

# The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

Key priorities for youth policies answers on  
**Country information on youth policies**



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 on young people**

#### **1.1 Total number of young people in global population**

2285981 *young persons*

#### **1.2 Percentage of young people in global population**

42.52 %

#### **1.3 Percentage of young people by age brackets**

13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
4.28 %	4.53 %	4.90 %	5.03 %	5.26 %	5.22 %

#### **1.4 Percentage of young people by gender**

Male	Female
21.98 %	21.04 %

#### **1.4.1 Percentage of young people by gender and by age brackets**

	13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
Female	2.09 %	2.22 %	2.38 %	2.46 %	2.59 %	2.56 %
Male	2.19 %	2.31 %	2.50 %	2.57 %	2.67 %	2.66 %

#### **1.5 Percentage of rural young people in global population**

19.70 %

#### **1.5.1 Percentage of rural young people in rural population**

44.31 %

#### **1.6 Percentage of urban young people in global population**

23.96 %

#### **1.6.1 Percentage of urban young people in urban population**

43.14 %

#### **1.7 Percentage of young people with a different nationality in global population**

N/I %

**1.8 Number of people working in the youth field (employees and volunteers)**  
16083 *persons*

## 2 Actors and structures

### 2.1 National public authorities

#### 2.1.1 Ministry in charge of youth

Name of ministry

Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic

Name of minister

László Szigeti

Duration of mandate

4.3 *months*

Number of people working in the ministry working on youth

5 *persons*

Contact person in the youth department

Ján Šípoš, jan.sipos@minedu.sk

Function, role and competence of youth department

The Department of Children and Youth at the Ministry of Education - coordinates activities of the central government regarding 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-organisational support to the activities of the Government Council for Children and Youth and support regarding the content - proposes research direction in the field of children and youth, gives suggestions for further development of the analysis and implementation of the scientific researches and best practices into practice - 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 YOUTH Community 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 organizations and co-operates with these associations and other institutions providing services to children and youth.

#### 2.1.2 Other public or semi public bodies

1.The Regional School Authority has the task to regulate state administration and self-administration in education. 2.Institute of Information and Prognosis in Education (UIPS)



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provides solutions for the sectional information system, elaborates educational statistics and is among others a conceptual centre in the field of life-time education, youth care, sport and prevention of drug addiction in the education sector. 3. National Sports Centre (NSC) is among others responsible for the provision and development of educational, research, diagnostic, information, technical and methodological activities required to support sporting and the preparation and implementation of an integrated educational system in the field of sports. 4. Juventa ensures implementation of national policy towards children and youth on the national level. It develops and verifies specialized concepts of child and youth work. It provides supervision over subjects involved in the field of youth work and ensures education and training of their personnel, volunteers and members. 5. The Research Institute of Child Psychology and Pathopsychology (VUDPaP) is the only scientific and research institution in the Slovak Republic specialized in psychical development of children and young people. 6. Other state departments and bodies, especially by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (in the field of substitute family care, children's care homes, assistance in the field of labour, professional preparation and social integration of young people), Ministry of Construction and Regional Development (tenements for young families, promotion of favourable loans provided by the National Housing Development Fund), Ministry of Culture (medial education), Ministry of Health (health education, health conditions of young people), Ministry of Economy (promotion of young entrepreneurs) and Ministry of Environment (environmental education.)

### **2.1.3 Parliament commission in charge of youth issues**

Committee of the Slovak National Council (national parliament) for Education, Science, Sport and Youth, Culture and Media Chairman: DEVÍNSKY Ferdinand (Slovak Democratic and Christian Union, SDKU) The core Committee's activities include supervision of implementation of the Program Statement of the Slovak Government in the field of education, science, research and media, youth care and sport. Fulfilment of tasks resulting for the national parliament committees from the parliament's Standing Order is the basic and first-rate task of the Committee. Its activities also include an important collaboration with experts, especially promotion and implementation of their proposals and incentives and execution of parliamentary representative's investigation in the field covered by the Committee's competence. (The Committee has been established upon the Order of the Slovak National Council No. 15.)

### **2.1.4 Other national public authorities**

1. Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family - in the field of substitute family care, children's care homes, assistance in the field of labour, professional preparation and social integration of young people 2. Ministry of Culture - medial education 3. Ministry of Health - health education, health conditions of young people

## **2.2 Regional and/or local public authorities**

### **2.2.1 Regional public structures with competencies in the youth field**



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Self-governed regions - are responsible for administration of schools and school-related facilities on the secondary school level. The child and youth related issues are predominantly dealt with by their educational departments established within particular self-governed regions. Executing their regional self-government powers within state administration of schools, these departments also cooperate with civil associations and other legal entities dealing with leisure and sporting activities of children and youth.

### **2.2.2 Local public structures with competencies in the youth field**

At the local level, the youth policy is implemented especially by particular municipalities representing independent self-governed territorial and administrative units of the Slovak Republic. They cover people with permanent residence within the municipal territory including children and youth. The main self-government related tasks of any municipality include care for comprehensive development of the territory responding to needs of inhabitants living within the municipality concerned. Municipalities execute state administration of schools and other school-related facilities at the local level as set by the act regulating state administration and self-administration in education and amending certain other acts. Using its transferred execution powers with respect to state administration of schools, municipalities promote or close elementary schools within the respective network of schools. Self-government powers of any municipality include promotion or closure of the following schools and school-related facilities (within the network concerned): elementary art schools, kindergartens, school children's clubs, school leisure centres, leisure centres, catering facilities serving elementary school pupils and children in kindergartens, language schools functioning at elementary schools and school service centres. Municipalities establish local educational authorities working at municipal level in order to ensure execution of state administration of schools.

## **2.3 Non public actors/structures - compulsory consultation**

### **2.3.1 Names of bodies that must be consulted in the youth field**

The National Youth Council (NYC): Youth Council of Slovakia - is an independent national umbrella organization covering a variety of child and youth civil associations. It represents the most important platform of the non-governmental non-for-profit organizations representing children and youth within the Slovak Republic. Its activities especially include: - affecting the national policy, pursuant to national legislation so as to establish the environment favourable for comprehensive, free and democratic development of children and young people, enforcing of their justified interests and participating in the elaboration of national youth policy; - contribution to establishing conditions favourable for the activities of child and youth organizations and coordinated enforcement of their common interests, - active collaboration with partner organizations abroad, foreign governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions acting in favour of children and youth, - cooperation with national institutions and civil associations active in the sphere of interest and providing counselling, methodological and information services to their member organizations, - contribution to creation of financial reserves available for child and youth organizations.



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## 2.4 Non public actors/structures - non-compulsory consultation

### 2.4.1 Names of bodies that can be consulted in the youth field

Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia # Section of Education, Youth and Sport - deals among others with the following tasks: - formulates its opinion with respect to bills and other draft documents under the commenting procedure; - prepares proposals for changes in legislation required from the point of view of towns and municipalities and participates, - participates in expert discussion with representatives of central state administration bodies and with other national and foreign experts within preparation of conceptual intents concerning towns and municipalities.

### 2.4.2 National and regional youth councils

1. Youth Council of Slovakia (Rada mladeze Slovenska) -www.mladez.sk 2. The Regional Youth Council of the Banska Bystrica Region (Rada mladeze Banskobystrickeho kraja) 3. The Regional Youth Council of the Bratislava Region (Rada mladeze Bratislavskeho kraja) 4. The Regional Youth Council of the Kosice Region (Rada mladeze Kosickeho kraja) 5. The Regional Youth Council of the Nitra Region (Rada mladeze Nitrianskeho kraja) 6. The Regional Youth Council of the Presov Region (Rada mladeze Presovskeho kraja) 7. The Regional Youth Council of the Trencin Region (Rada mladeze Trencianskeho kraja) 8. The Regional Youth Council of the Trnava Region (Rada mladeze Trnavskeho kraja) 9. The Regional Youth Council of the Zilina Region (Rada mladeze Zilinskeho kraja)

### 2.4.3 Large youth NGOs

- Slovak scouting - DOMKA (Association of Salesian youth) - eRKO (Movement of Christian children's associations) - Association of Christian Youth Communities - AMAVET (Association for Youth, Science and Technology) - Children's organization Fénix - Strom #ivota (Tree of Life) - Úsmev ako dar (Smile as a present) - Society of friends of children from children's care homes - Laura, youth association - Association of Evangelic Youth - Union of Scouts of Hungarian Nationality - Ideal Youth Activity - YMCA in Slovakia - Pathfinder Club - Union of Handicapped Youth - INEX Slovakia, Association for international youth exchange stays and tourism - Forever Young - Rainbow, civil association - Child Mission in Slovakia - Gemini - Young Social Democrats - Civil and Democratic youth - Frigo children's organization - Effeta centre of the St. Francis Salecky - AIESEC Slovakia - Step by Step, civil association - DUB (Oak) centre of environmental education - Ypsilon, association of children and youth

### 2.4.4 Expert groups, round tables, consulting groups in the youth field

Regional expert groups of the Hour for Children initiative working at the Foundation for Children of Slovakia consist of experts dealing with child and youth issues within the region concerned in a long-term horizon. Each regional expert group submits expert opinions to an advisory committee relating to the selection of projects for the region concerned (in 2005 resources were used to support 149 projects in the total amount of 9 million SKK).



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### 2.4.5 Contacts of permanent networks in the youth field

1. Association of the Information and Counselling Youth Centres in the Slovak Republic - [www.zipcem.sk](http://www.zipcem.sk) 2. Association of the Leisure Time Centres - Komenskeho 12, 975 19 Banska Bystrica

### 2.4.6 Other non public actors/structures

N/I

## 3 Legislation

### 3.1 Constitution (articles that concern youth)

The Constitution No. 462/1992 Coll. passed by the Slovak National Council. The Constitution of the Slovak Republic. Youth is primarily covered by provisions of Chapter Two of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic setting basic rights and freedoms. In Article 14 ability to rights is determined as applicable to every person, this means that human life is worthy of having rights even at foetus level prior to birth. Women, minors, and disabled persons shall enjoy more extensive health protection and special working conditions as guaranteed in Article 38. Minors and disabled persons shall enjoy special protection in employment relations and special assistance in occupational training. Children and minor are granted special protection in Article 41. This protection is interconnected with legal protection of matrimony, parentage and family. Pregnant woman is entitled to special treatment, terms of employment, and working conditions. 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. Parents taking care of their children have the right to assistance provided by the State. A special right granted especially to children and youth is the right to education. Every person has the right to education in conformity with the Constitution of the Slovak Republic. The purpose of this right is to provide every person with education regardless of nationality of a physical person that is worthy of having this right. Achievement of purpose of the right to education is secured by definition of constitutional duty of school attendance which is compulsory for each authorized person before they reach age set by law (Article 42).

### 3.2 Application and transposition of the United Nations Declaration of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms

The General Declaration of Human Rights adopted on December 10, 1948 represents a core document, which principles are reflected in the national legislative, in the Constitutional Act No. 23/1991 Coll. introducing the Declaration of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms, and the Constitution of the Slovak Republic No. 460/1992 Coll. as subsequently amended. The Action Plan to Prevent all Forms of Discrimination, Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance for 2004 # 2005 dealing with implementation of antidiscrimination laws, bribery,



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position of migrants and asylum-seekers in compliance with EU requirements was adopted in May 2004. The National Plan of Action for Human Rights Education 2005 # 2014 provided an incentive for establishment of the National Commission for Human Rights Education on cross-sectional level and of the system of monitoring of the scope and quality of human rights education. The National Plan of Action regarding the inclusion of Roma population adopted for the period of 2005 # 2015 aims to accelerate social inclusion of Roma population focused on education, employment, health and housing sphere as well as poverty, discrimination and gender equality. The national coordinator was appointed to coordinate the fight against trading of humans and crime prevention. Also, the Expert Group was established for the prevention of trading of people and assistance to the victims of such trade. They worked out the National Plan of Action for the Fight against Trading of People 2006-2007. In 2005 the National Plan of Action for Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women 2005 # 2008 aimed at implementing the adequate and effective procedures enabling prevention and elimination of violence against women came to life. In 2005 the Expert Group for Prevention and Elimination of Violence against Women started working again. The National Plan of Action for Social Inclusion 2004-2006 aims to increase employment and prevent exclusion risks.

### 3.3 Application and transposition of the European Convention on Childrens Rights

The Slovak Republic became the party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1993. On May 25, 2005 the act regulating social and legal protection of children and social curatorship was adopted. It aims to prevent the occurrence of critical conditions in families, protect rights and legally protected interests of children, prevent deepened and repeated occurrence of disorders in psychical, physical and social development of children and persons of legal age and to prevent the increase in occurrence of sociopathological phenomena. Moreover, the national parliament adopted the Family Act amending certain other acts on January 19, 2005. The Act covers also children, maintenance and support allowances, determination of parenthood and adoption. The awareness of the principles of the CRC is improved via activities specified in the Action Plans for Prevention of All Forms of Discrimination, Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance. The Action Plan for 2004 # 2005 focused on the systematic education of professionals, state administration representatives, pupils and students of elementary and secondary schools. Information on the principles determined by the CRS and on human rights in general have been included into methodological documents issued by pedagogical and methodical centres. The Slovak National Centre for Human Rights was established. In 2005 the Centre implemented the project aimed at monitoring of the rights of the child. In 2005, the Institute of Information and Prognosis in Education carried out a sociologic survey focused on education and enforcement of human rights at elementary and secondary schools. UNICEF is represented in Slovakia since 1993 by a separate national committee. In 2005 its activities included the initiative aimed at establishing a specialized agency in charge with protection of children's rights, the project Children-friendly School, Children-friendly Hospitals, and the Children's Safety Line.

### 3.4 National legislation on youth



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Fundamental rights of children and young people have not been separately codified in the Slovak legal order. The relating legal base is determined in the Constitution granting fundamental rights and freedoms to all citizens. The basic legal position of youth has been derived from the constitutional law, which is further specified in legal acts adopted within particular legal fields. Regarding the civil and political rights of youth: the right to elect is granted to a person in the age of 18 (legal age) and above and citizens of the Slovak Republic can be elected as members of the national parliament providing they are 21 and above on the election day. Legal protection is determined in the Family Act in terms of education and social care and in the Penal Code covering corrupting morals, maltreatment and abuse. In the field of education the national legislative determines 10 years of compulsory school attendance, grants secondary and university education, leisure activities and counselling services. The Slovak legal order prohibits all forms of discrimination of children and young people and enforces the equal position principle. The lack of definition of a young person applicable in all legal spheres is the weak point of the Slovak legal system. A child has been defined as a person under 18. A young person shall be understood as a person of the age of 18 to 26. The labour and penal law use the term juvenile to cover persons younger than 15 but not older than 18.

### 3.5 Regional or local legislation on youth

The regional youth policy is implemented by the regional self-government bodies upon approved regional policy plans and via established Advice and Coordination Councils and the appointed specialists. The regional commission for child and youth work composed of a broad spectrum of representatives of professional and social institutions and organizations affecting the life of youth, churches, NGOs, parents and private sector works out youth policy implementation plans for particular years with regards to specific conditions in the region concerned. It supervises the execution of particular tasks, ensures transfer of information and feedback to each subject concerned in order to initiate their mutual cooperation and coordination of activities held in favour of youth in the region. Since 2002, after the power to promote schools and school-related facilities has been transferred from the state to particular municipalities, the attention of local bodies has been focused mainly on establishing conditions for effective spending of leisure time. The quality and quantity of such activities differs in particular municipalities. At the regional level, concepts or other general documents taking into account the regional needs and based mainly on the Concept of National Policy towards Children and Youth in the Slovak Republic Until the Year 2007, EU White Book on Youth and Revised Charter on the Participation of Young People in Regional and Municipal Life have been elaborated and adopted.

### 3.6 Guidelines

By this date, the absence of a legal regulation covering youth policy has been solved by governmental or sectoral documents. In 1992 the government adopted Principles of National Policy towards Children and Youth specifying basic principles aimed at improving the solution of youth-related issues. The Concept of National Policy towards Children and Youth in the Slovak Republic Until the Year 2007 (2001) is setting the objectives of the national child and youth policy in the sphere of education, employment, occupational training, social integration, life style, civil and



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political participation and mobility of young people. It coordinates main objectives and activities to be covered by particular state departments, self-government bodies and NGOs. The annual Action plans are worked out in order to implement and evaluate the tasks resulting from the Concept. Requirements with respect to funding of child and youth work in 2004 to 2007 focus on financial support of child and youth work.

## 4 Programmes

### 4.1 European programmes

FP6, YOUTH Programme, Eurodesk, Socrates II, Leonardo da Vinci II, Erasmus Mundus, Program Tempus III, ERYICA, MEDIA, Culture 2000, Fiscalis 2007, Customs 2007, Intelligent Energy - Europe Programme, The Multiannual Programme for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, Gender Equality Programme, EC action programme to combat social exclusion, EC Action Programme to combat discrimination, Community Incentive Measures in the field of Employment, EURES, LIFE III, European Environment Agency, Community action programme promoting non-governmental organisations primarily active in the field of environmental protection, Public Health Programme

#### 4.1.1 National Agency for YOUTH Programme (Contact person)

Robert Rothenstein # Head Búdková cesta 2, 811 04 Bratislava Tel: +421259296300 Email: rothenstein@iuventa.sk

#### 4.1.2 Eurodesk

Radka #oltésová # project manager for EURODESK IUVENTA - EURODESK Búdková cesta 2, 811 04 Bratislava Tel: +421259296310 Fax: +421254411421 Email: eurodesk@iuventa.sk

#### 4.1.3 Implementation of the YOUTH Programme

With the Slovak Republic entering the European Union an increased budget was made available for the National Agency for YOUTH Programme. In the year 2004 a budget of 2 175394 EUR was assigned for the Slovak Republic of which 68.72 % was used. In the year 2005 there were 225 projects supported with 1561047.5 EUR. Slovak Republic became part of the Euro-Med programme, strengthened the cooperation with third countries and started bilateral and multilateral cooperation with EFTA and V4 countries as well as with other new member states. Network of regional consultants is being established in year 2000 on the base of responses to the nation-wide public call. Their main responsibilities are to promote the possibilities of the Youth programme, to identify and to contact the priority groups (young people with fewer opportunities), to set priorities for the development of the YOUTH programme in their individual regions, to implement the regional training plans, to consult the projects or/and to advise young people in the process of applying to the YOUTH programme. In 9 regions there are at present 7 active regional consultants. The Slovak training pool was established in 2002. In 2005 the wider pool of trainers was established on the base of national call. At present Slovak National agency cooperates on regular basis with 14 trainers. For the year 2005 following national priorities were set complementary to the



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priorities of European Commission: inclusion of disadvantaged young people, improving of quality and number of host places as well as short-time EVS, evaluation of the programme and its impact on the target groups and youth work. Following target groups were assigned: social disadvantaged groups, Roma assistants, Ruthenian minority with following project priority themes: antiracism, tolerance and diversity, European citizenship, development of rural areas.

### 4.1.4 Other EU programmes implemented in an important way for youth

Since the year 2000 the Slovak Republic is involved into the second phase of the EU Community programmes Socrates II and Leonardo da Vinci II and since 2004 also into Erasmus Mundus and as #help provider# into Tempus III. More detailed information on education programme Socrates II can be found at: <http://www.saaic.sk/socrates/ENG/index.html> More detailed information on the vocational training programme Leonardo da Vinci II can be found at: <http://www.saaic.sk/leonardo/> More detailed information on the university cooperation and mobility programme Erasmus Mundus can be found at: <http://www.saaic.sk/erasmusmundus> More detailed information on the Program Tempus III aimed at development of university education systems can be found at: <http://www.saaic.sk/tempus/>

### 4.2 National Programmes on youth

The Ministry of Education states every year Support programmes for the work with children and youth. The financial support for the work with children and youth is aimed at: the systematic and regular work with children and youth in civic associations of children and youth, at the work of organisations providing information and counseling services for children and youth, at national youth council and regional youth councils, at the implementation of projects aimed at tasks resulting from EU documents in the youth policy. The programmes are divided into two support groups: institutional support and project support. To the institutional support belongs support of youth NGOs, support of the umbrella organisation Youth Council of Slovakia, support of Regional youth councils. This support is aimed at creation of conditions for systematic and regular work with children and youth. The project support involves support of youth information and counseling services as well as specific themes # like Participation or Diversity. The youth information and counseling services support focuses at widening of young people#s access to information, specific youth information and its quality, increase of qualification of youth workers and volunteers working in this field, active involvement of local authorities, cooperation with international institutions and activities of the umbrella organisation. Specific theme oriented programmes (as e.g. Participation) are aimed on projects dealing with specific priority themes. Duration of all these programmes is one year.

Name of non youth specific programmes but which have a direct impact on young people  
N/I

## 5 Action plans

Main characteristics and action plans in other horizontal policies directly related to youth  
Concept of state policy towards children and youth in the Slovak Republic until the year 2007 was



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adopted on 19 December 2001 by the government of the Slovak Republic. It defines cross-sectoral objectives of the youth policy in different life fields of young people like Family and upbringing, Education, Employment and social integration, Lifestyle, Participation of children and young people and Youth mobility and European integration. The importance of the Concept is in coordination and determination of main activities that the individual resorts, self-government and non-governmental organisations should focus on. The implementation of the Concept is managed through so-called Action plans, which are annually approved and evaluated by the government. Individual tasks have a character of recommendations and are assigned for bodies of state administration, municipalities and the NGO sector. The main priorities outlined in the Action Plan for the year 2006 will be Human rights education and fight against manifestation of racism and xenophobia with special emphasis put on global solidarity and intercultural dialog, Support of youth participation and active citizenship, Development of knowledge about youth and its application in youth policy planning, Support of voluntary youth work, Development of information of young people through better access to information with the aim to increase their participation in civic life. Another important document recently adopted by the Government on 11 January 2006 is the Implementation of European Pact for Youth in conditions of Slovak Republic and its Integration into the Strategy of competitiveness of Slovak Republic. Other governmental documents with impact on young people are: Competitiveness Strategy for the Slovak Republic until 2010 # Action Plans, National Reform Program of the Slovak Republic 2006-2008 and National Action Plan on Social Inclusion 2004-2006.

## 6 Budget

### 6.1 Amounts allocated to youth policies/actions in the youth field

2731765 *Euros*

### 6.2 Main beneficiaries

NGOs working with children and youth - support of regular activities with children and youth, development of their technical bases (See point 4.2) Ministry of Education - youth policy activities, preparation of legislative conditions for the work with children and youth, drafting of concepts, international activities in the youth policy field, especially with regard to EU or Council of Europe, as well as activities resulting from bilateral agreements, publishing of documents National Agency of the Youth Programme (See point 4.1.3)

### 6.3 Tendencies

The Slovak youth policy is based on the Conception of state policy towards children and youth until the year 2007. Every year there are supported priorities related to the Conception. Since the year 2005 we started to create also support programmes on current themes resulting from EU and COE documents. In 2005 the first Support programme on the support and development of participation of young people in the life of municipalities was launched and in 2006 another one Support programme on the themes of intolerance, discrimination and violence will be added. Generally the



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youth policy budget is slightly increasing.

## **7 Changes foreseen in the youth field and new developments especially linked to the four Open Method of Coordination priorities.**

With the Action Plan on Youth Policy for 2006 ensuing from the Conception of State Policy towards Children and Youth in the Slovak Republic until the Year 2007 the priority will be given to following topics: 1. Human rights education and combating the expressions of discrimination, racism and xenophobia with an emphasis on global solidarity and intercultural dialogue: Within the campaign #All different All equal# a special grant scheme will support projects dealing with campaign topics. 2. Promoting youth participation and active citizenship: The support will be given in particular to children#s and youth organizations and to the promotion of establishment and functioning of student#s school councils. A grant scheme will support projects aimed on participation of young people in the life of the municipality with special emphasis on the partnership between the youth representatives and the municipal board. 3. Increasing the knowledge of the situation of young people and its application in youth policy planning: A draft Act on youth work funding is being developed and the definition of the category of youth workers in the legislation is being discussed. In addition a proposal for the Conception of state policy towards children and youth in the Slovak Republic 2008-2014 is being prepared. In the next years an attention will be given also to the tasks resulting from the European Youth Pact Implementation. 4. Promoting voluntary activities among young people: Within the strategy of life-long education the recognition of youth voluntary activities and the education of active citizenship will be promoted. 5. Enhance information for young people by improving their access to information with the goal of increasing their participation in public life: A support will be given to the network of youth information centers and a special attention will be paid to the use of the Eurodesk information portal by young people.

## **8 Forthcoming events/conferences in the youth field, especially linked to the Open Method of Coordination priorities**

In 2006: Youth Council of Slovakia is organising about 4 round tables in the regions - Themes: Needs of children and youth organisations and Participation - Estimated dates: End of May, June, September Association of the Information and Counselling Youth Centres in the Slovak Republic starts with a new Info-hotline for young people called InfoMobil, starts with the creation of national youth information portal [www.infomobil.sk](http://www.infomobil.sk), and will publish thematic materials for young people Department of Children and Youth of the Ministry of Education of the Slovak republic together with Iuventa are organising 10 seminars related to evaluation of the Concept of state policy towards children and youth in the Slovak Republic until the year 2007 # Themes: Youth policy principles, Young people and Family, Formal Education and Training of Children and Youth, Preparation for the labour market, social integration and non-formal learning, Leisure time and Environment,



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Health and Socio-Pathological phenomena, Civil and political participation, Youth mobility and European integration - Dates: during the whole year 2006 They are also organising a seminar within the framework of the #all different # all equal# Campaign - Themes: diversity, intercultural dialogue and aspects of globalisation - Estimated date: November 2006

## 9 Useful links

www.mladez.sk - youth portal www.rms.mladez.sk - Youth Council of Slovakia www.zipcem.sk - Association of the Information and Counselling Youth Centres in the Slovak Republic www.icm.sk - youth information centres www.minedu.sk - Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic www.studyin.sk - Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic www.eurodesk.sk www.uips.sk - Institute of Information and Prognosis in Education www.iuventu.sk - IUVNETA www.intenda.sk - Slovak youth Foundation Intenda www.nds.sk - The Foundation for Children of Slovakia

## 10 Context of national youth policy (achievements, problems, obstacles, tendencies)

Young people are a valuable source of social capital and constitute the present as well as the future of society. Society makes it possible for young people to mature into full and independent individualities. At the same time, it expects young people to make use of the offered opportunities and possibilities. The most important goals of youth policy in the Slovak Republic are as follows: \* creation of conditions for providing quality education and occupational training for youth, \* integration of youth into labour and social life, \* prevention of social problems and social integration of youth, \* support of the development of personality qualities, \* support of youth's participation in policy making at national, regional, and municipal level, \* protection of youth against negative influences, \* complex analysis of all determinants that may cause problems in various areas of young people's lives, \* promotion of health and healthy lifestyle as well as prevention of various addictions. The above mentioned youth policy goals are specified in more detail in Action Plans formulated for particular years. The Action Plan for 2005 is based on tasks stemming from the Concept of National Policy towards Children and Youth in the Slovak Republic Until the Year 2007 and incorporates some of the youth policy priorities that the Slovak Republic needs to follow on the basis of documents issued by the European Union and the Council of Europe. The following issues were regarded as priorities in youth policy in 2005: 1. Promotion and strengthening of the role of youth organisations in the development of democratic participation. Within programmes supporting civil associations, state subsidies amounting to SKK 66444560 were provided to nationwide, regional and local civil associations. A grant programme entitled #Participation# was established, which was aimed at supporting projects that sought to create room for active participation of young people in public life and decision-making mechanisms at municipal level. 13 projects amounting to SKK 888 430 were supported. Regional youth boards cooperated with higher territorial units; with regard to specific implementation of youth policy, certain problems regarding cooperation with higher territorial units appeared as these activities were rather scattered at this level. The National Report on Youth Policy in Slovakia was produced and the National Conference on Youth Policy took place. 2. Support for education towards active citizenship and participation of youth. The



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



problem lies in insufficient participation and activity of youth in managing public affairs. The Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic is in charge of the EU grant programme entitled #Youth#, in which more participants should be actively engaged. To rectify these problems, educational activities took place and attention was paid to analysing the activities of student boards at schools. In 2005, 281 student boards were active in Slovakia out of 843 secondary schools in total. 3. Development of knowledge about the situation of young people and use of such knowledge in youth policy planning. The key area is the provision of support for research projects aimed at priority areas. In 2005, representative surveys were carried out, focusing on the description of the state of affairs and comparison of data concerning citizen participation of youth, the exercise of children's rights at primary and secondary schools, volunteerism, social and political situation, the existence of sociopathological phenomena in young people's lives, etc. 4. Working with youth and policy aimed at preventing violence against children and youth. The Slovak Republic is participating in the Council of Europe's #All Different # All Equal# campaign which will take place in the years 2006-2007 and will focus on diversity, human rights, and participation opposing intolerance, violence, racism, and xenophobia. A comparative representative survey will be carried out aimed at identifying the manifestations of intolerance, violence, racism, and xenophobia in young people.



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