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Attachment 1:
Programme for Children and Youth 2000-2016 – Financial Impact

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An Analysis of the Situation
Chapter I: POSITIONS AND PLATFORMS FOR ACTIVITIES

A. Positions

The objective of the Programme for Children and Youth 2006-2016 (hereinafter the Programme) is to use a broad public debate, including key institutions and individuals, to define the vision of the future of Slovenian children and youth and formulate the guidelines and measures for the vision’s implementation. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia is aware that a country that does not take care of its children does not have a future. The present document reflects the care for the younger generation and aims at increasing the prosperity for all children in the Republic of Slovenia.

At the UN General Assembly special meeting in May 2002, statesmen and representatives of governments adopted “A World Fit for Children” document, including a Declaration, Progress Report and Action Plan for the protection and development of children and youth in the 21st century. Adopting the document binds the governments to meet the unfulfilled objectives, set at the first summit, and amend them with new ones. Both declarations, action plans and the Convention on the Rights of the Child form a favourable basis for carrying out quality national development programmes. Needless to say, programmes in individual countries should be adjusted to the countries’ specific characteristics and should take into account the available financial resources, different social and political circumstances and various cultural, religious and social traditions. The goals should also be feasible and measurable as well as included into acts and other legislative documents, the administrative practice and the national and local policies and programmes.

Slovenia failed to draft such a national development programme in the 1990s as the period coincided with the country struggling to assert its independence, meaning that other development areas and subjects held priority. Drafting the Programme goes back several years, when the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs commissioned thematic research papers in order to gain suitable expert positions for specific areas. The document was first included into the ministry’s programme of activities in 2003 and 2004, when the government of the Republic of Slovenia tasked the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs (the Ministry), the Council for Children and the Slovenian UNICEF Committee to coordinate the project. The then prime minister appointed a group of experts who created the first draft in September 2003. The draft set the basic programming areas of the Programme, with a group of three to five experts appointed to each of the areas in order to produce their respective proposals. Expert discussions were held on individual chapters in order to gather the largest possible number of expert opinions from various fields. The assigned bodies were tasked with selecting their own group of people (a group of between 10 to 15 experts was proposed). With the aid of the group they were to consolidate the materials, prepare the final drafts of individual chapters, and put forth the assignations and the timeframes for carrying out development guidelines. As, however, the amount of produced documentation – over 200 pages – was too large, the Ministry extracted the priorities for every programming area and made them into goals and strategies for their implementation. A meeting was held for each area at the Ministry in 2004 with experts and representatives of various ministries commenting on the drafts. The interested parties then put forth remarks and changes, amending the basic draft. However, the remarks and changes still differed in individual chapters. The Ministry, as the body tasked with drafting the Programme, has limited competencies and plays the part of a coordinator. Therefore it handed the tasks of harmonization and the search for consensus to its bodies.

Content-wise, all the relevant areas of children’s lives are included in the Programme, especially those where unsolved or new issues that the young face in the modern society have been detected. The Programme includes supplementary qualitative and quantitative goals alongside development guidelines and activities that are essential for meeting the set objectives. The Ministry does not want the Programme to remain at a declarative level. Therefore we tried to touch on regulatory, administrative-systemic and programming levels in individual chapters alongside a tangible implementation of children’s rights in practice. Our priority was focused on those guidelines and activities that constitute a change, amendment or present new solutions to the already existing activities of national and other services in the field of child care. In order to bring about the practical implementation of the Programme, individual ministries will draft action plans, where they will have to assign the bodies tasked with the plans’ implementation, the way and schedule of carrying out individual tasks, the assessment of funds necessary for the implementation and reports on carrying out the Programme. Each of the programming areas includes the goals and strategies for their
implementation. It also sets the main development challenges, connected with the situation of children and youth in the Republic of Slovenia, ascertains the level of development of individual comprehensive programming areas in which Slovenia is entering the diverse European integration, and defines the basic strategic aims for improving the position of children and youth by 2016.

The Programme will be the first document, after the 1993-adopted resolution on the grounds for the formation of family policy, thereby filling the gap in the area of integration of children, youth and family as a whole. Its implementation will only be successful if it is carried out with the broadest possible cooperation of various social agents and, at least on the level of elementary definitions, strives towards achieving as broad a consensus as possible and linking key institutions. The adoption of the Programme has to establish clear obligations of the bodies tasked with its implementation and must serve as a basis for forming individual reforms and policies. Human resources are key for and at the same time the product of dealing with future challenges, namely the drafting of the Programme.

As a member of the European Union, Slovenia is following the gradual implementation of the internationally set objective of the developed countries to increase the development funds meant for the least developed countries and to alleviate poverty throughout the world, especially for children. Slovenia plans to gradually strengthen its cooperation with non-governmental organizations that play an important role in carrying out programmes for children and youth. It also plans to improve its cooperation with the economy and research sectors.

Fulfilling the above commitments has also been requested by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. The committee has, based on the country’s report, dealt with the main issues and submitted proposals and recommendations alongside general implementation measures on the national level. Some parts of the Programme already include these measures and recommendations. However, this is not sufficient for them to be consistently carried out in practice in all the fields that in any way concern families and their members and influence their rights, duties and the quality of life of all types of families.

The Republic of Slovenia wants to fulfil its duties towards the young through the Programme. The Programme’s success depends on the way the document is drafted and on the conformity of the selected measures. Both should be based on sustainable cooperation of all the relevant bodies and non-governmental organizations.

**B. Positions and platforms for activities**

**The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the European Convention on the Exercise of Children’s Rights, the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia**

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations on 20 November 1989, was adopted by Slovenia as one of the legal successors to the former Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) on 1 July 1992, the date when the National Assembly passed the act on notifying the succession. The Convention was transposed into Slovenian legislation and is above the law. The Republic of Slovenia issues reports every five years to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the implementation of the UN convention. The Slovenian National Assembly also ratified the European Convention on the Exercise of Children’s Rights in 1999.

The Republic of Slovenia incorporated the protection of the children’s rights into its Constitution, passed on 23 December 1991. Article 56 of the Constitution guarantees special protection and care for children. The children enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms consistent with their age and maturity. The country is moreover bound to pass separate law(s) that guarantee special protection from economic, social, physical, mental or other exploitation and abuse of children. The state is moreover obliged to give special protection to children and minors who are not cared for by their parents, who have no parents or who are without proper family care.

**A Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Children**

At the May 2002 special session of the UN General Assembly on children, the statesmen and government representatives adopted a document entitled “A World Fit for Children”. The outcome
document includes a Declaration, a Progress Report and an Action Plan (Programme of Activities) for the protection and development of children and youth in the 21st century. The document defines priority objectives and activities in the following basic areas: (1) safe, secure and healthy start of life for all children, access to adequate health services in local communities and promotion of healthy lifestyle among children and youth; (2) access to quality free and compulsory education for all children and an increase of the share of children and youth who attend secondary and higher education; (3) general protection and protection of children against neglect, discrimination, exploitation, violence, abuse and recruitment into armed forces; (4) fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic and draft an internationally accepted global prevention programme in the field; (5) reallocation and transfer of additional human, financial and material resources on the international and the national levels as well as ensuring aid and establishing international cooperation and partnership among the developed and developing countries.

In line with Article 59 of the Action Plan, the Republic of Slovenia needs to draft its own programme that will acknowledge the benefits for children as its primary principle. The Programme for Children and Youth was drafted in order for Slovenia to meet its obligations, especially towards the younger generation and to the international community.

We are aware that a successful implementation of the Programme requires active participation of all sectors of the society – the government, the state administration, local communities, companies, civil society, non-governmental organizations, the support of the media as well as the activation of families, groups and individuals alongside direct active and responsible cooperation of children themselves. The Programme is the first comprehensive document and instrument of the Slovenian government for its future activities to improve the quality of life for children and youth in the Republic of Slovenia in the 10-year period. Drafting the Programme presents a challenge as children are citizens of our current and future society and supporting them is the society's long term task and investment. Greater and more efficient implementation of children’s rights will undoubtedly contribute towards keeping intergenerational and thus social consensus and facilitate the development and level of democracy in our society.
Chapter II: BASIC PRINCIPLES

I.
In line with the UN convention on the Rights of the Child, the programme deals with children from birth and until they reach the age of 18, as that is the age when the convention ceases to classify a human being as a child. Children need special protection and care due to their physical and mental immaturity. This includes suitable legal protection, before and after birth.

The Programme for Children and Youth 2006-2016 deals with childhood (defined as from birth until 14 years of age) that includes pre-school and primary school periods as well as adolescence that encompasses secondary school youth, aged between 15 and 19 years.

II.
In line with the Slovenian Constitution, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and other international documents, it is unanimously accepted that children are entitled to special family care and aid and that the state is bound to recognize and ensure the right of every child to such life that corresponds to the child’s physical, intellectual, mental, personal and social development.

III.
The child’s benefit must become the final objective and the subject of an increased social/state interest and the guideline for activities in all areas of living and working with children. Accepting children as a national priority means that the welfare of children and youth, as the current generation of children will become adults in the future, has to become a priority goal in all national legal documents, policies, development programmes and budgetary expenses.

IV.
Every child has the right to life, personal and social security, growth and healthy development. The child must be guaranteed all the citizen and political, economic, social and cultural rights, as stipulated in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. A safe and healthy beginning of life and access to suitable health and social services alongside a quality and free education on the pre-school, primary and secondary education levels are the rights of every child. All children must moreover be given adequate upbringing that develops their general level of culture and secures their equal opportunities. This will allow them to develop their abilities for individual judgment and give them a sense of moral and social responsibility thus making them responsible and beneficial members of the society. Children must furthermore be given the chance for quality free time, play, cultural endeavours and entertainment, which are all integral parts of their upbringing.

V.
All children are born free and equal regarding their dignity and rights. Every child is entitled to all rights and freedoms, as set in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as to equal opportunities, regardless of race, colour, sex, language, national, social or economic background, birth or other individual circumstances. Slovenia will place special care on children with special needs (physically and mentally disabled), children in difficult social conditions, children with deviating behaviour, children of the Roma community, children in single-parent families and children without caretakers.

VI.
Ensuring equal access and open/equal opportunities for inclusion into suitable education programmes alongside a general increase in the education level of the population form the most effective ways to break the “vicious circle of poverty” within a generation.

VII.
Social inclusion means ensuring equal access to quality services in various fields of life thus guaranteeing safety and unimpeded growth and development for children and youth.

VIII.
Children need to be protected from all forms of violence, neglect, abuse and from being exposed to arbitrary or illegal interference in their private lives, family, home or correspondence. Physical
punishment or degradation is an unacceptable method of treating a child and unsuitable as a method of upbringing.

IX.
Children must be listened to and allowed to participate. Therefore we must respect the right to their own opinion and taking part in all issues that impact them, allowing for their age and level of maturity.

X.
One or both parents or others responsible for children have the chief obligation to ensure living conditions necessary for child’s development, in line with their abilities or financial status.

XI.
A consensus on integral, proactive and continuous policy towards children must be agreed upon on the national level. The same consensus must be arrived at for youth and needs to involve cooperation of state institutions, civil society, individuals, families, children and youth. All the involved must take part, including families, kindergartens, social services, health care facilities, cultural organisations, local communities and non-governmental organizations. Their partnership and cooperation and the formation of integral networks and programmes are essential in effectively carrying out the policy.

XII.
To monitor and evaluate the progress in meeting the objectives and drafting regular reports necessitates an increase in statistical capabilities for systematic collection and processing of data. This will in turn enable the detection of needs and issues that require urgent attention. The data is already being collected by the Child Observatory, a part of the Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia. The Child Observatory will also monitor how and whether the goals, defined in this document, are met. A secondary analysis of data is already underway, yet cannot include all the important dimensions of the quality of life of children as well as cannot facilitate suitable evaluation of the programmes that offer help to children. Therefore, additional research needs to be carried out in order to include the quality-of-life indicators for children into the national programme of statistical research.
III.1. HEALTH POLICY

A. Meeting the Conditions for Healthy Life of Children and Youth

Objectives

1. The main objective is to create and implement a strategy for achieving the highest possible level of health for children and youth in Slovenia with an emphasis on reducing inequalities in health. The strategy will list clearly defined goals that we wish to achieve in the area of health for children and youth. We will stress tangible measures in residential, educational and local environments, based on the specifics of all development periods of children and youth. The strategy will also define the mechanisms for monitoring how or whether the goals are met and evaluation of the measures. It will serve as a framework for evidence-based evaluation and supplementation of the policies, strategies, programmes and measures in health care that are already in force and the activities for improving the health of children and youth.

2. To involve the young in creating, implementing and evaluating strategies, programmes and measures, as an essential part of all activities. This way the programmes will be created in line with the needs, desires and interests of the young, thus making them more efficient. It is also important to continuously implement individual programmes and projects that enable the young to achieve autonomy, positive self-image and health improving skills.

3. To implement the priority positions, listed below, in drafting programmes and measures to improve the health of children and youth:
   a) Systematic activities in all periods of growth;
   b) ensuring equality and placing special stress on deprivileged groups;
   c) inter-departmental and inter-institutional activities and cooperation with non-government organizations that will be aimed at influencing the main factors of health;
   d) creation of suitable supporting environments (family, local community, kindergarten, school);
   e) planning and evaluating the programmes in accordance with contemporary expert recommendations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVE 1: To Create and Implement a Strategy for Achieving the Best Possible Health of Children and Youth in Slovenia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STRATEGIES:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- The comprehensive strategy will list priority areas that deal with the health of mothers and children, food, contagious diseases, injuries and violence, physical surroundings, health of the young, psychosocial development and mental health. The strategy will include elements of the already formed strategies for individual sectors (i.e. food, exercise, drugs). Special stress will have to be placed on improving the health in families and to measures that will be aimed at reducing violence against children in families.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- A systemic solution of organized food service in secondary schools and secondary-school student dorms.</td>
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<th>OBJECTIVE 2: To Involve the Young in Creating, Implementing and Evaluating Health Improvement Programmes:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STRATEGY:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- To actively involve the young in creating, implementing and evaluating the health improvement strategy and programmes, as they are best aware of the type of information that influences them the most and of the way (medium) in which it has to be communicated in order to have an effect. Active involvement of children and youth also has a proven positive impact on their self-image, autonomy and skills (competencies) development.</td>
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</tbody>
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| OBJECTIVE 3: To Implement the Priority Positions in Drafting Programmes and Measures to Improve the Health of Children and Youth: |
STRATEGIES:
- To guarantee equality and plan specific measures for deprivileged groups of children and youth with the aim of reducing differences in health.
- To ensure sufficient, relevant and quality information for drafting programmes and monitoring their implementation.
- To ensure inter-sectoral and inter-institutional cooperation by including non-governmental organizations, as only a comprehensive approach can meet the objective of guaranteeing the best possible health for children and youth. Health is a result of a complex mixture of numerous varied factors. Therefore the subjects on health need to be included into all education levels, especially in those institutions of higher education that train future teachers.
- To ensure that the contents and the implementation of preventive health care for pregnant women, children and youth are modernised in line with evidence-based recommendations by experts.

B. To Improve Mental Health in all Periods of Childhood and Youth and Prevent the Most Common Causes of Mortality in Children and Youth

Objectives
The most important objective in the coming period is to influence the factors that cause sickness and death in children and youth. The goal is to reduce the mortality of children and youth by 30% in the 2005-2007 period. To meet the goal the following priority activities will be carried out:

1. To focus national prevention activities on the following priority areas: Improving mental health, including in preventing suicide; preventing injuries in road transport, drownings, falls, poisonings (unintentional), burns and scaldings.
2. To ensure the possibilities for a healthy psychosocial development, to improve mental health and reduce the suicide rate among children and youth.
3. To implement the measures to prevent injuries and poisonings in children and youth.

OBJECTIVE 1: To Focus National Prevention Activities

STRATEGY:
- To reduce the frequency of causes for the rate of incidence of a disease in children and youth, the coming period will see the implementation of prevention strategies and measures for individual target groups in specific areas through approaches that have been proven to be successful.

OBJECTIVE 2: To Create Possibilities for a Healthy Psychosocial Development, to Improve Mental Health and Reduce the Suicide Rate among Children and Youth

STRATEGIES:
- To improve mental health in all periods of childhood and adolescence; this requires drafting of programmes for facilitating and improving relationships with peers, learning social skills, conflict management and facing problems for children and youth, including the young with a high risk of committing suicide. To identify and ensure special treatment of children and youth with suicidal tendencies, it is necessary to provide:
  - Training experts in primary and secondary schools to recognize symptoms and characteristics that point to suicidal tendencies and events that could trigger suicidal behaviour in children and youth and to refer them to expert treatment.
  - Training parents, medical personnel and other people that come into contact with children and youth (policemen, trainers, religious workers) in recognizing children and youth with suicidal tendencies and refer them to expert treatment.
  - Information to children and youth on suicide, warning signs, etc. and to teach them how to find help for themselves and others.
  - Training volunteers and experts for advising suicidal individuals;
  - Interventions after attempted or committed suicide by providing suitable expert advice, therapy and help to children, youth and their parents.
- We will also establish programmes aimed at friends or relatives of a child who committed suicide. The aim of the programmes is to prevent the forming of an imitation pattern and help children and youth to cope more effectively with the feelings of loss caused by a peer’s suicide.
OBJECTIVE 3: To Prevent Injuries and Poisonings in Children and Youth

STRATEGIES:
- To carry out educational and informational programmes for parents on preventing injuries and poisonings as part of regular annual health checks of children.
- To carry out comprehensive programmes of theoretical and practical training of children and youth at kindergartens, primary and secondary schools to safely negotiate traffic.
- To study the suitability and adjustability of learner driver programmes to the mental and physical characteristics of the young.
- To continuously inform and raise awareness of the public regarding road traffic injuries, the frequency and consequences of such injuries in children and youth, on safety measures, the need to use protective means, etc.
- To consistently assess the level of responsibility of parents in transporting children (use of safety belts, baby car seats, helmets, etc).

C. Health care

Objectives
1. To ensure quality health care for pregnant women and unborn children.
2. To ensure quality health care for children and youth.
3. All the strategic and development documents have to include measures for dealing with violence against children. Health service is a very important part in identifying violence or neglect of children and in gathering evidence on intentional injuries of abused women and children.
4. To raise awareness among the young regarding safe sex and family planning.

OBJECTIVE 1: To Ensure Quality Health Care for Pregnant Women and Unborn Children

STRATEGIES:
- Consistent implementation of activities aimed at raising awareness of a healthy lifestyle and consequences of hazardous behaviours of the mother that influence the unborn child (smoking, alcohol, food, drugs).
- To renovate the School for Parents programme.
- To guarantee consultations and support to a pregnant woman in distress due to unemployment, residential issues, partner relations, wider family, etc.

OBJECTIVE 2: To Ensure Quality Health Care for Children and Youth

STRATEGIES:
- To improve the accessibility of the public network of health care providers for children and youth in all Slovenian towns; this means that the network of doctors, nurses and other suitable expert personnel for children and youth needs to be retained in the following five years. The organisation of labour furthermore needs to be adapted, also by transferring a part of the programme on to additionally trained nurses who would be placed at schools. This will reduce the strain on doctors, on the amount of medicines in the system and allow for an inter-sectoral approach.
- To ensure that the programme of preventive health care is implemented. The programme includes continuous cooperation between headmasters and other education personnel and the advisory service in schools and kindergartens.
- The unequal distribution of health care providers requires a stimulative policy of awarding the personnel to eliminate the existing grey zones. Poorly developed areas also have a greater number of health-related risks.

OBJECTIVE 3: To Carry out Measures in Dealing with Violence against Children
STRATEGIES:

- To increase the scope of subjects on health and teaching children and youth to have a healthy life-style and learn to communicate without violent acts. This entails training teachers, organisational changes, changes to methods of work, changes to the atmosphere at school and a systemic introduction of health-related subjects into the visible and hidden school curricula.
- To suitably train and educate doctors for discovering injuries caused by violent behaviour as well as in communication with a person who has experienced violence.
- All educational programmes dealing with violence should be interdisciplinary and should involve medical experts and caretaking personnel.
- To ensure obligatory reporting of criminal offences that involve violence against children, also requested from medical personnel by the World Medical Association.

**OBJECTIVE 4: To Raise Awareness among the Young about Safe Sex and Family Planning**

STRATEGY:

- To raise the awareness among the young regarding suitable contraceptive means and their potential consequences to reduce the number of abortions, and the awareness on family planning (risks involved in delaying parenthood to a later period).
III.2. FAMILY POLICIES

Objectives

1. To create such conditions for family life that enable young couples to create a family as well as remain active and fulfil their family, vocational and social roles. Regarding the already existing families, the state should create conditions for a quality life of all family members and facilitate the decision on having another child.

2. To adopt all the necessary measures to protect vulnerable family members in cases of family violence.

3. To ensure the necessary means and human resources in order to carry out supportive family programmes in order to get a home.

OBJECTIVE 1: To Create Conditions for Family Life

STRATEGIES:
- To improve the competitiveness of parents (especially mothers) and young women on the labour market.
- To guarantee conditions for a more seamless coexistence of professional and family lives.
- To guarantee a larger number of non-profit apartments within municipal residential programmes and in partnership with the Housing Fund of the Republic of Slovenia.
- To continue with financial stimulations (grants) for young families that need to solve their housing issue through a purchase or construction of an apartment, in line with the National Housing Saving Scheme Act.
- To introduce new or use the already existing obligatory or optional child education programmes and within them stress education, raise awareness and surpass stereotypes regarding traditional family roles in the family and society as a whole. To ensure a larger stress on family values.

OBJECTIVE 2: To Adopt the Necessary Measures to Protect Vulnerable Members in Cases of Violence in the Family

STRATEGIES:
- To adopt national guidelines on preventing violence in the family.
- To continue with public calls for tenders and co-fund programmes of non-governmental organisations that deal with violence (psychosocial aid for victims and perpetrators, preventive programmes to reduce violence in primary and secondary schools).
- To increase the severity of sanctions for those who violate a child’s integrity.

OBJECTIVE 3: Continuous Implementation of Family Support Programmes

STRATEGIES:
- To guarantee a greater and easier accessibility to various services for all members of the family and allow a larger pluralisation of services, including through private initiatives.
- To facilitate educational programmes (pre-marriage counselling, baby-counselling, family crisis counselling, etc.)
- To ensure a greater inclusion of experts with individual/special knowledge to counsel families in crisis regarding alienation between partners, alcoholism, use of illegal drugs, training parents to live with a child with special needs, etc.
- To ensure additional and specialist education of doctors regarding psychosocial issues of children and youth (monitoring mental and physical development of school children).
- To ensure a continuing variety of social services for pre-school kids and in basic caretaking and social-care programmes, by combining the public, private and volunteer sectors, while also ensuring a better national coverage.
- To ensure a larger level of professional mobile individual help at home to families with children and youth with special needs. The special needs should be taken into account in recognizing a higher degree of financial and service-based help that stems from a specific position of children with special needs and their families.
III.3. EDUCATION POLICIES

Objectives

1. To ensure equal possibilities for education and improve its accessibility.
2. To ensure quality upbringing and education (stressing quality education in tolerance, reduction of inequalities in the society and respect for diversity and human rights).
3. To implement lifelong learning on all levels of education.

OBJECTIVE 1: To Ensure Equal Possibilities for Education and improve its accessibility

STRATEGIES:
- To offer several different quality education programmes on different levels of the education system.
- To guarantee the possibility of inclusion in kindergartens and schools. To ensure systemic, programming and regulative conditions for successful integration of children with special needs.
- To ensure systemic conditions for a more successful inclusion (especially regarding children from socially vulnerable groups) into education systems.
- To offer various forms and possibilities of education (development of different educational programmes, guarantee transition between programmes, etc).

OBJECTIVE 2: To Guarantee Quality Education of Children for Mutual Tolerance, Reduction of Inequalities in the Society, Respect for Diversity and Human Rights

STRATEGIES:
- To ensure high quality education programmes on all levels and in all programmes.
- To promote programmes and projects that promote creativity and inovativity of the young.
- To ensure an international comparability of knowledge, skills and competencies that the young get during education.
- To develop a system of evaluating formal, non-formal and informal knowledge.
- To strengthen the social-integrational role of the education system by introducing various programmes for building social skills and competencies into kindergartens and schools. To include basic civilisational values into programmes of kindergartens and schools (respect for fellow human beings, honesty, responsibility, sincerity, diligence, inter-generational and general solidarity, etc).
- Special care should be placed on education for sustainable development in modernisation and implementation of programmes (eliminating stereotypes, strengthening patriotism and national identity, respect for Slovenian cultural and national identity, language, customs, heritage, environment, etc).
- To ensure partnership among teachers and parents in order to ensure accountability of parents for children’s schoolwork.

OBJECTIVE 3: To Implement Lifelong Learning on all Educational Levels

STRATEGIES:
- To ensure opportunities for all children to continue with their education after completing primary school and to see that the majority of the young at least get a vocational grade.
- To train all children and youth, including those with special needs, for successful inclusion into the processes of lifelong learning.
- To implement effective preventive measures for reducing drop-out, especially in secondary vocational schools.
III.4. SOCIAL POLICY

Objectives
1. To achieve better efficiency in supporting and helping children and their families.
2. To ensure a quality life and development to children within the framework of the primary social network.
3. To reduce poverty and social exclusion of children and families in which such children live; to create and ensure that effective measures are taken to find a suitable solution.
4. To ensure sufficient welfare benefits that will in the future be aimed at the most vulnerable groups of children.
5. To ensure measures for reducing the drop-out in secondary schools and to increase the number of available positions in all education programmes; to improve the inclusiveness of the unemployed youth in vocation and education programmes.

OBJECTIVE 1: To Achieve Better Efficiency in Supporting and Helping Children and Their Families

STRATEGIES:
- The social care centres have to remain the most important promoters of welfare and social care services in their environments, yet have to expand their (co)operation to other organisations as well.
- Social care centres need to strengthen their roles as connective institutions, as promoters of new programmes and as information suppliers.
- Social care centres need to place special attention on effective information and education of families with children with special needs.
- Social care centres have to be reorganised, including their organisational layout and their contents and effectiveness which has to be supported by a well-developed information network.

OBJECTIVE 2: To Ensure a Quality Life to Children within the Framework of the Primary Social Network

STRATEGIES:
- To facilitate the creation of supportive social networks within the framework of the social care centres and stimulate preventive social care programmes.
- To allow for and promote the plurality of those tasked with the execution.
- To carry out more demanding public competencies and complex consulting activities for the children, the young and the family, specialists will have to be provided, regardless of whether the projects will be carried out on local or regional levels. For example, setting up a regional team of experts who will work as a mobile service at the regional social care centre and will be invited by social care workers to take part in an individual case with the aim of providing a more effective and multidisciplinary manner of problem solving.
- To decouple consulting and therapeutical activities from the execution of public competencies is also necessary in smaller social care centres. The dual role of the centre and its expert breeds distrust among the users of their services.

OBJECTIVE 3: To Reduce Poverty and Social Exclusion of Children and Families

STRATEGIES:
- The established goals of fighting poverty and social exclusion of children and youth will continue to be carried out in Slovenia in line with the national programme of social inclusion.
- To continue with measures that would, more than in the past, be aimed at reducing poverty in families with a larger risk factor (single-parent families, large families, families with children with special needs, children and youth with growing-up difficulties, the unemployed young, etc). In line with the national programme, these measures are already defined by the Social Assistance Act and the Parental Protection and Family Benefit Act. The new legislative provisions thus bring an increase in the basic social benefits to the families that are most at risk of poverty. Continuous analysis of such measures, as demanded by the Programme, will evaluate the level of meeting the desired objectives and ensure the basis for drafting proposals for possible changes in order to further reduce the risk factors.
- To consider the specific position of families with children with special needs. Their specific needs, originating in greater expenses for such children, will require special stress on monitoring the position of such families, while various corrective measures will allow such families to gain a status equal to the families who are not facing such issues.

**OBJECTIVE 4: To Ensure Social Benefits**

**STRATEGIES:**
- As social assistance guarantees a minimum level of social security to all who cannot provide for it themselves, it is important to guarantee an adequate minimum income and then upgrade it through other types of social benefits (such as child allowances). These have to be comparable to other social benefits. Therefore, further changes to social assistance regulations and child allowances will consider the order of social benefits.
- Monitoring and analyzing cumulative effects of all social benefits on the social status of families and their members represent the fundamental pre-condition for achieving better results in poverty reduction. Therefore these benefits will be monitored, not only on the cumulative but also on the individual level. The activities for establishing and implementing an integral database of all forms of social benefits recipients, received by individuals or families, will continue to be carried out. Such data will be linked with data on their material status. The main role in implementing such monitoring will be carried out by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, the Slovenian Tax Administration, social care centres and other institutions (e.g. the national Employment Office) that gather data needed as proof for allocating social transfers. The institutions will be supported by a suitable information network.

**OBJECTIVE 5: To Ensure Measures for Reducing the Drop-Out in Secondary Schools and to Improve the Inclusiveness of the Unemployed Youth in Vocational and Educational Programmes**

**STRATEGIES:**
- To expand and improve the available vocational programmes and to develop vocational qualifications for gaining the knowledge required by the market in order to reduce the structural discord and raise the level of educational and vocational qualifications.
- To ensure a more suitable system of vocational counselling and aid to the young with learning difficulties.
III.5. SPECIAL SOCIAL CARE POLICY

A. Children with Special Needs

Objectives

1. The basic goal involves a systemic approach to children with special needs that includes all sub-systems and their interaction, e.g. children, family, school, social and health care institutions, local communities, etc. To implement a policy of inclusion that treats a person with disability as a subject with all human and citizenship rights and helps such a person in compensating for the disability as well as creates equal opportunities (non-discriminatory) for aiding such persons to live as independently as possible in a normal environment (social inclusion). Inclusion demands various measures and activities of competent bodies in their relationship towards children with special needs. Such measures and activities include changes in mindsets, ensuring suitable expert and material sources, educating experts and taking such matters into consideration in planning the activities. The objective is to ensure that all children live as normally as possible, are given every option to live with their family and to grow up with their generation as well as develop their potentials to the fullest possible extent. To introduce democratic values, the right to be different and develop positive positions towards inclusion on that basis.

2. To allow all children with special needs a comprehensive early treatment, as a basis for their successful development and quality life.

3. To create not only an overview of the number of children with special needs, but also to ensure their individual treatment as defined by law and to provide measures for every individual child.

4. To influence systemic factors and establish a system of upbringing and education that will enable effective learning for children with special needs. Such a system would include safety mechanisms for adjusting and preventing lack of success in education as well as ensure an integral system of educational programmes, from early treatment to vocational qualifications and from less supportive forms to inclusion in regular schools.

**OBJECTIVE 1: To Ensure a Systemic Approach in Dealing with Children with Special Needs**

**STRATEGIES:**

- The Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs has to approach the changes and amendments to the Social Assistance Act in such a way as to ensure that institutions become centres of expert support and that the basic component of the activities of institutions that include children with special needs is also meant for the children who are not in institutional care. The ministry moreover has to ensure that the institutions remain open to the outside, to ensure a mobile service and support the agents that work in the environment and develop temporary programmes to care for children with special needs. The thus-defined role of institutions will also strengthen the process of "deinstitutionalisation" and increase the scope of aid and support as well as the choice for children and their families.

- To draft a comprehensive programme of implementation for the Placement of Children with Special Needs Act.

- To make uniform and strengthen the personnel that carries out the health care of children with special needs as well as to set up a system of linking various institutions to ensure aid to children and their families.

**OBJECTIVE 2: To Enable Comprehensive Early Treatment to all Children with Special Needs**

**STRATEGY:**

- The law on comprehensive early treatment of all children with special needs and other relevant legislation has to ensure systemic conditions for comprehensive early treatment for all children with special needs in Slovenia. Comprehensive early treatment involves a team of various experts that will work hand in hand to provide early discovery and early treatment of the child and the family.
OBJECTIVE 3: To Ensure Individual Treatment of Children, as Set by the Law, and Provide for Measures for Each Individual Child

STRATEGIES:
- The educational system will guarantee permanent expert training of educators, teachers and other experts as well as continuous education of members of commissions for placing children with special needs. Such education needs to allow for the carrying out tasks connected with placements by focusing the placement on each individual child and ensuring that options exist for possible replacement of a child into a suitable programme. The cooperation with the parents of the child is also important.
- Children with special needs who are not cared for by an institution, need to be guaranteed pedagogical help alongside health and therapeutical treatment (physiotherapy, operational and speech therapy), as already available to children included in institutions.

OBJECTIVE 4: To Enable the Educational System to Allow for Efficient Learning of Children with Special Needs

STRATEGIES:
- Managements and advisors in kindergartens, primary and other schools will have to place special stress on inclusion. They will have to form a new attitude towards children with special needs (positive inclusion, additional education of teachers, acquisition of expert literature, etc); ensure suitable spatial conditions and other adjustments and aides; develop democratic relations, partnership relations with parents and peer-help as well as enable optimum social participation of the children with special needs; support teachers in their work with children with special needs and facilitate different activities to ensure the greatest possible development of potentials, psycho-social competencies and mental resilience of children with special needs.
- To adjust special schools and special institutions to the policy of inclusion does not mean their elimination, but rather their expansion to ensure optimum use of personnel and material resources for the benefits of all children with special needs, including children with deficient knowledge in individual learning areas. It will still be necessary to retain the primary activity of the institutions due to different needs of a child and the possibilities of the family and the environment.

B. Children and Youth Belonging to an Ethnic Group (the Roma)

Objectives
  1. The basic goal of the special social protection of the Roma is to achieve an improvement of their social position and ensure their social inclusion. In line with the UN convention, Romany children need to be allowed to express and retain their identity without being threatened or deprived for doing so. To achieve that objective, equal opportunities need to be created for the personal development of the Roma, while adjustments need to be made to public programmes in various fields (educational, cultural, health, social, etc).
  2. All Romany children need to be guaranteed suitable health care.

OBJECTIVE 1: To Improve the Social Position of Romany Children and Ensure their Inclusion

STRATEGIES:
- To facilitate inclusion of Romany children into the education system, in line with the national Strategy of Education of the Roma.
- To create various mechanisms for facilitating and strengthening positive relations between the Roma and the majority population.
- Special stress needs to be placed on acquiring a larger number of Romany assistants who would originate from the Romany community. All educational policy measures have to strive towards a better education structure of the Roma, as improving their status would increase the cultural and other development of the Romany community.
- To ensure the possibility to retain the Romany language and culture.
- Competent bodies need to ensure that expert personnel is trained for carrying out special aid programmes that will be based on the specifics of the Roma, to furthermore carry out individual forms of aid for Romany children and their parents.
- To ensure a more suitable and successful cooperation of the social services with the Roma in various environments. This would enable expert services to better assess the issues and be more efficient in their elimination.

**OBJECTIVE 2: All Romany Children Need to Be Guaranteed Suitable Health Care**

**STRATEGY:**
- All Romany children need to be given regular health examinations, also in poor Romany settlements, and ensure vaccination that is usually carried out by the schools.

**C. Unaccompanied Children and Youth**

**Objectives**

1. **To guarantee unaccompanied children and youth all their rights.** In line with Article 2 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Republic of Slovenia is obliged to ensure all the rights without discrimination to any child under the state's jurisdiction. In line with Article 20 of the convention, Slovenia needs to guarantee special care and assistance to children who are temporarily or permanently deprived of their family environment or who live in the environment that is not to their benefit. In line with Article 22, Slovenia is moreover obliged to provide suitable care and humanitarian assistance to any child who alone, accompanied by parents or any other person requests the status of a refugee.

2. We will strive to **get the necessary relevant information on the position, guarantee comprehensive treatment and draft such solutions that will be of maximum benefit** to every unaccompanied child. Children, who seek asylum, need to have guaranteed the scope of rights, equal to Slovenian children, in the areas of health care and education.

**OBJECTIVE 1: To Guarantee the Implementation of all Rights to Unaccompanied Children and Youth**

**STRATEGIES:**
- Voluntary repatriation programmes will be carried out with the aid of and in cooperation with suitable bodies in the state of origin when it is established on a case-by-case basis that the return of the child to the state of origin and to his family presents the best solution. Slovenia needs to create a comprehensive system for returning children, in line with the Aliens Act.
- After being granted a refugee status, a comprehensive individual integration programme needs to be drafted for every child (refugee) in cooperation with the Section for Integration of Aliens and Refugees, social care centres, schools, health institutions and in cooperation with children and non-governmental organisations in order to facilitate and speed up the inclusion of such a child into a new environment.
- The scope of activities for caring for unaccompanied children needs to be defined for the social care centres. Special care will be placed on establishing and implementing individual integration programmes for all unaccompanied children and youth. Child inclusion programmes need to be guaranteed in as wide a scope as possible.
- Legislative changes need to contribute towards improving the protection and care for unaccompanied children, especially those who do not seek asylum.

**OBJECTIVE 2: To Gather Relevant Information on the Situation of an Unaccompanied Child or a minor, Prepare Comprehensive Treatment and Draft such Solutions that Benefit the Child the Most.**

**STRATEGIES:**
- To suitably regulate areas where tangible deficiencies emerged in the protection of unaccompanied children and ensure their comprehensive treatment, without which finding the best solution for a child would be impossible; ensure adequate collection of data on these children; eliminate inadequate cooperation among competent services; improve procedures in
appointing caretakers; ensure adequate housing; draft and carry out integration programmes for all unaccompanied children and youth; increase the fight against trafficking with children.
- To strengthen the cooperation and connections between the government and non-government organisations in providing help and protection of children.

D. Children with Deviant Behaviour

Objectives
1. The basic objective in working with children and youth with deviant behaviour is to create conditions for these children to get the knowledge, experience and possibilities that allow them to change their behaviour patterns and thus get included into peer and wider social environment. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child binds the signatory parties to treat in a suitable manner those children and youth who are being dealt with by various state bodies because of their deviant behaviour.
2. We will make sure that children are treated in accordance with their situation and the level of deviant behaviour and respect to the letter the integrity of the child in all procedures in front of the bodies that deal with the child.
3. We will endeavour to reduce the influence of various risk factors on deviant behaviour of children by placing stress on improving family ties, increasing the socialising role of schools and on quality free time activities.

OBJECTIVE 1: To Create Conditions that Allow Children to Gain Knowledge, Experience and Possibilities to Change their Behavioural Patterns and Get Included into Their Peer and Wider Social Environments.

STRATEGY:
- An important factor of protection from disturbances in behaviour of children and youth are: adequate family support, satisfaction with the education institution; and a background of suitable social networks that allow children to gradually develop their abilities in the social, educational and vocational areas. This is why we will place special stress on various forms of support for the family (preventive, consulting, material) and on the education system.

OBJECTIVE 2: To Treat Children in Accordance with Their Situation and the Level of Deviant Behaviour and Respect to the Letter the Integrity of the Child in all Procedures in Front of the Bodies that Deal with the Child.

STRATEGIES:
- Children and the young with deviant behaviour patterns are dealt with by social care centres that also cooperate with consulting services at education facilities or can refer children to advisory centres. As we are dealing with solving complex psychosocial issues of children and youth as well as their families, it has to be ensured that all social care centres carry out multidisciplinary and team-based treatment of each individual child and minor.
- It is necessary to regulate in a suitable manner the treatment of children who have committed an act with all the characteristics of a criminal act before they turned 14.
- To safeguard the minor offender in a pre-criminal procedure, it is necessary to improve the cooperation between the social services and the police and to ensure that both services carry out their procedures simultaneously. This will allow for a more effective and child-centred treatment.

OBJECTIVE 3: To Reduce the Influence of Various Risk Factors on Deviant Behaviour of Children

STRATEGIES:
- Special attention shall be paid to early and timely discovery of distress that could contribute to deviant behaviour. It is necessary to train educators and teachers in timely recognition of troubles of children and youth and facilitate dialogue with advisory services on schools, social care centres, etc.
- Children and youth whose deviant behaviour has already been recognized should be included into suitable forms of help, if possible with the help of the family (create a positive self-image and successful integration into the social environment).
III.6. POLICY OF PROTECTION FROM NEGLECT, VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

A. Protection from Neglect and Violence

Objectives
1. The basic objective is to prevent all forms of violence against children and to place victim protection as one of the state’s priority tasks.
2. To improve the legal care and protection of children, who were the victims of sexual abuse with better suited and, especially, expedient solutions in penal and private law.
3. To ensure expert (specialist) training of all experts who are working with children who have experienced violence (social care, police, justice, health, education, non-governmental sector).

OBJECTIVE 1: To Prevent all Forms of Violence against Children and to Place Victim Protection as One of the State’s Priority Tasks.

STRATEGY:
- To carry out and evaluate the existing activities and ensure efficient cooperation of all competent bodies (the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, the Human Rights Ombudsman, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Education and Sport, the prosecution).
- To establish suitable programmes of raising awareness and informing children, youth and parents on violence in the family and outside it (as a compulsory theme in curricula).
- To ensure programmes of treatment and help to children and youth, the victims of family violence and perpetrators of such violence.
- To ensure a greater number of informative shows on recognizing and preventing various forms of violence.

OBJECTIVE 2: To Improve Legal Care and Protection of Children

STRATEGIES:
- To draft national guidelines for prevention of violence.
- To ensure an active role of the Expert Council on Violence in the Family.

OBJECTIVE 3: To Guarantee Expert (Specialist) Training of all Experts

STRATEGY:
- To continue with and implement new training programmes for workers in social care centres, police, health personnel, teachers, judges, prosecutors and regional coordinators for preventing violence.

B. Protection from Violent Sexual Abuse Acts

Objectives
1. To ensure programmes for physical and mental recovery of victims of sexual abuse and their reintegration as well as obligatory therapeutical treatment of perpetrators of sexual abuse of children.
2. To strengthen primary prevention in cases of violent sexual abuse acts.

OBJECTIVE 1: To Ensure Programmes for Physical and Mental Recovery of Victims of Sexual Abuse and Their Reintegration as well as Obligatory Therapeutical Treatment of the Perpetrators.

STRATEGIES:
- We will ensure a sufficient number of rehabilitation and other social programmes, necessary for recovery of children, victims of violent acts.
- We will establish a system of obligatory therapeutical treatment of perpetrators of violent sexual abuse acts as an efficient measure to reduce the number of repeat offenders. The perpetrator
of a violent sexual abuse act against a child will have to undergo adequate rehabilitation programmes during and after the completed sentence. This calls for a system of monitoring and treatment to be established.

**OBJECTIVE 2: To Strengthen Primary Prevention in Cases of Violent Sexual Abuse Acts**

**STRATEGIES:**
- To ensure adequate education for parents and children in recognizing and preventing violent sexual abuse acts (as a compulsory theme in the curricula).
- To ensure permanent education of experts who work with children and youth.
- To ensure greater media attention to informative shows on recognizing various forms of violence.
- To ensure a suitable protection of a child - when the child is a victim of violence - from media attention and unnecessary exposure and, consequently, additional stigmatisation.
III.7. ILLEGAL DRUGS PROTECTION POLICY

Objectives
1. The basic aim is prevention – educating the young on the consequences of use of all types of drugs (including the legal ones) and consequently a reduction in the demand and disruption of the supply of drugs. This entails a respect for the right of children and youth to be shielded from conditions that could lead to the use of drugs and ensure the possibilities for responsible decisions by children and youth on not using drugs.
2. To achieve a harmonisation of various activities in the area of prevention and protection from harmful consequences of drug use and dealing with addiction with the aim of connecting, cooperating and establishing a stable network of programmes dealing with drugs.
3. To ensure a greater number of quality programmes of addiction treatment that will be accessible, connected, stem from actual needs, guarantee comprehensive treatment and will be development oriented and evaluated.

OBJECTIVE 1: To Decrease the Demand and Disrupt the Supply of Drugs

STRATEGIES:
- To improve the funding of activities aimed at raising awareness on the consequences of drug use and support the activities against drug use (raising awareness among the young and their parents).
- To ensure a stricter control over the supply and sale of all types of drugs and strengthen the activities aimed at raising the awareness about drugs and their effects as well as against the use of drugs in bars and other social centres where the young like to spend their time.
- To ensure a greater level of support for a balanced network of programmes that deal with drugs, with priority on high-threshold programmes for curing drug addiction.

OBJECTIVE 2: To Achieve a Harmonisation of Various Activities in the Area of Prevention and Protection from Harmful Consequences of Drug Use and Dealing with Addiction

STRATEGIES:
- Practice has shown deficiencies in inadequate expert and information monitoring over the implementation of various programmes. Therefore, expert monitoring of competent services has to be carried out in a greater scope. Additionally, the possibility for issuing special certificates on being able to work in drug-related areas should be looked into.
- Non-governmental organisations that offer assistance have to be given additional funds for personnel training. To identify the actual results, it is necessary to formulate evaluation criteria, while considering the specifics of individual programmes (regarding the areas they deal with). Executors of programmes need to receive additional training for programme evaluation.
- To draft a strategy for preventing abuse in using methadone and other substances for curing addiction.

OBJECTIVE 3: To Ensure a Greater Number of Quality Programmes of Addiction Treatment that Will Be Accessible, Connected, Stem from Actual Needs, Guarantee Comprehensive Treatment and Will Be Development Oriented and Evaluated

STRATEGIES:
- To ensure that quality programmes for early intervention and individualized forms of help exist for children, adolescents, parents and other family members that face drug use.
- To ensure the implementation of prevention programmes that will take part outside of the educational environment.
III.8. FREE TIME ACTIVITIES POLICY

Objectives
1. The basic objective is to provide to the highest extent possible the possibilities for quality free time experiences for all groups of children and youth.
2. To draft and adopt systemic solutions for the functioning of non-profitable organizations that aim their programmes or parts thereof at enriching the offer of free-time activities. To guarantee employment, education and training of tutors, animators and youth workers that will take part in free time activities. To ensure systemic solutions for co-funding programming costs, investment costs and payments for facilities where free-time activities take place.
3. To ensure that in media production, targeted on children and youth, the public is informed in a suitable manner on the possibilities of quality and non-commercial free-time activities, on activities of groups and organizations for children and youth and on promotion of free-time activities.
4. Special stress will be placed on developing free-time activities for children and youth with special needs, socially threatened children and youth, children of immigrants and refugees, unaccompanied children and children from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

| OBJECTIVE 1: To Provide to the Highest Extent Possible the Possibilities for Quality Free Time Experiences for all Groups of Children and Youth |
| STRATEGY: Cooperate with agents in the area in drafting a comprehensive national policy of free time activities for children and youth, the aim of which will be to create and ensure conditions for keeping the existing and developing new non-profit programmes for quality free-time activities for children and youth. The national policy will form the basis for carrying out systemic measures to guarantee the above-mentioned conditions. |

| OBJECTIVE 2: To draft and Adopt Systemic Solutions for the Functioning of Non-Profitable Organizations |
| STRATEGY: To implement regular forms of cooperation between the ministries in order to guarantee a harmonized implementation of measures dealing with quality free-time activities of children and youth and to involve to a greater degree all the agents that already carry out such activities in Slovenia. |

| OBJECTIVE 3: To Ensure that in Media Production, Targeted on Children and Youth, the Public is Informed in a Suitable Manner on the Possibilities of Quality and Non-Commercial Free Time Activities |
| STRATEGIES: Promote quality contributions in various media on creative free-time activities, interesting hobbies, discovery and development of children's talents. To adapt the schedule and contents of electronic media aimed at children and youth to their daily activities (school, etc). |

| OBJECTIVE 4: Special Stress Will Be Placed on Developing Free Time Activities for Children and Youth with Special Needs, Socially Threatened Children and Youth, Children of Immigrants and Refugees, Unaccompanied Children and Children from Different Cultural and Ethnic Backgrounds |
| STRATEGIES: Special stress will be paid to ensuring the possibilities for free-of-charge free-time activities for children and youth who come from poorer families. We will continue to ensure free-of-charge |
summer and winter holidays, camps, hiking and trips to children and youth from poorer families with the aid of various, also non-governmental, organizations.

- To draft and financially support to a reasonable degree suitable programmes that include the necessary adjustments for children and youth with special needs, children from other ethnic communities, children of immigrants and refugees, young immigrants and refugees and unaccompanied children.

- To integrate quality free-time contents and activities into all educational programmes. Such activities will enable the children to learn about their interests, acquire information on the possibilities for employment, develop wider communication abilities and gain more possibilities for self-expression. Apart from the already existing extra-curricular activities in schools, new free-time activities will be developed on the children's initiative. These activities should promote equal opportunities for both sexes and use modern didactic approaches, equally suitable to both sexes, as well as be encompassing enough to provide for various needs of an individual, for example in sports, art, culture, voluntary, education, etc.
III.9. SPATIAL POLICY

Objectives

1. New spatial and zoning plans should consider the plurality of needs of children and youth and join strategies, initiatives and resources – public, private, human, financial, cultural, physical, spatial, etc.
2. To include the needs of children and youth into spatial planning in the sense of comprehensive spatial planning that has to be defined on the national level.

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<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVE 1: New Spatial and Zoning Plans Should Consider the Plurality of Needs of Children and Youth</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>STRATEGIES:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- A new approach has to be implemented in urban spatial planning, an approach based on human and especially children’s rights. Municipalities and cities have to play a pivotal role in implementing the changes and cover the key areas in transforming the current city landscape. The areas include organizing and using interior and exterior areas for children, more flexible and differentiated programmes for free-time activities that do not serve merely as a space for scheduled activities but also as surfaces with flexible operation and schedule of activities that can be used by a larger number of children and families.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- The measures have to slowly grow into organic planning of public parks that are to become an integral part of neighbourhoods. Which age groups they are intended for will have to be defined in advance in order to create them as surfaces for games and socialising with set activities. An upbringing function will also have to be added.</td>
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<td>- Cities are to join the UNICEF initiative of “Child Friendly Cities” and carry out a demonstration of including the needs of children and youth in urban planning.</td>
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<tr>
<th>OBJECTIVE 2: Including the Needs of Children and Youth into Spatial Planning in the Sense of Comprehensive Spatial Planning that Has to Be Defined on the National Level</th>
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<td><strong>STRATEGIES:</strong></td>
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<td>- The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning will be tasked with drafting comprehensive and specific measures for the benefits of children on the national level.</td>
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<td>- The state will additionally promote civil society initiatives in the area of spatial planning, combine the endeavours of individual groups and prevent potential conflicts of interests among them. The state will also support (by personnel and funding) the expert and monitoring roles of such groups in order to develop higher-quality zones.</td>
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<td>- It is necessary to ensure a systemic regulation and maintenance of playgrounds inside and outside of schools and playgrounds for children with special needs.</td>
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III.10 CULTURE POLICY

A) Cooperation of Children and Youth in Social, Cultural, Psychological and Artistic Life

Objectives
1. To provide equal opportunities of social, cultural, artistic, psychological, entertainment and free-time activities for all children and youth.
2. To ensure suitable stimulation for reading culture on all levels.

OBJECTIVE 1: To Provide Equal Opportunities of Cultural, Artistic, Entertainment and Free-Time Activities for all Children and Youth.

STRATEGIES:
- Taking into consideration European cultural policies, it is important to stimulate programmes and projects that link cultural, educational and scientific spheres and the media and that at the same time stimulate the learning population of all ages to get acquainted with culture and creativity itself, thus improving cultural literacy.
- The Ministry of Education and Sport will ensure that cultural upbringing works as a network of creative processes in all curricular areas through innovative pedagogical and didactic approaches.
- The Ministry of Culture will financially support the implementation of programmes and projects that relate to children and youth.
- To ensure that the Ministry of Education and Sport and the Ministry of Culture cooperate efficiently in the area of cultural education as part of the education process.

OBJECTIVE 2: To Ensure Suitable Stimulation for Reading Culture on all Levels

STRATEGIES:
- The Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education and Sport will ensure a larger share of funding for activities that stimulate the reading culture in children and youth.
- The Ministry of Education and Sport and the Ministry of Culture will facilitate the development of reading programmes that promote availability of books as well as influence the development of the interest in reading and the awareness that reading is an important activity in everyday life and a part of quality free time.

B) To Ensure a Positive Influence and the Role of Mass Media

Objectives
1. To provide access to all children and youth to all types of media whose aim is to strengthen the child’s social, psychological and character wellbeing as well as physical and mental health.
2. To engage in implementing media legislation that protects children and youth from contents that could be harmful for them and at the same time facilitate media policy that will point to the issues of discrimination and deprivileged groups. To support the development of children and youth as active citizens and facilitate the availability and accessibility of media to the young.

OBJECTIVE 1: To Provide Access to all Children and Youth to all Types of Media Whose Aim Is to Strengthen the Child’s Social, Psychological and Character Wellbeing as well as Physical and Mental Health

STRATEGIES:
- As media literacy depends on accessibility of media technologies and contents, each pupil must have access to it. Pupils have to learn how to handle media technology already in primary school. Therefore the Ministry of Education and Sport will continue to provide schools with modern media technology, such as radios, television sets with video cameras, cameras and computers alongside media contents such as books, compact discs, video tapes and the Internet.
- The Ministry of Education and Sport in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture will promote the participation of all schools with the media, especially non-commercial local media that provide contents of special importance. Children will be allowed to create media products on issues that bother and interest them in subjects such as media education, citizenship education and ethics or in journalism-related extra curricular activities.
- The Ministry of Culture will continue to promote the development of media contents that deal with children and youth.

**OBJECTIVE 2: To Engage in Implementing Media Legislation that Protects Children and Youth from Contents that could Be Harmful for Them and at the Same Time Facilitate Media Policy that Will Point to the Issues of Discrimination and Deprivileged Groups**

**STRATEGIES:**
- The Ministry of Education and Sport will draft a concept of informing the parents of primary school children on possible ways of protection from unsuitable Internet contents.
- The Culture Ministry will endeavour to enforce a more consistent respect of the communication right of children as set in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Code of Journalists of the Republic of Slovenia and the Code of Advertising Practice of the Slovenian Advertising Chamber.
- To entice media to warn of instances of unequal treatment and deprivileged status of the children, youth and social groups they belong to.
- To raise awareness among the adults, especially parents and teachers on the safe use of the World Wide Web, meaning the protection of children from pornographic and other damaging contents.

**C) Informing and Participation of Children and Youth.**

**Objectives:**
1. The basic objective is a **gradual increase of the role of active citizenship.** This requires enabling and promoting in as wide a manner as possible the already existing forms of participation of the young and support for and popularisation of good practices. It additionally entails the need to open up and increase the possibilities for new activities and projects of the young that require a balanced representation and participation of sexes.
2. **To maintain and continuously support the current and the development of new mechanisms of information and counselling for children and youth,** based on the fundamental principles as defined in international documents.

**OBJECTIVE 1: A Gradual Increase of the Role of Active Citizenship**

**STRATEGIES:**
- The Ministry of Education and Sport will support other forms of activities with the parents through the already existing institutions (kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, consulting centres). The principal form of activities will be the regularly carried out expert seminars for the workers in school counselling services who will transfer the knowledge on to parents at the meetings of parents and teachers and during other occasions.
- We will support the activities of student parliaments in secondary schools, a student government and the ombudsmen for the rights of secondary school students. The main support for this project, apart from the schools, will come from the Secondary School Student Organisation of Slovenia and the Ministry of Education and Sport.
- The functioning of parliaments of secondary school students at schools will require complete rules of operation (the principle of equal representation of the sexes, the number of annual meetings, how the parliaments should work, what they should deal with, etc).

**OBJECTIVE 2: To Maintain and Continuously Support the Current and the Development of New Mechanisms of Information and Counselling for Children and Youth**

**STRATEGIES:**
- On the level of the local communities, children and youth will be guaranteed participation in
  the activities of municipal and city councils. The understanding and the awareness that
  information submitted by the children to the adults is beneficial for the running of a local
  community will also be promoted. The cities and municipalities which will show a special
  readiness to allow for the cooperation of youth will form Youth Municipal Councils that will
  enable the young to take part in forming local policies in the areas that interest them.
- Youth participation has to be carried out in a democratic and equal manner through dialogue
  and intergenerational solidarity.
- In order to support the cooperation of children and youth in taking decisions in the area that
  interests them, the young will continue to have access to quality information on programmes
  and counselling in the areas of: curricular and extra curricular activities, special and informal
  forms of education, scholarships, employment and career options, social, health and legal
  security, sport and cultural activities, help in personal and housing issues, taking part in
  political activities and youth tourism.
Chapter IV: INTERNATIONAL AID AND COOPERATION

Objective:

1. Slovenia is following the gradual implementation of the internationally set objective of the developed countries to increase the development funds meant for the least developed countries and to alleviate poverty throughout the world, especially for children. To achieve the UN's recommended goal of contributing 0.7% of the GDP for such programmes is also the long term goal of the Republic of Slovenia.

OBJECTIVE: Slovenia is Following the Gradual Implementation of the Internationally Set Objective of the Developed Countries to Increase the Development Funds Meant for the Least Developed Countries and to Alleviate Poverty throughout the World

STRATEGIES:

- The Slovenian government will help international organisations that want to improve the situation of children in achieving internationally accepted goals, especially those that tackle child mortality, guarantee basic health care, universal access to primary education, fight against HIV/AIDS and those that aim to protect children from exploitation, violence, abuse and armed conflicts. The country’s priority concern will be to satisfy the needs of the most vulnerable groups of children in the developing countries, especially in the least developed states and in the states of Sub-Saharan Africa.

- The obligation to reduce poverty and help poor states has to go further from direct development aid programmes. Therefore the Slovenian government will internationally endeavour to advocate sustainable development of all, including the poor states, and will to this purpose: Endorse initiatives for writing off debts of highly indebted poor countries in exchange for their strong promise that their priority task will be to tackle poverty; support the implementation of the 20/20 Project; develop partnership relations with the poorer states with the aim of increasing direct investments and liberalisation of world trade; take part in the activities of multilateral international development organisations; pursue a consistent policy towards poor states; cooperate more intensively with non-governmental organisations, companies and the research community; place the guiding and directing development aid, which is currently being executed by various ministries, under the international development service at the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

- To reach the set objectives, Slovenia needs to make new agreements to mobilise additional means.

- The support of the Slovenian citizens to help the poor children of the world will continue to take place in line with the possibilities that are directed towards supporting organisations that offer such aid in the most stricken parts of the world (UNICEF, the Red Cross, Caritas, Doctors Without Borders, Amnesty International...).
Chapter V: IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME

A. Implementation and Monitoring of Objectives

Through the Programme for Children and Youth the government of the Republic of Slovenia wants to achieve a united front of various players in order to meet the basic objective - to improve the quality of life for children and youth in Slovenia. We want to foremost achieve:
- As high as possible level of health care and health.
- Quality family life and human relations.
- Raise the level of education and improve employability.
- Protect children and youth from the pitfalls of poverty, all forms of violence and risk behaviour.
- Guarantee suitable housing and a safe place to play and socialise alongside quality cultural and free-time activities.

Achieving the goals that are defined by the Programme will be carried out in a gradual manner within the framework of individual strategies and measures. The implementation will also be based on the available means and needs that will be created within the time period of the Programme.

To ensure the implementation of the Programme, individual two-year plans will be drafted in which the competent bodies will bind themselves to implement the set objectives in the timeframe of the Programme and to allocate the necessary funds in time.

The monitoring of the implementation of the objectives will be carried out by the Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia – the Child Observatory unit. New solutions will be drafted as needed based on regular evaluations and the topical issues.

B. Sources of Funding

The proposed strategies to meet the objectives of this document are mainly planned as components of carrying out policies, programmes and strategies of individual players. The essence of the Programme is to achieve harmonisation in the activities of all players in order to maximise the profit for children and youth. At the same time the programme ensures the transparency of priority objectives and the means necessary to achieve them.