



Slovenia

Minimum Income Schemes

A Study of National Policies

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Disclaimer: This report reflects the views of its author(s) and these are not necessarily those of either the European Commission or the Member States. The original language of the report is English.

April, 2009



On behalf of the
European Commission
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities



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Executive Summary

Minimum income is in Slovenia set as the ceiling amount for cash benefits. From 1. 7. 2008 the basic minimum income amounts at 221,70 EUR. Despite of the article in the Social Security act that MI should be adjusted to the consumer price index once a year in January that did not happen in 2009. The Social Security Act from 2007 introduced changes in conditions to obtain financial social assistance. Regardless of the fact that the person concerned does not have enough means of subsistence, he/she is not entitled to financial social assistance if established that such situation is caused through his/her own fault. Financial social assistance shall not be granted to a single person or a family who have savings or property exceeding the level of 60 minimum wages and personal vehicles up to the value of 35 minimum wages. A person entitled to financial social welfare who is unemployed is obliged to accept any employment offer, while receiving financial social welfare including a contract for work or a copyright contract after three months of receiving financial social welfare as well as suitable temporary or casual humanitarian or similar work, which is offered to them or they are directed by the Employment Service of Slovenia of Slovenia in accordance with the regulations on employment and unemployment insurance. The number of recipients decreased for almost 9000 after the Act was adopted. It needs to be emphasised that part of that is due to the increased employment.

Minimum income is not debated and there are no scientific or policy documents that would offer analytical information on it. There is some public debate on MI mostly relating to the amount, which is set low. Discourse on minimum income is replaced by the discourse on *social transfers* and the expenditure of the state on social security, especially in the time of economic crisis. MI schemes contribute to the lower level of poverty and certainly encourage recipients to find employment because living on financial social assistance is possible solution for very short time. MI schemes cannot contribute to reduction of poverty because they are much lower than the at-risk-of-poverty threshold (495 EUR per month in 2007). For a single person that can be the only income and it is not enough to cover basic household expenses. Families without an income can also not exceed at-risk-of-poverty threshold (1.010 EUR per month), even when they receive other cash benefits. Net minimum wage is also lower than at-risk-of-poverty threshold (424 EUR). The additional problem is the conditions to obtain cash benefits. When applying for financial social assistance a person must not have savings and almost no property, so they can only apply when they are near or in the poverty. Because the MI is set low, they do not have any other sources of survival. That can be also an explanation for long waiting lines at the humanitarian and charity organisations.

Recipients of financial social assistance are the priority group of certain employment and training programmes only in case they are long-term unemployed and receive financial social assistance for at least 12 months during the last 16 months. The only direct employment measure focused at long-term unemployed recipients of financial social assistance are subsidies to employers for their employment (on open-ended or fixed-term contracts) – in the context of subsidies for employment of hard-to-employ persons. Long-term unemployed recipients of financial social assistance are often found among participants in public works. Individuals receiving financial social assistance can claim payment of supplementary (voluntary) health insurance from state budget, and are exempt from paying for childcare of their child(ren) in public childcare facilities as well as in private ones that get public funding; they are also exempt from paying RTV subscription.

1. Brief panorama and description of the institutional design of minimum income schemes

Pursuant to *the Social Security Act*¹ (SSA), financial social assistance provides the users with means for meeting minimum needs in the amount guaranteeing their subsistence. Subsistence is considered to be provided if the entitled person receives income, after deduction of taxes and compulsory social security contributions, amounting to the **minimum income**. From 1. 7. 2008 the basic minimum income amounts to EUR 221,70. The amount is the same in 2009 despite the Article 22 of the same Act which states that the amount shall adjust once a year, in January, with the consumer price index for the period of the 12 months before the month of adjustment and shall begin to be applied on the first day of the month following the adjustment. In 2009 the minister responsible for social security decided that the adjustment will not be done, because of the cuts in public expenditure due to the economic crisis.

In the Article 20 of the SSA it is stated that recipients of social assistance may not be in a more favourable social situation than persons who ensure means of subsistence through work or on the basis of rights arising from work².

1.1 Eligibility conditions in terms of age, nationality/residence requirements, socio-economic status (in particular employment status and income)

The entitled persons according to the SSA (Art. 5) are citizens of the Republic of Slovenia with permanent residence in Slovenia and aliens having a permit for permanent residence in Slovenia.

The persons who are entitled to cash social assistance are those that do not have any income or receive income below the above stated amount. In case of no income, the entitled persons receive the full stated amount; otherwise, they are entitled to receive the difference between their own income and the above stated amount.

When assessing the eligibility, the account is taken of the census as well as of the fact whether an individual or family has assets enabling subsistence, whether all other rights were exercised (social assistance is the last of the rights within the system, eligible when all other subsistence options are exhausted) and whether the person concerned is active in seeking solutions to his/her problem. The latter is of particular importance to all who can work and must be registered with the Employment Service of Slovenia, participate in offered programmes of active employment policy and actively seek employment³.

Families that consist of the following persons or family members are entitled to benefits (SSA, Art. 26):

¹ Official Gazette RS, no. 3/2007. Accessed at:

http://www.mddsz.gov.si/fileadmin/mddsz.gov.si/pageuploads/dokumenti_pdf/zsv_upb2_en.pdf 21. 4. 2009

² Social Security Act regulates also financial social assistance. That part was partly changed in 2006. Articles on Financial Social Assistance begin with the article 19 and ends with article 41. In this report we will summarise the most important parts.

³ http://www.mddsz.gov.si/en/areas_of_work/social_affairs/financial_social_assistance/ 21. 4. 2009

- the spouse or a person who has lived at least one year in cohabitation with the person exercising the right to financial social assistance which, pursuant to the Marriage and Family Relations Act, is equalised with marriage in terms of legal consequences;
- the children of the person exercising the right to financial social assistance, for as long as this person is obliged to provide for them pursuant to regulations governing the maintenance obligation;
- the stepchildren of the person exercising the right to financial social assistance, for as long as this person is married or is in relationship referred to in the first indent of this paragraph with one of the stepchild's parents who is obliged to provide for his or her child;
- minor grandchildren, nephews or nieces and brothers or sisters of the person exercising the right to financial social assistance, or persons from the first indent of this paragraph, if this person provides for orphan minor grandchildren, nephews or nieces, or brothers or sisters.

Single person is a person who has no family members in accordance with SSA.

For the determination of entitlement to financial social welfare for persons registered in a same-sex civil partnership assistance, the provisions of Articles 25a, 26, 28, 28a, 29 and 35 of the *Social Security Act* shall be used mutatis mutandis.

Income from agricultural activities is included in own income. In cases of over 63 years of age, disease, disability and other personal circumstances of entitled persons which he/she could not control or prevent and agricultural or forest land has therefore not been cultivated, and income through sale, lease or rental to the National Farm Land and Forest Fund or to another legal or natural person cannot be acquired, it is deemed that there is or was no income from agricultural activity. Inability to cultivate the land up to the age of 63 is established by the invalidity commission of the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute. The age of over 63 years is deemed to be a justified reason when establishing inability to cultivate the land. Persons practising farming are not obliged to seek or accept employment when their agricultural activities ensure the generation of minimum income.

1.2 Links with other benefits

Exceptional cash social assistance can be granted in exceptional circumstances. It can also be granted in cases where the census set for financial social assistance is surpassed but the entitled person is found in financial distress for reasons beyond his/her control. The entitled person must use the received assistance for the purpose for which it was granted. It can be one-off or received for longer time.

Exceptional circumstances are not defined in advance because of the variety of situations in life that can occur such as sudden death, house being burnt down, loss of property due to floods and similar. Circumstances can also be less fatal or distressful like buying coal for winter, things for school at the beginning of the new term. The decision whether someone will get the exceptional cash financial assistance is on the civil servant that receives the application, which has to include well elaborated purpose for it and the reason why a person can not by what they need from their own income. They have to submit an invoice with exact sum of money and 15 days after they receive the money they have to submit a proof, that they paid it. If they fail to do so or if they

spend the money for something else, they are not entitled to any kind of financial social assistance in the next 18 months⁴.

Parental allowance is financial assistance to parents when, after the birth of a child, they are not entitled to parental benefit under the Parental Protection and Family Receipts Act. The mother has the right to parental allowance for 77 days from the birth of the child. After 77 days have passed since the child's birth the right to parental allowance shall be granted *mutatis mutandis* and under the same conditions to one of the parents, of which the parents agree in writing before asserting the right. The father has the right under the same conditions as the mother in the period of 77 days from the birth, if the mother abandons the child; is permanently or temporarily incapable of independent life and work (on the basis of the opinion of the responsible physician) or dies. The right to parental allowance referred to in the previous paragraph shall be reduced by as many days as the child is old when the father is granted the right to parental allowance. No right to parental allowance shall be granted to the mother, father or other person who receives compensation for wage pursuant to this or other acts or partial payment for lost income pursuant to this Act. The right to parental allowance shall not be granted to the mother whose husband or spouse receives child care benefit for the same child.

The mother may claim the right to parental allowance 30 days prior to the envisaged date of birth but not later than 30 days after the child's birth. The father may claim the right at the latest 30 days after the emergence of the reason due to which he acquired the right. If the mother or the father do not exercise this right within this time limit, they shall be entitled to parental allowance from the first day of the following month. Duration of the latter right shall be reduced in proportion to the delay in claiming the former right.

Monthly receipt from 1 July 2008 amounts to 188,90 EUR and lasts 365 days from the birth of the child.

Childbirth allowance is a single payment, since 1 July 2008 amounts to 269,90 EUR. Childbirth allowance is a single monetary payment intended for the purchase of accessories for a newborn. It is possible to choose accessories for the newborn in the form of a layette instead of money. Child allowance is a supplementary benefit for maintenance, care and education of children when the income per family member does not exceed 99% of the average pay in RS in the past calendar year or in the previous year if the child allowance is first claimed in the months of January, February or March. One of the parents or other person holds the right for a child that legally resides in Republic of Slovenia, or a child who is older than 18 years who is without parents or does not live with the parents in a shared household, if a social work centre so decides on the basis of the circumstances, to wit if the child legally resides in RS and meets other legally specified conditions.

⁴ <http://www.csd-lj-siska.si/prejemki/denarnePomoci.asp> 11. 5. 2009.

Table 1: Child allowance amounts since 1 July 2008 per individual child per month in EUR:

Income per family member as % of average wage RS	Amount of child allowance for each child		
	1st child	2nd child	3rd and following children
up to 15%			
up to 192,72 EUR	110,41	121,45	132,50
15% to 25%			
192,72 EUR to 321,20 EUR	94,40	104,36	114,25
25% to 30%			
321,20 EUR to 385,44 EUR	71,95	80,41	88,85
30% to 35%			
385,44 EUR to 449,68 EUR	56,74	64,75	72,90
35% to 45%			
449,68 EUR to 578,16 EUR	46,40	54,15	61,85
45% to 55%			
578,16 EUR to 706,63 EUR	29,40	36,80	44,15
55% to 75%			
706,63 EUR to 963,59 EUR	22,05	29,40	36,80
75% to 99%			
963,59 EUR to 1.271,94 EUR	19,20	26,56	33,91

Source: Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs.⁵

The right may be asserted at any time until the child reaches 18 years of age, and for a child older than 18 years only if in full-time education while having the status of pupil, student or apprentice, but no longer than 26 years of age.

Large family allowance is a once a year benefit. The allowance for a family with three children since 1 July 2008 is 378,26 EUR and the allowance for a family with four or more children since 1 July 2008 is 461,29 EUR. The large family allowance is an annual benefit intended for families with three or more children younger than 18 years or 26 years if they are in full-time education and have the status of pupil, student or apprentice. One of the parents holds the right, provided that the parent and children have a shared permanent residence in the RS.

Allowance for care of a child needing special care and protection is a monthly benefit as long as the reasons persist or the child reaches 18 or 26 years. Since 1 July 2008 the allowance for care of a child amounts to 97,15 EUR and since 1 July 2008 the allowance for care of a child with seriously learning difficulties or serious physical handicap amounts to 194,35 EUR. The allowance for care of a child is a monetary allowance for a child that needs special care and protection and is intended to cover the higher living costs that a family incurs because of care and protection of such a child. The right to the allowance for care of a child is held by one of the parents, if the child is a citizen of the Republic of Slovenia and has permanent residence in the Republic of Slovenia. The right is exercised on the basis of the opinion of a medical commission. The right is not held by one of the parents for a child who, because of treatment, training, upbringing or education is in an institute in which they receive all-day free care.

⁵ http://www.mddsz.gov.si/en/areas_of_work/family/types_of_family_benefit/ 21. 4. 2009

Financial social assistance shall be increased for the **attendance allowance** to persons entitled to financial social assistance who are incapable of working because of old age, disease or disability and needs the help of other persons to perform basic vital functions and does not receive allowance for attendance offered by other persons according to other regulations. The need of help offered by other persons shall be established by the invalidity commission according to the regulations regarding pension and disability insurance. The level of attendance allowance shall be determined at the level of attendance allowance to which entitled persons would receive if they were entitled to it according to the regulations regarding pension and disability insurance.

Care allowance is monthly cash income from pension and disability insurance, which is paid together with the pension in order to provide better material and social security of the pensioner with low pension if the person fulfils the criteria for the allowance.

Unemployment benefit can be received by the unemployed person whose employment contract was not cancelled by his/her fault or will and who fulfils the conditions set in the *Employment and Insurance Against Unemployment Act*. An insured person may exercise the right to cash benefit if (Article 17a,b,c)⁶:

- he/she was insured against unemployment prior to the unemployment; and
- no appropriate employment is available.

An insured person may retain the right to cash benefit if:

- he/she is available for employment;
- no appropriate employment is available;
- after three months of entitlement to cash benefit no suitable employment is available;
- he/she actively seeks employment;
- there is no appropriate active employment policy programme available;
- he/she resides in the Republic of Slovenia, unless otherwise provided by an international instrument; in a period of non-residence in the Republic of Slovenia the right to cash benefit shall be suspended.

An unemployed person shall be deemed available for employment if he/she is at the disposal of the Employment Service every working day for three hours at the permanent address or at the address agreed upon with the Employment Service. The time of being at the Employment Service disposal shall be set by the latter.

An unemployed person shall have the right to be absent for personal or other valid reasons up to 18 working days per year; the absence shall be agreed upon with the Employment Service at least eight days prior to its start, otherwise the unemployed person shall be deemed not to be at the disposal. An unemployed person shall have the right to a three days absence from the address agreed upon with the Employment Service in case of death of the spouse, parents or children. In such cases or in case of sudden illness, the unemployed person shall inform the Employment Service thereof and submit relevant documents within three days of the cessation of the reasons.

An unemployed person shall be deemed to be at the disposal during the period of participation in the active employment policy programme. An unemployed person shall be deemed to be at the

⁶ http://www.mdds.gov.si/fileadmin/mdds.gov.si/pageuploads/dokumenti_pdf/zzzpb_en.pdf 11. 5. 2009.

disposal also during the time of carrying out appropriate or suitable temporary or casual work or job seeking in accordance with the referral or in agreement with the Employment Service.

The length of the right to receive the unemployment benefit depends on the length of the person's unemployment insurance⁷. Average monthly number of recipients in 2009 (first trimester) is 21.794⁸ and the number of unemployed is in March 2009 79.682.

Rent allowance. The beneficiaries of this allowance are persons who rent their housing and fulfil the income censuses defined in Article 121 of the *Housing Act* and other property conditions but only if they rent:

- non-profit dwellings;
- dedicated rented dwellings up to the amount of non-profit rents;
- housing units dedicated to solving the housing problems of socially deprived people.

According to Article 121 of the *Housing Act*, a person is entitled to the subsidised rent if his/her income and the income of the persons who are stated in the rent contract does not exceed the minimum income increased by 30% their income and by the amount of the rent. While all above mentioned financial benefits are funded by the state, housing allowance is funded by the municipality. Allowance can not accede 80% of non-profit rent and is calculated according to the appropriate number of m2 per person (1 person=32; 6 persons=85m2). The amounts of the allowance differ and the number of all allowances in the country is not known (no central statistics).

1.3 Amounts of benefits, for different individuals and household types

The amount of financial social assistance to entitled persons who do not have their own income pursuant to the Social Security Act is set in the amount of the minimum income. Twice a year, namely in January and July⁹, the basic amount of the minimum income, set forth in the Act, is adjusted to the rise in consumer prices according to the data of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia.

The amount of financial social assistance to other entitled persons is determined as the difference between the minimum income to which the eligible person is entitled and his/her income determined in the manner specified by the Act. The amount of cash financial assistance to a family is determined as the difference between the sum of minimum incomes to which individual eligible persons or family members are entitled, and the incomes of all the family members.

The amount of the minimum income for individual family members is determined in proportion to the minimum income using the following scale:

- first adult person in the family: 1;
- every next adult person in the family: 0.7;

⁷ Source: Statistical office of the RS:
http://www.stat.si/pxweb/Database/Demographics/05_population/02_05007_numb_struct/03_05569_soc_econ_charac/0556900E_INFO.doc 21. 4. 2009.

⁸ http://www.ess.gov.si/slo/dejavnost/statisticnipodatki/mesecneinformacije/2009/t09_slo09.xls 21. 4. 2009.

⁹ Article 22 of the Social Security Act states that minimum income is adjusted one a year in January.

- child up to 18 years of age and a child that has to be supported by the parents because of regular schooling: 0.3.

The amount of the minimum income for a single-parent family is increased by 30 % of the basic amount of the minimum income.

From 1 July 2008 the amount of the minimum income giving entitlement to financial social assistance is as follows:

- for a single person and the first adult in the family: EUR 221,70.
- for every next adult person in the family: EUR 155,19.
- for a child: EUR 66,51.
- increase for single parent family: EUR 66,51.

Own income shall be deemed to consist of successions, gifts, income and receipts representing sources liable to personal income tax and all other income and receipts, although not taxable, received at home or abroad, except the:

- attendance allowance and other receipts for care and help;
- child allowance;
- child nursing allowance;
- aid for equipment for new-born children;
- travel reimbursement and lunch at work;
- scholarships and other receipts intended for and enabling training or education;
- means intended for eliminating the consequences of catastrophes;
- financial social welfare according to this act and according to the regulations of self-governing local communities.

Foster families' income shall be deemed to include the reward for children in foster care received by foster families.

Own income is also deemed to include indirectly established income and receipts not shown by single persons or families, while it is however established that they pay for goods and services not connected with survival, which they could not afford with their established own income.

Paid alimony shall be deducted from own income in the amount of enforceable legal title.

1.4 Time duration

Financial social assistance is initially granted for a maximum period of three months and can be granted again for a maximum period of six months (depending on the circumstances to be evaluated by the social services official); provided that the improvement of the beneficiary's social position cannot be expected (aged over 60, illness or disability) such assistance can be granted for a maximum period of one year; permanent financial assistance is granted to a person aged over 60 or permanently incapable of work, without any income, receipts or property and with no person obliged to provide for his/her subsistence and living at his/her home.

1.5 Conditionality rules

Financial social assistance shall be granted to those entitled persons who cannot ensure means for themselves and their family members to the level of the minimum income for reasons which were or are beyond their control, who have exercised the right to financial benefits on the basis of other regulations and the right to exemptions and relieves pursuant to the SSA, and who fulfil the other conditions set forth in that Act (Art. 21).

If the entitled person fails to submit documents evidencing the use of the received funds to the competent social work centre within 15 days of the receipt of the cash assistance or the supporting documents reveal that the cash assistance was not used for the defined purposes, the entitlement of the person concerned to a one-off special assistance or to special assistance ceases for 18 months following the receipt of the special cash social assistance.

Regardless of the fact that the person concerned does not have enough means of subsistence, he/she is not entitled to financial social assistance if established that such situation is caused through his/her own fault.

Financial social assistance shall not be granted to a single person or a family who have savings or property exceeding the level of 60 minimum wages. Property shall exclude (Art. 23):

- the apartment in which an individual person or family live and which is set forth in regulations governing housing relations as an adequate apartment;
- property generating income which is observed in the determination of one's own income pursuant to this Act;
- objects which, pursuant to the regulations governing the execution of judgements in civil matters and the insurance of claims, are exempt from execution, except for the cash referred to in point 5 of Article 79 of the Execution of Judgements in Civil Matters and the Insurance of Claims Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 51/98, 72/98 - CC ruling and 11/99 - CC ruling); and
- personal vehicles up to the value of 35 minimum wages.

The method of determining savings and property pursuant to this Act and the method of determining their value shall be prescribed in more detail by the minister responsible for social welfare.

Financial social assistance shall not be granted to persons who do not achieve the minimum income for reasons which they could or can influence or who, without valid reasons, reject, avoid or abandon activities which could or can lead to employment or to another method of improvement of their social situation or the social situation of their family members.

The reasons referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be deemed to be the following, in particular (Art. 24):

- termination of a labour relation for reasons for which insured persons cannot exercise the right to financial compensation in accordance with the regulations governing employment and unemployment insurance, unless this involves an absolute inability to work;
- reasons for which the body responsible for employment ceases to keep the person in the record of unemployed persons, except for the reasons specified in the first, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth indents of the first paragraph of Article 70 of the Employment and Unemployment Insurance Act;
- the person's failure to register with the body responsible for employment if the person could be deemed to be an unemployed person in accordance with the regulations governing employment and unemployment insurance;
- unjustified rejection of an appropriate work under a contract for work or a copyright contract and to appropriate temporary or casual humanitarian or other similar work;
- unjustified abandonment of the exercise of a right which could influence the social situation of the person or his or her family members;
- unwillingness to accept the call for concluding the contract on means of support referred to in Article 34a of this Act;
- the person's refusal to conclude or failure to implement the contract on the active addressing of his or her social problems;
- the fact that the person is serving a prison sentence;
- loss of the means of subsistence or of any part of the income, notwithstanding its determination as own income or not according to this Act, for the reasons caused under the person's own influence.

The social services may decide that financial social welfare shall not be granted or that it shall be granted at a lower level to a single person or family, for whom it is possible to deduce that they are provided with income reaching entirely or partly to the level of minimum income because (Art. 31):

- they are in possession of savings ensuring subsistence or property not reaching the level of savings or value of the property referred to in Article 23 of this Act;
- they have been accommodated in hospital or another institution for at least 30 days and have been provided with all-day care and are not obligated to make payment or are obliged to pay only a part of the costs;
- they live with persons or are assisted by persons who are not family members pursuant to this Act or their subsistence is provided in some other manner.

The social work centre shall take into account therein the basic purpose of social welfare in such a manner that, from the financial social welfare to which a single person or family would be entitled:

- in the case referred to in the first indent of the preceding paragraph, 1/3 of savings or the value of property is deducted;
- in cases referred to in the second and third indent of the preceding paragraph it deducts the monthly value of basic care (accommodation, food).

A person entitled to financial social welfare who is unemployed is obliged to accept any employment offer, while receiving financial social welfare including a contract for work or a copyright contract after three months of receiving financial social welfare as well as suitable temporary or casual humanitarian or similar work, which is offered to them or they are directed by the Employment Service of Slovenia in accordance with the regulations on employment and unemployment insurance (art. 36b)

Suitable temporary or casual humanitarian or similar work from article 36b of this act are non-profit activities in areas where they are not part of the regular work process and are carried out for the general good with the intention of improving social integration and employment opportunities of the person entitled to financial social welfare and are defined based on an active employment policy. Work activity can be performed for duration of at least 8 hours a week and 56 hours at the most.

A person from article 36b of this Act who rejects or terminates an employment offer, suitable temporary or casual humanitarian or similar work, employment based on a contract for work or a copyright contract, shall lose the right to apply for financial social welfare. In the case of the preceding paragraph the person shall not be entitled to financial social welfare for the following six months after the month of losing the right to financial social welfare.

1.6 Governance arrangements

The decision concerning the entitlement to financial social assistance is taken by social services; they issue a decision and the entitled person can appeal against it with the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs.

The *Act regulating adjustments of transfers to individuals and households in the Republic of Slovenia* was passed in the autumn of 2006. The law has been in force since January 2007 and has introduced several changes¹⁰:

- maintaining the incomes of the most vulnerable groups (retains indexation);
- a single indexation concept (price and wage growth);
- single period of indexation (once a year, in January);
- greater transparency of the indexation system for various social transfers;
- elimination of inconsistencies from the past;
- simplified planning of spending.

¹⁰ http://www.mddsz.gov.si/fileadmin/mddsz.gov.si/pageuploads/dokumenti_pdf/nap_soc_zascita_dop_an_sep07.pdf 23. 4. 2007.

The economic and social reforms aimed at making Slovenia more prosperous also included planned measures for ensuring a fairer and more incentive-based system of social transfers. For this purpose a *Bill on Claiming Rights from Public Funds* (not yet adopted) was drafted in the second half of 2006 and the first half of 2007. The bill is tied to the process of building a central register of welfare benefits. The adoption of the law and fusion of the registers should allow for better and more effective decision-making on entitlement to welfare benefits and a cut in administrative barriers, especially at the Centre for Social Work. The document also intends to set down the conditions and the procedure for gaining the welfare benefits which depend on family income (while not dealing with those forms of social transfers that are based on contributions). The Government claims that the measures set down in the proposed legislation represent the simplification of the system of social transfers that depend on the family income, greater fairness, transparency and effectiveness as well as reduced possibilities for abuse¹¹. We can not find explanations of those principles, so we can not know what is meant by greater fairness or what kind of abuses it will prevent and who the abusers are.

2. Assessment of MI schemes

There are almost no references to minimum income in the scientific literature (research, expertise, articles, books). The last study on minimum income was done by the economist prof. Nada Stropnik in 1998 where she compared the EU minimum income schemes¹². There are public debates on minimum income, guaranteed wage and minimum wage.

Minimum income is understood as an amount of money serving as a census for entitlement to social benefits. Discourse on minimum income is replaced by the discourse on *social transfers* and the expenditure of the state on social security, especially in the time of economic crisis. One of the results of that is, as already stated at the beginning, that minimum income was not adjusted with the consumer price index in January 2009 despite the Article 22 of the Social Security Act states that the amount of minimum income shall adjust once a year, in January. In 2009 the minister responsible for social security decided that the adjustment will not be done.

2.1 Coverage and take-up

Changes that were made to Social Security Act in 2006 restricted the access to financial social assistance. Broad list of conditionally rules was introduced and criteria for the entitlements are more restrictive. Comparing with the Social Security Act from 1992 following most important changes can be assessed:

- It emphasises the responsibility of the individuals (to the best of their ability) to ensure that they and their families are provided with decent subsistence.
- It states that the recipients of financial social assistance may not be in a more favourable social situation than persons who ensure means of subsistence through work or on the basis of rights arising from work.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Stropnik Nada (1998), *Guaranteed minimum income and social security shemes in the EU countries*. Ljubljana: Institut za ekonomska vprašanja. (in Slovene language).

- Financial social assistance shall not be granted to a single person or a family who have savings or property exceeding the level of 60 minimum wages (excluding the apartment in which they live and personal vehicles up to the value of 35 minimum wages).
- Financial social assistance shall not be granted to persons who do not achieve the minimum income for reasons which they could or can influence or who, without valid reasons, reject, avoid or abandon activities which could or can lead to employment or to another method of improvement of their social situation or the social situation of their family members (reasons listed in article 24).
- When beneficiaries during the period of three calendar months before the submission of application received income issuing from the title of occasional work and casual, non-periodical income, this income shall be considered at a level at which their sum exceeds monthly in average the level of minimum income to which individual beneficiaries or family members would be entitled in case they did not receive other income.
- The persons are obliged to provide for their children during studies, if not, social services can invite them to conclude or implement the agreement on survivorship.
- The essential difference with the previous Social Security Act is the introduction of the working obligation of recipients of financial social assistance. There are 4 new articles that extensively regulate the obligation (already included in the first chapter of the report).
- Responsibility of social services that deals with social benefits is much more precisely defined. They have to control and monitor the entitlement of the recipients in the period of receiving cash benefits.

Table 2 shows that the number of recipients decreased for almost 9000 after the Act was adopted. It needs to be emphasised that part of that is due to the increased employment.

Table 2: Average monthly number of recipients* of financial social assistance and average amount of financial social assistance:

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Financial social assistance - for limited period of time					
Average monthly number of recipients	47800	54367	55696	52910	43197
Average amount in EUR	183	189	194	197	204
Permanent financial social assistance					
Average monthly number of recipients	452	464	472	468	446
Average amount in EUR	180	189	195	200	206
Extraordinary financial social assistance - for limited period of time					
Average monthly number of recipients	817	996	1074	1171	821
Average amount in EUR	178	192	191	196	216
Extraordinary financial social assistance - one-off					
Average monthly number of recipients	2729	3447	3735	3513	2794
Average amount in EUR	183	194	198	203	219

*Recipients are persons who are entitled to social assistance for themselves and their family members

Source: Statistical Office RS: http://www.stat.si/letopis/2008/10_08/10-14-08.htm 23. 4. 2009

Table 3. Number of cancelled financial social assistance due to the recipients fault

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	1.181	1.662	1.999	2.220	2.229	2.381	6.908	6.631
February	1.448	1.777	2.050	2.254	2.294	3.562	6.968	6.895
March	1.441	1.806	2.106	2.224	2.261	4.760	6.857	7.089
April	1.477	1.790	2.162	2.097	2.283	5.864	6.627	
May	1.503	1.756	2.080	2.121	2.176	6.471	6.565	
June	1.474	1.778	2.064	2.040	2.231	6.726	6.454	
July	1.436	1.792	2.066	2.063	2.164	7.153	6.460	
August	1.460	1.794	2.068	2.069	2.198	7.319	6.579	
September	1.498	1.803	2.137	2.138	2.135	7.257	6.589	
October	1.529	1.892	2.167	2.132	2.249	7.152	6.688	
November	1.580	1.916	2.122	2.122	2.302	7.090	6.671	
December	1.678	1.990	2.262	2.248	2.381	7.145	6.742	

Source: Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs. Accesible at (in Slovene language):

http://www.mddsz.gov.si/si/statistika/denarna_socialna_pomoc/stevilo_ukinjenih_dsp_za_mesec/ 25. 4. 2009

In 2002 we can find for the first time the statistics on cancelled cash benefits due to the recipients fault. The number rose after the new act adopted at the beginning of 2007 (January). There are no data on reasons for the termination.

There is also a significant difference between the number of unemployed and the number of first time recipients of cash benefits.

Table 4. Number of first time paid financial social assistance per month

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	3.317	7.216	7.693	6.110	5.212	3.635	2.735	1.958
February	3.127	5.781	5.118	4.008	3.307	2.131	1.614	1.937
March	2.687	5.681	4.393	3.505	2.748	1.651	1.363	2.464
April	2.466	5.845	4.569	3.222	2.599	1.816	1.290	
May	1.922	5.282	4.193	3.061	2.381	1.477	1.175	
June	1.764	4.631	3.788	2.769	2.186	1.428	1.013	
July	1.559	4.004	3.101	2.421	1.810	1.299	868	
August	1.993	3.700	2.848	2.182	1.626	1.101	741	
September	2.714	3.419	2.767	2.293	1.413	997	689	
October	4.736	4.821	4.125	3.361	1.578	1.013	788	
November	7.255	7.722	6.537	5.580	3.346	2.494	1.977	
December	8.131	8.766	7.277	6.203	3.763	2.831	2.355	

Source: Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs. Accesible at (in Slovene language):

http://www.mddsz.gov.si/si/statistika/denarna_socialna_pomoc/stevilo_izplacanih_dsp_za_mesec_prvic/ 25. 4. 2009

While the number of unemployed rose to 79.682 in March 2009 (23,9% more than in March 2008¹³) the number of first time paid financial social assistance is not growing. The number started to decline in 2007. Statistics on unemployment shows that the average number of unemployment benefits in first three month was 21. 794¹⁴ what is 5000 more than in December 2008. We can expect that in next months there will be a rise in the number of the recipients of financial social assistance.

¹³ <http://www.ess.gov.si/slo/Dejavnost/StatistichniPodatki/2009/0309.htm> 27. 4. 2008.

¹⁴ http://www.ess.gov.si/slo/Dejavnost/StatistichniPodatki/MesecneInformacije/2009/T09_slo09.xls 27. 4. 2009.

Studies that were done from the year 2000 onwards (Stropnik, Stanovnik 2001, Kump 2007) mostly on social transfers, the efficiency and effectiveness of the social security schemes. None of them focused on minimum income. Results of the studies show that cash social benefits reduce the level of poverty and are targeting the population in risk. None of the studies gives insight into reasons for non take-up and on the groups of people that are excluded from social security.

Kersnik (2008) published the results of the study on cash benefits¹⁵: "Data are collected in a separate database, which covers all cash benefits that Slovenia provides to its citizens from state and municipal budgets or through social insurance funds. The database enables an overview of the overall system and gives basic information on each specific benefit. In 2007, Slovenian citizens were entitled to 68 different cash benefits, which is two fewer than in 2005 – Slovenian citizens received a total of 2,234,737 benefits, 2.5% more than in 2004. Cash benefits are typically paid out on a monthly basis and most are income non-related, as they are entitled on the basis of social insurance. Expenditure on cash benefits totalled EUR 4,940,095 thousand in 2007 (14.73% of GDP). The largest number of cash benefits was allocated to pensioners (45% of all cash benefits), followed by parents (20.5%), the disabled (9.7%) and the infirm (9.4%). Proportions of expenditures followed a different order. Pensioners again held the top spot (50.22% of expenditures for all cash benefits), followed by the disabled (15.37%), survivors (10.04%) and parents (9.99%)." (ibid: iii)

The proportion of income non-related and income related cash benefits regarding expenditure is 89:11. Income non-related are those that are paid from the insurance and the income is not the condition to obtain them. 13,7 GDP was spent on income non-related cash benefits and 1,66 for income related. Currently there are no policies to increase take-up of income related cash benefits.

2.2 Adequacy of MI schemes

The at-risk-of-poverty rate data for 2007 (see table 11 in the annex) by work intensity of households show that households without working members were in the worst position: 54.5% of persons in households without working members and with dependent children and 30.6% of persons in households without working members and without dependent children lived below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold. 31.2% of people in households with children in which fewer than half of members were working and 14.5% of people in households with no children in which fewer than half of members were working were also living below the threshold¹⁶.

The comparison of the at-risk-of-poverty rate by the most frequent activity status of a person aged 18+ also shows expected results. By far the lowest at-risk-of-poverty rate was registered for employed persons, while above average at-risk-of-poverty rates were registered for all inactive persons except for retired men. 35.9% of unemployed persons, 20.1% of retired women and 19.1% of other inactive persons were living below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold as did 16.3% of self-employed persons. Of all households the worst off were one-member households as 39.4% of people living in them were below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold. Among them older women

¹⁵ http://www.umar.gov.si/fileadmin/user_upload/publikacije/dz/2008/dz07-08.pdf 27. 4. 2009.

¹⁶ Statistic on income and living conditions, SILC: http://www.stat.si/eng/novica_prikazi.aspx?id=2032 25. 4. 2009.

stood out with a 47.1% rate. 28.6% of people in one-parent households, 15.5% of people in two-parent households with at least three dependent children and about 12% of couples without dependent children were also living below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold. As regards household's tenure status, 25.7% of people living in rented accommodation were below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold, while the at-risk-of-poverty rate of people living in own accommodation was below the average¹⁷.

Compared to 2006, the at-risk-of-poverty rates decreased in almost all groups. The only exceptions were unemployed persons, for whom the situation deteriorated by almost 3 percentage points, one-parent households with at least one dependent child, for whom the at-risk-of-poverty rate increased by more than 6 percentage points, and tenants, for whom the at-risk-of-poverty rate increased by almost 4 percentage points. Nevertheless, these groups do not represent more than 7% in the total population structure¹⁸.

Comparing data on poverty rate with the data on financial social assistance we can find some differences. There is a raise in the number of paid social assistance to retired people that receive pension (2549 in December 2008 – the highest number since 2002); to those that receive other financial benefits on the grounds of the Pensions and Disability Insurance Act (1.070 in December 2008 - the highest number since 2002); to those that became disabled at work (280 - the highest number since 2006 when they first came into statistics); to those that receive alimony and to those that receive different parental allowances.

Kersnik states (2008: 9) that the least financial benefits are given to farmers, especially older farmers. Due to the Act regulating adjustments of transfers to individuals and households in the Republic of Slovenia and due to the demographic changes there was a decrease in the percentage of finances allocated to unemployed and farmers (18,1% to each group), than to veterans of war (-15,5%), to poor (-11,5), to victims of war crimes (-6,3) and to pensioners (-1,1%). There is a significant increase in the number of women that receive financial social assistance. While there were less of them in 2002, there is 1/10 more in December 2008.

Table 5. Number of paid financial social assistance (FSS) per month by gender

	Gender of recipient		
	male (number/share)	female (number/share)	total (number/share)
Januay 2002	16.135 (51,10)	15.442 (48,90)	31.577 (100)
July 2002	20.142 (51,35)	19.082 (48,65)	39.224 (100)
June 2003	25.358 (49,02)	26.373 (50,98)	51.731 (100)
December 2003	26.984 (46,73)	30.758 (53,27)	57.742 (100)
July 2004	26.986 (46,47)	31.089 (53,35)	58.075 (100)
December 2004	28.391 (45,60)	33.865 (54,40)	62.256 (100)

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

July 2005	27.329 (45,94)	32.159 (54,06)	59.488 (100)
December 2005	28.827 (45,82)	34.092 (54,18)	62.919 (100)
July 2006	25.484 (44,95)	31.207 (55,05)	56.691 (100)
December 2006	24.079 (43,86)	30.821 (56,14)	54.900 (100)
July 2007	19.696 (43,55)	25.529 (56,45)	45.225 (100)
December 2007	19.663 (43,80)	25.234 (56,20)	44.897 (100)
June 2008	17.512 (44,70)	21.668 (55,30)	39.180 (100)
December 2008	18.249 (44,86)	22.434 (55,14)	40.683 (100)

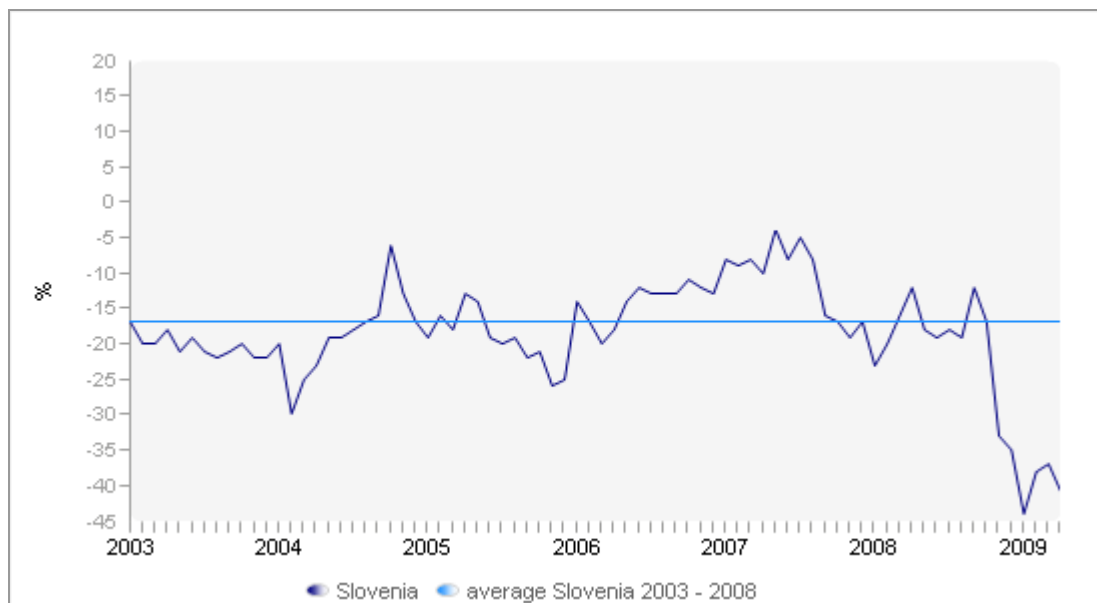
Source: Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs. Accesible at (in Slovene language):
http://www.mddsz.gov.si/si/statistika/denarna_socialna_pomoc/stevilo_izplacanih_dsp_za_mesec_glede_na_spol_in_starost_vlagatelja/ 25. 4. 2009

According to the age of the recipients the highest percentage is in the age group 27-45 (see table 6 in the annex). There is no data on homeless people, drug users or other groups in risk.

The situation in last several months changed because of the economic crisis. Statistics and studies do not yet reflect those changes but there is evidence on higher level of poverty. Humanitarian and charity organisations are reporting on 20% more people coming for the food packages and cloths. Their storage is empty and they have to find alternative funding¹⁹. Because of the restrictive criteria for financial social assistance (almost no savings, property valuation, vehicle not exceeding the value of 35 minimum income) they have first spend and sell what they own and can only apply for social benefits when they become without savings and with almost no property.

The consumer confidence indicator decreased again in April 2009, and has reached the second lowest level since the beginning of the survey (March 1996) after previous two months when it was increasing; in April the indicator was 29 percentage points lower than a year before, while compared to last year's average it was 20 percentage points lower.

¹⁹ <http://www.dnevnik.si/novice/slovenija/1042254420> 22. 4. 2009.

Graph 1: Consumer confidence indicator, Slovenia, January 2003 - April 2009

The consumer confidence indicator is the average of balances from answers to the questions about the expected household financial situation, the expected general economic situation in the country, the question about expected unemployment, and the question about savings over the next 12 months.

Source: Statistical Office of RS: http://www.stat.si/eng/novica_prikazi.aspx?id=2291 23. 4. 2009

The amount of minimum income is in such conditions very low, especially comparing to household consumption. Average monthly spending of the households in Slovenia is 1700 EUR²⁰.

Minimum income amounts at half of the net minimum wage. Minimum wage is regulated by the Minimum Wage Act (Official Gazette 114/2006 and 36/2008). This Act²¹ regulates the method of adjustment of the minimum wage, to which persons in full-time employment are entitled, the amount of the minimum wage for the work carried out in the period from 1 August 2006 until 31 July 2007, and the guaranteed minimum wage as from 1 August 2006 onwards. The minimum wage shall be fixed on a monthly basis; a lower amount may only be paid for part-time employment and proportionally to the time worked. (Article 1). The minimum wage shall be increased every year as at 1 August corresponding to the expected yearly rise in consumer prices, adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia as a basis for drafting the national budget. The amount of the minimum wage shall be established on the basis of the above estimate and after consulting social partners, by the minister responsible for labour and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia (Article 2)

²⁰ <http://www.primorski.it/stories/STA/20684/> 27. 4. 2009 Research was done by the Austrian consulting company Regio Plan.

²¹ The Act can be accessed at:
http://www.mddsz.gov.si/fileadmin/mddsz.gov.si/pageuploads/dokumenti_pdf/min_wage_act_npb_en.pdf
 26. 4. 2009.

The amount of the minimum wage from the 1st August 2008 is 589,19 EUR (gross; net minimum wage is 424²²) and the amount of the guaranteed minimum wage is the same as was set in 2006 – 237, 73 EUR. Trade Unions are emphasising that the net minimum wage is lower than the at-risk-of poverty threshold²³, which was in 2007 for one-member household 495 EUR.

The minimum wage shall be increased every year as at 1 August corresponding to the expected yearly rise in consumer prices, adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia as a basis for drafting the national budget. The amount of the minimum wage shall be established, on the basis of the above estimate and after consulting social partners, by the minister responsible for labour and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia. (Article 2) There are debates whether to increase minimum wage and what should be the amount. Minimum wage is currently much more debated because this is an important issue for Trade Unions. Their claim is that the in-work poverty is increasing because the net amount is lower than the at-risk-of poverty rate.

2.3 Effectiveness of MI schemes in terms of poverty reduction and incentives/disincentives to work

We can conclude that MI schemes contribute to the lower level of poverty and certainly encourage recipients to find employment because living on financial social assistance is possible solution for very short time. MI schemes can not contribute to reduction of poverty because they are much lower than the at-risk-of-poverty threshold (495 EUR per month in 2007). For a single person cash social assistance can be the only income and it is not enough to cover basic household expenses. Families without an income can also not exceed at-risk-of-poverty threshold (1.010 EUR per month), even when they receive other cash benefits. Net minimum wage is also lower than at-risk-of-poverty threshold (424 EUR). The additional problem are conditions to obtain cash benefits. When applying for financial social assistance a person can have just low sums of savings and almost no property, so they can only apply when they are near or in the poverty. Because the MI is set low, they do not have any other sources of survival. That can be also an explanation for long waiting lines at the humanitarian and charity organisations.

There is an extensive debate on the introduction of the Universal Basic Income (UBI). There is a broad civil society consensus on UBI that should replace cash benefits and should also be unconditional. There are some information from the government that the concept will be considered and some studies will be done to calculate possibilities of the introduction of the UBI. Recently the Minister for finances announced that the amount might be 500 EUR, what is probably the result of the misunderstanding of the concept of the UBI.

²² http://www.siol.net/slovenija/novice/2008/10/minimalna_placa.aspx 26. 4. 2009.

²³ For the at-risk-of-poverty threshold see table 11 in the annex 5.

3 Link between MI schemes and the other two pillars of the active inclusion strategy

3.1 Support to MI recipients in terms of employment and training programmes

One of the conditions to be eligible for financial social assistance is that the individual who is capable of work is actively seeking for a job. This practically means that the person has to be registered as unemployed at employment office (and look for a job). As unemployed, the person can take part in different active employment policy (AEP) programmes, depending on an individual employment plan (prepared and signed at the first meeting with the employment counsellor).

There are no specific employment and/or training programmes for unemployed recipients of financial social assistance as such, however, they are considered a priority (focus) group of certain employment programmes when they are long-term unemployed and receive financial social assistance for a longer period. As stated in the documents of MLFSA, long-term unemployed persons that are recipients of financial social assistance and have in the last 16 months received social assistance for at least 12 months are considered a priority (focus) group for employment through programmes of AEP (MLFSA, 2009: 31). The only programme of AEP (which is at the same time specified in the Social Security Act) directly focused at long-term unemployed recipients of financial social assistance is subsidy to employers for their employment.

There are four groups of measures of AEP: (i) counselling and support for job search, (ii) education and training, (iii) stimulation of employment and self-employment and (iv) programmes for increasing social inclusion; and within every group there are some programmes intended especially for long-term unemployed (including long-term unemployed recipients of financial social assistance). Some examples of programmes focused at the long-term unemployed are (MLFSA, 2009: 17-24):

- Within counselling and support for job-search programmes: vocational and employment information, counselling and motivation; support at job search (individual treatment of persons that are hard-to-employ – individual counselling by career counsellors, participation in job clubs, training programme for 'success in life'); development and implementation of new forms of support.
- Within education and training programmes: on-the-job training (employer can train the unemployed person – future employee for the concrete job on the expenses of employment office), work trial (employer can test the person at work in the period from one week to one month before offering the employment contract), training in institutions, programmes of formal education for poorly educated unemployed.
- Within programmes of stimulation of employment and self-employment: subventions (to employers) for employment of hard-to-employ persons, help for self-employment and subventions at the start of self-employment.

- Within programmes for increasing social inclusion: public works, encouraging of employment of long-term unemployed persons.

There are no figures available on the numbers of unemployed financial social assistance recipients that participated in employment and training programmes²⁴ and no assessment exists on how successful this participation was. It seems that long-term unemployed recipients of financial social assistance are most often found among participants in public works.

As already stated, the only measure directly intended to stimulate employment of long-term unemployed recipients of financial social assistance are subsidies to employers for their employment. These subsidies are specified in the Social Security Act (article 36a) and also in documents on AEP programmes. Employer that employs a long-term unemployed person that has been on financial social assistance for at least 12 months in the period of last 16 months can claim a subvention for employment of hard-to-employ person. Subvention can be claimed both for employment on open-ended contract or for employment on fixed-term contract; and it is paid-off monthly (12 months for open-ended employment and 6 months for fixed-term employment). In case the employment contract is for one year, the total sum of subsidy is 3,350 EUR. There is no official information available on how many long-term unemployed people on social assistance actually get jobs this way, but it can be assumed that not many, as the employers are very reluctant to employing hard-to-employ persons even if with subsidies.

There is no assessment done on the implementation of article 36b of Social Security Act stipulating that an unemployed person receiving financial social assistance is (after three months of receiving it) obliged to accept any suitable employment offer (offered to them by employment service), including short-time contractual work, suitable temporary or casual humanitarian or similar work (see more in part 1.5 of this text). Implementation of this largely depends on the discretion of employment councillors at employment offices. It seems that until now there has been no practice of offering casual humanitarian and similar work to unemployed recipients of financial social assistance (therefore this remains only the possibility stipulated in the social legislation), while temporary and occasional jobs for pay are offered when available (in the economic crisis there are much less such works available).

In 2008, a total of 109,5 million EUR was transferred for financial social assistance (see Table 7 in Appendix 2 for monthly sums). Funds for AEP measures in 2008 were 76 million EUR, while in 2009 funds for AEP measures are 315 million EUR (due to intensification of AEP in the crisis period) and funds for unemployment transfers 150 million EUR (press conference of MLFSA, April 14, 2009)²⁵.

3.2 Support to MI schemes in term of access to quality services

The coverage of population in basic compulsory health insurance is nearly full; in case of recipients of financial social assistance it is covered from state budget. Also, since 2008 (with the implementation in 2009) recipients of financial social assistance have the right to have supplementary (voluntary) health insurance covered by the state (from the budget). They do not

²⁴ When reporting on annual implementation of AEP measures, the Employment Service of Slovenia presents the overall data on participants and for some programmes participants by gender, age, duration of unemployment.

²⁵ <http://www.mdds.gov.si/nc/si/splosno/cns/novica/article/12106/6040/>

have to pay additionally for any health service if they go to doctors in the public health network or private doctors with state concession. However, the waiting periods for specialist doctors, dentists and similar are long and people who can afford it would pay for private specialists where there is no waiting (according to IMAD the share of direct expenses of households for health services is increasing – IMAD, 2009b: 64) – so it can be concluded that in the reality the access to health services is still worse for people on low incomes.

According to the Act on Childcare Facilities, the parents who depend on financial social assistance are exempt from paying for childcare for their child in public facilities as well as in private ones that get public funding. The problem in some cases is local availability of childcare facilities and in the last years also the insufficient capacity of childcare facilities (more applications than available places).

According to Act on RTV Slovenia the individuals and households on financial social assistance (that is socially vulnerable households) are exempt from payment of RTV subscription (which is otherwise automatically charged to all households paying for electricity).

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df](http://www.mddsz.gov.si/fileadmin/mddsz.gov.si/pageuploads/dokumenti_pdf/apz_2007_2013.pdf) 26.4.2009

Annex: Statistics

Table 6. Number of paid financial social assistances (FSS) per month by age

	Age of recipient								TOTAL(no./share)
	do 18 let (no./share)	18-21 let (no./share)	22-26 let (no./share)	27-45 let (no./share)	46-59 let (no./share)	60-64 let (no./share)	65-79 let (no./share)	80+ let (no./share)	
January 2002	63 (0,20)	7.641 (24,20)	7.471 (23,66)	10.043 (31,80)	5.041 (15,96)	619 (1,96)	567 (1,80)	132 (0,42)	31.577 (100)
July 2002	53 (0,14)	7.875 (20,08)	9.429 (24,04)	13.385 (34,12)	6.896 (17,58)	809 (2,06)	647 (1,65)	130 (0,33)	39.224 (100)
January 2003	69 (0,15)	9.859 (21,47)	11.083 (24,13)	15.148 (32,99)	7.874 (17,15)	902 (1,96)	819 (1,78)	168 (0,37)	45.922 (100)
June 2003	68 (0,10)	10.005 (19,34)	12.759 (24,66)	17.627 (34,07)	9.002 (17,40)	1.016 (1,96)	1.013 (1,96)	241 (0,47)	51.731 (100)
December 2003	70 (0,12)	11.897 (20,61)	14.520 (25,15)	19.101 (33,08)	9.690 (16,78)	1.105 (1,91)	1.096 (1,90)	263 (0,46)	57.742 (100)
July 2004	40 (0,07)	9.983 (17,19)	15.061 (28,93)	20.309 (34,97)	10.213 (17,59)	1.128 (1,94)	1.059 (1,82)	282 (0,49)	58.075 (100)
December 2004	72 (0,12)	11.361 (18,25)	15.628 (25,10)	21.452 (34,46)	11.010 (17,69)	1.237 (1,99)	1.184 (1,90)	312 (0,50)	62.256 (100)
July 2005	51 (0,09)	9.307 (15,65)	15.071 (25,33)	21.516 (36,17)	10.992 (18,48)	1.186 (1,99)	1.078 (1,81)	287 (0,48)	59.488 (100)
December 2005	62 (0,10)	10.445 (16,60)	15.360 (24,41)	22.416 (35,63)	11.843 (18,82)	1.228 (1,95)	1.249 (1,99)	316 (0,50)	62.919 (100)
July 2006	50 (0,09)	7.511 (13,25)	13.605 (24,00)	21.565 (38,04)	11.419 (20,14)	1.141 (2,01)	1.083 (1,91)	317 (0,56)	56.691 (100)
December 2006	50 (0,09)	6.451 (11,75)	12.162 (22,15)	21.447 (39,07)	12.002 (21,86)	1.240 (2,26)	1.228 (2,24)	320 (0,58)	54.900 (100)
July 2007	38 (0,08)	3.995 (8,83)	9.210 (20,36)	18.386 (40,65)	11.052 (24,44)	1.202 (2,66)	1.046 (2,31)	296 (0,65)	45.225 (100)
December 2007	42 (0,10)	4.037 (9,61)	8.293 (19,74)	18.032 (42,93)	8.648 (20,59)	1.361 (3,24)	1.248 (2,97)	345 (0,82)	42.006 (100)
June 2008	40 (0,10)	2.931 (7,48)	6.683 (17,06)	16.034 (40,92)	10.740 (27,41)	1.309 (3,34)	1.131 (2,89)	312 (0,80)	39.180 (100)
December 2008	38 (0,09)	3.084 (7,58)	6.557 (16,12)	16.549 (40,68)	11.293 (27,76)	1.457 (3,58)	1.361 (3,35)	344 (0,85)	40.683 (100)

Source: Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs. Accesible at (in Slovene language):

http://www.mddsz.gov.si/si/statistika/denarna_socialna_pomoc/stevilo_izplacanih_dsp_za_mesec_glede_na_spol_in_starost_vlagatelja/ 25. 4. 2009

Table 7. Number of paid FSS per month, average sum and total sum

Month	Number of paid FSS	Average sum (EUR)	Total sum (EUR)
2009			
March	44.638	224,74	10.031.944
February	43.354	225,55	9.778.598
January	39.921	227,10	9.065.927
2008			
December	41.359	227,96	9.428.079
November	40.644	231,22	9.397.664
October	38.594	233,47	9.010.378
September	38.038	231,04	8.788.363
August	37.777	240,11	9.070.804
July	38.633	218,90	8.456.578
June	39.914	218,09	8.704.915
May	40.949	218,43	8.944.460
April	41.974	217,81	9.142.227
March	43.641	218,40	9.531.398
February	43.789	219,01	9.590.320
January	43.393	217,60	9.442.490
2007			
December	46.087	208,86	9.625.892
November	44.242	209,52	9.269.796
Oktober	42.467	210,39	8.934.820
September	44.151	207,83	9.176.041
August	44.488	207,26	9.220.518
July	45.543	205,64	9.365.647
June	47.878	204,50	9.790.911
May	47.759	207,24	9.897.500
April	50.457	206,34	10.411.488
March	51.748	208,51	10.789.782
February	52.176	210,58	10.987.036
January	52.751	209,79	11.066.763

Source: Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs. Accesible at (in Slovene language):

http://www.mddsz.gov.si/si/statistika/denarna_socialna_pomoc/stevilo_izplacanih_dsp_v_mesecu/

25. 4. 2009

Table 8: Expenditure on social benefits by social protection function (risk), Slovenia, 2006

	Mio EUR							
	1996	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total	2 723	4 365	4 938	5 510	5 823	6 182	6 470	6 894
Sickness / Health care	838	1 338	1 551	1 724	1 888	1 993	2 093	2 211
Disability	232	394	431	471	482	507	552	583
Old age	1 202	1 887	2 154	2 462	2 520	2 678	2 741	2 613
Survivors	54	86	93	100	99	103	129	515
Family / children	231	402	441	471	502	535	556	590
Unemployment	116	186	182	173	179	193	211	209
Housing	4	5
Social exclusion not elsewhere classified	50	71	87	108	153	174	184	168

Source: Statistical Office RS: http://www.stat.si/eng/novica_prikazi.aspx?id=1946 26. 4. 2009

Table 9: General government expenditure by function (% of GDP), Slovenia, 2000-2007

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total	46.7	47.6	46.3	46.4	45.8	45.3	44.5	42.4
General public services	6.7	7.7	7.0	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.1	6.2
Defence	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.3
Public order and safety	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.6
Economic affairs	5.2	4.3	4.4	4.8	4.1	4.0	3.9	4.0
Environment protection	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4
Housing and community amenities	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5
Health	6.4	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.9
Recreation, culture and religion	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1
Education	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.3	5.8
Social protection	17.3	17.3	17.0	17.0	17.4	17.3	16.9	15.5

Source: Statistical Office RS: http://www.stat.si/eng/novica_prikazi.aspx?ID=2120 26. 4. 2009

Table 10: Expenditure and receipts of social protection schemes, Slovenia, 2006

	Mio EUR							
	1996	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total expenditure	2 783	4 481	5 062	5 644	5 959	6 322	6 612	7 057
Social benefits	2 723	4 365	4 938	5 510	5 823	6 182	6 470	6 894
Cash social benefits	1 881	2 991	3 349	3 766	3 933	4 175	4 363	4 665
Social benefits in kind	842	1 374	1 589	1 744	1 890	2 007	2 107	2 229
Administration costs	50	96	107	118	118	126	133	152
Other expenditure	10	19	17	16	18	14	9	12
Total receipts	2 779	4 399	4 967	5 576	5 965	6 331	6 697	6 987
Social contributions	1 971	2 915	3 272	3 704	3 979	4 227	4 495	4 744
Employers' social contributions	902	1 187	1 318	1 482	1 616	1 710	1 828	1 897
Social contributions by the protected persons	1 068	1 728	1 954	2 221	2 364	2 517	2 667	2 847
General government contributions	782	1 385	1 620	1 783	1 911	2 020	2 114	2 147
Other receipts	27	99	75	90	75	84	89	96

Source: Statistical Office RS: http://www.stat.si/eng/novica_prikazi.aspx?id=1946 26. 4. 2009

Table 11: Basic income and poverty indicators, Slovenia, 2007 - provisional data

	Income in cash ¹⁾	Income in cash + in kind
At-risk-of-poverty threshold ²⁾ (EUR)	5,944	6,108
At-risk-of-poverty threshold for a household consisting of two adults and two children ³⁾ (EUR)	12,482	12,826
At-risk-of-poverty rate (%)	11.5	11.0
At-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers excluding pensions (%)	23.1	22.8
At-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers including pensions (%)	39.7	39.2
Inequality of income distribution: S80/S20 quintile share ratio	3.3	3.2
Inequality of income distribution: Gini coefficient (%)	23.2	22.6

1) Part of income in kind is included: the use of company cars for personal purposes.

2) Annual threshold for a one-member household.

3) Annual threshold. Children are under 14 years of age.

Source: Statistical Office RS: http://www.stat.si/eng/novica_prikazi.aspx?id=2032 26. 4. 2009