

Results of the analysis carried out in order to choose appropriate location of the Regional Offices of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights

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Abstract

The article deals with results of analysis focused on selection appropriate location for Regional Offices of the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights. First, the profiles of regions in connection with rise and existence of discrimination cases were elaborated. Characteristics of situation showed the most distinctive differences which positively or negatively affect the rise of cases of discrimination. On the base of analytical assessment results were selected regions with the greatest need for solving problem of the fight against discrimination. Also methodology of Problem Tree was applied as a tool for problem analysis. It contains not only the causes of problems but also correct and precise determination of the consequences caused by these problems.

Key words: discrimination, fight against discrimination, problem tree, profile of region

JEL Classification: J16

1 Introduction

In the Slovak Republic there works the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights (SNCHR) which was established in 1993 by the Act No. 308/1993 Coll. as independent institution focused on protection human rights and fight against discrimination. During last years, SNCHR has realized project focused on elimination of negative feature in society – discrimination. One of project's results was enlargement of capacities of SNCHR in the particular regions through establishment new Regional Offices of SNCHR. For the purposes of optimal localization of Regional Offices the following appraisal aspects and the scales of their importance were selected:

- social situation (scale 10),
- distribution of nationalities (scale 9),
- economic situation (scale 8),
- distribution of Roma ethnic community (scale 7),
- unemployment (scale 6),
- spatial accessibility (scale 5),
- level of partnership creation (scale 4),
- estimate of the size of vulnerable groups in connection with number of the population (scale 3),
- educational situation (scale 2) and
- population situation (scale 1).

2 Analysis of particular aspects in the regions

Selection of the appraisal aspects was based on the findings of the research activities. All regions in the Slovak Republic were assessed, with the exception of Bratislava region, where the activities in the field of protection against discrimination are carried out in particular by the SNCHR with its seat in Bratislava. Neither regional seats were assessed, for the reason that in VUC (Higher Territorial Unit) seat, activities of the specialized subjects active in the field of protection against discrimination are in general relatively developed, nor the offices of labour and social affairs, courts and public prosecution, non-governmental organizations, etc. At the same time, it was assumed that the offices' location would not respect the territorial administrative division of the Slovak Republic, but it would proceed from the assessment of situation in the respective regions and from the spatial accessibility for the victims of Discrimination. In case of the territory covered by the SNCHR national office it is possible to solve the territory (Bratislava region and wide surroundings), for example, by means of a mobile office (the terrain visits with its own processing of the cases solved in Bratislava), or a virtual office.

Economic level of the regions was assessed using a complex indicator of economic level). Based on this assessment, the regions of the Slovak Republic can be divided into five groups and the values from 5 to 1 can be assigned to them. The regions with the highest economic level have index 5 assigned. Gradually, with a decreasing economic level, the regions have lower indexes up to 1 assigned. [1]

Social situation reflects in particular the state in the field of social or material dependency (problems) and unemployment. It is assessed using a social index, on the basis of which the regions can be divided into five groups and the values from 5 to 1 can be assigned to them. The regions with very good social situation had index 5 assigned. With a worsening social situation, also the assigned index decreases. [1]

Population situation reflects population trend in the Slovak Republic in recent years. Situation in particular regions is assessed using a population index). Based on this assessment, the regions are divided into five groups and the values from 5 to 1 are assigned to them (from very good to very unfavourable population situation). A starting point was a hypothesis that the more favourable population situation the worse situation in the number of potential victims of Discrimination in connection with the growth of population number.

Educational situation in particular regions reflects a structure of attained education of the citizens. The level was assessed using an educational index. The regions are divided into five groups accordingly. To the regions with the best educational situation a value 5 is assigned. With a decreasing level, the regions have lower values up to the value 1 assigned.

Level of the **regions' cooperation** with particular sectors is assessed using a points system). Particular regions are divided into six groups and the values from 5 to 0 are assigned to them. The regions with the highest rate of territorial coverage with the microregional partnerships and the highest portion of cooperation between the sectors have the value 5 assigned. If the portion of participation and cooperation is very low, the region has the value 0. [1]

The assessment of the regions in the view of **registered unemployment** rate was based on the data from the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic. The regions are divided into five groups according to unemployment rate. In the first group, the unemployment rate is in the range 0 – 6 %, in the second group in the range 6.1 – 12 %, in the third 12.1 – 18 %, in the fourth 18.1 – 24 % and the fifth group 24.1 – 30 %. In regions that have the unemployment rate in the range 0 – 6 % there is very good situation and the value 5 is assigned to them. With the increasing

unemployment rate, situation in the regions is getting worse and the assigned values within the framework of the selected scale are lower. [2]

The basis for these characteristics of **distribution of the region's nationalities** was percentage of the citizens, who have Slovak nationality. According to this percentage, the regions are divided into five groups. In the first group there are the regions, where 87.6 – 100 % of the citizens have Slovak nationality. The second group includes the regions, where 75.1 – 87.5 % of the citizens have Slovak nationality. The third group has the range 62.6 – 75 % and the fourth 50.1 – 62.5 %. The last group includes the regions, where less than 50 % of all citizens have Slovak nationality. In the regions, where this percentage is high, there is lower possibility of Discrimination based on national origin. Situation is therefore assessed as very good and has the value 5 assigned. If the percentage of Slovak nationality decreases, possibility of Discrimination of this kind increases and thus situation in the region is getting worse. Therefore it has lower value assigned, which decreases to the value 1. [1]

Monitoring of Roma communities provides with the number of Roma communities in particular regions. It is based on the study entitled Sociographic Mapping of Roma Communities in the Slovak Republic, elaborated by the Office of Government's Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities. According to the number of communities, the regions were divided into five groups. The regions with less than 600 communities are included in the first group. In the second group, there are the regions with 601 to 1200 Roma communities. The third group includes the regions with 1201 to 1800 communities and the fourth one represents the regions with 1801 to 2400 communities. The regions with more than 2400 communities are included in the fifth group. In the regions, where the number of communities is lower, there is also lower possibility of Discrimination cases. This implies that if situation in the region is very good, it has the value 5 assigned. With an increasing number of Roma communities in the region, the assigned value decreases. [2]

The assessment of spatial accessibility of particular regions was based on information about transport approach by the road and railway infrastructure of the Slovak Republic. Thus in addition to distance, also the accessibility of the proposed town for the citizens was taken into consideration. The regions were divided into five groups: with the worst, average, good and best spatial accessibility. In these characteristics, inverted assignment of the values is used. It means that the region with worst accessibility has the value 5 assigned and the region with the best accessibility has the value 1. This assessment was used due to a comprehensive assessment of the regions, in which the locations with the lowest counts of characteristics were selected. These represented the greatest need for problem solving and at the same time the best spatial accessibility.

Estimate of the size of vulnerable group proceeded from the total number of citizens in particular regions, as with a growing number of population also the vulnerable group grows. In the first group, there are the regions, where the vulnerable group has up to 35 000 persons. In the second group it has 35 000 to 70 000 persons, in the third group 70 001 to 105 000 persons. The fourth group represents the regions, where the vulnerable group has 105 001 to 140 000 persons. The regions with more than 140 001 vulnerable persons are included in the fifth group. Situation is assessed as very good in the regions with a smaller vulnerable group and the value 5 is assigned to them. With a growth of the size of vulnerable group situation is getting worse and the regions then have lower value (to 1) assigned. [3]

In connection with the results of the analytical assessment procedures:

- the regional seats were assessed with particular selected characteristics;

- the achieved values were re-counted according to determined;
- account of the values of particular characteristics became the basis for selection of locations with the lowest counts that represented the locations with the greatest need for solving problem of the fight against discrimination;
- the maps of localization of the subjects and territory that would be covered by such located SNCHR RO were drawn in;
- selection of the offices' location: Nové Zámky, Kysucké Nové Mesto (the analysis showed the need for occupation of the territory of Čadca district, however, better accessible territory is in the near Kysucké Nové Mesto), Dolný Kubín, Kežmarok, Rimavská Sobota, Humenné and Zvolen – in case of this Regional Office it was decision relating to coverage of the territory that is not covered by the other seats (Fig.1). [3]

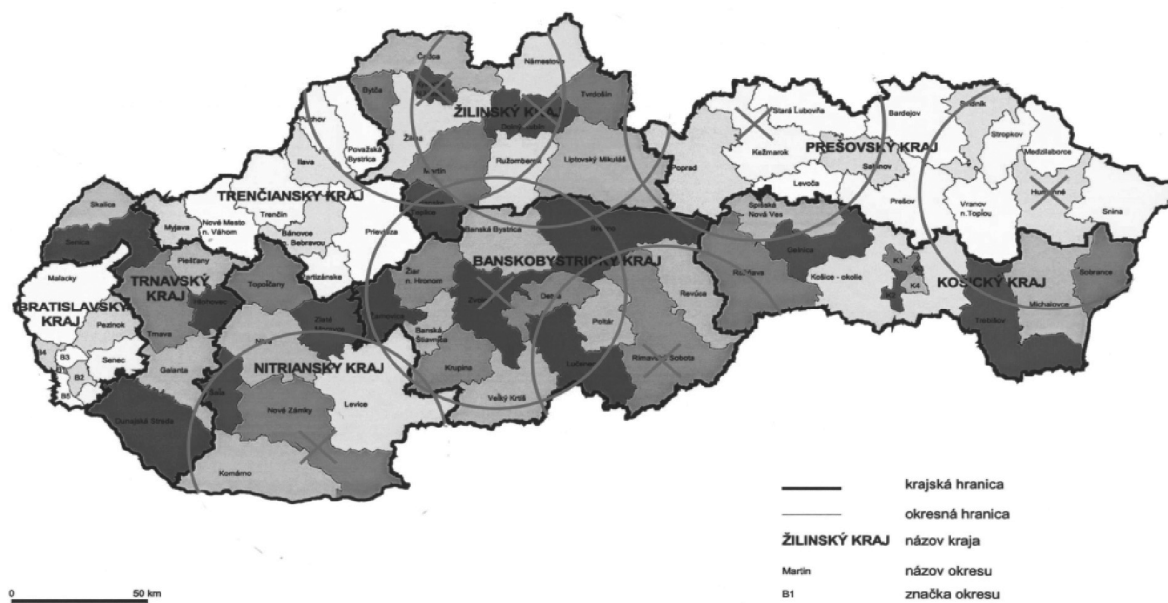


Fig. 1 Map of territory coverage by proposed Regional Offices

One of the results of the analysis carried out within the framework of the Project were also the positional maps presenting an occurrence of various selected aspects which characterize the current situation in the field of protection against Discrimination in the Slovak Republic and particular regions, e.g. map of coverage of the regions with the institutions performing the activities in the field of protection against discrimination.

3. Problem tree structure in the field of protection against discrimination

Within the Slovak republic and its regions, based on the analytical activities in the Project, several basic problem areas were recorded in the field of protection against discrimination.

The methodology for preparing the Problem Tree was used as a tool for problem analysis, whereby it relates to a correct identification of not only the causes for problem origin, but also correct and precise determination of the consequences caused by these problems.

Solution procedure using this method anticipated the answers for three basic questions, namely:

- What are the main problems in the field of protection against discrimination in particular regions of the Slovak Republic?
- What is the mutual connection between these problems?
- Which of the identified problems are the causes and which are the consequences?

Problem Tree (Fig. 2) was subsequently used for an external evaluation within the framework of the Regional Sociology Foresight (RSF), with a view to complete the problem areas and to create a draft expert questionnaire for one of the Panels, which the RSF Methodology uses.

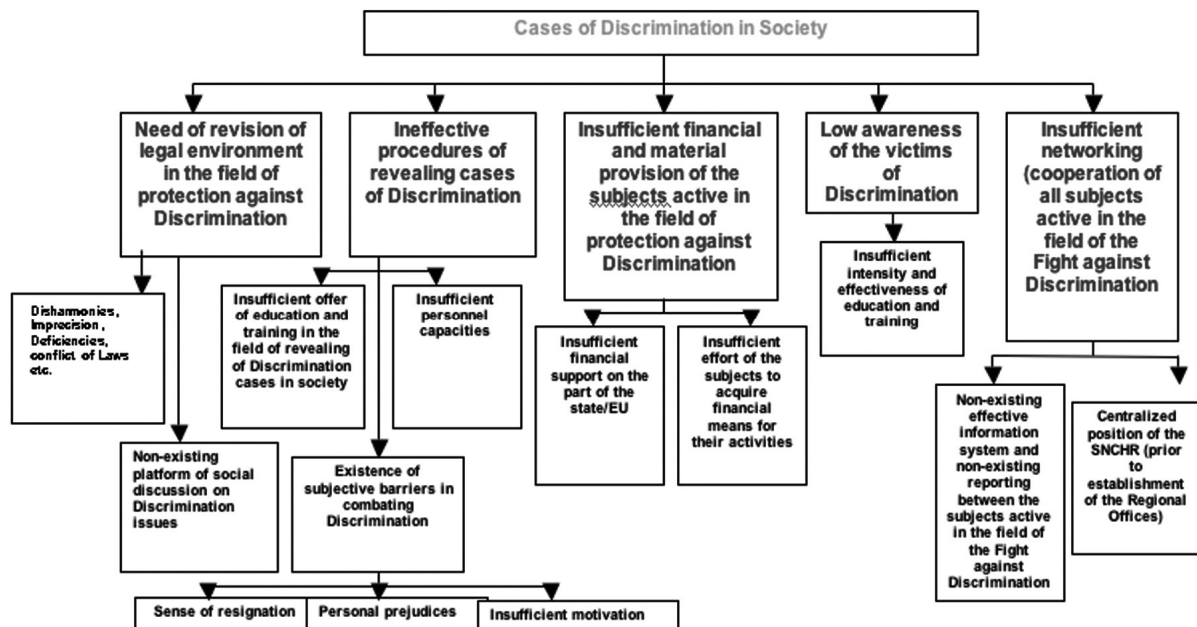


Fig. 2 Problem Tree structure in the field of protection against discrimination in the Slovak Republic

4 Conclusions

Based on this analysis and creation of problem tree structure, there was designed scenario of strategy focused on protection against discrimination in the Slovak Republic. This strategy should be basis for Government of the Slovak Republic in provision its active policy and acceptance of important decisions and legislation.

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