

World Programme for Human Rights Education

NATIONAL EVALUATION REPORT for the Third Phase 2015-2019

SLOVENIA

In preparation of this report which was coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, relevant ministries, the National Human Rights Institution (Office of the Ombudsman) and the Public Relations Office of the Government that cooperates closely with the civil society in promoting human rights, were involved. In the reporting period the Human Rights Ombudsman Act was amended by the establishment of a new unit within the Ombudman's Office called the Centre for Human Rights, which is *inter alia* entitled with tasks in the field of human rights education and training. Slovenia does not have a National Plan of Action for Human Rights Education, but throughout the years many efforts were made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to disseminate information on the World Programme for Human Rights Education and the necessity to implement it domestically and internationally. Following are the reports of individual stakeholders.

1. STRENGTHENING IMPLEMENTATION of human rights education in primary, secondary and higher education as well as human rights training for civil servants, including law enforcement officials and the military

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Slovenia believes human rights education is essential for creating a culture of human rights – the respect, protection and promotion of human rights for all. Tolerance building through human rights education is a major investment in our future comprehensive security. It is a crucial investment in the social fabric of our future societies. Through schools and educators, as well as civil society organizations and academia, as well as civil servants, media professionals and other groups almost everyone can be reached to internalize human rights and fundamental freedoms. Development and security are inconceivable without respect for human rights, which is why Slovenia makes every effort to bind human rights to these two areas.

The **empowerment of children** through education about their rights remains a key priority of Slovenian foreign policy in the area of human rights. Since 2005, with the "**Our Rights**" project and teaching materials, Slovenia has enabled education on children's rights, based on the Convention of the Rights of the Child, for more than 200,000 children in 26 countries in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Africa. In the period 2015-2019, children from Australia, Austria, Egypt, Gaza, Georgia, India, Kosovo, Jordan, Moldova, Morocco and Ukraine benefited from this empowerment by human rights education.

In spring 2016, on the basis of the experience gained during the "Our Rights" project, a worksheet entitled "**Children-Refugees**" was drawn up for children in the Slovenian education system as an additional tool for raising awareness of the universal rights of child refugees under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. By providing education on the rights of the child, schools made an important contribution to creating an atmosphere of understanding, acceptance and inclusion of children from abroad, as nobody should be left out. The worksheet was published in 40,000 copies by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in agreement with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, and has been used during class meetings in primary schools.

Slovenia is a member of the **Platform on Human Rights Education and Training** (other members are: Brazil, Costa Rica, Italy, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal and Thailand). Members of the Platform firmly believe that HRET is indispensable for the full realization of all human rights. One must know their rights in order to be able to claim them. This is why the Platform has been pushing, for many years, for a comprehensive document addressing human rights education and training which would provide guidance to both State and non-State actors, regarding this key aspect of promotion of human rights. The Platform successfully negotiated the text for the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training which was adopted in December 2011 with the hope that this Declaration inspires governments and other stakeholders to take human rights education and training to the next level and truly make it available to every single person, thus promoting a universal culture of respect for human rights.

Through the experience of the past decade we confirm that human rights education and training is a lifelong, systematic process, which includes formal, informal and non-formal forms of education about, for and through human rights. Everyone has the right to know, seek and receive information about their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Slovenia remains devoted to actively engaging in the process of passing **resolutions on this topic in the Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva**, which was an ongoing effort in the period 2015-2019.

Upon the initiative of the Platform which was led by Slovenia, the Human Rights Council adopted Resolution A/HRC/39/3 in September 2018 which decided to make youth the focus group of the **Fourth Phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2020-2024)**, with special emphasis on education and training in equality, human rights and non-discrimination, and inclusion and respect for diversity with the aim of building inclusive and peaceful societies, and to align the fourth phase with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and specifically with Target 4.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account the synergies between the different concepts and educational methods mentioned therein.

In 2019 Slovenia was pleased to **launch** the Fourth Phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education in Geneva and support the Symposium "Transforming Lives: The power of Human Rights Education" as well as the exhibition in the Maison de l'UNESCO in Paris observing the Human Rights Day. Our objectives in foreign policy are to contribute to the culture of human rights and to inspire further action in human rights education in other countries.

The Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia, established in 1994 with the Human Rights Ombudsman Act of 1993 based on the Slovenian Constitution of 1991, is a national human rights institution. Its mandate includes protection and promotion of human rights. **Article 50b of the 2017 Amendments to the Human Rights Ombudsman Act enhances the mandate of the Ombudsman also in the field of human rights education and training.** Concretely, the Centre for Human Rights, which operates as an internal organisational unit of the Ombudsman, is *inter alia* entitled with this task. In addition, Article 5a of the amended Act further provides the task of the Human Rights Ombudsman Council, which is Ombudsman's consultative body, to raise awareness of the public and experts about the importance and development of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Implementing The Third Phase of the World programme: Public education function and the media

The most common forms and established approaches of Ombudsman in carrying out the public education function are lectures, presentations, conferences, press conferences, weekly e-news, press releases, news items at the Ombudsman's website, publications of cases dealt with on the Ombudsman's website and in the Pravna praksa (Legal practice) magazine, publications of opinions and addresses on world days and important events, interviews and statements, and answers to journalists' questions and assistance in preparing news reports.

The ombudsperson and deputy ombudspersons are available to media representatives on various occasions, at conferences, meetings, round table discussions, symposiums, and at other events. The Ombudsman is very well aware of the importance of working with the media to raise people's awareness of their rights, to raise important questions for society about human rights, and to make sure that what has been achieved as well as new standards for protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms are maintained. The employees of the Ombudsman are also informed of reporting by the media and the cases related to violations of rights found by the media by means of a service for monitoring media content (clipping service), and we also actively monitor other sources of information online that can also be a source of alleged violations of human rights. The Ombudsman's office tries to ensure a high-quality, professionally substantiated, correct, and timely response to media initiatives and questions. The Ombudsman is aware of the circumstances surrounding the work of journalists, who are usually under enormous pressure due to time constraints. The Ombudsman usually only reacts to questions on individual cases which are being processed once all the relevant data have been obtained, and an opinion has been formed on the basis of the information collected. If the Ombudsman is asked about the content of a discussed case, the consent of the petitioners prior to revealing any details is always obtained. Without such consent, only general opinions are provided about a particular problem. When informing the public of its work, the Ombudsman observes the regulations governing the protection of data confidentiality and the confidential nature of a procedure, in accordance with the law.

Concrete educational contents and form depend on the target group. Public lectures and presentations are given by the ombudsperson (e.g. the lecture entitled 'A child in the labyrinth of criminal proceedings – how the situation is and how it should be' during the 22nd Pannonian Lawyers' Symposium in 2015), deputy ombudspersons (e.g. the

lecture at a panel discussion on violence against the disabled) as well as by the rest of the Ombudsman's staff (e.g. the Ombudsman's Adviser's lecture on torture, inhuman and degrading treatment in Slovenian places of detention, within the project 'European Year for Development'). The Ombudsman's personnel also regularly participates at various conferences, both those organized by the Ombudsman (e.g. the fourth international conference on the Environment and Human Rights: Public Participation in Environmental Matters in 2017) as well as those organized by others (e.g. consultation on "the freedom of speech and hate speech" held by the President of the Republic at the Presidential Palace).

The Ombudsman has also undertaken several public awareness campaigns in relation to combating racism. The second session of the newly established Human Rights Ombudsman Council, which took place in 2019 was dedicated to hate speech. The Council expressed concern that racism has gained ground in Slovenia since the migration crisis in 2015. In view of the Council, the civil society and the media must respond to intolerance, urging a broad debate on what language is used in public debates. During the height of the so called refugee crisis (2015-2016), the Ombudsman embarked on a campaign during which the ombudsperson made a series of public statements calling for tolerance, condemning hate-speech, etc.

Implementing The Second Phase of the World Programme: Human Rights Education and Trainings of Public Officials

It needs to be noted that the Ombudsman cooperates with the Police Academy, whereby a representative of the Ombudsman annually participates with a contribution in the field of the Ombudsman's work. Similar type of cooperation is also established with the Prison Administration, which organizes trainings for future correctional officers. As an external expert, deputy ombudsperson is a member of the Expert Council on Police Law and Powers, a permanent, autonomous and consulting body of the Police and the Police and Security Directorate at the Ministry of the Interior. The Council combines the external and internal expert public in the provision of lawful and expert and proportionate application of police powers, and contributes to enhancing trust among the internal and external public in the expert integrity and operational autonomy of the work of the Police.

Certain events are organized together with other stakeholders, such as e.g. the two-day consultation on Mental Health Act (Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Slovenia, Judicial Training Centre), where deputy ombudsperson also gave his own lecture (in 2015). Another example was, when the Ombudsman organised together with the Judicial Training Centre of the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, the Ministry of Health and Association of Centres for Social Work of Slovenia mental health days. This conference, organised in 2018, was attended by over 170 judges, psychiatrists, social workers, psychologists, attorneys, experts, representatives, coordinators of supervised and community treatment, non-governmental organisations, employees at the Ombudsman's office and other from various services and professions.

The Ombudsman has intensively cooperated also with several higher education institutions, e.g. the Faculty of Administration, the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Education, and the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Ljubljana; the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security of the University of Maribor; and the European Faculty of Law in Nova Gorica, where the ombudsperson and deputy

ombudspersons presented the work of the Ombudsman, especially in the participants' fields of study. Some forms of cooperation with such stakeholders also take form of projects, e.g., the Ombudsman's more than ten-year cooperation on implementing the Legal Clinic for Refugees and Foreigners with the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana, which continues to this day, and a similar approach being established also for discrimination issues.

Implementing The First Phase of the World programme: Human rights education programmes for primary and secondary schools

The ombudsperson and deputy ombudspersons regularly appear as guest speakers at classes or other events at primary and secondary schools (usually at the invitation of the respective institution).

A notable project to be mentioned is the Ne-odvisen.si project (in English translation: You are independent), during which the ombudsperson was a guest at a number of schools. The Ombudsman also attends the children's parliaments organised each year by the Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth, which the Ombudsman sees as an excellent form of the implementation of Articles 12 and 13 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Furthermore, on the basis of trilateral agreements, in 2017 150 hours of internship was granted to one student of the Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana, and a two-week internship was granted to one student (with special needs) of one of the Primary Schools, who performed this internship at the Ombudsman's head office. Similarly, on the basis of trilateral agreements, an internship of 150 hours was enabled in 2016 to one student in the third year of the Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana, and a two-week internship was enabled to one secondary school student (with special needs), who performed this internship at the Ombudsman's head office.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND SPORT

The primary goal of the education system in Slovenia is to provide optimal development of the individual, irrespective of gender, social and cultural background, religion, racial, ethnic or national origin, and regardless of their physical and mental constitution or physical and mental disability. The central piece of legislation that covers all levels of education (with the exception of higher education) is the **Organisation and Financing of Education Act**. **It defines also the following objectives of education connected with human rights:** *providing the optimal development of the individual, irrespective of gender, social background or cultural identity, religion, racial, ethnic or national origin, and regardless of their physical and mental constitution or disability; educating for mutual tolerance; developing awareness of gender equality, respect for human diversity and mutual cooperation, respect for children's and human rights and fundamental freedoms; developing equal opportunities for both sexes; and, thereby, developing the competences needed to live in a democratic society; providing education that corresponds with an individual's level of development and age; providing equal educational opportunities: in areas with specific development problems; to children from less favourable social environments; to children, youth and adults with special educational needs; educating for sustainable development and active participation in a democratic society, which includes a deep understanding of and a responsible attitude to oneself, one's health and other people, one's own and other cultures, the natural and social environment and future generations.*

As of the school year 2016/2017 the Amendments to the Organisation and financing of education Act the law specifies explicit zero tolerance of all violence against and among children. The Laws that regulate specific levels of education from pre-primary to short-cycle higher education respectfully further elaborate and adjust these above listed objectives. These goals are also embedded in various national guidelines and concepts that cover different aspects of education. They are also reflected in knowledge standards, goals and topics defined by curricula. **In Slovenia there are many practices/strategies/plans/programmes that are not strictly defined as HRE but reflect the principles of the rights based approach to education**, such as peace education, citizenship education, multicultural and intercultural education, global education, education for sustainable development etc. **Citizenship education is integrated in the national curriculum as a separate subject, integrated into wider subjects, and is a cross-curricular theme.** As such **HRE is a cross-curricular theme**, it is also implemented through **more flexible methods, such as days of activities, activity weeks, or special events on the subject of human rights**; In Slovenia, we also organized and carried out curricular projects in cooperation with non-domestic partner schools (European Science Foundation (ESF) projects, UNESCO ASP net, etc.).

There is an active consultative experts' Minister's body on civic competences; in 2019 the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport started a process of a special subject on "active citizenship" in secondary schools. In the 2018/2019 school year, the European school Ljubljana, which pursues its activity within the centre Šolski center Ljubljana, started implementing the programme consisted with the programme of European Schools of grades one and two and two language sections: Slovenian and English. In the 2018/2019 school year, the rules on the Slovenian language course for upper secondary students came in operation. In July 2018, the rules on the assessment for persons under international protection with no proof of educational qualification was published. The rules specify the content, organisation and criteria of assessment of knowledge that individuals with no proof of educational qualification need to enter upper secondary education. In spring 2019, the Minister of education started the process of development **the new national programme of adult education for the period of 2021 until 2030**. Slovenia implemented the recommendation of the 2nd phase of OECD Skills strategy 2018.

In terms of further development of education in the Republic of Slovenia, the following **strategic documents** are of significance, too: Resolution on National **Research and Development** Programme 2011–2020; National Programme for **Youth** 2013–2022; National Programme of **Sport** in the Republic of Slovenia 2014-2023 as well as Resolution on the National Programme of **Nutrition and Physical Activity for Health** 2015–2025 and Resolution on the national programme for **equal opportunities** for women and men, 2015–2020. End of 2018 and in January 2019, the amended basic school education programme was published. It followed the decision by the Council of experts of the Republic of Slovenia for general education to upgrade the subject-curriculum for Slovenian and beekeeping to compulsory optional subjects, and define the subject-curricula for the subjects of film education and Slovenian sign language. The application of all started with the school year 2019/2020. **December 2017, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the Slovenian Development Strategy 2030**. It is the new long-term national development framework. Its primary objective is to ensure quality of life for all ("Slovenia, a country with high quality of life

for all"). Future development of Slovenia rests on five strategic guidelines and twelve related goals.

In 2019 the Embassy of the Italian Republic in Slovenia and the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, organized a short essay competition for university students in Slovenia on the 30th anniversary of the world's most ratified human rights treaty, the Convention on the Rights of the Child. At the University of Maribor, each year several workshops are organized for the employees, referring to different topics in order to improve and widen their competencies. Among these topics there are several that address the human rights directly and most of them are indirectly related to human rights. They find the topic of human rights as something that is and has to be incorporated into all activities of the university. At the University of Maribor discussion on human rights and the measures to strengthen and widen the education on human rights is performed at several committees of the university senate (committee for sustainable and socially responsible university, committee for the undergraduate and graduate education, committee for research...) as well as the senate of the university, where the report on the activities is given regularly. At the University of Ljubljana individual issues or areas addressing various perspectives of human rights protection are part of the majority of courses at the Faculty of Law (constitutional law course, public international law course, labour law and social security course).

Rules on traineeship for professionals in education stipulate that among others traineeship plan must include content related to promotion democracy among students, including respect for human diversity and multiculturalism. Additionally, various continuous professional development programmes are provided to enhance teachers' civic competences. The aim is to extend the knowledge and skills of teachers with topics that promote competences for the culture of coexistence in the classroom, school life and outside school. The focus is on the exploration of coexistence in the light of the development of creativity, innovation, volunteering, tolerance of cultural diversity and creating a relaxed, cooperative work in the classroom with activities at school and local level and in international projects.

The National Education Institute of the Republic of Slovenia employs an expert in the field of civic education and coordinates study groups of particular subject teachers also on civic education. In Slovenia, there is an emphasis on the work with head teachers who are management bodies and pedagogical leaders of public schools. In this respect National School for Leadership Education activities and programmes provides several topics that support head teachers in a) Managing schools as learning environments in which citizenship education is being implemented (e.g. Headship Licence programme consists of educational modules, which include human rights education, for instance, People in Organisation, Head teacher as an Educational Leader, and Implementing Human and Children's Rights in School - School Culture and Head Teacher's Responsibility); b) Their optional professional development also covers topics related to citizenship. Development of Head Teachers programme specifically deals with this issue, and places particular emphasis on leadership ethics. This topic enables head teachers to learn about the importance of formal power of leadership as such, and the necessity to develop ethical leadership, which involves everything, including the moral perspective of decisions.

The Ministry of education, science and sport is co-financing a project "Improving social and citizenship competences of educational staff" that aims at empowering

educational staff for a successful inclusion of children, pupils, upper-secondary students and higher education students migrants, as well as children of the culture of majority, namely in the scope of professional development programmes.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE – JUDICIAL TRAINING CENTER

The list of training programmes on human rights implemented by the Judicial Training Centre (hereinafter: Centre) between 2015 and 2019:

The programmes of all education events organised by the Centre (training for judges and state prosecutors) regularly include presentations of current case law of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia and the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in particular areas.

2015

In 2015, the Judicial Training Centre joined the network of institutions participating in the Council of Europe's European Programme for Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) to provide training on human rights and to promote the programme.

Part of the project are regular presentations of the HELP Programme at all major education events organised by the Centre.

2016

The **5th Seminar on EU Family Law** featured a lecture entitled 'International child abduction in the ECHR case law'.

At the **Conference on Civil Law for Judges**, 'Furman v. Slovenia and Austria' and other important ECHR judgements were presented.

The **Conference on Criminal Law for Judges** featured a lecture entitled 'Human rights and criminal law'.

The **European Law Conference** featured a lecture entitled 'Slovenia before the ECHR'.

Slovenian Judiciary Days featured a lecture entitled 'Material impact of decisions issued by the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia and the ECHR on the decisions made by judges in the Republic of Slovenia'.

The conference jointly organised by the **State Prosecutors' Association of the Republic of Slovenia and the Office of the State Prosecutor General of the Republic of Slovenia** featured a lecture entitled 'Admissibility of illegally obtained evidence in procedural criminal law in ECHR case law'.

In the framework of the **HELP Programme**, the 'European Seminar on Human rights as Labour Rights' was held.

The **Seminar on Human Rights Protection** was organised.

The **Conference on Minor Offences for Judges** featured a lecture entitled 'Impact of ECHR case law on national minor offence law'.

2017

Events in the framework of the **European Law Conference**:

- *ECHR case law in administrative matters*
- *Roundtable: Implementation of ECHR and CJEU judgements*
- *Protection of fundamental human rights as grounds for refusal to recognise decisions issued by Member States judiciary bodies*
 - *Roundtable: Protection of human rights with regard to measures under framework decisions (ZSKZDČEU-1)*

The **Conference on Administrative Law for Judges** featured a lecture entitled 'A review of major ECHR case law in the light of administrative dispute'.

The **Conference on Criminal Law for Judges** featured the following lectures:

- *International law and human rights in national law*
- *Important decisions of the ECHR and the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia*
- *A review of ECHR case law with regard to the freedom of expression*

The **Conference on Civil Law for Judges** featured a lecture entitled 'Impartiality and ethics of judges – a review of ECHR case law'.

The **Conference on Minor Offences for Judges** featured a lecture entitled 'Distinguishing between criminal and minor offences with a review of ECHR case law'.

2018

The **Conference on Civil Law for Judges** featured a lecture entitled 'Importance of the European Convention on Human Rights for the national judiciary'.

The **Conference on Labour Law for Judges** featured a lecture entitled 'Weighing rights and interests – recent ECHR case law'.

The **Expert Colloquium marking the 20th anniversary of the Administrative Court of the Republic of Slovenia** featured a lecture entitled 'Protection of human rights and administrative justice: A view from Strasbourg'.

In the framework of the **HELP Programme**, a HELP webinar and an introductory seminar on violence against women and family violence were held.

2019

The **Conference on Civil Law for Judges** featured the following lectures:

- *Implementation of ECHR judgements in Slovenia's legal order*
- *Implementation of ECHR judgements in Slovenia – the Ališić case (foreign currency savers)*

In the framework of the **HELP Programme**, a HELP webinar and an introductory seminar on violence against women and family violence were held.

The **Expert Symposium on extraordinary legal remedies in civil and administrative procedures** featured the following lectures:

- *Relevance and impact of ECHR judgements and established violations of human rights – civil law aspect*
- *Judges in dialogue with the ECHR: On outlines and limits of shared responsibility in ensuring judicial protection*
- *Implementation of ECHR judgements by adopting legislation*

The programmes of all the events listed are available at [the Centre's website](#).

It should also be added that the Act Amending the Human Rights Ombudsman Act, adopted on 20 September 2017, entered into force on 14 October 2017. The main purpose of the amended Act was to ensure an appropriate legal basis for establishing a national human rights institution with A status accreditation in accordance with the 1993 Paris Principles relating to the status of national human rights institutions. The amended Act established the Human Rights Ombudsman Council as the Ombudsman's consultative body dealing with broader issues related to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It also established the Human Rights Centre, which has a general mandate and is tasked in particular with the promotion of human rights, human rights education and training, and providing information on human rights protection mechanisms.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE– THE SLOVENIAN ARMED FORCES

The Slovenian Armed Forces include human rights-related content within the framework of **regular military education and training**, especially in education and training prior to deployments to military operations and missions abroad, where members of the Slovenian Armed Forces come into contact (primarily) with the civilian population. Individual educational programmes for members of the Slovenian Armed Forces are adjusted to the current situation. As part of their courses, military legal advisers also receive training in the application of international human rights law within international institutions.

In the Slovenian Armed Forces, the main provider of military education and training is **Military Schools Centre** (hereinafter: CVŠ). Its primary mission is military education and training of members of the Slovenian Armed Forces in order to provide trained military personnel in the Slovenian Armed Forces commands, units and institutes, to participate in the provision of doctrinal, development and scientific research activities and technological development, as well as issuing and publishing activities, thereby supporting the entire Slovenian Armed Forces.

In carrying out its activities, CVŠ liaises with the public education system and with comparable systems within the Alliance, notably with Allied Command Transformation structures.

CVŠ performs its mission and tasks in accordance with the strategic decisions of the Chief of the General Staff of the Slovenian Armed Forces (hereinafter: GSŠV), independently and in cooperation with the Slovenian Armed Forces commands and units, relevant organizational units of the civilian part of the Ministry of Defence, educational and scientific research institutions at home and abroad, NATO and EU working bodies, and other institutions.

CVŠ constituent units are: Department of Military Sciences, Command and Staff School, Officer Candidate School, Non-Commissioned Officer School, School of Foreign Languages, Initial Training Centre, Library and Information Centre, Military Museum, and E-Learning Section.

Human rights education and training takes place at all levels, in particular in the above-mentioned schools, in the framework of the programmes adopted by the Minister of Defence. In addition to education and training in schools, the topic of human rights and freedoms is also covered in education carried out through e-learning courses (for example e-classrooms on the use of military force and e-classrooms on Geneva and Hague Conventions or international law).

Human rights and freedoms education is provided through the **following programmes**:

- elementary military professional training programme;
- programme amending the elementary military professional training programme;
- elementary military training programme for officer candidates;
- basic military professional education and training programme;
- general military education and training programme for officer candidates of the Slovenian Armed Forces;
- basic training programme for work in the armed forces for civilian specialists in uniform;
- staff training programme for officers of the Slovenian Armed Forces;
- higher staff course programme for officers of the Slovenian Armed Forces.

Individual training sessions are also carried out in the field of **The Hague and Geneva Conventions and Protocols** (containing topics of human rights and freedoms), which every soldier in the Slovenian Armed Forces must undergo each year.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR, FAMILY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities has been training **advisers to provide assistance and information to persons who have**

experienced sexual or other harassment or bullying (since 2009). The training is intended for advisers in state administration bodies providing advice to their fellow workers. In 2009, the Government adopted the Decree on Measures to Protect the Dignity of Employees of State Administration stipulating that every state body must employ at least one such adviser.

In addition the **Equal Opportunities Division** organized the following activities.

1. A seminar for policy-makers '**Online while female: Disproportionate risks females face online – and what we can do to change it**' was organised in May 2019. The aim of the seminar was to present a general overview of the field where the main focus was on raising awareness, presenting practical cases and national programmes and sharing experience and examples of good practice, and to improve knowledge and raise awareness of the importance of a gender-sensitive approach in combating cyber violence against women and girls. The seminar was delivered by the world-renowned expert, awarded author, public speaker, journalist and women's rights activist Thordis Elva Thorvaldsdottir, who also prepared recommendations for how policy-makers might address the issue of internet safety from a gender perspective. Information is available at: <https://www.fdv.uni-lj.si/obvestila-in-informacije/dogodki-in-utrinki/napovednik-dogodkov/zenske-na-spletu-tveganja-ki-so-jim-zenske-izpostavljene-bolj-kot-moski-kaj-lahko-storijo-mediji>
2. A seminar '**Online while female: Disproportionate risks females face online – and what the media can do to change it**' for journalists and editors, bloggers and influencers, moderators, employees in the advertising industry, PR services and other employees in the media took place in May 2019. The aim of the seminar was to improve knowledge and awareness about the importance of a gender-sensitive approach in reporting. Different categories of online violence were explained through practical examples; the topic of image-based sexual abuse was presented, and solutions to make the internet a safer place and the media's efforts to contribute to internet safety were discussed. The seminar was delivered by the world-renowned expert, awarded author, public speaker, journalist and women's rights activist Thordis Elva Thorvaldsdottir, who also prepared recommendations for ways the media might address the issue of internet safety from a gender perspective. Information is available at: <https://www.fdv.uni-lj.si/obvestila-in-informacije/dogodki-in-utrinki/napovednik-dogodkov/zenske-na-spletu-tveganja-ki-so-jim-zenske-izpostavljene-bolj-kot-moski-kaj-lahko-storijo-mediji>
3. As part of the EU project Click-off!, educational workshops were held in **Slovenian primary and secondary schools** to educate girls on the manifestations and pitfalls of gender-based violence and harassment of women and girls on the internet. Workshops were held at 120 primary and 60 secondary schools. The findings served as a basis for preparing a lesson plan for Click-off! workshops intended for professionals working with young people, particularly those employed in schools. The lesson plan contains information and explanations of the causes, forms and consequences of gender-based cyber violence, and suggested actions to be taken to tackle the problem. The plan is accompanied by a set of 23 slides to be used in the presentations. The workshops raised awareness of and sensitivity to the existence of sexual

stereotypes and sexism on the internet, and contributed to changing attitudes towards preventing cyber violence. Furthermore, they complemented some of the existing national activities aimed at preventing cyber violence by including the gender perspective in the learning materials.

4. In 2019, in the framework of the EU project Click-off!, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities joined forces with the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Judicial Training Centre and the Police, to organise **three educational seminars for employees in the Police and the judicial sector** dealing with cyber violence against women and girls in the scope of their work tasks. The purpose of the seminar was to improve the capacity for detecting, investigating and prosecuting cases of cyber violence against and harassment of women and girls. At the seminars, experts shared their knowledge of how to react in order to provide rapid and efficient assistance to victims of cyber violence, and gave an overview of the most frequent forms of violence against women and girls on the internet through the prism of gender stereotypes and sexism. The seminars served as the basis for the drawing up of a manual to be used by police and judicial personnel when dealing with cyber violence against women and girls.
5. In 2018, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities organised a two-day training workshop on **gender stereotypes for teaching professionals**. The workshop covered the social ramifications of gender stereotypes, an overview of the situation in gender equality in Slovenia and the European Union, the consequences of gender stereotypes according to developmental psychologists, and a comprehensive review of gender stereotypes in literature for (Slovenian) young people. It also included a presentation of how gender stereotypes are being addressed in schools in Iceland, what is being done in the Netherlands to encourage girls to choose the so-called tech professions of the future, and how Finland is creating a supportive environment for boys and young men to discuss problems that affect them, and acquire new skills. In addition, the workshop presented Slovenian good practices in eliminating gender stereotypes by encouraging boys to work in caring professions, and girls to take up programming and coding. The participants learned how to talk to children about gender stereotypes in popular culture and the caring professions, violence against women and girls, and intergenerational transfer of traditional male and female social roles, and were given a practical example how to initiate such conversations with the help of a puppet show. Through a series of experiential exercises, the participants became familiar with how gender stereotypes affect a child's development from the point of view of developmental psychology, and how they can shine a spotlight on those stereotypes and eliminate them.
6. The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities holds regular seminars and workshops for state and municipal officials on gender mainstreaming in policies and measures, and on gender budgeting.

Several other projects were conducted in the reporting period:

1) Project DARE – Dare to care about equality with the National campaign (2016-2017)

(partnership of Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Legebitra (NGO), University of Ljubljana - Faculty of Arts)

The main beneficiary of this project was the LGBT community in Slovenia as we were striving to raise awareness and contribute to the increase of the level of awareness amongst the general public in relation to the topics connected to sexual orientation. Next to that the methodology of preparing and implementing awareness raising campaign that was used was an innovation in Slovenia, the methodology has been shared with relevant actors and has been identified as a good practice and will be used by other civil society organisations and ministries in Slovenia. Activities, carried out in the project, were:

- Critical analysis of discourse used by neo-conservative movement(s) and its supporters;
- Public opinion poll;
- Design of the slogan and the messaging of the campaign;
- Press conference;
- Booklet on LGBT equality;
- Regional conference (local event);
- Social media campaign (kajpatiopazis.si);
- Local actions;
- Visibility and media campaign (kajpatiopazis.si);
- Meeting of EU member states equality ministries (LGBTI focal point meeting);
- Networking conference (co-hosted with Federal Republic of Germany, carried out in Slovenia).

2) Trainings for experts, working in social care (from 2017-2019)

(Social Chamber of Slovenia, financed from Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities)

The Social Chamber of Slovenia is the central professional association in the field of social welfare. Its main task is to prepare regulations and standards governing social welfare services and qualification standards for different activities and for the assessment of professional work. They provide regular trainings for professionals that work in social care – centres of social work, homes for the elderly and other governmental institutions as well as for those professionals, working in NGO's, which are financed by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities to provide services.

Training are based at the relevant legislation and the human rights approach is embedded in all the education and trainings as a paradigm (vs medical or other approaches). From 2017-2019 the following trainings were carried out each year:

- Domestic violence,
- Children at risk,
- User data protection,
- Mental health,
- Services for the elderly,
- Persons with disabilities,
- Migrants and trafficking of human beings.

3) Projects during "ONE UNICEF Refugee and Migrant response" (25. 9. 2016 – 31. 12. 2017)

(partnership of Social chamber of Slovenia and UNICEF Slovenia)

Three different projects were carried out in partnership between Social Chamber of Slovenia and UNICEF in the context of the technical mission, operating under the "ONE UNICEF Refugee and Migrant response". The main objective of the project is developing additional professional qualifications of personnel employed in the field of social security, to enable provision of better response and services due to social changes brought by current migrant crisis. To assure quality integration of refugee children with their families and UASC¹'s identification of key professional competencies to work with the target population is needed.

"Strengthening of social welfare system on child protection issues including standards and protocols of working with refugee and migrant children and unaccompanied and separated children"

The following two main objectives were identified for this programme:

- 1) Update and upgrade implementation program for the professional exam in the field of social protection on the topic of child protection, standards and protocols of working with refugee and migrant children.
- 2) Prepare starting points for education and training programme in the area of 'child care' with an emphasis on working with refugees children with families and UASCs.

"Strengthening of child protection system for refugee and migrant children and UASCs"

Integral part of 2016 collaboration was online survey conducted by Social Chamber among 28 front-line staff from social services organisations, working directly with UASCs showed that key competencies and skills of professionals working with refugee and migrant children and UASC should include ability to cooperate, empathy, needs assessment skills, commitment to act ethically, respect of diversity and dignity of human beings, understanding and respecting of intercultural differences and commitment to children and human rights.

Research also shown that almost half of the organisations working with UASCs do not have SOP²s. Currently there are SOPs for working with refugee and migrant children and/or UASCs for CSW, MOI and Student Dormitories.

Research indicated most pressing gaps in competencies and skills and need to address them with tailor-made educational and training programme enabling strengthening of skills and capacities of front line worker's ability to assure rights of refugee and migrant children, including UASC are protected and to proactively respond to children's needs.

"Advanced psychosocial training for child/social protection professionals"

Based on the findings and recommendations of the CP mapping exercise, the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee, consisting of Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs

¹ Unaccompanied and separated children

² Standard operating protocol

and Equal Opportunities, Ministry of Interior, Office for Support and Integration of Migrants, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Health prepared joint, inter-ministerial Action Plan for 2017 where UNICEF support was requested with following activities (that were carried out):

- Three two-day advance training courses on psychosocial assistance to vulnerable children, including refugee and migrant children were implemented.
- Supervision was provided to Asylum Centre staff working in Ljubljana and Logatec facilities.

GOVERNEMENT COMMUNICATION OFFICE

Activities designed to create and promote a climate of tolerance and respect for and acceptance of different ethnic groups, refugees, and migrants.

1. Set-up and editing of the website Assistance to Refugees (2015-2018 period), which included the page entitled "Towards a Tolerant Society".
2. Cooperation with local radio stations on tolerance and integration

The Government Communication Office has ensured the production and broadcasting of **16 radio programmes** on the integration of migrants and fostering of mutual respect and tolerance among the local population.

3. Cooperation with TV Slovenia - educational programmes

The Government Communication Office has ensured the production and broadcasting of **13 short educational programmes**, presenting best practices of integration of different groups of migrants.

4. Delivery of workshops in local communities

The Government Communication Office has ensured the delivery of **nine (9) moderated 4-hour workshops** seeking to explore the challenges and concerns that arise over migrants in local communities, and to find an effective tool for providing efficient, tailor-made solutions adapted to local requirements.

Following a series of workshops on the local community's role in the integration of migrants, the Government Communication Office has produced a publication summarising the key findings of individual workshops, entitled **Actively for Tolerance**. A total of 2000 copies of the publication have been distributed to local community opinion leaders, NGOs, and all headteachers of primary and secondary schools.

5. Support for the 2nd Festival of Tolerance

In the context of the [2nd Festival of Tolerance](#), the Government Communication Office supported some of the activities targeted at young people: Educational events led by eminent artists, a prize competition on tolerance and refugees, and seven (7) drama workshops on refugees.

6. Screenings of the film Strah (Fear)

The short socially engaged film [Strah](#) (Fear) by Dejan Babošek has been recognised by the Government Communication Office as an effective tool for raising awareness and preventing the radicalisation of young people. With the support of the Government Communication Office, the film has been shown at **40 vocational secondary schools around Slovenia** and has been viewed by 4,800 students. All screenings were followed by a **moderated talk** aimed at making young people aware that they can make a change and encouraging them to take an active role against intolerance, racism and xenophobia.

7. Co-financing of NGO projects

Based on the call for applications for 2015-2019, the Government Communication Office co-financed **44 projects of NGOs and humanitarian organisations** totalling EUR 259,000. These projects **for young people** have contributed to creating and promoting an atmosphere of tolerance as well as to respecting and accepting different ethnic groups, refugees and migrants. One of the projects' key goals was to draw attention to the incidence, forms and negative consequences of hate speech. Through the projects, over **1164 events of various types** (workshops, a living library, interactive experiential theatre play, debate evenings, round table, handicraft knowledge exchange between migrants and Slovenian citizens, photographic exhibition of images taken by migrants on the Balkan migration routes, critical literacy seminar, music hikes around Slovenia, etc.) have been carried out **all around Slovenia**, directly reaching more than **18,600 young people**.

Young people and their teachers responded extremely well in particular to events which involved members of various ethnic groups, refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. This contact was crucial to young people, confronting them with their ignorance, fears and xenophobic prejudices.

In addition to the events, the NGOs carried out a number of other activities: a film and video competition, production of educational content, modules and manuals for teachers, an educational game, publication of stories by children from around the world, exhibition of posters, etc.

The activities of NGOs are recognised as a very important long-term and multiplying element raising young people's awareness of tolerance, intercultural dialogue and solidarity.

Activities designed to raise public awareness of human trafficking

1. Website editing

<https://www.gov.si/zbirke/projekti-in-programi/boj-proti-trgovini-z-ljudmi/>

The website provides content on human trafficking, accessible information on the activities of the Interdepartmental Working Group on the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings, basic documents published by it, international documents within this field, and research and studies, and it also enables the anonymous submission of e-reports, and contacts with non-governmental organisations providing assistance to victims. In addition, key activities in the area of detecting, investigating and prosecuting crimes and preventing human trafficking are presented.

2. On-line manual Preventing the Risk of Hidden Forced Labour

The Slovenian version of the e-manual **Preventing the risk of Hidden Forced Labour is published on the Government Communication Office website**. This interactive prevention tool enables risk management and suggests steps that can be taken to avoid involvement in human trafficking.

3. Co-financing of NGO projects

Based on the call for applications for 2015-2019, the Government Communication Office has also co-financed 25 projects aimed at raising public awareness about human trafficking with a total value of EUR 100,000.

NGOs held **780 awareness-raising events** (workshops, talks, etc.), directly reaching more than **13,800 young people**. In addition, they provided for the printing and distribution of materials, the carrying out of competitions, the publication of thematic articles on the most visited web portal, a visit to an escape room on labour exploitation, etc.).

4. 18 October – Marking European Anti-Trafficking Day

On 18 October every year, European Anti-Trafficking Day is marked by the Government Communication Office in cooperation with NGOs. On this day, panels aimed at the general and professional public are held, with the participation of representatives of the Government, law enforcement bodies, NGOs and trade unions. The events focus in particular on human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation and forced labour, which is not adequately recognised and prosecuted in Slovenia.

2. PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING FOR MEDIA PROFESSIONALS AND JOURNALISTS

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

With the National programme for Culture 2014–2018, the Ministry's key strategic document, defining the development of culture and art in a given period, the Ministry of culture has committed to raise public awareness on the importance of human rights for strengthening and building a democratic society. It has taken the position that the media have an important role in shaping social values, whereby high-quality media cannot exist without well-educated and qualified journalists. Therefore, it is especially important that the Republic of Slovenia continually implements activities aimed at raising awareness on the importance of respect for human rights among journalists and other media professionals whose work has an impact on public opinion.

Since 2015, the Ministry has co-financed the project of the Slovene Association of Journalists entitled Festival of Quality Media Content Naprej/Forward and the operation of the Naprej/Forward Centre for High-quality Media Content by allocating EUR 25,000 in 2015 and EUR 20,000 in 2018. The Centre, a permanent education centre for journalists and other (co)authors of high-quality media content, has evolved from the existing successful annual three-day festival of high-quality media content Naprej/Forward. In the 2015–2019 period, numerous events, workshops and

consultations related to professionalism and ethical practice of journalists and other media professionals were implemented by the Centre, including:

- Regular workshops on ethical aspects of writing and publishing stories, with particular emphasis on areas where the freedom of speech conflicts with other human rights.
- From March to May 2015, the Slovene Association of Journalists, the NGO Network ZIPOM under the auspices of the Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth, and the Human Rights Ombudsman ran a series of workshops on reporting on children.
- A series of workshops for journalists on Protecting communication privacy, which is particularly important in investigative journalism and in cases of confidentiality of sources.
- A conference on enforcing the right to a corrigendum gathering lawyers, judges, editors enforcing the right, and a representative of the Ministry of Culture. The conference included an overview of the relevant case law in Slovenia, the sharing of experience among editors and media outlet lawyers with corrigenda, time limits, reasons for rejection, and electronic media specifics.
- Two smaller projects were launched in early 2016, the first in cooperation with the National Commission for UNESCO, entitled Overcoming age-related stereotypes in the media, and the second in cooperation with the Association SOS Help Line aimed at drafting a Handbook for reporting on violence against women and domestic violence.
- In November 2016, a well-attended and highly topical discussion was organised in Ljubljana on legal and ethical dilemmas of the use of visual content and other web and social network content in the media.
- In 2017, two workshops were organised in the framework of Naprej/Forward Festival aimed at educating journalists on human rights, namely:
 - o a workshop on case law of Slovenian courts and the European Court of Human Rights in criminal proceedings and actions for compensation against journalists and the media. Lawyers provided answers to a variety of journalists' questions regarding their criminal responsibility and liability for damages related to the invasion of privacy and attacks upon a person's honour and reputation, and questions concerning corrigendum claims and copyright issues.
 - o a workshop entitled How to improve reporting on domestic violence? during which a group of experts presented the Handbook for reporting on violence against women and domestic violence.
- In 2018, the Slovene Association of Journalists organised a Constructive Journalism Seminar as an antidote to increased tabloidisation, sensationalism and negativism in the media.
- In 2019, a one-year project was launched entitled Defending watchdog role of civil society and journalists in Slovenia. The project aims at countering threats and challenges to watchdog role of civil society and journalists in Slovenia by strengthening their capacity for efficient response and gaining public support. The main project activities include: a) mapping and reporting media ownership and financing patterns; b) mapping and reporting attacks on journalists and civil society; developing recommendations and advocacy for policy changes; c) advancing capacities of the coalition members and

other civic actors for legal defence, strategic communication, and solidarity campaigns to counter threats and challenges.

- Another multiannual project conducted by the Peace Institute, a human rights NGO, from 2018 and until 2021, addresses important topics related to strengthening the role of civil society in the efforts to improve media and information literacy. The project foresees a number of activities, including Journalism for citizens aimed at enhancing media and information literacy (human rights education as part of media literacy) among high school students interested in media freedom and critical understanding of media content.