POVERTY AND WELFARE TRENDS OVER THE 1990
IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Country Paper
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The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the
policies or views of UNICEF.
Tremendous changes have been brought about by the transition process of the Slovak society since 1989 in both, conditions and patterns of social behaviour of population.

Positive changes, worthwhile underlying, of such period include extensive democratization of society; opening the borders to the Western Europe; peaceful split-up of the Czech and Slovak Republic to two equal states of the Czechs and Slovaks; cancellation of visa obligation for Slovak citizens to most of the civilized states; establishment of self-governing bodies at the level of cities and municipalities; adoption of laws on free elections; adoption of law on direct presidential elections; adoption of international conventions on citizens’ and children’s rights; Slovak endorsement of the agreement on non-dissemination and disposal of ground/field mines; Slovakia has been accepted by the OECD in 2000; launching and successful continuation of negotiations on accession with the European Union and NATO. Laws needed for establishment of higher-level territorial self-governing regions were adopted in 2001 and direct elections of ZUPANs (supreme representatives of the said regions) and regional parliaments were held in December 2001. Executive power has been democratized substantially through the current transfers of most of competencies and financial flows to regional self-governing bodies and real execution has become closer to citizens.

As of the end of 2001 the act on establishing the function of an ombudsman has been adopted; his office is to start to be operational in 2002. The average living age of men has increased by 2.34 years achieving thus 69.14 years and the one for women increased also by 2.02 years achieving thus 77.22 years in 2000 thanks to the changes in living style and improvement of health care schemes. Positive trends have been reported in terms of the death rate of newborn babies as well. Having more accountable approach to sexuality, increased usage of the means of protection and having other factors in place, the abortion rate has been reduced by almost half in spite of the fact that the Abortion Act is very liberal enabling any woman to make her choice on her baby freely. Approach of young people to the university (terciary) education has been evolving also very positively having the enrolment rate in 2000 more than double of the one in 1999. In terms of the food consumption the nutrition habits have been changed among population: consumption of animal fat has been reduced in favour of vegetable one; sugar consumption has come closer to the standards recommended; alcohol drinks and cigarettes consumption has been reduced as well; soft beverage and mineral water consumption has increased. Most of newspapers and journals have become independent and private. State radio and TV stations have become public institutions. Share of private transmission of both, radio and TV channels, exceeds the one of public institutions by ten times. In terms of criminal offences, number of criminal actions motivated by sexuality have decreased. In the area of social protection, the targeted social benefits have been improved through extensive changes in legislation in such a way that now they are better targeted to families and persons who really depend on that type benefit. Using such tools, families and individuals on the edge of poverty are hereby compensated.

Less favourable consequences of the transition process include, for instance, total number of alive-born babies where the numbers 80,116 and only 55,151 were reported in 1989 and 2000 respectively accounting for a decrease by 24,965 (i.e. 68.8%) alive-born babies. Fertility rate has been reduced for the given period from 2.08 (1989) to 1.28 (2000). Therefore the population is ageing and the proportion of young people to people in retired age is decreasing. Enrolment rate to day-nursery care has been evolving unfavourably also with 91.5% in 1989 and 80.2% in 2000 meaning a 11.3% reduction. Unemployment rate trend also has an
unfavourable impact on situation in families, women and children. The ratio of the unemployed to the total population in working age was 0.6% in 1990 and 18.6% in 2000. Such trend, consequently, leads to the fact that most of resources identified for support of labour market are consumed to provide unemployment benefits and only a few resources are free for active labour market policy, for instance for creation of new job opportunities, etc. Anyway, unfavourable trends have been reported also in milk and dairy product consumption with the total consumption being almost by 40 kg below (2000) the value recommended by practitioners. Criminal rate has increased particularly in terms of criminal acts of violence, for instance number of murders has almost tripled. Ratio of juvenile and children – offenders increased by more than 80%. That means that the age of offenders of criminal offences has decreased.

After opening the borders, life of young and older people has been under the threat of offer and consumption of illegal drugs permanently increasing. Ratio of families and persons living on the edge of poverty has increased accounting now about 11% where the tremendous increase of unemployment rate is the main reason.

I. POPULATION

Changes in demographic development of population in the Slovak Republic in 1990 – 2000 reflect the current social and economic situation, changes in the living standard of the population, as well as world globalising changes. Several facts ensue from this: how the population, mainly young people react to social and economical development, how responsible their decisions are concerning serious life decisions.

The development of individual demographic characteristics like decrease of marriage rate, birth rate and fertility of women, negative divorce rate, stagnation of overall mortality rate, changes in abortion development and migration are causing further irregularities in the population age composition, ageing of population, changes in family and household structure, increase of average marrying age and average age of mother first giving birth. These are facts caused by the new reproduction behaviour of the population. Current demographic situation in the Slovak Republic can be considered as a sign of gradual end of the previous Eastern-European model of behaviour and transfer to a new model of reproduction behaviour of population, characterised mainly by low birth rate and low mortality rate of population. The outcome of the above-mentioned demographic processes was a further deterioration of reproduction rates and population age structure. The process of ageing of population is continuing, the evidence of which is the increase of average age in both sexes and worsening of the ageing index. Life expectancy has slightly lengthened, while in men it has exceeded the limit of 69 years for the first time.

Looking at the basic age structures of the Slovak population in the reference period 1990 – 2000 there is a visible continuing decrease of the share of children (0 – 14 years old) as a result of decreasing natality. The share of population in pre-productive age decreased to 19.2% of the total population. In the 2000 year was absolute number of young peoples in this category 1 036,4 thousand. Share of population (15–59 men, 15–54 women) has been permanently increasing because of a numerous population born in the post-war period in the 70s that is entering this age group. Share of productive age population has risen to 62.7%. At the end of 2000 the number of productive age population reached 3 389,8 thousand. Gradual changes have occurred also in age composition of population in post-productive age (60 and older men and 55 years old and older women). Share of population in post-productive age has
to 18.1% of total population. Due to the decrease of share of children and growth of the number of population in post productive age, the average age of living population and ageing index have also increased. In 2000 the average age of men reached 34.4 and women 37.5 years. It means that per 100 persons aged 0 – 14 there are 94 persons in post-productive age. Ageing index is significantly different concerning sexes. While in men it reached value of 62.1, in women it exceeded value of 100. The main reason for that is different limit of post-productive age for men and women and also due to the number of women in higher age groups resulting from higher mortality of men.

Marriage rate decreased to 4.8. In absolute numbers in 2000 there were 25.9 thousand marriages. The age of entering into the first marriage has been gradually increasing in women in reached 23.6 and in men 26.1 year. Average age of bride increased to 25.2 and groom to 28.2 years.

Great impact on the divorce rate have social factors like family traditions, changing value orientation, employment and education of women, influence of religion, attitude towards marriage and parenthood, etc. Crude divorce rate remained unchanged at 1.72 per mille. Per 100 marriages in 2000 there were 35.8 divorces.

Social problem are divorces of marriages with underaged children. In 2000 the number fell to 6.5 thousand (70.2%), of which 3.7 were with one child and 2.2 thousand with two children. 508 divorced marriages had three and more children. In 2000 as in previous years, reproduction processes development trend remained the same, mainly natality decrease and fertility of women. Number of born children reached 55.4 thousand of which 55.2 were live-born children. Total as well as in number of live-born was equally 5 thousand. Natality rate declined to 10.2 per mille.
Number of stillborn children, a negative characteristic of natality, dropped to 215. The share per 1000 born is 3.9 stillborn children. With respect to sex of born children, there are generally more boys. In 2000, 28.3 thousand boys (51.2% of the total number) and 27 thousand girls (48.8%) were born.

**Average age of mothers** at the time of first birth to all live-born children reached 23.9 years in 2000 opposite 22.0 years in 1989.

**Number of live-born children** dropped from 80.1 thousand at the beginning of the reference period to 55.1 thousand, of which 45.2 thousand were born in marriage. Concerning the order the number of live-born as the fist to be born in marriage increased to 43.9%, the number of children born second and share of children born third and fourth has also decreased. Children born the first and second in sequence form the majority of live-born with share of 78.1%.

Recently the number of **non-marital children** has increased and in 2000 the share reached 18.3 of the total number of live-born children.

High fertility period in the SR is the interval from 20 to 29 years of age of women.

Numbers of life-born children by age of mother per 1000 women have seen the decrease in age groups 15 – 29 and growth in groups 30 – 39 years old.

The highest decrease of natality was recorded in age group 20 –24 year-old women. While in 2000 in this age group per 1000 women number fell to 84.1 live-born children.

In 2000 realised fertility dropped to 88.5 there was live-born children per 1000 women in age group of 25 – 29 years old for the first time this category of women took the lead in realised fertility, overtaking the age group of 20 to 24 year-old. In age groups of 30 - 39 years old the fertility rate increased slightly, in 40 to 49 year-old women it stayed at the same level.
The result of the above mentioned development is lowering of the **total fertility** of women. Total fertility (number of children that would be live-born to every woman during her whole reproduction period, 15 - 49 years) decreased from 2.080 in 1989 to 1.297 in 2000.

**In 2000 the total number of abortions reached 23.6 thousand.** It was more than 32.7 thousand less than in 1989. Gross abortion rate had decreased by 1.3 points per mille. Number of abortions per 100 born has also had a decreasing tendency. In 2000 this indicator dropped per 100 to 42.6, which is not only due to decrease in the number of abortions, but also in the number of children born

The major shares in total number of abortions have age groups of 25–29 (26.1%) and 20-24 year-old women (23.5%). In absolute numbers it represents 6.2 or 5.5 thousand abortions. Category of 30-34 years old women (19.5%) and 35-39 years old women (14,5%) is the next.

Calculated per 1000 women the sequence of the number of abortions stays the same i.e. the age group 25-29 leading, followed by 30-34 year-old women. High number of abortions occurs in the group of 20-24 year-old women. Average age of a woman having an abortion in 2000 was 28.8 years.

Significant factor is the decrease of **abortion rate** in all age groups. The highest decrease compared to 1989 occurred in 25-29 and 20-24 year-old women. Positively can be evaluated lowering of abortion rate in the youngest age group of 15-19 years old. While in 1989 there were 3 928 abortions it was only 2 335 in 2000.

Fall in abortions as well as continuous decrease in the number of born children contributes to a decrease of the total number of finished pregnancies, which in 2000 reached almost 79 thousand cases. From 100 pregnancies 70 ended with giving birth and 30 with an abortion, which was a positive change. Due to the fact that abortion rate decreases faster than natality, abortion share in the total number of finished pregnancies also reduces.

One of the problems with population in Slovakia is a negative **mortality rate**, namely in men aged 20-60, when compared to women of the same age the mortality rate is 2.6-4.4 times higher.

Mortality rate is influenced not only by age composition of the population, but also by mortality by sex and age in combination with death causes. 28.2 thousand men (53.4%) and 24.6 thousand women (46.6%) died in Slovakia in 2000. Opposite 1989 year 29 834 men and 24 310 women was died. At the men group was 1.677 thousand decrease and at the gruop women was 0.257 thousand growth.

Mortality rate by sex calculated per 100 thousand people was higher in men in all age groups. In the category of 15-64 years old, in comparison with specific mortality of women, died 1.7 to 4.4 times more men.

In 2000 473 children (280 boys and 193 girls) died by one year of age, 605 less than at the beginning of the reference period. Infant mortality rate lowered and achieve 8.6 per mille.

Basic synthetic indicator of the level of the population life standard and mortality is **life expectancy**. In 2000 it reached 69.14 years (2.54 points higher) in men and 77.22 (1.82 points
2. INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

Average nominal monthly wage of employee of the economy of the SR (including estimation for employees at tradesmen) for 2000 reached 11 430 SKK. In comparison with 1989 the nominal level of wages (3 142 SKK) increased by 363.8%.

For wage development in the surveyed period there was characteristic higher dynamics of wages in the entrepreneurial sphere in comparison with growth of wages of employees in organisation of non-entrepreneurial character. While in the enterprises with 20 and more employees average nominal monthly wage of employees in 2000 increased to 3 148 SKK in 2000 for disadvantage of the employees of the budgetary sphere.

Since 1989, year-to-year dynamics of growth of nominal wages of employees gradually decelerated. Deceleration was connected mainly with decrease of dynamics of the development of basic economic indicators in the entrepreneurial sphere and also with adopted measures of the Slovak Government in 1997 with which there was amended relation between qualitative indicators and growth of wages while directing wages.

Level of wages and their development in the surveyed period in individual fields and branches of economic activity was realised unevenly. In 2000 the highest average monthly wage (11 864 SKK) had the employees in the enterprises with 20 and more employees, which represents. In enterprises up to 19 employees it was 11 580 SKK and in the set of private entrepreneurs not registered in the Business Register the average monthly wage is estimated at 9 328 SKK. In budgetary organisations, average monthly wage of an employee reached 9 732 SKK and in contributory organisations 9 895 SKK.

According to individual branches the highest average monthly wage had employees in monetary and insurance (22 150 SKK), from the industrial branch employees at production and distribution of electricity, gas and water (15 967 SKK), real estate agents, renting, trade services, research and development staff (14 095 SKK) and in public administration, defence and compulsory social security (13 780 SKK). The lowest wage level had employees in hotels and restaurants (8 800 SKK), education (8 990 SKK) and in agriculture (9 020 SKK).

Existing problems in public finance sector, entrepreneur sphere and financial sector reflected in the stagnation of annual labour costs that reached 300.8 billions SKK. Tendency of deceleration of development in labour force costs since 1997 still continued in the group of direct and indirect costs.

From the annual volume of labour costs the employers spent monthly on average 16 589 SKK per employee. Decisive component of monthly labour costs, wages and salaries, reached a growth of 7.1%, increasing the share in the structure of total labour costs to 60.1%. This may be mainly attributed to the increase of share of basic (tariif) wages and salaries. Benefits and bonuses increased to 1 633 SKK, their rate of growth fell behind dynamics of basic wages. Share of this component reduced. Year-to-year drop has recorded only in the smallest wage elements (pays for a given period, wages in kind). Wage compensation reached 1 519 SKK and due to year-to-year
decrease of dynamics their structural share reduced to 9.2%. The remaining components of direct costs together represent in the structure of total costs 1.4%.

From the total **labour costs** compulsory to social security contributions represented 23.9%. Within the obligatory payments on insurance the dominant position is held by the pension insurance that with a monthly level of 2 190 SKK formed 13.2% of labour costs. Long-term positive trend of non-obligatory contributions payment on social security continued with a more intensive implementation of supplementary retirement insurance.

Monthly level of payments in the form of sanctions and charges levied on enterprises by local or state organs in relation with wage payment the share of such costs reduced to 1.4%. The lowest component remains the expenditure on staff recruitment that in spite of year-to-year growth reach less than 0.5% of labour costs. Share of deductible item, which is subsidies for remuneration, remained after increase at a level of 0.2%.

Concerning branches, financial intermediation has dominated in investments into labour sources, despite year-to-year decrease. The least labour costs invested capital-undersized branches of the primary and tertiary sector – hotels and restaurants (12 766 SKK), agriculture (13 270 SKK) and education (13 722 SKK).

Regarding economic potential, labour costs of two largest Slovak cities reached the highest monthly level in Bratislava Region (20 914 SKK) and Košice Region (16 820 SKK). The lowest level, 14 143 SKK at a 1% growth had Prešov Region, when the limit of 15 000 SKK was not reached also by Žilina Region (14 681 SKK) and Nitra Region (14 742 SKK).

Above-average level of labour costs was in legal organisations with foreign capital – international organisations (20 193 SKK) and foreign companies (19 362 SKK). The lowest labour force costs were paid by organisations in co-operative ownership (12 787 SKK) and owned by associations, political parties and churches (14 348 SKK). Tendency has continued of reaching maximum labour costs in the smallest organisations employing 11-24 persons (21 426 SKK) and less than 10 persons (21 239 SKK). Since 1998 the companies with 100 – 249 persons remained at the lowest level of labour costs (15 800 SKK).

**Hourly labour costs** reached average rate of 111.71 SKK. 78.90 SKK were paid as direct remuneration, of which 77.35 SKK were wages and wage compensations. With the exception of payments of saving programme, reaching 0.21 SKK, each of the remaining components was at the level around 0.45 SKK. 26.90 SKK was paid for the dominant component of indirect costs on employment of labour force, social security payments. Employees received on average 0.20 SKK per working hour in the form of subsidies.

**Average gross monthly wage** for 1999 reached 10 593 SKK. Concerning wage structure, basic wage formed 62.1% (6 575 SKK). The second largest component were bonuses and awards at 14.3% (1 515 SKK). Wage compensations for leaves, holidays, training courses, stoppages at word, etc. accounted for 13.4% of total wage (1 421 SKK). Average additional payments were 9.2% (974 SKK). Net wage reached 8 103 SKK, its share of the gross wage was 76.5% and insurance and tax payments 23.5%.

**Average gross monthly wage** of men was 12 066 SKK and women 9 050 SKK. Average wage of women in the SR represented 75% of average wage of men. Significant influence on these differences has a different structure in employment of men and women. So called typically female
and male occupations exist. On average women earn less because they tend to work in occupations with low wages (e.g. nurses, administrative workers, shop assistants in retail sale). Men on the contrary have higher representation in leading and managerial positions with higher wages. Reasons are overtime work, night shifts, non-stop operation mainly in manual workers where men also prevail. Further factors influencing wage rate in men and women are maternity and career growth.

According to classification of occupations ISCO-88 COM the highest wage was in the group legislators, managers and senior officials. Its level of 26 882 SKK exceeded the national average by 153.8%. The second highest wage 13 870 SKK, exceeding the national average by 30.9% was in the group of scientists and brainworkers. The lowest average wage was in the group of supporting and non-qualified staff at 6 421 SKK was 39.4% lower than national average.

There is a direct proportion between education and average wage level. The lowest wages had employees with finished primary education. The level of their average gross wage was 7 207 SKK, 32% less than a national average. The wage grew with higher education level and higher skills of employee. 66.3% higher wages than a national average had employees with university education. Their wage was 17 618 SKK. The highest wage was in academic education employees (18 080 SKK) exceeding a national average by 70.7%. Share of net wage in gross wage varied and was in indirect proportion to the level of average gross wage. The highest share was in employees with finished primary education (79.4%) and lowest in academic education (72.9%). In all education levels higher average gross monthly wage had men. The biggest difference was in academic education, where average wage of women represented 64.2% and in employees with university education, where wage of women formed 65.4% wage of men.

Direct proportion also exists between the age of employee and average gross monthly wage. The lowest wage in age category up to 20 years of age (6 677 SKK) was 37% below the national average. With higher age gross wage also increased, reaching its maximum in age group of 55-59 years old, at 11 938 SKK exceeding a national average by 12.7%. Share of basic wage of the total gross wage was highest in age group up to 20 years of age (67.6% and lowest in 55-59 years old (60%). The smallest differences in wages of men and women were in the category up to 20 years where average gross wage of women reached 90.8% male wage. Significant differences occurred in age groups 45-49 and 50-54 years old where the share of female wage formed 70.8% and 72.6% of male wage.

Regarding regions the highest wage was in Bratislava Region (12 724 SKK) and Košice Region (11 711 SKK). In other regions it was lower than a national average, reaching the lowest level in Prešov Region (8 922 SKK).

One of the causes of expressive regional differences in unemployment is the low mobility of labour forces characterised as follows:

- the unemployed are not willing to work away from their permanent place of living
- lack of flats (accommodation is not sufficiently secured by the employers)
- generous social allowances (not being interested in jobs as they get this kind of financial support)
- information on vacant work places published by district labour offices is often outdated and rigid.

Unemployed young people, women taking care of their children, persons of low qualifications and handicapped citizens are risky groups at the labour market. They are graduall
excluded from the labour market and become longterm unemployed people. People of low income who, compared with the social allowances, can't expect higher incomes, form the group of socially unemployed people.

The highest wage by type of ownership was in international organisations 13 108 SKK and combined ownership 12 383 SKK. The lowest level was in co-operative ownership 8 707 SKK. The highest share of basic wage of total gross wage was in co-operative ownership organisations (69.6%) and lowest in units in municipality ownership with the highest share of additional payments.

By branches of economic activity the highest wages were earned by branches of financial intermediation(15 020 SKK) and electricity, gas and water supply (14 561 SKK). The lowest wage was in agriculture, hunting and forestry (8 363 SKK), in education (8 811 SKK) and in health and social care (9 025 SKK). The highest proportion of basic wage 72.9% was in agriculture. The highest share of additional payments was in public administration and defence. The highest share of bonuses was recorded in branches construction and hotels and restaurants, the lowest share in health care and education. The biggest difference between male and female wages was in the field of public administration and defence. Wage of women reached 62.3% of male wage, and in sales (66.4%). The smallest differences were in education (88.7%) and in transport, posts and telecommunication (86.5%).

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In 2000 the net monetary income per one member of household reached 68 641 SKK. In the 2nd half of the 90s the rate of net monetary income development decelerated. High growth of income from the beginning of the period dropped to approximately one third in 1998 – 1999. In 2000 the rate of growth increased again. In the surveyed period, net monetary incomes increased nominally, while real incomes fell by 0.5%. Rate of social income growth decelerated, which reflected in a smaller difference between the social income and employment income: in 2000 the ratio increased to 3.1 fold rise in favour of employment income.

Net monetary income in 2000 reached 67 869 SKK per one member of household of the year.

In households of employees the average net yearly expenditure per household member was 67 982 SKK, in agricultural households 61 421 SKK and in pensioner households 66 904 SKK. In households of economically active persons, average net yearly expenditures per household member reached 78 100 SKK.

For all households in total the share of expenditure on consumption slightly lowered. The highest decrease occurred in expenditure on food and non-alcoholic beverages and expenditure on clothes and footwear. The share of expenditure for transport also decreased. Expenditure on recreation and culture was lower on furniture and household equipment expenditure on alcoholic beverages and tobacco on education. The highest growth of expenditure share in this period was for housing, water, electricity.

In the development of net monetary income and expenditure by social group, higher growth in both components was in economically active households then in non-working pensioner households.

Changes taking place in the development of the economy of the SR reflected also in the development of employment. In the initial phase of the economic reform the main reasons for a
decrease of employment were conversion of armament, increase of inputs from import in raw and material demanding productions and collapse of the Eastern markets. Together with a decrease of total level of employment changes took place also in its structure. Sector structure changed in favour of tertiary sector, whose share increased to 56.1% in 2000 at a decrease of employment in secondary sector.

In 2000 year employment in the SR according to the results of labour force sample surveys total employment in 2000 their share in total number of employees increased to 45.9%. During the surveyed period, employment gradually decreased in public sector in private sector employment increased. This was reflected in total change of employment structure by types of ownership. Private sector shared in total employment in the SR in 2000 it was 66.8% (according to entrepreneurial reporting).

Branch structure of employment also changed. Decrease of employment was reflected mainly in agriculture, construction and in branches of manufacturing production. Growth of employment in the surveyed period took place in various branches of the service sector and in financial services (monetary and insurance). At present the branch with the highest employment in the SR is still industry, in which 615.2 thousand persons worked in 2000. Nevertheless, share of this branch on total employment decreased to 29.3% in 2000.

Accompanying phenomenon of transformation process of the Slovak economy after the year 1990 was an increasing unemployment. At the end 2000 the number of registered unemployed with labour offices as increased to 506.5 thousand persons and unemployment rate from available number of unemployed represented 17.9%. Development of unemployment in the SR was influenced by insufficient relation between the school system and labour market, low labour force mobility, improper proportion between social and labour income, low formation of labour vacancies and unclear ownership relations mainly in bankrupting enterprises.

Gradually with unemployment growth regional differences in unemployment rate deepened as well. As of the end of 2000 the highest unemployment rate was in the districts of Veľký Krtíš (32%), Revúca (30.2%), Rimavská Sobota (30.2%), Trebišov (29.2%) and Rožňava (28.7%). The range between the districts with the lowest and the highest unemployment rate in 2000 was 27.4 percentage points.

Risk groups of labour market are „bold“, women taking care of their children, persons with low skills and physically disabled persons. These groups were forced out of the labour market and gradually became long-term unemployed. According to the results of labour force sample surveys that had been performed in the SR since 1993, the share of long-term unemployed (more than 1 year) of the total number of 485.2 thousand unemployed formed 53.9% in 2000. Long-term unemployment concerned more women (54.7%) than men (53.3%).

The main problem of the labour market in the SR is unemployment of young people. In 2000 from the total number of unemployed persons 31.6% were formed by young people at the age of 15-24. By sex higher percentage of young unemployed was in men (33.3%); in women the share of young unemployed form total number of unemployed women was 29.6%. Unemployment rate that according to the results of labour force surveys in the SR in 2000 represented on average 18.6% was in the age category of young people (from 15 to 24 years old) significantly higher – 35.2 % (36.3% in men and 32% in women).
According to the attained level of education, from the total number of unemployed persons in 2000 unemployed with basic education or without education and trained without school leaving exam accounted for 59.9%. The highest number of unemployed persons who lost their last job for to various reasons had worked in industry, trade, construction and agriculture. The share of unemployed who had their last job in the given branches represented 49.1% from the total unemployment. Most often the reasons for unemployment of persons who had previously been employed was making people redundant due to overstaff, and also because their employers finished their activities.

Unemployed young people, women taking care of their children, persons of low qualifications and handicapped citizens are risky groups at the labour market. They are gradually excluded from the labour market and become longterm unemployed people. People of low income who, compared with the social allowances, can't expect higher incomes, form the group of socially unemployed people.

Number absence of calendar days for Accidents at Work and Illness early total decrease from 43 306 thousands CD (calendar days after only CD) in 1990 year to 38 222 thousand CD in 2000 year. Of which due to Disease was 36 188 thousand CD in 1990 decrease to 35 091 thousand CD in 2000 year. Due to Injury at Work (Work accidents) in 1990 was 1 641 thousand CD decrease to 856 thousand CD. The same was development on the other injury. In the 1990 was 5 4478 thousand CD and in 2000 was 2 276 thousand CD only.

In fatal work injuries during monitored period retain biggest rate at the Means of transport as at the 1989 year was 122 causes and at the 2000 year was 56 causes what was decrease to 45.9 %. The second biggest rate had Working or road traffic areas how source downfalls of persons. This area causes notice only small decrease from 73 in 1989 year to 61 in 2000 year. The third biggest area remained Engines – moving, accessories, cultivations and working causes even though noticed decrease from 75 causes in 1989 year to 40 causes in 2000 year.

In group Heavy Work Injures was development very similar. All groups indicate decrease. The main groups was the same how Fatal Work Injuries.

Condition at the Occupation Diseases in the Slovak republic by branches of economy and by their number is at the Industry, Agriculture, Mining of the minerals, Health and Building industry. Most handicapped grup among 40 – 55 years personnels. From this view are most handicaped of this proffesions: Miners, Graciers, Metal, Machinery and lockschmith workers, Drivers of agricultural and woodland machineries, operating personal of saw-mills and accesories workers at woodland and Workers in glass industry. By region was condition for example in the 1998 year follow (from biggest to smaller share percentage by 100 000 inhabitants):

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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Share</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Trenčín</td>
<td>33.8</td>
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<td>2. Banská Bystrica</td>
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<td>3. Zilina</td>
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</table>
3. HEALTH

Network of health establishments is established by Law of the Slovak Republic No.277/1994 of the Collection on health care in the wording of later regulations. Since 2000 this law has defined the new structure of network. The whole network is characterised by number of establishments, number of beds and physicians’ posts in individual establishments. Due to the change of network division the number of physicians’ posts and beds in individual types of health establishments in 2000 cannot be compared with previous years. Only the number of beds and physicians’ posts in all health establishments in total. Total number of beds has been decreasing. There were 56 261 beds in health establishments in 2000. Per 1000 persons there were 10.4 beds. The number of physicians’ posts in total grew by 16.7% (19 303 posts in 2000). As of 31 December 1999 in Slovakia worked 20 354 physicians, while there were 265 persons per one physician.

Component of health establishments network is also balneological institutions, where the number of beds increased to 12 819 to 2000. The number of treated patients in 2000 (135 123) was the lowest in the surveyed period. The highest number of patients was treated in 1997 (160 536). The number of foreigners of all treated patients constantly grew.

Data on consumption of drugs indicate health state of the population. Since begin of period, consumption of drugs by packs increased and now decreased. Consumption by value increased. In 2000 year 151 449 packs of drugs were used. By value, Slovakia expended 15 238 million SKK for drugs. In The average price per pack increased to 100.60 SKK.

Total number of infectious diseases reduced. Concerning individual types of infectious diseases, obligatorily notified the numbers of new cases were changing. The number of AIDS cases increased to 28 in 2000. In 2000 the highest number of new syphilis cases occurred (384); it had increased by 428 % since 1989 year and had an increasing tendency. On the contrary, number of new gonorrhoea cases reduces year by year. The number of tuberculosis cases lowered (1 111 cases in 2000). Incidence of salmonellas increased, but the number of cases reduced since 1998. Number of new infectious hepatitis cases in 2000 year was lower than in 1989.

4. EDUCATION

School system in the Slovak Republic consists of kindergartens, basic schools, secondary schools (grammar schools, specialized secondary schools, vocational secondary schools, vocational schools, conservatoires), higher education institutions and special schools. By founder the schools divide into state, private and church schools.

Number of pre-school education establishments – kindergartens in 1989 – 2000 decreased by 789. Number of classes was 9 390 in 1989 and decrease to 7 576 in 2000 e.i. by 1 814 classes. Enrolment ratio decrease from 91.5 % in 1989 to 80.2 % in 2000 year. Number of classes and registered children has a decreasing tendency since 1989 to 2000 by 1 814. The number of teachers also reduced. Average number of children per teacher decreased to 10.1. There were 20.4 children per class.

The number of basic school pupils in 1989 was total 724 919 in 2000 decrease to 650 966 it’s loss by 73 953. Slightly increased was notice since 1999 (growth was caused by a gradual transition to nine-year primary school).
The number of pupils in 1st to 4th year of basic schools reduced. The number of school-leavers reduced to 41.3 thousand in 1999. In 2000 the number increased to 81.9 thousand. This drop or increase was influenced by a gradual transition to nine-year school. The number of teachers since 1989 was reduced by 60. Average number of pupils per class decreased to 22.4.

In 2000 95.3 thousand pupils attended 194 basic schools of arts. The main interest was in musical department, which in 2000 attended 49.3 thousand pupils (21.7 %). Within the musical department the highest interest was in piano, accordion and recorder.

In the surveyed period the number of grammar schools slightly increased. The number of students which was in 1989 total 51 531 increase to 80 615 in 2000 it’s accrual 29 084 students. From 15.8 graduates in 1999 10.4 thousand were admitted to universities it’s 65.8 % successful.

In the surveyed period the number of specialized secondary schools remained relatively stable. From 372 specialized secondary schools in 2000 the majority was economic (117) and industrial (117). However, the number of classes reduced. The number of students decreased to 98.4 thousand. 5.8 thousand students studied part-time in 2000.

The number of vocational secondary schools and vocational schools slightly increased. The number of classes had a decreasing tendency. The number of students significantly reduced to 105.8 thousand in 2000.

From the total number of students in 2000 99.1 % were not preparing for a specific organisation. In four-year and five-year study fields in 2000 studied together 31.2 thousand students (29.5 %). Number of teachers and foremen of skilled training reduced. The number of part-time students decreased by 11 thousand.

In 2000 there were 20 higher education institutions in the Slovak Republic and 89 faculties, which is a growth by 6 higher education institutions and 20 faculties. From the total number of higher education institutions two universities and three faculties were non-state. The number of students of Slovak nationality of a full-time study increased by 13.2 thousand (by 16.9 %) to 91.3 thousand. The number of Slovak nationality students studying part-time increased to 33.1 thousand.

For a full-time study in 2000 was into the 1st year admitted 24.6 thousand applicants. 9.7 thousand applicants were admitted for part-time study. Number of full-time study graduates increased and part-time graduates. In full-time and part-time form of postgraduate studied 7.4 thousand postgraduate students. The number of internal educational workers of higher education institutions increased to 9 thousand, of which there were 3.3 thousand professor and senior lecturers.

At Slovak higher education institutions in 2000 studied 1.6 thousand students of foreign nationality. The majority was from the Czech Republic 270 and from Greece 260 students.

Slovak nationality students studied mainly at university faculties 56.7 thousand (45.6 %). The fewest students studied at academies of arts (1.6 thousand, 1.3 %). The highest interest of Slovak nationality students was in social science. In 2000 in these subjects were studied by 67 thousand students (53.9 %). Within this group the biggest interest concerned teaching and economic science. Students are also interested in technical science (33.8 thousand students, 27.2 %). Within this area mechanical engineering and other metal production prevailed. Agricultural forestry and veterinary science and theories studied 9.4 thousand students, natural science 6.3 thousand students. Medical and pharmaceutical science studied 5.2 thousand students, science on culture and arts 2.4 thousand students and military science studied 0.2 thousand students.
The biggest higher education institutions in the SR was Comenius University in Bratislava with 12 faculties and 21.4 thousand students. The next in the sequence was University of Economics in Bratislava (6 faculties, 14.6 thousand students), Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica (8 faculties, 13.2 thousand students), Technical University in Košice (8 faculties, 11.3 thousand students). The smallest was University of Management in Trenčín (1 faculty, 232 students).

In the surveyed period the overall capacity of university hostels increased as well as the number of accommodated students. This development relate with big increase number of students.

Number of special schools (kindergartens, auxiliary, basic, special schools for handicapped children and secondary schools) reduced. On the other hand, the number of classes increased. The number of children increased to 30.9 thousand. Majority of pupils attended basic schools and special schools for handicapped children (23.7 thousand, i.e. 76.9 %). In total 4.3 thousand students attended secondary special schools, of which special vocational secondary schools and vocational schools 91.9 % students. The number of teachers at special schools increased to 4.2 thousand.

This subgroup includes non-state church and private schools. This category after begin transition is new category of schools in Slovak republic.

In the surveyed period the number of church schools was creation 168. The number of students in 200 where 40.6 thousand. Majority of pupils attended basic schools (25.5 thousand) and grammar schools (10.5 thousand). In monitoring period also a church higher education institution was established: Catholic University in Ružomberok with 610 students in 2000.

In 2000 10.9 thousand pupils attended private schools (included in the total number are kindergartens, basic, secondary schools and special schools). Majority of students attended specialized secondary schools (3.4 thousand), basic schools of arts (3.1 thousand) and grammar schools (2.6 thousand). In 2000 a private higher education institutions was established: University of Management in Trenčín with 232 students.

Financial means used for funding of educational tasks in 2000 represented 34 746 million SKK. Expenses on basic schools at 30.4% represented the biggest volume of means. They increased by 26%. 3 426 million SKK, 27.6% more was allocated for operation of kindergartens. Funding allocated for grammar schools and specialized secondary schools was 4 007 millions SKK (11.5 % of the total volume of financial means on education in 2000). Expenditures on church school at 721 millions SKK. Total expenditure on higher education institutions in 2000 was 5 357 million SKK.

Since 1989 the trend of growth of employment schools as well as growth of average monthly wage in private and church continued.

5. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES AT RISK

The international declaration of the rights of the child has been gradually implemented in the legal system and a number of institutions and bodies deal with their applying in practice: from health and educational, and social institutions, up to the parliament, government, ministries, prosecution, law-courts etc. Pupils and students get acquainted with the basic rights ensuing from
the document within the frame of classes or in special subjects i. e. civics or within the frame of extra curricula activities in circles of interest, local history or geography etc. According to the empirical knowledge of pedagogues and educators, young people appreciate more and more their attained education. But they are often disillusioned if they can't make use of it because of lack of vacant posts. The majority of them don't resign, they attend retraining programmes and refresher courses to improve their chances of getting a quality job. Unfortunately, some young people turn apathetic or start taking drugs or start criminal activities.

Total number of children in public institutions from 9 030 in 1989 decrease by 190 to 8 840 in 2000 year and from which where in physically/mentally disabled institutions 4 166 in 1989 decrease by 633 to 3 533 in 2000. Number children of foster adoptive parents where 2 348 in 1989 slowly increase by 347 to 2 695 in 2000. Total number of children which where adoption 382 in 1989 very slowly increase to 404 in 2000. We will receive good deal adoption of children but in law existing barriers and reserves. For instance if parent which sent to children one a post-card during year he/she show interes by children and this children is not possible adopt during next year.

Young people get into conflict with the law for various reasons. They sometimes don't even realize that they break the law. On the other hand, they often do so quite consciously and naively believe they won't be convicted. The approach of Courts and other institutions to juvenile delinquents is differentiated. The age of the offender, his former behavior and previous conflicts with the law are taken into consideration. The extent of punishment for young offenders (15 - 17 years) is a minimum sentence or half of the usual penal rate at maximum. Offenders under the age of 15 cannot be by law brought before a court. This regulation has become rather outdated with regard to some serious criminal acts, i.e. homicide and violent assault, committed by youngsters under 15 years. A group of lawyers in Slovakia, but also in other European countries, try to put through the lowering of the age limit at which a juvenile delinquent can be subjected to punitive measures. At present these young offenders are sent to detention centers for not adaptable and problem children. The system of prisons in Slovakia is such that young people serve their sentences separated from adult prisoners. The young offenders get theoretical and practical training in various vocations within the frame of remedial education. Local possibilities and the character of the crime the juvenile had committed are taken into consideration. After the successful passing of the theoretical and vocational training, he can take the required examination and get the certificate of apprenticeship in vocations as lathe - worker, blacksmith, shoemaker, joiner etc.

In the Slovak legal system doesn't so far exist an institution of an alternative way of serving a sentence except some of its supplementary forms as a simultaneous fine or banned profession. There exists only an internal division of penal rates dependent on the grade of danger for the society and the social impact of the committed crime. The most severe is the 3rd reformatory prison for people who committed homicide, violent assault, battery and repeated crimes by recidivists, irremediable offenders. In the 2nd group are convicts who committed serious crimes for the first time with only minor consequences. In the 1st group are people who committed minor offences: causing traffic accidents out of negligence, avoiding alimony payments etc. Some convicts of this group are allowed to work outside the penitentiary institutions without any supervision. This way of serving a sentence is preferred as we assume that the convicted person, having served his/her sentence will be able to join quickly the regular civic life.

In 2000 there were 92 juvenile convicts at the age of 15 to 17 years in prisons out of the total number of convicted persons. This number was very decrease if in the 1989 were 310 juvenile convicte. As already mentioned, persons younger than 15 years cannot be legally sentenced and
imprisoned. Convicts can be usually visited once a month which is conditioned by their good conduct. In the 1st and 2nd group the convict can be allowed to visit his relatives outside the prison for 1 - 3 days once a month or once a year.

The educational level of juvenile prisoners within the average a few past years was:

- Illiterates: 6.83%
- Unfinished primary education: 31.68%
- Primary education: 61.49%
- Secondary education: 0.00%

Youth offenders come from various family environment and socio-economic status. They generally come from one-parent families or from families with the parents' impaired cohabitation. But even cases of young offenders from financially secured families are not rare. Causes are: parents are too busy all the day long and have no time for their children. These suffer emotionally and compensate their frustration by engaging themselves in minor or sometimes even more severe criminality. Findings have shown that almost 2/3 of juvenile delinquents come from urban environment and only 1/3 from the rural one. Official statistics in Slovakia don't discriminate juvenile delinquents according to race, ethnic minority or ethnic group. Such data are not at disposal.

The young people's opinions about criminality are varied. The majority of them think that the police aren't energetic enough to take actions against offenders of the law, too many cases remain unsolved, illustration of some kinds of criminal activities is below 50%. Courts take too long a time to try and sentence the offenders. The unnecessary delay of trials and final verdicts causes their loss of relevance.

Criminal causes again in children and youths slowly decrease by 852 from 3 414 in 1989 to 2 562 in 2000. Counter non-payment of alimony increase by 677 causes from 3 307 in 1989 to 3 984 in 2000 e.i. 120.5 %. Number of crime causes participation of juvenile considerably increase from 4 103 in 1989 to 5 565 causes in 2000 e.i. 135.6 %. Of which juvenile participant of violent crime increase by 132.7 % from 599 in 1989 to 795 in 2000 and property crime causes increase by 150.2 % from 2 694 in 1989 to 4 046 in 2000 year.

In the period of transition the most pressing problem for young people is how to assert themselves at the labour market. In spite of the fact that the educational system of Slovakia prepares a wide range of good and professional graduates from secondary, university or tertiary education, their position at the labour market is frequently problematic. This problem will be more closely dealt with in the following part of the report.

Another pressing problem for the young people in Slovakia arises when they want to start a family. It is extremely difficult for them to get a flat because housing development subsidised by the government has been stopped, prices of flats or houses are very high in Slovakia and so is the rate of unemployment among young people. Therefore, contrary to the usage in the past, they start families much later. Something positive and at the same time something negative has come out of the situation. Positive is that the young people start families at a more mature age, they are aware of their responsibility and are psychologically and financially better prepared for their marital life. The negative effect is that the fertility period in young women is lower which results in the decrease of the numbers of live-births and the increase of the ageing population in Slovakia. Many young couples, not having sufficient support for the start of a family, live in extramarital relationships. Due to this there is an increase of non-marital live-births. These children later often have to cope with difficulties and complications. Recently the situation is improving as the new
The government tries to create better conditions for young people looking for flats or houses by introducing mortgaged credits and state bonuses for saving in building saving banks. This approach will obviously help to start the stagnant building of flats and one-family houses in Slovakia which may positively influence the current demographic situation.

The third serious problem of the growing up generation in the time of transformation is the increase of the number of drug addicts among the young. Institutions, health and charity organisations are involved in this problem. It deteriorates inter-human relationships, breeds poverty and criminality and negatively influences the health of newly born babies whose parents are drug addicts. This results in increased cost and countless losses in the field of health and social care.

The Ministry of Education deals with the problems of young people within the frame of its competence. Theme are also centres of diagnostics that take care of problem juveniles and those with mental or physical handicaps. Help is provided by the sector of NGOs as well. Results of the work of these institutions are published in the mass media. The Slovak Radio and Slovak TV regularly present various educational programs and discussions about the problems of the young people. The same exchanges of opinions are presented in regional and local cultural establishments and in the local press.

6. Small National Contribution

Stagnation related to the issues of children and young people and caused by “other, more urgent problems” of society seems to be overcome and drawing attention of not only the Governmental but also non Governmental institutions and authorities.

For instance, second international Conference on Demonstrations of Social Pathology of Children and Young People was held in Bratislava on October 25 to 27, 2000 under the participation of experts from Austria, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia. Experienced professionals from the fields of police force and criminalistics, law, pedagogy, education, psychology, health sector and statistics were lecturing. Three working groups were established during the Conference focusing particularly on criminal rate, prevention and level of enforcement of rights of young people.

During the Conference sociological context was addressed in terms of drafting and implementation of juvenile policy under the transition conditions. Considering that the society should provide equal opportunities for all young people point out to the fact that equal opportunities for satisfied life are not granted by the society in practice. Young people start to combine their future with the prosperity of not Slovakia but European Union.

New top bodies of children and juvenile have been established during the transition process including the National Council of the Youth of Slovakia as the umbrella organisation representing children and young people and being a partner to the corresponding State authority responsible for drafting State Care Concept for Children and the Youth. Corresponding authorities referred to in the previous sentence are the Ministry of Education and Governmental Council for the Youth Issues in Slovakia. The latter being evolved from the Slovak Youth Council. “Children’s and Youth Parliament” has been established in cities and municipalities at the same time; and “Parliamentary Day of the Young People” is organised upon annually upon their initiative. It provides an opportunity for children and young officials to be in touch directly with the MPs and issues related to problems and
requirements of the young people may be discussed. The young people are associated also upon the assistance and basis of non Governmental organisations establishing thus civil associations of children and youth.

**Living style** and values accepted by the young people in Slovakia have become the focus of interest of staff from the Institute of Information and Prognoses in the School System in Slovakia. It has been pointed out that the meaning of life, values and goals of life are undergoing a radical change currently. Based on the *ad hoc* surveys conducted among young people the findings have shown the following:

- 64.6% respondents have indicated that it was worthwhile living and that the life was attractive for them,
- 16.2% respondents have indicated that they were living as they could,
- 13.4% respondents have been very happy with their lives and
- 5.7% respondents were not happy at all and only
- 0.1% young people have indicated that their life was worthless and they would prefer not to be alive at all.

Out of 20 priorities following are the top five as indicated by young people:
1. to have excellent health condition and cheerful strain
2. To have good partner / spouse
3. To have happy family
4. To have an opportunity of permanent education and training
5. To have children and bring them up in good manner.

The worst ranking was as follows:
18. to become recognised in my profession
19. To have an opportunity to be publicly involved for the benefit of all citizens
20. To be pushed through in policy.

Not very favourable economic situation at present has been also reflected in value priorities and in the system of values of young people; the most crucial for them are: to be employed (60.9%), to have happy marriage (59.2%) and a life in harmony (52.8%).

Young people could also express their attitudes to the free time, primarily in terms of the amount of it:
- 46.2% considered not having enough free time,
- 40.4% had little free time
- 10.8% had lot of free time and did not know what to do with it
- 2.6% indicated that they did not have any time for themselves.

Survey on drugs among young people also was conducted by the Institute. It has been shown that environment in family, family relationships, primarily those with parents and among siblings are the crucial factors. Overall attitude of respondents to the meaning of life and their financial standing were also issues of importance. In term of the question related to the overall living standard, 13.4% responded that they considered their living situation to be below the level of meeting basic living needs.

No dramatic changes have been recorded in smoking habits during 1995 to 2000. For instance, respondents indicated:

**Cigarette Smoking (in % of respondents):**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>occasional smoking</th>
<th>daily smoking</th>
<th>not smoking at all</th>
<th>never ever tried</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>58.2</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>60.4</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td>50.4</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>56.5</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>57.3</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>53.4</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Institute of Information and Prognoses in the School System in Slovakia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>daily drinking</th>
<th>drinking 2 to 3 times a week</th>
<th>occasional drinking</th>
<th>not drinking at all</th>
<th>never ever tried</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>62.3</td>
<td>25.8</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>58.9</td>
<td>30.9</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>53.6</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>59.9</td>
<td>24.4</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>59.7</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>62.4</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Institute of Information and Prognoses in the School System in Slovakia

Since there has not been any significant change related to gambling, the time series is not shown. Frequent play with the playing automates have been indicated by 0.4% of respondents.

Experts from the Faculty of Pedagogy in the city of Nitra reported about the project called “Human Rights of Girls and Women in Europe” where the information forum was held in Bratislava on October 19 to 21, 2000. Following are the main subjects of the project carried out under the support of the Swiss and German Governments:

1. Violence against girls and young women
2. Sexual education reproduction health
3. Socialisation and stereotypes
4. Involvement of girls and young women in the society

**Prevention** of criminal acts was dealt with by Dr. Jan Bubelini who is also the author of many publications on this issue. The last one, having 449 pages and titled “The Handbook for Co-ordinators of Prevention” deals with the methods of prevention of criminal acts in Slovakia. As indicated and recommended, such prevention must be of three levels: national, regional and local. The said publication deals both, theoretically and practically with prevention on a local level and a warning is included that any prevention is to start in the closest environment of a potential offender: family, school, municipality or region. Number of good pieces of advice for good prevention activities has been listed by the author for children and young people.

XXVIII Scientific Conference called “The Days of Ivan Stodola” (pioneer of health and hygiene education in Slovakia during approx. 1930 to 1970) focused on support of mental health including combating xenophobia and racism. The Conference, *inter alia*, focused on the involvement of State health care facilities in the health education of population, particularly young people; activities of consultancy centers for supporting psychical health condition; such consultations are sometimes heavily needed by young people or children in critical periods of their lives; indicators of mental health related to negative habits in the population; development of psychohygiene at elementary and secondary schools (regional experience); accident rate trends and rate of suicides committed in Slovakia as one of the indicators of mental health; tolerance among people of different races, ethnic groups and religion; addiction – cause or consequence of impairments in mental health; what to do
about increased women’s dependency on alcohol; relationship between legal and illegal
drugs in the light of ESPAD 1005 and 1999 outcomes; nutritious awareness of secondary-
school students in Slovakia and status of health education in the overall concept of education
of young people and adults in Slovakia.

We are convinced that impacts resulting from social pathology of young people may only
be moderated by systematic analysis of existing pathological phenomena, education focusing
on prevention and joining powers of all competent Governmental and non-Governmental
authorities and organisations.

In Bratislava 30th October 2001

Author: Dr. Eugen Placintar and collective