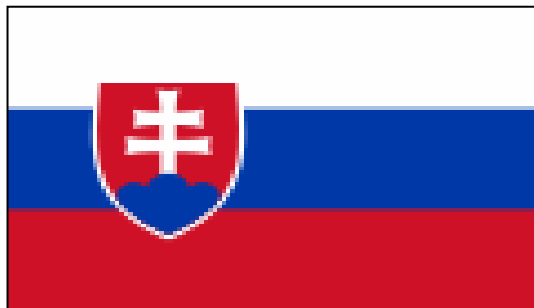




**Youth**Partnership

***QUESTIONNAIRE***  
***“BETTER UNDERSTANDING***  
***OF YOUTH”***  
***SLOVAK REPUBLIC***



**YouthPartnership**  
Council of Europe  
European Commission



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# **1 Structures and actors that play a role in gaining a better understanding and knowledge of young people**

## **1.1 Specific youth departments in universities dealing with youth issues**

No university in Slovakia has a specialised pedagogical-research department dealing with issues of youth research. The Philosophical Faculty of the Cyril's and Method's University covers the European and Regional Youth Research Centre (CERYS), which ensures Slovak cooperation on various important sociological research projects of European Union since 2004: EYI – European Youth Identity (2002-2004), EUYOUTHPART – political youth participation (2004-2006), **UP2YOUTH – youth as a social change factor (2006-2009)**.

## **1.2 Statistic offices that collect statistics on youth**

Statistic office of the Slovak Republic / [www.statistics.sk](http://www.statistics.sk)

Information and Prognosis Institute of the Slovak Republic / [www.uips.sk](http://www.uips.sk)

## **1.3 Major public and semi-public bodies dealing with youth research, public companies included**

- The Slovak Youth Institute / [www.iuventa.sk](http://www.iuventa.sk)
- Information and Prognosis in Education Institute / [www.uips.sk](http://www.uips.sk)
- Research Institute of the Children's Psychology and Patopsychology / [www.vudpap.sk](http://www.vudpap.sk)
- State Pedagogical Institute / [www.statpedu.sk](http://www.statpedu.sk)
- State Institute of the Professional Education / [www.siov.sk](http://www.siov.sk)
- The Slovak Science Institute has a specialised system of scientific-research departments. In these departments there is space for solving research tasks contributing to a better understanding of social circumstances of young people. / [www.sav.sk](http://www.sav.sk)
- Sociological Institute
- Institute of Politics
- Institute of Experimental Psychology
- Ethnological Institute
- Prognostic Institute
- Work and Family Research Institute under the Ministry of Work, Social Affairs and Family / [www.employment.gov.sk](http://www.employment.gov.sk)

- Public Opinion Research Centre under the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic / [www.statistics.sk](http://www.statistics.sk)
- Slovak Youth Research Society / [www.syrs.sk](http://www.syrs.sk)

#### **1.4 NGOs dealing with youth issues**

- Public Questions Institute / [www.ivo.sk](http://www.ivo.sk)
- SPACE Foundation / [www.nspace.sk](http://www.nspace.sk)
- Slovak Youth Council / [www.mladez.sk](http://www.mladez.sk)
- eRKO / [www.erko.sk](http://www.erko.sk)
- YMCA / [www.ymca.sk](http://www.ymca.sk)
- Slovak Scouting / [www.skouting.sk](http://www.skouting.sk)
- DOMKA / [www.domka.sk](http://www.domka.sk)
- ZIPCeM / [www.zipcem.icm.sk](http://www.zipcem.icm.sk)
- Red Cross / [www.redcross.sk](http://www.redcross.sk)
- ZMOS / [www.zmos.sk](http://www.zmos.sk)

#### **1.5 Youth researchers or experts**

##### **Experts:**

- Ladislav Macháček – Youth sociology, Cyril's and Method's University, Trnava
- Emília Kratochvílová – leisure time pedagogic, University of Trnava
- Peter Ondrejko – social pathology
- Rastislav Bednárík – work, employment, unemployment
- Karol Čukan – young people and the army
- Marianna Pétiová – social pathology, Information and Prognosis in Education Institute
- Elena Kriglerová-Gallová – multiculturalism and intolerance, Ethnicity and Culture Research Centre

##### **Young Researchers:**

- Kristína Janíková – prevention, socio-pathological phenomenon, University of Trnava
- Alžbeta Gregorová-Brozmanová – volunteering, Matej Bell's University
- Marianna Petiová – socio-pathological phenomenon, Information and Prognosis in Education Institute
- Mária Dugovičová – volunteering, Information and Prognosis in Education Institute
- Mária Krkošková – volunteering, University of Trnava, Trnava
- Martin Priečko – ethnology, Cyril's and Method's University, Trnava

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- Radoslav Štefančík – Political systems and regional politics, Cyril's and Method's University, Trnava
- Michaela Vyhnalová – professional army, Ministry of Defence

## 1.6 Private companies dealing with youth research

- FOCUS Agency/ [www.focus-research.sk](http://www.focus-research.sk) - EU's "Youth" Programme evaluation – organisers and participants of the project
- Market Research Institute GfK / [www.gfk.sk](http://www.gfk.sk) – leisure time activities for youth

## 2 Legal basis or guidelines for activities leading to a better knowledge and understanding of youth

The Science Law deals with issues of research in general.

From 2002 to 2007 the **Conception of state policy towards children and youth** was in force, which emphasised the importance of professional research and gathering of information, that are necessary for active and modern youth policy. Conception of state policy towards children and youth defines needs and optimal conditions for quality education and professional training of young people, their involvement into social life and for development of competences and talent in the frame of school education and also outside of school. Special attention is given to revitalisation of pedagogical research as well as information gathering towards young people with health disabilities in regard to preparation for future career and labour integration. The conception anticipated establishing National institute for children and youth with special tasks in the scope of research.

**Act on support of the youth work** (282/2008) has come into force since September 1<sup>st</sup> 2008. The law will guarantee improved conditions for forming young man as active citizen, who participates in the quality of his own life. The Youth Work Support Law entrusts the Slovak Ministry of Education with the task of preparing conditions for youth research. In the conception of the state policy towards youth for 2008 – 2013, the youth research is mentioned as means to define the measures of this policy taken towards children and youth at the local, regional or national level. Conception material **Key scopes of state policy in relation to children and youth in Slovakia for 2008 – 2013** defines aims, principles and priority fields of government, self-administration and other subjects' agency in selected scopes of children and youth life.

**Action plan of youth policy for 2008 – 2009** is the latest document, which especially in thematic parts Education, Information and communication technologies, Employment and Questionnaire on Better understanding of Youth - Slovak Republic

Youth participation on social and political life not only emphasises the necessity of systematic information gathering as the basic material for modern youth policy creation, but also name the concrete steps to achieve this goal together with responsible institution a subjects (ministries, higher territorial units, luventa, Youth council Slovakia)

### **3 Funding for research on youth**

#### **3.1 International funding for carrying out activities aimed at youth research**

- Open Society Institute through Open Society Foundation in Slovakia – aimed at marginalised youth
- Jan Hus' Educational Foundation – innovation of education at universities programme

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

The Slovak youth research has been financed from the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup> framework programme of the European Commission with the help of international scientific-technical cooperation programme under the Slovak Ministry of Education since 2002.

#### **3.3 Public and private national funding for carrying out activities aimed at acquiring a better knowledge and understanding of youth**

##### **International scientific and technology cooperation (MVTs)**

Internal system of financial support for research projects of international scientific cooperation at universities, which enables departments to be involved in research in the frame:

Programmes of European Union (Framework programme) 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>

International programmes (COST, EUREKA, NATO, INTAS, ENV /ESF – European foundation for science, NSF – National foundation for science and others)

Bilateral and multilateral projects.

##### **Slovak Research and Development Agency**

This institute covers development and implementation of new programmes and support systems of international cooperation in science in coordination with the Ministry of Education. Support is given also to participation of Slovakia in European programmes and initiatives.

- Grant programmes of the Slovak Ministry of Education / [www.minedu.sk](http://www.minedu.sk) and SSA / [www.sav.sk](http://www.sav.sk) –

- Cultural and Educational Grant Agency (KEGA): *The Cultural and Educational Grant Agency of ME SR (KEGA)* is a grant agency of the Ministry of Education aimed at financial support of applied research in the field of education and creative art projects, initiated by agents from public universities or by the Ministry in the given thematic areas from the institutional financial means of public universities. KEGA is financed from the selected means of the state budget
- Scientific Grant Agency (VEGA): The Scientific Grant Agency of the Slovak Ministry of Education and Slovak Science Academy (further just „VEGA“) is a scientific agency for the Education Resort and SSA. It ensures a mutually coordinated progress in choosing and evaluating the projects of the basic research solved at the universities or scientific departments of SSA.
- Children and Youth Department of the Ministry of Education SR and The Slovak Youth Institute IUVENTA / [www.iuventa.sk](http://www.iuventa.sk) – calls for specialisation in youth research, especially in the themes like participation, volunteering, non-formal education, which are not yet covered by various institutions or subjects

### **3.4 Actor(s)/structure(s) mainly receiving funding**

Masters, pedagogical-research workers at universities and research workers at resort science-research workplaces.

## **4 Paper publications on the youth field**

### **4.1 Statistics of books published on the youth field for the current year**

- Ladislav Macháček: *How Do We Learn About Democracy at School*, The Slovak Youth Institute, Bratislava 2008
- Ladislav Macháček: *Citizen's Deficit of the Youth*, The Slovak Youth Institute, Bratislava 2008
- Ladislav Macháček: *Introduction to the Youth Sociology*, Cyril's and Method's University, Trnava 2008
- Mária Slovíková: *Quantitative Evaluation of the Prevention Programme in a Nutshell "The Way to Emotional Maturity"* Information and Prognosis in Education Institute, Bratislava
- Marianna Petiová, Marcela Bielíková: *Drugs, Leisure Time and Lifestyle of Youth in Slovakia*, Information and Prognosis in Education Institute, Bratislava

- Marcela Bieliková: Education and Keeping Human Rights of the Primary and Secondary School Students, Information and Prognosis in Education Institute, Bratislava
- Marcela Bieliková: Education and Keeping Human Rights of the Primary and Secondary School Students from the Teachers' Perspective, Information and Prognosis in Education Institute, Bratislava

## **4.2 Regular youth reports**

The regular reports about youth are not common in Slovakia. So far, two complex reports about youth have been made by Ministry of Education of the SR:

In 2001, in relation to the first official state conception towards children and youth until 2007

In 2005, National Youth Policy Review in the framework of the Council of Europe's Initiative.

In Slovakia, partial reports about participation, information about youth, volunteering and research of youth (EKCYP) are prepared for the European Commission.

## **4.3 Journals and reviews on youth research**

- Youth and Society – Slovak magazine about the state policy and youth work, quarterly, issued by the ME SR and IPEI in Bratislava
- ZOOM – magazine for youth, issued by the Slovak Youth Council, quarterly

# **5 IT dissemination of knowledge in the youth field**

## **5.1 Web-Portals and online databases on a better understanding of youth (for portals on youth information see the questionnaire on Information 1.6)**

[www.vyskummladeze.sk](http://www.vyskummladeze.sk); Web site dedicated to youth research exclusively. Web page offers a database of available researches in the field and also methodological help.

[www.syrs.org](http://www.syrs.org); Web site of Slovak youth research society. Organisation established by several youth researchers in Slovakia gathering knowledge in youth research.

[www.uips.sk](http://www.uips.sk); Web site of Institute of information and prognosis. Contributory organisation of the Ministry of Education directly involved in researches connected to the leisure time of young people and matters related to school education.

[www.iuventa.sk](http://www.iuventa.sk); Web site of Slovak Youth Institute. One part of the website is dedicated to the news in youth research and co-operation between politicians – researchers and young people.



[www.mladez.sk](http://www.mladez.sk) Web site of Youth Council of Slovakia. Some statistical works of member organisations can be found here.

## **5.2 Statistics, reports, journals, reviews or other publications available on the internet**

Not available

## **6. Methods and approaches for gaining a better understanding and knowledge of youth and for keeping it up to date**

Scientific research of youth realised at universities or scientific institutes uses methods typical for the given scientific fields. Empirical researches use quantitative methods (survey, face to face interview, and telephone interview - CATI) and qualitative methods (depth interview, focus groups, case studies, content analysis of documents).

Non-governmental youth organisations or other subjects of the youth work do their own research activities using amateur questionnaires, which are difficult to evaluate. They do not have the preparation phase with empirically verifiable hypothesis; they do not use specialised statistical programmes for data processing, such as SPSS. Their representativeness is problematic, even if they manage to gather answers from a large number of respondents.

## **7. Quality assurance strategies and tools regarding knowledge in the field of youth used in the country**

An expert group of the Slovak youth research coordinators began its existence under the Slovak Youth Institute and the Slovak Youth Research Society: it evaluates youth surveys, offers methodical support and individual consultations, and publishes the outcomes of the surveys and information about the theoretical-methodical questions and procedures, standardised research techniques for various problem areas of the youth life.

## **8. Promotion and support to youth researchers and other actors, who work towards a better knowledge of youth, and their generational renewal**

During the university preparation of their students for baccalaureates and masters, the universities are looking for the so called "scientifically oriented types" and offer them opportunities of PhD study. Grant programs KEGA and VEGA under the Ministry of

Education offer financial means for the professors for their research. Some universities even have their own grant schemes for the support of especially talented PhD students.

A research analysis about the conditions of generational exchange has been carried out in the framework of pedagogical-research workers. Many young scientific-research workers are leaving before they vindicate their PhD work to find work in private companies due to financial motivation.

The student mobility is supported by various programmes and agencies like the Slovak Academic Information Agency or the Life-long Learning Programme Agency.

There was a research analysis about the conditions of generation exchange organized by pedagogical-research workers. Many young science-research workers are leaving to private companies before vindicating their PhD works due to financial motivation.

## **9. Networking and support of networking**

### **9.1 Seminars and working groups for a better knowledge and understanding of youth**

The Slovak Scientific Societies Council under the Slovak Academy of Science associates 50 scientific societies in Slovakia.

Seminars on the topic of youth, or other topics interesting for youth, are realised in cooperation with all the relevant scientific disciplines. The presented research outcomes are discussed with experts from the area of youth work, youth citizens' associations or with young people from respective schools, cities, regions.

### **9.2 Is there a permanent national network for a greater knowledge and understanding of youth linking all actors in the field?**

The Slovak Youth Institute, in cooperation with the Slovak Youth Research Society, is building a network of youth research experts, whose task is to watch and initiate research activities at their universities and research workplaces in order to enhance knowledge about youth as a matter ground for framing the local and regional youth policy and the like.

### **9.3 Networks on youth issues specific to certain actors**

Nowadays there is a natural concurrence not only among various workplaces of one university, but also among professional workplaces of all the universities and SSA.

Special forms of getting over this state are the so called Centres of Excellence for various areas of research activities, which concentrate the available research potential around themselves.

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From 2007, under the influence of EuNYK meeting, researchers network has been being built in the scope of youth in Slovakia to substitute decisive academic-research branches and research institutes and to integrate researchers, which work in various civil society subjects, youth associations, alliances and trusts.

#### **9.4 What transnational networks with relevance for national networks are there?**

The Slovak experts are cooperating with ESA (European Sociological Association). One section of the ESA is called Research network 30 - Youth & Generations, [www.youthgenerations.org](http://www.youthgenerations.org). They also cooperate with ISA (International Sociological Association). In this association, the RC 35 – research committee Sociology of Youth is traditionally active. ( <http://www.isa-sociology.org/rc34.htm> )

#### **9.5 Describe the organisation and the ways of promoting interdisciplinary dialogue on youth issues.**

Inter-resort cooperation at the governmental level is realised to solve various problems concerning youth, for example Roma children and youth education, pathological events prevention, conception of the state policy towards youth and the like.

Council for children and youth at Ministry of education has been working since 2007, which reflect some strategic documents but also can propose minister of education various measures and strategic steps. From 19 members, two members are actively working in research.

After having adopted Key scopes of youth policy towards children and youth document in Slovak republic for 2008-2013, joint committee first met in may 2008. Its task is the effective and complex measure preparation leading to conception fulfilment. Members of this group are representants of government sector and municipality, as well as members of civil associations and various institutes, which work with youth. Document does not explicitly mention researchers' participation, but their meeting participation will be regularly provided and their opinion and recommendations will be heard and included into decision.