

# ANNEX VIII: SLOVENIA

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## **(1) Definition of Intellectual Disability**

There is no official definition of intellectual disability in Slovenia. The terminology varies considerably, and is dependent on the area of use, such as education or health related fields. Medical terminology of specific syndromes, such as Down's Syndrome is common. Children with intellectual disability may be referred to as being 'at risk' or as having 'special needs'.

There is no legislative definition but rather the terminology reflects those who work within the field. Typically these terms include 'mental retardation', 'mental handicap', 'intellectual disability' or 'mental disturbance'. It is important to note that these terms may also include individuals who have psychiatric conditions.

Use of the World Health Organisation classification of intellectual disability is common in Slovenia, despite the lack of an official translation. The system classifies a disability as being mild, moderate, severe or profound. An individual is considered to have an intellectual disability if the condition is present before the age of 18 years, if the individual has impaired intellectual functioning and if the individual has impaired social functioning.

Slovenia is currently considering its terminology regarding disability, and terms such as people with 'less ability' and 'intellectual disability' are being considered.

## **(2) Historical Context of Service Development**

Slovenia has a long tradition of service provision for people with intellectual disability. Service provision began in the beginning of the twentieth century, where educational classes for children with mild intellectual disability were introduced. Residential provision began after the Second World War, when large institutions were founded to provide services for a mix of individuals, including those with intellectual disability, those with psychiatric conditions and others who could not be placed elsewhere. These institutions were typically large isolated buildings such as castles. By the 1960s, institutional care was deemed inappropriate for people with disabilities and

the numbers of people receiving this type of care began to reduce. This was also a period of intensive activity in the founding of special schools.

By 1963 a major change in the development of service provision was heralded by the establishment of parent organisations. These organisations played an important role in the development of complete care for people with intellectual disabilities and their families. During this time, between 1965 and 1975, the first forms of care specifically for people with moderate and severe intellectual disabilities were established.

The first developmental departments in kindergartens, and associated legislation, also occurred at this time. The legislation enabled the inclusion of children with intellectual disabilities in different forms of preschool and school education.

Adult day care provision, in the form of the first day care centre and the first employment services were established in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, by parent organisations. By the 1980s there was a noticeable acceleration in the growth of these adult services which are now located throughout Slovenia. While these services were originally founded by parent groups, many of them now receive state funding.

An important milestone in the history of service development in Slovenia was the introduction of a Law of Society Care for adults with intellectual disability. Slovenia was the first country from the former Yugoslavia to implement this legislation which provides disability status for people with intellectual disability and provides them with rights regarding special service provision. The law also provides for financial assistance to people with intellectual disability who are over 18 years.

The Institution of Dolfka Bostjancic was built in 1985. This was the first residential institution intentionally built for its purpose. Previously, people with intellectual disability were placed in residential institutions located in former castles. The institution in Dornava provides an example of the old castle style institutional care provision.

Following the establishment of the Institution of Dolfka Bostjancic there was a period of discussion regarding the need for smaller community based residential care in small towns. These discussions were based on qualitative changes regarding the manner in which people with intellectual disability were perceived and were influenced by the principles of individualisation, inclusion, normalisation and integration.

In 1991, the Slovenian Parliament accepted The National Strategy for Invalid Care, (any details on this?) however this strategy has yet to be operationalised. In a related development, the

Parliament founded the Bureau for Invalids and Social Chamber. This bureau replaces the Government Office for the Disabled and Chronically Sick of the Republic of Slovenia which was closed down. The responsibility of this office now falls to the Social Chamber and the Ministry for Work, Family and Social Themes.

'Harmony', a parental based organization, accepted their General Concept and executional principles in 1999. The organisation advocates for people with intellectual disability of all ages across all levels of intellectual disability. Harmony organises education and qualification for parents, in the form of parent schools and seminars, and more recently, the organisation has designed courses specifically to meet the needs of adults with intellectual disability. Each year, over 4,000 people with intellectual disability and their parents are involved in Harmony activities.

In 1999 the Slovenian Parliament accepted the National Programme of Social Care which runs to 2005. The adoption of this programme resulted in the expansion of social care services. Care for people with intellectual disability is currently not only provided by the state, but also by private institutions. Many day centres have now been established by parent based organisations and by religious organisations. This process is planned, guided and financed by government on the basis of concessions.

Service provision in Slovenia is moving towards the funding allocated on the basis of an individual's needs. At the moment funding is not awarded to an individual, but rather to the organisation providing the service. This situation is likely to change in the future towards an individual rights based policy.

### **(3) Rights based legislation**

There are a number of laws governing the rights of individuals with intellectual disability in Slovenia:

➤ **The Institute of Prolonged Parental Rights:**

The Law of Marriage and Family Relationships: This legislation secures the rights of parents who have a child with an intellectual disability to receive appropriate elementary care for their children, education for their children, representation and disposal rights. Disposal rights confer parents with the right to manage personal possessions belonging to their child who has an intellectual disability.

➤ Taking away Function Ability:

The Law of Unlawsuit Procedures: This legislation is not only applicable for those with intellectual disability but also those who because of physical (e.g. coma) or mental (e.g. psychiatric condition) incapacity may be unable to make appropriate decisions regarding his/her future.

The law allows for another individual to be partially or fully responsible for an individual who is deemed unable to make such decisions.

➤ The Right for Family Assistance:

This right allows an individual, possibly a parent, close family member or a non-family member, to provide care for a person with intellectual disability. The legislation is only applicable in cases where the individual's level of ability is within the severe to profound level – previously those with a moderate level of ability were also included. The law provides carers with a guaranteed income to provide care for the individual with intellectual disability. This ruling allows the person to continue to live within the family home and therefore reduces the numbers of individuals living in institutionalised care.

#### **(4) Prevalence of Intellectual Disability**

Harmony, the parental organisation, publishes information on the prevalence of intellectual disability in Slovenia. With an estimated two million people comprising the population in Slovenia, Harmony estimate that approximately 37,400 people have a mild level of intellectual disability. For those with either moderate or severe intellectual disability – Harmony did not discriminate between these two categories – approximately 10,000 individuals are estimated to reside in Slovenia. Finally, 2,500 people are estimated to have profound levels of intellectual disability.

Prevalence estimates of service users may be less accurate than those estimates presented above. Firstly, large proportions of individuals with severe and profound disability live in the family home and will therefore be excluded from these estimates. Secondly, there are also a proportion of people with intellectual disability who are inappropriately placed in residential care placements that were originally intended to support a different group of residents, such as the elderly. Despite the challenges, the Slovenian Statistical Office (2005) provide the following statistics.

**Table 1: Public social welfare institutions**

1990	1995	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	
<b>Institutions</b>								
3	5	5	5	5	8	8*	8	Institutions for training moderately and seriously handicapped children and youth
53	47	49	49	55	58	61	63	Homes for the Elderly
3	6	7	7	7	7	7	15	Special social welfare institutions
...	39	44	40	43	44	45	74	Centres for protection and training
<b>People in care</b>								
370	794	808	821	808	802	793	837	Institutions for training moderately and seriously handicapped children and youth
11260	10757	11832	11905	12346	13051	13498	13098	Homes for the Elderly
1003	1602	1679	1690	1713	1706	1697	2746	Special social welfare institutions
...	1427	1947	1976	2158	2265	2463	2557	Centres for protection and training

From the year 2004, data is available on 7 special social care services and 8 adult units for special forms of taking care for adults with ID, in homes for aged or their dislocated units.

**Table 2: People in care and persons in paid employment in social welfare institutions and refused applicants during 2004.**

<i>Institutions</i>	<i>Applicants refused</i>	<b>People in care</b>			<b>Persons in paid employment</b>			
		<i>total</i>	<i>men</i>	<i>women</i>	<i>total</i>	<i>health care personnel</i>	<i>social welfare personnel</i>	
8	3	837	480	357	833 <sup>1)</sup>	607 <sup>1)</sup>	266 <sup>1)</sup>	Institutions for training moderately and seriously handicapped children and youth
63	7420	13098	3388	9710	5930	3258	2672	Homes for the Elderly
15	355	2746	1292	1454	1495	870	625	Special social welfare institutions (also for people with behavioral problems, etc.)
74	100	2557	1411	1146	898 <sup>2)</sup>	90	808 <sup>2)</sup>	Centres for protection and training

1) Included are all persons in paid employment in institutions for training moderately and seriously handicapped children and youth. Health care personnel include medical staff, special pedagogues, defectologists, psychologists, guardians and nurses. Social welfare personnel includes social staff, teachers for practical lessons and working instructors, managers, other professional

personnel and other personnel.2) Included are 85 workers whose services are paid by the Employment Service of Slovenia.

### **(5) Databases**

Except for the information provided by parental organization and the statistical yearbook presented above, there are no other sources of information regarding the prevalence of people with intellectual disability in Slovenia.

### **(6) Criterion for eligibility for intellectual disability services**

In order for a person to avail of services for people with intellectual disability in Slovenia, the individual must have a moderate or more severe level of intellectual disability. Individuals can be categorised as having an intellectual disability on entering the education system or alternatively, they automatically receive the status of ‘invalid’ on reaching their 18 years of age.

Children with mild levels of intellectual disability typically receive their education in ordinary schools. However there may be some segregation between children with and without intellectual disability when those with intellectual disability attend schools with special modified programmes.

Information on the profile of people attending day care centres reveals that up to 20% of people are inappropriately placed. These services, informally known as ‘stars’ generally provide services for people with moderate or more severe levels of disability. In Slovenia, people with moderate, severe and profound intellectual disability do not have access to employment. Those with mild levels of intellectual disability – inappropriately placed in stars – would be deemed suitable for employment and would vacate places that might then be offered to people with more severe levels of disability.

### **(7) Types of Service Provision**

There is a variety of residential care provided for adults with intellectual disability. These include:

- General Institutions - these institutions are not specific to people with disabilities and may include homes for the elderly, etc.

- Special Social Institutions, - these institutions provide care for a wide variety of individuals with very diverse needs. People attending these institutions may have cognitive impairments (e.g. dementia), mobility difficulties, etc. There are eight Special Social Institutions in Slovenia: Dutovlje, Hrastovec, Lokavci, Grmovje, Ponikve, Petrovo Brdo, Škofja Loka and Lukavci.
- Public Institutions for people with intellectual disability – there are five such institutions in Slovenia as presented in the table below. These units provide training facilities for children and adolescents with intellectual disability.

**Table 3: Public Institutions for people with Intellectual Disability**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
CENTER ZA USPOSABLJANJE, DELO IN VARSTVO ČRNA NA KOROŠKEM; also units VDC in Slovenj Gradcu and Muti /Radlje/	Center 144 2393 ČRNA NA KOROŠKEM	<a href="mailto:group7.sgcudiv@guest.arnes.si">group7.sgcudiv@guest.arnes.si</a>
CENTER ZA USPOSABLJANJE, DELO IN VARSTVO DOLFKE BOŠTJANČIČ ;also unit VDC in Ribnici	Draga 1292 IG	<a href="mailto:center.draga.ig@center-db.si">center.draga.ig@center-db.si</a>
Center za usposabljanje, delo in varstvo dobrna	Lokovina 10, 3204 DOBRNA	<a href="mailto:uprava-zuvd@siol.net">uprava-zuvd@siol.net</a>
CENTER ZA USPOSABLJANJE, DELO IN VARSTVO MATEVŽA LANGUSA RADOVLJICA;also unit VDC in Jesenice	Cesta na Jezerca 17, 4240 RADOVLJICA	<a href="mailto:zvonka.stefancic@dom-ml.si">zvonka.stefancic@dom-ml.si</a>
Zavod za usposabljanje, delo in varstvo dr. Marijan borštnar dornava;also unit vdc in ormož	Dornava 128, 2252 DORNAVA	<a href="mailto:info@zavod-dornava.si">info@zavod-dornava.si</a>
LEGEND: Center za usposabljanje, delo in varstvo MEANS center for training, work and care. VDC MEANS center for care and work.		

The centres above provide care for children and adolescents. Once an individual reaches adulthood they have a number of choices regarding adult care services. Some adults – those over 26 years – move to the residential unit Škofljica, based at the Center of Dolfke Bostjancic. Alternatively those who leave school, typically at 18 years of age, may receive social care in day care centres such as those presented below:

### Independent day centres:

- AJDOVŠČINA\*: VDC Ajdovščina - Vipava, Gradiška 7, Vipava (units in Ajdovščina and Vipava)
- CELJE: Center za varstvo in delo Golovec, Celje, Na Golovcu 2, 3000 Celje (enoti v Celju na 5 lokacijah in Radečah)
- ČRNOMELJ: VDC Črnomelj, Majer 7, 8340 Črnomelj (na 2 lokacijah)
- IDRIJA: VDC Idrija - Vrhnika, Ulica IX. korpusa 17, 5280 Idrija (enote v Idriji, na Vrhniki in v Logatcu - ta je še v ustanavljanju)
- KOPER: VDC Koper, Ul. 15.maja 8, 6000 Koper (enote v Kopru, Ilirski Bistrici, Sežani, Divači, Izoli in Portorožu)
- KRANJ: VDC Kranj, Kidričeva 51, 4000 Kranj (enote v Kranju, Trziču in Škofji Loki)
- KRŠKO: VDC Krško-Leskovec, Ul. Staneta Žagarja 4, 8273 Leskovec (enote v Krškem, Sevnici in Brežicah)
- LJUBLJANA: VDC Tončke Hočevar Ljubljana, Vodnikova 56, 1000 Ljubljana (na 7 lokacijah)
- MARIBOR: VDC Polž Maribor, Rapočeva 13, 2000 Maribor (enota v Mariboru na 4 lokacijah, v Lenartu, Slovenski Bistrici in v Rušah)
- MENGEŠ: VDC INCE Mengeš, Ropretova 23, 1234 Mengeš (enota v Mengšu na 2 lokacijah, enota v Litiji, ki je še v izgradnji)
- MURSKA SOBOTA: VDC Murska Sobota, Trstenjakova 69, 9000 Murska Sobota (enote v Murski Soboti, Lendavi, Ljutomeru in Gornji Radgoni na 2 lokacijah)
- NOVA GORICA\*: VDC Nova Gorica, Klanec 14a, Solkan (enoti v Novi Gorici in Stari Gori)
- NOVO MESTO: VDC Novo mesto, Šmihel 3, 8000 Novo mesto (enoti v Novem mestu na 2 lokacijah in Trebnjem)
- POSTOJNA: VDC Postojna, Vilharjeva 14, 6230 Postojna (enoti v Postojni in Cerknici)
- ŠENTJUR: VDC Šentjur, Ipavčeva 8, 3230 Šentjur (enote v Šentjurju, Slovenskih konjicah in Šmarjah pri Jelšah)
- TOLMIN: VDC Tolmin, Rutarjeva ul. 18, 5220 Tolmin (na 2 lokacijah)
- VELENJE: VDC SAŠA, Kidričeva cesta 19A, 3320 (enote v Velenju, Mozirju in Žalcu)
- ZAGORJE: VDC Zagorje, Cesta 9. avgusta 59a, 1410 Zagorje

The centres listed below are referred to as Day Centres with Concession. A concession is a form of contract between the Ministry and the health care service provider. Those receiving services through concessions are completely integrated into the public health care system. An example of

this system can be seen in the services provided by medical doctors. Doctors receiving either partial or full concessions receive payment directly from health insurers and not from the patient.

### Day Centres with Concessions

- Podjetje za usposabljanje in zaposlovanje invalidov **Želva d. o. o., enota VDC, Samova 9, 1000 Ljubljana (na 4 lokacijah v Ljubljani, v Ajševici /Nova gorica/, v Kočevju, Grosuplju in Černelovcih /Murska Sobota/)**
- Zveza društev za cerebralno paralizo Slovenije, **VDC, Rožanska ul. 2, 1000 Ljubljana (v Ljubljani na treh lokacijah, v Mariboru, Murski Soboti, Ptuj, Kranju, Slovenj Gradcu, Celju, Kopru in Dravogradu)**
- Društvo Barka - VDC, **Zbilje 66, 1215 Medvode**
- Zavod Zarja, **VDC, Kunaverjeva 14, 1000 Ljubljana (na treh lokacijah)**
- Čebela, Dnevno varstvo Karitas VDC, **Žička c. 15, 3210 Slovenske Konjice**
- VDC Muc, **Sreto Zelen s.p., Preserje 18 b, 3314 Braslovče (v Braslovčah in na Polzeli)**
- Sožitje Maribor, **VDC, Ul. Proletarskih brigad 79/a, 2000 Maribor (na dveh lokacijah)**
- Sožitje Kamnik, **VDC, Osnovna šola Loke, Loke 7, 1219 Laze v Tuhinju (naslov za pošiljanje pošte: Društvo Sožitje Kamnik - društvo za pomoč osebam z motnjami v duševnem razvoju, Jenkova 16, 1241 Kamnik)**
- Sožitje Ptuj, **Rajšpova 20, 2250 Ptuj**
- Zavod Korak, **Jelenčeva 15, 4000 Kranj**
- Delovni in zaposlitveni center Janeza Levca, **Karlovška 18, Ljubljana**

In summary, people with intellectual disability can access both day centres and residential care places. The level of care provided is dependent on individual need. Daily activities, such as simple assembly tasks, are also dependent on the person's level of ability.

### (8) Source of Income for people with intellectual disability

The income available to people with intellectual disability resident in Slovenia is related to the age of the individual. Up to 18 years, there is no categorization of level of ability (e.g. mild, moderate, etc) there are only written orders of directing in educational programs.

## **Parental Benefits:**

Children are not awarded the status of ‘invalid’ and are therefore not eligible for disability benefits provided for those deemed ‘invalids’. There are however specific benefits awarded to parents of children with intellectual disabilities. These benefits include:

- Addition for Child Care:

The Law on Parental Care and Family Incomes provides parents of children with moderate and severe intellectual disabilities with a monthly income of approximately 100 euros, and parents of children with profound intellectual disability with an income of approximately 200 euros.

This payment is dependent on the income of the parents; it is available to all parents who apply for this scheme.

- The Right to engage in part-time employment:

Parents of a child with an intellectual disability can apply for the right to engage in part-time employment. The government covers the remainder of their salary on the basis of a guaranteed income of 300 euro monthly if they were employed full-time, and their pension costs.

- Non-working Parent:

This benefit is applicable for parents of children with a profound level of intellectual disability and provides payment and pension costs for one parent who provides care for the child within the family home.

## **Benefits for Adults with Intellectual Disability**

People with intellectual disability over 18 years of age are eligible for the status of ‘invalid’. This status infers rights to care at day centres, institutional care, residential care, etc.

- Substitute for Invalidism:

Adults with moderate, severe or profound levels of intellectual disability are entitled to a payment of 36% of the average wage in the previous year – currently approximately 200 euros monthly.

➤ Addition for Help and Care:

This benefit is received by approximately 50% of people with moderate, severe or profound intellectual disability. There are two payments depending on the level of ability of the individual. Those who require help in most life domains receive approximately 100 euros monthly and those who require help in all life domains receive between 150 and 170 euros monthly

This benefit was introduced in 1984 and requires an assessment of the individual with intellectual disability. The assessments are conducted by questionnaire and examine the daily living skills of the individual (e.g. mobility, dressing, eating, etc.).

➤ Addition for Help and Service:

Individuals with intellectual disability in receipt of this benefit receive approximately 250 euros monthly. This benefit is generally aimed at those with poor mobility.

➤ Rewards

People working in day centres can receive payment for their outcome. The amount of payment received differs from centre to centre, but in general payments of between 3 and 60 euro are made per month.

➤ Retirement payment following the death of a parent

➤ This payment is available on the death of a parent. If this payment is lower than the Substitute for Invalidism cited above, the discrepancy is paid to the individual.

## **(9) Health Services for People with Intellectual Disability**

As with the general population, general dental care is provided to people with intellectual disability by a personal dentist. Specialist procedures are conducted at the Stomatologic Clinic in Ljubljana.

Dolfka Bostjancic employs physicians specifically to meet the medical needs of those attending the centre. Contract visits are organised for other health care specialists such as neurologists, psychiatrists and orthopaedic specialists.

Most typically, a person with intellectual disability receives medical care from a trained paediatrician. The paediatrician typically remains providing medical care after the child has reached 18 years.

#### **(10) Research**

Dr. Darja Zaviršek, Associate Professor, at the School of Social Work, University of Ljubljana has carried out research in the field. (Email: [darja.zavirsek@uni-lj.si](mailto:darja.zavirsek@uni-lj.si) Phone: +386 1 /280 92 70). Recently Dr Zaviršek completed work on an international project regarding educational options for people with intellectual disabilities.

#### **(11) Life Expectancy**

There is no national data regarding the life expectancy of people with intellectual disability, however people with intellectual disabilities are now living longer, as evidenced by the presence of service users in their mid seventies.

#### **(12) Health Screening & Health Promotion**

There is no information regarding health screening either for the general population or for people with intellectual disability in Slovenia. Equally, there are no health promotion activities either for the general population or specifically for those with intellectual disability.

#### **(13) Disability Training for Health Professionals.**

There are no training modules specific to intellectual disability for health professionals such as dentists, physicians or psychiatrists. Typically a paediatric physician would see a person with intellectual disability. Currently there is only one physician specialising in the care of people with intellectual disability, Dr. Nika Tevz – Cizej, who works at the Center Dolfka Bostjancic. Dr Tevz-Cizej is self taught and has now amassed considerable expertise in the field.