

# The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

Key priorities for youth policies answers on  
**Voluntary Activities**



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 Statistics**

#### **1.1 Different types of voluntary activities that exist for young people**

	Voluntary activities	Voluntary service	Civic service
<b>Exists?</b>	Yes	No	No

#### **1.2 Number of young people who engage in voluntary activities**

<b>Total Number</b>	N/I <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Female</b>	N/I <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Male</b>	N/I <i>persons</i>

#### **1.3 Number of young people who engage in voluntary service**

<b>Total Number</b>	N/I <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Female</b>	N/I <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Male</b>	N/I <i>persons</i>

#### **1.4 Number of young people who engage in voluntary service abroad (excluding European Voluntary Service)**

<b>Total Number</b>	N/I <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Female</b>	N/I <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Male</b>	N/I <i>persons</i>

#### **1.5 Number of young people who engage in national voluntary civic service**

<b>Total Number</b>	N/A <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Female</b>	N/A <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Male</b>	N/A <i>persons</i>

##### **1.5.1 Number of young people who carry out their service period abroad**

<b>Total Number</b>	N/I <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Female</b>	N/I <i>persons</i>
<b>Total Male</b>	N/I <i>persons</i>

### 1.5.2 Is the national voluntary civic service open to young people from outside the country?

~~Yes~~ No

### 1.5.3 If yes, number of young people from outside the country participating in your national voluntary civic service

Total Number	N/A <i>persons</i>
Total Female	N/A <i>persons</i>
Total Male	N/A <i>persons</i>

### 1.6 Clarification of the statistics used

Statistics monitoring the number of volunteers participating in the activities of civic associations and information centres are not specified according to the age of volunteers. However, the absolute majority of volunteers obviously fall into the 13 to 30 age group due to the nature of such organizations. Numbers of YICs# volunteers is reported by all active centres. As for civic associations, the number of volunteers is reported only with regard to associations applying for MoE SR grants.

## 2 Range of voluntary activities

### 2.1 Voluntary activities engaged in by young people and approximate number of people involved

	Exists?	Number
a. Community activity	Yes	N/I
b. Participation/self-governance	Yes	N/I
c. Emergency response	Yes	N/I
d. Community peacekeeping	Yes	N/I
e. Social assistance	Yes	N/I
f. Personal assistance	Yes	N/I
g. Children and youth	Yes	N/I
h. Environment	Yes	N/I
i. Human rights, advocacy and politics	Yes	N/I
j. Economic justice	Yes	N/I
k. Development aid	Yes	N/I

	Exists?	Number
<b>l. Humanitarian aid</b>	Yes	N/I
<b>m. Religious volunteering</b>	Yes	N/I
<b>n. Education</b>	Yes	N/I
<b>o. Arts/culture</b>	Yes	N/I
<b>p. Sports</b>	Yes	N/I
<b>q. Recreation</b>	Yes	N/I

Other voluntary activities

N/I

## 3 Finance

### 3.1 Amount of finance that is annually available for voluntary activities and allocation of this finance

**Total** : 2 056 514

Explanation

Subsidies granted by MoE SR in 2005 Child and Youth Associations # in 2005, 43 civic associations (7 international, 3 multi-regional, 17 regional and 16 local associations) were subsidized in the total amount of SKK 66,420,490 (exchange rate as of October 16, 2006: EUR 1,00 = SKK 36,843), i.e. EUR 1 802 798. Youth Concils # in 2005, the Slovak Youth Council and 5 regional YCs were granted subsidies in the total amount of SKK 6 059 869, i.e. EUR 164 478. Youth information centres # In 2005, 18 projects in the field of information and consultancy services provided to children and young people were granted in the total amount of SKK 2 399 350, i.e. EUR 65 124. Participation # in 2005, 13 projects regarding participation of young people in municipality life were granted in the total amount of SKK 888 430, i.e. EUR 24 114.

### 3.2 Sources of finance

N/I

## 4 Main Actors

### 4.1 Main actors of voluntary activities of young people

Governmental actors

N/I

Non governmental actors

N/I

## 5 Legal basis/legislation for voluntary activities in general and for young people in particular



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### 5.1 Legal status of volunteers

The existing legal order of the Slovak Republic does not include a separate law regulating volunteering issues; it partially regulates just one specific form of voluntary work # voluntary activities carried out by unemployed in the form of activation work (Act No. 5/2004 Coll. L. regulating employment services). In Section 52 of the Act #volunteering# is defined as an activation work of a job-seeker performed in the form of community work for a natural person or legal entity specified by law, including (but not limited to) non-governmental organizations and other organizations functioning in the sphere of social services, health care, education and culture. In general, voluntary work, which requires the establishment of some formal relationship between a volunteer and the respective organization, is mainly subject to provisions of the Civil Code determining particular types of civil contracts, such as contract of mandate and innominate contract. Moreover, the Civil Code regulates conclusion of insurance contracts with respect to damages or personal insurance in case of injuries. Formalization of relations between organizations and volunteers is used mainly in case of necessary insurance of a volunteer, while the insurance itself is optional and depending on the nature of voluntary work. Moreover, there is no law regulating the requirements applicable to volunteers, the respective requirements are fully set by the entities organizing voluntary work. For example, volunteers are required to submit certificates proving their health capability to perform a specific type of work or certificates of no criminal records under some grant schemes or projects.

### 5.2 Taxation/tax exemptions for volunteers and volunteer organisations

There are two mechanisms used to provide support to non-governmental organizations (including voluntary work) via a tax regime in Slovakia. The first mechanism includes advantages provided to these organizations against profit-oriented subjects # the income of non-governmental organizations coming from the activities corresponding to their mission or activities representing their basic tasks are exempted from the tax liability; such exemption, however, does not apply to the income coming from activities which can be considered business activities, i.e. revenues bringing profit or capable to bring profit # such income is subject to the 19% tax rate (Act No. 595/2003 Coll. L. to regulate the income tax). Each natural person as well as legal person can assign 2% of their income tax to chosen non-governmental organizations. The second group of tax advantages includes legal provisions stimulating donors (entrepreneur or other subjects, natural persons etc.) to support activities carried out within the non-profit sector via donation, contributions etc. According to the Act No. 318/1992 regulating inheritance tax, gift tax, real estate transfer or passage tax non-profit organizations are exempted from the inheritance and gift tax liability.

### 5.3 Existence of social protection of volunteers

As volunteering is not regulated by law in Slovakia, Slovak legislation sets no specific regulations in the field of social protection of volunteers; volunteers are subject to legal regulations covering social protection of the citizens of the Slovak Republic in general.

### 5.4 Legal situation of unemployed young people participating in voluntary



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### activities

Legal situation of citizens of the Slovak Republic (including young people) participating in volunteer activities is regulated by the Act No. 5/2004 Coll. L. on Employment Services. In this Act, #volunteering# is understood as a specific form of activation work of a job seeker carried out for a legally determined legal entity or natural person (non-governmental organizations and other organizations working in the field of social services, health care, education and culture) for at least 10 hours per week and 40 hours per month. Participation in activation works establishes the basis for the entitlement of a person in material distress for activation allowance provided in addition to the benefit in material need.

## 6 Programmes

### 6.1 Programmes and plans on volunteering (national, regional, local)

Two volunteering models can be seen in Slovakia. The first model functions on an informal basis and volunteers meet spontaneously on the basis of their common interests and friendship. Sometimes, such groups establish volunteering centres focused onto some target groups or type of activities. The second volunteering model, which is met most often in Slovakia, is represented by non-governmental organizations having a number of volunteers; their cooperation with volunteers depends on the needs of particular organizations and their mission and runs either on the long-term and regular basis or on an occasional basis. Particular local and regional volunteer programmes are most often implemented by non-governmental organizations. The nature of implemented programmes is closely related to the sphere of functioning or work of particular NGOs. The Volunteering and Youth survey carried out by the Institute of Information and Prognoses of Education (ÚIP#) showed that young people take active part mostly in the following spheres of volunteering work: sport/entertainment, child and youth work, environment protection and enhancement and activities relating to education, art, music or culture. On the local level, a limited-scope cooperation of young volunteers is established with local self-governing bodies; volunteering on this level is focused mainly on the development of the respective municipality and housing conditions and it mostly runs on occasional basis; unemployed young people usually enter more systematic cooperation via volunteering activities carried out on the municipal level in the form of activation work of job-seekers (Act No. 5/2004 Coll. L. on Employment Services). The project of the European Volunteer Service runs on the international level ([www.iuventu.sk](http://www.iuventu.sk)). Volunteering is counted among priority issues of the national child and youth policy.

## 7 Relationship between different types of voluntary services

### 7.1 Relationship between military service, civilian service, civic service and voluntary service

Legal regulations adopted in 2006 abolished the obligatory military service and established professional military forces in Slovakia regulated by specific legal regulations. Civil defence is controlled by the Ministry of Interior in cooperation with respective governmental bodies,



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self-governing regional bodies, municipalities, legal entities and natural persons and public institutions with humanity-related missions. As there is no legal regulation covering volunteering in Slovakia, activities of volunteers or volunteering-based organizations are indirectly regulated, if appropriate, under certain legal regulations relating to civil defence or covering activities of NGOs. In case of extraordinary events (a disaster, accident, catastrophe, terrorist attack etc.), the municipality can establish civil defence units composed of the citizens from the respective municipality and ensure their capability to respond. Moreover, powers of self-governing regional bodies and municipalities also include cooperation with #public institutions with humanity mission# (including, but not limited to, some volunteering organizations).

### **7.2 Perspectives for the creation of a voluntary civic service in countries where it does not exist**

By now, there is no legal regulation covering volunteering activities in Slovakia. In 2003, the 1st Slovak Non-profit Centre submitted the draft legal regulation covering this issue under the Non-Profit Code Legislative Intent (hereinafter referred to as the NPCLI). This draft has been included into the agenda of the Council of the Government for Non-governmental Non-profit Organizations and underwent the interdepartmental commenting procedure and further legislative procedure. Some NGOs submitted highly significant objections; the conferential dispute proceedings have been launched with participation of particular representatives of the parties thereto. In the end of the dispute proceedings, the parties thereto expressed their willingness to consider submitted comments, negotiate partially with stakeholders submitting particular comments on the possibility to resolve any disputes and prepare a new version of the NPCLI. The Council of the Government for Non-governmental Non-profit Organizations was to decide on the following legislative procedure. After the dispute procedure was completed, the presenters of the collective comment still refused to continue working on the submitted NPCLI. The Council of the Government for Non-governmental Non-profit Organizations decided to transfer the NPCLI agenda to the MoE SR. However, there is not any bill regulating volunteering, or activities of NGOs respectively, in the current 2006 Plan of Legislative Tasks.

## **8 Development of voluntary activities, including standards/instruments aiming at securing and enhancing quality in voluntary activities**

### **8.1 Recent (this year) developments in the area of voluntary activities**

It is not possible to specify the number of youth volunteers working in Slovakia in 2006 as no official registration or survey have been carried out in this field. The largest number of volunteers work in civic associations and NGOs, the second largest number of volunteers participates in voluntary activities at schools and the third largest in church organizations and communities. Volunteering is highly oriented to young people; there is the lack of campaigns dedicated to the older generation or seniors in Slovakia. The community model of volunteering, i.e. volunteers



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recruited among the members of particular organizations (eRko, DOMKA, Slovak Scouting, Association of Christian Youth Communities etc.), prevails in here; the managing volunteering model, i.e. organizations recruit their volunteers among the non-member public, is less often met. Compared to last years, company volunteering ([www.donorsforum.sk](http://www.donorsforum.sk)), as well as collaboration of the third sector with particular companies ([www.partnerstva.sk](http://www.partnerstva.sk), [www.panet.sk](http://www.panet.sk)), have been significantly strengthened and developed. In 2006, the Intenda Foundation supported projects of volunteering centres under the Give Me Your Hand programme. Also, the establishment of major studies at universities (Banská Bystrica, Trnava, Bratislava) partially dealing with volunteering issues represented a positive incentive in this field. The third sector, as well as a number of national institutions (Iuventa, Institute of Life-long Education), have contributed to improvement of information, education and training of volunteers and people managing voluntary activities. In 2006, The Slovak Youth Council initiated a conference on volunteering dealing with preparation of a voluntary work law. The endeavour to find common space for communication and mutual coordination has significantly increased (national organization, platform, virtual space).

### 8.2 What are the trends concerning the range of voluntary activities?

**Increasing** Decreasing **Stable**

Explanation

The scope of offered voluntary work include, except for wider international volunteering opportunities, which are not used very often due to required financial resources and the lack of language skills or experience, standard opportunities. Voluntary work mostly includes sporting and entertainment activities, child and youth work and a environment/animals-related activities (Volunteering and Youth survey held by the Information and Prognoses of Education, Bratislava, 2005). New opportunities have opened in the field of refugees ([www.panacik.sk](http://www.panacik.sk)).

### 8.3 Description of quality standards used in voluntary activities

There has been no official quality standard adopted in the field of youth voluntary activities in Slovakia. Some organizations, especially those working with deprived groups, have their own criteria for volunteer recruitment (palliative care, care of the old and sick, child work etc.). In general, it is assumed that any (young) person can become a volunteer irrespective his or her education or skills. The appropriate information on the respective organization and field of action and the appropriate training and integration period are the basic pre-requisites of volunteering. Voluntary work shall meet the volunteer's expectations, needs (e.g. to obtain new knowledge or skills, be recognized, provide a good feeling etc.) and skills as much as possible. The host organization will recognize (moral appraisal) his or her work, but both parties will be fully aware of their rights and duties (oral or written agreement). Organizations often cover the expenditures of their members relating to voluntary work (e.g. travelling expenses, costs relating to particular activities etc.).

### 8.4 Description of measures to improve the quality of voluntary activities for young people



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Training and support of voluntary activities for young people have significantly improved # training activities are better prepared, more purposeful, many organizations use to adopt well-tried concepts from abroad. Issues which were missing last years, such as motivation of volunteers, burn-out, team building etc., have been included into training. All large national or regional civic associations and youth organizations prepare and run their own-tailored volunteer training (Slovak scouting, eRko, Association of Christian Youth Communities, Domka, Tree of Life, Úsmev ako dar (Smile as a Gift), Slovak Academic Information Agency (SAIA) etc.) and evaluation measures for those managing young people#s voluntary activities. IUVENTA # the MoE SR institution ([www.iuventa.sk](http://www.iuventa.sk)) which provides volunteers with trainings aimed at further development of international volunteering under the YOUTH programme of the European Union (pre-departure, on-arrival trainings, midterm meetings). It also provides training preparing organizations for sending and hosting volunteers. Also, trainings are held in the field of hospice care ([www.charita.sk](http://www.charita.sk)), preparation of the Slovak Humanitarian Council volunteers for refugee work ([www.shr.sk](http://www.shr.sk)), educational activities of the Volunteering Centre in cooperation with the Social Work Department of the Faculty of Education at the Matej Bel University; training of people managing voluntary activities are also provided by the Alliance of Supervisors and Social Advisors ([www.assp.sk](http://www.assp.sk)). A number of organizations have launched volunteer recruitment at schools and organize their own volunteering programmes. Also, the quality of voluntary work for young people has improved thanks to grant schemes raised by various foundations in order to support youth volunteering.

## 9 Removing obstacles to young people#s voluntary engagement

### 9.1 The facilitation of young people#s voluntary engagement

Many organizations recruit volunteers at schools, present their activities and endeavour to attract potential volunteers during public representation activities, such as - Volunteering Opportunities Market, SAIA Presov, (<http://www.ff.unipo.sk/kvdsp/files/dobrovolnictvo/Aktuality.htm>) - Jasidielna ([www.nkh.sk](http://www.nkh.sk)), Nadacia krajiny Harmonie (Harmony Country Foundation), Zilina - Bambiriada ([http://www.mladez.sk/generate\\_page.php?page\\_id=74305](http://www.mladez.sk/generate_page.php?page_id=74305)), Youth Council of the region of Zilina. Moreover, target-oriented training of youth workers and improving their awareness of the current trends and issues, e.g. via inquiries and surveys held by the Institute of Information and Prognoses, such as the Volunteering and Youth survey ([www.uips.sk](http://www.uips.sk)) or the latest CARDO survey regarding volunteering in Slovakia ([www.cardo-eu.net](http://www.cardo-eu.net)), also contribute to the increase of youth participation. The 2005 National Youth Policy Review of the Slovak Republic worked out for the European Council can be used as a good source of information ([www.spravaomladezi.sk](http://www.spravaomladezi.sk)). The YMCA survey Volunteering as Competitive Advantage of a Job-seeker in the Target Group of the Personnel Professionals is another valuable source of information highlighting the public recognition of volunteering.

### 9.2 Recent (this year) measures to remove obstacles to young people#s



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### volunteering

This year, there have been a significant step forward made in this field and cooperation of the voluntary sector with foreign police departments have improved within particular regions of Slovakia (rules and procedures have been clarified, communication has improved). The Non-Profit Law Code, which was expected to include a volunteering section, has not been adopted in Slovakia. However, framework agreements, innominate contracts and contract of mandate are largely used (thanks to a significant initiative of the 3rd sector) and ensure protection of volunteers, and respective organizations. Conditions of mutual cooperation, insurance, rights and duties etc. can be specified under the mentioned above contracts. Youth work in Slovakia is mostly developed on the voluntary basis. Therefore, the assignation of 2% of the income tax represents a significant contribution to overcoming the lack of financial resources hampering the development of youth volunteering in Slovakia.

### 9.3 Existing obstacles

The UIPS survey (Volunteering and Youth, 2005) showed that young people miss systematic recruitment for voluntary work, miss the appropriate access to information, feel the lack of financial resources, they are often little interested or have negative experience in this field. Schools at all levels pay minimum attention to volunteering issues. Regional and local support to voluntary activities is insufficient, there are just two community volunteering centres in Slovakia (Banská Bystrica, Presov). The need of the general association or establishing a virtual space for communication between volunteers and organizations (prepared by CARDO) is increasing. Problems related to non-EU volunteering host programs are still alarming (high costs, safety, statements etc.). There is no legislation in Slovakia regulating the status of a volunteer (insurance, rights and duties, protection by the state). The Illegal Work Act (2006) turned the status of a volunteer (especially foreign volunteers) even more confused. Moreover young people have to ensure sufficient resources for themselves and their families and there is no much time left for voluntary activities (study, work, family). The #volunteering# concept in Slovakia has no historical roots and the public is not aware of it as of something valuable, useful or even prestigious. The missing recognition and a failure to consider volunteering an advantage when seeking for work or applying for studies, are of no help in this situation.

## 10 Promotion of voluntary activities for young people

### 10.1 Information channels and contacts for voluntary activities of young people

Young people in Slovakia can use the following information channels to find information on voluntary activities: - Information Youth Centres ([www.zipcem.icm.sk](http://www.zipcem.icm.sk)) - Iuventa, EU YOUTH program # European Voluntary Service ([www.iuventa.sk](http://www.iuventa.sk)) - Intenda Foundation, applicants supported under the #Give Me Your Hand# programme (establishment of volunteering centres, studies of voluntary organizations) # [www.intenda.sk](http://www.intenda.sk) - Database and advertisements at the Slovak Youth Council site [www.mladez.sk](http://www.mladez.sk) - Information and advertisement regarding available



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volunteering opportunities at home and abroad at the [www.changenet.sk](http://www.changenet.sk) and [www.eurodesk.sk](http://www.eurodesk.sk) sites - Some large organizations, such as eRko, Harmony Country Foundation (Volunteer Card) have their own databases of volunteers - The ZOOM magazine [http://www.rms.mladez.sk/generate\\_page.php?page\\_id=39685](http://www.rms.mladez.sk/generate_page.php?page_id=39685) - The Efekt magazine <http://www.casopiseфект.sk/> The unified database and interconnection between offer and demand are still missing. The CARDO organization, in cooperation with the National Voluntary Centre in Roma, organises a comparative survey of the development of volunteering in Europe #Survey of Volunteering in Slovakia# (late November 2006) aimed at establishing the basis for a virtual volunteering centre.

### 10.2 Promotion activities for voluntary activities

Voluntary activities are mainly promoted by grant schemes. In 2000 the European Union YOUTH programme was launched in Slovakia offering 6 to 12 months long voluntary service abroad ([www.iuventa.sk](http://www.iuventa.sk)). Also, the establishment and development of volunteering centres have been supported under the #Give Me Your Hand# program ran by the Intenda Foundation ([www.intenda.sk](http://www.intenda.sk)). Voluntary activities are also supported under the MoE SR grant scheme dedicated to civic associations. Public promotion of voluntary activities: Kamosfest 2002, Bratislava, Bambiriada Zilina, Market of Volunteering Opportunities, Fair of Non-Profit Organizations and Social Institutions in Petržalka (Bratislava) etc. Large medial campaigns and activities promoting philanthropy and donorship and provide young people with volunteering experience, such as Hodina detom (One hour to children) ([www.nds.sk](http://www.nds.sk)), Den narcisov (Daffodil Day) ([www.lpr.sk](http://www.lpr.sk)), Dobra novina (Good News) ([www.erko.sk](http://www.erko.sk)), collective voluntary activities in Tatra mountains, The Child Act of Help organized by the eRko civic association. Moreover, voluntary activities are supported by the European Commission via its specific grant provided in order to establish an ex-volunteer association of the graduates of the European Voluntary Service organized under the YOUTH program ([www.evask.sk](http://www.evask.sk)). Also, educational activities of organizations providing humanitarian aid can be considered promotion activities ([www.panacik.sk](http://www.panacik.sk)). Large-scope international meetings of volunteers, such as EURIZON 2006. The meeting was organized by the DOMKA # Association of Salesian Youth in cooperation with its international and national partners. This international meeting helped in making the public aware of a volunteering phenomenon and increasing its prestige <http://www.eurizon.sk/>

### 10.3 Initiatives to promote voluntary activities among young people from disadvantaged backgrounds

No initiatives or systemic measures have been taken to promote and develop voluntary activities among young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

## 11 Recognition of voluntary activities of young people

### 11.1 Initiatives for recognition 'good practices'

In Slovakia, there are no official initiatives for the recognition of voluntary activities of young people



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in the field of job-seeking or application for studies. The majority of large national or regional organizations working with volunteers and running educational activities provide volunteers with respective certificates. However, recognition of such certificates by other stakeholders (schools, employers) is just optional and has no legal basis. Examples of good practices in the field of education certificates: EDIN # international volunteering programme of the Ecumenical Council; the certificate describes in detail skills and experience obtained within voluntary service ([www.ekumena.sk](http://www.ekumena.sk)) The ELLA project falling under the Sokrates Grundtvig 1 programme ran by the CARDO civic association. This project is aimed at developing international standards for volunteer education, organizing training of volunteers in chosen Slovak facilities, developing of an European certificate of volunteer training and publishing guidelines for voluntary work. An international team of experts participate in the project. The developed guidelines, certificate and modules are expected to become standards for volunteer work in various long-term facilities for seniors and residential facilities for the nursing cases in Slovakia, Germany, Austria, Belgium and Switzerland ([www.cardo-eu.net](http://www.cardo-eu.net)) Slovakia also participates in the trial use of the YOUTHPASS, i.e. the document proving the competences obtained under the YOUTH IN ACTION projects (exchange programmes, voluntary service, local projects)

### 11.2 Measures of societal recognition

A number of partial measures aimed at evaluation and societal recognition of volunteering, or voluntary activities respectively (donorship, philanthropy) have been taken in Slovakia: - Reception of volunteers working for restoration of Tatras at the Government Office, - Appraisal of the Good News project by the President of the Slovak Republic - Top Company Philanthropist 2006, Forum of Donors [http://www.donorsforum.sk/nove\\_SK/projektrozvoja\\_TOPff.html](http://www.donorsforum.sk/nove_SK/projektrozvoja_TOPff.html) - Mosty (Bridges), the prize granted by the Slovak Youth Council - Slovak Humanity Council use to organize the Advent Benefit Concert # volunteers speak about their activities; Beneficium and the Gift of the Year prize # focused to donorship - Slovak Red Cross awards the Blood Donation prize and the Entry to Honour Book - Pontis Foundation awards the prize to companies supporting particular projects (the Via Bona Slovakia prize) - The Harmony Country Foundation awards the Forrest Gump prize to a person that helped handicapped people with their integration. # the Harmony Country Foundation, #ilina <http://www.nkh.sk/> - Slovak Academic Information Agency # service centre for the 3rd sector in cooperation with the Third Sector Panel awards the annual prize to volunteers # Srdce na dlani (Heart on the Sleeve) - Usmev ako dar (Smile as a Gift) # awarding prizes to volunteers

## 12 Co-operations and networks, exchange of volunteers, transnational and international cooperation

### 12.1 Networks who promote voluntary activities of young people

International volunteering networks which Slovak organizations participate in - European Alliance of YMCAs (EAY) - Volunteers for Europe # YMCA member organization. It associates its member organizations and facilitates the exchange of volunteers among its member states as well as non-member ones. Contact: Ivan Sedlia&#269;ik, [innova@slovanet.sk](mailto:innova@slovanet.sk) - Alliance of European



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Voluntary Service organisations, Service civil International and Youth Action for Peace # INEX works as the Slovak representative - VIDES # missionary women's association (International Volunteerism Woman Education Development) # Slovakia is represented by the Laura organization - Caritas Europa is made up of 48 organizations in 44 countries and enables its members to participate in voluntary humanitarian and development projects. Slovakia is represented by the Slovak Catholic Charity. - AVSO - Association of Voluntary Service Organisations supporting its member organizations in their development of long-term voluntary services via providing information on the planned activities and lobbying at the national as well as international level. Slovakia is represented by the Tabita civic association. International voluntary programmes: - DOBRO # the voluntary programme of the Ecumenical Council of Churches in the Slovak Republic, which functions as the coordinating organization for foreign volunteers from the USA and Germany (gradual expanding into other countries). [www.ekumena.sk](http://www.ekumena.sk) - The YOUTH program of the European Union offering voluntary activities taking 6 to 12 months. [www.iuventa.sk](http://www.iuventa.sk) National voluntary programmes are quite rare. - Voluntary Programme of the Ecumenical Council of Churches in Slovakia - assistance provided to the unemployed, socially deprived persons, handicapped persons, pensioners, members of minority groups, persons released from prisons, drug-addicts, persons subject to home violence, assistance in the field of child and youth care, during disasters, etc. [www.ekumena.sk](http://www.ekumena.sk)

### 12.2 Exchange of information, experience and good practices

The GLEN project can be used as an example of international cooperation and exchange of know-how, information and good practices. in Slovakia; the GLEN project is implemented by the Tabita civic association ([www.tabita.sk](http://www.tabita.sk)). Particular projects are carried out in Africa, Asia or in other countries by a tandem of volunteers from Germany and some other participating country (Slovakia, Lithuania, the Czech Republic etc.). Volunteers prepare and implement a common project in the form of developing cooperation. It takes 3 months.

### 12.3 Exchange for young volunteers: at all levels (transnational, national, regional, between communities)

Transnational: see GLEN project (12.2)

### 12.4 Collective volunteering projects

#### 12.4.1 Collective volunteering projects (where large numbers of volunteers jointly assist in cultural or sporting events, or where they help in humanitarian/natural disaster situations)

Description of projects (including future projects)

In Slovakia, there is a long tradition of collective voluntary services developed mainly by the INEX civic association organizing work camps in Slovakia and abroad. For more information see [www.inex.sk](http://www.inex.sk) Volunteers for Tatras 2006 is a pilot project of a collective voluntary service, which has been supported by a special grant awarded by the European Commission. Last year, more



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

[www.youth-knowledge.net](http://www.youth-knowledge.net) | [www.youth-partnership.net](http://www.youth-partnership.net)





than 900 volunteers participated under this project in restoration of Tatras damaged due to a heavy windstorm. For more information see [www.scouting.sk](http://www.scouting.sk). It has not been decided yet whether this project will continue in 2007. The project of the Slovak scouting aimed at preserving the castles (Odklinanie hradov) is an example of the national collective voluntary activity. Scouts, under the supervision of professionals in the field of preservation of historical buildings, endeavour to preserve national historical heritage, protect castles from further devastation and improve public awareness on their existence and value. This project covers 12 castles and is supported from various resources and funds.

Details of programme/project

See above.

### **12.4.2 Possibilities for involvement of international volunteers in these projects**

Work camps organized by the INEX civic association are opened for volunteers from Slovakia as well as those from abroad ([www.inex.sk](http://www.inex.sk)). Continuation of the Volunteers for Tatras providing an international group of volunteers with the opportunity to participate in restoration of Tatras, in the year 2007 is under discussion ([www.scouting.sk](http://www.scouting.sk)).

## **12.5 International solidarity volunteer service**

### **12.5.1 International solidarity voluntary service in the EU and the world (e.g. in human/natural disaster situations, civil protection, humanitarian aid, development assistance, capacity-building etc.)**

The tradition of solidarity assistance is not deep-rooted in Slovakia even though there are some organizations working in this field in Slovakia, such as People in Need, the Slovak Catholic Charity or Tabita civic association. For more information on the Glen project see paragraph 12.2. For more information on working within the Caritas Europa network see the Slovak Catholic Charity site ([www.charita.sk](http://www.charita.sk)).

Details of programme/project

See above.

### **12.5.2 Major NGOs and/or NGO platforms active in the field of international solidarity service in non-EU countries**

People in Need, [www.clovekvohrozeni.sk](http://www.clovekvohrozeni.sk) provides assistance in Kosovo, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tchechenia and Serbia. The Slovak Humanity Council, [www.shr.sk](http://www.shr.sk) via its member organizations. The Slovak Catholic Charity, [www.charita.sk](http://www.charita.sk); it is currently running two projects: in Albania and Lebanon.

### **12.5.3 The degree of involvement of the government/state institutions in supporting international solidarity service in non-EU countries**



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There has been no official initiative at the government side relating to involvement into the international voluntary solidarity service oriented to young people as the target group. Slovakia officially participates in solidarity assistance in the form of consignments or via professional humanitarian organizations.

## 13 Studies & Surveys

### 13.1 Recent surveys or research on the topic of voluntary activities

1. The Institute of Information and Prognoses - survey: Volunteering and Youth, 2005 - [www.uips.sk](http://www.uips.sk) 2. CARDO organization in cooperation with the National Voluntary Centre in Roma - a comparative survey: Survey of Volunteering in Slovakia, late November 2006