**Questionnaire on the intimate link between the right to life and the right to adequate housing – replies by SLOVENIA**

**1. Please provide any statistical indicators regarding the health, mortality and morbidity consequences of inadequate housing and homelessness in your country, disaggregated by sex, race, immigration status, age and disability, or other grounds, if and where possible. Please also provide references to any documentation (written, visual or otherwise) of the lived experiences that lie behind these statistics.**

We cannot respond fully to this question due to absence of data. The table included below draws information from the Survey on income and living conditions (EU-SILC). Unfortunately the data in the table can not be disaggregated in more detail as the number of respondents having bad dwelling conditions is under the threshold that still enables presenting it.

Table 1: General health1 of persons (%) by dwelling conditions, Slovenia, 2014

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | very good | good | fair | bad | very bad | TOTAL |
| **TOTAL** | **21** | **44** | **24** | **9** | **2** | **100** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| bad dwelling conditions2 | 15 | 40 | 28 | 14 | 3 | 100 |
| good dwelling conditions | 24 | 45 | 23 | 7 | 2 | 100 |

*1) General health is a person's self-assessment of the current state of health in general.*

*2) Dwelling conditions is measured by three questions: if households have problems with a leaking roof, damp walls/floors/foundation, or rot in window frames or the floor.*

*Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, EU-SILC*

**2. Please refer to the provisions of your state's constitution or human rights legislation which guarantee the right to life and explain whether these apply to circumstances where homelessness or inadequate housing place health, security or life at risk and whether positive obligations of governments have been recognized in this context. Please provide references to any relevant cases or other examples, if available.**

In Slovenia everyone is entitled to appropriate housing. Majority of dwellings is owner occupied (around 90%), the rest is rental housing stock (profit or non-profit rental housing). Profit rental housing is subjected to free market prices while non-profit rentals have restricted administrative rents (non-profit rent).

According to its Constitution Republic of Slovenia is a welfare state and as such has adopted targeted social measures in the field of housing. These measures are mainly designed for socially deprived groups of citizens or those who temporarily can not manage to bear the costs of housing:

• Subsidies for profit rental dwellings

• Non profit rents

• Subsidies for non-profit rental dwellings

• Living units (for solving housing problems temporarily).

There are no tents, no shacks, no containers as regular way of accommodation. Municipalities and state provide accommodation not only for the socially most vulnerable population but also for other inhabitants that meet criteria defined in Rules.

In December 2015 the new National Housing Programme 2015-2025 was adopted; it anticipates important changes in our housing policy in wider terms (including housing, land management, urban policy, fiscal measures, financial incentives). Main goals of new National Housing Program are:

1. An adequate supply of suitable housing,

2. Easier accessibility to housing,

3. Qualitative and functional dwellings,

4. Increased residential mobility of the population.

Adequate housing criteria are defined in numerous laws and regulations generally applicable to all residential buildings, including emergency accommodation, and must be considered horizontally. The legislation defines the criteria for adequate housing in terms of construction, technical, health and sanitary features as well as regarding adequate housing size.

Criteria defining appropriate housing are determined in the Housing Act (primarily in Article 10, the second paragraph of Article 91 and Articles 92, 93, 97, 99) and the following implementing regulations:

- The Rules on Minimum Technical Requirements for the Construction of Residential Buildings and Dwellings (*Uradni list RS*, nos 125/03 and 110/05);

- The Rules on Minimum Technical Requirements for Living Units Intended as Temporary Solution to Housing Needs of Economically Deprived People (*Uradni list RS*, no. 123/04).

- The Rules on Minimum Technical Requirements for the Construction of Sheltered Housing for the Elderly and on Ensuring Conditions for their Operation (*Uradni list RS*, nos 110/04, 81/09, 17/11);

- The Rules on Standards for Maintenance of Residential Buildings and Dwellings (*Uradni list RS*, nos 20/04, 18/11);

In addition to the provisions of the housing legislation, this area is also governed by regulations in the area of construction of buildings, i.e. Article 9 of the Construction Act specifies technical properties for buildings, including multi-dwelling buildings, to ensure their compliance with the essential requirements. These essential requirements include mechanical resistance and stability; fire safety; hygiene, health protection and environmental protection; safety of use; noise protection; and energy efficiency and heat retention

The housing legislation does not allow for a sub-standard dwelling to be rented as Article 92 of the Housing Act (which also applies when dwellings are rented on the market) explicitly binds a lessor to hand over to a tenant a dwelling that “enables the tenant of the housing its normal use in accordance with applicable norms and standards”; the lessor must also maintain the housing and shared parts for the entire renting period and is also held accountable for legal and material faults in the rented housing.

Supervision of the implementation of the aforementioned laws and regulations is carried out by the competent inspection services (the construction inspection, the energy inspection, the housing inspection, the environmental inspection, the labour inspection, the health inspection).

This is why substandard housing has not been specifically defined. In general, dwellings with no water distribution and sewage systems, electricity or bathroom and toilet can be deemed substandard housing. There are only few housing units lacking basic facilities. Statistical data show that 99% of housing facilities in Slovenia have water distribution and sewage systems and electricity. Approximately 7% of units lack a bathroom and toilet.

Living units are intended for applicants faced with severe material deprivation and in urgent need of a roof over their head; citizenship is not a condition for entitlement. Their specification is provided in the Housing Act; they are classified by the purpose of use as the units with shared use of sanitary facilities and kitchen, the units with sanitary facilities or bathroom and shared use of kitchen and the units with bathroom and mini-kitchen. The minimum technical requirements for living units intended to temporarily address the housing needs of socially disadvantaged people are specified in an implementing regulation.According to the most recent data, the municipalities have 503 living units at their disposal; identified needs indicate that a further 589 are required.

Table 2: Homeless people in Slovenia, 2010-2013

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Number of homeless people\* | Number of shelters | Number of beds | Number of shelter programmes | Number of other programmes |
| 2010 | 800 | 12 | 223 | 12 | 8 |
| 2011 | 1,100 | 14 | 247 | 14 | 9 |
| 2012 | 1,400 | 8 | 213 | 8 | 6 |
| 2013 | 1,600 | 11 | 252 | 11 | 5 |

*Source: The Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs.*

*\*Note: Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs estimate.*

In 2013, the government co-funded 16 programmes provided by non-governmental organisations and social work centres. These also included 11 shelter and housing support programmes that offered a total of 252 beds – 216 in shelters and 36 in two housing support programmes. In 2013, four programmes of homeless reception centres, day centres and outpatient clinics were carried out. Some shelter programmes also include homeless day centres.

In 2013, various services offered by reception centre and day centre programmes were used by 1991 users; 516 users used overnight accommodation in shelters.

Within the framework of two (new) programmes of housing support, the homeless are offered comprehensive individual assistance in supported dwellings with a view to enabling an individual to live independently after having participated in an 18-month housing support programme. The following services are included: help in moving in, personal monitoring and the drafting of an individualised plan, counselling, advocacy, activation and support in the development of competencies.

In addition, two programmes for homeless drug users, which offered 31 beds, were carried out in 2013.

Table 3: Accommodation for homeless drug users in Slovenia, 2010-2013

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | No. of shelters for homeless drug users | Number of beds | No. of programmes providing shelters for homeless drug users |
| 2010 | 2 | 28 | 2 |
| 2011 | 2 | 28 | 2 |
| 2012 | 2 | 31 | 2 |
| 2013 | 2 | 31 | 2 |

**3. Please explain whether and in what ways courts or human rights bodies in your state have recognized the disproportionate effect of homelessness and inadequate housing on particular groups (such as persons with disabilities, Indigenous peoples, women experiencing violence, etc.) as an issue of discrimination. Please provide references to any relevant cases or other examples, if available.**

Special attention is given to the question of adequate housing for the Roma. In 2006-2011, the Expert Group for Resolving the Spatial Issues of Roma Settlements drafted an analysis of the status of Roma settlements and based thereon proposed further measures to improve the situation. The National Programme of Measures for the Roma 2010-2015 was aimed at improving the living conditions of the Roma community. The state cooperated with local and Roma communities. The majority of municipalities, including those with a Roma population, are conducting relevant drafting and adoption procedures of the municipal spatial plan. Within the drafting of the municipal spatial plans, all municipalities have engaged in improving Roma settlements; the responsible ministry monitors their work and offers technical assistance.

Basic public utility infrastructure projects in Roma settlements are co-funded by the state through public tenders .

In 2007-2012 period, the relevant governmental services carried out three tenders for co-financing basic public utility infrastructure projects in Roma settlements. Within the 2013 call for applications EUR 3,000,000.00 were earmarked for co-funding of municipal Roma community projects for the following purposes:

* the construction, renovation or modernisation of water distribution systems;
* the construction, renovation or modernisation of sewage networks;
* the electrification of Roma settlements;
* the construction or reconstruction of local roads and paths;
* the purchase of land to develop and consolidate settlements; and
* project document elaboration.

In period 2014-2020, the current practice of distributing funds by means of calls for applications will be replaced by a programmatic approach. In the future, programmes for equipping Roma settlements with the basic utility infrastructure will be drawn up by municipalities. They will cover all the needs of Roma settlements, which will be evaluated from the financial as well as substantive aspects. Municipalities will list these programmes among regional development programmes.