

National report: First cooperation cycle of the EU Youth Strategy 2010-2012

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

SECTION 1: GENERAL YOUTH POLICY

1. Does your country have a 'youth law' or legislation that specifically refers to youth issues, or laws containing a section addressing the needs and/or rights of young people?	Yes
2. Please provide references for the law (title, adoption date, validity, etc) in your national language as well as in English	Slovak Republic does not have a specific law on youth, but issues related to needs and rights of young people are addressed in different laws and legal acts. Most important law, closest by content and character to Youth law is Youth Work Support Act n. 282/2008.
3. Is the document available in other languages, in full or abbreviated version?	Yes
If YES, please provide a web-link or a copy of the law in available languages together with this national report.	English version is Annex to this report.
4. Does your country have a National Youth Strategy and/or Action Plan, or a cross-sectoral strategy specifically referring to youth issues?	Yes
If YES, please provide references (title, adoption date, validity, etc) to this strategy or action plan	Key Areas and Action Plans of the State Policy towards Children and Youth in the Slovak Republic for years 2008 - 2013 (core document) Youth Policy Action Plan in the Slovak Republic (2008-2009) Youth Policy Action Plan in the Slovak Republic (2010-2011) Youth Policy Action Plan in the Slovak Republic (2012-2013) - in process of approval In document "Strategy of rising road and motor vehicles traffic safety 2011-2020" in part D.1: Continuous traffic education at schools
5. Is the document available in other languages, in full or abbreviated version?	Yes
If YES, please provide a web-link or a copy of the document in available languages together with this national report.	http://www.minedu.sk/data/USERDATA/DetiMladez/KMAT/2008/Key_Areas_and_Action_Plans_of_the_State_Policy_towards_Children_and_Youth_in_the_Slovak_Republic_for_2008.pdf
6. Please indicate how the EU Youth Strategy, adopted in November 2009, has influenced youth priorities in your country at the NATIONAL level?	A: It has reinforced existing priorities

Slovak Republic

Please specify your answer.

Basic document Key Areas and Action Plans of the State Policy... consists of 16 different key areas covering most of the living conditions of young people. New European Youth Strategy (Investment and Empowerment...) brings priorities already covered by Slovak youth policy. Direct link among chapters is not always visible or easy to find, but every priority is covered. Moreover, Action planning system for two years bring flexibility for covering other priorities not mentioned in the first - more general - document. Youth Policy Action Plans are created in different working groups, working under the supervision of Cross-sectorial Working Group on Youth Policy (hereinafter CS WG) coordinated by Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic (MESRaS)

7. Please indicate how the EU Youth Strategy has influenced youth priorities in your country at the LOCAL and/or REGIONAL level?

A: It has reinforced existing priorities

Please specify your answer.

Local and regional youth policies are adopted according to the National Youth Strategy with added local or regional priorities or specificities.

8. Does the government of your country support and promote cross-disciplinary research relating to young people and their living conditions in line with the Council resolution on active inclusion, having regard to the socio-economic environment and the opportunities and obstacles this poses for the social inclusion and employability of young people?

YES, the Government has supported and promoted such cross-disciplinary research since before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.

<p>Please specify your answer.</p>	<p>In 2005 new electronical youth researches data archive was established (www.vyskummladeze.sk). It serves as platform for collecting researches (knowledge centre) about youth policy priority areas. These researches are realised through open call with the aim to acquire the absent information about youth since 2007. Outcomes are presented at the website and on the thematic meetings with politicians. Researches in 2011 are specially focused on youth poverty. Researches about employment and entrepreneurship belongs to specialized institution - Institute for Research of Labour and Family. Similar situation is in topic of health and well-being. English version of data archive (not containing most recent researches yet) is available at: http://www.iuventa.sk/en/Vyskum-mladeze/Data-catalogue.alej</p>
<p>9. Is there an institutionalised and regular cooperation between the Ministry responsible for Youth and the youth research community in your country?</p>	<p>YES, such cooperation has existed since before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Additional comments.</p>	<p>In the framework of adoption youth strategy covered in document Key Areas and Action Plans of the State Policy the Cross-sectoral Working Group on Youth Policy, coordinated by MESRaS, was set up. Researchers are invited to the regular meetings. Researchers are also part of working groups set up for preparation of Action Plans. Many priority areas of youth policy are not covered by academic research (such as volunteering of young people and environmental education). For these areas regular meetings of politicians - researchers - practitioners are organised.</p>
<p>10. Does your Government have an inter-ministerial working group on youth or any other institutionalised mechanism for ensuring a cross-sectoral approach to youth policy?</p>	<p>YES, such an institutional mechanism has existed since before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>

<p>Additional comments.</p>	<p>Cross-sectoral Working Group on Youth Policy (CS WG) started to work in 2008 as platform for coordination and implementation of cross-sectoral youth policy. In 2010 Youth Report was introduced as reflection of implementation of the youth policy into practice. Members of CSWG are: representatives of different ministries, which have in their agenda areas related to youth (9 members), representatives of regional government (8), representative of Slovak Youth Council, Confederation of Trade Unions and Union of Towns. Special position in the cross-sectoral approach in youth policy has the Council for children and youth. It is newly created government board for human rights, minorities and gender equality (hereinafter as “Board”). Council gives suggestions for rising protection and observance of children and youth rights and cooperates with different ministries, institutions, organisations, local governments, European bodies... Council, whose chair is deputy prime minister consists of representatives of ministries, representative institutions of municipalities, members of international organisations (UNICEF, UNHCR) and ombudsman.</p>
<p>11.Has your Government carried out specific initiatives targeting young people or the field of youth policy utilising EU funding opportunities through the European Social Fund, the European Regional Development Fund and/or the Rural Development Fund, or any other relevant EU funds or programmes such as PROGRESS[1]? [1] Please note that the question does not refer to EU programmes such as the Lifelong learning or Youth in Action programmes.</p>	<p>YES, we are currently carrying out youth initiatives or projects utilising the general EU funding opportunities mentioned above.</p>
<p>Additional comments.</p>	<p>From European Social Fund national project “KomPrax - Competences for Labour Market (2011 - 2013) was supported. KomPrax uses the youth work as an area for non-formal education of young leaders, youth leaders and youth workers aiming to provide further opportunities for better employability and development of key competences. (http://www.iuventu.sk/sk/KomPrax/Home.alej)</p>

<p>12. Does the Government of your country have a strategy to acknowledge, raise awareness of, and reinforce the role of youth work in society, in line with the Council Resolution on Youth Work (2010)?</p>	<p>NO, the Government is not planning to set up such a strategy.</p>
<p>Additional comments.</p>	<p>In Slovak legislation the youth work topic is reflected in the special law Youth Work Support Act, which guarantees its legal basis and financial support from state. Important contribution for rising awareness is abovementioned national project KomPrax, which includes specific campaign for rising awareness of benefits of youth work participation and possibilities for development of key competences.</p>
<p>13. What are the main measures implemented by your Government in order to improve the recognition and support the development of governmental and non-governmental youth work?</p>	<p>The biggest achievement in the area is the adoption of the Youth Work Support Act ensuring transparent financing of this area from state resources. Ministry of Education started to run the programme called ADAM regularly allocating resources to youth organizations and youth work initiatives (2008 -2013). The priorities of the programme are changing according to the priorities of strategic documents in EU or Slovak level. Moreover, campaign called "Recognition" has been running for several years promoting the benefits of youth work. The continuation of the campaign has been incorporated into the project KomPrax since 2011.</p>
<p>14. What are the main challenges and/or obstacles that your Government has been confronted with during the first three years of the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy?</p>	<p>The raising awareness of EU Youth Strategy into the Slovak public and stakeholders is lengthy process. The core Slovak Youth Policy documents have been prepared and adopted before EU documents and dilemma is how to promote both documents, although the content and priorities are in principle the same. The second problem that arises is still inefficient coordination between various stakeholders' measures even when a coordination tool such as CS WG or "Board" are already existed</p>

<p>15. Which measures and/or actions have your Government carried out in order to communicate the EU Youth Strategy to relevant stakeholders?</p>	<p>Youth Report 2010 was excellent opportunity to communicate EU Youth Strategy. Also the presence of COMM representative Mr. Koperdak and his presentation in the opening of the conference dedicated to the Youth Report 2010 underlined the message and importance of the EU Youth Strategy. EU Youth Strategy has been mentioned during the various occasions connected with youth work or youth policy activities and measures. Consultations of this National Report have been effective tool how to get responsible people more familiar with the content and analyse the outcomes so far.</p>
<p>16. Has your Government carried out any actions to measure the impact or success of the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy at the national level?</p>	<p>No, this report is first attempt to analyse the implementation process and outcomes. It is strong impulse to work more with EU Strategy on Youth as the support of the National Youth Policy implementation. As mentioned above, both youth policies have many overlapping areas to strengthen the message to the public.</p>
<p>17. According to the principles of the EU Youth Strategy and in line with previous practice, Member States are asked to involve young people and their organisations in responding to this National Report. Please outline the various ways how young people have been consulted.</p>	<p>Consultations with young people were by on-line questionnaire. All larger youth organisations (21), youth information centres (22) and regional youth councils (8) were asked to share this information about young people. We collected more than 300 answers. According to different topics: Cooperation in youth policy development and awareness about values of youth work slightly improved. In area of employment, young people see possibilities for consultations about their future jobs similar to the previous time. The same situation is also in the promotion of possibilities for young people to start own businesses. Possibilities for studies abroad improved. Graduates of vocational schools are not prepared enough and young people have difficulties in keeping balance between working and private life. Young people feel that they are still not sufficiently involved in consultations about youth issues. In the area of volunteering the possibility to be active member of different organisations slightly improved (also for disadvantaged youth). Improvement is also visible in recognition of competences gained through voluntary activities. From other areas, improvement is in awareness about non-formal education, support of healthy lifestyle, initiatives for rising awareness about human rights, environmental activities or possibilities for spending leisure time actively. Youth work was not used as prevention of early school leaving, support for young families decreased and services in</p>

SECTION 2a: PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES On youth employment & entrepreneurship	
18. To take the specific situation of young people into account when devising flexicurity strategies?	NO, but we plan to take concrete measures in this field in 2012.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	A specific situation of young people was taken into account when devising flexicurity strategies in Strategy for crime and antisocial activities prevention of Slovak Republic for 2012-2015.
19. To promote cross-border professional and vocational opportunities for young people?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	Cross border possibilities for professional and further education for young people were supported by agreement between Slovakia and Canada (171/2011) about youth mobility. It allows Slovak citizens, aged 18-35, to spend one year in Canada. Link: http://www.zbierka.sk/zz/predpisy/default.aspx?PredpisID=210243&FileName=zz2011-00171-0210243&Rocnik=2011 .
20. To develop career guidance and counselling services?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.
Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	Development of career guidance and consultation services are in responsibility of Offices of Work, Social Affairs and Family (Act on Services in Employment). Offices offer to students career information and counselling services
21. To promote quality internships and apprenticeships to facilitate the entry to, and progress within, the labour market?	YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The professional advisory services as a support of careers disadvantaged on the job market developed individual action plans. A so-called graduate practice is a specific instrument of active labor market policy, which is aimed at increasing employability. Another form of promotion of young people employability is a financial contribution for self-employed (§ 49 of the Employment Services Act). Act on employment services in the Slovak language can be found at: http://www.employment.gov.sk/index.php?SMC=1&id=1153. In the area of employment and entrepreneurship increasing, the National Agency for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises (hereinafter referred to as "NADSME") supports the following projects: • "Student Company of the Year" • "Ambassador of Slovak entrepreneurs" • Projects of Regional Advisory and Information Centres and other entities. Coordinator of this project: Ministry of Economy in cooperation with NADSME. Project: Student Company of the Year The goal of this project is to promote competition, imagination, creativity, education and preparedness of students for their future profession. It aims at promoting the students to work on their business during their studies. After school they may already work as a self-employed more easily and they can build companies that already have their employees, as well. In 2010, series of discussions were realized with the successful Slovak entrepreneurs; in March 2011 the first forum of business angels</p>
<p>22. To promote sharing of responsibilities between partners in order to facilitate reconciliation between professional and private life for both young women and young men?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Reconciliation between professional and private life was facilitated thanks to the introduction of parental leave. Specifically, In § 166, article 2 of Labour Code we can find a definition of parental leave: "To enhance child care, the employer is obliged to provide a woman or a man who requests parental leave until the date on which the child reaches three years of age. If the long-term seriously disabled child requiring exceptional care, the employer is obliged to provide a woman or man who requests parental leave until the date on which the child reaches six years of age."</p>
<p>23. To promote entrepreneurship in the field of sustainable development?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Additional comments on employment & entrepreneurship

SECTION 2b: PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES On youth participation

24. to develop mechanisms for dialogue with youth and youth participation on national youth policies?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Before the Youth Report 2010 preparation, the series of round tables in region was organised, where extensive consultation with young people and stakeholders took place. Also the structured dialogue during the EU presidency and the reporting obligation started various online consultation projects.

25. to encourage use of already existing, or development of, guidelines on youth participation, information and consultation in order to ensure the quality of these activities?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Special document on youth information and counselling was prepared and adopted in 2009. IUVENTA - Slovak Youth Institute pays attention to development and functioning of school councils and this is only one of the areas of participation.

26. to support politically and financially youth organisations, as well as local and national youth councils and promote recognition of their important role in democracy?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

27. to promote the participation of more and a greater diversity of young people in representative democracy, in youth organisations and other civil-society organisations? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

28. to make effective use of information and communication technologies to broaden and deepen participation of young people? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

29. to support various forms of learning to participate from early age through formal education and non-formal learning? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>30. to further develop opportunities for debate between public institutions and young people?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>National Culture Center (hereinafter "NCC"), an institution directly managed by the Ministry of Culture, organizes competitions and exhibitions of artistic activities, including a non-formal education aspects. Children and young people are actively involved in the whole process as artists, authors or creators. In an open and creative dialogue they learn not only to formulate their opinions, but also receive and give constructive criticism.</p>
<p>Additional comments on participation (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	<p>Ad 26, 27, 28, 29, 30: System of financial support of youth work and youth organisation exist system of financial support of MESRaS - called ADAM. The system consists of 3 parts. ADAM 1 - supports systematic youth work via institutional support of larger organizations. ADAM 2 aims at supporting projects in accordance with the current youth policy priorities. ADAM 3 supports the networking of various organizations and institutions in the field of youth as well as develops the dialogue between public authorities and young people. One of the priorities by assessment of application is the development of youth participation especially through non-formal education. Provision of information via the Information Youth Centers is an independent part of ADAM grant programme.</p>

SECTION 3: ON VOLUNTEERING and the implementation of the Recommendation on the mobility of young volunteers

31. To create more opportunities for mobility of young volunteers? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

In 2011, symbolically in the European Year of Volunteering, the Act on Volunteering, (406/2011) was adopted. It made the situation of volunteers while doing their voluntary activities more smooth and without legislation obstacles. In order to support people searching for the job as well as the graduates, there is a possibility to gain a grant to make people active in a form of volunteering services (§52a Law on Services in Employment). A goal of this volunteering service is to obtain practical experience for labour market. The Law on Services in Employment is available in Slovak language on this website: <http://www.employment.gov.sk/index.php?SMC=1&id=1153>.

32. To raise awareness about opportunities for mobility of young volunteers? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

A tool for awareness rising of opportunities for mobility of young volunteers is Youth in Action programme, which supports European Voluntary Service. Additional tools are: the Act on Volunteering as well as propagation activities during European Year of Volunteering

33. To assure quality through the development of self-assessment tools? NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

<p>34. To promote cross-border mobility of youth workers and young people in youth organisations?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Slovak government has established a bilateral agreement in cooperation with Czech Republic in the youth field. A bilateral agreement with Serbia is still in process of preparation and it should be supposedly signed at the beginning of the year 2012.</p>
<p>35. To give particular attention in this context to young people with fewer opportunities?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Inclusion is a long-term horizontal priority incorporated into all areas of youth policy.</p>
<p>36. To promote the recognition of skills acquired through voluntary activities through instruments such as Europass, Youthpass and Member State instruments?</p>	<p>NO, but we plan to take concrete measures in this field in 2012.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>In the framework of KomPrax, national project on recognition of youth work benefits, the special database is in the process of preparation. It will serve as the platform, the space to prove the future employers the achievements and outcomes of youth work projects, out of school activities etc.</p>
<p>37. To promote intergenerational solidarity through voluntary activities?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The Slovak Republic was involved in the European project "VAMOS", what means: "Volunteers always on the move for road safety." in 2006 through Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development (still called the Ministry of Transport). 50% of the project was funded by the European grant and the remaining 50% was paid from the budget of the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development (MTCaRD). The objective was to influence behavior of children on the road, does not matter whether in the position of pedestrians, cyclists or potential drivers in order to behave more safely. Volunteers, no matter their age or status, participated directly or thanks to contact persons in schools, children home, grammar school, retirement homes etc. In present MTCaRD continues to support volunteers from own financial and material resources.</p>
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Additional comments on volunteering (for example references, web-links, project examples).

SECTION 4: On the implementation of the additional fields of action of the EU Youth Strategy

<p>38. To support the development of youth work and other non-formal learning opportunities as a way of addressing early school leaving?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
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<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Early school leavers are considered as one of the target group of national youth policy belonging to the young people with fewer opportunities. There were several projects supported by national grant programme ADAM and Youth in Action addressing this group. Although youth work is considered more as the space for prevention activities, some examples of inclusion strategy can be found in Slovak practice - such as special trainings for young people with fewer opportunities in KomPrax project.</p>
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<p>39. To strengthen the use of the range of tools established at EU level for the transparency and validation of skills and the recognition of qualifications?</p>	<p>NO, but we plan to take concrete measures in this field in 2012.</p>
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Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Transparency and validation of skills and the recognition of qualifications is a part of the campaign “Recognition” in the frame of the nation-wide project (KomPrax) financed by European Social Fund. Part of the campaign includes also organisation of round tables in each of NUTS III with the aim to discuss the Declaration of Validation of Voluntary Activities in Youth Work. Links and cooperation started with the institution responsible for National Systems of Professions. There are plans also to co-operate with National qualifications system. Act on Vocation Education Training (No. 184/2009) have been adopted and various steps taken in practise: - creation of Government Board for Vocational Education and Training as advisory board to Government of the Slovak Republic - creation of Sectorial Advisory Boards assisting professional organisations and chambers - creation of Regional Boards for Vocational Education and Training - active involvement of practitioners into vocational education and training - creation of Centres of Vocational Training under auspices of professional organisations and chambers - presence of experts from practise during the final exams in Secondary Vocational Schools - involvement of different sectors, professional unions and chambers into vocational education and training.

40. To promote learning mobility of all young people? YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Promotion of learning mobility is supported by national schemes as well as in the frame of ERASMUS a GRUNDTVIG programmes. <http://www.saaic.sk/socrates/socrates2/Grund/grund.htm>

41. To make the broader public aware of the value of non-formal learning? YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>One of the main activities of the project KomPrax is aimed directly to broaden awareness about benefits of non-formal learning and support of its acknowledgment and validation. National cultural centre as a contributory organisation of Ministry of culture organises non-formal learning activities (seminars, contests, etc.) in the fields of culture and art. Non-formal learning in the field of culture is organised also by Centre for folk art production via “School of craft” and other cultural and art activities in Bratislava and Banská Bystrica. Many other institutions belonging to the sector of culture and Ministry of culture realise educational activities for children and young people (galleries, libraries, observatories...).</p>
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Additional comments on education & training (for example references, web-links, project examples).

B. HEALTH & WELL-BEING

<p>42. To follow up the Council Resolution on the health and well-being of young people and encourage youth fitness and physical activity by applying the EU Physical Activity Guidelines?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
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<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Support of healthy life style is reflected also in the work of Council for Broadcasting and Retransmission which regularly prepares an analysis of advertisement connected to the programmes for children up to 12 years old (also other programmes including this target group). Report analysis advertisements for food products and drinks with ingredients which excessive use is not recommended (lipids and fat, acids, salt and sugar). The report is prepared according to the Act on broadcasting and retransmission No. 308/200 valid as from December 15th 2009.</p>
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<p>43. To encourage healthy lifestyles for young people via physical education, education on nutrition, physical activity and collaboration between schools, youth workers, health professionals and sporting organisations?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
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<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Coordination and methodical guidance of school sport competitions, co-operation with regional self-governments, State regional school councils, national sport federations and other institutions is realised by National Sport Centre, established on July 1st 2011 under Ministry of education, research, science and sport. Web pages: www.sportcenter.sk. National Sport Centre is also responsible for administration of portal www.skolskysport.sk, (“sport in schools”) which contains all information about involvement of schools at all levels into school sport competitions and about organisation of these activities.</p>
<p>44. To increase knowledge and awareness of youth workers and youth leaders of health issues?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>National Cultural Centre organised co-ordination seminar for workers in the field of culture with the topics of improvement of health, healthy nutrition and prevention. The Centre also encourages regional networks to organise activities for children and youth aimed to healthy lifestyles and prevention of obesity. Institutions established under Ministry of culture offer their premises for organisation of activities for children and youth also connected to this topic. Government adopted “National Programme for Care of Children and Zouth in the Slovak Republic for the years 2008-2015” (adopted as Decision on March 26th 2008) which includes health care in the fields: Health of mothers and newborns, Nutrition and physical activity, Prevention of infectious diseases, Prevention of accidents and violence, Environment, Adolescence and Support of psychosocial and mental development. Programme is run under Ministry of Health with support of Institute of public health and with involvement of non-governmental organisations. Ministry of Health financed a survey “Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs at the Primary and Secondary schools and their Teachers” to mobilize all stakeholders to help young people at risk of tobacco use, alcohol and drugs. The project was implemented in 2010 in collaboration of the Research Institute for Child Psychology and Pathopsychology, Institute of Information and Prognoses of Education and the Office of Public Health. Health education in schools and youth organizations</p>
<p>45. To encourage peer-to-peer health education?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

46. To facilitate access to existing health facilities by making them more youth friendly?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Additional comments on health & well-being (for example references, web-links, project examples).

C. SOCIAL INCLUSION

47. To realise the full potential of youth work and youth centres as means of inclusion?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Inclusion (Inclusion) of young people with fewer opportunities and a variety of marginalized groups is a long horizontal youth policy priority. This is also reflected as a priority in several grant programs and an important criterion when assessing applications for financial support as the systematic support to youth organizations in the implementation of various projects. Research on Acts of Intolerance and Violence in Elementary and Secondary schools (IIFE 2008) was financially supported in the frame of The Action Plan to prevent all forms of discrimination, racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance for 2006-2008. Ministry of Culture in social inclusion using the following methods: Ministry of Culture Grant program for disadvantaged population groups. Priority of the program is to promote cultural activities for marginalized groups of children and youth (children from orphanages, children living in marginalized Roma communities, refugee children, children and youth with disabilities. Grant program "Cultural vouchers" supports children and youth from underprivileged and disadvantaged families (entrance fees for cultural programmes can be paid by cultural vouchers. <http://www.culture.gov.sk/ministerstvo/grantovy-system>. Single and repeated financial contributions - state social support for families with children and taking care of dependent children (for example: childbirth allowance, parental allowance, child allowance.) These benefits are intended

48. To adopt a cross-sectoral approach when working to improve community cohesion and solidarity and reduce the social exclusion of young people, addressing the inter linkages between e.g. young peoples education and employment and their social inclusion?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

49. To support the development of intercultural awareness and competences for all young people and combat prejudice?

YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>50. To address the issues of homelessness, housing and financial exclusion with a particular focus on young people?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>51. To promote access to quality services e.g. transport, e-inclusion, health, social services?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>52. To promote specific support for young families?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Priority associated with the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010 have been incorporated into several grant programs to support youth work and therefore have occurred in several programs and projects organized by young people and for young people.</p>

<p>53. To engage young people and youth organisations in the planning, delivery and evaluation of European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in 2010?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>Additional comments on social inclusion (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	

D. CREATIVITY & CULTURE

<p>54. To support the development of creativity among young people by following up the Council conclusions on promoting a Creative Generation: developing the creativity and innovative capacity of children and young people through cultural expression and wider access to culture?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>55. To make new technologies readily available to empower young people's creativity and capacity for innovation, and attract interest in culture, the arts and science?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>56. To provide access to environments where young people can develop their creativity and interests and spend a meaningful leisure time?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	
<p>57. To promote specialised training in culture, new media and intercultural competences for youth workers?</p>	<p>YES, such measures had already been taken before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, no additional initiatives were necessary.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>The development of intercultural competence is part of the training of youth workers and youth leaders in the project KomPrax run by IUVENTA - Slovak Youth Institute.</p>
<p>Additional comments on culture & creativity (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	

E. YOUTH & THE WORLD

<p>58. To raise the awareness of young people about global issues such as sustainable development and human rights?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
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Slovak Republic

<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>In Slovakia informal network of organisations and institutions active in the field of human right education cooperate and share information and knowledge. They annually prepare Living Library (Council of Europe concept of HRE). Compass - manual on HRE was translated into Slovak and promoted among teachers and youth workers.</p>
<p>59. To provide opportunities for young people to exchange views with policy-makers on global issues (e.g. via participation in international meetings, virtual platforms/fora etc.)?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs is currently preparing a national strategy of global education.</p>
<p>60. To encourage young people to participate in green volunteering and "green" patterns of consumption and production (e.g. recycling, energy conservation, hybrid vehicles, etc.)?</p>	<p>NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.</p>
<p>Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>To get the clear view on the situation on environmental education in Slovak schools special research including the survey on cooperation of school and NGOs in environmental activities is in process of finalising.</p>
<p>61. To promote entrepreneurship, employment, education and volunteering opportunities with countries or regions outside of Europe?</p>	<p>NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.</p>

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

62. To encourage young people to participate in development cooperation activities either in their country of residence or abroad?

NO, we do not have any current plans to carry out measures in this field.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Additional comments on youth & the world (for example references, web-links, project examples).

SECTION 5: EVALUATION OF THE STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

63. Has your government carried out any specific measures or is it planning to do so based on the conclusions from the European Youth Week, which presents a number of recommendations on how the structured dialogue can be improved at the national and the European levels?

YES, the government has implemented specific measures responding to recommendations from the European Youth Week in May 2011.

Please elaborate on your answer, if necessary. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.

Structural dialogue in the form of regular consultations has been part of Slovak youth policy implementation for long time. The recommendations were very useful but the financial constrains did not allow to put them into the practice to the wider scope. Some revitalisation of SD in Slovakia including the new stakeholders' presence and cooperation are envisaged. At the end of 2011 the leading role has been agreed to be given to the Slovak Youth Council (previously it was National Youth Institute responsible for implementation of SD - governmental institution) taking into the consideration of above mentioned recommendation.

64. Has your Government supported the establishment of a National Working Group?	Yes
Please explain the reasons for your answer. If yes, how has this been supported? If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here	Ministry of Education as the coordination body for youth policy allocated this task to organise SD at national level in the framework of EU presidency to IUVENTA - Slovak Youth Institute at the beginning of 2010.
65. Does the National Youth Council play a leading role in the National Working Group?	No
If your answer is NO please elaborate and indicate who plays a leading role. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	The National Youth Council is a member of the National Working Group but it does not play a leading role. IUVENTA - Slovak Youth Institute has played leading role being appointed by Ministry of Education at the beginning of 2010.
66. Does the competent national ministry play an active role in the National Working Group?	Yes
Please explain the reasons for your answer. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.	MESRaS is represented in the National Working Group by IUVENTA - Slovak Youth Institute.
67. Given the cross-sectoral character of the EU Youth Strategy, have other national ministries played an active role in the National Working Group?	No

<p>If your answer is YES please elaborate and indicate who plays an active role. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Ministry of Labour, Social affairs and Family (MLSAaF) played an active role in issues dealing with employability (2010)</p>
<p>68. Does your Government provide financial or other support for the National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If your answer is YES please elaborate (maximum 300 words) If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Some financial resources are allocated for expenditures needed for National Working Group meetings.</p>
<p>69. Is the competent national ministry aware of the process of consultations, and subsequent results, undertaken by the National Working Group in response to guiding questions issued by the European Steering Committee for the structured dialogue with youth?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer. If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Department of Youth and Communities Programmes of MESRaS have got regular reports about process of consultations and results undertaken by the National Working Group.</p>
<p>70. Has your Government taken any initiatives to follow up the points that were raised as priority areas in the conclusions of the structured dialogue on youth employment, as outlined in the Council Resolution on the structured dialogue?</p>	<p>No, we do not have any current plans for a follow-up</p>

<p>Please elaborate If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Working group concentrated on employability of youth is a component part of youth policy. From the point of view of MLSAaF, young unemployed are only one of all disadvantaged groups and there is no future measures prepared for youth exclusively.</p>
<p>71. Would your Government support a structured dialogue with young people and youth organisations in other fields than those covered by the overall thematic priorities, and individual Presidency priorities, agreed at European level?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer</p>	<p>The permanent topic of Slovak consultation process is youth participation at local level. And youth work. Although if those topics are not the topic of actual SD phase, they are widely used in national consultation process.</p>
<p>72. Does your Government consider the National Working Group already established in your country to be sufficiently inclusive in its composition to ensure a participatory process open to all young people?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>If your answer is NO please elaborate</p>	<p>In 2012 are planned changes in the structure and function of working group in order to make the whole system more effective and coherent. There are many independent initiatives and young people can be tired of the consultation.</p>
<p>73. What are the methods of consultation with young people that have been applied within the structured dialogue in your country?</p>	<p>Structured dialogue is oriented on the one hand on wide spectrum of young people that is why some questions are more general and close to the nature and interests of young people. Some questions are dedicated only to youth organizations representatives. There are two surveys in the form of online questionnaire both spread and promoted on various sites.</p>
<p>If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	

<p>74. Do youth researchers and those engaged in youth work play a role in carrying out the structured dialogue in your country?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If your answer is YES please elaborate If young people or other stakeholders who are consulted as part of finalising this National Report have a different opinion than that stated by the Government (above), their opinions can be stated here.</p>	<p>Reports on the results of SD were discussed are consulted with researchers who are active in the youth field.</p>
<p>75. Would your Government support efforts to enhance the visibility and transparency of structured dialogue at national level?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer.</p>	<p>There are two surveys in the form of online questionnaire both spread and promoted on various sites.</p>
<p>76. Based on the experiences gained since 2010, does your Government feel that the format and working methods employed at EU Youth Conferences contribute to a successful conduct of structured dialogue?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer.</p>	<p>This format creates a space for regular meeting of group which consists of people who deal with the youth policy. This is not in accordance with the principle of involving the greatest number of young people in the structured dialogue.</p>
<p>77. Based on the experiences gained from the first two cycles of the structured dialogue, does your Government have particular recommendations for the further development of the structured dialogue?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Please explain the reasons for your answer.

Our recommendations are:

- Make the topics of structured dialogue known in advance,
- Ideally, the topics should be closely specified in order to be clear on what areas (e.g. participation) should be the structured dialogue with young people focused,
- Elaborate the way how to give feedback to young people who engage in the structured dialogue on: how will be the EU working with their statements, what kind of result they lead to,
- It should be considered whether the philosophy of building the structured dialogue on the quantity leads to the conclusion we want to have and whether it would not be more appropriate to build the dialogue (similar to representative surveys) on a sample, or representatives who work with young people.

SECTION 6: ON EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

- Presentation of good practice # 1 Projects of Slovak Children Fund - Mixklib a Mixáčik. Detailed information about these projects is available on a website <http://www.dfsr.sk/18/>.
- Presentation of good practice # 2 Successful implementation of national project focused on rising of professional parent's employability in years 2008-2011 (EFS). Professional parents are employees of orphanage and they provide a professional care for children at their own home. Since January 2012, conditions in this field have improved in Slovakia. Every child until the age of six has to be after shifting in the children's home and after diagnostic process, placed in the professional family with an exception of children who need a professional health care. Another reason why children are not placed in professional families is an effort not to break sibling ties. National project of professional parents' employability rising consists of the following activities:
- Promotion of professional parenting (undementioned "PR"): leaflets, posters, brochures, advertising spots on TV, radio, information sessions in 8 regions of Slovakia.
 - Preparations for professional care: a training program designed to present innovative and effective methods of training.
 - Training of employees of orphanages: managerial skills for directors of orphanages, selection of directors and psychologists, leadership, employee motivation.
 - Vocational education and care for professional parents: seminars for professional parents, supervision of professional parents.
 - Empirical and sociological research of professional parenting.
 - International cooperation. This project aims at:
 - publishing information about professional parenting,
 - increasing of interest in PR and make it known to the audience,
 - increasing of the number of professional parents cooperating with children's homes,
 - increasing of the number of children placed in PR

Presentation of good practice # 3 Financial support for young adults (ESF) in order to help them to be more emancipated consists of activities which: promote the availability and quality of care services (social services and measures of social protection and social guardianship), improve the position of vulnerable and marginalized population groups in the labor market and society. The project consists of several programs: - Social, educational and other programs and methods designed to prepare the children for emancipation before completion of a court decision about staying in an orphanage (hereinafter referred to as "children's home") - Programs and other training methods work to promote the emancipation of young adults after leaving an orphanage. - Support programs, professional activities and special methods of work for an adult person after orphanage leaving, focused on the ability to maintain and acquire household. - New and innovative programs focus on adaptation, integration, careers and facilitate entry into the labor market (eg, programs with specific focus on girls young women, enhancing their status in terms of equal opportunities, mentoring, etc.).