

National Action Plan for Children 2013–2017

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I.

National Action Plan for Children 2013–2017

A.1. Introduction

"States Parties shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention." (Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 4)

When the Slovak Republic ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols, it undertook to take measures in line with international law to implement it and enable all children in its jurisdiction to exercise all the rights guaranteed by the Convention. The obligations resulting for the Slovak Republic from the Convention on the Rights of the Child are the basic starting point for the Slovak Republic's strategy in the field of children's rights protection.

Alongside the obligation to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child, recent years have seen an increase in awareness of the need to view children as rights holders, and the concomitant need to give higher political priority to children and implement mechanisms that allow children and young people to participate in decisions on matters that affect them.

Research into the opinions and attitudes of young people¹ has shown that regardless of their gender, nationality, region, family background or the social and economic status of their family, children are able and willing to formulate their own opinions and that

- offering them a chance to do so gives them not only pleasure and satisfaction but also a feeling of shared responsibility and healthy self-confidence;
- being treated as equals increases their responsiveness and positive feedback to adults;
- their opinions' freedom from social stereotypes enables them to bring out in simplified form connections and problems that are often hidden because adults do not see and/or communicate them clearly;
- children want to have more information about their rights and to be more actively involved in dealing with matters that affect them in the family, in schools, in their community and in society as a whole.

The children and young people who participated in the survey also spoke about their own responsibility to improve relations between children and adults:

*"We should also help when adults need us and trust them. If we do not tell them what is troubling us, they won't be able to help us. We should also listen to them more, respect them, be polite and truthful. We should also study better and avoid smoking and drinking. We should help each other and hold together, lend our clothes to those who need them, not swear at anybody, not laugh at other children or people with disabilities or other disadvantages. **We are all equal and we are here to help people in need.**"*

¹ "Children about their rights – a qualitative insight into children's lives in Slovakia", © Slovak Committee for UNICEF.

A lot can be learned from what children say adults should do to improve children's lives in Slovakia:

"They certainly shouldn't shout at us, they should spend more time with us, treat us as equals and listen to our opinions because even children can have brilliant ideas. Parents should trust us more, care about children and be an example to them. Teachers could make schools better, give us less homework and put less stress on us. Politicians should protect us, pay more attention to children's problems, respect children's dreams, help them to pursue them and help them to build a better future.

*Everything would be easier if adults would listen to our opinions and take them into account. **We wish you cared more about us than about developing new computers or the euro exchange rate.**"*

A.2. Definition of the status and objectives of the National Action Plan for Children in the context of the National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in the Slovak Republic

The National Action Plan for Children is the fundamental instrument for a targeted and coordinated approach to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols on the national level. It has been designed to complement the measures that are already being carried out under other national action plans, programmes, conceptions and strategies.

The National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in the Slovak Republic, currently in preparation, will manage relationships and dependencies between individual programming documents to ensure that individual actions do not overlap but instead complement each other and add value to the fulfilment of the objectives of sub-programmes. The structure and methodology of the National Action Plan for Children are consistent with this plan to unify the system for protecting and promoting human rights in Slovakia and to define a long-term strategy in this area.

In the absence of an integrated national human rights policy, the present National Action Plan for Children provides the core framework for the protection of children's rights, which must be extended in response to current needs in practice and the interests of children as a target group – it is therefore conceived as an open document setting out the fundamental tasks for the period 2013 to 2017 with a first evaluation and updating of tasks in 2014 and with annual evaluation and updating thereafter. The five-year term of the National Action Plan for Children reflects the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and also coincides with the five-year cycle for periodic evaluation of the implementation of Slovakia's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The strategic aim of the action plan is that through the actions and measures that it set out it contributes to building and developing an integrated and effective system for protecting the rights and interests of children and ensuring progress in the exercise and protection of children's rights and interests. Subordinate strategic aims for the promotion and protection of children's rights in accordance with the above overall aim are defined as follows:

1. strengthening and reinforcement of the status of children as rights-holders and human beings with their own dignity and developing abilities and opinions;
2. support and development of family competences as a natural environment for the growth and well-being of the child and the promotion of positive parenting;
3. adoption and implementation of legislative and non-legislative measures reflecting up-to-date knowledge and the latest requirements of international documents and practice;
4. coordination of policies affecting children on all levels – on horizontal and vertical axes;
5. institutional provision for the implementation of the Convention and its optional protocols, including adequate staffing and financing;
6. monitoring and continuous evaluation of effectiveness in all areas of interest under the Convention;
7. the ambitious development of practice supporting the reinforcement of positive factors promoting the non-discriminatory treatment of children including special measures for particularly vulnerable groups of children;
8. ensuring that children have access to effective remedies for violations of their rights and that such remedies have regard for children's need for sensitive treatment;
9. promoting interdisciplinary cooperation and improving the vocational training and expertise of professionals working with children;
10. increasing the awareness of children and the general public concerning all aspects of the convention and greater dissemination of information relating to the Convention.

A.3. Primary human rights documents used in the development of the National Action Plan for Children 2013–2017

The global system of human rights protection

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child provides the primary source for all documents on the protection of children's rights. The Convention and the instruments that it has established provide a firm foundation for ensuring the human rights of all children without any discrimination, and they are pivotal in the promotion and monitoring of the application of children's rights in Slovakia.

The National Action Plan for Children 2013–2017 reflects not only the Convention but also its optional protocols – the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. In December 2011 the UN General Assembly adopted a third optional protocol to the Convention and the Slovak Republic, which had played a leading role in its preparation, signed it in February 2012; completion of the ratification process is expected by the end of 2013. The protocol adds to the system for protection of children's rights a complaints procedure that allows children or their representatives to file complaints with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in the event of a violation of the rights guaranteed by the Convention and its two optional protocols. Slovakia, as a State Party to the Convention, adopts and implements many measures intended to ensure fulfilment of the rights laid down by the Convention, a report on which and the progress that has been achieved must be sent at regular intervals to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child responded to Slovakia's initial report in 2000, making recommendations mainly in connection with coordination, monitoring, the distribution of budgets, the training of professionals to work with children and young people, the areas of discrimination and the prevention of abuse and cruel and humiliating treatment and punishment. The Committee also recommended Slovakia to increase its efforts in connection with substitute care and the family environment, health care, education and special protective measures. The UN

Committee on the Rights of the Child considered Slovakia's second periodic report in 2007 and issued concluding observations including criticism of the implementation of the concluding observations from 2000 regarding the issues of minority rights, the youth justice system and police brutality. Amongst other things, the Committee recommended Slovakia to make a proportionate increase in budgetary funding for the promotion of children's rights and that a priority should be to establish a coordination body for the rights of children. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child requested submission of the consolidated third, fourth and fifth periodic reports in June 2013 and it is expected to consider the report during implementation of the National Action Plan for Children 2013–2017.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has issued *general comments* to guide interpretation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The General Comments provide states and other interested parties with guidelines for correctly interpreting and applying the convention as regards the enforcement of children's rights. In this context, only the Convention on the Rights of the Child is legally binding because Slovakia has ratified it by the set procedure. The Implementation Handbook for the Convention on the Rights of the Child also includes conclusions from the Committee's Days of General Discussion, conclusions and recommendations of other treaty bodies responsible for supervising the implementation of other UN instruments (e.g. the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women), reports and recommendations on special procedures of the Human Rights Committee (e.g. the Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence against Children).

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is particularly relevant, especially as regards the rights of children with disabilities. Slovakia ratified this document and its optional protocol in June 2010. Article 7 of the Convention obliges States Parties to take measures to ensure the full enjoyment by children with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children.

Any discussion of international protection of human rights must take account not only of the UN system but also the Hague Conference on Private International Law, which is a forum for the negotiation of multilateral international conventions establishing coordinated international approaches and procedures in various areas of law, including the protection of children's rights. A number of conventions affecting children's rights have been adopted and ratified by Slovakia (the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Inter-country Adoption and the Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children).

The European system of human rights protection

In the European regional context the Council of Europe acts as a "catalyst" for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, primarily through the programme "Building a Europe for and with Children". When this programme was adopted it represented a previously untried approach to ensuring that a specific human rights topic was mainstreamed in all policies of the Council of Europe, and that this topic was further supported by a requirement for coordination of all activities of the Council of Europe relating to children. The programme, which was launched in Monaco in April 2006, is implemented in three-year cycles and the results it has achieved so far appear to vindicate it.

Despite great advances that have been made, children in Europe still do not have adequate protection: they continue to be victims of abuse, exploitation, neglect, exclusion and discrimination. The provision of services for children and their families do not meet their needs and do not take into account the rights and opinions of the children concerned. Certain categories of children do not have access to education, health care, justice, social protection or a caring environment. The right of children to participate in decision-making is generally overlooked: children do not have adequate access to information and their opinion is rarely sought or taken into account. Economic, social and technological advances produce new challenges that children, their families and professionals who work with them are not equipped to deal with. Although many countries are making great efforts to protect children, the measures adopted by national and local authorities are rarely based on research and are often incomprehensible, ineffective or unsustainable.

In the light of these findings during the third political cycle the Strategy of the Council of Europe for 2012–2015 will focus mainly on effective implementation of existing children's rights standards. The strategy will pay particular attention to bridging gaps between standards and practice. The programme will focus on the following strategic objectives:

1. promoting child-friendly services and systems,
2. eliminating all forms of violence against children,
3. guaranteeing the rights of children in vulnerable situations,
4. promoting child participation,

Alongside the activities of the Council of Europe, the case law of the European Court of Human Rights acts an important source for the effective implementation of obligations on the national level.

Further evidence of the impact of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its incorporation into the European legislative system can be found in the European Union's incorporation of the Convention's standards and principles into its activities. The European Commission set out the basic principles for promoting and safeguarding of children's rights in the internal and external policies of the European Union in its communication "Towards an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child", which replaced and extended the EU's programme in the area of children's rights. The programme responds to needs expressed by children in all EU Member States. It takes into account the results of impact assessments for EU policy instruments that affect children's rights.

Promoting and safeguarding the rights of the child is one of the objectives of the European Union, which is emphasised in Article 3(3) of the Lisbon Treaty and also in Article 24 of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights, the legally binding catalogue of fundamental rights in the European Union.

A.4. Methodology for preparation of the National Action Plan for Children 2013–2017

The aims of the National Action Plan for Children implemented from 2009 to 2012 included the creation of space to study children's opinions and provide relevant information to children and young people that would allow them to take an active part in and respond to policies that affect them.

The Committee for Children and Youth of the Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality (hereinafter referred to as the "Committee for Children and Youth") is a specialist body of a permanent advisory body to the government of the Slovak Republic with responsibility for the elaboration, updating and evaluation of performance of tasks in the National Action Plan for Children; it incorporated the above requirement directly into its statutes so that its

activities would create conditions for the implementation and maintenance of procedures and mechanisms permitting the participation of children and young people in the development of policies and measures that affect them. The committee set up a working group to create mechanisms permitting children and young people to participate in policy development and to monitor the application of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The working group was tasked to design a participative model for the functioning of the Committee for Children and Youth conforming to the standards for participation formulated in the General Comments of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child concerning Article 12 of the Convention.

In order to involve children and young people in the preparation of the new National Action Plan for the following period, the Committee for Children and Youth took up an offer of cooperation from the Slovak Committee for UNICEF, which adapted a methodology originally developed to evaluate the application of children's rights from children's point of view so that it met the needs of the proposed National Action Plan for Children and followed its structure. The resulting project, which was carried out in November 2012, explored children's lives and their perceptions of certain areas of life (schools and education, health, family, free time, the media, child protection, rights and freedoms, new trends and new needs of children). Its results are one of the sources for the formulation of tasks in the National Action Plan for Children (Annex 1).

The project involved qualitative research with an emphasis on the collection of in-depth information. Empirical data was collected through semi-structured interviews and a focus group. The survey was carried out during a three-day meeting of randomly selected children aged 11–15 years with four young facilitators and a volunteer interpreter (for Hungarian and Roma languages) at a child-friendly hotel from central Slovakia.

The objective of the research was to map how children living in Slovakia perceive respect for their rights in everyday life. The children were given information about the plan to use their opinions in the preparation of the National Action Plan and about the survey procedure before the meeting and also in its introduction. The children were pleased by the possibility to play a part, even indirectly, in the preparation of the document and participated very responsibly at all stages.

The focus group was made up of a representative sample of 19 selected boys and girls from every region of Slovakia, from towns and villages, and from a variety of cultural, social and family backgrounds. The children volunteered to take part in the survey. Private information from the children was used for the purposes of the survey and later to analyse the collected data but was not disclosed to other children during the meeting in accordance with children's right to privacy and equal treatment.

The data collection methods used included individual conversations with children, whole-group work (e.g. brainstorming, group discussions, experiential activities relating to discrimination against children with disabilities) and work in small groups. The key technique for small-group work was the *world café* discussion technique, in which children had the opportunity, in eight twenty-minute discussion rounds (with one large break) to freely express their authentic opinion on how children's rights are respected in eight areas of their daily life based on the structure of the planned National Action Plan, in the safe environment of a small group with guarantees of anonymity, freedom of expression and friendly company. Every discussion group included a facilitator who made an impartial record of what was said and observation of the emotions the children expressed, which was subsequently used in the preparation of the final report. All the collected information was processed with the consent of the participating children and their parents and any cited statements were anonymous. The last phase of data collection used in the final report was individual work with children to prepare their own recommendations for improving compliance with children's rights in

society, which they addressed both to children and to adults that they come into contact with in their daily life: parents, teachers, police officers, politicians and so on.

Preparation of the National Action Plan for Children followed the basic parameters required for interdepartmental and extradepartmental cooperation but the preparation of the National Action Plan for Children was innovative in important ways. One of the reasons for these innovations was experience in evaluating fulfilment of tasks under the National Action Plan for Children 2009–2012, when the submitted evaluations did not map the situation according to measurable indicators, but the main motivating factor was the need to ensure real progress in the implementation and safeguarding of children's rights and interests in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Because the term of the National Action Plan for Children coincides with the five-yearly monitoring cycle of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the internal structure of activities in the action plan was adapted to follow the guidelines of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding the form and content of the report on measures adopted to give effect to the rights recognised in the Convention on the Rights of the Child so that the overall evaluation for the five year period in 2017 can be used as the basis for information for the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on progress achieved in implementing the rights guaranteed by the Convention.

The outline of the National Action Plan for Children approved by the Committee for Children and Youth has seven thematic chapters grouping measures in the same categories as used in monitoring by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Committee for Children and Youth then assigned coordination of the preparation of content for each chapter to the ministry with responsibility for the area in which the majority of measures in the chapter fall².

1. General principles
2. General measures for implementation
3. Civil rights and freedoms
4. The family environment and alternative care
5. Health care, disability and social services
6. Education, leisure and cultural activities
7. Special protective measures

The preparation coordinators were given standardised guidelines setting out the minimum internationally defined standards for the protection of the rights of the child which are binding for the Slovak Republic and whose implementation is monitored on the international level by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Activities proposed in the plan are thus directly linked to individual provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols, the concluding observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the Initial and Second Periodic Reports of the Slovak Republic on measures adopted to give effect to the rights recognised in the Convention and other recommended sources consistent with the aims of the National Action Plan for Children (certain human rights standards of the Council of Europe, EU directives, etc.), in order to facilitate continuous monitoring and evaluation of progress achieved in relation to each provision. The monitoring of progress in defined areas also permits continuous evaluation of the effectiveness of implemented measures and more dynamic and better targeted settings of the corresponding measures and

² The role of central coordinator was performed by the secretariat of the Committee for Children and Young People

policies. Because the activities of the National Action Plan for Children have been formulated in ways that link them closely to specific provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, it is possible to give an overall evaluation of the state of implementation of this complex human rights document.

Formal prerequisites for tasks include not only a timetable or deadline for fulfilment and assignment of responsibility, but also quantitative and qualitative indicators for fulfilment of the task. Tasks were incorporated into the National Action Plan only if financial resources for implementation were specified as this is necessary for a real assessment of the feasibility of the task's implementation within the set period and of the impact of the proposed National Action Plan on public budgets.

A broader spectrum of specialists and practitioners in various areas were involved in the preparation of the National Action Plan for Children to ensure that targets were set in accordance with professional standards and that tasks were coherent and compatible with each other. The tasks respect the competences of participating ministries and other cooperating subjects (for example, tasks assigned to the defence authorities are primarily focussed on the implementation of obligations under the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict). In view of the affected target group, the National Action Plan for Children was coordinated with the supervisor and participating specialists for the preparation of the Strategy for Youth 2014–2020. Representatives of the non-governmental sector participated intensively in preparation of the National Action Plan for Children, in particular the group of NGOs forming the Coalition for Children.

Various long-term instruments (strategies), medium-term instruments (programmes, action plans) and short-term instruments contributing to the implementation of the rights of the child on the national and regional levels were identified during preparation of the National Action Plan; a brief list is given in Annex 3.

A.5. Monitoring of implementation, evaluation and regular updating of the National Action Plan for Children 2013–2017

Continuous monitoring and evaluation of activities in the National Action Plan for Children will be carried out on three levels –

- on the level of the state administration the fulfilment of tasks will be monitored by the Committee for Children and Youth, which has adequate competences and budgetary funding to carry it out effectively. Article 4 of the Committee's statutes states: the Committee cooperates with ministries and other central state administration bodies, municipal and regional government, non-governmental organisations, research institutions, academic institutions, organisations for children and young people and young people's self-government on matters relating to the rights of children and young people; it cooperates with specialist bodies and institutions of the European Union, the Council of Europe, the United Nations and other international bodies, organisations and institutions on matters relating to the rights of children and young people; it promotes research, the dissemination and effective sharing of information and the development of indicators and the dissemination of sources of statistical information concerning the rights of children and young people. Once a stable and functional mechanism for the participation of children and young people is developed, direct monitoring by the affected target group – children and young people – will be incorporated;

within the scope of competences laid down by law and at their own initiative

- from the level of independent human rights institutions;

an important component continues to be

- public control (e.g. the Coalition for Children, which brings together non-governmental organisations with a long-term interest in topics affecting children and young people in Slovakia and issues affecting young people up to 26 years of age, including marginalised groups and refugees), the media, academic and research institutions, the non-governmental sector, with the involvement of international non-governmental organisations and networks of non-governmental organisations (e.g. The Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment).

The National Action Plan aims to retain the well-established monitoring cycle which produces an annual evaluation of fulfilment of tasks under the National Action Plan for Children which the Committee for Children and Youth submits to the government council and then to the government together with a proposal for amendments to the National Action Plan in the next period. The evaluation system should be improved by the introduction of indicators.

B. Overview of fulfilment of tasks and measures of the National Action Plan for Children 2009–2012

The basic objective of the National Action Plan for Children 2009–2012 was to ensure, by means of defined tasks and measures, progress towards the protection of children's rights recognized by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and progress in their application, and fulfilment of Slovakia's strategic objectives for the protection of children's rights. The National Action Plan for Children 2009–2012 divided these objectives into three main groups:

1. institutional provision for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, coordination and monitoring of all areas of concern according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,
2. the adoption and realisation of measures of a legislative and non-legislative nature for achieving progress in the protection of children's rights,
3. improving the vocational training and expertise of professionals working with children.

In view of the diversity of assigned tasks and participating subjects, the National Action Plan for Children 2009–2012 set only general indicators for task fulfilment which did not permit an analysis of progress, in particular of the impact of activities undertaken for task fulfilment. The government addressed this problem in point C.4 of Government Resolution no. 94 of 28 January 2009, which required all responsible subjects to monitor effectiveness by means of measurable indicators for each task or group of tasks, and to report specific results. The submitted annual evaluations of fulfilment of tasks and measures under the National Action Plan for Children 2009–2012 were inadequate in this respect.

As a result of changes in the advisory bodies to the government, the evaluation of task fulfilment for the National Action Plan for Children 2009–2012 deliberation did not take place at the level of the government for every individual year. The Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality therefore decided, in resolution no. 56 of 17 October 2012, that an aggregate overview of fulfilment of tasks and measures under the National Action Plan for Children 2009–2012 in the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 would be incorporated in the National Action Plan for Children for the next period without requiring deliberation on the evaluations for each year 2009 to

2011 individually. The data for the aggregate evaluation for 2009 to 2011 was retrospectively verified by the subjects that participated in the action plan tasks and the evaluation was updated for the year 2012. Corrections and recommendations were incorporated into an abridged version of the aggregate evaluation of the National Action Plan for Children 2009–2012, which is included in Annex 2 of this action plan.

In general it can be said that there has been continuous progress on tasks but that there are a number of areas where additional attention is needed in order to achieve full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in accordance with the recommendation of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, in particular:

- *establishing an independent institution for the protection of children's rights in accordance with the Paris Principles (Point 16 of the Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the Second Periodic Report of the Slovak Republic on Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child – The Committee recommends that the State party expedite the establishment of an independent mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the Convention, in accordance with the Paris Principles, and that this mechanism be mandated to receive and investigate complaints from or on behalf of children on violations of their rights and work in coordination with other relevant bodies);*
- *designing and implementing a means for monitoring funds allocated from the state budget for the implementation of children's economic, social and cultural rights (point 18 of the Concluding Observations – the Committee recommends that the State party prioritize and increase budgetary allocations for children at both national and local levels to ensure the full implementation of the rights of the child, with a special emphasis on the most vulnerable groups, including Roma children);*
- *systematic reorganisation of data collection and statistical monitoring in accordance with EU and UN classifications to permit comparisons of progress achieved (point 20 of the Concluding Observations – calls upon the State party to strengthen its data collection system as a basis for assessing progress achieved in the realization of children's rights and to help design policies to implement the Convention. The State party should ensure that data collected is disaggregated and contains information on a wide-range of vulnerable groups including, inter alia, children belonging to minority groups such as the Roma, children living in poverty and children living or working in the street);*
- *implementing the principle of zero tolerance to corporal punishment and other gross or humiliating forms of punishment in all settings, including the home (point 36 of the Concluding Observations – The Committee recommends that the State party, taking into account the Committee's general comment No. 8 on the right of the child to protection from corporal punishment and other cruel or degrading forms of punishment (CRC/C/GC/8, 2006), take steps to ensure that corporal punishment is explicitly prohibited by law in all settings, including the home).*

II. Tasks and measures

1. General principles

Strategic objective: Increasing awareness of the content and practical application of the general principles of the Convention, achieving progress in their application by all parties in the implementation of children's rights (general principles are presented in more detail elsewhere in the National Action Plan for Children)

Subordinate objectives:

1.1. Defining and identifying particularly vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of children to guide measures and enhanced safeguards against discrimination for children at risk

Manner of performance: Public administration bodies and other legal entities will identify groups of children whose enjoyment of rights and integration into society requires the adoption of temporary balancing measures and the planning of specific procedures for their implementation

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Coordinator: Committee for Children and Youth

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Interior

Joint supervisors: Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Justice

Cooperating subjects: local government, Slovak National Centre for Human Rights, NGOs

Indicator: number of identified groups of children qualifying for the adoption of temporary balancing measures; elaboration of recommended procedures on the level of internal standards (specialist guidelines, methodologies etc.); updated Atlas of Roma Communities

1.2. Making it possible for children and young people to express their opinions actively on policies that affect them and creating and developing mechanisms to ensure their views are taken into account

Manner of performance: Creating a participation mechanism for children in the Committee for Children and Youth

Timetable/deadline for performance: proposal - 2013; introduction into operation - 2014

Main supervisor: Committee for Children and Youth

Indicator: creation and introduction into operation of a mechanism for children to participate in the Committee for Children and Youth

2. General measures of implementation

Strategic objective: All children enjoy all the rights guaranteed by the Convention as a result of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols

Subordinate objectives:

2.1. Adequate incorporation of the general principle of the best interests of the child in all legislation and all materials that affect children

Manner of performance:

1. Continue to apply the principle of the best interests of the child in the preparation of legislation, administrative decisions, the planning of budgets for public administration, projects, programmes and services that affect children
2. When updating the standardised methodology for impact assessment, analyse the possibility to include assessment of impact on children in the provisions for assessing social impacts

Timetable/deadline for performance: 1. continuous; based on the publication of the general comments of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child; 2. 2014

Main supervisor: 1. Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Environment, 2. Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Joint supervisors: 1. Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities, Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities, Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for the Development of Civil Society, Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Young People and Sport, Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality 2. Ministry of Economy

Cooperating subjects: local government, Public Prosecution Service, Slovak National Centre for Human Rights, NGOs

Indicator: 1. specific evaluation during the annual evaluation of fulfilment of tasks under the National Action Plan for Children (taking into account in the preparation of legislation, administrative decisions and the planning of public administration budgets); incorporation of recommended procedures in internal standards (specialist guidelines, methodologies etc.) and the procedures of project evaluation/selection commissions 2. incorporation of assessment of impact on children in provisions on social impacts in the standard methodology for impact assessment

2.2. Increasing the effectiveness of the coordination of activities and policies for protecting children's rights between state administration bodies

Manner of performance: Ensuring that the objectives, tasks and measures of the National Action Plan for Children and the National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in Slovakia are effectively linked and complementary to each other, and also to tasks and measures defined in other departmental-level strategies and plans

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2013

Main supervisor: Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Joint supervisor: Committee for Children and Youth

Cooperating subjects: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Environment

Indicator: adoption of a National Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in Slovakia

2.3. Increasing the effectiveness of the coordination of activities and policies for protecting children's rights between state administration bodies and local government bodies

<p>Manner of performance: Incorporation of the objectives and measures of the National Action Plan for Children into regional sectoral development plans and local planning documents</p>
<p>Timetable/deadline for performance: annually Coordinator: Committee for Children and Youth Cooperating subjects: local government, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Environment, Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities, Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities, Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for the Development of Civil Society Indicator: number of planning documents incorporating the objectives and measures of the NAPC</p>

2.4. Creation of a public institution protecting the rights of children in accordance with the Paris Principles

<p>Manner of performance: Preparation and elaboration of a proposed solution for the institutional protection of the rights of the child in accordance with the Paris Principles having regard for the solution for the public protection of the rights of persons with disability pursuant to Article 33(2) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</p>
<p>Timetable/deadline for performance: 2013 Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family Joint supervisors: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs Cooperating subjects: Committee for Children and Youth, Committee for Persons with Disabilities, NGOs Indicator: proposal for changes in legislation for the establishment of an independent national human rights institution to regularly monitor implementation of the convention on the national and local level with a mandate to receive and investigate the individual complaints of children or their representatives concerning violations of the rights, which will coordinate its activities with other bodies that monitor implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in accordance with the Paris Principles.</p>

2.5. Transparent, clear and easily identifiable setting, allocation and monitoring of financing for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols

<p>Manner of performance: Establishment of a working group to identify a mechanism for tracking funds allocated from public budgets for the protection of children and families.</p>
<p>Timetable/deadline for performance: part of the planning process 2014, monitoring of expenditure – 2015 and after Main supervisor: Committee for Children and Youth Joint supervisor: Ministry of Finance Cooperating subjects: local government, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Environment, Statistical Office Indicator: conclusions of the working group</p>

2.6. Effective use of relevant operational programme investment priorities in the new programming period 2014–2020 to promote and safeguard children's rights

Manner of performance: Creation of conditions in the new programming period to carry out activities relating to the rights of the child

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: competent MA

Joint supervisor: Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic (Central Coordination Body)

Cooperating subjects: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Environment, local government

Indicator: number of projects supported in the new programming period and the extent of the financial allocation; the number of children and young people involved in supported projects;

2.7. Strengthening the system for collecting aggregate data as the basis for evaluating progress achieved in implementing the rights of the child

Manner of performance: Elaboration/harmonisation of a system for collecting and analysing data on children in accordance with the requirements of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2014

Coordinator: Committee for Children and Youth

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Environment

Joint supervisor: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

Cooperating subjects: Working group of the Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality, Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities, Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities, local government

Indicator: ministerial proposals for a system for collecting and analysing data on children in accordance with the requirements of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

2.8. Increasing policy makers' awareness and information in relation to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Manner of performance: Initiating a tradition of "Children's Rights Days" in the National Council of the Slovak Republic (parliament)

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2014 and thereafter

Main supervisor: Committee for Children and Youth

Cooperating subjects: NGOs, the media, members of the National Council of the Slovak Republic and local government

Indicator: parliament holding a special day to present the principles of the Convention and various issues affecting children

2.9. Increasing the interest and awareness of adults and children concerning the Convention on the Rights of the Child, its optional protocols and all its provisions and principles.

Manner of performance: Development of a programme to disseminate information on the implementation of the Convention to children and their parents, civil society and all areas and levels of the state administration through public education activities, training and professional seminars for specialists who work with children and support for similar education activities and training for the members of municipal and regional self-government assemblies.

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2015 and thereafter

Main supervisor: Committee for Children and Youth

Joint supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Environment

Cooperating subjects: local government, NGOs

Indicator: a comprehensive programme to disseminate information about the Convention focused on raising the understanding of all provisions of the Convention by both adults and children

2.10. Ensuring the widespread availability of information on the Convention, its optional protocols and the guidelines issued by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (the "General Comments"), including documents explaining the process for submitting periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention and its optional protocols to the UN Committee

Manner of performance: Provision of access to information on the Convention and related documents with an emphasis on providing information to children in language and formats that they can understand

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Environment

Cooperating subjects: local government, Slovak National Centre for Human Rights, NGOs

Indicators: number of documents available in child-friendly language; number of documents translated into Slovak; number of documents accessible in the languages of national minorities; number of media reports relating or referring directly to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and related documents; number of programmes providing information on children's rights issues produced by public and private media; public discussion of the Convention, its implementation and monitoring

2.11. Increasing children's awareness of their rights

Manner of performance: Information material in children's language (also in the languages of national minorities) on ways to report violations of the rights of the child

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2016

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Cooperating subjects: Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Culture

Indicator: information leaflets in language accessible to children (also in the languages of national minorities)

2.12. Systematic improvements in training for all professions working for and with children (education on children's rights including activities focussing on the most vulnerable groups)

Manner of performance: Training on the significance of the Convention and the correct interpretation of its principles, in particular the best interests of the child, will be incorporated into all training and lifelong learning systems for professionals working for and with children (in particular teachers, social workers and employees of child care institutions and special upbringing facilities, medical personnel including psychologists, legislators, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, law enforcement officers, civil servants, local government officers)

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Environment, Public Prosecution Service

Cooperating subjects: Committee for Children and Youth, NGOs, professional associations

Indicators: number of professionals participating in training; number and variety of training sessions, seminars, webinars and guides for professionals; number of faculties where the significance of the Convention and the interpretation of its principles are a compulsory subject; number of accredited training programmes offered for teachers; number of teachers trained

2.13. Education for judges, prosecutors, trainee prosecutors, trainee judges and court officials whose work relates to children

Manner of performance: Specialised seminars on laws relating to children and their application in practice

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Justice / Judicial Academy

Cooperating subjects: teaching staff of the Judicial Academy (including external members of the JA teaching staff approved by the board of the Judicial Academy)

Indicator: specialised seminars organised with the annual syllabus

2.14. Guaranteeing respect for the rights of the child in the business sector

Manner of performance: Preparation of a proposal of measures reflecting the general comments adopted by the UN Committee concerning the effect of the business sector on the rights of the child

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2014, depending on the publication of General Comment of the UN Committee No. 16 on State Obligations regarding the Impact of the Business Sector on Children's Rights

Main supervisor: Committee for Children and Youth

Indicator: proposal of measures to include in the updated National Action Plan for Children from 2015

2.15. Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure

Manner of performance: Establishment of a working group to assess measures necessary for implementation and preparatory work for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2013

Main supervisor: Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Cooperating subjects: Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture, Committee for Children and Youth

Indicator: proposal for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure

2.16. Implementing the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the Initial Report of Slovakia on the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

Manner of performance: Elaboration of proposed measures to implement the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the Initial Report of Slovakia on the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2013

Main supervisor: Ministry of Interior Joint supervisor: Committee for Children and Youth

Cooperating subjects: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Statistical Office, Public Prosecution Service, Slovak National Centre for Human Rights, local government, NGOs

Indicator: proposal of measures to include in the updated National Action Plan for Children from 2014

2.17. Implementing the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the Initial Report of Slovakia on the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict

Manner of performance: Elaboration of proposed measures to implement the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on the Initial Report of Slovakia on the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2013

Main supervisor: Ministry of Defence

Joint supervisor: Committee for Children and Youth

Cooperating subjects: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovak National Centre for Human Rights, local government, NGOs

Indicator: proposal of measures to include in the updated National Action Plan for Children from 2014

3. Civil rights and freedoms

Strategic objective: Adopting and implementing measures necessary in all spheres of life for children's exercise of their civil rights and freedoms

Subordinate objectives:

3.1. Improving intercultural dialogue and tolerance. Guaranteeing the right of children belonging to minority religious groups to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their religion in community with other members of their group

Manner of performance: Implementation of systematic education activities for workers in registered churches and religious communities with an emphasis on the rights of the child

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Culture

Cooperating subjects: churches and religious communities

Indicator: number of education activities per year, number of participants per year

3.2. Reviewing whether current legislation provides adequate protection for children against the negative effects of religious groups

Manner of performance: Amendment of Article 4 of the Fundamental Principles in Act No. 36/2005 Coll. on connection with the issue of dangerous religious groups

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2014

Main supervisor: Ministry of Justice

Cooperating subjects: Judges who work with law relating to minors (cases in the "PaNc" list), Ministry of Culture

Indicator: amendment of legislation

3.3. Ensuring that children have access to information from a variety of cultural, national and international sources and creating corresponding principles to safeguard children against information and materials that are harmful to their welfare

Manner of performance: Creation of an interdepartmental working group including representatives of the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior, providing effective cooperation in solving problems and unifying methodologies in religious matters relating to children's rights in each ministry's area of responsibility

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Culture

Cooperating subjects: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Justice

Indicator: number of meetings of the interdepartmental working group per year, number of conceptual materials per year

4. Family environment, alternative care and social security

Strategic objective: Improving the quality and effectiveness of measures to provide children with the necessary protection of their welfare and provide for their best interests in accordance with the Convention, in particular by creating conditions for children's upbringing and all-round development in their natural family environment or a alternative family environment if they cannot be brought up in their own family, including monitoring of the upholding of children's rights in the family, substitute families, institutions and society as a whole.

Subordinate objectives:

4.1. Improving the quality of measures for the social and legal protection of children and social curatorship in the natural family environment to prevent the placement of children in institutional care

Manner of performance: Involving accredited subjects in social and educational programmes and programmes to reform the family environment to prevent the placement of children in institutional care; involving accredited subjects in programmes to restore relations within the family if a child is removed from his or her family.

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family / Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Joint supervisors: offices of labour, social affairs and family

Cooperating subjects: accredited subjects

Indicator: Number of families/children/parents participating in social and educational programmes; number of families participating in programmes to restore the family environment

4.2. Designing and implementing a system for monitoring and evaluating quality and effectiveness (including follow-up monitoring) in measures for the social and legal protection of children and social curatorship in the natural family environment or a substitute family environment.

Manner of performance: Creation of a working group to fulfil the above objective

Timetable/deadline for performance: start of 2014 - end of 2016

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Joint supervisors: Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Cooperating subjects: local government, Association of Crisis Centres, Association of Resocialisation Centres, Association of Representatives of Non-State Children's Homes, the organisations OZ Úsmev ako dar and OZ Návrat and other NGOs

Indicator: amendment of legislation

4.3. Improving records of selected measures in the social and legal protection of children and social curatorship (facilities, social and educational programmes etc.) provided by local government

Manner of performance: Elaboration and implementation of record-keeping procedures for selected measures in the social and legal protection of children and social curatorship

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2015

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Joint supervisors: Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Cooperating subjects: local government

Indicator: amendment of legislation

4.4. Giving appropriate consideration, according to age and level, to the opinions of children placed by court order in a children's home, special educational facility, crisis centre or resocialisation centre

Manner of performance: Monitoring and evaluation of the involvement of children placed in institutional care by court order in all activities that affect them, including decisions affecting them directly, the activities and aims of the institution and the professional family

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family / Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Joint supervisors: offices of labour, social affairs and family, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport

Cooperating subjects: local government, facilities for executing court orders

Indicator: number of participating children

4.5. Improving the quality of life, upbringing and education for children living in special upbringing facilities (diagnostic and re-education centres and therapeutic-educational sanatoria)

Manner of performance: Independent monitoring of the treatment of children and care for them in special upbringing facilities and adoption of measures to improve the quality of life, upbringing and education of children in such facilities

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2017

Main supervisor: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, State Schools Inspectorate

Joint supervisors: controlling authorities

Cooperating subjects: Control – State Schools Inspectorate, Monitoring for human rights and children's rights compliance – State Schools Inspectorate, Slovak National Centre for Human Rights

Indicator: Number of independent monitoring activities of the treatment of children and care for them in special upbringing facilities and adoption of measures to improve the quality of life, upbringing and education of children in such facilities

4.6. Promoting children's social inclusion (support for education and child care)

Manner of performance: Introduction of a benefit allowance supporting the upbringing and all-round development of children at risk of social exclusion through the amendment of legislation

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2014 and thereafter

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Cooperating subjects: pre-school institutions and schools, offices of labour, social affairs and family

Indicator: number of children for whom an allowance is granted

4.7. Enabling parents of children at risk of social exclusion to remain in the labour market and not removing children from their natural family environment

Manner of performance: Development of social service homes, specialised facilities providing non-residential social services and day centres

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Cooperating subjects: local government, non-public providers

Indicator: number of newly registered facilities and forms for providing social services; amount of funding provided from subsidies of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family for the purchase of specially adapted motor vehicles with tail lifts to provide transport, and the number of subjects receiving a grant for this purpose

4.8. Supporting deinstitutionalisation of substitute care

Manner of performance:

1. **Creation of a new and innovative model of managing support for families**
2. **Preparation of a manual on CAN syndrome**
3. **Implementation of a training system for foster families**
 - a. **Adaptation programme for new foster families (individual counselling and education for foster parents)**
 - b. **Specialised support programme for foster families (individual counselling and education for foster parents)**
4. **Participation of family assistants in measures for the social and legal protection of children and social curatorship**

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Joint supervisors: Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Cooperating subjects: offices of labour, social affairs and family, local government, accredited subjects, Association of Crisis Centres (activity 2)

Indicator:

1. A new innovative model for managing family support
2. A practically oriented manual giving information on how to recognise the different forms of CAN syndrome, their symptoms and effects, on timely intervention including diagnostics and effective specialised forms of assistance and protection for children including interdisciplinary methods
3. Number of persons (foster parents) participating in the Adaptation programme for new foster parents and the Specialised support programme for foster parents
4. Staffing support for departments for the social and legal protection of children and social curatorship

4.9. Elaborating a National Strategy for the Prevention of Violence against Children

Manner of performance: Preparation of a proposed National Strategy for the Prevention of Violence against Children for consideration by the government

Timetable/deadline for performance: 12/2013 and ongoing

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Joint supervisors: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Cooperating subjects: local government, accredited subjects

Indicator: Annual evaluation of fulfilment of tasks under the strategy

4.10. Improving the quality of crisis interventions and other specialist methods for supporting children and families in crisis

Manner of performance: Creation of a working group to prepare a methodology for crisis interventions and other specialist methods for providing support in crises, creation and implementation of a methodology for crisis interventions and other specialist services provided in crisis centres and by bodies for social and legal protection of children and social curatorship

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2015

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Joint supervisors: Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, local government, Association of Crisis Centres, accredited subjects

Indicator: implemented methodology

4.11. Increasing the accessibility of social services for the victims of domestic violence

Manner of performance: Provision of suitable conditions for the delivery of social services to victims of domestic violence

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2016

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Cooperating subjects: local government, NGOs

Indicator: number of existing facilities providing assistance to the victims of domestic violence (counselling and accommodation services); number of victims receiving counselling; number of victims receiving emergency accommodation

4.12. Raising professional standards and introducing innovative procedures in the provision of psychological assistance for children and their parents in order to prevent the breakup of families, the removal of children from their parents and to protect children against the negative effects of divorce; Improving working conditions and staffing in the provision of psychological counselling to families by offices of labour, social affairs and family (in accordance with state family policy)

Manner of performance: Provision of effective and specialised psychological counselling through psychological counselling departments for parents and children, including a preventative programme providing professional assistance to families going through divorce (based on selected statistical indicators) including work with children and adults separately.

Timetable/deadline for performance: annually

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family / Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Joint supervisors: offices of labour, social affairs and family

Indicator: quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the activities of psychological counselling departments; compliance with internal standard of the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family no. 062/2012 – Standards for specialised psychological counselling activities in the area of the social and legal protection of children and social curatorship, methodological guidelines for psychological counselling in connection with divorce and post-divorce childcare etc.; preparation and implementation of the professional assistance programme for families going through divorce

4.13. Alleviating the negative and frequently pathological effects on the psycho-social development of children of problematic, incomplete and broken families through preventative educational activities carried out by psychologists in the psychological counselling departments of offices of labour, social affairs and family for children and young people focussing on the topics of healthy family relationships, marriage and parenting, the prevention of various forms of violence against children and abuse including sexual abuse

Manner of performance: Provision of resources (space, time, materials and staff) to implement preventative-educational activities focussing on responsible parenting and partner relationships and the prevention of the mistreatment, neglect or abuse of children

Timetable/deadline for performance: annually

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family / Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Joint supervisors: offices of labour, social affairs and family

Cooperating subjects: according to the staff available in individual psychological counselling departments and after agreement with representatives of the target groups for activities (primary and secondary schools etc.)

Indicator: Qualitative and quantitative indicators in the evaluation of preventative and educational services provided by psychological counselling departments

4.14. Raising the professional standard of psychological counselling services provided to families before, during and after divorce or the separation of partners.

Manner of performance: Specialised training for psychologists and professional counsellors in psychological counselling departments and effective use of the acquired knowledge and skills to provide psychological assistance and counselling to families – spouses, parents and children

Timetable/deadline for performance: two training activities per year

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Joint supervisors: offices of labour, social affairs and family

Cooperating subjects: state and non-state subjects according to individual education activities.

Indicator: Evaluation of education activities by psychologists in psychological counselling departments and acquired skills in work with families

4.15. Preparation of proposals for developing parenting skills (i.e. promotion of positive parenting) in preventative programmes and a follow-up review of the incorporation of resulting recommendations in the annual update of the National Action Plan for Children

Manner of performance: Formation of a group of experts on positive parenting, organisation of round tables and small meetings of experts to discuss positive parenting, application of recommendations in practice

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2014 and thereafter

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Joint supervisor: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport

Cooperating subjects: Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, the Coalition for Children

Indicator: number of specialised discussions and events producing realistic recommendations

4.16. Evaluating development in connection with co-parenting

Manner of performance: Research task: Development in connection with co-parenting

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2015

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Joint supervisor: Institute for Labour and Family Research

Indicator: completed research task

4.17. Improving the practical protection of children's rights in judicial proceedings

Manner of performance: Organisation of regular working meetings of judges (class P cases), representatives of authorities for the social and legal protection of children and social curatorship and subjects concerned with the protection of children's rights.

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Justice

Joint supervisors: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, The association of friends of children in children's homes – Úsmev ako dar

Cooperating subjects: accredited subjects, professional associations and other representative associations

Indicator: number of meetings

4.18. Eliminating existing problems in the interpretation and practical application of various mechanisms, increasing the flexibility of these mechanisms and taking account of the objectives for protection of the family laid down in the government manifesto

Manner of performance: Preparation of an amendment of Act No. 36/2005 Coll. on the family and amending certain acts

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2014

Main supervisor: Ministry of Justice

Cooperating subjects: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, judges who work with law relating to minors (cases in the "PaNc" list)

Indicator: amendment of legislation

4.19. increasing protection for children by strengthening the general principle of the best interests of the child in the revised provisions on family law in the new Civil Code

Manner of performance: Continuation of preparation of the recodification of the Civil Code

Timetable/deadline for performance: submission of the proposed Civil Code to the legislative process by the end of 2014

Main supervisor: Ministry of Justice

Cooperating subjects: The Civil Code Recodification Commission established by the minister of justice, which is made up of experts on selected areas of law

Indicator: completion of the draft text of the new Civil Code

4.20. Increasing the flexibility and speed of judicial proceedings and eliminating delays, also in matters relating to the court's treatment of minors. Eliminating existing problems of interpretation and application of law.

Manner of performance: Continuation of preparation of the recodification of the Civil Code

Timetable/deadline for performance: submission of the legislative process of the draft outline of the Code of Civil Procedure by the end of 2013; submission to the legislative process of the draft text of the new Code of Civil Procedure in 2015

Main supervisor: Ministry of Justice

Cooperating subjects: The Civil Procedure Recodification Commission established by the minister of justice, which is made up of experts on selected areas of law

Indicator: completion of the outline Code of Civil Procedure, completion of the text of the new Code of Civil Procedure

4.21. Collecting information on problems courts encounter in relation to care for minors and addressing these issues in the planned amendment of Act No. 36/2005 Coll. on the family

Manner of performance: A working meeting of judges at the Institute of Education at Omšenie to discuss the proposed changes to Act No. 36/2005 Coll. on the family and amending certain acts

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2013 Main supervisor: Ministry of Justice

Cooperating subjects: Institute of Education at Omšenie, judges who work with law relating to minors (cases in the "PaNc" list)

Indicator: organisation of a working meeting with judges at the Institute of Education at Omšenie – collection and incorporation of proposals to amend the Act on the Family

5. Health care, disability and social services

Strategic objective: Adopting and implementing measures necessary in all spheres of life for children's enjoyment of their right to health and healthy development

Subordinate objectives:

5.1. Integrating children with disabilities in the life of society

Manner of performance: Development of all instruments supporting the social integration of children with disabilities in order to facilitate access to all types of services and transport to institutions, particularly educational and cultural institutions

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Cooperating subjects: local government, non-public providers

Indicator: number of newly registered transport services; number of children benefiting from other support instruments

5.2. Support for the prevention of congenital disabilities in children

Manner of performance: Timely diagnosis of abnormalities in children's psychomotor development permitting the effective mitigation of abnormalities in health, learning and behaviour in adulthood

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2013

Main supervisor: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport

Cooperating subjects: Paediatric teaching hospital and clinic in Bratislava, Research Institute for Child Psychology and Pathopsychology

Indicator: Report on fulfilment

5.3. Maintaining a high level of inoculation of the child population

Manner of performance: Preventing transmissible infections by immunising children

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2013

Main supervisor: Ministry of Health / Public Health Authority

Joint supervisors: Regional Public Health Authorities

Cooperating subjects: Provision of general outpatient care children and adolescents

Indicator: Statistical data from the National Health Information Centre

5.4. Support for protecting children's health

Manner of performance: Amendment of national child protection legislation in connection with the provision of health care

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2014

Main supervisor: Ministry of Health

Cooperating subjects: providers of outpatient and inpatient health care

Indicator: Existence of new or amended legislation

5.5. Improving mental health care for adolescents by providing information and eliminating barriers for pupils with behaviour disorders

Manner of performance: Interactive meeting of specialists and secondary school pupils on mental disorders, the work of psychologists and psychiatrists, the timely diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorders, and the treatments used for these disorders

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2013

Main supervisor: Ministry of Health

Joint supervisors: selected specialists in psychology and psychiatry

Cooperating subjects: providers of outpatient and inpatient health care, the League for Mental Health

Indicator: Report on performance and the results achieved

5.6. Improving children's and young people's awareness of health and promoting health lifestyles

Manner of performance: Information and education campaigns, lectures, educational materials and projects promoting healthy lifestyles intended primarily for schools

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2013

Main supervisor: Ministry of Health / Public Health Authority

Joint supervisors: Regional Public Health Authorities

Cooperating subjects: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport (giving consent for activities), Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development, NGOs

Indicator: Report on fulfilment

5.7. Collecting data on the harm to children's health resulting from accidental or deliberate injuries

Manner of performance: Preparation of a national profile of children's deliberate and accidental injuries in Slovakia

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2013 - 2014

Main supervisor: Ministry of Health / Public Health Authority

Cooperating subjects: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, NGOs (providing existing data)

Indicator: publication of the national profile

5.8. Protecting children against new psychoactive substances

Manner of performance: Preparation of legislation to prevent the sale of new psychoactive substances that are not controlled under international treaties, conventions or EU legislation

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2013 - 2014

Main supervisor: Ministry of Health

Indicator: qualitative: existence of legislation

5.9. Monitoring the problem of drug use by children and young people and providing information for the purposes of formulating measures

Manner of performance: Support for and implementation of studies and monitoring of current use of legal and illegal harmful psychoactive substances by children and young people attending school using standardised and internationally comparable means.

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Health

Cooperating subjects: Organisations participating in the implementation of the study

Indicator: availability of the 5 key EMCDDA indicators

5.10. Developing national and international coordination of drug prevention policy measures aimed at children and young people

Manner of performance: Formulation of objectives for the protection of children and young people in strategic documents, promotion of these objectives through available instruments and interdepartmental cooperation and follow-up verification of fulfilment

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Health

Indicator: objectives in the national drug prevention strategy

6. Education, upbringing, leisure and cultural activities

Strategic objective: Raising the effectiveness of measures and policies for ensuring/strengthening access to education, leisure activities and participation in cultural and artistic life for children from all social backgrounds

Subordinate objectives:

6.1. Presenting the principles and provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in detail. Increasing the knowledge and ability of children concerning the principles and provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and improving the quality of teachers' preparation; improving the application of children's right to express themselves freely on all aspects of the functioning of their school that affect them, the views of the child being given due weight (including participation in decisions affecting them and their problems with peers)

Manner of performance: Revision of the State Educational Programmes for levels ISCED 0, ISCED 1, ISCED 2 and ISCED 3A – revision of educational standards relating to the rights of the child

Timetable/deadline for performance: school years 2013/2014 to 2016/2017

Main supervisor: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport

Joint supervisor: Slovak National Institute for Education

Cooperating subjects: The Central Subjects Commission of the Slovak National Institute for Education, working groups for changes in educational programmes for all school types at the Slovak National Institute for Education, the Academic Council of the Slovak National Institute for Education, professional organisations and associations

Indicator: incorporation of revised educational standards into the school educational programmes of nursery schools, primary schools and secondary schools in Slovakia and their application in practice.

6.2. Ensuring regular school attendance. Reducing the number of pupils who do not finish school

Manner of performance: Monitoring of application and compliance in relation to legislation and existing measures promoting regular school attendance and providing additional support Increasing the effectiveness of cooperation between schools (head teachers) and competent state administration and municipal authorities in reporting children who have missed more than 15 hours of school without permission, including feedback for head teachers on the measures taken by the competent state administration and municipal authorities to deal with the problem of absence without permission

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport

Joint supervisors: competent state administration bodies, local government, controlling authorities of schools, schools

Cooperating subjects: State Schools Inspectorate

Indicator: improvement in pupils' school attendance and reduced truancy – reduction in the number of hours missed without permission; increase in the number measures taken to support regular school attendance

6.3. Applying the right of children and young people to express themselves freely on all matters and to participate in decision-making that affect them in the functioning of the school, with the views of the child being given due weight

Manner of performance: Support for the creation and effective functioning of student councils in schools as a means for increasing pupils' legal awareness and for freely expressing their views, as a way of promoting democracy in schools

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport

Joint supervisors: schools, controlling authorities

Cooperating subjects: State Schools Inspectorate (monitoring of respect for human rights)

Indicator: number and size of supported projects and increase in the number of effectively functioning student councils in schools

6.4. Promoting democracy in schools

Manner of performance: Training for the coordinators of student councils in schools

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2013 -2015

Main supervisor: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport

Joint supervisors: Methodology and Pedagogy Centre (Košice), IUVENTA – Slovak Youth Institute

Cooperating subjects: NGOs

Indicator: number of persons completing training

6.5. Promoting systematic work with children and young people in the area of informal education of children and young people

Manner of performance: Provision of systematic, purposeful and effective financial support for the activities of children and young people outside the formal education system and in their free time

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport

Joint supervisors: IUVENTA – Slovak Youth Institute

Cooperating subjects: NGOs, free time centres

Indicator: number and size of supported projects

6.6. Creating conditions for regular consultation on the requirements, opinions and expectations of young people as a permanent component in the development and implementation of youth policy

Manner of performance: Structured dialogue and regular consultations with young people on various aspects of their lives (including free time, activities for various purposes etc.)

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport

Joint supervisor: IUVENTA – Slovak Youth Institute

Cooperating subjects: Youth Council of Slovakia, Association of Youth Advice and Information Centres, Slovak Committee for UNICEF

Indicator: number of consultation instruments; number of young people participating in the consultation process; number of products presenting results for key players

6.7. Planning a strategy for the development of information and advice activities for young people according to their current needs and in the best interest of the child and their legitimate wishes

Manner of performance:

1. Project support for the provision and improvement of information and advice services for young people
2. Review of the Conception of Information and Advice Activities for Young People 2014–2020

Timetable/deadline for performance: 1. 2014-2017, 2. 2014

Main supervisor: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport

Joint supervisors: IUVENTA – Slovak Youth Institute, Association of Youth Advice and Information Centres

Indicator: 1. number and size of supported projects, 2. approved document

6.8. Increasing the availability of cultural information for children

Manner of performance:

1. Development of children's reading skills including the ability to read literature and to read with understanding

- a) Support for the production of children's literature through the grant system of the Ministry of Culture
- b) Measures to ensure the accessibility of children's literature in libraries and awareness of it (e.g. through exhibitions, seminars and the like) and support for libraries' acquisitions in this area
- c) Development of children's relationship with literature through the promotion and organisation of activities connected with children's drama and recitals
- d) Development of children's relationship to literature by the promotion and organisation of literary competitions

2. Activity to ensure children have access to suitable information

- a) Social prevention activities to help increase children's awareness of harmful phenomena in society and their consequences for life (substance and non-substance addictions, crime, extremism and the like)
- b) Measures to ensure minors are protected against unsuitable content in the media

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Culture

Cooperating subjects: National Cultural Centre, libraries under the control of the Ministry of Culture, regional libraries

Indicator:

1a) number of supported projects/amount of subsidy; 1b) number of activities and number of acquisitions; 1c) amount of subsidy/number of participants; 1d) amount of subsidy/number of participants

2a) number of activities carried out/magazines published/number of participants in seminars, lectures, seminars and workshops; 2b) legislation on broadcasting and audiovisual services

6.9. Protecting and developing the cultural rights of children from disadvantaged backgrounds, eliminating informational, mental and physical barriers blocking these children's access to culture, contributing to the meaningful use of free time through cultural mechanisms that promote the formation of a well-rounded personality and help to create and sustain a prosperous and tolerant society

Manner of performance:

- 1. Use of the grant system of the Ministry of Culture to promote access to culture for children at risk of poverty and social exclusion (children with disabilities, children from marginalised Roma communities, children from children's homes, the children of migrants etc.) and to create conditions for the development of their creativity and artistic talents in order to prevent discrimination and support their social integration**
- 2. Provision of artistic, cultural and educational activities for children from disadvantaged backgrounds (children with disabilities, children from marginalised Roma communities, children from children's homes, the children of migrants etc.) through organisations under the competence of the Ministry of Culture.**

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Culture

Cooperating subjects: organisations under the competence of the Ministry of Culture, NGOs, local government

Indicator: number of cultural or education activities / amount of grant

6.10. Providing information to young people (over 15 years of age) on education, free time and temporary jobs. Presenting the European Union and its youth policy to young people in their own language

Manner of performance: European Youth Portal (Slovak version) a EURODESK Slovakia www.eurodesk.sk

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport

Joint supervisors: IUVENTA – Slovak Youth Institute

Cooperating subjects: Association of Youth Advice and Information Centres

Indicator: number of visitors to the page, number of consultations provided, number of accompanying activities providing better information for young people

6.11. Providing information for young people (over 15 years of age) on anti-discrimination law and the concepts of bullying and direct and indirect discrimination

Manner of performance: Training by qualified instructors specialising in the area concerned, on the problem of discrimination and unequal treatment in a language that young people can understand, including guidance on how to respond to specific situations and what legal means are available to remedy and eliminate discrimination and unequal treatment

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Slovak National Centre for Human Rights

Indicator: Number of training sessions provided by professional instructors specialising in the area concerned concerning anti-discrimination law; number of participants in training; number of visitors to website

7. Special protective measures

Strategic objective: Ensuring all-round implementation of children's rights in crisis situations, in situations of partial and complete restriction of personal freedom, in situations connected with all types of migration and the residence of the children of foreigners in the territory of the state

Subordinate objectives:

7.1. Having regard for the needs of the children of foreigners in the preparation of policies for the integration of foreigners in Slovakia

Manner of performance: Adoption of special measures for the education of the children of foreigners in Slovakia

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2013

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Indicator: number of measures adopted for the education of the children of foreigners in Slovakia

7.2. Education and protection of the children of asylum seekers

Manner of performance: Supervision of the education of asylum seekers who are minors and safeguarding of their human rights

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Interior Joint supervisor: Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior

Cooperating subjects: NGOs

Indicator: statistics of the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior

7.3. Searching for minors' parents, persons responsible for their upbringing or their other relatives when they are unaccompanied

Manner of performance: Involvement the Ministry of Interior and other subjects in search activities, monitoring of development in the area concerned

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Joint supervisors: Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Interior

Cooperating subjects: Slovak Red Cross, NGOs

Indicator: Number of unaccompanied minors reunited with their family (Source: Annual report on social and legal protection of children and social curatorship)

7.4. Protecting children during proceedings on international protection

Manner of performance: Increased attention in asylum proceedings to the protection of unaccompanied minors and minors applying for international protection in order to permit the placement of unaccompanied minors and minors applying for international protection in a single institution.

Timetable/deadline for performance: according to the government's legislative plan

Main supervisor: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Joint supervisor: Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior

Indicator: statistics of the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior, amendment of Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on the social and legal protection of children and social curatorship and amending certain acts, and Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on asylum and amending certain acts

7.5. Promoting the application of employment law in connection with children's work

Manner of performance: Inspection of compliance with employment law in connection with the employment of young workers, prohibition of work before the end of compulsory school attendance and prevention of illegal work and illegal employment.

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous - annually

Main supervisor: National Labour Inspectorate / labour inspectorates

Indicator: Number of identified cases / report on fulfilment

7.6. Clarifying legislative provisions on compensation for the victims of violent crime (including children) in accordance with legal theory and practical requirements

Manner of performance: Amendment of the definition of "damage to health" in order to eliminate problems in interpretation; harmonisation of the provisions of Section 4 on eligible persons with related provisions in Act No. 301/2005 Coll. the Criminal Code, as amended; expressly stipulate that persons injured by violent crime, sexual violence and sexual abuse are entitled to payment of compensation for physical harm to health caused by the crime and also entitled to compensation for harm to mental health. Amendment of provisions of the act on the calculation of compensation to clarify interpretation.

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2013

Main supervisor: Ministry of Justice

Indicator: amendment of Act No. 215/2006 Coll. on compensation for the victims of violent crimes as amended by Act No. 79/2008 Coll. and amending certain acts

7.7. Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

Manner of performance: A proposal will be submitted to the government for Slovakia's ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2013

Main supervisor: Ministry of Justice

Joint supervisors: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Public Prosecution Service

Indicator: ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

7.8. Preventive measures and provision of information on human trafficking

Manner of performance: The collection and processing of data and the production of statistical information and analyses relating to human trafficking, public information and the implementation of measures to prevent this problem

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Interior

Joint supervisors: human trafficking department in the criminal police office of the Presidium of the Police Force of the Ministry of Interior

Indicator: analyses and statistics from the Information Centre for Combatting Human Trafficking and Preventing Crime in Košice

7.9. Functional identification of child victims of human trafficking

Manner of performance: Detection and identification of the child victims of human trafficking and foreign minors who are victims of human trafficking according to the special procedure for child victims

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Interior

Joint supervisors: human trafficking department in the criminal police office of the Presidium of the Police Force of the Ministry of Interior

Cooperating subjects: NGOs

Indicator: statistics of the Ministry of Interior

7.10. Monitoring of international standards in combatting the trafficking of children

Manner of performance: According to the results of analyses, international conferences and reports compiled with the assistance of EU agencies (EUROPOL, FRONTEX), universal international organisations e.g. the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), and regional international organisations that monitor the situation regarding the trafficking of children, in particular the Council of Europe

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Interior

Joint supervisors: Ministry of Justice

Cooperating subjects: office for international police cooperation of the Presidium of the Police Force of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Indicator: Active participation in professional and educational meetings in Slovakia and abroad especially conferences dedicated to the issue of child trafficking, presentation of reports on events organised in connection with the issue of child trafficking.

7.11. Ensuring that young people in prison have access to information

Manner of performance: Ensuring that young people in prison can access information by reading daily newspapers and magazines, watching television and using the prison library. Seminars, lectures, quizzes, sports events and competitions will be used to ensure all-round harmony in personal development.

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Justice/ General Directorate of the Corps of Prison and Court Guard, Public Prosecution Service

Joint supervisors: prison governors

Cooperating subjects: supervising prosecutors

Indicator: annual report evaluating the situation and the method of fulfilment of measures and objectives in accordance with tasks under the "National Action Plan for Children 2013–2017" based on a stocktaking of the activities undertaken by the Corps to carry out the adopted measures.

7.12. Enabling young people in prison to have access to a chaplaincy service if they wish

Manner of performance: Providing young people in prison with a chaplaincy service and access to activities organised by churches, religious communities, foundations and charities

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Justice/ General Directorate of the Corps of Prison and Court Guard, Public Prosecution Service

Joint supervisors: prison governors

Cooperating subjects: religious communities, supervising prosecutors

Indicator: annual report evaluating the situation and the method of fulfilment of measures and objectives in accordance with tasks under the "National Action Plan for Children 2013–2017" based on a stocktaking of the activities undertaken by the Corps to carry out the adopted measures.

7.13. Stabilising and developing the personality of young people on remand and serving custodial sentences

Manner of performance: Control activities by Corps officers to prevent torture and other cruel, inhumane or humiliating treatment or punishments including corporal punishment of young people. Medical checks for indications of physical violence. If indications are found that young people in prison were victims of torture or other cruel, inhumane or humiliating treatment or punishments including corporal punishment, they will be given comprehensive professional assistance.

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Justice/ General Directorate of the Corps of Prison and Court Guard, Public Prosecution Service

Joint supervisors: prison governors

Cooperating subjects: supervising prosecutors

Indicator: annual report evaluating the situation and the method of fulfilment of measures and objectives in accordance with tasks under the "National Action Plan for Children 2013–2017" based on a stocktaking of the activities undertaken by the Corps to carry out the adopted measures.

7.14. Respecting human dignity in the treatment of young people in prison and having regard for their needs in their placement

Manner of performance: Ensuring that the human dignity of young people in prison is respected. Maintenance, support and development of relations with the primary family through correspondence, visits and phone calls. During remand or a custodial sentence young people will be placed with adults only when it is in the young person's best interest. Young people receiving a custodial sentence will be placed in the institution for young offenders in Sučany and other prisons will be used only when it permits more effective implementation of the treatment programme and if it is in the interest of the young person concerned

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Justice/ General Directorate of the Corps of Prison and Court Guard, Public Prosecution Service

Joint supervisors: prison governors

Cooperating subjects: supervising prosecutors

Indicator: annual report evaluating the situation and the method of fulfilment of measures and objectives in accordance with tasks under the "National Action Plan for Children 2013–2017" based on a stocktaking of the activities undertaken by the Corps to carry out the adopted measures.

7.15. Guide young people accused and convicted of crimes towards autonomy, responsibility and finding solutions for the situations that they have created for themselves

Manner of performance: Ensuring that young people in prison can exercise their right to legal assistance from a lawyer or another person representing them in another legal matter and that they have access to a lockable box for correspondence. Submission of a proposal for an amendment of the law on remand and the law on prisons under which young people accused and convicted of crimes who are aged 18 years or less must be represented by a guardian in all types of proceedings

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Justice/ General Directorate of the Corps of Prison and Court Guard

Joint supervisors: prison governors

Indicator: annual report evaluating the situation and the method of fulfilment of measures and objectives in accordance with tasks under the "National Action Plan for Children 2013–2017" based on a stocktaking of the activities undertaken by the Corps to carry out the adopted measures; legislative amendment

7.16. Preparing young people in prison for reintegration in society through provision for compulsory school attendance and other forms of education

Manner of performance: Provision for young people to complete compulsory school attendance and secondary education at the level of secondary vocational education or full secondary vocational education. Preparation of young people for a future occupation will be planned in cooperation with the parents or legal representative of the young person concerned, state administration bodies, municipalities and self-governing regions Penitentiary treatment of young people will use methods and forms that designed to achieve the comprehensive restoration of social skills and reintegration in society on release from prison.

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Justice/ General Directorate of the Corps of Prison and Court Guard

Joint supervisors: prison governors

Cooperating subjects: local government

Indicator: annual report evaluating the situation and the method of fulfilment of measures and objectives in accordance with tasks under the "National Action Plan for Children 2013–2017" based on a stocktaking of the activities undertaken by the Corps to carry out the adopted measures.

7.17. Having regard that the treatment of children accused of crimes must respect all their rights

Manner of performance: Control activity will be carried to ensure that all rights guaranteed to accused persons are respected in accordance with the principle of equal treatment

Timetable/deadline for performance: ongoing

Main supervisor: Ministry of Justice/ General Directorate of the Corps of Prison and Court Guard

Joint supervisors: prison governors

Cooperating subjects: Public Prosecution Service / supervising prosecutors

Indicator: annual report evaluating the situation and the method of fulfilment of measures and objectives in accordance with tasks under the "National Action Plan for Children 2013–2017" based on a stocktaking of the activities undertaken by the Corps to carry out the adopted measures.

7.18. Permitting communication with a prosecutor performing prison supervision or prison officials

Manner of performance: Young people in prison will have access to a lockable box for requests, proposals or complaints that they wish to send to a prosecutor performing supervision or inspection in the prison. They will be permitted on request to speak in person with the prison governor or a representative selected by the governor and with representatives of authorities performing supervision or inspection in the prison.

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Justice/ General Directorate of the Corps of Prison and Court Guard

Joint supervisors: prison governors

Cooperating subjects: Public Prosecution Service / supervising prosecutors

Indicator: annual report evaluating the situation and the method of fulfilment of measures and objectives in accordance with tasks under the "National Action Plan for Children 2013–2017" based on a stocktaking of the activities undertaken by the Corps to carry out the adopted measures.

7.19. Strengthening theoretical instruction concerning generally applicable legislation and internal Corps regulations in the vocational training of prison and court guards and presenting the special procedures for specific categories of prisoners, giving adequate space to the treatment of young people in prison in the teaching materials and training for prison and court guards

Manner of performance: Vocational training in the Institute of Education of the Corps of Prison and Court Guard in Nitra to satisfy the legal qualification requirements for police training will ensure that Corps officers are trained in the treatment of accused and convicted persons

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Justice/ General Directorate of the Corps of Prison and Court Guard

Joint supervisors: prison governors

Indicator: annual report evaluating the situation and the method of fulfilment of measures and objectives in accordance with tasks under the "National Action Plan for Children 2013–2017" based on a stocktaking of the activities undertaken by the Corps to carry out the adopted measures.

7.20. Ensuring compliance with guarantees of proportionate use of force

Manner of performance: Control activity will pay particular attention to the proportionate use of force against persons younger than 18 years of age

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Interior

Joint supervisors: uniform police department of the Presidium of the Police Force of the Ministry of Interior

Cooperating subjects: control department of the Presidium of the Police Force of the Ministry of Interior

Indicator: outputs from inspections carried out in units under each regional headquarters of the Police Force

7.21. Increasing knowledge of the rights of children and the proper treatment of children in criminal proceedings

Manner of performance: Training for police officers at all levels concerning the rights of the child and the proper treatment of children in criminal proceedings

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Interior

Cooperating subjects: Secondary Vocational School of the Police Force Bratislava, Secondary Vocational School of the Police Force Košice, Secondary Vocational School of the Police Force Pezinok, Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava

Indicator: school education programmes

7.22. Preventing crimes against children

Manner of performance: Implementation of proven preventative projects and activities of the Police Force, creation of new preventative projects and activities in pre-school facilities, primary and secondary schools, special primary schools, therapeutic and educational sanatoria, children's homes and re-education facilities in order to prevent crime and other anti-social activities committed against children

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Interior

Joint supervisors: prevention unit in the internal department of the office of the president of the Police Force of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport

Cooperating subjects: regional and district headquarters of the Police Force, schools and special educational facilities

Indicator: number of projects and activities implemented, number of children participating in projects and activities

7.23. Monitoring crimes committed by children and against children

Manner of performance: Monitoring data to track individual statistical indicators for every type of crime committed against young people and statistical data on all types of crime committed by young people, as an important indicator of the need to take measures to protect children.

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Interior

Joint supervisors: criminal police office of the Presidium of the Police Force of the Ministry of Interior

Indicator: statistics of the Ministry of Interior

7.24. Providing for the needs of children in crisis

Manner of performance: Prioritisation of measures to address the needs of children in crisis through the provision of psychological support making use of concentrated social service centres, and measures to address children's legal rights

Timetable/deadline for performance: continuous

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Joint supervisors: Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Cooperating subjects: local government

Indicator: proportion of cases dealt with that involve children in crisis

7.25. Improving care for unaccompanied minors

Manner of performance: Establishment of an expert working group to review methods and procedures for determining age, proposal of solutions. Organisation of working meetings and small-scale meetings of experts on the protection of unaccompanied minors

Timetable/deadline for performance: 2013 and thereafter (continuous)

Main supervisor: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and the Family, Ministry of Interior

Joint supervisors: Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Cooperating subjects: NGOs, specialists in practice

Indicator: establishment of a working group, number of informed discussions and events leading to proposals for solutions

List of abbreviations used:

FTC – Free time centre

PTHC – Paediatric teaching hospital and clinic

Supervising prosecutor – a prosecutor carrying out supervision pursuant to Section 18(1) of Act No. 153/2001 Coll. on the prosecution service, as amended

PPS – Public Prosecution Service of the Slovak Republic

GD CPCG – General Directorate of the Corps of Prison and Court Guard

ILFR – Institute for Labour and Family Research

JA – Judicial Academy

MTCRD – Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic

MF – Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic

MEcon – Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic

MC – Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic

MD – Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic

IWG – Interdepartmental (inter-ministerial) working group

MLSAF – Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

MJ – Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic

MESRS – Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic

MI – Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic

NGO – non-governmental organisation

MH – Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic

MFEA – Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

MEnv – Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic

NCC – National Cultural Centre

NC SR – National Council of the Slovak Republic

OZ – citizens' association (*občianske združenie*)

PES – preventative and educational services

PaNC – list of judges who sit on panels that hear civil law cases concerning care for young people (upbringing, maintenance, adoption etc.)

PPF MI – Presidium of the Police Force of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic

WG GCHRMGE – Working group of the Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality

PF MI – Police Force of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic

YCS – Youth Council of Slovakia

PCD – psychological counselling departments

RPHA – Regional Public Health Authority

GCHRMGE – Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality

SK8 – Association of self-governing regions

SNCHR – Slovak National Centre for Human Rights

SS – Secondary school

SNIE – Slovak National Institute for Education

SO SR – Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic

BBAP PPF MI – Bureau of Border and Alien Police of the Presidium of the Police Force of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic

UTCS – Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia

OLSAF – offices of labour, social affairs and family

COLSAF – Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

OGPYPS – Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Young People and Sport

OGPNM – Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for National Minorities

OGPRC – Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities
OGPDCS – Office of the Government Plenipotentiary for the Development of Civil Society
OG SR – Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic
PHA – Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic
Local government – self-governing municipalities and regions
PDR – Public Defender of Rights (ombudsman)
RICPP – Research Institute for Child Psychology and Pathopsychology
AYAIC – Association of Youth Advice and Information Centres
ZMOS – Association of Towns and Villages of Slovakia
PS – Primary School