

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



INFORMATION TEMPLATE

ON

SOCIAL INCLUSION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Slovak Republic



Last updated: 1st November 2013

By: Jana Miháliková

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Introduction and general guidelines</i>	3
1. The socio-economic situation of young people	6
2. Policy measures for young people at risk of social exclusion	6
3. Research on social inclusion	7
4. Examples of practice	8

1. The socio-economic situation of young people

1.1 Please inform which groups of the young people are perceived as being socially excluded. What are the main factors for being socially excluded as a young person in your country?

Children up to the age of 18 are the most at risk of social exclusion in the Slovak Republic.

Socially excluded groups of young people are as follows:

- unemployed young people after graduation from high school or college,
- school drop outs,
- young people from geographically remote and marginalized communities,
- disabled young people,
- young people after completion of the substitute care,
- former juvenile prisoners or young people after detention,
- former drug users after rehabilitation.

The most serious risk factors for social exclusion of children and young people in Slovakia:

- intergenerational transmission of poverty,
- the impact of family environment.

1.2 Please provide the percentage representing the share of young people (18-24) who are at risk of poverty (and/or severely materially deprived and/or living in a household with very low work intensity).

Please compare it to the general population risk of poverty rate. What is the trend in your country – is the rate growing etc.?

Poverty rate in the Slovak Republic was at 13.2% in 2012. In the case of young people (18-24 years) the poverty rate according to the survey was 14.4%. Table 1 illustrates the evolution.

Table 1

The evolution of the risk of poverty (in %)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
The whole population	13,3	11,6	10,6	10,9	11,0	12,0	13,0	13,2
Young people of age 18-24	15,6	12,5	11,5	11,9	13,3	14,7	14,8	14,4

Since 2010, the rate of poverty is slightly increased (economic crisis, unemployment). There are detected new phenomena of Slovak families - inherited poverty (resulting from long-term unemployment of parents) and hidden poverty (parents take lower paid jobs which do not meet their education).

1.3 Has an impact of the current financial crisis on young people been observed in your country?

The current financial crisis has exacerbated the problem of generational poverty (poverty hereditary). Some young people live in families where long-term shortage of funds limits the security not only of basic material needs (material deprivation), but also basic needs (social need). At the same time, the global financial and economic crisis has manifested itself in the development of the labour market with impact adversely on the increase in the unemployment rate of young people.

Here's an example to illustrate this group of specifically excluded youth: young people after the completion of the substitute care. In 2007, there were 54.79% of employed young people after care in orphanages, while in 2012 it was only 34.17% of employed young people. In 2007 10.58% of young people after care in orphanages lived in their own residential areas, but in 2012 it was only 7.5% of young people.

2. Policy measures for young people at risk of social exclusion

2.1 Social subsistence/ protection and health cover for young people living in poverty

In Slovakia, there is no system of social protection specifically designed only to a group of young people. The social protection system in Slovakia is composed of a set of measures consisting of social benefits, social services, child protection and social guardianship etc. Rescue social network consists of the provision of assistance in material need through social assistance benefits and supplementary benefits in material need.

State contributions:

- contribution to the health care of children in families in material and social need;
- subsidy for teaching aids, allowance for meals in school canteens and dormitories, the scholarship allowance, travel expenses for commuting to school.

Young people are classified as a disadvantaged group under the Employment Services Act and may use so called graduate practice. In reality, only those have access to these programs who have completed vocational training (ISCED III. A above).

More specific measures of social protection of young people :

- deinstitutionalization and transformation of substitute care (phasing out large-scale orphanages which would be replaced by professional families; and/or separate groups of children living in family houses and/or apartments).
- prolongation of the time young people can remain to live in orphanages in order to improve the preconditions for their successful independent life.

2.2 Measures to meeting the medical Care needs of Young people at risk of social exclusion

Only contribution to basic health care is eligible within the health care of children and youth from families in material or social need.

Health care education assistants are working in marginalized communities. Their work is focused mainly on the following activities: dissemination of elementary health education; communication with doctors, nurses or midwives and public medics; support for access of marginalized community to health care; spreading out basic information in the field of health care, on prevention, health insurance and the rights of the patient and the insured; and support to increase responsibility of community members for their own health etc.

2.3 Measures to re-engage the young people not in employment, education or training (NEET)

Although proportion of unemployed young people aged 15-24 in total number of unemployed in Slovakia was gradually decreasing (while in 2010 their proportion reached 21.3%, in 2012 it was 20.0%), level of unemployment rate of people aged 15-24 has reached above-average value for a long time. Unemployment rate of people aged 15-24 (34.0 %) was as compared to overall unemployment rate (14.0 %) higher by 20.0 p.p. More than half of young people aged 15-24 were unemployed for more than 1 year.

Main share of the unemployed young people were represented by people with low education (basic + secondary vocational without leaving examination) and people with secondary specialised education with leaving examination (79.3 % in 2012).

The amendment of the Act on Employment Services also creates conditions for effective short courses of vocational education. It links jobseeker training directly to jobs created/offered for the

needs of specific employers. It increases the emphasis on training programmes and advisory service. The system of education and training for the labour market is designed to increase jobseekers' flexibility in the labour market.

Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport are preparing The Plan of Implementation of Youth Guarantees in Slovakia (November 2013). This plan will set out reform measures and initiatives that will lead to the implementation of safeguards for young people at the national level; the role of public authorities and other organizations in this process; ways to finance this system; methods for monitoring the progress and timetable for implementation. Condition for providing guarantees for young people (NEET) in the area of employment will be their inclusion in the register of job seekers. In case when young people lose their job or drop out they will be provided – according to this Plan, within four months period – an offer of an employment, training, apprenticeship or traineeship.

2.4 Measures to ensure access to decent housing for young people at risk of social exclusion

No information available.

2.5 Measures addressing the social integration of young people with disabilities

Integration of young people with disabilities largely enables the provision of financial compensation related to social consequences of severe disability. Financial contributions to compensation mainly include: cash allowance for personal assistance, cash benefit for the purchase of a motor vehicle, cash allowance for transportation, cash allowance for housing modifications, cash benefit for a house and a cash benefit for garages, cash allowance to purchase equipment, cash allowance for the use of training aids and monetary benefit for utilities, cash allowance to repair equipment, cash allowance for purchase of lifting equipment, cash contribution to compensate for the increased expenses relating to the provision of personal motor vehicle traffic.

Social integration into the labour market of young people with disabilities - their employability and employment is supported through instruments of active labour market policies laid down by the Employment Services Act. The active labour instruments promote the creation of jobs mainly in sheltered workshops and sheltered workplaces including support for self-employment of persons with disabilities and maintenance of those jobs created. The Act regulates the obligations of employers in employing people with disabilities.

Active labor market measures aimed at young people with disabilities:

- education and training for inclusion of job seekers in the labour market,
- graduate practice,
- employment growth by creating and sustaining jobs,
- contribution to the establishment of sheltered workshops and sheltered workplaces,
- contribution to the maintenance of a disabled person in employment,
- allowance to persons with disabilities in self-employment,
- contribution to the activities of a work assistant,
- contribution to the costs of a sheltered workshop or a sheltered workplace and travel expenses for employees.

Other measures referred to in paragraph 2.3

Specific attention is paid to disabled (especially with sensory disabilities); some large companies offer endowments and grants for employment possibilities of disabled young people (e.g. Slovak Telekom supports self-employment of deaf people).

2.6 The contribution of youth work (and youth centres) to social inclusion of young people

In the context of youth work, social inclusion is tackled at two levels:

- working with the youth affected by social exclusion: the goal is to diminish the impact of social exclusion and to promote inclusion and integration of excluded young people into social and professional life.

- working with young people at highest risk of social exclusion: the aim is to prevent the social exclusion of young people who are living in an environment with existing factors of social exclusion, or they are directly threatened by factors of social exclusion.

Currently, these activities are carried out:

- a) regularly and systematically through youth centers and youth NGOs,
- b) through youth NGOs projects, in youth centers, open and low-threshold community centres/clubs and informal groups.

Social youth work is using the principles of non-formal education and social work in order to eliminate the impact of social exclusion of young people or to prevent exclusion of youth at risk. The work is carried out directly in the natural environment of excluded or youth at risk, and in

collaboration with a network of professionals (teachers, psychologists, nurses, administrators in the state / public sector). Social youth work arose from the need to work with youth who are at risk of exclusion, but fails to meet the conditions for inclusion in the system of social care services.

Funding of youth work (including the socially excluded youth groups) is secured by:

- governmental grants,
- the Endowment Fund grants of the private sector,
- public collections of civil associations, foundations and non-governmental organisations providing public utility services.

3. Research on social inclusion

3.1 Is there any national report/ national survey investigating the social exclusion of young people in your country, including issues of discrimination?

Comprehensive national research on social exclusion of youth in Slovakia is not available. But there are several representative surveys dealing with social inclusion of specific youth groups.

Researches belonging to IUVENTA - Slovak Youth Institute¹

- The Transition to Adulthood for Young People with Disabilities Affecting Social Factors (IUVENTA, 2012 J. Matulník, M. Orgonášová, J. Adamcová). Research obtains data characterizing the aspirations of young people with disabilities in education, employment, independent living and family life. In addition, the data on the interests of young people with disabilities in further education.
- The Social and Moral Aspects of Economic and Civic Life of the Rural Youth (IUVENTA, 2011 Moravčíková D., E. Svitačová, P. Barat, P. Porubčan, A. Mravcová). Research maps the motivational factors, social and moral aspects and the impact of institutions which influence the behavior and decision-making of young people in rural environments.
- The Social Context of Lifestyle of Youth in Poverty (self-reflection) (IUVENTA, 2012 J. Šolcová). Regional research. Research focuses on the concept and perception of poverty by young people endangered by poverty.

¹ <http://www.iuventa.sk/en/Vyskum-mladeze/Data-catalogue.alej>

- Non-formal Education of Special Groups of Young People in Slovakia - the Needs, Opportunities, Experiences and Competencies Acquired. (IUVENTA 2013 Hagovská A., D. Polakovičová, A. Vengrin, E. Lešková, Ľ. Bullhead, V. Záborský). Research identifies and analyzes the perception and attitude of different groups of young people towards non-formal education, in terms of information resources, quality of information and existing support programs.
- The Pathways of Young People After Leaving the Reeducation Centers - Pursue a Life and Coping Strategies in Difficult Life Situations. (IUVENTA 2013, I. Lukšík). The research focuses on finding out what difficult living situations they encountered in the course of the beginning of their independent lives and careers, how they coped and what own and/or external resources and support they used.
- The Leisure Time of Young Migrants (Slovakia) (IUVENTA 2012 M. Pukančík, T. Cárová). Research deals with the phenomenon of experiencing leisure time among young migrants in terms of overcoming acculturation stress and establishing contacts and the use of services of the institutions (clubs, interest groups, associations) offering leisure and recreational activities.
- The Specifics Needs of Young Homeless People in the Area of Bratislava (IUVENTA 2012, A. Rochovská, A. Hrabovská, M. Miláčková, I. Brezovská). Research pointed out the reasons of negative situation of homeless young people, determined extent of their social exclusion, referred to the choices in their life strategies and their impact on solving the social situation.
- Young People in Substitute/Foster Family Care (IUVENTA 2012 A. Brozmanová Gregorová, V. Belková, A. J. Hudecová Šolcová, D. Žilínčíková). The research provides information on the unique life paths of young people growing up in foster families, based on which educational needs of young people, youth workers and substitute parents are identified as well as other recommendations for youth policy.
- Objective Characteristics of Poverty of Children in the Population and Regional Actors in their Subjective Perception of Poverty. (IUVENTA 2012 V. Antolová, M. Hulín, R. Bartoš). The research was aimed at finding how children perceive subjective living conditions in which they live, and how these relate to the living conditions of other socio-economic areas of their lives.

Researches belonging to the Institute for Labour and Family Research:

- Selected Aspects of Material Deprivation. / author Daniel Gerbery, Institute for Labour and Family Research , Bratislava. - 2266th Bratislava: IVPR, 2012. - 43 p.

number of the project / research report: 2266/

- Young People Leaving the Orphanages and Their Application in the Labour Market . / author Milan Fico, Institute for Labour and Family Research, Bratislava. - 2262nd Bratislava : IVPR, 2012.

- 140 p. number of the project / research report: 2262/

- Context and Circumstances of Selected Aspects of Health and Reproductive Health of Roma Women. / authors Jarmila Filadelfiová , Silvia Porubánová , Institute for Labour and Family Research, Bratislava. - 2259th Bratislava: IVPR , 2012. – 79p.

number of the project / research report: 2259/

- Low Intensity of Labor and the Risk of Poverty among Workers in Relation to the Assessment of Poverty and Social Exclusion. / author Daniel Gerbera, Institute for Labour and Family Research, Bratislava. - 2265th Bratislava : IVPR , 2012. - 32 p. number of the project / research report: 2265/

3.2 Is there any longitudinal research focused on the cumulative nature of disadvantage (taking place across generations of the same family).

Currently there is no equivalent research or surveys in Slovakia.

3.3 Apart from national reports and surveys, are you aware of other research that is valuable for understanding the situation of young people (esp. those with fewer opportunities) in the current crisis?

Research related to understanding certain population groups affected by social exclusion or at risk of social exclusion are awarded by state/public institutions and carried out by experts of state or public institutions.

Research reports or publications on the topics are available on the website:

- Institute for Labour and Family Research (<http://www.sspr.gov.sk>);
- The Institute for Public Affairs (<http://www.ivo.sk/146/sk/aktivity/studie-analyzy>);
- Children of Slovakia Foundation (<http://www.nds.sk/o-nas/publikacie/>)
- Milan Šimečka Foundation (<http://www.nadaciamilanasimecku.sk/index.php?id=12>)

4. Examples of policy responses and practices

4.1 What are the relevant initiatives/projects at regional/ national level promoting the social inclusion of young people?

Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family has prepared two national projects: Support of Recruitment of Unemployed at Local Level (municipalities) and Support for Job Creation.

Both projects are designed to support job creation in the public and private sector for unemployed young people under 29, registered as jobseekers at least 3 months, with a total allocation of 70 million € from European Social Fund. Implementation of both projects envisages the creation of nearly 14 thousand jobs in 2012-2015.

Currently, there is a new project "Placement of disadvantaged job seekers in the labour market" in preparation phase. The target group of this includes disadvantaged and graduates (graduate = citizen younger than 26 years who completed the appropriate level of education continuing vocational training in full-time study for less than two years ago and prior to inclusion in the register of job seekers did not have a regular paid employment) .

National Project ESF: Komprax - Competences for Labour Market

The project aims to promote the quality of youth work, which among other things, supports the education of the active young generation. The project will also define standards of quality in youth work in order to verify and recognize the core competencies that young people acquire during the activities of non-formal education in youth work and thus improve their chances of success in the labour market.

National Project ESF: Supporting Deinstitutionalization of Foster Care

This are subsidy/grant schemes designed to promote de-institutionalization of foster care and support empowering processes of children from social service facilities, facilities for social/legal protection and facilities for social guardianship - orphanages.

Office of the Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities - Healthy Communities Program

National Project ESF: Training Program for teaching staff towards inclusion of marginalized Roma communities

National Project ESF: Inclusive education model for pre-primary level of education (also engages young parents)

Non-governmental sector: Examples of projects and programmes of social inclusion:

<http://www.etp.sk/en/> - Micro loan fund and community development work in marginalized communities

<http://www.divemaky.sk/> - Scholarship program.

<http://romainstitute.sk/index.php?ID=46> – Programs supporting inclusion of Roma youth.

<http://www.vagus.sk/index.php/vagus> - Homelessness.

<http://www.voices.sk/Trampolina2013> - Skills/competencies training for young people.

<http://www.cvek.sk/main.php?p=projekty&lang=en> – minorities' policy.

<http://www.nadaciamilanasimecku.sk/> - Human rights education.

<http://www.skoladokoran.sk/en/> - Improving quality of life through life-long education and awareness-raising, better access to health care and increased participation of the Roma and other socially disadvantaged in civic life.

http://www.osf.sk/en/program_areas/equal_opportunities/ - The Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005 - 2015, The Cost of Non - Inclusion

4.2 Have young people and civil society organizations been given political and financial support to be involved in the policy making process on social inclusion?

At the national level, platform aimed at addressing issues of social inclusion of youth does not exist.

At regional and local levels, there is a possibility to create local social inclusion partnerships (hereinafter referred to as "LSIPs"). LSIPs create platforms to ensure and provide needs of the target groups and open discussions on ways how to address and solve these problems. They are the partner associations that allow citizens and communities at the local level to participate actively in the planning and decision making, as well as propose actual solutions to social problems. Although local social inclusion partnerships are not only focused on youth specifically - their place and role in addressing these issues is extremely important.

Partnerships cover a wide range of local organizations and activists, and provide space for testing new approaches and solutions that prevent specific problems of the target groups.

Successful innovation can be adopted by state or public administration and be institutionalized as verified models. Currently, each partnership pays specific attention to children and youth, especially up to 18 in one or more marginalized groups.

The grant programme of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (ADAM) provides funding for institutional functioning of youth organizations that are dedicated to different target groups (including disadvantaged groups). Youth organizations are invited to the working groups and to implement national projects and initiatives. The good example can be seen in their involvement in the implementation of the structured dialogue on social exclusion topic in 2013.

4.3 Have youth organisations and other civil society organisations been involved in the development of the policies related to social inclusion of young people

When creating national policies aiming at social inclusion, responsible ministries cooperate with non-governmental organizations working with children and youth representing individual target groups. Currently, there are several government advisory bodies whose members include youth organizations or their umbrella organizations e.g. the Government Council for NGOs, the Government Council for Human Rights, National Minorities and Gender Equality and its Committee on Children and Youth.

In 2013 in the area of social inclusion of youth the Working Group was created, composed of representatives of organizations working with young people with fewer opportunities (Roma youth, migrants, children and youth in foster care, homeless youth, youth in the sex business, rural youth). Members of the working group were appointed by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic in relation with the preparation of a legislative document, Slovak Youth Strategy 2014 - 2020.

Authors of the text:

Janette Motlova: janette.motlova@iuventa.sk

Jana Kviečinska: jana.kviecinska@iuventa.sk