

# Review of expenditure on groups at risk of poverty or social exclusion

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 SLOVAKIA

## Timeline

2019 Design 2020 Completed

ID number 35315

## Background

Within the framework of the government's Value for money project, spending review reports are being produced, including measures to enable fiscal savings, better public services for citizens and/or to shift funds to government priorities. In March 2020, the final report Review of expenditure on groups at risk of poverty or social exclusion (spending review) was published. It was jointly prepared by the Value for Money department of the finance ministry, the Institute of Educational Policy of the education ministry and the Institute of Social Policy of the labour ministry.

## Objectives

This document quantifies expenditures on current social protection and inclusion policies, assesses their effectiveness and accessibility, and examines existing data collection settings. Based on the findings, it proposes measures to improve the social inclusion of vulnerable groups and to unlock the untapped potential for economic growth.

## Description

Overall, the spending review proposes a series of measures regarding social inclusion, data collection and methodology development, the management of systems not sensitive to additional funding, as well as three austerity measures. Many were related to education.

One austerity measure was linked to VET, requiring that contributions to the so-called activation work of the unemployed provided by municipalities (focusing predominantly on unskilled activities, such as street sweeping, waste collection, snow removal) should be conditioned by the inclusion of higher value-added activities resulting in skills development of participants.

The following two measures were directly related to VET:

- (a) to enable learners from schools of special education stream to participate in dual education;
- (b) to regulate entering ISCED 253 programmes offered by regular VET schools.

The report argues that current practice in dual education is at odds with international good

practice and that access to dual education should be available to students of all schools, regardless of their special needs. It admits that graduates from the ISCED 253 programmes (as a rule, learners from poor families from the marginalised Roma communities) have a slightly better chance of finding a job after graduation but points out that they only attain ISCED 2 level education, and this is about two times more expensive than general education that also offers ISCED 2 level education.

### **2019 Design**

An interim report published in January 2019 focused on analysing the existing policies in education, labour market, social policies and health.

### **2020 Completed**

A final report published in March 2020 broadened the areas examined and proposed recommendations to improve the social inclusion of vulnerable groups to contribute to the preparation of a more efficient general government budget.

## **Bodies responsible**

- Ministry of Finance
- Institute of Educational Policy
- Institute of Social Policy

## **Target group**

### **Learners**

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices  
Learners at risk of early leaving or/and early leavers  
Learners with disabilities

### **Education professionals**

Teachers  
Trainers  
School leaders

### **Entities providing VET**

VET providers (all kinds)

## **Thematic categories**

### **Governance of VET and lifelong learning**

Coordinating VET and other policies

### **Modernising VET offer and delivery**

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

### **Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation**

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

## **Subsystem**

IVET CVET

## Further reading

[Review of expenditure on groups at risk of poverty or social exclusion \(Spending review\) - final report \(in Slovak\)](#)

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[Review of expenditure on groups at risk of poverty or social exclusion \(spending review\) - final report: graphs and tables \(in Slovak\)](#)

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[Review of expenditure on groups at risk of poverty or social exclusion \(spending review\) - interim report \(in Slovak\)](#)

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[Review of the expenditure on groups at risk of poverty or social exclusion \(spending review\) - interim report: graphs and tables \(in Slovak\)](#)

## Related policy developments

### 2025 Implementation

### Introducing dual VET

The Act on VET was amended in March 2015 (61/2015). Its main objectives were to introduce a dual VET scheme and tax incentives for enterprises to provide training. The reform entered into force in September 2015 and made available upper secondary VET delivery in three forms:

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#### Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

#### Subsystem

IVET

#### “ … ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Review of expenditure on groups at risk of poverty or social exclusion: Slovakia. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/35315>