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Factsheet for case SK-2020-12/389

Emergency status in the health care

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Country	Slovakia, applies nationwide
Time period	Open ended, started on 16 March 2020
Type	Legislation or other statutory regulation
Category	Support for essential services – Smoothing frictions or reallocation of workers
Case created	08 April 2020 (updated 23 April 2020)

Background Information

The government announced the state of emergency in the healthcare sector.

The main reason was to enable to transfer employees, material and medical devises between hospitals, if needed, and to assure the presence at work of healthcare employees.

This would not be possible without the announcement of the state of emergency.

The state of emergency is regulated by the Act No. 227/2002 Coll. on state security in times of war, state of war and state of emergency. According to the Act, the state of emergency can be announced for a limited period of time, maximum of 90 days. Some of the fundamental rights and freedoms can be limited, as well.

Content of measure

At first, the state of emergency was announced for the state hospitals. On 18 March 2020, it was extended to other institutions (rescue services, public health offices, funeral services).

On 28 March 2020 it was also extended to the social service facilities providing healthcare. In order to protect seniors as a high risk group, some social services facilities providing non-residential care had to close. For the healthcare employees the state of emergency means that they are not allowed to assert some of their rights, for instance, to assert the right to strike. They are also not allowed to refuse to come to work.

Use of measure

The transfer of employees, material and medical devices has not been applied yet. There are no estimations available on potentially transferred employees. According to the latest Labour Force Survey data, there were 198,300 employees employed in healthcare and social services in Slovakia in 3rd quarter 2019.

Actors, target groups and funding

Actors	Target groups	Funding
National government	employees Sector specific set of companies	No special funding required

Social partners

Role of social partners	No involvement
Form of involvement	No involvement

No involvement of social partners is available.

Sectors and occupations

This case is sector-specific.

Economic area	Sector (NACE level 2)
Q - Human Health And Social Work Activities	Q86 Human health activities
	Q87 Residential care activities

This case is occupation-specific.

Occupation (ISCO level 2)
Health professionals

Sources

- 02 January 2016: Act No. 227/2002 Coll. on state security in times of war, state of war and state of emergency (www.slov-lex.sk)
- 31 January 2020: Labour Force Sample Survey results in the Slovak Republic for the 3rd quarter 2019 results in the Slovak Republic for the 3rd quarter 201 (slovak.statistics.sk)

- 15 March 2020: Pellegrini announced emergency status for state hospitals. What does it mean? (slovensko.hnonline.sk)
- 18 March 2020: Government agreed on extension of emergency status on other subjects in healthcare (www.dnes24.sk)
- 24 March 2020: Regulation of the Public Health Authority (www.uvzsr.sk)
- 28 March 2020: Social Services. Emergency Status. (www.employment.gov.sk)
- 09 April 2020: Adopted measures (www.korona.gov.sk)