

## **Slovenian Federation of Pensioners' Associations**

### **MEMORANDUM 2018**

on the positions, mode, and content of the upcoming cooperation with political parties and other holders of political power, and on the issues elderly Slovenians have dealt with in the past period, are dealing with in 2018, and will deal with in the upcoming 2018-2022 period benchmark

Slovenian Federation of Pensioners' Association (SFPA orig.: ZDUS) addresses requests, proposals and initiatives to all political parties who will elect their election programs and promises in the electoral year 2018 to all political and executive bodies in Slovenia, which will prepare action plans and programs for the implementation of the Active Ageing Strategy of RS, Vision of RS 2050, Slovenia's Development Strategy 2030 and other development documents.

The adopted strategic documents foresee that in the coming period, in 2018, and in the next years, we will face radical structural changes. In order to be effective and acceptable for most citizens, structural changes must also take into account the expectations and needs of the older generation. This requires the successful management of the country and the introduction of lessons from the analyses and provisions of the UN Conventions, internationally accepted commitments, and recommendations of organizations such as OECD, WHO, the EU, and other institutions.

#### 1. COUNTRY MANAGEMENT

Effective governance of the state is a prerequisite for satisfying the common interests of citizens, including the interests of pensioners and all older people. Slovenians, because of more formal than practical democracy, do not manage our country effectively.

One of the reasons for this is the functioning of political parties where the interests of society are subordinated to specific and individual interests and the goals of their networks.

A political system that inhibits the development of society and democracy needs to be reformed by changing the electoral law, the law on the government and the law on the management of state property. These must be fundamental priorities in the new mandate.

Pensioners will support all proposals aimed at a more effective political and economic system.

In order to achieve this, we will actively connect with other civil society organizations such as Youth Council of Slovenia, Student Organization, Slovenian High School Student Organization, Senior Coordination Committee of Slovenia, and others.

#### 2. DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE ACTIVE AGEING SOCIETY STRATEGY

The basis of ZDUS, on which we will assess the credibility of pre-election promises and the implementation of current strategies and laws, will be a benchmark for monitoring the performance of the newly formed government of the Republic of Slovenia for the term 2018-2022.

Demographic changes and extremely rapid technological and social development are facts that require adaptation of existing systems so that we can exploit all capacities and create possibilities and opportunities for a quality and dignified life for all generations.

We are convinced that the management of the aging society strategy in older age period will be successful if the following principles in the most important areas are taken into account:

### **Labour market that is adapted to older persons, lifelong learning, and training**

1. The contribution of older people must be appropriately recognized and systemically supported, regardless of age, sex, ethnic origin, and individual's health status.
2. Age may not be used to determine the role, value, and potential of an individual.
3. All people, irrespective of their age, must be given the opportunity to be actively involved in the work process, whilst the whole society must encourage flexible employment and retirement.
4. Older people, like other population groups, must be included in education and training for the third life period throughout their lives.

### **Healthy, independent and safe life**

1. An awareness that they should constantly take care of their own health should be raised among residents by the state with continuous systematic training. Within such activities, older people themselves and with others will be able to live as many healthy years as possible.
2. The state will, with purposeful measures, reduce the number of the poor among older people so that they can live independently and with dignity.

### **Creating an environment for active aging**

1. Transport arrangements and infrastructure should be adequately designed and accessible, easy to use for older persons, safe, and reliable.
2. It's imperative to renovate the housing stock of older people living in disproportionately large, unadjusted accommodation units, also in single-person and poor households.
3. Introduce different institutional and group forms of living, tailored to the needs of older persons for the extension of independent living in the home environment.

### **Inclusion in society**

1. Official sources and relevant information for counselling have to be available to older people where and when they are needed, and they have to be accessible in a user-friendly form.
2. The state must help older people to qualify for voluntary work, and to do so for as long as they want; plus, their contribution must be fully recognized.
3. The vulnerable older persons will be protected and free from fear.

- 4. PROPOSALS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE SLOVENIAN FEDERATION OF PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATIONS

## **The pension system**

We demand:

- consistent adjustments of pensions in accordance with articles 106 and 430 of the Pension and Disability Insurance Act-2 (PDIA-2),
  - gradual (at least partial) elimination of the negative consequences of the failure to implement systemic laws on the adjustment of pensions in previous periods,
  - a suitable increase of the minimum pension-rating base which would provide a more acceptable financial position to all beneficiaries dependant on such calculations,
  - a gradual change in the scale for the assessment of old-age pensions and a ratio between the average retirement pension and the average salary which would reach the level defined by PDIA-2 (at least 62.5% of the pension-rating base for 40 years of retirement age).
  - harmonization of disability allowances for physical impairment and enforcement of regulations in the field of protection of persons with disabilities, which will regulate procedures for determining the type and degree of physical defects (this hasn't been changed since the adoption of PDIA-2),
  - implementation of a pension system that will allow a gradual transition to retirement, while simultaneously adjusting the labour market,
  - an increase of survivor's pensions from the current 15 % to 18 % or 25 % of related survivor's pension, along with an increase of the current limit rate (11.7 % of the minimum pension-rating base).

## **Working activities of older persons** The state must create:

- the conditions for longer working life of older persons by introducing flexible working hours,
- appropriate working conditions and jobs that are adapted to older workers, in order to be able to reactivate and transfer the knowledge and skills to the younger generation and vice versa,
- opportunities for lifelong training at work and along with work,
- conditions for increasing the involvement of older people in lifelong learning,
- incentives for older people to work with a special emphasis on novelties due to digitization and predicted labour market consequences.

## **Independent and healthy life** We require:

- a significant improvement in access to health services, taking into account solidarity between healthy and sick,
- a gradual increase in funds for these purposes from the budget due to an increasing number of older people,
- provision of a public healthcare system for predefined basic and important health services and other health services that are not a priority and can be the subject of private insurance,
- encouraging the development of a multimedia platform for telemedicine and teletherapy, which could significantly reduce the cost of treatment,

- the reform of the public health network, which would be more rational and more effective than the current regulation.

## **Social**

## **welfare**

## **policy**

We

require:

- access to all resources that provide a decent life for a person, such as work, health, culture, living and working conditions, education, participation in social decision-making,
- the immediate preparation and adoption of a law on long-term care with a clear financial structure and the setting up of tools for its realization,
- development of an entire long-term care system based on solidarity between the more affluent and the socially disadvantaged,
- regulation of the status of informal care providers and their inclusion in the long-term care system,
- improvement of conditions for care for older people, development of community-based and other forms of living, increase in accommodation capacities in homes and sheltered homes,
- increase in accommodation capacities in homes, also for demented persons, and comprehensive and professional care,
- more consistent supervision of the quality of care for older people and verification of employees' empathy for older persons in homes and all other forms of care,
- improvement of standards and norms in homes for older people,
- maintenance of a minimum level of inter-generational solidarity provided by the basic public social security system,
- re-exercising the right to funeral money in the amount of 500 Euro.

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## **ECONOMIC**

## **POLICY**

Citizens and pensioners of the Republic of Slovenia are aware that without a successful economy, we will not achieve the prosperity that we have planned in the development documents.

For this reason, the pensioners will do their best to participate in the development of programs and projects dedicated to high quality products of great usable value and high added value.

The basis for this is the establishment of an effective system that will enable prompt payments and quick settlements of related contributions and taxes.

## **Conclusion**

In this Memorandum the ZDUS notes, warns, and proposes solutions for the most pressing problems of pensioners and the whole older population in the conditions of regulated management of a long-lived society in our country and the community of the 27 countries we are part of.

In examining the annual normative programs of government work we often find that some laws on different areas will have a significant effect on the status of older people and pensioners. It is therefore necessary to replace excessive legal documents, many of which are not harmonized at all and are therefore limiting the system.

