

## SLOVENIA

Update from Pergam 23.3.20

Like in the rest of the world, Slovenia faces major health problems as a consequence of COVID-19. Otherwise the conditions are extraordinary, the shops are closed, except for those selling food, all the places are closed, tourist accommodations, restricted movement, many businesses have stopped all activities. New intervention decrees are adopted daily and new safety measures are observed.

One of the bigger problems is the protective equipment (especially the masks), which is severely in short supply, even in healthcare and social institutes. These days, the supply of masks is expected, but in the emergency people are managing and many of them are making masks themselves, and it is also shortly expected that some companies in Slovenia will start their own production of masks.

Some employees with different occupations in health care who are most exposed are extremely burdened, there is a fear of infection, which affects both their health and their numbers that remain to fight the virus. An additional problem is that health care workers, in particular doctors, were among the first infected in Slovenia.

We also point out that it is urgently necessary to protect employees and that in these conditions the true importance of the public health system has been demonstrated, and in these conditions all the shortcomings and savings in the past years on these systems have been shown. Finally, we demand and expect that all workers who work under these conditions (epidemics) are paid and rewarded correctly, which is otherwise recorded in the Collective Agreement for the Public Sector.

In these days, both trade unions and other professional societies cooperate with joint calls to the Government and decent ministries, thus putting pressure on them to protect employees. Every action is also welcome at the European level, as there are problems in that relation as well. According to the latest information, for example, in Germany, a consignment of masks was detained for Slovenia, and if those same masks are urgently needed by Slovenia, which is completely absurd in this situation.