

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



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Information sheet

BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF YOUTH

Slovenia



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1. Promotion and support of youth research

Is there a government strategy or programme for promoting and supporting research in the field of youth?

If yes, please explain.

In 2010, the Public Interest in the Youth Sector Act was adopted; it provides the legal basis for drafting and adopting a national youth programme.

The basis for defining the appropriate strategic objectives of the national youth programme was a study carried out in 2010 and published in 2011; it covered demographic change and intergenerational cooperation, education and training, employment and entrepreneurship, participation, creativity, culture and leisure time, the virtualisation of daily life, health and wellbeing, the financial status of young people, housing and living conditions, globalisation and youth mobility, values, sustainable social action plans and visions of the future, personal characteristics and the religiosity of young people.

The Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth has been promoting youth surveys ever since Slovenia started to develop its youth policy (1991). The evidence based policy will therefore constitute an important part of the youth policy development in Slovenia. It is envisaged that the national youth programme will be revised every 3 years based on the research of the social position of youth in Slovenia.

The draft national youth programme also envisaged establishment of a national institute for youth research or rather identifying one of the existing institutions already working in the field of research as a reference organisation for youth research and evidence based policy development.

2. Legal basis for an evidence-based approach to youth policy

Is there a reference to better knowledge on youth ensuring an evidence-based approach to youth policy in national legislation or policy strategies?

If yes, please explain.

There is no direct reference to evidence based youth policy in the new act on the Public interest in the Youth Sector although the act defines the role of administrative body responsible for youth in Slovenia (Office of Republic of Slovenia for Youth) in its Article 7. Among others, the competence of the Administrative Body Responsible for Youth is to provide for and execute supervision for the implementation of regulations and measures in the youth sector and monitor the situation of youth and the impact of measures in the youth sector.

In its Article 16, the Act on Public interest in youth sector identifies the need to develop the National Youth Programme. The draft of the National Youth programme includes a reference to an evidence-based approach to youth policy: "... to fully achieve the objectives of the National Youth Programme an appropriate institutional and systematic mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation need to be developed...". "...Only the establishment of such a system will ensure the implementation of the evidence based youth policy....".

3. Structures and actors that play a role in gaining a better knowledge of young people

3.1. Departments in universities gathering knowledge on youth

1. University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, Institute of Social Sciences, Center for Social Psychology
(In the period between 1993 and 2000, the Office for Youth had a long-term contract with the Center for Social Psychology providing necessary financial support for continuing research of youth)
2. University of Maribor, Faculty of Arts

3.2. Major public and semi-public bodies dealing with [youth research](#), public companies included

1. Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia

The Social Protection Institute complies and maintains a variety of databases for social assistance and social services including development and experimental programs. It monitors the implementation of a number of government programs by establishing specialized systems of indicators and provides informational support for them by collecting and analyzing data. The government has supported and promoted cross-disciplinary research relating to children and young people up to 18. There is a child observatory for children up to 18 years established within the Institute; its operation is supported by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs

The draft of the National Youth Programme envisages the Institute as a part of system for evidence based youth policy in Slovenia and similar to the Child Observatory, an observatory for young people up to 29 years should be developed.

2. The Education Research Institute

The Institute was established in 1965 as an institute devoted to the study of education. It is a founding member of the European Educational Research Association (EERA).

3. Institute of Public Health

The data and information collected by the Institute are the basis for the decision and action of individuals, professionals and health policy. It identifies key public health challenges in the population including the determinants that affect health, and propose measures to improve health.

4. National education institute of the Republic of Slovenia

The National Education Institute is important factor in the education system's development process. It proposes new curriculum solutions, develops methods for the successful transfer of modifications into the education system and helps integrations new curriculum elements into practice.

Together with the Office for Youth, the Institute will be developing a system of youth work recognition including professionalisation of youth workers.

5. Employment Service of Slovenia

An efficient, user-friendly and user-oriented Employment Service. The aim of all ESS activities is to contribute to the growth of employment and employability of the population in Slovenia. The institute actively contribute to the development of employment policy in Slovenia in co-operation with the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs. Among others, it provides assistance to users of career guidance services and establishes partnership in human resource development. Many measures have been developed for young people as a main target group.

3.3. NGOs gathering knowledge on youth

1. Network of youth centres MaMa
2. National Youth Council
3. Pohorski bataljon Foundation
4. UTRIP, the Institute for research and development
5. Centre for Information Service, Co-operation and Development of NGOs – CNVOS including over 600 member organisations active in different policy fields: environment, youth, human rights, social issues, equal opportunities, culture, regional development, development cooperation etc.
6. Students Union Slovenia

In 2011, the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth funded two analyses of the situation, which were carried out by the Network of Youth centres MaMa and Pohorski Bataljon Foundation; they examined the functioning and impacts of the youth centres and youth field organisations in Slovenia: 'Youth Centres in Slovenia' and 'Analysis of the Situation and Potentials of Non-governmental Youth Field in Slovenia'.

In 2012, the Youth Council of Slovenia published its analysis of the functioning and impacts of national youth organisations.

3.4. Private companies dealing with youth research

No data available.

3.5. Statistical offices that collect statistics on youth

Statistical office of Republic of Slovenia

3.6. National research networks on youth

None, but the Office of Republic of Slovenia for Youth cooperates with different groups of researchers. In the period between 1993 and 2000 Office for Youth had a long-term contract with the Center for social psychology in the Faculty of social science, which provided the necessary financial support for research on youth. In the period 2009-2011 has signed a contract with the Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia with an aim to promote evidence-based youth policy.

The draft of the National Youth programme envisaged the prolongation of this cooperation, and among others, the institute should develop youth indicators and Youth observatory. In 2009 Office for Youth has appointed Faculty of arts in Maribor for implementation of extensive research on the socio-economic situation of young people in Slovenia.

3.7. Transnational networks on youth with relevance for national networks

None

3.8. Knowledge networks supporting youth policy

Is there a permanent national network for knowledge on youth linking all actors in the field (policy makers, researchers, young people and their organisations, NGOs)?

No.

Was such a network set up specifically for some project/purpose?

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4. Promotion and support to youth researchers and other actors who work towards a better knowledge of youth

Is there any measure undertaken for the:

- facilitation of exchanges between researchers, policy makers and practitioners in the field of youth
- support of mobility and skills improvement of youth researchers

No.

5. Publications and accessible data in the youth field/on youth

5.1. Data collections which provide updated statistics on youth (public and private)

- Statistical Office of Republic of Slovenia publishes regular thematical reports on youth, usually on International Day of youth (12 of August); In 2009 the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia prepared an extensive statistical report on the situation of young people in Slovenia.
- Employment Service of Slovenia monitors the situation of young people in the labour market;
- Institute of Public health has been involved in the Health Behaviour and School-Aged Children (HBSC) research since 1983.

5.2. Regular youth reports

On national level

The draft of the National Youth programme envisages regular youth reports every three years.

On regional level

There are no regions in Slovenia.

5.3. National journals and reviews on youth research

None.

5.4. According to publications and recent data collections: what are priority themes in the field of youth research in your country

Priority themes:

- Youth Employment
- Socio-economic situation of young people
- Leisure-time activities of young people
- Health of young people
- Housing of young people
- Young people and education

6. IT dissemination of knowledge in the youth field

Is there a dissemination of knowledge on youth via dedicated internet portals or online publications?

Office of Republic of Slovenia has initiated a portal for youth policy making which includes relevant information on situation of young people and the role of youth organisations in policy making in Slovenia. The portal is becoming a National Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy.

The portal's web-site: <http://www.mlad.si/>

6.1. Web-Portals and online databases on a better understanding of youth

None

6.2. Other

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7. Good practice related to fostering a better knowledge of youth

In the period between 2009-2012 four million euros from European Social Fund were allocated through a special tender for establishing eight content networks bringing together youth organisations and external partners; they aim at providing better training to young people in the areas of social, citizenship and cultural competencies. The networks were engaged in providing conceptual bases and documents and in testing models aimed at increasing the competencies of young people who develop their competencies through non-formal education in the youth work field. In parallel, many studies and analysis done by these networks provided a good knowledge on young people and their interest for youth policy topics.

Network contents and operators:

1. Development of models of formal and informal education for the youth worker for inclusion in programs of organisations — IRDO, Institute for Development of Social Responsibility
2. Development of active citizenship — Institute PIP
3. Raising public awareness on youth topics — Youth Council of Slovenia
4. The establishment and development of local youth policy — Youth Council Ajdovščina
5. Intergenerational cooperation — Scout Association of Slovenia
6. Developing the social capital of youth — Youth Guild
7. Developing the research culture of youth — Cultural and Technological Centre Maribor
8. Intercultural dialogue and understanding of other cultures — Youth Centre Dravinjska Dolina