

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

## SLOVENIA

## 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	1. Zakon o mladinskih svetih / Youth Councils Act 2. Zakon o javnem interesu v mladinskem sektorju/ Public Interest in Youth Sector Act
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.	1. Youth Councils Act <a href="http://www.ursm.gov.si/fileadmin/ursm.gov.si/pageuploads/pdf/ZJIMS/ZMS-NPB1__ANG.pdf">http://www.ursm.gov.si/fileadmin/ursm.gov.si/pageuploads/pdf/ZJIMS/ZMS-NPB1__ANG.pdf</a> 2. Public Interest in Youth Sector Act <a href="http://www.ursm.gov.si/fileadmin/ursm.gov.si/pageuploads/pdf/ZJIMS/ZJIMS_ENG.pdf">http://www.ursm.gov.si/fileadmin/ursm.gov.si/pageuploads/pdf/ZJIMS/ZJIMS_ENG.pdf</a>
4. Does your country have a National Youth Strategy and/or Action Plan, or a cross-sectoral strategy specifically referring to youth issues?	No (skip the next question)
If YES, please provide references (title, adoption date, validity, etc) to this strategy or action plan	
5. Is the document available in other languages, in full or abbreviated version?	
If YES, please provide a web-link or a copy of the document in available languages together with this national report.	
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

<p>Please specify your answer.</p>	<p>In 2009, the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth (Youth Office) commissioned an analysis of the situation of young people in Slovenia. In 2010, an analysis of measures for youth adopted by the state authorities was carried out; in 2011, a comprehensive survey on the social profile of young people in Slovenia was published. In 2010, the Public Interest in the Youth Sector Act was adopted. Slovenia has been drafting its first national youth programme to be adopted in the first half of 2012 on the basis of the analysis, surveys and objectives defined in the EU Youth Strategy.</p> <p>Youth: We recognize a slight progress in the field of employment. In the new government's call for proposals for public work, which involves long-term unemployed persons, young people are stated as a separate target group. It is still too early to assess the efficiency of this measure. In the last year there was also a program called "Absolvent - aktiviraj in zaposli se" (in the context of Active Employment Policy) which government launched for students - candidates for graduation. This program provided reimbursement of expenses for employers who employed a young graduate which was previously, before graduation, involved in training for a job position in the same company. This measure was not a very successful one - it was detailed in cooperation with Student organization of Slovenia but finally determined by Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs and turned out not to be "attractive"</p>
<p>7. Please indicate how the EU Youth Strategy has influenced youth priorities in your country at the LOCAL and/or REGIONAL level?</p>	<p>A: It has reinforced existing priorities</p>
<p>Please specify your answer.</p>	<p>There is no comprehensive analysis of the development of youth policy at the local level in Slovenia; therefore, it is difficult to assess the influence of the EU Youth Strategy. Many local communities have set youth policy parameters (despite lacking the legislative framework) on the Youth Office initiative, and also because they have recognised the potential of youth work in local environment. Youth centres and local youth councils play one of the key roles in serving the public interest in the area of youth at the local level. The number of youth centres has been increasing, while the number of active local youth councils has been decreasing. The importance of youth work has also been acknowledged by a network of local communities within the Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia. In 2010 and particularly in 2011, the Youth Council of Slovenia and the Youth Network MaMa included local youth organisational structures into the structured dialogue.</p>

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Youth: Strategy itself did not influence any of the youth priorities in Slovenia, nor at local, nor at regional level. Even before the adoption of EU Youth Strategy, a practice of regulating youth policy at local/regional level in Slovenia already existed. In this context we already had local youth programs and boards for youth (within the municipality). But, with structured dialogue this practice was reinforced and improved.

<p>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?</p>	<p>YES, the Government has supported and promoted such cross-disciplinary research since before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
<p>Please specify your answer.</p>	<p>Youth Office has been promoting youth surveys ever since Slovenia started to develop its youth policy (1991). In 2011, Youth office funded two analyses of the situation, which were carried out by the Youth Network MaMa and Pohorski Bataljon; they examined the functioning and impacts of the youth centres and youth field organisations in Slovenia: 'Youth Centres in Slovenia' and 'Analysis of the Situation and Potentials of Non-governmental Youth Field in Slovenia'. In 2012, the Youth Council of Slovenia will publish its analysis of the functioning and impacts of national youth organisations. The aforementioned studies cover all areas that are important to young people. In 2010, the Public Interest in the Youth Sector Act was adopted; it provides the legal basis for drafting and adopting a national youth programme. Youth Representatives' answer: Slovenian government has supported and promoted cross-disciplinary research since before the EU Strategy came into force. Just to name two significant researches in youth field: - Mladina 2010 (Youth 2010) - Mladinsko delo in mladinska politika na lokalni ravni (Youth Work and Youth Policy at Local Level) Both researches were financed by Ministry of education and Sport - Office of the Republic of Slovenia For Youth.</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>NO, but we have an ongoing initiative to establish such cooperation in 2012.</p>

<p>Additional comments.</p>	<p>Youth Office will continue its cooperation with the Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia in the area of youth studies and will endeavour to achieve their formal inclusion into the national programme and the establishment of a portal for monitoring the national programme and the social situation Youth: The Slovenian government has supported and promoted cross-disciplinary research relating to young people and their living conditions since before the EU Youth Strategy came into force, within the Institut Republike Slovenije za socialno varstvo - The Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia. The Institute complies and maintains a variety of databases for social assistance and social services including development and experimental programs. It monitors the implementation of a number of government programs by establishing specialized systems of indicators and provides informational support for them by collecting and analyzing data. In addition to its activities, the Institute takes part in international projects working with various research organizations, represents an organized source of information and analyses from the field of social protection and social policy and carries out analyses of problems on the national and international level, also for monitoring the quality of life of children and youth.</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 was established after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>

Additional comments.	<p>Youth: Slovenian government has an inter-ministerial working group on youth and an institutionalized mechanism for ensuring a cross-sectoral approach to youth policy which existed before the EU Youth Strategy came into force. As an inter-ministerial working group we can mention here “Svet vlade Republike Slovenije za mladino” - Council of the Government of Slovenia for Youth”, which was established in 2009. Council is a consultative body that proposes measures and monitors the consideration of youth interests in various public policies at the national level. It gives the Government and the responsible ministries incentives and suggestions for the regulation of youth matters and promotes youth participation in these processes. An institutionalized mechanism for ensuring a cross-sectoral approach to youth policy we can mention here “Urad Republike Slovenije za mladino”-Youth Office, which is a Body within the Ministry for Education and Sport. In cooperation with other public authorities and local communities it monitors the situation of youth and the effects of measures targeting youth in order to ensure their needs and interests are considered well in policy-making. The Office for Youth prepares regulations and measures for the youth sector, promotes non-formal learning to increase competences of youth in their transition from childhood to adulthood and develops suitable mechanisms for supporting youth organizations and organizations for youth.</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]?</p> <p>[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 have carried out youth initiatives or projects utilising the general EU funding opportunities mentioned above in the past, before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010, but they are now finalised.</p>

Additional comments.	<p>With a view to developing youth sector and improving young people's competencies, the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund resources have also been used in the period from 2007 to 2013. Youth: Several youth initiatives/projects are been carried out utilizing EU funding through the European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund. Within the European Social Fund/ Operational Programme for Human Recourses Development/Priority: Development of Human Recourse and Lifelong Learning, several networks were established: development of models for non-formal education for youth worker, development of active citizenship, raising public awareness on youth issues, establishment and development of local youth policies, intergenerational cooperation, development of research culture, intercultural dialogue and understanding of other cultures. Within the European Regional Development Fund/Operational Programme for Strengthening Regional Development Potentials/Priority: Integration of Natural and Cultural Heritage/Increasing of Tourism Competitiveness, a wide network of Youth Tourist Infrastructure - Youth Centers, was financed.</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>YES, we already had such a strategy in place since before the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.</p>
Additional comments.	<p>In 2010, the Public Interest in the Youth Sector Act was adopted. Pursuant to this act, the entire youth work sphere is in the public interest; youth work is defined as 'organised and target-oriented activities of and for young people, within which young people, based on their own efforts, contribute to their inclusion in society, strengthen their competences and contribute to the development of the community. Youth Office has been co-funding youth work and youth organisations' programmes since its beginnings. The strategy also defines priority areas of youth work programmes, which include: non-formal education and training for youth work, voluntary youth activities, social inclusion of unorganised young people, active citizenship, participation and information, international youth work and intercultural learning for young people, innovation and cultural production, health and healthy life style. Typically, the share of co-funding by the office ranges between ten and thirty percent of an NGO's budget. The rest is obtained from local communities, other ministries, sponsors, membership fees and own activities. A new national youth strategy is being prepared; it will also define and set objectives for youth work. It is expected to be adopted in 2012. Youth representatives' answer: NO.</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>European funds (European Social Fund and the Youth in Action programme) contributed significantly towards the visibility and quality of youth work and towards the professionalisation of the youth worker profile. The main stages of this work are as follows: - to define youth work standards in Slovenia; - to define key competencies relating to youth work in Slovenia; - to develop the models of non-formal, formal and optional education programmes for youth workers; - to test the models in relevant social practices in Slovenia. The Youth in Action programme has particularly improved the recognition and quality of youth work at the local level. Youth: We can state 3 measures implemented by our government in order to improve recognition and support the development of governmental and non-governmental youth work: Previously mentioned European Social Fund networks and European Regional Development Fund for Youth centers; and annual public tender for co-financing youth work in youth organizations by Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth.</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>Inter-ministerial cooperation, aimed at strengthening relevant measures and youth dimension within the ministries, remains the greatest challenge. The lack of resources in the youth sector at the national and local level contributes to the poor visibility of youth work and the role played by youth organisations in economic and social development</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>After the adoption of the Council resolution on European cooperation in the youth field, the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth organised a broad national consultation also attended by the Slovenian prime minister. The EU Youth Strategy was presented as a platform for further development of youth policy in Slovenia. In the European Youth Week (November 2009), the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth and the national agency for the Youth in Action programme organised a seminar aimed at identifying areas and policies of importance to young people. The conclusions adopted at the seminar were presented at the European Youth Conference in Sweden. Slovenia started to build up structured dialogue in 2009; at the end of 2011, the local level was introduced into the dialogue. The dialogue is also facilitated through the Youth in Action programme. The <a href="http://www.mlad.si">www.mlad.si</a> portal features the opinions of relevant stakeholders submitted on the invitation of the editorial board. Youth representatives' answer: In the opinion of youth representatives of SVM nothing has been done by our government to communicate the EU Strategy to relevant stakeholders. Strategy was promoted by "Zavod MOVIT NA MLADINA, Nacionalna agencija programa MLADI V AKCIJI" - Institute MOVIT NA MLADINA, National Agency for Youth in Action Programme (MOVIT), through which we were informed about the same strategy.</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>In 2011, Youth Office published the results of the analysis carried out in eleven areas of life relevant to young people: demographic change and intergenerational cooperation, education and training, creativity, culture, leisure time, virtualisation of everyday life, employment and entrepreneurship, sustainable social action, living and housing conditions, health and wellbeing, participation and social inclusion, voluntary activities, youth mobility and globalisation. The researchers assessed the performance and appropriateness of measures implemented by the national authorities, using examples of particular problem sets. The results were published in the publication 'The Matrix of Measures Implemented in the Youth Policy Field by the National Authorities'. There is no horizontal youth policy in Slovenia and for that reason the primary aim of the analysis was to provide an overview of the effectiveness of individual measures taken by various ministries involved in the national youth policy and addressing specific problems.</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>Youth Office presented the national report at the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth, and extended an invitation for cooperation to youth sector representatives. The council adopted a decision that the Youth Council representative would coordinate youth and student organisations with a view to drafting youth contributions. Youth: Youth representatives were informed about this report through previously mentioned "Urad Republike Slovenije za mladino" - Youth Office and additionally were given login details for the application.</p>

**SECTION 2a: PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES On youth employment & entrepreneurship**

<p>18. To take the specific situation of NO, but we plan to take concrete measures in this field in 2012. young people into account when devising flexicurity strategies?</p>	<p></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>Despite some discussions, the flexicurity concept was not put in action. The 2007 amendment to the Employment Relationships Act provided for stronger flexibility of temporary employment. This means that there was a greater flexibilisation of the sector of the labour market employing young people. Unfortunately, the amended Employment and Insurance against Unemployment Act did not bring social security reform that would be tailored to greater employment flexibility and would enable improved social security of those (young people) with non-standard flexible employment contracts. The amended 2010 Personal Income Tax Act introduced payroll tax relief on employees under 26 years of age who were registered with the Employment Service of Slovenia for at least six months prior to their employment. A similar measure was passed in the amended Corporate Income Tax Act. Youth representatives' answer: When devising flexicurity, specific situation of young people were taken into account in only one public call by "Zavod Republike Slovenije za zaposlovanje" - Employment Service of Slovenia, for co-financing programs of public work in which young people are defined as a separate target group.</p>
<p>19. To promote cross-border professional and vocational opportunities for 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>Slovenia promotes opportunities for education and work abroad through the Slovene Human Resources and Scholarship Fund, and the EURES job centres that operate within the Employment Service of Slovenia. The abovementioned fund was established in 2006 with a view to implementing the scholarship policy, allocating funds for human resources and staff development and increasing employability, promoting life-long learning and linking the education system with labour market needs. Young people studying at home or abroad can apply for a Zois scholarship; additional scholarships for studying abroad are available within the international mobility programmes of the Ad Futura Foundation; since 2009, students have had access to loans for studying at home or abroad. Specialised counsellors in EURES centres provide information, counselling and job-brokerage services for the European labour market. Youth representatives' answer: No. Beside the already established programs in Slovenia, at national level, we have no scheme for promoting cross-border professional and vocational opportunities for young people. All activities that are already going on in this field are all based at EU level.</p>
<p>20. To develop career guidance and counselling 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>The 2007-2013 Operational Programme of Human Resources Development identifies young people as one of its priority groups, but includes only one activity devoted exclusively to young people or students, i.e. career orientation for students. As a priority group, young people are also entitled to support within career orientation activities for the unemployed, other job seekers and inactive persons. Within the active employment policy framework, the Employment Service of Slovenia is also engaged in activities targeting education policy. These activities include information and vocational counselling centres, vocational orientation and the 'On professions – in a different way' programme. Youth representatives' answer: In order to develop career guidance and counseling services we have Career Centers at Slovenian universities, which exist for several years now. These Career Centers are established with purpose to facilitate the transition from education to labour market. Beside these Career Centers we also have "CIPS" (Center za informiranje in poklicno svetovanje - Centers for informing and vocational counseling) at Employment Service of Slovenia. Youth representatives are of an opinion that these measures (CIPS) are good/effective till a certain point, because career guidance and counseling service should be more promoted already in elementary and high schools.</p>
<p>21.To promote quality internships and apprenticeships to facilitate the entry to, and progress within, the labour market?</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>In 2009, the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, supported by the European Social Fund and within the framework of the Operational Programme for Human Resources Development (2007-2013), launched a public tender aimed at activating graduating students by including them into on-the-job training. The objective of the tender was to improve the employment opportunities of graduate students at all levels of education and increase their competitiveness. Another major annual programme tendered by the Employment Service is the ZAPOSILI.ME (employ.me) programme. The aim of the programme is to promote the employment of difficult-to-employ categories, including persons older than 50 years of age, younger than 25 years of age, first-time job seekers, university graduates younger than 30 years of age, etc. Youth representatives' answer: Slovenian government hasn't done much in order to promote quality internships and apprenticeships. Young people still have a problem finding even a volunteer internships/apprenticeships. We have a situation where graduates from certain faculties and high schools, for example Faculty of social work, Faculty and High School of Health Sciences, simply can't get (or get it very hard) an internship/apprenticeship.</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>Slovenia has introduced many measures aimed at addressing the conflict between family and professional roles: paid parental leave, full or part-time absence from work for child-care leave, part-time work, and the sharing of parental leave as agreed between the parents. The most recent amendment made in 2005 to the Parental Protection and Family Benefit Act introduced paternity leave (up to 90 days). Nonetheless, young people consider the reconciliation of work and family life to be difficult, in part because of the fact that rather than it being a value, employers perceive parenthood as disrupting the work process. The certificate award project 'Family-Friendly Enterprise', co-funded by the European Social Fund, serves as an example of good practice in stimulating parenthood as a value. In the 2007-2011 period, more than 90 Slovenian companies and organisations employing more than 40 000 workers were awarded the certificate. The 'Family-Friendly Enterprise' certification is based on the European Work &amp; Family Audit system developed by the German organisation Berufundfamilie. Youth representatives' answer: No.</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>
<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 2007, the Ministry of the Economy started to implement a programme of measures to stimulate entrepreneurship and competitiveness (for the 2007-2013 period). The programme has identified education as a key area where entrepreneurship should be stimulated; therefore, the promotion of entrepreneurship starts among the primary school pupils. The Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Affairs introduced subsidies for self-employment with a view to creating new employment opportunities. The programme is aimed at unemployed people and job seekers. The programme does not identify young people as a priority target group. Youth representatives' answer: In order to promote entrepreneurship in the field of sustainable development, in 2011 Slovenia adopted "Zakon o socialnem podjetnistvu" - Act on the Social Entrepreneurship, which, among other things, promotes socially useful activities and improvement of socio-economic situation of people in vulnerable target groups.</p>

Additional comments on employment & entrepreneurship	<p>The new financial perspective (2007-2013), the Lisbon Strategy, and the 2005 annex to the strategy (European Youth Pact), which calls on the EU Member States to improve employment opportunities, education and reconcile work and family life, all provide a framework for various measures aimed at improving employment opportunities of young people. The Active Employment Policy Action Plan 2010/2011 has envisaged a substantial increase in the funds earmarked for the measures implemented within the active employment policy. Young people are not excluded from any set of measures and can be targeted by the following sets: - counselling and job-seeking assistance, - training and counselling, - employment and self-employment incentives, - increasing social inclusion. In 2009, the new information and vocational counselling centres (CIPS) were established; camps for Zois scholarship holders and clubs for job seekers were organised; employment fairs were held; on-the-job training was provided; there were on-the-job training opportunities for graduate candidates and subsidies for the employment of graduates and graduate candidates (the 'Be active and find employment' project); project learning for young adults, etc. In 2010/2011, the projects of the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs in the areas of active employment policy, scholarship and others were co-funded by the European Social Fund. Currently, there are 36 instruments applied aiming at improving employment opportunities of young people. Despite numerous measures, Slovenia has not yet succeeded in eliminating structural labour market problems (for example, a well above-average share of young people engaged in flexible employment and the resulting consequences for their economic and social independence, which necessitate more radical employment policies). Youth representatives' answer: Young people are not defined as a target/priority group nor in the programmes for promoting employment nor in the programmes for promoting entrepreneurship, although we insisted that is a crucial measure that should be created/established. Besides, in 2011 we had a renewed measure (financial aid) for promotion of self-employment (for unemployed) which has deficiencies and is of benefit for small group of people.</p>
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#### 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.
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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>Youth participation was relatively unregulated until 2010. The organisational structure was partly governed by the Youth Councils Act, while the issue of legal personality was also regulated in the Student Association Act. Both acts enable young people to participate in adopting laws and regulations that affect the life and work of young people. In May 2010, the Public Interest in the Youth Sector Act was adopted. Article 20 of the act defines the functioning of the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth. Youth: Certain measures to develop mechanisms for dialogue with youth and youth participation on national youth policies already existed before the Youth Strategy came into force: - Council of the Government of Slovenia for Youth”; - Council of the Government of Slovenia for Student Affairs”, discusses students' problems and social conditions of their studies, gives opinions, proposals and recommendations. Council consists of representatives of ministries, student councils of universities and representatives of Student Organization of Slovenia. Council is chaired by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology; - Structured dialogue, since its beginning, is an instrument with which also young people in Slovenia are actively involved in political debates and dialogue related to European cooperation on youth field; these activities are carried out on local/regional level and are co-financed by the government.</p>
<p>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?</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>Several measures to promote youth participation were included in a national strategy Programme for Children and Youth 2006-2016, adopted in 2006. School programmes offer a good framework for teaching and promoting participation among young people, since civic education is part of school curricula in Slovenia. But there is a considerable discrepancy between theory and practice; practical participation is not encouraged. Youth: To encourage the use of already existing guidelines on youth participation, information and consultation in order to ensure the quality of these activities, youth representatives of SVM give two examples of this practice, ensured by the government:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Youth Council Act, which in article 6 provides cooperation between government and national Youth Council or Local Youth Councils, as follows: Prior to preparing the proposals of acts and other regulations having a direct impact on the life and work of young people, the Government, the ministries, and other national authorities and local community bodies shall be obliged to inform the National Youth Council of Slovenia or the local community youth councils thereof. In this point, youth representatives of SVM stress that there are no incentives for the actual use/promotion of article 6 and application of this article has not become a common practice, yet.</li> <li>2. “Council of the Government of Slovenia for Youth”(already described/mentioned above).</li> </ol>

<p>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?</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>Every year, the Office for Youth co-funds programmes in the youth sector through a public call. In the 2009-2011 period, the ESF allocated four million euros to establishing eight thematic networks bringing together youth organisations and external partners. Youth representatives' answer: In order to support politically and financially youth organizations (as well as local and national youth councils) and promote recognition of their important role in democracy, we have measures that already existed before EU youth strategy entered into force: 1. Since its establishment, National Youth Council of Slovenia is co-financed by Slovenian government, based on submitted annual work plans. 2. In the framework of European Social Fund network, project - Active Citizen(2009-2012) is one of good practices of enforcement of young people's role in society. Special focus within this project is given to young people with fewer.</p> <p>3. Also in the framework of European Social Fund network we have a project "Mladi odpiramo prostor (2009-2012)", where project activities are set with a purpose to establish and develop youth policies at local level. Leading role in this project have youth organizations and organizations for young. For greater political support of youth sector it is necessary to amend article 6 of Youth Council Act in such way that it would actually assure an exchange of opinion between decision-makers and youth and have a consultative role.</p>
<p>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?</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 Youth in Action programme is an important instrument in developing youth policy at the national and local levels and plays an important role in involving unorganised young people in Slovenia in the activities of youth and other civil society organisations. Youth representatives' answer: In order to promote participation of more and greater diversity of young people in representative democracy, in youth organizations and civil-society organizations, youth representatives emphasize here the importance of the annual open call by Office of the Republic of Slovenia For Youth for co-financing of youth work and enforcement of youth sector, which already exists for several years now and has become indispensable for certain youth organization.</p>

<p>28. to make effective use of information and communication technologies to broaden and deepen participation of 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>In order to strengthen the supportive environment for providing information, the Office for Youth launched a project to establish a youth information and communication system <a href="http://www.mlad.si">www.mlad.si</a> with a view to setting up a central web portal. The portal is intended for gathering information important and useful primarily to youth sector in a single place. With a view to systematically promoting this area, the Office for Youth has co-funded several organisations engaged in providing information and counselling to young people. In 2011, the youth centres managed and operated 27 information networks; 15 of them have ten or more members. At the national level, a programme of the Youth Information and Counselling Centre of Slovenia contributed towards the quality and efficiency of information provision to young people; the centre has set up an information portal to provide relevant, useful and interesting information to young people. Youth Office has contributed to providing quality information, counselling and access to international information by ensuring membership in the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA) and the operation of the Eurodesk network in Slovenia. Youth representatives answer: Nothing much has been done by the government in order to make effective use of information and communication technologies to broaden and deepen participation of young people.</p>
<p>29. to support various forms of learning to participate from early age through formal education and non-formal learning?</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>Youth representatives' answer: Three examples (which already exist for years) of good practice in the field of support of various forms of "learning to participate" from early age through formal educations and non-formal learning, but at the same time point out that this support is especially weak in formal education and needs to be enforced: 1. On national level we have Citizen Forums ("drzavljski forumi"), organized by information office of European Parliament (EP) in Slovenia; they serve as an exchange of opinion, on current local and national issues, between all stakeholders in decision-making process, i.e. members of EP, professionals, representatives of national and local authorities, representatives of NGOs and other organizations and citizens. 2. In almost every elementary school in Slovenia there are Children's Parliaments ("otroski parlamenti"; emerged in the 90s) and are part of a national educational program for promotion of democracy. They take form of debates and discussions on issues regarding children and youth and they encourage children and adolescents to express their own views on issues in the democratic decision-making process. 3. In high-schools exist Pupil's Communities ("dijaske skupnosti") which are a connection between schools and pupils and represent pupils' rights</p>

	<p>connection between schools and pupils and represent pupils' rights, opinions and their interests. They cooperate with schools' management with purpose to exchange opinion and improve conditions of school activities and extracurricular activities.</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>In 2009, the Slovenian Government established the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth as its consultative body for youth-related issues. A network of youth centres (Youth Network MaMa) contributed significantly to a holistic and intersectoral approach to youth policy. These efforts started in 2008, when it carried out a project entitled 'Act Locally', which drew attention to the youth dimension in local policies. In 2010 and particularly in 2011, the Youth Council of Slovenia and the Youth Network MaMa included local youth organisational structures into the structured dialogue and thus acquainted them with the aims of European cooperation in the area of youth. Youth: Slovenian government did not start any additional initiatives to develop new opportunities for debate between public institutions and young people. The only measure with such purpose, which was established in 2010, is Structured Dialogue. In this way young people, youth organizations and councils can actively engage in political dialogue with those responsible for youth policy on national (and EU) level. To receive an input/feedback from youth and create a relevant content which would cover various areas of youth policies, National Youth Council of Slovenia organizes consultations and work-shops (as well as one final conference per cycle) where relevant conclusions are made and passed onto public institution Youth Office.</p>
<p>Additional comments on participation (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	<p>The central web portal for the youth sector is <a href="http://www.mlad.si">www.mlad.si</a>. Youth: The National Youth Council of Slovenia (MSS), the umbrella organization of national youth organizations and the key partner in the social dialogue in the field of youth, strives for the development of youth policies and, consequently, for the improvement of the situation of young people. With this in mind, MSS adopts policy documents tackling different sectorial policies, which call upon relevant stakeholders to implement the proposed actions. Such are a basis for MSS to, inter alia, enter into discussions with policy makers, to react to current affairs, and to inform young people and the wider public. All MSS' policy papers are available in on-line version and can be accessed on link below: <a href="http://www.mss.si/en/news/30/1/policy-papers-in-english">http://www.mss.si/en/news/30/1/policy-papers-in-english</a></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?	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.	The Youth in Action programme is the most important programme of international volunteers exchange. In Slovenia, international volunteering programmes are mostly offered by non-governmental organisations (the institution Voluntariat, Slovenian Philanthropy, the Humanitas Society, the Missionary Centre of Slovenia, etc.) and supported by public funds; the state ensured no additional schemes for promoting youth volunteering. We estimate that the Volunteering Act will facilitate volunteer mobility (particularly the mobility of those young people who lack their own resources); it stipulates, inter alia, the organisation's obligation to refund the costs of travel, accommodation, meals and other potential costs to a volunteer. Furthermore, the volunteer organisations must ensure a volunteer seconded abroad at least the same scope of rights as enjoyed by the volunteers in the Republic of Slovenia. Youth representatives' answer: Not much has been done by Slovenian government in order to create more opportunities for mobility of young volunteers. All activities in this area are carried out through existing EU programs - on EU level; there's no national program or scheme which would promote and create more opportunities for mobility of young volunteers. But there is definitely a need for such measures to be set and implemented at national level, which means within a national scheme.
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 substantial contribution towards volunteering in Slovenia has been made by the Slovene Philanthropy, the Association for the Promotion of Volunteering, which is also a leading partner in the Slovenian network of voluntary organisations; its activities are aimed at promoting volunteering in general but also focus on various target groups. Youth organisations play a very important role in promoting voluntary work of young people, particularly the Youth Council of Slovenia, which presents a widely publicised Volunteer of the Year Award. The Youth in Action programme plays a very important role in promoting international volunteering of young people. The national agency hosts the Eurodesk - a free of charge European information service intended for young people and those that work with them; it provides information about opportunities offered by various European institutions and international organisations. Youth representatives' answer: Not much has been done by Slovenian government in order to raise awareness about opportunities for mobility of young volunteers. All activities in this area are carried out by National Agency for Youth in Action Programme (MOVIT).

33. To assure quality through the development of self-assessment tools?	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 partnership with the Youth Office, the Youth Guild Association has set up a system tool (Nefix) intended for Slovenian young people aged 14 and older and used for recording learning. The main aim of the project is to ensure a uniform system of recording non-formal education and participation of young people in activities in Slovenia and abroad. In parallel and in cooperation with Nefix, the Youth in Action national agency promoted Youthpass and encouraged a large number of young people who participated in the programme, to use it. Europass is more visible among students who enter the labour market. The Volunteering Act (Ur. l. RS, nos 10-374/2011 and 16-688/2011) imposes an obligation on organisations to keep a register of carried out voluntary work and acquired knowledge and skills for every volunteer. On a volunteer's request, a volunteer organisation must issue a certificate on acquired knowledge and skills. This will enable young volunteers who seek employment to substantiate their work experience, thus facilitating access to employment. Youth: Slovenian government hasn't done much to assure quality through the development of self-assessment tools. All existing self-assessment tools (Europass, Nefix, and Youthpass) are all EU initiatives/projects. The only exception is Nefix (a tool for keeping record of non-formal experience) which is partially financed by the government.
34. To promote cross-border mobility of youth workers and young people in youth organisations?	YES, such measures/initiatives were taken after the EU Youth Strategy came into force in January 2010.
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.	The Youth in Action programme, subaction 4.3 Enhancing youth workers' learning mobility, had positive effects in Slovenia and prompted several pilot youth worker exchange projects. In 2011, the youth centres network cooperated with Finnish partners in developing a youth worker exchange programme with a view to enhancing partnership cooperation between the two countries and aimed at strengthening the professionalism and mobility of youth workers in youth centres, members of Youth Network MaMa. Youth representatives answer: For promotion of cross-border mobility of youth workers and young people in youth organizations, government hasn't done anything for promotion of this kind of mobility. All activities for promotion of cross-border mobility of youth workers and young people in youth organizations are carried out in the framework of Youth in Action Program.
35. To give particular attention in this context to young people with fewer opportunities?	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>The Youth in Action programme devotes some of its activities to promoting and training of young people with fewer opportunities and to youth workers who work with them. Care for volunteers with fewer opportunities is also stipulated by the Volunteering Act (Ur l. RS, nos 10-374/2011 and 16-688/2011); it prohibits discrimination in volunteering (anyone can be a volunteer in the limits of his or her abilities) and instructs voluntary organisations to ensure training and mentoring to volunteers who need such support.</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>The Youth Office and the National Agency of the Youth in Action Programme promote the use of Youthpass and the national certificate (Nefiks) in the field of youth work. Youth: No activities for promotion and recognition of skills through voluntary activities (such as Europass, Youthpass, Member States instruments) were carried out by the government. Use of Europass is promoted by CMEPIUS - national agency of Lifelong Learning program. Youthpass is promoted by the National Agency for Youth in Action Programme (MOVIT).</p>
<p>37. To promote intergenerational solidarity through voluntary activities?</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>Important results and objectives in the field of intergenerational solidarity in Slovenia are achieved through the Family Violence Prevention Act and on the basis of this Act adopted rules according to competent ministries, the Volunteering Act (adopted in 2011), the Financial Social Assistance Act, the Exercise of Rights to Public Funds Act, the Social Entrepreneurship Act, the Active Ageing Strategy, Plan of Action on Ageing with Disability. In Slovenia, there are no detailed analyses that would address the issue of the relationship between the young and the elderly and, in this context, also consider the issue of intergenerational cooperation. Also, there are no measures that would directly address the issues of the low fertility rate, migrations and intergenerational cooperation while taking into account regional specifics. Youth representatives' answer: In the European Social Fund Network for intergenerational solidarity, among other partners, few youth organizations participate within the project through voluntary activities. Youth representatives think that there were no other measure or policy initiatives carried out by the government in order to strengthen the promotion of intergenerational solidarity through voluntary activities.</p>

Additional comments on volunteering (for example references, web-links, project examples).

The Volunteering Act, which regulates voluntary work in general, also contains other incentives to encourage the promotion of voluntary work and voluntary organisations, such as the introduction of national awards or honourable mentions that are conferred upon the volunteers of merit by the President of the Republic of Slovenia on an annual basis. In the allocation of funds from the national budget in the areas of work in which voluntary organisations are engaged, at least 10 % of the funds tendered in the public call are allocated to the implementation of projects and programmes of voluntary organisations, which include voluntary work or are intended for the development of voluntary work; this provision is binding upon the state authorities and bodies of local communities. On the basis of the act, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia established a Council for the Promotion of Volunteering to encourage the development of voluntary work, voluntary and other non-governmental organisations, which is an advisory body to the government. The adoption of the strategy for the development of volunteering has been imposed on the government by the law. In 2010, the Ministry of Public Administration allocated funds for 2010 and 2011 through a public tender with a view to promoting the development of volunteering, and thus supported NGOs that are engaged in this area. On the basis of a new invitation for promoting the development of volunteering for the period from 2011 to 2013, the ministry will also co-finance the project for the promotion of e-volunteering (the establishment of new models of e-volunteering, the promotion of e-volunteering, etc.), which is particularly interesting for young people. Youth representatives answer: A step further in recognizing and promoting volunteering in Slovenia was the adoption of Act on Volunteering ("Zakon o prostovoljstvu") which sets a framework of minimum standards for volunteers and volunteer organizations in organizing and implementation of volunteer work, in monitoring and evaluation of volunteer work and role of the state and local communities in the promotion and development of organized volunteering. Further more, as a good practice of promotion of volunteering (and lately also of Law on Volunteering) it's important to point out the annual award called "Naj prostovoljec leta" - Volunteer of the year, which has been granted for several years.

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

38. To support the development of youth work and other non-formal learning opportunities as a way of addressing early school leaving? 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>As early as in the 1990s, Slovenia established a state approved programme for youth who have left school before graduation. The Programme 'Project Learning for Young Adults' (PLYA) offers opportunities for young people to access and experience learning, beneficial work, different jobs and interest areas in an interesting way. The PLYA programme is financed by the European Union through the European Social Fund and the Ministry of Education and Sport. In the youth sector, where the majority of youth work is carried out at the local level, youth centres have been increasingly profiled, carrying out a number of programmes for young people with fewer opportunities. New National Program for Higher Education 2011-2020 encourages better conditions for lifelong learning at the tertiary level including the updating of procedures for the accreditation of study programs, promoting flexible learning pathways and more transparent information on providers of higher education in Slovenia. Youth representatives' answer: Rate of early school leaving in Slovenia is still low. Youth representatives of SVM believe that even though the government hasn't done much to support the development of youth work and other non-formal learning opportunities as a way of addressing early school leaving, the need for such measures is not a priority (yet) and needs to be reconsidered as a measure.</p>
<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>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>Slovenia has developed a system for the recognition and assessment of non-formally obtained knowledge: National Occupational Qualifications. The acquisition of certificates is basically intended for adults, since priority is giving to encouraging and enabling youth to obtain formal vocational education. Therefore, a general condition for the acquisition of certificates is that a person has reached 18 years of age. Slovenia is developing the Slovenian Qualifications Framework (SQF) as a major tool for transparency in the field of recognising qualifications and assessing skills and abilities. The Vocational Education Act of 2007 prescribes that all vocational education programmes be credit-evaluated. This applies in particular to programmes consisting of modules. New Law on the valuation and recognition of education from 2011 simplifies administrative procedures, brings equitable treatment of foreign education and fair recognition. Youth: With purpose to strengthen the use of the range of tools established at EU level for the transparency and validation of skills and recognition of qualification, the government still hasn't adopted a national qualifications framework (NQF). Currently, government is working on a draft version of NQF which is not in accordance with European Qualifications Framework.</p>

<p>40. To promote learning mobility of all 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>In Slovenia, the promotion of learning mobility of young people is mainly encouraged within the framework of EU programmes (Youth in Action, the Lifelong Learning Programme, Progress Programme, etc.) and EU structural funds. Only in 2011, did the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology adopt a national programme in which the internationalisation of the Slovenian higher education was identified as an objective. It highlights the international dimension of higher education institutions: networking, joint study programs, measures to attract foreign students and teachers, integration of international dimension in teaching, constant quality language trainings, etc. New National strategy for internationalization of Slovenian Higher Education with concrete measures and actions will be adopted by 2013. Youth representatives' answer: The government still has not adopted a national scheme for promotion of learning mobility of all young people. All projects/activities that are already carried out are all implemented within existing EU schemes (in particular within the Youth in Action project, which begun before EU Youth Strategy entered in force. Youth representatives hereby stress that government should adopt national scheme which would grant also national financing of learning mobility.</p>
<p>41. To make the broader public aware of the value of non-formal learning?</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.

As early as in 2007, Slovenia adopted a national programme for the promotion of lifelong learning with a clear priority to assess non-formal education. In 2009, Slovenia supplemented its legislation framework for the validation of non-formally acquired knowledge; however, the assessment of knowledge is, to a great extent, limited to vocational skills acquired outside the school system. Also, the national qualifications framework, in particular the part relating to knowledge gained by non-formal education, is the subject of discussion and development. In the youth field, the promotion of non-formal and informal learning is mainly attributable to the Youth Guild with the Nefiks project and the National Agency for the Youth in Action programme with its training for non-formal learning and Youthpass. The new Volunteering Act of 2011 also emphasises the role of non-formal education through volunteering. In individual secondary schools, volunteering has been integrated into the curricula, while the University of Ljubljana has started to recognise experience and skills acquired through volunteering. In 2012 the Youth Office envisages additional promotion of youth work and non-formal education of young people through state awards conferred upon the most outstanding young people in this field. Youth representatives' answer: There's a lack of initiatives for making the broader public aware of the value of non-formal learning and government should launch ones.

Additional comments on education & training (for example references, web-links, project examples).

Youth representatives' answer: Employment and education policies are interrelated and have direct impact on youth on their way to independence. Youth representatives point out several difficulties in the labour market which young people are facing in the transition from education to labor market, simply trying to find a first job in pursue of achieving autonomy and therefore assume all responsibilities as adults. In the field of employment young people in Slovenia face an aggravated transition into the labour market, they enter the labour market late and when looking for first job they are forced to take insecure, unstable and particularly inappropriate positions. Non-formal work experience is not recognized by the state, formal education institutions, and especially not by the employers; self-employment of youth is underdeveloped and insufficiently encouraged. In seeking employment, in the labour market as well as in terms of working conditions, one can identify discrimination and a lack of equal opportunities between different categories of job seekers and workers. In the field of education system, youth representatives emphasize that one of key issues is lack of career guidance, which would be accessible to all young people, throughout the entire period of education (primary, secondary and tertiary). Besides, Slovenia demonstrates a weak interconnectedness of education and employment and is not implementing the Bologna reform well. Education suffers from a lack of quality. In the system of scholarships and non-formal education Slovenia still faces big challenges. Mechanisms of scholarships for secondary and tertiary level students exist in Slovenia but their current state does not correspond to the needs that they are expected to fulfill. Formal and non-formal education are insufficiently interlinked, despite their complementarity. The state, formal education institutions and employers do not formally recognize non-formal education and training, although it is a key component of the lives of most young people, who also go through formal education. The concept of non-formal education is less known and consequentially less valued in the Slovenian society. Non-recognition of non-formal education by the state, formal education institutions and employers also causes a shortage of financing of non-formal education. Informal learning is mostly completely overlooked and does not receive systemic support. The quality of non-formal education and training in the youth sector is not ensured according to unified standards; therefore, different providers vary in terms of content as well as method and long-term impact. More about youth unemployment and education in Slovenia, can be found in 2 policy papers, edited and issued by National Youth Council of Slovenia, on the link below:  
<http://www.mss.si/en/news/30/1/policy-papers-in-english>

**B. HEALTH & WELL-BEING**

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?	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.	There are two documents dealing with insufficient physical activity at the national level: The Slovenian National Sports Programme and the National Health Enhancing Physical Activity Programme 2007-2012, and indirectly also the National Programme for Diabetes Control - 2010-2020 Development Strategy. It is worth mentioning the project »Model of a healthy lifestyle, which was launched in primary schools before 2010. The premises of the national strategy for the development of sport indicate sport being a factor for the prevention and treatment of socio-pathological phenomena, in particular among young people. The national sports programme has 11 goals; half of them directly target young people (aged 15-29 years), while other goals do not indicate individual age groups. The national programme prioritises sports education and young people, while sports extramural activities have no particular place, despite the research showing that physical inactivity during the spare time of young people has become an issue. Youth representatives' answer: These kind of initiatives have not been included in any Call for applications/proposals as a guideline that the applicants should follow.
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?	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 Programme for Children and Youth 2006-2016 addresses the issue of the health and healthy lifestyle of children and youth until they reach the age of 18, and places considerable emphasis on raising the awareness of children and youth regarding a healthy lifestyle and on the introduction of this field into elementary and secondary school curricula. Pupils and students have provided subsidized school meals, which follows Recommendation for healthy nutrition. At the local level, there are a number of good practices connecting youth organisations with organisations in the field of health, which cooperate in the informing, promoting and training of young people for a healthy lifestyle. At the national level, the issue of use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs is addressed in the Resolution on the National Health Care Plan for 2008-2013 and the Programme for Children and Youth 2006-2016. Youth representatives' answer: For the first time in 2011, the Call for applications of the Slovenian Ministry of Health adopted a project called Fitfest, carried out by No Excuse Slovenia ("Brez izgovora Slovenija") that included health professionals, schools and youth workers in the process of encouragement of healthy lifestyles through education on nutrition and recreation. Before that, projects included mostly health professionals and above mentioned stakeholders were taking place, but excluding youth workers.</p>
<p>44. To increase knowledge and awareness of youth workers and youth leaders of health issues?</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 2010, the Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia published the Slovene translation of a handbook for the promotion of health among young people, which is basically intended for teachers and health education teaching in schools, but it is also useful for all who work with young people in this area. The training of youth workers in the field of youth health was introduced in the youth sector by the National Agency for the Youth in Action programme. Office for Youth encourages trainings of youth workers through annual public calls, where health of young people is one of priority areas. Youth representatives' answer: National Youth Council of Slovenia and No Excuse Slovenia started working hand in hand on this topic in 2011 and were invited to cooperate and contribute to the dokument "Strategija za zdravje otrok in mladostnikov v povezavi z okoljem 2012-2020" - Slovenian Strategy on the impact of environment on youth and children's health 2012-2020, adopted by the Slovenian Government in December 2011.</p>
<p>45. To encourage peer-to-peer health education?</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 context of this education should be mentioned peer mediation within the Slovenian Network of healthy schools. The program »Peers and me - let's talk« was created in 2003/2004. It was aimed at promoting good relations and prevention of violence at school and was based on a method of peer learning or peer mediation. In Slovenia, there is a Medical Students' Association carrying out a number of preventive actions and projects among youth. A part of their programme is also supported by the Ministry of Health. For some years, a national youth association named 'Brez izgovora Slovenija' (No Excuse Slovenia) has been successfully carrying out awareness-raising projects dealing with active and passive smoking and the unethical marketing strategies of the tobacco industry. By 2011, the association raised the awareness of 15 592 young people between the ages of 12 and 15. Through 633 peer-to-peer workshops, the organisation has reached 40 % of their target group, which accounts for 39 029 young people according to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia data for 2010. Their programmes are also supported by public funds, primarily by the Ministry of Health and the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth.</p>
<p>46. To facilitate access to existing health facilities by making them more youth friendly?</p>	<p>YES, such measures/initiatives were taken 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>Children and young people included in formal education system have a right to choose a doctor. In addition, regular periodic medical examinations including health education are held. Health education for youth therefore links health system with educational system and promotes health and healthy lifestyles. Institute for Public Health is carrying out evaluations of existing health care organisations for adolescents which will be basis for eventual changes aimed at youth-friendly health services. Evaluation's results are expected in 2013. On the basis of individual initiatives and initiatives put forward by local authorities, youth centres or health insurance institutes and social work centres, specific measures have been adopted to facilitate the access of young people to information and services in the area of health. For example, nine years ago, the Celje Institute of Public Health developed a health promotion and prevention programme entitled 'To sem jaz' (This is me). The website counselling service for young people operates at <a href="http://www.tosemjaz.net">http://www.tosemjaz.net</a>. Programme activities at the website and in school settings are focused on the promotion of a positive self-image, the development of social skills and mental health among young people.</p>
<p>Additional comments on health &amp; well-being (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	

### C. SOCIAL INCLUSION

<p>47. To realise the full potential of youth work and youth centres as means of inclusion?</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>The current state measures are financed by the Youth Office while, simultaneously, the local level provides a number of initiatives for a holistic approach to the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities. The Preventive Programs for Young People in Slovenia are an example of good practice at the national level, representing a working coordination of social and prevention programmes for young people, which operate within the expert committee of the Association for the Development of Community Programmes for Young People with a view to organising common education programmes, activities and promotions. Youth representatives' answer: To realize potential of youth work and youth centers as means of inclusion there were measures even before EU Youth Strategy entered into force in 2010. Youth representatives of SVM consider two measures/open calls very important for achieving this purpose. These are (1) open call by Office of the Republic of Slovenia For Youth for co-financing of youth work and enforcement of youth sector, which already exists for several years now and has become indispensable for certain youth organization, especially for youth centers; (2) open call for cofinancing youth tourist infrastructure; Youth Centers through European Regional Development Fund/Operational Programme for Strengthening Regional Development Potentials/Priority: Integration of Natural and Cultural Heritage/Increasing of Tourism Competitiveness</p>
<p>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?</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>Slovenia adopted a number of national programmes, strategies and resolutions, individually addressing the issues of youth. In the housing area, the National Housing Programme from 2000 plays an important role by defining the activities of the state in this matter. The youth and young families are classified as a vulnerable group in the housing area. The non-profit rental sector is the main aid instrument. Also significant are social programmes, such as the Resolution on the National Social Assistance Programme 2006-2010. One of the priorities set in the said documents is caring for vulnerable population groups, among which young people are not directly referred to. The National Report on Strategies for Social Protection and Social Inclusion (2008-2010) identifies the issue of access to housing. In this context, the focus is on instruments intended for young families who are first-time home buyers (non-reimbursable subsidies). The Resolution on the National Higher Education Programme 2007-2010 (is oriented towards greater inclusion of students in assuring quality and international cooperation. Youth representatives' answer: Government hasn't done much to adopt cross-sectoral approach when working to improve community cohesion and solidarity and reduce the social exclusion of young people, addressing the inter linkages between sectoral policies regarding youth. Cross-sectoral cooperation in Slovenia in this field is very poor.</p>
<p>49. To support the development of intercultural awareness and competences for all young people and combat prejudice?</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>Since 1995, when the Council of Europe launched the campaign 'All Different - All Equal', the Youth Office has encouraged tolerance, equality, solidarity and understanding, and human rights education. In addition to promotional activities, the Office for Youth co-finances programmes that encourage intercultural learning and intercultural competences; with the assistance of the European Social Fund, a consortium project group was established at the national level, encouraging intercultural competences of young people. Youth representatives' answer: As an effective approach to support development of intercultural awareness and competences for all young people and combat, youth representatives point out one good example of it, realized through the project "Mladi ambasadorji medkulturnega dialoga" - Young Ambassadors of intercultural dialogue (2009 - 2013; as a part of European Social Fund network), which started before EU Youth Strategy entered into force. Project's activities are focused on youth and their understanding of other cultures and are entirely based on youth participation. Through the activities of informing and training of young people, and promoting the accessibility of culture, partners of the project ensuring the dispersion of effects, quality of the structure and content of the project network.</p>

50. To address the issues of homelessness, housing and financial exclusion with a particular focus on 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.	Young people are classified as a priority group in a number of state measures to improve the housing situation; however, their access to housing remains limited given that in the majority of cases the number of applicants for subsidies, non-profit housing, financial assistance, etc. far outstrips the funds available. State subsidies intended for the first-time home buyers are specifically aimed at young people; however, the eligibility is applicable only to young families and not to individuals. The Housing Act also defines measures for combating homelessness, but access to emergency housing units is still limited, inadequate (considering the number of the homeless) and geographically distributed quite unevenly. The Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs finances various programmes providing shelters for the homeless and homeless drug addicts. Furthermore, crisis centres for youth (CCY) also play an important role by offering young people, in addition to other forms of assistance, shelter and care (for a maximum of three weeks, with the possibility of extension). Youth organisations voice their critical views concerning the suitability and efficiency of housing policies, addressing key housing problems of young people; however, a small percentage of youth organisations actually deal with this issue.
51. To promote access to quality services e.g. transport, e-inclusion, health, social 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.	Slovenia has a wide dispersion of population and a relatively low level of urbanisation, which results in a smaller degree of institutional specialisation at the local level. It is for this reason that differences can be noticed in the development of infrastructure intended to meet the needs of young people according to the size of the place. Youth centres, as a key form of infrastructure, with the exception of spaces for spending leisure time and cultural and artistic activities of young people, also serve as basic infrastructure that enables the activities to a number of youth organisations and associations, offering support to both organised and non-organised youth groups. The Slovenian associations of secondary-school and university students have an important role in providing information on the rights and obligations of secondary-school and university students.
52. To promote specific support for young families?	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>Slovenia has a highly developed family policy and has developed a lot of benefits and services for children and families with children. When evaluating transfers to families with children in Slovenia, the following should be taken into account: (financial) social assistance, family benefits, parental benefits and payment of contributions in case of part time employment due to the parenthood, service subsidies, expenses for education of children and youth, health care for children and youth, including sickness benefit for caring for a sick child. Taking altogether, direct and indirect income of families with children based on transfers as defined in the legislation, expenditure on the young from the state and municipal budgets and taking tax savings into account show that 7.2 percent of GDP is spent on the young generation. Youth representatives' answer: Certain measures have already been adopted even before the EU Youth Strategy entered into force, such as subventions for housing for young families and benefits for student parents/families.</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>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>The Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs has invited a number of representatives of civil society and youth organisations to create and implement the strategy within the framework of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. Youth representatives answer: Nothing has been done by the government to engage young people and youth organizations in the planning, delivery and evaluation of European Year of Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in 2010.</p>
<p>Additional comments on social inclusion (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	<p>Youth representatives's answer: Scholarship system's purpose is also to ensure financial means for students, which is the only opportunity for young people with fewer opportunities to enter or continue education. At this point, youth representatives point out the importance of scholarships for high-school students. The right to apply for a scholarship for high-school students under 18 years old has been removed from the law which covers scholarships. It's important to stress that scholarships for students who are minor, can't be substituted by the aid for child support. It is urgent to give back the right to scholarship to students who are under age of 18. Another important thing that needs to be pointed out is the lack of national strategy for youth. National Youth Program has not been adopted, yet.</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>The National Programme of Culture 2008-2011 and the draft National Programme of Culture 2012-2015 pay particular attention to cultural and artistic education and the encouragement of creativity, especially among children and youth. Since 2006, the Ministry of Culture, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Sport, has pursued the systematic development of cultural and artistic education and the development of cultural awareness as the key competence, and expression of children and youth. In all areas of culture (ranging from music, the culture of reading, fine arts to cultural heritage), the Ministry of Culture provides funds for events intended for young people (as either viewers or visitors or active participants/creators). Under the Operational Programme for Human Resources Development for the 2007-2013 Period (resources from the European social funds), the Ministry of Education and Sport also intended part of the public tender for the promotion of competence in Cultural Awareness and Expression. Nevertheless, systemic measures have only an indirect effect on the culture and creativity of young people, meaning that young people apply for the same funds as other players, but often have a worse starting position, because they lack adequate skills and competences in obtaining public funds. As already mentioned, the youth sector is mainly financed through public invitations and calls.</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>Cultural institutions in various areas, in particular in the field of multi-media art, fine arts, music, film, and the culture of reading encourage young people, through different projects, to creatively use new technologies (website applications, workshops, etc.). In 2012, an inter-ministerial multidisciplinary working group will be appointed at the Ministry of Culture, which will operate within the ministry and prepare an action plan for the promotion and development of media literacy. The group will comprehensively address media literacy and (among other things) the issue of the media literacy of children and youth, strive for the development of media literacy of children and young people. Therefore, the principal goal will be set to introduce media literacy into the process of formal education, i.e. from pre-school education onwards. The measures will also target parents, teachers and other socially relevant persons, the middle-aged and elderly generations; therefore, wider inter-ministerial cooperation will be required.</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>Cultural institutions, at both national and local levels, as well as in all areas of culture, enable young people access to facilities where they can creatively spend their leisure time, while offering them a number of cultural activities to join and actively participate in their spare time. By providing state or local financial support and/or through the volunteering of creators (artists) and professional workers in cultural institutions, a number of such activities are financially accessible; there are a number of activities for young people that are entirely free of charge. A greater development level of individual institutions and facilities, primarily intended for young people, is characteristic only for larger urban centres, i.e. the capital, while in the remaining part of Slovenia, the majority of youth activities are provided by local youth centres that, as already emphasised, practically represent the only form of youth infrastructure in Slovenia for this purpose. Youth representatives' answer: To provide access to environments where young people can develop their creativity and interests and spend a meaningful leisure time government already financed the establishment and activities of Multimedia Centers before EU Youth Strategy entered into force.</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>A large portion of funds for the non-formal education and training of youth workers is mainly provided through the Youth in Action programme and, in a limited scope, also through the Lifelong Learning Programme. Public tenders for the education and training of teaching staff are less frequently open to youth workers, since the profile of a youth worker is still not sufficiently recognised in Slovenia. Every year, the Ministry of Culture co-finances projects for vocational training in all areas of culture, which are particularly intended for young people who are not able to acquire the knowledge and skills within formal training. By providing financial support, such training has become more accessible in terms of price and is often entirely free of charge. Furthermore, a number of cultural institutions offer (also for young people, or particularly for young people) various quality lectures and workshops, seminars, etc. through which young people acquire new or additional skills and competences in the area of culture and new media. For such offers, cultural institutions obtain funds at the local and/or national level, and also through different foreign sources (ESF, etc.). Youth representatives answer: There has not been done anything by the government in order to promote specialized training in culture, new media and intercultural competencies for youth workers.</p>
<p>Additional comments on culture &amp; creativity (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	<p>Through the measure to encourage the cultural and creative industries, which was undertaken by the Ministry of Culture in 2011, the ministry supported an interesting project designed to promote a partnership between the Department of Textiles at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Engineering, and businesses and craftsmen in the field of textile industry: Conventional and Alternative Approaches in the Textile Industry. In the search for new approaches, the notion of 'slow fashion' (an alternative to fast, cheap, buy-and-discard production) is gaining support in the fashion world. It is developing alongside the movement for sustainable development, which emphasises reducing the textile industry's impact on the environment and preserving the traditional knowledge of the individual culture. Students used knowledge derived from Slovene textile traditions and, with the help of manufacturers, designers, and market specialists, incorporated it in designs for a new line of textile products. <a href="http://www.mk.gov.si/fileadmin/mk.gov.si/pageuploads/Ministrstvo/Drugo/aktualno/2011/KKIPS/brosura-web-si.pdf">http://www.mk.gov.si/fileadmin/mk.gov.si/pageuploads/Ministrstvo/Drugo/aktualno/2011/KKIPS/brosura-web-si.pdf</a> Youth representatives answer: Young people are not the priority or a specific target group in the field of creativity and culture.</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>NO, but we plan to take concrete measures in this field in 2012.</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>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinates an inter-ministerial working group for global education, under the auspices of which various events are held for raising awareness of the importance of global education in schools and in general. Under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and coordinated by SLOGA, an NGO platform for development cooperation and humanitarian aid, a week of global education is organised every year in cooperation with a number of non-governmental organisations for young people. In 2011, the central topic focused on a responsible behaviour of individuals to our planet and its inhabitants. A number of events were held throughout Slovenia, also in cooperation with all kinds of organisations, schools, and associations that are engaged in global education in various ways. Youth representatives' answer: As a good (and the only one) example of raising awareness of young people about global issues such as sustainable development and human rights in Slovenia, youth representatives highlight here a special - illustrated edition of Slovene constitution, issued by Slovene National Assembly in 2011 on 20th anniversary of the Constitution. Its purpose is to give a quick insight of the content, i.e. duties and rights, through pictures, which seems to be a youth-friendly way. Otherwise, issues in this question seem not to be the priority.</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>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>There are a number of young people who, through non-governmental organisations, take part in these kind of projects.</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>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>There are a number of schools, kindergartens and centres for school and extra-curricular activities that are included in the international programme of eco-schools, primarily designed to encourage the education of children and young people. Individual projects and actions raising the awareness on environmental protection are numerous, even among the volunteer organisations. One of the widely known actions is the campaign 'Let's Clean Slovenia in One Day', which is held by the Ecologists without Borders association. Youth representatives' answer: To encourage young people to participate in "green volunteering" and "green" patterns of consumption and production, youth representatives expose here two good examples of relevant measures, which already existed before EU Youth Strategy entered into force: a) Eco-Schools: Programme started in 1994, with support of the European Commission (DG XI and DG XXII), in 4 countries - Denmark, Germany, Greece and United Kingdom and later on (2007-2009) was expanded onto 15 new countries, among which was also Slovenia. In this program are involved education institutions, from kindergarten to high school, as well as centers of school and extracurricular activities, b) a measure of raising ecological awareness of children in elementary schools during regular classes</p>
<p>61. To promote entrepreneurship, employment, education and volunteering opportunities with countries or regions outside of Europe?</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>Youth representatives' answer: Government did not implement any particular measures for promotion of entrepreneurship, employment, education and volunteering with countries or regions outside of Europe.</p>
<p>62. To encourage young people to participate in development cooperation activities either in their country of residence or abroad?</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 accordance with the priority orientations of the Slovenian foreign and economic policies, the bilateral development cooperation of Slovenia is primarily focused on the countries of the Western Balkans, while the second priority area includes Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, followed by the third geographical priority, Africa. The encouragement of young people, youth exchanges and youth volunteering rarely follows geostrategic goals of the country. International youth projects are mostly supported through the EU Young in Action programme. A great number of projects in this area are coordinated by SLOGA, an NGO platform for development cooperation and humanitarian aid, which cooperates with the youth sector or attracts young people's participation</p>
<p>Additional comments on youth &amp; the world (for example references, web-links, project examples).</p>	

### SECTION 5: EVALUATION OF THE STRUCTURED DIALOGUE

<p>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?</p>	<p>YES, the government has implemented specific measures responding to recommendations from the European Youth Week in May 2011.</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>By adopting the new Public Interest in the Youth Sector Act, Slovenia also obtained a definition of a structured dialogue as an open, transparent, long-term, continuous and systematic dialogue between young people and the holders of powers at the national and local levels. The measures to improve the structured dialogue are envisaged in the national youth programme to be adopted in 2012.</p>
<p>64. Has your Government supported the establishment of a National Working Group?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>The Youth Office is a member of the national working group, also providing support to the structured dialogue through financial assistance to the National Youth Council of Slovenia and Youth Network MaMa, which is an organisation joining and representing organisations that are engaged in the activities of youth centres or operate in the area of youth work in Slovenia. Youth representatives' answer: Government has supported financially activities of Structured Dialogue, and consequently the establishment of National Working Group, but It has no active role in it.</p>

65. Does the National Youth Council play a leading role in the National Working Group?	Yes
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.	Youth representatives' answer: National Youth Council of Slovenia plays a leading role in the National Working Group.
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.	Youth representatives' answer: Competent national ministry doesn't play an active role in the National Working Group
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
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.	Youth representatives' answer: Despite the cross-sectoral character of the EU Youth Strategy, other national ministries didn't play an active role in the National Working Group.
68. Does your Government provide financial or other support for the National Working Group?	Yes

<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>In the 2010-2011 period, the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth provided additional financial resources in the annual amount of € 5 000 to the National Youth Council of Slovenia for the implementation of the structured dialogue. Youth representatives' answer: Activities carried out under the Structured Dialogue are financed by the government, but no additional financing is provided just for National Working Group, nor does government provide any other support for the group.</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>The Youth Office is a member of the national working group and regularly receives information through the coordination group for the implementation of the structured dialogue in Slovenia. Through its instruments, the Youth Office endeavours to improve the quality of the structured dialogue.</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, but we intend to take relevant initiatives/measures in 2012</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>The measures are envisaged in the national youth programme to be adopted in 2012. Youth representatives' answer: Regarding the points that were raised as priority areas in the conclusion of the structured dialogue on youth employment (as outlined in the Council Resolution on the structured dialogue), there were no follow-up activities taken by the government.</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>

Please explain the reasons for your answer	The structured dialogue forms part of the youth policy shaping process at the EU level, while also being an important instrument for shaping the national youth policy
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?	No
If your answer is NO please elaborate	The composition of the national working group is set; however, throughout its functioning, new possibilities are being explored to include other players, including researchers and representatives of different ministries.
73. What are the methods of consultation with young people that have been applied within the structured dialogue in your country?	The national working group applies different methods of work, reaching the widest circle of young people at all levels, in particular at the local level. In 2011, supported by the Youth in Action programme and in cooperation with the National Youth Council of Slovenia, the Youth Network MaMa started the Youth Dialogue Project within the framework of which a number of local events will be held with the assistance of coordination groups, functioning in all 12 regions in Slovenia, and a conclusion at the national level to follow in the first half of 2012.
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.	Youth representatives' answer: Since its beginning the methods used for consultation with young people in structured dialogue, are: - local consultations/workshops with young people on the relevant topic held in different cities across Slovenia; conclusions of these local consultations served for the further activities on national level; - national conference where young people along with professionals, covering different professional areas, discussed about topics and conclusions from local consultation; as a final document, which is usually presented at the European youth conference, a resolution about discussed issued was formed; - online questionnaire for young people where different opinions from a wider group of young people were collected and analyzed.
74. Do youth researchers and those engaged in youth work play a role in carrying out the structured dialogue in your country?	Yes

<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>Besides the National Youth Council of Slovenia, an important partner in implementing the structured dialogue is also Youth Network MaMa, an organisation joining and representing organisations engaged in the activity of youth centres and youth work. In the future, the national working group will also include in its work researchers. This is, however, connected with the establishment of the research institution for young people in Slovenia. Youth representatives' answer: Youth workers play an active role in carrying out structured dialogue; all activities related to structured dialogue are carried out mostly by them.</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>By adopting the new Public Interest in the Youth Sector Act, Slovenia also obtained a definition of the structured dialogue as an open, transparent, long-term, continuous and systematic dialogue between young people and the holders of powers at the national and local levels. The measures to improve the structured dialogue, its visibility and integration into the youth policy are envisaged in the national youth programme to be adopted in 2012.</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>Yes</p>
<p>Please explain the reasons for your answer.</p>	<p>Methods are well selected and need to be developed further in order to reach max result. The structured dialogue need to start at the local level and come back with the measure to the young people on local level.</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.

It is important that structured and sustainability-oriented discussions on the possibility of the young people's participation in society be enabled among young people and organisations engaged in the work with young people and decision-makers. In this context, it is also necessary to raise awareness among young people and decision-makers at the local, regional and national levels about the importance of the young people's participation and co-decision in matters relevant to the youth. With a view to achieving this objective, it is necessary to invest in the youth sector, youth workers and quality youth work, and to professionalise youth workers

## SECTION 6: ON EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

Presentation of good practice # 1 European Social Fund in Slovenia for youth sector Youth-related content networks represent a comprehensive approach to the strengthening of the youth non-governmental sector in Slovenia and, through projects, respond to the challenges defined by the European Union in its developmental priorities for the 2009-2012 period 'Human Resources Development and Lifelong Learning'. The projects 'Mladinski delavec' (Youth Worker), 'Aktivendržavljan.si' (Activecitizenship.si), 'ZaVedno mladi' (Forever Young), 'Mladi odpirajo prostor' (Youth Opens the Space), 'MGS mreža' (Intergenerational coexistence network). The development of potentials of youth organisations for intergenerational coexistence and cooperation are led by 'Omrežen.si' (Social Capital Network), 'National Network for Developing Research Values for Youth' and 'Young Ambassadors of the Intercultural Dialogue', are a group of partners and activities that have (in the previous three years) organised a number of trainings, conferences, workshops and actions. 'The operation is partly financed by the European Union through the European Social Fund and the Ministry of Education and Sport. It is carried out within the framework of the Operational Programme for Human Resources Development for 2007-2013; the development priority: Development of Human Resources and Life-Long Learning, the priority axis: Improvement of quality and efficiency of the system of education and training'.

**YOUTH WORKER** The development of models of formal and non-formal education for the youth worker for the inclusion in programmes of organisations. The main idea of the Youth Worker project involves the preparation of the education programmes for formal and non-formal forms of education for youth work. The main aim of the project is the preparation of a programme for the elective subject in secondary education with respect to different disciplines, the preparation of the programme for higher education and the development of a model for non-formal education for the vocational profile of a youth worker, taking into consideration adequate foreign and national experience of youth organisations with developed systems of internal education. The description of the value added for the youth sector: • the development of education programmes; • the identification of key competencies relating to youth work; • consideration of the formation of national standards for youth work;

• the drawing up of the system of qualification levels for the vocational profile of a youth worker; • the preparation of expert groundwork for the project covering the thematic classification of new knowledge; • target-oriented research and development work; • the development of a certification authority model for granting certificates serving as a draft of the future national certification centre for the needs of youth work; • the promotion of the entire field of youth work. The description of the value added for young people: For young people, the project will provide the following: • the possibility of cooperation in the creation of education programmes during their preparation stage; • the possibility of using formal and non-formal forms of education for youth work, when they are created; • an additional possibility of mutual communication targeting a specific issue through the project website at [www.mladinski-delavec.si](http://www.mladinski-delavec.si), • additional possibilities of non-formal education through a digital library.

Presentation of good practice # 2 Jobs for Youth The project entitled Jobs for Youth, carried out by Youth Network MaMa in cooperation with youth centres throughout Slovenia, was a national networking project of youth organisations and organisations engaged in work with the youth and other players in the local communities, with a view to achieving the goal: to improve the employment prospects of young people. The project provided the opportunity, facility and support at the local and regional levels, as well as at the national level, for young people and the expert public, media, decision-makers and the interested public to cooperate in activities combating poverty and social exclusion during the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The project focused on the topic - work and employability and employment of youth - with a view to providing an answer to challenges and, as a result, finding solutions to protect young people against unemployment and, consequently, social exclusion. The project also drew attention to the need of local communities and national authorities to recognise and support the development and improve the quality of youth work in the country, with an emphasis on the local level. Job for Youth is a project, supported by the Youth in Action programmed in Slovenia, within Action 5.1

- Meetings of young people and those responsible for youth policy. The project aims: - to raise awareness of the local environment up to the national level about the challenges that young people face on account of the unemployment and unemployability, and also about the issues of poverty and social exclusion that young people, as a consequence, have to deal with; - to enable the structured dialogue, at the local up to the national level, among young people, organisations engaged in the work with young people and decision-makers on employability and the employment of youth; - through examples of good practices from local levels, to raise awareness, inform and encourage to seize existing possibilities and opportunities for increasing the employment prospects of young people, and to encourage local communities to raise awareness about the implementation of the measures to improve the employment prospects of young people in local communities; - through activities, to promote youth work and youth centres as a facility for young people to obtain key competences, which will improve the employability of young people.

Presentation of good practice # 3 Youth representatives' answer: As examples of good practices in the field of youth participation two mechanisms need to be exposed here: 1. "Svet vlade Republike Slovenije za mladino" - Council of the Government of Slovenia for Youth", which was established in 2009 as an inter-ministerial working group. Council is a consultative body that proposes measures and monitors the consideration of youth interests in various public policies at the national level. It gives the Government and the responsible ministries incentives and suggestions for the regulation of youth matters and promotes youth participation in these processes. The Council which comprises representatives of youth organizations and various ministries on an equal basis is chaired by the Minister of Education and Sport. 2. "Svet vlade Republike Slovenije za studentska vprasanja" - Council of the Government of Slovenia for Student Affairs", discusses students' problems and social conditions of their studies, gives opinions, proposals and recommendations. Council consists of representatives of ministries, student councils of universities and representatives of Student Organization of Slovenia. Council is chaired by the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology

As examples of good practices of participation in decision-making process of young people at local level, here are mentioned: 1. Commission for Youth issues ("Komisija za mladinska vprasanja) Commission for youth issues, within a municipality, is appointed by the mayor as his consultative body, with purpose to give recommendations on different issues within his competences; in this case on youth issues. Commission issues conclusions, gives incentives and suggestions to mayor. Commission consists of 3 young representatives and 4 representatives of Local Community Council. 2. Board of the Local Community Council for Youth ("Odbor občinskega sveta za mladino") presents a way of cooperation of citizens at accepting decisions in the municipality and other questions of joint importance in the municipality, regarding youth issues, regulated by law. This board monitors and identifies the needs of young people in order to find solutions regarding youth issues in municipality; gives recommendations to Local Community Council related to youth matters and participates in budget-planning of assets for youth. Board consists of young representatives and those from local community.