



# Poverty Watch Report Slovenia

***ENDING POVERTY IS A POLITICAL CHOICE!***

Report prepared by EAPN Slovenia  
Edited by Živa Humer, PhD and Jean Nikolić

September 2021

## Table of Contents

1. EUROPEAN ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK (EAPN) AND EAPN SLOVENIA.....	1
2. POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION WATCH REPORT SLOVENIA.....	2
3. INCREASE IN POVERTY AND INEQUALITY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC .....	3
4. ELDERLY, CONDITIONS DURING EPIDEMIC AND DISARRAY OF LONG-TERM CARE SYSTEM .....	5
5. KEY CHALLENGES – TESTIMONIES OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION .	6
5.1. Minimum Income .....	6
5.2 Factors Influencing Living in Poverty.....	7
5.3 Defining Poverty .....	8
5.4 Effects of Pandemic.....	8
5.5 Apartment Availability.....	11
5.6 Role of State and NGOs in Elimination of Poverty and Social Exclusion .....	11
6. RISE OF DOMESTIC AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC .....	13
7. FOCUS: DISABLED (WORKERS) .....	15
8. GOOD PRACTICES .....	17
9. KEY MESSAGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	20
10. SOURCES.....	22

# 1. EUROPEAN ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK (EAPN) AND EAPN SLOVENIA

The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), established in 1991, is the largest European network of national, regional and local networks and European organisations active in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. It currently unites 31 national networks and 13 European organisations whose main activities involve the fight against poverty and social exclusion. EAPN acts for and in cooperation with persons who experience poverty, and jointly designs policies on both the national and EU levels with them as key stakeholders. It promotes measures to eliminate poverty and social exclusion, raises awareness of the issue of poverty among experts and general public, and offers people living in poverty empowerment and advocacy. EAPN has consultative status with the Council of Europe and is a founding member of the Social Platform, which is the largest network of European social NGOs.

In May 2019, 13 organisations established the network EAPN Slovenia. On the European level, Slovenian membership was officially confirmed at the EAPN General Assembly in Helsinki in September 2019.

EAPN Slovenia, which is coordinated by CNVOS, is currently composed of 19 organisations:

- Association Counselling for Workers
- Forum for Equitable Development
- Movement for Decent Work and Welfare Society
- Association Cultural, Informational and Counselling Centre Legebitra
- Association for Help and Self-Help of the Homeless Kings of the Street
- Association of Volunteers of St. Vincent de Paul
- Association ŠKUC
- Women's Lobby of Slovenia
- Peace Institute
- Mozaik, Association for Social Inclusion
- OPRO, Institute for Applicative Studies
- Slovenian Red Cross, Regional Association Ljubljana
- Slovenian Third Age University, National Association for Education and Social Inclusion
- Transfeminist Initiative TransAkcija Institute
- Institute Three, Institute for Sustainable Community Practices
- Slovenian Federation of Pensioners' Associations
- Association of Friends of Youth Domžale
- Association of Friends of Youth Ljubljana Moste-Polje
- Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth

EAPN Slovenia's key endeavours are focused on the elimination of poverty and social exclusion of all marginalised groups and individuals, based on their needs and experiences. EAPN Slovenia's key areas of work include long-term care, housing policy, precariousness, access to health-care services, intersectionalities etc. The areas of focus are supplemented and added in accordance with the interests and capacities of the members.

## 2. POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION WATCH REPORT SLOVENIA

The Poverty And Social Exclusion Watch Report Slovenia is the second report of this kind that was prepared within the framework of EAPN Slovenia. Participating in the report were: Klara Golob (Red Cross Slovenia, Regional Association Ljubljana), Mojca Frelih, MA (Peace Institute), Dušana Findeisen, PhD (Slovenian Third Age University), Jean Nikolić and Hana Košan (Association for Help and Self-Help of the Homeless Kings of the Street), Goran Lukić (Counselling for Workers), Anita Ogulin and Doris Rojo (Association of Friends of Youth Ljubljana Moste-Polje), Pika Potočnik (Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth) and Sonja Šavel (Mozaik, Association for Social Inclusion). It was edited by Živa Humer, PhD (Peace Institute) and Jean Nikolić (Association for Help and Self-Help of the Homeless Kings of the Street) and translated by Marin Cvetkovič.

The key part of the report are the testimonies, reflections and stories of persons who have experienced poverty and participated in the two discussion groups that were organised for the purposes of this report in July and August 2021. Four persons participated in the first discussion group, which was on the subject of *Families Living in Poverty*. The discussions took place at Red Cross Slovenia – Regional Association Ljubljana and the Association of Friends of Youth Ljubljana Moste-Polje. At the time of the discussions, two of the participants were unemployed, one was retired due to disability, and one was employed part-time due to disability. Three of the participants are single mothers, and one is married/in a partnership. All of them have children aged 2 to 12, with at least one of their children enrolled in primary school. Four persons, two men and women, participated in a second discussion group on the subject of *Homelessness and Social Exclusion* that took place at the Association for Help and Self-Help of the Homeless Kings of the Street. At the time of the discussion, all of the persons were unemployed, one was retired due to disability, and two worked as volunteers. One participant is a mother of two adult children, and the rest are single and without children. The greatest added value of the discussion groups comes from the direct insight into "the making and maintaining" of poverty and social exclusion in Slovenia. At the same time, the discussion groups represent EAPN Slovenia's significant step towards the empowerment, inclusion and recognition of persons experiencing poverty as key stakeholders in the joint design of policies and measures for the elimination of poverty and social exclusion.

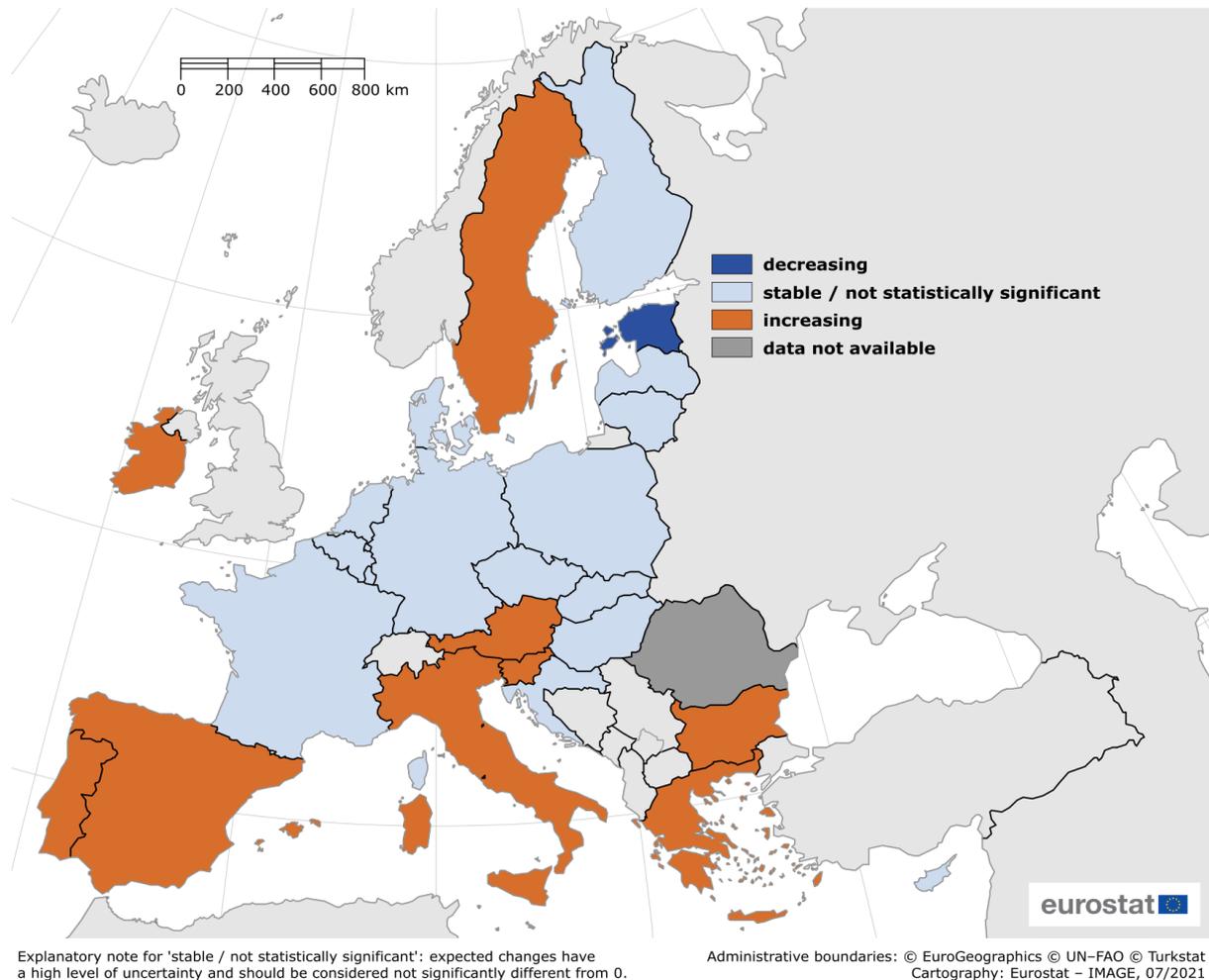
Many humanitarian and other organisations assisting individuals in need reported on the increase of poverty and social exclusion in the years of COVID-19, 2020 and 2021. Along with that, the problem of increasing reports of domestic and intimate partner violence became apparent, which is why we addressed the issue of *Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence in Relation to Poverty and Gender Inequality* in an expert discussion group. NGO representatives from Women's Counselling, the Association SOS Telephone for Women and Children – Victims of Violence, the Association for Non-Violent Communication and the Association of Friends of Youth Ljubljana Moste-Polje participated in this discussion group.

In the report, we first present some recent statistics that bear witness to the increase of poverty and inequality in Slovenia. Next, we problematise the situation of the elderly, which has worsened in the last period. This is followed by key challenges from the testimonies of persons experiencing poverty, especially minimum income, factors that influence living in poverty, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, availability of apartments and services. In an additional chapter, we focus on the experiences of NGO outreach regarding intimate partner and domestic violence. Furthermore, we stress the issues faced by disabled (workers), followed by good practices for reducing poverty and social exclusion and some concluding remarks and recommendations for policy makers. The report is interlaced with testimonies, reflections and recommendations of persons experiencing poverty.

### 3. INCREASE IN POVERTY AND INEQUALITY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Slovenia is one of the seven European Union countries in which the at-risk-of-poverty rate has increased in 2020.

#### At-risk-of-poverty rate in 2020, early estimates (compared with 2019; population aged 18-64)



Source: Eurostat, 2021.

In Slovenia 254.000 persons lived below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold, which was 11.000 persons more than in 2019. The monthly at-risk-of-poverty threshold for a single-person household was 739 EUR, 1.551 EUR a month for a four-person household (two adults and two children younger than 14), and 1.108 EUR a month for a two-person household without children. The at-risk-of-poverty rate was 12,4% (SURS, 2021).

Out of 254.000 persons living below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold,

- 97.000 were retired persons, two thirds of them women,

- 46.000 were the working poor (5 % of the active working population),
- 38.000 were unemployed (43,4 % of all unemployed),
- 41.000 were underage children, a tenth of all children in Slovenia and
- 32.000 were other persons (persons unable to work, housewives, students and other inactive persons)(SURS, 2021).

The at-risk-of-poverty threshold is not the same for all individuals and groups. The data of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia indicates that those most at risk of poverty are the elderly, especially women, the working poor whose wages are below the minimum subsistence level, the unemployed, young people and children from poor families, single-person households and single-parent households with at least one dependent child, 81,3% of those being single-parent households (SURS, 2021; Rajšp, 2018).

Social welfare legislation stipulates that financial social assistance should cover the minimum life necessities in the amount which ensures subsistence. The minimum income defined as the census for the allocation of financial assistance (402,18 EUR) is significantly lower than the minimum wage (1.024 EUR gross income or 736 EUR net income) with the aim of encouraging persons to seek employment. The net minimum wage in the period 2005-2019 did not exceed the at-risk-of-poverty threshold (Breznik idr., 2021:32). A minimum wage that is similar to the at-risk-of-poverty threshold therefore cannot ensure a decent living; it merely creates the working poor.

It is also problematic that a minimum income cannot ensure subsistence and active integration into society or the labour market. The number of persons eligible for financial social assistance is increasing: in 2018, 83.295 persons were recipients of financial social assistance, in 2019, the number was 90.922, and in 2020, it was already 99.297. The number of long-term beneficiaries has also increased since 54,74 % of all beneficiaries received long-term (at least two of the preceding three years) financial assistance in 2018, 57 % in 2019, and 58,65 % in 2020 (MDDSZ, ISCS2). This indicates a long-term dependence on financial social assistance, limited opportunities to escape poverty and difficulty entering the labour market. Financial social assistance is also received by employed persons, especially those on a minimum wage who are in precarious work and supporting children.

The COVID-19 pandemic has especially affected precarious workers. A large part of them do not meet the criteria necessary to receive government assistance, because they have precarious contracts or do temporary work. Women and minorities are disproportionately represented in retail, healthcare and the social field, which pay badly. In the last year and a half, many independent entrepreneurs in service activities have lost employment. Despite government assistance, many of the self-employed cannot cover the high fixed costs of business (e.g. rent, payments of the debt on fixed assets). The humanitarian organisations in Slovenia have been warning of the steep rise of recipients of assistance, especially persons who have lost employment, precarious workers, persons with low income, persons who needed assistance during the economic crisis ten years ago and now need it again, along with the current recipients whose distress has only increased.

## 4. ELDERLY, CONDITIONS DURING EPIDEMIC AND DISARRAY OF LONG-TERM CARE SYSTEM

The COVID-19 epidemic mainly affected the elderly by way of additional social exclusion, the shifting of attitudes towards the elderly and the increased difficulty in accessing services. At the panel of the Gerontological Association of Slovenia that took place in June 2019 on the subject of the *Social Inclusion of the Elderly after the Epidemic*, 19 contributions by experts were presented, outlining the many challenges of living that the elderly faced during and after the epidemic (Gerontološko društvo Slovenije, 2021). Multiple NGOs, members of EAPN included, carried out additional activities to respond to the distress of the elderly and keep in contact with vulnerable groups despite the restrictions (e.g. the Humanitarček Association created *ČvekiFON*, a free chat for the elderly, the Slovenian Red Cross, Regional Association Ljubljana, created a hotline to support the elderly, the Pensioners' Associations increased telephone contacts between people under *The Elderly for the Elderly* program. Outreach and direct work with people exposed many hardships, some new and some already existing, as shown by the following notes:

*"The home-care nurse of a retired lady called. The lady lives alone in an apartment block, she's on oxygen and has trouble moving. She also receives minimum pension, so I'd like to ask for a hot meal for her. Her sister helped her with her cooking before (she has no other relatives), but she can't get to her now, since there's no public transport, and they are both elderly."* (The transcript of a call received on a hotline for urgent care by a volunteer at the RCS-RA Ljubljana during the epidemic, 1st wave (Golob, 2021)).

*"Because of bad digital competence, in this case being ignorant of e-prescriptions, and the difficulty in getting information (wearing a mask, the stress of being treated), the older woman did not take blood pressure medications, which again resulted in a medical emergency."* (From an analysis of a case of an older person that needed repeated medical care (Milavec Kapun, 2021)).

Existing hardships and needs of the elderly greatly increased. The problems of the current system of health and social care and the disarray of the long-term care system also became apparent (Čeh, 2021; Dimerl idr., 2020). A *Bill on Long-term Care* was under consideration in 2020, but the matter has not advanced since. The disarray of the long-term care system influences many aspects of living, not only of the elderly who do not receive appropriate support, but also the middle generation, especially women, who are taking on the role of informal carers to a great extent.

Recent statistical data on the risk of poverty and social exclusion also show that the elderly are at the greatest risk of living in poverty, especially women (23 % in comparison to 12 % at-risk-of-poverty rate of the general population), the risk being 28,1 % among women older than 75 (SURs 2020). 57,4 % of all pensioners were receiving pensions under 700 EUR, meaning they were under the at-risk-of-poverty threshold (Gregorčič in Kajzer, 2021). Still remaining is the challenge of the availability of income support, a social benefit which is supposed to be a form of social security for persons who can no longer ensure their subsistence by working. Out of 90.000 pensioners receiving income that was under the at-risk-of-poverty threshold, only 23.500 were recipients of income support. The insufficient and false information on this form of government assistance and the difficulty of the process are the key reasons why many do not receive this form of assistance despite both needing it and being eligible.

## 5. KEY CHALLENGES – TESTIMONIES OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

In this chapter, we focus on the key problems and challenges faced every day by the participants in the discussion groups. The purpose of the quotes from the discussion groups is to make the voice of persons experiencing poverty and social exclusion even louder.

### 5.1. Minimum Income

The participants have difficulties subsisting on minimum personal income. They exceed the census for minimum personal income by only a few EUR (up to 5 EUR). Some receive bonuses for voluntary work, which have a great effect on their financial situation, others receive income support.

*"I'm 58 years old, a mother of two children, we live in an emergency housing unit of the Housing Fund, I am unemployed, I get by with social welfare and voluntary work." (author's note: a person receiving financial social assistance can receive a bonus for work activity if she/he has a written contract of voluntary work and work actively 60 to 128 hours a month. For many, this bonus is an additional financial source that they can use to improve their living situation).*

*"I live in an emergency housing unit, I get by on social welfare and income support, because I have status of disability. I also sell a street newspaper, I am 36 years old."*

In 2021, the minimum personal income for a single person was 402,18 EUR, 639,57 EUR for a two-person household (a parent and a child) and 1343,59 EUR for a five-person household (2 parents, 3 children). At the same time, the at-risk-of-poverty threshold for a single person was 732 EUR in 2021, which again shows the large gap between the safety net supposedly provided by the state with financial social assistance in the amount of the minimum personal income and the actual requirements for a decent living.

Surviving on minimum income presents a significant challenge for people experiencing poverty. This is apparent from their fear of possible extraordinary and additional expenses (e.g. car repair or some other necessary repair, a balance payment for electricity).

*"In that regard, there are basics that everyone experiences. Additional expense is a real stumbling block, basic means are running out, it is a matter of getting food month to month."*

*"I and my daughter can't get by month to month on this income. I don't even know what luxury is, but nevertheless. I have an old car which I constantly repair, and I can't afford a new one. It's a constant source of stress that nothing should go wrong, especially when there was COVID-19 lockdown and there was no other transport. You're stressed all the time. God forbid that something major should happen because I don't have enough for repairs."*

Serious hardships occur with possible losses of income (sick leave, delayed payments of financial social assistance etc.).

*"It happens a few times a year that I have a longer sick leave. This can last two months and that's when the loss [of income] is really big."*

Many suffered even greater hardships during the COVID-19 period, the participants reported.

*"We didn't get anything from social services, we were waiting for a decision. This was during COVID-19, in the winter. The bills piled up, there was no food."*

*"I live at the Kings of the Street housing program, I am 43 years old, unemployed, I survive on social welfare, I also receive the voluntary work bonus. My life collapsed because of the Covid-19 situation, I lost my job and housing."*

## **5.2 Factors Influencing Living in Poverty**

Various life events have significantly influenced the current situation of the participants and their ability to acquire the means for a decent living:

- the loss of employment,
- the dissolution of a marriage – living in a single-parent household with a single source of income,
- illness – the inability to work full-time working hours,
- retiring on disability,
- the birth of children with special needs,
- the threat of losing housing and
- various forms of addiction.

*"Everything changed then, first because of the divorce and after that because of a serious illness. I have been retired for five years, and I have four-hour workdays, everything went downhill from there. I'd like to work, but I mustn't because of the illness."*

One of the participants found herself in a situation with minimum personal income after her maternity leave was over, and she could not find new employment during the epidemic.

The greatest challenge of escaping their difficult situation lies in the high and unrealistic prices of rental apartments and problems (stigma) finding decent employment. The participants also stress how poverty influences mental health.

*"After losing my employment, I went from 1300 Euros of income a month to between 400 and 500. Rent was 450 Euros and that was that. I did not have any money, so I began to beg, and to beg, you have to be a little loaded, otherwise you won't even be able to open your mouth. And after you're a little loaded, what's there to do but drink more, and you find yourself in a vicious circle."*

*"When I moved from the housing program to a sublet, the rent became incredibly high and ate all my income. After that, I got an emergency housing unit from the housing fund, but it's very small. I'm mostly hindered by the fact that I can't get employment because of my illness."*

*"I'm estimating that unemployment and the problem of housing are the factors that have the most effect my life."*

### 5.3 Defining Poverty

*"... scraping by."*

*"Not having the basic necessities, everything from food to housing. It's the only thing I'm really afraid of. Not being able to provide food and shelter for your child."*

Despite getting by on minimum income, the participants mentioned persons living in even more difficult conditions. For example, they do not think of themselves as having a hard time in comparison with people in some countries where poverty is absolute, or where there is no financial social assistance. They have difficulties defining themselves as persons living in poverty: *"Yes, when you think of those who have even less, of something that's worse."*

*"I think that poverty has been with me and my daughter for some time, so my perception is a bit different, in the sense that my judgement on what is poverty is off. /.../ Because there were times when I was without food for two days because I gave it to my daughter, and this was not some salami or something like that but something really basic so we could scrape by month to month. Even today, there are still moments like this."*

During the discussion, the participants focused on defining poverty as absolute poverty – the lack of basic necessities, food and shelter. At the same time, they stressed the relative aspect of poverty, since it had an effect on their entire lives, mindset, health and wellbeing.

*"I'd like to point out social exclusion and the lack of basic necessities – food, a roof over one's head, being somewhere warm in the winter, having the ability to wash yourself."*

*"To be pushed away, to belong to no one but the street. To be ashamed of yourself. To ask: Why, what is it that you're missing, aren't you a human being?"*

*"Poverty is what I'm living. Getting by day to day, living on the streets. To lead a normal life, out of poverty, I'd need around 1000 Euros a month by my criteria. 500 Euros for rent and expenses, the rest for food and so on."*

### 5.4 Effects of Pandemic

On the initiative of the member AFY Moste-Polje and in the framework of EAPN Slovenia, we called on the government and responsible ministries to help families and children in February 2021, when schools and kindergartens had already been closed for three months. We stressed the importance of education in escaping poverty and social exclusion and the importance of cooperation with the government and ministries when designing the policies that would halt the drastic worsening of the conditions. We received responses from two of the ministries, but the actual proposals have not been realised for now.

The epidemic prevention measure that has most hurt families with school children was the closing of schools. In the school year of 2020/21, children were educated remotely for most of the school year, which caused families facing poverty distress on multiple levels. The families did not have the technology (computers, cameras, internet) required for their children's online schooling. Despite many activities in 2020, in 2021, NGOs were still solving the situations of the families whose children did not have the conditions necessary for online schooling. Along with technological provisions, a common problem was the illiteracy and digital competence of the parents and that they did not have

enough time to offer support to their children, who were deprived of important social interactions that positively influence their physical and mental wellbeing.

All of the participants experienced distress related to the epidemic.

*"During corona, I could depend only on myself, I was under a lot of stress. My husband is illiterate, he can't help my girls. I could help them a bit, but not enough, which showed in their grades."*

The lockdowns also caused that children with special needs did not get professional help or regular therapy sessions, which could significantly affect their progress at that developmental stage.

*"During the epidemic, the child didn't go to kindergarten and missed a lot. Because he goes to therapy there."*

Professionals in school advisory services were of great support to some families.

*"The psychologist helped a lot, we spent hours and hours on the telephone. The teachers were very accommodating as well, they know that I'm an old-fashioned woman and don't know much about technology. I can only praise them."*

However, that was often not enough, since NGOs had to step in to deal with many of the hardships of the families facing poverty.

One of the positive measures of the government introduced during the autumn wave of the epidemic was the provision of hot meals for all children that were receiving fully subsidized school meals before that. This measure, however, did not reach all of the families that experienced distress for the first time because of a dip in their income (furlough, loss of employment etc.).

One measure that also affected many families was the suspension of public transport, since it meant greater reliance on either their own or other, more expensive, means of transport.

During the epidemic, the homeless and socially disadvantaged were those most deprived of services. We can point out low levels of digital competence, which became key for acquiring life necessities, since communication with various institutions and managing of administrative affairs was mostly electronic. Social interactions, important for physical and mental wellbeing, were also limited.

*"At the beginning of the year, there were very few people outside, and you could easily become depressed or even lonelier than usual. As a homeless person, I simply couldn't get any money. At least not in an honest way. Before, I sold street newspapers, but this wasn't possible anymore. And so you start thinking of crime. The availability of shelters, food, healthcare, social services and the like was limited. We, the homeless, were already in a hard spot, and then they started fining us for breaking the curfew, even though there was no way we could consistently obey it."*

*"I became depressed, at the top of that, I began to quarrel with my partner. Everything was closed, there was no money. Mental problems piled up. If they hadn't accepted me in the housing program, I would have been on the street."*

*"Before the epidemic, I was a cleaner at two establishments. When those closed, I was left without an income. Suddenly, there was silence everywhere."*

*"It was really hard for me during the epidemic. I spent all my time in a small, confined room. Because of the isolation, I suffered quite a few mental hardships."*

The uncertainty and distress of daily coping affect a person's everyday life and, indirectly, their mental health. The feelings of shame, stress, uncertainty and powerlessness are related to poverty.

*"I'm always serious, I can't relax, I'm always on my guard about what's going to happen here or there. I have to pay attention to what someone is saying to protect myself and my child. And that's not my nature, but life makes it so, struggling makes it so. I needed a lot of time to open up."*

## TOM TELEFON AND EFFECTS OF COVID-19 EPIDEMIC

Social distancing, which turned out to be the main protection against the spread of the infection, significantly affected the dynamics of interpersonal relationships. Children and adolescents were probably most hurt by the coronavirus crisis. Closed schools and kindergartens meant that many children lost important factors of protection – social interactions with their peers (a developmental need) and the ability to get good learning support and distance themselves from families with dysfunctional patterns. Other protective factors were school and after-school activities, which were also suspended. The epidemic's effect on children and adolescents is apparent from the questions received on TOM telefon, a general helpline for children and adolescents. Subjects that predominated before, peer relations, love, sex, physical development and school, were pushed into the background with the start of the epidemic. The subjects now at the forefront related to family, mental health and suicidal thoughts. The 2020 trend is continuing into 2021. The most common subjects are: relationships with parents and peers, depression and suicidal thoughts. The use of e-mail and chats which they use to address more difficult issues (depression, self-harm, suicidal thoughts, domestic violence etc.) is on the rise. They often say that they do not wish/cannot talk about the issues, they would rather write about them. They imagine that, in that way, they will solve their problems. This is why we, the adults, must pay special attention that these most vulnerable children and adolescents do not disappear into virtual channels, away from live interactions and actual sources of help.

*"I'm 16 years old and have been depressed and without energy for some time. It's worse since the corona because I haven't been able to see my boyfriend. He's the only bright spot, and he understands and supports me. But he has a lot of problems himself. At home, we just quarrel anyway. My parents never ask me how I'm feeling, as if I was invisible. I asked my mom if we could visit a psychologist several times, but she always forgets to make an appointment for me."*

During both lockdowns in the spring and autumn of 2020, the number of contacts caused by domestic violence increased by 25 % compared to the same period in the years 2015-2019. Family problems or relationships with parents are the most common issues reported by adolescents. Family relationships remain one of the predominant subjects on TOM telefon. In the first half of 2021, they represented 20,5 %. The most common issues are relationships with parents, domestic violence and relationships with siblings.

## 5.5 Apartment Availability

Solving the housing problem presents a significant challenge for three of the participants. They recounted the many relocations, difficulties of finding safe housing where their address can be registered, the long wait times for the apartments of the Public Housing Fund and the bad conditions in which they live (e.g. 4 family members on 30 m<sup>2</sup>). Despite that, the acquisition of a non-profit apartment is a great relief and provides at least some security for the persons experiencing poverty.

*“All together, it’s 35m<sup>2</sup>, my daughter doesn’t have her own room, but we’re happy to be together.”*

The Public Housing Fund is insufficient, and the rents on the housing market are too high in comparison with the average income. The subletting system is relatively unregulated and uncertain (e.g. illegal renting).

The high rents have an effect on homelessness and frequent relocations. Landlords are usually not interested in making subsidies possible, and persons in apartments for rent are often without lease agreements, which means they have no rights as tenants. The wait times for the emergency housing units of the Public Housing Fund are long, and there is a lack of non-profit apartments as well.<sup>1</sup> The participants stress that the emergency housing units are small, and, while they can solve a housing emergency, they are not a decent long-term solution to the housing problem.

*“With 400 Euros of social assistance, I can’t even afford to rent a small studio apartment, because you need to pay both rent and a security deposit.”*

*“The rents of the rooms and apartments for rent are extremely high. If you ask for a subsidy, they assume you don’t have enough money to pay the running expenses. I myself live in an emergency housing unit of the housing fund, I waited for it for a very long time. The cost aspect is great because the rent is really low, although the room is small, but it’s definitely better than being out on the street.”*

*“The emergency housing unit doesn’t solve my housing problem to my satisfaction. The apartment is small, 28 m<sup>2</sup>, and I live in it with my grown sons, who are 24 and 21. The older one is partially disabled. I split the room into two areas so they both have some personal space. The relationship with neighbours is terrible, they’re literally eating us alive, saying that we’re destitute and worthless, and that we, kings of the street, are nothing but ordinary bums. This hurts a lot. Despite the fact that I was never convicted and never did anything to anyone, I represent the worst to all the neighbours. Both I and my children. We have to walk very quietly through the common hallway, and we never invite anyone to visit because of the bad relationship with the neighbours.”*

## 5.6 Role of State and NGOs in Elimination of Poverty and Social Exclusion

Social and family benefits provided by the state, financial social assistance, emergency financial social assistance, income support, child allowances, subsidies and exemptions from payments, lower the level of poverty significantly. Without them, the at-risk-of-poverty rate would be 22,4 % instead of 12,4% (SURs, 2021<sup>2</sup>). At the same time, the reduction of the social state to the administrative distribution of social transfers does not eliminate many of the hardships that persons experience. As the participants of discussion groups explained, the resources are often not enough to make a living.

---

<sup>1</sup> The discussions took place in Ljubljana.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/News/Index/9624>

Despite multiple positive experiences with the social security system and Centres for Social Work, they also report feeling dehumanised and the lack of personal interactions with social workers. This only worsened during the epidemic.

*“We’re forgotten, we’re only numbers, we’re not important. Social worker doesn’t see you, doesn’t listen to your story, doesn’t ask how you found yourself in that situation. She only sees your application, document, she doesn’t try to understand you as a person, a human being, and why you ended up in such trouble. Because there are different troubles as well. This is why it would be better if that assistance was shared fairly. The most important thing is to listen to the person.”*

*“Because you’re only a number to them, but they don’t know what’s my problem, story. And this just eats me up. And they do that more and more often. We can’t even get real contact with the Centre for Social Work anymore so they see me, talk to me.”*

NGOs address the needs of marginalised groups of individuals and complement the social security system in an important way, especially by carrying out social security programs and humanitarian activities that include psychosocial assistance – support, provision of material aid like food, used clothes and things, financial humanitarian aid and holidays. The participants consider NGOs to be an important source of support and an indispensable part of the community.

*“For everything I have to take care of, I refer to the Association for Help and Self-Help of the Homeless Kings of the Street. I find out what I have to do there, then I write everything on a piece of paper. They usually send someone with me to take care of bureaucratic affairs because this has always made me panic. Of the government services, I only refer to the Centre for Social Work.”*

*“The Centre for Social Work is a necessity, but I’m no longer registered at the Employment Service. I go to an association that helps the homeless and another one that helps addicts. I’m also in rehab, and I also eat at NGOs.”*

*“Because I have status of disability, I manage most of my affairs through the Centre for Social Work. The NGO I work with the most is Kings of the Street because I sell street newspapers, and I’m also a homeless tour guide there. I don’t go much to other organisations. Every now and then I go to the Red Cross for a food parcel.”*

## 6. RISE OF DOMESTIC AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In 2020 and 2021 poverty and social exclusion deepened, as pointed out by many humanitarian and other organizations that have helped individuals in need, the problem of domestic and intimate partner violence was highlighted. Until 31 July 2021, the Police dealt with 728 criminal offenses of domestic violence, while in the same period in 2020 they dealt with 588 cases, in 2019 with 554 cases and in 2018 with 521 cases. Data show an increase in the number of criminal offenses of domestic violence in recent years. In the last year, the Police have recorded a 24% increase in criminal offences of domestic violence. According to the annual data, in 2018 the Police dealt with 1,371 criminal offenses of domestic violence, in 2019 1,336 criminal offenses and in 2020 1,478 criminal offenses. Annual data also show an increase in domestic violence.<sup>3</sup>

In the expert discussion group, the predominant opinion, based on outreach experience, was that violence has risen drastically during the epidemic because of several reasons: families were confined in very unequal housing and economic conditions, some have lost employment and income, stress was confined to the home environment, the sale of alcohol has increased drastically, online schooling, the inability to keep up with domestic and other situations, limited or no access to professional institutions such as Centres for Social Work, healthcare and educational and social protection systems. Various forms of domestic and intimate partner violence have intertwined (sexual, psychological, economic, physical), and recently the participants have also detected child and adolescent violence against parents, adults and older persons. Child sexual abuse, concealed in the home environment, has increased. On a screen, it is impossible to notice a child that refuses meals, the bruises on their body or body language that indicates severe anxiety. Violence has also appeared in some families that did not know it before the emergency measures, since they could manage their family dynamics by themselves. Survival required superficial interpersonal relationships limited to the time spent together, short because of various responsibilities.

Financial dependence makes leaving harder for victims of intimate partner violence. Despite having enough courage to leave, they do not have the necessary resources, and the system does not support their accommodation in housing units. The housing problem of the victims of violence of all generations can also be seen when they move away from the perpetrators and move in with their families again, which does not solve their problem. There are also cases in which the victims of violence – some in Safe House programs – are unemployed and receive financial social assistance. There are great difficulties in determining and collecting child support even if the fathers are regularly employed, while visitations are set quickly and thoroughly, and the women must consistently make them possible.

A new type of violence has appeared, violence via child access. At the beginning of the epidemic, there were many cases in which the perpetrators of violence wanted to have contact with the children despite all the measures. Some refused to return the children when the visitations were over, claiming it was unsafe. They quickly returned the children to their mothers when online schooling was implemented. The child's point of view is not taken into account often enough.

In some areas, the victims' of violence demand for e-mail counselling has increased (probably because of the perpetrator's presence). The need for psychosocial assistance has also increased.

---

<sup>3</sup> Data received by the Police on a request of co-authors. Email communication in August 2021.

The main problems of the victims of violence support are related to the lack of a comprehensive approach to violent situations. The tendency for psychotherapy is increasing, which can be good but also insufficient if other causes are not being addressed and eliminated.

There is an increase in housing problems related to the need to move endangered children out of violent environments; the inability to leave home in cases of intimate partner violence, no control over the perpetrators' restraining order, the denial and concealment of violence within families. For extreme cases, there is the Safe Apartments program, where the persons can live up to two years, but there is far too few of those. These are cases of absolute poverty where there is no chance of the victims of violence, e.g. a woman with children, surviving on their own. Additional problems are the families', neighbours' and society's tolerance of all kinds of violence, and the political practices of intolerance, verbal abuse, labelling and similar.

### **Between Poverty and Violence**

When talking about outreach, the participants stress a new class of the poor, the former middle class, which is in a very difficult situation at the moment. To stop the increase of the working poor, there have to be systemic changes that ensure decent wages for the workers. There is a systemic lack of understanding of the social and economic conditions of those most vulnerable, which now also include the downward sliding former middle class, i.e. those who were socially committed before. The causes for life in poverty are related to violence as well. When persons who were productive and knew how to solve personal and common problems are robbed of hope, power and knowledge by exceptional circumstances, this causes them to be violent to themselves and others. This is where we can look for causes of such personal vulnerability, which is in most cases linked with exceptional circumstances. Living in poverty makes the most vulnerable doubt themselves and feel worthless and disrespected, creating both victims and perpetrators of violence.

### **The Roles of the State, State Bodies and EU**

The state should attempt to at least come close to equality and equal treatment in society and set a positive example of the respectful treatment of citizens. On the national level, there should be more preventive programs for recognition of violence since one of the problems is that victims of violence often do not recognise that they are living in violent relationships. It is imperative to raise the level of awareness among the general public, lower the tolerance of domestic and intimate partner violence and include the Centres for Social Work to a greater extent when solving these problems. This also means outreach, which was mostly shifted onto the NGO sector. The state's role must be the search for systemic and comprehensive solutions. Psychotherapy programs are extremely important in that regard, but they are not an adequate solution.

The role of the EU is the preparation of both communication and operational programs that will accomplish zero tolerance of violence. It is also to provide additional resources that will enable the organisations offering psychosocial assistance to train more workers and offer suitable additional housing to victims of violence (safe houses, mothers' homes).

## 7. FOCUS: DISABLED (WORKERS)

A case from the *Counselling for Workers* association: a 52-year-old worker acquired the disability status of III. degree with limitations and later a favourable opinion of the Commission for Determining the Grounds for Termination of an Employment Contract and finally the termination of employment contract. After the period of notice, this person registered at the Employment Office of Slovenia, and then began to receive a disability allowance. After the unemployment allowance ends, the person receives a disability allowance in "the amount of 60 percent of the disability pension if the termination of employment contract was based on a favourable opinion of the Commission for Determining the Grounds for Termination of an Employment Contract" (second indent of the third paragraph of article 85 of ZPIZ-2).

What does the raising of the assessment percentage to 63,5 % (after the end of the transitory periods) or the changed article 87 of the Pension and Disability Act (ZPIZ-2) mean?

The 3,5 % raise does still not enable many of the recipients of disability allowance to reach the level of minimum income, currently at 402,18 EUR, let alone the "short-term cost of living" at 441,67 EUR (calculated by the Institute for Economic Research - IER, 2016) or even 606,32 EUR. As stated in an IER study (2009): "If we used the methodology from 1998, the basic amount of minimum income would amount to 606,32 EUR according to new calculations and the prices in April 2009." And we must not forget that in 2021 the at-risk-of-poverty threshold for a single person is 732 EUR a month.

In practice, this means that according to recent data, the minimum basis for the assessment of allowances from disability insurance is 563,86 EUR ( $0,5950 \times 947,67$  EUR), as follows from Article 87 of ZPIZ. But attention must be paid here. The calculation was based on the Decision on the Minimum and Maximum Pension Basis, the Minimum Pension, the Minimum Basis for the Assessment of Benefits from Disability Insurance and the Maximum Amount of Compensation for the Period of Vocational Rehabilitation that came into effect on the 1st of January 2021. The decision says that the minimum basis for pensions coming into effect in this year amounts to 947,67 EUR, and that the disability allowances in articles 80, 84, 85 and 86 of ZPIZ-2 are assessed according to a basis that is no lower than 563,86 EUR from January 1, 2021 onward.

Therefore, if the assessment percentage changes to 63,5 % (after the end of the transitory periods) of 947,67 EUR (the current minimum pension basis), this amounts to 601,77 EUR. Let us consider the example of a category III disabled worker who receives an allowance in the amount of 60 % of the basis. This amounts to 361,06 EUR, which is still 41,12 EUR less than the minimum personal income, 80,61 EUR less than the short-term cost of living and 370,94 EUR less than the at-risk-of-poverty threshold in 2021.

If we consider the changes in pension legislation and take into account the transitory period, this assessment percentage comes to 59,50% in 2021, meaning that the minimum basis for the assessment of allowances from disability insurance is  $0,5950 \times 947,67$  EUR, totalling 563,86 EUR. 60 percent of that amounts to 338,32 EUR.

It is sad that for years, workers with low pay have been receiving a "supplement to the minimum wage" to receive full minimum wages. It is equally sad or sadder that many disabled workers receive a supplement to the full amount of financial social assistance – that is, if they have permanent residence, as this does not apply to disabled workers with temporary residence. Foreigners with

temporary residence in Slovenia thus cannot obtain the supplement to reach the statutory basic amount of minimum personal income (402,18 EUR).

That this has been problematic for years is also apparent from the statement of Majda Kozjak (Dnevnik, 2008, <https://www.dnevnik.si/331669>), who had status of disability because of back problems: "It is hard to survive with 390 EUR of allowance and two children in school."

The bottom line: We are living in a time of completely burnt-out generations of workers behind the conveyor belt, aged 45-55, who cannot even get sick leave, let alone status of disability, and when they do get it, they end up living in absolute poverty. This is their "reward" for decades of work.

## 8. GOOD PRACTICES

The experiences of NGOs and EAPN members show that individuals and legal entities still heed the call of persons in distress with financial and material assistance, counselling and emotional and social support.

The Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth has continued to support the families that suffered during the COVID-19 epidemic with financial and material assistance. By summer, they distributed 124 computers, among other things. The situation gradually calmed down when pupils and students returned to schools. In recent years, the humanitarian programs of the SAFY have expanded enough to implement a new good practice in 2021: they set up a web application that ensures quality and transparency regarding data and document visibility, tracking, and the automatic creation of various databases.

In 2021, they again carried out free holidays for children from socially disadvantaged families under the *A Wink at the Sun* program. More than 3000 children took advantage of free holidays, at least 900 of those with special needs or from socially disadvantaged families. They are proud of that since they realise the importance of socialisation, especially during the time of restrictive measures.

The ZIPOM centre, a part of the SAFY, carried out advocacy activities on the national level with *Eurochild*, which indirectly led to the adoption of the European Child Guarantee. Related additional activities will take place in the second half of 2021, when the member states will be preparing national plans for the execution of the Guarantee.

Advocacy activities in 2021 also included participation in public debates regarding the proposal of the new *Rules on the Implementation of Early Treatment in Educational institutions and Other Providers of Programs for Preschool Children with Special Needs* and changes in child support legislation. In all of the debates, they prepared comments grounded in expertise and passed them onto the ministries in the sector.

In 2021, *TOM Telefon* has intensified its counselling for children and adolescents since family relationship problems, psychological problems and suicidal thoughts have continued to increase. For the purposes of finding common solutions for the children and adolescents that contact TOM because of psychological distress, TOM Telefon has set up the panel *For Better Mental Health of Children and Adolescents* – the establishing of cooperation between TOM Telefon and professional mental health services. It was attended by representatives from NIJZ, the Paediatric and Psychiatric clinics, and CDZOM. Together, they developed a new campaign for awareness of safe internet use that encourages children to speak out about unpleasant experiences and stop harmful behaviour.

At the Association of Friends of Youth Moste-Polje they actively confronted the distress resulting from the consequences of the measures to contain the COVID-19 epidemic. When solving problems and easing the consequences of the epidemic, the social workers took a personal approach, which gives the persons in distress a feeling of security. The worker listens to the person's problem and works with the person to set achievable goals and search actively for solutions without judging the situation or the feelings involved. After a first contact with a family, the real picture of a family's situation, which is impossible to see merely through an application and conversation, emerges during a home visit. Outreach makes setting appropriate objectives to solve a situation easier. An effective tool for eliminating distress and preventing it to worsen is the workshop *Handle It*, in which the participants become competent at solving their situations independently. At the same time, they are offered a safe environment where they can see that they are neither alone nor the only ones to face such problems. For easier resource management, the participants gain insight into the family's

financial state with a financial plan, which offers them the possibility to solve their financial problems effectively and systematically.

The positive effect on the family dynamics can also be seen in the time spent together – as part of the holidays and trips that they could make possible for some families.

Red Cross Slovenia -Regional Association Ljubljana pointed out that the epidemic has increased the already existing distress of the most vulnerable groups of residents and shown the shortcomings of the system. In 2021, they continued offering psychosocial and learning support to families. Direct and regular contact with the children and families that find, for various reasons (the lack of skill and knowledge to help their children with online schooling, lack of technological equipment, inability to speak the language, educational helplessness, special needs etc.), online schooling difficult has turned out to be extremely important for lessening many of the children's and families' hardships.

Based on the experiences of the 2020 epidemic, they have strengthened the help and support system for the elderly. In the second and third waves (October 2020–May 2021), they made 6501 home deliveries of material aid (food parcels and hot meals) for the elderly. The home deliveries of material aid are important not only because they lessen the impact of material want but also because of the social interactions with the elderly, whose isolation has only increased during the epidemic.

The *Kings of the Street Association* has carried out the largest number of programs and activities since its establishment in 2005. In addition to multi-annual programs, they have carried out multiple one-year programs (one-year because of the way they are financed) to meet the needs detected in 2020, which were partly caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

They carried out a program to help with online schooling, working with families individually and in Ljubljana and Maribor community spaces (and reacted to the consequences of such learning). The program was intended for both children (learning support, learning to use a computer, help getting ICT, companionship, relief activities, conversations etc.) and adult family members (learning to use a computer, help communicating with school and other institutions, counselling etc.).

In 2021, they have arranged for new emergency shelters in Maribor, mainly intended for anyone who needed a temporary shelter because of a COVID-19 infection or the consequences of the pandemic (self-isolation, loss of housing during the lockdown etc.).

In 2021, they also put more emphasis on leisure activities, intending to fill the gap that had been created by the 2020 pandemic (social distancing, the suspension of group activities, isolation, the unavailability of organisations and activities etc.). Complying with the guidelines, they carried out sport (table tennis, basketball, women's workouts) and cultural (theatre, film) activities, various workshops, mountain hikes, seaside excursions, pool visits etc.

They have also increased the scope of their outreach because most organisations were still under restrictions, and consequently more people were outside in public spaces. As a part of their outreach, they also provided basic healthcare, especially bandaging the wounds of the homeless. They also increased information giving and telephone counselling, which was extremely important, considering the unavailability of the healthcare services.

An important form of support was also helping the users communicate with other institutions; the availability of institutions was limited because of the epidemic, appointments were largely electronic

or by telephone, almost always without personal contact with the employees, something that many users were not skilful at.

*Mozaik, Association for Social Inclusion, social enterprise, carries out the program Help at the Door, outreach to the homeless and advocacy. They arrange meetings at the homes of the users, since those mostly feel safe and at ease there. In the case that this does not work for them, they agree on another location, including the association's office. Together, they get to know the individual's family and neighbour dynamics as they are often of decisive importance. In the program, there is great emphasis on collaborations with other non-governmental and public services. The complex problems of the users (financial, housing, health or mental problems, insolvency) are most often solved in cooperation with other institutions.*

*"I have been receiving a veteran's allowance for almost 8 years. That's all I get. I just can't make it, simply can't. They deliver a parcel. But I still have to pay the bills. There's not a lot to pay, but I still come up short sometimes."*

The user was removed from the unemployed registry ten years ago because there was no suitable employment for him, and he declined some job offers because of health problems. After receiving information, personal support and an explanation of the current legislation, he applied at the Employment Service again, registered as an unemployed person and now receives financial assistance.

The *Slovenian Third Age University* is attempting to prevent the poverty and social isolation of the elderly. So they would not live in poverty and experience isolation and social exclusion, the *Slovenian Third Age University* acts as a structure promoting groups headed by experts. The content of the study group programs is created together with the participants. With socially committed education and art, the elderly also create new social practices in the local community and assert their knowledge and creativity. In addition to basic study content, elderly students also study their place in society, overcome negative stereotypes of age, get to know their social rights and duties, study critical geragogy and thus improve their autonomy and control of their life.

Digital exclusion is a part of social exclusion, which is why the Slovenian Third Age University runs a number of programs on digital competence. It is attempting to prevent the functional illiteracy of the elderly and the consequent social inequality and injustice. It also runs research and educational programs within European projects (LearnersMot, LearnersMot2 etc.).

*"Precariousness is not only material. Precariousness and poverty mean less of everything, less material goods, less health, less education, less culture, less relationships, less beauty around us."*

*"Art and respect make life decent. I experience both here."*

*"I took care of my sick husband for seven years. Before I enrolled, I had the feeling that I had forgotten how to think."*

## 9. KEY MESSAGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Slovenia is one of the seven European Union countries in which the at-risk-of-poverty rate has increased in 2020 compared to 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic has only increased the already present hardships of the most vulnerable groups and showed the existing shortcomings of the system. The limited availability of services has especially hurt the elderly – social exclusion and the disarray of the long-term care system have increased.
- Those most at risk of poverty are the elderly, especially women, the working poor whose wages are below the minimum subsistence level, the unemployed, children and adolescents from poor families, single-person and single-parent households.
- The financial social assistance is significantly lower than the minimum wage with the aim of encouraging people to find employment. But a minimum wage that is similar to the at-risk-of-poverty threshold cannot ensure a decent living, it merely creates the working poor.
- In Slovenia, significant problems are the long-term dependence on financial social assistance, limited opportunities to escape poverty and difficult access to the labour market. Financial social assistance is also received by employed persons, especially precarious workers on minimum wage who at the same time support children.
- Humanitarian organisations in Slovenia warn of the steep rise of recipients of assistance, especially persons who have lost employment, precarious workers, persons with low income, persons who needed assistance during the economic crisis ten years ago and now need it again, along with the current recipients, whose distress has only increased.
- NGOs address the needs of marginalised groups of individuals and complement the social security system in an important way, especially by carrying out social security programs and humanitarian activities.
- Similarly as in the first report, we would especially like to stress the problem of long-term poverty, the distress of persons with minimum income and the consequent social exclusion, the minimum wage that is set too low, the rise in unemployment and the problem of domestic violence that has increased during the lockdowns, mainly in the periods of online schooling and working from home.
- The increase of domestic and intimate partner violence during the COVID-19 pandemic: partner violence, parent violence against children, child violence against parents. Of note is that various forms of domestic and intimate partner violence have intertwined (sexual, verbal, economic, physical). It is important to find systemic solutions in collaboration with the NGOs active in this field.
- The members of EAPN Slovenia find that the availability of institutions for managing status and administrative affairs has decreased during the pandemic. This had an effect on the already difficult living situation of marginalised groups. Most needed the help of NGOs to communicate successfully with the institutions.
- Persons experiencing poverty report the unavailability of healthcare services. They also stress disrespectful and undignified treatment. Cooperation between the social security and health

sectors must be strengthened; they could offer support to overcome obstacles with outreach and other flexible services.

- In case of a new announcement of the epidemic, schools and kindergartens must remain open. The inclusion of children in preschool education and an inclusive approach to school education is key for children from marginalised groups because it increases their social inclusion and opportunities to escape poverty.
- Greater degree of availability and openness of Centres for Social Work – direct contact as opposed to e-mail and filing offices, more time and possibilities for professional social work which will provide the persons with someone to speak to and offer the necessary support in difficult life situations.
- Putting a stop to the administrative delays that prevent persons from getting the necessary assistance (e.g. the issuing of CSW decisions that cause payment delays).
- The adoption of a long-term housing policy that regulates the rental market and also includes the population with housing disadvantages.
- Investments into a non-profit rental housing fund.
- The adjustment of the minimum income to a realistic costs of living.
- Regulation in the areas of employment and precarious work.
- The development of support employment.

## 10. SOURCES

Breznik Maja, Čehovin Zajc Jožica (2021): Prekarizacija standardnega in nestandardnega zaposlovanja v Sloveniji (2005–2019). *Teorija in praksa* 58(1): 28–48.

Čeh S. (2021): V času epidemije so se pokazale vse slabosti pri oskrbi starejših. *Delo*, 13. 1. Accessible at: <https://www.delo.si/magazin/generacija-plus/v-casuepidemije-so-se-pokazale-vse-slabosti-pri-oskrbi-starejsih/>

Dimerl G., Ramovš J. and Imperl F. (2020): Epidemija Covid-19 v domu in sistem dolgotrajne oskrbe v Sloveniji. *Kakovostna starost* 23(2): 56–78.

European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN 2020): Supercharging poverty? EAPN Poverty Watch Report. Key findings and recommendations from 2020 Poverty Watches. Accessible at: <https://www.eapn.eu/covid-19-supercharging-poverty-eapn-poverty-watch-2020/>

Eurostat (5. 7. 2021): Early estimates of income and poverty in 2020. European Commission. Accessible at: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/ddn-20210705-1>

Gerontološko društvo Slovenije (2021): Program strokovnega posveta. Accessible at: <http://posvet.gds.si/>

Golob K. (2021): Odpiranje v času splošnega zapiranja: odziv Rdečega križa Slovenije – Območnega združenja Ljubljana na potrebe starejših v času epidemije. Prispevek na strokovnem posvetu Ljubljana – starejšim prijazno mesto: izboljšanje socialne vključenosti starejših v Mestni občini Ljubljana po pandemiji COVID-19, Gerontološko društvo Slovenije, 17. 6. 2021. Accessible at: <http://posvet.gds.si/wp-content/uploads/Golob.pdf>

Gregorčič M., Kajzer A. (2021): Evropski steber socialnih pravic, Slovenija 2000–2020. Ljubljana: Umar. Accessible at: [https://www.umar.gov.si/fileadmin/user\\_upload/publikacije/ESSP/2021/ESSP\\_splet.pdf](https://www.umar.gov.si/fileadmin/user_upload/publikacije/ESSP/2021/ESSP_splet.pdf)

Milavec Kapun M. (2021): Dostopnost zdravstvenih storitev za starostnike v času epidemije covid-19. Prispevek na strokovnem posvetu Ljubljana – starejšim prijazno mesto: izboljšanje socialne vključenosti starejših v Mestni občini Ljubljana po pandemiji COVID-19, Gerontološko društvo Slovenije, 17. 6. 2021. Accessible at: <http://posvet.gds.si/wp-content/uploads/Milavec-Kapun.pdf>

Rajšp Simona (ur., 2018): Resolucija o družinski politiki 2018–2028. Vsem družinam prijazna družba. Republika Slovenija, Ministrstvo za delo, družino, socialne zadeve in enake možnosti.

Statistični urad Republike Slovenije (SURS, 2021): Kazalniki dohodka, revščine in socialne izključenosti, Slovenija, 2020. Stopnja tveganja revščine in stopnja tveganja socialne izključenosti v 2020 višji. Accessible at: <https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/News/Index/9624> (30. 7. 2021).

Statistični urad Republike Slovenije (SUR) (2020). Accessible at: <https://www.stat.si/statweb/News/Index/9146>

## EAPN Slovenia



Območno združenje  
Ljubljana



Zveza Prijateljev  
Mladine Slovenije®

