

## Country: Slovakia

Done by Eulamie Esclamada, Austrian Red Cross

No. Asylum seekers 2007	No. of persons granted protection	No. of Ngos'/ GOs' offering mental health services	No. of NGOs'/ GOs' working with persons with broken family links	No. of NGOs'/ GOs' working with survivors of torture	No. of NGOs'/ GOs' working with the elderly and frail
2,643	14 (82 SP)	1	1	1	1

**Access to health system:** Asylum seekers are not insured. Health care is provided as part of basic health care by nurses, contractual local doctors or specialists, if necessary. In the event that a crisis intervention, hospitalisation or special treatment is necessary, costs are covered by the Migration office's own state budget.

**Legal Access to mental health care:** According to §22 (5) Asylum law, the Ministry of Interior covers the expenses for medical care to asylum seekers who are not insured. If on the basis of individual medical examination **special needs** were identified, the Ministry of Interior covers the expenses of this medical care. The Ministry **provides appropriate health care for UAM** asylum seekers, who are victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation, torture or violent, inhumane behavior or are victims of armed conflict.

**Systematic assessment of mental health needs:** Psychological care is provided by contracted psychiatrists by the Government and by psychologists through NGOs. The Slovak humanitarian council provides psychological care for asylum seekers in the centres in western Slovakia regularly. The migration bureau covers the expenses related to psychiatrist care. The state does not organise any special programmes for the treatment of victims of torture and violence. Any special treatment necessary is financed by NGOs.

### Main stakeholders in the asylum system:

- Migration Bureau of Slovak Ministry of Interior
- Slovak Humanitarian Council
- Slovak Helsinki Committee
- Society of Goodwill
- League for Human Rights

**Country specific features: What drew my attention?** It is not clear whether costs for necessary psychiatrist care in the aftermath of torture and violence are covered by the Migration bureau or has to be financed by NGOs. What drew my attention was the quarantine which asylum seekers have to undergo after the asylum application. It might last up to 30 days.

**Difficulties:** No definition was found regarding special needs. Is mental health care limited to those who have been tortured or also open to those who "only" suffer from traumatic war experiences?