# **EXECUTION OF ECTHR JUDGMENTS - SLOVENIA**

MAG. ROBERT GOLOBINEK



24 OCTOBER 2024

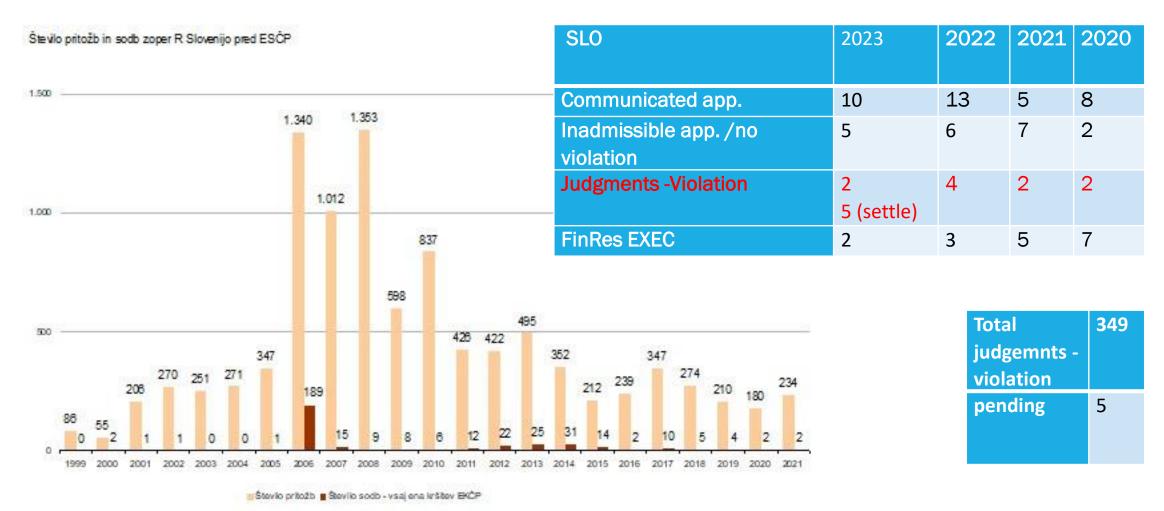
## **POINTS**

- Intro
- Coordination of Execution of ECtHR judgments in SLO: PS ESČP / MDS ESČP
- Execution of the judgment in case Q and R & CoE project

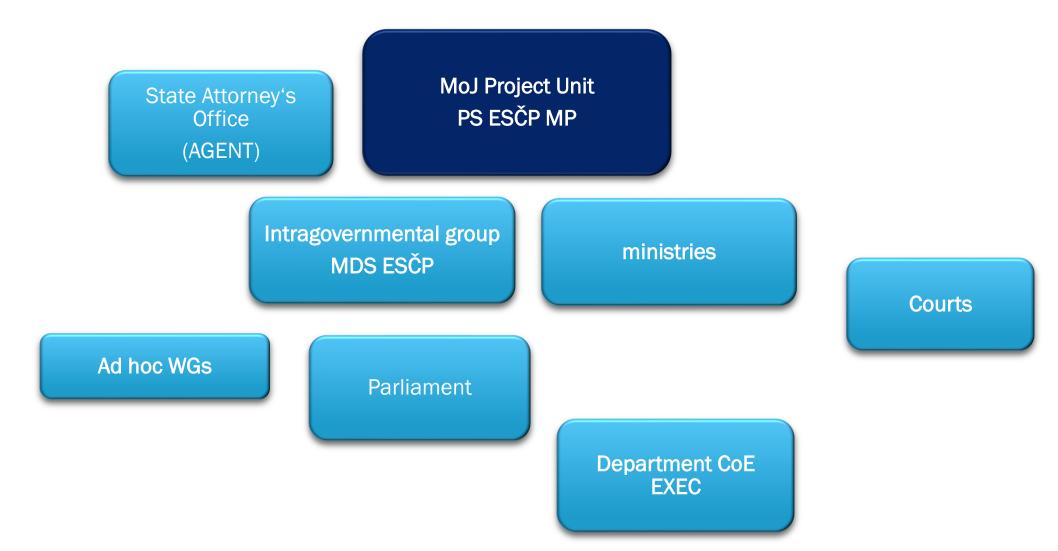
# 1. INTRO EXECUTION OF ECTHR JUDGMENTS

- ECtHR judgment: Legal obligation for a CoE Party (and its authorities): article 42 ECHR
- Not a direct impact process of execution / implementation
- MoJ coordination of execution
- Q and R Action report (10 October 2024)

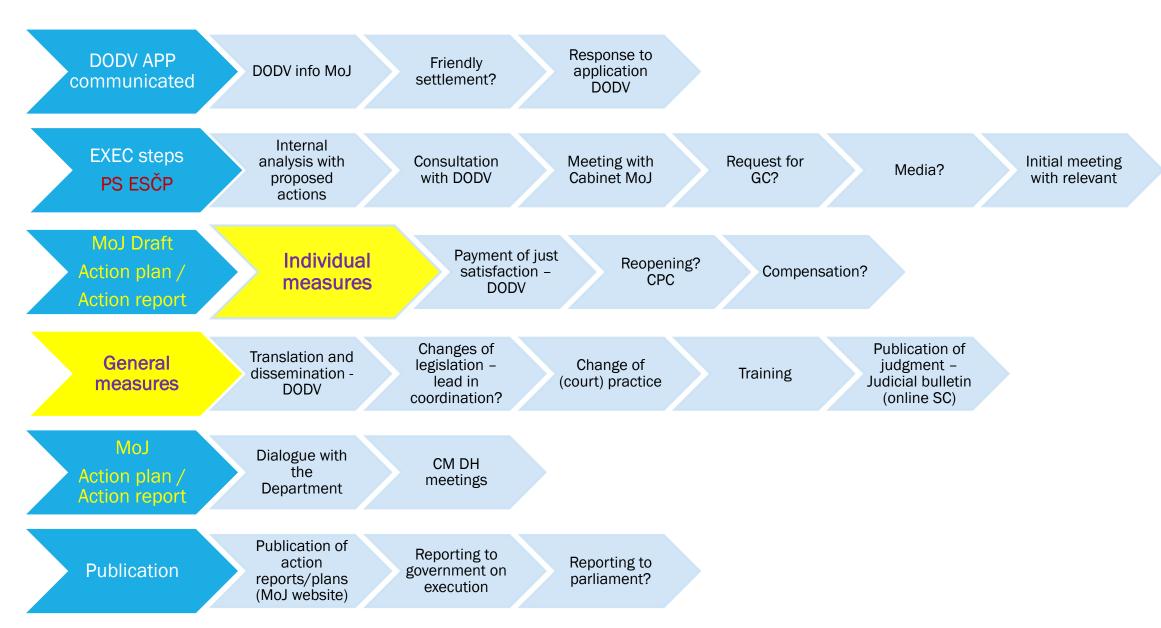
# INTRO EXECUTION OF ECTHR JUDGMENTS – EXAMPLE SLO (SCOPE)



## 2. COORDINATION OF EXECUTION - SLO



# THE COORDINATION PROCESS - PS ESČP MP



## 3. ECTHR JUDGMENTS (MINORS IN JUDICIAL PROCEDINGS)

#### **ECtHR judgment Case A.V.:**

judgment **9.4.2019**, Action report 26.2.2020 (closed)

#### Violation of Art 8 ECHR (2003 – 2011): family life;

- applicant was not able to have contacts with his children;
- Social work center failed in supporting partners (one of them refusing the contacts)
- Court did not supervise CSD inaction and did not order family therapy.

#### **Measures**

- New Family code (2017-2019)
- Social security act amended (2018)
- Implementation / practice: CIP Trainings on Family code (judges, CSD)
- SCSD trainings for CSD

#### **ECtHR judgment Case Q and R:**

judgment **8.2.2022**, Action report 10.10.2024

#### **Violation of Art 6 ECHR:**

- **significant delays** due to inadequate provision of **experts of clinical psychology** or their excessive workload (§§ 17, 26, 71, 79);
- court's failure to appoint a special guardian and examine an expert, which resulted in the remittal of the case following the constitutional complaint (§ 79);
- adverse effect of the Covid 19 on the operation of the courts (case not classified as urgent (§ 80).

**NO violation of Art 8** (family life; decision on contacts with children)

## ZADEVA Q IN R V. SLO – KOORDINACIJA

## Koordinacija in identifikacija ukrepov:

sodba ESČP Q in R (8.2.2022)

- 11.3.2022: PS ESČP sestanek z MZ, MDDSZ, UprS, DODV
- 2022: Usklajevanje z MP MDS o položaju otrok
- Oktober 2022: MDS ESČP sestanek (točka glede QinR)
- 30.1.2023: Akcijski načrt
- Oktober 2023: MDS ESČP sestanek (točka QinR) udeležba DEJ CoE
- 2024: Draft Akcijsko poročilo usklajevanje z MZ, MDDSZ, MP (MDS otroci)
- September 2024: Dodatno usklajevanje MZ-Zbornica Kliničnih psi in MP glede usposabljanja spec. za izvedenstvo
- Akcijsko poročilo, 10.10.2024

## Q IN R V. SLO – ACTION REPORT

Action report (10.10.2024) – under assessment of DEJ CoE

#### **Individual measures:**

The (pending) judicial proceeding is final (administrative court decision in December 2022 after Constitutional court remitted the case, delays of Clinical psychologists opinion; Supreme court rejected the remedy in September 2023.

Applicant was denied a permission to foster her grandchildren as the court was of the view that this would not be in the best interest of children.

just satisfaction paid (non-pecuniary damage) 3.000 EUR; 3.500 EUR for costs and expenses.

#### **General measures:**

Short, mid and long term

# Q IN R V. SLO – ACTION REPORT (1)

## Lack of clinical psychologists and court experts

- MoH: Funds for additional 100 specializations in clinical psychology (2021-2023 + 4y ongoing).
- Chamber of clinical psychologists: regular trainings including topics on court expertise, to promote and attract new court experts.
- 2019: condition for court expert: 6y working experience: specialisation (4y) is now included.
- 2023 MoJ: list for the courts of different court experts in family related disputes (49), including clinical psychologists (25), psychiatrists (12), pedopsychiatrists (3), family psychologists (2) and social work (7)
- 2023: renewed descriptions of expert fields by Expert Council to assist courts in choosing adequate expert's profile
- 2023: The Chamber: a list of 23 ad hoc experts (not court experts) to provide expert work
- 2023: The Chamber is now able to provide expert opinions in court cases as an expert institution (change of statute)

# Q IN R V. SLO - ACTION REPORT (2)

## Delays in the preparation of expert opinions

- March 2024: experts working in deficit areas (incl family): +30% payment for a written opinion within a time limit (change of Rules on Court Experts...)
- Barnahus can be used for conducting interviews by court expert
- 2025 plan: MoJ: electronic database on available court experts (court selection of available ones)

# Q IN R V. SLO - ACTION REPORT (3)

## **Comprehensive issues and approach**

- October 2022: MDG MoJ (MP, MDDSZ, MZ, VSRS, Zbornica, VČP, SCSD...) tasked to identify reasons for lengthy court proceedings in civil matters involving children and to find appropriate solutions.
- (2023-2026) EU+CoE project "Ensuring the Best Interests of the Child in Civil Court Proceedings

## **Training**

- 2023: trainings by Judicial Training Centre on "Court expertise in family matters" (the role of experts and to improve the quality of expert opinions and reports from social work centers, right questions by judge;
- 2022: trainings to improve quality of opinions of the social work centres.

# Q IN R V. SLO - ACTION REPORT (4)

## **Appointment of special guardians**

 new Family Code: transfer of competence to civil courts. Discretion of the judge to appoint a special guardian (kolizijski skrbnik). Generally applied in practice.

## Measures relating to the COVID – 19 pandemic

No more, thank you.

#### Publication and dissemination measures

- Judgment sent to VSRS, UprS and ministries (MP, MDDSZ, MZ).
- Translation of the judgment at DODV
- "Sodnikov informator", No. 4/2022 of May 2022.

## 3/1 MINORS AND THE COE PROJECTS

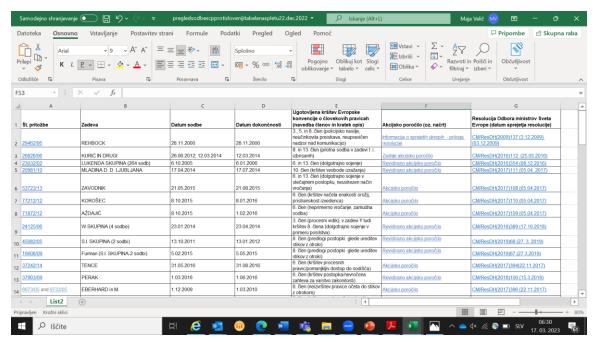
- ECtHR Judgment Q and R limited to violation in the specific case: measures for execution (and supervision)
- New MoJ and CoE/EU Project: Ensuring the best interests of a child in civil court proceedings (2023-2026)
- comprehensive and horizontal issues /approach
- continued efforts of SI for improvements
- (EXEC of judgment: **input** to the work of the MDS MP and the project)
- Positive experience in COE project:
- Improving the juvenile justice system and strengthening the education and training of penitentiary staff in Slovenia (9.2021 12.2023)
- CoE reliable project partner!

## **CONCLUSIONS: AWARNESS/PROMOTION/TRANSPARENCY**

Info on execution process in SLO

https://www.gov.si/teme/obveznost-izvrsevanja-sodb-evropskega-sodisca-za-clovekove-pravice/





## Q&A

Ministry of Justice of Slovenia

Directorate for criminal law and human rights