

## THE STATE SOCIAL SUPPORT INSTRUMENT TOOLS WITHIN THE LIFE OF A MIGRANT

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**Abstract**

*There are two fields of state social policy linked in this paper – migration policy and family policy. This paper is relevant for the terminology of social sphere. For the State, which wants to implement integration policy towards migrants, it is necessary to examine the establishing of care for migrants in one subsystem of social protection (welfare) – state social support. The main objective of this paper is to examine measures (instruments) of state social support and their application in the life of a migrant. Following tasks have been identified for the realization of our objective: to define key words, to analyse measures of state social support in the life of a migrant, previous task, to analyse quantitative indicators of the quality of family life of migrants. Research methods used in the article: theoretical general methods of scientific knowledge – induction, deduction, analysis, synthesis and comparison of available bibliographic references, discussion and scientific abstraction for generalization of the results.*

**Key words**

*Family Policy, Migrant, Quality of Life of Migrants, Social Protection, State Social Support.*

**JEL Classification:** F22, H53, I38

**Introduction**

Foreign migration is becoming a society agenda and a challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and due to globalisation processes, the issue of migration is becoming more and more actual. Its influence can be seen in all spheres of social life of all parties. Globalization processes characterized by the free movement of goods and capital are extended by the free movement of labour. Established development trend of international migration is based on globalization processes. Motives of migration from the beginning of mankind, not excluding the present, result from a desire to increase the quality of human life (Tupá, 2013, Tupá, 2015, Štefančíková, Masárová, 2015).

Author of this article focuses the attention to managing tools in selected area of life of migrants in Slovakia in the sphere of social protection. One subsystem of social protection is handled by offering a brief overview of the current state, overview of legislative which regulates the sphere and an overview of competencies which different public institutions hold. We also state the problems that foreigners encounter in this area of social protection.

**Terminological excursion, goal and methodology of the research**

In accordance with the International Organization for Migration, migration is a movement of a person or

a group of people from one geographical unit to another across an administrative or a political boundary in order to settle definitively or temporarily on a place different than the place of origin of the person (IOM, 2005). Migration is a form of a spatial mobility of the population, the essence of which is the movement of people across national borders with the intention to settle in other country for a certain period of time (Divinský, 2005).

The concept of migrant (synonym foreigner) is another frequent concept which we often encounter in regards to migration problems. A migrant is defined by the United Nations Organisation as a person who, for whatever reasons, changed his country of permanent or habitual residency and has moved from their home country to another country (Concept of Foreigners' Integration in the Slovak Republic, 2009). A foreigner is anyone who is not a citizen of the Slovak Republic (Act No. 404/2011 Coll. on residence of foreigners, as amended). Third-country national is any foreigner who is not a citizen of the European Economic Area (Concept of Foreigners' Integration in the Slovak Republic, 2009).

Social protection in the Slovak Republic is ensured by the social security system, consisting of social insurance, state social support, and social assistance (Report on the Social Situation of the Population of the Slovak republic, 2016). Social protection system is a set of legal, financial and organizational instruments and measures designed to compensate unfavourable financial and social consequences of different life circumstances and events that threaten recognized social rights or designed to prevent these life

situations. Social protection system has been created with the purpose to compensate negative consequences of different life events (Matlák, 1996).

Family is a group consisting of two parents and their children living together as a unit (English Oxford Living Dictionaries, 2018). Family policy usually refers to social programs, laws, and public directives designed to promote and enhance marriage, reproduction, and raising children. Family policy also ensures child protection and child and spousal support and attempts to resolve conflicts between work and family. The state usually initiates such policies, but employers or voluntary organisations may also establish them (International Encyclopedia of Marriage and Family, 2016). The state family policy principles are:

- shared responsibilities,
- subsidiarity,
- taylor- and purpose-made,
- solidarity,
- gender equality,
- equality-based approach to parents,
- coordination and harmonisation of the family policy,
- balance and flexibility,
- openness and changeability (Concept of state family policy, 2004).

The aim of state social benefits is financial participation of state in overcoming unwanted decline in living standard of a family caused by the formation, respectively by the duration of certain state-recognized life events. There is a financial support for families with dependent children mainly in specific life situations. Providing of state social support is not bound to a certain income level attained by the family (Masárová, Sika, Španková, 2015). State social benefits contribute to cover costs for nurture and other personal needs of children and also the costs associated with other social events. State social support system consists of the lump-sum and recurring benefits (Table 1) (Report on the Social Situation of the Population of the Slovak republic, 2016).

Laluha in: Stanek (2011) inclines to the definition of quality of life according to which the quality of life is understood as a socio-economic category; it is historically conditioned level of life processes; a person or a society reproduces and develops its existence within these life processes in accordance with the principles of humanism and humanity. It is the responsibility of the recipient society to create humane conditions for the stay of migrants.

This paper has a theoretical character. The goal of this paper is to examine measures (instruments) of state social support and their application in the life of a migrant. The goal of this submitted paper is based on induction, deduction, analysis, synthesis and comparison of available bibliographic references, discussion and scientific abstraction for generalization of the results; in the paper, literature review method was employed. A literature review is a systematic search of published work to find out what is already known about the intended research topic. The purpose of a literature review is not only to identify and analyse all information written about a topic, but also to gain insight and understanding into the problem at hand. Literature review was conducted in February 2018. The selection criteria for this paper are all of the relevant statistical resources of state social support in the Slovak republic; the data were obtained using statistical resources in the family policy.

### **Findings - The context of family in the life of migrant and managing in terms of state social support by responsible subjects**

The quality of life is measured by indicators. The application of hundreds of indicators can be found in the list of references dedicated to the quality of life. It turns out that the constantly increasing number of indicators does not contribute to the objectification of measuring the quality of life.

It is questionable whether it is possible to measure human development, whether it is possible to reliably determine the level of quality of life of a country or an individual (in this case the family of a foreigner with underage child) (Masárová, Živčicová, 2012). Indicators of quality of life are understood as qualitative-quantitative characteristics of social and economic processes. They contain various fields and aspects of social development of individuals, social groups and their perception by the population. Information (such as content element of the indicator) is obtained in particular:

- by the statement of respondents (subjective attitudes, feelings, opinions, judgments, evaluations),
- by the use of objective data (collected and processed by different institutions, organisations, authorities such as the Statistical Office (Laluha in: Stanek, 2011)).

Society must adapt to rapidly changing conditions and based on this fact, management of human resources faces significant demands on flexibility and responsibility of its policies. The integration of a migrant into the society is a complicated complex of relations with social environment of host country,

economic and legislative conditions and factors affecting the dynamics of this process. Integration means that a group of migrants wants to retain some elements of their original culture and also the majority population accepts the specifics of the new group (Berry, 1990; Fenton, 2003; Scott, Marshall, 2009 ). Integration policy as part of the global approach to migration is one of the main priorities for the European Union agenda. (Bosswick, Heckmann, 2006). We have to accept migration and find suitable tools by migration policies. Development of migration show that country which act without international

cooperation has limited options of migration management (Ellis, P., Roberts, M., 2016).

In our paper we consider the possible responsible subjects. In our case, legislative of foreign migration of labour force in the Slovak Republic should be managed by Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of Slovak Republic. Competences regarding the execution of mentioned measures should be transferred to offices of labour, social affairs and family. We have pointed out non-governmental organizations as other responsible institution (Table 1).

**Table 1. Measuring the quality of life of migrants in terms of state social support**

LIFE VALUE	INDICATORS FOR MEASUREMENT OF STATE SOCIAL SUPPORT OF FOREIGNERS	RESPONSIBLE SUBJECTS
FAMILY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of child allowances paid to foreigners</li> <li>• Foreigners receiving child allowance supplement</li> <li>• Number of parental allowance paid to foreigners</li> <li>• Foreigners receiving childcare allowance</li> <li>• Number of childbirth allowances paid to foreigners</li> <li>• Other allowances</li> </ul>	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic. Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. Non-governmental organizations. Others.

Source: own procesing

In terms of number of beneficiaries, child allowance is the most extensive state social support benefit. The adoption of Act introduced the provision of flat rate child allowance per month for each dependent child aged up to 25 years with effect from 1 January 2004, regardless of paternal income (Act No. 600/2003 Coll. on child allowance, as amended).

Act with effect from 1 January 2008 put into practice the child allowance supplement, granted to parents who receive an old-age pension, early old-age pension, disability pension, or a pension for service, allowance for nursing (Act No. 600/2003 Coll. on child allowance, as amended).

Parental allowance is a state social benefit which the state grants to an entitled person to provide proper care for a child less than three years of age, or up to six years of age, if the child has long-term ill health (Act No. 571/2009 Coll. on parental allowance, as amended).

By providing a childcare allowance the state contributes to a parent or natural person being entrusted with the care of the child to cover the costs incurred in caring for the child. A childcare allowance is provided within three or six years of the age of the child with a long-term adverse health condition if childcare is provided by another legal entity or natural person at the time of work performance or during the

full-time study, e.g. by placing the child in a facility – day nursery, kindergarten (Act No. 561/2008 Coll. on childcare allowance, as amended).

By providing childbirth allowance, the state enables parents to cover the expenses associated with satisfying the necessary needs of the newborn. (Act No. 383/2013 Coll. on childbirth allowance, as amended).

The conditions for the entitlement include, among others, the applicant’s permanent residence and domicile in the Slovak Republic (Report on the Social Situation of the Population of the Slovak republic, 2016).

When measuring the quality of life of migrants we evaluate the success rate of the integration process of foreign nationals into the majority society. For the purpose of our research, we deal with the quality of life through the prism of family and benefits that are available to foreigners in the system of state social support, for example, families of foreigners with underage children have an opportunity of receiving single or repeated financial benefits when the state takes over the role to participate in solving some of the state-recognized life situations in order to prevent unwanted decline in living standards of families which take care of dependent children (possible indicators of measurement in the state social support

of foreigners, see Table 1). We also consider the possible responsible parties. In our case, legislative measures of state social support for foreigners should be managed by Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of Slovak Republic. Competences regarding the execution of mentioned measures should be transferred to offices of labour, social affairs and family in the place of residence of the foreigner. We have pointed out non-governmental organizations as other responsible subject.

## Discussion and conclusion

From the 1940s to the 1970s, governments in industrialized countries developed a broad range of social programs to guarantee citizens and their families at least a minimal level of income in the event of unemployment, accidents, sickness, pregnancy, childbirth, disability, and retirement. The development of the welfare state was based on the assumption that governments (as well as employers, employees, and community groups) have a role to play in maintaining income security and well-being. Welfare states were also premised on the idea that governments should assist families at certain stages of life (such as childbirth and retirement) or during family crises (such as marital breakdown or disciplinary problems with children (Baker and Tippin, 1992)). Welfare regimes are collective agreements about social programs (including services and benefits for families) that endure over the time despite the changes in government (Esping-Anderson, 1990).

Until the 1980s, many governments saw the family as the basic unit of social support and respected family privacy unless children were flagrantly neglected or abused, discipline problems were apparent, or parents were clearly impoverished. Nevertheless, the state in industrialized countries has regulated some aspects of family life for more than a century, requiring the registration of marriages, births, and deaths. It has also legalized marriage, adoption, and separation, and tried to ensure that men support their wives and children. The state has also provided

income security and social services for families in need (Ursel, 1992). As a result, social legislation needs to bolster the family (or a preferred version of family) in the fight against in the intrusion of alternative and unhealthful (or immoral) lifestyles.

The purpose of this paper was to provide an overview of existing management measures in the quality of life of migrants in terms of state social support. The importance of management measures has been repeatedly emphasised by all the institutions of the EU. This is an urgent need to evaluate migration management at a European and national level. Migration requires systemic approach and qualified management. Slovak Republic must be ready and willing to participate in the harmonization of migration policies of individual states within the European Union. Well-thought-out, institutionalized and state-coordinated process is a prerequisite for successful handling of migration-related problems. With the volume of foreign migration, the nature of migration processes is changing significantly, new approaches, policies and migration management are being formulated, legal norms are being redefined and the number of institutions dealing with the foreign migration is growing.

Thus, the main advantage of the paper lies in detailing all the instruments for measurement of state social support of foreigners. The paper has some limitations of the current study. Research concerned the state of knowledge state social support for foreigners in the conditions of the Slovak republic. This theme of research is worth of continuing in aim to make comparisons between Slovak republic and European countries.

We consider housing, education, health care, civil and political participation of foreigners to be the next case for the research in the field of migration-integration policy.

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