

Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

The Report on the Situation of Family in the Slovak Republic

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Introduction

The *Report on the Situation of Family in the Slovak Republic* is the first more thorough analysis of life conditions of families and a summing up of knowledge acquired since adopting the *State Family Policy Concept* in 1996.

The Report has been prepared from extensive background reports which have been submitted to the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family by individual ministries, some other central authorities, selected public service institutions, research centres and regional offices on the basis of a model outline. In terms of time it focuses above all on the 1997 to 1999 period, or the 1st half of 2000.

The core of the report is an analysis of the reflection of legislative, social, economic and institutional conditions in the overall way of life of families and their members, in their demographic behaviour, values and attitudes, the living standards of families and their needs, while pointing out the most serious problems which have to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

The analysis concerns four key areas of competence of State vis-à-vis the family: legal protection of family, providing social and economic conditions of its life, education and preparation for marriage and parenthood and the protection of health of family members.

As follows from the Report, families and also young people of marriageable age react in a sensitive manner above all to current social and economic situation which can so far be perceived as inadequate for achieving a relative economic independence of families as a basis of civil independence and applying their responsibility for and choice of their own future (i. e. the first in order of the strategic objectives of state family policy). This situation contributes by a significant share in the decreasing marriage rate, birth rate, the worsening of living conditions of a substantial number of families and it can be considered one of the factors bringing about the decrease in family stability, worsening of the quality of its relationships, as well as an increase in antisocial behaviour of children and young people.

Apart from an urgent need to improve the social and economic conditions of life of families it appears important to pay attention to the content and quality of public influence on the system of values held by young people and the behaviour of children and young people, especially through the mass media.

The analysis which has been carried out also indicates major reserves in reconciling the parenting and professional roles. In an effort to direct attention on the need for employers to participate in achieving another strategic objective of the state family policy, namely, the adoption of measures which would make it possible to apply the principle of choice or compatibility when a parent is making a decision for the parenting or the professional role, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family has proposed, on the basis of experience from the EU Member States, a new way of evaluating the implementation of the state family policy in the area of employment by launching the Family and Work Audit.

Its zero year was held in 2000. At the time of preparing this publication the winners of the audit were already known, the first seven employers who have been family-friendly, have been creating conditions for equal opportunities for men and women at the workplace and who have introduced the most original measure for the benefit of their employees' families.

Through launching this social audit and organising it on a regular annual basis Slovakia has been trying to get involved in the criteria unification process which has already been going on in the participating countries, with a view to performing European social audit.

Family is quite a broad issue, that is why the report submitted in this publication provides in a very dense form only the most relevant information about its current situation, which has been provided in the background reports of 33 entities. Making it available to the public at large should above all increase the interest in the problems of contemporary family and initiate their solution at all levels of the life of the society.

Analysis of the situation of families in the Slovak Republic

Family is the place where life originates, where the character of a person is formed, where values are taken on board, as the most valuable human potential. On the basis of this irreplaceable position and importance of family in individual and social life, the Government of the Slovak Republic approved in 1996 a new *Concept of State Family Policy* (hereinafter referred to as "SFP Concept"), which expresses the fundamental position of family in a democratic society. The approved SFP Concept set itself the following **strategic objectives**:

- Achievement of relative economic independence of families as a basis of their civil independence and application of responsibility for and choice of their own future,
- Success of families in fulfilling their functions,
- Support for stability and social quality of the relationships of the spouses and parents in the sense of equality and mutual division of family roles,
- Creating optimum conditions for the self-reproduction of the society,
- Adoption of such measures which will make it possible to apply in a systematic way the principle of choice or compatibility when a parent is making a decision for the parental or the professional role.

The basic principles of the state family policy, which respect the basic systematic changes in perceiving the position of family in a democratic society, have been defined as follows:

1. Family is a primary entity for personality development of each person. In case of family failure no substitute solutions for young children can be accepted as equal family environment unless they have the form of a family; this also applies in cases of substitute forms of care for adult members of the family who have found themselves in social isolation, especially in relation to their poor health or old age.
2. Own responsibility of the family for its life and its future is an expression of an inherent need of every person to mature through activity and responsibility. Respecting the responsibility of the family for itself justifies the application in the state family policy of the subsidiarity principle, which consists in non-interference of higher levels in the performance of functions of the lower levels, which contributes to their activation.
3. The State provides legal protection and moral support to marriage and parenthood, because the quality and stability of these two basic family relationships influences in a decisive manner the psychological development of children and their perspective in life, the State focuses its measures on family as an institution while respecting the rights and specific needs of its members.
4. An authentic function of the democratic State vis-à-vis families is to create legal, economic and institutional conditions and opportunities for applying the families' own responsibility. The extent of intervention of the State in the family is subject to a social consensus.
5. The action of the State in favour of fulfilment of family functions through supporting its relative economic independence, stability and quality of the relationships within the family is of a cross-sectoral character, which entails a necessity of orienting the policies of all the relevant ministries in favour of family, as well as a necessity to co-ordinate them. The State supports the development of services for families to enable them to fulfil their functions.
6. The State systematically monitors and analyses the economic, demographic and value aspects of the family behaviour through a research of these aspects, and in case of need and on the basis of a social consensus it adopts measures for correcting, complementing or changing its action vis-à-vis family. The State periodically up-dates the population projection with the medium-term and long-term time forecasts.
7. An important place when providing living conditions for families is taken by the communal family policy, which takes into consideration the specific conditions of the individual municipalities, above all in terms of housing, services for families and creating conditions for active use of leisure time.
8. It is also churches, cultural institutions, interest groups, civil associations and foundations which participate in implementing the support for families through their spiritual, formative, cultural and social activities.

The state family policy finds its place of implementation above all in legal protection of family and its members, in providing social and economic conditions for the life of families, in bringing up children and young people and preparation for marriage and parenthood and in protection of health of the individual family members.

The analysis of the situation of families which has been conducted in the above areas of the competence of the State, especially within the 1997 - 1999 (1st half of 2000) time horizon has brought the following findings:

A1/ Demographic and social aspects of family behaviour

The Slovak Republic has been undergoing significant changes in its demographic development, which are above all a reflection of the current social and economic situation and which can be referred to as a transition to a new model of reproductive behaviour of the population. A significant decrease in marriage rate and fertility, unfavourable development of divorce rate, unsatisfactory level of mortality in spite of some improvement, changes in the development of abortion rate and migration have been causing further unevenness in the population age structure, ageing of the population, increasing economic burden on the population, changes in the family and household structure, increase in the age at the time of marriage and average age of parents at the time of childbirth. The net rate of reproduction has been decreasing below the survival values, the natural increase has been rapidly decreasing. What remains open is the question as to whether these are long-term trends or whether after the end of the period of transition a turnabout in the present demographic development will occur. In 1999 the total increment was only 5.3 thousand persons, which means an increase of less than one person per thousand inhabitants. As of 31 December 1999 the Slovak Republic had 5 398 700 inhabitants.

The **marriage rate** has been **significantly decreasing** since the early nineties. A real turnabout in the development of marriage rate, which amounted to a change in demographic behaviour, started after 1992 and in the opinion of demographers is linked to the economic and social transition (growth of the cost of living, social policy reform, cancelling of loans for newlyweds, stopping the mass construction of housing). Since 1996 the gross marriage rate (hereinafter referred to as "GMR") stabilised at relatively low values (about 5.1 per mille) (Table No. 1 of Annexes) in spite of the fact that large numbers of persons born in the seventies reached the marriageable age. At the same time **a change has occurred in the age structure of the people getting married through a slight shift of the marriage rate into the 25 to 29 age bracket**. This trend is likely to continue. In 1999 the average age at the time of the first marriage was 25.9 years in men and 23.4 in women. The share of single fiancés/fiancées and widowed brides/grooms has been decreasing. The share of marriages of people with higher education has been increasing which is related to the increase in the educational level of the population. The situation with these indicators in 1999 can be seen in Tables No. 2 and No. 3 of the Annexes.

Research of value behaviour of young people (Research Institute of Labour, Social Affairs and Family) continues to indicate strong pro-family and parenting attitudes; a majority of young people considers having two children, the optimum age of the woman at the time of giving birth to her first child is seen as 20 to 25 years and more, where an important role is played by the education of the woman and her professional career. **What is considered an important condition for marriage is good partnership, regular income, independent housing and savings.** It seems that the informal cohabitation, which is becoming increasingly more common in our circumstances, is only a postponement of legalising the relationship through marriage until such time when conditions for starting a family do occur. On the other hand it cannot be excluded that a family based on marriage has gradually been losing its position. An answer to this reflection can be given by a regular research of the value orientation in the context with the demographic behaviour of young people as a starting point for further direction of the family policy.

A positive change in terms of the marriage rate development, which started showing more markedly after 1993, is the decrease in the number of marriages of minors aged 16 and more (since 1993 the marriage rate decreased in absolute numbers from 2 592 in men and 10 459 in women to 999 in men and 4 368 in women). The numbers of under age fiancés/fiancées have also been diminishing as clients of the individual branches of the Centre for Advisory and Psychological Services, which by request of courts judge their psychological and social readiness for marriage, due especially to the social and economic conditions which in general discourage young people from getting married, but also under the influence of public awareness campaigns focusing on family planning and contraception.

The **divorce rate** has been growing since 1992 and **in 1999 it recorded so far the highest number of 9 664 divorces** (the gross divorce rate reached 1.79 points). The share of approved divorce proposals has grown, at present they represent approximately three quarters of all the proposals (Table No. 4 of the Annexes). That is still approximately only half in comparison with some developed countries. The divorce rate index (number of divorces per 100 marriages) in 1999 grew

especially through the decrease in marriage rate to as much as 35.3 per cent. The age of the highest divorce rate is within 30 to 34 years in men and 25 to 29 in women. **Marriages most likely to get divorced are those of 16-year-old brides, the most stable are those of 20- to 25-year-old brides, while after the age of 30 the likelihood of a divorce again grows.** It can therefore be assumed that further increase of marriage age will not lead to an improvement in the stability of marriages. In 1999 the average length of the marriages which were getting divorced was 12.3 years (Tables No. 4 and 5 of the Annexes). The share of divorce proposals filed by women is twice as high as the share of divorce proposals filed by men, which also applies to the proposals which get approved. In 1999 the most frequent reason of divorce was difference in character (51.2 per cent in both men and women), the reasons that followed in men were alcoholism, unfaithfulness and lack of interest in the family, in women the so-called other reasons and unfaithfulness. In terms of regions the divorce rate has kept the highest in the Bratislava, Banská Bystrica and Nitra regions, while it has been the lowest in the Prešov and Trnava regions.

It is also the **worsening social and economic situation** which contributes to this development and is reflected in the quality of the functioning of the families. The sociological research carried out so far by the Bratislava International Center for Family Studies, the experience of local authorities active in social affairs, as well as the individual branches of the Centre for Advisory and Psychological Services all confirm an increase of violence in families, quite often in combination with alcoholism and a subsequent disintegration of the family.

Basic characteristics of the indicators of **birth rate and fertility** are given in Table No. 6 of the Annexes.

In the nineties the **fertility of women** decreased in all the age brackets of women from 18 to 30. Since the decrease has been the most marked in the lower age brackets, the age of highest fertility has shifted to older age. At present **the highest fertility is at the age of 25.** The greatest decrease has been recorded in the 18 to 24 age brackets, which until the late eighties participated in the total fertility by almost 60 per cent. In the last ten years **the fertility of 20- to 24-year-old women decreased more than by one half.** The development of fertility in the nineties within the context of the development of the society shows that childbirth has been delayed until older age. This hypothesis would be confirmed by a growth in fertility in the nearest future, in the 25 to 34 age brackets of women. The share of **children born out of wedlock in 1999 grew to 16.9 per cent**, which potentially indicates a shift to a new model of reproductive behaviour. In spite of this it is the fertility within marriage which remains the decisive component of fertility in Slovakia. The greatest fertility in the group of married women is at the age under 19 years, which shows a continuing close link between the marriage rate and the fertility. The share of children born as first in order has grown by about 2 percentage points, the share of children born as second in order has decreased by the same value (Table No. 7 of the Annexes). **The situation in the transition period is characterised by tending more towards one-child families and away from two-child and three-child families. In births out of wedlock there is a significant prevalence of children born as first in order (a consequence of a lower average number of children born out of wedlock). After the birth of their first child many partners decide to get married.** In regional comparison of fertility the territory of Slovakia can be divided into a progressive North and East and regressive South and West. The highest values of fertility have been recorded in the Prešov, Košice and Žilina regions, the lowest in the Bratislava region.

The **abortion rate** has been **significantly decreasing** ever since 1989. In the ten years the number of pregnancy terminations has decreased by 60 per cent. The relationship between the development of fertility and terminations has changed: their mutual link from the past has been replaced by an independent relationship. At present both these indicators show a markedly decreasing trend. Since the abortion rate has been decreasing faster than the birth rate, also the share of abortions in the total number of finished pregnancies has also been decreasing. Out of 100 pregnancies in 1999 fewer than seven finished by a spontaneous abortion and about 24 by a termination (Table No. 8 of the Annexes). The spontaneous abortion rate, as less sensitive to changes in the society and social and economic changes, has also decreased in the younger age brackets of 18 to 27 years due to a decrease in the total number of pregnancies. **The abortion rate in married women aged 20 to 35 decreased by more than 60 per cent, while in unmarried women it decreased by less (40 to 60 per cent),** where the greatest decrease has been recorded in the 20 to 29 year age brackets. In the developed Western European countries the applicants for terminations are dominated by single and divorced women aged under 24, in most cases childless, i. e. women who have decided not to have children yet or at all. In Slovakia the applicants for termination are dominated by married women aged over 25 with two and more children (Table No. 9 of the Annexes). A more exact indicator is the number of terminations per 1 000 women of fertile age, aged 15 to 49. In

1998 there were 12.6 terminations per 1 000 women of fertile age, which puts Slovakia on the same level as developed Western countries. The highest abortion rate is in the Banská Bystrica, Košice and Bratislava regions.

Mortality in the 1990 to 1999 period **recorded a decrease in all the age categories.** The average life expectancy at birth in women grew by two per cent in the nineties, in men the stagnation was stopped and the values started growing, by three per cent, to be specific (Table No. 10 of the Annexes). In 1999 most men died of circulatory system diseases (48 per cent), cancer (25 per cent), followed by external reasons, diseases of the alimentary tract and diseases of the respiratory tract. In women 62 per cent died of circulatory system diseases, 20 per cent of cancer, followed by diseases of the respiratory tract, diseases of the alimentary tract and external reasons.

The mortality due to cancer in both men and women has been increasing. Deaths due to circulatory system diseases in men have had a decreasing trend, however, in women their growing trend has been a consequence of the growth in deaths of women aged 65 and more (Table No. 12 of the Annexes). In men the highest extra mortality due to external reasons as a result of a high ratio of deaths in road accidents where it is most often men who die (an increase by as much as 32 per cent in the nineties). In 1999 the mortality of men was the highest in the Banská Bystrica region, while it was the lowest in Bratislava and Trnava region. The mortality of women was the highest in the Trnava region, the lowest in the Trenčín region. The highest infant mortality in both boys and girls is in the Košice and Prešov regions.

The age structure of the population: in 1999 the share of children under 15 years of age dropped under 20 per cent and the share of persons over sixty approached 16 per cent. The share of persons aged 15 to 59 at present almost reaches 65 per cent (Table No. 13 of the Annexes).

Due to the permanent decrease in birth rate since the eighties the absolute numbers as well as the relative share of children in the population have been decreasing (by 230 thousand between 1991 and 1999). Since 1991, the numbers of the 15- to 59-year-olds increased by 300 thousand, at the same time the number of persons aged 60 and more increased in all by five per cent. **The ageing index has been growing,** in 1999 there were almost 58 persons aged 65 and more per 100 persons younger than 15. What has also been growing is the number of single persons older than 15, while the share of married persons has been decreasing and the share of divorced persons has been increasing. **Two different regional types in terms of age structure exist in Slovakia.** Regions with a progressive age structure of the population: Žilina, Prešov and Košice, characterised on the one hand by a high share of 0 to 14 year olds (over 20 per cent) and on the other by a low share of elderly persons (a 15 per cent share of persons aged 60 and more). The Nitra, Trnava, Trenčín and Banská Bystrica regions are ones with regressive age structure of the population with a high share of elderly persons and a relatively low share of the child component. (Table No. 14 of the Annexes).

Special attention in terms of demographic behaviour (also from the point of view of regional differences in the population age structure) should be paid to the **Roma population**, which is **characterised by a high number of children aged under 14.** According to the data from the 1991 census, this age group makes up as much as 43.4 per cent of the Roma minority, compared to the 24.9 per cent share of this age group within the whole of Slovakia. **The share of persons of post-productive age is low** within the Roma minority, according to the 1991 census of persons, houses and flats it is only 3.6 per cent, as compared to 14.8 per cent within the whole of Slovakia. In comparison with the rest of the population there is a high share of women giving birth to their first child among the Roma who are younger than 18. As research carried out in backward locations indicates, more than 30 per cent are mothers who gave birth to their first child at the age of 15 to 17. It is also for this reason that a considerable share of children born out of wedlock is by women from this very ethnic group (for example, in 1993 out of the total number of children born to Roma mothers **45.7 per cent were born out of wedlock**). What is characteristic for Roma women is high birth rate throughout their whole reproductive period, although **latest research indicates a decreasing number of childbirths** in Roma women, especially those older than 35, as well as a decrease in the number of women giving birth to their first child younger than 18. The research also indicates a **growth in the number of nuclear families** (i. e. parents and children) as opposed to the traditional pattern of a patriarchal (multigenerational) family. It is remarkable that when compared to the other marriages Roma marriages are considerably more stable.

The demographic development in the Slovak Republic in 1999 corresponds more or less with the *Projection of Population Development Until the Year 2015* prepared in 1996 according to the A - low variant.

The Social Insurance Section of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family prepared a specific prognosis of the demographic development until the year 2030, for the needs of the **Concept of the Social Insurance Reform.** The prognosis points out the consequences of the **unfavourable**

ratio of the post-productive and productive component of the population for guaranteeing the social protection of persons of retirement age and an urgent need to implement the social insurance reform (Table No. 15 of the Annexes).

A2/ Legal protection of family and its members

“The State provides legal protection and moral support for marriage and parenthood, because the quality and stability of these two basic family relationships influence in a decisive measure the psychological development of children and their perspective in life; it focuses its measures on the family as an institution while respecting the rights and specific needs of its members.”

The legal protection of family and its members is guaranteed by the Constitution and a number of other legal regulations, in particular the Family Act, Civil Code and Rules of Civil Judicial Procedure.

This area of the competence of the State has been (and still is) the one most often criticised because **legislative work has not been finished yet on building a system of family law** and legislative regulations related to the family (Civil Code which should include the reglementation of the legal relationships within the family, Rules of Civil Judicial Procedure) which should have reacted to changes following from the new, autonomous position of the family in a democratic country. The whole family law should make up an independent part of the Civil Code, where what is necessary to include is among other things also the reglementation of property relationships between the spouses, which should encourage the spouses to greater responsibility towards their common property and the material interests of their children (introducing the concept of property community of the spouses and a reglementation of the marriage contract).

In 1999 a partial positive change in the protection of rights of young children was brought by the amendment of the Penal Act (Act No. 183/1999 Coll.), which regulates in a new way the facts of the case of such offences as threatening the morality, the production, distribution and possession of child pornography, torturing of a close and entrusted person, or illegal employment of children, as a reflection of the current individual and societal need to provide protection to young children.

The legal situation valid at present guarantees some conditions of protection of housing rights that go beyond the usual standard. So far experience shows in particular the controversial nature of the excessive protection of the tenants' rights to the detriment of the landlords. The statutory obligation of the landlord to always provide the tenant with a suitable substitute flat in relation to finishing the rental relationship through notice appears purposeless in the market economy conditions, especially in situations where the tenant intentionally fails to meet his or her obligations vis-à-vis the landlord, aware of the existence of this legal protection. It also causes the draining of funds for the building of new rental housing. On the other hand it is necessary to prevent harsh legislative conditions from leading to a loss of housing in those cases where due to unfavourable social situation the tenant is unable for objective reasons to cover these costs. The new legal regulation of these relationships should therefore guarantee the balance of rights and obligations to both the tenant and the landlord. As follows from the background documents of the Ministry of Justice, the **amendment of the Civil Code** with the above-mentioned changes should be submitted to the Government session in October 2000.

In terms of preparing the **ratification of international conventions** regulating the area of rights of family and children, progress has been achieved in the assessed period in the ratification process of the Convention on Civil Law Aspects of International Kidnappings of Children (the National Council of the Slovak Republic agreed with its ratification in its Resolution of 15 June 2000 and its effect is anticipated from 1 January 2001), European Convention on Recognition and **Enforcement** of Decisions concerning Custody of Children and on Restoration of Custody of Children of 20 May 1980, whose ratification is expected in 2001. The Government in its Resolution of 8 November 2000 agreed with the ratification of the Convention on the Protection of Children and on Co-operation in International Adoptions of 29 May 1993. It is expected that the ratification of this Convention will improve conditions for adoption of children who have not been adopted through adoptions organised within the country (for example, 181 young children were registered in the Prešov region as of 31 July 2000, for whom no suitable adoptive persons had been found in the region). In its Resolution of 3 March 1999 the Government agreed with concluding the Convention on Powers, Applicable Law, Recognition and Enforcement and Co-operation in Parental Rights and Obligations and Measures for the Protection of Children of 19 October 1966.

The protection of rights of young children with an international component is implemented by the Centre for International Legal Protection of Children and Young People (hereinafter referred to as “The Centre”) with its registered office in Bratislava, established at the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, which since the 1 February 1993 has acted as the receiving and sending authority

for direct enforcement of conventions on recovery of alimony abroad. Although this institution has only been active for a relatively short period of time, it has pointed out some barriers to enforcement of the rights of children before courts in Slovakia, in particular disproportionately long time limits for ending proceedings in a case (for example, a paternity case takes at least three years from filing the proposal), no preference given to proposals concerning custody of children, lack of judges specialising in legal family matters involving an international component. The overview of The Centre's activity indicates that the number of cases of protection of rights with an international component has been increasing and thus in parallel also a need for qualified consultancy for persons who on behalf of the young children claim the protection of their rights vis-à-vis persons obliged to provide for their maintenance, who reside outside the territory of Slovakia or who are foreign nationals. Specialised training for providing this type of consultancy should be included in the curricula of law, social work, as well as the adaptation preparatory studies of social workers in the state administration.

In terms of legislation it is necessary to speed up the legislative process of the amendment of the Rules of Civil Judicial Procedure being prepared, which should in part solve the open procedural issues in protection of the rights of young children vis-à-vis other countries.

Due to stagnation of work on the basic legal codices which regulate the substantive and procedural issues of the family legal relationships, together with a high burden on courts, barriers emerge to efficient enforcement of social legal protection within the scope of activity of local state administration in the social affairs area. As stated for example in the background report of the Regional Office in Banská Bystrica, Košice, Prešov and others, it is not uncommon for court limits to be longer than one year since the filing of the proposal until setting the date for the first hearing in the matter of custody of minors. On the other hand, as is stated for example by the Trnava Regional Office, courts do not sufficiently resort to the possibility of issuing injunctions on care and custody of young children, which would make it possible to eliminate the negative impact of the family environment which threatens the satisfaction of their basic life needs.

Through the adoption of Act No. 195/1998 Coll. on social assistance with effect from 1 July 1998 a certain positive shift has been achieved in the implementation of the protection of rights of young children within the scope of activity of local state administration and other entities. Table No. 16 of the Annexes provides an overview of the implementation of social legal protection within the scope of activity of the bodies of local state administration in Slovakia during the assessed period between 1997 and 1999.

Through Act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic No. 222/1996 Coll. on the organisation of local state administration and on amendment of some acts, some facilities for the performance of institutional care have been transferred to the competence of local state administration bodies as founders and administrators. The legislative changes at the same time created an opportunity for providing care for children with combined physical and mental impairment whose institutional care has been ordered, namely in social services centres. A new institution for the performance of institutional care was introduced: the so-called professional surrogate family, which makes it possible to provide individual care to children with ordered institutional care or under age mothers within the environment of the surrogate family. The age until which the child with ordered institutional care can stay in the above centres has been extended to 25 years, in exceptional cases even longer.

The coming into effect of the new Act No. 265/1998 Coll. **on foster care and foster care benefits** since 1 January 1999 has above all improved the material conditions for performing this form of surrogate family upbringing which are implemented through one-off and repeated foster care benefits. However, because the amounts for the purpose of state social benefits, from which the foster care benefits are derived, have not been index-linked since 1998, they have gradually been losing their real value.

Apart from these partially positive changes and a permanent interest in making more humane the conditions of life of children **in children's homes** (including the social services centres, in which the institutional care for children with disabilities is performed), in supporting the development of surrogate family care, the relatively most numerous group of children who have to live outside their own family until they start their own life, still remain in these very facilities. They represent about 50 per cent of the total number of children who are provided with surrogate care each year. Some reserves still remain in work with the original family of the child, which had failed in fulfilling its functions. This demanding on-the-spot social work presupposes close co-ordination of local state administration bodies, municipalities and non-state entities.

The key problem pointed out in all the background reports by the Regional Offices is the integration of young people into normal life after they have left the children's homes. The main obstacles increasing the risk of their social failure up to long-term social exclusion are in particular the

minimum opportunities to solve their housing problem on a temporary basis through social housing and the unaffordability of acquiring a flat of their own. With regard to an overall high unemployment of young people under 29, it is also problematic for them to find a place in the labour market. What also remains open is the issue of how well prepared the children and young people from children's homes are for partnership and married life, since they miss natural patterns of partnership behaviour, emotional background and the satisfaction of the basic life need to belong.

In an effort to strengthen the protection of the rights of children and increase the public control of their exercise in everyday life, on 14 June 2000 the Government established the **Slovak Committee for the Rights of Children** as an advisory, initiative and co-ordinating body of the Government for issues related to the protection of rights and rightfully protected interests of children and supervision over the protection of these rights. The Committee is made up of 16 representatives of the state administration central bodies, local self-government and NGOs, and is chaired by the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. The tasks of the Committee include preparation of regular reports on the manner of implementing the Convention on the Rights of Children in the conditions of Slovakia. The first *Background Report of the Slovak Republic on the Convention on the Rights of Children* in the history of Slovakia was prepared in 1998 and on 3 October 2000 the Slovak Republic presented and defended its implementation report before the Committee for the Rights of Children in Geneva.

Family and work represent two separate subsystems on the institutional level, with prevailing contradictions which to a certain degree naturally follow from the time cumulation of the professional life of an individual and those stages of the family life cycle whose basic development task is upbringing and care of young children.

The protection of family and its members within the labour legal relationships regulated by several pieces of legislation (Labour Code, Act No. 387/1996 Coll. on employment, as amended, Act No. 54/1996 Coll. on collective bargaining, Act. No. 330/1996 Coll. on health and safety at work, as amended by Act No. 95/2000 Coll. and others) covers in particular:

- a) equal opportunities of men and women,
- b) working conditions of women,
- c) child labour, and
- d) flexibility of the working hours.

It can be said that the existing legal situation in principle provides relatively good instruments for the protection of members of the family in legal labour relationships. However, the results of statistical surveys and research of the labour market situation and the attitudes of employers do not make up a picture fully compatible with the legally guaranteed protection of the individual members of the family within the work process, or during their productive age.

Statistical monitoring of registered unemployed at the labour offices **according to gender** documents a **worse position of women** in the labour market; this also applies **within the married man - married woman group**. Within unemployed women, the share of married women is double (29.7 per cent of single women and 61 per cent of married women). The results of empirical research clearly documents the controversial nature of the position of women in the labour market as a result of their dual social role (as mothers and as professionals) which influences their entry, stay and behaviour in the labour sphere. The degree of activity in the labour market shows a significant statistical dependence with the factors of education, marital status and presence of children.

The results of research focusing on the **work conditions of parents** which was carried out by the Research Institute of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in the first half of 2000 makes it possible to say no problems occur in the exercise of the right to maternity and further maternity leave (Table 17 of the Annexes), protection of the job for the employee, provision of paid leave when accompanying a family member to a health facility. Experience from the Social Insurance Agency branches indicates a relatively little used institution of balancing/equalising benefit in pregnancy and motherhood in relation to an obligation of the employer to move a pregnant employee to another job if the one she had been doing represents a threat to her health according to a medical assessment and due to this she has been earning less. This is seen as a lack of information which should be provided above all in gynaecological surgeries. An overview on the provision of sickness insurance benefits to employed parents and the parental benefit is provided in Table 18 of the Annexes.

Provision of **conditions above the usual standard** in order to harmonise the professional and parenting obligations is indicated in the background report of the Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunications, for example by providing paid leave once in two months to women and mothers looking after children under ten, by creating conditions for flexible transition from active motherhood to the work process. Leave without reimbursement of the salary for some groups of employees (parents with young children) beyond the framework stipulated in the generally binding regulations is provided

by the Administration of State Material Reserves of the Slovak Republic within the scope of its competence.

As follows from the research (Research Institute of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, first half of 2000), provision of **flexible working hours, or part-time work** can be found in about one third of employers in Slovakia. Part-time work is only done by **approximately two per cent of the employed** (Table 19 of the Annexes), compared to approximately 17 per cent in the EU Member States. **Negative attitude** towards creating a higher number of part-time jobs has been expressed by more than 70 per cent of employers asked and only 6.4 per cent said that they would be able to cope with such organisation of working hours without any problems. By almost the same percentage share the employers were against the proposal to give one job to a married couple, where each of the spouses would be working half-time. The research did not indicate any problems with provision of leave to a parent for accompanying a severely disabled child.

The **Social Insurance Agency** has been pointing out the more frequent occurrence of cases of **refusal by employers** to provide leave without pay if a parent applies for it to be able to look after a child older than three who according to a decision of the assessment commission of the relevant authority has a long-term severe disability and requires special care or extraordinary special care. It is for this reason that the proposed extension of the further maternity leave until the child has reached the age of seven in the new Labour Code can be considered an accommodating measure.

The sociological research carried out in the same period of time by the Bratislava International Center for Family Studies indicates that part-time work as the most suitable form of organisation of the working hours would be welcome by about 8.1 per cent of the respondents. It is quite surprising that this type of modification of the working hours would most often be opted for by persons older than 55, while the 25 to 45 age brackets would prefer full-time work, with flexible working hours. It seems that the unsatisfactory economic situation of a majority of families with young children at present related to high cost of living can be one of the reasons for preferring a full-time job to an opportunity of having more time left for the family by working part-time. However, that is only one of the possible interpretations of the results achieved through the research. It is for the above-mentioned reason that this question as well as a whole series of others related to the relationship of family and work remain open for more detailed research. The topic family and work should in the nearest future be among the priorities of research into family.

Equal position of women in the family, workplace and society through the measures that have been adopted in the *National Action Plan for Women in the Slovak Republic*, is monitored by the **Co-ordination Committee for the Issues of Women**, which is an advisory and initiative body of the Government for the issues of women and equal opportunities of men and women in all the areas of public and family life. On the basis of the knowledge which it has, the Co-ordination Committee says that the gender-specific dimension has to be included much more thoroughly in education so that it does not remain only on the level of declarations, and that resources have to be sought for cultivation of gender awareness.

Monitoring **the protection of specially protected groups of workers** is part of the control activity of the National Labour Inspectorate. The results of checks focusing on the adherence to **work conditions for young people** carried out by inspectors in 1998 indicate a higher number of shortcomings when employing young people in the form of short-term work, where explanations about safety at work were missing and so were, protective aids, initial medical checkups, but also consent of parents or guardians when recruiting young people. It was in this group of employees that in 1999 the average occurrence of accidents at work has doubled (to two persons per 100 employees).

The individual institutions of protection, whose objective it is to respect principles of equal treatment of men and women, protect their dignity at work, contribute to the harmonisation of the professional and family life stipulated in legal regulations on legal labour relations are based on the fundamental human rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Slovak Constitution. The reform of labour law, which is underway at present (the draft new Labour Code, draft civil service act, draft public service act) whose objective is to achieve full compatibility with the EU legislation together with the ratified ILO conventions concerning equal treatment of men and women in the workplace and in their remuneration, as well as a ratification of ILO Convention No. 156 on equal opportunities and equal treatment of male and female workers who are responsible for a family, now being prepared, guarantee further intensification of the protection of family interests within the legal labour relations. The above-mentioned reform steps require a faster pace. **What remains especially urgent is the task to finalise the new system of family law, whose stagnation is reflected above all in the protection of rights and interests of young children.**

A3/ Social and economic conditions of family life

"The State shall not allow a more long-term decrease in income of families below the subsistence level, which would threaten all the family members with health, moral and social devastation. Potential social threat situations include in particular unemployment, loss of a breadwinner through death or divorce, failure to fulfil the maintenance obligation vis-à-vis lone carers, disability or illness of a family member, loss of social sovereignty of old people, even becoming bedridden, and in particular problems related to finding somewhere to live for low income families."

The present development of Slovak economy, as the background report of the Ministry of Economy states, is a result of steps aiming at eliminating internal and external imbalances which are demonstrated on the macroeconomic level by the state budget deficit, foreign trade deficit, high unemployment rate and high inflation, and on the microeconomic level by a majority of companies reporting losses or debts.

After the Government adopted and started implementing recovery measures, the first results of macroeconomic stabilisation can already be seen. The most important include the reduction of income tax, lower interest rate and a significant reduction of the foreign trade deficit. The growth of foreign debt has been stemmed. Due to growing exports the industrial production has been slowly coming back to life, growth of production and revenue has been recorded.

What was considered an optimum means for achieving economic independence for the family in new social and economic conditions was the **development of small and medium-sized enterprises, of small family businesses**. According to a survey of the business sector, several obstacles to propagation of this form of gainful activity have transpired, namely the financial burden in the form of tax, insurance contributions and expensive credit, unstable and very extensive legislation (in terms of its perception by the business community) and administrative intensity related to doing business.

It can be said objectively that the **harsh economic measures** adopted for the revival of the macroeconomy have unfavourably affected the living standards of families with children, not only through decreasing sources of income from gainful activity due to the development of unemployment, but also through social income to which the restrictive government measures apply equally.

Average **nominal** monthly **salary** of an employee in the Slovak economy compared to the first half of 1999 rose by 7.2 per cent to SKK 10 863. The pace of growth was almost the same as a year ago. After taking the consumer price rise into consideration for the social group of employees, the real salary decreased year-on-year by 6.9 per cent.

As the *Statistical Report on Basic Development Trends in the Economy* indicates, in the first half of 2000, the **average net monthly income per member of household** reached SKK 5 462 and was by 8.4 per cent higher than in the first half of 1999 (in real terms there has been a decrease by 6.3 per cent). The average monthly expenses per member of a household have increased year-on-year by 7.5 per cent, to SKK 5 315 in absolute numbers (in real terms there has been a decrease by 7.1 per cent).

Statistical indicators and results of research into the social and economic conditions of families all indicate **a marked income differential**. On the one hand certain types of households have been reaching the situation of material and social need (in the first and second decile of the income classification of households) and to a considerable extent depend on the support and assistance of the State (for example families with just one source of income, with a higher number of children, with an unemployed member of family). On the other hand the social status and living standard distinguishes families (where some types of job and a higher education level predominate, in locations with a lower unemployment rate and a higher number of jobs offered) which do not have any major problems with satisfying their needs. **However, the most numerous group is made up by those families which by their income and management pattern are on the average level (in the broader band above the subsistence level threshold) and which have to cope with high financial cost of satisfying the needs of the individual household members in various ways.** According to sociological research the subjective feeling of poverty in families is slightly exaggerated, because it is perceived not only through available income but also through the possibilities of satisfying the needs in various life situations and through the extent of social integration.

According to the family accounts statistics in 1999, expenditure on food and non-alcoholic drinks represented the greatest share in the structure of **net cash expenditure** in all the types of households, staying between 23.8 per cent in self-employed persons and 39.9 per cent in pensioners. The second major expenditure in order in all the types of households was represented by housing costs (from 13 per cent in employees to 20.2 per cent in pensioners). In EU Member States this expenditure is somewhere around 19 per cent for food and about 20 per cent for housing.

A comparison of net cash income of households without children and those with children indicates a substantial differences between the average sum of the net monthly income per one member of the household with and without children. In 1999 this income per one household member in households with one child represented 76 per cent of the average net monthly income per member of a childless household, in households with two children 63 per cent of the level of a childless household and in households with three and more children only 49 per cent. An overview of the development of these indicators for the 1997 to 1999 period can be seen in Table 20 of the Annexes.

The adopted *State Family Policy Concept* considers the achievement of economic independence of families, as the basis for their civil independence and for applying their responsibility for the selection of their own future, one of its strategic objectives. As basic principle for its implementation is considered the subsidiarity principle with full respect of the responsibility of family for itself, for satisfying the needs of its own members. It is the task of the State to create conditions that **enable people to work** as a primary source of income for families.

The National Labour Office carried out an analysis of the **family situation in relation to unemployment** on a representative sample of 15 689 unemployed breadwinners (father or mother) of which at least one is registered unemployed and at the same time in the same household there lives at least one dependant child or at least one child under 28 (single, childless, unemployed) and the results point out that the highest share of families where one of the parents is a registered unemployed; compared to the other groups the average age within this group is the lowest (Table 21 and Graph No. 1 of the Annexes). In terms of number of years served the researched sample contains a 50 per cent share of breadwinners who had worked for up to six years and 38 per cent who had worked for less than one year. The most significant finding is that the instruments used for activating the unemployed breadwinners did not prevent their repeated return to the unemployed register.

Results of a qualitative analysis indicate the following potential **objective barriers to success** of unemployed parents in the labour market: hidden refusal by employers of mothers with young children (it can analogically be vice versa: i. e. hidden refusal of such mothers to start working), insufficient possibilities to provide care for young children if the mother goes out to work (for example in case of shift work), unsuitable working hours for mothers with young children, unsuitable commuting, high travel cost and lack of opportunities in case of some professions.

What was marked as **subjective barriers** was low educational level, short professional experience, psychological barriers of personality and social character (neurotic and borderline disorders, relationship disorders, low communication and interactive skills, low self-esteem, low professional and life ambitions), health (especially in the disabled), loneliness and its consequences (especially in lone parents), families using girls for household work.

Families with a disabled member were represented in the researched sample by about 5.3 per cent of cases where one of the parents is a disabled person (as a rule partially disabled) and 2.2 per cent where at least one of the dependant children is disabled.

It can be said in general that the presence in the family of a member dependant due to his or her age or health lowers the chance of finding a place in the labour market for those family members on whom they physically depend. High unemployment rate affecting younger age brackets can be considered a significant factor influencing the overall population climate.

High unemployment and rising living costs contribute to **a growth of poverty**. Disregarding the generally open methodological issues of definition of poverty (poverty as physiological deprivation in terms of income or satisfaction of the basic needs of life, poverty as social deprivation understood for example as social exclusion), it has its own concrete form in everyday life influenced for example by **social and demographic aspects** (long-term unemployment, objective obstacles in finding a place in the labour market due to age, health or marital status of the unemployed, homeless people), **territorial aspects** (regions with the highest unemployment rate) or **ethnic aspects** (Roma population).

Act No. 125/1998 Coll. on subsistence level and on setting the amounts for the purpose of state social benefits, as amended, stipulates in the conditions of the Slovak Republic the minimum income thresholds for an individual or for members of family which identify the situation of **material or social need** with a possibility to address it by social assistance instruments. The development of social assistance beneficiaries by its rising trend documents the growth of population with minimum income, including families with dependant children. While by the end of 1998 about 80 000 families with dependant children were drawing social assistance benefits, in 1999 the number of families in material need rose to 93 799 and in the first half of 2000 it again rose to 100 085, which represents almost 13 per cent of the total number of families with dependant children.

The reflection of poverty through its subjective experience in the individual families is more diverse and intense. It is influenced above all by the income, number of family members, family structure, education of the breadwinner, and also the overall system of values in the family.

The Concept of Social Sector Transformation adopted in 1995, which should issue into building a system which will ensure in a socially fair manner personal participation, social solidarity and state guarantee, defines **state social support** as a component part of the social security system. It is through this very system of benefits provided on the principle of solidarity between families without children and those which do have children and between families with higher and lower income that the State should support the fulfilment of the parental function at a time of transition of the economy in such a way that the presence of children in a family does not significantly lower its living standard or so that the need to address its social situation through social assistance instruments can be prevented.

The character of state social support benefits is clearly predetermined by the resource and manner of their financing, which at present makes the provision of resources particularly topical. Adopted new Act No. 125/1998 Coll. on subsistence level and on determining the amounts for the purpose of state social benefits, effective since 1 July 1998, separated the conditions for index-linking of subsistence level and of the amounts for the purposes of state social benefits, thus lowering the effect of providing the benefits due to the stagnation of the amounts from which the amount of state social support benefits is derived, for example the real value of family allowances alone, as the most extensive financial support of the State, decreased in comparison of June 1998 and June 2000 by 19.1 points. Increasingly more families with dependant children "fall" in the social assistance system. An administrative burden is put on both systems: family allowances and social assistance benefits, without producing a more significant effect on their income situation.

Legislative changes adopted for the tax system also have an **inconsistent effect**. These changes with effect from 1 July 2001 will lead to worsening of income situation of some groups of families with two or more children since by a moderate growth of their income through lower tax burden they will lose their entitlement to family allowances. However, this profit will not offset their loss of social income through family allowances. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family has prepared a proposal for legislative changes which could partly alleviate the expected fall of those who had been drawing family allowances. The tightness of the 2000 budget and the budget being prepared for 2001 entails a reduction of the overall volume of resources for the state social support (state social benefits), which will significantly **slow down the transformation process of the state social support**, which in accordance with the Government Manifesto should be finalised in 2002. The function of the so-called social lift which the state support system should already have started fulfilling, is disappearing, which is to the detriment of both the families and the State. Development of state budget expenditure for state social support benefits is given in Table 22 of the Annexes.

Introduction of a family tax system which would more significantly motivate a family to satisfy the needs of its members through its own initiative can be considered a tool for making efficient the relationship of taxes and benefits in favour of families with dependant children.

Apart from the general phenomenon of **poverty** it is also the social and economic conditions of life (and not only these conditions) of some groups of families especially with dependant children which deserve increased attention.

Families with dependant children preparing for their future profession

What represents an increased burden on a family budget in these families is above all expenses related to the preparation of children for their future profession.

About 340 thousand students are preparing for their future profession in full time study at secondary schools and universities. Out of this number approximately ten per cent of secondary school students and almost 50 per cent of undergraduates studying away from home use the accommodation and catering services of secondary school and university accommodation and catering facilities. A survey of the social and economic situation of these families carried out in the first half of 2000 by the Research Institute of Labour, Social Affairs and Family indicates that the presence of a secondary school or university student in a family represents a considerable amount in family expenditure, which has to be considered in the budget. These are regular and long-term expenditures on meals and accommodation of the student, travel expenses, clothes, teaching aids, toiletries and others. The accommodation, catering and transport expenses alone for children studying away from home compared to families with children who study in the location where they live are on average higher by SKK 600 to 1 000 a month. According to the results obtained, costs of study in the location

where they live is almost unbearable for about 26 per cent of families with secondary school students and 20 per cent of families with undergraduates. In the case of studying away from home, the cost is almost unbearable for about 16 per cent of families with secondary school students and about 39 per cent of families with undergraduates. The feeling of financial burden of the study in case of children from incomplete families is even more intense. Families in which expenditure related to study do not cause any financial difficulties represent a minority (research from May 2000: about 4 per cent of undergraduates and about 19 per cent of secondary school students). In these families university educated breadwinners prevailed, which means higher net income per one member of the household.

With regard to the almost identical results of the research carried out in 1998, the above-mentioned subjective reflections show a stable trend and clearly indicate a **need for targeted support** for this life situation of families with dependant children with a view to preventing a particularly risky social exclusion of a considerable group of young people who would lose a chance for their own personal development and an overall social integration.

Roma families

With regard to social and demographic behaviour, a considerable part of Roma families can be considered typical representatives of **long-term social exclusion**, especially on the ethnic principle. It is from the Roma ethnic group that a relatively high percentage of families in material need is cumulated; and a considerable part of children depending on the assistance of the society in relation to the need for the protection of their rights is made up by children from the Roma families. This group of children is as a rule represented most often in the group of dependant children who after the end of compulsory school attendance do not continue in preparation for their future profession, and as has already been mentioned in the chapter devoted to the demographic behaviour of families, they enter partnerships or marriages early and become parents much sooner. With regard to their low professional and educational preparation they belong in the relatively numerous group of the unemployed, with a worse position in terms of finding a place in the labour market. Their basic needs are saturated almost exclusively from social income, which as a rule forecloses an opportunity for them to abandon their existing way of life (their own lack of interest cannot be excluded). The issue of identifying effective instruments for their **integration remains open** not only on the national level, but also within the international context. It is obvious that with regard to partial shifts in its demographic behaviour this group of families will gradually change the behaviour patterns fixed through long history, which the majority society has been accepting ambivalently at best. However, support and assistance for these families should become much more a matter for the family policy implemented on the local or regional level.

Families with an elderly and a severely disabled member

Presence in a family of a person who is **severely disabled** as a rule changes the style and way of life of its members with 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 disablement and thus support independence and full participation of persons with severe disablement in the life of the society.

Act No. 195/1998 Coll. on social assistance, whose part devoted to social services and monetary contributions in order to compensate for the severe disablement came into effect on 1 July 1999, has created a new legislative framework of assistance to families and individuals with severe disablement, 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 disablement 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 conditions** 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 trains of the Slovak Rail Company and in 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 the 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 the 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 which restricts the satisfaction of their needs - this was what the respondents considered it 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 (benefits 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 through regional and international co-operation. Struggle against poverty and social exclusion and the extent to which it has been victorious is one of the decisive factors determining 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 means that the Government will start improving the existing systems of funding the housing construction, i. e. mortgages, saving through building societies and support provided through the State Fund for the Development of Housing (Table 23 of the Annexes) 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 mortgages 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 focuses 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 in blocks of flats. Apart from that the Government has adopted a programme of guarantees 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 sporiteľňa* building society the changes being prepared for 1 January 2001 in saving through building societies and the support for mortgage banking through a subsidy amounting to six per cent to the detriment of the state bonus for saving through building 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 accessible for the richer strata (who own immovable property and can get a mortgage).

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 stipulates a gradual growth of the number of flats in the years 1999 to 2002 (in 1999: 10 000 flats, in 2000: 12 500, in 2001: 15 500 and in 2002: 18 000). On the basis of the number of flats finished (Table 24 of the Annexes) it can be said that in 1999 the assumed intention was achieved and it is expected to be also achieved this year (2000). The situation is different in the number of flats started where a decreasing trend manifested itself in 1999, and the 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 construction funding systems and programmes 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.

The social and economic conditions, as has been corroborated by the 1997 analysis of the reasons for a decrease in birth rate, which has been discussed by the Government, are among the highly sensitive factors influencing the demographic behaviour of families in our conditions. It can objectively be presumed that without substantial positive changes in this area no major shift towards pro-family behaviour of young people can be expected.

A4/ Education of children and young people, preparation for marriage and parenthood

“Own responsibility of the family for its life and future is an expression of the inherent need to mature through activity and responsibility. The family is assisted in fulfilling its educational role by the whole society, in the first place by school, churches, media and adults serving as models.”

One of the means of assistance to families in fulfilling their functions is a support for and development of institutions with educational mission. Among these it is the **preschool facilities** which have had a long tradition, kindergartens and special kindergartens intended for the two to seven age group. As on 31 December 1999 their network was made up of 3 310 kindergartens and 63 special kindergartens. In accordance with the legal situation valid at present the preschool facilities are established by state entities, municipalities (altogether 3 290 facilities, including the factory and co-operative facilities), churches (nine facilities) and private entities (11 facilities). The development of these facilities in 1997 - 1999 is documented by Table 25 of the Annexes. Kindergartens provide systematic education and upbringing of preschool children. They focus on healthy physical, emotional, intellectual, social and moral development of the children's personality. The content of education in the individual components is divided for the individual age categories and there is an effort to respect the individual developmental needs of the children. Comprehensive educational action creates conditions for evening out differences between children coming from different social and cultural milieu.

Kindergartens remain an important instrument of support for the family in the fulfilment of its educational function. So far the services of these facilities, especially those which have been established by a state entity, have been affordable also for families with lower income. By increasing the prices, in particular food prices, the affordability of these services for the low income families can deteriorate.

Elimination of some legislative barriers for example in Act No. 382/1990 Coll. on parental benefit, as amended, by 2002 will enable the use of these services (especially for severely disabled children) even when at the same time drawing a parental benefit.

In accordance with Article 42 of the Constitution everybody has a right to education. It is compulsory to attend school for ten years, pupils who have successfully finished nine years of the primary school continue their compulsory school attendance in the first year of the secondary school. In accordance with the above-mentioned article of the Constitution, citizens have a right to free education at primary schools and secondary schools, and according to the abilities of the person and

opportunities of the society also at universities. Schools other than the state schools can charge for the education. An overview on schools in the 1999/2000 academic year is provided in Table 26 of the Annexes.

The system of primary and secondary schools is made up of primary schools, primary art schools, apprentice schools, secondary grammar schools, secondary schools and special schools.

Within **the system of primary and secondary schools** the education of disabled children has a specific position - it can be implemented through individual integration in the system of ordinary schools, social integration in special classes of ordinary primary and secondary schools or in special schools.

As follows from the background report of the Ministry of Education, what has remained a question for quite a long time in education at **special schools for disabled children** is the necessity for the child to stay away from his or her family as a rule in a hall of residence from the very start of the compulsory school attendance. In spite of growing interest in integrated education this still depends on the willingness of the school. The obstacles due to which many schools do not want to introduce integrated teaching include for example lack of professional training of the teachers, lack of funds for recruiting special teachers and for purchase of the needed teaching aids. A legislative change which would make integrated teaching and thus also the creating of material and personnel conditions for its implementation obligatory would probably help more energetic advocacy of these interests. What is also missing for families with disabled children is qualified advisory and therapeutic service which is at present only provided by the Children's Centre of the Child Psychology and Pathopsychology Research Institute (hereinafter referred to as "CPPRI").

It is also **education of talented children** which requires specific approach. The valid legal situation makes it possible to create conditions for the development of the extraordinary talent of pupils and students at primary and secondary schools. It is also possible to establish schools or classes with extended teaching of some subjects or groups of subjects and schools providing education otherwise acquired at a primary or secondary school or at a secondary school, or at the same time at the primary and secondary school. From among the existing forms of **education of talented children** it is art schools which make up a complete system of education that makes it possible to continue in art training also within the secondary school system and the university system. New educational forms for intellectually endowed children are being experimentally tested under the patronage of CPPRI. Experimental classes for generally intellectually endowed children have so far been created in eight Slovak cities. It is of special importance that opportunities for education of talented children already at the primary school level become available also in locations with a low number of inhabitants.

Knowledge and experience of teachers, advisory centres within the education sector and telephone lines **indicate an escalation of several psychological problems in children**. The number of neuroses has been growing, so have the numbers of children with speech disorders, emotional disorders, behaviour disorders and various educational problems. What has also been growing is the number of children inadequately mature for starting the first year of primary school who postpone the compulsory school attendance, and of children with specific learning disorders. Increasingly more cases occur of physical and psychological torture by the parents, sexual abuse and social neglect.

The **rising violence in schools and families**, growing number of cases of addiction is also indicated by the clientele of the Centre for Advisory and Psychological Services, which works under the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. It is in particular women and children who are the **victims of violence**. As the crime statistics indicate, the number of women damaged by the offence of violence against an individual has been growing the most dynamically (Table 27 of the Annexes).

Early detection and punishment of violence above all in the family (Table 28 of the Annexes) faces against some subjective obstacles such as unwillingness of the victims and also of their close surroundings (neighbours) to report these facts to the police. What also happens is that the victim, being threatened by the violent person in the family withdraws the charges. A quite common reason for such behaviour of the violence victim is the housing problem, which makes it impossible to achieve physical distance from the violent person. What is also an obstacle is the existing criminal law which does not distinguish between public and domestic violence. What deserves separate attention in terms of identification, search for approaches to prevention and the legislation itself is also psychological torture of children in the family.

The background report of the Ministry of the Interior indicates an unfavourable and even warning occurrence of **violent crime perpetrated by young people**. The development of juvenile crime in 1997 - 1999 processed according to the most serious offences perpetrated by children and young people is given in Table 29 of the Annexes.

Unfavourable development trend has also been recorded in drug addiction. Its development in Slovakia as well as in the international context clearly confirms the priority of activities

focused on the prevention of start and development of drug-addictions and protection of the young generation, treatment of drug-addicts, their resocialisation and reintegration in society. Since 1994, when 1 189 patients addicted to illegal drugs were treated in Slovakia, this number in 1999 grew to 2 149 cases, with a prevalence of men. It has to be pointed out critically that these are only quantitative data concerning the identified drug-addicts. What participates in this phenomenon is inadequate *depistage* (= search) activity of first contact doctors: practical doctors for children and young people who often have inadequate overview of the drug issue in general, and also in particular within their district.

In regional terms, 45 per cent of the treated drug-addicts were from Bratislava, and the remainder from the rest of Slovakia. The results of European school survey on taking illegal drugs through anonymous questionnaires distributed to secondary school students (ESPAD), as well as repeated population surveys of young people indicate a similarly **increasing trend of smoking and drinking alcohol**.

A *Comprehensive Programme of Fight Against Crime and Measures for the Fight Against Drugs* adopted in the Slovak Republic as well as participation in international programmes include preventive activities of both general and specialised character. They are becoming an integral part of the activities of almost all state and non-state entities oriented at family issues. Within the sectors of the interior, education, health, culture and others a positive change in preventive action has been the gradual shift from on-off events to implementation of longer-term projects, involving large groups of children and young people. Anti-drug prevention has its own specific place also within the defence sector.

In 1995 - 1999 in line with the *Measures for the Fight Against Drugs* 25 centres of educational and psychological prevention were set up in regions and districts, with an aim to provide specific social, psychological and therapeutic educational care to children threatened by social pathological phenomena. However, in spite of the anti-drug programmes which have been implemented, public awareness campaigns and medialisation of the drug issues, families are often helpless and feel a lack of information which they could apply in practice. The co-operation of the state and non-state entities in drug-addiction prevention has also had its bottlenecks, so does the **overall shortage of staff to perform social prevention**, which reduces the effect of their activity. In 1996 - 1999 their number within the social affairs departments alone dropped by 20 per cent. The average number of children per one social worker, with regard to the growing number of children and young people with behaviour disorders and drug-addiction has grown by 30 per cent.

It is the CPPRI which has since 1991 been conducting basic research of psychological **prevention of behaviour disorders in children and young people**. It applies its knowledge in training courses of preventive work with children with behaviour disorders which are organised for teachers in substitute care facilities, social workers and policemen.

The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family has prepared *Concept of Prevention of Social Pathological Phenomena and Resocialisation*, with an aim to create more qualified conditions for the performance of social prevention, its methodological, institutional and organisational provision within the scope of activity of state and non-state entities. Within the above Concept it is the drafting of a **proposal of an act on social and legal protection, social prevention and substitute care** which is considered the most important measure.

In relation to prevention of antisocial behaviour, **forming of attitudes and system of value of young people**, a special position is taken **by the mass media**. Conclusions of research point out the negative influence of media, which among other things causes imitation of negative models and forms of behaviour and the lowering of the sensitivity threshold. **The risks of presenting violence in mass media** are indicated for example in an extensive study conducted by UNESCO in 23 countries all over the world, on a sample of five thousand twelve-year old children which reaches a conclusion that violence is presented in the "reward context" and children perceive it as a positive value.

What is of special importance in the **media - parents - children relationship** is the atmosphere within the society and within the family. The relationship of parents towards television programmes can strengthen or weaken the negative effect of the violence presented. Television programmes, including unsuitable content, create different models of social reality than those in which the children (and adults) live and can thus support the ambivalence of their behaviour. Unlimited watching of television can lead to the danger of educational neglect and its chaotic influence.

The Government Council for Mass Media instructed the Media Information Centre in 1999 to process an analysis of the current state of play of media education in Slovakia and its comparison with situation abroad, and to prepare proposals for further action in the future. It follows from the conducted study that media education in Slovakia is in a controversial situation. On the one hand it almost completely by-passes the classical media (press, radio, television) and it does not follow up the good

experience from the past either. On the other hand current media education concentrates on the latest information and communication technologies, however, it faces lack of funds, technology and qualified teachers for media education.

Public opinion polls, as the background report of the Ministry of Culture says, confirm a need for new media philosophy, new media policy and legislation, including a more detailed rating of television programmes in relation to nudity, sex, violence and eroticism as well as in relation to suitability of programmes for various age brackets of young people.

The above-mentioned facts and risks threatening the healthy physical and psychological development of children and young people only underscore the importance for the children of full-fledged emotionally saturating family environment. In this context a **responsible preparation for marriage and parenthood** can be understood as one of the decisive means of preventing children to fail to integrate in the society.

In accordance with the adopted principles for the implementation of state family policy the family should be assisted in its educational role by the State. It is school which alongside with the family has an important place in extending the knowledge, forming attitudes and values for marriage and parenthood (hereinafter referred to as MaP).

The concept of MaP education within the education sector is of interdisciplinary character. It includes ethical, social, psychological and biological knowledge related to human reproduction and human relationships in the broadest sense of the word.

Elements of MaP education are contained already in the *Programme of Education of Children in Kindergartens*, issued by the Ministry of Education. In the 1998/1999 academic year a new concept of MaP education started being implemented in primary and secondary schools. The focus of the educational influence is reflected in the curricula of optional subjects Ethical Education and Religious Education, of which each pupil has to choose one. Adopting this concept has finalised one of measures which have been discussed for quite a long time and which were adopted for the implementation of the *State Family Policy Concept* by the year 2000, with regard to several veins of opinion on the content of this education within the scope of activity schools.

Apart from the family and the school, young people from various age brackets are an object of a subject of direct educational influence of a considerable number of state and non-state entities, including the church. These are various programmes, ranging from broadly conceived (including those which are interdisciplinary) to special programmes focusing for example on the social skills development for couple and family coexistence. They are either organised on a one-off or a long-term basis. Part of these entities which have been active for a long time within the labour, social affairs, family, education, culture and health sectors have experts who can provide methodology. Due to space constraints this Report does not make it possible to present in greater detail the number of events, publications, programmes and projects which have been implemented in this area in the assessed period of time.

More could be done within the MaP education with a specific focus in the substitute care facilities and in the social services centres, especially in relation to mentally retarded children and adults.

In the area of preparation for marriage and responsible parenthood and in addressing problems in marriage and family relationships it is institutions providing advisory and psychological services within the labour, social affairs and family sector which have had a long tradition. A comprehensive network of these centres throughout the whole territory of Slovakia and their free services make them available to anyone who decides to use them. A close link of the quality of relationships within a family with its social and economic situation, as follows from the Report, confirms that it is justified within the transformation process of the Centre for Advisory and Psychological Services for the individuals, couples and families, which will change its legal status, and thus also funding for this institution, to preserve the opportunity of free use of these services especially by socially weaker families with dependant children in crisis situations.

The importance of public influence on the MaP values and attitudes to marriage and parenthood, on the perception of a child as a value for the family, on creating an atmosphere of respect for motherhood and fatherhood as one of the forms of personal self-fulfilment of a woman and a man has been growing. It has been growing not only in terms of research and experts active in MaP education, but also in terms of some demographers. Experience from Slovakia as well as from abroad points out that excessive individualisation of life, emphasis on personal freedom, support for the exercise of human rights for the individual family members, high societal prestige of success in one's professional carrier, preference of material values, especially in the media, the consumer way of life supported by advertising are all reflected in

the overall life styles of young people and families and to a considerable degree influence the current picture of the situation of families.

Purposeful organisation of **the free time of children and young people** which reacts in a sensitive way to their developmental needs can act as an effective instrument of preventing their antisocial behaviour. In terms of development of concepts, the scope of activities and range of influence, it is the sector of education which has an important position in the development of hobbies and leisure-time activities, since it has the institutional, organisational and professional conditions for these activities. A majority of the activities are carried out in schools and the Leisure Time Centres. In general they focus on developing sports, arts, cultural and intellectual interests and activities. It is also youth associations and other non-state entities which get involved in this activity. In 1999 in the whole of Slovakia the concrete work with children on the basis of submitted projects was supported by SKK 16 million, and on the district level by SKK 18 million. Each year almost SKK 50 million is devoted within the education sector to developing units for young people talented for sports.

It is difficult to provide a clear answer to the question whether development and the funds used (and not only within the education sector) for interest group activity and leisure time of children and young people are sufficient, for example with regard to the indicators of the development of antisocial behaviour of young people.

The ESPAD survey which looked into the drug abuse situation in 1999 as compared to 1995 confirmed among other things relatively small differences in drug taking by secondary school students in relation to the educational level of their parents. **However, what it did confirm was the significant influence of the completeness of the family.** The Drug-Addictions Institute and Centres for the Treatment of Drug Addictions point out the need for increased protection especially of families with more children and of Roma families. It can be said that an opportunity to involve children and young people in preventive and educational activities should be **provided in particular to children from risk groups of families.** The very selection of leisure-time activities should probably **react more to the specific needs and interests of families within a certain location** (village, town or city, town or city district). That is one of the opportunities to implement efficient local or regional family policy.

A5/ Protection of health of family members

“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.”

In almost all the age brackets health and family have for a long time held a prominent place in the hierarchy of values.

Assessment of health of the population through selected demographic indicators is given in chapter A 1 of this Report. In terms of an overall evaluation of health what has to be pointed out, in the context of knowledge about educational and health problems of children at school, drug addiction and other addictions of children dealt with in chapter A 3 of this Report, is in particular the **psychiatric disorders, which take the third place among disabilities**, after cardiovascular and skeleton and muscle diseases. In 1997 (last published data) 335 046 persons were receiving outpatient psychiatric treatment, majority of whom were patients from the 25 to 44 age bracket (119 702). Out of that 81 761 were registered because of neuroses (24.4 per cent), 71 702 for personality disorders and addictions (21.4 per cent) and 51 500 for schizophrenia and schizoid disorders (15.4 per cent).

Implementation of the protection of health of family members in terms of psychiatry and paedopsychiatry, as the background report of the Ministry of Health states, is closely related to the implementation of the Psychiatric Care reform, in particular to the recruitment of people for this department and setting up of psychiatric day centres which would provide psychotherapeutic and psycho-social services to population groups at risk.

A survey of **subjective assessment of health and behaviour in relation to one's own health** has provided the following data. About 12.5 per cent of the respondents feel completely healthy, 31.9 per cent have minimal health problems and 38.4 per cent has health difficulties appropriate for their age. 9.0 per cent have more serious health difficulties and 0.5 per cent consider themselves seriously ill. A relatively high number of respondents (7.7 per cent) were unable to assess their own health. The subjective feeling of health was decreasing significantly in relation to age for the older age brackets. At the age of 65 it was only 37 per cent of the population that felt subjectively healthy.

In 1998 almost 20 per cent of the respondents evaluated health care as inadequate and bad.

Family planning is considered important by a majority of respondents, it is only about five per cent who do not consider family planning necessary. Similarly a majority considers sexual experience before marriage normal and fashionable. Pregnancy termination is considered a matter for the woman and her partner by almost a half of the respondents while more than a quarter consider termination a murder or immoral act. 66.6 per cent of men and women consider faithfulness to one's partner the most effective prevention of HIV/AIDS, while 22.2 per cent sees it in condom use.

The use of modern methods of contraception has been expanding, for example in the last three years the number of users of hormonal contraception has grown by almost 100 per cent, however, in comparison with European countries it is four times lower. Prevention in this area seems to have been reflected in particular in the awareness of the younger age brackets. In spite of that it has to be said that many women, in particular with primary and secondary education (making up 93 per cent of applicants for termination) opt for a termination in order to solve a problematic pregnancy.

According to the results of a representative survey (3 789 children aged 11, 13 and 15), 86 per cent of children in Slovakia live in a complete family with both parents, which is the sixth best place from among the 28 countries of Europe which participated in the survey. Children from Slovakia are **at the second to sixth worst place in terms of problems of communication with the father**: they are **indicated by 33 to 69 per cent of children, in particular girls**. Most time is devoted to watching TV (the first to second place), 32 to 53 per cent watch the TV four and more hours a day. Children from Slovakia are on the fourth to fifth place in frequency of headaches, stomach ache and lower back pain, however, the frequency of taking medication is minimal.

Surveys focusing on finding out the **bad habits in the way of life** indicate that nutrition of married people is regular and better quality in terms of health compared to single and divorced persons. The occurrence of alcoholism and regular smoking is also lower in the married people category.

The ESPAD survey which mapped **bad habits of young people** threatening their health, **above all smoking, alcohol and drugs**, confirmed the first experience with a cigarette at the age of eleven. A comparison of these data with 1995 in secondary school students indicates above all a steep increase of smoking in girls, which compared to the previous period of time increased from 17 to 29 per cent. Only 28 per cent of university students are non-smokers. The bad habit of smoking occurs in almost one half of fathers and one third of mothers, which compared to the smoking of children shows a moderately decreasing trend. The survey confirmed the general acceptance, even domestication of alcohol in Slovakia. In 1999 the frequency of consumption of any alcoholic beverage substantially increased in comparison with the four previous years (from 25 to 35 per cent).

Regarding marijuana, the situation at present is analogous to 1995. Its use during lifetime increased in the Slovak average almost twice (from more than 12 per cent to 23 per cent), where, similarly to tobacco, this increase was manifested more in girls (two and a half times) than in boys (less than two times). The combination of alcohol and tablets in both genders moved from the third to the second place, while in boys the third place is occupied by volatile substances and in girls by tranquillisers and sedatives. The expected extreme growth of consumption of new synthetic drugs (ecstasy, LSD, amphetamines) has not occurred yet.

According to the ESPAD 99 survey, taking the whole range of the illegal drugs spread throughout the territory of Slovakia, unlike the previous period with a very marked predomination of Western Slovakia. A comparison with results from the previous survey indicates that taking of illegal drugs increased also in children from complete families. **In spite of this statement, children from complete families take drugs less often than children from incomplete families.**

As the survey results clearly indicate, the issues of legal and illegal drugs go together.

A functioning, complete family positively stimulating the development of children and a favourable atmosphere within the family are strong protective factors reducing the risk of drug taking and drug-addiction in young people. A behaviour model: **negative example of the parent**, for example abuse of legal psychoactive substances weakens the preventive influence on children and young people and the effects of anti-drug education in schools. On the other hand, even in a functioning family the children can fail, in the sense of drug abuse, especially under the **negative influence of peers** at school or in the neighbourhood. A child abusing drugs can escape the attention of parents who are unfamiliar with the issue and later, as the drug addiction develops, he or she becomes a subversive element of the whole family environment.

The findings related to health and other aspects of life of young people and families are a direct challenge for intensifying the preventive action in all the areas falling within the competence of the State, and to effectively involve the municipalities, NGOs and churches in these activities. It is of special importance for the effort and funds to be concentrated into designing and implementing common projects and procedures.

Health care for family members is provided by a GP for adults, GP for children and young people, gynaecologist and dentist within the primary care system. In case of need for secondary care there are all the specialists to provide it. In 1999 the doctors in the primary preventive and therapeutic care surgeries conducted **a total of 49 910 892 examinations**. Doctors in specialised preventive and therapeutic care surgeries conducted **a total of 38 459 282 examinations**, out of which **38 046 037** within the outpatients care and **413 245** as home visits.

In terms of fulfilment of the reproductive function of families **the infertility treatment, whose cases have been occurring more often**, occupies a special place.

Assisted reproduction has been developed within the framework of the economic possibilities, but its level is lower than in the majority of European and also neighbouring countries. The main reason for such situation is the lack of attention and underestimation of the importance of the issue; infertility treatment and assisted reproduction are considered treatment above the usual standard. However, their cost compared to other areas of medicine is not too high, while the benefit for the society is considerably higher, although it cannot be expressed in monetary terms.

At present about 20 per cent of couples are infertile. The female factor is the cause of infertility in 40 to 50 per cent of cases, the male in 20 to 40 per cent of cases and combined in a minimum of 20 per cent. The success of infertility treatment depends on the reason, during the first year of treatment only about 10 per cent of women from the treated couples get pregnant, during the second year about 20 per cent, and during the third year as many as 33 per cent.

The success rate of simple methods of assisted reproduction is about ten to fifteen per cent, the average success of assisted reproduction by the in vitro fertilisation with embryo transfer is 20 to 25 per cent. Due to lack of funds, payment for assisted reproduction interventions from the earmarked reserve of health insurance companies is a problem, since it is insufficient for all the required interventions of fertilisation outside the body.

The price for the interventions is determined by the Ministry of Finance Ruling No. R - 1/1996 of 12 March 1996, which determines the range of goods with regulated prices. For the year 2000 at the most 1 000 cycles are anticipated with regard to the existing capacities of the assisted reproduction units, which represents about SKK 46 million per year.

Prenatal care in Slovakia is on a sufficient level, it can be said that almost 100 per cent of pregnant women visit the prenatal advisory centres. Within prenatal care each pregnant woman is also tested for HIV. During prenatal care anaemia screening is carried out during the first visit of the pregnant woman and in the 28th week of pregnancy. Detected anaemia is treated and it can be said that **more than 50 per cent of pregnant women suffer from pregnancy anaemia**. The incidence of premature births, which is around 5.6 to 6.8 per cent, is a proof of high quality prenatal care. Newborn babies with extremely low birth weight receive health care in specialised perinatal centres.

Prenatal care is carried out by primary care gynaecologists, in the cases of risk or pathological pregnancies the prenatal care is provided in specialised advisory centres. Each delivery is conducted in the presence of obstetrician and neonatologist (medical management of the delivery). The development of mortality in the first year of life, which has had a decreasing tendency, is a reflection of the quality of prenatal care (Table 11 of the Annexes).

Preventive health care is provided in accordance with Act No. 98/1995 Coll. on Rules of Treatment, as amended, where Part IV Preventive Care gives the number of preventive primary care examinations of insured persons at a GP, GP for children and young people, gynaecologist and dentist.

Health interventions conducted within preventive care are covered on the basis of health insurance in accordance with the Medical Interventions List (Part I of the above Act).

Act No. 272/1994 Coll. on public health protection, as amended, stipulates the rights and obligations of the state administration bodies, municipalities, other legal and natural persons and the performance of state administration and state health supervision in this area.

Within comprehensive provision of primary prevention the Ministry of Health has submitted to the Government session an **updated Action Plan for the Environment and Health**, focusing among other things on adding environmental health to the primary and secondary school curricula.

Dispensary care is ensured by Act No. 98/1995 Coll. on Rules of Treatment, as amended, where Part V Dispensary Care lists, according to international classification of diseases, the number of dispensary examinations for the individual diagnoses, the specialisation of the dispensary doctor and specialised doctor co-operating with the GP in dispensary care, as well as the stipulated length of dispensary care. This ensures dispensary care for patients who are chronically ill and for those who are ill for a long term. GPs actively and systematically look for insured persons requiring dispensary care, in particular during medical examinations and checkups, preventive checkups of any kind and during family visits. When performing the dispensary care they follow their health on a regular basis.

They carry out measures to modify the daily regime of the dispensarised insurees. Health interventions carried out within the dispensary care are covered by the health insurance in accordance with the Medical Interventions List.

The health care has its own specific features **within the defence sector**, where regular medical examinations of career soldiers and comprehensive examinations of soldiers doing their military service or alternative service are carried out. The overall deterioration of young people's health at present makes it necessary to reassess the criteria of ablebodiness for military service.

The specific preventive health care also provided within the Ministry of the Interior sector (for example their own immunisation programme under which all the military service soldiers are inoculated against tetanus and meningitis and selected groups of policemen against hepatitis A and B, tick-carried encephalitis and flu), provides an opportunity for increased protection especially against infectious diseases also for the families of policemen and soldiers of the Ministry of the Interior Corps, who with regard to the character of their work are exposed to a higher risk of infection by infectious diseases.

The right of a family to health care is adequately ensured by the legislation. However, from the point of view of users of these services several problems can be pointed out, for example worsening affordability of medication which concerns a relatively large group of people dependent on their long-term use, the physical availability of first contact health services. The survey carried out in the first half of 2000 by the Research Institute of Labour, Social Affairs and Family indicates that **almost 45.5 per cent of people paid an additional SKK 200 to 500 per month for medication**, and people from about 30 per cent of villages have to travel out of their village to be able to see their district doctor or district paediatrician. Less than one half of the respondents expressed satisfaction with first contact health services.

Healthy **environment, diet** and the overall life style are among the decisive factors for family health, quality of life and longevity of family members.

The influence of **the environment** on health is one of the factors which significantly influence the regional occurrence of some types of diseases, as well as causes of death.

Creation and protection of the environment are implemented through a number of tasks aimed among other things at the protection of building projects, search for and protection of high-quality ground water, naturally curative resources/springs, detection of the content of substances damaging to health. Results of geological work at the same time serve as a base or stimulus for the use of natural resources in other sectors. All these results are available for anyone interested at the Information Technology Department of the Dionýz Štúr Geological Institute.

Compilation of **Geochemical Atlas of the Slovak Republic** in 1991 - 1999 can be considered a positive step towards rehabilitation of the environment - it maps the markedly polluted areas with a substantial anthropogenic contamination of waters, soil, sediments and other component parts of the environment, which is most probable to have a detrimental influence on the local population health. It has issued into designing a project for assessing the potential influence of the geochemical environment on the population health in the Spišsko-gemerské rudohorie highland area as a **pilot project of joint interdisciplinary approach to detection of health risks of the environment**. It is in the interest of the whole society to map **the whole territory of Slovakia** through such projects.

In order to ensure an appropriate diet, in 1999 the Government adopted *Programme of Improvement of Public Nutrition*, which aims at improving the current level of nutrition and thus also the public health, making full use of one of the most important prevention factors which is represented by nutrition appropriate for the given age, gender, job and the individual's living conditions.

The Programme is based on the documents already adopted in the Slovak Republic, in particular the *National Programme for the Support of Health*, the *Concept of State Health Policy*, the *Action Plan for the Environment and Population Health*. The dietary objectives match the WHO objectives. Its implementation is an integral part of preventive activities of a large number of state and non-state entities. The report of the Ministry of Agriculture says that in 1997 - 1999 the consumption of poultry has **positively increased** by 1.9 kilograms per capita, the consumption of fats decreased by 0.5 kilograms and in 1999 compared to 1998 the consumption of eggs and sugar positively decreased. **However, there has been an undesirable decrease in the consumption of fruit by 5.8 kilograms, milk and dairy products by 1.1 kilograms and what is especially unfavourable, in particular in terms of diet of children, is the decrease in the consumption of milk by 3.2 litres.** The deteriorating economic situation of families is negatively reflected in the fundamental components of nutrition and becomes a serious obstacle to achieving a positive effects in the eating habits, especially in the case of families with children and old people.

A **long-standing problem** has been the **production of milk powder for the nutrition of babies**. Since 1997 the production of dry milk plant of the Mliekoservis, a. s. Zvolen has been

discontinued. The domestic consumption is covered by import, which is reflected in the price of these products.

An important tool of health protection is a working system of state supervision of food quality. Publishing **The Food Code** has been a positive contribution, through which the Ministry of Agriculture in co-ordination with the Ministry of Health contributed to improving the system. Its objective is to ensure safe food, eliminate risks of harm at all the links of the food chain.

On the basis of new recommended nutritional substances the Ministry of Agriculture prepared *A Basic Model of Recommended Food Allowances Which Takes into Account Above All a Desirable Increase in the Consumption of Milk, Dairy Products and Poultry*, which it published in its Official Journal.

The value of health and its maintenance until elderly age, become interesting also in terms of the cost of medical treatment and the issues of its coverage, which is an open issue at present. First of all the State should not allow the lack of funds to become in general a threat to the health of family members. Investment in effective prevention represents the most rational way of spending resources for health protection in the future.

Effective protection of the environment, physical and mental health can only be achieved if the whole public gets involved in projects and programmes. These are activities enabling interest groups, community associations and individuals to participate in planning and decision-making about the environment in which they are particularly interested.

Co-operation of German and Slovak specialists in social work education has generated a project entitled Communal Social Policy and Social Work in Slovakia. The project is oriented at **supporting mutual communication and activities between the state administration, local self-government and the third sector concerned with social planning and social projecting directly within the regions**. Participants of the project have an opportunity to get impulses for initiating voluntary and self-help work in the regions which may be methodologically used for supporting co-operation in any area of affecting families, where co-ordination of several entities is necessary.

Even in our conditions, for example in the Healthy Cities projects representatives of citizens are already members of the co-ordination committees and the community associations are involved in defining the needs of the community. **The families, communities and self-help activities should not lack funds for the primary health protection.**

B/ Summary

The analysis of the family situation which has been prepared from extensive background documents provided by the individual ministries, selected public service institutions, research centres and regional offices focused in particular on mapping the problematic areas of the life of present-day families, with a view to pointing out the urgent need for their solution, in the interest of the families and the society. The findings can be summed up as follows:

- **changes in the demographic behaviour of families and their members indicate a transition to a new model of reproductive behaviour, with a lower marriage rate and a shift of the age limit when getting married, as well as a shift of the age at the time the first child is born; these manifestations are considered a more responsible approach to starting a family and to parenthood;**
- **the family behaviour model is moved more towards a one-child family model, where the original patterns of reproductive behaviour have been preserved within the Roma ethnic group;**
- **the population has been ageing and this process will continue; the postproductive part of the population will put increasingly higher demands on the social sector;**
- **a shift has started demonstrating itself in the attitudes and behaviour of young people in partnerships and it is reflected in the way of life of present-day families, while these changes cannot be unambiguously characterised as a crisis of the family; sociological research of the systems of values of young people still indicates relatively strong pro-family and parenting attitudes;**
- **legal protection of families does not correspond to the needs of families and their members in the new social and economic conditions, above all as a consequence of unfinished process of recodification of the Civil Code, which should contain the whole family law as an independent part;**
- **so far employers have not been much in favour of more palpable support for harmonising the professional and the parenting roles by creating better conditions for parents in the workplace; the presence of small children in families or the presence of dependant**

members due to their poor health worsens in particular the position of women - mothers in the labour market;

- the relationship of family and work and a search for harmonising these two most important areas of self-fulfilment for almost any person should receive more attention of scholarly research centres oriented at family;

- the social and economic conditions for the life of families in particular due to high unemployment have been worsening, the number of families in material need has been growing, the unfavourable economic situation of families has been reflected also in the quality of nutrition, thus making the requirement to improve the social and economic conditions of family life particularly urgent;

- the system of state social support (as a substitute source of social sovereignty and security of an individual and a family) has been losing its function due to the limited public resources; families with a dependant member because of age or health are more exposed to the risk that their social integration will be threatened;

- the quality of relationships between the spouses and also between parents and children has been worsening; violence, especially against women has been increasing, many experts see a direct link of material need in families and the occurrence of such phenomena; the above problems attract the attention of professionals and well as the lay public also due to the lifting of taboo in the new social and economic conditions;

- the consumption of alcohol and cigarettes has been increasing, especially in young people; drug taking has spread throughout the territory of Slovakia; the high numbers of violent crime perpetrated by young people are a serious warning; the social prevention system requires a search for more effective tools of educational influence in terms of its substance as well as its organisation, that is why there has been a growing need for qualified social workers; paradoxically, the public administration reform requires a reduction of the number of social sector employees;

- the school system has an ambition to improve the quality of education also with regard to the specific needs of some groups of children; it is the funds which are the most serious obstacle at the moment;

- the increasing occurrence of negative phenomena in the life of families has been turning attention also to the influence of mass media and it points out the need for a change of media policy;

- influencing the social awareness with an aim of perceiving the value of a child through one's own future, as the meaning of one's life, creating an atmosphere of respect for marriage and parenthood, have been gaining in importance, in contrast to the offered consumer way of life;

- increasing expenditure in the social affairs area, deficit of funds in health care, education and other areas, including the third sector, are a challenge for all the entities to make more rational use of the existing funds, in particular for preventive educational action by joining projects and procedures, with a focus on the local and regional level.

If it is true that "the human factor is becoming a central source of economic growth", policies ensuring human development (including the family policy) make a significant contribution to economic efficiency. In our conditions the urgency of the need to solve the macroeconomic problems of the society has sidetracked the achievement of family policy strategic objectives. Such a position can lead to increased requirements for alleviation of its long-term effects.

Draft measures for the implementation of the state family policy in 2001 and 2002

Since adopting the State Family Policy Concept in 1996 the application of its principles and objectives has been monitored through an account of the measures adopted for the implementation of the state family policy. The periodical accounts have for the most part monitored the fulfilment of tasks and measures of legislative and policy character falling within the scope of activity of the ministries and other central authorities, with less emphasis on their reflection in everyday life of the families. The Report being submitted focuses mostly on this aspect of the implementation of the state family policy and it is its intention to win the attention of the public at large and involve it in solution of current problems of the families.

With regard to the above-mentioned intention, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic in co-ordination with the intersectoral working group, which has been set up for the purpose of co-ordinating the implementation of the state family policy, has suggested **to carry out the social audit Family and Work** on selected topics based on the main strategic objectives of the state family policy. Social audits and rewarding the employers are organised in EU countries (Austria, Germany, the United Kingdom, Belgium, France), where the development in these countries has reached the stage of unification of criteria with a view to carrying out European social audit. The Slovak Republic is interested in getting involved in this unification process as the second of the countries in transition (after Hungary).

For the so-called "zero edition" of the audit in 2000, whose organisational preparation has started, the triple contribution of a family-friendly employer - towards the employer, the employee and the society - has been selected as a topic. The objective of the audit is to increase awareness of and sensitivity to questions of mutual relationship of work and family, to motivate employers for adopting measures which are family-friendly, to extend the application of new models of corporate culture, etc. The Commission set up on the initiative of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family at the International Center for Family Studies for the technical and organisational provision of the audit, its processing and evaluation is made up of representatives of social partners.

The **winners** of annual audit on a topic which will be declared beforehand, will **get an award** that will be handed over to them by the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. **The award will be granted to them for one year.** It is expected that the audit will be positively received in our conditions and will become a permanent component of the public support for families.

Knowledge gained from the evaluation of the zero edition of the audit will be used for making the procedure more efficient, with a possibility to select further current topics (for example family and the environment).

A2/ Legal protection of family and its members

1. To speed up the legislative work on the legal regulations related to the building of a new system of family law.

Responsible: Ministry of Justice
Deadline: 2002

2. To speed up the ratification process of the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption dated 29 May 1993.

Responsible: Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Deadline: 2001

3. To specify and define the criminal offence of domestic violence within the prepared legislative changes in criminal law (Penal Act, Rules of Criminal Procedure).

Responsible: Ministry of Justice
Deadline: within the recodification of the Penal Act

4. To prepare draft Act on social and legal protection, social prevention and substitute education with a view to strengthening the protection of rights and interests of children.

Responsible: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in co-ordination with other relevant ministries
Deadline: 2001, 2002

5. To continue in the transformation of children's homes into family type homes, to increase the number of professional families and foster families.

Responsible: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family; Regional Offices
Deadline: 2001, 2002

6. To monitor at regular two-year intervals the efficiency of social work with families of children who were placed in institutional care on the basis of a court decision with the aim of their possible return to the natural family environment.

Responsible: Regional Offices
Deadline: 2002

7. To ensure that the topic of social and legal protection of young children with an international element is included in the curricula of Law Studies and Social Work Studies at the universities and in the adaptation training of social workers.

Responsible: Ministry of Education; Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family
Deadline: 2001

8. To increase the level of information of employed pregnant women about their entitlement to health insurance benefits related to the protection of pregnancy and motherhood, in particular through the surgeries of gynaecologists.

Responsible: Ministry of Health; Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family
Deadline: on a running basis

9. To add to the draft new Labour Code an obligation for the employers to make a temporary modification of the working conditions, or move to another work or provide with leave with a salary compensation any pregnant woman if her job is forbidden for pregnant women or if it threatens her pregnancy.

Responsible: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family
Deadline: 2001

A3/ Providing the social and economic conditions for the life of families

1. With a view to reducing unemployment and preventing its further growth to implement thoroughly the measures adopted within the National Employment Plan and to make separate evaluation of its efficiency in relation to employment of parents with young children.

Responsible: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in co-ordination with the other ministries
Deadline: 2001, 2002

2. To provide for women on further maternity leave educational, training and retraining courses which will help them overcome the loss of professional knowledge and skills caused by the maternity leave and further maternity leave and will support their marketability.

Responsible: all ministries and other central authorities
Deadline: 2001, 2002

3. To initiate legislative changes in order to remove legislative and administrative barriers to small and medium-sized enterprise with a view to supporting above all small family businesses.

Responsible: Ministry of the Economy
Deadline: 2001, 2002

4. To finalise the social security transformation process:

a) by adopting legal regulations on provision of family allowances, housing benefit, parental benefit and social supplement which will ensure the substantive, material, technical and organisational conditions for the implementation of the state social support system in such a way as to prevent further deterioration of living conditions of families with dependant children.

b) by adopting a new law on social insurance.

Responsible: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Deadline: 2002

5. To provide resources and conditions in the individual regions for a smoother and more even processing of credit applications with low interest rate for applicants whose social situation is bad: members of families and young people leaving children's homes to enable them to get housing.

Responsible: Ministry of Construction and Regional Development; Ministry of Finance

Deadline: 2001, 2002

6. To ensure in the 2001 and 2002 State Budget Acts funds in the volume required by the Minister of Construction and Regional Development for efficient functioning of the existing systems of funding the housing construction and the programmes of housing development.

Responsible: Ministry of Finance

Deadline: 2001, 2002

7. To extend capacities of the social services centres within regional development for temporary solution of housing problems of groups at social risk.

Responsible: Regional Offices

Deadline: 2001, 2002

A4/ Education of children and young people, preparation for marriage and parenthood

1. To gradually ensure conditions for educating intellectually endowed children at the first level of the primary school also in locations with a low number of inhabitants.

Responsible: Ministry of Education

Deadline: 2001, 2002

2. To guarantee in legislative terms in the new School Act and to organise integrated education of children with disabilities.

Responsible: Ministry of Education

Deadline: 2002

3. To ensure detailed monitoring of fulfilment of measures included in the Concept of Care for People with Autism in the Slovak Republic, with special reference to measures supporting care for children with autism in families.

Responsible: Ministry of Health; Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family; Regional Offices

Deadline: 2001, 2002

4. To use the pre-school preparation of children including those from inadequately stimulating family environment in kindergartens and primary schools in parallel for organising educational events for their parents, with a focus on acquiring the basic knowledge about care for children of pre-school and school age.

Responsible: Regional Offices
Deadline: 2001, 2002

5. To strengthen in the educational action focusing in particular on young people and adults the perception of child as a value for the family, to create in the public opinion an atmosphere of respect for motherhood and fatherhood as one of the ways of self-fulfilment of a man and a woman in life.

Responsible: all the relevant ministries
Deadline: 2001, 2002

6. Within the improvement of specialist qualification of employees in education and social services centres to focus their professional preparation on implementing the education for marriage and parenthood, with a special reference to sex education. To respect in this area of education in particular the specific needs of children in substitute education facilities and those of children and adults with severe disabilities in other social services centres.

Responsible: Ministry of Education; Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family; Regional Offices
Deadline: 2001, 2002

7. To create support and protection mechanisms for domestic film production for children as a public interest priority in television broadcasting; to set up for that purpose a Fund for the support and development of Slovak cinematography.

Responsible: Ministry of Culture
Deadline: 2001

8. To include programmes on handling violence against women and children, with a special reference to victims of domestic violence, in the professional preparation and further education of professionals in health care facilities, social affairs, police and education, within their relevant scope of activity.

Responsible: Ministry of Health; Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family; Ministry of the Interior; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Education; Regional Offices
Deadline: 2002

9. To conduct on a regular basis surveys of value systems and demographic behaviour of young people and families, to make an analysis once a year of the overall population climate.

Responsible: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family; Ministry of Culture, Statistics Bureau
Deadline: 2001, 2002

10. To prepare draft standards for treatment of drug addiction compatible with the procedures applied in the European Union.

Responsible: Ministry of Health
Deadline: 2001

11. To ensure gradual, co-ordinated and balanced action of individual entities involved in anti-drug policy focusing on comprehensive action on families with drug-addict members at all the levels of co-ordination.

Responsible: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Health; Ministry of the Interior; Ministry of Culture; Ministry of Defence; Regional Offices
Deadline: 2001, 2002

12. To increase the level of information on issues of drug-addiction and to organise educational events in order to increase professional knowledge and practical skills of medical doctors for children and adolescents, social workers and teachers.

Responsible: Ministry of Health; Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family;
Ministry of Education; Regional Offices
Deadline: 2001, 2002

13. To advocate co-operation of the Centres for Drug-addiction Prevention and Resocialisation at the territorial branches of the Centre for Advisory and Psychological Services for individuals, couples and families (CAPS), preventive facilities within the education sector (Centres of Educational and Psychological Prevention), with foundations and civil associations active in drug-addiction prevention.

Responsible: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family; Ministry of Education; Regional Offices
Deadline: 2001, 2002

14. To complement and extend the range of printed reference documents about a procedure to discover the use of addictive substances, about treatment and resocialisation of individuals addicted to psychoactive substances in a form comprehensible for the lay public (supplemented by a list of institutions co-participating in the above activities)

Responsible: Ministry of Health
Deadline: 2001, 2002

15. To strengthen in terms of organisation and human resources the workplaces of the Police Corps which fulfil tasks in prevention of juvenile crime.

Responsible: Ministry of the Interior
Deadline: 2001, 2002

16. To build within the interior sector a special centre for comprehensive treatment of issues of young people.

Responsible: Ministry of the Interior
Deadline: 2002

17. Within the prepared transformation process of the Centre for Advisory and Psychological Services to provide a state guarantee for free provision of advisory services to socially weak families with dependant children in crisis situations.

Responsible: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family
Deadline: 2002

18. To produce a publication *Situation of Families in Slovakia*, with a view to increasing the level of information of both the professional and the wider public about the current conditions of life of families.

Responsible: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family
Deadline: 2001

A5/ Protection of health of family members

1. To create conditions for ensuring healthy nutrition of the population through legislative finalisation of the Slovak Republic Food Code, through monitoring of heavy metals and PCBs in the food chain, through implementation projects of the National Programme for the Support of Health and to contribute according to the stipulated criteria to the preservation of food safety.

Responsible: Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health in co-ordination with other relevant ministries
Deadline: 2001, 2002

2. To ensure preparation of projects *Assessment of the Potential Influence of Geochemical Environment on Health Condition of the Population* in the Upper Nitra and Banská Štiavnica regions.

Responsible: Ministry of the Environment
Deadline: 2002

3. As a component part of the legislative changes of health insurance being prepared to consider the possibility of partial coverage of hormonal contraception by the health insurance and a subsequent increase in the maximum price for pregnancy terminations from SKK 3 000 to SKK 4 000, since with the price stagnating this financial barrier may stop playing its role in directing women from terminations towards contraception.

Responsible: Ministry of Health in co-operation with Ministry of Finance
Deadline: 2001

4. Within the legislative changes of health insurance which are being prepared to address the issue of partial coverage for health services provided in relation to assisted reproduction.

Responsible: Ministry of Health in co-operation with Ministry of Finance
Deadline: 2001

5. To prepare a legislative proposal of changes in criteria for assessing the health condition of conscripts within the defence sector.

Responsible: Ministry of Defence
Deadline: 2001

6. To continue creating conditions and extend the opportunities for the provision of health care in the sectoral health facilities also for the family members of policemen, firemen and career soldiers of the Forces of the Ministry of the Interior.

Responsible: Ministry of the Interior
Deadline: 2001, 2002

Basic characteristics of marriage rate

Table 1

		1997	1998	1999
Number of marriages		27 955	27 494	27 340
Gross marriage rate		5,19	5,10	5,07
Total marriage rate	Male	0,569	0,555	0,544
	Female	0,581	0,563	0,555
Average age at marriage	Male	27,2	27,3	27,7
	Female	24,3	24,4	24,8
Average age at first marriage	Male	25,3	25,6	25,9
	Female	22,9	23,1	23,4
Marriage of single persons (%)	Male	87,8	88,3	88,0
	Female	89,4	89,9	89,9

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Marriages by marital status of the fiancées in 1999

Table 2

		Brides					
		Single	Divorced	Widowed	Total	%	Average age
Fiancées	Single	22 834	1 129	85	24 048	87,9	26,0
	Divorced	1 648	1 285	94	3 027	11,1	40,0
	Widowed	86	125	54	265	1,0	55,4
	Total	24 568	2 539	233	27 340	100,0	27,7
	%	89,9	9,3	0,8	100,0		
	Average age	23,4	36,1	45,8	24,8		

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Marriages by education of the fiancées in 1999

Table 3

Education of fiancée	Total	Education of fiancée			
		Primary	Secondary without final certification	Secondary with final certification	University
Total	27 340	3 019	7 412	13 587	3 322
Of which education:					
Primary	2 757	1 897	530	293	37
Secondary without final certification	10 388	815	4 991	4 334	248
Secondary with final certification	10 405	267	1 761	7 297	1 080
University	3 790	40	130	1 663	1 957

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Basic characteristics of divorce rate

Table 4

		1997	1998	1999
Divorces sought		11 838	12 116	12 457
Divorces		9 138	9 312	9 664
Divorces obtained (%)		77,2	76,9	77,6
Gross divorce rate		1,70	1,73	1,79
Divorce rate index		32,7	33,9	35,3
Total divorce rate	Male	0,244	0,246	0,252
	Female	0,235	0,238	0,245
Average age at divorce	Male	37,3	37,6	37,9
	Female	34,7	35,1	35,3
Average duration of divorced marriages		11,8	12,1	12,3
Divorces with minor children (%)		73,0	72,5	71,2
Average number of minor children		1,7	1,7	1,5

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Divorces by duration of marriage

Table 5

	1997	1998	1999
Less than 1 year	75	86	88
1-3	1 205	1 134	1 185
4-6	1 642	1 574	1 570
7-10	1 844	1 869	1 932
11-15	1 687	1 784	1 784
16-20	1 257	1 316	1 340
21+	1 428	1 553	1 765
Total	9 138	9 316	9 664

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Basic characteristics of birth rate and fertility

Table 6

	1997	1998	1999
Total number of children born	59 356	57 863	56 482
Live-births	59 111	57 582	56 223
Still-births	245	281	259
Live-births out of wedlock	8 923	8 827	9 480
Live -births out of wedlock (%)	15,1	15,3	16,9
Gross birth rate	10,98	10,68	10,42
General fertility rate	41,3	40,0	38,9
Total fertility rate	1,427	1,374	1,329
Average age of woman at delivery	25,7	25,8	26,0
Average age of woman at first delivery	23,1	23,3	23,6
Gross reproduction rate	0,692	0,666	0,645
Net reproduction rate	0,685	0,661	0,641

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Live- births by order and family status

Table 7

	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
	Total			Births in wedlock			Births out of wedlock		
1	25 559	25 274	25 143	20 970	20 550	20 021	4 589	4 724	5 122
2	19 401	18 961	18 194	17 436	16 972	16 109	1 965	1 989	2 085
3	7 765	7 325	6 926	6 626	6 293	5 827	1 139	1 032	1 099
4	3 325	2 942	2 889	2 744	2 401	2 368	581	541	521
5+	3 061	3 080	3 071	2 412	2 539	2 418	649	541	653
Total	59 111	57 582	56 223	50 188	48 755	46 743	8 923	8 827	9 480

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Basic characteristics of abortion rate

Table 8

	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
	Total			Spontaneous			Terminations		
Number of abortions	27 798	26 658	25 557	5 480	5 549	5 608	22 318	21 109	19 949
Gross abortion rate	5,16	4,95	4,74	1,02	1,03	1,04	4,15	3,92	3,70
Abortion rate index	46,8	46,1	45,2	9,2	9,6	9,9	37,6	36,5	35,3
General abortion rate	19,4	18,5	17,7	3,8	3,9	3,9	15,6	14,7	13,8
Abortions per 100 finished pregnancies	31,9	31,5	31,1	6,3	6,6	6,8	25,6	25,0	24,3
Average age of woman at abortion	28,29	28,21	28,77	26,95	26,99	27,14	28,62	28,53	28,59
Total abortion rate	0,684	0,652	0,622	0,134	0,134	0,135	0,548	0,515	0,487

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Terminations by number of children and marital status

Table 9

Number of children	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
	Total			Married women			Unmarried women		
0	4 565	4 719	4 508	516	596	556	4 049	4 123	3 952
1	5 078	4 800	4 716	3 472	3 164	3 137	1 606	1 636	1 579
2	8 627	7 844	7 287	7 568	6 793	6 279	1 059	1 051	1 008
3+	4 048	3 746	3 438	3 546	3 257	2 927	502	489	511
Total	22 318	21 109	19 949	15 102	13 810	12 899	7 216	7 299	7 050

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Basic characteristics of mortality

Table 10

		1997	1998	1999
Deaths	Male	27 788	28 630	28 102
	Female	24 336	24 526	24 300
	Total	52 124	53 156	52 402
Gross death rate		9,68	9,86	9,71
Life expectancy at birth	Male	68,90	68,61	68,95
	Female	76,72	76,70	77,03
Infant mortality rate		8,70	8,79	8,31

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Mortality rate during first year of life

Table 11

		1997	1998	1999
Number of deaths Before 1 year of age	Male	285	278	259
	Female	229	228	208
	Total	514	506	467
Number of deaths before 28 days of life	Male	186	173	166
	Female	135	137	123
	Total	321	310	289
Infant mortality rate	Male	9,38	9,41	9,02
	Female	7,97	8,13	7,56
	Total	8,70	8,79	8,31
Neonatal mortality rate	Male	6,12	5,86	5,78
	Female	4,70	4,89	4,47
	Total	5,43	5,38	5,14

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Mortality rate by death reasons

Table 12

		1997	1998	1999
Tumours	Male	6 683	7 352	7 132
	Female	4 613	4 882	4 803
Diseases of circulatory system	Male	13 725	14 122	13 553
	Female	14 796	15 607	15 115
Diseases of respiratory system	Male	1 890	1 357	1 491
	Female	1 857	1 034	1 124
Diseases of digestive system	Male	1 396	1 621	1 687
	Female	797	852	951
External reasons	Male	2 709	2 684	2 428
	Female	985	665	666
Other reasons	Male	1 385	1 494	1 811
	Female	1 288	1 486	1 641

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Basic age structure of the population (as 31 December)

Table 13

	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
	Total			Male			Female		
Number of persons	5 387 650		5 398 657	2 622 005	2 623 692	2 625 126	2 765 645	2 769 690	2 773 531
0-14 age group	1 133 678	1 101 841	1 069 375	579 568	563 558	546 979	554 110	538 283	522 396
15-59 age group	3 432 610	3 466 436	3 498 397	1 713 251	1 731 671	1 748 564	1 719 359	1 734 765	1 749 833
60+ age group	821 362	825 105	830 885	329 186	328 463	329 583	492 176	496 642	501 302
80+age group	100 478	95 209	99 655	33 245	30 802	32 383	67 233	64 407	67 272
0-14 age group (%)	21,0	20,4	19,8	22,1	21,5	20,8	20,0	19,4	18,8
15-59 age group (%)	63,7	64,3	64,8	65,3	66,0	66,6	62,2	62,6	63,1
60+ age group (%)	15,3	15,3	15,4	12,6	12,5	12,6	17,8	17,9	18,1
80+age group (%)	1,7	1,8	1,9	1,3	1,2	1,2	2,4	2,3	2,4
Average age	35,1	35,4	35,7	33,6	33,8	34,1	36,6	36,9	37,2
Ageing index	53,4	55,4	57,5	40,4	41,5	43,0	67,0	69,9	72,8

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Selected indicators of population structure of Slovak Republic by regions in 1999

Table 14

	BA*	TT	TN	NR	ZA	BB	PO	KE
0-14 age group (%)	16,4	18,6	18,9	18,1	21,2	19,1	23,7	21,2
60 + age group (%)	15,9	15,4	15,9	17,1	14,6	16,3	13,7	14,6
80 + age group (%)	1,9	1,8	1,9	2,1	1,7	2,1	1,57	1,6
Share of women aged of 15-49 within the female population (%)	54,1	52,9	52,3	51,4	52,2	51,6	51,6	52,1
Average age	37,5	36,1	36,2	37	34,8	36,4	33,4	34,8
Median age	36,9	34,4	34,6	35,5	32,5	35	30,5	32,8
Ageing index (%)	73,6	60,8	61,9	70,0	51,1	63,7	42,7	50,3
Index of economic burden (%)	54,1	57,8	59,9	61,1	61,7	61,3	65,4	61,9
Femininity index (‰)	1 107	1 051	1 042	1 068	1 033	1 069	1 033	1 057

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Development of productive/ post productive ratio until 2030

Table 15

Years	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Total	3,47	3,31	2,92	2,53	2,26	2,08	1,89
Male	5,29	5,25	4,65	3,83	3,30	2,98	2,78
Female	2,53	2,34	2,05	1,82	1,66	1,55	1,37

Source: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

* district :

BA – Bratislava

TT – Trnava

TN - Trenčín

NR - Nitra

ZA – Žilina

BB – Banská Bystrica

PO – Prešov

KE - Košice

Social and legal protection

Table 16

	1997	1998	1999
Record - keeping			
- number of cases of families	284 448	280 143	264 291
- number of children	477 475	464 798	437 159
Adoption:			
- number of children placed in the care of future adoptive parents	326	358	295
- number of legally adopted children	415	447	465
Foster care and guardianship:			
- number of children in foster care	1 708	1 836	2 061
- number of children in guardianship	513	534	520
- number of foster parents	1 338	1 407	1 589
- number of guardians	440	431	411
Placing of children in the care of persons other than their parents			
Of which: - grandparents	728	752	523
- other relatives	510	517	386
- strangers	166	185	96
	52	50	41
Institutional care:			
- number of children in institutional care	5 736	6 218	6 184
- number of children in institutional and protective care	1 109	934	997
- number of children placed in professional substitute families	13	39	83
Decision - making activities:			
- warnings	1 060	1 107	726
- supervision	751	702	514
- restrictions	5	10	1
- immediate placing in protective care	990	952	292
- immediate placing in the care of person other than parent	346	322	78
Educational care:	not registered	not registered	
- focus on improving mutual relations between parents – number of cases			14 054
- focus on improving mutual relations between children and parents – number of cases			11 495
- focus on renewing the family environment			8 787
Other activities:			
- field social work in natural family environment	not registered	not registered	46 282
- number of cases	not registered	not registered	73 750
- number of verifications			73 750
- number of visits in families			868/180
- number of proposals to place minors in educational institutions or release them from such institutions	54 792	67 104	
- number of proposals to regulate rights and obligations of parents	915/214	835/140	
- number of paternity cases filed	15 686	17 360	18 576
- participation in the criminal prosecution of juveniles	449	442	491
- participation of under – tutor in court hearings	5 661	5 371	9 427
	67 538	62 525	74 202

Source: Ministry of Labour , Social Affair and Family of the Slovak Republic

Number of sickness benefits receivers and expenditures since 1997

Table 18

Year	Indicator	Financial assistance during maternity */	Parental allowance*/	Compensatory contribution in pregnancy and maternity	Support during care for a family member
1997	Number of receivers	26 848	141 936	2 090	469 854
	Expenditures in SKK thousand	1 039 733	4 110 339	2 316	387 916
1998	Number of receivers	26 177	139 679	2 195	421 178
	Expenditures in SKK thousand	1 157 725	4 473 342	2 515	403 444
1999	Number of receivers	25 058	126 221	1 856	359 191
	Expenditures in SKK thousand	1 237 369	4 410 312	964	376 557
1st half of 2000	Number of receiver	24 261	135 756	725	159 868
	Expenditures in SKK thousand	616 519	2 174 332	581	171 101

Source: Social Insurance Agency

* average monthly number of receivers

Comparison of income of households with and without children

Table 20

Net income in SKK per person and month	Number of children in household			
	Without children	1	2	3+
1997	6 548	5 097	4 465	3 425
1998	7 387	5 505	4 774	3 697
1999	7 787	5 892	4 876	3 814
Comparison to households without children in %				
1997	100	78	68	52
1998	100	75	65	50
1999	100	76	63	49

Source : Family accounts Statistics from the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Support for construction of housing from the State Fund of Housing Development

Table 23

	Indicator	Unit of measurement	Year					Total
			1996	1997	1998	1999	by June 2000	
1.	Contracts concluded total	Number	1 022	3 545	6 917	2 787	3 944	18 215
2.	Support provided total Of which:	SKK mil.	349,06	1 678,21	3 530,74	1 645,42	2 062,94	9 266,38
3.	Grants	SKK mil.	13,49	303,73	736,29	369,31	429,69	1 852,51
4.	Loans	SKK mil.	335,57	1 374,48	2 794,45	1 276,1	1 633,25	7 413,871
5.	Construction of flats with support	Flats	1 224	3 748	6 712	2 778	3 297	17 759

Source: Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic

Development in the number of begun and completed flats

Table 24

	1997	1998	1999	1 st half of 2000
Number of flats begun	12 844	16 857	11 168	5 352
Number of flats completed	7 172	8 234	10 745	6 423

Source: Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of SR

Kindergartens in Slovakia in 1997-1999 by founder¹

Table 25

	Year	Kindergartens	Classes ²	Children enrolled ³
Absolute number	State kindergartens			
	1997	3310	7751	168654
	1998	3307	7855	166852
	1999	3290	7788	161128
	Private kindergartens			
	1997	15	23	482
	1998	14	21	447
	1999	11	17	336
	Church kindergartens			
	1997	5	7	164
	1998	6	9	205
	1999	9	16	354
Structure in per cent	State kindergartens			
	1997	99,40	99,61	99,62
	1998	99,40	91,62	99,61
	1999	99,40	99,58	99,57
	Private kindergartens			
	1997	0,45	0,30	0,28
	1998	0,42	0,27	0,27
	1999	0,33	0,22	0,21
	Church kindergartens			
	1997	0,15	0,09	0,10
	1998	0,18	0,11	0,12
	1999	0,27	0,20	0,22

Source: Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic

¹ Except for kindergartens attached to child diagnostic centres and a kindergarten attached to medical – educational sanatorium

² Except for special classes

³ Except for children attending special classes

Selected offences of violent nature perpetrated against females, interference with personal freedom and breach of human dignity

Table 27

Type of offence	1985	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1999
Homicides	41	30	38	49	44	39	33	41	36	39	43
Robberies	79	79	253	250	262	265	235	248	282	287	381
Battery	1027	958	1077	1071	1245	1126	1189	1207	1143	1113	1100
Violence against individual	361	465	384	438	701	808	1203	1430	1908	2374	3491
Blackmailing	45	59	58	73	86	83	86	118	141	126	258
Abuse of ward	10	10	6	15	6	5	6	10	10	4	3
Other violent crime	122	126	161	147	122	111	115	126	125	129	149
Rape	255	257	318	258	234	210	211	207	207	173	171
Sexual abuse of dependant person	71	38	36	40	47	47	42	71	41	42	59
Other sexual abuse	441	345	265	212	248	244	340	339	444	426	363
Pandering	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trafficking in women	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	9	4	5	11

Source: Analytical and Organizational Department of Police Corps Presidium, Bratislava

Overview of schools in Slovak Republic in academic year 1999/2000

Table 26

Type of school	Pupils, students	Classes, faculties	Schools
Primary schools	671 706	29 773	2 471
Secondary grammar schools	76 662	2 609	209
Secondary vocational schools	99 070	3 632	379
Secondary apprentice schools	102 522	4 374	361
Special schools	30 736	3 437	381
Universities	88 192	86	18

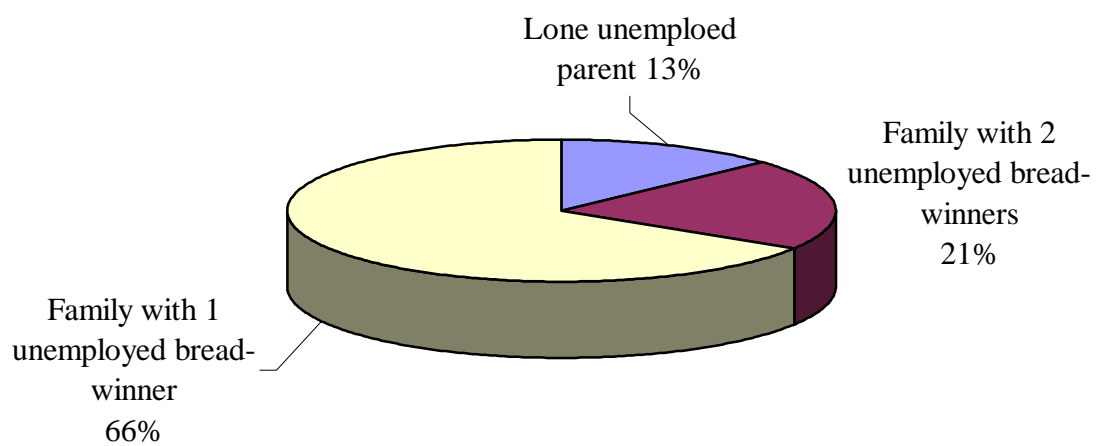
Note: listed above are full time pupils and students

	Pupils	Adults students	Classes	Schools	Branches
Primary arts schools	95 561	830	3 723	194	118

Source: Statistical year book of education of the Slovak Republic, 1999, Information an Forecast Institute of Education, Bratislava

Structure of families (in relation to unemployment)

Graph



Source : National Labour Office

Development in average number of persons on regular maternity leave and extended maternity leave in 1994 – first half of 2000 (in thousand persons)

Table 17

Indicator	Year								
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000-1st	2000-2nd	2000-1 st half
Employed - females	936,3	953,5	990,3	988,9	988,2	968,4	970,2	958,1	964,2
Employed - males	1174,0	1193,3	1234,6	1217,0	1210,4	1163,7	1124,4	1125,4	1124,9
Of which									
Females on regular maternity leave	29,3	23,1	22,8	20,4	19,3	23,7	20,3	18,4	19,4
Males on regular maternity leave	0,3	0,1	0,4	0,2	0,0	0,2	0,2		0,1
Economically inactive females	1032,4	1042,2	1035,8	1056,9	1073,9	1072,8	1066,3	1073,9	1070,1
Economically inactive males	604,4	617,6	627,6	635,2	635,0	645,7	652,7	659,6	656,2
Of which									
Females on extended maternity leave	73,2	70,2	58,3	54,0	60,2	54,4	53,5	54,3	53,9
Males on extended maternity leave	1,0	0,9	0,9	0,7	0,4	0,4	1,1	1,0	1,1

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Structure of most frequent crimes perpetrated by children and young people registered in Slovak Republic in 1997-1999

Table 29

Indicator	Recorded criminal offences			Criminal offences cleared up			Crimes committed by children			Crimes committed by juveniles		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
Homicide	140	128	141	91	99	98	0	0	0	8	9	7
Robbery	1199	1231	1437	814	831	999	137	160	197	276	246	301
Assault & battery	3955	4034	3933	3340	3451	3333	125	138	122	343	252	271
Rape	173	153	171	160	142	155	4	2	7	14	9	17
Sexual abuse	563	475	494	540	465	476	107	91	76	208	155	166
Shop breaking	3682	3443	3599	1223	1185	1132	274	193	187	444	372	403
Buffet breaking	3609	2395	3311	1192	760	1146	259	93	195	473	247	364
Breaking and entering	3854	3639	3601	1595	1577	1514	280	240	225	407	383	345
Summer cottage breaking	4652	4777	4611	1526	1462	1387	255	272	186	429	325	267
Thefts of vehicles	7438	7682	7123	1482	1540	1388	136	151	129	490	501	434
Thefts of things from cars	12083	11870	12612	2694	242	2749	597	461	489	1083	855	832
Thefts of things from flats	1997	2124	2130	1236	1293	1256	125	161	125	250	226	232
Disorderly conduct	735	650	713	683	599	657	31	34	27	83	74	82
Drug – related crime	967	520	362	932	487	338	28	9	14	94	57	35
Forgery	578	279	687	42	236	107	0	1	12	4	10	47
Fraud	1784	1769	2237	1295	1226	1520	5	3	9	20	36	23
Crime total	92395	93859	94016	43642	45658	47067	4987	4887	4859	7362	6452	6286

Source: Ministry of the Interior affairs of the Slovak Republic

Structure of public and domestic violence between 1997 and 1999

Table 28

Indicator	Number of crimes committed in public			Number of crimes committed at home			Affected children up to 15 years of age			Affected children aged 16-18		
	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
Homicide	85	81	82	55	47	59	23	15	16	0	1	3
Robbery	1017	987	1152	110	124	136	127	272	247	95	76	92
Assault & Battery	2870	2850	2914	1087	1210	1024	293	322	298	232	249	258
Rape	86	80	90	87	73	81	16	24	25	35	26	27
Sexual abuse under influence of drugs	13	16	27	38	26	37	47	40	51	4	1	1
Other sexual abuse	342	293	286	170	140	144	510	430	424	2	0	1
Violence against individual	1062	1151	1530	2382	2992	3543	198	264	285	65	87	95
Blackmailing	534	629	808	104	125	190	224	252	352	56	68	95
Abuse of ward	0	0	2	0	0	7	0	0	9	0	0	0
Pandering	2	3	8	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trafficking in women	6	3	11	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	6
Total	6017	6093	6910	4035	4738	5222	1439	1620	1709	490	509	578

Source: Ministry of the Interior affairs of the Slovak Republic

Development of state budget expenditures since 1995 (in SKK thousand)

Table 22

Benefit	1995		1996		1997		1998	
	expenses	No. of recip.	expenses	No. of recip.	expenses	No. of recip.	expenses	No. of recip.
Parental allowance	2 519 743	154 012	2 758 969	144 101	4 116 156	142 134	4 479 641	139 876
Child allowance & add. child. allow.	10 002 796	682 045	9 982 511	653 938	9 119 388	594 219	9 925 051	603 445
Childbirth allowance	179 076	59 079	174 264	58 074	170 235	56 743	165 271	55 116
Funeral grant	50 056	50 284	50 867	51 568	96 499	52 167	102 583	52 476
Subsistence benefit	13 920	775	10 773	588	9 069	478	9 231	499
Housing contribution for soldiers	1 228	205	1 017	159	878	133	745	119
Total	12 766 819	-	12 978 401	-	13 512 225	-	14 682 522	-

Benefit	1999 Expenses	No. of recip.	By 30 June 2000 Expenses	By 30 June 2000 No. of recip.
Parental allowance	4 417 181	137 931	2 177 597	135 965
Child allowance & add. child. allowance	9 190 015	568 951	4 462 460	554 752
Childbirth allowance*	17 182	5 724	12	4
Childbirth grant	155 313	50 087	85 578	27 567
Increased childbirth grant	43	10	20	4
Parental benefit	340	45	249	34
Funeral allowance*	9 100	4 645	38	12
Funeral grant	96 974	46 737	56 937	27 433
Subsistence benefit *	493	20	-	-
Subsistence allowance	11 712	945	5160	823
Housing contribution for soldiers	620	100	-	-
Substitute income during national service or alternative service	1 443	34	-	-
Foster care total	91 655		53 855	
- single benefit		708		49
- regular benefit + foster parent remuneration		3 327		3949
Housing allowance	-	-	246 534	45 201
Total	13 992 071	-	7 088 440	-

Source : Social Insurance Office

*Benefits payable under legislation applicable until 31 December 1998 – retroactive claims for sickness & pension insurance benefits and for subsistence benefit

- Note: The tables show average monthly number of state social support beneficiaries in case of repeated benefits and the number of beneficiaries in the respective year in case of single benefits.

Development of average number of workers in Slovak Republic, of which workers according to length of employment in thousand of person

Table 19

Indicator	Year								
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000 – 1st	2000 – 2nd	2000 – 1 st half
Employed – total	2110,2	2146,8	2224,9	2205,9	2198,6	2132,1	2094,6	2083,5	2089,1
Of which employees	1977,2	2006,7	2082,5	2065,8	2046,2	1965,0	1928,4	1916,2	1922,3
Of which employees working									
- full time	1877,0	1913,8	1993,9	2018,0	1998,5	1923,3	1887,6	1880	1883,8
- part time	56,4	54,9	55,4	47,9	47,8	41,6	40,8	36,2	38,5
Employed – females	936,3	953,5	990,3	988,9	988,2	968,4	970,2	958,1	964,2
Of which employees	904,5	917,4	955,2	950,8	946,8	923,0	983,7	914,1	918,9
Of which employees working									
- full time	831,8	847,3	887,9	914,1	910,7	893,7	894,8	887,7	891,3
- part time	42,3	41,5	42,4	36,8	36,1	29,3	28,8	26,4	27,6
Employed – males	1174,0	1193,3	1234,6	1217,0	1210,4	1163,7	1124,4	1125,4	1124,9
Of which employees	1072,8	1089,3	1127,2	1115,1	1099,5	1042	1004,8	1002,1	1003,5
Of which employees working									
- full time	1045,2	1066,5	1106,0	1104,0	1087,8	1029,6	992,8	992,3	992,6
- part time	14,1	13,3	13,0	11,1	11,7	12,3	12,0	9,8	10,9

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Marital status of unemployed registered at Labour Offices in the Slovak Republic (as 31 December 1999 and 30 June 2000)

Table 21

Sex Year	Total	Of which in persons						Of which in per cent					
		Single	Married	Divorced	Widowed	Cohabitant	Undefined	Single	Married	Divorced	Widowed	Cohabitant	Undefined
Males and Females total													
1991	301 951	100 094	162 844	15 659	3 560	2 001	17 793	33,1	53,9	5,2	1,2	0,7	5,9
1992	260 274	98 813	137 095	13 810	4 395	1 431	4 730	38,0	52,7	5,3	1,7	0,5	1,8
1993	368 095	141 224	197 568	19 971	4 826	1 779	2 727	38,3	53,7	5,4	1,3	0,6	0,7
1994	371 481	137 638	203 661	21 303	5 208	2 217	1 454	37,1	54,8	5,7	1,4	0,6	0,4
1995	333 291	121 378	184 320	20 054	4 802	2 317	420	36,5	55,3	6,0	1,4	0,7	0,1
1996	329 749	123 851	178 345	19 971	4 844	2 615	123	37,5	54,1	6,1	1,5	0,8	0,0
1997	347 753	137 112	181 207	21 224	5 123	2 901	186	39,4	52,1	6,1	1,5	0,8	0,1
1998	428 209	177 350	214 304	26 606	6 134	3 669	146	41,4	50,1	6,2	1,4	0,9	0,0
1999	535 211	227 946	262 462	33 271	7 238	4 128	166	42,6	49,0	6,2	1,4	0,8	0,0
June 2000	540 553	240 569	253 694	34 494	7 381	4 222	193	44,5	46,9	6,4	1,4	0,8	0,0
Males													
1991	144 868	56 464	68 472	8 638	1 074	1 171	9 049	39,0	47,3	6,0	0,7	0,8	6,2
1992	129 862	58 719	59 344	6 656	1 899	869	2 375	45,2	45,7	5,1	1,5	0,7	1,8
1993	193 142	92 730	86 731	10 030	1 067	1 101	1 483	48,0	44,8	5,2	0,6	0,6	0,8
1994	190 064	91 762	83 556	11 116	1 296	1 536	798	48,2	44,0	5,9	0,7	0,8	0,4
1995	161 671	77 661	71 529	9 696	1 027	1 527	231	48,1	44,3	6,0	0,6	0,9	0,1
1996	156 537	76 549	67 829	9 371	1 028	1 696	64	48,9	43,3	6,0	0,7	1,1	0,0
1997	170 860	84 499	73 289	10 005	1 079	1 897	91	49,4	42,9	5,9	0,6	1,1	0,1
1998	227 580	113 446	96 572	13 530	1 436	2 526	70	49,9	42,4	5,9	0,6	1,1	0,1
1999	299 094	148 928	127 755	17 724	1 749	2 850	88	49,8	42,7	5,9	0,6	1,0	0,0
June 2000	297 270	153 623	120 656	18 201	1 808	2 887	95	51,7	40,6	6,1	0,6	1,0	0,0
Females													
1991	157 083	43 630	94 372	7 021	2 486	830	8 744	27,8	60,1	4,5	1,6	0,5	5,5
1992	130 412	40 094	77 751	7 154	2 496	562	2 355	30,8	59,6	5,5	1,9	0,4	1,8
1993	174 953	48 494	110 837	9 941	3 759	678	1 244	27,6	63,5	5,7	2,1	0,4	0,7
1994	181 417	45 876	120 105	10 187	3 912	681	656	25,3	66,2	5,5	2,2	0,4	0,4
1995	171 620	43 717	112 791	10 358	3 775	790	189	25,5	65,7	6,0	2,2	0,5	0,1
1996	173 212	47 302	110 516	10 600	3 816	919	59	27,3	63,8	6,1	2,2	0,6	0,0
1997	176 893	52 613	107 918	11 219	4 044	1 004	95	29,7	61,0	6,3	2,3	0,6	0,1
1998	200 629	63 904	117 732	13 076	4 698	1 143	76	31,9	58,7	6,5	2,3	0,6	0,0
1999	236 117	79 018	134 707	15 547	5 489	1 278	78	33,5	57,1	6,6	2,3	0,5	0,0
June 2000	243 283	86 946	133 038	16 293	5 573	1 335	98	35,7	54,7	6,7	2,3	0,6	0,0

Source: National Labour Office