

Country: Slovakia

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<p>Background of the legislation</p>	<p><b><u>The Act of Social Assistance, which came into force since 1998</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- first own law (Act) in the field of disability and state social assistance included direct payment and social services together</li> <li>- <b>first it brought the possibility of personal assistance in Slovakia (since July 1999)</b></li> <li>- even then the legislation of PA based on the principle of Independent Living</li> <li>- Slovak Ministry of Work, Social Affairs and Family cooperated with Adolf Ratzka from Swedish Institute of Independent Living</li> <li>- it ran the EU education project of training people with severe disability (the delegates from Slovak disability organizations) about principle of IL and PA</li> <li>- the main trainer/lecturer was Adolf Ratzka</li> <li>- the main aim was to obtain good implementation of legislation of PA in the real life.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>The Act on Direct Payment for Compensation of Severe Disability, which came into force since 2009</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- involved only 14 different kinds of direct payment and competences of state bureaus of work, social affairs and family</li> <li>- one of them is DP of PA.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>The Act of Social Services which came into force since 2009</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- it is separately Act for social services and the competences of local governments to donate them and other duties on the field of social services and their providers.</li> </ul>
<p>Type of legislation</p>	<p>PA is included in the <b><u>Act on Direct Payment for Compensation of Severe Disability</u></b>, which came into force since January 2009 and having explicit relations to Independent Living policy.</p>

	The Acts are built to support the person's right to be actively involved into needs' assessment process and into looking for solutions according to his/her choice.
Administrator of PA services	The main character of the Slovak legislation of PA is <b>self - management</b> , it means that main administrator (it involves search and recruitment, training and management of his/her personal assistants) is person with severe disability. It sets big claims and no every person has this skills. <b>The Act of Social Services</b> knows "Personal Assistance Services Agency" too, which can provide the non - profit or disability organizations. It is a lack of these Agencies (and social service) around Slovakia. Problem is that the municipalities (local governments) are not obligatory to donate this kind of social service.
Funder of services	State (state budget) through local state administrative authority (state offices of work, social affairs and family).
Disabilities covered	All person with severe disability (physical, mental and sensory disability), but in fact only a few persons with mental disabilities have PA.
Amount of hours per day/week	Maximum 20 hours per day (only 38 persons have 20 hours per day).
Assessment of needs: tool and how often	Every 3 years. Assessment of PA watches the main purpose, which is defined in the Act: "The purpose of personal assistance is activation, support of social integration of person with severe disability and support of her/his independence and possibility to make decisions and influence the fulfilment of family role, implementation of work, education and free - time activities." In the second step the state social workers take measure of range PA according to activities, which person with severe disability cannot do and according to hours which are necessary to do these activities.
Hourly rate funded	2,71 € per hour/ y. 2013 (1, 39 % from the amount of living wage from the Act).
Age requirement	Person with severe disability from 6 to 65 years, above 65 when he was user of PA before this age. Personal assistant more than 18 years and he/she has to have the legal capacity.
Total of registered users in the country	8 076 persons (statistics of December 2012) with severe disability throughout Slovakia, only 38 have all possible hours.