CHILDREN AND DISABILITY IN SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Co-ordinator: Eugen Placintar
Statistical Office, Bratislava

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The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of UNICEF.
Introduction

Legislation in Slovak Republic tells:

„The state guarantees the right to protection of health in all the periods of life on the level of current scientific knowledge and economic possibilities. Increasing the health awareness of citizens focuses on the implementation of responsibility of an individual for his or her own health, parents for the protection of health of their children and active participation of the public in health development and protection.“

Slovak Republic apply attention of citizens with disabilities permanent. Special attention apply children with disabilities permanent. In the next part of report we demonstrate interest of governmental and non-government (NGo) institutions about area living condition of children with disabilities. Government and other relevant institution accept many decisions for advance their situation. In this time exist many legal arrangements for supporting this group of children. Of course many arrangement is depends on the sufficiency for their. We can to state that changes being a few latter years going on the right bearing.

Providing services in social services facilities is one of the form of social assistance to resolve the cases of material or social destitution of citizens. Services in such facilities are intended, in compliance with the Act No. 195/1998 Coll. on social assistance for the citizens who cannot be provided with another kind of social service.

As od December 2001 there were 5 378 951 inhabitants in the Slovak Republic according to the Housing and Population Census, from which 32 337 persons (0,6 per cent) used services in altogether 670 different kinds of social services facilities. In spite of an ambition to increase the share of the facilities having lower capacity of places to provide social services, i.e. so-called family type facilities, there can still be observed the prevalence of places in large-capacity facilities. The last mentioned are institutional facilities for adults and for children with predominantly continuous service. They comprise seniors homes, boarding houses for seniors, social services homes for adults and for children and children´s homes. Institutional facilities respect to individual kinds.

Total expenditures made 4.4 billion SKK. Of which current expenditure reached 1.8 billion SKK (40.7 per cent), 1.7 billion SKK (37.7 per cent) was spend on wages and 0.6 billion SKK on compulsory social insurance, the loves item of the expenditures was indicated by both tangible and intangible investments in the amount of 0.3 billion SKK (23.5 per cent).

Accordingly were created conditions for operate many non-government (NGo) organization. Except normal civic living this organization provided their activities in feeling area citizens and children with disability.

For example nowadays in the Slovak Republic active working 22 subjects NGO for citizens and children with physical handicaped, 15 subjects NGO for citizens and children with audio befallen, 8 subjects for citizens and children with visual befallen. Great group
constitute of 36 subjects NGO for deputy person of citizens and children with mental handicapped. This NGO working on the national, regional and local level.

We will present on the next lines government of the Slovak Republic accept National Programme for the Development of Living Conditions for Citizens with Disabilities in All Areas of Life, which is saving many ministries supporting beneficial activities of the NGO and non-profit organisations. Following this Programme can be financial grant for their organisation if present activities in accordance with mainly his intention. Every year is accommodate many millions Slovak Crowns for this projects how we will demonstrate in the next text.

Because children with disability are all at once of patient we would like inform about activities in Slovak Republic about right of patients:

**Promotion of Patients’ Rights in Slovakia**

Project MAT01/SK/9/3

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

The aim of the project is to assist the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic in strengthening the patients’ rights. The project is funded by the Dutch government within a preaccession program MATRA. Implementing institution is a Dutch company Interaction in Health, the work group comprises of five Dutch and four Slovak experts.

Expected project results:

1. A strategy document giving the menu for activities that will enhance patient rights, identifying and binding stakeholders, setting conditions for sustainability, indicating mechanisms, rules and legislation. Enhancing public debate and providing a menu of methods and instruments for interventions in the field of patient rights.
2. A number of plans, programmes, policies and instruments to enhance patients rights from the perspective of the different stakeholders in Slovakia.
3. A number of pilots and practices both within specific stakeholder groups and between stakeholders to obtain learning experience and know how to actually implement patient rights. Very important is to enhance discussion and come up with activities and policies.
4. Drafting of different scenarios to deploy patient rights functionaries in the Slovak health system. Options mentioned are the hygienic institutes, the municipalities, but also consumer and other civic groups. A clear mandate should be formulated and tested in different pilot situations with adequate feedback by the stakeholders.

The duration of the project is two years, from January 2002 to December 2003. First three months, January – March 2002, are the inception phase, when concrete stakeholders are appointed and activities for implementation are proposed.

Stakeholders:

- regions
- municipalities
- hospitals
- general practitioners
- the hygienic institutes
- consumer organisations
- patient organisations
- nursing association
• health insurance funds
• the Ministry of Health
• training institutes
• general education
• the media

In January and February 2002 several meetings with representatives of various healthcare providers, insurance companies and civic organizations were organized. Objective of the meetings was to introduce the project and establish personal contacts. A series of roundtables took place during the inception phase at the Ministry of Health in the week Feb.18 – Feb.22. The objective of the roundtables was to propose intervention strategies for patients’ rights promotion. Participants of the roundtables were representatives of individual stakeholders, representing proposals of their institution for activities in the area of patients’ rights. Three roundtables were organized:

1. civic activities
2. educational and professional activities
3. healthcare providers and health insurance companies

Once the proposed activities are agreed on and prepared, the implementation will be carried out with the technical assistance of the project. The project implementation will start after an approval of the Inception Report by the Steering Committee. The meeting of the committee is scheduled for mid-April 2002.

1. Children with disability: who are they?

If we can define of children with disability its such children which have serious bodily damage, or serious sensorial damage (visual, audio), or serious mental damage or physical damage of body. Mostly they need elevated attention and social and health care. It’s take on big attention, difficult work and many financial expenditures. Of course it’s not for community cardinal affair. Mainly is relevant help for children with disability and improve their quality of life how we will demonstrate in the next lines. By Social Insurance Company are number children with disability relative low d’not mean that we address smaller attention this group of handicapped children. If we have a look on development during transition period we demonstrate several numerical information.

Number of children receiving pension for disability during 1989 – 2001 period denote increase 164.4 % when in 1989 year receiving pension for disability 952 children in 2001 it was 1 565 children. Maximal number was in 1992 year when this pension receiving 1 589 children. Details segmentation by age groups or causes of invalidity is not available. Govermental care and assistance for children with disability were apply during all monitoring period. Accordingly we have not available data about backround, ethnic, structure and income of households if it’s from rural if urban enviroment’s. In households budget survey have available number of household’s with member’s with disability it mean with all (adults and children total). This detection is not such detailed in order to it’s hither specify for us.
2. Government responsibilities for children with disability

One such form to create these conditions in practice is the **National Programme for the Development of Living Conditions for Citizens with Disabilities in All Areas of Life**, which was approved by the SR Government Resolution No.590 of 27 June 2001. This document concerning all citizens aged from 0 < and more it meant also and children.

If we like show development on this area in Slovak Republic we will look all development during transition process:

On the basis of the initiatives of citizens with disabilities, stemming from the Declaration of the Charter of the 1980s, prepared by the world organisation Rehabilitation internationale, the Government of the Slovak Republic by its resolution No. 466/91 set up a Government Committee for the Issues of Citizens with Disabilities of the Slovak Republic in August 1991 and adopted a document, “The measures to solve topical problems in the care for persons with disabilities in the period 1991 to 1992”. This fact brought about the adoption of essential measures encouraging integration of citizens with disabilities into society and it was highly praised when presented abroad as the Government’s attitude to problems of persons with disabilities. The Deputy Prime Minister was appointed Chairperson of the Government Committee for the Issues of Citizens with Disabilities of the Slovak Republic, members included seven ministers of major sectors with regard to addressing topical problems of citizens with disabilities, representatives of citizens with disabilities and humanitarian and charity organisation officials.

On 20 December 1993, the United Nations General Assembly adopted an important document, “The Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities”. This document has a nature of a recommendation. The situation of persons with disabilities in individual countries, and the implementation of the recommendations of “The Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities” are periodically monitored by the United Nations Organisation through its Special Repporteur for disability issues, as well as by the Council of Europe, the International Labour Organization and other international organisations. The subject has become an integral part of the monitoring of human rights worldwide. It takes its place also within the framework of state authorities’ preparation programme for negotiations on the accession to Euro-Atlantic structures. Experience of many years in the past has convinced us that creating living conditions for the integration of citizens with disabilities is not and cannot be a question of solely providing social benefits or social services. By giving consent to the UN declaration pertaining to the document of “The Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities,” the Slovak Republic pledged its moral and political commitment to create living environment without obstacles, solve the problems of education and access to information for all, create job opportunities and access to assistance devices, etc.

A major breakthrough in the attitude of the United Nations Organisation to the rights of persons with disabilities was brought by Resolution No. 1998/31 of the fifty-fourth session and Resolution No. 2000/51, which emphasise that any violation of the basic principle of equality or any discrimination or adversely different treatment of persons with disabilities which is not consistent with the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities is a violation of human rights of persons with disabilities. Resolution No.2000/51 invites the countries to submit reports on the implementation of the Standard Rules and co-operate with the UN Repporteur monitoring the human rights of persons with disabilities worldwide.
Another important document, which the Government Committee for the Issues of Citizens with Disabilities of the Slovak Republic adopted, was titled “Measures for developing conditions for the integration of citizens with disabilities in everyday life for the years 1993-1994”.

On 3 January 1995, the subsequent Government of the Slovak Republic abolished the Government Committee for the Issues of Citizens with Disabilities of the Slovak Republic, and by their Resolution No. 66 of 7 February 1995 set up a Coordinating Committee for the Issues of Citizens with Disabilities of the Slovak Republic. The Government appointed Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and the Family of the Slovak Republic its Chairperson. For other sectors, officials of lesser positions were appointed with lesser responsibilities, whereby the action of the Coordinating Committee for the Issues of Citizens with Disabilities of the Slovak Republic became less efficient. The Coordinating Committee for the Issues of Citizens with Disabilities lost the character of a cross-sectional, suprasectoral body. By including the Secretariat of the Coordinating Committee for the Issues of Citizens with Disabilities of the Slovak Republic into the structure of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family an attitude emerged in other sectors as if solutions of the problems of citizens with disabilities belonged exclusively in the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and the Family of the Slovak Republic, an attitude which has virtually prevailed do date.

Relying on their previous experience, citizens with disabilities through their representatives proposed to transform the Coordinating Committee for the Issues of Citizens with Disabilities of the Slovak Republic into the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Issues of Citizens with Disabilities, which as an advisory body to the Government of the Slovak Republic would have its responsibilities strengthened, compared to the current state. By the Government Resolution No. 392 of 2 May 2001, the Government agreed to the above transformation.

Strengthening of responsibilities of the advisory body to the SR Government for the solution of problems of lives of citizens with disabilities is indeed highly topical and cannot be approached from economic, but rather from a human needs perspective, because it will create an opportunity for qualified information of state administration, at all levels, about specific problems of citizens with disabilities and their immediate participation in the solutions. The acceptance of potential policies early on in the stage of drawing up sector programmes, in construction and urban design, may entail significant financial savings. On the other hand, the participation of persons with severe disabilities in the society and in working activities entails also financial benefits for insurance companies, transfers of taxes and savings of resources in health care. It is widely known that individuals that are well integrated are less often ill, and persons surrounding them may more freely find self-realisation. The standard of providing for the quality of life for the weakest members in the society is also one of the criteria for the evaluation of a country's degree of development.

The core of the work of the Coordinating Committee for the Issues of Citizens with Disabilities of the Slovak Republic were the burning existential questions of citizens with disabilities in the Slovak Republic and their solutions. Increasingly, there emerged a need for systematic and complex solution of these issues in all spheres of life. Relying on the above mentioned United Nations document, a complex program of addressing problems of the lives of citizens with disabilities in the Slovak Republic was drawn up, entitled the “The National Programme for the Development of Living Conditions for Citizens with Disabilities in All
Areas of Life”. The initial material, produced by representatives of citizens with disabilities was subject of two deliberations of the Coordinating Committee for the Issues of Citizens With Disabilities of the Slovak Republic and, within the comments proceedings, was presented for comments to sectors and other institutions responsible for pursuing particular measures.

The presented National Programme for the Development of Living Conditions for Citizens with Disabilities in All Areas of Life is a systemic step directed at creating a process of gradual conceptual solution of all grave problems of lives of citizens with disabilities, including the creation of conditions for the prevention of disability, early diagnostics, and therapy, registration and adequate participation in social and working environments. The objective of the National Programme for the Development of Living Conditions for Citizens with Disabilities in All Areas of Life is to create equal opportunities and integrate citizens with disabilities in the life of society, in keeping with the recommendations of the UN document referred to above. In preparing the National Programme for the Development of Living Conditions for Citizens with Disabilities in All Areas of Life, besides “The Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities”, two directives of the EU Council, cited above, and the Council Regulation 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000, laying down the principle of equal treatment in employment and gainful employment, were used.

The presented National Programme for the Development of Living Conditions for Citizens with Disabilities in All Areas of Life starts from the assumption that the society should be built in a way that all its qualities – living conditions and the environment, health and social care, education and access to information, working, social and cultural fulfilment, goods and services, simply all areas of life, monitored by the twenty-two rules of “The Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities” were accessible for all citizens without distinction, or, were, in a simple and adequate way, made accessible and adjusted also to the needs of citizens with disabilities with regard to the kind of their disability. What today the society perceives as specific needs (and financially particularly demanding) should become a legislative and practical standard – wholly a matter of course – already in the process of planning and subsequently in the implementation of all social activities. We need to underline also that the solution of many problems of citizens with disabilities is also a suitable, almost inescapable solution for other groups of citizens, for example, the elderly, mothers with children in baby carriages, etc. In the long run, creating these conditions is cheaper and more effective than subsequent measures or surrogate compensation solutions. We need to emphasise that the principle of universal design is taken for granted in a number of countries of the European Union (Sweden), and in other advanced countries of the world (Canada, the United States, and others).

Citizens and children with disabilities wish and, in many areas also may be active co-creators of values, active members of our society. Most of them are not interested only in passive drawing of social compensations but want to lead a full life, that is, to be actively participating in the life of the community. In order to accomplish this basic human right of theirs, adequate conditions need to be created.

From the aspect of civil law, the Constitution of the SR is the general guaranty of human rights and freedoms for all citizens. Although many things in this area have changed for the better, when taken from the perspective of citizens with disabilities, these rights are nevertheless not yet wholly satisfactorily exercised, as they are not covered adequately with particular implementing legislative norms. The existing legislation related to the conditions of
life of persons with disabilities is changing very slowly, being orientated mostly at passive, financially inadequately covered, little motivational forms of care, which do not always meet today's demands of life.

Of the positive legislative changes of recent period, mention should be made of the adoption of the Act No. 195/1998 of the Collections of Laws, on social assistance, as later amended, addressing compensation of social consequences of severe disability, the Act No. 387/1996 of the Coll. of Laws, on employment, as later amended, which made legislative provisions for additional possibilities of employing citizens with changed capacity for work, the Act 286/1992 of the Coll., on income taxes, as later amended, (until 31 December 1999) and the Act 366/1999 of the Coll. of Laws on income taxes (from 1 January 2000), the amendment of the Act No. 29/1984 of the Coll. (the School Act) which enabled integrated education of children and youth with disabilities, the regulation of the Ministry of Environment of the SR No. 192/1994 of the Coll. of Laws, on general technical requirements for buildings used by persons with limited capacity to move, the Act No. 308/2000 of the Coll. of Laws on broadcasting and retransmission, which lays down the options for programs with hidden subtitles and in sign language.

Citizens associations of persons with disabilities in Slovakia as voluntary and initiative organisations, actively declare their support, and by helping and cooperating with relevant competent bodies at all levels demonstrate their willingness to contribute to solving problems and ensuring the needed care for citizens with disabilities. It is at their initiative that different activities are undertaken through which the public is made aware of the need to help. At their instance, for example the Account of Hope was commenced, they initiated the activity Slovakia Without Obstacles, collections for humanitarian purposes, collections to help fight cancer, purchase medical equipment and facilities needed in prevention, organisation of charitable concerts for assistance to children and adults with disabilities, etc.

The National Programme for the Development of Living Conditions for Citizens with Disabilities in All Areas of Life should become the focal point for all tiers of state administration bodies and self-government for a qualified and comprehensive solution of the living conditions of citizens with disabilities. It is structured according to individual rules of the above referred UN document, giving full wording of each rule, the current state of legislation, a brief proposed solution and a proposal of particular measures.

The National Programme will be regularly evaluated at annual intervals, updated and supplemented, whenever needed.

Government Committee for the Issues of Citizens with Disabilities of the Slovak Republic evaluated admission National Programme for the Development of Living Conditions for Citizens with Disabilities in All Areas of Life in the Slovak Republic accomplish first valuation of this “Programme...”. Because all summary report obtain 84 pages we decided exclude something mainly and interesting parts only (no full version, but selection only):

The same as the National Programme, also the evaluation of the performance of measures taken in 2001, is structured in 22 rules, in compliance with the UNO document quoted above.
A. PRECONDITIONS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION

Rule 1: Awareness-raising

Proposed measures

a) Nominate the co-ordinator in the framework of the organisation chart of the Slovak Television, who will be responsible for matching and solving the tasks connected

Date: 31 August 2002 and permanently
Responsible: Director-General of STV
Funding: from the STV budget

Slovak Television (STV) nominated Mr. Ďureje PhD. in the position of co-ordinator; Mrs. Rísová (RV SR POZP) represented another contact person in 2001.

The measure is being performed.

Ensure regular broadcasting of a specific programme of a similar type, such as “Cesty nádeje” (Avenues of Hope) with innovated content and in cooperation with the Coordinating Committee for Problems of Citizens with disability of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter KVOZPO SR) (as implementation of measure 1.3.1. c).

Date: 31 January 2002 and permanently
Responsible: Director-General of STV
Funding: from the STV budget
Expected financial requirements: 975,000 SKK per year

Performance:
The dramaturgy, contextual orientation and form of the series “CESTY NÁDEJE” has changed. In 2001, STV prepared 8 parts, each of 26 minutes in duration. This series is rich in special topics........

The measure is being performed.

Date: permanently
Responsible: Director-General of STV
Funding: from the STV budget
Expected financial requirements: 2,171,000 SKK per year

Performance:
STV has broadcast 9 programmes of the series “Televízny klub nepočujúcich” directed towards the auditorily impaired citizens.

In addition, in 2001, STV produced 7 parts of the fairy tale “Jurošík” by using sign language. The series was broadcast within the structural window of “Večerníček”. This experiment recorded a positive response from the viewers.

The measure is being performed.

Date: permanently
Responsible: Director-General of STV
Funding: from the STV budget
Expected financial requirements: 182,500 SKK per year

1.3.6. Nominate a coordinator in the framework of the organisation chart of Slovak Radio, who will be responsible for matching and solution of the tasks connected with:

Date: 31 August 2001 and permanently
Responsible: Director-General of the Slovak Radio
Funding: from the budget of the Slovak Radio

Performance:
The measure is being performed.
1.3.8. Create material and personnel conditions for ensuring of programmes with hidden subtitles and programmes interpreted in sign language.

Date: In accordance with the stated measures
Responsibility: Director-General of the Slovak Radio
Expected financial requirements: 10 million SKK per year

Performance:
The production and broadcasting of hidden subtitles already began, in a greater extent, in the second half of 2000, on the basis of an initiative and the professional cooperation of the voluntary civil association KONTEXT and with the financial support of MPSVR SR. This cooperation also continued in 2001.

The measure is being partially performed.

Rule 2: Medical Care

2.3.2. Ensure that the Annex to the Act on Treatment Guidelines, regarding the drugs and the health devices, and amended by a Government decree, was within comments proceedings also submitted to the Coordinating Committee for the Issues of Citizens with disability of the Slovak Republic.

Date: In compliance with the legislative plan of the Government
Responsibility: Minister of Health of the SR
Funding: without requirements for funding from the state budget

Performance:
The draft of the Decree of the Government of the SR “List of health devices covered or partially covered on the basis of health insurance” is, within the inter-departmental comment proceedings, also submitted for consideration to RV SR POZP and the comments are evaluated within the comment proceedings.

The measure is being performed.

2.3.7. Review territorial distribution of the network of ophthalmologic out-patient clinics, and in regions with inadequate capacity, increase their numbers so that doctors have more time for a systematic patient care.

Date: 31 December 2001 and permanently
Responsibility: Minister of Health of the SR
Funding: without requirements for funding from the state budget

Performance:
The MZ SR, in its material called “The Optimal network of health care facilities in the Slovak Republic”, re-valued the network of ophthalmology facilities and defined a norm for the number of physician positions (LM) per 10,000 citizens, for the ophthalmology specialization, in the range of 0.50 LM and the norm of the number of citizens per 1 LM, in the range of 20,000 citizens, whilst the permissible deviation is 15%. According to the stated norms.......

The measure is being performed.
Rule 3: Rehabilitation
3.3.3. Within the prepared law on social insurance, make legislative provision for vocational rehabilitation of people whose disability resulted from an occupational injury.

Date: in compliance with the prepared Act
Responsible: Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR
Funding: from the state budget

Performance:
The stated issue is being solved within casualty insurance in the draft of the Act on social insurance, which is currently in the legislative process.

Rule 4: Supporting services
4.3.1. Annually adjust for inflation the financial resources designated for the support of projects of associations of persons with disabilities, aimed at providing help to persons with disabilities, within the grant policies. Propose adequate appropriations to meet this requirement in the relevant chapter of the state budget for 2002 and the ensuing years.

Date: permanently, in compliance with the preparation of the State Budget for 2002 and following years
Responsible: Minister of Finance of the SR, Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and the Family of the SR, Minister of Health of the SR, Minister of Education of the SR, Minister of Culture of the SR
Funding: from the state budget

Performance: by responsible of Ministries... (finance, labour, social affairs and family, education, health, culture, environment,

The measure is being partially performed.

4.3.3. In Slovak regions, create specific conditions (or specific departments) in old persons’ homes and social service homes for the provision of accessible special care for persons with disabilities, depending on the kind of disability. With a view of the health state and age of citizens with disability who cannot overcome unfavourable contingencies or unfavourable living conditions and are dependent on social services and other forms of help of the society, extend the network of social service homes, as the currently existing situation in these facilities is not adequate to solve the social situation of citizens with severe disabilities in the requisite measure.

Date: in compliance with the prepared SR State Budget
Responsible: heads of Regional Offices
Funding: from the state budget
Expected financial requirements: 25 million SKK (Regional Office Banská Bystrica)

Performance:
For example we demonstrate detailed performance by Regional Office of KÚ ŽILINA:

KÚ in Žilina, in cooperation with the social service facilities in the Žilina region, presented to KÚ Žilina, health department, applications for registration of home nursing care agencies (ADOS) for four social service facilities. As the ADOS network is full within the
Žilina region, the health department cannot register and permit their activity. The social affairs department of KÚ ZV ensured several discussions with the health department in regard to the specified problem. The ADOS problems are currently being solved at the level of MPSVR SR and MZ SR, therefore it recommends cancelling task No. 4 from the previous proposal of measures.

As the current status of facilities of social service homes (DSS) is not adequate, the DSS network extends as follows:

1. **Partially built DSS Horný Vadičov**
   
   Quantification of financial resources needed in 2002 – SKK 8,000 thousand.
   
   in 2003 – SKK 4,000 thousand.

2. **Partially built DSS Vysoká nad Kysucou**
   
   Quantification of financial resources needed in 2002 – SKK 10,000 thousand.
   
   in 2003 – SKK 7,000 thousand.
   
   in 2004 – SKK 7,487 thousand.

3. **Reconstruction of DSS at Belanského street, in Kysucké Nové Mesto, where premises are being extended.**
   
   Quantification of financial resources needed in 2002 – SKK 2,000 thousand.
   
   in 2003 – SKK 6,000 thousand.

4. **Completion of the construction of DD and DSS Čierne**
   
   Quantification of financial resources needed in 2002 – SKK 8,000 thousand.
   
   in 2003 – SKK 5,202 thousand.

5. **Establishment of DD and DSS Liptovský Mikuláš**
   
   Quantification of financial resources needed in 2002 – SKK 2,000 thousand.
   
   in 2003 – SKK 8,000 thousand.
   
   in 2004 – SKK 8,000 thousand.

6. **Placing the DD and DSS Liptovské Sliačče into operation**
   
   Quantification of financial resources needed in 2002 – SKK 6,000 thousand.

7. **DSS in Kysucké Nové Mesto is in operation since February 2002 – the task was completed.**

B. TARGET AREAS FOR EQUAL PARTICIPATION

**Rule 5: Accessibility**

5.3.1. Amend the regulation of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 192/1994 of the Collection of Laws, on general technical requirements for constructions used by persons with restricted mobility on the basis of the complex user requirements.

   Date: in compliance with the legislative plan of the SR government
   
   Responsible: Minister of Environment of the SR
   
   Funding: without requirements for funding from the state budget

Performance:

In compliance with the Plan of legislative tasks of the government of the SR for the year 2001, MŽP SR has prepared a new draft of the regulation of MŽP SR on the general technical requirements for constructions used by people with restricted ability of movement and orientation.

The measure is being performed.
Rule 6: Education

6.3.5. Change the grant policy of the Ministry of Education, in as much as to avoid, in cases of projects for the benefit of children and youth with disabilities, cuts in financial contribution, if the projects are not submitted by a children's or youth organisation.

Date: 31 December 2001 and permanently
Responsible: Minister of Education of the SR
Funding: without requirements for funding from the state budget

Performance:
This task was applied in the preparation of new Directive of MŠ SR No. 999/01-72 on grant policy in regard to civil associations of children and youth.

6.3.6. Make legislative provision for education in the practical school (for pupils with mental disabilities) to last for three years (to match with the duration of education in apprentice schools).

Date: in compliance with the amendment of the School Act
Responsible: Minister of Education of the SR
Funding: without requirements for funding from the state budget

Performance:
The education in the practical school is synchronised with the length of education in specialist apprentice schools. The requirement presented is now also included in the draft of the new act on education.

The measure is completed.

6.3.9. Within the amendment of the Act No. 172/1990 on universities, as later amended, stipulate an obligation for colleges/universities to create adequate conditions for study for citizens with disability, by means of support centres designed to meet the needs of persons with different disabilities.

Date: in compliance with the amendment of the act on universities
Responsible: Minister of Education of the SR
Funding: without requirements for funding from the state budget

Performance:
The issue concerning students with disabilities is embedded in the draft of the act on universities, upon admission and promotion during the studies. Specifically, in § 53, in conditions stating the admission to study, there is the following diction: “If the examination of abilities necessary for study forms a part of the acceptance test, there are special forms of the acceptance test and method of its execution defined for an applicant with disability, on his request, which take into account his handicap.” § 96 states the promotion of students with disabilities: “Within its possibilities, the university provides for promotion during the studies of students with disabilities.” Currently, centres intended for the promotion of studies of students with disabilities are already in operation in certain universities, e.g., in the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of UK in Bratislava, the Faculty of Law of UK in Bratislava and the University of P.J. Šafárik in Košice. In the event that the act on universities shall be accepted, universities will be able to promote the establishment of centres intended for the promotion of studies for students with disabilities, to a much greater extent.
The representatives of citizens with disability require monitoring of the implementation of the above-mentioned in practice, even after the acceptance of the act, through a new measure (6.3.20.).

The measure is partially completed.

6.3.17. Submit the “Concept of the development of education and training for children with special educational needs until the year 2015” (Project “Millennium”) to the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and the Family of the Slovak Republic – the chairman of KVOZPO SR (Coordinating Committee for the Issues of Citizens with disability of the SR).

Date: 31 December 2001
Responsible: Minister of Education of the SR
Funding: without requirements for funding from the state budget

Performance:
The Concept of the development of education and training for children with special educational needs was submitted and discussed in RV SR POZP on 15 May 2001. The measure is removed from monitoring.

The measure is completed.

Rule 7: Employment
7.3.1. Evaluate the performance for the year 2000 of subjects in public procurement employing 25 percent and more citizens and, where appropriate, propose a common measure aiming at using services offered, and purchasing goods from these subjects.

Date: 31 December 2001
Responsible: Chairman of the Office for Public Procurement of the SR in co-operation with ministers, heads of other central government offices and heads of the state local authorities, Chairman of the Slovak Production Co-operatives Association
Funding: without requirements for funding from the state budget

Performance:
The measure is completed.

Rule 8: Income maintenance and social security
8.3.2. Resolve systematically the relation of invalidity pensions and partial invalidity pensions in relation to work in such a way as to allow income-earning activities, within defined scope. Propose this systemic solution after consultations with members of KVOZPO SR members – representatives of citizens with disability.

Date: in compliance with of the Social Insurance Act
Responsible: Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and the Family of the SR
Funding: from the state budget

Performance:
It is modified in the draft of the act on social insurance, which is currently in the legislative process.

Within the draft of the act on social insurance, the relation of disabled retired persons to work was resolved. According to the draft, the recipient of a disability pension will be able to work for a maximum of 20 hours a week. The draft was consulted with the RV SR POZP members, i.e., representatives of citizens with disability.
The measure is being performed.

**Rule 10: Culture**

10.3.1. Ensure the access to the cultural riches and develop specific culture of the minority group of persons with disabilities, in consistency with Article 43 of the Constitution of the SR. To achieve this, secure funding from the designated transfers of the Ministry of Culture supporting the projects of citizens associations operating in the field of disability.

- **Date:** 31 March 2002 and permanently
- **Responsible:** Minister of Culture of the SR
- **Funding:** from the state budget

**Rule 11: Recreation and sport**

11.3.1. In the draft state budget, within the chapter allocated for sports, lay down a percentage share of finance annually that would go on high performance sports (separately) and sports for all (separately), broken down by sports for citizens with disability and sports for children and youth with disabilities.

- **Date:** in compliance with the draft state budget and permanently
- **Responsible:** Minister of Education of the SR
- **Funding:** from the state budget

**Performance:**

The representatives of citizens with disability recommend the further monitoring of this measure and to resolve it within the internal regulations of MŠ SR.

**Rule 12: Religion**

12.3.1. Make an inventory of barrier-free religious facilities by 31 December 2001, and by 30 July 2002, draw up an action plan and timetable for adjustments of these facilities to achieve that, within ten years, there is at least one religious facility (church) without obstacles in every region. Begin implementing the plan in 2003, with provision made for financial requirements reflected in the plan of disbursement of finance of individual churches for church reconstructions.

- **Date:** in the text, in compliance with the religious authorities budgets
- **Responsible:** representatives of different religions in our country
- **Funding:** from funds designated for reconstruction of churches and church facilities

**Performance:**

The sponsors did not supply the evaluation.

**Rule 13: Information and research**

13.3.2. Support programmes of research on social and economic problems and participation issues of persons with disabilities and their families, studies on the causes, types and frequencies of disabilities, development and evaluation of services and support measures.

- **Date:** permanently
- **Responsible:** Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and the Family of the SR, Research Institute of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR
- **Funding:** from the state budget
The measure is being performed.

**Rule 14: Policy-making and planning**

14.3.1. Make an inventory of the action by the commissions for the solution of the issues of the elderly and persons with disabilities, which are advisory bodies to managers of regional offices.

- **Date:** 31 December 2001
- **Responsible:** KVOZPO SR Secretariat
- **Funding:** without requirements for funding from the state budget

**Performance:**

The measure is completed.

**Rule 15: LEGISLATION**

5.3.1. Involve representatives of persons with disabilities - through KVOZPO SR – in the preparatory stage of drafting legal regulations concerning citizens with disability.

- **Date:** 31 December 2001 and permanently
- **Responsible:** ministers of all government departments
- **Funding:** without requirements for funding from the state budget

**Performance:**

The measure is continuously being performed.

**Rule 16: Economic policies**

16.3.1. Include financial needs associated with measures of the National Programme for the Development of Living Conditions for Citizens with disability in All Areas of Life in the regular budgets of all levels of state administration and recommend including them also in municipal budgets.

- **Date:** 31 December 2002 and permanently
- **Responsible:** guarantors made responsible for particular measures
- **Funding:** from the state budget and from the budgets of cities and communities at their discretion

**Rule 17: Work coordination**

17.3.1. Strengthen the position and responsibility of the KVOZPO SR by transforming it into the Government Council for the Issues of Citizens with disability and making relevant amendments to the Statutes and the Standing Orders of the transformed body.

- **Date:** 31 December 2001
- **Responsible:** Chairman of the KVOZPO SR
- **Funding:** without requirements for funding from the state budget

**Performance:**

The measure is completed.
Rule 18: Organizations of persons with disabilities
18.3.1. Enable the organisations of citizens with disability to participate in the implementation of measures concerning the lives of persons with disabilities at national, regional and local levels.

Date: permanently
Responsible: state administration authorities at all levels in cooperation with local self-government authorities, where appropriate and possible
Funding: from the state budget and according to possibilities of the budgets of cities and communities

Performance:
The measure is being performed.

Rule 19: Personnel training
19.3.2. Ensure and develop special training programmes for state administration staff in cooperation with the organisations of citizens with disability. Involve experts from the ranks of persons with disabilities in these training programmes as instructors; utilize foreign expertise and available foreign funds in this area.

Date: permanently
Responsible: Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR and Minister of Interior of the SR, in cooperation with the organisations of citizens with disability
Funding: from the state budget

Performance:
The measure is being partially performed.

Rule 20: National monitoring and evaluation of disability programmes in the implementation of the Rules
20.3.1. Develop criteria and terminology for continuous monitoring of the implementation of this National Programme.

Date: 31 December 2001
Responsible: KVOZPO SR
Funding: without requirements for funding from the state budget

Performance:
The measure is completed.

Rule 21: Technical and economic cooperation
21.3.1. In the projects and programmes of technical and economic cooperation, support also the improvement of the living conditions of persons with disabilities in the developing countries.

Date: permanently
Responsible: Minister of Foreign Affairs of the SR
Funding: without requirements for funding from the state budget

Performance:
In 2001, the MZV SR helped the Slovak Union of the Blind and Visually Impaired, in the provision of sending devices for visually impaired people into the developing countries. The measure is continuously being performed.

**Rule 22: International cooperation**

22.3.1. Examine the existing international agreements and conventions in search of elements concerning persons with disabilities.

- **Date:** 31 December 2001
- **Responsible:** KVOZPO SR in co-operation with government sectors
- **Funding:** without requirements for funding from the state budget

**Performance:**

It is recommended to exchange the sponsor (minister of foreign affairs in cooperation with the minister of labour, social affairs and family) and the deadline of the measure performance to 31 December 2002.

**Acronyms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MZV SR</td>
<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>MH SR</td>
<td>Ministry of Economics of the Slovak Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MO SR</td>
<td>Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>MV SR</td>
<td>Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic</td>
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<td>MF SR</td>
<td>Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic</td>
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<td>MK SR</td>
<td>Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSPNM SR</td>
<td>Ministry for Administration and Privatisation of the National Property of the Slovak Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>MZ SR</td>
<td>Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPSVR SR</td>
<td>Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>MŠ SR-</td>
<td>Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic</td>
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<td>MS SR-</td>
<td>Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic</td>
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<td>MŽP SR</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>MP SR-</td>
<td>Ministry of the Agriculture of the Slovak Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDPT SR</td>
<td>Ministry of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications of the Slovak Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>MVRR SR</td>
<td>Ministry of Building and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>RV SR POZP-</td>
<td>Government Council of the Slovak Republic for Issues of Citizens with Disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KVOZPO SR-</td>
<td>Coordinating Committee for Citizens with Disability of the Slovak Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ÚVO SR</td>
<td>Office for Public Procurement of the Slovak Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SŠHR SR</td>
<td>Administration of State Commodity Reserves of the Slovak Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>ÚJD SR</td>
<td>Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ÚGKK SR</td>
<td>Land Survey, Cartography and Register Office of the Slovak Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VÚC</td>
<td>Higher territorial units</td>
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<tr>
<td>STV</td>
<td>Slovak Television</td>
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</table>
3. **Institutional and public care of children with disabilities**

Institutional and public care of children with disabilities obtain homes for children and foster care and in own family care.

For example in the 2001 was in the Slovak Republic total 87 homes for children care with total capacity 3 957 children. Of which were 75 fiscal homes for children with total capacity 3 709 children and 7 clerical homes for children with total capacity 183 children. In the all this homes were placed total 3 637 children really and of which were 1 657 girls and 10 of minor mothers. 3 416 children were in fiscal and 158 in clerical homes.

Of which children were 561 with disability for all that were 185 children (adults) past age 18 years. At the same time were in children homes in the 2001 year 47 bilateral orphansies and 475 one-sided orphansies. During 2001 year were to the children homes new accepted 1 036 children of which 476 girls and 103 children with disabilities.

In the 2001 year were finished of residence with 1 025 children. Of which were 246 adults causes and 193 were children returned to the native family. To the foster care were advance 193 children of which were 33 children in age to 3 years. For examination were to foster care advance 162 children of which 139 in age to 3 years. To the foster care of another citizens were advance 40 children. By another cases were finished residence in children house for 312 children. In 2001 were 1 646 children in school age of which were 766 girls a 155 children with disabilities.

In the 2001 were 3 613 children in the social services homes. In the social services homes possible providing care of children from birth to finished of shool education for special condition an education and training for profession at longest to age 25 years. In this homes possible providing care of children by physical or mental damages and which are at the same time empirical handicapped.
Specially care in the family is foster care. Foster care how juridical relation creation by decision of court and finished by final decision of court and if children achieve adults age. Since 1. January 1999 is validity new law which adopt conditions of foster care with allowances. Foster care is possible providing by scriptual agreement with relevant institution alternatively with community alternatively with non-governmental institution. Foster-parent obtain allowances aloft 0.44 multiple sum assigned for one physical person for public social benefit. It is 1 320.- SKK per month now for anybody children no matter of its age.

At this time exist many kind of children houses with health handicaped children.

For example in social services houses:

for children with physical handicap were in 2001 year total 439 residents of which 241 boys and 198 girls
for children with physical and mental bugsies an bugsies of behave were in 2001 1 671 residents of which 810 boys and 861 girls

for children with mental bugsies and bugsies of behave were in 2001 year 1 503 residents of which 853 boys and 650 girls.

Custody station care in 2001 year were 166 children of which 56 health handicaped.

From 1989 to 2000 was decrease number of children from 4 166 to 3 533 and at the 2001 it was 3 613 children.
In the social care homes perform of education and training for next profession on the secondary schools in 2001 were 509 children of which 246 girls, 139 accommodate in boarding-schools and of which 57 children have health handicap.

By many national authorities „Foster care“ will be also in the future supporting from national budget of course with supply parents (if they are able), public and other funding. Gradually will be preference foster care in subsidiary families. This process include foster care by health handicaped and children with disability.

„Respite care“ for children and their parents we address in part 3. apart from notice of the National Programme for the Development of Living Conditions for Citizens with Disabilities in All Areas of Life.
4. Children with disability in families and in communities

By publication „The report on the situation of family in the Slovak Republic issued by Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic in 2001 year situation of families with an elderly and a severely disabled member is following:

„Presence family of a person who is severely disabled as a rule changes the style and way of life of its members a significant need for self-help, and also assistance and support from public funds. The aim of the support from public funds within the social assistance system is to compensate social consequences of the severe disableness and thus support independence and full participation of persons with severe disableness in the life of the society.

Act. No 195/1998 Coll. on social assistance, whose part devoted to social services and monetary contribution in order to compensate for severe disableness came into effect on 1th July 1999, has created a new legislative framework of assistance to families and individuals with severe disableness, which guarantees the comprehensiveness, individual approach and up-to-date assessment of need of the severely disabled person. The Act introduced new criteria for assessing the social consequences of severe disableness and some new forms of compensation (a monetary contribution for personal assistance). The set of health impairments which can be considered for compensation has been extended, for example by autism.
The Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunications has created special condition for the carriage of persons – holders of severely disabled person cards and holders of carer of a severely disabled person cards. On the one hand it is done through special adjustment of means of transport, through allocation of seats on selected of the Slovak Rail Company and public municipal transport, and on the other through several discounts on fare designated for the holder of severely disabled person card or holder of carer of a severely disabled person card (discount of 50 to 63 per cent, where the accompanying person is carried for free) and through providing special discounts for visiting severely disabled children placed in social services centres or boarding schools (about 63 per cent discount). A problem indicated by the disabled is a lack of allocated seats in rail transport in trains other than the selected services.

A potentially higher risk of social exclusion of this group of persons especially in the transition period is the generally high unemployment rate, unwillingness of employers to respect the need to provide specific working conditions in order to enable them to get involved in the work process and some prevailing physical barriers which make their mobility more difficult.

**A Co-ordination Committee for the Issues of the Disabled Citizens** as an advisory and initiative body of the Government has been set up for a comprehensive solution of the problems of disabled. Its most important mission is to co-ordinate the co-operation between civil associations of persons with various disabilities and the state administration central bodies, thus enabling them to get directly involved in creating conditions for their own life. At present a document is being prepared called The National Programme for Creating Equal Opportunities for the Disabled Citizens in all Areas of Life, which is based on Standard Rules for Creating Equal Opportunities for the Disabled, approved by the United Nations in 1993.

According to research results (Research Institute of Labour, Social Affairs and Family) it is as a rule their health which hinders the self-sufficiency of elderly people in ordinary life. Over a half of them suffer from two or more serious diseases, where the three most frequent are: motor system disorders, circulation and metabolism disorders and internal secretion glands disorders. Apart from physical barriers to their contact with their wider surroundings, the risk of social exclusion is also related to their social and economic situation of their needs – this was what the respondents considered in the most problematic in almost half of the cases. In spite of that in comparison with families with children more than 60 per cent consider their income „sufficient for everything because we are modest“. **In the hierarchy of assistance providers** the first place is taken up by family (performing more difficult tasks, arranging things with authorities, doing the shopping), the second by health centres (rehabilitation services and compensation aids), followed by local state administration bodies (benefit and services), municipalities in providing leisure activities, neighbours and friends.

The signalled changes in the population structure towards ageing of the population will among other things necessitate development of existing social services and other types of services, for example advisory services for changing flats. The self-sufficiency of elderly people diminishing with their age also brings up the question of development of sheltered housing for the elderly.
Majority of the commitments adopted on the national and international level at the World Summit on Social Development, which was held in 1995 in Copenhagen, aims at elimination of poverty, achievement of full and productive employment, social fairness and increase in social integration. Participants of the Conference also committed themselves to substantially increase and more efficiently use resources earmarked for social development so that the objectives of the Conference can be achieved at the highest level through taking steps at the national level, as well as though regional and international co-operation. Struggle agains poverty and social exclusion and the extent to which is has been victorious is one of the decisive factors determing the quality of life of families and thus the whole future generations. Fulfilling these commitments which the Slovak Republic has also joined is fully compatible with fulfilling the objectives of the state family policy.

The economic situation of young people and families predetermines in a significant way the extent to which they can satisfy their need for housing. In its Manifesto the Government in the area of housing development undertook/committed itself to prepare legislative and institutional conditions which would act as incentive for builders and the credit infrastructure in such a way as to make it suited for various income brackets of the population. In practical life this mean that the Government will start improving the exist systems of funding the housing construction, i.e. mortages, saving through building societies and support provided through the State Fund for the Development of Housing and will create a system of funding the construction of blocks of flat for rent. In 1999 several measures were adopted with this purpose in mind:
- in the area of mortages a state contribution which lowers the interest rate of these loans provided to natural persons has been introduced
- building societies have reintroduced the notion of friendly saver and legal persons can now also participate in saving, but cannot claim the state bonus
- the support provided through the State Fund for the Development of Housing after an amendment has been adopted focused on those strata of the population which due to their income are unable to repay ordinary commercial loans.

An important support is provided through the subsidy programmes adopted by the Government aiming at supporting the construction of blocks of flats for rent for socially weaker strata of the population, technical infrastructure and removal of systems defects on blocks of flats. Apart from that the Government has adopted a programme of garentees for loans that are intended for housing construction, which creates conditions for the use of private funds for housing.

However, in the view of for example Prvá stavebná sporitelna building society the changes being prepared for 1 January 2001 in saving through building societies and the support for mortage banking through a subsidy amounting to six per cent the detriment of the state bonus for saving through buliding societies in relation to the 2001 draft budget will not be consistent in improving the conditions of providing housing for the socially weaker strata of the society. Quite the opposite, they will be more accesible for the richer strata (who own immovable property and can get a mortage).

In its Manifesto the Government in the area of development of housing construction committed itself to create economic and legislative conditions for the construction of 14 000 flats each year, i.e. 56 000 flats during its term of office. The Concept of Development of Housing Construction, approved by the Government in 1999 stimulates a gradual growth of
the number of flats in the years 1999 to 2002 (1999: 10 000 flats, in 2000: 12 500, in 2001: 15 500 and in 18 000 flats). The situation is different in the number of flats started where a decreasing trend manifested itself in 1999, and trend has been continuing this year. The above development has been influenced also by a provision of a smaller volume of resources from the state budget in 1999 for the implementation of housing development.

The unfavourable housing situation causes the postponement of the decision to start a family, escalation of crises after divorce due to objective obstacles to acquiring a flat and the growth in the number of homeless people”.

Merely citation from the publication Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic.

NGO Blind and partially sighted

Nowadays exist recording all visual damages persons in Slovakia. Blind and Partially Sighted Union of the Slovak Republic operate own account. Into this recording is inclusive members of this organization only and clientele which using their services. We will see from diagram children share 6 per cent from all members. Accordly 480 persons is children in age 0 – 18 years.
Activities for children with disability

Blind and Partially Sighted Union of the Slovak Republic yearly organise the summer camps for children and youvenes with visual damage. Camps are integrate. Main aim is create an area for all participants by realisation, for open, fixate of connection with equally age other children and youvenes if already fit or with visual disabilities. Activities are pripering out of consideration to fit and dissabilities children. For instance knowledge of medical plants by aroma, hunting of inditions in the morass, secrets size in the Braill writing and in the black white pressing and other. During last years were organised one or two children and youvenile camps yearly.

Epilogue

Slovak Republic apply attention of citizens and special sttention of children with disabilities permanent. Participation with regional and districts office, church legal persons, other legal persons, municipaly deputies, physical persons, commercial and non-commercial subjects and Ngo, state security and improve living condition for citizens and childrens with disability.

Although this ambition is not allways effectual social background is well-disposed for all-embracing help for handicapped citizens and children. We hope that with improve of economical situation in Slovak Republic will be improve situation of handicaped citizens. and children.

Bratislava 30th October 2002

Design:
Dr. Eugen Placintar & collective
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**Slovak Blind and Partially Sighted Union - Age Structure**

Veková štruktúra členskej základne Únie nevidiacich a slabozrakých Slovenska

(15.11. 2001)

- 18 - 60: 53%
- 0 - 18: 6%
- 60+: 41%
Activities for children with disability

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