

ANNEX Measures taken in the period 2010–2014

Rights of national, Roma and other ethnic communities

In 2013, the Police launched activities for the project *SKUPA-J* (Together), which is aimed at supporting national activities in the fight against discrimination and fostering equality. The focus of the one-year project is to raise the awareness of civil servants, Roma and the general public in order to overcome obstacles and improve the quality of co-existence. The project has three key elements:

1. Upgrading and developing existing policies to eliminate discrimination against Roma, promote their equality and improve their situation;
2. Spreading information about European and national policies and legislation on non-discrimination against Roma and integrating Roma through overcoming stereotypes and prejudices among civil servants and the general public;
3. Combining several identified good practice examples in the inclusion of Roma children in schools, awareness-raising among Roma women and strengthening their role, as well as improving the quality of life of Roma (emphasis on women, the elderly and persons with disabilities).

National radio and television regularly broadcast Roma programmes, namely the radio programme "Our Paths – *Amare droma*" and the television programme "What are you saying? – *So vakeres?*", which are produced by Roma. The Roma Information Centre (ROMIC), which was assigned a radio frequency and collaborates with trained Roma reporters, has been successfully operating for ten years now.

Good practices in this area have also been recorded in certain municipalities with a Roma population, which undertook comprehensive measures at the local level. The municipalities of Trebnje and Novo Mesto in south-east Slovenia and the municipalities of Tišina and Črenšovci in north-east Slovenia should be highlighted as positive examples. In most municipalities in south-east Slovenia, the challenges are different from those in the north-east. The municipalities of Trebnje and Novo Mesto have developed a comprehensive method for the social inclusion of Roma and implement measures in all spheres of social life of members of the Roma community in the local environment (from regulating housing conditions to education, health care, employment, etc.). In autumn 2013, the Municipality of Novo Mesto even adopted a central strategic document governing this field for the 2013–2020 periodⁱ which is aimed at improving the situation of members of the Roma community in the municipality and the quality of co-existence of all its residents. In north-east Slovenia, Roma attained a satisfactory level of socialisation, integrating into the local environment and society, and living among the majority population. Positive examples are the municipalities of Tišina and Črenšovci, in close partnership with the municipality and the local Roma population (including local Roma organisations), which work hand in hand to improve the situation of the Roma community. Cooperation between the mayors and representatives of the Roma community in the municipal councils of the two municipalities is excellent, as is the cooperation between local organisations of the Roma community (associations) and other NGOs, which have set up a special partnership, bidding with its projects at various national and European tenders. The projects and their content significantly improve the social inclusion of local Roma population, while at the same time raising awareness of the local and other majority population of the local Roma community. In the long run, these projects serve to bring the Roma and non-Roma populations closer, eliminate prejudice against, and stereotypes about, Roma, and also improve the quality of life of the entire local community.

Early inclusion of Roma in the education programme is crucial (pre-school education). Two projects co-financed by the European Social Fund should be underlined, i.e. "Increasing the Social and Cultural Capital in Areas Populated by Members of the Roma Community" and "Successful Inclusion of Roma in Education I and II". Future work will have to be based on social incubators as places to overcome prejudice, approach Roma, include Roma families in school activities, work with children and parents and undertake efforts to inform about the importance of education to ensure better life for future generations.

In 2008, a call for applications was published within the framework of the European Social Fund entitled "Successful Inclusion of Roma in Education". The main objective was to develop mechanisms for the more effective inclusion of Roma in pre-school institutions and basic schools and promote Roma culture, history and identity. The only project selected, which was concluded in August 2011, was coordinated by the Union of Roma of Slovenia, and concerned the introduction of a Roma teaching assistant in the education process. Thirty Roma assistants were trained and acquired a

national professional qualification. The end result is improved relations between children and teachers, parents and schools. More than a thousand children who participated in the project achieved better school attendance and performance. Teaching materials on Romani, Roma history and culture were compiled, and Roma parents educated. The project won European acclaim and received special mention in the *2010 RegioStars Awards* competition organised by the European Commission.

In 2010, the second European Social Fund call for applications was published, titled "Increasing the Social and Cultural Capital in Areas Populated by Members of the Roma Community". The selected project was implemented by a consortium of seven partners led by the Institute for Ethnic Studies, which concluded its activities in August 2013. The project focused on the development of innovative and creative educational activities in the Roma community, particularly for the pre-school stage; learning assistance for Roma pupils and students; various extracurricular activities; education and training of teachers, social workers and other teaching professionals as well as qualified professionals in NGOs for work with Roma children and adolescents. One of the innovations of the project was the establishment of Roma educational incubators, which could be defined as comprehensive programmes comprising different methods of working with Roma children, adolescents and their parents in their own environment, i.e. Roma settlements. More than 30 pre-school institutions and schools participated in the project.

The project selected in July 2011 in the European Social fund call for applications "Successful Inclusion of Roma in Education II" built on the results of the previous project of the Union of Roma of Slovenia and that of the Institute for Ethnic Studies, and the solutions proposed in the Strategy for the Education of the Roma in Slovenia, as amended. The project led by the Kočevje Adult Education Centre will conclude in August 2014. It is aimed at enhancing the quality of work of Roma assistants, so that Roma pupils can more successfully achieve the standards of knowledge in basic school and enrol in secondary education. Its activities also focus on raising the educational level of Roma assistants, which will help establish the overall regulation of their status at the national level.

In the past six years, the Murska Sobota Public Health Institute carried out a programme to promote a healthy lifestyle among Roma, *Khetaun ži sastipe* – Healthier together, with *ROMIC* Roma radio station, a weekly broadcast with preventive advice. Three national conferences to reduce the health inequalities of Roma children were organised in Radenci, Novo Mesto and Kočevje. The 2014 annual programme of the National Institute for Public Health envisages numerous activities, such as a national conference on Roma health, the implementation of a programme to promote health within the Roma community, features on health and nutrition for the Roma radio and newspaper, and participation in activities organised by the Union of Roma of Slovenia.

Women's rights

In 2013, in cooperation with the Managers' Association – Women Managers' Section and the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities began implementing the project "*Vključi.Vse*" (Include.All). The Ministry obtained the funds for the project through a call for applications for the Progress programme. The project is aimed at enhancing the knowledge of the status of both female and male managers and the obstacles to the balanced representation of genders in the posts of economic decision-making; eliminating stereotypes about women and men in top-level and leading positions and promoting the case of gender equality in economic decision-making; encouraging the participation of the private sector and representation of women at all levels of decision-making. The project includes the following: research on gender equality in economic decision-making, a study on gender equality and diversity policies in companies, an expert forum on gender equality in economic decision-making and a public media campaign.

Supported by funds provided by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism Programme 2009-2014 for Slovenia, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities also implements a project titled "Towards Equalizing Power Relations between Women and Men", which is aimed at fostering the balanced representation of women and men in decision-making processes. The activities are aimed at increasing the participation and representation of women in political and economic decision-making and at promoting work-life balance.

Special programmes and projects are being carried out to increase the employment rate of women and reduce segregation in the labour market. The "Family-Friendly Company" project facilitates the reconciliation of professional and private life and has helped reduce discrimination in the labour market

and strengthen the equal opportunities concept. The project "Girls' Day" provides basic school girls with an insight into typically male professions, encouraging them to enrol in secondary schools attended predominantly by boys. In 2012, activities were implemented to encourage young people, particularly girls, to take up natural or technical science courses in calls for applications to promote sciences. Projects are being financed to encourage and raise awareness among pupils and secondary school students of various professions and study programmes.

Domestic violence

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport published a call for applications to provide additional training for qualified professionals, enabling them to work more effectively and quickly identify various forms of violence (in the family). The selected Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law implemented the project "Systemic Response to Domestic Violence – Training for Teaching Professionals". The training programme focused on the legal bases for addressing domestic violence, its identification and prevention, the duties of staff at education institutions in addressing violence, and cooperation with other institutions. The programme also included practical testing of acquired knowledge, reflection and exchange of experience. The training was successfully concluded by approx. 1400 qualified professionals, who acquired relevant information and material to teach pupils. In 2013, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, and the Police, drafted the "Arrangement for the Implementation of Tasks to Protect Children". More information is available at:

http://www.mizs.gov.si/si/delovna_podrocja/urad_za_razvoj_izobrazevanja/prepoznavanje_prepreceva_nje_in_obravnavana_silja/nasilje_v_druzini/.

In 2012, as part of the project "Specialised Training for Teaching Professionals to Build Capacities to Prevent Violence for the 2010–2012 Period", the provider, the ISA Institute, an institute for psycho-educational projects, concluded specialised training programmes for teaching professionals (with guaranteed interim activities: testing the acquired knowledge in practice, reflection and exchange of experience). The programmes included topics on preventing child abuse, strengthening families, non-violence, and volunteer work to strengthen the values of non-violence; 3,380 participants took part in the project. Further details are available at: http://www.mss.gov.si/si/solstvo/strukturni_skladi/instrumenti_operacije_upravicenci_in_gradiva/ (call for applications to select operations "Co-Financing of Specialised Training for Teaching Professionals on the Identification and Prevention of Violence in the 2010–2012 Period").

Children's rights

On the day marking the 20th anniversary of Slovenia's accession to the United Nations, the first Slovenian teaching manual on the UN was published for pupils of the third cycle and their teachers. The textbook, entitled "Stronger Together", is a result of successful cooperation between the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, and the UN Information Service in Vienna (UNIS). It is a significant contribution to raising awareness about the UN, its role, goals, importance, and achievements in all areas of activity involving human rights, sustainable development, peace, and security. All Slovenian basic schools received a copy of the textbook, and it is also available in public libraries throughout Slovenia. Stronger Together, the first web site for young people to specialise in the UN, was launched on 3 June 2013. With this project, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs highlighted the importance of informing young people about the goals of the UN and its activities, and strives for their active engagement, contributing to the development of a peaceful and inclusive society.

Between August 2011 and May 2013, Slovenia carried out training in Moldova for teaching professionals on providing assistance to children with learning difficulties and children living in inadequate social conditions. Ten local experts led by Slovenian experts passed their knowledge and practice on to a group of 40 teachers and other school staff from 29 schools and to 10 local experts. The project provided assistance to approx. 5,000 children, 2,000 of whom are Roma. Teachers and members of school staff reported on their experience in the daily use of the acquired knowledge and in transferring such knowledge to their colleagues. They are continuing to use the acquired skills and experience after the conclusion of the project. In addition, two smaller humanitarian and development projects were financed in 2012: a project preparing young people for active citizenship in Transnistria, Moldova, and a project on raising awareness among children of their rights, which was based on the methodology of the Our Rights project.

In 2011, as part of the e-Justice project and to implement draft Article 35 of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, the Ministry of Justice placed video conference equipment in 11 child-friendly interview rooms at social services. The project was carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and the non-governmental organisation *Beli Obroč* (White Ring). By using video conference equipment, interviews with child victims of a criminal offence (violence, sexual abuse) can be transmitted to the court room in which the judge, prosecutor, suspect and others are present, so the child does not have to appear in court. Concurrently, questions can be submitted in real time to the expert conducting the interview with the child, which means that as much information as possible can be obtained from the child. The interview with the child may be recorded, which means that the recording can be used later during the proceedings or in a potential parallel procedure. This prevents the secondary victimisation of the child. An informal working group set up by the Ministry of Justice drafted "Recommendations on Interviewing Children by Means of Video Conference or Other Technical Means".

Mediation

Conflict prevention and mediation as means of peacefully settling disputes is a key Slovenian foreign policy priority. It is essential to understand that promoting peaceful co-existence and tolerance must begin at home and at all levels of society. Slovenia attaches particular importance to mediation, a tool for settling disputes peacefully. The country has a well-structured civil society and has achieved positive results in school and peer mediation, which is implemented in pre-school institutions, basic and secondary schools, and which significantly reduces violence and raises awareness of the importance of human rights and diversity. Both countries and individuals – adults and children – need to understand that disagreements should be resolved through conversation, understanding and seeking solutions acceptable to all involved.

Raising awareness of the Holocaust

In 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the National Education Institute and some renowned Slovenian academics, drafted and implemented a project on raising the awareness of the Holocaust. The first stage included a survey to assess the knowledge of this topic among ninth-graders, and the second stage produced a booklet titled *Unknown Traces: Judaism, Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust in Slovenian History*. The booklet was aimed at educating young people about the effects of the Holocaust on the Slovenian Jewish community. It features the stories of three Slovenian Jewish girls in the Holocaust, outlining the risks of tolerating or promoting racism, anti-semitism or any other form of intolerance. The booklet was distributed to all Slovenian basic schools and to public libraries and is also available on the web sites of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Education Institute.

Rights of the elderly

The Symbiosis project is a good practice example of an intergenerational education programme approved by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. The project aims to strengthen cooperation and the transfer of knowledge between generations, which promotes lifelong learning. It is also aimed at raising computer literacy among older generations and at raising awareness among the elderly of modern methods of communication and social networks. Volunteers, who are mostly young people, help the elderly in a friendly manner in their (first) encounter with the computer, the Internet, mobile and other modern telecommunications equipment. The project enables the younger generation to promote the values of volunteer work, responsibility and proactive contribution, as well as the attitude to society and its own future. At the same time, it provides the older generation with the chance to be included in lifelong learning, thus improving their quality of life by means of the rapid development of technology in the 21st century. The project, in which numerous pensioners' associations are participating, is implemented by Institute Ypsilon.

Genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, Responsibility to Protect

On 27 March 2014, the Slovenian Government re-established the Permanent Coordination Group for International Humanitarian Law, which held its first session on 29 May 2014.

A legal lacunae exists regarding international legal assistance and extradition, which became evident during judicial proceedings against foreign nationals or persons who had committed criminal offences abroad. This particularly concerns trials against alleged perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in certain European countries which these persons committed abroad. As a

result, the prosecution of such criminal offences is an exceptionally difficult task, which requires close cooperation with the law enforcement authorities of other countries. If a treaty existed that regulated the cooperation of countries on international legal assistance in criminal matters and extradition, countries and their law enforcement authorities could prosecute international crimes more effectively; this is also recommendable in view of the principle of complementarity with the Rome Statute of the ICC, as it would enable countries to successfully prosecute perpetrators at home. Therefore, Slovenia, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Argentina are working on an initiative to improve the international framework for international legal assistance and extradition in investigations and trials of the most serious criminal offences, particularly genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The initiative has already been introduced to the international community through the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

At its 34th regular session on 17 October 2012, the Slovenian Government appointed the Focal Point for the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). The Focal Point reports annually to the Government. With a view to raising awareness in countries in the region and to encourage them to hold a large-scale debate on R2P, in April 2013 Slovenia and the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect held the first Regional R2P National Focal Points Meeting for Europe, which was attended by representatives of 31 countries, international and regional organisations and NGOs.

Persons with disabilities

As an example of good practice, the project "Museum in Sign Language" carried out by the Racio Social institute in cooperation with the Union of Associations of Deaf and Hearing Impaired of Slovenia and regional associations of deaf and hearing impaired in the 2010–2011 period deserves special mention. The project was co-financed within the European Social Fund through a call for applications for the selection of development projects aimed at improving the employability of vulnerable social groups in culture and supporting their social inclusion. Museum activities and exhibitions are aimed at spreading educational and cultural activities and bringing it closer to all. However, due to their own limitations not all members of society have equal access to information and cultural goods. Exhibitions in many museums in Slovenia and abroad use video guides and projections, which are almost useless to the deaf and hearing impaired. For such people, a visit to a museum or an exhibition is virtually impossible without the assistance of a Slovenian sign language interpreter. In addition, the texts for printed matter, catalogues and exhibition guides are frequently scientific and too abstract, which makes them incomprehensible to deaf persons. The project Museum in Sign Language is aimed at providing training for unemployed deaf and hearing impaired disabled persons on accessibility to culture by using the example of the multimedia adaptation of the exhibition "Following in the Footsteps of Ancient Emona – A Guide to the Best-Known Locations of the Former Ancient Town in the Centre of Today's Ljubljana" for the deaf and hearing impaired.

Implemented since 2003 by the Slovenian Association of Disabled Workers, the project "A Municipality Tailored to the Needs of People with Disabilities" is an example of good practice of comprehensive and coordinated activities for implementing the rights of persons with disabilities. The local community aiming to present its candidature for this distinction must carry out a status analysis and draw up a concrete comprehensive plan of action. In addition, it must report every year on the implementation of the plan to the Slovenian Association of Disabled Workers. To date, this distinction has been awarded to 17 municipalities, including the two largest cities, Ljubljana and Maribor.

Court backlogs

It is essential to introduce comprehensive information solutions in justice, particularly the almost completed informatisation of data entry registers as part of the Data Warehouse of the Slovenian Supreme Court, which facilitates reporting, tracing, analysis, and planning. Based on its own experience and that from the business environment, the Supreme Court developed an innovative integrated solution for Business Intelligence, the PSP project, to manage the courts which allows those in leading positions in justice to draw up relevant development strategies and make quick and high-quality decisions. The latter is comprised of the Data Warehouse and President's Dashboards. It includes all the processes, technologies and tools required to transform data obtained, from data entry registers to information on operations. Only after obtaining this information can one access the knowledge and skills required to make a plan or decision which will have a positive effect on the operations of courts and at the same time precisely measure the effects on a regular basis. The creation of the Data Warehouse, in which data obtained from various source systems (data sources) are unified and standardised, facilitates their simple use and further processing in terms of quantity

and quality. President's Dashboards are interactive and dynamic analytical tools facilitating the (visual) monitoring and processing of data obtained from the Data Warehouse. Presidents of courts can access this service through the Internet, which is the fastest way to obtain essential data on court procedures. The main objectives (effects) of the PSP project include: accelerating the resolution of cases and removal of court backlogs; improving control of courts' business processes; comparing the work of courts; improving the effectiveness of resolving older cases; providing assistance in the unification of court practice; improving the effectiveness of planning and coordination of human resources for individual courts, and rationalising the use of funds. The Data Warehouse is also the only, and the official, source of information for statistical reporting, as well as managing and monitoring the processes of the courts. Financed largely from EU funds, the PSP project was acknowledged as an example of good practice by both the European Commission and the Council of Europe at the awards ceremony for the prestigious Crystal Scales in Justice prize in 2012.

ⁱ Strategy on Addressing Roma Issues in the Novo Mesto Municipality for the 2013–2020 Period, <http://www.novomesto.si/si/obcina/?id=10930> (21 January 2014).