

Youth Partnership

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



EUROPEAN UNION

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH POLICY IN SLOVAKIA



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1. Context and principles of national youth policy

1.1 Context of national youth policy

After the revolution in 1989 it took several years before the modern youth policy was created and basic legislative documents adopted. The first official post-revolutionary attempt to build state support of youth policy and a transparent system of financing was adoption of document *Principles of State Policy towards Children and Youth* (1992). In 2000, the originally twelve principles were widening to the first official *Conception of the State Policy towards Children and Young people* (2001 – 2007). Integral part of the document was the *National Report on the Youth Policy*, which analyzed situation in few areas - at that time considered as the base of youth policy - family, employment, education, leisure-time activities, criminality and mobility and European integration.

With the development of Slovak society, but particularly under the influence of the obligations arising from the accession of Slovakia to the European Union, it became increasingly evident the need to build wider youth policy based on facts, evidences and prognosis, which required much wider and structural co-operation. As the youth as social group is part of agendas more than ten ministries, regional and local governments - to coordinate the identification of knowledge about children and young people, sorting and accessing relevant stakeholders have made more timely. In 2008, Slovak government adopted concept of state policy (*Key Areas and Action Plans for State Policy towards Youth in the Slovak Republic 2008 to 2013*), which emphasized the need for communication and co-operation between practitioners, researchers and policy makers, introduced the tradition of Youth report as the base for evaluation and creation of official youth policy and established the Intra-governmental Working Group on Youth Policy.

Based on Youth report 2014 current Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Youth for the years 2014 - 2020 was created.

1.2. Principles of national youth policy

Current state youth policy reflects the needs of the youth in particular in education, employment, creativity and entrepreneurship of young people, their participation, health and healthy lifestyles, social inclusion and volunteering. It also addresses global issues and identifies strategic objectives for youth work and proposals for action to achieve each objective.

The objectives of state policy in relation to children and young people:
The strategy aims to contribute to improving the quality of life of young people, particularly through the development of personalities of young citizens of the Slovak Republic as cultured personalities who are prepared to work in a constantly changing democratic environment and utilize their creative potential in practice and active participation in society.

Pillars of the strategy are a) Investment into youth b) Youth empowerment

New Slovak Youth Strategy declares several values which are the basis for the new approach towards the young people and reflects main messages and philosophy of the document:

- Cross-sectorial approach: youth policy as the outcome of cooperation among affected ministries and other state administration bodies, whose line of business involves measures affecting youth.
- Participation: youth policy prepared in cooperation with affected ministries and consulted with young people.
- Inclusiveness: human rights' respect and protection in a multicultural society and on prevention of all forms of discrimination.
- Solidarity between generations: the need for solidarity and dialogue between generations for the sake of sustainable development and in order to meet the needs of various groups of population.
- Considering the real needs: Strategy was established on information on young people's situation in the Slovak Republic, extracted from researches and surveys, as well as expert materials and wide consultations with young people.

2. Statistics on young people

Number and Percentage of young people in global population (Source: General Census, as of May 31st 2014)

Aged 0 – 30: 1 963 986 36,3%

(Man: 51,2%; Woman: 48,8%).

Percentage of young people in global population: 31,98%

3. Actors and Structures

3.1 Public authorities

3.1.1 National public authorities:

Ministry in charge of youth: Juraj Draxler, MA - since 2014.

Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of SR – Section of Governmental Care for Sports and Youth - Department of Youth covers the work in the field of non-formal education of children and youth mainly in these areas:

- Preparation of conceptual and decisive materials in the field of youth policy,
- Coordinates the activities of the Government of the Slovak Republic in planning and implementation of the youth policy,
- Elaborates and updates long-term plans of the Ministry in the field of children and youth,
- Provides technical and organisational and content support to the activities of the Intra-governmental Working Group on Youth Policy,
- Proposes direction of research in the field of children and youth, gives suggestions for further development of the analysis and implementation of the scientific researches and transfer of research outcomes into the youth policy measures,
- Drafts legislation and conditions of financial support of youth organisations, youth information centres and other institutions providing services to children and youth,
- Is responsible for the implementation of the EU Erasmus +programme,
- Guarantees co-operation between governmental and local youth policy level through publishing of research, analytical and prognostic documents, organising work seminars, conferences and trainings for the representatives of regions, cities and municipalities along with youth workers and youth. Besides these activities ensuring communication between governmental, regional and local level there are also different financial support systems for development programmes,
- Creates conditions for the work of children's and youth organisations, co-operates with these
- Coordinates the work of Accreditation Committee for Youth Work Programmes including the issuing the certificates for accredited institutions.

Number of people working at the Department of the Ministry: 4

Director responsible for youth issues in the Ministry

Mrs. Eva Masárová, director of department

Contact person in the Department of Youth competent for European youth policy

Mrs. Eva Masárová, director of department

eva.masarova@minedu.sk, tel.: 00421 2 59238201

Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies

Other Ministries

Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, www.culture.gov.sk

Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, www.minv.sk

Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, www.enviro.gov.sk

Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, www.employment.gov.sk

Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic, www.economy.gov.sk

Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic,
<http://www.telecom.gov.sk>

Ministry of Health the Slovak Republic, www.health.gov.sk

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development , www.mpsr.sk

Public bodies

IUVENTA – Slovak Youth Institute, Búdková 2, 811 04 Bratislava 1

www.iuventa.sk, iuventa@iuventa.sk, +421 2 592 96 110

State Pedagogical Institute, tel.: 00421 2 49276111, mail: spu@statpedu.sk, www.statpedu.sk

Parliament Commission in charge of youth issues

Committee of Education, Science, Youth and Sports

Mr. Mojmír Mamojka

Committee of Education, Science, Youth and Sports negotiates the acts and other legislative rules in the field of education, youth, science and sports. Supervising the observance of laws and execute the control activity in listed fields. This committee also participates on supervision of using EU funds in the field of education.

tel.: +421 2 59721231, fax: +421 2 5441 5468, e-mail: vwms@nrssr.sk

Other bodies

The Foundation Intenda, tel.: +421 2 57297112, intenda@intenda.sk, www.intenda.sk

Research Institute for Child Psychology and Pathopsychology, tel./fax: +421 2 43420973,
e-mail: vudpap@vudpap.sk,

3.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field

Offices of the Self-government regions

Regional self-government offices ensure the administrative and organizational issues related to youth policy at regional level in the field of social support for youth; in the field of education , operation and closing of schools and school facilities, regional youth centres, youth hostels, school counties etc., providing information in the field of education; in the field of physical culture; culture and in the field of health care – establishment the centres for the treatment of drug addicts.

The self-governments advisory and coordination bodies create internal positions for professionals responsible for youth whose task should be to coordinate and methodologically support activities of all organisations and institutions active in this field in the region. As the obligation raising from the legislation each regional self-government has official document setting the regional plan form youth work development.

Regional youth centres

Regional youth centres function in 3 self-government regions (Trenčín, Banská Bystrica and Košice). Their main area of responsibility includes the coordination of the all institutions participating in the implementation of youth policy in the region (schools, educational and social institutions, civic associations, counselling services, municipalities etc.), but they also initiate and promote the process of implementation of youth policy and provide educational opportunities for youth workers.

The Regional Commission for the Work with Children and Youth

Its members are representatives of expert and social institutions involved in various aspects of youth life (schools, educational facilities, representatives of civic associations, leisure-time facilities, church institutions as well as parents and representatives of the private sector).

The main role of the Commission is to prepare regional measures for youth policy, but it also monitors the process of implementation, applies arrangements for their realisation and elaborates evaluation reports on task-performance for the relevant year, and carries out the dissemination of information and feedback to interested parties and initiates their co-operation in carrying out the coordination of individual tasks.

3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field

Local administration units of municipalities

The municipality:

- management of schools and facilities at local level;
- supports social life of youth by providing various services, contacts to various other bodies and institutions of public administration and information for young people on various issues (ways of spending leisure time, accommodation, education, future career prospects);
- analyses activities of institutions and services for children and youth in the community,
- monitors effectiveness of measures related to youth. After the adoption of Act No. 369/1990 Coll. on local establishment and following the realization of fiscal decentralization in 2004 conditions were created for the implementation of own policies in relation to children and youth at the level of local self-government. After the adoption of the Act their representatives have greater freedom in the realization of activities for children and youth, but the quality and scope of these services varies from one municipality to another. Following the adoption of the Act No. 282/2008 Coll. on support of youth work municipalities has clear role on support the development of the youth work.

There are three types of “youth centres” established: municipal youth centres (332), private youth centres (90) and youth centres founded by church (54). These establishments make up the basis for the creation of conditions for good use of free time by children under 15 but also for older young people. Some of the Youth centres are also actively involved not only in interest-based activities but also in development of activities in the frame of non-formal education and long-life learning.

3.2 Youth welfare services (comprising public and/or non-public actors)

Not applicable

3.3 Non-public actors/structures & youth services with competencies in the youth field

The Association of the Youth Information and Counselling Centres in the Slovak Republic (ZIPCeM) is an umbrella organization of the Youth Information Centres active in different regions of Slovakia. Their objective is to cooperate with all the Youth Information Centres (ICM), to guide them methodologically, to unify the common methodology of work in order to give all the ICMs uniform philosophy and ideas at the creation of their program that would be going along with the objective

needs and demands of young people, and would provide the necessary information and counselling. www.zipcem.icm.sk

Students Council of Universities (SRVS) is a consultative body of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic and the supreme representative body of students of universities in Slovakia, which represent Slovak university students at national and international level. SRVS associates the representatives of all types of universities in Slovakia (state, public and private). www.srvs.sk

Slovak Secondary School Student Union- SUS aims to support the comprehensive development and mobility of secondary school students. Work includes informing about relevant issues, to protect students, to stand up for their rights and to help with establishing cooperation between schools on a national and European level. Main priority is to organize projects, workshops and campaigns about issues affecting students (e.g. education) and supporting activities of its members at their respective schools. www.studentskaunia.com

3.3.1 Youth Councils

The National Youth Council of Slovakia (RMS) is an umbrella organisation – an association of nongovernmental not-for-profit children's and youth organization. Today it represents 33 children's and youth organisations with more than 40 000 members. The basic aim of the Council is to influence the national policy in favour of conditions creating for youth and children with respect to the Slovak legal system. The Youth Council of Slovakia became a partner organization to the Ministry of Education in February 2000. The Youth Council of Slovakia is also the official representative of Slovak youth organisations in international youth organisations and platforms. It actively participated on the establishment of the European Youth Forum and it is present in the Commission of the EYF for relations with the EU and in the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Youth. www.mladez.sk

Regional youth councils

A regional youth council is an umbrella organization representing the plurality of political, interest-based and other civic associations of children and youth, and it acts as a partner of the relevant institutions (the self-government) responsible for the formation of the concept of regional youth services. Regional youth councils operate in each of the administrative regions of the Slovak Republic (currently except of Banská Bystrica region) and create platforms for meetings between these

organisations, opportunities for an exchange of experiences, methodologies, and support activities of children and youth organizations in the region.

The aim of the Regional Councils is to associate children and youth organisations working in the individual areas and to help to create suitable conditions for full development of children and youth. The objective of the activity of the Regional Councils is: according to the legislative, influence the policy of the state to create conditions for full, free and democratic development of children and youth in the name of realisation of their legitimate interests and to contribute to the development of state regional policy towards the youth, to contribute to the creation of conditions for activities of children and youth organisations and for co-ordinated emphasising their common interests, to co-operate actively with partner organisations home and abroad, with international, government and non-government organisations and institutions, which develop activities with benefits for children and youth, to co-operate with state institutions and civic associations that are active in the field of interests of the Regional Council, to provide counselling, methodical and informative services for member organisations, to co-operate in the establishment of financial resources for activities of children and youth organisations.

Regional Youth Council of Žilina, www.rmzk.sk

Regional Youth Council of Trnava, www.rmtk.sk

Regional Youth Council of Košice, www.rmkk.sk

Regional Youth Council of Trenčín, [www.facebook.com/Rada mládeže Trenčianskeho kraja](http://www.facebook.com/Rada%20ml%C3%A1de%C5%BEdy%20Tren%C4%8Dianskeho%20kraja)

Regional Youth Council of Nitra, www.rmnk.sk

Regional Youth Council of Prešov, www.rmpk.sk

Regional Youth Council of Bratislava, <http://www.bratislava.sk/rada-mladeze/d-74673/p1=11050238>

3.3.2 Youth NGOs

National grant programme supports nation-wide NGOs that meet required criteria of geographical coverage and number of members. One action of programme thus financially supports the functioning and administration of these NGOs work. In 2015, these organisations were supported:

Name of youth NGO	Web site	Membership
AMAVET – Asociácia pre mládež, vedu a techniku	www.amavet.sk	4005
Detská organizácia Fénix	www.do-fenix.sk	5755

DOMKA – Združenie saleziánskej mládeže	www.domka.sk	8243
eRko – Hnutie kresťanských spoločenstiev detí	www.erko.sk	8804
Ideálna mládežnícka aktivita	www.ima.sk	4155
Klub Prieskumník – Pathfinder	www.pathfinder.sk	715
Laura, združenie mladých	www.laura-mladez.sk	1528
NODAM – združenie detí a mládeže	www.nodam.sk	625
Slovenská debatná asociácia	www.sda.sk	1041
Slovenský Skauting	www.skauting.sk	6136
Spoločenstvo evanjelickej mládeže	www.sem.sk	4878
Spoločnosť priateľov detí z detských domovov Úsmev ako dar	www.usmev.sk	3771
Stredoškolská študentská únia Slovenska	www.studentskaunia.com	446
Strom života	www.stromzivota.sk	5897
Zväz skautov maďarskej národnosti	www.szmcs.sk	1388
YMCA na Slovensku	www.ymca.sk	1022
Záhorácky Fénix	www.zafenix.com	2248
Združenie kresťanských spoločenstiev mládeže	www.zksm.sk	10300
Združenie mariánskej mládeže	www.zmm.sk	954

3.4 National network(s) for knowledge on youth linking all actors in the field (policy makers, researchers, young people and their organisations, NGOs)

CERYS (Centre for European and regional Youth Research) www.ucm.sk/cerys/index.html

Slovak Committee for UNICEF www.unicef.sk

Slovak Youth Research Society www.syrs.org

The Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Prevention of Criminality

Council for Children and Youth managed by Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family

Institute of Information and Prognosis in Education www.uips.sk

Eurodesk network of regional contact points www.eurodesk.sk/

Iuventa – Slovak Youth Institute www.iuventa.sk. Informal network of researchers, policy-makers and practitioners.

Slovak Academy of Sciences - SAV <http://www.sav.sk/>

4. Legislation

The basic protection of children and youth is ensured by Slovak Constitution. Article 38 of the Slovak Constitution declares more extensive health protection and special working conditions for women, minors and disabled persons as well as special protection in employment relations and special assistance in training.

Article 41 of the Constitution further protects matrimony, parentage, and family with special protection for children and young persons. Equal rights are guaranteed to both children born of legitimate matrimony and those born out of lawful wedlock. Child care and upbringing shall be the right of parents; children shall have the right to parental care and upbringing. The rights of parents may be limited and minor children may be separated from parents against the parents' will only by a court order as provided by law. According to Constitution also parents taking care of their children shall have the right to assistance provided by the State.

National legislation on youth

The fundamental change was imposed by adopting the Act No. 282/2008 Coll. on support of the youth work. The Act brings the definition of „youngster“, „youth leader“, „youth worker“ and „youth volunteer“. The act also brings clear definition of responsibilities and roles of the state and self-governments in developing the work with young people and also it creates a platform for financial mechanisms for supporting youth work.

Other legislation related to youth:

4th chapter of comprehensive part of criminal code (300/2005 Z.z.): Distinctive enactments about prosecution of minors. This includes § 146 Murder of nasciturus by mother, § 175 Serving alcoholic drinks to under aged and minors, § 180,181 Dealing with children, § 201,202 Sexual abusing, § 205 Adjournalment of a child, § 206 Abandonment of a child, § 207 Omission of obligatory alimony, § 208 Maltreatment of close and consigned person, § 209, 210 Abduction, § 211 Endangering the moral upbringing o underage, § 367, art. 3, 4c Bawdery, § 368 Manufacturing children pornography, § 369 Distribution of children pornography, § 370 Possession of children pornography, § 372 Jeopardizing of decency

Following acts and regulations concern partly young people:

Act about family and about changes and completion of several acts (36/2005 Coll.)

Act 29/1984 Coll. about system of elementary and secondary schools (scholar act);

Act 279/1993 Coll. about school facilities;

Regulation of Ministry of Education and Science of Slovak Republic no. 351/1994 Coll. about school centres of interest activities;

Regulation of Ministry of Education and Science of Slovak Republic no. 291/1994 Coll. about youth centres;

Regulation of Ministry of Education and Science of Slovak Republic no. 196/1994 Coll. about youth hostels;

Regulation of Ministry of Education and Science of Slovak Republic no. 295/1994 Coll. about educating process in the nature;

Regulation of Ministry of Education and Science of Slovak Republic no. 28/1995 Coll. about school clubs of children.

Act 305/2005 Coll. about social-legal protection of children and social probation.

University act no. 131/2002 Coll.

Directive 6/2007R about education docket

Regional and local legislation on youth

Act 596/2003 Coll. about state administration in education system and self-administration of schools

Regulation of Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic no. 9/2006 Coll. about the structure and contents of edifying-educational activities reports, about its results and conditions of schools and school facilities.

Regulation of Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic no. 43/1996 Coll. about the particulars of educative counselling and about counselling facilities.

Act 369/1990 Coll. about establishment of municipality

Act 597/2003 Coll. about financing of elementary schools, secondary schools and school facilities

Act 302/2001 Coll. about autonomy of self-governing regions

Act 416/2001 Coll. about delegation of some spheres of authority from state administration bodies to municipalities and self-governing regions.

5. National Policy Programmes on youth

National programmes on youth.

Traditionally, each youth policy framework document was accompanied by the special youth work support grant scheme. New *Programmes for Youth for year 2014 – 2020* have been adopted in 2013. The Programmes for Youth consist of five separate Programmes. Programme *Support of Youth NGOs* is the biggest programme with allocation app. 1 700 000 € per year for the national-wide youth NGOs (see section 3.3.2 Youth NGOs). Program *Services for young people* supports NGOs providing special services for young people especially in the area of volunteering and information for youth with the aim to strengthen youth participation (also activities under Structural dialogue – involvement of young people with fewer opportunities into consultations). Program *Voice of young* is open for national and regional umbrella organisations responsible for advocacy youth issues at regional level. Special programme called *Priorities of youth policy* is small program open for innovative and experimental projects focused on the new quality systems in youth work. Programme *Community for youth* is programme open for local and regional authorities for the projects developing the youth policy measures at various areas (not open yet). Programme *Evidence on youth* is oriented on the youth research (not open yet).

Establishment of the **National Scholarship Programme** for the Support of Students' Mobility, PhD students, University Teachers and Researchers was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic in 2005. The National scholarship programme of the Slovak Republic is funded by the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic. The National Scholarship Programme of the Slovak Republic is intended to support mobility of foreign and Slovak students, PhD students, university teachers and researchers to cover their living cost during studying abroad. www.scholarships.sk

Global education in Slovakia is based on the **National Strategy for Global Education** for the period 2012 to 2016 (the Strategy), an official document of the program adopted by the Government to 18th January 2012. The Strategy is a comprehensive document, which on the one hand, analyzes the status quo of global and development education in Slovakia in both formal and non-formal education and outlines, which way would be the areas of the global education should take. It also identifies the main actors, audiences and objectives of the educational alternatives.

The aim of the Global Strategy and education in general, is to improve awareness of the so-called.

global issues, the issues that concern all of us. It should also contribute to the development strategy of critical thinking and understanding of the challenges and problems they face in these areas or we will face. The intention is to encourage people to adopt a global responsibility, active global citizenship. Information about Action Plan

The primary objective of the **National Action Plan for Children** (initiated by Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Family) is through defined tasks and measures to secure progress towards the protection of children's rights recognized by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and progress in their use. The strategic objectives of the Slovak Republic in the field of children's rights can be summarized as into three main areas:

1. Institutional ensure the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, coordination policies and monitoring of all areas of interest according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child
2. Adoption and implementation of legislative measures, as well as non-legislative to achieve progress in the field of children's rights,
3. Increasing training and professionalism of those working with children.

6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth

National level

9 800 000 EUR

Regional level

N/A

7. European Dimension of youth policy

7.1 Council of Europe.

[European Youth Foundation](#) finances activities, which are implemented by youth NGOs or youth networks, or by another NGOs which are interested in working with young people based on the objectives of the Council of Europe in the youth field:

- Human rights education and intercultural dialogue
- Youth participation and democratic citizenship
- Social cohesion and inclusion of young people
- Youth policy development

Some Slovak organisations have been funded from the sources of European Youth Foundation. More info on grant decisions for 2014/2015

www.coe.int/web/european-youth-foundation

Activities organised by the Council of Europe such as various study sessions, language courses etc are open for the Slovak NGOs.

7.2 European Union.

7.2.1 Implementation of the Youth in Action/Erasmus+ programme

IUVENTA- Slovak Youth Institute has been the seat of National Agency of EU programmes for youth since 1997. IUVENTA is National agency for Erasmus+ specially Youth chapter as well as Sport chapter. www.erasmusplus.sk

IUVENTA is official contact point for EURODESK – information portal for youth and the national coordinator of European Union Youth Portal <http://www.iuventa.sk/sk/Eurodesk/Home.alej>

7.2.2 Follow up of the EU Youth Strategy (2010 – 2018) on the national level

Slovak Youth Strategy and its link to EU Youth Strategy

In 2014 Slovakia launched new Youth Strategy for years 2014 -2020. The structure of the strategy reflects European Union Strategy on Youth with the aim of most possible synergy and effectiveness in reaching objectives. In 2015 Slovak Republic prepared two basic documents reflecting the

implementation of EU Youth strategy in 2013 -2015 and also evaluated the first year of the implementation of Slovak Youth Strategy (more info iuventa@iuventa.sk)

8. Further sources of information on youth policy in Slovakia

Data- archive of youth research in Slovakia

<http://www.iuventa.sk/en/Vyskum-mladeze/Data-catalogue.alej>