

Country	Social protection expenditure						Per capita in PPS, EU-15 = 100	
	as a % of GDP <sup>1</sup>						1996	2001
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	1996	2001
Slovenia <sup>2</sup>	24.4	24.8	24.9	25.0	25.2	25.5	60	63
<b>EU15</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Austria	29.8	28.8	28.4	28.8	28.7	28.4	114	117
Belgium	28.6	27.9	27.6	27.4	26.7	27.5	112	108
Denmark	31.4	30.4	30.2	29.8	28.8	29.5	134	122
Finland	31.6	29.3	27.3	26.7	25.2	25.8	108	88
France	31.0	30.8	30.5	30.2	29.7	30.0	110	113
Greece	22.9	23.3	24.2	25.5	26.4	27.2	54	62
Ireland	17.8	16.7	15.5	14.8	14.1	14.6	75	60
Italy	24.8	25.5	25.0	25.3	25.2	25.6	91	97
Luxembourg	24.1	22.6	21.7	21.8	21.0	21.2	144	165
Germany	29.9	29.5	29.3	29.6	29.5	29.8	113	114
Netherlands	30.1	29.4	28.4	28.0	27.4	27.6	115	115
Portugal	21.2	21.4	22.1	22.6	22.7	23.9	52	57
Spain	21.9	21.2	20.6	20.2	20.1	20.1	61	60
Sweden	33.9	33.8	33.4	32.9	32.3	31.3	125	110
UK	28.0	27.5	26.9	26.5	26.8	27.2	99	97
Slovakia	20.0	20.1	20.4	20.4	20.0	19.1	34	31

Sources of data: SORS; calculations by the IMAD; the source for other EU members: European social statistics – Social protection, Expenditure and recipients 1991-2000, European Commission, Luxembourg, 2003. Notes: <sup>1</sup> according to revised data for 1995-2003, 23 April 2004; <sup>2</sup> figures on accommodation are excluded due to non-availability. PPS – purchasing power standard.

Social protection expenditure figures need two initial explanations. The term social security has been replaced by the term social protection, which the SORS now uses for the entire group of programmes included in the ESSPROS methodology. The above figures are comparable to those of social security expenditure because the same methodology was used in the calculations (see SEM 8-9/2002:23). The shares relative to GDP of total and particular areas of social protection expenditure were calculated on the basis of the latest GDP revision for 1995-2003. Given that the revised GDP is higher, the shares appropriated for social protection are proportionately lower.

**Slovenia appropriated 25.5% of GDP for social protection in 2001**, two percentage points less than the EU-15 on average. Above-average shares were seen in Sweden (31.3%), France (30%), Germany (29.8%), Denmark (29.5%), Austria (28.4%) and the Netherlands (27.6%). Slovenia was close to Italy, countries that were below the average include Portugal, Luxembourg and Spain, while Ireland still recorded the lowest share (14.6%). Real differences between countries are best revealed by social protection expenditure figures expressed in terms of purchasing power standard: countries that stand out are Luxembourg (165% of the EU-15 average), Denmark (122%) and Austria (117%). Appropriations for social protection increased in the EU-15 in 2001 after they had fallen in most member-states in 1996-2000. Slovenia's expenditure on social protection increased throughout the period, even when looking at the revised figures, and its percentage relative to GDP in 2001 was higher than that of some new EU members for which data are available (19.9% in Hungary, 19.1% in Slovakia and 18.3% in Malta).

Broken down by **groups of social protection functions**, Slovenia allocated most funding for old age and sickness, and health care (see graph), the same as the EU. These are areas where the population-ageing process is most evident and where structural reforms of the social protection system are likely to be most urgent. In 1996 and 2000, expenditure on old age and health care relative to GDP increased in one-third of EU-15 countries, but fell in others probably due to appropriate policies and internal restructuring. Slovenia recorded unchanged levels of expenditure for these two functions. In terms of the EU-15 average, the share of expenditure on old age stayed unchanged, while the shares of sickness and health care fell slightly.

According to figures for 2000, **Slovenia's appropriations were higher** than those of the EU-15 in the following groups of functions: (i) family and children, recording 2.3% of GDP (2.1% of GDP in the EU-15); (ii) sickness and health care, recording 7.5% of GDP (7.2% of GDP in the EU); and (iii) disability, recording 2.2% of GDP (2.1% of GDP in the EU). Slovenia allocated less funding than the EU for other groups of social protection functions.

Graph: **A breakdown of social protection expenditure as a % of GDP, Slovenia in 1996 and 2000**

