NATIONAL SOCIAL PROTECTION
STRATEGY BY THE YEAR 2005

Ljubljana, July 1998

INTRODUCTION
The main condition for Slovenia to become a Welfare State harmonisation of economic and social development.

The Strategy is steered by a social policy based upon objectives, measures and other instruments, developed and used by the State with the purpose for individuals and groups of population to fulfil their personal and common interests as well as to function as full and equal members of the society and State.

Social policy is in a more narrow sense determined by measures for provision of individual’s social protection. Social protection is determined by principles, regulations and activities which enable the individual to be included and to maintain being included in the social environment and to be active in it. The State provides in this, the material and social rights, the individual contributes in a form of taxes and other compulsory contributions.

Main principles and starting points of social protection in Slovenia are:

- Individual is in principle responsible for provision of her/his and his/hers family own security. The role of the State is to provide the conditions.
- The State in the budget and overall public resources forms a National social programme encompassing cash benefits, services and appropriate institutional network.
- Insurance against individual social is organised on the basis of compulsory social insurance. The State provides social protection to those individuals not being able to provide one for themselves.

Measures for provision of social protection based upon the starting points are accepted by the State on different levels of social life.

The base of social protection is the individual’s economic situation directly linked with the level of the economy in the State. The main social policy measures are therefore aiming at creation of necessary conditions, which will enable the individuals to assure their own (and for their family) security. It is referred to measures in the filed of employment and labour, education and scholarship, housing, family policy, health, taxation policy and other areas which influence the individuals social position. All mentioned measures are based upon the starting points of active social policy.

The area of social protections is one of the part of the social security and is based on the system of social fairness, solidarity and the principle of equal accessibility and free choice. Main starting point of the measures in the field of social protection is assuring dignity and equal opportunities and the prevention of social exclusion of the individuals, families and other groups of population.

Social welfare denotes a system of measures oriented towards the prevention and solution of problems faced by individuals, families and categories of the population who - due to diverse reasons - find themselves in a state of social need and are exposed to difficulties or
vulnerable life situations. For that reason, they are unable to participate on an autonomous basis as members of different social categories and are thus deprived of satisfying their social needs and of exercising basic human rights. Their position and rights are regulated by the law.

The system of services and benefits, which are developed and provided by the social protection is devoted to the special protection of most vulnerable groups of population and to provision of help in survival of those without not means for living and those permanently not capable to work or not able to provide means for living due to reasons beyond their influence.

Within the scope of the National Social Welfare Programme by the year 2005 (hereinafter referred to as “The National Strategy”), the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia will provide for the following:

- **objectives and actions** to be taken in this domain of social policy by the state by the year 2005, as well as **strategies pursued to achieve the set objectives of social welfare in this development period**;
- **type and scope of services** to be ensured for people on equal terms according to public service principles,
- **social welfare allowances** to ensure the subsistence level for financially underprivileged individuals, families and other special groups,
- **orientations** for planning of activities with which the social services providers in charge of welfare for the inhabitants are confronted with.

The National Strategy takes into account the already achieved **level of social welfare** of the population, **estimated economic and development possibilities of the state**, the already adopted development strategies in other domains of social welfare, determined in the Resolution of the Family Policy, Strategy of development in the field of protection for handicapped and other documents of the Parliament, the Government and recommendations of the Ombudsman.

National programme will take into account **guidelines and recommendations** which are determined by the international acts and agreements, but mostly:

*Conventions, general and specific declarations of the United Nations* (General declaration on human rights, Convention on children’s rights, Convention of doing away all forms of discrimination against women and alike);

*Codes, Protocols and Recommendations of the EU* and other European associations (European Social Charter, European Code on Social Protection, White Book on Social Policy, Communication on Modernisation of Social Protection Systems, Amsterdam declaration on social quality in Europe and alike)

*ILO Conventions* (no. 102 and alike);
Other international documents and recommendations (Standard rules on equal rights of the handicapped)

Mentioned documents reflect the common will and commitment of States, which approved them, to in the field of welfare and social care to accept measures for preservation and further development of welfare state’s instruments with which:

- the poverty and social exclusion of people who are not able to provide security with work or other active ways is being prevented or abolished;
- programmes for elderly, number of whom is constantly growing, are organised;
- conditions for independent and dignified living of handicapped is provided;
- inter-generalisation solidarity is put forward;
- equal opportunities for men and women are assured.

Ways, priorities and dynamics of programme implementation are described in the annex I, which is a part of this National programme. Conditions and financial possibilities will be determined in the framework of economic measures and social policy for specific year.
NATIONAL OBJECTIVES OF SOCIAL WELFARE

The starting point in determining the national objectives in the field of social protection is providing a quality life for the individual, family and other groups of population in the field of personal development and co-operation in welfare state development.

The objectives and strategies for implementation of the same have been determined on the following grounds:

♦ growing number of cash benefit and other social transfers recipients
♦ a significant share of the population in the most active period is hit by unemployment and is thus - on a long-term basis - deprived of equal opportunities for full social integration. Most warring is the growing number of first job seekers and long term unemployed;
♦ the share of elderly people is rapidly on the increase and already in the year 2000, this will have a significant effect on health programmes, on old-age and invalidity insurance, on social care, as well as on the development of family relations;
♦ the number of children and minors who are experiencing violence of sexual abuse or have growing up problems has increased;
♦ the number of suicides and suicides attempts is alarming and does not decrease;
♦ the conditions for the formation and development of young families have not been systematically established yet due to the economic insecurities combined with bed employment possibilities and housing;
♦ persons with disabilities and other persons who are unable to participate on an equal footing in the social process have different requirements for being able to develop their abilities;
♦ the share of those with various addiction problems is on the increase.
♦ actual equality of genders has not yet been attained in all domains;
♦ women in many areas do not have the same opportunities as man and are faced with poverty more frequent, especially those who are single mothers;
♦ users choice is still limited

The above occurrences are conditioned by vulnerable life situations which are covered by independent problem-related programme schemes, in particular for the following categories of population:

♦ materially endangered individuals who are, not because of their fault, able to obtain meaningful resources;
♦ children and adolescents who encounter difficulties in their growing-up period and are deprived of normal family life;
♦ young people who after completed schooling can not find suitable employment;
♦ spouses and partners with inter-relational problems or with bringing up children;
♦ persons who encounter difficulties due to age-related problems;
♦ handicapped who, due to their mental or physical disability, cannot be trained for independent life and work.
♦ individuals who have problems with addictions,
♦ women and children, victims of abuse,
♦ other socially excluded minorities.

Therefore, the measures of the State in the domain of social welfare will be oriented by the year 2005 towards the following objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: MAKING THE CONDITIONS FOR QUALITY LIFE BETTER

To ensure such conditions that will enable everyone to work and thus provide for his own social security, human dignity, conditions for maintaining and developing a favourable social standing of the entire population and conditions, which will contribute to social fairness, the development of solidarity, tolerance and appreciation of difference.

OBJECTIVE 2: ASSURING ACTIVE FORMS OF WELFARE

To prevent poverty and social exclusion and to ensure basic financial security for all those individuals who are unable to ensure the same on the basis of work, insurance system, investment income or in other active ways, and design the basis for implementation of the self responsibility principle.

OBJECTIVE 3: DEVELOPMENT OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL HELP NETWORKS

To insure special support and assistance so as to satisfy the personal and social needs of those individuals who, due to different reasons, are unfit for independent life and work or cannot operate successfully in their social environment, and enable them to have an influence upon the planning of the activities and possibility to choose among different programmes.

OBJECTIVE 4: SETTING UP AND DEVELOPING PLURALISM

To ensure the possibilities for voluntary work, solidarity, charity and self-help development for affirmation of the non-governmental sector, private sector and users associations and to connect the same into a uniform social welfare system at the national level.

OBJECTIVE 5: DESIGN OF NEW PREVENTION MODELS

In a planned manner to develop new social assistance programmes, which will enable reactions to the social situation changes of the population, introduction of new work methods and development of the profession.
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES FOR THE SET OBJECTIVES

The following strategies will be applied to achieve the set objectives:

Add. OBJECTIVE 1 MAKING THE CONDITIONS FOR QUALITY LIFE BETTER

1. The state will ensure the possibilities for maintenance and development of favourable social standing of the population, in particular, by taking care of inter-relation and concerted development of all those development sectors that have a significant effect on the social standing of the population. This especially refers to measures in the domain of work and employment, income and tax policy, education and schooling, health, housing, and special assistance for the handicapped. Programme in the areas mentioned should that the social situation of the users into account and foresee special measures for groups that might need different treatment.

The following orientations will be important:

The most important element of social security of the active population are **work and suitable employment**. Therefore it is necessary to develop all types of active employment policy measures which will provide opportunities to all job seekers, as well as encourage the employer to provide safe and nice work environment;

**Labour price** must allow the employees to, under normal conditions, achieve income which assures them social security;

Measures in the field of **tax policy** have to take the social differences into account as well as the capabilities of the population and at the same time stimulated the development of the non-profit activities, sponsorship and donors behaviour;

Young people who are included in the system **education** have to receive basic social education on equal terms for schooling and personal development teaching them creative living and skilling them for genuine human relations;

**Health** of the population is depending also upon the quality of life. Therefore the health preventive programmes have to be linked and have to supplement the activities in other fields which encourage healthy way of living;

**Housing** conditions can not only be a subject of the market principles but special programmes which assure housing conditions and for subventions of the costs for vulnerable groups have to exist;

**Handicapped people and people with special needs** which are a result of an illness or troubles in the pshcophisical development, have the right to special proceedings which will enable them independent living or suitable care; but most important rights for equal participation in the environment have to be assured which will allow them a living without arhitectual and communication barriers.
2. The verified and established development programmes which will be oriented towards training people for good mutual relations, for inter-generational co-operation and for equal opportunities for both genders, will help to create and develop the quality of life. Special care will be given to those activities that ensure full social integration and contribute towards bettering financial standing of the entire population.

3. To the special group of people the State will provide **special preventive and other programmes** of social services which will:
   - animate especially young people, who are planning a family, to seek for consultations which will prepare them for parenthood;
   - encourage activities for prevention of different types of addictions and violence as well as provide organised help to the addicted, victims of the violence;
   - prepare the middle generation for the old age and for self-help when fulfilling non-materialistic needs;
   - enable children with handicapped in their mental and physical growth equal education opportunities;
   - enable adults with special needs an independent living with the help by a family, NGO and other public services;
   - develop solidarity, charity and self-help and other forms of voluntary work as well as the sense of difference and tolerance:

4. Social welfare activities will have to be re-designed so that the major share of funds, programmes and personnel will be apportioned to **social preventive measures.**

**Add. OBJECTIVE 2: ASSURING ACTIVE FORMS OF WELFARE**

1. Help in type of services will have a priority before the cash types. In this respect new programmes and forms of help which will enable users and providers suitable choice need to be elaborated

2. The state will, through a system of social welfare allowances, provide social and financial security for those individuals who are unable to secure the subsistence level by their own efforts so that everybody will be provided with the necessities for a decent life. Only if financially independent, can individuals actively participate in all forms of life and work, thus avoiding their social exclusion.

3. Those individuals who are unfit for work, who have no resources or property, who have nobody to take care of them and who live at home, will receive from the state - as provided for by law - regular monthly financial support to cover the payment of residence, food and the most necessary care at the beneficiary’s home, along with an additional allowance for special needs arising from invalidity or sickness.

Other people who find themselves in a state of financial need, will receive from the state a cash allowance to help them with subsistence under the conditions provided for by law but
at the same time encourage them to actively participate in the their problem solving process.

4. A clear system on all social transfers of the population will have to be set up - a system that will assure that the support is given to the socially deprived entitled population who are not able to provide the security for themselves.

**Add. OBJECTIVE 3: DEVELOPMENT OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL HELP NETWORKS**

1. A **system of professional services**, supplemented by the activities of charity organisations, civil associations and individuals, will secure professional support and help for **anybody** who, due to different reasons, is unable to satisfy his own personal or social needs in the framework of the social net, or has, due to physical or mental disabilities or permanent problems with mental health, limited capabilities for being active in the environment.

To this effect, the state will devote special care to the **gradual transformation of existing institutional forms** of assistance into other forms that are friendlier to people and that will be as independent as possible and subject to **influence by beneficiaries**. It will endeavour to ensure that social welfare institutions extend the scope of their services and adapt the same to the special needs of beneficiaries, so that they are additionally open to the environment and also provide non-institutional forms of care. At the same time, it will encourage and organise new forms of care for individuals and groups by including various service providers into the public service network on the basis of concessions and by systematically upgrading the networks of different services which do not function as a public service but supplement and enrich the same.

2. The state will provide special programmes of social welfare services to some groups of population who, for different reasons, find themselves exposed to vulnerable life situation. To this purpose, the following priority tasks have been determined:

   - neglected and abused children will be provided immediate help in a special professional tam for crisis interventions with a possibility of immediate protections;
   - to organise parents in self-help groups and in other ways to acquire the skills for the appropriate upbringing of children and for the development of healthy mutual family relations;
   - to encourage activities that will help prevent different forms of addiction and violence, and to offer organised help to addicts and violence victims to overcome their complex social problems;
   - to commence with the programmes preparing people and social environments for the old age, and to organise families and elderly persons in self-help groups and in other ways to provide for friendly old age;
   - single parent families will be provided with support with up-brining and day care;
to ensure conditions for independent life for those mentally or physically handicapped adults who express such a desire, with the support of their family, disabled persons' organisations and state services.

- elderly people, who are not able to care for themselves even and even by their family will be given a specially organised support in their living environment.

3. Anybody seeking professional help will have to have possibility to choose between different services. Mechanisms assuring bigger influence by users upon planning and providing services will have to elaborated.

**Add. OBJECTIVE 4  SETTING UP AND DEVELOPING PLURALISM**

In order to promote voluntary work, charity, self-help and donations, the state will arrange for the enforcement of such tax mechanisms which will encourage the establishment, development and financing of social programmes on such a basis.

Through the granting of concessions and more stable co-financing of programmes, it will enable the development of the non-profit voluntary and private sector, which will - along with the existing forms - allow for more versatile provision of social welfare services.

Through public tenders, it will support national associations whose programmes are oriented towards vulnerable categories of the population and provide self-help training, so as to conclude special contracts and establish long-term mutual co-operation.

**Add OBJECTIVE 5  DESIGN OF NEW PREVENTION MODELS**

1. Dynamics of change in the State, the change in way of living, the need for development of some traditional values and other influences of the environment cause new forms of social problems and distresses of different group of population. In order for the State and supporting social welfare provider to work successfully also under the new conditions it is necessary to:
   - introduce new development programmes, assure monitoring and if assessed positively make sure that they become a part of the system, at least one programme per year;
   - determine the programme of priorities for this programmes for a period of more years where a priority would be given to the areas declared as preventive local centres, groups for self-growth” social schools for young families” and alike;
   - set up a network of 15 to 20 national evaluators in the field of social assistance;

2. The State will take care of the education and professional training of the providers by financing and encouraging inter-disciplinary educational programmes, support team work of professionals of different vocations and to set up a network of supervisors.

This will enable development of new forms of work and assure for innovative approaches. The State will support also the design of new professions which will be included into the
activities of the system of social assistance as the task and jobs differ from other fields and can not be moulded to a specific programme.

3. Planning and developing new forms of work is only possible on the basis of systematic information system which includes all providers and possible connections with other social policy information’s systems.
DUTIES OF THE STATE IN THE DOMAIN OF SOCIAL WELFARE

1. The basic principles for determination of the social status of an individual in the Republic of Slovenia are provided for in the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia. The majority of rights from this domain is directly covered by the chapter on human rights and fundamental freedoms. The most important are:

♦ the right to personal dignity and personal safety;
♦ the right of the disabled to protection, to training and education;
♦ the right of children to special protection and care;
♦ the right to social welfare as provided for by law.
♦ the right to medical emergency care

According to the said constitutional principles and EU guidelines, as well as according to the applicable legislation, the state of Slovenia will assure:

♦ organised monitoring of the social standard of the population (social monitoring);
♦ a rationally organised and effective network of public service with qualified personnel,
♦ means of subsistence for those individuals who are, for reasons beyond their control, unable to provide for such means by themselves;
♦ a good information system, analytical and research activities and support networks for providers of services;
♦ mechanisms for professional development and innovations, as well as for effective supervision;
♦ promotion and development of non-profit organisations and the volunteer sector.
♦ connection and co-ordination of activities of different providers in the holistic social welfare system and development of the social protection activities in total.

Special care should be given to elaboration and formulation of modern social welfare legislation to be oriented towards the search for friendlier solutions for beneficiaries, as well as towards the development of professions operating in the domain of social welfare.

Services and allowances provided for by the State

Social welfare services intended for the prevention and elimination of social wants and difficulties are provided for in the Republic of Slovenia by the State and municipalities. The services are rendered within the scope of the public service networks to the extent specified in this programme and according to criteria for specification of public service networks.

The public service comprises:
♦ measures and activities serving to prevent social wants and difficulties (social preventive measures),
♦ first social aid,
♦ family aid and assistance,
home care,
institutional care in an institution or another family or in another organised form,
guidance and care, as well as employment under special conditions (Description of Services - ATTACHMENT 4),

**The public service will be implemented:**
- by public social welfare institutions established by the state or municipalities,
- charity organisations, self-help and disabled persons' organisations which have been granted the concession for the performance of public service,
- other legal entities and individuals who have been granted the concession for performance of public service.

**Social welfare allowances** serving to secure means of subsistence will be funded by the state. Types of allowances and requirements for entitlement to the same are provided for by law. The activities designed for solution of unfavourable social standing of the beneficiary and forms of assistance enabling the beneficiary to provide for social security for himself and his family by his own efforts will have priority in the granting of social welfare allowances.

The State is assuring means and other condition for implementation of public authorisation, which are by the Law given to the public social welfare institutions and Social Chamber.

**Other social services**

Important rate of social welfare activities represent the services which are implemented as original programmes or as a public service by the providers in the field of health, education, employment and juridical, or as tasks which are carried out by social services in economy or by NGO and private agencies. Most important are the preventive programmes.

The State will try to link all the mentioned services by different providers into a unique system and support the carriers in order for them to be able to work within the scope of their activity.
CRITERIA FOR DETERMINATION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE NETWORK

Taking into account the available resources, regional characteristics and the principle of equality of rights, as well as the scope of activities as per 31/12-1997 the following criteria shall apply in determination of the public service network provided by the state:

A. Quantitative Criteria:

1. Social prevention services aiming at prevention of social want and organisation of self-help to socially endangered
SCOPE:  
- 1 PROFESSIONAL WORKER 50.000 INHABITANTS  
- 40 providers for organisation and co-ordination of various preventive programmes in the local community

Social first aid services:

Social first aid as an independent service aiming at help to individuals and families with identification of social wants and with identification of ways of help
SCOPE:  
- 1 PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKER 40.000 INHABITANTS  
- 50 professional workers who implement the services for all who seek help

Social first aid as crisis centre for intervention and short term accommodation
SCOPE:  
- 1 PROFESSIONAL TEAM PER EVERY 250,000 INHABITANTS  
THE TEAM CONSISTS OF THREE PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS AND ONE LAYMAN  
- 24 professional workers and 8 laymen organise and provide different urgent interventions by accommodate individuals on a short term basis

Personal aid

Personal aid services in form of counselling, designed for individuals and families with relation problems
SCOPE:  
- 1 PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKER PER EVERY 50,000 INHABITANTS  
- 40 professional social workers provide service for all eligible

Personal aid services in form of arrangement, designed for individuals and families with behavioural and addition problems
SCOPE:  
- 1 PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKER PER EVERY 80,000 INHABITANTS  
- 25 professional social workers provide service for all eligible
Personal aid services in form of management, designed for individuals not able for independent environment interaction

**SCOPE**: 1 PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKER PER EVERY 80,000 INHABITANTS
- 25 professional social workers provide service for all eligible

**Family services**:

Psycho-social and pedagogical help with relations and with care for children

**SCOPE**: 1 PROFESSIONAL TEAM PER EVERY 30,000 INHABITANTS
- 66 professional social workers for implementation for family units with children

Help in cases of complicated child molesting and abuse

**SCOPE**: 1 MULTIPROFESSIONAL CRISIS TEAM PER LOCAL ADMINISTRATION UNIT
- 58 multiprofessional crisis teams at the Centres of Social Work comprised of professional social workers from different sector areas (no new employment)

**Home care services**:

Home help services as a substitute to the institutionalised care

**SCOPE**: INCLUDES 1,2 % OF ALL AGED 65 AND OVER AND 0,3 % OF HANDICAPPED WHO LIVE AT HOME;
- 1 PROFESSIONAL TEAM PER 60,000 INHABITANTS ENCOMPASSED OF 1 PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKER, 20 LAYMEN,
- 33 professional social workers and 660 care personnel per 3300 eligible individuals or increased number of providers and eligible for 100 %

Home help in form of individual treatment for persons with the status of a disabled person according to the Act on Social Protection of Physically and Mentally Handicapped Persons who are not covered by other types of services:

**SCOPE**: 20% OF PERSONS HAVING THE STATUS OF A DISABLED PERSON WHO ARE NOT COVERED BY ORGANISED FORMS OF CARE FOR 4 HOUR OF CONSULTING AND THERAPEUTICAL WORK BY ONE PROFESSIONAL WORKER PER EACH FAMILY WITH A MENTALLY OR PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSON PER MONTH
- 8 providers per 350 families with a handicapped person

**Services of institutional care for children and young persons, deprived of normal family life**:

Care for children and young person who due to difficulties in growing up can not live with their parents
SCOPE - ORGANISED CARE FOR 0, 4% OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS UP TO THE AGE OF 18 YEARS WHO NEED ORGANISED CARE AND UP BRINGING IN OTHER FAMILIES
- organised living for 1650 children in 450 foster families

Services of institutional care for children and young persons with a moderate, serious or severe disturbance in development:

Institutional care
SCOPE - 30% OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS WITH A MODERATE, SERIOUS OR SEVERE DISTURBANCE IN DEVELOPMENT, 5 % FOR SHORT TERM ACCOMMODATION,
- assured 740 places for institutional treatment or increase number for 110 eligible individuals

Other form of care
SCOPE - OTHER FORMS OF ORGANISED CARE (JOINING A RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY, TRAINING WORKSHOPS, SHORT-TERM ACCOMMODATION IN AN INSTITUTION, OTHER FORMS OF INDEPENDENT LIFE) FOR 50% OF THE GROUP UNDER CARE
- assured 250 places for non-institutional forms of treatment or increased number of places for 90 eligible individuals

Services of guidance and care as well as employment under special conditions:

Guidance, care and employment under special conditions for physically handicapped persons and persons with disturbances in mental development.
SCOPE: - CARE FOR 30 % OF ALL INDIVIDUALS HAVING A STATUS OF DISABLED PERSON UNDER THE ACT ON PROTECTION OF ADULTS WITH PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HANDICAPS IN DAY CARE TYPE OF GUIDANCE, CARE AND EMPLOYMENT UNDER SPECIAL CONDITIONS IN EMPLOYMENT CARE CENTRES,
- assured 2.150 places or increase number of place for 450 eligible individuals

Institutional care for the elderly:

Organised care in day care centres:
SCOPE: - 0.06 % OF ELDERLY AGED 65 AND OVER WHO NEED ORGANISED CARE BY DAY
- assured 180 places or increased number of places for 150 eligible individuals

Organised care in homes for elderly:
SCOPE: - 4,2 % ELDERLY AGED 65 AND OVER
- assured 14.500 places or increase number of places in homes for elderly for 3.000 eligible and setting up of 30 places for short term accommodation
Services of institutional care for specific groups of adult inhabitants:

a. Institutional care for mentally ill adults  
   b. Institutional care for the injured of terminally, chronically ill persons  
   c. Institutional care for persons with disturbances in the metal development or/and with additional disturbances

**SCOPE:** - 0,17 INHABITANTS AGED 18 - 65 WHO NEED CARE IN SPECIAL INSTITUTIONS, IN OTHER FAMILIES, SECURED UNITS, LIVING COMMUNITIES AND OTHER FORM OF ORGANISED CARE,  
   - assured 1,200 places or increased number of places for 200 protégées

Institutional care of the elderly with the disturbances in the physical or mental development who are included in services programme of Employment Care Centres and need organised care

**SCOPE:** - 35 % OF ALL WHO ARE INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAMME OF EMPLOYMENT CARE CENTRES AND NEED ACCOMMODATION AND CARE IN THE INSTITUTIONS, OTHER FAMILY OR LIVING COMMUNITY  
   - assured 650 place or increased number of places for 250 protégées

Institutional care of the physically handicapped persons

**SCOPE** - 0,08 % OF POPULATION AGED 18-65 WHO DUE TO THEIR PHYSICAL HANDICAPS NEED ACCOMMODATION AND CARE IN SPECIAL INSTITUTION, LIVING COMMUNITY OR SPECIAL UNIT OTHER SOCIAL PROTECTION ORGANISATIONS  
   - assured 180 places or increased number of place for 70 eligible individuals

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With social prevention, first aid, personal aid and home help the number of providers the number of provider can differ up to 20 % according to the specifics of the social problematic but should correspond to the norms determined by this qualitative criteria.

**B. Organisational Criteria:**

The following social welfare services will be organised on the level of local communities:

- all forms of personal aid  
- home help for families for the elderly and handicapped persons as well as chronically ill children and children with disturbances in physical and mental growth;

The following social welfare services will be organised on the level of administration units:
- social preventive programmes,
- first social help as an independent service;
- aid and assistance to families with handicapped person who are not a subject of different proceeding;
- home help for families in form of psycho social and pedagogical support;
- institutional care for the elderly;
- care, guidance and employment under special conditions.

The following social welfare services will be organised on the level of several administration units:

- institutional care for special groups;
- institutional care for persons included in care, guidance and employment under special conditions;
- guardianship of children and minors deprived of normal family life;
- first social help in the form of a crisis centre for short term;
- other form of institutional care for children and minors with lights, medium or difficult disturbance in growth.

The following social welfare services will be organised on the national level:

- institutional care for children and young people with moderate, serious and severe disturbance in mental development;

C. Qualitative Criteria

Quality and scope of an individual service are specified by standards and norms determined by the minister responsible for social welfare, according to the law and professional findings.
CRITERIA FOR CREATION OF OFFICIALLY AUTHORISED SERVICE NETWORK

Official authorisation granted to social welfare bodies will enable social welfare centres, established as public institutions, to carry out the relevant activities on behalf of the state. Most important are:

♦ programmes, tasks and measures, decisions determined by the law on marital and family relations and ratified international treaties;

♦ programmes, tasks and measures determined by the Penalty Act, Act on Penalty Procedures as well as Act on Implementation of Penalties

♦ tasks determined by various act in the field of protection of handicapped;

♦ tasks determined by acts in the field education and upbringing of children and young people with special needs;

♦ tasks determined by act in the field of internal affairs, protection of foreigners and other legal fields.

Official authorisations will be organised in the framework of the Centres of Social Work in each local administration unit according to:

- 1 PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKER PER 5.000 INHABITANTS.

Quality and scope of activities are determined by the law.
STARTING POINTS FOR CREATION OF NETWORKS OF SOCIAL WELFARE ACTIVITIES TO BE ENCOURAGED AND CO-FINANCED BY THE STATE THROUGH A COMMON PROGRAMME

The state has established that, in addition to social welfare activities specified as public services by law, other activities in particular those which complement the public services or provide various alternative programmes represent likewise a significant share of the integral social welfare system. For the most part the supporters of these activities are civil associations, non-governmental organisations and private persons. Their programmes are based upon non-profit principles and include voluntary work and other forms of charity.

Since the state has declared its interest in the establishment and development of a rational, concerted and transparent national network of such activities, it will encourage and co-finance their programmes; they will be selected on the basis of public tenders and their final effects will be monitored by authorised evaluators.

The priority programmes supported by the state in this area in the future period include:

1. A network of maternity homes and shelters with an overall capacity of 100 places.
2. A network of local services and residential communities for persons with long-lasting disturbances in mental health, with a capacity of 30 places.
3. A network of 10 teams for phone consultation with children, young people and other persons in personal need.
4. A network of housing groups or living communities for handicapped with full capacity of 30 places enabling more independent living;
5. A network of 7-8 specialised guidance centres for aid and assistance to addicts of illegal substances with capacity of 150 places;
6. A network of 900 self-help groups of the elderly, according to the criteria stipulated by the national association of the self-help groups of the elderly.
7. A network of 6 units with capacity of 50 places for severe behavioural and personally problematic children, who are not institutionalised.
8. A network of 6 units with 50 places for short term care of severely disturbed children and families with inter-relational problems in all together 10,000 hours.

In the areas mentioned a form of co-financing of the programmes on a longer term basis will be introduced enabling stability of the implementation. In other areas programmes will be chosen on the basis of a yearly tender.

The priority will be accorded to the projects which will co-financed (multi-funding) and to projects implemented according to the principles of voluntary work. The rate for co-financing of tasks deriving from this programme will be decided upon the standards of the national associations.
OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

Important part of activities of the social protection are the activities which are primarily developed and implemented within the area of health, education, employment, juridical as well as economy, and as programmes of the NGOs, associations and private agencies.

The State will make sure, that the services mentioned will be connected into one unique system and will at the same time encourage the providers to implement this activities in the realm of their own organisation.

Two social services which are determined by the Act do not fall under the frame of public service, i.e.:

- **special social “service”** - home help in cleaning, assistance in cases of child birth, illness, invalidity, old age, accidents and other cases when a help is needed in order for the person to be reintegrated in the normal life;

- **assistance to employed in the firms, institutions or other employers** which involves counselling and help in solving problems in relation to labour and working environment, employment termination, health insurance and pension and disability insurance claims of family and child benefits.

**Special social services** are implemented on the market principle where the scope, content and the price is determined by consumer and the provider.

**Services to the employers** are organised by the firms, institutions and other employers who also determine the standards and conditions for the implementation and provide the costs.

Despite the fact that the conditions and standards for implementation of both services mentioned are not regulated by the law, the State will see to that both services are developing and are brought into force as a complementary part of the welfare system.
STARTING POINTS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE PLURALISM

It will be possible to maintain and develop the currently achieved level of social welfare in Slovenia only on condition that all possibly available supporters commit themselves to friendly forms of work and to improvement of the quality of life of all population. Variety of approaches, versatility of programmes, individualisation of rights, respect for each individual person and other criteria of a modern social state can only be attained by means of a diversification of this area of activities. In the matters of organisation and implementation of the programmes it is of vital importance to keep in view the need to be mutually complementary and capable of incorporation into an integral national system. In order to facilitate the final creation of such a national social welfare system, it will be necessary to establish different forms:

(1) mechanisms for the development of traditional forms of human interaction (solidarity, self-help, charity),

(2) mechanisms for encouragement and facilitation of development of private initiatives and various types of civil society organisations.

This aim can be achieved by:

• controlled deregulation of the system, which will enable diversification of forms of assistance,
• decentralisation of activities and allocation of individual responsibilities in such a way that social welfare is regulated on three levels and that the local community gains more opportunities to influence the social standing of its members,
• regular granting of concessions for all the programmes which are being newly developed or have not reached the implementation phase as yet, and for all the fields of services where the standardised scope under the present programme has not yet been attained,
• setting up of a stable system of financing and co-financing programmes which complement public services,
• gradual, planned and supervised privatisation of individual elements of activities,
• reorganisation of the currently existing public institutions system with the purpose to achieve a higher level of efficiency, expertise and economical use of resources,
• introduction of quality control systems.
SUPPLEMENTARY MEASURES IN THE REGIONS WITH SPECIFIC SOCIAL PROBLEMS

The state will take special measures to encourage and direct the development of social welfare activities in such a way that all citizens will be able to exercise their rights under approximately equal conditions and according to uniform initial standards. For this purpose it will:

♦ co-finance the supplementary programmes which could contribute to a revival of socially and demographically endangered areas,
♦ co-finance the activities which the municipality is required to carry out by law,
♦ provide more favourable recruitment standards for rendering of particular social welfare services in certain areas with specific socially pathological features,
♦ recognise eventual additional costs incurred as a result of special features of certain areas.

In implementation of the above measures, the following data will beside demographic, development and other areas of specifics be taken into account:

♦ the share of unemployed population,
♦ the share of population aged 65 or above,
♦ the share of particularly vulnerable groups of population,
♦ the share of resources allocated to social programmes by the local community,
♦ GNP per an inhabitant,
♦ the share of endangered area,
♦ specific socially pathological features.
♦ number of specific services users
FINANCIAL CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

The objectives set in the National Strategy as well as the proposed ways and strategies for implementation take into account the current and planned development possibilities of the state in the period till year 2005. The assessment of the proposed effects, mostly upgrading of the modern, pluralistic and efficient and to people friendly welfare system, upgrading of the national network of welfare services and setting up of the urgent infrastructure, show that that the scope of the yearly means for welfare will be increased from current (in 1997 realised) 0,87 to 1,03 GDP. The biggest share of all means for welfare represent the direct cash benefits to socially endangered and their families as well as the benefits for handicapped who are not fit to live independently. In accordance with the direction that all active forms of help have priority before the cash benefits, the means for implementation of the welfare programme are increasing mostly due to the increased scope of services which should be provided to the entitled in the public service or outside.

The trends show the scope of problems and cost related to the expected demographic trends and ageing of the population will increase. Certain increase will in the beginning be a consequence also due to the new orientation toward prevention and more active forms of social wants prevention where the priority will be given to welfare services. In the period planned the resources for upgrading of the non-governmental sector (and the private work) will be increased including for the new programmes which will in the next period additionally take the burden from the national budget.

The state will try to rationalise the costs also by granting concession granting and permission to work without any co-financing from the public budget. Special attention will be given to encouraging the users to decide for individual forms of help.

Never the less it can be expected that with suitable tax mechanisms the system of sponsorship (donors) would develop quicker.
MAJOR ORIENTATIONS FOR UPGRADING OF THE LEGISLATION

In order to achieve the objectives set by this Strategy in the next period it is necessary to upgrade some of the laws and secondary legislation reasonably. The following clusters of problems will be given the priority:

♦ upgrading of the services system which fall under public authorisation including the determination of social prevention;
♦ redefinition of some tasks and authorities of the Centres of Social Work especially in the field of public authorisation in order to divide the functions of power from professional functions;
♦ introduction of the individual financing of rights principle, when rational;
♦ decentralisation of certain activities to the lower level of organisation;
♦ deregulation of certain systems of organisation and activity management important to the efficiency of administration;
♦ introduction of the individual responsibility for specific costs principle;
♦ institutionalisation of the possibility for bigger users’ influence with planning and implementation of services;
♦ increase the professional workers and professional co-workers circle;
♦ setting up of social inspection and national evaluators’ programme;
♦ upgrading of the standards and norms of services system.
SUPPORTING BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

♦ adopts the social welfare programme and the amendments of the applicable legislation,
♦ ensures that the measures for alleviation of social welfare problems are prescribed by regional laws,
♦ monitors the implementation of the agreed objectives of the programme,
♦ annually determines the priority tasks upon the adoption of the national budget and other measures of economic and social policy.

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA:

♦ provides for the implementation of the present programme and adopts the measures required,
♦ co-ordinates and organises the activities in setting up the public service network,
♦ establishes public social welfare institutions and fulfils the responsibilities of the founder,
♦ provides financing of activities and social welfare benefits from the national budget,
♦ stipulates the criteria for the exemption from payment of services,
♦ provides for the co-ordination of measures which are the responsibility of various different ministries,
♦ reports to the National Assembly on implementation of the programme.

MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE:

♦ stipulates the standards of services according to the law,
♦ issues the executive regulations according to the law,
♦ ascertains the fulfilment of conditions for performance of a public service,
♦ invites public tender bids for grants of concessions and concludes concession contracts for services which are the responsibility of the Republic,
♦ monitors the implementation of the programme, answers for the progress of public contractors,
♦ organises and performs administrative and technical supervision,
♦ invites public tender bids for financing and co-financing of the programmes which complement the public service network, and concludes the relevant contracts with the bidders.
MUNICIPALITY:

♦ ensures provision of public services it is responsible for under law,
♦ invites public tenders for granting concessions and concludes concession contracts for services under its jurisdiction,
♦ provides resources for payment of maintenance costs in homes for the elderly and the disabled which are, according to special criteria, partly or fully exempt from payments,
♦ promotes and organises the social welfare activities and programmes pursuant to the Local Self-Government Act.

SOCIAL WELFARE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE:

♦ monitors the policy and development of the activities, presents initiatives and opinions and offers advice to the minister,
♦ monitors requirements in the domain of social welfare and proposes appropriate measures,
♦ proposes and monitors the programmes of scientific research projects.

SOCIAL CHAMBER:

♦ provides the interconnection, development and professional growth of social welfare,
♦ implements public authorisations and other tasks provided for by law.

SOCIAL PROTECTION INSTITUTE:

♦ performs informational, analytical, technical-documentation and programme planning tasks,
♦ performs basic, applied and R&D research in the field of social welfare,
♦ monitors development of activities and impacts of adopted measures and prepares expert appraisals and materials for functioning of the state in the field of social welfare.

UNIVERSITY’S AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

♦ implement services for which they were set up for,
♦ take care of quality of services and promotion of activities.

SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS:

♦ provide services they have been founded for,
♦ take care of quality of services and promotion of activities.

CIVIL ASSOCIATIONS AND USERS’ ASSOCIATIONS
♦ take part in the planning and implementation of measures and organise various joint actions,
♦ monitor the implementation of the programme and point out the impacts as well as propose amendments or revisions.
♦ take up initiatives for implementing new activities.

**ENFORCEMENT OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY**

The present national programme shall come into force on the fifteenth day after its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia and shall apply the period 1/1-1999 till 31/12-2005.