

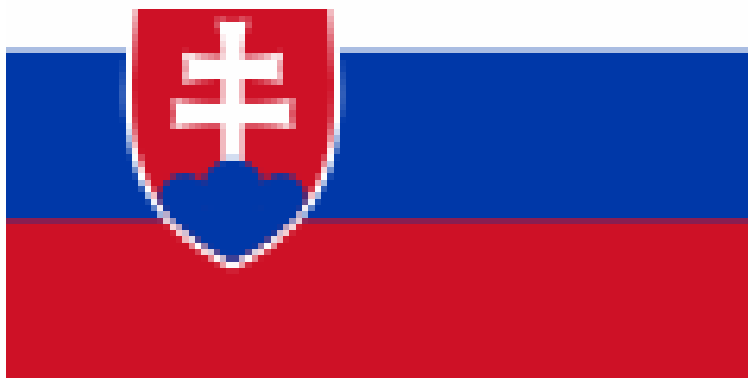


YouthPartnership

QUESTIONNAIRE

“VOLUNTARY ACTIVITIES”

SLOVAK REPUBLIC



YouthPartnership
Council of Europe
European Commission



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Table of contents

1 Statistics.....	3
2 Range of voluntary activities:.....	4
3 Finance	4
4 Main actors of voluntary activities of young people.....	4
5 Legal basis/legislation for voluntary activities in general and for young people in particular	5
6 Programmes and plans in the country on volunteering.....	5
7 Relationship between different types of voluntary services.....	6
8 Development of voluntary activities, including standards/instruments aiming at securing and enhancing quality in voluntary activities.....	6
9 Removing obstacles to young people's voluntary engagement	7
10 Promotion of voluntary activities of young people.....	8
11 Recognition of voluntary activities of young people.....	9
12 Co-operations and networks, exchange of volunteers, transnational and international cooperation.....	10
13 What recent surveys or research has been carried out on the topic of voluntary activities?	11

1 Statistics

1.1 Which types of voluntary activities exist in your country for young people?

The 3 most common forms of volunteering of young people are:

- Voluntary activities that include various non regular activities of young people at the base of oral agreement ,
- Voluntary service as formalised voluntary activity with clear aim, content and tasks,
- Voluntary help – informal help (among neighbours, groups of young people between themselves – on the base of agreement outside of organisational structures)

In line with setting up a professional army, civilian service as option to military service, was cancelled.

1.2 Number of young people from the ages of 13 to 30 who engage in voluntary activities per year..

Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic noted 198 931 volunteers without having the age brackets.

The number of young volunteers is not known officially as there is no registration.

1.3 Number of young people from the ages of 13 to 30 who engage in voluntary services in your country per year, in totals and by gender

Not available. See answer 1.2

1.4 Number of young people from the ages of 13 to 30 who engage in voluntary service abroad (excluding European Voluntary Service), totals and by gender.

Not available

1.5 Number of young people from the ages of 13 to 30 who engage in national voluntary civic service, where it exists. Provide total and gender specific numbers.

No civic service existing

1.5.1 Number of young people from the ages of 13 and 30 who carry out their service abroad.

65 (European voluntary service)

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

No

2 Range of voluntary activities:

According to the survey done by Institute of information and future prognosis in education (2005), the most popular voluntary activities included sport (20,2%), working with children and youth (19,5%) and environment (12,2%).

3 Finance

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

The financial means that are available for voluntary activities are not always well known, as some organisations support voluntary and commercial or public services at the same time. In other cases the financial reporting is non-public or considered as a trade secret.

625.000 € (European voluntary service, 2007)

300.000 € state financial programme for youth work (covers not only voluntary activities)

3.2 Main public and private sources of finance

Voluntary activities can be supported in the frame of supporting financial programmes for youth activities. There is no clear registration how much finances go to exact voluntary activities or volunteers. There is a grant programme scheme, **ADAM** managed by the Ministry of Education for youth work in general.

Grant programme of **Children charity of Slovakia**.

Charity Intenda (support of setting up of voluntary centres).

Youth in Action programme

4 Main actors of voluntary activities of young people

4.1 Governmental actors

Support systems for youth work – ADAM, Ministry of Education, unit of children and youth – **Róbert Eisner** - Tel.: 00421 2 59238 101 Fax: 00421 2 52925169 lenka.slovakova@minedu.sk

- Youth in Action - NA, Iuventa, Viliam Michalovič – michalovic@iuventa.sk 00421259296100
- Ministry of Labour, social welfare and family, Šancová 1, 811 04 Bratislava
- Ministry of Culture, Nám. SNP 2, 811 01 Bratislava

4.2 Nongovernmental actors

- Youth Council of Slovakia, Pražská 11, 813 36 Bratislava

- Charities – Intenda, konto Orange, Charity for children in Slovakia, community charities
- Civic associations working on voluntary basis
- ZIPCEM – umbrella organisation of Information centres for youth. Tenisová 19, 972 01 Prievidza
- Voluntary centres (Banská Bystrica, Prešov)

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

5.1 Is there a specific legal status for volunteers or are they assimilated to other categories of people (students, workers, trainees etc?)

Voluntary activities and volunteers are not covered by any specific law in the Slovak Republic. New Act on support of youth work, adopted on July 2008, includes the definition and support systems for voluntary activities in the field of youth. It defines „youth volunteer“ and „youth voluntary activities“. The activities under this law can be also recognised as a part of non-formal education by a certificate.

5.2 How are volunteers and volunteer organisations taxed? Are they conceded tax exemption?

In line with having no legislation in the field of volunteering, there is no official opportunity to employ a volunteer and thus volunteers are not entitled to different tax exemptions, Voluntary organisations that have some paid employees are not entitled to tax exemptions.

5.3 Describe if volunteers are protected by social or health insurance, or if their activities are recognised by the pension system.

No protection under health system nor recognition in the pension system.

5.4 Legal situation of unemployed young people participating in voluntary activities

How is the legal situation of unemployed young people participating in voluntary activities

No law exist in this field. Voluntary activities are not recognised as valid for unemployed people.

6 Programmes and plans in the country on volunteering

Youth in Action programme

Programme ODA (Official Development Assistance), managed by Ministry of Foreign Affaires offers opportunities for financial support for their activities in the field of third-countries volunteering

UNDP (United Nation Development

Local, regional and national initiatives using volunteers (campaign in the field of health, prevention, help to underdeveloped countries, etc.)

7 Relationship between different types of voluntary services

In Slovakia, most of voluntary activities are run by young people and usually to other young people. There is only limited number of volunteers in productive age. Different voluntary services are not officially interlinked (except volunteering in the field of youth). There is one web portal – www.changenet.sk, which links different types of organisations working in the third sector.

7.1-Relationship between military service, civilian service, civic service and voluntary service in the country?

Civilian service ended together with setting up a professional army. Therefore no military service is compulsory in Slovakia.

7.2 If a voluntary civic service does not exist, are there plans to create one? Please provide a description.

There are no plans to introduce civic service.

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

8.1 Does a strategy (plan) for the development of voluntary activities of young people exist in your country? If yes, please give a short description.

The new Act on Youth will prepare the background for official recognition of voluntary work. IUVENTA in co-operation with big voluntary organisations prepared a launch of a web portal dedicated specifically to volunteering (www.dobrovolnictvo.sk). The new Act on Youth (see 2.1) will set up also the frame for official certification and recognition of youth volunteering, which will be a huge step forward.

8.2-Which other means, measures and instruments does your country apply in order to develop the voluntary activities of young people?

Part of the state financial programme for youth work (ADAM) is aiming at supporting voluntarism and voluntary activities. IUVENTA runs a series of information seminars in the field of voluntarism for representatives of self-governments (regional authorities and municipalities).

9 Removing obstacles to young people's voluntary engagement

9.1 How is young people's voluntary engagement facilitated?

Young people note a wider offer of different youth activities run by youth organisations comparing to previous years. There is also a new wave of setting up of School students' councils. Education and training of young people and those who work with them is of higher quality. The activities are properly targeted, many concepts from other countries are being implemented and tested. Spreading up the information and training measures are better and their quantity as well as quality rises. Some of the curricula at the Universities cover the topic of voluntarism and motivate the students to take part in Service learning (possibility to obtain credits for voluntary activities). This system is applied at Universities in Banská Bystrica, Trnava, Bratislava, Prešov. Education in the field of work with asylum seekers and migrants is a new element in some curricula.

9.2 What obstacles still exist?

Voluntary activities have long-term tradition in Slovakia but nowadays they are faced with several obstacles. The basic obstacle is **low public awareness** about voluntarism and missing legislation. There is still some level of untrust (low age is a synonym for less experience, no skills or motivation). There is still low level of information about voluntary activities among young people. Another obstacle is **low budget of public sources** for development of strategic steps in voluntary sector.

Schools are not involved in education towards voluntarism.

There support at **regional and local level** is missing. There are only two active voluntary centres functioning – in Banská Bystrica and Prešov.

Problems with **hosting volunteers** from abroad still exist. Missing legislation makes it difficult to work unofficially with foreign volunteers.

Taking into consideration also high financial demand and a need to work very extensively to maintain satisfactory life standard, many young people work much and there is **no time for their voluntary activities**.

9.3 What recent (this year) measures have been taken to remove obstacles to young people's volunteering? (legal, administrative measures, etc...)

Act on Youth, which will be ready to be passed in the Parliament beginning of 2008 will give legal and basic framework for voluntary activities in the field of youth.

10 Promotion of voluntary activities of young people

Creation of virtual space www.dobrovolnictvo.sk

Among most common way of acquiring or giving information about youth voluntary is in general internet, especially third-sector servers.

www.iuventa.sk

www.mladez.sk

www.changenet.sk

www.zipcem.sk; www.icm.sk

www.eurodesk.sk

Magazine Efekt (<http://www.casopisefekt.sk>)

Voluntary centres in Banská Bystrica and in Prešov

How help – Voluntary work (labour) (www.unicef.sk).

10.1 Information channels and contacts for voluntary activities of young people

- Voluntary opportunities market, SAIA Prešov

(<http://www.ff.unipo.sk/kvdsp/files/dobrovolnictvo/Aktuality.htm>)

- Jašidielňa (www.nkh.sk), Foundation of Harmonyland, Žilina
- Bambriáda (http://www.mladez.sk/generate_page.php?page_id=74305) The youth council of Žilina selfgoverning region
- Exposition MVO on the territory of the city Banská Bystrica (www.cko.sk)
- Prezen Fain Fest – Liptovský Mlýnský náhon, public presentation of voluntary activities (supported from Orange account)

10.2 Promotion activities for voluntary activities (events, support for promotion actions, contact persons)

N/A

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

The project of development of mobility of Romany youth through the program Youth

11 Recognition of voluntary activities of young people

11.1 How (by which means) are voluntary activities of young people recognised?

In Slovakia exists no official initiative for respecting of voluntary activities of young people, especially by job searching or by admission to studies. Almost all big national or regional organizations, which work with volunteers and provide educational activities, giving acknowledgement or deliver certificates. Their acceptance by other partners (schools, employers) is on voluntary base and isn't legal vested. Much more often the foreign companies in Slovakia respect and count voluntary activities by employing people with some experience in the voluntary field.

11.2 Do certificates on the voluntary activities of young people exist?

There are no official ones, but voluntary organizations create own internal certificates.

11.3 By whom are the voluntary activities of young people recognised

In Slovakia exist a lot of partial activities for appreciation and public acknowledgement of voluntary activities (but also philanthropy and blood donor)

- Volunteers for recovery of the Tatras were received in Government Office
- Appreciation of Good News (Dobrá novina) by the prezident of The Slovak republic
- Top firm philanthropist 2006, Forum of donors
http://www.donorsforum.sk/nove_SK/projektrozvoja_TOPff.html
- Slovak humanitarian council realizes benefit night in the Advent season – Volunteers speak about their work Beneficium and Award the gift of the year
- Slovak Red Cross awards the prize Blooddonor (bronz, silver, gold, diamond plaque and the medal of prof. MUDr. Jána Kňazovický, Memory plaque of doc. MUDr. Vladimír Krišľa, CSc, Medal of SRC for lifesaving, Registry to the Book of Honour of SRC, Voluntary health visitor of SRC, For Humanity, selfsacrifice and voluntary service I. and II. Grade, Honour silver medal of H. Dunant, Medal of Henryho Dunanta,
- Foundation Pontis awards the companies, which supported projects (award Via Bona Slovakia)
- Foundation of Harmonyland awards the prize of Forest Gump to person who helped the health disable people to integration, <http://www.nkh.sk/> Foundation Harmonyland, Žilina
- SAIA Prešov, n.o. award every year volunteers – Regional heart in the hand (regional prize in Prešov)
- The Youth council of Slovakia awards every year the prize „Bridge“
- Úsmev ako dar – own acknowledgement of volunteers
- UNICEF – periodically award own volunteers by diplom

- Community foundations award the prize Donor of the year and Public Benefits, last year (2006) the first time awarded the prize Volunteer of the year within own volunteers

11.4 Does society as such recognise voluntary activities of young people? If so how?

Official appreciation doesn't exist. Only partial. See above.

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

12.1 Co-operations and networks in favour of voluntary activities of young people at all levels

All-European net spreading exist in Slovakia through slovak Eurodesk

www.eurodesk.sk

12.2 What are the possibilities for exchange for young volunteers: at all levels

Supranational – program Youth in action

Official exchanges among regional and community organizations probably doesn't exist.

12.3 Collective volunteering projects

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

- Volunteers for The Tatras 2005-2006 in organization of Slovak skouting (Slovenský skauting)
- Greenpeace organize happenings –actions which require large number of volunteers
- Financial collections of various kind: Daffodils day, Blue button, White pastille
- Elections – giving away the leaflets and promotion of political party or company

12.3.2 Are there any possibilities for involvement of international volunteers in these projects?

International volunteers can be involved through the projects supported by Ministry of Education (national state grant programme, which is open to national or international projects) and through the European Community Youth in Action programme.

12.4 International solidarity volunteer service

12.5 Does an international solidarity volunteer service exist?

In Slovakia, only one big organisation is working with agenda of solidarity service, except the Red Cross. It is a organisation "Human in danger", which originated in the Czech Republic and functions in Slovakia too. This NGO organises campaigns and public collections for the people in need in third countries.

12.5.1 Please list some major NGOs and/or NGO platforms active in the field of international solidarity service in non-EU countries

Človek v ohrození, www.clovekvohrozeni.sk

12.5.2 Please describe in how far the government/state administration is involved in organising, supporting and implementing international solidarity service in non-EU countries.
No special actions.

13 What recent surveys or research has been carried out on the topic of voluntary activities?

Institute of information and prederminations of education, research „ Voluntary and Youth“ (www.uips.sk).

Good informattion source is National report on youth policy in the Slovak Republic for the Council of Europe realized in 2005 (http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/IG_Coop/youth_policy_reviews_en.asp).

Research of organization YMCA „Volunteering as competitors advantage of applicant for a job in the target group of personnel clerks“ is also valuable information source, which shows especially low public acknowledgement of voluntary work.

National report about fulfilling of unit targets in the field of Voluntary work realized by Iuventa 2006