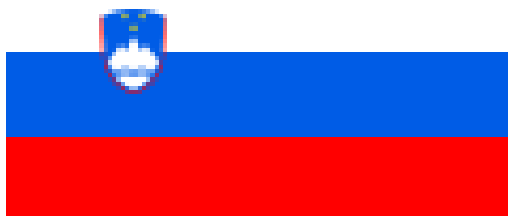


Youth Partnership

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



COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH POLICY IN SLOVENIA



Last updated on 18 May 2016

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1. Context and principles of national youth policy

1.1 Context of national youth policy

Until 2009, Slovenian youth policy has had a strong vertical dimension; it gained a new impetus through the EU Youth Strategy that promote holistic youth policy. With the adoption of the national youth programme (in 2013), stipulated by the Public Interest in the Youth Sector Act, Slovenia is heading towards more holistic and inter-sectoral youth policy.

The public authority responsible for the field of youth and realisation of the public interest in the youth sector at the national level is the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth. It is an independent body within the Ministry for Education, Science and Sport since 1991. The responsibilities of the Office for Youth are specified in more details in the Act on the Public Interest in the Youth Sector (ZJIMS) adopted in 2010. The Act also defines some terms, such as youth policy and youth work. It is the first law which systematically regulates the youth sector and also serves as a basis for the adoption of the National Programme for Youth as the key strategic document comprehensively specifying the development of public policies intended for youth until 2022.

The Office for Youth prepares regulations and measures for the youth sector. It promotes non-formal learning processes to increase competences of youth in their transition from childhood to adulthood. It develops suitable mechanisms for supporting youth organisations and organisations for youth which are of key importance to promoting active youth participation.

In 2009, the Slovenian Government established the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth, a consultative body that proposes measures and monitors the consideration of youth interests in various public policies at the national level. The Council gives the Government and the responsible ministries incentives and suggestions for the regulation of youth matters and, in particular, promotes youth participation in these processes. The Council which comprises representatives of youth organisations and various ministries on an equal basis is chaired by the Minister of Education and Sport.

The Office for Youth in cooperation with other public authorities and local communities, monitors the situation of youth and the effects of measures targeting youth in order to ensure their needs and interest are considered well in policy-making.

1.2. Principles of national youth policy

Act on Public Interest in Youth Sector is based on the principles of democracy, plurality, integrity, intergenerational solidarity, equality, non-discrimination and justice, multiculturalism, intercultural dialogue, volunteering, promoting a healthy lifestyle, respecting life and the environment, and the participation of non-governmental organisations in the management of public affairs.

Youth policy (in accordance with the Act on Public Interest in Youth Sector) is a harmonised set of measures of various sectoral public policies with the purpose of promoting and facilitating the integration of youth in the economic, cultural and political life of the community and appropriate support mechanisms for developing youth work and operation of youth organisations, which is carried out in cooperation with autonomous and democratic representatives of youth organisations, as well as professional and other organisations.

Youth (as defined in Act on Public Interest in Youth Sector) are young people and young adults of both genders aged between 15 and 29.

Act on Public Interest in Youth Sector defines organisation in youth sector as a subject which operates in the youth sector and is organised as a youth organisation or an organisation for the youth or a youth council.

Youth organisation is an autonomous, democratic, voluntary and independent association of youth, which enables the youth to gain planned learning experience, form and express their viewpoints and implement their activities in accordance with their interest, cultural, principle or political orientation, and is organised as an independent legal entity, namely as a society or an association of societies or as an integral part of another legal entity, namely a society, an association of societies, a trade union or a political party providing that the autonomy of operation in the youth sector has been ensured by the basic act of this legal entity.

Organisation for youth is a legal entity which implements the youth programme, but is not a youth organisation, and is organised as an institute, an institution or a cooperative.

2. Statistics on young people

Mention the number of all young people from the ages of 15 and 29 who live in the country

Age 15-29: 327.326

Total population: 2.064.188

Number and Percentage of young people in global population: 15,7 %

Number and Percentage of young people by gender in global population: Male: 168.989 (8,2%); Female: 158.337 (7,7 %).

Web-site (Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia):

http://pxweb.stat.si/pxweb/Dialog/varval.asp?ma=05C2002S&ti=&path=../Database/Dem_soc/05_p_rebivalstvo/10_stevilo_preb/10_05C20_prebivalstvo_stat_regije/&lang=2. Accessed: May 2016.

The number of young people in Slovenia is rapidly decreasing. In the last decade this number was reduced by 11 percent, and in the coming decade we can expect a further 20-percent reduction. According to estimates, the number of elderly (65+) per one young person is expected to triple by 2050. These demographic changes imply that in terms of long-term stability and development of Slovenian society the importance of full social inclusion and activation of the potential of every young person is now greater than ever before.

It is well known that in late modern societies the transition of young people into adulthood is highly individualised and unpredictable. Growing up, which in the past was mostly standardised and predictable, has become an individual project and every individual must assume responsibility for it. According to the data from Youth 2010 survey, this is revealed on the level of values, where the only major shift is one towards greater individuality and competitiveness. Our quantitative and qualitative data also show that present-day young people in Slovenia are well aware of their responsibility for their “chosen path” and consequently know how to adapt.

However, this does not imply that in order to establish the conditions for a successful transition of the young to adulthood the role of the state or wider society is unimportant. Certain trends reveal interesting peculiarities in Slovenia, many of which are not conducive to the successful transition of young people to the labour market, independent life and formation of their own families.

The share of young people included in the education system has been growing much faster in Slovenia compared to the EU-27 average. Regarding secondary school, we can conclude that

young people have good feelings about it, and the share of dropouts is the lowest in the EU-27 countries. The higher-education system seems equally friendly towards the young. This, among other things, can be concluded on the basis of data showing that in Slovenia, in 2008 the share of higher-education students aged between 20 and 24 was by far the highest in EU-27. This increase in the number of students coincides with a decrease in the proportion of GDP allocated to tertiary education, which raises doubts about the substantive quality of this type of education. Whereas young people like the inclusiveness and friendliness of the education system, they express considerable dissatisfaction with the poor connection between the education system and the needs of the labour market.

Furthermore, our data also show that, on average, young people feel very good in their families of origin. Certain studies reveal that Slovenian adolescents have the best relations with their parents in EU-27.

However, the situation in the labour market, as compared to other European countries, is highly unpredictable. Among the EU-27 countries Slovenia has the largest share of temporarily employed young persons (aged 15–24). The share of regularly employed young people has dropped significantly in the last decade. In 2000, approximately 60 percent of young people aged 29 had a steady job, but in 2010 this percentage dropped to 48. The share of those young people who see themselves as unemployed has also increased during the same period. What is particularly disturbing is the rapid growth in the share of unemployed graduates. If in 2000 a tertiary level of education reduced the possibility of unemployment more than twofold, this advantage had almost totally disappeared by 2010.

The situation of the young in Slovenia is therefore defined primarily by the combination of considerable family support and prolonged inclusion in the (relatively socially-oriented and friendly) education system on the one hand, and the extremely uncertain labour market conditions on the other.

In such circumstances it is therefore not surprising that young people in Slovenia are among the last to leave home in EU-27. According to our data, this is further stimulated by the relatively favourable conditions of living with the parents (who mostly own houses), and unwillingness of the young (and their parents) to assume the risk of poverty in the early stages of managing their own household.

Here we need to stress the importance of young people gaining independence for the birth-rate in Slovenia. By 29 years of age, 50 percent of the young people managing their own households have at least one child, while this percentage of young people living with their parents is as low as 15 percent.

Given these statistics we can therefore conclude that the social frameworks (including the prevailing cultural patterns) in Slovenia make it harder for the young to reach the key thresholds of adulthood, such as steady employment, leaving home and starting their own family. Qualitative research also revealed that the young experience the situation they found themselves in as rather unfavourable and hard, particularly in comparison with the conditions in which previous generations were growing up.

It should therefore come as no surprise that young people's opinion of the political elites has considerably deteriorated in the last decade, and was distinctly negative in 2010. Young people feel they have very little political influence, and in comparison with the EU-27 average tend to be much less interested or involved in politics. On the other hand we observed in them a strengthened potential for protests and participation in individualised forms of political participation, particularly those related to information technology. In a wider sense, it would be hard to speak of a general disinterest of young people in political matters. Still, the trust level in the existing political structures seems to be extremely low.

Another factor that disproves political apathy in young people is the conclusion that young Slovenians are becoming increasingly involved in volunteer work, and are, in this respect, considerably more active than young people in Germany, for instance. In the last fifteen years students have also become more willing to participate in voluntary drives aimed at improving the situation of the young. Our qualitative data reveal a high level of youth involvement in family, the environment, the virtual world and other areas of interest for the young.

In the last decade there has been a steep increase in computer usage in free time. As much as 82 percent of young people in Slovenia use the internet daily, which is well above the EU-15 and EU-27 average. Compared to the year 2000, in 2010, young people dedicated considerably more time to sports and cultural-artistic expression.

Despite the time lag, insecurity and problems related to achieving adulthood, young people in Slovenia remain just as (highly) optimistic regarding their personal future as they were fifteen years ago. There also seems to be no deepening pessimism among the young regarding the future of our society. However, there is an increasing feeling of anxiety related to lack of money, housing problems and employment insecurity. And these are the key problems related to the situation of young people in Slovenia, which is also confirmed by other studies.

3. Actors and Structures

3.1 Public authorities

3.1.1 National public authorities:

Ministry in charge of youth: Ministry of Education, Science and Sports

Minister: Maja Makovec Brenčič, Phd

Duration of mandate: 2014-2018

Youth Department in the Ministry: Office for Youth

Main tasks of the Office for Youth:

- prepare the regulations and measures in the field of the youth sector;
- provide financial support to youth programmes and programmes for youth;
- provide for and execute supervision for the implementation of regulations and measures in the youth sector;
- monitor the situation of youth and the impact of measures in the youth sector;
- cooperate with the responsible bodies and other subjects in the youth sector;
- participate in representing the State in the bodies of the European Union and the Council of Europe and at an international level in the matter relating to youth, and
- perform other tasks in accordance with the law.

Number of people who work in this ministry in the youth department: 10

Director responsible for Youth in the Ministry: Peter Debeljak peter.debeljak@gov.si

Contact person in the youth department competent for European youth policy: Barbara Zupan, Barbarazupan@gov.si

Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies:

Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth as a consulting body.

The Council, *inter alia*, monitors and assesses the situation of young people in Slovenia, proposes measures, discusses and provides its opinion on law and other regulation proposals relating to young people, and promotes youth participation in decision-making. It facilitates an enhanced flow of information, better and timely provision of information to key youth sector actors and raises the decision-makers' awareness of youth-related problems.

Other Ministries that are involved in the implementation of the National programme for youth:

Ministry of Education, Science and Sport

Ministry of Culture

Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs,

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Finance

Ministry of Economic Development and Technology

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food

Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning

Ministry of Defense

Ministry of the Interior

Ministry of Public Administration

Ministry of Infrastructure

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ministry of Justice.

Parliament commission in charge of youth issues:

Committee for Education, Science, Sport and Youth

Name of president / chair of the subcommittee: Mirjam Bon Klajnšček

Role and competence:

The Committee discusses legislation proposal and other issues related to:

- Pre-school,
- Primary, secondary and higher education,
- Higher education,
- Adult education
- Science and research,
- Information society
- Electronic communications
- Sport
- Youth and its role and position in society,
- Promotion of active citizenship among young people and questions related to sustainable and stable financing of youth policy;
- Other issues addressed by the relevant ministry in this area.

3.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field

There is no regional public structure.

3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field

The role of local communities in Slovenia varies and also depends on the size of respective local community.

The municipality of Ljubljana, the capital, has a structure within city administration (youth department) that implements public tenders (for youth programmes, projects, information network, international activities), youth research, networking NGO in youth sector, information network for young people, educational programmes and trainings for youth workers, empowerment of youth NGO structures.

Smaller communities cooperate closely with youth centres that take over part of the tasks that local community should provide. Since most of the local communities do not have a youth office the cooperation with local authorities and youth centres is of essential importance.

The Association of Local Communities of Slovenia is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation that includes most of the Slovene local communities. It cooperates actively with the EU Committee of the Regions.

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

Structure and major organisations of (voluntary) social welfare and social services for young people

Please explain the structure of youth welfare services in your country and mention the major implementing institutions.

In the Republic of Slovenia, social security is defined as an individual's right to be insured against the following contingencies: illness, unemployment, old age, injury at work, disability, maternity, maintenance of children and benefits to family members after the person who provided for the subsistence dies, and rights regulated by the Social Assistance Act. Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, the state must regulate compulsory health, pension, disability and other social insurance, and ensure its proper functioning. At the same time, it must protect the family, motherhood, fatherhood, children and young people and create the necessary conditions for such protection.

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted two national strategies that also cover the field of social policy and social services for young people. In 2006, the Programme for Children and Youth 2006-2016 was adopted and it aims to provide, particularly in the field of social policy, more effective implementation of children's rights and better efficiency in supporting and helping children and their families; to ensure a quality life to children and youth within the framework of the primary social network; to reduce poverty and the social exclusion of children and families; to ensure sufficient welfare benefits to the most vulnerable groups of children and youth; to ensure measures to reduce the drop-out in secondary schools and to increase the number of available positions in all education programmes and to improve the inclusiveness of the unemployed youth in vocational and education program, which are also basic guidelines for ensuring social inclusion of children and their families.

In 2013, the National Programme for Youth was adopted and it is largely based on inter-ministerial cooperation and a holistic approach. The programme addresses the poverty reduction and social inclusion of young people in several policy areas, including employment and the labour market, education, housing and health. Main principles of the National program for Youth:

- To provide better opportunities for young people in education and training, both formal and informal,
- To develop employment policy which will ensure economic and social security as well as autonomy of young people;
- To ensure the participation of young people and influence on decision-making for policies affecting them,
- To ensure equal opportunities between men and women and the prevention of discrimination,
- To prevent risk factors that cause poverty and social exclusion of young people,

- To follow the principles of sustainable development,
- To follow the principle of intergenerational cooperation and ensure greater solidarity between generations,
- To pay special attention to the health and welfare of young people and health inequalities,
- To provide young people with a safe start of their careers.

In Slovenia the implementation of various services is being transferred from the public to the private sector. Some of these services can be carried out by non-governmental organisations, which often provide certain necessary services; after identifying the public interest in the service, the government provides subsidies. This is particularly effective and successful in the sphere of social welfare, where user-friendly projects of high quality are implemented.

The major implementing institutions:

Crises centres for Youth

Crisis centres for youth are offering young people, in addition to other forms of assistance, shelter and care (for a maximum of three weeks, with the possibility of extension). Centres have been in operation since 1995 in all statistical regions of Slovenia (12). These centres are organisational units within the social work centres. They are dedicated to the care of children and adolescents who are deprived of a normal family life, and provide them with the possibility of short-term accommodation. The legal framework for their operation is provided by the Social Assistance Act. Professional staff at the centres is mandated by the social work centres to perform public authority tasks on the regional level. The centres provide professional services on a 24-hour basis throughout the year. Accommodation and subsistence at the centre is free and can last, as a rule, up to 21 days. Smooth operation of the centre is ensured by five professional staff members (four professional staff and a head), as well as participants in the public works programme and volunteers, who have to meet the prerequisites set by the Social Assistance Act and the Rules on standards and norms for social assistance services.

The centres also provide professional intervention services outside their regular working hours. Moreover, the project entitled "We grownups are here to help you" running under the auspices of the Crises Centres for Youth, includes a toll-free hotline.

The centres operate on the basis of an annual contract concluded between the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and the competent social work centre. An annual budget of approximately EUR 1.2 million is available for their operation.

Youth Home Jarše

Youth Home Jarše (Mladinski Dom Jarše) is designed for children and adolescents who, for various reasons, temporarily do not live with their parents or guardians. Under the aegis of Youth Home Jarše three educational programmes are carried out: elementary school with adjusted programme implementation, production school, and four residential groups. Residential groups are available for youth who are experiencing long-standing conflicts with parents which usually result from inadequate parental approaches and may be manifested in their worst forms as neglect, abuse, and overindulging.

Residential group placement allows youngsters to improve their living conditions, get help at regular schooling and with all other important matters. Educators or the group also offer simple, but important, support and mentoring or counselling. Placement decision depends upon the competent Centre for Social Work but the youngster has to agree to the placement and the working methods. Youngsters who stay in the residential group attend mainstream educational programmes in Ljubljana or they do occasional work. Besides attending school, they have to do daily chores, take care for their own nutrition, and they have to attend weekly meetings. The residential group serves up to 9 youngsters between the ages of 15 to 19. Four professionals offer 24-hour care.

Youth Home Jarše operates on the basis of an annual contract with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Web-site: <http://www.mdj.si/>

Centre for information and career guidance

Within the Employment Service of Slovenia is the Centre for Information and Career (vocational) Guidance (Center za informiranje in poklicno svetovanje – CIPS; link: <http://www.ess.gov.si/ncips/cips>) which is designed for young people and all others who are planning their educational or employment career and need the right information for their decision-making. Pupils, students and young adults – early school leavers are entitled to counselling services in the CIP. Responsible Authority is the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs.

Project learning for young adults – PLYA

PLYA is an officially recognized programme of non-formal education intended for the unemployed aged from 15 to 25 years who do not have any occupational qualifications or competences and face social vacuum due to a lack of support and help from their surroundings.

The underlying purpose of the programme is to help early school drop-outs without occupational qualifications to overcome social exclusion in which they find themselves and encourage them to re-enter and complete the educational process, thus, acquiring occupational qualifications or the targeted level of education. The programme further caters the needs of the young by equipping them with skills and competences indispensable for job seeking and entry into the labour market.

The main objectives of the programme are personal growth, general education and formation of occupational, social and cultural identity. The programme aims at activating the young by delivering as many possibilities, pathways, methods and people as possible to help them overcome social exclusion and enhance social integration. While searching for the best solutions for each individual, the PLYA programme promotes inter-sectoral action of various institutions and stimulates the young to get in touch with like-minded and to self-help. The programme is designed to help the young to enter into the social life in a creative and active manner, become able to efficiently carry out the “job hunting” task, identify their employment opportunities and present their know-how, skills and personal traits competitively and with the needed self-confidence. The educational process is carried out in interaction with the local environment. The PLYA programme does not deliver school subjects and classical school lessons, the mentors are there to help the young with the learning that takes place in the scope of the projects. The participants are active at all stages – from selecting to carrying out and, last but not least, giving final evaluations of the project. Thanks to its openness and direct learning in/for/with the environment, the programme possesses outstanding social-integration value that in fact constitutes the basic need of the young taking part in the programme.

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

3.3.1 Youth Councils

Mladinski svet Slovenije – The National Youth Council of Slovenia (www.mss.si), Mr. Tin Kampl, the president of the National Youth Council

The National Youth Council of Slovenia is a voluntary association of national youth organisations with the status of an organisation in the public interest in the youth sector in accordance with the Act regulating the Public Interest in the Youth Sector. There are 11 members included in the National Youth Council (May 2016).

The National Youth Council of Slovenia and the local community youth councils are legal persons governed by private law with the rights, obligations and responsibilities determined by law and the basic act.

In accordance with the Youth Council Act, the National Youth Council of Slovenia and the local community youth councils shall:

- implement or participate in the implementation of youth work and other activities in the field of the youth sector in accordance with the act regulating the public interest in the youth sector;
- provide for the conditions for the operation and development of forms of interest for the association of young people;
- provide for the participation of young people in adopting statutory and other regulations having an impact on the life and work of young people;
- perform other tasks for promoting the interests of young people defined by the basic act.

The local community youth council unites youth organisations defined in the act regulating the public interest in the youth sector with at least 90 percent of members aged up to 29 years and 70 percent of members of the management aged between 15 and 29 years.

3.3.2 Youth NGOs

The Youth Network MaMa combines and represents organizations that run youth centres or are active in the field of youth work in Slovenia in order to support the youth, their spending of quality free time and a better life in the society. With its activities the Youth Network MaMa stimulates and promotes creative activities of the youth and emphasizes the principles of tolerance, cooperation and at the same time social awareness among its members and the wider public.

Web-site: <http://www.mreza-mama.si/>

Institute NEFIKS is a Youth organisation that promotes the values of volunteering and non-formal education in Slovenia by motivating young people to get education in different areas and persuading employers to consider non-formal education as a reference when getting a job. In addition, NEFIKS with its workshops, stakeholder meetings, public promotion and a system of peer advising for lifelong career orientation delivered by NEFIKS tutors or peer advisors, widely opens the door for professional and social inclusion of young people, especially those "left behind". NEFIKS also carries out projects for building strong relationships between learners, entrepreneurs and agencies. Through its tools - booklet and e-Nefiks - the organisation helps young people record and recognise their non-formally acquired competences in order to show them in real life to

employers. E-Nefiks has integrated the 8 key competences, as defined by the EC and that young people can assess.

Web-site: <http://www.talentiran.si/index.php/component/content/category/51-nefiks-in-english>

MOBIN, youth mobility and information institute, is a non-governmental non-profit organization, which manages the European Youth Card Programme in Slovenia named EjiKArtica (previously called EURO<26). Until June 2010, the European Youth Card Programme was an independent part of the MOVIT institute. MOBIN, youth mobility and information institute, is a fulltime member of the European Youth Card Association (EYCA).

Web-site: http://ejkartica.si/en/about_us/

Youth Information and Counselling Centre of Slovenia (MISSS) is non-governmental non-profit organization, working as national youth information and counselling service, thus collaborating with 16 regional and local youth information and counselling centres throughout Slovenia which are mainly part of the local youth centre. The local YIC, applying the European standards and principles of generalist youth information work, disseminate information in their local space and provide counselling in choosing the right information.

Web-site: <http://www.misss.si/>

The Social Academy encourages the social responsibility of Slovene citizens by engaging in education, research and cultural activities. The organization Social Academy relies on three foundations: education, research and culture. The main activities: Social academy studies, different types of education, cultural and educational evenings, production of various publications, cultural events and international activities.

Web-site: <http://www.socialna-akademija.si/>

Voluntariat - SCI Slovenia is a non-profit and non-governmental organisation which co-ordinates voluntary work and international work camps in Slovenia. Voluntariat organises training for volunteers and other people in order to spread an understanding of the ideals of voluntary work; organises voluntary work in Slovenia together with local groups, associations and other organisations which work in the area of nature conservation, peace education, help to disadvantaged etc., when and where is needed; supports the initiatives of groups and individuals

who are working voluntarily to show the solidarity with local communities and to promote self-help within disadvantaged communities; analyses and evaluates all work it supports, taking into account both the local and wider context in which it is carried out, and publishes the result of its projects; offers and spreads information about voluntary work in Slovenia and other countries; joins international actions which promote co-operation between people of different nations, religions, cultures and political beliefs, convinced that such understanding of others can lead to non-violent resolutions to conflicts.

Web site: <http://www.zavod-voluntariat.si>

Slovene Philanthropy is a humanitarian organization operating in public interest since 1992. Their programs are aimed at increasing the quality of life in the community and advocacy for the socially weak. The central activity of Slovene Philanthropy is the promotion of volunteering.

Web-site: <http://www.filantropija.org/en/>

Society of allies for soft landing is a youth NGO active in the areas of youth culture, non-formal education, contemporary art, social and humanitarian acts. In the last period they have been giving special attention to projects in the field of media education, film, video and multimedia. They implement different activities on local, national, and international level with the aim to stimulate active participation of young people through different forms of media.

Web-site: <http://www.luksuz.si/eng/>

Slovenian Student Union (SSU) is the main organization of all students in Slovenia and represents the interests of more than 100.000 students of Slovenian universities, colleges, high schools and also vocational and higher education institutions abroad. SSU is the umbrella organization comprising student organizations of Universities of Ljubljana, Maribor, Primorska and Student clubs association of Slovenia, who gathers 52 student clubs from all around Slovenia. SSU's main concern is to enhance student conditions and possibilities for study, social issues and the development of extracurricular and curricular activities pursue students' interests in their own university and local. SSU cooperates actively in forming national politics and programs concerning

higher education, scholarships, student residence, student work, health care and the employment of young graduates. About all issues concerning students, SSU communicates with the Government through the Government Council for Student Affairs and the working groups.

Web-site: <http://www.studentska-org.si/en>

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

There are no such networks in Slovenia, 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 Centre for social psychology in the Faculty of Social Science, which provided the necessary financial support for research on youth. In the period 2009-2011 a contract with the Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia was signed with an aim to promote evidence-based youth policy. In 2009, Office for Youth has appointed Faculty of arts in Maribor for carrying out extensive research on the socio-economic situation of young people in Slovenia.

The National Youth programme envisaged the development of youth indicators and of a Youth Observatory.

4. Legislation

- Act on Public Interest in Youth Sector
- Youth Council Act

The following acts also have indirect impact:

- Associations Act Student Community Act
- Social Security Act
- Local Self-Government Act, which is general local legislation. There is nothing particular on youth besides a decree on setting up a public institution Youth Centre.

Articles of the constitution concerning youth explicitly

Second chapter HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS:

-Article 52 (Rights of Disabled Persons): Children with physical or mental disability and other severely disabled persons have the right to education and training for an active life in society.

-Article 53 (Marriage and the Family): The state shall protect the family, motherhood, fatherhood, children and young people and shall create the necessary conditions for such protection.

-Article 54 (Rights and Duties of Parents): Parents have the right and duty to maintain, educate and raise their children. This right and duty may be revoked or restricted only for such reasons as are provided by law in order to protect the child's interests. Children born out of wedlock have the same rights as children born within it.

-Article 56 (Rights of Children): Children shall enjoy special protection and care. Children shall enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms consistent with their age and maturity. Children shall be guaranteed special protection from economic, social, physical, mental or other exploitation and abuse. Such protection shall be regulated by law. Children and minors who are not cared for by their parents, who have no parents or who are without proper family care shall enjoy the special protection of the state. Their position shall be regulated by law.

Regional and local legislation on youth

/

5. National Policy Programmes on youth

The National Programme for Youth adopted in 2013 for the period 2013-2022 defines the scope, objectives and priorities in the field of education, employment and entrepreneurship, housing, health and wellbeing, the social position of youth, the development of the youth sector, culture and creativity, heritage, media. It also defines key challenges and a method for monitoring of its implementations.

Main principles of the National Program for Youth:

- To provide better opportunities for young people in education and training, both formal and informal,
- To develop employment policy that will ensure economic and social security and the autonomy of young people;
- To ensure the participation of young people and influence on decision-making for policies affecting them;
- To ensure equal opportunities between men and women and the prevention of discrimination,
- To prevent risk factors that cause poverty and social exclusion of young people,
- To follow the principles of sustainable development,
- To follow the principle of intergenerational cooperation and ensure greater solidarity between generations.
- To pay special attention to the health and welfare of young people and health inequalities,
- To provide young people with a safe start of their careers.

The National Programme for Youth is based on a study on the position of young people in Slovenia which was 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

Action plans are prepared for the period of one or two years.

6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth

National level

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Budget of the Office for Youth	2,340.265	2,268.470	2,269.339	2,351.352	2,323.769
European Social Fund (ESF) at the Ministry for Education and Sport			535.579	254.692	1,000.000

1,2 mln EUR have been granted for youth work programmes and youth organisations in 2015. Additional funds are provided for the National Youth Council.

Regional level

/

7. European Dimension of youth policy

7.1 Council of Europe.

The Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth disseminates the information on the Council of Europe programmes in the field of youth to relevant organisations.

Does your country contribute to the European Youth Foundation?

Yes.

7.2 European Union.

7.2.1 Implementation of the Erasmus+ Youth in Action Programme

Erasmus+ Youth in Action Programme is implemented by National Agency Institute MOVIT.

Erasmus+: Youth in Action program is a strong instrument of youth policy in Slovenia and has a very strong influence and position in the development of youth policy, especially on local level.

There are numerous good practices of Erasmus+ projects influencing the local communities to set up a fund for youth activities to ensure their follow up.

Web-site: <http://www.mva.si/>; <http://www.eurodesk.si/>

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

The national programme for youth is to a large extent in accordance with the EU Youth strategy.

8. Further sources of information on youth policy in Slovenia

Web-site of the Office for Youth: <http://www.ursm.gov.si/>

Web-site of the National Agency for Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme: <http://www.mva.si>