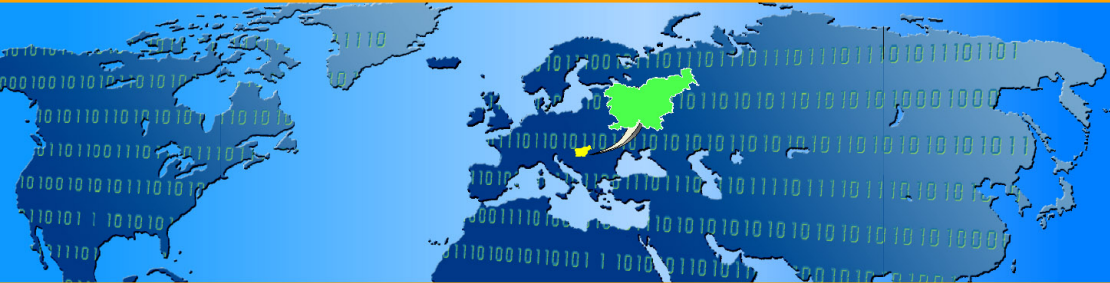




REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA



STATISTIČNI URAD REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE
STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA



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Disabled Persons, the Elderly and Other Persons with Special Needs in Slovenia

Ljubljana, December 2007

Foreword

Activities related to the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All (all 27 EU Member States and Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein are participating in important joint events) have also been carried out in Slovenia throughout 2007. The European Year of Equal Opportunities for All was officially opened during the first European Equality Summit on 30 and 31 January in Berlin, when senior representatives of EU Member States, social partners, civil society and European organisations combating discrimination met for the first time to discuss the promotion of equal opportunities in Europe. The conference was an excellent opportunity for participants to learn what had been done in EU countries in terms of the promotion of equality related to age, disability, gender, race or nationality, religious belief and sexual orientation.

Discrimination in these areas is still present throughout Europe, but the treatment of discrimination based on gender, race or nationality, religious belief, age, sexual orientation or disability differs from country to country. Activities planned and implemented during the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All are expected to contribute to raising awareness of the problem and to improving conditions in all mentioned areas. "Europeans have the right to equal treatment, and a life without discrimination. The aim of the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All is to ensure that all are aware of this. During the year, attention will be paid to equal opportunities and the advantages a diverse society can bring to Europe. Europe possesses a treasury of talent and we cannot allow it to go to waste," said the European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities **Vladimír Špidla** at the opening.

Besides the joint activities of all participating countries, there were a number of "events", seminars, meetings, workshops and round tables organised in Slovenia aimed at contributing to raising public awareness of the importance of tolerance, diversity and other anti-discrimination values.

On 30 November the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the **Action Programme for Disabled Persons 2007-2013**, which is aimed at **promoting, protecting and providing full and equal implementation of human rights for disabled persons**, and at encouraging **respect for their dignity**. It is a programme of measures for all disabled persons, regardless of the type of their disability or their age, in all fields which considerably influence their lives (education, employment, health, culture, accessibility, self-organisation in organisations for the disabled). The programme includes **twelve basic objectives, with 124 measures**, which comprehensively regulate all areas of life of disabled persons. The set goals of the Action Programme for the Disabled 2007-2013 include a provision which mentions "... raising social awareness about disabled persons, their contribution to the development of society, their rights, dignity and needs."

This thought is reflected in the purpose of this brochure. By publishing selected statistical data on disabled persons, the elderly and other persons with special needs who still, at least in some ways, do not have equal opportunities, we want to make our contribution to raising awareness in Slovenia of these issues.

Križman

Irena Križman
Director-General

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Equal opportunities – a human right

Equal opportunities for equal rights

The rights of disabled persons is an issue which has been receiving a lot of attention in the United Nations and other international organisations for quite some time. The very first sentence of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, which was adopted and declared almost sixty years ago (on 10 December 1948) by the General Assembly of the United Nations, says that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights". However, in all periods of human society there have been people who – because of certain disabilities or "handicaps"¹, arising from various causes, sometimes needed more support from the community to attain a quality of life equal to that of other citizens (disabled person constitute one such group). Such support is, therefore, never a privilege: it is a human right.

But such a simple principle, that the society has to adjust to the needs of all people, is still not respected enough in practice, and Europe is no exception. In the increasingly changing economic and social environment of the EU, there is a constant need for the adequate integration of the issue of disability. Formulating policies in the field of disability as adequate for current circumstances as possible is the responsibility of individual countries, but policies and measures taken by the Community influence the position of the disabled in various ways. "A goal of the long-term strategy of the European Union for disability, the purpose of which is to ensure that disabled persons exercise their rights to dignity, equal treatment, an independent life and participation in society, is the provision of equal opportunities. Measures adopted by the European Union meanwhile strengthen the common economic and social values of the EU by ensuring that disabled persons develop their capacities and participate in society and the economy"².

Despite the active participation of governments and organisations in the field of disability, disabled persons continue to face numerous obstacles to their integration into society as equal members. Violations of the human rights of disabled persons around the world are frequent in various fields: in education, employment, in terms of social protection and health. The Convention is expected to be the foundation for radical changes for the better. **The Convention on the Rights for Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** were adopted at the 61st plenary session of the United Nations General Assembly on 13 December 2006. The Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe Tomas Hammarberg has said of this first international treaty on human rights in the 21st century, which has already been signed by Slovenia, that it presents a turning point in the elimination of official discrimination of disabled persons, as "it sets minimum standards the governments have to implement in order that disabled persons truly exercise personal, political, economic and social rights, primarily the rights to medical care and education"³.

¹ The term »handicap« means the loss or limitation of possibilities to integrate in the life of a community at the same level as other people, and describes the encounter between a disabled person and the environment. The term is intended to focus attention on shortcomings in the environment and in many organised activities in society, for example information, communication and education, which prevent disabled persons from participating in them under the same conditions as all others.

² Action plan on disability.
Source: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2005:0604:FIN:SL:HTML> / 12 July 2007

³ http://www.coe.si/si/novice/nova_konvencija_zn_o_pravicah_invalidov_bo_pomemben_mejnik/ / 12 June 2007

The implementation and monitoring of the convention has many levels: international cooperation, reaching consensus that the convention is binding, the national implementation of provisions and control, commissions for the rights of the disabled, reports from the contracting countries, statistics and the collection of such data, the processing of reports, cooperation with Member States, etc.

Disabled persons in the EU comprise at least 16% of the total working age population. More than 45 million people in Europe (which is every sixth person in the EU population), aged between 16 and 64, have long-term health difficulties or the status of disabled person. Some 7.3 % of such persons among the population are aged between 16 and 25.

Disabled persons usually need a certain type of help or care, the level of which differs from country to country. Qualified and unqualified service providers attempt to satisfy such needs of disabled persons, which are usually very different. By providing their services for disabled persons, they also create jobs and bring economic benefits.

The long-term EU strategy for the active integration of disabled persons is focused on the **Action Plan on Disability and the European Disability Strategy (2004–2010)**, which enabled the EU to successfully face the constantly changing social and economic environment. The European Commission publishes a report on the universal position of disabled persons every two years; the report is the basis for defining urgent or priority tasks in the area in the ensuing period, and provides EU Member States and interest groups with guidelines for formulating policies on disability.

Priority tasks in the 2004–2005 period were as follows:

- 1 accessibility to employment and continuance of employment
- 2 education, training and youth
- 3 new technologies for providing opportunities to disabled persons
- 4 accessibility of goods and services in the community.

In the 2006–2007 period, special attention was paid to the following tasks:

- 1 employment of disabled persons (encouraging them to find and keep a job and advance in it)
- 2 providing accessibility to quality supply and support services
- 3 promoting accessibility of goods and services
- 4 increasing the analytical capacity of the EU in terms of statistics on disabled persons.⁴

⁴ Integration of disabled persons. European Equal Opportunities Strategy.

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/index/leaflet_sl.pdf / 12 July 2007

European Year 2007: the implementation of equal opportunities for all

There are probably many of us who believe that when we talk about disabled persons, disability or at least the necessity of providing equal opportunities for them we are dealing with only a small part of human society, and that disability is some 'special, remote issue' which has nothing to do with us, and that the 'protection of disabled persons' is something that applies to someone else, who is 'far away'. Of course, this does not hold true. Disability is a difficulty which can happen to all of us. Disabled persons therefore should not be a group dependent on the special kind-heartedness and care of 'non-disabled', so that they can fully and equally participate in society. Not to be "socially excluded", but to participate in society and be integrated in it as much as anyone else, is a fundamental right of every person in the world.

Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities of Persons with Disabilities⁵ have been adopted in order to help ensure disabled girls, boys, women and men, as members of society, to exercise the same rights and have the same obligations as others. In all societies there are still obstacles which prevent disabled persons from exercising their rights and freedoms and make their full integration in the activities of their societies more difficult. Individual countries are responsible for the adoption of adequate measures for the elimination of such obstacles of all kinds.

The strategic objectives of the EU in the first decade of the 21st century also include a 'confrontation' with social exclusion.

Already with **EU legislation on equality from 2000**, discrimination based on race, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, beliefs, disability or age was declared illegal. This is legislation based on provisions at the EU level for the promotion of equality of women and men, but inequality also often occurs in other areas of life. Legislation is of decisive importance, but is not enough to prevent discrimination. Many people still do not have equal opportunities and their potential in European societies remain unutilised, dead capital.

In order to fill that gap as much as possible, **the EU has set the following objectives for 2007**, the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All:

- 1 launch a major debate on the benefits of diversity for European societies,
- 2 make people more aware of their rights to enjoy equal treatment and a life free of discrimination – regardless of gender, race or nationality, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation,
- 3 promote equal opportunities for all.

⁵ Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities of Persons were adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations at the 48th session on 20 December 1993 (Resolution 48/96).

The existing situation in the area of 'protection' of disabled persons and disability policies is a consequence of development in at least last two centuries. Similarly to other areas of the society, the influence of general living conditions and social and economic policies of various past periods can also be felt in this area. The quality of life of disabled persons was also influenced in the past by special circumstances, ignorance, negligence, superstition and fear, which often resulted in disabled persons being isolated from society and their development being hindered.

Disabled persons, a large group of people whose number in the world is increasing, have been and are present in all parts of the world and at all levels of society. Due to different socio-economic circumstances and unequal measures adopted by countries in order to improve the living conditions of their citizens, neither the causes nor the consequences of disability around the world are the same.

Differences between definitions of disability show that this area is not easy to define nor is it easy to adequately label those persons who are the subject of treatment because of certain specific characteristics. Therefore, for persons with particular needs we used a 'wider' definition from the Lifelong Learning Programme⁶, in which individuals (who need the implementation of programmes with additional expert help, adjusted programmes or special programmes) have been considered as "participants with special needs":

- mentally handicapped persons,
- blind and weak-sighted persons,
- deaf and partially deaf persons,
- persons with speech-language impairment, ,
- persons with motive impediments,
- persons with long-term illnesses,
- persons with a deficit in some fields of education and training,
- persons with emotional and behavioural disturbances and
- socially deprived persons (persons eligible for financial social assistance under the Social Security Act, Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 3/07).

These are people who, for different reasons, were more exposed to the possibility of being "socially excluded" or discriminated against in their everyday lives. The fight against social exclusion is primarily the task of a country and its institutions, which need to cooperate with a number of other bodies and associations, and in particular with social partners and non-governmental organisations. The Slovenian government is aware of this task, which is why it had already in 2000 adopted with these institutions a programme to fight against poverty and social exclusion. As we can often use the legislation only to

⁶ <http://www.uni-mb.si/dokument.aspx?id=11686>

fight against formal or conspicuous exclusion, we will only be successful in the fight against social exclusion if we are also to combat discrimination which is harder to detect as it is usually concealed, and its elimination is necessary if we wish to achieve real equality and the inclusion of those "socially excluded" from society.

Human rights are enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, which states in Article 14 (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 33/91) "In Slovenia, everyone shall be guaranteed equal human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of national origin, race, sex, language, religion, political or other conviction, material standing, birth, education, social status, disability or any other personal circumstance"⁷.

Although the legislation ensures social rights to disabled persons in Slovenia, they are frequently deprived of their right to "equal participation". Thus, "disability policy" in Slovenia is transferred from a policy for protecting disabled persons to one of the rights of all people to equal participation, to "inclusion". At a session held on 30 November 2006, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the **Action Programme for Disabled Persons 2007–2013**, the aim of which is to **promote, protect and provide the full and equal implementation of human rights for disabled persons and encourage respect for their dignity**. This is a programme of measures for all disabled persons, regardless of the cause or type of their disability or age, and for all those areas which have a considerable influence on their lives: education, employment, health, culture, accessibility, self-organisation in organisations for disabled people⁸. The best protection against social exclusion is employment, and it is therefore necessary to promote equal employment opportunities for disabled persons and increase their employability.

⁷ Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, Article 14

⁸ Source: <http://www.mszs.si/eurydice/>

• DEFINITIONS OF DISABILITY •

Understanding of disability of individuals in the society has been 'shifting' in recent years from 'medicinal' to 'social' comprehension. Considerable changes in definitions of disability in international documents and national literature are therefore understandable.

Definition of a 'disabled person':

- "Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others".⁹
- The Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons (United Nations) emphasises that a disabled person means any person "unable to ensure by himself or herself, wholly or partly, the necessities of a normal individual and/or social life, as a result of deficiency, either congenital or not, in his or her physical or mental capabilities."
- According to the definition in the Americans with Disabilities Act, a disabled person is a person "with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such person". As major life activities, the act lists taking care of oneself unassisted, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working.¹⁰
- According to the Disabled Persons Organisations Act (ZInvo)¹¹, a disabled person is a person who, due to inborn or acquired impairments and handicaps conditioned or created by the physical and social environment, is not able on their own to, partially or fully, satisfy their needs for a personal, family and social life in the environment in which they live, in accordance with the international classification.
- According to the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons Act (ZZRZI)¹², a disabled person is a person who acquires the status of disabled person under the act or other regulations, and a person in whom a competent body has determined the long-term consequences of a physical or mental impairment or disease and has considerably fewer opportunities for employment, continuation of employment, or being promoted.

Definition of 'disability':

The Report on Human Rights says about disability that a disabled person is "every person who has, considering their age and the social environment in which they live, serious difficulties integrating into a family, society, education or occupation, or exercising of their human rights due to long-term functional physical or mental impairment."¹³

⁹ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UN, 2006

¹⁰ Denbo M.S. (2003) Disability Lessons in Higher Education. Accommodating Learning - Disabled Students and Student-Athletes Under the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. American Business Law Journal, Austin, 41, 1, page. 145-203.

¹¹ Disabled Persons Organisations Act (ZInvo), Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 108/2002 of 12.12.2002, Article 5, paragraph 3

¹² Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons Act (ZZRZI), Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 16/2007 of 23.02.2007, Article 3

¹³ Despoux L. (1991) Human Rights and Disability. UN, Economic and Social Council, 1991, E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/31

- A similar definition in terms of content was prepared by the working group for the drafting of anti-discrimination legislation of the Norwegian Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, when it wrote that “disability means a gap between an individual’s capacities and the roles they have to perform in areas fundamental for achieving independence and full cooperation in social life”.¹⁴
- The World Education Foundation for the Disabled (WEFD), a European non-profit, non-governmental foundation, formed a very wide definition of disability, as it believes that “disability is not limited to physical or mental impairment, and it includes health problems, emotional problems, dysfunctional relationships, poverty and lack of education as disabilities, because they prevent people from reaching their potential and making a full contribution to their community.”¹⁵
- According to Article 60 of the Pension and Disability Insurance Act¹⁶ (ZPIZ-1), “disability is confirmed if, due to changes in health condition which cannot be eliminated with treatment or medical rehabilitation measures and are determined in accordance with this Act, an insured person’s ability to find, keep or advance in an employment position is impaired”.
- In the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF), the term ‘impaired capacity/disability’ covers a multi-dimensional phenomenon resulting from the interaction between people and their physical and social environment¹⁷.

• ACTS AND REGULATIONS •

Reviews of legal acts on DISABLED PERSONS and SOCIAL POLICY are available on the website of the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs:

Source:

http://www.mddsz.gov.si/si/zakonodaja_in_dokumenti/veljavni_predpisi/#c8062/ 19 June 2007

Source:

http://www.mddsz.gov.si/si/zakonodaja_in_dokumenti/veljavni_predpisi/#c8031/ 19 June 2007

¹⁴ Flydal J. (1997) Status on the rights of disabled people in Norway, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. Unpublished. Quoted in: Cveto Uršič, Med teorijo in prakso - Razmišljanje ob pripravi delovnih tez zakona o izenačevanju možnosti za Invalide. (<http://www2.arnes.si/~sudmhusk/images/02-Ursic.pdf>) 12 June 2007)

¹⁵ For which they are ‘incapable / unable’ in a certain way

¹⁶ Pension and Disability Insurance Act (ZPIZ-1), Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 109/2006 of 23.10.2006

¹⁷ MKF – International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health, page 242. WHO Geneva, Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia and Institute for Rehabilitation of the Republic of Slovenia, Ljubljana, 2006.

• EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PERSONS •

Disabled persons in paid employment and unemployed disabled persons by types disability – total and by gender, Slovenia, October 2007

	In paid employment			Unemployed			number
	total	women	men	total	women	men	
Disabled workers	30 739	13 116	17 623	8 149	3 320	4 829	
Categorised juveniles	647	307	340	807	408	399	
Disabled people according to the ZZRZI (ZUZIO)	964	432	532	1 140	543	597	
Disabled war veterans, peacetime military invalids and civilian war invalids	62	4	58	19	2	17	
Disabled people with identified deficiency physical	796	389	407	30	12	18	
Disabled persons according to EU legislation	2	0	2	0	0	0	
Total	33 210	14 248	18 962	10 145	4 285	5 860	

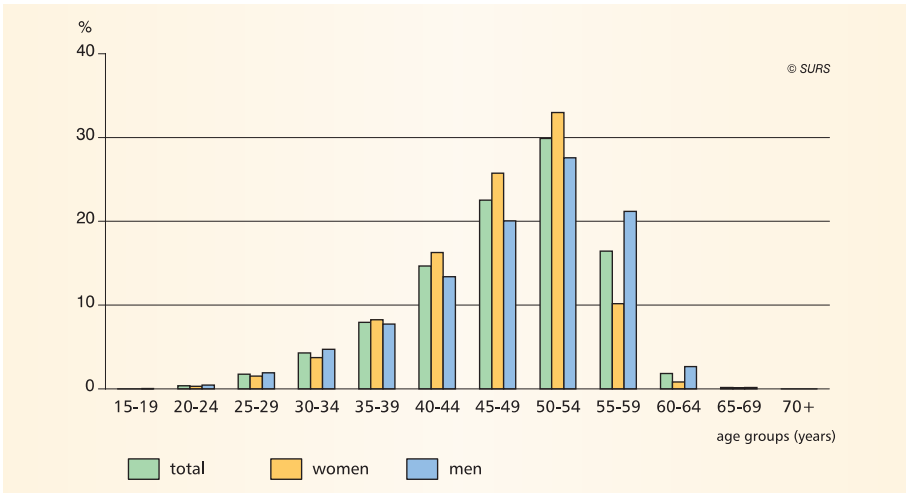
	In paid employment			Unemployed			%
	total	women	men	total	women	men	
Disabled workers	92.6	92.1	92.9	80.3	77.5	82.4	
Categorised juveniles	1.9	2.2	1.8	8.0	9.5	6.8	
Disabled people according to the ZZRZI (ZUZIO)	2.9	3.0	2.8	11.2	12.7	10.2	
Disabled war veterans, peacetime military invalids and civilian war invalids	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.3	
Disabled people with identified deficiency physical	2.4	2.7	2.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	
Disabled persons according to EU legislation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

Sources: for data on disabled persons in paid employment: Fund for the Promotion of Employment of Disabled Persons, November 2007;
 for data on unemployed disabled persons: Employment Service of Slovenia, November 2007.

- According to the estimate of the World Health Organisation nearly 10% or 600 million people in the world are the disabled, of these over 60% are 15-64 years old.
- According to the number of the disabled persons in view of their legally defined status (at the Government Office for the Disabled - GO)¹⁸ from 2002, at that time there were almost 170,000 disabled persons in Slovenia. Compared to the number of the population at that time, the disabled persons holding such status comprised 8.48% of the total population; 83% of them were disabled workers.
- A disabled person is acknowledged this status with a legal final decision brought by the competent authority – on the basis of a relevant legal act.
- In the world the unemployment of the disabled persons, who are in their working age, is much higher than among other labour force – in some countries it is as high as 80%

¹⁸ GO for the Disabled (A. Tabaj). *Analysis of membership in organisations of the disabled persons and societies*. Material prepared for the 2nd reading of the Disabled Persons Organisations Act, Ljubljana, March 2002, p. 8

Shares of the disabled persons in paid employment by age groups and gender, Slovenia, October 2007



Source: Fund for the Promotion of Employment of Disabled Persons

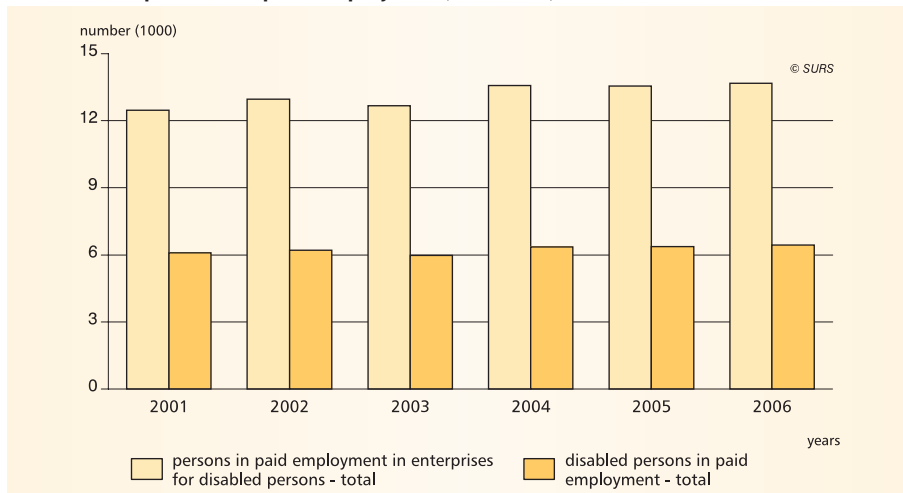
■ The introduction of the quota system is only one of the novelties which are to stimulate employers to increased employment of disabled persons whom they would ensure increased possibilities for employment. In mid-2004, ZZRZI, No. 100/05) came into force, governing the entire system of measures for creating and fostering the possibilities for equal employment of disabled persons. The quota system relating to the employment of disabled persons, which has been introduced in most EU Member States, in fact means the commitment of employers that from a determined number of persons in paid employment they shall employ a certain percentage of disabled persons. The act does not govern only the introduction of the quota system as compulsory employment of disabled persons, but it promotes achieving the balance between employment and social security and it addresses the employers to deal with disability and employment of the disabled persons.

■ According to Employment Service of Slovenia data, prior to this act, for instance in individual years 1995, 1999 and 2004, the number of newly employed until then unemployed disabled persons stood at 617, 818 and 987, respectively; and in 2005 and 2006 it stood at 1,296 and 1,927, respectively.

■ According to the data of the Fund for the promotion of employment of disabled persons of the Republic of Slovenia, in October 2007 there were in Slovenia 33,210 disabled persons (14,248 or 43% women and 18,962 or 57% men). The majority of them (almost 92.6%) were disabled workers of 2nd and 3rd category; then there were also categorised juveniles (1.9%), disabled persons who were acknowledged this status in line with the acts ZZRZI and ZUZIO (2.9%), disabled war veterans (0.2%) and disabled persons with identified physical deficiency (2.4%). Among the disabled persons in paid employment there were 2 persons who were acknowledged this status by EU regulations.

■ Among 10,145 unemployed disabled persons there were at the end of October 2007 in Slovenia the most, i.e. 80.3% or 8,149 disabled workers (of 2nd and 3rd category); 807 or 8% of these were categorised juveniles, 1,140 or 11.2% disabled persons with status acknowledged in line with the ZZRZI and ZUZIO, 19 or 0.2% disabled war veterans and 30 or 0.3% disabled persons with acknowledged bodily handicap.

All persons in paid employment in enterprises for disabled persons and among them the disabled persons in paid employment, Slovenia, 2001-2006

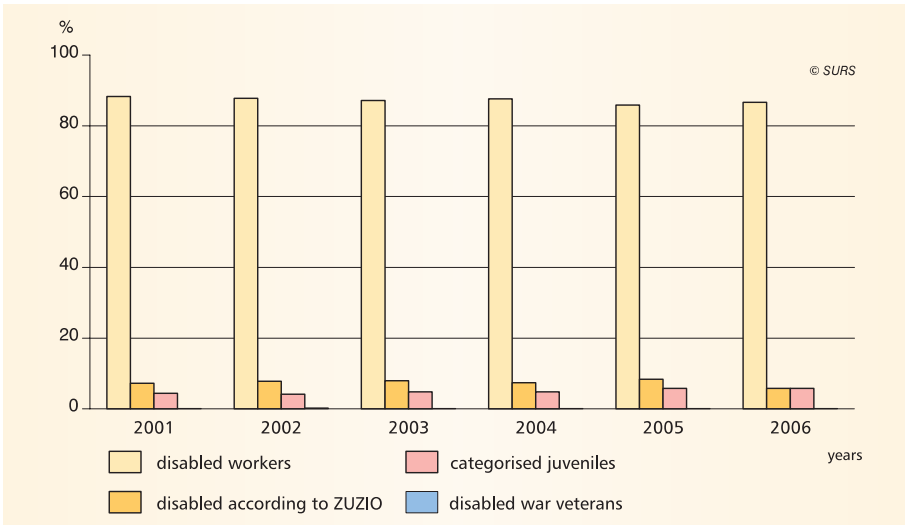


Source: Data from the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs

- The employment of disabled persons is regulated differently in different countries. In international and national documents, the work and employment of disabled persons are mainly regulated by the open market. Those who are not able to work due to their disability are provided with employment in special forms or under special conditions. In Slovenia this role is performed by enterprises for disabled persons, employment centres and centres for protection and training.
- Enterprises for disabled persons, intended primarily to provide positions of employment to disabled persons who are not able to find a job on the open market, are enterprises with particular importance, as they are a type of social economy and offer one of the few opportunities for the employment of disabled persons. The first enterprise for disabled persons in Slovenia was established already before 1976. In 1988, Slovenia had 11 enterprises for disabled persons; by the end of 2006 their number has risen to 165.
- In 2005, a quota system¹⁹ was introduced, which means that employers are obliged to employ a determined number of disabled persons. A consequence of this was that 1,928 unemployed disabled persons were employed in 2006; and a higher number of disabled persons were employed by enterprises for disabled persons: at the end of 2006, 13,685 persons, of whom 6,441 were disabled, were working in such enterprises.

¹⁹ The Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted an instrument of the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia Fund for Promotion of Employment for Disabled Persons, as required by the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons Act (ZZRZI) on 29 July 2004.

Shares of disabled persons in paid employment in enterprises for disabled persons, by status, Slovenia, 2001-2006



Source: Data from the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs

■ Particular attention has been paid to the inclusion of disabled persons and other persons from vulnerable groups of the population in the labour market or to their employment, as it is not only a solution for the economic and social position of the individual, but also a wider issue of economic and social exclusion or inclusion of such people.

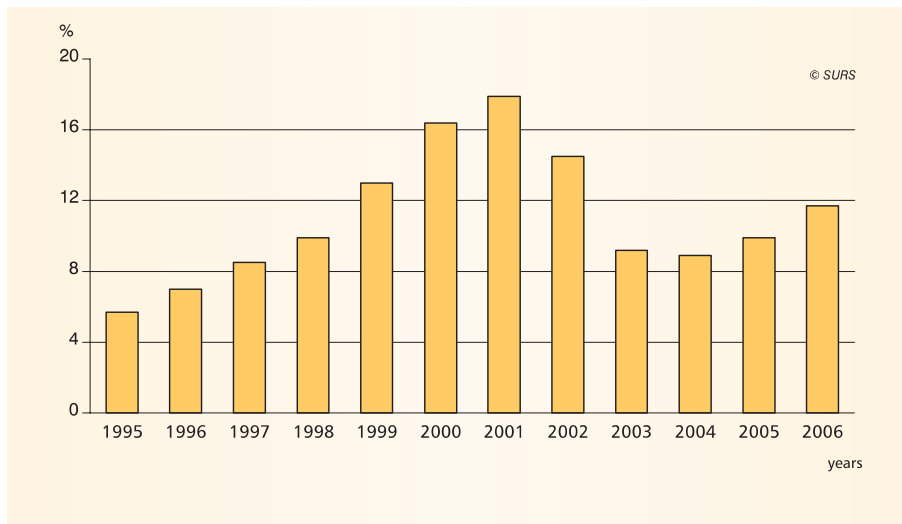
■ There were 165 enterprises for disabled persons in Slovenia in 2006, which employed 6.3% more disabled persons than the year before (86.7% were persons with work-related disability).

■ The education structure²⁰ of all persons employed in enterprises for disabled persons is rather low (more than 30% had not completed primary education), and the education structure of disabled persons employed in enterprises for disabled persons is even lower. The majority of the employed disabled persons (66.4%) had full-time employment in 2005. The highest number were persons older than 45 years, while the next most extensive age group were persons aged between 35 and 44.

²⁰ Information on enterprises for disabled persons in the Republic of Slovenia, an overview, Ljubljana 2005, page 25

Source: http://www.mddsz.gov.si/fileadmin/mddsz.gov.si/pageuploads/dokumenti__pdf/ip_info05.pdf

Shares of disabled persons among unemployed persons, Slovenia, 1995-2006

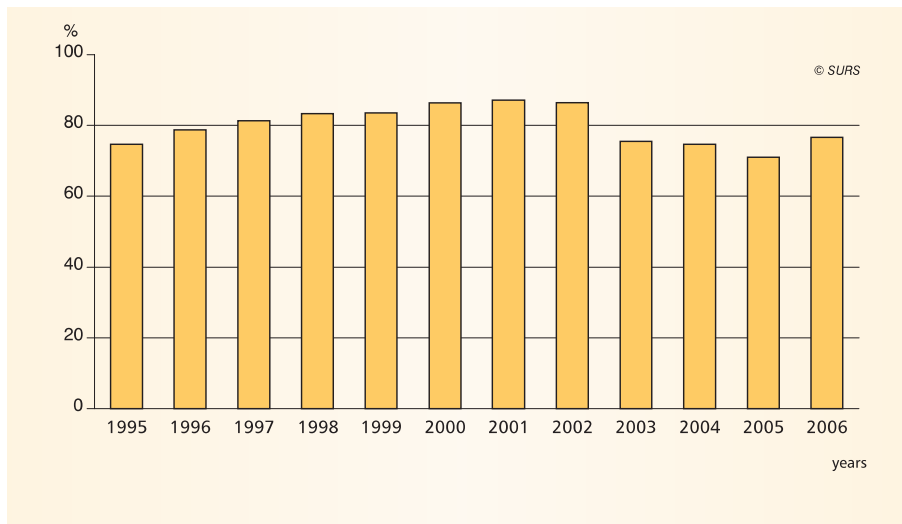


Source: Annual reports of the Employment Service of Slovenia

- The status of disabled persons in Slovenia is recognised with a final decision from a competent body: for disabled workers under the Pension and Disability Insurance Act, for war disabled servicemen under the War Invalids Act, categorised juveniles under the Act on the Education and Training of Physically or Mentally Handicapped Children and Youth, disabled persons under the Act Regulating the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons, and the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons Act.
- Therefore, disabled persons are particularly sensitive, and also a diverse group of population, as each disabled person can be partially or substantially disabled from performing everyday activities. Analyses of the situation in the area of employment indicate that the position of disabled persons in the labour market is less favourable, that disabled persons are less likely to be incorporated in the labour market, that unemployment among them is higher than the average, and that their periods of unemployment are longer than in case of the rest of population.
- In 2005 disabled persons comprised almost 10% of the total number of the unemployed. The structure of unemployed disabled persons in Slovenia and, consequently, their employment opportunities, is more worrying than their absolute number²¹. Half have 1st level of education (incomplete basic education), and only 1.5% have 6th or 7th level education (university education), while 74% are older than 40. This is one of the reasons that 76% of disabled persons in 1999 had been registered at the Employment Service of Slovenia for more than 24 months.

²¹ Also see: Information on enterprises for disabled persons in the Republic of Slovenia, an overview, Ljubljana 2005, pages 7-9
Source: http://www.mddsz.gov.si/fileadmin/mddsz.gov.si/pageuploads/dokumenti__pdf/ip_info05.pdf

Shares of disabled workers among unemployed disabled persons, Slovenia, 1995-2006



Source: Annual reports of the Employment Service of Slovenia

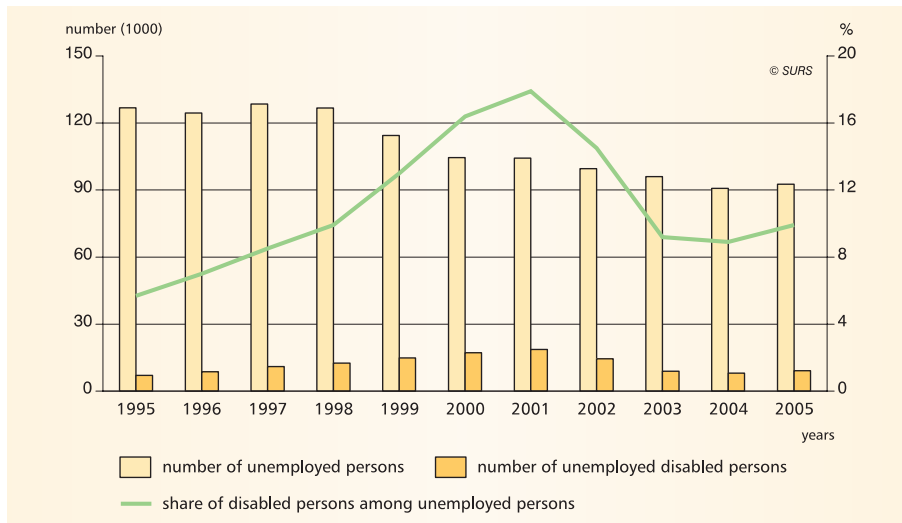
- Employment is a foundation of the social security of an individual, and work provides a means of subsistence, participation in society and opportunities for self-realisation. Unemployment thus causes not only material difficulties, but also social and emotional pressure on individuals and the community in which they live.
- The majority of unemployed disabled persons are disabled workers (76.6% in 2006).
- The main structural problem in the unemployment of disabled persons is long-term unemployment. It is primarily influenced by low educational levels and the higher ages of these people.

Shares of disabled persons in paid employment in enterprises for disabled persons, by age groups, Slovenia, 2005

Total	Age groups (years)			
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45 +
100 %	2.6	16.7	31.3	49.4

Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

Unemployed disabled persons in numbers and as a share of all unemployed persons, Slovenia, 1995-2006



Source: Annual reports of the Employment Service of Slovenia

- The employment of disabled persons in Slovenia is a constant problem because their position in the labour market is still rather unfavourable. The government is applying certain measures in an attempt to encourage their employment: with the right to rehabilitation, by adaptation of jobs, and by utilising a quota system. The introduction of the quota system is only one of the innovations aimed at encouraging employers to employ more disabled persons, and consequently to provide more opportunities for theirs (?) employment.
- 2006 was the turning point for the employment of disabled persons in Slovenia. **The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons Act**, adopted already in 2004 and amended in 2005, implemented a series of new measures aimed at improving opportunities for disabled persons in the labour market or making them equal with all other job seekers. The act follows the guidelines of the reviewed Lisbon Strategy and national definitions in economic and social areas, and emphasises increased incorporation in employment and the improvement of the quality of life and well-being of all citizens.
- First analyses of the implementation of the Act indicate that the objectives are being realised, as it has a positive influence on the opportunities of disabled people to more easily and quickly find work, and at the same time still enjoy a high level of social protection. In 2006, 1,928 unemployed disabled persons found work, which is almost 50% more than in 2005, and twice as many as in either of the individual years: 2001, 2002, 2003 or 2004. A similar trend continued in 2007.

• INJURIES AT WORK •

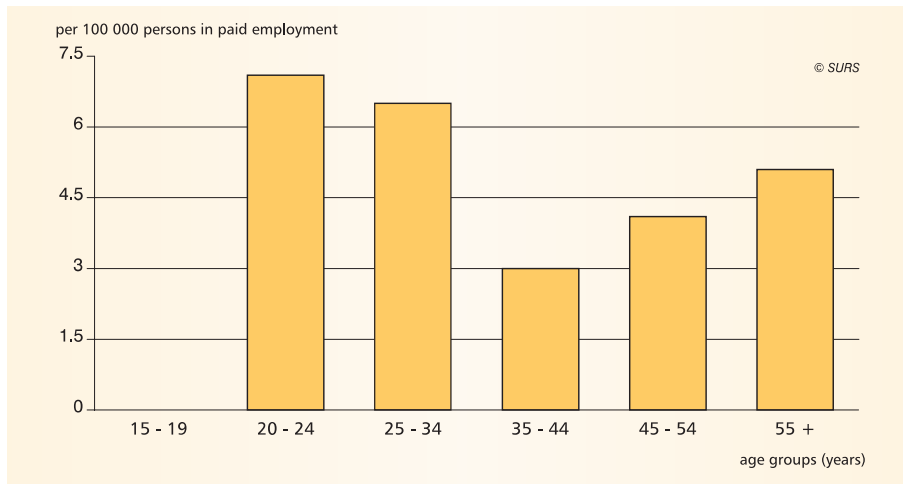
Injuries at work per 1,000 persons in paid employment by age and by gender of injured persons, Slovenia, 2005



Source: Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia

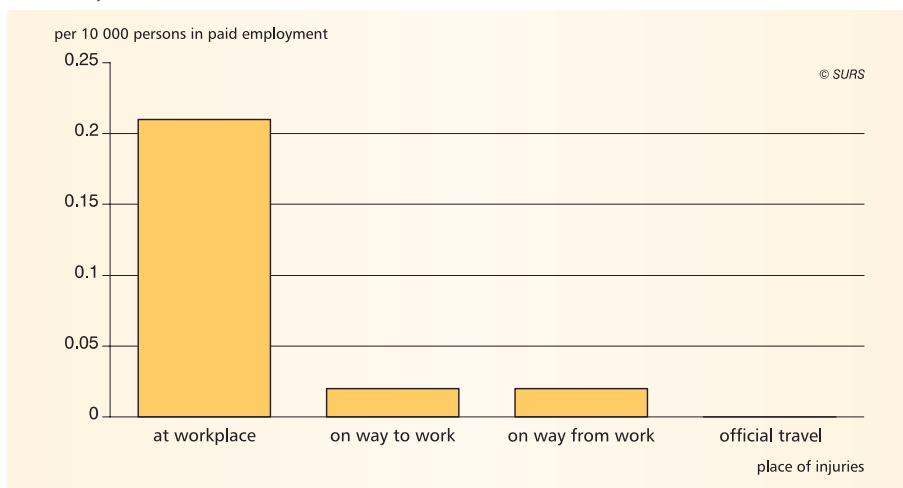
- Data on the health of workers has been kept in Slovenia for more than 15 years; the most notable data at the national level are data on sick leave, injuries at work and work-related disability.
- Disability is frequently a consequence of injuries at work. Article 62 of the Pension and Disability Insurance Act classifies injuries at work and occupational diseases among occupational causes of disability.
- An injury at work, according to expert literature and legislation, is defined differently; in Slovenia, the definition from the Pension and Disability Insurance Act is usually applied.
- The number of injuries at work in Slovenia in the last decade has been decreasing slightly. There were 24,278 reported in 2005 (16,396 of the injured were men, and 6,882 were women). That is 29.9 injuries per 1,000 persons in paid employment or 38.5 per 1,000 men in paid employment and 19.1 per 1,000 women in paid employment.
- In 2005, 21 people or 0.3 persons per 10,000 persons in paid employment died in Slovenia as a result of injuries at work.

Fatal injuries at work per 100,000 persons in paid employment by age groups of dead persons, Slovenia, 2005



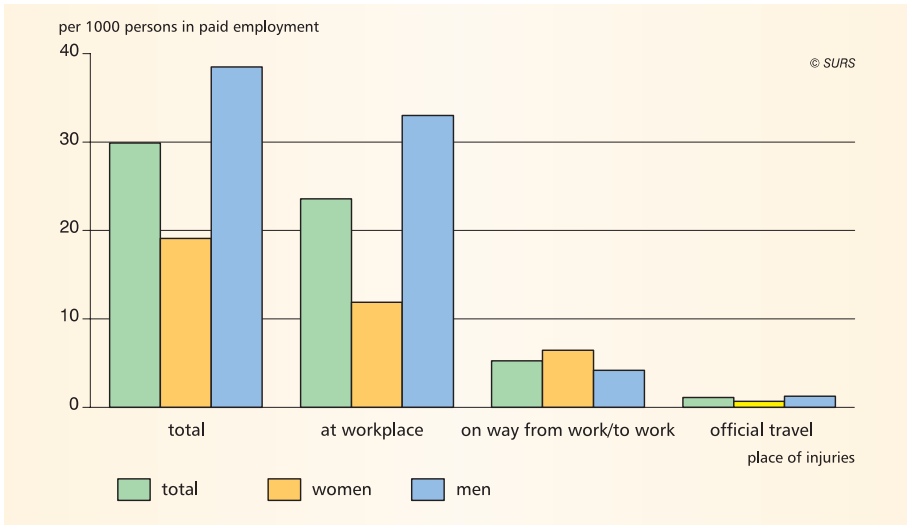
Source: Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia

Fatal injuries at work per 10,000 persons in paid employment by place of injury, Slovenia, 2005



Source: Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia

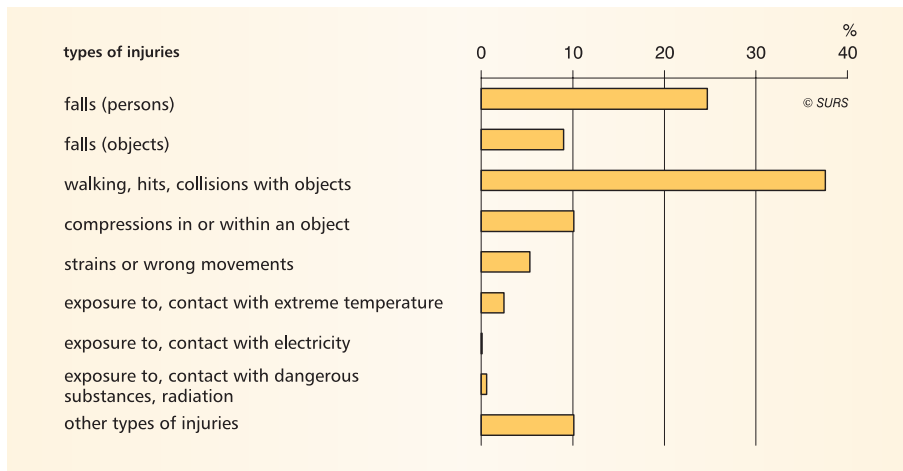
Injuries at work per 1,000 persons in paid employment by place of injury and gender of injured persons, Slovenia, 2005



Source: Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia

- Slovenia stands out and draws attention to itself with high coefficients of so-called negative general health indicators and with high values in the area of occupational health. By the number of fatal injuries at work, Slovenia still exceeds the values for the majority of the more developed EU Member States (exceeding the average of Scandinavian countries by as much as 100%) and the EU average.
- Disability committees at the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of the Republic of Slovenia determine if a consequence of an injury at work includes disability; there are also expert bodies of the Institute which give expert opinions on disability, physical impairment and the need for constant aid and care from others in the procedures for the implementation of rights and appeal procedures from pension and disability insurance.
- Out of the total number of all expert opinions given by disability committees of the 1st level in 2006 (36,668), 15,614 opinions (or 42.58%) were given for the assessment of disability.
- Disability committees of the 1st level in 2006 identified 2,767 new disabled persons of the 1st category (22.58% down on 2005), 8,946 disabled persons of the 2nd and 3rd categories (7.07% down on 2005), and in 3,901 cases the opinion was that there was no disability (16.67% down on 2005).

Shares of injuries at work by type of injury, Slovenia, 2005

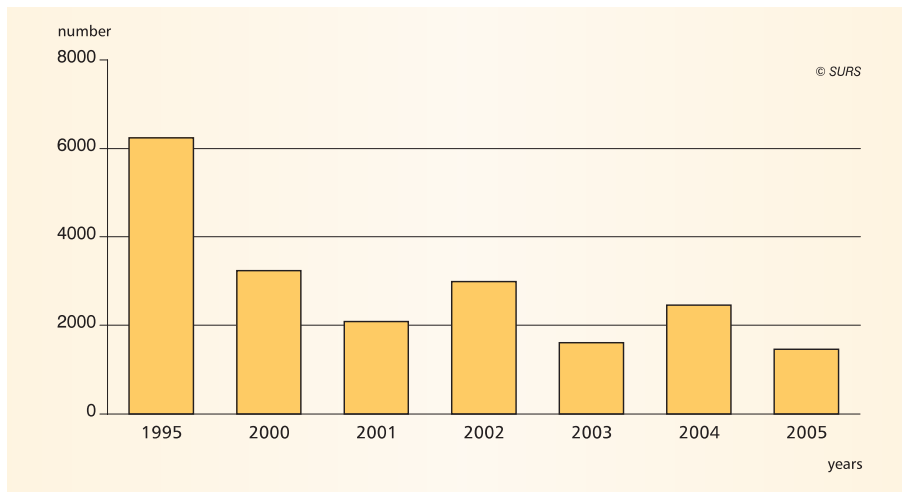


Source: Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia

- The majority of injuries and health impairments at work are a consequence of inexperience and insufficient training, and they occur because of the underestimation of dangers and the nature of the work involved. They most frequently arise as the consequence of incorrect or careless walking, collision with objects and blows, falls, compressions in or between objects. Some injuries at work lead to long-term disability of the injured person.
- Of the total number of 8,946 opinions on 2nd and 3rd category disability in 2006, in 5,788 cases (64.70%) the treated persons were given full working hours, and in 3,158 cases (35.30%) part-time work. A total of 15,614 cases assessed for disability were reviewed, 13.04% less than in 2005.
- In 2006, the most frequent cause of disability was illness (88.56%), followed by injuries outside work (6.35%), injuries at work (3.37%) and occupational diseases (0.40%). Combined causes of disability were identified in 1.28% of cases.

• OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES •

Number of days of sick leave due to occupational diseases, Slovenia, 1995 and 2000-2005



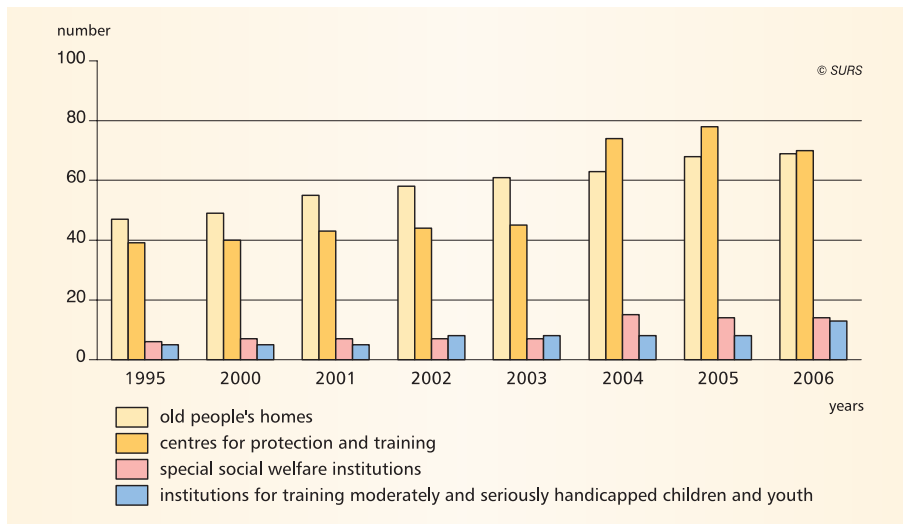
Source: Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia

- Slovenia does not have data on occupational diseases, as they are not systematically diagnosed and reported, although the Rules Concerning the List of Occupational Diseases (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 85/03) were published in 2003. The Rules define occupational diseases as diseases caused by the prolonged direct influence of working processes and working conditions in a certain job or during work.
- The Rules divide occupational diseases into three major groups:
 - occupational diseases caused by hazardous chemical substances, physical factors and biological factors
 - occupational diseases by affected organ systems
 - occupational diseases caused by carcinogenic substances, products or energy.
- When compared with other EU Member States²², one would expect that there would be some 1,000 cases of occupational diseases reported in Slovenia each year, but fewer than 50 have been discovered. According to EODS – European Occupational Diseases Statistics - the incidence of all cases of occupational diseases in EU Member States in 2000 per 100,000 active insured persons was 48 for men and 22 for women (from 3.4 to 5 in Slovenia). The majority were diseases of the musculoskeletal system (35%), skin diseases (14%), respiratory diseases (14%), occupational hardness of hearing (13%), neurological diseases (8%), cancer (5%, in which 86% of cases were caused by asbestos), infectious diseases (1%), etc.

²² <http://www.cilizadelo.si>

• SOCIAL AND FAMILY PROTECTION •

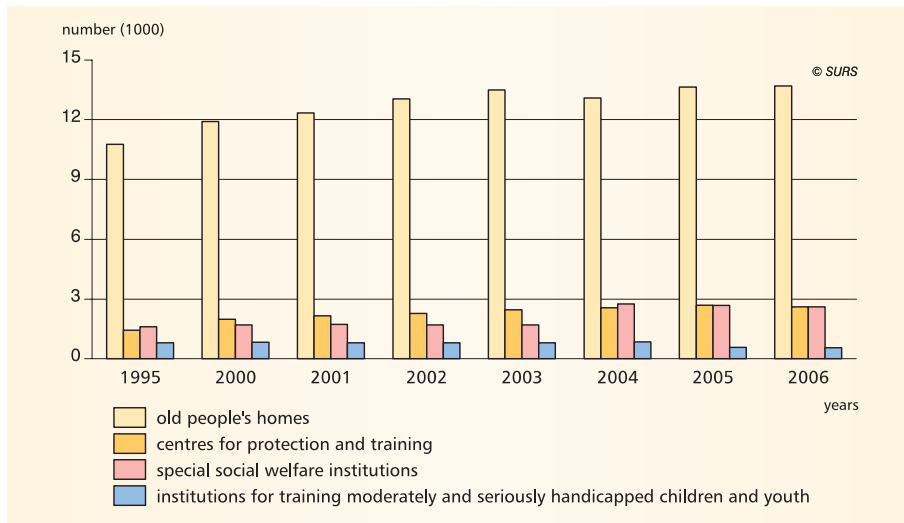
Public social welfare institutions by kind, Slovenia, 1995–2006



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

- Among social welfare services intended for the elimination of people’s social distress, the Social Security Act determines also institutional care. This includes all forms of assistance in institutions, in other families, or other organised forms of help used to substitute or supplement the care an entitled person receives at home from their own family, in particular accommodation, organised meals, care and medical care.
- In 2006 in Slovenia, there were 69 old people’s homes, 6 special social welfare institutions, 8 units for special forms of care for adults within old people’s homes and their units, 13 institutions for training children and youth with problems, 30 independent centres for protection and training, 21 units of these centres for protection and training within other institutions, and 19 centres for protection and training with concession.

People in care in public social welfare institutions by kind, Slovenia, 1995 and 2000-2005

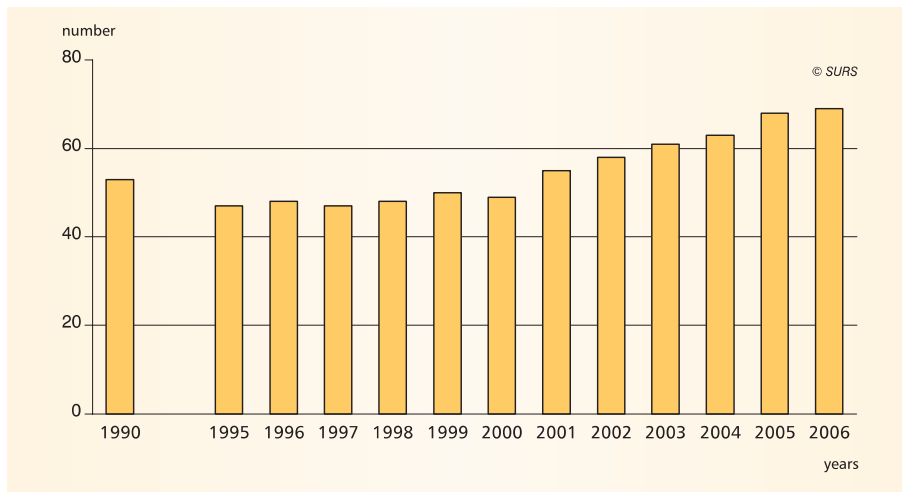


Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

- Social welfare institutions in Slovenia have the capacity to accommodate over 4% of the population aged 65 or more. Since institutional care is also intended for younger persons with special needs, social welfare institutions actually accommodate only about 3.8% of persons aged 65 or more.
- In Slovenia in 2006 there were 69 old people's homes (of which 13 had concession). There were 13,699 people in care in these institutions. The majority were aged 80 or more (56.3%). The most common reason for admission to a home was age (66.8%), while 84.3% were also admitted because of illness.
- There were 6 special social welfare institutions and 8 units for special forms of care for adults within old people's homes or their units in Slovenia in 2006. There were a total of 2,990 people in care in all these institutions (925 in the eight special units).
- All people in care in special social welfare institutions and special units were ill. Among the people in care in these institutions, 90.7% had mental problems and 5.5% had physical problems.

OLD PEOPLE'S HOMES

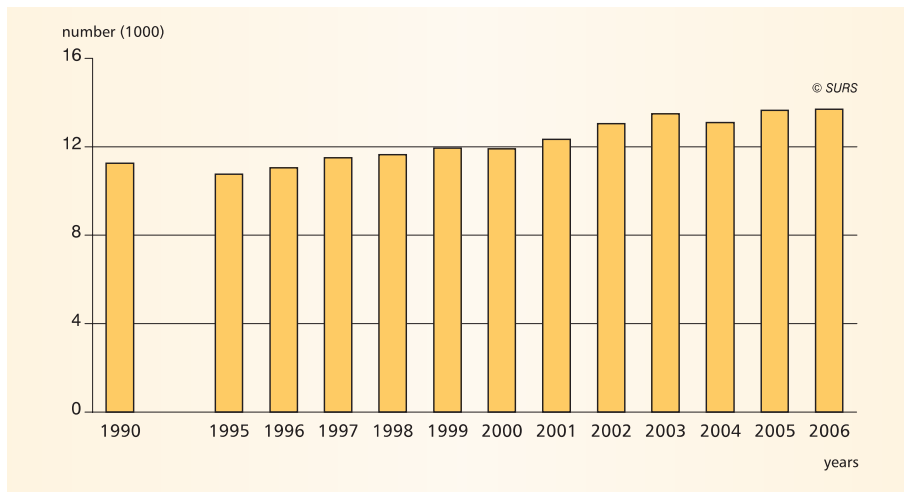
Old people's homes, Slovenia, 1990, 1995–2006



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

- In recent decades the world has been more and more facing the phenomenon of population ageing. Many people believe that higher shares of older and the oldest groups of people are characteristic of economically developed countries, in which the total fertility rate decreases, life expectancy increases, and where there is no migration due to certain economic factors. Although in Slovenia the situation is not exactly as described, it is similar to that in economically developed countries, as Slovenia has well-organised health care, life expectancy comparable to that of other European countries, a very low birth rate and a high share of old population. Changes in the age structure of the Slovenian population and demographic projections warn that the process will continue in the coming years (decades), as projections indicate that in Slovenia in 2020 every fifth person will be over 65 (19.4%).
- Institutional care for the elderly in Slovenia is performed primarily by old people's homes, which are usually public social welfare institutions operating as non-profit institutions, as public services; the number of private institutions is also increasing.
- The majority of old people's homes have separate residence (accommodation) units and there are nursing units of old people's homes. The majority of rooms in residence units have two beds at most, while rooms in nursing units of old people's homes units have a larger number of beds – four or more.

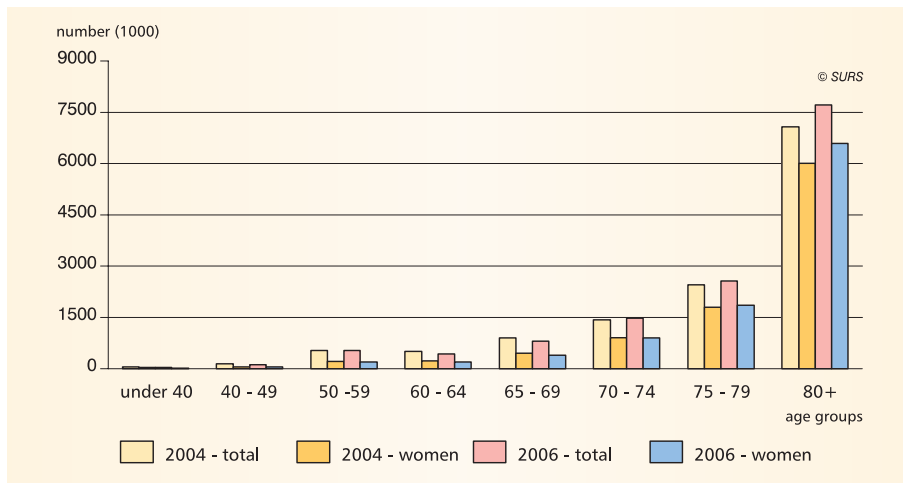
People in care in old people's homes, Slovenia, 1990, 1995–2006



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

- The general principle of equality before the law also ensures the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the elderly, who have equal rights to respect of human dignity, privacy, their own lifestyle, etc. In particular, every elderly person has the right to social welfare. In this connection, the **European Social Charter** binds Slovenia to, directly or in cooperation with public private organisations, adopt or promote adequate measures. A longer life must not mean a reduction in the quality of life. Elderly persons living in health and social welfare institutions have to be enabled to live as independently as possible, considering their health and ability to lead an independent life.
- Total capacity in old people's homes in Slovenia in 2006 stood at 13,699 persons. The majority of persons living in them were aged 80 or more (56.3%). The most common reason for admission to a home was age (66.8% of people in care), while 84.3% of them were also admitted because of illness. In the same year, there were 22,975 applications for places in old people's homes, of which 18.8% were approved.

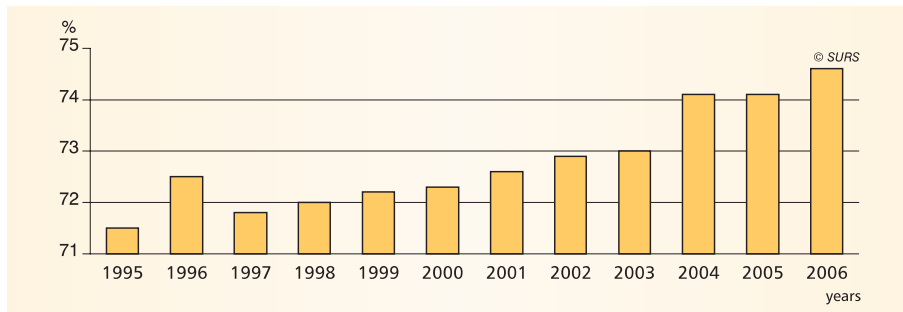
People in care in old people’s homes by gender and age, Slovenia, 2004 and 2006



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

- Old people’s homes are operating at full capacity. The number of applications for old people’s homes has been increasing over the years, and the average waiting time for a place has also been increasing. Almost three quarters of beds in old people’s homes in 2006 were “occupied” by women (74.6%).
- In 2006, 56.3% of people in care in old people’s homes were aged 80 or more, and the majority were women (74.6%). The share of women in the number of people in care in old people’s homes has increased by 2.8% in the last ten years.

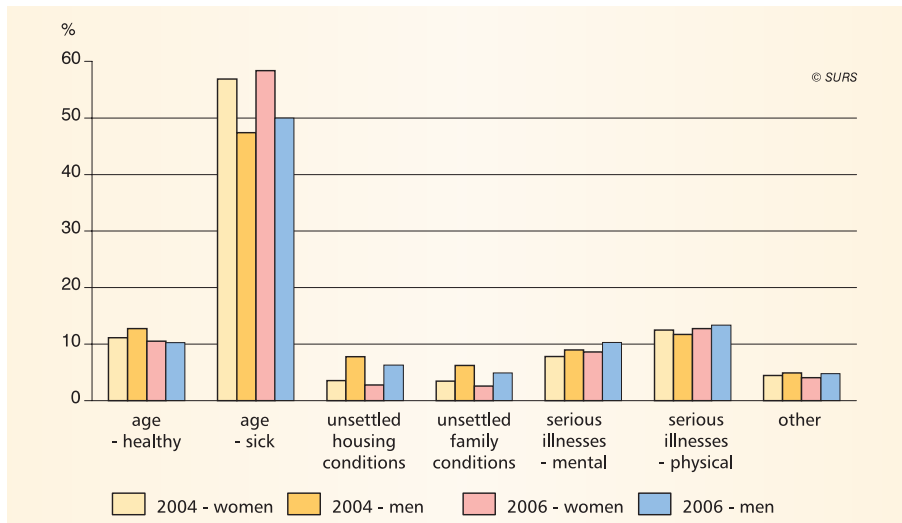
Shares of women in care in old people’s homes, Slovenia, 1995–2006



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

- The majority of persons (women and men) living in old people’s homes in 2006 performed non-demanding work before their retirement or their arrival in old people’s homes.

Shares of people in care in old people's homes by gender and reasons for their admission, Slovenia, 2004 and 2006

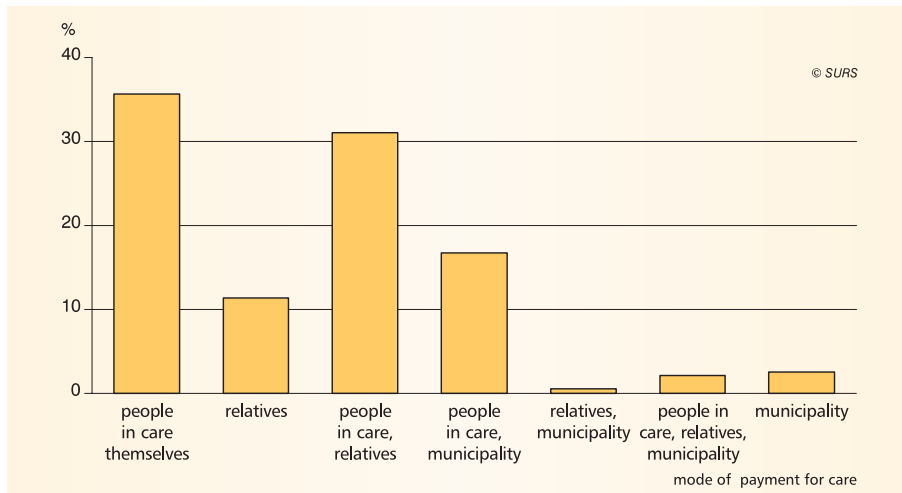


© SURS

Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

- People in care, living in old people's homes are divided into types of health care regarding their health condition and the health care service they require.
- The most common reason for admission to a home was age (66.8% in 2006), while 84.3% were also admitted because of illness, as old age is usually followed by infirmity. The second most frequent reason for admission was physical or mental illness (22.0%).
- Among all people in care in old people's homes, only 30.2% were relatively healthy and required no direct personal assistance. Moderate age-related and health difficulties were experienced by 20.5% of people in care, while severe age-related and health difficulties were felt by 49.3% of people in care, who required full direct medical attention.
- Old people's homes not only provide adequate solutions for the physical needs of people in care, but also for their psychological well-being; they are provided with health and physical care, and old people's homes also make efforts to improve their quality of life: cultural life, physical exercise, sport, maintaining friendly relationships.

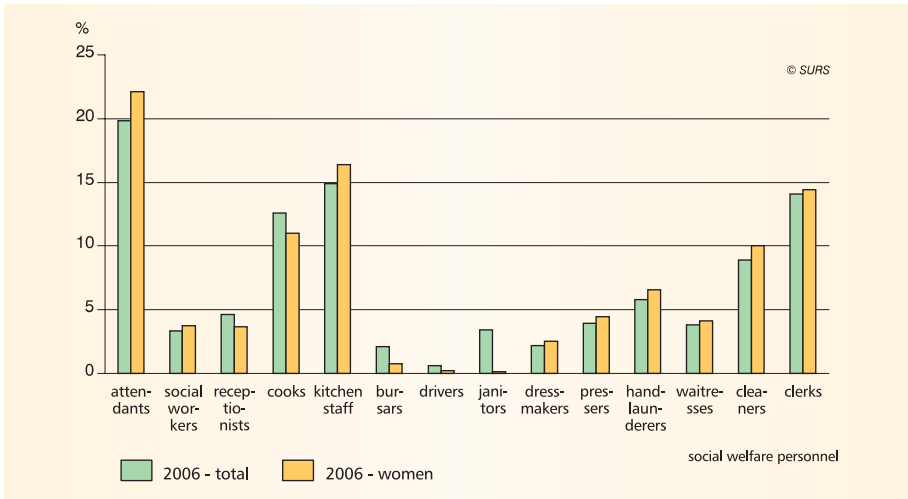
Shares of people in care in old people's homes by mode of payment for care, Slovenia, 2006



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

- Old people's homes are primarily funded from care allowances paid by residents. Care for the elderly in Slovenia is divided among the family, government institutions, companies, civil society and individuals. Relatives of people in care in old people's homes are important aides to older family members, both in the emotional and organisational sense, and are at the same time mediators between the relevant professional services and relatives of the elderly. Besides the family, the state is most responsible for taking care of the elderly by establishing adequate institutions.
- In 2006, more than 35% of people in care paid the care allowance themselves, 31% with the help of relatives, almost 17% were aided by municipalities, while the care allowance of 11.4% people in care was fully paid by their relatives. Municipalities paid the total amount of care allowance for 2.5% of people in care.
- In 2006, a total of 6,342 persons (91.1% being women) were employed in old people's homes, of whom 53.8% provided health care services, while 46.2% provided social welfare services. The average ratio between the number of people in care and the number of employees was 2.2 to 1.

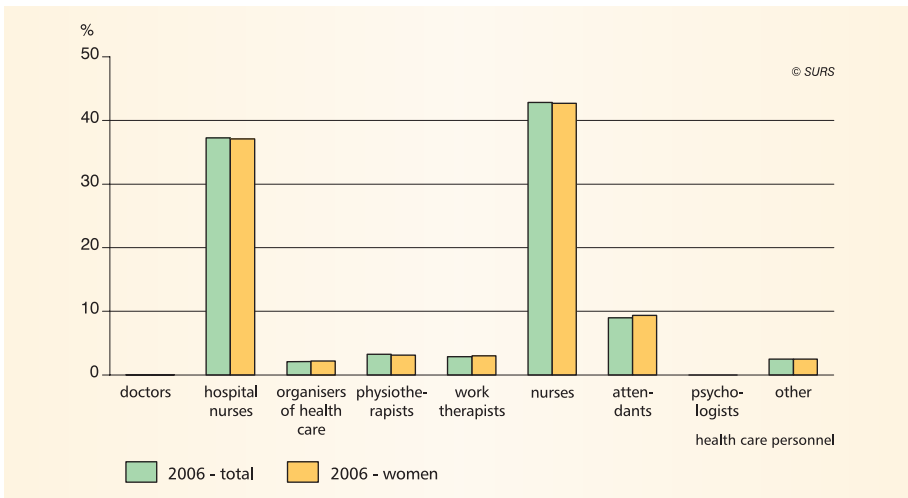
Shares of persons in paid employment in old people's homes, excl. health care personnel, Slovenia, 2006



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

■ The majority of health care personnel employed in old people's homes are medical assistants, nurses and attendants.

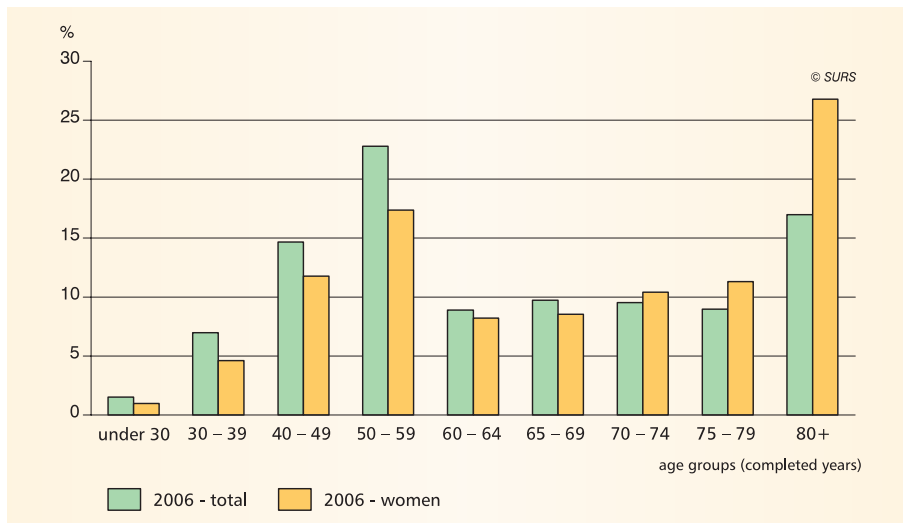
Shares of persons in paid employment in old people's homes – health care personnel, Slovenia, 2006



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

SPECIAL SOCIAL WELFARE INSTITUTIONS AND UNITS FOR SPECIAL FORMS OF CARE FOR ADULTS WITHIN OLD PEOPLE'S HOMES

Shares of people in care in special social welfare institutions and units providing special care for adults by gender and age, Slovenia, 2006



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

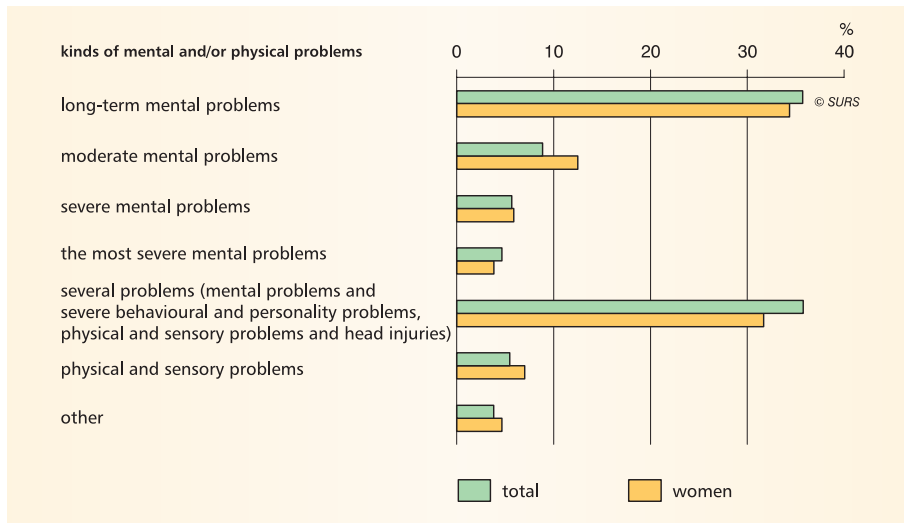
- Social welfare institutions in Slovenia are established for many purposes: for 24-hour care for persons in an institution, community, residence for day care, for those living in centres for protection and training, for domestic help, for short-term admissions, weekend care, for crisis admissions, for vacation care, for temporary residence, for carrying out programmes for outside users, etc.

- They are expected to become centres carrying out different programmes with a full service for children, youth and adults with moderate, severe and the most severe mental and physical problems, and offering the possibility of choosing the quality of services for the needs of individuals and their families. In recent years the number of persons from the proximity of these centres involved in these programmes has been increasing, as numerous people who are involved only in the programmes want to be accommodated near their homes.

- Almost 77% of people in care in special social welfare institutions in 2006 were older than 50 years, while 17% of them were older than 80 years.

In 2006 in Slovenia there were 6 special social welfare institutions and 8 units for special forms of care for adults which served as special units within old people's homes or their units. There were a total of 2,590 people in care in all institutions, of whom 1,325 were women (51.2%), while 35.7% (925) of people in care lived in the eight special units.

Shares of people in care in special social welfare institutions by gender and kinds of mental and/or physical problems, Slovenia, 2006



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

- All people in care in special social welfare institutions and special units are usually ill. In 2006 there were 90.7% such persons with mental problems and 5.5% with physical problems. 51.1% of them were women.
- In 2006, there were 1,303 applications for admissions to such homes or their units, of which almost a third were approved.
- All such people in care had problems, some in their mental, some in their physical development, while some had both mental and physical problems. The majority of them were people in care with long-term mental problems (35.7%) and with severe mental problems, with severe behavioural and personality problems, with physical and sensory problems and head injuries (35.8%). More than two thirds of people in care were in day care. The majority (64.1%) of those persons lived at home with their parents, who took them to the centre on a daily basis for care and employment.
- There were 1,397 persons employed in special social welfare institutions in 2006, of which 50.3% were health care and social welfare personnel (hospital nurses, nurses, work therapists and physiotherapists), while 49.7% were personnel providing social welfare services (attendants, those who take care of accommodation and food, practical training organisers and persons who manage office work). The majority of the personnel were women.

CENTRES FOR PROTECTION AND TRAINING OR THEIR UNITS AS PART OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND CENTRES FOR PROTECTION AND TRAINING WITH CONCESSION

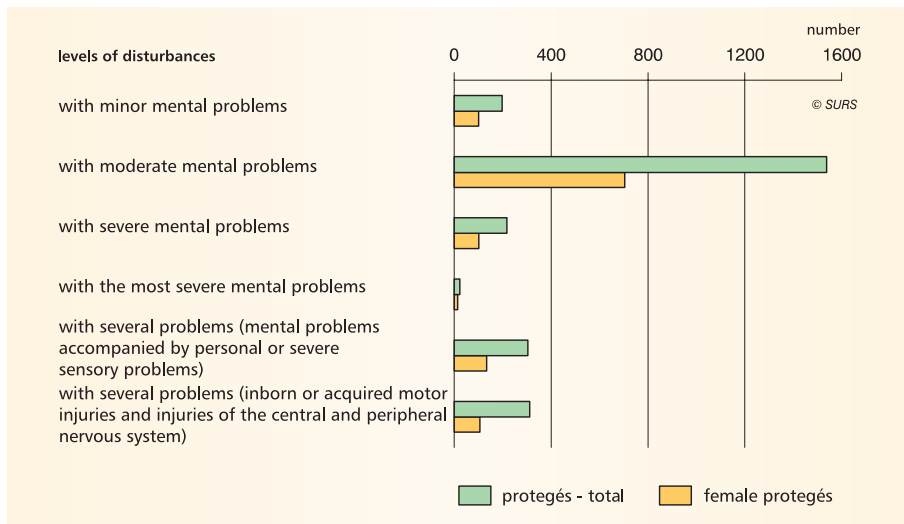
Protegés in centres for protection and training by gender and age, Slovenia, 2006



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

- Persons in care in centres for protection and training are adults with mental and physical problems, are not employable and are provided for in the centres with guidance and care, and organised employment in special circumstances.
- In 30 independent centres for protection and training, 21 units of centres for protection and training as part of other institutions, and 19 centres for protection and training with concession in Slovenia in 2006, there were 2,587 persons in care (4% down on the year before), the majority of whom (84.9%) were aged up to 45.
- The number of men was somewhat larger than the number of women in all age groups, except in the group aged 56 and more.

Protegés in centres for protection and training by levels of disturbances, Slovenia, 2006



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

- In 30 centres for protection and training, 21 units of centres for protection and training as part of other institutions, and 19 centres for protection and training with concession in Slovenia, there were 2,587 persons in care, of whom the majority were persons in care with mental problems (59.2%).
- The majority of protegés in centres for protection and training (64.1%) live at their homes with their parents, and their relatives take them to care and employment in the centres on a daily basis; the share of those living in centres or their units is considerably smaller.
- In 2006, there were 914 persons in paid employment in centres for protection and training. 79.6% of the personnel were providing social welfare services, 11.5% of the personnel were providing health care services, while 8.9% of the personnel were providing services paid for by the employment services.

INSTITUTIONS, CENTRES AND HOMES FOR THE ACCOMMODATION AND CARE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

- Institutions for children and youth with special needs train and educate children, youth and younger adults with mental and physical problems. Children with special needs who cannot be provided with education in the place of their permanent residence are included in programmes of institutional care. These are blind and weak-sighted children and youth, deaf and partially deaf children and youth, children and youth with motive impediments, children with slight mental problems, who attend regular programmes with adapted implementation or adapted education and training, as well as children with emotional and behavioural problems.
- Children with special needs, according to the Placement of Children with Special Needs Act (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 54/2000), are children with mental problems, blind and weak-sighted children, deaf and partially deaf children, children with speech and language disorders, children with motive impediments, children with long-term illnesses, children with an educational deficit in certain areas of learning, and children with behavioural and personality problems who need adapted or special educational programmes.
- In 2006 in Slovenia, there were 5 centres for children and youth with severe and the most severe mental problems, 5 institutions for blind and weak-sighted, deaf and partially deaf and physically impaired children and youth, 11 institutions for children and youth with emotional and behavioural problems, and 10 institutions, homes and other institutions for children and youth with slight and modest mental problems.
- There were 465 children and youth living in the five centres for children and youth with severe and the most severe mental problems, under the care of 574 persons in paid employment.
- 980 children and youth with special needs were temporarily accommodated in institutions, centres or homes, 28 in institutions for blind and weak-sighted children and youth, 49 in institutions for deaf and partially deaf children and youth, 396 in institutions or homes for children and youth with emotional and behavioural problems, and 271 in homes for children with minor and modest mental problems.
- 271 children and youth with minor mental problems were accommodated in 2006 in ten homes, institutions or other institutions for children with special needs. They were educated in primary and secondary schools with adapted programmes, while 65 were educated according to special programmes in departments for education and training.

Residential and daily care of children and youth with moderate, severe and the most severe mental disturbances, Slovenia, 2006

	Residential care	Daily care
Number of centres, institutions and their units – total	6	7
Number of children and youth with special needs – total	465	95
Girls	190	44
Children and youth by age (years):		
until 10	33	18
11-15	76	30
16-19	101	20
20+	255	27

Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

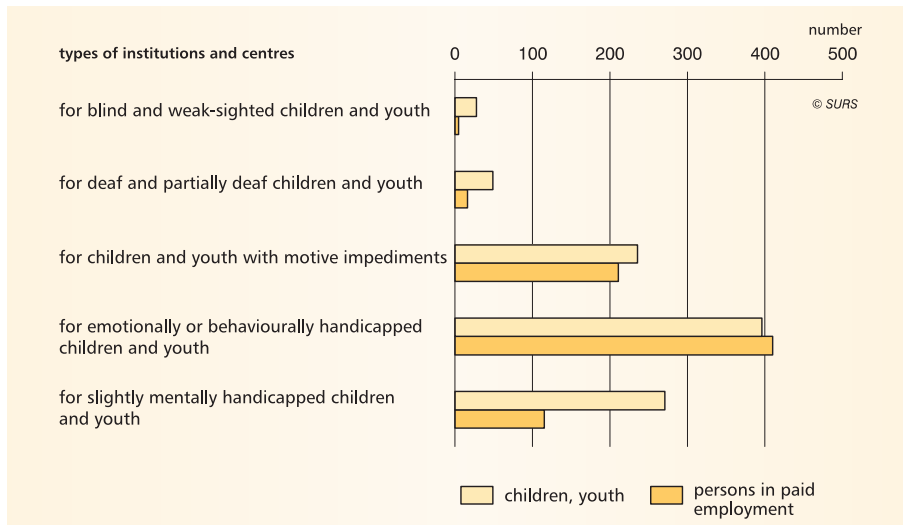
■ In 2006, there were 313 children and youth living in the five institutions for blind and weak-sighted, deaf and partially deaf, and physically impaired children and youth, in which children are educated and can also be accommodated. The majority were children and youth with physical problems (75.4%), followed by deaf and partially deaf children and youth (15.7%), and blind and weak-sighted children and youth (8.9%). The majority of children and youth in care in the institutions were younger than 18.

Institutional placement of children and youth with special needs, Slovenia, 2006

	Number of institutions	Number of children - total	Girls
Types of institutions	26	980	373
for blind and weak-sighted children and youth	1	28	10
for deaf and partially deaf children and youth	2	49	19
for children and youth with motive impediments	2	236	98
for emotionally or behaviourally handicapped children and youth	11	396	139
for slightly mentally handicapped children and youth	10	271	107

Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

Children and youth and persons in paid employment in institutions and centres for accommodation and care of children and youth with special needs, Slovenia, 2006



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

- In Slovenia in 2006 there were five centres/institutions for the training, education and care of children and youth with moderate, severe and the most severe mental problems which offered long-term accommodation to 465 children and youth with special needs, and day care to 95 children. Day-and-night care was organised at six locations, and day care at seven locations. Children and youth were taken care of by 574 persons in paid employment, of whom 317 were custodians, childcare workers and special teachers, and 68 were medical professionals. More than a half of the children have been living in these institutions for 10 years or more.
- 132 children and adults in 2006 were accommodated in youth homes intended primarily for children and youth from less stable families. Accommodation in such homes is mainly arranged in the form of residential group care; children and youth are provided with homes for a specified period of their lives, until they finish school and are capable of living an independent life.
- There were 264 children and youth in seven juvenile institutions and one education centre for juveniles. Seven homes are open-type, and one is a closed-type home.
- Children and youth were accommodated in these homes by court order or by the decision of a centre for social work.

CENTRES FOR SOCIAL WORK

Children, youth and young adult users of services provided by centres for social work, Slovenia, 2004 and 2006

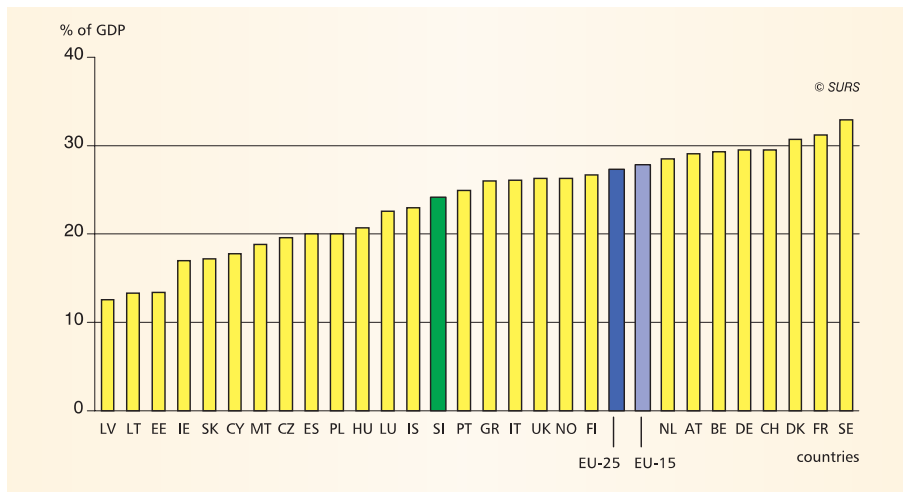
	2004	2006
Children, youth and young adults:		
deprived of a normal family life – total	13 608	12 292
Abandoned and neglected children	791	780
Children whose parents have been deprived of parental rights	1	2
Children whose parents neglected their parental rights	1 122	923
Children whose parents have disorderly mutual relations	7 207	6 967
Children with problems growing up	3 912	3 076
Battered children	361	331
Supposedly sexually abused children	214	213
behaviourally and personally disturbed – total	5 392	4 435
Children and youth – users of alcohol and illegal drugs	48	41
Delinquent children under 14	375	493
Junior juveniles (14 to 16 years old) who committed minor offences and criminal offences	410	278
Senior juveniles (16 to 18 years old) who committed minor offences and criminal offences	913	726
Other junior or senior juveniles who committed minor offences and criminal offences	1 917	1 265
Young adults (18 to 21 years old) who committed minor offences and criminal offences	1 137	1 061
Other behaviourally and personally disturbed children and youth	592	571
physically and mentally disturbed – total	758	188

Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

- In Slovenia in 2006, somewhat more than 12,000 children and youth were deprived of normal family life. The majority are the children of parents with difficulties in their relationships, or children with difficulties that happen during growing up.

EXPENDITURE AND RECEIPTS OF SOCIAL PROTECTION SCHEMES

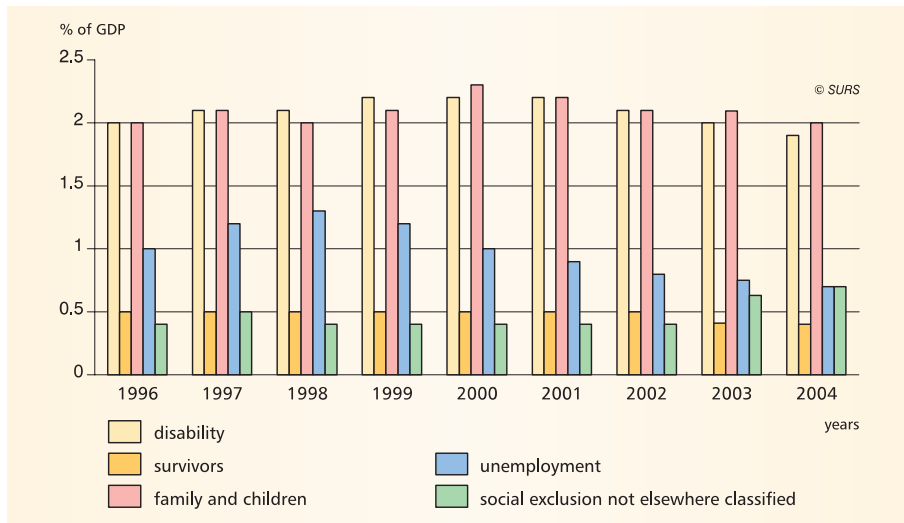
Social protection expenditure, % of GDP, EU-25, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, 2004



Source: EUROSTAT; ESPROSS

- Social protection is a comprehensive system in which individuals are protected from loss of income due to illness, age, the death of a family provider, and unemployment, at which point they are provided with health care, support in the education of children, basic subsistence and measures foreseen in other cases of social exclusion. For the state, the provision of social protection involves considerable expense for various monetary and non-monetary entitlements and other measures, such as pensions, allowances, social security taxes, health care, etc.
- From the aspect of social protection, Slovenia (as well as the EU) earmarks most of funds to old age and sickness, and health protection. Processes related to ageing and possible structural reforms of adequate systems are reflected the most on the mentioned areas. Funds (in % of GDP) earmarked for 'old age' and 'sickness and health care', increased in a third of EU-15 countries in 1996 and 2000 as a result of adequate policies and internal restructuring; and decreased in the remaining countries. The amount of funds earmarked in Slovenia for the mentioned areas remained level.

Expenditure on social protection and social benefits, % of GDP, by function, Slovenia, 1996-2004

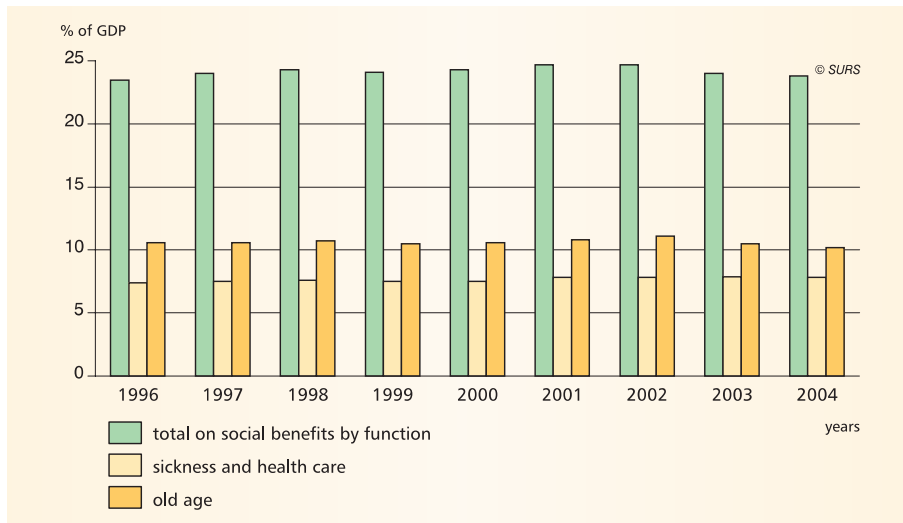


Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

■ Since 1996 total expenditure on social protection in Slovenia has ranged between 24% and 25% of GDP. According to the latest available data, expenditure on social protection in 2004 increased by 3.1% in real terms. In that year, Slovenia earmarked for social protection 24.3% of GDP, which is 3% less than the EU-25 average. In 2001 and 2002, this share was the highest, whereupon it started falling. The highest share of GDP is spent on programmes related to old age (primarily for pensions), as this, together with expenditure on sickness and health care, constitutes over three quarters of total expenditure on social protection in Slovenia.

■ In 2001, Slovenia spent 25.3% of its GDP on social protection, almost 2% less than the EU-15 average for that year. Countries which spent more funds than the average were Sweden (31.3% of GDP), France (29.6% of GDP), Germany (29.3% of GDP), Denmark (29.2% of GDP), Austria (28.6% of GDP) and the Netherlands (26.5% of GDP). Slovenia placed very close to Italy, and spent more on social protection than Portugal, Luxembourg, Spain, Ireland and Latvia (which spent the lowest share – 14.3% of GDP).

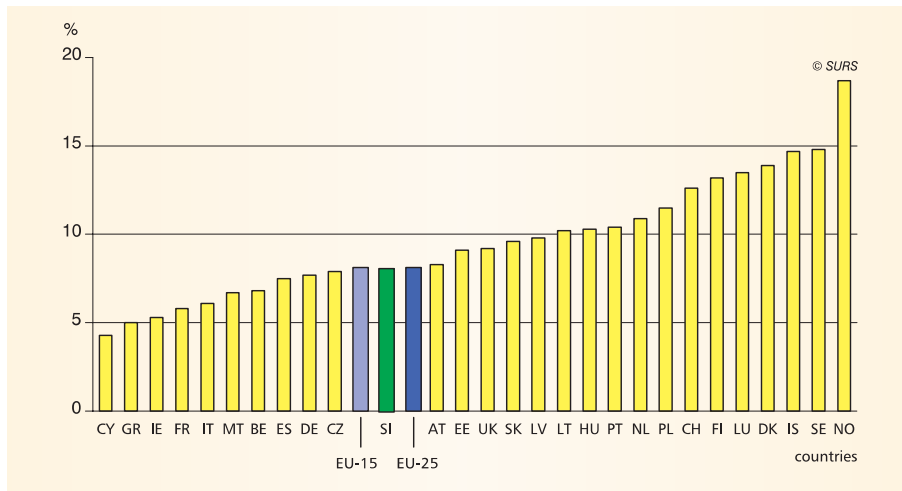
Expenditure on social protection and social benefits, % of GDP, by function, Slovenia, 1996-2004



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

- Over two thirds of social protection programmes in Slovenia are funded from social contributions from employers and insured persons, and almost a third is funded from the national budget. The structure of funding sources changed considerably in the 1996–2004 period. The share of contributions from the state has been gradually increasing, while the share of contributions from employers has been gradually decreasing.
- In 2001, the funds the EU-15 countries earmarked for social protection increased, while the funds in the 1996–2000 period decreased in the majority of those countries. In 2001 in terms of the share of GDP spent on social protection Slovenia exceeded some other EU newcomers (Hungary 19.3% of GDP, Slovakia 18.9% of GDP and Malta 17.1% of GDP).

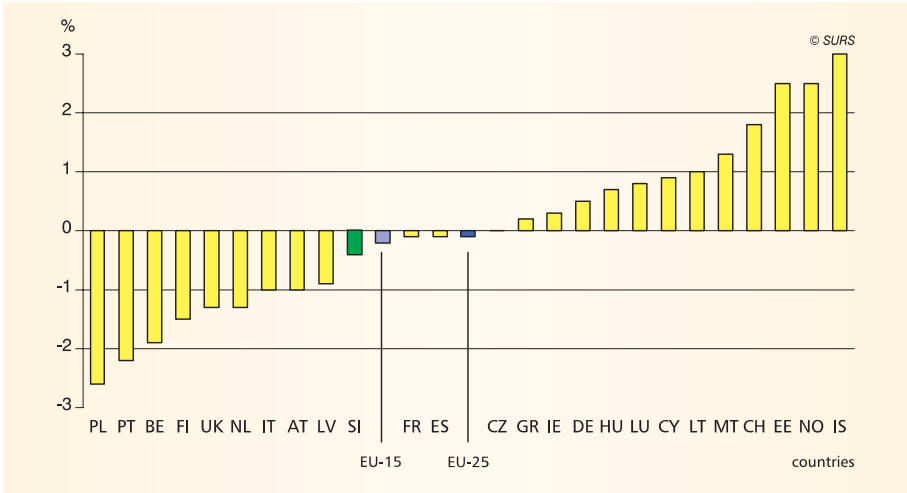
Expenditure on social benefits for disability function as a share of total expenditure on social benefits, EU-25, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, 2004



Source: EUROSTAT, New Cronos

- In 2004 Slovenia spent 24.3% of GDP on social protection, 0.7 of a percentage point less than in the year before and 0.3 of a percentage point more than in 1996. In real terms, expenditure on social protection in 2004 increased by 3.1 percentage points. The average share of GDP spent on social protection in the EU-15 countries was falling until 2000, and later started to increase. In terms of the share of GDP spent on social protection, Slovenia placed 14th in 2004 among the EU-25 countries, between Luxembourg (22.6% of GDP) and Portugal (24.9% of GDP). Among the ten new EU members of the EU-25, Slovenia placed first in terms of the share of GDP spent on social protection.
- In 2004, Slovenia earmarked for social protection 3 percentage points less of GDP than the EU-25 average. Differences among Member States were great; Sweden was far ahead with 32.9% of GDP, while Lithuania placed last (13.3% of GDP). Conversion on the basis of purchasing power standards shows that Luxembourg, Sweden and Denmark spend the most on social protection in real terms. The EU-25 Member States in 2004 spent on average EUR 6,188 per citizen (the EU-15 Member States spent EUR 7,130), while Slovenia spent EUR 3,196.

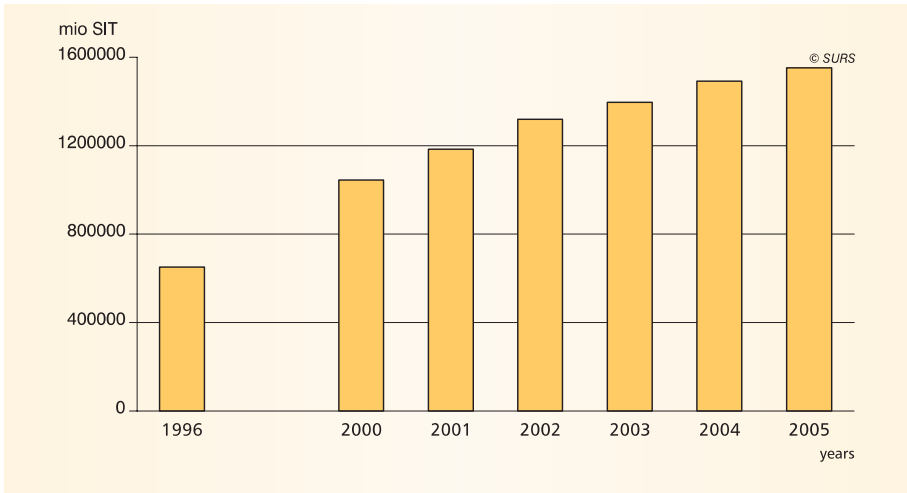
Expenditure on social benefits for disability function as a share of total expenditure on social benefits, EU-25, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, difference between 1994 and 2004



Source: EUROSTAT, New Cronos

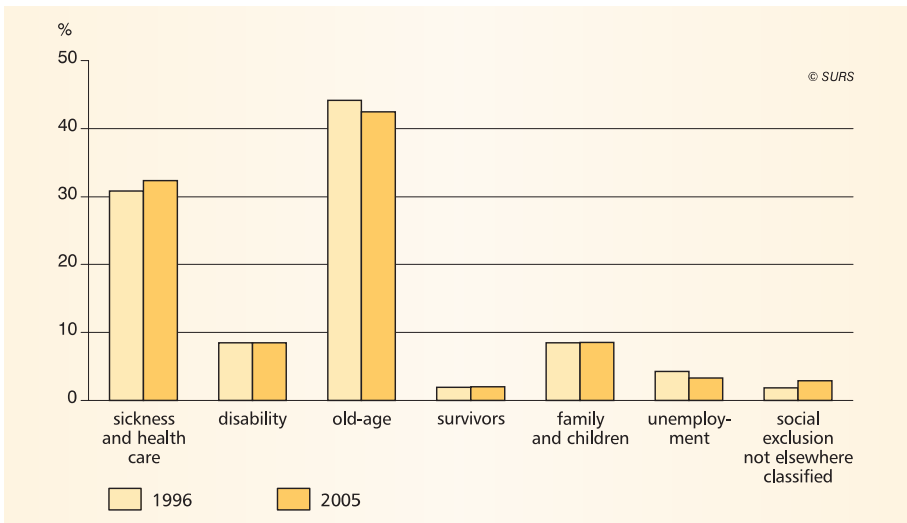
■ In the structure of all funds spent on social protection, measured as a share of GDP, the share of funds spent on sickness and health care increased in the 1996–2004 period both in Slovenia and the EU-15 countries, while the share of funds spent on unemployment decreased. The share of funds spent on children and the family in Slovenia somewhat increased, while it remained level in the EU-15 countries. The share of funds spent on disability somewhat decreased both in Slovenia and the EU-15 countries. The share of funds for the social protection of family members after the death of a family provider in Slovenia decreased, and it remained flat in the EU-15. The share of funds spent on old age in Slovenia also decreased (as a consequence of the pension reform in 2000), and increased slightly in the EU-15.

Expenditure on social benefits, Slovenia, 1996 and 2000-2005



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

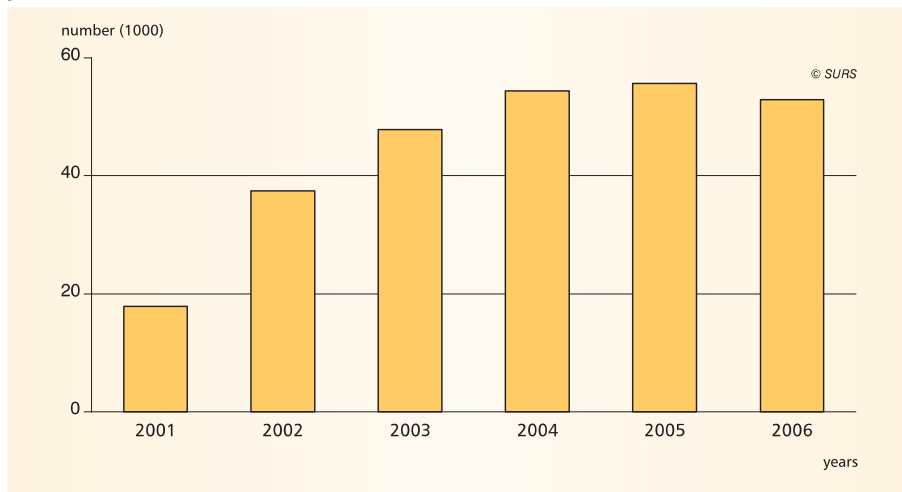
Expenditure on social benefits by social protection function, Slovenia, 1996 and 2005



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

CASH AND SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Average monthly number of recipients of financial social assistance for limited period of time, Slovenia, 2001-2006

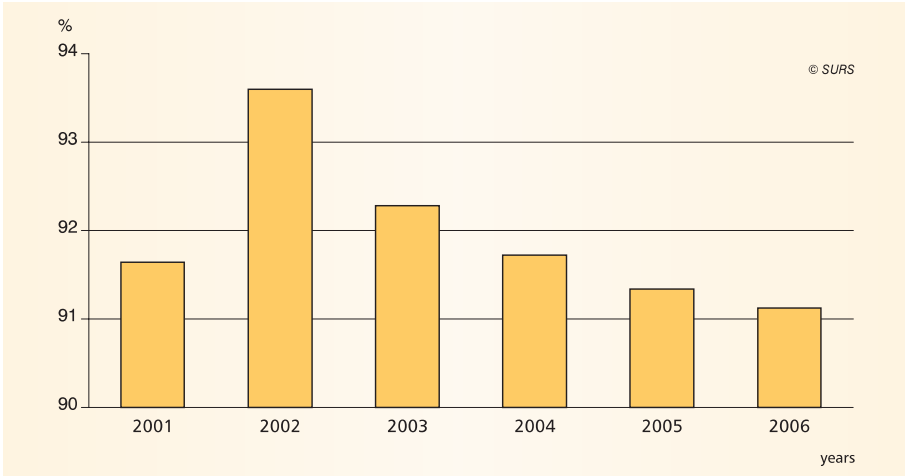


Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

■ Various forms of financial social assistance in Slovenia in 2006 were received on average by 58,064 people every month, which is 4.8% more than in 2005. Among them, the majority were recipients of extraordinary financial social assistance for limited period of time (91.1%), and only 6.0% of those received extraordinary financial social assistance – one-off. Permanent financial social assistance was received by 468 recipients. The average financial social assistance was SIT 47,713 (EUR 199.1) per month. The items which increased were: extraordinary financial social assistance for limited period of time (by 1.7%), permanent financial social assistance (by 2.3%), and extraordinary financial social assistance – one-off (by 2.8%). Meanwhile extraordinary financial social assistance for limited period of time increased by 2.7%.

■ Adults (36,888) were provided with the most types of social assistance services. The most common service was the first social assistance (more than two thirds of all services), also for families (16,641 families in 2006 received such assistance), while slightly more than two thirds of those in 2006 received first social assistance.

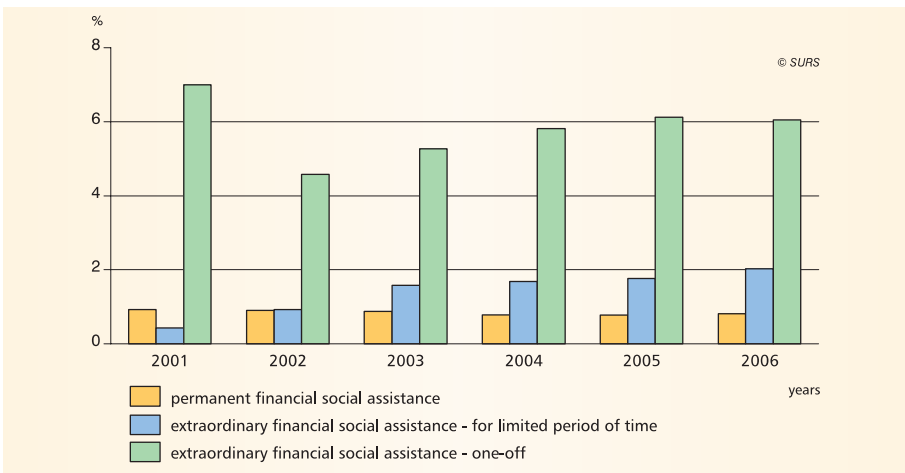
Shares of average monthly number of recipients of financial social assistance for limited period of time, Slovenia, 2001-2006



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

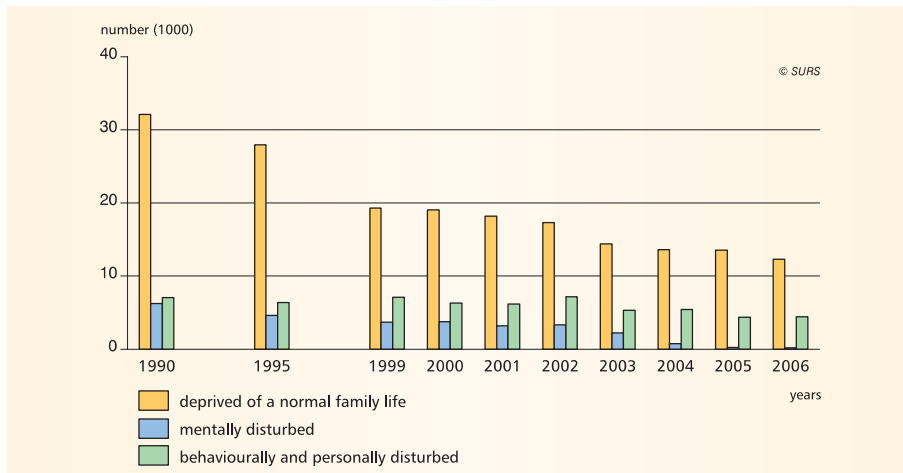
■ The welfare state is obliged to provide social protection to persons who, through no fault of their own, do not have enough means of subsistence and are therefore socially disadvantaged. In the existing social protection system, the fundamental social assistance benefits are the welfare allowance and financial supplement.

Shares of average monthly number of recipients of permanent financial social assistance, Slovenia, 2001-2006



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

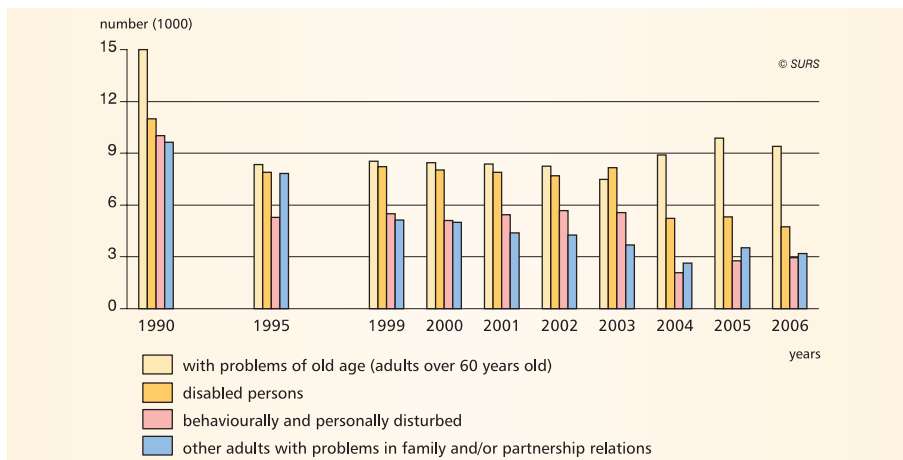
Children and youth users of services provided by centres for social work, Slovenia, 1990, 1995, 1999-2006



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

■ The value of social assistance benefits frequently appears insufficient in comparison with actual living costs of providing an individual with a life of human dignity. The one-off extraordinary financial social assistance to bridge existing material distress is welcome, but it cannot help people with serious material difficulties in the long term.

Adult users of services provided by centres for social work, Slovenia, 1990, 1995, 1999-2006



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

RECIPIENTS OF DISABILITY PENSIONS

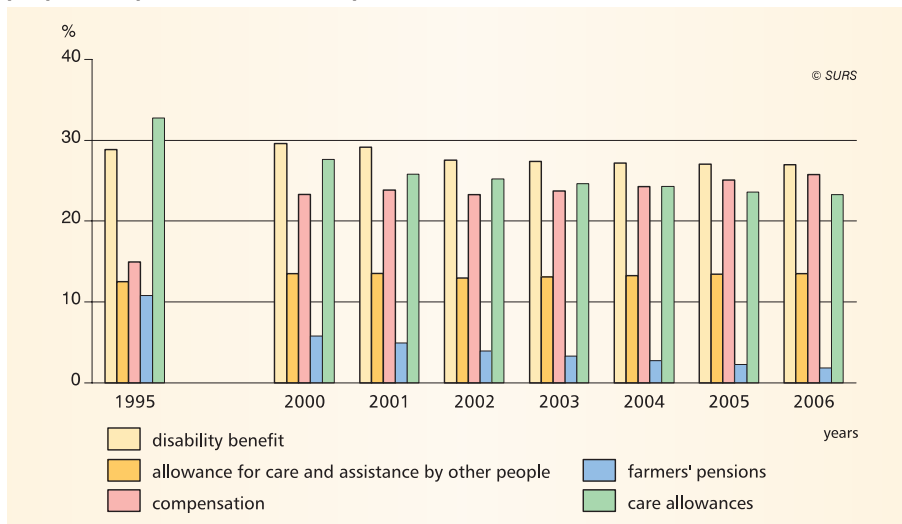
Shares of recipients of old-age, disability and survivor's pensions, Slovenia, 1995 and 2000-2006



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

- Among all citizens of Slovenia in 2006, 26.7% were retired, which is 0.2 of a percentage point more than in 2005.
- A completely new right to the national pension came into force in 2000 under a new act, and was provided by the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute, while it was not a right deriving from compulsory insurance. The funds for such insurance are provided by the state. The conditions for its implementation have changed through the years. In 2006, there were on average 17,690 recipients of national pensions each month, 3.0% more than in 2005.
- The number of disability pensioners in Slovenia has been decreasing since 2000. The dynamics of growth of the number of disability pensioners is influenced by the size and movement of the population of employed workers, the level of organisation and development of the health care system, occupational safety in the widest sense, and types and number of diseases and injuries. The reasons for disability are primarily diseases and injuries arising from work; injuries at work and occupational diseases have less influence on retirement.
- In the structure of retired persons in 2006, disability pensioners represented 17.9%, old-age pensioners 60.1%, survivor's and widow pensioners 17.2% (95.2% of all pensioners), while recipients of other types of pension (war veteran pensions, pension advances, farmers' pensions) represented 1.5%, and 3.3% received national pensions.

Shares of recipients of disability benefit, allowance for care and assistance by other people, compensation, farmers' pensions, care allowances



Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

■ Besides pensions and allowances for persons with work-related disability, insured persons also receive other cash benefits: income support, disability allowance for physical impairment and care allowance; an additional right is also a part of widow pension.

Income support is a social corrective aimed at improving the material security of recipients of the minimum pension, insured for the whole scope of rights from the obligatory insurance. The right depends on the property conditions of the recipients of the pension and family members with whom they live together in the household. The number of recipients of income support in 2006 decreased by 0.2% in comparison with 2005.

■ The number of recipients of disability allowance for motive impediments in 2006 increased by 1.1% in comparison with 2005.

■ The number of recipients of the care allowance in 2006 in comparison with 2005 increased by 1.8%, to 27,656 recipients. A lower amount of the care allowance was received by 15,521 recipients (56.1%), and higher amount by 11,133 recipients (40.3%), while the care allowance for the persons with most severe problems was received by 344 recipients (1.2%), and 658 recipients (2.4% of the total number) received a proportional part of the care allowance.

Average age of recipients of old-age and disability pensions, Slovenia, 2000-2006



Source: Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia

■ **Age of retired persons upon retirement.** The legal requirements for the acquisition of the right to a pension, in particular an old-age pension, have been changing since the 2000 pension reform; as a rule they have become stricter. This has resulted in an increase in the real age of retirement, from 56 years and 1 month to 57 years and 4 months (by 1 year and 3 months) for women, and from 61 years to 61 years and 8 months (by 8 months) for men. In the last two years, the age of men upon retirement has not increased; it has even decreased (due to their right to reduce the retirement age limit for children, as it can be exercised by the father instead of the mother). In comparison with 2005, the actual retirement age of women in 2006 increased by 1 month, and remained level for men. The average age of women upon retirement according to the general rules on compulsory insurance in 2006 was 57 years and 4 months, while for men it stood at 61 years and 8 months.

■ The average retirement age in the period between 1999 and 2006 increased year by year both for 'new' old-age pensioners and 'new' disability pensioners. The average age of disability pensioners upon retirement in 2006 according to the general rules on compulsory insurance was 50 years and 4 months for women, and 53 years and 5 months for men.

■ In 2006, the average age of 'new' disability pensioners decreased by two months (increasing by a month for women and decreasing by three months for men).

• DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS OF SOME BASIC CONCEPTS USED •

DATABASE is a multi-user, formally defined and centrally controlled data collection. It is a mass of mutually connected data stored in a computer system, while access to it is centralised and is made possible through a database management system.

DISABLED WORKERS are insured persons who, due to their disability, acquired one of the rights under disability insurance in accordance with the Pension and Disability Insurance Act (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 12/92).

INCOME SUPPORT is a social corrective aimed at improving the material security of recipients of the minimum pension, insured for the whole scope of rights from obligatory insurance. The right depends on the property conditions of the recipients of the pension and family members with whom they live together in the household.

INJURY AT WORK is in accordance with the Pension and Disability Insurance Act (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 26/03) defined as an injury occurring at an employment position, on the way from and to work, or on a business trip.

NEW CRONOS: a database of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat).

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES are all those pathological conditions directly related to the regular work (occupation) of a patient.

PPP: purchasing power standards

SZK: Act on Old-Age Insurance for Farmers

ZPIZ: Pension and Disability Insurance Act; also the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of the Republic of Slovenia

ZUZIO: Act Regulating the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons

ZZRZI: Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons Act

LIST OF COUNTRIES: NAMES AND THEIR ISO CODES (ISO 3166)

Name of country	Abbreviation	Name of country	Abbreviation	Name of country	Abbreviation
TOTAL EU-15	EU-15	Greece	GR	Netherlands	NL
TOTAL EU-25	EU-25	Ireland	IE	Norway	NO
Austria	AT	Iceland	IS	Poland	PL
Belgium BE		Italy	IT	Portugal	PT
Cyprus	CY	Latvia	LV	Slovakia	SK
Czech Republic	CZ	Lithuania	LT	Slovenia	SI
Denmark	DK	Luxembourg	LU	Spain	ES
Estonia	EE	Hungary	HU	Sweden	SE
Finland	FI	Malta	MT	Switzerland	CH
France	FR	Germany	DE	United Kingdom	UK

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