



SLOVAK NATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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INPUT OF THE SLOVAK NATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS TO THE REQUEST OF THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNING RELEVANT INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN NATIONALLY DURING 2015-2016

The Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (the Centre) is a national human rights institution established in the Slovak Republic, accredited with status B by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. As an NHRI, the Centre is a member of the European Network of NHRIs (ENNHRI). The Centre was established by the Act of the Slovak National Council No. 308/1993 Coll. on the Establishment of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights. Pursuant to Act No. 365/2004 Coll. on Equal Treatment in Some Areas and on Protection from Discrimination, and on amendments and supplements of certain acts, as amended (the Anti-discrimination Act) the Centre acts also as the only Slovak equality body. As an NHRI and Equality Body, the Centre performs a wide range of tasks in the area of human rights and fundamental freedoms including the observance of the principle of equal treatment. The Centre among other powers:

- 1) monitors and evaluates the observance of human rights and the observance of the equal treatment principle;*
- 2) conducts research and surveys to provide data in the area of human rights; gathers and distributes information in this area;*
- 3) prepares educational activities and participating in information campaigns aimed at increasing tolerance of the society;*
- 4) provides legal assistance to victims of discrimination a manifestations of intolerance;*
- 5) issues expert opinions on matters of the observance of the equal treatment principle;*
- 6) performs independent inquiries related to discrimination;*
- 7) prepares and publishes reports and recommendations on issues related to discrimination;*
- 8) provides library services and services in the area of human rights.*



In relation to the implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, the Centre provides below complete information about trainings and education areas and organised events, which were delivered by it in 2015 and 2016. Information on the Centre's education activities are also available in its annual activity reports that can be found at: <http://www.snslp.sk/?locale=en#page=2427>

- **Relevant initiatives undertaken nationally in 2015**

In 2015, human rights education and training activities, including the rights of the child and the principle of equal treatment, were prepared by the Centre in line with the Plan of Activities. Apart from the planned activities, the Centre also organised or co-organised several ad hoc events.

Target groups comprised primary various target audience including school pupils, high school students, policemen and policewomen from departments of criminal police of regional directorates of the Police Force working in fight against extremism units, the Energy Chemical Trade Union, marginalised Roma communities, employees of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, the Council of Basic Organisations of the Trade Union of Workers in Education and Science of Slovakia in Trnava, Association Karotka for seniors and persons with persons with disabilities in Červeník, representatives of employers, the Council of Basic Organisations of the Trade Union of Workers in Education and Science of Slovakia in Trenčín, EU Information HUB for Non-Institutional Care, the Regional Council of the Confederation of Trade Union of Slovakia of Košice and Prešov Region, chairpersons of Councils of Basic Organisation of the Trade Union of Workers in Education and Science of Slovakia, Prešov primary school directors and chairpersons of the Basic Organisation of Trade Union of Workers in Education and Science of Slovakia Košice.

A number of 112 educational activities in total were delivered to 2828 participants. In terms of age representation of target groups this number comprises 61 events for 1283 primary school pupils, 32 events for 851 high school students and 19 events for 694 adult participants. The events took place across Slovakia, most of them in Bratislava Region.

The Centre continued in 2015 with its educational activities at primary and secondary schools. Schools could choose from six standard topics, each of which is offered in various variants according to time duration. An offer with basic information and short description of each variant was distributed to hundreds of primary and secondary schools throughout Slovakia. Schools could also select the most appropriate topic and variant. Variant A (2x 45 min.) covers a short introduction on the selected topic including good practice examples and closing debate. Variant B (3 x 45 min.) further includes more detailed information on the selected topic and a thematic group game. Variant C (4 x 45 min.) additionally includes a short documentary or thematic video spots.

Standardly offered topics cover: Human rights, Non-discrimination, Gender equality, Holocaust, Rights of the child and Extremism. Many schools are interested in various topics within one



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academic year. In 2015, the Centre organised 93 events attended by 2134 pupils and students. This covers 61 events for primary school pupils and 32 events for high school students. The events were held throughout Slovakia, most of them in Bratislava Region. Both primary and secondary schools preferred the variant A (74 events), minimally interrupting their schedule. In terms of topics, the most frequently selected were Human rights (22x), Non-discrimination (22x), Extremism (20x). Another commonly requested topic was Holocaust (10x).

Education activities for the youth with disabilities: in relation to the established cooperation, in 2015, the Centre organised 2 educational activities at the Joint School – Technical College and Practical School in Švabinského Street 7. The first educational event on Human trafficking was held for 14 students and the one on Human rights for 20 students.

The Centre also delivered trainings within its project designed for Roma communities. “Let’s Learn More Together” is a project comprising a series of educational activities organised by the Centre in Roma communities in order to raise awareness on non-discrimination, labour law and human trafficking. Within this project, the Centre held half-day trainings on 26.01.2015 in Dunajská Streda (in cooperation with the Municipal Office) and on 17.02.2015 in Pašková (in cooperation with the Municipal Office) addressing: introduction to issues of discrimination, the Antidiscrimination Act, areas covered by the Antidiscrimination Act, grounds of discrimination and its forms, selected labour law issues, human trafficking, mandate, activities and status of the Centre. The event in Dunajská Streda was attended by 16 participants and the one in Pašková by 34 participants. The participants showed particular interest in non-discrimination and human trafficking and they found it crucial that the Centre organises these events also in other Roma communities across Slovakia.

• **Relevant initiatives undertaken nationally in 2016**

The year 2016 was ground-breaking in education. The Centre cooperatively organised 155 events for 4453 participants. In 2016, the Centre provided training for adult audiences on the following topics:

- 1) Prevention and elimination of discrimination on workplace
- 2) Bullying on workplace
- 3) Gender equality
- 4) Elimination of violence on women in employment law
- 5) Extremism and racism in the context of human rights
- 6) Equality and non-discrimination in the context of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (article 5 UNCPRD)
- 8) Elimination of barriers in our environment and at work and personal mobility of persons with disabilities in the context of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (article 9, article 20 and article 27 UNCPRD).

Thanks to a great cooperation with the Trade Union of Workers in Education and Science of Slovakia, the Presidium of Police Forces of Slovakia, the Academy of Police Force of the Slovak



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Republic, as well as thanks to new initiatives related to fulfilment of various tasks under relevant action plans, the Centre organized 50 events for 1516 participants at several ministries.

Activities were organised in every region of the Slovak Republic, mostly in Bratislava region (68 events) and less in Košice region (5 events) and Banská Bystrica region (6 events).

Almost one third of all activities was dedicated to extremism (49). Other popular themes were non-discrimination (27), human rights (19) and mobbing/bossing (17). All together 34,3 % of all participants took part in education concerning the danger of extremism. Overall, 101 (almost 2/3) of events lasted for 90 minutes, but 20 activities lasted for 3 hours.

18 events for 509 participants in total were prepared or attended by the Regional Office of the Centre from Žilina, 14 events for 447 participants was secured/prepared by the Regional Office in Košice and 8 events (186 participants) were directed by the Regional Office in Banská Bystrica.

The Centre also undertook numerous activities for pupils in 2016. Altogether 52 events were prepared for 1069 pupils of 20 elementary schools. Another 53 events were prepared for 1868 pupils of 20 different secondary schools.

The numbers of pupils who attended educational activities on specific topics:

- Human rights – 19 events for 543 pupils in total;
- Non-discrimination – 27 events for 763 pupils in total;
- Gender equality – 10 events for 224 pupils in total;
- Holocaust – 10 events for 267 pupils in total;
- Rights of Child – 10 events for 206 pupils in total;
- Racism and extremism – 49 events for 1528 in total;
- Mobbing – 17 events for 569 pupils in total;
- Other – 9 events for 269 pupils in total;
- Combined events – 4 events for 85 pupils in total;

All summary statistics of education activities will be available in the *Report on the activities of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights for the year 2016*, which will be published in April 2017.