



Slovak Disability Council

2008 Annual Report

CONTENTS

1.Introduction

2. Characterisation of the Slovak Disability Council

- 2.1. People in the Slovak Disability Council
- 2.2 Organisational Structure of SDC
- 2.3 Management of the Slovak Disability Council
- 2. 4 Objectives and Activities of SDC

3. Difficult Times in the First Half of the Year – Protest in Front of the Government Office

4. Admission of new members of SDC

5. Activities of SDC as part of the EU year of intercultural dialogue

6. Better accessible internet site of SDC

7.Support to better legislation – the Act on social services and on the compensation of social consequences of disability

8. SDC projects financed from MoLSAF subsidies

- 8. 1 Social rehabilitation of capacities needed for independent living of people with disabilities
- 8. 2 Mosty Inklúzie (Inclusion Bridges) internet magazine
- 8.3 Foreign activities of SDC and membership to EDF

9. Participation of people with disabilities in activities aimed at combating discrimination

10. Slovak Disability Day

11. Trainings of aviation personnel about personal assistance to people with disabilities in air traffic

12.Introduction of the euro in Slovakia

13. Handinnov Award

14. New publications of SDC

15. Cooperation of SDC with the Labour and Family Research Institute

16. Advisory by SDC to people with disabilities

17. Support by SDC to students

18. Our Bratislava Project

19. Accreditation of SDC

20. Facts and Figures of 2008

21. ... the conclusion and some stuff to think about

1. Introduction

The activities of the Slovak Disability Council are concentrated mainly on the fulfilment of the Council's main task, being the enforcement and promotion of common interests and promotion of the rights of people with disabilities regardless of the type of disability. We entered the year of 2008 with the hope and the intention to speed up the process of creating equal opportunities and equal treatment for people with disabilities and their integration into the society.

The past year cannot be considered as successful or unsuccessful; it was certainly a very challenging one. Late refunding of project expenditure, late payment of subsidies and failed negotiations lasting for several months brought the Slovak Disability Council and several other organisations of people with disabilities defending their rights to the brink of collapse. This situation led to a protest gathering on 4 June 2008 in front of the Government Office. This rather desperate move led to the intensification of negotiations concerning problems of people with disabilities with the highest representatives of the state and to an acceleration of the legislative process. Despite this partial success, we normally prefer systemic negotiations based on the partnership principle over demonstrations.

The most awaited event was the adoption of the Act on serious disability compensation benefits and the Act on social services (both adopted in October 2008). The two acts eventually brought into life several positive measures, such as indexation of benefits, increase of the contribution for personal assistance, improvement of legislative conditions for the provision of social rehabilitation etc. However, we are still not satisfied with the manner, in which the income of the care givers for the purpose of provision of the personal assistance benefit is examined. The current practice operates as a disincentive to find employment, even though the benefit is not a substitute for loss of income; it should support independent living instead. The amendments to the draft Act on social services, adopted by the members of the Parliament in the last moment (giving preference to public providers of social services over the private ones and restricting the right of clients for social services of free choice of their providers) were yet another source of our concerns.

Positive changes definitely include the adoption of the amendment of Act No 365/2004 on equal treatment, which extends the ban on discrimination on the grounds of disability in employment also to other areas, including education, services and goods. The result of the analysis of compliance of our legislation with the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities was also very encouraging. According to the survey, there exist no legal obstacles for the ratification of the Convention. We have mixed feelings over the preparations of the ratification of the European Social Charter, as the Government did not recommend ratifying Article 15.3 on the support to the accessibility of environment for persons with disabilities. On the other hand, the Slovak Government decided to prepare an accessibility strategy, which could speed up the implementation of concrete measures and subsequently lead to the ratification of the above-mentioned article of the European Social Charter.

We also continued to support the implementation of European legislation in our country and to influence European legislative processes particularly through the European Disability Forum and through the cooperation with our members of the European Parliament. A concrete example of this is a series of trainings for airport personnel about the practical implementation of EU Directive on the rights of people with limited mobility and disabilities in aviation. The seminar organised on the

occasion of the international Disability Day in cooperation with and with the support of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, and with the participation of the Chairman of the National Council and other MPs, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family and foreign guests, was also a success. The seminar was devoted mainly to the contribution of the EU and our membership to the EU for citizens and this seminar also launched the campaign supporting elections into the European Parliament.

Despite the above problems and limitations, the Slovak Disability Council undoubtedly contributed to the process of resolving the problems of people with disabilities and proved the efficiency of common effort by their organisations not only in the area of legislation. The outlook for 2009 is still marked with concerns about defence of the rights of people with disabilities by themselves, through their own organisations, whose existence is still at risk and the economic crisis will certainly not mitigate the situation. On the other hand, we hope that in 2009 we will come much closer to the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; this process could be facilitated by the positive result of the analysis of compliance of our legislation with the Convention. We will still have to devote our attention to the implementation of the Act on serious disability compensation benefit and the Act on social services, to the monitoring of their impacts and to the proposals for their improvement.

Ladies and gentlemen, members and representatives of member organisations, dear friends and collaborators, representatives of private companies, the public administration and self-governments, all of you, who were involved in the activities of the Slovak Disability Council, who cooperated with us and who supported our effort, please accept our sincere thanks for your help in creating better living conditions for people with disabilities. We believe that the Slovak Disability Council will be able to rely on your help and assistance also in the future.

Branislav Mamojka
President of the Slovak Disability Council

2. Characterisation of the Slovak Disability Council

The Slovak Disability Council of the Slovak Republic (SDC) is a representative organisation representing people with disabilities (PwD). It was established by people with disabilities themselves through a project of the European Disability Forum supported by the European Commission, which was implemented not only in Slovakia but also in the other "new" member states.

The Slovak Disability Council has been operating since 2003. The main reason why people with various types of disability decided to establish the organisation was to unify their voice and to be better able to fight for better living conditions of people with disabilities. Similar organisations exist also in the other EU countries. They are associated within the European Disability Forum (EDF); the Slovak Disability Council is one of EDF members.

In 2008, 7 new organisations joined the Slovak Disability Council, re-confirming the justification for the existence of such a nationwide organisation supporting the interests of people with disabilities both in Slovakia and in Europe (through its membership to the EDF). At present, it counts 21 member organisations representing almost all types of disability.

Since its establishment, it has been carrying out projects for people with disabilities aimed at supporting the rights of PwD, their education to increase employability, social rehabilitation, prevention of discrimination and other projects. It concentrates on specific tasks and forms of assistance to people with disabilities. Its activities also include awareness rising among the public and removal of barriers in the minds of the people.

The Slovak Disability Council works for, is composed of, managed by and represented by people with disabilities. Such representatives from among people with disabilities include SDC President RNDr. Branislav Mamojka, CSc, Vice President Mgr. Iveta Mišová and Ing. Monika Vrábľová.

2.1. People in the Slovak Disability Council

RNDr. Branislav Mamojka, CSc President of the Slovak Disability Council



In addition to his position at SDC, Branislav Mamojka is actively engaged in one of SDC member organisations, the Blind and Partially Sighted Union as the Union's Chairman. He is the leading representative and a founder of SDC. In addition to that, he is a member of several advisory and work groups dealing with disability issues, including for example the Government Council for People with Disabilities. He is a member of the Presidency of the European Disability Forum (EDF).

Contact: mamojka@nrozp.sk

Ing. Monika Vrábl'ová – SDC Vice President



Ing. Monika Vrábl'ová is the Vice President and one of the founders of SDC. She held the position of the General Secretary till 2007.

In addition to her position in SDC, she is also the Deputy Chairman of one of the oldest and largest nationwide organisations, the Slovak Union of Physically Disabled People (SUPDP).

Contact: vrablova@sztp.sk

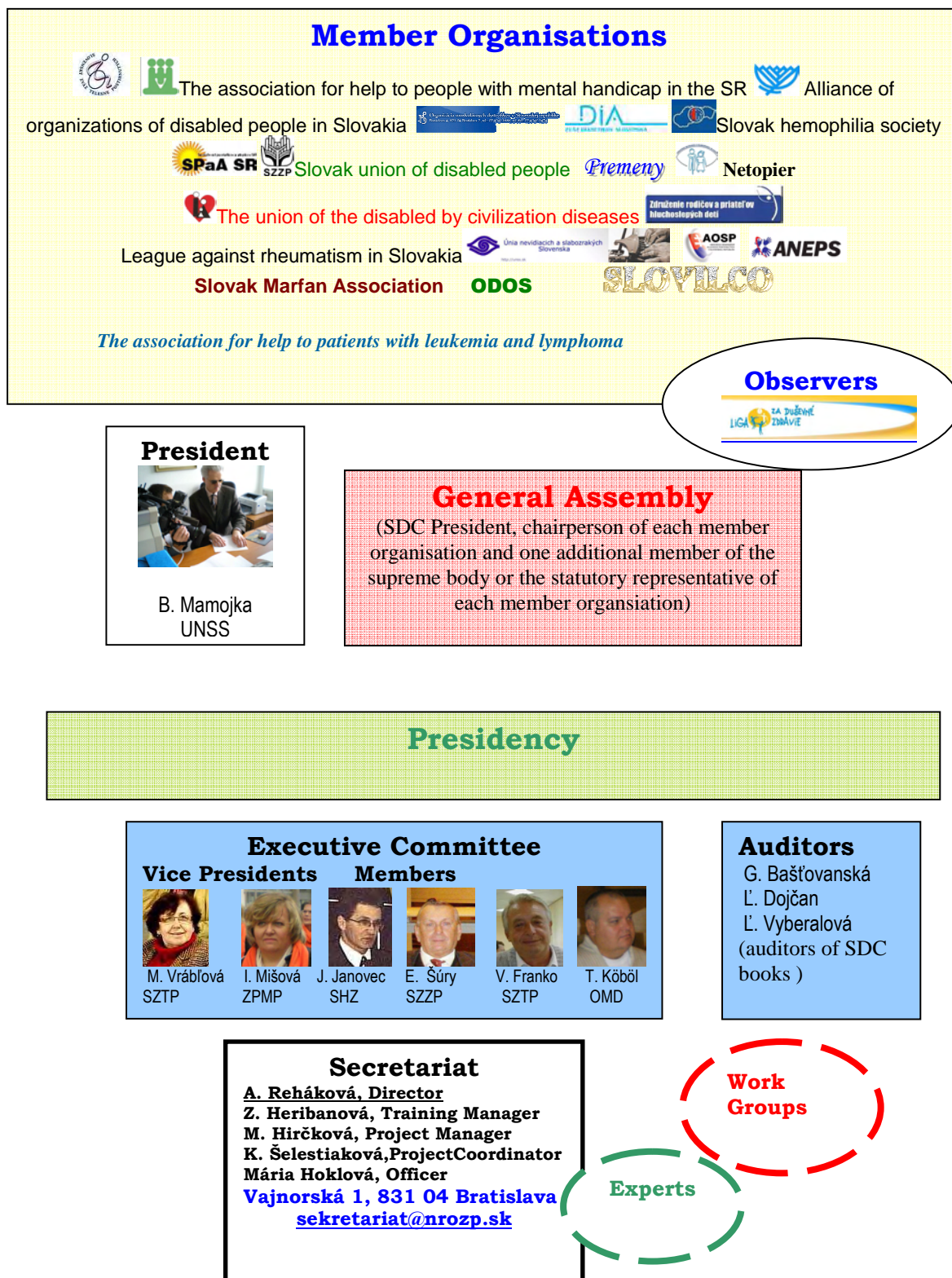
Mgr. Iveta Mišová - SDC Vice President



Mgr. Iveta Misova not only works as a director of organisation helping people with mental disability (Mental Disability Support Association MDSA); she is also the Vice President of the Slovak Disability Council. She is an expert for mental disability and, as part of the organisation managed by it, represents this group of disabled citizens on international level.

Contact: misova@zpmpvsr.sk

2.2 Organisational Structure of SDC



Organisational Structure of SDC

Membership to international organisations



European Disability Forum EDF

Inclusion Scotland
 (honorary member)

2.3 Management of the Slovak Disability Council

The Slovak Disability Council is an organisation about and for people with disabilities. One of the priorities is working on the motto **“NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US”**. This motto has been reflected also in the organisational structure of SDC. The structure consists of people with disabilities.

What are our member organisations?

At least 50% of the members of each organisation and of its managing organs are people with disabilities	The organisation has at least 300 members.	The organisation is represented in at least 4 regions of Slovakia	They have been registered as a civic association according to the laws of Slovakia for at least 3 years
50% of PwD	300 members	4 regions	3 years

Organisations, whose number of members is so low, that it is not possible or practical to establish several organisational units or offices, can be granted an exception from the minimum number of members requirement. The reason for having this exception is that certain types of disability are less frequent in the population.

The organisational structure of SDC is composed of the following organs:

The highest representative of SDC is the President elected by the General Assembly. The statutory representatives of SDC are the President and the Director.

The General Assembly is the supreme organ of SDC. Another organ is SDC Presidency. It is composed of the chairpersons and statutory representatives of member organisations. The Presidency meets several times a year. It is the supreme organ of SDC between two general meetings.

The highest executive organ and the organ managing SDC affairs between two Presidency meetings is the Executive Committee of SDC, elected by the General Assembly. The Executive Committee can use the services of a secretariat.

Secretariat of the Slovak Disability Council



The secretariat is the main executive unit of SDC. It is managed by Anna Rehakova (shown in the picture together with Branislav Mamojka in a meeting of EDF in Slovenia), who is responsible for the work of SDC in Slovakia. In 2008, she was a member of a work team composed of training and education manager PhDr. Zuzana Heribanova (whose main task was the management of training/education projects), Mgr. Michaela Hirckova, project manager, who dealt with

the preparation and implementation of projects and Mgr. Katarina Selestiakova, project coordinator and also the editor of the internet magazine. In the first half of the year, Maria Hoklova provided administrative support to the team. In the second half of the year, due to her long-term inability to work, she was replaced by Pavlina Klinkova. The Slovak Disability Council had 5 permanent employees in 2008, two of whom worked in shielded employment. In projects, we cooperate with external experts from various fields and volunteers. The economic stability corresponds to the overall position of non-governmental organisations of people with disabilities in Slovakia. Our activities are financed solely from projects (national projects supported

by ministries, foundations and the Government Office, and EU projects), membership contributions of our member organisations and 2% tax donations.

2. 4 Objectives and Activities of SDC

The Slovak Disability Council carries out a number of activities helping people with disabilities. Its permanent activities implemented independently from the current projects include monitoring of living conditions of people with disabilities, consultations in the legislative process, support to member organisations, advisory to people with disabilities and provision of information on current developments of the disability agenda. In addition to that, we implement several projects in line with our mission and objectives.

The goals of SDC include:

- ensuring the fundamental human rights for people with disabilities, through their active involvement in policy making and implementation;
- enforcement of the rights and justified requirements of people with disabilities as an equal and independent partner in relation to all involved entities in Slovakia and abroad;
- working, acting and creating the room for discussions, and coordinating the activities of member organisations so that the common and general interests of people with disabilities are recognised by the society.

The activities of SDC can be summarised as follows:

- a) defending the common interests of people with disabilities and promoting the mainstreaming of disability into development policies at all levels;
- b) creating the platform for discussion and implementation of common action against discrimination on the ground of disability and creating the conditions for equal opportunities and equal treatment;
- c) legal and social advisory, awareness raising and providing training to people with disabilities on how to overcome the consequences of disability, development of self-defence abilities, raising awareness of the law, increasing employability and improving other skills supporting effective integration into the society;
- d) supporting the development of the capacities of its member organisations, civic associations, public administration institutions, self-governments and employer organisations and increasing the level of qualification of their personnel and officers;
- e) informing and awareness raising of the public, public institutions, businesses, state administration and self-governments about the problems and abilities of people with disabilities and about the possibilities of prevention and elimination of barriers related to disability

Basic Data about the SDC

Národná rada občanov so zdravotným postihnutím v SR (Slovak Disability Council)
Vajnorská 1, 831 04 Bratislava
Identification Number 308 53 567
Civic Association pursuant to Act No 83/1990 Coll.

3. Difficult Times in the First Half of the Year – Protest in Front of the Government Office



In the first half of 2008, the Slovak Disability Council organised a protest in front of the Government Office. The reason for that was the fact that the Slovak Disability Council and its member organisations of people with disabilities as well as many other organisations systematically dealing with the advocacy and enforcement of the rights of people with disabilities came into a situation posing a real threat of their dissolution and significant reduction of

their capability and capacity to continue working towards their mission. The reluctance to resolve the problems existing in the area of compensation of social consequences of disability and social services, using the excuse that new legislation is being prepared, led to a significant deterioration of the living conditions for people with serious disability. It was not possible to reverse the process without continued systematic pressure on the decision-makers through DPOs. Therefore, the Slovak Disability Council considered it necessary to point to those facts, which made the living conditions of people with disabilities more difficult.

As our effort to resolve this deteriorating situation in cooperation with the competent state authorities lasting since the beginning of 2007 produced no results, we did not see any other possibility than presenting them in public in the gathering on 4 June 2008.

Directly during the gathering, we agreed on two meetings with Minister Tomanová.

Photograph – We are not only pleading, we have something to offer

In the first meeting on 5 June 2008, we discussed mainly the possibility of using the tools available under the Act on employment services to support employment by simplifying and making the related administration cheaper and to speed up the refunds of expenses, which should help DPOs to stabilise their staff. The question of the criteria for the provision of subsidies

and the possibilities of their adaptation to the needs of DPOs was also opened. We strongly emphasized, that no subsidies for interpretation for the hearing impaired or for magazines for the blind or magazines with easy-to-understand language for people with mental disabilities had been provided.

We were also informed that the grant commission of MoLSAF accepted the recommendations concerning grant applications for projects on 29 May 2008 and that the Minister had already signed the

relevant decisions. The decisions were published on 5 June 2008 on the web site of



MoLSAF. Even though this was still very late, it was the shortest period of time from the meeting of the grant commission till the signing of the grant decisions in history; our gathering most likely also contributed to this.



After more than one year of controversial debates, it was finally confirmed by the Ministry of Finance and the representatives of MoLSAF that there exists no legislative provision, which would prevent using state subsidies for paying rental expenses and wages.

We think that this clear result provides an important basis for negotiations about the announced new legislation, which should regulate the provision of state subsidies till 2011. This means for all organisations of people with disabilities, that there are no legal

obstacles to use project financing for covering operating expenses and wages necessary to implement the project. We also received the promise that the deadline for submission of project applications for 2009 according to the Decree of the Labour Ministry would be extended to the original deadline of 30 November 2008.

Other questions discussed in the meeting:

- The tax bonus, which cannot be claimed, if the care benefit is the only source of income of a care giver.
- When indexing benefits, the total increase in income of the person being taken care of and of the care taker is lower than the total increase in their income had the care giver – care receiver relationship between them not existed. We think that this is a discriminatory rule.
- We proposed pre-discussing the principal comments to the Act on the support of integration of persons with severe disability into the society and we asked for a closer work meeting on the topic between the representatives of SDC and MoLSAF before the “big” meeting with the representatives of DPOs and other institutions.
- The state of the process of approving the statutes of the Government Council for People with Disabilities and preparations for the constitution of the Council.
- Preparations for the ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Health care – the basic functional types of aids are frequently just the most economical but not the best functional solution. We request setting a maximum payment required for medicinal drugs from low-income patients.
- Using the presence of the representatives of the Education Ministry, we opened also the following issues: designating entities responsible for creating the conditions for integrated education of students with disabilities, abolishment of discriminatory payments for children with disabilities receiving education in field classes in DSS.



4. Admission of new members of SDC

In 2008, SDC received the following new members:



Asociácia nepočujúcich Slovenska - ANEPS –
organisation helping people with hearing impairment.
In 2007, it had the observer status. .

For more information visit: www.aneps.sk



Asociácia organizácií sluchovo postihnutých –
organisation helping people with hearing impairment. In
2007, it had the observer status.

SLOVILCO - Slovenské združenie stomikov (Slovak ostomy Association) –
Organisation helping ostomy patients.

For more information visit: www.slovilco.sk



*Združenie na pomoc pacientom s leukémiou
a lymfómom* Združenie na pomoc pacientom s leukémiou a lymfómom –
patient organisation supporting people with leukaemia and lymphoma.

For more information visit: www.leukemia.eu.sk

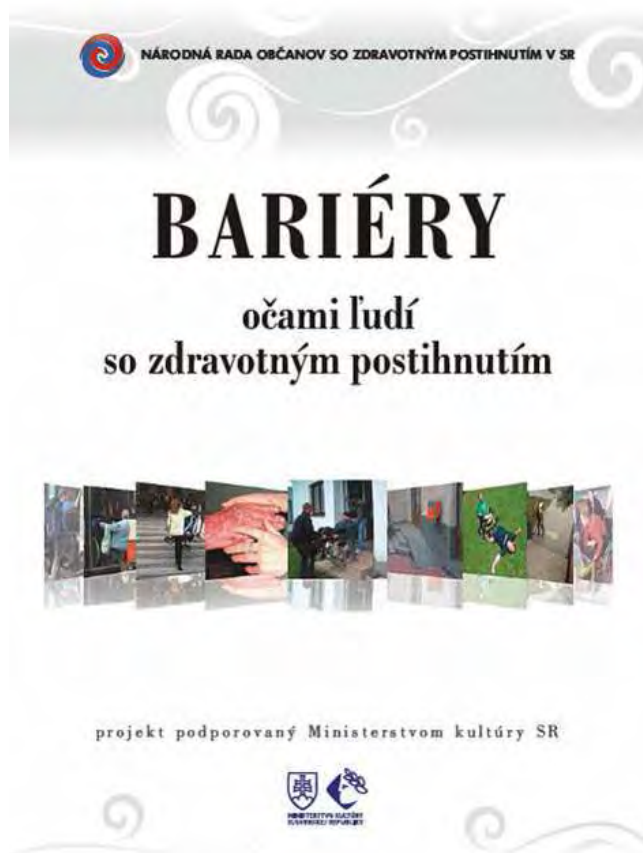
Asociácia marfanov syndróm

The Marfan Syndrome Association - bringing together patients and families with hereditary Marfan Syndrome.

For more information visit www.marfan.szm.sk

ODOS ODOS is an association of people with mental disorders, their relatives and experts.

5. Activities of SDC as part of the EU year of intercultural dialogue



SDC organised an on-line internet competition of photographs depicting barriers faced by people with disabilities in their everyday life.

The photographers' competition called "Barriers" was intended for everybody who wanted to look at his or her environment with the eyes of a disabled person.

People with various forms of disability who wanted to point to the barriers in their surroundings and the general public could take part in the competition. The participants were invited to send a photograph with a short commentary (of up to 250 characters) to the mail box of the website www.nrozp-bariery.sk. Any visitor visiting the site could vote for the best photograph.

The internet competition showing the barriers faced by people with disabilities was intended for all those who perceive the barriers of disability.

The photographs were also publicly exhibited in the Istropolis building in Bratislava. The exhibition (open from December 10 till 19, 2008) was open to the general public. For those, who were not able to visit the exhibition in person, we published a booklet containing both the photographs faced by people with disabilities and the commentaries by people with various types of disability.

The booklets were distributed through the member organisations to all regions of Slovakia.

The project was financed from two sources, namely Programme 7.1 Culture of Disadvantaged Groups of Citizens by the Ministry of Culture and the National Council of the Slovak Republic.

6. Better accessible internet site of SDC

**SLOVAK DISABILITY COUNCIL**

[ÚVOD](#) | [O NÁS](#) | [EDF](#) | [KONTAKT](#) | [ENGLISH VERSION](#) | [SOC. REHABILITÁCIA](#)

Naším cieľom je presadzovanie a podporu spoločných záujmov občanov so zdravotným postihnutím nezávislých na druhu zdravotného postihnutia...

hľadať...

Hlavné menu

- Úvod
- O nás
- EDF
- Kontakt
- English version
- Soc. rehabilitácia

- Členské organizácie NROZP
- Projekty
- 1milión4disability
- Média a 1milión4disability
- Publikácie
- Dokumenty
- Legislatíva
- Médiá
- Užitočné linky
- Zamestnávanie OZP
- Diskriminácia OZP
- Dobrovoľníctvo a prax
- Administrátor

EP voľby

Prihlásenie

Užívateľské meno

Heslo

Pamätaj si ma ☐

Prihlásiť sa

- Zabudnuté heslo?
- Zabudnuté užívateľské meno?
- Vytvoriť účet

**NÁRODNÁ RADA OBČANOV SO ZDRAVOTNÝM POSTIHNUTÍM V SR**

Vitajte na stránke NROZP v SR

Vyhlásenie predsedníctva NROZP v SR

Znížená administratívna alebo zvýšená finančná náročnosť zamestnávania osôb so zdravotným postihnutím v chránených dielňach a na chránených pracoviskách?

Zarážajúcim prekvapením a sklamaním pre nás je zistenie, že schválením zákona č. 108/2009 Z.z. ktorým sa mení a dopĺňa zákon č. 461/2003 Z. z. o sociálnom poistení v znení neskorších predpisov a o zmene a doplnení niektorých zákonov bola schválená aj zmena zákona č. 5/2004 Z.z. o službách zamestnanosti v znení neskorších predpisov podľa ktorej §60 ods. 1. zákona 5/2004 Z.Z o službách zamestnanosti znie: „Príspevok na úhradu prevádzkových nákladov chránenej dielne alebo chráneného pracoviska a na úhradu nákladov na dopravu zamestnancov (ďalej len "príspevok") sa poskytuje právnickej osobe alebo fyzickej osobe, ak o tento príspevok písomne požiada najneskôr do 30. apríla kalendárneho roka nasledujúceho po kalendárnom roku za ktorý príspevok žiada.".

CELÝ ČLÁNOK...

Výzva na zjednodušenie administratívy obmedzujúcej zamestnávania osôb so zdravotným postihnutím

Vážený pán predsedu Vlády SR,

vážená pani ministerka práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny SR,

medzi zamestnancov, ktorých pracovné uplatnenie je súčasnou finančnou a ekonomickou krízou tiež ohrozené, patrí i skupina občanov so zdravotným postihnutím. Väčšina z nich vykonáva zamestnanie v chránenej dielni alebo na chránenom pracovisku. Zamestnanci na týchto pracovných miestach tvoria aj významný podiel zamestnancov organizácií osôb so zdravotným postihnutím zabezpečujúcich nimi poskytované sociálne služby. Chránené dielne a chránené pracoviská je možné zriaďovať v zmysle zákona č. 5/2004 Z.z. o službách zamestnanosti. Príslušný úrad práce, sociálnych vecí a rodiny môže na ich zriadenie a prevádzku poskytovať finančné príspevky.

CELÝ ČLÁNOK...

Internetová konferencia

Sociálna rehabilitácia – nové šance???

Schválenie zákona o sociálnych službách, vymedzenie pojmu sociálna rehabilitácia (zákon 448/2008), skúsenosti a poznatky NROZP v SR získané počas realizácie projektu financovaného z prostriedkov MPSVR SR „Sociálna rehabilitácia kapacít potrebných pre nezávislý život občanov s ťažkým zdravotným postihnutím“ nás priviedli k myšlienke otvorenej internetovej konferencie. Otvorenej v zmysle aktívnej účasti poskytovateľov sociálnej rehabilitácie, prijímateľov sociálnej rehabilitácie, ich rodinných príslušníkov...

Čítajte a diskutujte aj Vy.....

Vyhlásenie účastníkov seminára konaného dňa 25. 11. 2008 pri príležitosti Svetového dňa osôb so zdravotným postihnutím

Účastníci seminára sa stotožňujú so stanoviskom predsedníctva NROZP zo dňa 24.11.2008 k novoprijatému zákonu o sociálnych službách a zákonu o peňažných príspevkoch na kompenzáciu ťažkého zdravotného postihnutia a prijali nasledovné stanovisko:

CELÝ ČLÁNOK...

<< Začiatok < Predchádzajúce 1 2 3 Ďalší > Koniec >>

14:51:53

Darujte nám 2%



Anketa

Máte informácie o novom zákone č. 448/2008 o sociálnych službách?

☐ Mám dostatok informácií

☐ Mám iba čiastočné informácie

☐ Nemám dostatok informácií

☐ Neviem o zmene

Hlasovať

Výsledky

Kalendár

Máj 2009						
P	U	S	S	P	S	N
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Eurokalkulačka

Eurokalkulačka

EUR =

SKK

KONVERZNÝ KURZ: 1 EUR = 30,1260 SKK

7	8	9	C
4	5	6	CE
1	2	3	EUR SKK
0	.	=	

euromena.sk

NAJNOVŠIE ČLÁNKY

- Vyhlasenie predsedníctva NROZP v SR
- Výzva na zjednodušenie administratívy obmedzujúcej zamestnávania osôb so zdravotným postihnutím
- Darujte 2%
- Sociálna rehabilitácia ľudí s duševnými poruchami
- Sociálna rehabilitácia na ľudí s mentálnym postihnutím

NAJČITANEJŠIE ČLÁNKY

- O nás
- Členské organizácie NROZP v SR
- Kontakt
- Publikačná činnosť
- Sociálna rehabilitácia pre ľudí s mentálnym postihnutím

In 2008, we designed or re-designed the internet site www.nrozp.sk. Compared with the old site, we modified mainly the structure of its contents and the graphical layout (now corresponding to the colours of SDC logo). The redesigned internet site complies with the international accessibility criteria and is accessible to everybody regardless of his or her disability. As to contents, the site www.nrozp.sk contains information about the activities of and the current projects carried out by SDC. The site additionally features a better readable database of our member organisations and their contact data. The site is partly available in the English language to provide our foreign partners with an overview of our activities. The site also features an online discussion about the possibilities and challenges of social rehabilitation and much more.

7.Support to better legislation – the Act on social services and on the compensation of social consequences of disability

By submitting its comments as part of the consultation procedure and during the negotiations within Parliamentary committees, through meetings with the representatives of the relevant ministries and by taking part in the meetings of Parliamentary committees, SDC seeks to influence the legislative process so that the new legislation best suits the needs of people with disabilities and provides a solution to their problems without creating new ones.

The year of 2008 was rather exceptional. The ministries did not submit many legislative proposals into the consultation procedure, which needed to be commented on, taking into account the interests of people with disabilities. The lower number of legislative proposals was outweighed with their importance.

As to the bill on financial benefits to compensate severe disability and the bill on social services, SDC prepared common comments in addition to the comments



submitted by individual civic associations and several personal meetings at MoLSAF took place (attended also by Minister Tomanova and state secretary Sika). Despite our utmost effort, we were not able to have all our proposals incorporated into the text of the legislation.

No common comments were submitted to several legislative proposals (including for example the draft Education Act); independent comments were made by individual organisations.

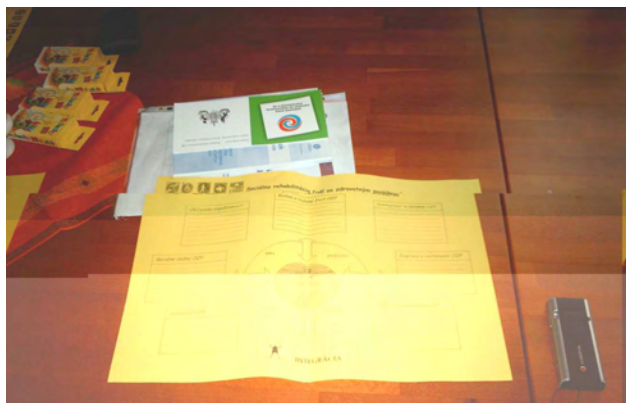
1. Comments to the draft Act on social services
2. Comments to the draft Act on financial benefits to compensate severe disability
3. Comments to the draft Act amending Act No 5/2004 Coll. on employment services
4. Comments to the draft Act on associations of citizens
5. Comments to the draft Act on pedagogic personnel
6. Comments to the draft Act amending Act No 461/2003 Coll. on social insurance
7. Comments to the proposal of financing selected cost items as part of the launch of digital broadcasting in Slovakia
8. Comments to the proposal for ratification of the (revised) European Social Charter
9. Comments to the draft amendment of Decree of MoLSAF on the provision of subsidies by MoLSAF

Ing. Milan Měchura

8. SDC projects financed from MoLSAF subsidies

Under MoLSAF "Decree on the provision of subsidies for social rehabilitation of people with disabilities, for issuance of magazines and for membership to international organisations", SDC was granted 3 projects financing the above activities.

8. 1 Social rehabilitation of capacities needed for independent living of people with disabilities



The social rehabilitation project consisted of several activities. The primary activity was monitoring of social rehabilitation of various types of disability and networking of information on social rehabilitation.

The other activities included the social rehabilitation itself, with particular emphasis placed on people with chronic diseases.

The meetings covered all areas of life (the photograph shows one of the aids used by social rehabilitation workers). This included in particular acquisition of communication skills as a basic precondition for integration of people with disabilities into the society. In the meetings, the participants acquired assertive behaviour skills, learned how to cope with stress situations and how to solve model situations from everyday life of people with disabilities. Social rehabilitation meetings further concentrated on the training of people who acquired disability during their life. The participants of the social rehabilitation course learned how to cope with difficult situations resulting from disability in families, in employment or in the communities they live in.



We further informed them about who can provide additional assistance and support in their effort to become integrated into the society, about leisure possibilities and about how to stay active in their lives. Activities were carried out in cooperation with the member organisations and were focused primarily on people with chronic diseases (in Bratislava, Prešov, Bardejov, Svidník, Trenčín, Levice, Žilina and Piešťany).

8. 2 Mosty Inklúzie (Inclusion Bridges) internet magazine



The “Bridges of Inclusion” internet magazine is for and about people with disabilities. In 2008, we published six issues. Each issue focused on a different topic. The columns in the magazine included: Main topic, We have established for you, Matters of interest, How it works in the EU and important links. The individual topics were: Transportation of PwD, Education of PwD, Employment of PwD, Women with disabilities, Social services for PwD and Rights of PwD. Contributors to the magazine were people who are involved in the disability agenda and people with disabilities themselves. The magazine offers articles and information about various aspects of life of people with different types of disability. We received numerous positive feedback from our readers. The magazine is available at www.nrozp-mosty.sk.

When working on the individual topics, we tried to include practical information from the life of people with disabilities. Therefore, the internet site contains a number of interesting and important links to other sites, where people can learn more about the topic concerned.

Overall, we assess the project as very successful. Information from the site was also taken over by certain regional media, which now disseminate the information in printed form. In the future, we would like to cover other topics, which we think people with disabilities and the general public should be informed of.

8.3 Foreign activities of SDC and membership to EDF



The Slovak Disability Council is a member to the European Disability Forum and as such, participated in a number of international activities of EDF.

As a member organisation, it has access to the latest information on the development of disability policy and may submit proposals or comments to documents, whose adoption will affect disabled citizens of Slovakia.

In 2008, the leading theme was combating discrimination on the ground of disability, with

DPOs all across Europe demanding the adoption of a separate non-discrimination directive specific to disability. This initiative has not been completely successful, as the European Commission decided to prepare a horizontal non-discrimination directive forbidding discrimination on various grounds and not only on the ground of disability. European organisations of people with disabilities were satisfied also with this initiative. Their ambition was to have the broadest spectrum of the needs of people with disabilities incorporated into the draft general directive. The Slovak Disability Council actively participated in the process also by communicating with the Slovak members of the European Parliament.

SDC representatives take part in the meetings of EDF bodies, in conferences organised by individual DGs (organised mostly in countries holding EU Presidency). In 2008, it was a conference about the UN Convention in Slovenia. The conference was attended by EU ministers of labour, social affairs and family. Another conference, concentrating on education including life-long learning, was held in France. In these conferences, SDC presented good practices from Slovakia – the project carried out in cooperation with IBM and Profesia portal attracted great attention of the participants at the conference in France. As one of the few EDF member organisations carrying out surveys of disability, we were invited to the summer school organised by the University of Leeds (England). Since then, we cooperate in the EuRADE (European Research for Disability Equality) project.

In 2008, SDC received the Handinnov award organised during the French presidency. The competition focused on education and employment of young people. We received a medal of the French Minister of Education and a diploma of the Minister of Labour and Solidarity.

Our tasks also include arranging for the translation of documents from the English into the Slovak language, as EDF honours the principle of access to information. Therefore, we (as well as the other member organisations) contribute to the EDF web site with texts in the national language.

We arranged for the translation of EDF documents and, if necessary, provided information to EU and Council of Europe institutions.

A representative of SDC attended a training course in Brussels focusing on legislation relating to air transport of people with severe disability and the elderly. SDC then organised trainings for the staff of Slovak airports. SDC



representatives were also invited to a conference on information technologies and to the Europe without Barriers conference organised ahead of the Czech EU Presidency. The above text demonstrates that other countries are interested in the knowledge, opinions and activities of SDC and its member organisations and in the exchange of information. On the occasion of the Disability Day, a conference was organised in Brussels focusing on the cooperation of DPOs with self-governments. The conference was yet another opportunity for us to present the results of our projects.

9. Participation of people with disabilities in activities aimed at combating discrimination

Project financed under the Action Plan for the Prevention of All Forms of Discrimination – Government Office of the Slovak Republic



Raising the awareness of people with disabilities about individual aspects of discrimination is the best tool for preventing it.

The project aimed at increasing the participation and engagement in the effort to combat discrimination faced by people with disabilities consisted of several activities. The key activity was elaboration and publication of handbooks for people with disabilities about the tools for taking part in anti-discrimination initiatives. We also organised discrimination prevention trainings for people with disabilities in three towns in

Slovakia (namely in Presov, Lucenec and Peistany). The trainings were very successful, with a high number of participants from among disabled citizens (92). We issued 200 handbooks for people with disabilities about the possibilities for preventing discrimination, which were distributed to 21 member organisations all across Slovakia.

The project was a follow up of the previous activities and supported the objective of gradual elimination of discriminatory phenomena in all areas of life of people with disabilities.

10. Slovak Disability Day



The third December is the International Disability Day. On this occasion, representatives of organisations of people with disabilities from all across Europe meet with European politicians in the

European Parliament in Brussels to look for solutions to the problems faced by people with disabilities. These joint meetings were initiated by the European Disability Forum, whose membership also includes the Slovak Disability Council.

The representatives of SDC regularly take part in these meetings; this gave rise to the idea of organising a Disability Day in the National Council of Slovakia so that people with disabilities can meet the members of the Slovak Parliament. The project was supported by the Chairman of the National Council, Mr. Pavol Paska.

The key theme of the Disability Day was the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, which has already been signed by Slovakia (including the optional protocol), but has not been ratified yet. **The importance and the state of preparations of the Convention, its ratification and implementation and the involvement of DPOs in this process were the leading themes of the international gathering.** Partners of SDC from Slovenia, France and the Czech Republic (representatives of disability councils of the respective countries) also attended the meeting.

The European Disability Forum and our Hungarian partners were represented by Erzsebet Szöllösi. The Chairmen of Parliamentary Committees Jozef Halecký, László Nagy and Viliam Novotný also accepted our invitation. The speakers at the seminar included the Chairman of the National Council Pavol Paska, the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family Viera Tomanova, domestic and foreign guests and the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Slovakia, Mr. Vladimír Galuška. The situation of people with disabilities was presented by the representatives of SDC member organisations.

Using information brochures, posters and other materials, SDC member organisations were given the opportunity to present their activities directly to the Parliament.



11. Trainings of aviation personnel about personal assistance to disabled air travellers



The obligation of airports to provide personal assistance in air transport to people with disabilities has been introduced within the entire European Union and thus applies to Slovak airports.

In summer 2008, we organised trainings for airport personnel about how to provide such assistance to people with disabilities to avoid potential misunderstandings, including in particular discriminatory treatment of travellers

by airport personnel. The obligation of airports to provide such service to people with disabilities free of charge is contained in EU Directive. Trainings were held in airports in Bratislava, Piešťany, Košice and Poprad. During the trainings, participants were informed about how to provide personal assistance to people with physical disability, sight or hearing impairment, mental disability or chronic disease. In almost all instances, trainers were people with disabilities.

Trainings held at the airports also included practical examples of personal assistance to people with sight or physical disability and basic signs of the sign language.

12. Introduction of the euro in Slovakia

In 2008, an information campaign on the introduction of the euro in Slovakia was carried out. The campaign was oriented on various target groups so that the people of Slovakia are sufficiently informed of the new currency. The Slovak Disability Council (in cooperation with the Disability Help Association, the Blind and Partially Sighted Union and organisations of people with hearing impairment) also participated in the campaign. As a result of the project, information materials in easily readable style were created and distributed. The

elderly were also interested in these information documents. We arranged for the participation of people with disabilities in information campaigns organised by MoLSAF in the regions. At the same time, an informational document for the blind in the Braille was published, and a video for the deaf produced. The produced items contained in addition to basic information about the introduction of the euro in Slovakia also photographs of euro notes and coins. For the blind, notes and coins were printed in the form of relief images.



13. Handinnov Award

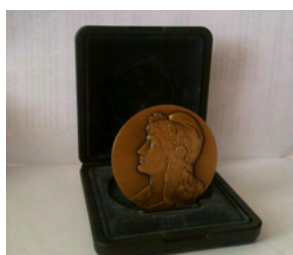


Handinnov = disability (postihnutie) + innovation (inovácia, zlepšenie). This briefly characterises the HANDINNOV AWARD EUROPE 2008, in which the Slovak Disability Council also participated (with its project "Social partnerships and monitoring for elimination of discrimination on the labour market"). The competition was organised under the auspices of the French President and the French Ministry of Education and supported by the European Parliament and the European Commission. Various institutions (schools, education centres, self-governments, associations, etc.) from any Member State were able to take part. This was the fifth year of the award, whose objective is making good practices in the inclusion of young people with disabilities more visible.

The commission evaluating the competing projects included representatives of the European Disability Forum. The project of the Slovak Disability Council focusing on the reduction and prevention of long-term unemployment of people with disabilities and on the intensification of effort by decision makers to remove the barriers limiting the entry of people with disabilities on the labour market, also received an award. It was a pilot project, which was composed of several activities, including training of people with disabilities to become activists in the area of employment of people with disabilities. The knowledge gathered from their work in these positions during project implementation was presented in the final conference and was partly included in the final recommendations from the conference (and as such, were incorporated into the Employment Services Act). During and after the implementation of the project, some of the activists found employment and were also successful in finding jobs for several disabled citizens.

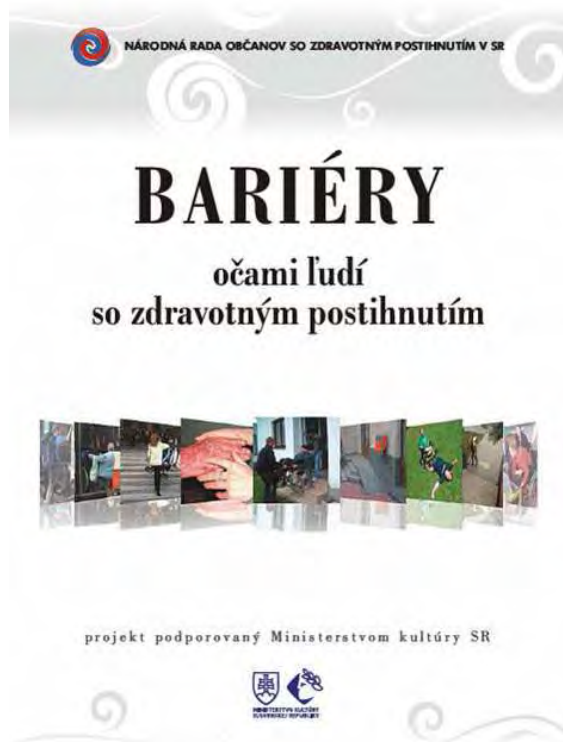
The results of the project further include the cooperation with the company Profesia (still continuing) and a training project in cooperation with IBM, as well as certain other activities of SDC.

The award was taken over in Paris by Anna Rehakova, SDC director (and also one of the authors of the project and the project manager) and Michaela Hirčková, project manager (she participated in one of the project activities). The two received the award from the hands of the French Minister of Education Xavier Darcos.

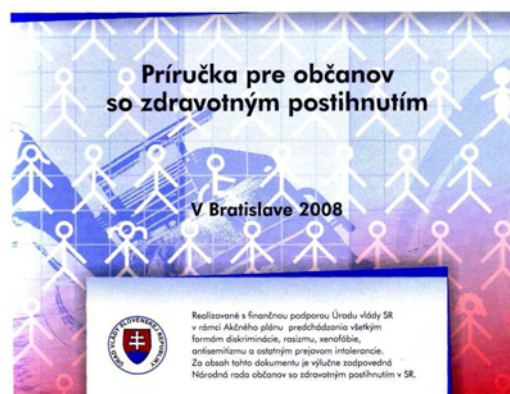


14. New publications of SDC

One of the objectives of SDC is providing information to people with disabilities about various aspects of life. In addition to the internet magazine, we published several information brochures about the tools for the prevention of discrimination and the barriers faced by them.



SPOLUÚČASŤ OBČANOV SO ZDRAVOTNÝM POSTIHNUTÝM NA ODSTRÁNENÍ DISKRIMINÁCIE



NÁRODNÁ RADA OBČANOV SO ZDRAVOTNÝM POSTIHNUTÝM V SR



Participácia občanov so zdravotným postihnutím v SR



„Realizované s finančnou podporou Úradu vlády SR v rámci Akčného plánu predchádzania všetkým formám diskriminácie, rasizmu, xenofóbie, antisemitizmu a ostatným prejavom intolerance. Za obsah tohto dokumentu je výlučne zodpovedná Národná rada občanov so zdravotným postihnutím v SR.“

The information materials are available at www.nrozp.sk

15. Cooperation of SDC with the Labour and Family Research Institute

In 2008, the Labour and Family Research Institute (represented by PhDr. Kvetoslava Repková, CSc.) carried out the first phase of the research project „Situation of family care givers in the light of social research“ initiated by MoLSAF.

SDC participated in the organisation of one part of the project, namely the meeting of the focus group. The task of SDC was to select family care givers of people with severe disability and to make organisational arrangements for the meeting, which took place in Banská Bystrica. This activity brought together persons providing care to people with severe disability, representatives of the offices of labour, social affairs and family, town councils and civic associations.

Participants exchanged their views on the topic of employment of family care givers and their chances on the labour market. Information and ideas collected in the meeting are summarised in the research report. For more information visit: www.nrozp.sk

16. Advisory by SDC to people with disabilities

People with disabilities often turn to the office of the SDC with requests for help or advice. Questions mostly relate to the provision of compensation benefits, disability benefits, health care, opportunities on the labour market or opportunities for further education. SDC tries to provide them with all relevant information in order to help to solve their difficult social situation. The issues raised are not always related to disability agenda; sometimes it is about conflicts, misunderstandings and other difficulties, which the people are not able to cope with.

In 2008, about 50 people with disabilities turned to SDC with a request for help (per telephone, e-mail, by letter or in person).

17. Support by SDC to students

SDC as a representative national organisation has gradually built up a library with various documents related to the disability agenda. The documents are available both in the Slovak and in the English language.

This is one of the reasons, why an ever increasing number of students of the last years of universities turn to SDC with requests for consultation of their thesis.

The topics most often relate to employment of people with disabilities, provision of personal assistance or operation of the non-profit sector in general. And it is not only students of helping professions, but also students of economic, legal and other courses, who are interested.

SDC provides documents and consultations, or helps with the organisation of surveys, which then form part of the final thesis.

18. Our Bratislava Project



The Slovak Disability Council took part in the event called Our Bratislava, organised by the Pontis Foundation with its project of promotion of the “Barriers” photographic competition.

The main objective of the project was obtaining support for the design and subsequent promotion of the on-line Internet competition organised by SDC for people with disabilities and the broad public. 4 volunteers took part in the Our Bratislava

project. The meeting took place in the morning hours in SDC office. The results of the meeting were used during the competition.

19. Accreditation of SDC

People with disabilities have serious problems to succeed on the labour market. On the one hand, they are not able to carry out any type of work; on the other, employers are afraid of employing them.

In 2008, SDC obtained the accreditation for training of people with disabilities about the opportunities on the labour market and for training of potential employers about the specifics of their employment. The objective of both training programmes is increasing the employability of people with disabilities.

20. Facts and Figures of 2008

BALANCE SHEET

31 Dec 2008

(thousand SKK)

for the period from month 01 year 2008 till month 12 year 2008

for the preceding
accounting period from month 01 year 2007 till month 12 year 2007

Financial statements:

x ordinary

o extraordinary

Tax Number: 2021901783

Id. No. 36084158

Name of reporting entity:

SLOVAK DISABILITY COUNCIL

Registered office of reporting entity

Street and number

Vajnorska 1

ZIP-Code Municipality
83104 Bratislava

Area code Telephone number Fax number
02 50240303 50240303

E-mail: sekretariat@nrozp.sk

Compiled on 31/03/2009	Signature of statutory body or member of statutory body of reporting unit (stamp of SDC)	Signature of the person responsible for preparing the financial statements (illegible signature)	Signature of the person responsible for keeping of accounts (illegible signature)
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Assets side			Row No	Current period			Immediately preceding accounting period	
				Gross	Correction	Net		
a			b	1	2	3	4	
A. Assets total			sum of row 002+009+021	001	613	375	238	337
1	Long-term intangible assets total		row 003 to 008	002	0	0	0	0
	Intangible results of development and similar activities (012-(072+091AÚ)			003			0	
	Software 013-(073+091AÚ)			004			0	
	Valuable rights 014-(074+091AÚ)			005			0	
	Other long-term intangible assets (018+019) - (078 + 079 + 091AÚ)			006			0	
	Long-term intangible assets being procured (041-093)			007			0	
	Paid advances for long-term intangible assets (051-095AÚ)			008			0	
	2	Long-term tangible assets total		row 010 to 020	009	613	375	238
Land (031)			010		x			
Works and collections of art (032)			011		x			
Buildings (021-(081-092AÚ)			012			0		
Plant and machinery (022-(082+092AÚ)			013	517	279	238	337	
Vehicles (023-(083+092AÚ)			014			0		
Vegetation stand (025-(085+092AÚ)			015			0		
Basic herd a livestock (026-(086+092AÚ)			016			0		
Long-term tangible assets of minor value (028-(088+092AÚ)			017	96	96	0		
Other long-term tangible assets (029-(089+092AÚ)			018			0		
Long-term tangible assets under construction (042-094)			019			0		
Paid advances for long-term tangible assets (052-095AÚ)			020			0		
3	Financial investments total		rows 022 to 027	021	0	0	0	0
	Equity securities and shareholdings in commercial companies with controlling interest (061)			022			0	
	Equity securities and shareholdings in companies with significant influence (062)			023			0	
	Debt securities held to maturity (063-096 AÚ)			024			0	
	Borrowings to associated companies and other borrowings (066+067)-096AÚ)			025			0	
	Other long-term financial investments (069-096 AÚ), except for row 040			026			0	
	Long-term financial investments being procured (043-096 AÚ)			027			0	
Checksum			row 001 to 027	991	1,839	1,125	714	1,011

Assets side		Row No	Current period			Immediately preceding accounting period
			Gross	Correction	Net	
a		b	1	2	3	4
B. CURRENT ASSETS row 030+037+042+051		029	1,471	0	1,471	200
1.	Inventories row 031 to 036	030	0	0	0	0
	Materials (112+119)-191)	031			0	
	Unfinished production and semi-finished products (121+122)-(192+193)	032			0	
	Finished products (123-194)	033			0	
	Livestock (124-195)	034			0	
	Goods for sale (132+139)-196)	035			0	
	Operating advances provided (314-391AU)	036			0	
2.	Long-term receivables row 038to 041	037	0	0	0	0
	Trade receivables (311 AU to 315 AU)-391 AU)	038			0	
	Other receivables (315 AU-391AU)	039			0	
	Receivables from associates (358AU-391AU)	040			0	
	Sundry other receivables (335 AU – 373 AU + 375AU +378AU) – 391 AU)	041			0	
3.	Short-term receivables row 043to 050	042	56	0	56	75
	Trade receivables (311 AU to 315 AU)-391 AU)	043	56		56	75
	Other receivables (315AU – 391AU)	044			0	
	Receivables from social/health insurance institutions (336)	045		x		
	Tax receivables (341 to 345)	046		x		
	Subsidies and other relationships with the state budget or budgets of local self-governments (346 + 348)	047			0	
	Receivables from associates (358 AU – 391 AU)	048			0	
	Consolidation account of association (396-391AU)	049			0	
	Sundry other receivables (335AU + 373 AU + 375 AU + 378 AU) - (391AU)	050			0	
4.	Financial assets row 052 to 056	051	1,415	0	1,415	125
	Cash (211 + 213)	052		x		10
	Bank accounts (221+261)	053	1,415	x	1,415	115
	Bank accounts with a notice period of more than one year (221)	054		x		
	Short-term financial assets (251+253+255+256+257)-291AU	055			0	
	Procurement of short-term financial assets (259-291 AU)	056			0	
5.	Accruals/deferrals row 058 to 059	057	83	0	83	0
	Prepaid expenses (381)	058	83	x	83	
	Accrued income (385)	059		x		
ASSETS TOTAL row 001 +029+057		060	2,167	375	1,792	537
Checksum row 028 to 060		992	6,746	375	6,371	1,137

Equity and liabilities side		Row No	Current period	Immediately preceding accounting period
a		b	5	6
A. Equity (row 062+066+ 72 + 73)		061	794	446
1.	Equity and monetary funds row 063 to 067	062	0	0
	Share capital (411)	063		
	Funds created according to specific regulation (412)	064		
	Reproduction fund	065		
	Differences resulting from revaluation of assets and liabilities (goodwill) (414)	066		
	Differences resulting from revaluations of capital participations (415)	067		
2.	Profit funds row 069 to 071	068	0	0
	Reserve fund (421)	069		
	Funds created from profits (423)	070		
	Other funds (427)	071		
3.	Result of operations of previous years (+/- 428)	072	447	-44
4.	Result of operations of the current year (062+068+072+074+101)	073	347	492
B. External sources of financing (row 075+079+087+097)		074	996	89
1	Reserves row 076 to 078	075	0	0
	Statutory reserves (451AU)	076		
	Short-term statutory reserves (459AU)	077		
	Short-term reserves (323+451AU+456AU)	078		
2.	Long-term payables row 080 to 086	079	8	3
	Social fund payables (472)	080	8	3
	Bonds issued by reporting entity (473)	081		
	Payables under lease arrangements (474AU)	082		
	Long-term advances received (475)	083		
	Long-term deliveries, for which no invoice was received (476)	084		
	Sums owed under long-term promissory notes/bills of exchange (476)	085		
	Other long-term payables (373 AU + 479 AU)	086		
3.	Short-term payables row 088 to 096	087	762	86
	Trade payables (321 to 326), except for 323	088	159	11
	Payables to employees (331+333)	089	443	4
	Payables to social/health insurance institutions (336)	090	62	27
	Tax payables (341 to 345)	091	93	38
	Payables under financial relationships with the national budget and budgets of local self-governments (346+348)	092		
	Payables under subscribed debt securities and contributions outstanding (367)	093		
	Payables to associates (368)	094		
	Consolidation account of association (396)	095		
	Other accounts payable (379 AU + 373 AU + 474 AU + 479 AU)	096	5	6
4.	Bank loans and borrowings row 098 to 100	097	228	0
	Long-term bank loans (461 AU)	098		
	Current bank loans (231+232+461AU)	099		
	Short-term borrowings received (241+249)	100	228	
5.	Deferrals/accruals row 102 to 103	101	0	0
	Accrued expenses (383)	102		
	Prepaid income (384)	103		
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES TOTAL row 061+074+101		104	1,792	537
Checksum row 061 to 104		993	6,374	1,700

INCOME STATEMENT

31 Dec 2008

(thousand SKK)

for the period from month 01 year 2008 till month 12 year 2008

for the preceding
accounting period from month 01 year 2007 till month 12 year 2007

Financial statements:

x ordinary

o extraordinary

Tax Number: 2021901783

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Name of reporting entity:

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Street and number

Vajnorska 1

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Area code Telephone number
02 50240303

Fax number
50240303

E-mail: sekretariat@nrozp.sk

Compiled on 31/03/2009	Signature of statutory body or member of statutory body of reporting unit (stamp of SDC)	Signature of the person responsible for preparing the financial statements (illegible signature)	Signature of the person responsible for keeping of accounts (illegible signature)
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Acc. No.	Expenses	Row No.	Activity			Immediately preceding accounting period
			Main activity, exempt from tax	Commercial activity, subject to tax	Total	
a	b.	c	1	2	3	4
501	Materials consumption	01	89		89	190
502	Energy consumption	02	56		56	32
504	Cost of goods sold	03			0	
511	Repairs and maintenance	04			0	
512	Travel expenses	05	221		221	343
513	Representation expenses	06	13		13	3
514	Other services	07	2,509		2,509	1,694
521	Personnel expenses	08	1,922		1,922	979
524	Mandatory social and health insurance	09	309		309	221
525	Other social insurance	10			0	
527	Statutory social expenses	11	5		5	3
528	Other social expenses	12			0	
531	Road tax	13			0	
532	Real property tax	14			0	
538	Other taxes and levies	15	13		13	3
541	Contractual penalties and delay charges	16			0	
542	Other penalties and delay charges	17			0	
543	Write-offs of bad debts	18			0	
544	Interest expenses	19			0	
545	Foreign exchange losses	20	12		12	15
546	Donations	21			0	
547	Special cost	22			0	
548	Shortfalls and damages	23			0	
549	Miscellaneous other expenses	24	44		44	15
551	Depreciation/amortisation of tangible/intangible assets	25	195		195	104
552	Carrying value of tangible and intangible assets sold	26			0	
553	Securities sold	27			0	
554	Materials sold	28			0	
555	Cost of short-term financial assets	29			0	
556	Creation of funds	30			0	
557	Impairment losses on securities	31			0	
558	Creation of allowances	32			0	
559	Creation of mandatory allowances	33			0	
561	Contributions provided to organisational units	34			0	
562	Contributions provided to other reporting units	35	107		107	103
563	Contributions provided to natural persons	36			0	
567	Contributions from public fund-raising campaigns	37			0	
Accounts class 5 total row 01 to 37		38	5,495	0	5,495	3,705
Checksum row 01 to 38		994	10,990	0	10,990	7,410

Acc. No.	Revenues	Row No.	Activity			Immediately preceding accounting period
			Main activity, exempt from tax	Commercial activity, subject to tax	Total	
a	b.	c	1	2	3	4
601	Revenues from sales of own products	39	1,602		1,602	
602	Revenues from sales of services	40			0	150
604	Revenues from sales of goods	41			0	
611	Change in the stock of work-in-progress	42			0	
612	Change in the stock of semi-finished products	43			0	
613	Change in the stock of finished products	44			0	
614	Change in livestock	45			0	
621	Capitalisation of materials and goods	46			0	
622	Capitalisation of intra-organisational services	47			0	
623	Capitalisation of long-term intangible assets	48			0	
624	Capitalisation of long-term tangible assets	49			0	
641	Contractual penalties and delay charges	50			0	
642	Other penalties and delay charges	51			0	
643	Payments received on written-off receivables	52			0	
644	Interest revenues	53	1		1	2
645	Foreign exchange gains	54	4		4	
646	Donations received	55			0	
647	Special revenue items	56			0	
648	Mandatory fees	57			0	
649	Miscellaneous other revenues	58			0	
651	Proceeds from the disposal of long-term intangible and tangible assets	59			0	
652	Earnings on long-term financial investments	60			0	
653	Proceeds from the disposal of securities and deposits	61			0	
654	Proceeds from the sale of materials	62			0	
655	Earnings on short-term financial assets	63			0	
656	Reversal of funds	64			0	
657	Gains from revaluation of securities	65			0	
658	Rental income	66			0	
661	Contributions received from other organisation units	67			0	
662	Contributions received from other organisations	68	2,245		2,245	1,611
663	Contributions received from natural persons	69	75		75	28
664	Member contributions received	70	21		21	14
665	Contributions as a percentage of taxes paid	71	39		39	78
667	Contributions received from public fund-raising campaigns	72			0	
691	Subsidies	73	1,855		1,855	2,320
	Accounts class 6 total row 39 to 73	74	5,842	0	5,842	4,203
	Pre-tax profit/loss row 74-38	75	347	0	347	498
591	Income taxes	76			0	6
595	Subsequent income tax payments	77			0	
	After-tax profit/loss (row 75- (row 76+row 77) (+/-)	78	347	0	347	492
	Checksum rows 39 to 78	995	12,378	0	12,378	9,402

21. ... the conclusion and some stuff to think about

When I was thinking what to write as a conclusion of the SDC Annual Report, it came to my mind - will I be able to use the term conclusion, or will I have to write (that this is) **the end**? Why?

During its five years of existence (established on 20 November 2003), the Slovak Disability Council became a firm part of the European Disability Forum.

This organisation, whose role is understood and supported by the Commission and the European Parliament (EC's contribution represents as much as 80% of EDF budget) and which is considered to be an equal partner, celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2008.

We went over our fifth anniversary with silence. Everybody from among us, every member organisation had concerns at the end of the year, whether or not it would survive the year to come. The number of professionals working in our organisations has been decreasing for years. And it takes several years to train and develop a new employee.

Working as a professional with an organisation of people with disabilities is a very risky occupation. Why?

The Slovak saying "At home, you can never be a prophet" explains it best.

Our work is highly appreciated and recognised abroad, with a number of foreign partners interested in cooperation; on the other hand, at home, we have to fight for survival every year. Why?

I don't think that SDC and its member organisations did a bad job in the past five years. In addition to the activities mentioned in the regularly published annual reports, we have also been carrying out other activities, which are not covered by any project; they are simply part of life of people with disabilities; they cannot be planned and they arise almost daily: phone calls and personal visits by people with disabilities asking for help, responding to a number of questionnaires for and provision of reports to European and national institutions or consultations with students, whose thesis relates to the life of people with disabilities.

The number of institutions and organisations, who are interested in cooperation with us as a trustworthy and reliable partner has been increasing; let's mention some of them: the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights, Office of the Public Ombudsman, Representation of the Council of Europe in Slovakia, European Commission - representation in Slovakia, Information Office of the European Parliament, Institute for Labour and Family Research, higher schools, higher territorial units, self-governments and state administration authorities in the regions. From among businesses, let's mention the Profesia Portal and IBM Slovakia in the first place, but there are also others. We cooperate with numerous organisations of the third sector; the director of Slovak Disability Council is a member of the monitoring committee for Operational programme Health. We are also represented in various boards and commissions.

The key document outlining our main tasks is "Main Tasks of SDC in 2007-2011", approved by the General Assembly of SDC.

Main Tasks for 2007 - 2011

The Slovak Disability Council, respecting its mission and relying on the analysis of the current problems of people with disabilities and of the anticipated development of the society and of the future needs of these citizens deems it necessary to concentrate its attention and activities on the following tasks and areas of interest of people with disabilities. In doing so, it intends to cooperate with all relevant national and international authorities, government and self-government authorities, non-government organisations, the European Disability Forum and European institutions.

1. U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- support the earliest possible ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- be involved in its implementation and influence its implementation to maximise its contribution to the enjoyment of the rights and to the prevention and elimination of barriers of all kinds for people with disabilities related to disability;
- monitor compliance with the Convention; and
- support the development of the ability of people with disabilities to fully enjoy the rights guaranteed by the Convention.

2. Combating discrimination on the ground of disability.

- support amendment and extension of the scope of the Equal Treatment Act and its practical implementation;
- develop the ability of people with disabilities to identify discrimination on the ground of disability and to use the relevant tools to eliminate it;
- raise the awareness of the public and of the relevant institutions about discrimination on the ground of disability, about the possibilities for its prevention and about the tools for its elimination

3. Equality of Opportunities

- advance equality of opportunities in all areas of life;
- promote the adoption of positive measures creating the conditions for equal opportunities;
- explain the term "equality of opportunities" as the existence of conditions enabling every human being to fully enjoy the qualities of life regardless of his or her disability, as opposed to equal opportunities understood as equal starting line for everybody, regardless of his/her objective disadvantage.

4. Legislation

- promote legislative measures supporting equality of opportunities in all areas of life and guaranteeing the full enjoyment of all human and civic rights by people with disabilities;

- support accelerated adoption of the act on social services and of the act on the compensation of social consequences of disability and ensure that their provisions correspond to social and economic development and the current needs of people with disabilities;
- support optimum implementation of legislation, provide advisory and develop abilities of persons with disabilities to use the existing legislation to exercise and defend their rights and to prevent and overcome all barriers in their life related to their disability.

5. Projects

- promote creation of optimum conditions for non-governmental organisations as the carriers of projects co-financed from European and national funds, including advance financing, taking into account the extra cost related to the disability of the project carriers and the target groups and equal relationships between the providers and beneficiaries of assistance;
- as part of all projects financed from the structural funds, consequently support compliance with horizontal priority equality of opportunities, be involved in the definition of the criteria and in the monitoring of implementation of horizontal priority equality of opportunities and promote the priority equality of opportunities also in other project schemes;
- take part in the implementation of projects aiming to improve the quality of life for the people with disabilities, to integrate them efficiently and fully into the society (including professional life) and to raise the awareness of the broadest public of the disability agenda.

6. European Union

- support and be involved in the exchange of good practices between EU countries and dissemination of good practices in our country;
- take part in the creation of European legislation through international organisations (including in particular the European Disability Forum), through negotiations with Slovak government institutions and members of the National Council and through cooperation with Slovak members of the European Parliament;
- be involved in the efficient transposition and implementation of European legislation in the Slovak legislation, with particular emphasis placed on legislation related to disability.

7. Development of the capacities of non-government organisations

- support the creation of legislative and financial conditions allowing smooth functioning of non-governmental organisations as the representatives and advocates of the rights of people with disabilities and partners within the public administration and self-governments;
- support the development of human resources of organisations of people with disabilities, including in particular their professional development so that they can be an equal partner of public administration and self-government authorities in the process of defending the rights and needs of people with disabilities.
- build and develop own advisory and education capacities focusing on efficient use of existing legislation, on increasing employability and increased

employment of people with disabilities and on prevention and removal of barriers.

The Annual Report lists both our achievements and failures; the report explains to what extent we are successful in fulfilling the tasks defined by the last General Assembly of the Slovak Disability Council. A few words about those objectives, where we were less successful:

Very often, we have to spend much effort to look for project calls corresponding to the real needs of people with disabilities. The number of calls requiring co-financing, is constantly increasing. In a relative large number of calls, it is not possible to finance the wages and salaries of personnel working on the project or rental expenses of the organisation implementing the project or other operating expenses. Organisations of people with disabilities, however, do not have enough resources for such co-financing of projects.

We were least successful with the fulfilment of the tasks listed under 7 "Development of the capacities of non-governmental organisations"; the situation of our organisations is rather deteriorating.

No, we don't want to complain, the above text is pure facts. In our meetings with foreign colleagues, we often speak about the environment and about the conditions, in which organisations of people with disabilities operate. And we often hear the question "HOW IS IT POSSIBLE that you still exist?"

We are moving on, we keep trying to convince everybody that our work makes sense. It is hard work for and about people with disabilities. And people with disabilities make up 10% of the Slovak population; their problems are also perceived by their families, employers and friends.

Let us conclude by mentioning the economic crisis, a term frequently used as an argument or excuse for everything. Sometimes it is used as a false excuse for not doing something, which could in fact be done.

There is a saying in Slovakia - All the bad things are good for something...

The crisis will perhaps make us to turn to other values than those promoted by the society of consumption.

We might review the ranking of our values, with health, decency, help to others and respect taking the top ranks again. We might also remember that there exist words like please, thank you or I am sorry, nowadays disappearing from our beautiful Slovak language. And decent people will perhaps no longer be regarded as ridiculous or of lesser value.

This is one of the reasons why I am trying to convince myself that the next year, I will once again write a CONCLUSION and not an END. That the coming year will not be an end of the disability movement in Slovakia. I also hope that the effort of the disabled to get integrated into the society will find larger support and understanding.

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