

The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

Key priorities for youth policies answers on
Information



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

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SLOVAK REPUBLIC, 2006

1 Information services

1.1 Legal framework of the youth information service

Slovakia is bound by the Convention on the Rights of the Child to ensure access of children to information from different sources, in particular those focused to the development of social, spiritual and moral welfare of children and their physical and psychic health. The access of young people to relevant information free of any discrimination and ideology and support of responsible public participation of young people has been also included into the Concept of National Policy towards Children and Youth in the Slovak Republic until the Year 2007. State policy implements the European Youth Information Charter summarising recommendations regarding the enhancement of youth information and consultancy services and application of various forms of work with youth information. The Charter has established the basis for minimum standards and qualitative measures to be defined in order to coordinate the approach to youth information services within particular national policies.

1.2 Youth information points

1.2.1 Number of youth information points at national level

N/I *information points (national level)*

1.2.2 Number of youth information points at regional level

16 *information points (regional level)*

1.3 Are information services free of charge?

	public	private
free of charge	yes	yes

1.4 Youth portals

1.4.1 Number of national youth portals

3 *youth portals (national)*

1.4.2 Number of regional youth portals

N/I *youth portals (regional)*

1.5 What are the contents of the information delivered

Information and working services provide information on free working places, choosing profession and job, career, working abroad, AU-PAIR opportunities and voluntary work. In the field of education, young people are informed on studying in Slovakia and abroad, grant schemes, courses, short study visits, etc. Travelling information cover travel agencies, lodging opportunities, travelling conditions, profiles of respective states, overviews of particular countries, etc. Leisure-related information include various possibilities of active spending of leisure like children camps, touring possibilities, offers of organizations and institutions involved in child and youth leisure activities. Professional counselling services provide information on legal, psychological and sexual counselling and telephone helpline. There is also information provided about AIDS prevention, drug addiction, homosexuality, racism and xenophobia and about institutions as European Union, European Council, etc.

2 Access for young people

2.1 Number of young people using the information services

65 381 *persons*

2.1.1 Number of young people using the information services by age groups

	13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
number of persons	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I

2.1.2 Number of young people using the information services by gender

male	female
N/I <i>persons</i>	N/I <i>persons</i>

2.1.3 Number of young people using the information services by rural-urban

rural	urban
N/I <i>persons</i>	N/I <i>persons</i>

2.2 Number of young people visiting the national and regional youth portals

14000 *persons*

2.3 Is there any mobile information service?

yes no

Description

N/I

3 Ensuring quality of information

3.1 Number of universities that offer courses on the delivery of youth information

N/I *universities*

3.1.1 Names of universities

N/I

3.2 Number of training centres specialised in youth information

N/I

3.3 Number of information points that are following ISO quality standards

N/I

3.4 Number of information points that facilitate career guidance

16

3.5 Existing monitoring systems on the quality of information dissemination

Processing of state statistic surveys using the ICM Mald (Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic) 2-01 form and processing of data regarding applications for funding and funding of child and youth information and counselling services using subsidies provided by the Ministry of Education according to the Conditions of Funding of Child and Youth Work for the years 2004 to 2007 no. CD 2004-11300/22689-1:12.

4 Participation by young people in information

4.1 Number of publications by young people

N/I *publications*

4.1.1 Publications by young people by age groups

	13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
publications	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I	N/I

4.1.2 Number of publications by young people by gender

male	female
N/I <i>publications</i>	N/I <i>publications</i>

4.2 List of the existing mechanisms to involve young people in information making

Young people need to be well-informed in order to become responsible citizens intensively participating in social life and able to participate in decision-making rather than a consulting party or subject to opinion polls. Active citizenship is closely interconnected with sufficient awareness of a large number of issues (education, employment, health, living, etc.). Information-making focused to young people is especially required to provide easily accessible, understandable and age-appropriate information, observe high ethic standards and involve young people into the creation and dissemination of the provided content. Active citizenship closely interconnected with sufficient awareness of all necessary spheres of life of young people is a widely employed mechanism. Young people participate in self-governance at schools, in child and youth parliaments and voluntary activities of non-profit non-governmental organizations. In 2004 the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic adopted Conditions of Child and Youth Work Funding for 2004-2007 including the annual support to information and consulting activities focused on children and young people. This support covers children and young people considered as clients using the supplied information while providers (involved in information making and dissemination) of such information need not be specified as children and youth.

4.3 List the existing mechanisms to involve young people in dissemination of information

Nearly 300 hundred volunteers annually participate in the activities of Youth Information Centres (YIC). Their participation in the youth information system is considered the most natural form of dissemination of information covering young people in schools and other places widely used by young people. Participation of young volunteers in a number of projects and information campaigns is also considered highly creative. However, such mechanism is limited in time by the commencement and completion dates of such activities. The distribution of YIC information leaflets is based on regular cooperation with volunteers. Also, groups of volunteers maintaining permanent contacts with YICs have been established at secondary schools and universities. Participation of volunteers in occasional activities or events co-organized with other organizations is limited to preparation and execution of such activities. A number of YICs have established information points providing information leaflets in schools, schooling facilities, at municipal authorities and other public places. In 2004 the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic adopted Conditions of Child and Youth Work Funding for 2004-2007 including the annual support to information and consulting activities focused on children and young people (see point 4.2).

4.4 Recent developments that have been made to include young people in the creation and dissemination of information

Developments have been made in order to provide support and ensure access of young people to



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information even on municipal level in less-populated towns and villages via specific telephone line, separate Internet portal, infopoint network, distribution of high quality youth information materials or via a mobile information unit. The Youth Information Centres have focused to the establishment of new infopoints and their regular update in order to increase the number of reached clients. Also, more volunteers # consultants and student self-governance bodies working at secondary schools and universities have been involved.



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