***Report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on ways to bridge the gender digital divide from a human rights perspective – response of Slovenia***

**1. Please identify the obstacles and barriers to access the Internet faced by women in your country. Please elaborate on the nature of these obstacles (e.g. social, cultural norms, literacy gap) and how they manifest themselves in practice.**

Regarding the access to the internet by women in Slovenia there are no significant differences by the gender. The number of people using Internet in Slovenia over the past 10 years has increased significantly. Statistics of the 1st quarter of 2006 show 54 % households were online (the users were aged between 10 and 74), till 2016 this number increased to 75%.

**2. Please indicate if your Government collects disaggregated data on the basis of sex regarding Internet access. Please provide any other available data on Internes use by women, including with the type of access (e.g. broadband, household, mobile) and relevant studies done over the last five years. Please indicate if your Government uses qualitative and quantitative indicators to assist in monitoring progress regarding ICT sector and/or on the gender digital divide.**

The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SURS) has been collecting data on Internet access and usage via ICT usage in households and by individuals survey since 2004. The survey is conducted by all EU member states on the basis of harmonised model questionnaire. The content of the survey is defined by user needs at national and EU level. Each year there is an emphasis on specific topic regarding ICT usage, e.g. e-commerce; provision and protection of personal information, etc.

Indicators collected are defined by the benchmarking framework: Monitoring the Digital Economy & Society 2016–2021:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/341889/725524/Monitoring+the+Digital+Economy+%26+Society+2016-2021/7df02d85-698a-4a87-a6b1-7994df7fbeb7>

Data are disaggregated by: age classes, gender, education; status of activity; degree of urbanisation and are published via press releases and on our SI-STAT data portal (Information society) and on Eurostat website:

<http://www.stat.si/StatWeb/en/field-overview?idp=8&headerbar=3>

<http://pxweb.stat.si/pxweb/Database/Economy/Economy.asp>

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/digital-economy-and-society/data/main-tables>

In 2016 SURS issued a publication E-skills and Digital Economy where ICT usage and E-skills are analysed by gender.

<http://www.stat.si/StatWeb/Common/PrikaziDokument.ashx?IdDatoteke=8970>

SURS also publishes annual data on the development of the ICT sector in Slovenia. The definition of the ICT sector is based on OECD definition. Data are published in press releases and on SI-STAT data portal:

<http://www.stat.si/StatWeb/en/field-overview?idp=8&headerbar=3>

<http://pxweb.stat.si/pxweb/Database/Economy/23_29_information_society/15_29757_sector_ICT/15_29757_sector_ICT.asp>

**3. What measures has your Government taken to facilitate and expand access to Internet for women? Please elaborate on the impact of these measures.**

See response to question no. 4.

**4. What are the challenges faced by your Government in the implementing policies and programmes to bridge the gender digital divide and to enhance the use of enabling technology in order to promote the empowerment of all women and girls? Are there regulatory and supply-side (i.e. low affordability and a lack of digital skills), or barriers on the demand side? Please elaborate on the measures taken or identified to address them (i.e. access to internet in public libraries, universities, public wifi access points, etc.)**

The largest deficits in Slovenia in the population’s competencies for inclusion in an information society are the gaps identified in the fields of digital literacy, e-skills, accessibility and awareness of the importance of ICT and the internet. In the most unprivileged position in the field of ICT skills and competencies are persons with lower education, elderly or members of vulnerable groups (especially persons with disabilities, unemployed, minorities, immigrants etc.). In order to establish an inclusive digital society activities for overcoming unequal possibilities for using ICT measures are directed toward these groups.

The upcoming generations are digital natives; they are included in the digital society from day one and possess at least basic digital skills. A pressing problem is posed by middle-aged, still economically active, and older generations of population, whose skills are highly inadequate for inclusion in the information society. These generations increasingly lack competencies for the improvement of their employability and for the development of entrepreneurship and creativity. It is only by eliminating the e-skills gaps identified in that part of population that we can ensure that all citizens have a full access to services enabled by the digital community.

Slovenia therefore in strategic document DIGITAL SLOVENIA 2020 (see answer 5) announced main objectives for the development of inclusive digital society (to improve digital literacy of population, e-competencies, e-inclusion and e-skills of the population and for enabling the access to internet to all groups of population) and carry out measures for the achievement of those objectives. Among measures envisaged for the inclusive digital society are:

* Establishment of the Slovenian Digital coalition as a national strategic partnership and other regional strategic documents for achieving synergistic effects and in particular for improving the digital skills of the population.
* Adaptation of the entire school system to the needs of new, digitally native generations;
* Support for the operation of the Slovenian Internet Forum and for activities of non-governmental organizations for the development of an inclusive digital society.
* Support for projects of digital literacy for the purposes of increasing the population’s e-inclusion.
* Improved online accessibility for persons with different abilities in accordance with international guidelines.
* Promotion of and support to the participation of Slovenian stakeholders in awareness-raising projects, etc.

Some of the envisaged measures are to be further elaborated and detailed in line with the final expert consultations, the private sector as well as with final users of services and ICT solutions. Slovenian digital coalition was established; training programs aimed primarily at increasing digital competences among the labour force are already running; the preparation of a legislative framework to provide the accessibility of websites in accordance with the already adopted international guidelines is in progress (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines - recommendations of the World Wide Web Consortium, Web Accessibility Initiative – WAI), etc.

**5. Please indicate if a national Internet policy exists in your country and if this policy includes references to human rights and gender considerations.**

In the field of internet policy there is the national framework of the adopted strategies and associated strategic documents. DIGITAL SLOVENIA 2020 - Development strategy for the information society until 2020 (DSI 2020; available at <http://www.mju.gov.si/fileadmin/mju.gov.si/pageuploads/DID/Informacijska_druzba/pdf/DSI_2020_3-2016_pic1.pdf>) is an umbrella strategy determining the key strategic development orientations and uniting the mentioned strategies in a uniform strategic development framework. This framework strategy lays down key strategic development goals in this area and combines the Next-Generation Broadband Network Development Plan to 2020 and the Cyber Security Strategy together into a unified strategic framework. At the same time DSI 2020 is one of three key strategies in this area (other two are Research and Innovation Strategy of Slovenia and Slovenian Industrial Policy), which provide guidelines for the creation of innovative knowledge-based society and which are united in the Strategy of Smart Specialization as a platform for focused investment in priority areas.

Since the scope of the information society and ICT is horizontally included in the Strategy of Smart Specialization across vertical content areas, the DSI 2020 specifies strategic directions of the digitization of society and business that form the foundations of development projects by priority areas of the Strategy of Smart Specialization. DSI 2020 constitutes a commitment to accelerate the development of the digital society and capitalize on opportunities offered by communication technologies and the internet to produce wider economic and social benefits. Therefore, DSI 2020 prioritizes the ICT development and use of internet technologies with the strong reference to the individual's rights perspective of the access to internet (for the protection of important social values and society objectives) for the development of an inclusive digital society.

**6. Please indicate if your Government has developed specific initiatives to eliminate gender disparities in digital literacy by 2030, taking into account goals 4 and 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as other relevant SDGs.**

Firm commitment of the Republic of Slovenia to the 2030 Agenda is reflected in the on-going work on the Development Strategy of Slovenia 2030. Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 4 and 5, provide essential guidance in preparation of this basic document on national development goals.

The Strategy is still work in progress and has not yet been finalized or approved. However, emphasis on digital literacy is expected to feature strongly in the final text. Dedicated goal of *exploiting the potential of a digital society* has been proposed as one of the priorities in the Strategy. Equally important, digital literacy is recognized as an enabling factor across several other proposed goals and targets, among others: promoting lifelong learning, improving functional literacy, increasing quality of education and adapting education system to the new societal needs and challenges, contributing to the goals under the heading of building an inclusive, resilient and responsible society: creating decent living conditions for all generations and establishing conditions for healthy, quality and active life in the long-lived society.

In terms of initiatives to eliminate disparities in digital literacy the priorities are likely to be set according to the outcome of the gap analysis. The available data shows the correlation between these disparities and gender to be statistically practically irrelevant in the case of Slovenia, unlike some other criteria – correlation with age is strong in particular.

Similarly, Slovenia scores higher than the EU average in the share of women among ICT experts. However, in efforts to expand the number of ICT experts, inclusion of women in the ICT education will continue to be given a particular attention.

**7. Does your Government have any specific laws or policies to address gender-based violence online? What are the challenges faced by your Government to ensure accountability of perpetrators of human rights violations committed against persons for exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms on the internet?**

In Slovenia various forms of sexual violence on the Internet are already enshrined in the Criminal Code, which addresses such actions in several articles:

* Article 134a - Stalking;
* Article 171 - Sexual Violence [including “revenge porn” and “cyber rape”];
* Article 173 ­- Sexual Assault on a Person Below Fifteen Years of Age;
* Article 173a - Solicitation of persons who are less than fifteen years old for sexual purposes;
* Article 176 - Presentation, Manufacture, Possession and Distribution of Pornographic Material.

Due to the rapid development of information technologies for a number of year’s investigation of computer crime and digital forensics represent a major challenge for the police. Large numbers of different electronic devices, software and new technologies require that the police constantly adapt and introduce new procedures and methods of digital forensics. National units for computer investigation therefore in constant need of regular and specialized training of staff in forensics of mobile phones and navigation devices, damaged electronic devices, operating systems, computer networks, Internet search and participate in development of in-house forensic software. These specializations increase promptness, professionalism and quality of digital forensics.

In September 2015 the National Assembly adopted the Resolution on long-term development program of the Police until 2025 - "Quality Police for Safe Slovenia"[[1]](#footnote-1). The aim of the program is a constant, long-effective ensuring of safety for the citizens in Slovenia based on proposed measures and actions with the objective to achieve conditions in the society, that people could feel safe.

A long-term and systemic objective of the program is to prevent, detect and investigate crime, while individual goals and objectives are:

* Quality work of digital forensics,
* Quicker adaptation to new forms of crime,
* Transfer of knowledge on computer forensics,
* Increased training volume and thereby increased proficiency,
* Unification and standardization of digital forensics procedures,
* Shortening the investigation procedures and reduction of backlogs and
* A higher level of professionalism, credibility and probative relevance of digital forensics.

In July 2016 the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted a draft amendment to the Family Violence Prevention Act. Adoption of the finalized proposal will amend and update the existing Family Violence Prevention Act and create conditions for better protection of victims of domestic violence and further improve the functioning of state institutions in addressing this kind of violence.

In addition it has to be pointed out that Slovenian Police encourage reporting criminal acts for reporting crime following means and ways have been established: Anonymous telephone number 080-1200 (operates 24/7); Reporting situations which requiring an immediate response by the Police - using intervention telephone number 113; Written report on a crime the so called “anonimna e-prijava” [anonymous electronic report].

So far, in Slovenia there was no gender-sensitive approach to prevent cyber violence and harassment. From 1st July 2017, a project CYBERVAW: Cyber Violence and Harassment against Women and Girls will be implemented. General objective of the project is to address cyber violence and harassment as a form of violence against women and girls and manifestation of historically unequal power relations and to develop a systematic gender sensitive approach to prevent gender-based cyber violence and harassment (cybervaw).

The project will, with its activities and results, use a coordinated, integrated approach and directly contribute to support national stakeholders in developing and implementing practical and targeted information, awareness-raising and education activities that spread a clear message of zero tolerance to violence against women and girls, with specific focus on prevention of gender-based cyber violence and harassment as a form of violence against women and girls. With the proposed projects´ activities gender stereotypes and norms that contribute to the problem will be challenged, violence against women and girls combatted and gender equality promoted, including by encouraging men and boys to be actively engage in the fight against violence against women.

Therefore, the main objective of the project is to address the issue of safety on the internet recognizing cyber violence and harassment as a form of violence against women and girls and manifestation of historically unequal power relations and to develop a systematic gender sensitive approach to prevent gender-based cyber violence and harassment. This will be achieved by:

* raising awareness on combatting and preventing gender-based cyber violence and harassment,
* by organising and implementing systematic awareness raising and education programmes,
* by developing tools for informing (potential) victims about their rights and available support services,
* with introducing special measures and activities for preventing and combating gender-based cyber violence and harassment into National Action Plan on preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against women,
* and by organising events to share experiences and good practices to learn about the different practices/approaches for preventing gender-based cyber violence and harassment in selected European countries.

The project will be implemented in partnership between Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (leading partner), The University of Ljubljana (co-beneficiary partner) and Ministry of the Interior – the Police and Ministry of Justice – Judicial Training Centre (JTC) as associate partners.

1. Resolution on long-term development program of the Police until 2025 - "Quality Police for Safe Slovenia" (Official Gazette of RS, no. 75/15) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)