

The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

Key priorities for youth policies answers on
Participation



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 Structures of participation at the local, regional or national level

1.1 Youth parliaments

1.1.1 Local youth parliaments

1. Student Parliament of the town of Kosice (www.spmk.php5.sk), chairman: Tomas Saroch 2. Student Parliament of Senica, chairman: Peter Siwec 3. Youth Parliament of Humenne, chairman: David Winter 4. Municipal Youth Parliament of Spisska Bela 5. Municipal Youth Parliament of Sobrance 6. Student Parliament of Ruzomberok 7. Youth Parliament of Kezmarok (www.pamm.kezmarok.szm.sk) 8. Youth Parliament of Prievidza, head: Magda Malichova 9. Youth Parliament of Spisska Nova Ves 10. Pupil and Student Parliament of Roznava 11. Municipal Youth Parliament of Banska Bystrica 12. Student Parliament of Pezinok, chairman: Zuzana Moravcikova 13. Municipal Student Parliament of Myjava 14. Youth Parliament of Vrable, chairman: Dagmar Skacanova 15. Student Parliament of the town of Poprad, chairman: Lubomir Kaleta 16. Student Parliament in Vranov nad Toplou The main activities of the Youth Parliaments include, but are not limited to the following spheres: - dealing with problems of young people at the municipal level, - supporting activities of youth organization, - support provided to organization of youth activities, - educational activities in the field of drug abuse prevention, environment protection and healthy way of life, - collaboration with municipal bodies, civic committees and civic boards within the respective municipality aimed at searching solutions for youth issues.

1.1.2 Regional youth parliaments

N/A

1.1.3 National youth parliament

N/A

1.2 Youth councils

1.2.1 Local youth councils

Municipal youth councils can be established at the communal level in particular municipalities under the cooperation of child and youth organizations. Municipal youth councils influence the decision-making competences of local self-government bodies and their responsibility in the field of crucial issues relating to young people.

1.2.2 Regional youth councils



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Regional Youth Council ("RYC") 1. region of Nitra, chairman: Janete Kadlieckova 2. region of Zilina, statutory representative: Darina Ciernikova, www.rmzk.mladez.sk 3. region of Banska Bystrica, statutory representative: Jan Sedliacik, www.rmbb.mladez.sk 4. region of Bratislava, statutory representative: Gabriela Sikulincova, www.rmbk.mladez.sk 5. region of Trencin, statutory representative: Stefan Belan, www.rmtn.mladez.sk 6. region of Trnava, statutory representative: Rastislav Mraz, www.trnava.mladez.sk 7. region of Presov, statutory representative: Marian Feco 8. region of Kosice, statutory representative: Tomas Krbata, www.rmkk.mladez.sk

1.2.3 National youth councils

The Slovak Youth Council (www.mladez.sk, rms@rms.mladez.sk) has been established in 1990 as an independent umbrella organization for child and youth civic associations covering the entire territory of the Slovak Republic. The main objectives are as follows: # influence the national policy in line with national legislative so as to establish conditions for all-round, free and democratic development of children and young people corresponding to their justified interests and participate this way in the development of national youth policy; # contribute to the establishment of conditions for child and youth organizations and coordinated enforcement of their interests; # cooperate with partner organizations abroad, international governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions working for the benefit of children and young people; # cooperate with national institutions and civic associations working within the sphere of the council's interests, # contribute to the creation of financial resources to cover child and youth organization activities. Also, international cooperation and membership in international structures belongs to significant objectives of the Slovak Youth Council. The Slovak Youth Council is an official representative of the Slovak youth in international youth organizations like the European Youth Forum (YFJ # Youth Forum Jeunesse).

1.3 Others structures of participation

Information and consultancy services for young people (Information Youth Centres) # in 18 towns, centres of particular districts). Academic Senates at particular higher education institutions

2 Percentage of young people who are members of

2.1 Percentage of young people in global population n(100%)who are members of a political party

9,95 %

2.1.1 Percentage of young people in global population who are members of a political party (by age groups)

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



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2.1.2 Percentage of young people in global population who are members of a political party (by gender)

female	male
N/I %	N/I %

2.1.3 Percentage of young people who are members of a political party in global population by rural-urban

rural	urban
N/I %	N/I %

2.2 Percentage of young people who are members of a trade union from the ages of 13 and 30 in global population

N/I %

2.2.1 Percentage of young people who are members of a trade union in global population by age groups

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

2.2.2 Percentage of young people in global population who are members of a trade union (by gender)

female	male
N/I %	N/I %

2.2.3 Percentage of young people who are members of a trade union in global population by rural-urban.

rural	urban
N/I %	N/I %

2.3 Percentage of young people who are members of a youth organisation from the ages of 13 and 30 in global population

N/I %

2.3.1 Percentage of young people who are members of a youth organisation in

global population by age group

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

2.3.2 Percentage of young people who are members of a youth organisation in global population by gender

female	male
N/I %	N/I %

2.3.3 Percentage of young people who are members of a youth organisation in global population (by rural-urban)

rural	urban
N/I %	N/I %

2.3.4 What type of youth organisations are people involved in

The category of youth organizations covers the most significant child and youth civic associations working with children and young people and promoting and facilitating a wide range of their activities. The activities of these organizations are not primarily focused only to sporting or cultural activities.

3 Existing actions/support, of national or regional scope, to promote the participation of young people in local life and follow-up mechanisms

See below - point 3.1 and 3.2

3.1 Legal actions to support the structures for participation of young people in local life

The Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic implements a programme supporting participation of young people in the municipality life aimed at: (1) establishing conditions promoting and facilitating active relations among municipal self-governing bodies and youth representatives on the municipal and regional levels; (2) creating structures enabling active public participation of young people on the municipality level; (3) establishing active democratic relations among municipal self-governing bodies and young people to solve issues relating to municipal life of young people; (4) involving young people aged 14 to 26 into active democratic public participation on the municipal level.

3.2 Financial actions to support the various structures for youth political and NGO participation

The MoE SR provides financial support in the field of participation especially via the programme supporting participation of young people in municipal life. In 2005, the financial support granted to 13 chosen projects reached SKK 888,430. This support is expected to increase in terms of the number of projects, as well the amount of the granted subsidies, as the project just started to be implemented in 2005. This expectation has been validated by the information on the subsidy granted in the amount of SKK 2,356,400 in 2006 (29 supported participation projects).

3.3 Other initiatives planned in the short term

Other programmes implemented to support activities aimed at more intensive public participation of children and young people include: support provided to child and youth associations, national and regional associations, national and regional Youth Councils, information and advisory activities dedicated to children and youth, as well as support provided to leisure centres. The establishment of regional Youth Parliaments is mainly initiated by organizations supported under these programmes (civic associations, YICs, Slovak Youth Council) or leisure centres. In some regions these organizations and centres undertook the role of such structures and directly mobilize children and youth using a wide range of their activities.

4 Do some of the existing or planned actions aim at certain specific groups of young people?

~~yes~~ ~~no~~

If yes, what groups?

N/I

5 The vote

5.1 Obligatory?

~~yes~~ no

5.2 Age of the right to vote

From 18 years old

5.3 The right to vote

National Council (parliamentary elections) # Act No. 333/2004 Coll. # any citizen of the Slovak Republic (SR) who has attained the age of 18 on or before the day of elections (age of 18).
Elections of the president # Act No. 46/1999 Coll. # a citizen of the SR who has attained the age of 18 and is on the territory of the SR on the election date. Self-governing regional bodies # Act No. 303/2001 Coll. # any citizen of the SR and each foreigner having permanent residency in a municipality within the territory of the respective self-governing region or in the military district



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allocated for the purposes of elections to the self-governing regional bodies under the respective self-governing region and has attained the age of 18. Self-governing municipal bodies # Act of the Slovak National Council No. 346/1990 Coll. # any citizen of the SR who has permanent residency in the respective municipality or town district (Bratislava or Kosice), and has attained the age of 18.

5.4 Age of eligibility to be a candidate

From 21 years old

5.5 Eligibility to be a candidate

National Council - any citizen of the SR who has attained the age of 21 on or before the election date (age of 21) and has permanent residency on the territory of the SR. President of the SR # any citizen of the SR who can be elected as a Member of the National Council and has attained the age of 40. Self-governing regional bodies # Member: any person entitled to vote who has permanent residency in a respective municipality within the territory of the self-governing region. Head: any person entitled to vote who has attained the age of 25. Self-governing municipal bodies - member: any person who is entitled to vote. - mayor/burgomaster: any person who is entitled to vote and has attained the age of 25.

6 The elections

No answers available

7 Existing actions/support, of national or regional scope, to promote the participation in the system of representative democracy and follow-up mechanisms

Nie je nám to jedno (We do care) is a civic initiative. Its activities are aimed at improving the awareness of electors on the importance of upcoming elections and motivate them for participation in the elections. It is a non-party organization providing no support to any political party and opened for anybody able to identify with their objectives. The We do care initiative has been started by the Hlava 98 and Občianske oko associations. The Open Society Foundation granted 17 subsidies to support projects relating to 2006 parliamentary and communal elections. Inštitút pre verejné otázky (Institute for Public Affairs), Bratislava # a project titled Slovakia 2006: Public Discussion Regarding Open Society Values and Public Participation. A representative survey Pre-election Slovakia was held under this project. For more information see www.ivo.sk. MEMO 98 civic association, Bratislava # the Infovoľby 2006 project. For more information see www.infovolby.sk. F. A. Hayek's Foundation, Bratislava # the project titled Increase in Participation and Enhancement of Awareness of Citizens as Electors in 2006 Slovak Parliamentary Elections. For more information see www.politickysupermarket.sk. Fair-play Alliance, Bratislava # the project titled Elections as the Chance for Opening and Improving Politics. For more information see www.fair-play.sk. Civic Association of Roma in Slovakia, Bratislava # educational campaign explaining the importance of parliamentary and communal elections for the Roma population. More



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information at askolkay@marta.sk.

7.1 Actions that have been undertaken this year

Projects subsidized under A Citizen in Communal Elections (2006 Communal Elections) programme: Slovak Academic Information Agency #ilina, #ilina # With Us About Us project aimed at increasing participation of citizens in communal elections in #ilina. More information at saiaza@isternet.sk. Mid-European Educational Institute, Brezno # Young Citizens of Brezno in Communal Elections project monitoring the activities of certain local council representatives, analysing proposals and initiatives raised by citizens and submitting them to the communal body representatives. For more information see www.sevi.sk. Slatinka Association, Zvolen # #Can You Hear Me?# project Improvement of the communal representative to citizen communication focused also on the subsequent review of the fulfilment of promises of particular communal representatives. For more information see www.slatinka.sk. Regional Consultancy and Information Centre Trebišov, Trebišov # Entrepreneurs# Community in Communal Elections project aimed at launching communication between local entrepreneurs# community and elected communal representatives. For more information see www.rpic.trebisov.sk. Youth Information Centre, Prievidza # project titled #I do elect, I am not an Ostrich# focused at increasing participation of young electors and monitoring of election programmes. For more information see www.icm.sk. Stráňov Club, Považská Bystrica # project titled Považská Bystrica OPEN aimed at increasing election participation. For more information see www.pb.otvorene.sk and www.strazov.sk. CREATV s.r.o., Košice, Košice # project titled You Can Decide, So You Decide! 2006 Communal Elections # a specific project focused at the youth participation increasing campaign held via TV. More information at ekonomika@nasa.sk. Community Organization Centre, Banská Bystrica # Citizens to the Town with Elections # improving electors# decision-making competence. For more information see www.cko.sk.

7.2 Other initiatives planned in the short term

N/I

8 Do some of the existing or planned actions aim at specific groups of young people?

yes ~~no~~

Specific target groups of young people aimed at by existing or planned actions
Roma minority: Civic Association of Roma in Slovakia, Bratislava # educational campaign explaining the importance of parliamentary and communal elections for the Roma population. New Roma Generation, Bratislava, Banská Bystrica, Spiš # # Roma and Communal Policy project shall prepare candidates for elections and mobilize Roma electors within the region concerned. People in Need # association established at the Slovak Branch of Czech Television, Spišské podhradie # the Responsibility of Roma within Communal Policy project focused on Roma leaders aimed at their involvement into the communal policy development. For more information see www.clovekvtisni.sk. Secondary school students: Students Political Science Association (civic



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association), Prešov # Be Local, Think Global! The objective of this project is to motivate young electors, mainly secondary school students who are to come to ballot boxes for the first time.

9 Learning to participate

9.1 Existing actions within the systems of formal education aiming at developing and deepening learning to participate

See point 9.1.1, 9.1.2, 9.1.3

9.1.1 Mechanisms of participation at school

The Act No. 596/2003 regulating state administration and self-governance at schools and amending certain Acts provide students with possibility to democratically affect processes and events at their schools and participate in them. The establishment and objectives of the any Student School Board (hereinafter referred to as the #Student Board#) is regulated by Section 26 of the mentioned above Act. The Student Board is a structure providing students with opportunity to obtain practical experience in participative or inclusive democratic citizenship contrasting to declared-only education for citizenship at a number of general as well as specific school subjects. The successful fulfilment of the mission of Student Boards contributes to the increased satisfaction of students with the functioning of their self-governance body. The Student Board represents students of the respective secondary school and enforces their interests towards the Headmaster of the school and its leading officers. It is composed of 5 to 11 students elected by a secret ballot vote of more than 50 percent of students of the respective school. The elected student representatives shall: - express their standpoints to significant issues, submit proposals and measures to be taken in the field of education and training, - participate in the development and observing the School Order, and - submit the agreed proposals and standpoints to the Headmaster on behalf of the students of the school concerned. The composition of the Student Board, ways of its establishment, election of its members and ways of its meetings are set in detail in by-laws of the Student Board. Student Boards have been established at proximately 2/3 of secondary schools in Slovakia. Students can participate in solving human rights issues via school self-governance bodies; they can also personally participate in solving problems via schools psychologists, education advisors, school magazines, headmaster of the school etc.

9.1.2 Learning of citizenship

The system of formal education provides pupils from elementary and students from secondary schools with information on democracy, its institutions, civil rights and duties, on parliament, referendum and the role of President and Prime Minister via traditional school subjects, such as history, economy, geography, Slovak language and literature. History, in particular, is a school subject which is primarily expected to explain the functioning of the state and society rather than describe historical events. Representative surveys have proved specialized subjects, such as civics, social science and ethics, to be the dominant source of knowledge and information in this field. Civics and social science subjects include information and knowledge in the field of human



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rights (HR). Students are provided with information on the basic legal documents and structure of HR and made aware of the necessity of executing HR in everyday life and possibilities of their enforcement and protection.

9.1.3 Other actions within the systems of formal education aiming at developing and deepening learning to participate

Human Rights Olympiad (HRO) is the most prestige national competition in the field of HR and their enforcement for the students of grammar schools, secondary schools and vocational training schools granted by luventa. The Olympiad is organized by the National HRO Committee chaired by the MoE SR. The HRO project is aimed at using attractive methods for training secondary students in protecting and enforcing equal rights for all members of the society and active participation in the society. The Olympiad supports creativity, communication and presentation skills, argumentation techniques and opinion formation in young people. Theoretical knowledge and practical experience of students are evaluated by a jury composed of significant national and foreign human rights experts. During the national final round of the contest, students meet a number of experts providing them with information on international organizations dealing with protection of HR.

9.2 Fields of actions and/or support # (national or regional scope, outside the formal education context) which aim at promoting learning to participate amongst young people

N/I

9.2.1 Nature of this support

N/I

9.2.2 Concerned sector of activities: company, associations and NGOs, training bodies, municipalities, medias

N/I

9.2.3 Among these actions (question 9.2.1 and 9.2.2), actions that have been undertaken this year

N/I

9.2.4 Other initiatives planned in the short term

N/I

9.3 Are there specific target groups of young people aimed at by existing or planned actions?

~~yes-no~~



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The specific target groups

N/I



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