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Disability Assessment Policy Reform in Slovakia: a perspective of challenges

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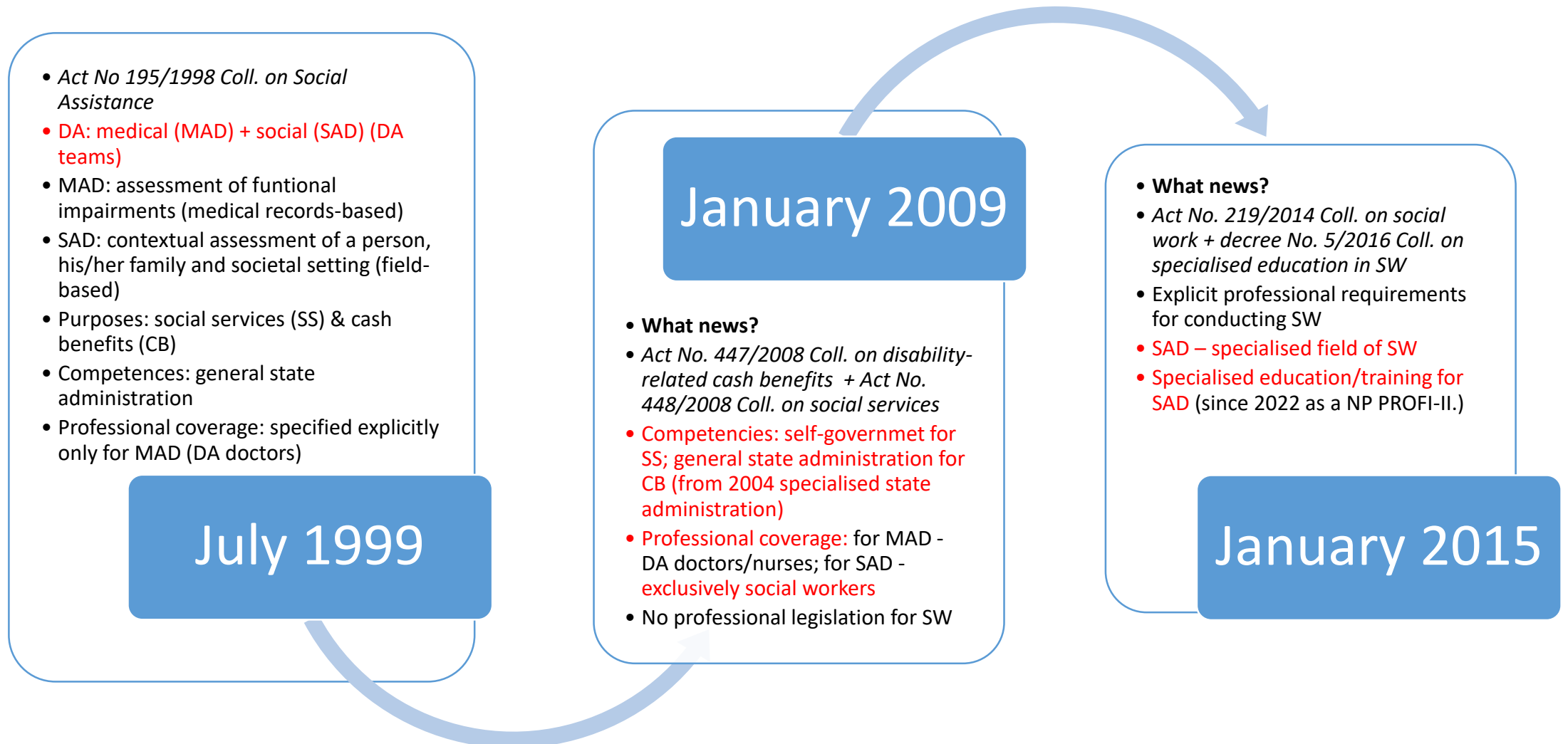
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic

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Objective – Outlines - Approach

- **Objective:** contribution to the DA mutual reform efforts in the European context
- **Outlines:**
 - WHY the DA reform (Repková)
 - WHAT is a plan? (Gabura)
 - CHALLENGES (Repková)
- **Methodological approach:**
 - Focussed on a comprehensive DA for the purposes of social services for care-dependent persons and for disability-related cash benefits
 - DA for the purposes of insurance-based disability (invalidity) pension or for education affairs is not a subject

1(a) ... From the past: DA key milestones in the national social assistance system



1(b) WHY the current DA reform

- *Plan of Recovery and Resilience (Component 13, p. 484):*
 - Fragmentation and inefficiency (in terms of competences and outputs)
 - Unfair (unequitable) DA criteria and outputs
 - Conflict of interest in local government
 - Insufficiently digitilised DA process
 - Unattractiveness of DA professions (medical & social/contextual assessment)
- For more details: Repková, K. (2022): *Reforming Disability Assessment. Implications for Social Work as Human-Rights Profession*. Available at: https://ivpr.gov.sk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/reforming_disability_assessment_kr_2022.pdf

2 WHAT is a plan?

- Plan of Recovery and Resilience Slovakia, component 13
- Reform active by II. Q 2024

Focus of the reform

- Complex medical assessment of clients needs
- Separate assessment system for children
- Addressability and effectiveness
- E-health

Old system

- Compensations for severe disability
- Social protection
- State subsidies

New system

- Compensations for severe disability
- Social protection
- State subsidies
- Social services
- Social enterprises

Potential problems

- Lack of assessment doctors
- Lack of social workers in the offices of labour, social affairs and family
- Demands of representative organizations of persons with disabilities
- Competence of municipalities and higher territorial units
- Short time

Future in social policy

- Personal budget
- One assessment system for all areas
- Better living conditions for persons with disability

Future in social policy

- Personal budget
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3 CHALLENGES

- *Working group for DA reform (since end of June 2023)*
- **Challenges raised:**
 - Poor reflexivity of the WHODAS 2.0 for the specificities of different types of disability
 - Training persons with disabilities for self-assessment
 - DA trajectories for different types of interventions - really greater effectiveness?
 - Unclear position of the self-government in the DA reform
 - Status of social work professionals on an equal basis with medical professionals - tokenism or reality?
- *Open mind for inspiration and cross-learning 😊*

Thank you for you attention 😊