





# Disability Assessment Policy Reform in Slovakia: a perspective of challenges

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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 caredependent 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

- Act No 195/1998 Coll. on Social Assistance
- DA: medical (MAD) + social (SAD) (DA teams)
- MAD: assessment of functional impairments (medical records-based)
- SAD: contextual assessment of a person, his/her family and societal setting (fieldbased)
- Purposes: social services (SS) & cash benefits (CB)
- Competences: general state administration
- Professional coverage: specified explicitly only for MAD (DA doctors)

### July 1999

# January 2009

#### • What news?

- Act No. 447/2008 Coll. on disabilityrelated cash benefits + Act No. 448/2008 Coll. on social services
- Competencies: self-governmet for SS; general state administration for CB (from 2004 specialised state administration)
- Professional coverage: for MAD -DA doctors/nurses; for SAD exclusively social workers
- No professional legislation for SW

#### • What news?

- Act No. 219/2014 Coll. on social work + decree No. 5/2016 Coll. on specialised education in SW
- Explicit professional requirements for conducting SW
- SAD specialised field of SW
- Specialised education/training for SAD (since 2022 as a NP PROFI-II.)

# January 2015

# 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: <u>https://ivpr.gov.sk/wp-</u> 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

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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  $\ensuremath{\textcircled{\sc op}}$

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