

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

Štefan Kušar, Secretary General  
[stefan.kusar@nsios.si](mailto:stefan.kusar@nsios.si)

**NSIOS**  
**Nacionalni svet invalidskih organizacij Slovenije**  
[www.nsios.si](http://www.nsios.si)

National Council of Disabled People's Organisations of Slovenia

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

## **The IDENTITY**

### **of Slovene Disabled People`s Organisations**

***Establishment, development and  
existence***

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

## Lobbying:

A lobbyist is defined as any person who is employed, appointed, or retained, with or without compensation, by another person to influence by direct communication with public officials or public employees.

## Advocacy

by an individual or by an advocacy group normally aim to influence public-policy and resource allocation decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions; it may be motivated from moral, ethical or faith principles or simply to protect an asset of interest.

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

Common denominator:

Influence of public policy

NSIOS – both

**Lobbyist** - Secretary General

**Advocacy** – member organizations with its volunteers

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

## TOOLS

- Identity
- Structure (HR, Organisation, Finances)

## Methodology

- lobbying, advocacy, networking, media campaign, capacity building, ect.

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

## IDENTITY

- VISION

- MISSION

- GOALS

- TARGETS

-TASKS,

**Who are we?**

**Why are we?**

**How are we operating?**

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

## Chapters:

Introduction

I. Establishment

II. Theoretical  
backgrounds

III. Legal base

IV. Members of NSIOS

V. Successes of NSIOS

VI. Possible threats

VII. Guaranteed future

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

## Introduction

Practise

Civil Society groups

Society

Oppotunities of DPO`s



# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

## Various functions of DPO`s:

- Society impact
- Social impact
- Economical impact

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

## I. The start of the Slovene Disability movement

- Austrian/Hungarian monarchy – “Invaliden Soldaten”
- Organised Social care for people with disabilities has a tradition of over 110 years (war veterans, blind, deaf)
- Example – Braille writing introduced in Slovenia back in 1889

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

## II. Theoretical principals for the practical work of Slovene DPO`s

Founding principal

**NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US**

Organisations **OF** People with disabilities. Not **FOR** People with disabilities.



## II. Theoretical principals for the practical work of Slovene DPO`s

### Three basic starting points:

- **SELSUFFICIENCY** – selfempowerment and capability
- **SOVEREIGNTY OF THE USERS** - people with disabilities themselves are the best evaluators of their needs
- **SOCIAL AND ECONOMICAL RIGHTS** – people with disabilities have the same right as other members of the Society to the freedom of implementing their interests

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

## A. Specific needs:

- A) Interlinking of people with disabilities with same interest/disability – socializing motive
- B) Activity – active implementation of their own needs
- C) Co-managment – people with disabilities co-manage the decisions in a wider enviroment considering their lives
- D) Equal social and economic opportunities – equal social role
- E) Specific services/help – the state is not able to provide services for expressed needs of people with disabilities, therefore DPO`s have to conduct special social services

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

## B. Principals of organising:

- A) Expression of free will – decision for membership is entirely depending on the freedom of choice by the individual person with disability
- B) Linkage of same interest – minimal evident common interests
- C) Evident level of disability – certain type (diagnosis), legal status (war disabled people, ect) or societal status (disabled students)
- D) Openness – everyone who wants and fulfills the criteria of a DPO may become member

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

## B. Principals of organising:

E) Inclusion – DPO`s are an inclusive part of the civil society and also broader

F) Public activities – DPO`s are open for discussion to expressed interests of various disability stakeholders in Society as well as to individuals

G) Non – for profit – DPO`s are not functioning to create profit for its members

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

## C. Principals for practical work

- A) Humanitarianism – solving problems of included people with disabilities
- B) Activisation – motivating and activation of included people with disabilities
- C) Normalization – establishment of such living conditions, which actually represent equal opportunities for people with disabilities
- D) Integration – inclusion of people with disabilities in society and in public life





## III. Legal ground for the organised work of DPO`s

### Before 1991

- Community of social care
- Economical reliefs in the past



## •Possibility for legal solutions:

Conceptional strategy for disability care

„Concept of Developing Disability Care strategy in a modern Society” – 1990

## •Legislation:

- 1992 – Social care act, article 64, definition of DPO`s

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

- Establishment of the public Foundation for financing disability and Humanitarian organisations - FIHO 1998
- DPO`s primary law is the Civil Society act „LEX GENERALIS“
- 2002 – The Slovenian Parliament passed a special law for DPO`s - DPO act “LEX SPECIALIS”
- Up to today:
  - 27 National wide DPO`s
  - 18 of them representative for a certain group of disabled people

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

## DPO`s Act

1. Introductory articles
2. Activities of DPO`s
3. DPO Status
4. Representative status of DPO`s
5. Financing and ownership of DPO`s
6. Penal provisions
7. Transitional and final provisions

*available in English on request by mail!*

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
S VET  
I NVALIDSKIH  
O RGANIZACIJ  
S LOVENIJE

## IV. DPO`s – members of NSIOS

- “Rehabilitation Conference at Socialistic Union of the working class people” State Institution in the early sixties.
- Cooperation of DPO`s on the base of the “Contract of establishment and functioning of NSIOS”; 10 DPO`s from 1991 and up to today 10 more. All together **20**.

## Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

# Members of NSIOS, nr of individual members and the year of establishment



ZVEZA DRUŠTEV SLEPIH  
IN SLABOVIDNIH SLOVENIJE

Federation of Blind  
and Partially sighted  
Associations of SI

3.881

Year 1920

Federation of Deaf  
and hard of  
hearing  
Associations of SI

5.808

Year 1909



ZVEZA DRUŠTEV GLUHIH  
IN NAGLUŠNIH SLOVENIJE

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE



Federation of Mental  
Handicapped  
Persons Association  
of SI

35.518

Year 1963

Union of the  
Paraplegics of SI

927

Year 1969

ZVEZA PARAPLEGIKOV  
SLOVENIJE



Muscular  
Dystrophy  
Association of SI

1.054

Year 1969

Slovenian Multiple  
Sclerosis Society



ZDRUŽENJE MULTIPLE SKLEROZE  
SLOVENIJE

2.250

Year 1973

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE



Federation of  
the Disabled  
workers  
Association of  
SI

64.500

Year 1969

Federation of the  
disabled of war  
Associations of SI

1.225

Year 1969



ZVEZA DRUŠTEV  
INVALIDOV VOJN  
SLOVENIJE



Association of  
Deafblind Slovenia -  
DLAN

45

Year 2006

Federation of  
Disabled war  
veterans  
Associations of  
SI

6.045

Year 1945





# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE



Sports  
Federation  
for the  
Disabled of  
Slovenia  
POC  
Year 1955

Slovenian  
Ostomy  
Association  
ILCO  
1.025  
Year 1987



Laryngectomees  
Association of SI  
310  
Year 1982

Association of  
Rheumatics  
1.317  
Year 1983



Društvo  
revmatikov  
Slovenije

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
S VET  
I NVALIDSKIH  
O RGANIZACIJ  
S LOVENIJE



Association  
VITA – help to  
people with  
brain injury

300

Year 2000

Society VISION  
PZS – disabled  
women

45

Year 2001



Slovenian  
association  
inflammatory  
bowel  
disease

650

Year 2004

Association of  
people with  
disabilities -  
Forum SI

350

Year 1996



# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE



Association of  
Disabled  
students of SI

260

Year 1996

Association of  
Paralysed  
people of SI

118

Year 2001



DRUŠTVO  
PARALITIKOV SLOVENIJE

**Representatives of DPO`s**

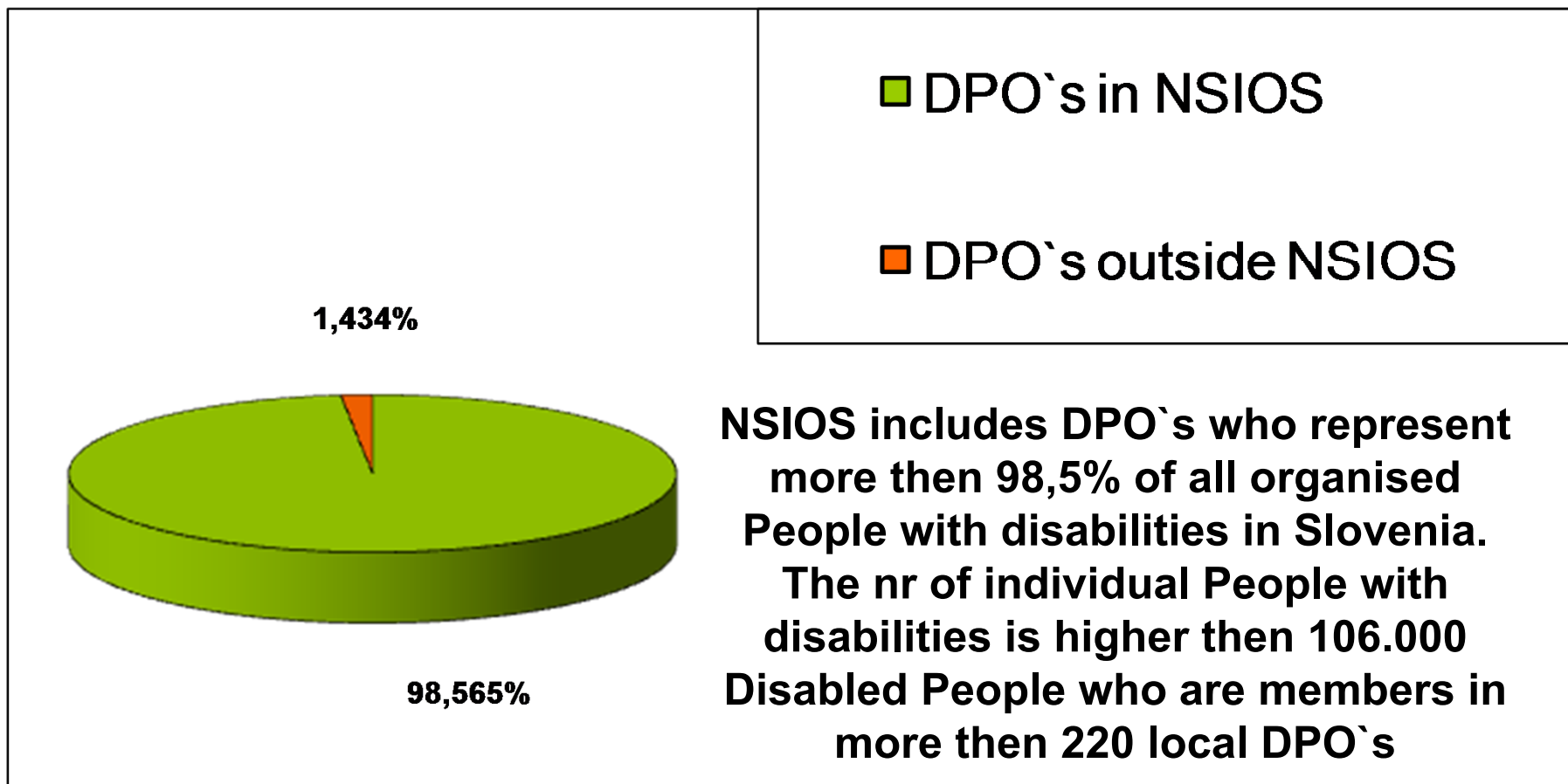
**are only**

**PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND PERSONS WHO  
REPRESENT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES UNABLE TO  
REPRESENT THEMSELVES**

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
S VET  
I NVALIDSKIH  
O RGANIZACIJ  
S LOVENIJE





## V. Some of the achieved successes of NSIOS:

- „Concept of Developing Disability Care strategy in a modern Society” – 1990
- Public Foundation for financing DPO`s and Humanitarian organisations in Slovenia (FIHO) [www.fiho.si](http://www.fiho.si)
  - Privatisation act of the National Lottery - 1996
  - Decree of the establishment of FIHO - 1998

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

- Slovene sign language act for deaf and hard of hearing - 2002
- DPO`s act - 2002
- Act on Building Construction and subact regulations - 2002
- Amendment to article 14th of the the Slovene Constitution which included the word “disability” as one of the non-discrimination reasons - 2004
- Occupational rehabilitation and employment of People with disabilities act and subact regulations - 2005
- Realization of the principle of equal opportunities - 2007

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

- National Radio and TV act - 2005, undergoing changes, referendum 2010
- Personal income tax - 2006
- Road safety Act – regulation on parking card for disabled people - 2004
- Parliamentary elections act - 2006
- Act on changes to the privatisation act of the National Lottery - 2007
- Signature and ratification of the UN Convention on rights of Persons with disabilities - 2008

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

Common representatives of slovene people with disabilities, appointed by NSIOS from representative DPO`s:

-FIHO – Foundation for financing DPO`s and Humanitarian Organisations; 16 representatives out of 30 members of the board

- Governmental Council on people with disabilities, 5 representatives out of 15

-National health insurance Institution, 8 representatives: 1 member of the board, 2 members of the General Assembly

-Pension and Disability Insurance Institute; 1 representative: member of the board

-National Radio and TV; 9 representatives, members of a special disability committee



# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

Common representatives of slovene people with disabilities, appointed by NSIOS from representative DPO`s:

-On the base of NSIOS-es proposal Boris Šuštaršič was elected as member of the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia for the term 2007 – 2012 in the field of social protection

-Monitoring Committee for EU structural funds – 2 representatives and 2 proxy

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

Common representatives of slovene people with disabilities, appointed by NSIOS from representative DPO`s:

-Council for realization of the principle of equal opportunities; 1 representative

-Social Chamber of Slovenia – vicepresident, 2 representatives out of 9 in the executive committee, 2 representatives in the council of experts out of 11, 1 representative in the Honorary Tribunal out of 5, 1 representative in the monitoring committee

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

Common representatives of slovene people with disabilities, appointed by NSIOS from representative DPO`s:

Working bodies of the Ministry for labour, family and social affairs:

- a) National guidelines to improve built environment, information and communications accessibility for disabled people – 3 representatives
- b) Disability action plan – 5 representatives
- c) Working group for drafting the proposal of the act for equalisation of opportunities for people with disabilities – 4 representative out of 7
- d) Working group for drafting the proposal of the act for personal assistance for people with disabilities – 7 representative out of 9)

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

## VI. Possible threats to DPO`s and their qualified representatives

- Financial reductions
- Questionable terminology – (lessability, handicappism, ect)
- Planned editorial selective censorship in mass-media
- Activation of disabled individuals against DPO`s and the slovene disability movement



## VII. Guaranteed future for slovene DPO`s, NSIOS and EDF

*The completion of article 14th of the Slovene Constitution with the word “disability” provides:*

- Equality for people with disabilities by law
- Such statement in the Slovene Constitution is in accordance with EU policies and documents
- Social rights for people with disabilities as they are mentioned in article 52 of the Slovene Constitution are actually now coming into power
- Identity in Society for people with disabilities and their DPO`s

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

- NSIOS since 2004 (after the EU accession) full member of EDF
- EU directive proposal on prohibition of discrimination – proposal published in July 2008
- UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities – ratified in April 2008
- Lisbon treaty – did not include provisions from the proposed Constitutional treaty, especially the whole Charter on Human and Social rights
- EU Commission Disability Strategy 2010 – 2020

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

## Extraordinary challenge for Slovene Disabled People, NSIOS and slovene DPO`s

- Act on equalisation of opportunities for disabled people – adopted this month at the Slovene Parliament
- Act on Personal assistance for Disabled People – public debate
- Act on longterm care and the insurance for longterm care – public debate
- Act on pension and disability insurance – procedure in Slovenian Parliament
- Act on health insurancejj - public
- Other proposed acts in the field of social protection

# Advocacy work by NSIOS in Slovenia



NACIONALNI  
SVET  
INVALIDSKIH  
ORGANIZACIJ  
SLOVENIJE

**Thank you for your attention!**

[stefan.kusar@nsios.si](mailto:stefan.kusar@nsios.si)

[www.nsios.si](http://www.nsios.si)