



YouthPartnership

QUESTIONNAIRE

VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES

SLOVAK REPUBLIC



YouthPartnership
Council of Europe
European Commission



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Table of contents

1. Which types of voluntary activities exist in your country for young people?.....	3
2. Which kind of voluntary service exist in your country and how many young people engage in them per year, in totals and by gender.	3
3. Financial and legal status of voluntary activities	4
4. Name the main actors of voluntary activities of young people on national, regional and local level in your country	4
5. What is the social protection of young volunteers in your country and are voluntary activities compatible with social benefits?	5
6 What Programmes and plans are there in your country on volunteering (national, regional, local)?	6
7. Does a strategy (plan) or specific measures for the development of voluntary activities of young people exist in your country?	7
8. Please, describe which obstacles to volunteering of young people do still exist in your country and which measures are taken to remove them?.....	7
9. How are voluntary activities of young people promoted in your country, particularly among young people with fewer opportunities? Please give an example of good practice if possible	8
10. Explain how voluntary activities of young people are recognised in your country. Name certificates and other measures used for that purpose.	9
11. Which co-operations, networks and exchange programmes do exist in your country for supporting voluntary activities of young people?.....	9
12. Do collective volunteering projects exist in your country?	9
13. Which recent survey or research has been carried out on the topic of voluntary activities?	10

1. Which types of voluntary activities exist in your country for young people?

The 3 most common forms of volunteering of young people are:

Voluntary activities that include various non-regular activities of young people based on oral agreements,

Voluntary service as a formalized voluntary activity with clear aim, content and tasks ,

Voluntary help – informal help (among neighbors, groups of young people among themselves – based on agreement outside organizational structures)

According to the Institute of Information and Prognosis of Education's survey (2005), most young people gave an indication for voluntary activities in the field of sport (20.2%), less for work with children and youth (19.5%) and environmental activities (12.2%). Minimal indication was given for field of policy (1,5%), advocacy of civics interests (2%) and international activities and humanitarian help (2,6%).

Source: Slovak Youth Institute Iuventa, Institute of Information and Prognosis of Education

2. Which kind of voluntary service exist in your country and how many young people engage in them per year, in totals and by gender.

The virtual volunteering centre www.dobrovolnictvo.sk is a service and informational portal for volunteering organizations, volunteers, public and business sector. The project was created gradually during 2007 and this creation was coordinated by C.A.R.D.O. (from latin: main road) citizens' association with the financial and organizational help of the Ministry of Education, Department of Children and Youth and the Slovak Youth Institute. C.A.R.D.O. actively cooperated with 17 national and local volunteering organizations (2000 visitors in the first year).

Local volunteering centres in Banská Bystrica and Prešov provide volunteering service for young people interested in volunteering and NGOs interested in having volunteers.

The 1st SNSC's (The First Slovak National Service Centre for the third sector) mission is to contribute to a transparent, professional and ethical societal environment in Slovakia by strengthening non-profit organizations providing publicly beneficial services. The 1st SNSC as a non-profit organization provides high level, individually tailored, and by professionals implemented legal, economical, and managerial consulting, and services for NGOs and businesses. Since its establishment in 1999, the 1st SNSC developed a solid base of associated professionals in the areas of accounting, financial, personnel, and organizational

Questionnaire on Voluntary activities – Slovak Republic

audit, higher financial management, administration and management of foundations, and legal consulting with the focus on NGOs-related laws and regulations.

A lot of NGOs have their own strategies to recruit volunteers. They offer volunteering service, but only for their own purposes.

Numbers are not available.

Voluntary service as a form of voluntary work requiring certain time and goal has been covered by Slovak legislation just from September 2008. Ministry of Education prepared a proposal of Youth Work Support Law. This proposal contains elements governing the legal status of voluntary service and also regulates statistical registration of volunteers.

3. Financial and legal status of voluntary activities

The current Slovak legislation partly regulates one specific form – volunteering activities provided by unemployed people as public services. In the revision of this law a new form is proposed – volunteering service. The volunteering service can be performed by any unemployed person for 20 hours per week and will earn him/her an allowance for travelling, food and pocket money.

The Ministry of Education has prepared a proposal of Youth Work Support Law. This proposal contains elements governing the legal status of volunteers. (More in 5)

Voluntary activities are financed by grants, private sponsoring, service fees, membership fees, companies' donations. Moreover, every working citizen and company is free to provide 2% of their tax to one of the registered NGOs, schools, institutions. The “tax-collectors” must be registered in a special list made by the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family offers legal provisions for NGOs providing social services, which are not equally provided by the state, i.e. older people's and disabled people's care.

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family offered financial grants for activities of many organisations. The organisations have used it also to support volunteering.

4. Name the main actors of voluntary activities of young people on national, regional and local level in your country

4.1 Governmental actors

- Support systems for youth work – ADAM, Ministry of Education, Department of Children and Youth – **Róbert Eisner** - Tel.: 00421 2 59238 101 Fax: 00421 2 52925169 robert.eisner@minedu.sk

Questionnaire on Voluntary activities – Slovak Republic

- Youth in Action - NA, Iuventa, Viliam Michalovič – michalovic@iuventa.sk
00421259296100
- Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Šancová 1, 811 04 Bratislava
- Ministry of Culture, Nám. SNP 2, 811 01 Bratislava

4.2 Non-governmental actors

- Youth Council of Slovakia, Pražská 11, 813 36 Bratislava / www.mladez.sk
- Charities – Intenda, Konto Orange, Charity for children in Slovakia, community charities
- Civic associations working on voluntary basis
- ZIPCEM – umbrella organization of Information centers for youth. Tenisová 19, 972 01 Prievidza / www.zipcem.sk
- Voluntary centers (Banská Bystrica, Prešov), C.A.R.D.O. (Uršulínska 3, Bratislava)
- DOMKA – Združenie saleziánskej mládeže – national / www.domka.sk
- ERko – HKSD – national / www.erko.sk
- Amavet www.amavet.sk
- The Association of Christian Youth Communities / www.zksm.sk
- ELSA Bratislava – The European Law Student's Association / www.elsa.sk
- DO Fénix – regional / www.do-fenix.sk
- Rada mládeže Nitrianskeho kraja – regional / www.rmkn.mladez.sk
- Nodam – regional / www.nodam.mladez.sk
- OZ Pre mládež – local: Karol Drobný, Novonosická 915 Púchov, www.ozpu.mladez.sk
- Žabky na prameni – local / www.zabky.sk
- MO Plusko – local / www.plusko.sk

5. What is the social protection of young volunteers in your country and are voluntary activities compatible with social benefits?

See question number 3

As we mentioned in question n.3, an unemployed person can do public services, which earn him/her an unemployment allowance. The Ministry of Education has prepared a proposal of “Youth Work Support Law”, which includes some elements of social protection of the youth volunteering. This Law partly regulates youth volunteering. Young people, who can not find a

Questionnaire on Voluntary activities – Slovak Republic

job after finishing the formal education, can work with youth as volunteers and thus develop some more competences. NGOs will be obligated to pay for their obligatory health insurance, food allowance, or travel allowance. This proposal does not regulate social insurance, because the new Voluntary Law will probably regulate it.

6 What Programmes and plans are there in your country on volunteering (national, regional, local)?

Youth in Action program

Program ODA (Official Development Assistance), managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, offers opportunities for financial activities' support in the field of third-countries volunteering

UNDP (United Nation Development)

Local, regional and national initiatives using volunteers (campaigns in the field of health, prevention, help for less developed countries, etc.)

Adam: a new system of financial support for subjects working with children and youth in Slovakia. The program supporting the activities of children and youth - ADAM - has 3 levels. ADAM 1 – provides system of financial support for civic associations with over 100 members and with influence in 5 regions. ADAM 2 – is intended for smaller projects of various civic associations and for other subjects as well, the number of members does not matter. ADAM 3 – is oriented at supporting labor and co-operation of the key subjects in the field of youth policy. Duration till year 2013.

Source: www.iuventu.sk

The program of young philanthropists realized by 9 community foundations overall Slovakia is a grant program realized by young people aged 16-25 years. The young people are responsible for the whole run of the grant round, from definition of the problems in local community through supporting of projects to evaluation and feedback to the community.

General plans about volunteering:

- to raise the volunteers' status through campaigns and good examples
- to pass a law on volunteering
- to improve the management quality of NGOs
- to improve the co-operation among sectors
- to involve the disadvantaged groups in volunteering

7. Does a strategy (plan) or specific measures for the development of voluntary activities of young people exist in your country?

The Ministry of Education offers grant programs for youth NGOs to support their leisure activities for children and youth that help to develop volunteering among young people (ADAM). The Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family offers financial support for NGOs working with children and youth aimed at social field. Other support measures come from foreign foundations, i.e. Open Society Found, EU funds.

The Slovak Youth Institute, in co-operation with big voluntary organizations, prepared a launch of web portal specifically dedicated to volunteering (www.dobrovolnictvo.sk). The Slovak Youth Institute runs a series of informational seminars in the field of volunteering for the representatives of self-governments (regional authorities and municipalities).

8. Please, describe which obstacles to volunteering of young people do still exist in your country and which measures are taken to remove them?

Missing **legislation** and **low public information** levels on volunteering are the basic obstacles. The new Act on Youth will also set up the framework for the official certification and recognition of youth volunteering, which will be a huge step forward.

The tradition of donations is very short. There are still doubts about using financial gifts among people and public sources are low. Financial situation might be an obstacle to the voluntary activities development. This leads to underfinanced NGOs with low sustainability. The support of volunteering at the **regional and local level** is missing. There are only two active volunteering centers – in Banská Bystrica and Prešov. The Slovak Youth Institute runs a series of informational seminars in the field of volunteering for the representatives of self-governments (regional authorities and municipalities).

There are still problems with **hosting volunteers** from abroad. Missing legislation makes it difficult to work with foreign volunteers officially.

9. How are voluntary activities of young people promoted in your country, particularly among young people with fewer opportunities? Please give an example of good practice if possible

The most common way of acquiring or giving information about youth volunteering among young people in general is the internet, especially third-sector servers.

www.dobrovolnictvo.sk

www.iuventa.sk

www.mladez.sk

www.changenet.sk

www.zipcem.sk ; www.icm.sk

www.eurodesk.sk

Magazine Efekt (<http://www.casopisefekt.sk>)

Voluntary centers in Banská Bystrica and in Prešov

How to help – Voluntary work (labor) (www.unicef.sk).

The NGOs oriented at specific target groups of young people provide their own programs and projects to promote voluntary activities. NGOs oriented at young people with fewer opportunities have their own strategy.

An example of good practice is an NGO oriented at abandoned children, living in orphanages, “Smile as a gift” / www.usmev.sk . Smile as a gift is a non-governmental, independent apolitical voluntary association. The mission of the society is to protect the rights of orphans and abandoned children in respect of the Declaration of Children’s Rights and the Children’s Rights Agreement ratified by the Plenary Assembly of the UN. Through its general activities it aims to help children in the state social care and those in institutional educational care in their all-round mental and physical development and their integration into independent social life. The society involves the public in the provision of social, material, moral, health and other help for orphaned and abandoned children. The society recruits and unites friends of these children, informs the general public, civic associations, state authorities about the life of orphans or children abandoned by their parents. It involves professionals, prominent people, civic associations, foundations and other people in co-operation and help for these children, secures financial aid, organizes benefits and sponsorship activities aimed at gaining potential financial help. Smile as a gift provides “angels program” aimed at helping children from children’s homes to help themselves.

Angels program is realized through:

Facilities’ visits, one-day events, short events, camps, long-term events such as for example the system of trainings, various forms of courses (like painting, dance, and the like).

Questionnaire on Voluntary activities – Slovak Republic

The gist of the program is, that the volunteers teach the children how to realize an activity for their own orphanage (project management, fundraising). The volunteers are like guides of young people who become young leaders in their community and volunteers of the “Smile as a gift” program. .

10. Explain how voluntary activities of young people are recognised in your country. Name certificates and other measures used for that purpose.

Currently, volunteering is recognised by pricing. Two examples:

- Srdce na dlani (Heart on the Palm) – pricing of volunteers on the 5th of December,
- Detský čin roka – Child's Act of the Year – pricing of children's volunteers

Slovak legislation does not apply a volunteer's certificate. Several umbrella organisations provide their own certificates; recognition of which is up to potential employer or university. Faculties targeted on social work or health care usually recognise certificates from NGOs oriented on voluntary activities in these fields.

11. Which co-operations, networks and exchange programmes do exist in your country for supporting voluntary activities of young people?

Youth in Action program, and the Eurodesk network www.eurodesk.sk

Umbrella organisations are usually a part of international networks or workshops. Slovak NGOs create thematic networks, e.g. preparing legislation, realising campaigns...

12. Do collective volunteering projects exist in your country?

Collective volunteering is supported by the Youth in Action program within the European voluntary service (i.e. Slovak Scouting). Summer camps aimed at rescuing the cultural heritage (www.klastorisko.sk) belong to some of the most favorite collective volunteering projects. Groups of young volunteers also help by organizing benefit concerts (Smile as a Gift – www.usmev.sk) or humanitarian activities like the White pencil (<http://www.unss.sk/sk/bielapastelka/2006.htm>), Daffodilly day (www.lpr.sk), or Blue button (www.unicef.sk).

13. Which recent survey or research has been carried out on the topic of voluntary activities?

Civic association CARDO realised survey to find out the number of volunteers working in NGOs registered in database of virtual volunteer centre www.dobrovolnictvo.sk. The survey was done in November 2007.