spend much more time on the internet and on social networks⁵¹. In 2020, the Special Prosecutor's Office registered 148 new cases of extremist crime (which involve hate crime as well as extremist crime like producing and keeping extremist materials, defamation of nation, race and belief, incitement to national, racial and ethnic hatred). The expressions of hatred are in most cases directed against the Roma, however, the report admits that other persons targeted by the hatred (like people of migrant origin, LGBTI people) do not report the incidents to police⁵².

In 2020, the special prosecution led cases against 128 persons including persons from the previous year whose cases were pending:

- the crime of supporting and promoting of groups denying fundamental rights and freedoms (Article 422) – 14 convicted persons
- the crime of producing extremist materials (Article 422a) – 3 convicted persons
- the crime of spreading extremist materials (Article 422b) – 38 convicted persons
- the crime of keeping extremist materials (Article 422c) – 35 convicted persons

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

50 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 2019](#).

51 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 2019](#), p. 32

52 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 2019](#), pp. 31-35.

- the crime of defamation of nation, race and belief (Article 423) – 8 convicted persons
- the crimes of incitement to national, racial and ethnic hatred (Article 424) - 8 convicted persons
- the crime committed with a special motive (Article 140e) - 16 convicted persons⁵³.

Hate crime

NGO League for Human Rights published a detailed report on the expressions of hatred against migrants (including persons of Muslim faith, persons in need of international protection)⁵⁴. The report is based on the reports of national and international organizations, an analysis of existing legislation, case law and mapping of experiences with hatred carried out in 2021 (mentioned in section 1 of this chapter). According to the League for Human Rights report, there are no exact statistics on hate crime incidents towards persons of migrant origin living in Slovakia. The existing statistics on the number of victims are not split by country of origin, ethnicity or religion. It is also not known whether the victims of hatred against migrants have been compensated. As well as the hate crimes against migrants are underreported because of various reasons like language barrier, fear of losing their residence permit, lack of trust towards police, absence of knowledge that such incidents can be punished as a crime, etc. The low number of cases indicates that the extent of the crimes is unknown in Slovakia and not that their number is really that low. The report concludes that the perpetrators are not punished and the victims are not provided with adequate assistance and compensation. Besides the mentioned report, the League for Human Rights published videos in various language versions informing people of migrant origin on the various forms of hate crime and possible assistance they can receive⁵⁵.

In May, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family announced that people in material need will receive a special social benefit 333 EUR⁵⁶. This information was disinterpreted by the politicians of the far-right who published a video on Youtube

⁵³ 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 2019*, available at: <https://www.nrsr.sk/web/Default.aspx?sid=zakony/cpt&ZakZborID=13&CisObdobia=8&ID=607>, pp. 33.

⁵⁴ League for Human Rights (*Liga za ľudské práva*) (2021), [Utečenci a migranti ako obeť nenávisťných trestných činov – prevencia, pomoc a ochrana – právna analýza a zistenia z mapovania situácie v teréne](#) (*Refugees and migrants as victims of hate crimes - prevention, assistance and protection - legal analysis and findings from field mapping*).

⁵⁵ League for Human Rights (*Liga za ľudské práva*) (2021), [SalamSK – Bojujeme proti islamofóbii a podporujeme obeť nenávisťných trestných činov na Slovensku](#).

⁵⁶ Slovakia, The Central office of labour, social affairs and family (*Ústredie práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*) (2021), [Jednorazový príspevok 333 EUR na dieťa](#), 26 April 2021.

saying that only Roma will benefit from this financial contribution. The video was massively shared on social networks and received numerous hateful comments⁵⁷.

Chapter 3. Roma equality and inclusion

3.1 Policy developments in regards to the application of the EU Roma strategic Framework for equality, inclusion and participation for 2020-2030

<p>Please put down the name of the national Roma framework/Roma strategy/integrated set of policy measures and the link</p>	<p>Strategy for Equality, Inclusion and Roma Participation until 2030 Approved on April 7, 2021 https://www.romovia.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/1113/stategia_2030.pdf?csrt=16945392835427204406</p> <p>Evaluation and monitoring of the Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Equality, Inclusion and Roma Participation until 2030 : https://www.romovia.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/1113/hodnotenie_a_monitorovanie_strategie_2030_metodicky_dokument.pdf?csrt=16945392835427204406</p>
<p>Please add a hyperlink if the strategy is publicly available.</p>	<p>https://www.romovia.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/1113/stategia_2030.pdf?csrt=16945392835427204406</p>
<p>Did an evaluation of the previous Roma inclusion strategy take place? If yes, please provide reference</p>	<p>Yes, evaluations for 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 are available:</p> <p>2019: https://www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/romovia/monitorovacia_sprava_za_rok_2019.pdf</p> <p>2018: https://www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/romovia/dokumenty_na_stiahnutie/Monitorovacia%20sprava%20za%20rok%202018.pdf</p> <p>2017: https://www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/romovia/np_docs/np_mah/monitorovacia%20sprava_2017.pdf</p> <p>2016: https://www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/romovia/np_docs/np_mah/monitorovacia%20sprava_2016.pdf</p>

⁵⁷ Denník N (2021), '[Facebook ovládli nadávky na Rómov. Krajniak vysvetľuje, že 333 Eur bude hlavne pre samoživiteľky](#)', 18 May 2021.

	<p>External evaluation of Strategy for Roma Integration 2020 produced in 2019: https://www.minv.sk/swift_data/source/romovia/np_docs/np_mah/Externe_hodnotenie_Strategie_AP2016_2018.pdf</p> <p>The external evaluation of Strategy for Roma Integration 2020 for year 2020 is not yet available.</p>
Does the strategy use the (headline) indicators as suggested in the new portfolio of indicators?	Yes
Was Roma civil society involved in the development of the strategy? Please provide examples?	<p>Yes. Representatives of Roma civil society were selected as heads of specific chapters and also participated in leading working groups. Zuzana Havírová, director of the Roma Research and Advocacy Center, was the leading expert in the field of combating antigypsyism and Roma participation, and Ingrid Kosová, the director of Quo Vadis was head expert in the field of education (Annex no. 2 on page 60 Strategy for Equality, Inclusion and Roma Participation until 2030 https://www.romovia.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/1113/strategia_2030.pdf?csrt=16945392835427204406)</p> <p>The full list of organizations can be found in Annex No. 1, on page 58 in Strategy for Equality, Inclusion and Roma Participation until 2030. https://www.romovia.vlada.gov.sk/site/assets/files/1113/strategia_2030.pdf?csrt=16945392835427204406</p>
Were NHRIs and/or equality bodies involved in the strategy development? Please provide example?	Yes. The National Slovak Center for Human Rights was part of the working group for the Chapter of antigypsyism and Roma participation.
Does the new strategy link to the operational programmes for the new EU funding period 2021-2027?	Yes, the action plans for individual chapters envisage the financing of individual activities from the operational program.

3.2 Legal and policy developments or measures directly or indirectly addressing Roma/Travellers inclusion

The closure of the schools and shift towards distance learning due to the pandemic that continued in 2021 prevented children from socially disadvantaged households, including Romani children, from accessing education. The Public Defender of Rights in her legal analysis regarding the extraordinary interruption of full-time schooling within the framework of compulsory school attendance

during the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic states that the decision of the Minister of Education of 4 December 2020 may have violated the prohibition of discrimination and the principle of equality under Art. 12 par. 1,2 and Art. 13 par. 2 of the Constitution due to social origin (in relation to pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds), property and other circumstances that may have an impact on the access to the possibility of online distance education.⁵⁸ As of 18 January 2021, the Ministry of Education made the full-time form of education conditional on testing of school employees and parents in kindergartens, first grade of primary schools, second stage of primary schools for children in small groups (1-5 pupils), in special schools, in the last year of secondary schools.⁵⁹ All primary and secondary school students were fully opened in the districts with the best epidemiological situation in mid-April 2021.⁶⁰

A representative survey by the Center for Educational Analysis and the Comenius Institute on the course and impact of distance learning in the 2020/2021 school year showed that 10 percent of pupils were almost never involved in distance learning and the same proportion were educated exclusively offline, mainly children from socially disadvantaged backgrounds and marginalized Roma communities.⁶¹ Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic aimed to remedy this situation through the project "Summer School in Primary Schools" in August 2021. The aim of this project was to provide primary school pupils with the opportunity to acquire or consolidate knowledge, skills and competencies that they had insufficiently acquired during the school year 2020/2021, mainly as a result of long-term distance learning. One of the three selection criteria was the involvement of students from risk groups. Pupils from marginalized Roma communities were also included among the risk groups of pupils.⁶² Applicants (primary schools) could receive 600 EUR for the Summer School lasting four to six hours a day and 1,000 EUR if the children are at school from seven to ten hours a day. Summer schools lasted three weeks. Schools could also carry out activities simultaneously in several groups. The maximum financial

⁵⁸ Slovakia, Public Defender of Rights (*Verejný ochranca práv*) (2021), [Právna analýza vo veci mimoriadneho prerušenia prezenčnej školskej výučby v rámci povinnej školskej dochádzky počas tzv. druhej vlny pandémie ochorenia COVID-19 \(v období od 11. októbra 2020 do 14. decembra 2020\)](#), p. 40.

⁵⁹ Slovakia, Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo školstva SR*) (2021), ['Minister of Education B. Gröhling: We have a plan to return the children to school. However, it depends on the current situation'](#), 4 January 2021.

⁶⁰ Slovakia, Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo školstva SR*) (2021), [Return to school. Methodical guidelines of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic.](#)

⁶¹ Slovakia, Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic (*Najvyšší kontrolný úrad*) (2021), ['Zmiernenie dopadov pandémie na vzdelávanie na vzdelávanie žiakov musí byť \(vyššou\) prioritou'](#), *Analytic information 1/2021*.

⁶² Slovakia, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of Slovak republic (*Ministerstvo školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu SR*) (2021), [Výzva na predloženie žiadostí o poskytnutie finančných prostriedkov na rozvojový projekt zameraný na organizáciu Letnej školy na základnej škole.](#)

amount of the contribution depended on the number of pupils attending the school (from 2,000 to 8,000 EUR). In the summer of 2021, a total of 411 primary schools took part in the project, of which 77 were from the Banská Bystrica Region, 73 from the Prešov Region and 66 from the Košice Region which are all regions with the highest number of marginalized Roma communities.⁶³

The Zero action plan of the Strategy for an inclusive approach in education for 2021 (adopted already in 2020), prepared by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic, also contains the area of desegregation of the education system. Within this area, the Ministry of Education has determined the obligation to introduce the concept of segregation and the principle of inclusion into the School Act no. 245/2008 Coll. The aim of this legislation was to have a clear definition of the concept of segregation, to avoid ambiguous interpretations of this concept and to have a legal basis for desegregation and inclusive education. Another measure should be the obligation to take into account the prohibition of segregation in the creation of school districts and thus prevent the emergence of segregated schools⁶⁴. The amendment of the School act was approved by the Parliament on 20 October 2021 and introduces the definition of inclusive education into legislation and the reform of the advisory system in education⁶⁵. The expected changes regarding segregation were not adopted, rather the concept of inclusive education was promoted by this amendment⁶⁶. As for the other steps taken, the policy document Strategy of inclusive approach in upbringing and education has been sent to interdepartmental commentary procedure in November 2021⁶⁷ and was approved by the Government in December 2021⁶⁸.

In connection with the disease Covid-19, the Resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic no. 196 of 2 April 2020 approved the Plan for the solution of the Covid-19 disease in marginalized Roma communities, which states that if more

⁶³ Slovakia, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of Slovak republic (*Ministerstvo školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu SR*) (2021), [Zoznam úspešných žiadateľov finančnej podpory na rozvojový projekt Letnej školy ZŠ – školský rok 2020/2021](#).

⁶⁴ Slovakia, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu SR*) (2020), [Nultý akčný plán Stratégie inkluzívneho prístupu vo výchove a vzdelávaní na rok 2021](#).

⁶⁵ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2021), [Vládny návrh 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](#) (Government Act amending Act no. 245/2008 Coll., On upbringing and education (School Act) and on amendments to certain acts).

⁶⁶ Kadlečíková, J. (2021), ['Podpora pre inkluzívne vzdelávanie tu je, no desegregácia nateraz zaostáva'](#) (There is support of inclusive education, but the desegregation is lagging behind), *Menšinová politika* 3/2021.

⁶⁷ Slovakia, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo školstva, vedy, výskumu a športu SR*) (2021), [LP/2021/659 Stratégia inkluzívneho prístupu vo výchove a vzdelávaní – medzirezortné pripomienkové konanie](#).

⁶⁸ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (*Vláda SR*) (2021), [Stratégia inkluzívneho prístupu vo výchove a vzdelávaní](#) (Strategy of inclusive approach in upbringing and education), adopted by the Government on 8 December 2021.

than 10 percent of persons in the Roma communities are tested positive for coronavirus, it is necessary to quarantine the settlement as a whole.⁶⁹ In February 2021, the Public Defender of Rights (ombudsman) turned to the General Prosecutor and informed him of her findings in connection with the lockdown of marginalized Roma communities. According to her, the decrees of regional public health authorities, which quarantine settlements with the Roma population, are in conflict with the law. The Ombudsman drew attention to the problem of quarantining entire Roma communities as early as 2020. According to her, the implementation of this measure is discriminatory, lacks a justification and a clear definition of its duration.⁷⁰ Despite the warnings of the General Prosecutor and the Public Defender of Rights, entire Roma communities were quarantined in 2021 again. In March 2021, 12 Roma communities were quarantined, and a total of 45 localities in which Roma live were quarantined since the beginning of the pandemic.⁷¹ By the end of 2021, the Prosecutor General's Office has not issued a decision in this matter.

In April 2021, the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Roma Communities launched an information campaign entitled "Join us, come and get vaccinated!" specifically targeting Romani communities.⁷² To increase vaccination, the field workers in various helping professions from national projects helped in localities with marginalized Roma communities. They informed about the registration procedure and, if necessary, also assisted in the registration of those residents who do not have access to the Internet. Also in June 2021, the Intervention Team of the Ministry of Health, Healthy Regions and the Rescue Health Service of the Slovak Republic, in cooperation with the non-profit organization Odysseus, launched a pilot project of low-threshold vaccination. The aim of this project was to increase the vaccination of people with difficult access to health services, such as the homeless or residents of marginalized Roma communities.⁷³ In the first month of this project, approximately 2,000 people were vaccinated. Nevertheless, vaccination with the

⁶⁹ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (*Vláda SR*) (2020), [Plan to address Covid-19 in marginalized Roma settlements](#) (*Plán riešenie ochorenia Covid-19 v marginalizovaných rómskych osídleniach*), adopted by the Government on 2 April 2020.

⁷⁰ Slovakia, Public Defender of Rights (*Verejná ochrankyňa práv*) (2021), [‘Slovensko je jedinou krajinou v Európe, v ktorej sa stále karantenujú celé rómske komunity’](#), press release from 25 February 2021.

⁷¹ RTVS News (2021), [‘V karanténe je aktuálne 12 osád, upozorňuje splnomocnenkyňa vlády pre rómske komunity’](#), 24 March 2021.

⁷² Slovakia, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*) (2021), [‘Na podporu očkovania vznikla ďalšia kampaň, tentokrát sa zameriava na rómske komunity’](#), Press release from 1 April 2021.

⁷³ Slovakia, Governmental Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities (*Splnomocnenkyňa vlády SR pre rómske komunity*) (2021), [‘Na podporu očkovania vznikla ďalšia kampaň, tento krát sa zameriava na rómske komunity’](#), 1 April 2021.

first dose of the vaccine in such vulnerable groups of people still lags significantly behind the national average.⁷⁴

In May 2021, the Public Defender of Rights published the results of a survey on the observance of women's rights during childbirth, which point to serious violations of women's rights, including segregation and ill-treatment of Romani women in maternity hospitals. Segregation consists in placing Romani patients in separate rooms, which showed signs of a lower standard, such as the absence of space for washing a child, and these rooms are also overcrowded as they try to place all Romani patients together. According to the report, Romani women face ill-treatment and degrading treatment, such as verbal pointing. In communication with the medical staff, they also encountered allusions to frequent sexual intercourse with a partner and a number of children. Some women have also described physical violence or pain while sewing birth injuries because sewing was performed without adequate use of painkillers.⁷⁵

In June 2021, the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic issued a judgment rejecting the appeal of plaintiffs (Roma) against the defendant (pub owner) in 2014. In 2014, Roma appealed against the decision of the Regional Court of Appeal in Prešov, which rejected their case of racial discrimination in access to services in the hospitality in the village of Čaklov from 2005. The case lasts for almost 16 years, the court of the first instance repeatedly ruled in favor of the Roma lawsuit, but the Court of Appeal annulled these rulings. According to the Roma legal representative, they will continue the lawsuit.⁷⁶

In September 2021, a government regulation came into force providing for one-off financial assistance to dependent children under the age of 18.⁷⁷ The amount of the allowance (paid in the amount of EUR 25.50 per month) increased once in September 2021 by the amount of EUR 74.50, in October 2021, the child allowance was paid in the total amount of EUR 100. This one-off contribution does not apply to those who were paid a one-time contribution in August 2021 in the amount of 333 Eur,⁷⁸ because this support was paid only to those children whose parents were provided with assistance in material need between March 2020 and April 2021. This means that they lost their jobs due to the Covid-19 pandemic and could not find a job within 6 months.

⁷⁴ Slovakia, Healthy Regions (*Zdravé regióny*) (2021), [Press release from 15 July 2021](#).

⁷⁵ Slovakia, Public Defender of Rights (*Verejný ochranca práv*) (2021), [Hovorme otvorene o pôrodoch: ľudskoprávny prístup pri poskytovaní zdravotnej starostlivosti pri pôrodoch](#).

⁷⁶ European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination (2021), [Flash report](#).

⁷⁷ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (*Vláda SR*) (2021), [Government Regulation of the Slovak Republic no. 336/2021 from 8 September 2021](#) (*Nariadenie vlády SR č. 336/2021 z 8. Septembra 2021*).

⁷⁸ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (*Vláda SR*) (2021), [Government Regulation of The Slovak Republic no. 245/2021 Coll](#) (*Nariadenie vlády SR č. 245/2021 z 8. Septembra 2021*).

In the period from 15 February 2021 to 31 October 2021, an electronic and assisted census of the population of the Slovak Republic took place and the inhabitants could choose two nationalities.⁷⁹ This means that Roma could apply for Roma and Slovak nationality at the same time. Several campaigns have been launched to support the selection of Roma nationality, for example "Proud Roma in Free Slovakia"⁸⁰ or "Apply to your nationality".⁸¹ The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic has not yet published the results of the census.

In June 2021, the Government of the Slovak Republic publicly apologized for a police raid, which took place in 2013 in Moldava nad Bodvou, during which police officers broke into a Roma locality on Budulovská Street. After their departure, dwellings were demolished, people were beaten and injured. In December 2021, the Regional Court in Košice stopped the prosecution of the last defendant, who was being prosecuted for perjury. The prosecutor filed a complaint against the court's resolution⁸² (for more information on this case please see chapter 2 of this report).⁸³

In November 2021, the Government of the Slovak Republic apologized for unlawful sterilizing of women from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. The practices of the previous regime in 1966-1989 related to the reproductive behavior of women from socially disadvantaged backgrounds were assessed by the Government as inadmissible. The Government condemned the use of sterilizations as the means of regulating the birth rate of the socially disadvantaged, which concerned mainly the Romani women. According to the Government, this practice interfered with the human rights of the concerned women.⁸⁴

⁷⁹ Slovakia, [Act no. 223/2019 Coll on the Census of population, housing and dwellings in 2021 and on amendments to certain acts](#) (Zákon č. 223/2019 Z.z. o sčítaní obyvateľov, domov a bytov v roku 2021 a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov), 18 June 2019; Slovakia, Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (Štatistický úrad SR) (2021), [Decision of the Chairman of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic no. 10900-2172/2021 of 21 April 2021 on the start of the census to ensure the assisted census](#) (Rozhodnutie predsedu Štatistického úradu SR č. 10900-2172/2021 z 21.4.2021 o začatí dosčítavania na zabezpečenie asistovaného sčítania).

⁸⁰ Facebook page of the campaign [Proud Roma in Slovakia](#).

⁸¹ Slovakia, Governmental Plenipotentiary for national minorities (*Splnomocnenec vlády SR pre národnostné menšiny*), [Rozmanitosť obohacuje – Sčítanie obyvateľov 2021](#).

⁸² *SME Daily/Korzár Košice* (2021), [‘Súd zastavil stíhanie poslednej obžalovanej v kauze razie v Moldave’](#), 10 December 2021.

⁸³ *PolicaJnarazia.sk* (2021), [‘Tlačová správa: 8 rokov čakania na spravodlivosť’](#), 18 June 2021.

⁸⁴ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (*Vláda SR*) (2021), [Ospravedlnenie vlády Slovenskej republiky za sterilizácie žien v rozpore so zákonom](#) (Excuse the Government of the Slovak Republic for sterilizing women in violation of the law), adopted on 24 November 2021.

By the Resolution of the Government no. 28437/2021 of 8 December 2021, Andrea Bučková was revoked from the position of Governmental Plenipotentiary for the Roma Communities and Ján Hero was appointed.⁸⁵

In December 2021, the Office of the Governmental Plenipotentiary for the Roma Communities opened a commentary procedure of the action plans stemming from the Strategy for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of the Roma until 2030. The public could submit their comments on five actions plans (education, employment, housing, health, combating anti-Roma racism and support Roma participation) by 14 December 2021⁸⁶.

At the end of December 2021, the Office of the Governmental Plenipotentiary for the Roma Communities published the results in the order of the second statistical survey EU SILC MRK 2020 which was prepared in cooperation with the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic. The aim of the field survey at the end of 2020 was to collect representative and comparable data on the level and distribution of income, poverty and social exclusion of marginalized Roma communities on the basis of the EU SILC methodology. As in the previous survey, the EU SILC MRK 2020 confirmed a significant difference between the living conditions of people from Roma communities and the majority population. Overall, 87% of households in marginalized Roma communities are at risk of poverty (11% for the general majority population) and up to 52% face severe material deprivation (6% for the general majority population). In addition to the standard questionnaires, a question module focusing on Roma discrimination (Module FRA) was used for the first time. Issues that examined the impact of the COVID crisis (in the first wave) on Roma communities were also included in its current framework. According to the results, almost 20% of households in marginalized Roma communities reported a deterioration in their financial situation during the crisis, which is directly related to the pandemic. Another 8% of households indicated a deterioration in the financial situation unrelated to the crisis. The most common reason for the deterioration of the financial situation in connection with the COVID crisis is the reduced demand for ancillary work (30%), job loss (27%) and limitation of the activation work (18%).⁸⁷

⁸⁵ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (*Vláda SR*) (2021), '[Návrh na odvolanie splnomocnenkyne vlády Slovenskej republiky pre rómske komunity a na vymenovanie splnomocnenca vlády Slovenskej republiky pre rómske komunity](#)', adopted by the Government on 8 December 2021.

⁸⁶ Slovakia, Office of the Governmental Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities (*Úrad Splnomocnenca Vlády SR pre rómske komunity*) (2021), '[Verejné pripomienkovanie: Akčné plány na obdobie rokov 2022 – 2024 k Stratégii rovnosti, inklúzie a participácie Rómov do roku 2030](#)', 8 December 2021.

⁸⁷ Slovakia, Office of the Governmental Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities (*Úrad splnomocnenca vlády SR pre rómske komunity*) (2021), '[Aj posledné zisťovanie EU SILC MRK potvrdilo značný rozdiel medzi životnými podmienkami obyvateľov rómskych komunit a majority](#)', Press Release, 22 December 2021.

In January 2022, the Value for Money Department of the Ministry of Finance published an analysis on the impact of pandemic on people living in Roma communities. According to the published findings, people from marginalized Roma communities died in the second wave of the pandemic twice as often as the majority mainly due to the lower vaccination coverage. As for the unemployment rate, people from marginalized Roma communities were similarly affected as the general majority population. However, households in material need lost part of their financial support in the form of activation contributions during the pandemic. In addition, subsidized lunches for children were not provided during the closed school period⁸⁸.

⁸⁸ Slovakia, Value for Money Department of the Ministry of finance of the Slovak Republic (*Útvar hodnota za peniaze Ministerstva financií SR*) (2022), [Vplyv pandémie na marginalizované rómske komunity](#) (*The impact of the pandemic on marginalized Roma communities*).

Chapter 4. Asylum, visas, migration, borders and integration

4.1 Number of beneficiaries of international protection whose protection status was revoked in 2021

Country	Cessation of refugee status		Cessation of subsidiary protection	
	Number of refugee status revoked	Main reasons	Number of subsidiary protection status revoked	Main reasons
Slovakia	0 ⁸⁹	N/A	0 ⁹⁰	N/A

⁸⁹ Pursuant to the information provided by the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter only as the „Migration Office“) by an email on 25 January 2022.

⁹⁰ Pursuant to the information provided by the Migration Office by an email on 25 January 2022. In one case, the Migration Office decided not to extend the subsidiary protection in 2021.

4.2 National border monitoring mechanisms

Country	Legal source providing for border monitoring	Organisation(s) responsible for monitoring	Is the monitoring body at the at same time the National Preventative Mechanism? (Y/N)	Are reports publicly available? [if yes, please add hyperlink]	Number of monitoring operations in 2021	Is monitoring (at least partially) funded by the EU? If so, under which modalities?
Slovakia	Agreement between the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic and UNHCR about agreement on understanding and mutual cooperation. ⁹¹	UNHCR	No. The National Preventive Mechanism has not been established in Slovakia so far ⁹² .	-	One monitoring operation (16 -17 September 2021) ⁹³ The monitoring operation took place at: - Border Control Department at the Vyšné Nemecké Police Force - responsible for border control at the border crossing and the so-called green border, - Border Control Department at the Ubl'a Police Force - responsible for border control at the border crossing and the so-called	-

⁹¹ Slovakia, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo zahraničných vecí a európskych záležitostí SR*), [Oznámenie č. 79/2014 Z.z. Ministerstva zahraničných vecí SR](#), 28 February 2014. (the whole text is not published).

⁹² Slovakia, Public Defender of Rights (*Verejná ochrankyňa práv*) (2021), [Report on the Activities of Public Defender of Rights for 2020](#) (*Správa o činnosti Verejného ochrancu práv za obdobie roka 2020*), p. 87.

⁹³ Information provided by the UNHCR via e-mail communication from 28 September 2021.

					green border, - Border Control Department at the Zboj Police Corps - responsible for the control of the so-called green border ⁹⁴ .	
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⁹⁴ Information provided by the Office of Border and Foreign Police via e-mail communication on 10 January 2022.

Chapter 5. Information society, privacy and data protection

5.1 Legal and policy developments or measures that have been implemented related to data protection and private life with regards to security issues

Since 1 January 2021, two Acts with implications for data management and data protection have been subjected to legislative procedure in Slovakia.

First, the Act no. 310/2021 Coll. amending the Act no. 177/2018 Coll. on Certain Measures for Reducing Administrative Burdens by Using Public Administration Information Systems and on Amendments to Certain Acts (Anti-Bureaucracy Act) was passed on 24 July 2021, coming into effect on 1 January 2022⁹⁵. This Act reduces the administrative burden of natural persons and legal entities through the so-called third wave of reduction of administrative burden and expands the scope of data registered in public administration information systems. It also relieves natural persons and legal entities from the obligation to submit in paper form basic certificates and administrative documents, such as birth certificates, marriage certificates, or confirmation of receiving pension savings. This Act, however, does not introduce any new provisions related to data protection or security issues.

Second, the draft of the new Data Act, which has long been in preparation, has finally entered legislative procedure⁹⁶. As of 7 January 2022, it has been subjected to the interdepartmental comment procedure and is now in the phase of the evaluation of this procedure. According to the spokesperson of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic⁹⁷ that carries the auspices over this legal proposal, this act will regulate data protection and data

⁹⁵ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná Rada SR*) (2021), [Act No. 310/2021 Coll. amending Act no. 177/2018 Coll. on Certain Measures for Reducing Administrative Burdens by Using Public Administration Information Systems and on Amendments to Certain Acts \(Anti-Bureaucracy Act\) as amended by Act no. 221/2019 Coll. and amending certain laws](#), 24 July 2021.

⁹⁶ Slovakia, The Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo investícií, regionálneho rozvoja a informatizácie Slovenskej republiky*) (2021), [Draft Act LP/2021/55 Data Act](#).

⁹⁷ Information provided on request via email by a spokesperson of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic, 5 October 2021.

management in the following 13 areas: a) administration, ensuring access to and use of selected categories of data registered in public administration information systems, b) the competence of the Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic in the area of administration, ensuring access to and use of selected categories of data registered in public administration information systems; c) the rights and obligations of public authorities in the administration, access and use of selected categories of data registered in public administration information systems vis-à-vis the Ministry, d) obligations of public authorities towards natural persons and legal entities in the administration, access and use of selected categories of data registered in public administration information systems, e) the rights of natural persons and legal entities in the area of selected categories of data registered in public administration information systems, f) significant public interest in the field of data, (g) the status of analytical units, and their activities of analytical units; and making data available through the analytical module for analytical activity, h) the data curator and his rights and obligations, i) the concept of my data and the module of my data, j) basic code lists, k) reference data, l) data interoperability, m) open data. The exact timeframe of further steps of the legislative procedure is not yet know.

With respect to the proposed Digital Services Act, the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic together with the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic have issued a preliminary statement that articulates the official position of the Slovak Republic in the negotiations of the European Council⁹⁸. The preliminary statement is generally supportive of this Act and contains three scenarios in which the Slovak legal environment can be harmonized with the provisions of the Digital Services Act.

In November 2021, the Slovak government announced the intention to establish the Center for Combating Hybrid Threats. According to the available information, this Center should function under the Ministry of Interior and employ 50 experts to combat the hateful and harmful content⁹⁹. As of 7 January, 2022, no further details regarding the operation and mission of this Center have been announced.

⁹⁸ Slovakia, The Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo hospodárstva SR*) (2021), [Preliminary statement on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the single market in digital services \(Digital Services Act\) and amending Directive 2000/31/EC](#).

⁹⁹ Euractiv (2021), „[Slovensko vybuduje Centrum boja proti hybridným hrozbám. Zafinancuje ho Plán obnovy](#)“. Published on 18 November 2021.

On 14 December 2021, the National Council of the Slovak Republic adopted the Act No. 533/2021 Coll.¹⁰⁰. This Act amends the acts No. 452/2021 Coll. on electronic communications and the Act no. 355/2007 Coll. on the protection, promotion and development of public health. The aim of this legal amendment is to specify conditions under which public health authorities can obtain personal data from electronic communications providers and retain them. More specifically, this act introduces an amendment of the Article 117 of the Act No. 452/2021 Coll. on electronic communications, specifying that “During the emergency situation or state of emergency declared in connection with a pandemic of a contagious human disease, the company will provide data on the participant [...] in the range of a telephone number for the purpose of protecting persons from the imminent danger of the spread of a communicable disease or for the purpose of taking measures in the event of danger to life and health” and that “The Office of Public Health of the Slovak Republic, after taking appropriate technical and organizational measures^{136a}) to protect privacy and personal data, may process and store the provided data according to the previous paragraph for the necessary time, for a maximum of 60 days from the date of their provision; after this period, the Public Health Office of the Slovak Republic will immediately destroy these data”.

5.2 Artificial intelligence and big data

As of 7 January 2022, Slovakia does not have any legislative provisions that would legally define the terms Big Data, Internet of Things, and Artificial Intelligence and specify the conditions of data collection via these means. However, in November 2020, Permanent Commission for Ethics and Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (CERAI) (*Stála komisia pre etiku a reguláciu umelej inteligencie*) was established by the Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic. CERAI is an independent professional and advisory body whose role is to assess ethical, societal and legal issues related to research, development, deployment and use of technologies using AI elements and systems. As such, it is the first specialized

¹⁰⁰ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2021), [Act No. 533/2021 supplementing Act no. 452/2021 Coll. on electronic communications and amending Act no. 355/2007 Coll. on the protection, promotion and development of public health](#) (*Zákon, ktorým sa dopĺňa zákon č. 452/2021 Z. z. o elektronických komunikáciách a ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon č. 355/2007 Z. z. o ochrane, podpore a rozvoji verejného zdravia*). 14 December 2021.

governmental body that focuses on artificial intelligence. In 2021, CERAI published two documents that define its mission and goals for the upcoming period, namely the document Background and focus of the Standing Committee on Ethics and the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (*Východiská a zameranie Stálej komisie pre etiku a reguláciu umelej inteligencie*)¹⁰¹ and the document List of initial initiatives of the Standing Committee on Ethics and the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence for 2021 (*Zoznam východiskových iniciatív Stálej komisie pre etiku a reguláciu umelej inteligencie pre rok 2021*)¹⁰². In these two documents, CERAI committed to contribute to the development of artificial intelligence in a responsible and ethical manner and in such a way that it would respect the human dignity of the individual, their fundamental rights and freedoms, and the rule of law. CERAI also issued the "Opinion of the Standing Committee on Ethics and Regulation artificial intelligence to the draft Act on Artificial Intelligence"¹⁰³, in which it responded to 22 questions formulated by the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic about the proposed Artificial Intelligence regulation. This opinion served as the basis for the preparation of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic's preliminary statement on the proposed Artificial Intelligence regulation. As of 7 January 2022, this preliminary statement has passed the interdepartmental comment round and its final version has been published¹⁰⁴. With respect to fundamental rights, it emphasizes the need to promote three principles: 1. ethical design of artificial intelligence applications, the primary bearers of which are naturally creators – developers, 2. the application of the human-centered approach, which is a fundamental pillar of this legislative standard and the protection of human dignity, 3. human surveillance as a key point in the use of artificial intelligence applications¹⁰⁵. According to the spokesperson of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic, this statement articulates the official position of the Slovak Republic

¹⁰¹ Slovakia, Standing Committee on Ethics and the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (*Stála komisia pre etiku a reguláciu umelej inteligencie*) (2021), [Background and focus of the Standing Committee on Ethics and the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence](#) (*Východiská a zameranie Stálej komisie pre etiku a reguláciu umelej inteligencie*).

¹⁰² Slovakia, Standing Committee on Ethics and the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (*Stála komisia pre etiku a reguláciu umelej inteligencie*) (2021), [List of initial initiatives of the Standing Committee on Ethics and the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence for 2021](#) (*Zoznam východiskových iniciatív Stálej komisie pre etiku a reguláciu umelej inteligencie pre rok 2021*).

¹⁰³ Slovakia, Standing Committee on Ethics and the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (*Stála komisia pre etiku a reguláciu umelej inteligencie*) (2021), [Opinion of the Standing Committee on Ethics and Regulation artificial intelligence to the draft Act on Artificial Intelligence](#) (*Stanovisko Stálej komisie pre etiku a reguláciu umelej inteligencie k návrhu Aktu o umelej inteligencii*).

¹⁰⁴ Slovakia, The Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo investícií, regionálneho rozvoja a informatizácie Slovenskej republiky*) (2021), [Preliminary Statement on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down harmonized rules in the field of artificial intelligence \(Artificial Intelligence Act\) and amending certain legislative acts of the Union](#).

¹⁰⁵ Slovakia, The Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo investícií, regionálneho rozvoja a informatizácie Slovenskej republiky*) (2021), [Preliminary Statement on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down harmonized rules in the field of artificial intelligence \(Artificial Intelligence Act\) and amending certain legislative acts of the Union](#).

in the negotiations of the European Council.¹⁰⁶ On 29 November 2021, CERAI issued a public call for experts in the field of ethics and regulation of artificial intelligence with the intention to create a publicly accessible list of experts dealing with the topic of AI ethics and regulation in some form. This map of experts should be publicly and free of charge accessible to the general public¹⁰⁷.

In October 2020, Kempelen Institute of Intelligent Technologies (KInIT) has also been established in Bratislava, Slovakia. KInIT is an independent, non-profit institute dedicated to intelligent technology research whose aim is to improve Slovakia's competitiveness by amassing diverse talent in a multidisciplinary research environment focused on intelligent technologies, connect the private and public sectors through active co-operation, education and support for evidence-based decision-making, and encourage responsible innovation, expansion of knowledge, talent cultivation¹⁰⁸. KInIT is the first specialized research institute that focuses on artificial intelligence and in the course of 2021 has been active in contributing to the discussion about the development of artificial intelligence both in Slovakia and globally. KInIT also formulated its official stance regarding the proposed Artificial Intelligence regulation¹⁰⁹, which they based both on the existing research and experiences from IT sector. In their official stance, the researchers from KInIT mainly called for more precise definitions, underlined the importance of the amended Proposal to include the ethical implications in the binding part of the regulation to place conformity to ethics at its core, pinpointed the potential dangers of the double-track effect if the proposed regulation stays in its current form, proposed to categorise deepfakes as high-risk AI systems and we criticise the lack of definition of inappropriate use of deepfakes in AIA, and urged the new Proposal to consider subjecting public authorities to administrative penalties, too, to equalize the conformity with given rules between citizens and public authorities at the same time. KInIT further joined the initiative calling on Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to reject a media exemption in the Digital Service Act (DSA). On their official website they state that „The media exemption clause threatens to be a step backward on the status quo. It would reverse years of progress in the fight against hate speech and disinformation online, preventing very large online platforms from downranking, deleting,

¹⁰⁶ Information provided on request by email by a spokesperson of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic, 5 October 2021.

¹⁰⁷ Slovakia, Standing Committee on Ethics and the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (*Stála komisia pre etiku a reguláciu umelej inteligencie*) (2021), „[News](#)“. Official website.

¹⁰⁸ Kempelen Institute for Intelligent Technologies. „[About us](#)“. Official website.

¹⁰⁹ Mesarčík, M., Solárová, S., Podoužek, J., Bieliková, M. (2021), [Stance on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council Laying down Harmonised Rules on Artificial Intelligence \(Artificial Intelligence Act\) and Amending Certain Union Legislative Acts](#). Kempelen Institute for Intelligent Technologies.

or even labeling any content coming from a press publication — regardless of whether a given post is actively peddling hateful, patently false or otherwise harmful content¹¹⁰.

CERAI and KInIT thus represent first two specialized bodies whose aim is to actively contribute to the development and regulation of artificial intelligence in Slovakia.

On 10 December 2021, The Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization (MIRRI) of the Slovak Republic has joined the National Platform for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Slovakia - AISlovakIA. AISlovakIA is a neutral, independent and non-profit platform whose ambition is to develop excellence and bring together experts and those interested in artificial intelligence in Slovakia. The National Artificial Intelligence Platform - AISlovakIA is an initiative of the Center for Artificial Intelligence, a non-profit interest association of legal entities. AISlovakIA supports cooperation between all research institutions in Slovakia, including the Slovak Academy of Sciences and the private sector, in order to develop and implement innovations with elements of artificial intelligence in industry, as well as in other public or private sector services. The aim of AISlovakIA is to support maintaining competitiveness and promoting technological sovereignty¹¹¹. The decision of MIRRI to join AISlovakIA has been welcomed both by the chairman of the board of the Center for Artificial Intelligence as well as by the representatives of academia. On this occasion, the Minister of Investment, Regional Development and Informatization, Veronika Remišová, committed to contribute to building a comprehensive digital and innovative ecosystem in order to help Slovakia become one of the most successful, modern countries using national innovation potential¹¹².

As of 7 January 2021, the Office for the Personal Data Protection has not issued any statement regarding the implementation of COVID-19 vaccinations certificates. According to the spokesperson of the Office for the Personal Data Protection¹¹³, as of 7 October 2021, the Office has received one complaint concerning the violation of personal data protection in relation to COVID-19 vaccination certificates. The proceeding to inspect this complaint has been initiated.

¹¹⁰ Kempelen Institute for Intelligent Technologies. „[KInIT signed a letter to MEPs to reject a media exemption in the Digital Service Act](#)“. Official website. Published on 14 November 2021.

¹¹¹ National Platform for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Slovakia – AISlovakIA. Official website. Available at <https://aislovakia.com>.

¹¹² Slovakia, The Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo investícií, regionálneho rozvoja a informatizácie Slovenskej republiky*) (2021), „[MIRRI je členom Národnej platformy pre rozvoj umelej inteligencie](#)“. Official website. Published on 10 December, 2021.

¹¹³ Information provided on request by email by a spokesperson of the Office for the Personal Data Protection, 5 October 2021.

Actor*	Type*	Description	Are Human Rights issues mentioned? (yes/no)	Reference
Government	Other: opinion	<p>Permanent Commission for Ethics and Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (CERAI) issued the "Opinion of the Standing Committee on Ethics and Regulation artificial intelligence to the draft Act on Artificial Intelligence". In this document, it responded to 22 questions formulated by the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic about the proposed Artificial Intelligence regulation. This opinion served as the basis for the preparation of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic's preliminary statement on the proposed Artificial Intelligence regulation. It also addressed the issue of fundamental rights, by assessing the sufficiency of legal protection of fundamental rights defined in the draft Act on Artificial Intelligence.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The sufficiency of fundamental rights protection, as defined by the draft Act on Artificial Intelligence, is being evaluated.</p>	<p>In the opinion, CERAI states that the scope of the three areas of public interest that the AIA wants to protect (ie health, safety and fundamental rights) "could probably be extended, resp. the individual areas should be better defined. The needs for "binding" protection are sufficiently defined - Article 5 covers the scope of prohibited practices very well (can we consider these as red lines?) and at the same time Art. 14 clearly defines human supervision of AI, which should make a significant contribution to the protection of human beings, their rights, health and safety. We would consider better coverage of social impacts and overall societal impacts. The issue of the mental security and inner integrity of the human being also seems to be insufficiently covered."</p> <p>Slovakia, Standing Committee on Ethics and the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (<i>Stála komisia pre etiku a reguláciu umelej inteligencie</i>) (2021), Opinion of the Standing Committee on Ethics and Regulation artificial intelligence to the draft Act on Artificial Intelligence (<i>Stanovisko Stálej komisie pre etiku a reguláciu umelej inteligencie k návrhu Aktu o umelej inteligencii</i>), available at https://www.mirri.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Stanovisko-CERAI-k-AIA-final-2021-07-07.pdf.</p>

Government	Other: official stance	The Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic (MIRRI) formulated an official stance regarding the proposed Artificial Intelligence regulation.	Yes The sufficiency of fundamental rights protection, as defined by the draft Act on Artificial Intelligence, is being evaluated.	MIRRI concludes that the protection of fundamental rights in the proposed Artificial Intelligence regulation need to be further strengthened. It further emphasizes the need for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ethical design of artificial intelligence applications, the primary bearers of which are naturally creators - developers • the application of the human-centered approach, which is a fundamental pillar of this legislative standard and the protection of human dignity. • human surveillance as a key point in the use of artificial intelligence applications. Slovakia, The Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic (<i>Ministerstvo investícií, regionálneho rozvoja a informatizácie Slovenskej republiky</i>) (2021), Preliminary Statement on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down harmonized rules in the field of artificial intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act) and amending certain legislative acts of the Union, available at https://www.slov-lex.sk/legislativne-procesy/SK/LPEU/2021/228 .
NGO/other Non-Profit	Other: official stance	Kempelen Institute of Intelligent Technologies (KInIT) formulated its official stance regarding the proposed Artificial Intelligence regulation.	Yes The sufficiency of fundamental rights protection,	KInIT concludes that fundamental rights are threatened particularly in relation to deepfakes and remote biometry. "Deepfakes require a more specific approach in the regulation and shall be considered as a high-risk AI system considering real-world

			<p>as defined by the draft Act on Artificial Intelligence, is being evaluated.</p>	<p>scenarios severely violating fundamental rights and freedoms. Text-based deepfakes shall be also included in the regulation.”</p> <p>“Remote biometry shall be addressed more specifically with precise rules instead of a general ban on the use of remote biometry. Many concerns are already mitigated by existing laws. Further concerns shall be regulated considering fundamental rights at stake.”</p> <p>Mesarčík, M., Solárová, S., Podoužek, J., Bieliková, M. (2021), Stance on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council Laying down Harmonised Rules on Artificial Intelligence (Artificial Intelligence Act) and Amending Certain Union Legislative Acts. Kempelen Institute for Intelligent Technologies. September 2021. Available at https://kinit.sk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/KINIT_Stance-of-AIA_Paper_2021_09.pdf.</p>
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Chapter 6. Rights of the child

6.1 Measures taken during the COVID 19 to ensure the well-being of children living in poverty and the protection of children from violence

Measures to address the specific vulnerabilities of children living in poverty	<p>During the continuous pandemic crisis in 2021, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family continued to implement the Regulation No. 102/2021 on some measures regarding social situation of families in social need during the state of emergency. According to this directive, parents have the right to receive parental benefits for a prolonged time. The main aim of this measure is to secure social income for families in social need¹¹⁴.</p> <p>In August 2021, an one-off social benefit¹¹⁵ was provided to every child from families, which were in social need from March 2020 to April 2021 to compensate the negative impact of COVID-19. The amount of one-off benefit was 333 euro per child in social need¹¹⁶.</p> <p>In September 2021, the one off benef¹¹⁷ was provided also to all families with children (not only for those in social need) to compensate the negative impacts of COVID-19. The one-off benefit was paid out in amount of 74,50 euro for every dependent child¹¹⁸.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Family also provided humanitarian support to families in need – so called S.O.S donations¹¹⁹. The maximum amount of donation is 1800 euro per year¹²⁰.</p>
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¹¹⁴ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family upon request on 24 September 2021.

¹¹⁵ Slovakia, Ministry of labour, social affairs and family (*Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*) (2021), '[Nariadenie vlády SR č. 102/2020 o niektorých opatreniach v oblasti sociálnych vecí, rodiny a služieb zamestnanosti v čase mimoriadnej situácie, núdzového stavu alebo výnimočného stavu vyhláseného v súvislosti s ochorením COVID-19](#)'.

¹¹⁶ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family upon request on 24 September 2021.

¹¹⁷ Slovakia, Ministry of labour, social affairs and family (*Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*) (2021), '[Nariadenie vlády SR č. 102/2020 o niektorých opatreniach v oblasti sociálnych vecí, rodiny a služieb zamestnanosti v čase mimoriadnej situácie, núdzového stavu alebo výnimočného stavu vyhláseného v súvislosti s ochorením COVID-19](#)'.

¹¹⁸ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family upon request on 24 September 2021.

¹¹⁹ Slovakia, Ministry of labour, social affairs and family (*Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny*) (2020), '[Nariadenie vlády SR č. 103/2020 o niektorých opatreniach v oblasti dotácií v pôsobnosti MPSVR SR v čase mimoriadnej situácie, núdzového stavu alebo výnimočného stavu vyhláseného v súvislosti s ochorením COVID-19](#)', 30 April 2020.

¹²⁰ Information provided by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family upon request on 24 September 2021.

	<p>In August 2021, the new amendment to law on donations¹²¹ within the competence of Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family was adopted with the aim to increase support of education of children in social need. According to the law, the donations can be provided to all children in schools attended by at least 50% pupils in social need and individually to each child in social need. According to the new amendment, the donations can be also provided to children in the last grade of kindergarten.</p> <p>Donations can be provided to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) School aids (exercise books, text books, writing tools, etc) b) School meals (the amount of donation increased to 1,30 eur per child/day).
<p>Measures to protect children from violence</p>	<p>Legislation</p> <p>In 2021, an amendment to the Law on victims of crimes¹²² was adopted. This new legislation brought significant improvements in protection of rights of the victims, especially the victims of domestic violence and their protection from secondary victimisation.</p> <p>The new law extends legal aid to civil proceedings concerning, for example, proposals for urgent action to protect the victim from further contact and victimization by the offender. An important part of the amendment is also the extension of the definition of victims (survivors will also be viewed as a victims) and the simplification of access to compensation. In order to facilitate victims' access to compensation and minimize the risk of victimization, victims will be able to claim compensation from the state once criminal proceedings have been started. Once the victim has been compensated, the state itself will demand compensation from the perpetrator¹²³.</p> <p>One of the key proposals for providing assistance to victims of domestic violence (children involved) is the establishment of intervention centers in each self-governing region. The intervention centers will proactively contact the victim 72 hours after the perpetrator was expelled from the household. Accordingly, they will provide crisis intervention (psychological and social counseling), legal assistance to the victim and will adopt the "safety" plan for the future protection of the victim¹²⁴.</p>

¹²¹ Slovakia, [The amendment of the Act No. 544/2010 Coll. on donations within the competence of Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family](#) (Novela zákona č. 544/2010 z.z o dotáciách v pôsobnosti Ministerstva práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny), 1 August 2021.

¹²² Slovakia, [The Amendment of the Act No. 274/2017 on Victims of Crime](#) (Novela zákona č. 274/2017 o obetiach trestných činov a doplnení niektorých zákonov), 1 July 2021.

¹²³ Centrum Slniečko (2021) ` [Novela zákona o obetiach trestných činov](#) ` , press release 26 May 2021.

¹²⁴ Centrum Slniečko (2021) ` [Novela zákona o obetiach trestných činov](#) ` , press release 26 May 2021.

National helpline

In April 2021, the new national helpline for child victims of violence was launched. The helpline was supported by the national project Support for child victims and was established by the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. The launch of the helpline was preceded by the one-year training of consultants. Currently, 14 consultants work on this helpline. The helpline provides crisis intervention, counseling and prevention activities 24/7 via email and chat on the website www.viacakonick.sk. During the first month of the operation of the helpline, the number of children contacting the helpline was - 93 chats and 14 emails ¹²⁵.

Campaign

National Coordination Centre for Resolving the Issues of Violence against children has also launched the campaign to increase the public awareness of helpline. The campaign is divided into two parts:

- a) Video campaign on domestic violence (June – July 2021)
- b) Video Campaign on sexual violence (September – October 2021)

Another campaign run by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family aims at raising of public awareness on the risks of digital space for kids younger than 6 years and children up to 12 years. The campaign is planned for the third part of the year 2021. The video spots will be broadcasted on social media. The videos will be linked to the website of the National Coordination Centre, which provides detailed information on the topic and also contacts to the helplines¹²⁶.

Research

In December 2021, The National Coordination Centre published the results of research on internet behavior of children, their experiences with bullying and cyberbullying. According to the research, 90% of children uses mobile phone or tablet several times a day. Desktop or notebook is used by 47% of children on daily basis. The usage of the internet increased since 2018 from 71% to 90%. The research also focused on experience with bullying and cyberbullying. The research findings show that 26% of children (9-17 years old) experienced bullying which is a significant increase when compared to findings from 2018 (6% of children experienced bullying at that time). The most frequent

¹²⁵ Information provided by the National Coordination Centre via email on 27 September 2021.

¹²⁶ Information provided by the National Coordination Centre via email on 27 September 2021.

	<p>form of bullying is face to face. 35% of children feel concerns about cyberbullying. 30% of children never speak to anyone about this experience. More than 60% of children had also some experience with sexually explicit content on internet¹²⁷.</p> <p>Education</p> <p>National Coordination Centre also organized the seminar called “How trauma from childhood impacts the mental health in adulthood” – 1000 participants from different fields – paediatricians, psychiatrist, psychologists, prosecutors, social workers working with families, etc. The seminar was organised by several institutions – such as Ligue for Mental Health, Slovak Psychiatric Society, Ministry of Labour, social Affairs and Family, etc.¹²⁸</p>
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6.2 Legal and policy developments or measures relating to criminal proceedings

Legislative changes	<p>No new legislation was adopted in 2021. According to the representative of the Presidium of the Police Force, there are several procedural safeguards already embedded in the current legislation (Criminal Code) regarding children who are suspects or accused in criminal proceedings and thus there is no need to adopt any new measures or legislative change.¹²⁹</p>
Policy developments	<p>Education and training</p> <p>Justice academy of the Slovak republic organised two types of trainings for the prosecutors and judges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Crimes committed by the youth – September/October 2021 b) Procedural safeguards in criminal proceedings and the rights of the victims – October 2021¹³⁰ <p>National Coordination Centre for Resolving the Issues of Violence against Children organized training named “The work with juvenile</p>

¹²⁷ Holdoš, J. et al. (2021), [Prežívanie a správanie detí a mládeže počas pandémie. Výskumná správa](#). Katolícka Univerzita v Ružomberku, Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny, Národné koordinačné stredisko pre riešenie problematiky násilia na deťoch.

¹²⁸ Information provided by the National Coordination Centre via email on 27 September 2021.

¹²⁹ Information provided by the representative of the Presidium of the Police Force upon request on 23 September 2021.

¹³⁰ Information provided by the Ministry of Justice upon request via email on 30 September 2021.

	perpetrator” – all year long education (114 hours) for more than 25 institutions working with children (such as employees of children homes, socio-legal protection workers, employees of crisis and intervention centers, etc). The training is organized in cooperation with the General prosecution office and the Presidium of the police force. ¹³¹
Other measures or initiatives	No relevant changes.

Chapter 7. Access to justice

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

The Amendment to the Act on Victims of Crime

The Amendment to the Act on Victims of Crime¹³² came into effect on 1 July 2021. It significantly strengthens the rights of victims and their protection against further victimization in several areas, such as simplifying access to compensation or creating a network of so-called intervention centers providing assistance and protection for victims. The Amendment is also based on practical experience.

According to the new legislation, the burden of compensating victims of violent crimes will be shifted to the state right after the start of criminal prosecution. The state will recover the payment from the offender only after the end of the criminal prosecution. In the new compensation process, it sets an amount adequate for each victim.¹³³

¹³¹ Information provided by the representative of National Coordination Centre via email on 1 October 2021.

¹³² Slovakia, [the Act no. 217/2021 Coll. amending the Act no. 274/2017 Coll. on Victims of Crime as amended](#) (Zákon č. 217/2021 Z.z., ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon č. 274/2017 Z. z. o obetiach trestných činov v znení neskorších predpisov), 7 May 2021.

¹³³ Aktuality.sk (2021), [‘Prezidentka podpísala novelu zákona o obetiach trestných činov – President Signed an Amendment to the Act on Victims of Crime’](#), 24 May 2021.

For the purposes of providing compensation, the Act also extends the circle of victims of violent crimes to surviving relatives who lived with the deceased in the same household at the time of death (if caused by violent crime) and to victims of torture of a close and entrusted person, to victims of involuntary disappearance which caused them non-pecuniary damage.

Another significant change is the creation of intervention centers (victim support centers) from the accredited organizations providing assistance to victims. A total of two million euro per year is set aside to support the intervention centers. The aim of such financial assistance from the Ministry of Justice is in particular to ensure the continual operation of these organizations and their financial independence (so far these organizations had been dependent on support from various grants which had caused considerable instability).¹³⁴ The purpose and aim of the coordinated approach of intervention centers is to ensure comprehensive protection of the victim, prevention of further violence and enabling the exercise of the victim's rights, such as the right to professional assistance and the right to protection against victimization.¹³⁵

The Regional Platform for Assistance to Victims of Crime

The Regional Platform for Assistance to Victims of Crime is created at the level of each region, the aim of which is to support and strengthen efforts striving for adequate and high-quality assistance or protection. Their activities were launched in December 2020 and the official first meetings were launched in April 2021. The aim of this initiative is to build a platform that would act as an umbrella of all eight regional platforms and also to establish cooperation between the entities operating in the region that come into contact with the victims of crime and are able to influence their access to individual services. The objectives of the platforms are also: assisting the victims of crime, identification of shortcomings in the victims' access to services, proposing solutions and strengthening prevention in individual

¹³⁴ Slovakia, Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo spravodlivosti SR*) (2021), '[Lepšia pomoc pre obeť trestných činov aj zlepšenie prístupu spotrebiteľov k spravodlivosti](#)'- Better Assistance for Victims of Crime and Enhanced Access to Justice'.

¹³⁵ Slovakia, Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo spravodlivosti SR*) (2021), '[Poslanci definitívne schválili zlepšenie pomoci pre obeť trestných činov](#)'- MEPs Have Finally Approved Better Help to Victims of Crime'.

regions. Suggestions and important issues identified by regional experts will be passed on to the national platform.¹³⁶

In April, the League for Human Rights published a publication titled *Refugee and Migrants as Victims of Hate Crimes – Prevention, Assistance and Protection*.¹³⁷ Its summary of the main findings identifies the main shortcomings in relation to victims of hate crime, such as: Lack of education in relation to refugees and foreigners, mainly the absence of information materials for victims in other than Slovak languages; lack of guidance for law enforcement authorities on how to correctly and in a timely manner identify the hate motive of crime and how to approach the victims of hate crimes, in particular women from a refugee or migrant background; lack of an accredited victim support body specializing in providing assistance to victims of hate crimes. The existing victim support bodies are not familiar with the issue and needs of victims with a refugee or migrant background, for example, they are unable to provide interpreting for the victim. The currently available free legal aid for victims of hate crimes is not sufficient etc.¹³⁸

7.2 Measures addressing violence against women

The Amendment to the Act on Victims of Crime¹³⁹ simplifies the victims' access to compensation, extends the possibility of removing violent offenders from their homes to 14 days and introduces a new element of crisis intervention for the victims of domestic violence – so-called intervention centers. Eight intervention centers (in each region) should provide coordinated assistance, as their activities will be linked to the emergency removal order. The police are to inform the intervention center in the region within 24 hours of the removal order. The center will then contact the victim of domestic violence and offer her/him crisis

¹³⁶ Slovakia, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo vnútra SR*), [‘Čo prinesie regionálna platforma v oblasti pomoci obetiam trestných činov?- What Will the Regional Platform Bring to Victims of Crime?’](#), Information published at the website of the Ministry of Interior on 25 January 2021.

¹³⁷ Human rights league (2021), [Utečenci a migranti ako obeť nenávisťných trestných činov - prevencia, pomoc a ochrana. Právna analýza a zistenia z mapovania situácie v teréne- Refugees and Migrants as Victims of Hate Crimes – Prevention, Assistance and Protection. Legal Analysis and Findings from the Assessment of the Situation on the Ground](#), August 2021.

¹³⁸ Human rights league (2021), [Pozičný dokument k publikácii: Utečenci a migranti ako obeť nenávisťných trestných činov - prevencia, pomoc a ochrana. Právna analýza a zistenia z mapovania situácie v teréne](#) (*Position Paper for Publication: Refugees and Migrants as Victims of Hate Crimes – Prevention, Assistance and Protection. Legal Analysis and Findings from the Assessment of the Situation on the Ground*), August 2021.

¹³⁹ Slovakia, [the Act no. 217/2021 Coll. amending the Act no. 274/2017 Coll on Victims of Crime as amended](#) (*Zákon č. 217/2021 Z.z., ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon č. 274/2017 Z. z. o obetiach trestných činov v znení neskorších predpisov*), 7 May 2021.

intervention services. In addition to social, legal and psychological counseling, the centers will also provide guidance through the criminal proceedings and referral to other relevant services. ¹⁴⁰

This model is based on linking police intervention with crisis intervention and professional assistance provided to the victim or person at risk of domestic violence immediately after the occurrence of domestic violence. The police shall inform the intervention center within 24 hours of removal of the violent person from the home. The center shall then proactively contact the victim of domestic violence within 72 hours and offer her/him professional assistance. The tasks of the intervention center include assessing one's threat to life or health and drawing up a safety plan.

This assessment evaluates the effectiveness of removal order and allows for planning further action, e.g. transferring the victim from the home, applying for a court injunction. Experts (in the fields of psychology, social work and law) working in the intervention center will provide professional assistance, guiding the victim through the criminal proceedings as well as their legal representation. At the same time, the intervention center is to help victims contact other institutions and resolve their personal situation also through psychosocial support and counseling. The decision to use or not to use these services is left entirely to the victim. ¹⁴¹

Measures to prevent repeat victimization of victims should include, for example, prevention of contact between the offender and the victim and the victim's family members. The distance of the removed person's obligation not to approach the endangered person during his removal from the home is also increased from ten meters to 50 meters. In the event of termination of removal from the home, the police must first notify the endangered person. The extension of legal aid should also cover the assistance in other civil proceedings. For instance, those concerning the application for a court injunction to protect the victim from further contact and victimization by the offender. ¹⁴²

At the beginning of the year, Amnesty International Slovakia launched a campaign called Talking Consent which aims to raise awareness and strengthen the protection of victims of sexual violence and rape. Amnesty International advocates that rape be defined on the basis of whether or not consent has been given, and thus that the outdated definitions in the current Slovak legislation be

¹⁴⁰ Očenášová, Z. (2021), '[Vplyv protipandemických opatrení COVID-19 na násilie páchané na ženách](#) (Effect of COVID-19 Anti-pandemic Measures on Violence against Women)'.

¹⁴¹ Slovakia, Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo spravodlivosti SR*) (2021), '[Poslanci definitívne schválili zlepšenie pomoci pre obeť trestných činov](#) (MEPs Have Finally Approved Better Help to Victims of Crime)'.

¹⁴² TA3 (2021), '[Pomoc pre obeť trestných činov: Intervenčné centrá a zmena v odškodňovaní](#) (Assistance for Victims of Crime: Intervention Centers and Change in Compensation Approach)', 6 May 2021.

changed. The Minister of Justice, Mária Kolíková, is considering a change in legislation in this area.¹⁴³

In April, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved the National Strategy for Equality between Women and Men and Equal Opportunities for 2021-2027 and the Action Plan for Equality between Women and Men and Equal Opportunities for 2021-2027.¹⁴⁴

The National Strategy covers 8 strategic areas and priorities: dignity and physical integrity; reconciling family and professional life; education, science and research; equal opportunities and access to the labor market, economic dependence and poverty of women; political and economic participation and participation in decision-making; ensuring a participatory mechanism to promote equality between women and men and institutional provision of equality between women and men; inclusion of vulnerable groups and multiple discrimination against women and children/girls; international development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

The Action Plan in turn reflects the identified issues, the main objective and the related operational objectives in each strategic area. The implementation of the set tasks will have a positive impact on improving the quality of life of women.

The approved documents will also help women who are experiencing abuse. One of the tasks of the Action Plan is to clearly define domestic violence in the Slovak legislation. At the same time, the Amendment to the Family Act is intended to ensure greater protection for victims of domestic violence, including children, in divorce proceedings. The crucial point will be to set up systemic and sustainable funding for organizations that provide assistance to abused women and children. A comprehensive approach to domestic violence will be provided by the Action Plan for the Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women, which the Ministry is working on with representatives of civil society.¹⁴⁵

¹⁴³ Slovakia, Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo spravodlivosti SR*) (2021), '[Zmení sa zákonná definícia znásilnenia?](#) (*Will the Legal Definition of Rape Change?*)'.

¹⁴⁴ Slovakia, Office of Government of the Slovak Republic (*Úrad vlády SR*), [Celoštátna stratégia rovnosti žien a mužov a rovnosti príležitostí v Slovenskej republike na roky 2021-2027 a Akčný plán rovnosti žien a mužov a rovnosti príležitostí na roky 2021-2027](#) (*National Strategy for Equality between Women and Men and Equal Opportunities in the Slovak Republic for 2021-2027 and Action Plan for Equality between Women and Men and Equal Opportunities for 2021-2027*), 27 April 2021.

¹⁴⁵ Slovakia, Office of Government of the Slovak Republic (*Úrad vlády SR*), [Celoštátna stratégia rovnosti žien a mužov a rovnosti príležitostí v Slovenskej republike na roky 2021-2027 a Akčný](#)

For the second year in a row, Slovakia has lacked a government plan to fight violence against women. This could soon change as the Ministry of Labor sent a draft of a new national action plan to an interdepartmental comment procedure¹⁴⁶ at the end of 2021. It should apply from 2022 to 2027 and coordinate the state efforts to eliminate and prevent domestic, sexual and other forms of gender-based violence.¹⁴⁷

In April, Prime Minister released three million euros from the Prime Minister's reserve for centers for victims of domestic violence. The reserve temporarily secured financing of the so-called safe homes that had been previously funded by Norwegian funds. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs also wants to consider a radical increase in the contribution for public and non-public organizations that help victims of abuse and ensure systemic funding for safe homes for women and all organizations that help abused women.¹⁴⁸

Slovakia was one of the first signatories on the day the Istanbul Convention was opened for signature, but has not ratified it to date.¹⁴⁹

President Zuzana Čaputová encourages women who experience partner violence to seek help. She stated this on the social network on the occasion of the "Stop Violence Against Women 2021" campaign which points to the issue of eliminating violence against women. The campaign is run by the Coordinating-Methodical Centre for Gender-based and Domestic Violence and the Institute for Labor and Family Research. She also pointed out that the change she had initiated (i.e. setting up intervention centers) was successfully implemented over the last year and thanks to cooperation between non-profit organizations, the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic and the police, intervention centers for victims of domestic violence are beginning to help throughout the country.¹⁵⁰

[plán rovnosti žien a mužov a rovnosti príležitostí na roky 2021-2027](#) (*National Strategy for Equality between Women and Men and Equal Opportunities in the Slovak Republic for 2021-2027 and Action Plan for Equality between Women and Men and Equal Opportunities for 2021-2027*), 27 April 2021.

¹⁴⁶ Slovakia, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny SR*) (2021), [Národný akčný plán pre prevenciu a elimináciu násillia na ženách na roky 2022 – 2027](#) (*National action plan for prevention and elimination violence against women 2022-2027*).

¹⁴⁷ Zmuskova, B. (2021), '[Krajniakov boj proti násilliu na ženách: Slabinou je prevencia](#)' (*Krajniak's fight against violence against women: Weakness is prevention*), EURACTIV, 29 November 2021.

¹⁴⁸ Slovakia, Office of Government of the Slovak Republic (*Úrad vlády SR*), '[Premiér uvoľnil 3 milióny eur pre centrá pre obeť domáceho násillia](#)' (*Prime Minister Releases 3 Million Euro for Centers for Victims of Domestic Violence*), 26 April 2021.

¹⁴⁹ Information published on [the website of the Coordinating-methodical centre for gender-based and domestic violence](#).

¹⁵⁰ Aktuality.sk (2021), '[Prezidentka povzbudzuje ženy, ktoré zažívajú násillie, aby vyhľadali pomoc](#)' (*President Encourages Women who Experience Violence to Seek Help*), 25 November 2021.

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

8.1 CRPD policy & legal developments

In February 2021, the Government of the Slovak Republic adopted a policy document called National program for the development of living conditions of persons with disabilities for the years 2021 – 2030 (*Národný program rozvoja životných podmienok osôb so zdravotným postihnutím na roky 2021 – 2030*) which is a basic policy document at the national level addressing the situation of persons with disabilities and stating measures to improve their living conditions¹⁵¹. The document has been drafted by the central public authorities and other stakeholders, persons with disabilities and their DPOs also participated in the process. The document sets the tasks for every ministry for the upcoming period in order to improve living conditions of persons with disabilities like for instance the accessibility of buildings, information and services. The document also wants to develop community-based service, to create conditions for continuing in the process of deinstitutionalization, to create better conditions for people with disabilities on the labor market and thus to increase the employment of persons with disabilities. In the area of education, the concept of inclusive education will be promoted and also electronic education materials will be available on educational portals. The Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic will collect data on the situation of persons with disabilities and will report on their situation on a yearly basis.

In April, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved a new policy document regarding the deinstitutionalization (DI) process for the upcoming period. The National strategy for the deinstitutionalization of the system of social services and substitute care (*Národná stratégia deinštitucionalizácie systému sociálnych služieb a náhradnej starostlivosti*)¹⁵² reflects on the progress made since the adoption of the first DI strategy in 2011 and sets out a commitment to continue in the DI process. The main aim of the new DI strategy is to create conditions for independent living for all people who depend on assistance, in their natural social environment of the community with the support of the community, professionals, family members, volunteers. The long-term goals involve: a. to improve the

¹⁵¹ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (*Vláda SR*) (2021), [Národný program rozvoja životných podmienok osôb so zdravotným postihnutím na roky 2021 – 2030](#), adopted on 24 February 2021.

¹⁵² Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (*Vláda SR*) (2021), [Národná stratégia deinštitucionalizácie systému sociálnych služieb a náhradnej starostlivosti](#), adopted by the Government on 28 April 2021.

availability of community-based services, b. to improve the synergy of provided services, adopted measures, other forms of assistance and financial contributions, c. to terminate the provision of social services in the form of large-capacity facilities. The new National DI strategy also set out mid-term goals and the process of monitoring of the progress of the deinstitutionalization process. The process of monitoring will be carried out by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family that will submit an evaluation report to the Government on yearly basis. Then also, the advisory body of the Government the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for human rights, minorities and gender equality and its two committees (Committee for Children and Committee for persons with disabilities) will monitor and evaluate the implementation of the National DI strategy. Representative organizations of people with disabilities and NGOs participate in the mentioned committees.

In 2021, new laws regarding construction planning and the process of issuing construction permits have been drafted by the office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Within the process of preparation of the new laws, the issue of accessibility of buildings, public places and other constructions were discussed at the Committee for persons with disabilities¹⁵³. The Slovak Disability Council (DPO) involved in the Committee addressed their comments to the representatives of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister preparing new laws and expressed their will to participate in the preparation process. The Commissioner for the rights of persons with disabilities asked for the inclusion of the control mechanism of the accessibility of buildings and other constructions which was missing in the prepared laws at that time. Other debated issues involved the accessibility of the electronic construction proceeding for persons with disabilities and the inclusion of universal planning into the methodical materials for municipalities¹⁵⁴. Throughout 2021, the first drafts of the laws were revised and sent to the interdepartmental commentary procedure during the summer. In the autumn, the process of evaluation of the comments has been completed¹⁵⁵. By the end of 2021, the drafts of the laws still have not been discussed by the Government, nor by the Parliament.

Based on the initiative of the Commissioner for persons with disabilities, the Committee for persons with disabilities adopted a resolution demanding to remove discriminatory provisions of the Act no. 228/2019 Coll on contribution for the merits in the field of sport as amended. According to the Commissioner as well as the Special Olympics Slovakia (sport organization) is the current law

¹⁵³ Slovakia, Committee for persons with disabilities (*Výbor pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím*) (2021), [Záznam z 23. zasadnutia Výboru pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím Rady vlády Slovenskej republiky pre ľudské práva, národnostné menšiny a rodovú rovnosť](#), 27 April 2021.

¹⁵⁴ Slovakia, Committee for persons with disabilities (*Výbor pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím*) (2021), [Záznam z 23. zasadnutia Výboru pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím Rady vlády Slovenskej republiky pre ľudské práva, národnostné menšiny a rodovú rovnosť](#), 27 April 2021.

¹⁵⁵ Slovakia, Deputy Prime Minister (*Podpredseda vlády SR*) (2021), [LP/2021/348 Zákon o výstavbe](#); Slovakia, Deputy Prime Minister (*Podpredseda vlády SR*) (2021), [LP/2021/347 Zákon o územnom plánovaní](#).

discriminatory towards persons with intellectual disability who cannot receive financial contributions based on the mentioned act¹⁵⁶.

The Commissioner for persons with disabilities asked the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family that is drafting the laws within their competence to enable people with disabilities and their DPOs to participate in the legislation preparation. According to the Commissioner it would be necessary to set rules for participation of DPOs in the legislation preparation and formalize the whole process¹⁵⁷.

In April 2021, the Government of the Slovak Republic adopted the Recovery and Resilience Plan¹⁵⁸ that makes also reference to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Among other reforms, the Plan wants to promote inclusive education which will include the desegregation of education, debarrierization of schools and the reform of advisory system in education so that all children with special needs are eligible to ask for assistance¹⁵⁹. As for the reforms in other areas, the Plan wants to improve the long-term social and health care, to support the process of deinstitutionalization of residential care facilities by supporting the establishment and operation of community-based service¹⁶⁰.

In September 2021, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family published detailed guidelines for social services providers containing instructions on how to proceed in crises situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The provided information involves, for example, instructions on the creation of a crisis plan, crisis team, the need for communication and exchange of information with the establisher of the social services facility or regional public health office, as well as providing not only material but also psychological care to maintain the safest possible environment for clients and employees as well. The guidelines are intended for providers of all social services, be it residential or outpatient social services¹⁶¹.

¹⁵⁶ Slovakia, Committee for persons with disabilities (*Výbor pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím*) (2021), [Záznam z 23. zasadnutia Výboru pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím Rady vlády Slovenskej republiky pre ľudské práva, národnostné menšiny a rodovú rovnosť](#), 27 April 2021.

¹⁵⁷ Slovakia, Committee for persons with disabilities (*Výbor pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím*) (2021), [Záznam z 23. zasadnutia Výboru pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím Rady vlády Slovenskej republiky pre ľudské práva, národnostné menšiny a rodovú rovnosť](#), 27 April 2021.

¹⁵⁸ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (*Vláda SR*) (2021), [Plán obnovy a odolnosti Slovenskej republiky](#) (*Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Slovak Republic*).

¹⁵⁹ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (*Vláda SR*) (2021), [Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Slovak Republic, Component 6 – Inclusive education](#) (*Plán obnovy a odolnosti Slovenskej republiky, Komponent 6 – Inkluzívne vzdelávanie*).

¹⁶⁰ Slovakia, Government of the Slovak Republic (*Vláda SR*) (2021), [Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Slovak Republic, Component 13 – Long-term social and health care](#) (*Plán obnovy a odolnosti Slovenskej republiky, Komponent 13 – Dlhodobá sociálno-zdravotná starostlivosť*).

¹⁶¹ Slovakia, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny SR*) (2021), [Návod pomôže zariadeniam sociálnych služieb postupovať v krízovej situácii rýchlo a efektívne](#), 24 September 2021.

In the autumn, as the situation worsened during the third wave of the pandemic, the vaccination with booster shots intensified. The eligible categories of persons involved the clients of social care facilities, persons with health problems and seniors, later all persons above the age of 55¹⁶².

In December 2021, the Parliament adopted an amendment to the School Act introducing the position of health care professionals in primary schools and pre-schools and stating a framework for their operation at schools and for providing health care and other activities related to health and healthy lifestyle¹⁶³. This change was supported also by the Commissioner for the persons with disabilities who registered very frequent submissions by parents of disabled children that the schools are not able to secure appropriate conditions and assistance for children with disabilities which in practice often led to home education¹⁶⁴. The adopted amendment enables the schools to employ health care professionals who will provide health care based on the proposal issued by the pediatrician and parents' request.

8.2 CRPD monitoring at national level

In 2021, no legislation changes were adopted with regard to the Commissioner for persons with disabilities and her office.

In March, the Commissioner for persons with disabilities presented her regular report on activities to the National Council of the Slovak Republic¹⁶⁵. Unlike other years, this time the report evaluates the period of ten years after the signing of

¹⁶² Slovakia, Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic (*Ministerstvo zdravotníctva SR*) (2021), [‘COVID-19: Štát bude občana aktívne informovať, keď bude jeho čas na 3. dávku vakcíny’](#), 10 September 2021.

¹⁶³ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2021), [Návrh poslankýň Národnej rady Slovenskej republiky Jany ŽITŇANSKEJ, Zuzany ŠEBOVEJ, Márie ŠOFRANKO a Jany BITTÓ CIGÁNIKOVEJ na vydanie zákona, ktorým sa dopĺňa zákon č. 245/2008 Z. z. o výchove a vzdelávaní \(školský zákon\) a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov v znení neskorších predpisov – schválené znenie](#) (*Proposal of the MPs of the National Council of the Slovak Republic Jana ŽITŇANSKÁ, Zuzana ŠEBOVA, Mária ŠOFRANKO and Jana BITTÓ CIGÁNIKOVÁ for the issuance of an Act supplementing Act no. 245/2008 Coll. on upbringing and education (School Act) and on the amendment of certain acts as amended - approved version*).

¹⁶⁴ Slovakia, Commissioner for the Rights of Persons with disabilities (*Komisárka pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím*) (2021), [‘Stanovisko k návrhu novely zákona vo vzťahu k zdravotnej starostlivosti’](#).

¹⁶⁵ Slovakia, Commissioner for the Rights of Persons with disabilities (*Komisárka pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím*) (2021), [‘Správa o činnosti komisára pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím za rok 2020’](#).

the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. According to the report, progress has been made in many areas of the life of persons with disabilities like for instance, the complete deprivation of legal capacity is no longer possible, the legal capacity can only be limited to a certain extent. The definition of the early intervention has been introduced into legislation, the support of employment of persons with disabilities has been improved, a contact point related to the implementation of the Convention was created at the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family and the position of Commissioner for persons with disabilities and her office has been established. However, in other areas, a lot of shortcomings persist like for instance the term reasonable accommodation has not been introduced into legislation so far, an effective mechanism of assessing the accessibility of buildings is still lacking, the courts limit the legal capacity of persons with disabilities to a great extent since the supported decision does not exist in practice, community-based services are underdeveloped which means that people with disabilities live in isolation, persons who are deprived of their legal capacity are not allowed to enter into marriage. There are also shortcomings concerning the insufficient knowledge of the life of persons with disabilities, the collection of data and research is not sufficient. And finally, persons with disabilities and their DPOs are not effectively involved in the process of monitoring of the implementation of the Convention¹⁶⁶.

After six years in the position of the Commissioner for persons with disabilities, Zuzana Stavrovská has been re-elected by the Parliament to this position for the next six-year period. The election took place on 3 December 2021, Stavrovská received majority of the votes of MPs (135 out of 138)¹⁶⁷.

¹⁶⁶ Slovakia, Commissioner for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (*Komisárka pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím*) (2021), [Správa o činnosti komisára pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím za rok 2020](#), pp. 405-410.

¹⁶⁷ Slovakia, National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada SR*) (2021), [Návrh na voľbu komisára pre deti a voľbu komisára pre osoby so zdravotným postihnutím – parlamentná tlač č. 788](#).

Annex 1 – Promising Practices

<p>Thematic area</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION</p> <p>Please provide one example of a practice to tackle nationality-based discrimination, or discrimination against LGBTI people, 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 2021 relevant to equality and non-discrimination of EU citizens or LGBTI people, preferably one conducted by a national equality body.</p>
<p>Title (original language)</p>	<p><u>No promising practice has been identified for this thematic area.</u></p>

<p>Thematic area</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RACISM, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE</p> <p>Please provide one example of a promising practice to address racism and xenophobia. Please give preference to a promising practice about either: active cooperation with CSOs in addressing racism and hate crime; or combating racism and unequal treatment in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Where no such practice exists, please provide one example of a promising practice related more generally to combating racism, xenophobia, and related intolerances.</p>
<p>Title (original language)</p>	<p><u>No promising practice has been identified for this thematic area.</u></p>

Thematic area	<p style="text-align: center;">ROMA EQUALITY AND INCLUSION</p> <p>Please provide one example of promising practice related to the two topics addressed in the chapter. Please make the link between the selected practice and the topics explicit.</p>
Title (original language)	Spolu s Rómami dosiahneme viac
Title (EN)	Together with the Roma, we will achieve more
Organisation (original language)	Štátny pedagogický ústav
Organisation (EN)	State pedagogical institute
Government / Civil society	Government
Funding body	Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic
Reference (incl. URL, where available)	https://www.statpedu.sk/sk/aktuality/vyskolili-sme-45-riadiacich-pracovnikov-ktori-pracuju-skolach-so-ziakmi-z-romskych-komunit.html

Indicate the start date of the promising practice and the finishing date if it has ceased to exist	May 2020 – May 2023
Type of initiative	Trainings
Main target group	Managing staff, teachers in primary and secondary schools
Indicate level of implementation: Local/Regional/National	National
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	The State Pedagogical Institute has trained 45 employees within the project. The aim of the education was to acquaint participants with examples of good practice in the areas of implementation of the Romani language and culture in the school curriculum, taking into account the linguistic diversity of students from marginalized Roma communities and promoting intercultural education in schools. The implementation of innovative school management education is part of a predefined project entitled "Innovative teacher education to increase their intercultural competencies in the educational process of Roma pupils" within the program Local Development, Poverty Eradication and Inclusion of Roma funded by Norwegian grants and the state budget.
Highlight any element of the actions that is transferable (max. 500 chars)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - production of publications focusing on the Romani language and literature, culture and history of the Roma, - preparation and implementation of innovative education for teachers in the areas of the Romani language, culture and history of the Roma, innovative educational methods, education and training for human rights and democratic citizenship, - creation of a methodological portal providing the outputs of this project as well as other project outputs, - printing of publications.

<p>Give reasons why you consider the practice as sustainable (as opposed to 'one off activities')</p>	<p>The output of the project will be, on the one hand, trained teachers and pedagogical staff, as well as manuals, methodological materials, a website and the modification of educational programs, which is actually a systemic change in education in general. In Slovakia, a systemic change in teaching programs is needed and that is what this project brings.</p>
<p>Give reasons why you consider the practice as having concrete measurable impact</p>	<p>The project is aimed at educating teachers and pedagogical staff, because subsequently systemic support should be given for the introduction of teaching Romani language and literature at all levels of education within the school curriculum of schools with pupils from Roma communities, support for intercultural education and democratic and inclusive school environment. This is one part of breaking down stereotypes and prejudices in future generations in all areas of life, as well as giving Roma children a chance to succeed in education. Future police officers, doctors, officials, lawyers and other staff in services and industry will be trained by teachers who will learn to understand Roma culture and language, as well as the intercultural aspects of getting to know each other.</p>
<p>Give reasons why you consider the practice as transferable to other settings and/or Member States?</p>	<p>Changing the education system to apply the principles of a democratic society, together with the sensitization of the majority to minorities, is the only way to prevent the spread of racism, prejudice, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance. If change begins to take place in other countries from teachers, those who educate future generations, we will support the emergence of a society that is critical thinking and does not condemn the largest minority in Europe, the Roma.</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>The fact that the Romani language is not uniformly codified in Slovakia and only individuals have a state exam from it - the Roma who obtained it at Charles University in the Czech Republic make this program unique, because the main proponents and also planners of activities can assume that are Roma with this state exam. The teachers and pedagogical staff themselves then also become evaluators of the activities, because they know how to best assess how the project has helped them in practice.</p>
<p>Explain, if applicable, how the practice provides for review and assessment.</p>	<p>As the project is funded by Norwegian grants, where there is a condition for review and assessment, it can be assumed that this will be ensured after the end of the project.</p>

Thematic area	<p style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION SOCIETY, PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please provide one example of a promising practice related to the topics addressed in the chapter, i.e. data protection, and/or artificial intelligence systems.</p>
Title (original language)	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>No promising practice has been identified for this thematic area.</u></p>

Thematic area	<p style="text-align: center;">RIGHTS OF THE CHILD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please provide a promising practice related to the topics addressed in the chapter.</p>
Title (original language)	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>No promising practice has been identified for this thematic area.</u></p>

Thematic area	<p style="text-align: center;">ACCESS TO JUSTICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please provide one example of a promising practice related to the topics addressed in the chapter.</p>
Title (original language)	Intervenčné centrá – koordinovaná odborná pomoc pre obe domáceho násilia
Title (EN)	Intervention centers – coordinated professional assistance for victims of domestic violence
Organisation (original language)	
Organisation (EN)	
Government / Civil society	Government
Funding body	NA
Reference (incl. URL, where available)	https://www.justice.gov.sk/Stranky/aktualitadetail.aspx?announcementID=3364

Indicate the start date of the promising practice and the finishing date if it has ceased to exist	1 July 2021
Type of initiative	public
Main target group	Victims of domestic violence
Indicate level of implementation: Local/Regional/National	National
Brief description (max. 1000 chars)	<p>The amendment to the Act on Victims of Crime enabled the establishment of intervention centers with effect from 1 July 2021. Their task is to make the first contact with the victim of domestic violence within 72 hours of the police informing the center about the offender's removal and to offer them professional assistance. This includes crisis psychological intervention, legal aid, assessing one's threat to life or health, or drawing up of a safety plan in cooperation with the victim.</p> <p>Accredited organizations providing specialized assistance to victims of domestic violence may apply for the "intervention center" status. The amendment to the Police Force Act effective from November 2021 obliges police officers to inform the endangered person after the perpetrator's removal about the intervention centers and send a note of the perpetrator's removal to the relevant intervention center. Intervention centers helping victims of domestic violence should cover all regions from the beginning of the next year. There are currently seven of them, operating in five self-governing regions. Two more are to be added from January 2022.¹⁶⁸</p>

¹⁶⁸ <https://www.teraz.sk/slovensko/rezort-spravodlivosti-intervencne-cen/591832-clanok.html>

<p>Highlight any element of the actions that is transferable (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>Coordinated approach and cooperation of the police with specific intervention centers.</p>
<p>Give reasons why you consider the practice as sustainable (as opposed to 'one off activities')</p>	<p>Intervention centers for victims of domestic violence are established on the basis of the amendment to Act No. 274/2017 Coll. on Victims of Crime. The amendment also regulates the financing of entities that provide services to victims of crime.</p>
<p>Give reasons why you consider the practice as having concrete measurable impact</p>	<p>The police give each victim of domestic violence contact details for the intervention center and the intervention center should contact the victim and provide her with assistance.</p>
<p>Give reasons why you consider the practice as transferable to other settings and/or Member States?</p>	<p>Linking the police and intervention centers and their cooperation creates a system in which every victim of domestic violence is offered professional assistance after the perpetrator has been removed.</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>NA</p>
<p>Explain, if applicable, how the practice provides for review and assessment.</p>	<p>NA</p>

Thematic area	<p>Developments in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)</p> <p>Please provide one example of a promising practice related to projects or programmes implementing the CRPD or promoting the rights of persons with disabilities.</p>
Title (original language)	Výpomoc so srdcom
Title (EN)	Helping with heart
Organisation (original language)	Profesia
Organisation (EN)	Profesia
Government / Civil society	Profesia is a for-profit private technology company. The company is mainly engaged in the development of products and services intended for the labor market.
Funding body	The project Helping with heart is implemented by private company Profesia within their CSR activities.
Reference (incl. URL, where available)	https://www.sosrdcom.sk/

<p>Indicate the start date of the promising practice and the finishing date if it has ceased to exist</p>	<p>The exact information on the start date of the programme is not available. Some of the outcomes of the programme were published earlier in 2019, 2020, however, information and education materials have been published throughout 2021. The programme is still ongoing.</p>
<p>Type of initiative</p>	<p>private</p>
<p>Main target group</p>	<p>Persons with disabilities, their family members, employers, companies,</p>
<p>Indicate level of implementation: Local/Regional/National</p>	<p>National</p>
<p>Brief description (max. 1000 chars)</p>	<p><i>Helping with heart</i> is a CSR program. Its main aim is to increase the chances of people with disabilities to find a job in the labor market. The program targets employers as well as employees, persons with disabilities who are seeking jobs. Within the program, several activities have been carried out: a survey on the situation of persons with disabilities on the labor market, producing education and information materials, webinars for employers on how to employ persons with disabilities. Profesia also helped kick-start the employment of people with disabilities through pilot collaborations and field trips. They also offer to the companies individual counseling and assistance if they want to start with employing persons with disabilities. For persons with disabilities and their family members, there are information videos and materials available on the website of Profesia. They can watch: 1. a series of videos on how to look for a job, 2. a series of inspirational stories of people with disabilities who have found employment, 3. a guide through the job search process, 4. experiences of family members of persons with disabilities. In 2021, the programme <i>Helping with heart</i> received National career guidance award 2021.</p>

<p>Highlight any element of the actions that is transferable (max. 500 chars)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharing experiences on employment of persons with disabilities - Sharing information and educational materials - Building capacities on the side of employers, as well as persons with disabilities - Networking of stakeholders
<p>Give reasons why you consider the practice as sustainable (as opposed to 'one off activities')</p>	<p>The programme stems from the core activities of the company Profesia which entails counseling and job placement, connecting employers and job seekers. The programme focuses on the category of the population that is disadvantaged in the labour market. By targeted activities, the programme improves the position of persons with disabilities on labour market, spreads practical information and finally also contributes to reducing prejudices towards persons with disabilities.</p>
<p>Give reasons why you consider the practice as having concrete measurable impact</p>	<p>The impact of the programme could be measured by the number of persons/companies who received counselling as well as by the number of persons with disabilities who managed to find employment. The usage of educational materials can be measured by the number of their views, shares and downloads. The program does not contain information on measuring its impact.</p>
<p>Give reasons why you consider the practice as transferable to other settings and/or Member States?</p>	<p>The promising practice can be transferred since it is a CSR activity that does not need public funding.</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>

Annex 2 – Case Law

Thematic area	EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION Please provide one high court decision addressing discrimination against EU citizens based on nationality or against LGBTI people. Where relevant, always highlight any relevance or reference to multiple or intersectional discrimination in the case you report.
Decision date	<i>No case law has been identified for this thematic area.</i>

Thematic area	RACISM, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE Please provide the most relevant high court decision concerning the application of either the Racial Equality Directive or the Framework Decision on racism and xenophobia, addressing racism, xenophobia, and other forms of intolerance more generally.
Decision date	26 October 2021
Reference details	Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic, no. 2To/4/2020
Key facts of the case (max. 500 chars)	The Supreme Court as the court of appeal delivered a final decision in the case of editor-in-chief of the conspiracy magazine ZEM A VEK who was found guilty of defamation of a nation, race, and religion (the first instance court Specialized Criminal Court decided on 16 December 2019). In 2017, the magazine published an article authored by the editor-in-chief where he cites several Slovak personalities from the past who had expressed their negative views on the Jews. Moreover, the article not only cites negative statements but is drafted in a way that pictures Jews as enemies of reciprocity among Slavic nations.

<p style="text-align: center;">Main reasoning/argumentation (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>The Supreme Court was considering several issues. First, the Supreme Court agreed with the qualification of the contested conduct as the defamation of nation, race and belief (§423) and not as the incitement to national, racial and ethnic hatred (§424) or the spreading of extremist materials (§422b). Further, the Supreme Court dealt also with several procedural issues. Finally, the Supreme Court agreed with the decision of the Specialized Criminal Court and ordered the defendant to pay a 4.000EUR fine otherwise he will be sentenced to jail for three months.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>Freedom of speech (Constitution of the Slovak Republic, article 26, para. 2) Defamation of race, nation and religion (Criminal Code, §423) Incitement to national, racial and ethnic hatred (Criminal Code, §424) Spreading of extremist materials (Criminal Code, §422b)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Results (sanctions) and key consequences or implications of the case (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>The Supreme Court ordered the defendant to pay a 4.000EUR fine otherwise he will be sentenced to jail for three months.</p>

<p>Key quotation in original language and translated into English with reference details (max. 500 chars)</p>	<p>“K časti, v ktorej obžalovaný Mgr. art. E. N. P. namietal právnu kvalifikáciu svojho konania ako trestného činu, je v zásade potrebné uviesťže: Právo na názor podlieha trestnoprávnej zodpovednosti v obmedzenej miere stanovenej Trestným zákonom len tam, kde zasahuje do práv alebo práva iných osôb, či už fyzických alebo právnických, a to takým spôsobom, ktorý si vyžaduje účinná ochrana dotknutých záujmov. Nie teda každé vyjadrenie názoru je nevyhnutné postihovať prostriedkami trestného práva - práve naopak. V prerokúvanom prípade obžalovaný Mgr. art. E. N. P. zasiahol do práva Židov ako skupiny osôb - národa - tým, že ich svojím článkom hanil a urážal zovšeobecňujúc negatívne vlastnosti, ktoré o nich v minulosti vyslovili i mnohí národní dejatelia. Tak ako správne uviedol prvostupňový súd, nešlo len o prostú citáciu takýchto výrokov, ale aj o určitú syntézu týchto myšlienok a ich dotvorenie vlastným negatívnym názorom o nich.” (s. 19)</p> <p>“Regarding the part in which the accused Mgr. art. E.N.P objected to the legal classification of his conduct as a criminal offense, it should be noted in principle that the right to opinion is subject to criminal liability to the limited extent provided by the Criminal Code only where it interferes with the rights or rights of others, whether natural or legal persons, in a way that requires effective protection of the interests involved. Thus, not every expression of opinion is necessary to be punished by criminal law - quite the contrary. In the present case, the accused Mgr. art. E. N. P. interfered in the rights of Jews as a group of people - the nation - by defaming and insulting them with his article, generalizing the negative qualities that many national figures have said about them in the past. As the Court of First Instance rightly stated, it was not only a simple citation of such statements, but also a certain synthesis of these ideas and their completion with his own negative opinions about them.” (p. 19)</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	13 May 2021
Reference details	https://www.poradna-prava.sk/sk/dokumenty/tlacove-vyhlasenie-k-oslobodeniu-jedneho-z-poskodonych-z-policajnej-razie-v-moldave-nad-bodvou/
Key facts of the case (max. 500 chars)	In September 2020, the European Court of Human Rights ruled on police violence against two Roma from Moldava nad Bodvou, which they faced during a police raid in 2013. According to the court, the Slovak authorities did not protect the Roma from police violence and also did not investigate the incident effectively. At the same time, both victims were charged in Slovakia with the criminal offense of false accusation against members of the police who were to commit violence against them.
Main reasoning/argumentation (max. 500 chars)	The District Court of Košice I. definitively stopped the criminal proceedings against one of these victims. This happened after the prosecutor dropped the charges against him.
Key issues (concepts, interpretations) clarified by the case (max. 500 chars)	The accused was charged with perjury, and at the main hearing the prosecutor withdrew from the indictment pursuant to Section 239 para. 2 of the Code of Criminal Proceeding.

Results (sanctions) and key consequences or implications of the case (max. 500 chars)	The case lasted 8 years and the reversal did not occur until after the judgment of ECHR. The first of the defendants was acquitted on the grounds that the prosecutor had withdrawn the action in full.
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Key quotation in original language and translated into English with reference details (max. 500 chars)

Súd podľa § 285 písm. g) Trestného poriadku obžalovaného J., nar. XX.X. XXXX v A., trvale bytom , BR. spod obžaloby prokurátora H. sp. zn. XPv XXX/XXXX zo dňa XX.X.XXXX pre skutok, ktorý mal spáchať tak, že dňa XX.XX.XXXX od XX:XX hod do XX:XX hod v A. na A. po zákonom poučení ako svedok poškodený v trestnom konaní vedenom na F.y, Q. (ďalej len „Q.“) uviedol, že X. H., nar. XX.XX.XXXX ho mal na H. dňa XX.XX.XXXX. v presne nezistenom čase kopnúť s A. a to asi X - X krát a biť L. a to asi X - X krát, a na základe tejto výpovede bolo začaté trestné stíhanie za zločin mučenia a iného neľudského alebo krutého zaobchádzania podľa § 420 ods. 1, ods. 2 písm. e/ Trestného zákona a iné, a toto trestné stíhanie bolo po vykonanom dokazovaní právoplatne zastavené vyšetrovateľom PZ podľa § 215 ods. 1 písm. a/, ods. 4 Trestného poriadku, pretože bolo jednoznačne preukázané, že sa skutok nestal, v ktorom sa vidí prečin krivého obvinenia podľa § 345 ods. 1 Tr. zákona, v celom rozsahu o s l o b o d z u j e , pretože prokurátor na hlavnom pojednávaní ustúpil od obžaloby podľa § 239 ods. 2 Tr. poriadku.

The court according to § 285 letter g) of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Defendant J., born XX.X. XXXX in A., permanently flat, BR under the indictment of the prosecutor H. sp. zn. XPv XXX / XXXX of XX.X.XXXX for an act which he was supposed to have committed, that on XX.XX.XXXX from XX: XX to XX: XX in A. to A. after a legal instruction as a witness injured in the criminal proceedings against Fy, Q. (hereinafter referred to as "Q.") stated that XH, born XX.XX.XXXX had him on H. on XX.XX.XXXX. at exactly an undetected time to kick with A. about X - X times and beat L. about X - X times, and on the basis of this statement, criminal proceedings were initiated for the crime of torture and other inhuman or cruel treatment under § 420 para. 1, par. 2 letter e / of the Criminal Code and others, and this criminal prosecution was legally stopped by the police investigator according to § 215 par. 1 letter a /, par. 4 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, because it was clearly proven that the act did not happen, which sees the offense of false accusation under § 345 para. 1 Tr. of the Act, in its entirety o s l o b o d z u j e , because the prosecutor at the main hearing withdrew from the accusation according to § 239 par. 2 Code of Criminal Procedure.

Thematic area	ASYLUM, VISAS, MIGRATION, BORDERS AND INTEGRATION Please provide the most relevant high court decision – or any court ruling – relating to the implementation of the right to an effective remedy in the context of storing data in national large-scale databases and in EU IT systems (Eurodac, VIS, SIS) delivered in 2021.
Decision date	<u><i>No case law has been identified for this thematic area.</i></u>

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	<u><i>No case law has been identified for this thematic area.</i></u>

Thematic area	RIGHTS OF THE CHILD Please provide the most relevant high court decision related to the topics addressed in the chapter.
Decision date	<i><u>No case law has been identified for this thematic area.</u></i>

Thematic area	ACCESS TO JUSTICE Please provide the most relevant high court decision related to the topics addressed in the chapter.
Decision date	<i><u>No case law has been identified for this thematic area.</u></i>

Thematic area	DEVELOPMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (CRPD) Please provide the most relevant court judgment, which quoted the CRPD or prominently referred to the CRPD in the reasoning.
Decision date	<i><u>No case law has been identified for this thematic area.</u></i>