

Integration Policy of the Slovak Republic



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



Funded by the European Union from the European
Fund for the Intergration of Third-Coutry Nationals.
Solidarity in management of migration flows

20 January 2014

Table of Contents

<i>Integration Policy Principles</i>	3
<i>Integration Policy Goals</i>	5
<i>Definitions of Terms</i>	7
<i>Target groups</i>	9
<i>Cross-cutting Measure – Data Collection</i>	10
AREAS OF INTEGRATION POLICY MEASURES	12
1. <i>Self-governing Regions</i>	13
2. <i>Housing</i>	Chyba! Záložka nie je definovaná.
3. <i>Cultural and Social Integration</i>	18
4. <i>Health Care</i>	22
5. <i>Education</i>	Chyba! Záložka nie je definovaná.
6. <i>Employment and Social Protection</i>	27
7. <i>Citizenship in the Slovak Republic</i>	31
8. <i>Unaccompanied Minors</i>	33
<i>Annex</i>	37
<i>Integration Policy within the Context of the Slovak Republic</i>	37
<i>List of Abbreviations and Acronyms</i>	Chyba! Záložka nie je definovaná.

Integration Policy Principles¹

The integration policy is based on the principles of equality, justice and respect for the human integrity of every inhabitant of this country.

- The successful integration of foreigners plays an important role in the development of the Slovak Republic as a country that supports and respects diversity.
- The Integration Policy is based on an emphasis on justice, equality, an effort to compensate for disadvantages, the prevention of discrimination, respect for human rights and freedoms, protection of the vulnerable and adherence to the legal regulations and international commitments of the Slovak Republic.
- Integration is a two-way process of mutual acknowledgement and respect by and for the majority society and foreigners.
- The integration policy of foreigners acknowledges the need for the introduction and implementation of special measures to compensate for disadvantages encountered by the most vulnerable groups, particularly the seekers of international protection, persons with acknowledged international protection (asylum and complementary protection in particular), children, including unaccompanied minors, women, the elderly, victims of violence and crime, including human trafficking and exploitation, the disabled and other vulnerable groups.
- The integration policy is given emphasis on the local and regional levels, as local governments help the process of integration of foreigners and create social cohesion between various communities and the majority society.
- Mutual cooperation and partnership between the civil society, research institutions, media and the government aid in the process of the successful integration of foreigners in the Slovak Republic.
- The integration policy is based on the employment of foreigners, their integration in the health and social security schemes, enabling equal access to education, language competence and support in acquiring adequate housing.
- Foreigners should be involved in the processes related to their integration in the society and play a significant role in overall development of the country.
- The Integration Policy acknowledges the need for the full integration of foreigners in the political community by acquiring citizenship.

¹ The Integration Policy Principles were designed as a current summary of several recommendations based on the following materials: “Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic with an Outlook to 2020“ (approved by the Slovak Government on 31 August 2011 and the integration policy is its organic part), pp. 4-5.; The Common Basic Principles for Immigrant Integration Policy in the EU (2004); A Common Agenda for Integration - Framework for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals in the European (COM(2005) 389); European Agenda for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals (COM(2011) 455); Handbooks on Integration (2010); Council Directive 2003/86/EC on the right to family reunification; Council Directive 2003/109/EC concerning the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents; Council Directive 2004/114/EC on the conditions for the admission of third-country nationals for the purposes of study, pupil exchanges, unremunerated training or voluntary service and au pair activities; Council Directive 2009/50/EC on the conditions for the entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly qualified employment; Huddleston, T., Niessen, J., Tjaden, J. D. (2013). *Using EU Indicators of Immigrant Integration*. Final Report for Directorate-General for Home Affairs, 2013.

- The integration of foreigners plays a role in the development of the Slovak Republic as a country that supports and respects diversity, and helps the labour market, the entrepreneurial environment as an important impetus for economy, uses the professional potential of foreigners and at the same time offers solutions for negative demographic trends.
- The dissemination of information concerning integration and migration contributes to the development of the intercultural competences of all involved parties.

*Integration Policy Goals*²

The *Integration Policy* builds on the Concept of the Integration of Foreigners in the v SR (approved in 2009) and establishes the overall framework for the integration mainstreaming. It neither defines nor describes the current state of policies but proposes new visions and directions in the integration of foreigners. It creates the framework for relevant policies which will be further detailed by the responsible parties in the area of the Integration Policy in the relevant action plans. Its implementation is based on the coordinated cooperation of state authorities, local state administration organs, local government and the communities of foreigners, and anticipates the involvement of non-governmental and other organizations working in this field of integration.

The *Integration Policy* establishes priority areas and measures contained in the recommending *measures* which should be appropriately elaborated by the responsible parties; furthermore, the elaboration of the goals of the Integration Policy in initiative measures within action plans that are not directly established in the document of Integration Policy is also anticipated.

The *Integration Policy* supports a “bottom-up” creation of policies, and the subsequent elaboration of the *Integration Policy* in action plans should reflect the current needs of the target group as indicated by the relevant responsible parties involved in integration policies.

The *Integration Policy* is based on the execution of measures that would not otherwise be executed. The aim is to introduce a *proactive* approach that will also enable the execution of new measures. The *Integration Policy* also recommends the use of funds from European Union (hereinafter referred to as the “EU”) resources within the integration projects.

The *Integration Policy* is based on EU recommendations with regard to the new programming period which focuses on integration policies, equality and the specific needs of vulnerable groups of migrants, youth and children. Increasing the possibilities for the monitoring, collecting, analysing and publicizing of statistics concerning integration and evaluation of integration policies are related to that.³

The European Commission recommends that the Member States further improve its cooperation with third countries, labour force placement and acknowledgement of qualifications in compliance with the measures in support of a comprehensive policy for work-related migration within the framework of the main initiative of the Europe 2020 Strategy “Programme for New Skills and New Jobs”. These measures will help to react effectively to demographic challenges.

² The Integration Policy Goals were designed as a current summary of several recommendations based on the following materials: “Migration Policy of the Slovak Republic with an Outlook to 2020“ (approved by the Slovak Government on 31 August 2011; the integration policy is its organic part), p. 4-5.; The Common Basic Principles for Immigrant Integration Policy in the EU (2004); A Common Agenda for Integration - Framework for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals in the European (COM(2005) 389); European Agenda for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals (COM(2011) 455); Handbooks on Integration (2010); Council Directive 2003/86/EC on the right to family reunification; Council Directive 2003/109/EC concerning the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents; Council Directive 2004/114/EC on the conditions of admission of third-country nationals for the purposes of studies, pupil exchange, unremunerated training or voluntary service and au pair activities; Council Directive 2009/50/EC on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly qualified employment; Huddleston, T., Niessen, J., Tjaden, J. D. (2013). *Using EU Indicators of Immigrant Integration*. Final Report for Directorate-General for Home Affairs, 2013.

³ Framework for the integration of third-country nationals in the European Union, COM(2005)389.

A global approach to integration also requires increased attention. The Integration Policy is based on the respect for the human rights of foreigners and supports integration, stays, economic activities, study, family reunification and the integration process of foreigners in compliance with Slovak laws, EU legal regulations and international legal provisions.⁴ It is important to develop the humanitarian dimension of migration and subsequent integration in compliance with humanitarian and development policies of the EU (policies implemented by the EU outside its territory, i.e., development aid, etc.). The Integration Policy also refers to asylum seekers and persons to whom international forms of protection were acknowledged. Vulnerable groups of foreigners⁵ (unaccompanied minors, victims of human trafficking, stateless persons, victims of violence, and persons with acknowledged international protection) also require increased attention.

We define the *Integration Policy* as the creation of a systematic framework for relevant policies whose aim is to ensure the implementation of measures that will help the process of integration of foreigners and serve as preventative instruments against the division of society economically, socially and culturally and the creation of closed and excluded communities of migrants.

The *Integration Policy* acknowledges the fact that integration is a continuous, long-term and dynamic process which includes foreigners living in an accepting country and the entire society. The active nature of the Integration Policy emphasizes the need for mutual respect and acknowledgment of the rights and obligations of both groups. The Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the “SR”) considers communities of foreigners as an integral part of our society and appreciates their contributions in economic, cultural, educational, human-rights and social areas.

Integration measures must lead to the existence of coordinated and mutually connected instruments and activities, including activities of a civil, first-contact institution for foreigners, information and counselling centres for foreigners and comprehensive instruments for pre- and post-arrival orientation, including the involvement of members of migrant communities in the regions. These specific Integration Policy instruments will enable to foreigners to enter the labour market, master the language of the accepting country, gain access to education, health care, social services, housing and acknowledgment of cultural specifics as a recognition of their legal status, participation in civic and political life or awarding of Slovak citizenship.

⁴ Géza, Mihály; Boris, Divinský (ed.) (2011). *Nové trendy a prognóza pracovnej migrácie v Slovenskej republike do roku 2020 s výhľadom do roku 2050*. Bratislava: Trexima.

⁵ Blažek, M., Andrášová, S., Paulenová, N. (2013). *Skúsenosti migrantov a migrantiek na Slovensku s násilím*. Bratislava: IOM medzinárodná organizácia pre migráciu (International Organization for Migration).

Definitions of Terms

For the purposes of the Integration Policy, the terms listed below shall have the following definitions.⁶

Foreigner – an person who is not national of the SR.⁷

Third-country national – any person who is not a citizen of the Slovak Republic or a national of an EU Member State, another contractual state of the Agreement on the European Economic Area or the Swiss Confederation, or a stateless person.⁸

Migrant – a person who leaves a country or region with the aim to settle in a different country or region.⁹

Blue Card holder – a third-country national, to whom a Blue Card was issued for the purposes of highly qualified employment. A Blue Card entitles a third-country national to enter, stay or work in the Slovak Republic, to leave the Slovak Republic and to re-enter the Slovak Republic within the period of time for which this card was issued by the police.¹⁰

Foreign student – a foreigner who is granted a form of temporary residence that is granted by the Slovak Republic to applicants primarily for the purpose of studying in the Slovak Republic.¹¹

Highly qualified and qualified employment – Highly qualified employment is employment that requires higher professional qualifications. Qualifications evidenced by a document of tertiary education or a document confirming more than five years of professional experience in a relevant area which is at a level comparable to tertiary education and issued pursuant to a special regulation is understood as a higher professional qualification.¹²

Asylum seeker – a foreigner, who complied with the criteria pursuant to the Geneva Convention related to the Legal Status of Refugees and Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum as amended, based on which this person was acknowledged as an asylum seeker and provided with international protection in the form of asylum.¹³

⁶ The term foreigner used in the text adequately and appropriately refers to male and female persons.

⁷ Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on the Residence of Foreigners and on amendments and supplements to certain Acts in the wording of Act No. 75/2013 Coll.

⁸ Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on the Residence of Foreigners and on amendments and supplements to certain Acts in the wording of Act No. 75/2013 Coll.

⁹ Asylum and Migration Glossary 2.0. European Migration Network, 2012.

¹⁰ Article 37 of Act No. 404/2011 Z Coll. on the Residence of Foreigners and on amendments and supplements to certain acts in the wording of Act No. 75/2013 Coll.

¹¹ Migration of Foreign Students in the SR, European Migration Network, 2012.

¹² Article 37 of Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on the Residence of Foreigners and on amendments and supplements to certain Acts in the wording of Act No. 75/2013 Coll. Acquiring highly qualified and qualified third-country nationals.

¹³ Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on amendments and supplements to certain Acts as amended.

Unaccompanied minor – a child under the age of 18 who is not a national of the SR and who is in the Slovak Republic unaccompanied by a parent or another adult physical person to whose personal care the child could be entrusted.¹⁴

Subjects of territorial self-government – a municipality and upper-tier territorial unit are understood as subjects of territorial self-government pursuant to the Constitution of the Slovak Republic; furthermore pursuant to Act No. 302/2001 Coll. on the Self-Government of Upper-tier Territorial Units (the Act on self-governing regions) as amended, a self-governing region is an upper-tier territorial unit. A town/city is also a municipality pursuant to Slovak National Council Act No. 369/1990 (Digest) on the Municipal System as amended.

Person with complementary protection – a foreigner who was granted complementary protection by the Ministry of Interior of the SR.¹⁵

¹⁴ Act No. 305/2005 Coll. on Social Legal Child Protection and Social Guardianship and on amendments and supplements to certain Acts.

¹⁵ Act No. 480/2002 Coll. on Asylum and on amendments and supplements to certain Acts as amended.

Target Groups

- Foreigners who are migrants and who entered the territory of the Slovak Republic, lived temporarily or settled permanently in the Slovak Republic and particularly all age groups of migrants including children who are Slovak nationals.
- The Integration Policy places special emphasis on foreigners who were granted international forms of protection.
- The Integration Policy confirms that integration does not end upon obtaining Slovak citizenship – specific interest should be also paid to the second generation of foreigners, i.e., citizens of the SR of foreign origin or who were born abroad.

Cross-cutting Measure – Data Collection

The *Integration Policy* reflects Recommendation No. 862/2007 of the Council and of the European Parliament.¹⁶ As a result, the *Integration Policy* proposes the collection of data¹⁷ that will be summarized in the annual *Summary Report on Integration Policy of the Slovak Republic* composed of the statements based on the relevant *Action Plans of the Integration Policy of the Slovak Republic*. Data collection should be carried out in such a form to ensure that the affected institutions will provide the data in question according to their professional competence and available methodology.

Data Collection: Employment	1. employment rate of foreigners according to age and gender according to education, economic activity and classification of occupations
	2. unemployment rate of foreigners according to age and gender
	3. number of registered job seekers foreigners according to age and gender
	4. number of illegally employed foreigners according to age and gender
	5. share of trade licences issued to foreigners according to age and gender
	6. types of employment contracts of foreigners according to age and gender (temporary, occasional, seasonal, permanent)
Data Collection: Active Citizenship	1. the share of applicants that have obtained citizenship of the SR
	2. the share of applicants that have been denied citizenship of the SR
	4. the share of foreigners among elected representatives
	5. the share of stateless persons that have obtained citizenship of the Slovak Republic
Data Collection: Social Inclusion	1. median net income , share of median net income of foreigners among the median net income of the total population
	2. indicator of the poverty risk rate of foreigners , share of persons with a net disposable income that is less than 60 % of the national median of net disposable income
	3. ratio of property owners to non-property owners

¹⁶ Regulation (EC) No. 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No. 311/76 on the compilation of statistics on foreign workers.

¹⁷ Zaragoza Pilot Study. Indicators of Immigrant Integration (2011). Vašečka, M. (ed). (2011). *Indikátory integrácie pre 21. storočie. Vieme ako merať úspešnosť integrácie migrantov?* Bratislava: Inštitút pre dobre spravovanú spoločnosť (Slovak Governance Institute) .

	between foreigners and the total population
	4. number of beneficiaries of social benefits and old-age pensions from the social security scheme of the Slovak Republic foreigners according to age and gender according to country of origin and type of residence
Data Collection: Education	1. share of population with the highest educational attainment
	2. share of low-achieving 15-year-olds in reading, mathematics and science
	3. share of population with tertiary education
	4. share of population that completed education
	5. Accessibility of language courses of foreigners according to age and gender (prices of courses)
Data Collection: Housing	1. share of foreigners among public and private sub-lessees
	2. rate of use of social housing by foreigners
	3. share of foreigners who own houses or flats

AREAS OF INTEGRATION POLICY MEASURES

1. *Self-governing Regions*

Pursuant to the provision of Article 4 of Act No. 302/2001 Coll. on the Self-government of Upper-tier Territorial Units, while conducting self-government, the self-governing regions provide for the universal development of their territories and the needs of the population. Specific interest is placed on senior citizens, disabled persons, and persons in crisis situations, minors and foreigners. Increasing the dissemination of information regarding the possibilities of assistance to all citizens who are in crisis situations is one of the main priorities in addressing the situation of such persons, including foreigners. Self-governing regions perform the aforementioned measure in compliance with the pertinent legislation. Since foreigners also live in the territories of self-governing regions, it is expected that the self-governing regions will cooperate as much possible in addressing the Integration Policy. The self-governing regions should map the characteristics, situation and problems of the population of foreigners; it will also be necessary to improve and intensify the cooperation of local and regional self-government organs and other parties involved in the Integration Policy including foreigners themselves. The quality of the relationships between foreigners and population of municipality or self-governing region is one of the key aspects of integration.

Foreigners living in self-governing region co-create and participate in the quality of life of the local community; they are a part of it. Therefore, self-governments must have information regarding the population living in their territory including foreigners. Self-governments should actively create conditions for the involvement of foreigners in civic life at the local level. This can be implemented through information campaigns and active community organization.

The participation of asylum seekers and persons who are granted complementary protection in social life should connect the rights of these persons with obligations towards the majority society.

When implementing social inclusion and integration programmes for foreigners, towns and municipalities should focus on the provision of adequate housing in order to eliminate segregation.

Article 3, paragraph 1 of Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on Social Services and on amendments and supplements to Act No. 455/1991 (Digest) on Trades as amended defines participants in legal relations, while Article 3, paragraph 2 defines which natural persons qualify as social service recipients. These provisions also include natural persons from third countries who may become social services recipients if they comply with the conditions established by law. From the perspective of the Act on Social Services, these provisions also call for the obligation to provide social services to these natural persons.

Self-governing regions shall provide counselling and ensure social services, health care and education where possible based on the requirements of foreigners. The civic participation of foreigners on the regional and local levels can be increased through their direct participation in various events. In the event of civic interest and initiative, the cultural institutions of self-governments support the participation of foreigners. The elaboration of integration concepts¹⁸ oriented towards proposals of actual measures which can be

¹⁸ Example: Framework strategy for integration of migrants in the town of Martin (2012).

implemented within the possibilities of self-governing regions is a possible goal in improving the integration of foreigners in self-governing regions. They can also introduce various platforms for information exchanges between institutions and foreigners, include foreigners in society and support the co-existence of the population. These measures lead to improved co-existence, the prevention of conflicts and increased knowledge of self-governments regarding the population living in their territory.

MEASURES that require further elaboration:

Measure 1

To elaborate regional integration concepts in the self-governing regions and municipalities of the given self-governing region.

Indicators: a number of documents.

Responsible subjects: self-governing regions, Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia, Association of Towns and Villages of Slovakia.

Measure 2

To increase the knowledge of self-government regarding institutions involved in the integration of foreigners in its territory in compliance with the competences in this area.

Indicators: a number of activities.

Responsible subjects: self-governing regions; Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia, Association of Towns and Villages of Slovakia.

Measure 3

Better coordination in acquiring statistical data regarding the number of foreigners legally residing in the self-governing region.

Indicators: working groups and changes in information procedures.

Responsible subjects: self-governing regions; Ministry of Interior of the SR.

Measure 4

To support the active participation and involvement of foreigners in life at the local level including their participation in elected municipality bodies.

Indicators: a number of carried out activities.

Responsible subjects: self-governing regions.

Measure 5

To continuously map the activities of assisting institutions in every region of Slovakia by self-governing units. To ensure the dissemination of information to migrants regarding services in the region through updated multi-lingual lists which will be distributed for example to the alien police departments, health insurance companies, etc. and posted on websites of ministries and Slovak embassies.

Indicators: a number of activities, the design of lists.

Responsible subjects: self-governing regions, Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia.

2. Housing

Housing is one of the most essential needs of all people and the foundation and basic condition for leading a full life; thus it is also a necessary condition for the integration of a foreigner. The Integration Policy declares the Slovak Republic's interest in adhering to its international commitments related to the protection of human integrity and access to housing to which foreigners are also entitled.¹⁹

Housing, particularly if it is inadequate and inaccessible, can become an instrument of segregation or ghettoization, especially in the case of economic migrants arriving to a country in larger numbers. Due to the fact that the number of migrants arriving to Slovakia is still relatively low, the problem of creating of ghettos or geographically separated settlements is not as visible as in other (Western European) countries. This allows the state to adequately prepare for the potential creation of various barriers and obstacles in addressing the issues related to housing in Slovakia. The problem of separation or even segregation is already critical and it can be followed by various problems and barriers that migrants face after their arrival.²⁰

Housing in this sense can be an instrument of state social policy from day one of a foreigner's stay in the SR. The Integration Policy and the local housing policies should be oriented on reducing the spatial and social segregation of the community of foreigners from the majority population. Measures may be of a general nature, such as reconstruction programmes or programmes for the improvement of local infrastructure and for attracting the original population. Measures can also be specifically oriented on foreigners, such as housing distribution programmes in order to prevent over-concentration (and thus also ghettoization).²¹

Through its Integration Policy, the State is interested in developing a general public rental-housing sector which incorporates less than 3% of flats²² according to expert estimates. Therefore the Integration Policy relies on the development of state policy accessible to all groups of the population of the SR including foreigners. Furthermore, within the framework of the *Housing Development Programme*, towns and municipalities may ensure adequate housing in municipal rental flats for marginalized groups at social risk, including third-country nationals residing in the SR.

The Long-term Concept of Housing for Marginalized Groups of the Population and its funding model approved by the Slovak Government in 2005 is the strategic document oriented on addressing the housing issues of marginalized groups. This concept declares that there are groups of the population who are not able to provide adequate housing for themselves via regular channels and become marginalized groups at social risk. However, the

¹⁹ Council Directive 2003/109/EC of 25 November 2003 concerning the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents - Article 11 – Equal Treatment - 1. Long-term residents shall enjoy equal treatment with nationals as regards: f) access to goods and services and the supply of goods and services made available to the public and to procedures for obtaining housing;

²⁰ Elena Kriglerová Gallová (2009). *Kvalitný výskum – podmienka úspešnej integrácie*. Bratislava: SGI.

²¹ CLIP, *Integration of migrants: Contribution of local and regional authorities* (2006)

²² Majority of these flats is in the municipality ownership and decision of self-government regarding assigning flats in their ownership is fully in their competence and is fully autonomous. State through the Ministry of Transportation, Construction and Regional Development of the SR as the central body of state administration responsible for orientation of the state housing policy defines the basic conditions that the parties interested in such housing must comply with and also methodologically affects municipalities to adhere to the same non-discrimination and non-segregating approach to housing for all groups of population including the foreigners.

aim of the Integration Policy is to encourage self-governments to perceive migration as a complicated and complex phenomenon and the necessity of not including foreigners exclusively under the strategic plans for the support of marginalized groups, but to perceive them as a separate category of the population and to take into consideration their specific needs. The Integration Policy is also built on the need to provide adequate housing to foreigners who can be considered as vulnerable, particularly those identified as victims of human trafficking, asylum seekers, foreigners with complementary protection, unaccompanied minors, and namely in necessary cases when these persons are dependent on assistance.

Nevertheless, due to support for access to services and goods for foreigners who are long-term residents²³ in the SR, the Integration Policy considers it necessary to examine the conditions of entitlements of foreigners in the area of financing (mortgage loans) and subsequently to invite the providers of these services to modify them to help them move closer to attaining the legal status of foreigners – long-term residents with the legal status of citizens of the SR and the EEA.

The Integration Policy promotes the extension of possibilities for the temporary or short-term accommodation of third-country nationals and other population groups in social housing facilities and shelters within the competence of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR (MoLSAF SR), the dissemination of information that foreigners can find at the official website of the MoLSAF SR and which is provided at least in two languages. Since the provision of housing contributions is another instrument that should play a more significant role in improving accessibility to housing, such provisions be based on the size of household, the type and standard of housing and actual expenditures.

MEASURES that need further elaboration:

Measure 1

Extending the target groups of third-country nationals and those who were granted international protection) in conceptual materials so that foreigners are not classified together with marginalized communities, but as a separate target group.

Indicators: a number of documents.

Responsible subject: Ministry of Transportation, Construction and Regional Development of the SR.

Measure 2

Overall, the support of access of foreigners to rental housing. In preparing future policies, this should also include migrants (with an outlook to 2020). Within the framework of the new Act on the State Housing Development Fund, to also extend the target group which can obtain soft loans for the construction of rental flats by legal entities. Thus, a new alternative source of funding for the support of housing within integration measures would be enabled for the non-profit sector.

Indicator: change of legislation.

Responsible subject: Ministry of Transportation, Construction and Regional Development of the SR.

Measure 3

²³ Pursuant to Council Directive 2003/109/EC of 25 November 2003 concerning the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents - Article 11 – Equal Treatment - 1. Long-term residents shall enjoy equal treatment as nationals regarding: f) access to goods and services and the supply of goods and services made available to the public and to procedures for obtaining housing.

Elaborating and publicizing a document that will indicate how the given self-government understands terms such as rental housing, social housing and social policy.

Indicators: a number of documents.

Responsible subjects: Association of Towns and Villages of Slovakia, self-governments.

Measure 4

To create conditions for the provision of soft loans for residents of children's homes with equal access to the provision of loans up to the amount of 100 % if possible, also in the case of the purchase of an older flat.

Indicators: a number of granted loans.

Responsible subject: Ministry of Transportation, Construction and Regional Development of the SR.

Measure 5

The creation of a unified "housing" section on the main web site of the MoLSAF SR where all information related to the possibilities for housing for foreigners would be provided in foreign languages.

Indicator: designing of a section within the website and content of the site.

Responsible subjects: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR, Ministry of Transportation, Construction and Regional Development of the SR.

3. Cultural and Social Integration

Culture, as a natural integration mechanism, plays a significant role in the integration of foreigners in Slovak society. The cultural integration of foreigners may take different forms and methods. It may take the form of the promotion of live culture, print or digital initiatives or informal educational activities in the area of culture oriented on the prevention of xenophobia and the elimination of prejudices and stereotypes towards foreigners.

The cultural integration of foreigners is comprised of several stages: from the beginning orientation up to development of relations between the foreign community and the host country. Foreigners entering a new society need help in adapting to new conditions. In order to live a full and satisfactory life they need to learn the language, culture, values and rules of life in the given society. In this respect, the support of interactive events (those which prioritize creativity and active involvement in creation) and inclusive events (those which enable various target groups including the majority to meet) represent a significant basis for the integration of foreigners in our society. We must pay special attention to the support of cultural activities for children of foreigners in which the culture of the host country should be presented in an age appropriate manner.

In terms of intercultural exchange and integration, public service broadcasting plays a crucial role. Measures aimed at the integration of minorities and foreigners living in the Slovak Republic should definitely be among the roles which the public service media should fulfil. Public service broadcasting should provide space for the presentation of various cultures and their mutual interaction and approximation. News and publicity programmes in public service broadcasting should provide objective and impartial information. The information about the life of foreigners and their culture should be based on the principles of democracy and humanism and should contribute to the legal awareness, ethical consciousness and environmental responsibility of the general public and should reflect a diversity of opinions, political, religious, philosophical and artistic orientations and support the development of a knowledge-based society and create conditions for social agreement in public affairs with the aim to achieve mutual understanding, tolerance and support coherence of a diverse society.

Therefore, the Integration Policy emphasizes the need to adopt measures that will require responsible bodies to allocate space within the framework of public service broadcasting for various forms of broadcasting that will empower the integration process.

The Integration Policy also underlines the need to use various communication channels towards the wider general public, including social networks and other new media with the aim to introduce the theme of integration. In this respect, the involvement of a wide spectrum of subjects is essential.

In compliance with the principle of integration mainstreaming, the Integration Policy advocates the integration of foreigners and themes of integration and migration in grant schemes which support the creation of various media outputs and artwork (for example, Audio-visual Fund; the subsidy system of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic – the subsidy programme Culture of Disadvantaged Groups of Population aimed at promoting the culture of disadvantaged groups of the population including support for the integration of foreigners). These grant schemes should ensure that not only Slovak nationals but also

foreigners residing in Slovakia and communities of foreigners should be entitled to apply for contributions.

Associations or communities of foreigners of so called new minorities play a significant role in the integration process. They enable a newly arriving foreigner to become acquainted with the environment, to gain valuable information, advice and assistance and generally to facilitate the process of integration. Communities and associations of foreigners also have an irreplaceable role in enforcing and defending the legal rights and interests of foreigners and in highlighting the problems that foreigners face in the integration process. Therefore, the Integration Policy fully supports existing and newly created communities and formal and informal associations of foreigners and new minorities living in Slovakia. It fully supports their inclusion in life at the local and national levels and emphasizes the involvement of communities and associations in the creation of strategic documents and in adopting and implementing measures concerning foreigners, including measures at the Integration Policy level.

In relation to this, the Integration Policy emphasizes the need to adopt and implement measures that lead to the creation and existence of communities and/or associations of foreigners, their integration in the life of society, the presentation of their culture, values and customs and measures empowering communities and individual members in the process of protection and the enforcement of their rights and eligible interests and increasing independence.

The Integration Policy also definitely supports the adoption and implementation of measures designed to eliminate expressions of racism, xenophobia, discrimination and other forms of hatred and intolerance towards foreigners. It is important to adopt measures with a preventative effect but also to fight these expressions in the media and social networks.

In this connection, the Integration Policy acknowledges and emphasizes the irreplaceable role of public authorities which should provide professional, understandable and objective information about the topic of migration and integration. These days we frequently encounter the incorrect use of the terms, the absence of information concerning positive aspects of migration and integration, an emphasis on negative phenomena and the use of unprofessional arguments even by public authorities.²⁴ Therefore, the elimination of these phenomena by using targeted communication and information campaigns, strengthening the professional dialogue of the involved parties and through the objective dissemination of information to the general public is one of the objectives of the Integration Policy.

MEASURES that require further elaboration:

Measure 1

To support the provision of space in public service broadcasting to programs related to the topics of migration and integration, to support the involvement of communities and associations of foreigners/new minorities in this broadcasting, including relevant financial support.

Indicators: a number and variability of programmes.

Responsible subjects: RTVS, MoI SR.

Measure 2.

²⁴ For example, the use of the expression “illegal migrant” or “illegal”, connecting the topic of migration and integration exclusively with the risks such as the introduction and spreading of diseases or increasing crime and the classification of all foreigners under the term “refugee”.

Mainstreaming of topics of migration and integration in various subsidy schemes supporting the dissemination of information about disadvantaged groups of the population with the aim of preventing all forms of violence, developing tolerance, understanding otherness and eliminating prejudices and stereotypes towards foreigners. To emphasize the principle of non-discrimination, tolerance, prevention and the fight against intolerance and racism and exploitation while educating the youth about tolerance and non-discrimination and the prevention of extremism.

Indicators: a number of activities, change in documents.

Responsible subject: MoC SR.

Measure 3

To create, implement and promote communication strategies, various communication and information tools and channels and to enlist a wide spectrum of parties in providing professional, objective and understandable information. Support cultural activities aimed at developing multicultural dialogue through various organizations and to promote ideas of understanding and mutual respect for cultural diversity while aiming at strengthening social cohesion.

Indicators: implementation of campaigns, involvement of involved parties.

Responsible subjects: MoLSAF SR, MoC SR, MoI SR.

Measure 4

Support professional dialogue on integration at various levels.

Indicators: a number of outputs.

Responsible subjects: MoLSAF SR, MoI SR

Measure 5

To create and adopt ethical rules of presenting information on the topics of migration and integration.

Indicator: Ethical rules.

Responsible subjects: MoLSAF SR; Co-responsible: ministries, non-governmental organizations.

Measure 6

Design, adopt and implement measures aimed at the elimination of the expressions of racism, xenophobia, discrimination and other forms of hatred and intolerance towards foreigners. Implement preventative and information campaigns, educational activities concerning migration and cultural diversity, especially with a focus on young people, and the public commitment of the government to fight against all forms of violence due to intolerance.

Indicators: a number of measures.

Responsible subjects: MoI SR, Council of the Slovak Government for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality and the Council for the Prevention and Elimination of Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance.

Measure 7

To support the involvement of foreigners in civic, cultural and political life and to improve the dialogue and operation of advisory platforms among various groups of foreigners, government and civic society with the aim to support their active citizenship and equal access to information.

Indicators: integration of communities, participation.

Responsible subjects: MoLSAF SR, MoI SR, in cooperation with the UtTU, ministries, Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia, Association of Towns and Villages of Slovakia.

Measure 8

To promote the importance of positive first contacts for integration and to identify current shortcomings in connection with the importance of first contacts.

Indicators: a number of activities.

Responsible subject: MoI SR.

Measure 9

To strive for a deepening of cooperation among communities of foreigners, their associations and organizations and state administration authorities, bodies of territorial self-government and non-governmental organizations and to ensure as effectively as possible the use of integration programmes by all partners.

Indicators: a number of activities.

Responsible subjects: in cooperation with the UtTU, ministries, Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia, Association of Towns and Villages of Slovakia, MEKOMIC, meetings with communities of foreigners.

Measure 10

To consider the creation of a special Committee for the Rights of Foreigners at the Council of the Slovak Government for Human Rights and Minorities.

Indicator: creation of the Committee for the Rights of Foreigners.

Responsible subject: Council of the Slovak Government for Human Rights.

Measure 11

To assist in the elimination of social barriers and prejudices through intercultural education and discussions with employers, general public and civil servants. To provide employers with more information regarding the terms and conditions for the employment of foreigners, especially concerning the equality of terms and conditions when obtaining a work permit, the living and working conditions of foreigners and their social security.

Indicators: a number of activities.

Responsible subjects: ministries (except for the Ministry of Culture of the SR), in cooperation with the UtTU.

Measure 12

To better inform the staff at the offices of labour, social affairs and family regarding the issues of racism and discrimination. To ensure training for social workers at the offices of labour, social affairs and family concerning the issues of “race”, racism, discrimination and exclusion and to support the professionalization of the staff of the offices of labour, social affairs and family in terms of assisting foreigners.

Indicators: a number of activities.

Responsible subjects: in cooperation with the UtTU, ministries (except of the Ministry of Culture of the SR).

Measure 13

To pay increased attention to the issues of intercultural education, intercultural dialogue and multicultural upbringing. To promote ideas of understanding among different cultures and the mutual respect of cultural diversity. To strengthen intercultural education at schools with an emphasis on issues related to migration and the integration of foreigners, training of the staff in social services and offices of labour, social affairs and family in issues related to migration and integration and reducing the extent of prejudice and stereotypes while working with foreigners.

Indicators: a number of activities.

Responsible subjects: in cooperation with the UtTU, ministries (except of the Ministry of Culture of the SR).

4. Health Care

The aim of the *Integration Policy* is to improve the quality of integration of foreigners in terms of their physical and mental health and for the benefit of public health protection. One of the goals of the *Integration Policy* is to ensure that every individual living in the Slovak Republic has the possibility of protecting his/her own health and preventing the deterioration of his/her health.

Health care is provided for foreigners in the Slovak Republic in the extent and under the conditions established in the international agreements and in valid legal regulations covering this area. However, the intent of the *Integration Policy* in this area is the gradual improving of conditions and access to health care in compliance with the commitments arising from international agreements (European Social Charter, European Charter of Patients' Rights, Bratislava Declaration of the European Council), membership of the SR in the EU and development trends in health care in Central Eastern Europe.

The aim in the provision of health care to foreigners and asylum seekers by health care providers is the improvement of the level of health care, the addressing of problems related to the access to health care and compensation of the costs for this care and various barriers (language and cultural) which make the proper use of healthcare services by foreigners more difficult.

While referring to the European Commission, the *Integration Policy* recommends the unification of the list of illnesses which are examined during check-ups of foreigners with the lists which are officially posted on the websites of the ministries of health to ensure the improvement of the legal certainty of foreigners in the process of their integration.

The *Integration Policy* has also called for a change in the health insurance system to ensure that one of the most vulnerable groups of the population, children of foreigners without health insurance and foreigners with tolerated residence due to obstacles of administrative extradition, has access to health insurance. Neither of these groups of foreigners may be legally employed due to age or legal status; therefore the state is obliged to reflect such factual impossibility during the course of their stay in the Slovak Republic.

MEASURES that require further elaboration:

Measure 1

To support the independence of foreigners and to ensure their access to the labour market and jobs, thus ensuring access to public health insurance and health services. Furthermore, access to health care must be improved for marginalized groups, foreigners affected by life crises, the severely disabled, the elderly and foreigners who are not permanent residents.

Indicators: a number of activities.

Responsible subjects: MoH SR; MoLSAF SR.

Measure 2

To inform health care providers (internal communication; web site) regarding the extent of health care provided based on the submission of documentation on the authorization to provide health care to foreigners.

Indicators: a number of activities.

Responsible subjects: MoH SR; MoLSAF SR; MoI SR.

Measure 3

To improve access to health care for marginalized groups, groups affected by life crises, the severely disabled, the elderly and foreigners who are not permanent residents.

Indicators : a number of activities.

Responsible subject: MoH SR.

5. Education

Education is crucial in the integration process. It enables everyone to become a full-fledged part of the country, helps to develop knowledge and skills necessary for finding work and developing the values and attitudes needed for their active participation in civic, social and cultural life.

The right to education is a universal human right anchored by the Constitution of the Slovak Republic and many international documents and whose application is binding for the SR. The right to education is not determined by citizenship and all target groups defined in this Integration Policy are entitled to it.

Education incorporates a wide spectrum of parties and institutions. The formal education system ensures the application of the right of every individual to elementary education while also creating conditions for attaining a higher level of education. Informal education provided by many public institutions, non-governmental organizations and private sector enables the further development knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for leading a quality life in a modern, democratic, diverse and inclusive society. The desirable outcomes of the Integration Policy can only be accomplished through involvement and mutual cooperation of various providers of formal and informal education.

The Integration Policy defines three basic target groups in education to which individual measures pertain: children of foreigners, adult foreigners and citizens of the SR.

Children of foreigners born in the country of origin of their parents, in a different country or in Slovakia (second generation foreigners) and unaccompanied minors – foreigners are the first target group of the Integration Policy in education. Pursuant to currently applicable legislation, compulsory school attendance also applies to children of foreigners residing in Slovakia; they are also entitled to the same rights and conditions to education as the children of citizens of the SR.²⁵ However, many children of foreigners are in a specific life situation due to the circumstances of their arrival or stay in Slovakia which create various specific upbringing and educational needs.

Many children of foreigners do not know the language of instruction of the school they are attending at the beginning of their educational path. In the case of children who attended school in a different country, due to differences in the educational systems, different knowledge and skills were developed than those of their peers attending Slovak schools.

Cultural and religious diversity are also important aspects of education and they are traditionally found in Slovak schools; children of foreigners enrich this even further. The cultural and religious specifics of all students must be taken into consideration in order to ensure quality and respect the educational process, develop the individual potential of each student and support their involvement in the life of the school and local community.

The aforementioned specifics of children of foreigners require the adoption of targeted measures within the existing educational system that will ensure equal opportunities to quality education for all children. These measures also anticipate changes in the form of collecting

²⁵ Act No. 245/2008 on Upbringing and Education (School Act) and on amendments and supplements to certain Acts, Article 146

and evaluating data on students, in organization and funding language training and the methodological training of teachers and pedagogical assistants.

Adult foreigners, who arrive to Slovakia for various reasons and whose stay in the country is short-term, long-term or permanent, represent a second significant group regarding Integration Policy in education. Their lack or insufficient knowledge of Slovak language upon their arrival in country, the lack of knowledge of legal norms and how the institutions operate in the SR, the system of acknowledging professional qualifications and the insufficiently developed system of further education in the form of requalification courses or programmes of lifelong learning are significant barriers to integration.

Foreign students comprise a specific group of adult foreigners and we must set conditions for the funding of tertiary education while taking into consideration the specific situation of humanitarian migrants. In the case of foreign students, the Integration Policy sets mechanisms for their staying in the country even after completing tertiary study.

A system for the provision of free basic language courses and courses of civic and cultural orientation is absent in the field of education of adult foreigners. Both types of courses are inaccessible in terms of time, location or finances. Free language courses and courses of civic and cultural orientation are currently provided only within the projects of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations. And the fact that these basic courses are free of charge is an investment that will pay high dividends in the future. We must create space within the Integration Policy and foreigner integration funding tools for investments in accessible and/or low-level courses of Slovak for foreigners.

Since the lack of proficiency in the state language and basic cultural and civic orientation are conditions for granting citizenship of the SR, the Integration Policy also proposes measures that will enable adult foreigners quality preparation for and successful compliance with these conditions. The need to re-evaluate and specifically define the criteria for the assessment of language proficiency in Slovak according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages appears to be necessary in the area of education.

Citizens of the SR are the third, equally important target group of the Integration Policy. Since integration is a two-way process of mutual accommodation, respect and application of rights and obligations, integration can be successful only if both parties are involved. This requires not only the education of foreigners but the increased awareness of the general public regarding migration and foreigners living in Slovakia. Various groups of professionals who are in intensive contact with foreigners living in Slovakia within the framework of performance of their occupation are specific target groups for education.

MEASURES that require further elaboration:

A) LANGUAGE TRAINING OF CHILDREN OF FOREIGNERS AND UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Measure 1

To design and incorporate an educational programme for teaching Slovak as a foreign language in the offer of programmes of continuous education of teachers.

Indicator: elaborated educational programme.

Responsible subjects: MoESRS SR, Methodological Pedagogical Centres.

B) LANGUAGE TRAINING AND COURSES OF CIVIC AND CULTURAL ORIENTATION FOR ADULT FOREIGNERS

Measure 2

To design and offer standardized courses of Slovak language for adult foreigners according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages with the possibility of obtaining a certificate for the level of attained language proficiency.

Indicators: a number of measures.

Responsible subjects: MoESRS SR, MoLSAF SR.

Measure 3

To make textbooks and methodological aids necessary for teaching Slovak language accessible to adult foreigners within the framework of standardized courses.

Indicators: a number of textbooks.

Responsible subjects: MoESRS SR, MoLSAF SR, MoI SR.

Measure 4

To create a working group with the aim to provide regionally accessible courses of Slovak language for adult foreigners.

Indicators: a number of measures.

Responsible subjects: MoESRS SR, MoLSAF SR, MoI SR.

Measure 5

To design standardized courses of civic and cultural orientation for adult foreigners with precisely defined content, curriculum and target requirements.

Indicators: a number of measures.

Responsible subjects: MoESRS SR, NGO.

C) ACKNOWLEDGING QUALIFICATIONS, REQUALIFICATIONS AND FURTHER EDUCATION OF ADULT FOREIGNERS

Measure 6

To create a coordinated system of the provision and funding of requalification courses for adult foreigners.

Indicators: a number of measures.

Responsible subject: MoLSAF SR.

D) RAISING AWARENESS OF SLOVAK NATIONALS AND TRAINING FOR SPECIFIC GROUPS OF PROFESSIONS

Measure 7

To create a grant scheme for self-governments, NGOs and organizations associating foreigners for the support of activities oriented on raising the awareness of the general public regarding migration and foreigners living in Slovakia and for the support of activities contributing to their integration at the local level.

Indicators: a number of measures.

Responsible subjects: ministries.

Measure 8

To create a grant scheme for educational institutions and NGOs for the support of activities oriented on training groups of professionals who within their occupation come into direct contact with foreigners living in Slovakia.

Indicators: a number of measures.

Responsible subjects: ministries.

6. Employment and Social Protection

“The Slovak Republic – if it intends to be a successful country (and not only in terms of its economic performance) – must join the global struggle for quality and highly qualified workers and lower qualified workers of foreign origin.”²⁶

Employment represents one of the most important elements of integration of a foreigner in society. To a great extent, this is affected by education, previous work experience, language skills, ethnic origin, cultural “closeness” and the establishment of immigration and social policies and labour market policy. However, ongoing discrimination and complicated procedures in acknowledging attained education and qualifications constitute a serious obstacle in the selection of an occupation.²⁷

The effective and responsible integration of foreigners in the labour market is one of the priorities of this *Integration Policy* and the policies of the EU. The EU recommends that the Member States stimulate and promote their efforts in the area of employment, social inclusion and equal opportunities; the gender aspect is also emphasized in order to fully utilize the potential of women – migrants in labour market. According to the new Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Employment, the Member States should adopt measures to increase the employment of foreigners.²⁸ The EU points out the need to increase efforts to support equal opportunities for all, and to eliminate structural barriers that migrants, national minorities and vulnerable groups are facing.²⁹

Because of the reasons indicated above, the *Integration Policy* places emphasis on the support of the economic and social integration of all foreigners living in the SR.

The elaboration of a list of jobs that have not been filled for a long time is the precondition for the examination of the baseline state. This list will serve for examination of the start point in the employment of foreigners and possibly also for setting the parameters for adopting future (possible) tools of migration policy,³⁰ for example, in the form of a “Slovak card”.

One of the *Integration Policy's* special objectives is the simplification of the administrative process in access to the labour market in the case of foreigners who have obtained international protection – asylum or complementary protection. We consider it necessary to facilitate the access of these persons to the labour market and to improve their competitiveness in relation to domestic workers. The *Integration Policy* emphasizes the creation of conditions for the requalification of asylum seekers and persons with complementary protection for actual practical use at local and regional levels.

²⁶ Géza, Mihály; Boris, Divinský (ed.) (2011). *Nové trendy a prognóza pracovnej migrácie v Slovenskej republike do roku 2020 s výhľadom do roku 2050*. Bratislava: Trexima. (p. 91).

²⁷ IOM: Migration, Employment, Policies of Integration in Labour Market in the European Union, Part One: Migration and Labour Markets in the European Union (2010).

²⁸ Framework for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals in the European Union, COM(2005)389.

²⁹ Framework for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals in the European Union, COM(2005)389.

³⁰ Migration Policy with Outlook to 2020.

The employment of foreigners in the SR should not focus only on the coverage of professions in short supply in labour market; it should also aid in the creation of support of the managed legal migration of a qualified labour force from third countries: students, scientific and research workers, artists, entrepreneurs and groups of foreign Slovaks. Currently, there are no special programmes in the SR whose aim is to encourage qualified foreigners to perform their occupation in the SR.³¹

The *Integration Policy* aims at stimulating legislation and procedures that will regulate the cooperation of Slovakia with third countries (not Member States of the EU) with the aim to support the arrival of a qualified labour force to Slovakia. The aim is to increase efforts in creating bilateral agreements on cooperation in the area of economic migration with third countries. It is important to promote activities related to making Slovakia more attractive for groups of migrants where the work-related migration would bring maximum benefits.⁸

Issues of employment in the context of the *Integration Policy* in the SR also face the problem of brain waste when qualified migrants perform work that does not correspond with the level of their qualifications. The aim is to create activities to prevent the waste of potential of qualified foreigners.³² Foreigners frequently get caught up in the flexibility trap since they are forced to be flexible in selecting jobs, using their abilities or qualifications and accepting worse working conditions.³³ The *Integration Policy* strives to eliminate these disadvantages by helping to better place foreigners in the labour market for the benefit of all and in improving outcomes and working conditions for foreigners in the SR.

Furthermore, the *Integration Policy* emphasizes an orientation on the issues of forced labour, strengthening the legislative and institutional framework regarding labour exploitation of migrants which does not necessarily comply with the definition of the crime of human trafficking. It is also important to protect the rights of the victims of exploitation and to provide them with adequate support in terms of the protection of their human rights and possibility to provide tolerated residence to a migrant who was illegally employed under specifically exploiting working conditions.

Both female and male migrants represent a group particularly vulnerable to domestic violence and because of this, the *Integration Policy* consistently applies the gender aspect, proposes specific support programmes and takes into consideration specific factors of risk pertaining to female migrants within the framework of measures aimed at elimination of violence on women. In this connection, the *Integration Policy* creates conditions for the provision of specific services for vulnerable groups and the strengthening of cooperation with existing counselling and support services for migrants. Measures of the *Integration Policy* aim at discharging the commitment of the SR, one of the first countries to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, as a significant instrument for improving of quality of legislation, prevention and intervention in the field of domestic violence and violence against women.

Integration Policy nevertheless emphasizes the role and involvement of the Inter-ministerial Commission for the Area of Work-related Migration and Integration of Foreigners

³¹ Domonkos, Páleník, Radvanský (2010). *Saturovanie dopytu po pracovnej sile prostredníctvom migrácie v Slovenskej republike*. European Migration Network, 2013.

³² Filadelfiová J., Gyárfášová O., Sekulová M., Hlinčíková M. (2011). *Migranti a migrantky na trhu práce v SR - Identifikácia a prekonávanie bariér diskriminácie*. Bratislava: IVO (Institute for Public Affairs).; Hlinčíková M., Lamačková D., Sekulová M. (2011). *Migranti na slovenskom trhu práce: Problémy a perspektívy*. Bratislava: IVO.

³³ IOM: Migration, Employment, Policies of Integration in Labour Market in the European Union, Part One: Migration and Labour Markets in the European Union (2010).

at the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic in the issues related to legal work-related migration and employment of foreigners in the SR.³⁴

MEASURES that require further elaboration:

A) EMPLOYMENT

Measure 1

To make the Slovak labour market more attractive in terms of the state migration policy with an outlook to 2020 and to strengthen the integration of foreigners by simplifying administrative procedures in connection with acquiring residence and work permits. (Particularly for third-country nationals who obtained university diplomas at Slovak schools).

Indicator: simplification of administrative procedures.

Responsible subjects: MoLSAF SR, MoI SR.

Measure 2

To enable the students of third countries to work even during the course of their studies in specializations where there is lack of qualified workers (pursuant to the labour market need analysis).

Indicators: changes of definitions.

Responsible subject: MoLSAF SR.

B) SOCIAL PROTECTION

A foreigner's status is a significant factor in determining the high rate of poverty risk and of social exclusion. One of the basic pillars of social protection within the Integration Policy in relation to foreigners is adherence to human rights and principles of equal treatment. The aim of the Integration Policy in the area of social protection is to ensure a consistent guarantee of equal status to foreigners and citizens of the SR and to adopt measures in the interest of improving the life of foreigners in Slovakia.

Measure 3

To introduce the registration and statistical monitoring of data on social services provided to foreigners in social services facilities.

Indicator: introduction of registration.

Responsible subjects: MoLSAF SR, Central Office of LSAAf.

Measure 4

To constantly improve conditions for the provision of social services to foreigners in social services facilities.

Indicator: introduction of registration.

Responsible subject: MoLSAF SR in cooperation with the self-governing regions.

Measure 5

To improve the involvement of social partners and non-governmental and international organizations in the elaboration and implementation of integration measures.

Indicators: changes of definitions.

³⁴ Géza, Mihály; Boris, Divinský (ed.) (2011). Nové trendy a prognóza pracovnej migrácie v Slovenskej republike do roku 2020 s výhľadom do roku 2050. Bratislava: Trexima.

Responsible subjects: ministries.

Measure 6

To support measures within the operational programmes which would enable to fund projects and programmes oriented on integration of foreigners.

Indicators: adopted changes.

Responsible subjects: ministries (except of the MoC SR).

Measure 7

Within the framework of the preparation of legislation in the area of state social support and assistance in material need, to take into consideration the needs of foreigners and their family members so the status of foreigners legally residing in the SR is the same as the status of Slovak citizens.

Indicator: in the event of a change in the legislation regarding the guarantee of the status of foreigners.

Responsible subject: MoLSAF SR.

Measure 8

To support the access of individuals and families of foreigners to state social support benefits and to the benefits and assistance in material need with special consideration to vulnerable categories of foreigners.

Indicators: a number of provided benefits of state social support and number of provided assistance in material need.

Responsible subject: MoLSAF SR.

Measure 9

To adopt measures to improve the life of foreigners in Slovakia with the aim to reduce and eliminate poverty and prevent social exclusion; furthermore to include foreigners in groups at potential risk of poverty and exclusion.

Indicators: a number of measures adopted.

Responsible subject: MoLSAF SR.

Measure 10

To open a discussion with the representatives of trade unions about the possibilities and importance of their involvement in combating forced labour and exploitative labour of migrants.

Indicators: a number of measures adopted.

Responsible subjects: Confederation of Trade Unions, MoLSAF SR, NGO, communities

Measure 11

To support and simplify labour market integration for holders of temporary residence for the purposes of family reunification who are family members of foreigners carrying out employment, entrepreneurial, research and scientific activities.

Indicators: changes in legislation.

Responsible subjects: MoLSAF SR, Central Office of LSAAf.

Measure 12

When documenting the status of a victim for the purposes of an autonomous residence permit, to take into consideration the complexity of the issues of domestic violence, the limits of available interventions (by the police and other authorities and assisting organizations) and to require evidence which is compatible with the situation of the victim.

Indicators: changes in legislation.

Responsible subjects: MoLSAF SR, Central Office of LSAAf.

Measure 13

To inform working migrants and representatives of migrants' organizations (e.g., in fliers and by strengthening the capacities of counselling centres) regarding the rights of working migrants and to involve the representatives of migrants' organizations in cooperation with assisting organizations and state institutions with the aim to support the protection of working migrants.

Indicators : a number of measures adopted.

Responsible subjects: National Labour Inspectorate, ministries, NGO, communities

7. Citizenship of the Slovak Republic

Citizenship of the Slovak Republic is a legal relationship between a citizen of the SR and the Slovak Republic. Every citizen is naturally entitled to civic and political rights. The legal system of the Slovak Republic only acknowledges the legal entitlement to Slovak citizenship to children of Slovak citizens. There is no legal entitlement to naturalization in Slovakia in other cases. The Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic decides on applications for citizenship of the Slovak Republic. Provisions of the general regulation on administrative procedures pertain to the proceedings.³⁵ The decision-making process takes into consideration all the commitments of the SR arising from the international conventions³⁶ which prevail over the laws according to the Slovak legal order and national legislation concerning naturalization.³⁷

The granting of citizenship is the natural culmination of the process of the integration of a foreigner in our society. However, not each integration is automatically completed in this way. This is caused by the fact that there is no legal entitlement for the granting of Slovak citizenship even upon complying with all legal requirements, and since citizenship cannot be revoked, the ministry of interior proceeds extremely thoroughly in the case of naturalization and prefers the interests of the state over those of the individual. The assessment of the overall integration of applicant in the society, his/her contribution to society and adaptation to the cultural and social environment and laws of the country are important facts when assessing the application. Security and ensuring the protection of interests of the Slovak Republic and the rights and freedoms of all citizens of the Slovak Republic are also quite important.

From the perspective of the integration process, access to Slovak citizenship is considered as crucial since the legal status of a third-country national becomes equal to the status of other citizens. Pursuant to the Act on Citizenship of the Slovak Republic, Slovak citizenship is equal regardless of the form of obtaining it.³⁸ The Integration Policy focuses on obtaining citizenship via granting (so called naturalization) since in terms of a third-country national, this is the most frequent method of doing so.

³⁵ Act No. 71/1967 (Digest) on Administrative Procedures (Rules of Administrative Procedures) as amended.

³⁶ European Convention on Nationality (1997)

³⁷ Act of the National Council of the SR No. 40/1993 Coll. on the Citizenship of the SR as amended.

³⁸ Article 10 of Act No. 40/1993 Coll. of the National Council of the SR on Citizenship of the SR as amended.

Current legislation concerning naturalization places many more requirements on the applicant to prove compliance with the legal conditions for naturalization than in the past.³⁹ The significant securitization of the institute of citizenship also occurred due to the phenomenon of fighting terrorism and revealing the possible existence of security risks. During the assessment of an applicant, the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic must request an opinion from the relevant unit of the Police Department, the applicant's criminal records excerpt from the General Prosecutor's Office of the SR and the opinions of the Slovak Information Service and other affected state authorities if necessary. Enacting of the condition to command the Slovak language by the applicant was an essential change in the Act on Citizenship.

The Act on Citizenship positively reacts to the situation of stateless persons in relation to whom it more favourably adjusts the conditions for the duration and type of residence necessary for filing an application for citizenship.⁴⁰ This regulation is fully in compliance with the international commitments of the SR and deals with people who would otherwise remain stateless. However, Slovak legislation lacks a regulation that would designate the procedure for detecting whether a person is stateless and the criteria for granting the status of a stateless person. Such procedure should include the persons who are stateless *de iure* as well as *de facto*. We can be inspired by positive examples from Hungary and Spain where proceedings were introduced which detect and determine whether a person is stateless. Adopting such proceedings would fill the current gaps and contribute to empowering a legal status of certainty for stateless persons who have been residing in Slovakia for a long period of time.

The Slovak Republic's Integration Policy strives to grant citizenship to foreigners, who are part of Slovak society or who have significantly contributed to Slovak society through their activities. The decreasing demographic trend⁴¹ in our country indicates that the Slovak Republic should be more open to third-country nationals and provide them the most suitable living conditions in Slovakia and subsequently facilitate their lives as naturalized citizens.

MEASURES that require further elaboration:

Measure 1

To introduce the possibility of the accelerated delivery of applications from the embassy to the relevant Office of Border and Alien Police. Transformation of delivery service of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the SR.

Indicators: changes of definitions.

Responsible subject: MoFaEA SR.

³⁹ Applicant must comply with a probity check (clear criminal record), prove his/her command of Slovak language in spoken and written form and general knowledge about the SR, compliance with obligations arising from the provisions of legal regulations governing the residence of foreigners in the SR, public health insurance, social insurance, old age pension saving, taxes, contributions, fees, the employment of foreigners and other obligations arising for foreigners from the legal order of the Slovak Republic. An applicant may not be sentenced to deportation, under current criminal prosecution or extradition proceedings or the subject of a European arrest warrant; furthermore, he/she may not be under proceedings of administrative expulsion or proceedings for the withdrawal of his/her asylum status.

⁴⁰ A stateless person may file an application for naturalization if he/she has an uninterrupted eligible residence permit in Slovakia for a period of three years.

⁴¹ http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_pop1ctz&lang=en

8. *Unaccompanied Minors*

The Integration Policy pays special attention to the integration of unaccompanied minors. Unaccompanied minor is a legal term used in the legal norms in the SR, including the Act on Social and Legal Protection of Children and Social Guardianship. International documents also use the term separated child and thus emphasize the fact that we are referring to children. Measures related to the education of unaccompanied minors can also be found in the previous chapters dedicated directly to these specific topics.

Unaccompanied minors - children who are in a foreign country and are separated from their parents or legal representatives, are among the most vulnerable groups. In many cases they are refugees or orphans, but they can also be children sent to work by their parents. These children are at particular risk of forced labour, sexual exploitation or other forms of abuse and human trafficking. The role of the Slovak state authorities is to identify unaccompanied minors, provide them with protection and care and find a solution to their life situation in compliance with their best interests.

The following bodies of the Slovak Republic have designed and implemented a system of care for unaccompanied minors: Bureau of Border and Alien Police of the Presidium of the Police Force (the primary identification of unaccompanied minors, decisions regarding residence), MoLSAF SR (care for unaccompanied minors), courts (decision making in matters of care for unaccompanied minors) and MoESRS SR (education of unaccompanied minors). The Migration Office of the MoI SR gets involved if an unaccompanied minor decides to file an application for asylum together with a guardian. The MoI SR also plays an important role regarding the financial arrangements related to the care for unaccompanied minors since it manages the EU funds within the framework of the programme Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows, and which is also a significant resource in the area of unaccompanied children in the SR.

Non-governmental organizations are also involved in the system of care for unaccompanied minors; in cooperation with other involved parties, they help to look for strategic and individual solutions in the best interests of children. International organizations, namely, the UN Committee for the Rights of Children, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and International Organization for Migration (IOM) also fulfil important tasks.

The Slovak Republic acknowledges and fulfils its commitments arising from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, pursuant to which, “ In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.”⁴² In 2013, the UN Committee for the Rights of Children passed general comment No. 14 on the right of the child (hereinafter referred to as the “Comment) to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration.”⁴³ According to this Comment, the best interests of the child are based on a threefold concept: the substantive right of the child is of essential importance when different interests are being considered. At the same

⁴² Article 3, paragraph 1 of the Convention

⁴³ Committee on the Rights of Children, General comment No. 14 (2013) on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration (Art. 3, para. 1), 29 May 2013

time, it is a guarantee that this principle will always be implemented. The best child's interests is also the rule of procedure – it means that it is not enough to take it into consideration in the final decision, but in the entire process of decision making, and all possible positive and negative impacts on the child must be always taken into consideration. Moreover, the child's best interests must be taken into consideration not only in the process of adopting decision/measures in relation to the individual child, but also in relation to a certain group of children and children in general. Finally, the best interests of the child are also understood as a fundamental, interpretative legal principle.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child shifted children from the position of the object of protection or measures in the position of the subject of law, i.e. the position of the holder of rights. In this connection, the Integration Policy of the SR proposes measures which will increase the harmonisation of the measures which are applied in the area of care for unaccompanied minors by the SR with the text of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.⁴⁴

The SR also fully applies Article 22 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which stipulates “In cases where no parents or other members of the family can be found, the child shall be accorded the same protection as any other child permanently or temporarily deprived of his or her family environment for any reason, as set forth in the present Convention.”

The Integration Policy is also based on and refers to strategic documents of the European Union concerning unaccompanied minors and their integration. The EU Action Plan on unaccompanied minors for the period of 2010 - 2014⁴⁵ talks about integration, and in Point 5.2. it stipulates “Given their particularly vulnerable situation, measures to support their integration into the host society are essential. EU legislation and policies do not address the situation of minors who cannot be returned, leaving the granting of residence permits for compassionate, humanitarian or other reasons to national legislation. In cases where return is not possible or integration in the country of residence is considered in the best interests of the child, a legal status should be granted to unaccompanied minors entitling them to at least the same rights and protection as beforehand, and suitable accommodation should be found. The minors should be supported in their path toward successful integration in the host society.”

In compliance with the Action Plan if the reunification with family is not possible or is not in the best interests of the unaccompanied minor, the search for a permanent solution for the child in the territory of the host state begins. The care for unaccompanied minors is ensured primarily through children's homes. In this area, the SR should support the suitable setting of integration measures to ensure that they react to the special needs of the unaccompanied minors and that they also prevent the segregation of these children and on contrary, that their interaction with the majority population is empowered. The care for unaccompanied minors is currently also complicated due to the high rate of “runaways” or “disappearance” of unaccompanied minors immediately after their placement in children's homes. We are not familiar with the exact causes of this phenomenon, but due to the

⁴⁴ According to Peter Guráň, representative of the SR on the UN Committee on the Rights of Children, this principal shift of the child to an active position is frequently missing in the procedures on proceedings and decision making about unaccompanied children in our country. The assigning and work of the guardian, methods and ways of designating age presumption of adulthood, etc. can serve as examples. Article 3 of the Convention stipulates that – the best interests of the child – and Article 12 – the right to be heard – are not always fully applied or properly interpreted. Guráň, P., Predslov, In: Fajnorová, K., Številová, Z., Dieťa alebo dospelý? Ochrana práv cudzincov v konaniach o určenie veku a v konaniach o zaistení, Liga za ľudské práva, 2013

⁴⁵ Communication of the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council, available online in Slovak at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0213:FIN:SK:HTML>

vulnerability of unaccompanied minors and their exposure to various serious risks, we must adopt measures which will be targeted to prevent runaways/disappearances.

In order to prevent the secondary traumatization of a child, we must set integration measures so that they would take into consideration the language barrier, cultural differences and specific needs of unaccompanied minors. The framework for the integration of third-country nationals in the European Union emphasizes the need “to improve living conditions as far as accommodation, healthcare, children’s care facilities, local safety and opportunities for education, voluntary work and vocational preparation, state of public spaces and existence of support asylum centres for children and youth are concerned.”⁴⁶

In 2011, the European Parliament passed the resolution “Unaccompanied children in Europe: issues of arrival, stay and return,”⁴⁷ which in connection to the stay of unaccompanied minors and their integration in the host country points out that finding a long term solution should be the ultimate goal from the first contact with the unaccompanied child; along with the provision of legal, social and psychological assistance; age assessment but only if there are reasonable doubts about a person being underage, the assessment should be based on the presumption of minority; access to adequate accommodation, education, vocational training and health care, including immediate psychological care, targeted educational assistance, placement in foster families or specialised residential care, or integration assistance for children with disabilities, must be guaranteed to all unaccompanied children, regardless of their migration status,. Nevertheless the European Parliament emphasizes the need to take the child’s best interests into consideration as the primary principle in all decisions, measures and procedures.

The identification of unaccompanied minors within the migration flows is thus a necessary and crucial role of the responsible authorities to ensure the prevention of their exclusion from protection to which are legally entitled. The Integration Policy calls for a solution so that the adopted measures are fully in compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international and European documents.

The European Commission’s Interim Report on Implementation of the Action Plan on accompanied minors presents the following:

“The Commission will continue to make financial resources available for projects concerning unaccompanied children. However, efforts to use the funds need to be strengthened. Member States and civil society organisations are invited to submit targeted proposals to further the implementation of the common EU approach on unaccompanied minors. An important contribution could be made by new projects focused on best practice in preventing the disappearance of children from care, improving standards of accommodation and dealing with situations when they reach 18 years of age. Lastly, it is necessary to ensure the availability of financial resources beyond 2013. The future Asylum and Migration Fund should facilitate the funding of projects on unaccompanied minors.”⁴⁸ The proposed regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing the Asylum and Migration Fund reads: “Eligible measures should particularly take into consideration the actual situation of vulnerable

⁴⁶ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2005:0389:FIN:SK:PDF>

⁴⁷ Parliamentary Assembly Resolution 1810 (2011):

<http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/AdoptedText/ta11/ERES1810.htm>

⁴⁸ Communication of the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council, COM/2012/0554 final, available online in Slovak language at:

<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2012:0554:FIN:SK:HTML>

persons, and special attention and targeted reaction should be focused on unaccompanied minors and other minors at risk.”

When designing actual measures, the Integration Policy is based on the aforementioned documents. The Integration Policy promotes the permanent improvement of the system of protection of unaccompanied minors and acknowledges the need to adopt special integration measures. The child’s best interests as well as the effort to establish the same status for unaccompanied minors as that of children who are citizens of the SR are the primary principles on which the Integration Policy is built, taking into consideration their specific needs, cultural differences and increased vulnerability.

MEASURES that require further elaboration:

Measure 1

To elaborate a methodological handbook regarding the application of the principle of the best interests of the child in all procedures, measures and decisions passed in relation to unaccompanied minors. Target group: civil servants passing decisions in matters related to unaccompanied minors and other subjects, including NGO working with unaccompanied minors.

Indicator: methodological handbook.

Responsible subjects: accredited subjects.

Measure 2

To identify the causes of runaways/disappearance of unaccompanied minors and to adopt preventative measures.

Indicators: measures adopted.

Responsible subject: MoLSAF SR.

Measure 3

To simplify the process or to ensure access to the placement of asylum seekers and persons who were granted complementary protection in social services facilities.

Indicators: changes of definitions.

Responsible subject: MoLSAF SR.

Annex

Context of Integration Policy in the Slovak Republic

Statistics concerning the residence of foreigners in the SR

Number of permitted residences of foreigners valid as at 30 June 2013

Czech Republic: 9,185 (permanent: 9,147; tolerated: 38). Hungary: 6,619 (permanent: 6,611; tolerated: 8). Ukraine: 6,472 (temporary: 3,662; permanent: 2,772; tolerated: 38). Romania: 5,949 (permanent: 5,942; tolerated: 7). Poland: 4,804 (permanent: 4,800; tolerated: 4). Serbia: 3766 (temporary: 3,308; permanent: 447; tolerated: 11)

Number of permitted residences of third-country nationals valid as at 30 June 2013

Ukraine: 6,472 (temporary: 3,662; permanent: 2,772; tolerated: 38). Serbia: 3,766 (temporary: 3,308; permanent: 447; tolerated: 11). Russian Federation: 2,485 (temporary: 1,106; permanent: 1,373; tolerated: 6). Socialist Republic of Vietnam: 2,069 (temporary: 729; permanent: 1,292; tolerated: 48). People's Republic of China: 1,868 (temporary: 786; permanent: 1,078; tolerated: 4). Republic of Korea: 1,574 (temporary: 1,161; permanent: 413). United States of America: 905 (temporary: 470; permanent: 432; tolerated: 3).

Table 1: Types of permitted residences valid as at 30 June 2013

Type of residence		as at 30 June 2013
Temporary residence		14,220
of which	third-country nationals	14,200
	EEA citizens	-
Permanent residence		53,849
of which	third-country nationals	11,066
	EEA citizens	42,783
Tolerated residence		336
of which	third-country nationals	243
	EEA citizens	93
Total		68,405
of which	third-country nationals	25,529
	EEA citizens	42,876

Source: BoBAP

Asylum as at 31 May 2013

Number of applications for granting of asylum: 2011: 491; 2012: 732; 2013: 184. In total from 1993: 57,403. Granted asylum: 2011:12; 2012: 32; 2013: 2. In total from 1993: 618. Rejected asylum: 2011:186; 2012: 334; 2013: 60. In total from 1993: 7,523. (Source: Migration Office of the MoI SR).

Complementary protection as at 31 May 2013

Granted complementary protection: 2011: 91; 2012: 104; 2013: 14; Granted complementary protection granted in total from 1993: 512. Rejected complementary

protection: 2011: 48; 2012:153; 2013: 24. Rejected complementary protection in total from 2007: 1,413. (Source: Migration Office of the MoI SR).

Statistics of settled foreigners according to permanent residence

Naturalization:

Table 2: Citizens with permanent residence in the SR as at 31 December 2012

Population with permanent residence in the SR as at 31 December 2012	5,410,836
Citizens of the SR	5,337,911
EU citizens (except of Slovakia)	55,909
Share of EU citizens in total population in the SR (%)	1.0
Third-country nationals	17,016
Share of third-country nationals in total population in the SR	0.3
Share of foreigners in total population	1.3

Source: SO SR

Table 3: Number of minor foreigners (0 – 14 of age) with permanent residence in the SR as at 31 December 2012

Foreigners with permanent residence in the SR as at 31 December 2012	4,719
EU citizens (except of Slovakia)	3,184
Third-country nationals	1,535

Source: SO SR

As at 31 December 2012, the offices of labour, social affairs and family carried out measures of social legal protection of children and social guardianship for 151 unaccompanied minors. Of the total number of unaccompanied minors, 144 were placed in children's homes for unaccompanied minors, 1 unaccompanied minor was placed in a children's home and 6 unaccompanied minors were placed in reception centres.

Table 4: Share of women and men among foreigners with permanent residence in the SR as at 31 December 2012

Selected indicators	Gender	Foreigners in total	EU countries (except the SR)	Third-country nationals	Share of EU citizens according to gender in total number of foreigners	Share of the third-country nationals according to gender in total number of foreigners
Gender	Total	72,925	55,909	17,016	76.7	23.3
	Men	43,599	34,709	8,890	47.6	12.2
	Women	29,326	21,200	8,126	29.1	11.1

Source: SO SR

Statistics regarding the employment of foreigners

Information cards

The aforementioned statistical data reflect the status as at May 2013. EU citizens with information cards: **9,594**. Third-country nationals with information cards: **1,326**. Third-country nationals with work permits: **4,184**. Number of job seekers with a nationality other than that of the SR: **1,091**. (Source: Central Office of LSAAf).

Overview of the number of information cards regarding the creation of employment relations of EU citizens and their family members in the SR (state): **9,594** (the first six countries): Romania: 3,571. Czech Republic: 1,579. Hungary: 1,290. Poland: 994. Bulgaria: 499. Germany: 296. Italy: 286. (Source: Central Office of LSAaF).

Overview of the number of third-country nationals employed in the SR based on information cards (state): **1,326** (the first six countries): Serbia: 299. Ukraine: 153. Republic of Korea: 153. Russia: 59. USA: 36. Croatia: 20. (Source: Central Office of LSAaF).

Overview of the number of third-country nationals with work permits: **4,184**. Ukraine: 816. Republic of Korea: 637. Vietnam: 329. China: 333. Serbia: 224. Thailand: 201. USA: 200. (Source: Central Office of LSAaF).

Total amount of received social benefits for foreigners and third-country nationals

According to the statistical data of the Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, in May 2013, 285 foreigners received the benefits in material need and contributions in the total amount of 33,133 Eur. (Source: Central Office of LSAaF).

Overview of number of registered job seekers in the SR according to the citizenship

Hungary: 141 (women: 56); Poland: 135 (women: 85); Romania: 51 (women: 25); Germany: 9 (women: 3); United Kingdom: 5 (women: 2); Spain: 4 (women: 0). Total number of job seekers: 1,091 (women: 601). (Source: Central Office of LSAaF).

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ATVS – Association of Towns and Villages of Slovakia
BoBAP PoPF – Bureau of Border and Alien Police of the Presidium of Police Force
EEA – European Economic Area
EEC – European Economic Community
EIF – European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals
ERDF – European Regional Development Fund
ERF – European Refugee Fund
EC – European Community
ESF – European Social Fund
EU – European Union
EURES - European Employment Services
FoEA SR - Federation of Employer’s Association of the Slovak Republic
IPE – Institute of Information and Prognoses of Education
ILAPFS – Institute of Language and Academic Preparation of Foreign Students
IFJ – International Federation of Journalists
IOM - International Organization for Migration
CIF – Concept of Integration of Foreigners in the Slovak Republic
MoTCRD SR – Ministry of Transportation, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic
MEKOMIC - Inter-ministerial expert commission for the work-related migration and integration of foreigners at the MoLSAF MPSVR SR
MoF SR – Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic
MoC SR – Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
MoLSAF SR – Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic
MoESRS SR – Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic
MoI SR – Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic
NGO – non-governmental organization
MoH SR – Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic
MoFaEA SR – Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
NUE – National Union of Employers
RTVS – Radio and TV of Slovakia
SNC – Slovak National Council
SDF – Social Development Fund
SR – Slovak Republic
SHDF – State Housing Development Fund
SPI – State Pedagogical Institute
SO SR – Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic
UTCS – Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia
UN – United Nations Organization
UNDP - United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
COoLSAF – Central Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family
VRAX – Committee for prevention and elimination of racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance
UtTU – upper-tier territorial unit