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Publicly Funded Cash Benefits Granted to Slovenian Citizens in 2008–2013

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Summary

In 1992 the Slovenian Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development (IMAD) launched the project Cash Benefit, intended to set up and maintain a national catalogue of the social protection benefits in cash granted to Slovenian citizens. Data are collected in a separated database, which covers all cash benefits that Slovenia provides to its citizens from state and municipal budgets or through social insurance funds. The database enables an overview of the overall system and gives basic information on each specific benefit.

The extended analysis of the data for previous years was made in the previous Working Papers. In this Working Paper we analyse the cash benefits during the crisis, emphasis on years 2012 and 2013 including analyses of modifications of laws in period 2008-2014 and a catalogue for the period 2008-2013 including data.

During the crisis, there have been numerous and significant changes in the systemic organization of transfers to individuals and households or cash receipts. In 2012 a new social legislation came into force, which has been received patches a year later. Due to financial consolidation has been taken a lot of emergency laws, including the largest, which introduced many changes in the field of transfers like the Fiscal Balance Act (ZUJF). This Act selectively reduced, or froze, certain benefits, redirecting them primarily to beneficiaries in lower income brackets. All changes were put in place to improve transparency and simplify eligibility criteria, and with a view of increasingly targeting the population on the worst material conditions and reducing expenditure in line with the necessary fiscal consolidation. New pension legislation was passed at the end of 2012 and also had impact on the number of cash benefits and relative expenditure in 2013.

In 2013, Slovenian citizens were entitled to 69 different cash benefits, but they received a total of 1.964.079 benefits, which was 4.1 % less than in 2012, or 2.6 % less than in 2008. Cash benefits are typically paid out on a monthly basis and most are income non related, as they are entitled on the base of social insurance. For such an amount was spent 5,967,290 thousand EUR in 2013, or 16.5 % of GDP, which is 2.4 percentage points more than in 2008, or 7,217 thousand EUR less money than in 2012.

The largest number of cash benefits was allocated to pensioners (43.5 % of all cash benefits), followed by parents (15.8 %), sick people (14.2 %) and the disable (10 %). Sorting was the same in year before and also in 2008.

Proportions of expenditures followed a different order. Pensioners again held the top spot (55 % of expenditures for all cash benefits), followed by the disable (12.2 %), parents (9.5 %); followed by unemployed and sick people, sorting was the same also in the previous years.

The whole text is available in Slovenian language on
<http://www.umar.gov.si/publikacije/avtorski-prispevki/delovni-zvezki/>