

Summary

In 1992 the Slovenian Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development (IMAD) launched a project intended to set up a single and complete national catalogue of the social security benefits in cash granted to Slovenian households. Data are collected in a separate database covering all cash benefits that Slovenia provides to its citizens from the state and municipal budgets or through social insurance funds. The database is primarily intended to provide information, allowing an overview of the overall system and giving basic data on each specific benefit. The database also serves as the basis for IMAD's in-depth studies and the analyses conducted by social policy makers and the competent bodies implementing the social protection programmes.

The Working Paper provides detailed descriptions of the cash benefits granted to Slovenian citizens through public funds and gives a thorough analysis of the cash benefit system in Slovenia in the period from 1992 to 2005. Chapter One presents the basic information about the IMAD's cash benefits database for the period from 1992 to 2005 while Chapter Two covers the period from 1993 to 2004.

In 2005, the Slovenian citizens were entitled to 70 different cash benefits, which are mostly paid out on a monthly basis. Between 1992 and 2005, 13 new cash benefits were introduced, 19 existing benefits were renamed while 7 were abolished. In 2004, the Slovenian citizens received a total of 2,173,368 benefits, 25% more than in 1993. The increase in the number of granted benefits was mainly the result of regulatory changes. The expenditure on cash benefits totalled SIT 1,067.8 billion in 2004 (17.1% of GDP). This expenditure rose at an annual real rate of 4.0% in the period 1993-2004, which is slightly slower than the expenditure on transfers to individuals and households according to the economic classification of general government expenditure (4.7%) and also somewhat slower than the total general government expenditure (4.5%). The biggest proportion of the expenditure was allocated to pensioners while the smallest proportion went to persons with special merits. Pensioners were also in the lead in terms of the number of benefits received, followed by parents.

The Working Paper further presents and analyses other social expenditure databases (information systems, methodologies, classifications) that include cash benefits: the MISSOC, the ESSPROS, the expenditure on transfers to individuals and households according to the economic classification of general government expenditure, and the expenditure on transfers according to the Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG; ESA-95 methodology). Chapter Three also discusses the differences between the databases presented while Chapter Four analyses the dynamics of funds in these database.

Key words: cash benefits, social benefits, social protection, public expenditure on cash benefits, social expenditure, social transfers, general government expenditure, economic classification, functional classification.