



**Youth**Partnership

# QUESTIONNAIRE “PARTICIPATION” SLOVAKIA

**Youth**Partnership  
Council of Europe  
European Commission



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## **1. Please explain the context of youth participation in your country**

The term of youth participation has been used since the 1990's in Slovakia. Concept of civic participation brought foreign charitable foundations aimed at founding of civil society. The foundation of NGOs marked the beginning of civic participation in practical life. Nowadays the youth participation has back-up in legislation like Constitution of the Slovak Republic (SR), Law on Free Access to Information, and Law on State Administration and Self-government at Schools. The practice of youth participation is regulated by Election Law, Law on Merging of Citizens and Law on Assembling. Since our country became a member state of the EU, our legislation is approximated with the communitarian law. Young people can participate as a single person, informal group or a member or a volunteer of a certain NGO. They can experience first steps of participation at school or in pupil councils, later in youth regional councils or specific student councils, i.e. Council of Students of Law. Youth parliaments work only at the local level. Their formation depends on conditions in municipalities.

## **2. Structures of participation at the local regional or national level**

### **2.1 [Youth councils](#)**

#### **2.1.1 National youth councils**

The Youth Council of Slovakia ([www.mladez.sk](http://www.mladez.sk)): The Youth Council of Slovakia (RMS) is an umbrella organization – an association of non-governmental, not-for-profit, children's and youth organizations. It represents 50 700 young people and its regional branches represent 24 000 young people. The basic aim of the Council is to influence the national policy in favor of creating opportunities for youth and children with respect to the Slovak legal system. The council had participated in the implementation of the Concept of state policy towards children and youth in the Slovak Republic until the year 2007. The Youth Council of Slovakia became a partner organization to the Ministry of Education in February 2000. The Youth Council of Slovakia is also the official representative of Slovak youth in international youth organisations and platforms. It actively participated in the establishment of the European Youth Forum and it is present in the Commission of the EYF for relations with the EU and in the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Youth.

Students Council of Universities ([www.srvs.sk](http://www.srvs.sk)): Students Council of Universities is a consultative body of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic and the supreme representative body of university students in Slovakia. It represents Slovak students outwards, home and abroad as well. SRVS associates the representatives of all universities in Slovakia – state, public and private.

### **2.1.2 Regional youth councils**

Regional Youth Council of Žilina, [www.rmzk.mladez.sk](http://www.rmzk.mladez.sk)

Regional Youth Council of Trnava, [www.trnava.mladez.sk](http://www.trnava.mladez.sk)

Regional Youth Council of Košice, [www.rmkk.mladez.sk](http://www.rmkk.mladez.sk)

Regional Youth Council of Trenčín, [www.rmtnk.szm.sk](http://www.rmtnk.szm.sk)

Regional Youth Council of Nitra, [www.rmnik.mladez.sk](http://www.rmnik.mladez.sk)

Regional Youth Council of Prešov, [www.rmpk.mladez.sk](http://www.rmpk.mladez.sk)

Regional Youth Council of Bratislava, [www.rmbk.mladez.sk](http://www.rmbk.mladez.sk)

Regional Youth Council of Banská Bystrica, [www.rmbb.mladez.sk](http://www.rmbb.mladez.sk)

### **2.1.3 Local youth councils**

Students Council of Secondary Schools: Represents students towards state administration; this body doesn't work at the national level, but regional branches represent students from certain region.

Pupil School Councils: Represent students towards the administration of a certain school.

Student parliaments at universities are mechanisms for students to participate in the decision making process concerning a certain university. Members of the student parliaments participate in the deans' elections of the faculties.

## **2.2 Please list youth parliaments on national, regional and local level**

The role of national youth parliament is seen as a task of the Youth Council of Slovakia. There is also a Secondary school parliament, which functions as independent organisation (local youth parliaments or student parliaments are not members of this organisation).

There are two regional student parliaments co-operating with Bratislava county and Trnava county.

They represent only young people from secondary schools.

### **Local parliaments:**

Youth Parliament of Banská Bystrica City / [www.mmpbb.szm.sk](http://www.mmpbb.szm.sk) / Contact person: David Kapusta

The role of the parliament is to organise non-profit activities for young people in order to encourage them to active participation. Election modalities: the membership begins after accreditation of interest expression at the City council. Duration of the membership is according to interest of the member.

Youth Parliament of Bánovce nad Bebravou / [www.mpbn.sk](http://www.mpbn.sk) / Contact person: Martina Šimoňáková

The role of the parliament is to activate youth in the town. Municipal corporations elect members of the youth parliament. Members are 15-26 years old. Duration of the mandate is 2 years. The Parliament represents youth from the local community.

Youth Parliament of Vráble / [www.mpv.sk](http://www.mpv.sk) / Contact person: Dagmar Skačanová

The role of the parliament is to represent about 2000 young people from the town Vráble. The chairman is a member of the town parliament and is the means to enforce the interest of youth. The municipality does not finance activities of the youth parliament. Election modalities: decisions are voted for by the members with an absolute majority, duration of the mandate is 4 years.

Youth Parliament of Levice / Contact person: Juraj Ivan

The role of the parliament is to be proactive and to consult the the mayor; it represents youth from the local community. Election modalities: duration of the mandate is 2 years. decisions are voted for by the members with an absolute majority The parliament may take decision if an absolute majority of all the members of the parliament are present.

Youth Parliament of Žilina City / [www.zilina.sk](http://www.zilina.sk) / In creation process

Youth Parliament of Močenok / [www.mocenok.sk](http://www.mocenok.sk) / Contact person: Tomáš Danko

Role: The parliament works as an advisory body for the magistrate of the village. Election mandate: 13 members are delegates of NGOsthat work with children and youth. Duration of the mandate is 15 months. Decisions are voted for by the members with an absolute majority The parliament may take decision if an absolute majority of all members of the parliament are present.

Youth Parliament of Prešov / [www.presov.sk](http://www.presov.sk) / Contact person: no chairman at the moment

Role: represents young people who live or study in Prešov to the city authorities and other bodies, organises activities for youth in Prešov. Election modalities: the number of members is not fixed, members are students of secondary schools in Prešov, duration of mandate is up to the interest of each member.

Youth Parliament of Kežmarok / [www.kezmarok.sk](http://www.kezmarok.sk) / Contact person: Nikola Dudova

Role: parliament encourages young people in the town to be active citizens. The parliament represents youth from 5 secondary schools in Kežmarok and youth visiting schools out of Kežmarok with permanent stay in Kežmarok (about 3400 young people).

Structure: the parliament has 24 members, mandate ends when a member finishes school.

Youth Parliament of Spišská Belá / Contact person: Richard Schurdak

he role of the parliament is to represent about 650 young people of the local community. The parliament cooperates with the “Leisure time activities Centre” in the town and represents municipality abroad. The parliament represents youth from local community. The members of parliament, who are children and youth at least 10 years old, prepare meetings with the mayor and members of the municipal bodies, meetings of school pupil councils and school parliaments. Election modalities: the members vote by an absolute majority, duration of the mandate is 2 years

Children and Youth Parliament in Prievidza / [www.PD.mesto.sk](http://www.PD.mesto.sk) / Contact person: there is no chairman; the contact person is the worker of the “Leisure time Activities Centre”, Magda Malichova. The role of the children and youth parliament in Prievidza is to encourage youths to be active citizens. Election modalities: the members are volunteers without a mandate; everybody can work how long he/she wants. Young people usually work till the end of the primary or secondary school. They represent one of 4 districts. Each district has a speaker. Before they start to organise an event, they divide roles.

Youth Parliament of Revúca / Contact person: Lucia Baltazárová

The parliament co-operates with the mayor office. It is department of the Centre of non formal education and prevention in Revúca. Members of parliament are aged 14-26. They are those who represent school and those, who represent in- formal groups of youth. Duration of mandate finishes at least with the member’s 26th birthday.

Youth Parliament of Snina / [www.mpsnina.sk](http://www.mpsnina.sk) / Contact person: Oľga Džupinková

Role: organises youth activities in the town, some members of the parliament are also members of commissions in the town parliament (commission for sport, culture). The parliament co-operates with the Union of Secondary Schools and the Regional Youth Council. Election modalities: There are 14 members of the parliament. Young people can become members if they are above 14 years old. Duration of the mandate is up to members.

Youth Parliament in Topoľčany / [www.topolcany.sk](http://www.topolcany.sk) / Contact person: Igor Ondruš

The role of the parliament is to be proactive and to consult the body of the mayor; it represents youth from the local community. Decision making: the members take decisions by an absolute majority of the present members; the duration of the mandate is 1 school year (10 months).

Youth Parliament of Handlová / [www.cvcha.edu.sk](http://www.cvcha.edu.sk) / Contact person: Silvia Boďová

Role: consults the mayor; represents the interests of youth from 21 secondary schools in the region.  
Decision making: Decisions are voted by an absolute majority of the present members.

Youth Parliament of the town Dolný Kubín / [www.mmpdk.sk](http://www.mmpdk.sk) / Contact person: Dean Reš

Role: The parliament represents youth from the town before the municipality and state authorities; it is a consulting body of the mayor concerning the youth. Election modalities: two representatives of each primary and secondary school get mandate for 1 school year (10 months); they vote by an absolute majority of the present members

Youth parliament of Humenné / [www.cvche.edu.sk](http://www.cvche.edu.sk) / Contact person: Denisa Benková

Role: They organise projects for youth from local community, financed from grants. Election modalities: Members of parliament are representatives of primary and secondary schools in Humenné (16). Duration of the mandate is up to finishing school. Members are aged from 14 to 18.

### **3. Participation in representative democracy**

#### **3.1 Number and percentage of young people who are members of a political party or political youth organisations, if possible by gender**

Public authorities do not elaborate this information. Political parties and organisations are subjects of private law, which means information about the number of members, are not public.

#### **3.2 Number and percentage of young people who are members of a trade union**

The Number of members of trade unions in the Slovak Republic under 35 years is 61 409.

The Number of young people is 1 551 048 (13-30 years). 3.9% of young people are members of a trade union. This number refers to members of umbrella organization. All members of umbrella organizations are members of specialist unions or branch trade unions as well.

#### **3.3 Percentage of young people (in total and by gender) who are members of a youth non-governmental organisation, which are not trade unions, political parties or political youth organisations. If possible give information about the type of organisations.**

*This Information is not available.* About 13 500 NGOs exist in Slovakia, but far less are working. Our legislation gives the possibility to found NGOs, but does not obligate to cancel it when it is not working. We have got number of children and young people who are members of youth NGOs applying for support for their activities from the Ministry of Education. This number is 50 700 young people (40 NGOs). That corresponds to 3.26% of all young people aged 13-30.

## **4. Explain the existing support measures, of national, regional or local scope, to promote the participation of young people in local life and follow-up mechanisms**

### **4.1 Financial actions to support the various structures for youth political and NGO participation**

There are not Slovak support actions. Some German foundations (Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung) support political parties, NGOs or young people directly to participate politically. Youth in action program and ADAM–grant program of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic support young people to participate in public life generally.

### **4.2 Which financial actions on national level aimed at certain specific groups of young people exist?**

Non applicable

## **5. The vote**

### **5.1 Is voting obligatory?**

No. There is not obligatory voting in any elections.

### **5.2 Age of the right to vote**

18 for all types of elections.

### **5.3 Please describe, who is entitled to vote in national, regional and local elections.**

People with Slovak nationality are entitled to vote in all types of elections. EU citizens with permanent residence in Slovakia are entitled to vote according to EU rules – at the local, regional and European level. Citizens with Czech nationality, who have double citizenship, are also entitled to vote in national election.

### **5.4 Requirements for being entitled as a candidate in national, regional or local elections**

The candidate must be at least 21 years old on the day of election. He/she must be a citizen of the Slovak republic, nationality is not important. EU citizens are entitled to stand for elections according to the EU rules.



## **6. The elections**

### **6.1 Indicators of participation related to the election of the European Parliament**

#### **6.1.1 In the election of the European Parliament, the number and percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people who have the right to vote**

The number of young people who voted is 130 983. Percentage of young voters is 10.8%. (Gender particular does not exist). The number of young people who have the right to vote is 1 212 807 (18-30 years)

#### **6.1.2 In European elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the total population voting**

The number of voters to whom envelopes were distributed is 853 533 and the number of young voters is 130 983 (15.3%).

### **6.2 National indicators of participation in the polls**

#### **6.2.1 In national elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people who have the right to vote**

The number of young people who have the right to vote is 1 169 806 (18-30 years) and the number of young voters is 525 581 (44,9%); not information about gender percentage.

#### **6.2.2 In national elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the total population who has voted.**

The percentage of young voters in relation to the total voting population is 22,5%.

### **6.3 Regional and local indicators of participation in the polls**

#### **6.3.1 In regional and local elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the number of young people who have the right to vote**

non applicable

#### **6.3.2 In regional and local elections, the percentage of young voters in relation to the total population voting**

non applicable

#### **6.4 Number of young people elected at the national, regional and local level: overall and by gender**

Three men under 30 years of age (25-30) are members of the national parliament.

One woman (28 years old) and nine men (27-30) are members of regional parliaments.

Indicators concerning municipalities do not exist.

#### **7. List actions, programmes, and financial or social support that promote the participation in the system of representative democracy, in particular to young people under the age of 30?**

This is up to political parties only. There is no support for independent candidates.

#### **8 Learning to participate**

##### **8.1 Please list existing actions and mechanisms within the systems of formal education aiming at developing and deepening learning to participate (citizens' education). Please also list related guidelines and teacher training programmes aiming at integrating citizen's education into the curriculum.**

Citizen's education begins in the third school year of primary school in the subject "Homeland study" and follows as a subject at primary schools during the 5th-9th years under the name "Citizen's education". At secondary schools there is the subject of "Education about society" during the last two years. Teachers have the possibility to make their own interdisciplinary projects integrating participative education. Methodical Centres, institutions managed by the Ministry of Education, provide courses for integrated thematic teaching for teachers of classes 1 - 4. Each school year the Ministry of Education provides organisational rules for schools that contains new recommended ways of teaching as well. Teachers are free to integrate topics, ways of teaching into the curriculum supporting participation of young people in a certain measure. A recent school law, supports participative teaching and interdisciplinary projects.

##### **8.2 In which fields, other than formal education, do actions and/or support - of national or regional scope- exist, which aim at promoting learning to participate amongst young people? What is the nature of these actions/this support? Give examples of good practise.**

Each year the European Commission funds a project realised by the Centre for European Policy ([www.cep.sk](http://www.cep.sk)) for students at Slovak universities. The aim of this project is to deepen interest in European topics and encourage young people to participate in the elections. The Centre for European Policy realizes this project called “Debates on EU” since 1999. The nature is to communicate European topics in a non-formal way with a lot of discussion and through “young people’s language”. Each year 600-800 students participate in this project.

The citizen’s association Citizen and Democracy is realizing a project aimed at school reform. The project is particularly oriented at an evaluation process of primary and secondary schools’ quality. This is seen from the perspective of the main actors of the school community – teachers, parents and students. The objective is to offer these actors a simple, universally available and effective tool to find to measure their satisfaction with the quality of the educational process at schools in Slovakia. Another goal is to create a manual, available for various kinds and types of schools. With the help of this manual the actors will be able to create their own auto evaluation tools for measuring the quality of their educational environment. Surveys are supposed to be the main auto evaluation tool in this project.

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

Iuventia (see Country sheet for more information about this organisation) is preparing a project aimed at educating young leaders, youth leaders and youth workers. This project will offer education in the basic framework and specific trainings concerned with some priority themes emanating from the conception of the politics of the state in relation to children and youth. Trainers of trainers, trainers of the young leaders, youth leaders and workers with children and youth should form the main target group. The aim of the project is also to offer educational activities directed at leaders, especially from smaller towns.

## **9. Describe other, informal ways young people choose to participate in your country.**

- Church activities – social participation, petitions (against abortion law).
- Environmental activities – campaigns (saving animals, trees, separation of garbage).
- Work with children – summer camps aimed at some educational goals.