

Youth Partnership

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



EUROPEAN UNION

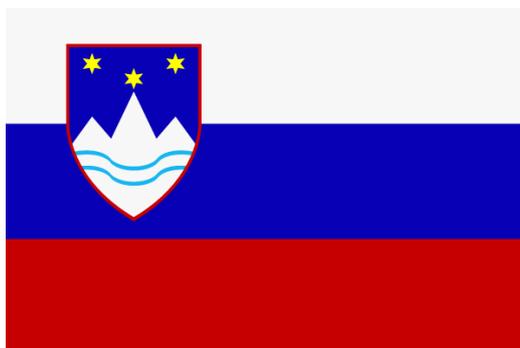


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Information sheet

YOUTH AND THE WORLD

Slovenia



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1. Implementation of a new field of action: “Youth and the World”

How is the field of action “Youth and the World” of the current EU youth strategy transposed in your country?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinates an inter-ministerial working group for global education, under the auspices of which various events are held for raising awareness of the importance of global education in schools and in general. These events are mainly coordinated by SLOGA, an NGO platform for development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

In the youth policy field, the draft National Youth programme defines encouragement of youth mobility as one of the main objectives and proposes participation of youth organisations in promotion of global education as one of the indicators.

2. Awareness raising on Global issues

2.1. Promotion of Global Education

Is there any national/regional policy document which lays the legal basis for the promotion of Global Education? If yes

In 2007, the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Slovenia prepared the Guidelines for education for sustainable development. This was the first official document of global education in Slovenia.

Global education concept is largely unknown within the formal education because it is mainly used in the non-government sector. Governmental institutions and the school system rather promote the concept of Education for Sustainable Development, but the concept and didactic approach seems similar to the concept of Global education.

The proposed measures of the Guidelines for education for sustainable development include updated school curricula, teacher’s trainings, material preparation, shaping of quality criteria and evaluation instruments etc. The paper, however, does not include clear operational goals or an implementation plan. Global education is still considered as less important than other educational contents and not a key element of formal education. Global education is therefore carried out mostly in the form of additional activities, such as seminars, workshops, special-day events and within school projects

In June 2008, the Slovenian parliament adopted a Resolution on International Development Cooperation for the period up to 2015. The Resolution defines the forms of international development cooperation. Global education is recognized as a form of international development cooperation. The Resolution also states that the Ministry of foreign affairs is responsible for planning, adaptation, implementation, and evaluation of international development cooperation.

However there is a lack of public resources to support projects and programs promoting global education and no private foundations to support these activities.

How is Global Education promoted?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinates an inter-ministerial working group for global education, under the auspices of which various events are held for raising awareness of the importance of global education in schools and in general.

Under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and coordinated by SLOGA, an NGO platform for development cooperation and humanitarian aid, prepares a week of global education every year and includes a number of institutions, non-governmental organisations, youth organisations, youth centres and schools into its promotion. In 2012 (10-18 of November), already 6th week of global learning, focused on a responsible behaviour of individuals to our planet and its inhabitants. A number of events were held throughout Slovenia for promotion of global education.

The definition of global learning in Slovenia has been developed by a working group which works in SLOGA, an NGO platform for development cooperation and humanitarian aid and is based on Maastricht declaration on global education adopted in 2002 (COE 2002:2) by the Congress on global learning organised by North-South centre of Council of Europe.

Global learning in Slovenia is promoted as a lifelong learning process, which stresses the interdependence and individual integration into the global scene. The aim of this is a globally responsible and active individuals and communities. Global learning is also a process of promoting commitment of individuals and communities for actions which address the key common challenges of humanity. For this purpose it is necessary to develop formal and non-formal education and learning which is based on developing skills in critical thinking, and other personal and social skills.

There is a portal promoting global learning created by SLOGA, a NGO platform for development cooperation and humanitarian aid (www.tuditi.si). Global learning is also promoted on the portal for youth and youth work organisations (www.mlad.si).

What are the most tackled aspects of Global Education?

The Guidelines for education for sustainable development adopted by the Ministry of education and sport in 2007, define the following priorities within the education for sustainable development in Slovenia:

- Respect for human values,
- Active citizenship and participation,
- Intercultural dialogue and linguistic diversity,
- Nature conservation and environmental protection (environmental awareness and responsibility)
- Quality education - an inspiring working and learning environment
- Quality of interpersonal relations, development of social skills (non-violence, tolerance, cooperation, respect, etc..)
- A healthy lifestyle (mental and physical health)
- Strengthening healthy self-confidence and self-esteem,
- Quality leisure time
- Developing entrepreneurship as a contribution to society and the environment
- Learn about different areas of culture and promotion of creativity and activity.

Global learning is mainly promoted in the non-governmental sector which promotes diverse and various aspects of global learning. Some of them are:

- Development Cooperation
- Human Rights
- Sustainable Development

- Protection of the environment,
- Peace and conflict prevention
- Intercultural communication,
- Gender equality.

Survey on global education in Slovenian primary and secondary schools provided an important insight into the condition of inclusion of global education in the Slovenian education system. Most of the teachers associate global education with intercultural learning, development, education sustainable development and globalization.

In youth sector, human rights and intercultural learning are the two topics mostly used in the youth work programmes and projects.

What are the main stakeholders in the field of Global Education?

The Guidelines for education for sustainable development (ESD) adopted by the Ministry of education and sport in 2007 (today Ministry of education, science, culture and sport), define the following stakeholders and their role:

Ministry responsible for education:

- Providing a normative bases that support ESD;
- Incorporating elements of sustainable development in the curriculum documents (eg curricula);
- Incorporating elements of TR in the examination;
- Providing appropriate programs of continuing education and training for professionals in education;
- The provision of research and development work in the field of ESD;
- Integration of ESD as a quality indicator at the national level;
- Cooperation with various national institutions and NGOs;
- Promoting cooperation with social partners.

Public institutions in the field of education:

- Technical and advisory assistance to kindergartens and schools for the exercise of functions and school;
- Ensuring preparation of adequate teaching materials;
- Ensuring the development and implementation of programs for the implementation of ESD;
- Monitoring of the objectives of ESD and the reporting of this professional world and to the Minister of Education;
- Proposing measures to improve ESD.

NGOs:

- Cooperation with kindergartens, schools, public institutions, local communities and government departments in planning and implementing projects, teacher training and materials;
- Participation in the process of raising public awareness about the importance of education for sustainable development.

Local authorities:

- Cooperation with kindergartens, schools, governmental agencies, public institutions, local NGOs, and in planning and implementing projects;
- Participation in the process of raising public awareness about the importance of education for sustainable development.

However, in practise, the civil society sector is the most important actor. The coordinating organisation SLOGA has developed a working group on global learning with more than 48 members. Some youth work organisations are members of this working group.

The working group is cooperating on national and European level and is active in many campaigns, CONCORD workshops and projects organized by DEEEP (Development education forum and Development education exchange in Europe Project). The group also managed to establish good contacts with representatives of Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport and Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the aim to integrate global education activities carried out by SLOGA and its member organisations in the context of formal and informal education in the long term.

Based on the Resolution on International Development Cooperation for the period up to 2015 adopted in 2008 by the Slovenian Parliament, the Ministry for foreign affairs is responsible for planning, adaptation, implementation, and evaluation of international development cooperation. Global education is recognized as a form of international development cooperation. Ministry for foreign affairs coordinates an inter-ministerial working group for global education, under the auspices of which various events are held for raising awareness of the importance of global education in schools and in general. These events are mainly coordinated by SLOGA, an NGO platform for development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

Is there any report/survey available on Global education and young people in your country?

If yes what is its focus of research and what are the main outcomes?

- Globalno učenje v Sloveniji. Raziskava o globalnem učenju v slovenskih osnovnih in srednjih šolah. (Global learning in Slovenia, Research on global learning in Slovenian primary and secondary schools); *Vodopivec, Nina in Maja Dolinar, 2012.*
- [Izobraževanje za trajnostni razvoj. Slovenija. Poročilo raziskave](#) (Education for sustainable development, The Research report); *Živa Gobbo, Focus, društvo za sonaraven razvoj, 2011.*
- [How is global education perceived and implemented within two secondary schools in Slovenia?](#)
Amy Skinner, 2012.
- [Afrika v slovenskem šolskem sistemu \(Africa in the Slovenian school system\).](#)
Društvo Afriški center, 2010.
- Kako vključevati globalno učenje v šole: Problemi in predlogi. (How to place global learning in school: Problems and recommendations); *Dolinar, Maja in dr. Nina Vodopivec, SLOGA, 2012.*
- Publikacija o globalnem učenju v Sloveniji. (Publication on Global learning in Slovenia); *Nina Arnuš, SLOGA, 2010.*

2.2. Young people and sustainable development

What are the most relevant initiatives/projects at regional/national level encouraging green patterns of consumption and production with young people?

There are a number of schools, kindergartens and centres for school and extra-curricular activities that are included in the international programme of eco-schools, primarily designed to encourage the education of children and young people so that their care for the environment and space becomes a part of their life. In 2011, there were 711 educational institutions and nurseries in Slovenia included in this programme.

Individual projects and actions raising the awareness on environmental protection are numerous, even among the volunteer organisations. One of the widely known actions is the campaign 'Let's Clean Slovenia in One Day', which is held by the Ecologists without Borders association. The 2011 action was also joined by the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth which invited the youth sector to participate.

Is there any report/survey investigating the awareness of environmental issues among young people in your country? If so what are the main outcomes?

Youth 2010 – The social profile of young people in Slovenia – the study initiated and financed by the Office of Republic of Slovenia for Youth.

The key finding of the research on awareness of environmental issues is that Slovenian youth are slightly above average in ecological consciousness in comparison with European youth. In the last twenty years ecological consciousness among Slovenian youth has fallen slightly, but has always been significantly lower than that of the older generation.

Research is available at:

http://www.ursm.gov.si/fileadmin/ursm.gov.si/pageuploads/slike/mladina_2010/Youth2010.pdf.

Is there any report/survey investigating the civic engagement related to environment issues among young people in your country? What are the main outcomes?

No.

2.3. Young people and human rights

Is there any report/survey investigating the civic engagement related to global human rights issues among young people in your country? What are the main outcomes?

No.

3. Cooperation with third countries in the field of youth

3.1. Agreements and areas of cooperation

Are there any bilateral or supranational agreements with countries / regions outside Europe in the field of youth?

From 1992, forty general agreements on bilateral cooperation in the field of culture, education and science were signed with these countries: Albania, Argentina, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, France, Greece, Georgia, Croatia, India, Iran, Italy, Israel, Jordan, China, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Macedonia, Malta, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Great Britain, Germany, the Republic of Serbia.

The encouragement of young people, youth exchanges and youth volunteering rarely falls under these agreements. So far, only an exchange programme with Belgium-Flanders has been implemented. International youth projects are mostly supported through EU programmes in the field of education, training, culture and youth.

3.2. Support measures for young people

What are the opportunities offered to young people to explore and enhance global understanding by going abroad such as volunteering and youth exchange programmes)?

Although in this area Slovenia did not adopt any systemic measures targeting young people, there are a large number of young people who, through non-governmental organisations, take part in projects promoting global education, international humanitarian aid and environmental protection.

International youth projects are mostly supported through EU programmes in the field of youth (Youth in Action programme), education and training (Lifelong Learning Programme), active citizenship (Europe for citizens programme), culture (Culture programme).

Slovenia with Institute Voluntariat as a national coordinator also participates at GLEN (Global Education Network of Young Europeans). This is an European network for global learning which aims to contribute to a better understanding of global interdependence, sustainable development, responsible development policy and North-South relations based on equal partnership and mutual respect.

Other opportunities can be found in Non-governmental organizations promoting voluntary work, such as Slovene Philanthropy, Humanitas, SOS Phone, Edirisa, Focus, Institute for African Studies, International African forum, Slovene Caritas, Unicef, Global Institute, Key Association, Ekvilib Institute and others. Many of them would offer opportunities for young people.

There is also a significant number of Student NGOs active in Slovenia and they organize exchange programmes, which are often financed by Student Organisations.

Promotion of youth entrepreneurship and employment opportunities with regions/countries outside of Europe

No data available.

4. Participation of young people and youth organisations in policy making on global issues

Have young people and youth organisations been given political and financial support to be individually or collectively involved in the policy regarding dialogue and cooperation on regional and global issues? How?

The working group on global education which is coordinated by SLOGA, NGO platform for development cooperation and humanitarian aid includes 48 member organisation, many of them working with young people. The working group is an opportunity to develop, plan and implement common activities in the area of international developmental cooperation and/or informing general or specific public on national, European and/or international level.

The working group on global education has established a pattern of constant meetings once a month between members of Sloga member organisations and other NGOs. Members of the working group have prepared a common NGO draft strategy on development education, which was presented on various occasions, including the Global Education Week in November 2008. The activities of the workgroup have strengthened cooperation between NGOs, working in the development education, which can be evident from various joint projects and workshops that were carried out together or are being planned by members of this group.

The working group is focusing on encouraging the adoption of a national strategy about global education and the inclusion of the content on global education in the formal system of education. Special attention is given to the integration of work of NGO and other institutions in the field of education. Important WG issue is also international volunteering. The WG is a member of the CONCORD Development Education Forum.

As an effective approach to support development of intercultural awareness and competences for all young people and combat prejudices realized through the project "Young Ambassadors of intercultural dialogue (2009 – 2013). The projects was one of eight networks financed by European Social Fund. The network was engaged in providing conceptual bases and documents and in testing models aimed at increasing the intercultural competencies and awareness of young people. More than 500 young people were involved in non-formal education in the youth work field. The findings of this three-years projects have been presented to public as well as national and local governments.

The Office for Youth is also strengthening other mechanisms to promote participation of young people in decision-making processes in all fields that are important for young people (eg. Structural dialogue, the Council of the Government of Slovenia for youth, etc.)

Is there any report/survey investigating young people's participation in campaigns regarding global climate change/global warming, development aid or human rights? What are the main outcomes?

No such report is available but some data on international cooperation of youth organisations can be found in the report on situation of national youth organisations in Slovenia and in the report on situation of youth centres and youth clubs in Slovenia. Both reports have been done in 2011 and financed by the Office of Republic of Slovenia.

While national youth organisations mainly promote international cooperation of young people through their umbrella organisations or its members, the local youth centres and youth clubs mainly use Youth in Action or LLP programme.

Is there any report/survey investigating young people's participation in non-governmental organisations active in the domains of global climate change/global warming, development aid or human rights? What are the main outcomes?

None.