# National Fiche – Slovenia

## COVID-19 cases

On 20 August 2020, Slovenia registered a total of 130 COVID-19 related deaths[[1]](#footnote-1) out of a country population of 2 million[[2]](#footnote-2). Data on deaths or cases disaggregated by disability status and data on institutions and closed settings are not available to the best of our knowledge. However, the government announced that the share of deaths in care homes reaches 81% of the total of COVID-19 deaths[[3]](#footnote-3).

## Emergency, lockdown, and confinement

Slovenia did not declare a state of emergency but adopted measures for social distancing and to limit movement. From mid-March 2020 to mi-May 2020, public transport was interrupted and accessible transport was limited to emergencies[[4]](#footnote-4). Nonetheless, persons with disabilities were allowed to move to access services[[5]](#footnote-5). During this time, coordination has been essential to support activities helping vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities[[6]](#footnote-6).

## Involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities

The pandemic resulted in a temporary interruption of activities for most of the organisations of persons with disabilities. However, the Slovenian government consulted with these organisations when adopting a package of three “anti-corona” legislations and accepted some of the suggestions submitted by organisations[[7]](#footnote-7). The Slovenian National Disability Council (NSIOS)[[8]](#footnote-8) also raised attention of the Slovenian government on additional challenges experienced by persons with disabilities including greater distress and psychosocial disabilities and the need to provide support to persons with disabilities, their families and personal assistants.

## Communications and announcement

Although sign language interpretation was included for Government press conferences and then to all pandemic related public announcements, information was not accessible for all. Captioning was not available in official communications and relevant websites were not accessible, exacerbating pre-existing e-accessibility issues. NSIOS and organisations of persons with disabilities played a crucial role in providing accessible information for deafblind and blind persons and those with visual impairments, as well as making available easy-to-read information. The President of NSIOS also called on channels of information to provide further accessible information for persons with disabilities[[9]](#footnote-9).

## Institutions and closed settings

From mid-March 2020 to late May, day care centers were closed and visits were not allowed[[10]](#footnote-10).

Information about the situation of residents of care homes, institutions and other closed settings was not available to the best of our knowledge.

## Health care

The National medical ethics commission addressed a letter to national disability organisations affirming that disability is not a criterion for triage[[11]](#footnote-11). However, discriminatory treatment has been experienced by persons with physical disabilities when accessing emergency services during the pandemic. The National Disability Council reported the situation to the National medical ethics commission who reaffirmed its position against discrimination based on disabilities and the equal access to emergency care[[12]](#footnote-12). Regarding disability-related services, many have been suspended with the pandemic and resumed in June 2020. Only doctor’s appointments and personal assistance services, considered as essential, have been maintained.

## Social Protection

The “Anti-corona” legislations package adopted by the Slovenian State included benefits for persons with disabilities. Unemployed persons with disabilities were eligible for a one-time solidarity allowance ranging from €130 to €300.[[13]](#footnote-13) A €150 one-time allowance was granted to family assistants and recipients of social or disability benefits[[14]](#footnote-14).The State also committed to pay pensions and disability insurances[[15]](#footnote-15) and extended eligibility range for benefits for psychosocial disabilities.

1. GOV.SI - Slovak state administration’s website, Data on Covid-19, 20 August 2020 available at: <https://www.gov.si/en/topics/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/actual-data/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Republic of Slovenia Statistical Office’s website, available at: <https://www.stat.si/StatWeb/en/Field/Index/17> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Information from the Slovenian National Disability Council - NSIOS, 21 August 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. FRA, bulletin I, Coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak in the EU – Fundamental Rights Implications country report – Slovenia, March 2020, p.5. Available at: <https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/slovenia-report-covid-19-april-2020_en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Information from the Slovenian National Disability Council - NSIOS, 21 August 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Nacionalni Svet Invalidskih Organizacij Slovenije (NSIOS) Discrimination and persons with disabilities during the pandemic - Diskriminacija in ljudje z invalidnostmi v času epidemije, 10 April 2020, <https://nsios.si/diskriminacija-in-ljudje-z-invalidnostmi-v-casu-epidemije/> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. NSIOS, Discrimination and persons with disabilities during the pandemic - Diskriminacija in ljudje z invalidnostmi v času epidemije, 10 April 2020, <https://nsios.si/diskriminacija-in-ljudje-z-invalidnostmi-v-casu-epidemije/> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Information from the Slovenian National Disability Council - NSIOS, 21 August 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. National medical ethics commission, available in Slovenian at: <https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MZ/DOKUMENTI/KME/Stalisce-KME-o-odlocanju-zdravnikov-v-zvezi-z-vkljucevanjem-respiratorjev-v-zdravljenje-hudo-prizadetih-bolnikov-z-boleznijo-povzroceno-z-virusom-SARS-CoV2.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. National medical ethics commission response, 17 April, available in Slovenian at: <https://www.gov.si/assets/ministrstva/MZ/DOKUMENTI/KME/Uradna-stalisca/Stalisce-KME-proti-diskriminaciji-invalidov-v-kriznih-razmerah-zaradi-COVID-19.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. The allowance is provided to persons with income below 700€ per month. The bonus has been extended to disabled persons who work part-time and are temporarily laid off or who cannot work due to force majeure [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Eurofound (2020), One-time solidarity allowance for retired persons, large families and other vulnerable groups, case SI-2020-18/444 (measures in Slovenia), COVID-19 EU PolicyWatch, Dublin, <http://eurofound.link/covid19eupolicywatch> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. not exceeding the contribution due for a salary equal to three times the minimum monthly wages [↑](#footnote-ref-15)