



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
**MINISTRY OF LABOUR, FAMILY
SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

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**18th ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
ON THE APPLICATION
OF THE EUROPEAN CODE OF SOCIAL SECURITY AND ITS PROTOCOL**

**GENERAL REPORT
REFERENCE PERIOD: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023**

I. GENERAL

A. Administration/Organisation

Examples:

- . administrative practices
- . organisation e.g. decentralisation
- . rationalisation
- . payment methods
- . computerisation
- . training of social security personnel
- . information and other service to beneficiaries etc.

- a) Changes made during the reference period
- b) Changes decided, planned or proposed for the following year
- c) Research (including evaluation), completed or initiated

B. Benefits

Examples:

- . personal and material scope
- . compensation for price increases (as compared to actual price increases)

- a) See above
- b) See above
- c) See above

II. MEDICAL CARE

a) Changes made during the reference period

The Act Amending the Health Care and Health Insurance Act entered into force on 20 July 2023 (ZZVZZ-T, Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 78/23, available at <https://www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2023-01-2480?sop=2023-01-2480>), and will apply as of 1 January 2024.

The ZZVZZ-T will transpose the current complementary health insurance into compulsory health insurance and replace it with compulsory health insurance contributions, whereby the financing of healthcare services will be provided in full from the compulsory health insurance, while maintaining the same level of rights. This Act moves from the current non-solidary complementary health insurance, which marks the first step towards a fairer and solidary regulation and at the same time a step towards strengthening the public healthcare system and increasing accessibility to health services for all categories of the population.

The Act on Emergency Measures to Ensure the Stability of the Healthcare system (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 100/22, 141/22 – ZNUNBZ) entered into force on 26 July 2022. This act above all else introduces a special workload allowance and a special working conditions allowance in the less-developed municipalities of the Republic of Slovenia. It created the possibility for the chosen personal doctor to delegate certain powers to certain health professionals and colleagues (e.g., the power to issue documents for the purpose of claiming entitlement to travel expenses). It provides for additional staffing reinforcements for teams in primary care clinics (additional recruitment allowance for additional medical staff). It also provides for the payment after the completion of all health services in the public network, irrespective of the agreed volume with the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia.

The Act on emergency measures to curb the spread and mitigate the consequences of the infectious disease COVID-19 in the field of healthcare (ZNUNBZ, Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 141/22) entered into force on 8 November 2022. It provides for the microbiological sequencing and monitoring of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater and provides for (simplifies the procedure and widens the potential range of beneficiaries) a monetary compensation for health damage following vaccination against Covid-19. It includes a provision of funding for additional specialisations in clinical psychology for 100 specialisations of clinical psychologists. Provides for additional funding of NIJZ (National Institute for Public Health of Slovenia) to carry out public health risks.

The amendment to the Rules for the implementation of preventive healthcare at the primary level (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 19/98, 47/98, 26/00, 67/01, 33/02, 37/03, 117/04, 31/05, 83/07, 22/09, 17/15, 47/18, 57/18, 57/18, 57/21, 162/21 and 39/23) entered into force on 5 April 2023. The amendment will be welcomed especially by the pregnant women, as the policy will, among other things, ensure the

introduction of new screening tests, which will help to reduce foetal deaths in the womb and premature births.

On 18 October 2023, the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia adopted an Amendment of the Mental Health Act. The main objective of the amendment is to ensure the protection of personal liberty human personality and dignity, freedom of movement and other human rights and fundamental freedoms in procedures of permissible interference with the personal liberty of a detained person with a mental disorder in the most restrictive forms of psychiatric treatment or placement and treatment in a secure ward of a social care institution. In this respect the amendment pursues the principle of the protection of human rights, the principle of legality, the principle of the social state, the principle of the protection of particular vulnerable groups of the population, the principle of economy and the principle of legal certainty and predictability. The amended act establishes a new procedure for keeping a person in a secure ward of a social care institution when the person is already placed in the institution. Instead of the regular procedure for keeping a person in a secure section, the procedure before the court is established as an urgent procedure, as it is important to ensure that the procedures before the court are as short as possible in order to protect the freedom of movement. Finally, in order to comply with the Family Code, which no longer regulates the institution of deprivation of legal capacity, the Bill lays down rules for the case where a child under the age of 15 is admitted to a ward under special supervision.

b) Changes decided, planned or proposed for the following year

Ministry of Health is preparing proposals for amendments to health legislation. A decision on the appointment of the working groups for preparing legislation is under preparation and the proposed law changes will be presented by January 2024. In these proposed laws we will pursue solidarity in the provision of financial resources, ensure diversification of funding resources. We will also include counter-cyclical mechanisms (the budgetary funding of possible deficit in health care fund is already one of them), and we also strive to keep the low level of out-of-pocket payments.

In the field of healthcare digitization, the Republic of Slovenia is preparing a new law that will comprehensively regulate this area. The law will overhaul the existing framework for collecting healthcare data and lay the groundwork for further digitization of the Slovenian healthcare system. The goal is to centralize the collection of all healthcare data in a so-called national eKarton, which will enable all healthcare providers to access, in accordance with their authorizations, the necessary patient health data for the purpose of medical treatment. The proposed new law will pay special attention to the processing of healthcare data, particularly their security. It will establish the foundations for structured data collection.

c) Research (including evaluation), completed or initiated

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III. SICKNESS BENEFIT

a) Changes made during the reference period

The new Occupational Diseases Rules (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 25/23, available at: <http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=PRAV14889>), which entered into force on 1 May 2023, therefore gives employees the possibility to have an occupational disease confirmed and thus improve working conditions. For an individual with a confirmed occupational disease, the Regulation allows, among other things, for the coverage of all costs of medical services related to the disease, as well as for 100 % wage replacement during sick leave due to the disease.

b) Changes decided, planned or proposed for the following year

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c) Research (including evaluation), completed or initiated

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IV. UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT

a) Changes made during the reference period

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b) Changes decided, planned or proposed for the following year

Several changes are planned to be drafted and later considered for and submission into legislative procedure. Depending on the social dialogue coordination, they may also include amendments regarding the indexation of the unemployment benefit related to minimum wage and eligibility conditions for unemployment benefit related to older recipients.

c) Research (including evaluation), completed or initiated

Within the framework of the Recovery and Resilience Plan¹, the preparation of an analysis and of a set of possible legislative amendments in the field of unemployment benefit from the angle of premature termination of work activity and transition to inactivity was foreseen. The analysis was completed in September 2023 (albeit slightly outside the reporting period, we are including it due to its topicality) and contains a set of

¹ Approved by the Council Implementing Decision on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Slovenia (Council Implementation Decision) on 20 July 2021, available at: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-10612-2021-INIT/en/pdf> and https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/slovenias-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en#documents

possible proposals for measures and legislative changes in the field of unemployment benefits.

V. OLD AGE BENEFIT

a) Changes made during the reference period

In the reference period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, there were no amendments to the Pension and Disability Insurance Act (ZPIZ-2). But in the reference period, a law affecting ZPIZ-2 was amended. Namely Transnational Provision of Services Act (ZČmIS-1), which was adopted in March 2023.

b) Changes decided, planned or proposed for the following year

The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities has prepared a Bill on Amendments to the Pension and Disability Insurance Act (ZPIZ-2S), which is currently in the legislative process. The proposal to amend the law solves several areas:

- Change in the consideration of the pension base at retirement for recipients of partial compensation under ZPIZ-2 and recipients of partial disability pension under ZPIZ-1, who remain included in part-time insurance, thereby ensuring rights in a way that is stimulating to maintaining employment working disabled people and their employment, without a negative impact on the pension assessment;
- Introduction of the institution of a guaranteed widow's pension;
- Establishment of a legal basis for providing data to the Institute for Pension and Disability Insurance of Slovenia for the implementation of mandatory pension and disability insurance;
- Provision of a legal basis for the financing of the Institute for Economic Research;
- Provision of some adjustments to the existing legislation in such a way that it adapts to the already existing implementation of the law;
- Harmonization of the provisions of ZPIZ-2 with the new international accounting standards.

c) Research (including evaluation), completed or initiated

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d) Rates of payment during the reference period (Art 65, p 10)

A regular adjustment was carried out with effect from 1 January 2023 in the amount of 5.2%.

The minimum pension rating basis thus amounts 1.061,17 EUR and the maximum pension rating basis is equal to 4.244,68 EUR.

The annual allowance was paid in accordance with the Act Regulating the Implementation of the Budgets of the Republic of Slovenia for 2023 and 2024 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 150/22; ZIPRS2324). An annual allowance was paid to 622.361 beneficiaries (of pensions or disability allowances) in five different rates (beneficiaries of pensions) and in three different rates (beneficiaries of disability allowances).

Amount of the pension in EUR	Amount of the annual allowance in EUR for 2023
up to 600,00 EUR	455,00
from 600,01 to 720,00 EUR	315,00
from 720,01 to 850,00 EUR	255,00
from 850,01 to 1.020,00 EUR	205,00
above 1.020,00 EUR	145,00

Amount of the disability allowance	Amount of the annual allowance in EUR for 2023
up to 850,00	255,00
from 850,01 to 1.020,00	205,00
above 1.020,00	145,00

The annual allowance was paid to 12,863 recipients of benefits from disability insurance.

VI. WORK ACCIDENT AND OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE BENEFIT

a) Changes made during the reference period

Following the consultation with the social partners and other relevant stakeholders the **Rules on the occupational diseases** (hereinafter: Rules) were adopted and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia on 24 February 2023 ([*Pravilnik o poklicnih boleznih*] (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No. 25/23), available at: <http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=PRAV14889>). The Rules entered into force one day after they were published in the Official Gazette, their provisions are applicable as of 1 May 2023 (Article 17).

Chapter IV of the Rules (Articles 6–10) stipulates in detail **the procedure for determination, confirmation and reporting of occupational diseases**. In line with the adopted Rules, the application for determining an occupational disease is filled in by the

worker. With the worker's consent, an authorized occupational medicine practitioner, a specialist who treated the disease suspected to be occupational, a selected personal family physician or a safety officer, also participates in the preparation of the application.

An interdisciplinary group of experts in the context of determining an occupational disease formulates its findings on the basis of medical documentation and additional working and other documentation obtained from employers, their occupational medicine practitioners, the selected personal family physician, the attending physician, the appointed physician, the health commission of the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia (i.e. *Zavod za zdravstveno zavarovanje Slovenije – ZZZS*), the expert body of the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia (i.e. *Zavod za pokojninsko in invalidsko zavarovanje Slovenije – ZPIZ*), the safety officer, inspection and other competent authority, and other legal or natural entity who disposes of any evidence or other data, including personal data, for the determination of an occupational disease. The conclusion of the interdisciplinary group of experts, which establishes the existence of an occupational disease or establishes the suspicion of the existence of an occupational disease, is served to the employee, the selected personal family physician, and the occupational medicine practitioner of the current employer. The conclusion of the interdisciplinary group of experts that no occupational disease has been established is served on the worker.

Occupational diseases are listed in Annex 1² to the Rules (paragraph one of Article 4 of the Rules). The list of occupational diseases is current and updated regularly.

The aim of the Rules is to improve the working conditions of employees, to provide appropriate treatment for those who are already ill and to prevent the development of new diseases through the detection and registration of occupational diseases.

The adopted Rules lay down detailed diagnostic procedures for occupational diseases, thereby remedying the shortcomings in the process of diagnosing causally related diseases resulting from exposure to chemical, physical and biological agents in the workplace.

The new Rules on occupational diseases, which entered into force on 1 May 2023, allow employees to recognise occupational diseases and thus improve their working conditions. For a person diagnosed with an occupational disease, the Rules also provide for the full cost of medical services related to the disease and 100% replacement of salary during sick leave due to the disease, and, if appropriate, taking occupational disease into account when determining the basis for the assessment of disability pension.

b) Changes decided, planned or proposed for the following year

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² Available at: <http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=PRAV14889>

c) **Research (including evaluation), completed or initiated**

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d) **Rates of payment during the reference period (Art. 65, p. 10):**

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VII. FAMILY BENEFIT

a) **Changes made during the reference period**

Adjustment of benefits:

Parental allowance amounts to **465,34** EUR per month.

Childbirth grant amounts to **404,96** EUR.

Large family allowance amounts for the family with three children amounts to **468,00 EUR** and for the family with four or more children **568,71 EUR**. It is paid as a lump sum payment.

The monthly amount of special child care allowance due to higher costs of living is **118,48 EUR**. For children with severe disturbances in mental development and children with severe disability in movement who need special care, the allowance amounts to **236,97 EUR**.

Child benefit (in EUR per month):

Income bracket	Income per family member (EUR)	Amount for each child until the end of the primary school, or up to the age of 18 (EUR)			Amount for each child in high school, ³ but not exceeding 18 years (EUR)		
		1st child	2nd child	3rd and subsequent child	1st child	2nd child	3rd and subsequent child
1	Up to EUR 221,46	135,44	148,97	162,53	135,44	148,97	162,53
2	over EUR 221,47 to EUR 369,11	115,79	128,00	140,14	128,00	116,05	140,14
3	Over EUR 369,12 to EUR 442,94	88,25	98,64	108,99	88,25	98,64	108,99
4	Over EUR 442,95 to EUR 516,76	69,61	79,42	89,42	69,61	79,42	89,42
5	Over EUR 516,77 to EUR 652,12	56,91	66,42	75,86	56,91	65,42	75,86
6	Over EUR 652,13 to EUR 787,44	36,07	40,92	54,16	36,07	45,13	54,16
7	Over EUR 787,45 to EUR 1.008,93	27,06	36,07	45,13	34,16	43,17	58,82
8	Over EUR 1.008,94 to EUR 1.218,08	23,56	32,58	41,59	27,11	36,13	47,26

The monthly amount of partial payment for the loss of income was raised to 1,2 times minimum wage gross.

³ Note that children usually attend high school from the age of 13.

b) Changes decided, planned or proposed for the following year

Abolition of the 20% increase in the amount of the child allowance if the child, up to the age of four, is not in kindergarten.

c) Research (including evaluation), completed or initiated

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VIII. MATERNITY BENEFIT

a) Changes made during the reference period

ZSDP-1F (Official Gazette of the RS, No. 153/2022)

Paternity leave is shortened from 30 days to 15 days until the child is 3 months old.

Parental leave was changed:

Each parent has the right to 160 days of parental leave. Mother can transfer to a father 100 days of parental leave and a father can transfer to a mother 100 days of parental leave. Each parent has 60 days of non-transferable parental leave.

Part time work was changed:

One of the parents, who cares for and protects two or more children, may exercise the right to part-time work until the youngest child is 8 years old (before until the end of first grade of elementary school). One year is no more non-transferable for each parent.

b) Changes decided, planned or proposed for the following year

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c) Research (including evaluation), completed or initiated

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IX. INVALIDITY BENEFIT (persons with disabilities)

a) Changes made during the reference period

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b) Changes decided, planned or proposed for the following year

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c) Research (including evaluation), completed or initiated

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d) Rates of payment during the reference period (Art. 65, p. 10):

At the beginning of year 2023 the amount of the invalidity benefit for persons with disabilities was 684,05 EUR per month which is 63,87 EUR per month higher than in year 2021.

Based on the provisions of the Act on the Coordination of Transfers to Individuals and Households in the Republic of Slovenia and the decision of the Council of the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia, the amounts of the assistance and service supplement have been adjusted by 10.3 percent as of 1 March 2023 and are either 347,11 EUR or 173,56 EUR on top of 684,05 EUR.⁴

In May 2023 7.512 persons with disabilities had a status under the Social Inclusion of Disabled Persons Act and were entitled to the invalidity benefit.

X. SURVIVORS' BENEFIT

a) Changes made during the reference period

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b) Changes decided, planned or proposed for the following year

The Bill on Amendments to the Pension and Disability Insurance Act (ZPIZ-2S) provides for the introduction of the new institute of guaranteed widow's pension.

An important social element in the pension and disability insurance system was from 1 April 1992 to 31 December 2011 also guaranteed widow's or family pension. The institute of a guaranteed widow's pension is thus being introduced into the system of pension and disability insurance, which will represent an additional social element within the system and will be intended for widows or widowers who, in addition to the right to a widow's pension, also have the right to their early, old-age or disability pension. Its amount is the same as the amount of the guaranteed pension (in 2024 it is expected to be EUR 700 or higher) and is then adjusted in the same way as pensions. The measure reduces the risk of social exclusion of part of this population group.

c) Research (including evaluation), completed or initiated

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d) Rates of payment during the reference period (Art. 65, p. 10):

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⁴ Available at: <https://www.zpiz.si/cms/content2019/uskladitev-prejemkov-po-zakon-o-drubenem-varstvu->

XI. FINANCING

a) Changes made during the reference period

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b) Changes decided, planned or proposed for the following year

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c) Research (including evaluation), completed or initiated

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***ADDITIONALLY: Financial social assistance and Income supplement (determined on the basis of BMI)**

a) Changes made during the reference period

The basic minimum income (BMI) was set at 421,89 EUR from the 1 March 2022. Due to the regular indexation the BMI increased from 1 March 2023 to EUR 465,34.

The minimum income is the basis for determining the amount of the Financial social assistance payments and Income supplement to a beneficiary under certain conditions.

b) Changes decided, planned or proposed for the following year

In order to improve social security for the elderly, the possibility of extending the right to the Income supplement ex officio by centres for social work (without any application by the clients) is being considered.

c) Research (including evaluation), completed or initiated

In 2022, a new survey on the minimum cost of living was carried out, which found that the minimum cost of living for a single working person receiving temporary Financial social assistance is EUR 488.58, and EUR 669.83 for a single person, who, because of his/her condition (over 65 for men and 63 for women, permanently incapacitated, permanently unemployable), receives the Financial social assistance or the Income supplement on a permanent basis, as he/she cannot be expected to receive a new income to improve his/her social situation. A new Basic Minimum Income has not been established, as the difference between the level of the newly and the last established short-term minimum costs of living does not exceed 15 per cent and the Republic of Slovenia is not obliged to increase the level of the Basic Minimum Income in accordance

with the Social Assistance Payments Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos. 61/10, 40/11, 14/13, 99/13, 90/15, 88/16, 31/18, 73/18, 196/21 – ZDOsk and 84/23 – ZDOsk-1).

Within the framework of the task set out in the annual work plan of the Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for the year 2023 under contract with the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, an annual report on the Social Situation in Slovenia for the period 2022–2023 is being prepared. The main purpose of the annual reports on the social situation is to provide a comprehensive and complex overview of the changes in the social situation in Slovenia in the current year and the previous year, and, within this, in particular, of the changes in the situation of the vulnerable groups and the impact of various factors on these changes.

d) Rates of payment during the reference period (Art. 65, p. 10):

From 1 March 2022 to end February 2023 the weights and the amounts were as follows:

Household member	Weight for BMI	Amount of payment (in EUR)
Financial social assistance (<i>denarna socialna pomoč</i>) - FSA		
Single person (inactive)	1	421,89
Single person (active from 60 to 128 hours per month)	1+0.26	531,58
Single person (active more than 128 hours per month)	1+0.51	637,05
Single person aged between 18 and 26, registered with the competent employment authority in the register of unemployed persons or in the register of jobseekers, who is registered as residing at the same address as his/her parents, or who actually resides with them, and whose parents have sufficient resources of their own to support themselves	0.7	295,32
Single person (age of 63 (W) or 65 (M) and/or permanently unemployable or/and permanently incapable of work living in a household in which other members have sufficient means for living)	0.76	320,64

Subsequent adult	0.57	240,48
Subsequent adult (active from 60 to 128 hours per month)	0.57+0.13	295,32
Subsequent adult (active more than 128 hours per month)	0.57+0.26	350,17
Child	0.59	248,92
Child in the single-parent family	0.59 + 0.18	324,86
Income supplement (<i>varstveni dodatek</i>) - IS		
Single person in the family under certain conditions	0.47	198,29
Adult person in the family under certain conditions	0.25	105,47
Single person (age of 63 (W) or 65 (M) and/or permanently unemployable or/and permanently incapable of work living in a household in which other members have sufficient means for living)	0.55	232,04

The income eligibility threshold for entitlement to the **Income supplement** is the sum of the minimum income for a single person or family for Financial social assistance, plus the relevant amount of Income supplement. The income eligibility thresholds **from 1 March 2022 to end February 2023** were:

- EUR 620,18 (1.47 times the Basic Minimum Income) for a single person or the first adult in the family;
- EUR 767,84 (1.82 times the Basic Minimum Income) for a family of two persons, in which only one member qualifies for the Income supplement. For elderly persons (as defined above), eligibility for the Income supplement is defined only in terms of the age of each adult, whereas for permanently unemployable or permanently incapable for work, it is defined independently of their age.
- EUR 966,13 (2.29 times the Basic Minimum Income) for a family of two persons, in which both members are eligible for the Income supplement (as defined in the previous paragraph).

For families with children, the thresholds above are increased by EUR 46,41 (0.11 times the Basic Minimum Income), independently of the number of children in the family.

From 1 March 2023 the weights and the amounts are as follows:

Household member	Weight for BMI	Amount of payment (in EUR)
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Financial social assistance (<i>denarna socialna pomoč</i>) - FSA		
Single person (inactive)	1	465,34
Single person (active from 60 to 128 hours per month)	1+0.26	586,33
Single person (active more than 128 hours per month)	1+0.51	702,66
Single person aged between 18 and 26, registered with the competent employment authority in the register of unemployed persons or in the register of jobseekers, who is registered as residing at the same address as his/her parents, or who actually resides with them, and whose parents have sufficient resources of their own to support themselves	0.7	325,74
Single person (age of 63 (W) or 65 (M) and/or permanently unemployable or/and permanently incapable of work living in a household in which other members have sufficient means for living)	0.76	353,66
Subsequent adult	0.57	265,24
Subsequent adult (active from 60 to 128 hours per month)	0.57+0.13	325,74
Subsequent adult (active more than 128 hours per month)	0.57+0.26	386,23
Child	0.59	274,55
Child in the single-parent family	0.59 + 0.18	309,68
Income supplement (<i>varstveni dodatek</i>) - IS		
Single person in the family under certain conditions	0.47	218,71
Adult person in the family under certain conditions	0.25	116,34
Single person (age of 63 (W) or 65 (M) and/or permanently unemployable or/and permanently incapable of work living in a household in which other members have sufficient means for living)	0.55	255,94

The income eligibility threshold for entitlement to the **Income supplement** is the sum of the minimum income for a single person or family for Financial social assistance, plus the relevant amount of Income supplement. The income eligibility thresholds **from 1 March 2023** are:

- EUR 684,05 (1.47 times the Basic Minimum Income) for a single person or the first adult in the family;
- EUR 846,92 (1.82 times the Basic Minimum Income) for a family of two persons, in which only one member qualifies for the Income supplement. For elderly persons (as defined above), eligibility for the Income supplement is defined only in terms of the age of each adult, whereas for permanently unemployable or permanently incapable for work, it is defined independently of their age.
- EUR 1.065,63 (2.29 times the Basic Minimum Income) for a family of two persons, in which both members are eligible for the Income supplement (as defined in the previous paragraph).

For families with children, the thresholds above are increased by EUR 51,19 (0.11 times the Basic Minimum Income), independently of the number of children in the family.