

The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

Key priorities for youth policies answers on
Better Understanding of Youth



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 and actors that play a role in gaining a greater understanding and knowledge of young people

1.1 Departments in universities dealing with youth issues

Youth-related research issues are dealt with under the KEGA (Cultural and Educational Grant Agency) and VEGA (Scientific Grant Agency) projects by the personnel of faculties of humanities of the Comenius University in Bratislava, Constantine the Philosopher University, Sts. Cyril and Methodius University in Trnava, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica and University of Prešov. They have also been partially solved within thesis and studies elaborated under state rigorous exams of students and university graduates (rarely published). Youth issues have been most often dealt with at institutes working under particular faculties, such as: Applied Psychology Institute # Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Faculty of Social Science Institute of Humanities # Pavol Jozef Safarik University, Faculty of Natural Science Institute of Humanities # Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Education Brief information on research issues solved by university personnel: Institute of Humanities, Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Education 1. Behaviour Disorders of Romany Adolescents (L. Feherova) 2. Mass media # Child # Man (M. Mankova) 3. Life Development Roles in Adolescent Period and Psychological Consultancy (J. Ihnacik) Department of Curative Education Department, Comenius University, Faculty of Education: 1. Handling of Problematic Educational Situations at Schools # Conditions, Principles, Prevention and Possible Solutions (project leader M. Hornakova) The Slovak Literature Department of Philosophical Faculty of Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra is involved in a long-term research focused on children's literature in terms of text interpretation and readers' reception. Faculty of Medicine of Pavol Jozef Safarik University in Kosice # Hygiene Institute: Impact of Ethnic, Social and Environmental Factors onto Chosen Health Indicators with Emphasis on Romany Community (K. Rimarova)

1.2 Major public and semi-public bodies dealing with youth issues

1.2.1 National public and semi-public bodies dealing with youth issues

Slovak Academy of Sciences, Institute for Sociology - www.sociologia.sav.sk

1.2.2 Local public and semi-public bodies dealing with youth issues

N/I

1.3 NGOs dealing with youth issues

- Youth Council of Slovakia (www.mladez.sk) - Association of the Youth Information and Counselling Centres in the Slovak Republic - ZIPCeM: www.zipcem.sk - Regional Youth Council of Nitra Region - Regional Youth Council of Zilina Region: www.rmzk.mladez.sk - Regional Youth



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Council of Bratislava Region: www.rmbk.mladez.sk - Regional Youth Council of Trencin Region: www.rmtn.mladez.sk - Regional Youth Council of Trnava Region: www.trnava.mladez.sk - Regional Youth Council of Presov Region: www.rmpk.mladez.sk - Slovak scouting - DOMKA: www.domka.sk - eRKO: www.erko.sk - Association of Christian Youth Communities: www.zksm.sk - AMAVET: www.amavet.sk - Children's organization Fénix: www.fenix-snina.sk - Strom zivota: www.stromzivota.sk - Usmev ako dar: www.usmev.sk - Laura: www.laura.mladez.sk - Association of Evangelic Youth: www.sem.sk - Union of Scouts of Hungarian Nationality: www.szmcs.sk - Ideal Youth Activity: www.ima.sk - YMCA in Slovakia: www.ymca.sk

1.4 Statistic offices that collect statistics on youth

- Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic: www.statistics.sk - Institute of Information and Prognoses of Education The Institute regularly collects and processes national statistic reports in the field of education. National statistic reports relating to young people are collected and processed each year and cover the age groups of 15 years, 15 to 18 years and 18 to 26 years.

1.5 Youth researchers or experts

M. Bielikova # Institute of Information and Prognoses of Education (UIPS); sociologic researches of life style, participation, political orientation of youth and bullying at schools M. Petiova # UIPS; sociologic researches of pathologic elements in lives of youth and their approach to legal and illegal drug use M. Bosnakova # UIPS; sociologic researches of public participation of youth, and truancy of school students L. Machacek # CERYs; sociologic researches of current problems of youth Ondrejko # Faculty of Education, Constantine the Philosopher University; sociologic research of pathologic elements in lives of youth A. Nociar # Research Institute for Child Psychology and Pathopsychology (VUDPAP); ESPAD studies (European research covering tobacco, alcohol and drug use) - Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs 1, 2, 3 S. Matula, A. Kopanyiova, Z. Vojtova, E. Smikova # VUDPAP; psychological research of problematic behaviour of students, prevention of sociopathological behaviour of children and youth J. Filadelfiova # Research Institute for Work and Family (IVPR); problems and changes in families B. Bodnarova # IVPR; problems of children, youth and families, enforcement of child rights in practice R. Dzambazovic # IVPR; Romany ethnic group, children and youth L. Gressnerova # National Vocational Education Institute; research on youth integration into labour market P. Korsnakova # National Institute for Education; knowledge and skills of 15 years old students # OECD PISA

1.6 Private companies dealing with youth issues

N/I

1.7 Others dealing with youth issues

N/I

1.8 New structures and actors that have been set up this year

Slovak Youth Research Society - www.syrs.org



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2 Legal basis

2.1 Legal basis or guidelines facilitating activities leading to a better understanding of youth

The Slovak government adopted the Concept of National Policy towards Children and Youth in the Slovak Republic Until the Year 2007. The Concept is implemented on the basis of action plans specifying tasks for particular years adopted annually by the national government and their evaluation. Requirements with respect to Funding of Child and Youth Work until the year 2007 - focused at supporting systematic education and training work with children and youth in the field of informal education. Its aim is to: - support the development of information and consultancy services provided to children and youth - support public participation of young people - support work of volunteers with children and young people - improve qualification of volunteers and professional child and youth workers - support international activities, etc. It covers a wide area and includes also activities aimed at acquiring a better knowledge and understanding of youth.

2.2 New Developments that have taken place this year?

A databasis covering applicants and projects undertaken under the grant-funded program titled Support and development of participation of young people in municipal life have been established this year in order to establish conditions, structures and relations enabling young people to participate actively in municipal life.

3 Funding for carrying out activities aimed at acquiring a better understanding of youth

3.1 International funding for carrying out activities aimed at acquiring a better knowledge of youth

N/I

3.2 EU funding for carrying out activities aimed at acquiring a better knowledge and understanding of youth

EU financial resources are allocated via the National Agency for the YOUTH program (IUVENTA). The activities supported by the program include a better knowledge and understanding within the framework of the Action 5. The National Agency implements also its own educational plan dedicated to people working with children and young people. The EU-funded projects also include the Erasmus project for students, Socrates and Leonardo projects dedicated to teachers and students, aimed especially at improving their language skills, and Arion Project dedicated to educational professionals.



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3.3 National funding for carrying out activities aimed at acquiring a better knowledge and understanding of youth

3.3.1 Public national funding

Research in Slovakia is state-funded, for example via grant schemes such as the Cultural and Educational Grant Agency (KEGA), Scientific Grant Agency (VEGA), Research and Development Support Agency (APVV), Antidrug Fund, etc. The amount of youth research subsidies cannot be specified because the funds are not dedicated specifically for youth research. The annual sum provided by the Ministry of Education to cover youth information and research amounts approximately 4000000 SKK. Besides using funds of ESF, the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs subsidizes civic associations using Ministry's budgetary resources, and individuals using gains from lotteries and the like sources.

3.3.2 Private national funding

N/I

3.4 Other funding

N/I

3.5 Actor(s)/structure(s) mainly receiving funding

N/I

3.6 New developments that have taken place this year

N/I

4 Paper publications disseminating knowledge about the youth field

4.1 Figures for paper publications disseminating knowledge about the youth field

Institute for Information and Prognoses in Education annually publishes the following publications: Deti a mladez v cislach (Children and Youth in Numbers) including up-to-date information on NGOs, youth information centres (YICs) and their funding, youth leisure centres, research information on the system of values of youth, on educational facilities, facilities for children and youth with special needs and demographic, criminality and youth unemployment data; Kam pocas letnych prazdnin (Where to go during summer Holidays) including information on holiday activities of organizations working with children and youth; Sport v cislach (Sport in Numbers) # including information on school sporting centres, talented youth centres, and sporting facilities used for schooling purposes.



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4.2 Regular youth reports

In 2005, the following regular youth reports were published: National Youth Policy Review of the Slovak Republic (publisher: the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic) The State of Drug Addiction and Drug Control in the Slovak Republic (publisher: the National Monitoring Centre for Drugs, the General Secretariat of the Ministerial Committee for Drug Addiction and Drug Control) National Report on Youth Information (publisher: Iuventa) National Report on Youth Participation (publisher: Iuventa)

4.3 Journals that publish youth research

Mladez a spolocnost (Youth and Society) - magazine for national youth policy and research; published: by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic and the Institute of Information and Prognoses of Education (UIPS); 4 times/year; contents: research issues and results, information, reviews. Prevencia (Prevention) - bulletin focused on prevention of sociopathological phenomena in education, published: by UIPS; 4 times/year; contents: theoretical reports, survey-related articles, research, technical and methodology articles, reviews. Academia # focused on the current state and perspectives in university education, published: by UIPS; 4 times/year. ZOOM # magazine on youth policy focused on young people, published: by the Youth Council of Slovakia and Iuventa; 6 times/year. Psychologia a patopsychologia dietata (Psychology and Pathopsychology of a Child) - published: by Research Institute for Child Psychology and Pathopsychology (VUDPaP); 4 times/year; contents: expert articles, methodologies and consultations, outlines, reports, reviews. Pedagogicka revue (Pedagogical Revue) # magazine for pedagogical theory and practise, published: by the National Pedagogical Institute (SPU); 5 times/year; contents: articles, empiric studies, reports, reviews. Pedagogicke spektrum (Pedagogical Spectrum) # expert magazine for a wider pedagogical public; published: by SPU; 5 times/year; contents: pedagogical research and practise, pedagogical and law counselling, reviews.

4.4 Reviews on youth research

Bielikova - Petiova: Situation Analysis of Position of Young People in the Slovakia; published: by the Institute of Information and Prognoses of Education (UIPS); 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005; Bielikova-Petiova: Youth Lifestyle in Slovakia; published: by UIPS; 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004; Polakova: Education and Enforcement of Human Rights at Elementary and Secondary Schools, published: by UIPS; 2004, 2005; Bosnakova - Machacek: Students Participation in Self-governance at Secondary Schools and Universities in Slovakia, published: by Iuventa; 2005; Slovikova et al.: Evaluation of the Way to Emotional Maturity Program; UIPS; 2004, 2005, 2006; Petiova et al.: Opinions and Attitudes of Youth Living in Diagnostic Centres and Youth Re-educational Homes on Drug Use; UIPS; 2005.

4.5 Other publications

N/I



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4.6 What new support has been developed this year?

N/I

5 IT dissemination of knowledge in the youth field

5.1 Databases

- Registry of youth-related data; updated continuously - Where to go during summer Holidays; updated once a year - Database of applications of child and youth civic associations; updated once a year - Database of information and counselling projects; updated once a year - Database of projects covering capital expenses; updated once a year - Civic associations# statements; updated once a year - YIC statements; updated once a year - Database of the data regarding talented youth centres; updated once a year - Database of applicants of the projects submitted to the Antidrug Fund; updated once a year - Database of the projects submitted to the Antidrug Fund; updated once a year - Database of the projects focused on participation of children and youth in municipal life; updated once a year

5.2 Portals

- www.uips.sk; updated continuously during the year - www.vudpap.host.sk

5.3 Statistics, reports, journals, reviews or other publications available on the internet

www.uips.sk/mas

5.4 What new tools have been developed this year?

N/I

6 Methods and approaches for gaining a greater understanding and knowledge of youth

6.1 Quantative Methods

	used	frequency	themes
European tools (Eurostat, Eurobarometer)	Yes	N/I <i>per year</i>	expectations regarding the EU; children are the future; science and technology
Youth Opinion polls		N/I <i>per year</i>	N/I
Comparative studies	Yes	N/I <i>per year</i>	tolerance; drug use
Longitudinal studies	Yes	N/I <i>per year</i>	social and political

	used	frequency	themes
			issues; sociopathological issues; lifestyle and value system; drug use
Questionnaires	Yes	N/I <i>per year</i>	OECD:transition to working life; EMCDDA - drug abuse
Evaluation research	Yes	N/I <i>per year</i>	preventive programs and programs implemented by pedagogical and psychological counselling centres

6.2 Qualitative methods

	used	frequency	themes
Ethnography		N/I <i>per year</i>	N/I
Participant observation		N/I <i>per year</i>	N/I
Interviews		N/I <i>per year</i>	N/I
Discourse analysis		N/I <i>per year</i>	N/I
Grounded theory		N/I <i>per year</i>	N/I
Evaluation research		N/I <i>per year</i>	N/I
Action research		N/I <i>per year</i>	N/I
Questionnaires		N/I <i>per year</i>	N/I
Comparative studies		N/I <i>per year</i>	N/I
Longitudinal studies		N/I <i>per year</i>	N/I

6.3 The use of combining methods/ Triangulation

	used	frequency	themes
Action research		N/I <i>per year</i>	N/I
Evaluation research		N/I <i>per year</i>	N/I
Questionnaires		N/I <i>per year</i>	N/I
Comparative studies		N/I <i>per year</i>	N/I
Longitudinal studies		N/I <i>per year</i>	N/I

6.4 Questioning youth organisations and NGOs (especially to collect practical

knowledge)

N/I

6.5 Innovative methods used in the collection of youth knowledge

N/I

6.6 New methods that have been developed this year

N/I

7 Methods developed for keeping knowledge updated and coherent

N/I

8 Methods for ensuring and assessing quality of knowledge in the youth field

8.1 Existing Methods

	used	How it is implemented
Peer reviews		N/I
Expert analysts		N/I
Indicators		N/I
Training of youth researchers		N/I
Other		N/I

8.2 This year's developments of quality assessment in the youth research field.

N/I

9 Promotion of youth researchers and their generational renewal and other actors who work towards a better knowledge of youth

9.1 Facilitating the exchange of experience and practice

CEEPUS is an exchange program dedicated for university students from Central Europe. Activities supported by the CEEPUS II program in 2005 -2009 in Slovakia: 1. networking of universities, 2. mobility within the universities - term stays for students, stays for university teachers, organization



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of specific courses, language courses and student information visits and stays for freemovers # people interested in individual mobilities exceeding the framework of university cooperation. Slovak Youth Research Society has the aim to promote the youth research and better knowledge of youth. Comenius University, Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Psychology organises the annual Students# Scientific Conference with international participants.

9.2 Supporting their mobility

In Slovakia there exists the Mobility Centre for ERA-SLOVAKIA Researchers. The three-year ERA-Slovakia (2004-2006) project co-funded by the European Commission under the 6th Framework Program and by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic is aimed mainly at: - establishing two multinational mobility centres, at SAIA, n.o.(Slovak Academic Information Agency) and the Technical University in Ko#ice, working within the ERA-MORE European network of mobility centres in order to provide foreign and Slovak researchers with required assistance, establish a system enabling them to access up-to-date information and provide personal assistance to researchers and their families; - creating a www.eracareers.sk national mobility portal improving mobility of foreign and Slovak researchers and serving as another source of information within the existing European Researchers# Mobility Portal. EURES System is aimed at improving free movement of workers within the European Economic Space.

9.3 Improving their skills

In 2005, the following activities were organized in Slovakia under the European Language Day: A conference at the Alexander Dubcek University in Trencin; the Open Door Days at language and culture institutions and the Information Office of the Council of Europe; an English concert of young people from various secondary schools organized by the Culture and Information Centre of Bratislava and by the Information Office of the Council of Europe. FEMAN Association - an independent, non-governmental and non-profit community dealing with presentation, promotion and support of culture and development of youth activities. FEMAN organizes the annual Youth Summer Academy and organized in 2005 the EU funded project Young People # Waste and Art.

9.4 Funding for PhDs and support of students in this field

In accordance with the methodology for allocation of state budget resources to universities in 2005, the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as #the Ministry#) issued the following Guidelines to the Submission of Development Projects in 2005. In 2005, the following thematic areas have been defined for development projects: a)Improvement of conditions for the use of information technologies (IT) at universities b)Innovation and establishment of unique working places c)Supporting of the fulfilment of the 07703 # University Education Development sub-program. Point c) covers funding of PhD studies.

9.5 New schemes that have been developed this year

N/I



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10 Comparing results

10.1 Methods to exploit and compare results of activities carried out for a better knowledge and understanding of youth

Iuventa coordinates subject olympiads and other competitions organized within Slovakia by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic and is the administrator of the national grant scheme supporting child and youth civic associations in Slovakia. Iuventa activities are aimed at creating new strategies of child and youth work, methodical supervision of all subjects actively involved in child and youth work, educational activities for professionals and volunteers working with children and youth. Iuventa administrates the EU funded Youth Program, organizes training activities for applicants for funding and ensures implementation of the EURODESK project. Methods: research and surveys concerning child and youth work, publication, information and methodical materials, educational and training activities in the field of child and youth work, subject olympiads and other competitions for elementary and secondary school students in Slovakia.

10.2 Methods that have been developed this year?

N/I

11 Methods to ensure exchanges and dialogue between all actors in the youth field

11.1 Seminars, working groups for a better knowledge and understanding of youth

Title of seminar or group	Frequency	Date & place of next meeting	Contact
Quo Vadis Education?	1 <i>per year</i>	Iuventa	www.iuventa.sk
Principles of youth policy, their basis and implementation	1 <i>per year</i>	10 April 2006, Iuventa	www.iuventa.sk
Young people on the threshold of family lives	1 <i>per year</i>	25 April 2006, Iuventa	www.iuventa.sk
Youth education	1 <i>per year</i>	20 June 2006, Iuventa	www.iuventa.sk

11.2 Permanent national networks for developing a greater knowledge of youth that link all actors in the field (policy makers, researchers, young people and their organisations, NGOs)

N/I



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11.2.1 Functioning and support of permanent national network

N/I

11.2.2 The strategy for creating a permanent national network if one does not exist (i.e. setting up a working group on the issue, organising exchange of good practice on the issue, developing the network taking as starting point national correspondents for knowledge centre, creating a virtual national community linking actors, #)

N/I

11.2.3 The plans for this year

N/I

11.3 Other networks in the youth field

11.3.1 Transnational networks

N/I

11.3.2 Local and regional networks

N/I

11.3.3 Networks specific to certain actors

NGO#s network, Children and Youth NGO#s network, Youth Information Centres network

11.3.4 New developments planned this year

N/I

12 Transsectoral dialogue

12.1 Organisation and promotion of transsectoral dialogue for example between university departments and governmental departments (e.g. seminars, working groups, common advisory structures#)

N/I

12.2 New developments planned this year.

N/I



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