Youth Wiki national description

Youth policies in Slovenia

2017

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Youth

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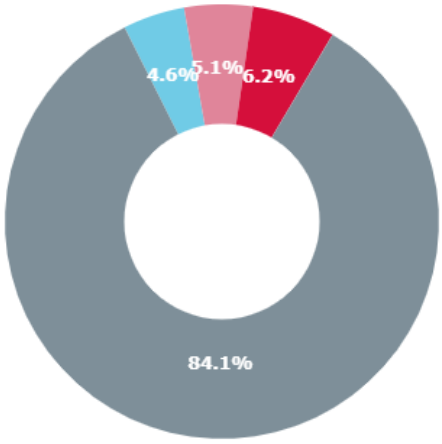
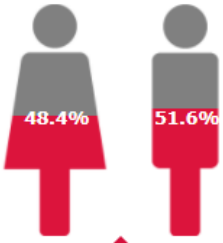
Overview

Young People in Slovenia

Ratio of young people in the total population on 1st January





Ratio of men and women in the youth population

Ratio of young immigrants in all immigrants from non-EU countries

No Data Available

Age group 15-19
Age group 20-24
Age group 25-29
Other age groups

Total number of young people: 327 326

References:

Ratio (%) of young people in the total population (2016): Eurostat, yth_demo_020 [data extracted on 21/09/2017].

Absolute number of young people on 1 January for the age group 15-29 (2016): Eurostat, yth_demo_010 [data extracted on 21/09/2017].

Ratio (%) of men and women in the youth population (2016): Eurostat, yth_demo_020 [data extracted on 21/09/2017].

Young immigrants from non-EU countries (2015): Eurostat, yth_demo_070 [data extracted on 21/09/2017].

Young People in Slovenia

According to the Act on Public Interest in the Youth Sector "youth" are defined as young people and young adults of both genders aged between 15 and a completed 29 years. The share of young people (aged 15–29) in Slovenia is declining. In Slovenia, there was 320,000 young people aged 15-29 in 2017. At the beginning of 2016 they accounted for 16% of the population, ten years ago it was over 20%. The at-risk-of-poverty rate among young people in 2016 was 14.6% and was higher than that among the general population. The unemployment rate among young people was also higher than the average: at the beginning of 2017 it was amounted to 13.2%, while the total unemployment rate was 7.8%. Nevertheless, the youngest among all age groups are most satisfied with their lives, since - on a scale of 0 to 10 - they rated their lives in 2016 with an average score of 7.8, which was 0.7 points more than the average.

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

situation is improving (youth unemployment has been gradually declining since), but young people remain one of the most vulnerable groups on the labour market. Compared to 2011, in 2016 the youth employment rate in Slovenia decreased in total by 2.5 percentage points. In 2016 the youth employment rate in Slovenia stood at 45.3% and in the EU at 48.3%. 25.1% of young employees (15–24 years) were in a permanent employment relationship, 25.5% were in a temporary employment relationship and 49.4% had other temporary employment types.

In 2015 the share of the young living in the parental household in Slovenia was 80.4% and was higher than that in the EU (65.9%). Young people move away from their parental household at an average of 28.2-year-old, which is slightly more than two years later than young peers throughout the EU.

Young people in Slovenia feel they have very little political influence, and in comparison with the EU average tend to be much less interested or involved in politics.

Compared to other EU countries, there is a growing trend of increasing obesity in Slovenia.

Young people (16-24 year-old) like to go to the cinema. In 2015, 75% of young people visited at least one cinema show, 49% attended at least one concert, 28% theatre, and 48% of young people watched a sports event or match. 69% of young people actively participated in online social networks on a daily basis (in 2015). Among forms of participation, young people in Slovenia most commonly participate in voluntary activities (35.7%), which represent a central mechanism of social inclusion of young people. Slovenian youth are most frequently members of organisations in the fields of sports, recreation and culture, while their membership in political parties is considerably lower.

Youth Policy in Slovenia

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

The measures to implement youth policy are taken by the state or local communities. In principle, youth policy is part of other sectoral policies (e.g. education, health, employment) and therefore falls within the competence of different Ministries, e.g. the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Culture …). Consequently, the implementation of youth policy is not linked to a single institution. The Act on Public Interest in the Youth Sector identifies the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth as the public authority responsible for the youth field. The Office for Youth mainly focuses on promoting youth work, coordinating measures within youth policy and ensuring adequate social dialogue with young people. Youth Office has been co-funding youth work programmes since its beginnings.

Several pieces of legislation regulate the youth field. The Act on Public Interest in the Youth Sector may be considered as the most comprehensive and binding official document that addresses the needs and/or rights of young people and stipulates how youth issues should be addressed. The Act entered into force in 2010.

The Resolution on the National Youth Programme 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013–2022) was adopted in 2013 for the period 2013–2022. It serves as an overarching strategic public document or action plan that integrates the major directions to be followed in policy making on youth matters at the national level. Measures of the National programme for youth are covering the following fields: education, employment and entrepreneurship, housing, health and wellbeing, the social

position of youth, the development of the youth sector, culture and creativity, heritage, media.

1. Youth Policy Governance

The introductory chapter gives an overview of youth policy governance in Slovenia. Several pieces of legislation regulate the youth field. The Act on Public Interest in the Youth Sector may be considered as the most comprehensive and binding official document that addresses the needs and/or rights of young people and stipulates how youth issues should be addressed. It determines the public interest in the youth sector as well as the method of its implementation. The Act identifies the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth as the public authority responsible for the youth field. It also specifies its responsibilities.

The Resolution on the National Youth Programme 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013–2022) serves as an overarching strategic public document or action plan that integrates the major directions to be followed in policy making on youth matters at the national level. It is the thematic guide to youth policies and programmes. The competent ministries are responsible for the implementation of the national programme, but the Office of Republic of Slovenia for Youth is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the programme through action plans.

The Slovenian government established the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth as a cross-sectorial collaborative work in 2009. The Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth (Svet Vlade RS za mladino) set up 4 different working groups to discuss the most relevant topics for the development of youth policy in Slovenia. These working groups can be considered as a mechanism for encouraging cross-sector cooperation because they involve representatives of various ministries.

There are no national research networks on youth in Slovenia, but the Office of Republic of Slovenia for Youth cooperates with different groups of researchers. Beside the Office for Youth, there are also other public and semi-public bodies gathering data and knowledge about youth.

Apart from the European cooperation in the field of youth, Slovenia has no other cooperation with EU or EU-candidate countries. Erasmus+ programme, the Youth in Action, is the most important instrument to encourage European and international cooperation among young people in Slovenia.

1.1 Target population of youth policy

Youth-related legislation

Act on Public Interest in the Youth Sector (Zakon o javnem interesu v mladinskem sektorju; entered into force on 12 June 2010) defines young people as all young people and young adults of both genders aged between 15 and 29. This Act does not define any other target groups of young people in relation to specific policy measures. Provisions affecting young people in the criminal (penal), civil and labour legislation differ from the above definition of young people.

Penal Legislation

Penal Code (Kazenski zakonik; entered into force on 1 November 2008) defines three groups of young minors. The first group is younger minors, including young people from 14 to 16 years old. Younger minors who commit crime cannot be punished, against them only educational and security measures can be imposed. The second group is older minors including young people who are already 16 years old but not yet 18. They can be exceptionally imposed a fine or juvenile detention. The third group includes young adults older than 18 who have committed a criminal offense as an adult but have not yet

reached the age of 21 years. These offenders are criminally responsible, but they might receive educational or security measures only.

Civil legislation

Code of Obligations (Obligacijski zakonik; entered into force on 1 January 2002) and Marriage and Family Relations Law (Zakon o zakonski zvezi in družinskih razmerjih; entered into force on 1 January 1977) stipulate that a natural persons acquire full legal capacity at the age of eighteen years. A natural person can acquire full legal capacity before this age if he/she marries or becomes a parent. This is decided by the court in extrajudicial proceedings. When a young person reaches 15 years, they get a limited legal capacity.

Labour Legislation

Employment Relations Act (Zakon o delovnih razmerjih; entered into force on 12 April 2013) stipulates that a young person who have reached the age of 15 years can sign an employment contract. The employment contract with a person who has not attained 15 years of age is null and void.

Young workers aged 15 to 18 enjoy special protection, such as special restrictions regarding hard work, night work, working time, annual leave.

1.2 National youth law

Existence of a National Youth Law

Several pieces of legislation regulate the youth field. According to the Youth wiki definition of the National Youth Law, the Act on Public Interest in the Youth Sector may be considered as the most comprehensive and binding official document that addresses the needs and/or rights of young people and stipulates how youth issues should be addressed.

The Act was adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia on 18 May 2010, promulgated on 28 May 2010 and entered into force on 12 June 2010.

In addition, several other legal acts, such as the following, are relevant to the youth field:

- Youth Council Act (Zakon o mladinskih svetih): adopted by the National Assembly on 19 July 2000 and amended in 18 May 2010. The Act regulates the status, operation, activities and financing of the National Youth Council of Slovenia and local community youth councils.

- Students Association Act (Zakon o skupnosti študentov): adopted on 20 June 1994 by the National Assembly. This Act regulates the status, operation and activities of student associations in Slovenia.

Scope and contents

Act on Public Interest in the Youth Sector

Act on Public Interest in the Youth Sector adopted in 2010 determines the public interest in the youth sector as well as the method of implementing the public interest in the youth sector. It defines the youth, the youth sector, the status of youth organisations, the financial grants procedure and national awards. The Act identifies the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth as the public authority responsible for the youth field. It also specifies the responsibilities of the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth and ensures the promotion of the interests of the youth sector at the national level. The Act is also a legal basis for adoption of a national youth programme and establishing the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth.

The Act on Public Interest in the Youth Sector is based on the principles of democracy, plurality, integrity, intergenerational solidarity, equality, non-discrimination and justice,

multiculturalism, intercultural dialogue, volunteering, promoting a healthy lifestyle, respecting life and the environment, and the participation of non-governmental organisations in the management of public affairs.

According to the Act youth policy is a harmonised set of measures of various sectoral public policies with the purpose of promoting and facilitating the integration of youth in the economic, cultural and political life of the community and appropriate support mechanisms for developing youth work and operation of youth organisations, which is carried out in cooperation with autonomous and democratic representatives of youth organisations and professional and other organisations. The Act also lists a variety of fields where youth policy is implemented, inter alia autonomy of the youth, non-formal learning, access to the labour market, social inclusion of young people, volunteering, mobility of the youth, healthy lifestyle, promoting creativity and participation. Beside the definition of the youth and youth policy, the Act brings some other definitions for wider understanding of youth policy and youth sector. It defines "youth organisation" and "organisation for youth" and for the first time it also defines youth work and structured dialogue.

The Act also defines co-financing as one of the main mechanisms available to organisations active in the youth field as they implement activities in line with programmes in the youth sector (Chapter 4). The Act likewise outlines the conditions to obtain, manage and spend these financial resources (Chapter 4).

Article 4 of the Act, under the listing of the fields of the youth sector, identifies youth with fewer opportunities in society as a special target group in relation to care. However, no further elaboration on the characteristics or needs of this target group is made.

In addition to its conventional consultation procedures (see Chapter 5 of the Youth wiki), the youth sector has been consulted in the adoption of the Act and has contributed to its final outline (see the analytical record (tab 'Analitični') of the adoption and revision of the Act).

Youth Council Act

The Youth Council Act regulates the status, operation, activities and financing of the national Youth Council of Slovenia and local community youth councils. It was adopted in July 2000 and amended in June 2010.

The Act defines the Youth Council of Slovenia as a voluntary umbrella association of national youth organisations. The Act requires that all member organisations promote the interests of the youth sector. Local community youth councils, on the other hand, bring together youth organisations, 90% percent of the membership of which are under the age of 29 and 70% of the management of which are aged between 15 and 29.

The mission of the Youth Council of Slovenia and local community youth councils is to represent the interests of member youth organisations. Their main activities are youth work and other youth activities that provide the conditions for and supports the development of youth initiatives and youth organisations, and that ensure the participation of young people in decision-making processes and other activities that are of an interest to them.

The Act ensures that the Youth Council of Slovenia and local youth councils are consulted by the government, ministries, other state bodies and local authorities on the youth-related laws and regulations that are implemented. In addition, it defines the financial support available to youth councils and sets the monitoring framework and penalties for the misbehaviour of youth councils.

In addition to its conventional consultation procedures (see Chapter 5 of the Youth wiki), the youth sector has been consulted in the adoption of the Act and has contributed to its final outline (see the analytical record (tab 'Analitični') of the adoption and revision of the Act).

Revisions/updates

The Public Interest in the Youth Sector Act has not yet been amended. On the other hand, the Youth Council Act was amended in June 2010 to align its content with the new Act on Public Interest in the Youth Sector. Moreover, the revised Act clarifies the status of a national youth organizations, in particular the autonomy of those youth organizations that operate under other legal entities and introduces changes which will enable wider participation of young people in decision-making.

1.3 National youth strategy

Existence of a National Youth Strategy

The Resolution on the National Youth Programme 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013–2022) was adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia on 24 October 2013 for the period 2013–2022. It serves as an overarching strategic public document or action plan that integrates the major directions to be followed in policy making on youth matters at the national level. In essence, it is the thematic guide to youth policies and programmes; it defines the priorities and measures of public interest in the youth sector, and is not a part of any general overarching developmental strategy. The Resolution is a horizontal programming document that combines measures in areas under the jurisdiction of different ministries, with the aims of creating new quality standards and ensuring their consistency and visibility.

Scope and contents

The National Youth Programme is based on the study Youth 2010 (Mladina 2010) on the position of young people in Slovenia which was carried out in 2010 and published in 2011. It identifies young people as part of the society undergoing extensive changes in the last decade, which affect the quality of their life. This applies both to the social environment such as family, education and employment, as well as the situation of young people in the labour market. The National Youth Programme attempts to ensure a better situation for young people in education, which would then be reflected in a more favourable situation for young people in the labour market, resulting in better living conditions of the youth, which may also lead to more favourable demographic trends.

The main principles of the National Youth program are:

- To provide better opportunities for young people in education and training, both formal and informal;

- To develop employment policy which will ensure the economic and social security as well as autonomy of young people;

- To ensure the participation of young people and influence on decision-making concerning policies affecting them;

- To ensure equal opportunities between men and women and the prevention of discrimination,

- To prevent risk factors that cause poverty and social exclusion of young people,

- To follow the principles of sustainable development,

- To follow the principle of intergenerational cooperation and ensure greater solidarity among generations.

- To pay special attention to the health and welfare of young people and health inequalities,

- To provide young people with a safe start of their careers.

The National Youth Programme defines the scope, objectives and priorities in six key areas: Education, Employment & Entrepreneurship; Housing; Health and Well-being;

Youth and Society; Culture and creativity. Moreover, it contains the demographics and key policies as well as methods for monitoring.

The objectives and priorities of the National Youth Programme are clustered into the following six domains:

1. Objectives in Education
    - To improve competences of youth (establish better system for validation of non-formal and informal learning, prevent drop-outs in vocational and technical schools and on tertiary level, establishing career guidance for youth, strengthen the scholarship policy)
    - To foster (study) mobility of young people (strengthen the promotion and incentives for study and practical experiences abroad)
2. Objectives in Employment and Entrepreneurship
    - To help youth starting the career (improve active employment policies, improve creativity, better connection of labour market needs and education);
    - To improve the quality of employment (to reduce the extension of less favourable forms of employment among youth);
    - To enable easier coordination between professional and private/family life.
3. Objectives in Housing and Residential conditions
    - To assure the accessibility of apartments for youth (accessibility of loans, regulation of rental, regulation of empty apartments).
4. Objectives in Health and Well-being
    - To stimulate and promote the regular physical activity with intention to prevent body overweight (strengthen balanced nutrition and regular physical activities);
    - To prevent alcohol and drug abuse (create an environment for responsible use of alcohol).
5. Objectives in the field of Youth and Society
    - To promote youth participation (promotion of youth participation, promotion of structured dialogue, strengthening the infrastructure in youth sector and strengthening the information and counselling in youth sector);
    - To promote the establishing of new youth organizations (increase funding of youth organizations, support geographically balanced development of youth organizations, create a system for education and training for youth workers/leaders).
6. Objectives in Culture and Creativity
    - To enhance the accessibility of cultural activities to young people and increase cultural engagement of youth.

In addition to its conventional consultation procedures (see Chapter 5 of the Youth wiki), the youth sector has been consulted in the adoption of the programme and has contributed to its final outline (see the analytical record (tab 'Analitični') on the adoption and revision of the Act).

Responsible authority for the implementation of the Youth Strategy

The Resolution on the National Youth programme 2013 – 2022 was adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia on the proposal of the Government. The competent ministries are responsible for the implementation of the national programme, but the Office of Republic of Slovenia for Youth is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the programme through action plans. Responsible institutions for the implementation of the cross-sectorial national programme are Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Development and

Technology, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Public Administration, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice. Ministries report to the Office for Youth.

On the basis of this Resolution, the Government on yearly or two-yearly basis adopts implementation plans:

1. Government decision No 60300-2/2014/8 from April 17 2014 on the adoption of the Implementation plan of the National Youth Programme for 2014;
2. Government decision No 60300-3/2015/12 from May 14 2015 on the adoption of the Implementation plan of the National Youth Programme for 2015;
3. Government decision on the adoption of the Implementation plan of the National Youth Programme for 2016-2017.

In each of the action plans specific objectives, actions, terms of implementation, budget allocations and responsible institutions for its implementations are indicated. Relevant ministries report to the Office for Youth because monitoring and evaluation are under its jurisdiction. The interim report is to be submitted to the National Assembly every three years, whereas the final report is to be submitted after the expiry of the validity of the National Youth Programme. An evaluation (interim or final) of the Programme has yet to be performed.

Revisions/ Updates

There have been no revisions of the Resolution on the National Youth programme so far.

1.4 Youth policy decision-making

Structure of Decision-making

National level

Government

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia proposes a National Youth Programme for adoption by the National Assembly. This is the main document that forms youth policy agenda and specific policy measures.

The coordination of youth policy is delegated to the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (Office for Youth), but the implementation of various measures is a responsibility of competent ministries, namely Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Public Administration, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice.

Within the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports and in line with the Act on Public Interest in the Youth Sector, the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth as an independent body performs the following tasks:

- prepares the regulations and measures in the field of the youth sector;

- provides financial support for youth programmes and programmes for youth;

- provides for and execute supervision for the implementation of regulations and measures in the youth sector;

- monitors the situation of youth and the impact of measures in the youth sector;

- cooperates with the responsible bodies and other subjects in the youth sector;

- participates in representing the State in the bodies of the European Union and the Council of Europe and at an international level in the matter relating to youth, and

- performs other tasks in accordance with the law.

Parliament

The National Assembly adopts national youth policies and controls the implementing institutions. The National Assembly adopted the Public Interest in the Youth Sector Act and, based on this Act, also the Resolution on the National Youth Programme 2013-2022 (national youth strategy). It monitors the implementation of the resolution by revising evaluation reports.

The National Assembly has also established a committee that is among others also in charge of youth issues. The committee discusses legislation proposals and issues related to Pre-school, Primary, secondary and higher education, Adult Education, Science and Research, Information Society, Electronic Communications, Sport, Youth and its role and position in society, Promotion of active citizenship among young people and questions related to sustainable and stable financing of youth policy and other issues addressed by the relevant ministry in this area.

Local level

The Constitution defines municipalities as local self-governed communities which are in principle financed from their own resources (collected taxes, benefits, income from property), whereby economically weak municipalities are supported by government subventions. The compliance of municipality bodies is controlled by national bodies.

Act on Public Interest in the Youth Sector defines that local communities implement the youth policy at a local level in accordance with its own interests, needs, capabilities and circumstances, such as the number and structure of inhabitants, its economic power, and spatial and personnel capacities in the youth sector. Local communities may implement the youth policy at a local level by adopting a local programme for youth, establishing a working or consulting body for youth issues, financially supporting the programmes in the youth sector, and implementing other measures in the youth sector.

The role of local communities in developing youth polices varies and depends on the size of each local community. The municipality of Ljubljana, the capital, has a structure within the city administration (youth department) that provides public tenders (for youth programmes, projects, information network, international activities), youth research, networking NGO in youth sector, information network for young people, educational programmes and trainings for youth workers, empowerment of youth NGO structures. In 2015, the Council of Municipality of Ljubljana adopted a youth strategy.

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

Main Themes

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

Youth policy is implemented in the following fields:

- autonomy of the youth,
- informal learning and training and increasing the competences of the youth,
- access of the youth to the labour market and enterprise development of the youth,
- care for the young with fewer opportunities in society,

- volunteering, solidarity and intergenerational participation of the youth,
- mobility of the youth and international integration,
- promoting a healthy lifestyle and preventing various forms of youth dependencies,
- access of the youth to cultural goods and promoting creativity and innovation among the young,
- and participation of the youth in managing public affairs in society.

Resolution on the National Programme for Youth 2013 – 2022 has the following principles:

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

The Resolution on the National Youth Programme also defines the key guidelines of the youth policy in Slovenia:

- Targeted and continuous investment of resources and attention to young people and their autonomy,
- Ensuring that young people are a priority social groups in all sectoral public policies,
- Establishing cross-sectoral cooperation for implementation of youth policy,
- Unifying concept of the target group which is young people aged 15 to 29 that need to be defined as a underprivileged group in all public policies,
- Participation of young people in strategic planning, evaluation and implementation of youth policy at local and national levels,
- Ensuring conditions for learning and opportunities of young people to develop skills and competencies to fully integrate into the labour market and civil society and increase their capabilities to resist any potential social, economic or environmental risks as well as ensure conditions for formal, non-formal and informal learning through enhanced mechanisms for recognition and validation of such learning within national qualifications frameworks;
- Ensure effective monitoring of the youth policy provisions and address its weaknesses;
- Promote development of youth strategies and programs on local level.

For the effective implementation of the youth policy in Slovenia and the provisions of the National Youth Programme, the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth has set up 4 different working groups to discuss the most relevant topics for the development of youth policy in Slovenia:

- the preparation and the amendments of the Public interest in the Youth Sector Act;
- monitoring of the National Youth Programme;
- cohesion policy and use of EU fund for youth policy measures;
- policies promoting the quality apprenticeship and internship of young people.

The choice of themes for the Resolution on the National Youth Programme is also guided by the study of Youth 2010 (Mladina 2010), which focuses on the role of young people in Slovenia and was published in 2011.

Article 4 of the Act on Public Interest in the Youth Sector identifies youth with fewer opportunities in society as a special target group in relation to care. Likewise, the Resolution on the National Programme for Youth 2013 – 2022 identifies the need to attend to youth with fewer opportunities in relation to scholarships, youth work and social inclusion. When defining its priorities the Resolution, under the heading social inclusion (Chapter 6), particularly accentuates the position of youth with fewer opportunities facing social exclusion where individuals with disabilities and Roma youth are explicitly mentioned.

The National Agency for Youth

There is no national agency for youth in Slovenia.

Policy monitoring and evaluation

The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport provide monitoring and evaluation of policy results defined by the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022. The success of the Implementation plan of the National Programme for Youth is measured using the (impact) indicators, which are designed for each measure to be implemented. The Public Interest in Youth Sector Act states in Article 16, paragraph 6: '*Every three years the Government shall submit to the National Assembly a partial report on implementing the National Programme for Youth with evaluated results, and a final report after the expiry of the validity of the National Programme for Youth. The National Assembly shall consider the report and prepare its position relating thereto*'.

The Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth also monitors the implementation of the National Programme for Youth.

After the study titled 'Youth 2000' (Mladina 2000), there was no in-depth research systematically and comprehensively exploring youths and their situation until 'Youth 2010: The Social Profile of Young People in Slovenia' (Mladina 2010). After that, a few similar studies were published: 'The Matrix of Measures Implemented in the Youth Policy Field by the National Authorities' (Matrika ukrepov državnih organov na področju mladinske politke) and 'Slovenian YOUTH 2013'. The studies covered all areas that are important to young people.

Employment:

The ESS published an analysis of statistical data, 'Youth and the labour market' (Mladi in trg dela), in 2015. In 2013, it published the Annex to the Implementation Plan of the YG 2014–2015. Along with the ESS, the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia and the MDDSZ regularly perform analyses and research. These organisations are helping to keep data on (youth) employment up to date.

The National Youth Council of Slovenia monitors the implementation of the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 and measures in line with the YG. The implementation of the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 should, in principle, be very easy to monitor because of well-defined indicators. The National Assembly Committee, which is responsible for youth, decided that the Office for Youth (or the competent Ministry) should report twice a year regarding the implementation of the Programme. The report is tied to the specific implementation plan of the National Programme for Youth.

Reports on the implementation of the YG 2014–2015, which were requested by the Slovenian government in May 2016, summarise the key statistics, which show changes during the implementation of the YG and include both technical and financial views of the performance of each individual measure. A special chapter of the report was prepared by representatives of young people to present their views on the implementation of the YG.

Youth advisers working at the ESS also presented their views. They are in daily contact with unemployed young people and constantly try overcome challenges related to employment with them. The last section provides conclusions and recommendations regarding further action.

Social inclusion:

In 2016, the Social Protection Institute published the report 'Monitoring implementation and achievement of the objectives of the Resolution on the National Social Assistance Programme for the period 2013–2020' (Spremljanje uresničevanja in doseganja ciljev Resolucije o nacionalnem programu socialnega varstva za obdobje 2013–2020). The report comprises a census of activities carried out in 2015. In the youth sector, these were mainly programmes for children and adolescents deprived of a normal family life, and for children and adolescents with developmental issues, during the period 2012–2014.

The Office for Equal Opportunities (Sektor za enake možnosti) also co-financed a research project entitled 'Effects of Discrimination on Societal, Political and Social Inclusion of Young People in Slovenia: An Analysis on the Basis of Gender, Sexual Orientation and Ethnicity' (Posledice diskriminacije na družbeno, politično in socialno vključenost mladih v Sloveniji: analiza glede na spol, spolno usmerjenost ter etnično pripadnost), which was completed in 2008. The objective was to use this analysis as a basis for 'proposals for formulating and improving anti-discrimination policies in the field of social protection, reducing social exclusion and social deprivation, and preventing discrimination on the basis of analysed personal circumstances'.

In 2011, the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth 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 published its analysis of the functioning and impacts of national youth organisations. The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (Statistični urad RS) has also conducted research (e.g. on risk of social exclusion in relation to income and poverty).

1.5 Cross-sectoral approach with other ministries

Mechanisms and actors

The Slovenian government established the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth as a cross-sectorial collaborative work in 2009. The Act on Public Interest in the Youth Sector adopted in 2010 further provided a detailed definition of the Council's competences. The Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth (Svet Vlade RS za mladino) set up 4 different working groups to discuss the most relevant topics for the development of youth policy in Slovenia. These working groups can be considered as a mechanism for encouraging cross-sector cooperation because they involve representatives of various ministries. But at the same time it can be considered also a mechanism for consultation with young people because there are also young people represented in each working group.

Together with the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth Issues, these working groups create a path to establish a strong co-management system in the future between the government and young people.

The first working group is a working group for preparation of amendments of the Act on Public Interest in the Youth Sector. The working group consists of 4 representatives of the government (Office for Youth, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Ministry of Interior, and Ministry of Public Administration) and 4 representatives of youth sector. The working group is led by a representative of the Office of Youth.

The second working group aims at monitoring the implementation of the National Programme for youth. The working group consists of 4 representatives of the government (Office for Youth, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and Ministry of Public Administration) and 4 representatives of youth sector. The working group is led by a representative of the Office of Youth.

The third working group aims at monitoring the implementation of the Operational Programme for the implementation of the EU cohesion policy for the period 2014-2020 (Operativni program za izvajanje evropske kohezijske politike za programsko obdobje 2014–2020) with the representatives of Government Office for Development and European cohesion policy, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and Ministry of Public Administration on the government side and 4 4 representatives of youth sector. The working group is led by a representative of the Government Office for Development and European cohesion policy.

The fourth working group deals with apprenticeship and internship of young people and consisting of the following governmental representatives: Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Ministry of Public Administration, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Finance. There are 5 representatives from youth sector. Working Group on apprenticeship and internships is coordinated by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

1.6 Evidence-based youth policy

Political Commitment to Evidence-Based Youth Policy

The Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth has been promoting youth surveys ever since Slovenia started to develop its youth policy (1991). The evidence-based policy will therefore constitute an important part of the youth policy development in Slovenia. It is envisaged that the national youth programme will be revised every 3 years based on the research of the social position of youth in Slovenia.

There is no direct reference to evidence-based youth policy in the Act on Public Interest in the Youth Sector, although the act defines the role of administrative body responsible for youth in Slovenia (Office of Republic of Slovenia for Youth) in its Article 7. Among other things the competence of the Office of Republic of Slovenia for Youth is to provide for and execute supervision for the implementation of regulations and measures in the youth sector and monitor the situation of youth and the impact of measures in the youth sector.

Act on Public Interest the in Youth Sector identifies the need to develop the National Youth Programme. The programme includes a reference to an evidence-based approach to youth policy to fully achieve the objectives of youth policy and the national youth programme (Resolution on the National Programme for Youth 2013 – 2022) also envisages establishment of a national institute for youth research or rather identifying one of the existing institutions already working in the field of research as a reference organisation for youth research and evidence-based policy development. It also introduces a set of measurable indicators and explains their desired values to facilitate solid evidence-based assessments of the performance of individual policies.

In 2011, the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth funded two analyses of the situation, which were carried out by the Network of Youth centres MaMa and the Pohorski Bataljon Foundation; they examined the functioning and impacts of the youth centres and youth field organisations in Slovenia: 'Youth Centres in Slovenia' (Mladinski centri v Sloveniji) and 'Analysis of the Situation and Potentials of Non-governmental Youth Field in Slovenia'.

Beside the Office for Youth, there are also other public and semi-public bodies gathering data and knowledge about youth. These bodies inform the government about key youth developments related to their field of operation or their professional domain.

1. Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia

The Social Protection 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 analysing data. The government has supported and promoted cross-disciplinary research relating to children and young people up to 18. There is a child observatory for children up to 18 years established within the Institute; its operation is supported by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs.

2. The Education Research Institute

The Institute was established in 1965 as an institute devoted to the study of education. It implements various programmes, projects and evaluations on youth matters from an educational perspective.

3. National Institute of Public Health

The data and information collected by the Institute are the basis for the decision and action of individuals, professionals and health policy. It identifies key public health challenges in the population including the determinants that affect health, and propose measures to improve health.

4. National Education Institute of the Republic of Slovenia

The National Education Institute is important factor in the education system's development process. It proposes new curriculum solutions, develops methods for the successful transfer of modifications into the education system and helps integrate new curriculum elements into practice. Within its line of competences, the Institute collects and processes data relevant to policy making in the field of education of the children and the youth.

5. Employment Service of Slovenia

An efficient, user-friendly and user-oriented Employment Service. The aim of all ESS activities is to contribute to the growth of employment and employability of the population in Slovenia. In cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, the Institute actively contributes to the development of employment policies in Slovenia also by collecting and analysing data related to youth employment and employability. The Institute participates in the creation of several policy measures developed for young people as the main target group.

Cooperation between policy-making and research

There are no national research networks on youth in Slovenia, but the Office of Republic of Slovenia for Youth cooperates with different groups of researchers. In the period between 1993 and 2000, the Office for Youth had a long-term contract with the Centre For Social Psychology at the Faculty of Social Science, which provided the necessary financial support for research on the youth and which resulted in several studies on the status of the youth (e.g. Mladina v devetdesetih (Youth in the nineties); Mladina 2000: Slovenska mladina na prehodu v tretje tisočletje (Youth 2000: Slovenian Youth in Transition to the Third Millennium)). In 2009–2011, the Office for Youth signed a contract with the Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, with the aim of promoting evidence-based youth policies.

The basis for defining the appropriate strategic objectives of the National Youth Programme was the study of Youth 2010: The social profile of young people in Slovenia (Mladina (2010): družbeni profil mladih v Sloveniji), which was conducted in 2010 and published in 2011. The study was carried by the Faculty of Arts of the University of Maribor. It covered demographic changes and intergenerational cooperation, education and training, employment and entrepreneurship, participation, creativity, culture and

leisure time, the virtualisation of daily life, health and wellbeing, the financial status of young people, housing and living conditions, globalisation and youth mobility, values, sustainable social action plans and visions of the future, personal characteristics and the religiosity of young people.

The Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth is closely cooperating with the Erasmus Programme, the Youth in Action National Agency and its research partner in an effort to identify emerging issues in the youth field. As a result, an initiative called Key to inclusion (Ključ do vključenosti), which deals with the problem of youth radicalisation and promotes youth inclusion, has been established. It resulted in a series of intra- and cross-sectorial consultations with relevant stakeholders in 2016 and shall be continued in 2017 with activities that focus on transnational consultations.

National Statistics and available data sources

Statistical Office of Republic of Slovenia publishes regular thematical reports on youth, usually on International Day of Youth (12 August); In 2009 the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia prepared an extensive statistical report on the situation of young people in Slovenia. Employment Service of Slovenia monitors the situation of young people in the labour market; and the Institute of Public health has been involved in the Health Behaviour and School-Aged Children (HBSC) research since 1983.

Budgetary Allocations supporting research in the youth field

The government does not have a line of funding for research on the youth, which explicitly supports evidence-based youth policy making, apart from resources allocated to the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth for the conduct of periodic youth studies and for contract evaluations of the National Youth Programme. In line with the former, the Office has contracted the Faculty of Arts of the University of Maribor to conduct a study on the situation of young people in Slovenia Youth 2010 (Mladina 2010). The amount allocated for the study was 66.580 EUR.

1.7 Funding youth policy

How Youth policy is funded

Youth Office has been co-funding youth work programmes since its beginnings. The amount of money available for youth work programmes in 2015 was 1.2 million EUR. The same amount was allocated in 2016.

The National Programme for Youth, adopted in 2013 for the period 2013-2022, provides a range of different measures in the fields of education, employment and entrepreneurship, housing, health and wellbeing, the social position of youth, the development of the youth sector, culture and creativity, heritage, media. The amount available for a wide set of measures defined in the National programme for Youth in 2015 was 169 million EUR (European funds included). The allocated resources in 2016 amounted to 199.6 million EUR.

What is funded

Measures of the National programme for youth are covering the following fields: education, employment and entrepreneurship, housing, health and wellbeing, the social position of youth, the development of the youth sector, culture and creativity, heritage, media.

Financial accountability

Each ministry is responsible for its budget allocation for measures on national youth policy. The report about the implementation of the measures within the National Programme for Youth is prepared by the Office for Youth and adopted by the National Parliament. The correct and rational manner of use of public resources is monitored by the Court of Audit of the Republic of Slovenia, which provides assessments on the

conformity of operations with regulations and guidelines, and on the cost-effectiveness of operations.

Use of EU Funds

There were 4 public calls using European funds for youth sector only published in the period between 2009 and 2016.

1. European Regional Development Fund (13 million EUR in the period between 2009-2011) There were ten new youth centres established in Slovenia by the end of 2011 with ERDF support; their total accommodation capacity is 420 beds and their investment value amounts to approximately 13 million EUR. The centres are expected to provide a total of 20 000 overnight stays per year, and at least thirty new jobs.

2. European Social Fund (4 million EUR in a period 2010-2012) Four million euros were allocated through a special tender for establishing eight content networks bringing together youth organisations and external partners; they aim at providing better training to young people in the areas of social, citizenship and cultural competencies. All networks focus on quality human resources training within the framework of an emerging complex society, which is based on formal and non-formal forms and methods of education.

3. European Social Fund (0,8 million EUR in 2014) The aim of the call was to co-finance projects of non-governmental organizations in the youth sector to develop social and civic competences of young people.

4. European Social Fund (5 million EUR in a period 2016-2018). The aim of the call is to support innovative ways of youth work and within it employability and employment of young people.

1.8 Cross-border cooperation

Cooperation with European countries

Apart from the European cooperation in the field of youth as part of the Open Method of Coordination and based on the Council Resolution of 27 November 2009 on a renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018), Slovenia has no other cooperation with EU or EU-candidate countries. There is only one bilateral agreement in the field of youth signed in 2015 with the Republic of Serbia. The Memorandum on the Consensus on Collaboration in the Fields of Youth and Sport (Memorandum o soglasju o sodelovanju na področju mladine in športa) establishes the firm political support for the mutual collaboration of the youth and sport organisations at the state level.

International cooperation

Erasmus+ programme, the Youth in Action, is the most important instrument to encourage European and international cooperation among young people.

In 2011, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology adopted 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. A new national strategy for internationalization of Slovenian higher education with concrete measures and actions will be adopted in 2016. The strategy will precisely define the elements of internationalization of Slovenian higher education and provide a platform for financing international agreements and cooperation programs and international mobility, which is financed from the national budget.

Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, together with the Slovene Human Resources Development and Scholarship Fund has developed the Ad futura for International Mobility

Programme to promote international education and short-term mobility and improve the quality of education and employability of participating pupils and students.

The Ad futura International Mobility Programme implements the following scholarship programs and co-financing programs:

- Ad futura scholarships for study abroad,

- scholarships for short-term visits to foreign pupils and students during their education in Slovenia,

- participation of pupils and students in knowledge and research competitions abroad,

- scholarships and other forms of research funding of foreign doctoral students.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has published a call for projects that contribute to public awareness, global learning and capacity building for NGOs in the Republic of Slovenia for international development cooperation and humanitarian aid as well as projects on human rights education with emphasis on children's rights in the Western Balkan countries for the period 2016 – 2017.

1.9 Current debates and reforms

Social, economic and political trends that have an impact on the general development of youth policy in Slovenia and have largely influenced the preparation of the National Youth Programme 2013- 2022 as well as some other policy developments in education and employment (e.g. Youth Guarantee):

Demography

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

Transition to adulthood

The transition of young people into adulthood is highly individualised and unpredictable. Growing up has become an individual project and every individual must assume responsibility for it. The role of the state or wider society is important to establish the conditions for a successful transition of the young to adulthood.

Education

The share of young people included in the education system has been growing much faster in Slovenia compared to the EU-27 average, and the share of dropouts in secondary school is the lowest in the EU-27 countries. Moreover, the share of higher-education students aged between 20 and 24 was by far the highest in EU-27. Whereas young people like the inclusiveness and friendliness of the education system, they express considerable dissatisfaction with the poor connection between the education system and the needs of the labour market.

Employment

The situation in the labour market is highly unpredictable. Slovenia has a large share of temporarily employed young persons (aged 15–24). The share of regularly employed young people has dropped significantly in the last decade. In 2000, approximately 60 percent of young people aged 29 had a steady job, but in 2010 this percentage dropped to 48. The share of those young people who see themselves as unemployed has also increased during the same period. What is particularly disturbing is the rapid growth in the share of unemployed graduates. The situation of the young in Slovenia is therefore defined primarily by the combination of considerable family support and prolonged

inclusion in the (relatively socially-oriented and friendly) education system on the one hand, and the extremely uncertain labour market conditions on the other.

Housing

Young people in Slovenia are among the last to leave home in EU-27. This is further stimulated by the relatively favourable conditions of living with the parents (who mostly own houses), and unwillingness of the young (and their parents) to assume the risk of poverty in the early stages of managing their own household.

Participation

Young people in Slovenia feel they have very little political influence, and in comparison with the EU-27 average tend to be much less interested or involved in politics. But there is a strengthened potential for protests and participation in individualised forms of political participation, particularly those related to information technology. Young Slovenians are becoming increasingly involved in volunteer work. There is also a high level of youth involvement in family, the environment, the virtual world and other areas of interest for the young.

2. Voluntary Activities

Slovenia has a long tradition of voluntary work. Voluntary activities are deeply rooted in our society, in particular, they are predominantly used in solving the most difficult social problems and unveiling the problems of individuals and groups where state institutions have not yet been involved, or have ceased to be. In particular, volunteering is the basis of operation for fire brigade societies, societies of retired people, friends of youth societies, mountaineering and sports societies, the Red Cross, Caritas, self-help organisations and numerous other humanitarian, cultural and sports organisations. The data show that around a quarter of Slovenian youth are active in firefighting societies, and just under 17 percent in the scouts.

There is no single public body responsible for volunteering in Slovenia. Different Ministries and Government Offices are involved. The Ministry of Public Administration is leading the process of drafting the new National strategy for the development of non-governmental sector and volunteering, based on Volunteering Act in Slovenia. The Ministry of Public Administration is also the key actor in promoting volunteering in Slovenia.

Voluntary work is predominantly carried out in non-governmental organisations, such as societies, private institutions, foundations, but also in some public institutions (health, social security, education). The sources of funding for voluntary activities are dispersed and little systematic information is available on this matter. The largest proportion of funds comes from governmental and municipal sources or from NGOs' own assets.

On the basis of Volunteering Act, the Government established the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Promotion of Volunteering, Voluntary Organizations and NGOs. The Council monitors, identifies and assesses the situation of voluntary and non-governmental organizations and takes initiatives to encourage their development, gives suggestions for the development and adoption of regulations and measures necessary for the implementation of national policies related to voluntary and non-governmental organizations.

Slovenia has not introduced a national strategy or programme on youth volunteering. However, the National Programme for Youth 2013-2022 (Resolucija o nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013–2022) introduces youth volunteering and encouragement of youth volunteering as its important objective. Among the priority guidelines of the Programme is to promote volunteering among young people and reduce the proportion of young people who never engage in voluntary activities.

2.1 General context

Historical developments

Slovenia has a long tradition of voluntary work. In particular, volunteering is the basis of operation for fire brigade societies, societies of retired people, friends of youth societies, mountaineering and sports societies, the Red Cross, Caritas, self-help organisations and numerous other humanitarian, cultural and sports organisations. Voluntary activities are deeply rooted in our society, in particular, they are predominantly used in solving the most difficult social problems and unveiling the problems of individuals and groups where state institutions have not yet been involved, or have ceased to be. Voluntary work is predominantly carried out in non-governmental organisations, such as societies, private institutions, foundations, but also in some public institutions (health, social security, education).

The history of volunteering in Slovenia goes back to the 18th and 19th centuries, when voluntary organisations emerged in the domain of culture and education. The Church, in particular the Catholic Church, has played an important role in the development of charities and humanitarian aid. Before the Second World War, other types of voluntary organisations were also established by craftsmen who organised themselves by sector - production, finance and insurance. Estimates suggest that prior to WWII there were roughly 7,000 civil society organisations (including voluntary organisations) in existence.

However, the creation of the Socialistic Federative Republic of Yugoslavia (1943-1991) marked an important change in the development of grassroots organisations and of a voluntary sector. Many voluntary organisations were either forbidden by the State or were placed under State control. During this period, volunteering survived in various areas of activity such as humanitarian aid (for example, the fire service or the Red Cross) and in local tourism, culture and sports. The voluntary work at this time included traditional activities organised by the central administration and primarily performed by young people volunteering for sports organisations, fire brigades, and organisations involved in the protection against natural disasters.

In the 1970s a process of decentralisation began with the adoption of the new Associations Act in 1974, which marked the development of modern non-governmental organisations in Slovenia. As a result, the number of NGOs and volunteers has significantly increased from the mid-1970s onwards in what can be described as a bottom-up approach. However, despite some rejuvenation of the sector during this time, the insufficient support from the socialist state and the general public meant that voluntary organisations remained under-developed. After the 1980s, new social movements emerged (promoting peace, environmental, human rights, spiritual and other movements), which in turn helped the development of the NGO sector.

Following the collapse of the socialist bloc and the process of economic transition, the importance of volunteering and the third sector began to increase significantly. This was facilitated by interventions by various national advocacy non-governmental organisations, as well as by international NGOs - for example, the Soros Foundation, which enabled the establishment of NGOs in the fields of human rights, the protection of minorities, women's rights, and ecology at national level. The process of accession to the European Union has also helped to encourage Slovenia to fully align with the European standards of dialogue and partnership with the civil society.

Main concepts

Volunteering Act (Zakon o prostovoljstvu), adopted on 3 February 2011 by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia and amended on 21 October 2015, defines volunteering as a socially beneficial unpaid activity of individuals, who, through their work, knowledge and experience contribute to the quality of life of individuals and social groups, and to the development of a solidary, humane and equal society. Volunteering strengthens mutual solidarity of people, promote the development of

human skills and lifelong learning, ensuring social cohesion and cooperation in solving the problems of individuals and society.

Volunteering Act defines organised volunteering as well as voluntary service. Organized volunteering has to be in accordance with the provisions of this Act should be exercised within the framework of voluntary organizations, as defined by the first paragraph of Article 9 of this Act, and the individual work performed regularly and at least 24 hours per year. Voluntary Service is organized volunteering by a volunteer performed at least 20 hours per week over a period of at least six months without interruption.

Youth volunteering is not defined in the Slovenian legislation, apart from the Act on Public Interest in the Youth Sector where youth volunteering is defined as one of the areas where youth sector is involved. Therefore, volunteering represents a vital part of the youth field and is related to many other areas, important for young people, mainly youth participation and non-formal learning. Youth participation within youth organisations, other civil society organisations, schools, etc. mainly consists of voluntary engagement. Such activities can also be characterised as non-formal learning, as they include the gaining of competence and work experience outside the framework of formal education.

2.2 Administration and governance of youth volunteering

Governance

There is no single public body responsible for volunteering in Slovenia. Different Ministries and Government Offices are involved in this. This includes Ministry of Public Administration, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence, and the Office of Republic of Slovenia for Youth.

Overall, the roles of different ministries can be categorised in the following manner:

- Ministry of Public Administration is in charge of regulatory reform as well as horizontal issues regarding NGOs in general.
- Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs and Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia are main promoters of volunteering in the context of social welfare and they prepare various analyses and researches on the role of volunteers included in the social welfare programmes. Here, volunteering is seen as a measure of social activation.
- a range of ministries contribute by funding volunteering and voluntary programmes; and
- a range of different ministries and governmental offices are involved in the implementation of policies and programmes in this field. Among them, the Office of Republic of Slovenia for Youth is in charge of coordinating national programme for youth with the priority to promote volunteering among young people and reduce the proportion of young people who never engage in voluntary activities.

The Ministry of Public Administration is now leading the process of drafting the new National strategy for the development of non-governmental sector and volunteering, based on Volunteering Act in Slovenia.

On the basis of Volunteering Act, the Government established the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Promotion of Volunteering, Voluntary Organizations and NGOs. The Ministry of Public Administrations coordinates its work.

The Council monitors, identifies and assesses the situation of voluntary and non-governmental organizations and takes initiatives to encourage their development, gives suggestions for the development and adoption of regulations and measures necessary for the implementation of national policies related to voluntary and non-governmental organizations. The Council cooperates with volunteers and NGOs and considers their

positions on the proposals of laws and regulations as well as the national strategy for volunteering.

Among the main non-public actors taking part in the development of policies in the field of youth volunteering the following organizations representing non-profit sector have been recognised:

- Slovenian Network of Voluntary Organisations gathers more than 1300 organisations and is the largest network in Slovenia. It was formed to promote volunteering, identify the value of voluntary activities and create an environment fertile for its development. The purpose of the network is to support organisations in organising voluntary work, to help organisations to promote their voluntary programmes and help potential volunteers to find voluntary work.
- Slovene Philanthropy is the main actor in the field of voluntary work in Slovenia and also leads the Slovenian network of voluntary organisations. It aims to promote and develop voluntary work and, in general, solidarity among people. In addition to promoting voluntary work, its core activities include helping individuals to get in touch with organisations in need of volunteers, training volunteers and supporting civic organisations. They also organise training of mentors and organisers of voluntary activities in NGOs and public institutions carrying voluntary activities. The Slovene Philanthropy together with the Slovenian Network of Voluntary Organisations are dialogue partners of the Ministry of Public Administration for issues relating to voluntarism.
- National Youth Council is a network of national youth organisations in Slovenia and main actor in promoting voluntary work among young people by organising a well-received event "Volunteer of the Year". The volunteers of the year receive the award from the Ministry of Work, Family and Social Affairs.
- MOVIT, Institute for Development of Youth Mobility, performs tasks of the national agency for the European Union programme Erasmus+: Youth in Action. Its Eurodesk services help young people in Slovenia to find voluntary placements in foreign countries.
- Institute Nefiks promotes non-formal learning and recognition of competences gained in non-formal learning activities, including voluntary activities
- Youth Network MaMa combines and represents organizations that run youth centres or are active in youth work in Slovenia in order to support the youth, their spending of quality free time and a better life in society. On local level, youth centres are important agents in promoting voluntary work.
- Institute Voluntariat is an organisation that offers various opportunities for international voluntary work.

Other public bodies involved in volunteering

Slovene municipalities are involved in funding voluntary activities.

Cross-sectoral cooperation

The Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Promotion of Volunteering, Voluntary Organizations and NGOs is a consultative body composed of representatives of public bodies and non-governmental organizations and civil society and as such represents the main form of cross-sectorial cooperation in the field. It represents a form of consultation with the non-profit sector as well as a form of cooperation between different ministries and public bodies. Balanced grounds for Council's activities are indicated by majority representation of non-governmental actors in the Council (12 out of 23) and the designation of the role of the president of the Council to a representative of non-governmental organizations.

2.3 National strategy on youth volunteering

Existence of a National Strategy

Slovenia has not introduced a national strategy on youth volunteering, but the National Programme for Youth 2013-2022 (Resolucija o nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013–2022) introduces youth volunteering and encouragement of youth volunteering as its important objective, particularly in terms of educational potential and its contribution to the development of local communities. Among the priority guidelines of the Programme is to promote volunteering among young people and reduce the proportion of young people who never engage in voluntary activities.

The National Programme for Youth, when it comes to youth volunteering, does not contain objectives and measures relevant to 'inclusive volunteering' and there are no specific target groups – whose participation in voluntary activities should be fostered – identified.

Based on the Volunteering Act, the Ministry of Public Administration is coordinating the preparation of the National Strategy on Volunteering.

Moreover, some other strategic public documents refer to volunteering (but not particularly to youth volunteering):

The National Social Protection Programme 2013-2020 (Resolucija o nacionalnem programu socialnega varstva za obdobje 2013-2020) emphasises that the Government supports the development of voluntary work. By setting up a uniform system of social protection and by stimulating the development of voluntary work, charity, self-help and donor ship, the state is to provide better direct financial support and encourage the development of non-governmental organisations as well as the private sector.

The National Sports Programme in the Republic of Slovenia 2014-2023 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu športa v Republiki Sloveniji za obdobje 2014–2023) particularly addresses the support for the training of voluntary workers. Voluntary work is also stated as one of the means of financing the sports.

According to the Resolution on the National Programme in the Field of Narcotic Drugs 2014 – 2020 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu na področju prepovedanih drog 2014–2020), voluntary work done by NGOs should become a common preventive measure in this area in the local community and civil society.

In accordance with the Resolution on the National Programme for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men 2005–2013 (Resolucija o nacionalnem programu za enake možnosti žensk in moških 2005-2013), volunteers who are active in violence crisis centres should benefit from appropriate training to better contribute to the objective of reducing violence.

The National Programme of Protection against Natural and other Disasters 2009 – 2015 (Resolucija o nacionalnem programu varstva pred naravnimi in drugimi nasrečami v letih 2009 do 2015) emphasised the improvement of the status of voluntary fire brigades.

Scope and contents

The draft of the National Strategy for the development of non-governmental sector and volunteering introduces two main objectives:

- Design and coordination of measures for the further development of non-governmental and voluntary organizations,

- To promote cooperation and partnerships with NGOs / voluntary organizations in decision making at all levels.

In addition, the preparation of the National Strategy for the development of non-governmental sector and volunteering is in line with the following documents:

- Coalition Agreement on Cooperation in the Government of the Republic of Slovenia 2014 – 2018,
- partnership agreement between Slovenia and the European Commission 2014 - 2020 and Operational Programme for the implementation of European Cohesion Policy 2014 – 2020,
- Volunteering Act,
- Public administration development strategy 2015 - 2020,
- Strategy for Development of Local Self-Government,
- Strategic Framework of Slovenia 2050.

Responsible authority

Ministry of Public Administration is responsible for the coordination of preparation of the National Strategy for the development of non-governmental sector and volunteering. The strategy will be adopted by the National Assembly in 2016.

Relevant ministries report to the Office for Youth because monitoring and evaluation of the National Youth Strategy are under its jurisdiction. The interim report is to be submitted to the National Assembly every three years, whereas the final report is to be submitted after the expiry of the validity of the National Youth Programme. An evaluation (interim or final) of the Programme has yet to be performed.

Revisions/ Updates

The National Youth Strategy (Resolucija o nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013–2022) containing references to youth volunteering has not yet been revised.

2.4 Laws and regulations on youth volunteering

Stand-alone law

There is no specific law on youth volunteering in Slovenia, only the Act on Public Interest in the Youth Sector (Zakon o javnem interesu v mladinskem sektorju) that introduces youth volunteering as one of the core areas of youth policy. However, volunteering has been legislated in 2011 when members of the Slovenian Parliament unanimously adopted the Volunteering Act.

Volunteering Act (Zakon o prostovoljstvu) regulates the wider field of socially beneficial work of individuals and voluntary organizations, through their activities, knowledge and experience, in order to make a significant contribution to raising the standard of living of individuals and society as a whole. Systemic regulation of volunteering, among other things, opens up opportunities for unemployed people in volunteering.

The main objective of the Act is to provide an overview of organized volunteering and to determine the basis of a systematic evaluation and development of voluntary work as well as to determine the state's role in the promotion, development and system support of volunteering. The purpose is to improve volunteering in Slovenia and recognize its importance for the quality of life of individuals and social groups and for the development of cohesive, humane and egalitarian society.

The Act of 2011 was followed by some other legislation documents that more precisely define the implementation of the Act. They define areas of voluntary work and regulate in detail the scope of rewarding the volunteers and volunteer organizations, including:

- Rules on voluntary work areas and Register (Official Gazette of RS, No. 48/11, 60/11 amendments and supplements)
- Regulation on detailed arrangements to grant awards and recognitions of the Republic of Slovenia for volunteering (Official Gazette of RS, No. 62/11)
- Rules governing the method of work of the Committee of the RS for the award in volunteering and its expert committees set out in the Volunteering Act (Official Gazette of RS, No. 10/11, 16/11 amendments and supplements and 82/15)

The amendment to the Volunteering Act has been adopted in 2015 and simplified the reporting on a completed volunteer work, eliminated additional administrative burdens and made easier the provision of voluntary work in public entities or by private persons that perform public service.

Volunteering Act consists of eight parts. The aim and the definition of volunteering are explained in the first part of the Act. The concepts and terms, including volunteering, volunteer and volunteer organisation are included in the second part.

The third part presents the principles of non-discrimination in the field of organized volunteering, the protection of users of voluntary work, the non-exploitation of volunteers, the protection of children and free nature of volunteering.

The fourth part of the Act defines the conditions for voluntary work, including the agreement about voluntary work and its content, guidelines how to use the Code of Obligations (Obligacijski zakonik), termination and cancellation of an agreement. An organisation hosting volunteers needs to set up a record of volunteers and voluntary activities, as well as to issue a certificate recognizing voluntary experience.

The fifth part of the Act defines rights and obligations of volunteers and voluntary organisations when implementing what is known as organised voluntary work. It includes articles on rights and obligations of volunteers, their possibility to complain and the necessary step to asses a complain, the insurance of a volunteer in case of unemployment, liabilities of voluntary organisations and its responsibility for any damage caused. It also prescribes the guidelines of an appropriate training, requires mentoring and predicts an award for special achievements of a volunteer.

Promotion and monitoring of organised volunteering are described in the sixth part of the Act. It predicts sustainable development of voluntary work in the field of education, new strategy of voluntary work and support for promotion and development of voluntary work. In addition, it defines the subscription of voluntary organisations in the official register of voluntary organisations and their responsibility of reporting. It presents committee and guidelines for nomination of awards for volunteers and it also defines funding for awards which needs to be ensured in the State budget. Moreover, it includes a necessity of awarding by local communities.

The final provisions, responsibilities and monitoring of the act are defined, including penal provisions.

There is no ethical note included in the Act, voluntary work is regarded as a social phenomenon, integrated in the society. The act is focused on organisation of voluntary work, including terms for voluntary organisations and rights and responsibilities of key actors.

Other official documents containing guidelines on youth volunteering

The Act on Public Interest in the Youth Sector (Zakon o javnem interesu v mladinskem sektorju), adopted on 18 May 2010 by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, introduces youth volunteering as one of fields of youth policy implementation.

The Organization and Financing of Education Act (Zakon o organizaciji in financiranju vzgoje in izobraževanja) and the Gimnazije Act (Zakon o gimnazijah) both adopted in February 1996 by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, as well as Vocational Education Act (Zakon o poklicnem in strokovnem izobraževanju) from 2006, provide an adequate room for voluntary activities. In general secondary schools, organised voluntary (social) work is a compulsory elective content and in vocational schools is optional compulsory elective contents. Volunteering is also an optional activity in elementary schools.

The non-governmental organisation Slovene Philanthropy, Association for the Promotion of Voluntary Work, continues to provide schools with professional assistance for training volunteers under the national network.

Various aspects of volunteerism, but not specifically youth volunteering, are also regulated in other laws. In general, there are about 25 legal regulations that pertain to volunteers and volunteering.

These include: Law on Social Security, Law on Organizations for People with Disabilities, Law on Humanitarian Organizations, The Law on the Red Cross in Slovenia, Law on Protection Against Natural Disasters, Law on Fire Brigades, Act on the Supply of Blood, Law on Labour Relations, Law on the Protection of Cultural Heritage, Act on Foreigners, The Law on Health Care and Health Insurance, etc.

There are also specific regulations pertaining to volunteers in sports, culture, and social protection.

Regulations on standards of quality

There are no official documents defining quality standards in the field of youth volunteering in Slovenia. Minimum obligations of organisations when sending and receiving volunteers have been defined by the legislation within the Volunteering Act. Inter alia, the Volunteering Act regulates involvement of young people under age of 15 who can engage in voluntary activities only if these activities contribute to their educational and personal development, if they do not pose a threat to their health and do not prevent them to fulfil school obligations. In addition, Article 11 of the Volunteering Act advises voluntary organisation to place additional precautions when organising activities that involve people with special needs or vulnerable groups.

Monitoring of the implementation of the Volunteering Act, in accordance with its Article 49, is done by inspectors of the Ministry of Public Administrations. Information Commissioner of the Republic of Slovenia monitors the protection of personal data.

In 2006, the cooperation between various voluntary organisations resulted in the development of a Volunteering Ethics Code, which contains basic guidelines and minimum standards that volunteers and their organisations are encouraged to comply with. The Code gives basic instructions for voluntary work, applicable to all types of voluntary organisations and volunteers. By signing the Code, an organisation obtains the right to use the logo of *Volunteering* as a symbol of the quality of their work, which is awarded by the Centre for the Development and Promotion of Voluntary Work of the Slovene Philanthropy.

The Code of Ethics was developed with the assistance of a large number of different organisations and experts in the voluntary sector. The initiative benefitted from the support of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, and Family. As of 27 October 2009, 360 organisations out of more than 600 which are included in the volunteering network had signed the Code of Ethics.

Amongst other things, the Code emphasises the following:

- Respect of confidentiality of personal data,

- Working for the best interest of the user,

- No exploitation of power by a volunteer or an organisation,

- Active participation of users,

- Concern for the integrity, dignity and respect for all the involved (volunteers, users and organizations),

- Concern for the reputation of voluntary work.

The Code also specifies that volunteers have the right:

- to be informed about their work and voluntary organisation;
- to be familiarised with the work;
- to get the support and acknowledgement of their work;
- to be provided with opportunities of learning and advancement at work;

- to be given the opportunity to say their opinion and participate in the decision-making;
- to be given the opportunity to participate in the organisation of voluntary work;
- to have expenses reimbursed; and
- to benefit from insurance.

Target groups

No specific target groups within the youth population are defined in the official documents in Slovenia apart from the Article 18 of the Volunteering Act which requires a legal representative or custodian to sign a volunteer agreement if a child is under the age of 15.

2.5 Youth volunteering at national level

National Programme for Youth Volunteering

There is no National programme for Youth Volunteering in Slovenia.

Funding

The sources of funding for voluntary activities are dispersed and little systematic information is available on this matter.

The largest proportion of funds comes from governmental and municipal sources or from NGOs' own assets. The projects are mostly financed by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Sport and the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth.

Major sources of financing voluntary work are the following:

- National Social Security Programme that takes into account the activity of the non-government sector and volunteers' activity as an integral part of social security system;
- Concessions granted by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs for social assistance programmes of non-government and private sectors;
- Public tenders for the co-financing of youth programmes and programmes of youth organizations issued by the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth;
- Tax relief for humanitarian and charity contributions;
- Contributions by local community, municipal budget;
- "Erasmus+" Programme;
- Foundation for Financing Disabled People's and Humanitarian Organizations (FIHO) with National Lottery funds;
- Foundation for financing sports organisations;
- Membership fees of the organizations;
- Donations from businesses or profit-making sector, sponsorships.

Another source of financing voluntary organisations is stipulated by the Personal Income Tax Act (Zakon o dohodnini) which states that 0.5% of incomemay be taxed and directed to financing activities of general public benefit (Article 142). This is a new source of funding for voluntary organisations carrying out non-profit activities in the public interest, i.e. organisations for human rights protection, protection against natural and other disasters, organisations for people with disabilities, charitable, ecological, cultural, sports, religious and other purpose organisations.

There is data on public financing of non-governmental organizations, although not all of them are registered as voluntary organisations, based on records provided by the State Treasury cash flows, including ministries, government departments, agencies, municipalities, and other public bodies.

According to data provided by the Centre for information service, co-operation and development of NGOs, non-governmental organizations received 165.9 million of public

funds in 2003, which incrementally increased to 288.4 million EUR in 2015 and peaking at 298.4 million EUR in 2012. In 2015, over 261 million EUR were allocated from direct and indirect budget users (ministries, municipalities, public agencies and institutions), 27 million EUR by the Foundation for Funding Humanitarian and Disabled People's Organizations (FIHO) and the Foundation for Financing Sports Organizations in the Republic of Slovenia (FSO). According to the same source, 15,130 non-governmental organizations managed to receive public funds in 2015.

Table 1: Scope of public funding of non-governmental organisations in 2009, and 2011-2015 in EUR

funders/ year	2009	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Ministries	78.647.148,47	86.392.332,97	88.164.177,94	85.716.879,92	79.459.882,67	73.796.393,22
Municipalities	91.796.049,72	97.128.352,10	99.127.031,19	94.963.396,15	99.210.353,94	99.637.265,59
Other public institutions	69.311.119,02	78.299.133,74	78.072.222,62	76.202.321,14	82.858.268,03	84.242.312,81
Financial administration of the Republic of Slovenia (mainly assets from 0.5% of personal income tax)	3.007.199,23	2.980.029,25	3.793.967,46	3.593.387,40	3.340.349,48	3.762.455,32
FIHO and FŠO	30.153.292,80	28.178.823,62	28.790.735,86	27.083.427,55	26.841.999,00	27.001.110,15
Total	272.914.809,24	292.978.671,68	297.948.135,07	287.559.412,16	291.710.853,12	288.439.537,09

Source: Centre for information service, co-operation and development of NGOs

Characteristics of youth volunteering

The latest survey "Youth 2010, The Social Profile of Young People in Slovenia" included several indicators of young people's voluntary activities, and they all fall into the basic conceptual framework of voluntary activities and civil society participation: 1) non-formal work or activities, generally in cooperation with others, in order to deal with specific issues, and 2) membership in voluntary societies and organisations.

Slovenian youth are more active in activities linked to the safety and upkeep of the location where the respondent resides (68.6 percent of young people), and to youth interests and young people (67.2 percent). The data also show that around a quarter of Slovenian youth are active in firefighting societies, and just under 17 percent in the scouts. The survey checked the extent to which Slovenian youth (compared to EU-27 youth) are members of voluntary organisations. Slovenian youth are in two types of organisation that have the most members: sports/recreation organisations and cultural organisations. Among Slovenian youth the only notably lower membership is in political parties which might be due to a low level of trust in political officials and institutions, low conventional participation and so forth.

The key findings of the survey can be summarised in the following points:

1. Compared to 1995, Slovenian youth are significantly more active in the voluntary sphere.

2. Out of all forms of participation, young people are most frequently involved in voluntary activities. In addition to involvement in employment and education, voluntary activities are the main mechanism for social inclusion in Slovenia.
3. In the past 15 years there has been a major increase in the willingness of students to participate in actions that improve the status of young people.
4. Voluntary activities are mainly associated with the more adjusted psychosocial development of young people. A willingness to help peers and older people is associated primarily with indicators of more adjusted development, while membership in voluntary societies is generally associated with negative indicators of development.
5. Being female, older, living in an urban environment, higher educational qualifications of the respondent and higher economic status of the family are factors that positively influence most forms of voluntarism.

Political and voluntary activities are relatively strongly associated positively with each other.

The 2014 Yearly Report on volunteerism in Slovenia, prepared by the Ministry of Public Administration which is responsible for the monitoring of voluntary organisations, as based on the Volunteering Act, showed that volunteers under 18 years carry out 1,78% of all registered volunteer hours (in 2013: 3.08%, 2012: 2,52%, 2011: 0.6%) and volunteers aged 18 to 30 years 10% of all registered volunteer hours and the percentage had not significantly changed since 2013.

These data are based on the data from organisations that are enrolled in the official registry. It is assumed that the percentage of young volunteers is much higher, but the youth organisations are not enrolled in the registry, mainly due to the lack of financial and human resources for administration, and therefore they are not included in the official statistics.

In 2009, the Office for Youth, together with the Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, prepared an analysis of inclusion of young people in voluntary activities. These data show much higher involvement of young people compared to older generations in regular voluntary activities (participation at least once a week).

Inclusion of volunteers by age (in percentages)

	Up to 29 Years	From 30 to 60 years	Older than 60	Total
At least once a week	5,9	5,4	3,9	5,1
At least once a month	3,5	9,6	6,4	7,3
At least once in three months	4,7	5,5	4,1	5,0
At least once in six months	9,4	9,4	4,1	8,1
Not so often	15,8	9,3	6,9	10,2
Never	60,7	60,8	74,6	64,3
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Helping others (in percentages)

	Up to 29 Years	From 30 to 60 years	Older than 60	Total
At least once a week	29,1	26,7	21,5	26,0
At least once a month	27,4	28,3	20,4	26,0
At least once in three	14,1	14,5	9,5	13,1

months				
At least once in six months	11,2	11,3	9,5	10,8
Not so often	10,3	6,0	9,5	7,9
Never	7,9	13,2	29,6	16,1
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Support to young volunteers

The Volunteering Act includes two important aspects: on one hand the economic impact in the form of refunding material expenses, rewarding and comparison of volunteers, and on the other hand it states among the benefits of voluntary work the acquisition of new knowledge and experience and thus provides a measure of the educational impact of volunteering.

The costs associated with volunteering that can be reimbursed include travel to and from the place of volunteering, travel while volunteering, meals (when work lasts more than four hours), accommodation, postage, phone calls, stationery etc., and cost of protective clothing/special equipment. The Volunteering Act obliges voluntary organisation to sign an agreement with a volunteer in order to specify all the cost that will be reimbursed, so the reimbursement of expenses related to volunteers' activity is left at the discretion of the host organisation.

Under the Slovenian tax law reimbursements for food, accommodation or any other expenses related to the voluntary activity (e.g. travel cost) as well as the volunteer allowance, are not subject to taxation as long as the volunteer does not receive any type of financial remuneration or award from the voluntary organisation. If the volunteer receives such financial award or remuneration, then both received income and reimbursements are subject to taxation.

According to the Personal Income Tax Act, tax exemption applies to "revenues intended to cover documented costs of transport, subsistence and accommodation, when the payment is made to a volunteer individual or person respondent to an invitation or call to participate in various activities - amateur, voluntary, humanitarian or charitable activities, educational training, health, humanitarian, cultural, sports, research, trade union activities, activities carried out by chambers, religious communities and political parties, provided that the said activities are non-profit and voluntary, or carried out on the basis of an invitation or call to participate in activities of associations and unions" (Article 107). The activities need to be in line with the objectives or purposes for which the societies are established, and should not seek financial profits.

A foreign volunteer who is included in organized voluntary activity is entitled to receive the compensation for personal expenses if this was agreed with volunteer's sending organization or is part of the international treaty that promotes international exchanges of volunteers.

The amendment to the Personal Income Tax Act provides that Slovenian volunteers who are sent to voluntary services abroad are entitled to the tax-free allowance for personal expenses, but it must be part of the agreement between hosting and sending organization or part of the international treaty or European or international programme that defines these benefits.

For health insurance, the Volunteering Act states that volunteer organizations must pay health insurance for volunteers carrying out organised voluntary work if these activities constitute a danger to the health of life of a volunteer, or if health insurance is part of an agreement. However, this is not a major issue as all people legally resident in Slovenia, including students, unemployed, employed and retired persons, benefit from the obligatory health insurance which covers the basic rights. Students and employees also benefit from specific insurance policies.

According to specific laws, e.g. Law on Fire Brigades, Law on Protection against Natural and Other Disasters as well as Healthcare and Health Insurance Act, volunteers are entitled to insurance. However, as the above-mentioned strand of legislation suggests, the obligation of insurance only pertains to certain specific volunteers.

With regard to other insurance benefits, volunteers do not benefit from pension and disability insurance (as it is the case for the employed), unemployment insurance, parent care insurance, work accident insurance and professional disease insurance.

Quality Assurance

Supervision of the implementation of the provisions of the Volunteering Act is in hands of different competent authorities: Ministry of Public Administration (inspectors), Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (inspectors), Information Commissioner.

There is a registry of organisations offering volunteering opportunities to volunteers. The legal basis for the registry is the Volunteering Act which in its Article 38 defines that all NGOs carrying out voluntary work have a right to enter the official registry. The electronic registry of voluntary organisations and organisations organising voluntary programmes contains the following information: registration number of a legal person and its data, the activity of a legal person and dates when an organisation entered the registry. Once a year the registered organisations need to submit a report on volunteering, including data on the number of volunteers by gender and age groups and the total number of volunteers' hours depending on the type of volunteer work. Reports are submitted to the Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Public Legal Records and Related Services for the purpose of national statistics. Aggregated data on volunteer work in Slovenia are submitted to the Ministry of Public Administration, which prepares a yearly report on the situation of volunteering in Slovenia and sends it to the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for its information.

The Ministry of Public Administration is mainly responsible for QA of voluntary activities. In general, the voluntary organisations under the provision of the Volunteering Act are obliged to provide training and tutoring if it is necessary due to the nature of voluntary work, or if the volunteer expressed the need for training. Voluntary organisations have no obligation to report about their quality assurance schemes to the competent ministries, unless their programmes are subject to co-financing from funds based on public calls for specific programmes.

2.6 Cross-border mobility programmes

EU programmes

Slovenia has not developed any cross-border mobility programme. The EU Erasmus+ programme is the most important, because it represents the beginning of a legal possibility to support such projects and their respective goals, in pursuance of which an increasing number of players in the youth field prepare international youth activities (youth exchange, the project of European Voluntary Service) as a constituent part of their regular yearly programmes. Similarly, a growing number of players in the youth field make use of the international aspect of projects as an important - otherwise unattainable in domestic and local environment - educational dimension and a method to fulfil their educational mission among youth target groups.

There is no systematic monitoring of youth participation in EU programmes related to youth volunteering besides Institute MOVIT's (Erasmus +, Youth in Action National Agency) regular reporting procedures and special publications. However, general trends related to youth participation in European volunteering programmes are monitored by the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth through its periodic evaluations of the Erasmus +, Youth in Action programme.

Other Programmes

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia has published a call for projects that contribute to public awareness, global learning and capacity building for NGOs in the Republic of Slovenia for international development cooperation and humanitarian aid as well as projects on human rights education with emphasis on children's rights in the Western Balkan countries for the period 2016 – 2017.

Legal framework applying to foreign volunteers

Aliens Act (Zakon o tujcih), adopted on 15 June 2011 by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, is important for foreigners interested in carrying out voluntary work in Slovenia. In the case of a foreign volunteer residing in Slovenia for more than 90 days that is subject to a visa, a permit for temporary residence is required which may be issued for different purposes including his or her participation in the programmes of trans-national exchange of volunteers (Article 30).

However, a foreign volunteer who wish to reside in the Republic of Slovenia should have a valid travel document whose period of validity must exceed the intended period of stay in the Republic of Slovenia by at least three months; they should also have an appropriate health insurance certificate and sufficient funds for subsistence during their stay in the country or their subsistence shall be guaranteed otherwise (Article 27).

The employment and work article of the Aliens Act makes no mention of volunteers but its application is essential for the work of foreign volunteers in Slovenia. This Act does not apply to foreigners that carry out not-for-profit activity within organized youth camps and other periodical forms of trans-national cooperation of young people organized by the authorized organizations, schools, institutions, ministries or local communities, to foreigners who perform clerical jobs for legally recognised religious communities, and aliens who organize or run charitable and humanitarian activities within registered organizations and religious communities.

2.7 Raising awareness about youth volunteering opportunities

Information providers

Ministry of Public Administration is the key actor in promoting volunteering in Slovenia. Based on the Volunteering Act which gives an important emphasis to the promotion of volunteering, the Ministry till 2012 published a yearly call for financing networks of non-governmental organizations and promoting volunteering with the following objectives: development and enforcement of various models for the promotion of volunteering in the economy, public administration and non-governmental organizations, setting up a system of networking with businesses and NGOs, promoting e-volunteering (introducing new models of e-volunteering, promotion of e-volunteering, etc. For this purpose, European social funds are also used.

The main organisation that promotes volunteering in Slovenia is the Slovene Philanthropy (*Slovenska Filantropija*), which is an NGO. It aims to promote and develop voluntary work and, in general, solidarity among people. In addition to promoting voluntary work, its core activities include helping individuals to get in touch with organisations in need of volunteers, training volunteers and supporting civic organisations. Furthermore, it organises the following events:

- Volunteering Forum (every second year);
- Slovenian Volunteering Congress (every second year, lasting two days);
- Seminars and trainings for organisers of voluntary work;
- National Volunteering Week.

Since 2004, Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs has supported programme "Development and Promotion of volunteering in Slovenia". The programme is implemented by Slovene Philanthropy and is also verified by the Social Chamber. The

programme aims to provide professional support for quality volunteering, encourage recognition of volunteering, develop new forms of volunteering with regards to society needs and enhance professionalization of mentors and organisers of voluntary activities. For people in need, this programme offers support to find suitable help from volunteers and it also helps voluntary organisations to find volunteers. Moreover, with professionalization and recognition of volunteering, the programme particularly helps humanitarian and social protection organisations which run voluntary activities. At the same time the programme offers citizens an opportunity to be actively involved in social activities, provides greater social inclusion of individuals, in particular of vulnerable groups, promotes solidarity and empowers an individual who gains new skills and experiences through voluntary engagement.

Slovene Philanthropy also leads a Slovenian network of more than 1300 voluntary organisations. The Slovenian Network of Voluntary Organisations was formed to promote volunteering, identify the value of voluntary activities and create an environment fertile for its development.

The portal http://www.prostovoljstvo.org (www.prostovoljstvo.org) helps voluntary organisations to connect with each other across the country. Inclusion in the network and information system is open to all interested voluntary organisations. The portal offers promotion of vacant voluntary activities and helps volunteers to find an activity.

At the invitation of the Ministry of Public Administration, the Centre for the Promotion of Voluntary Work serves as an "administrator", providing voluntary organisations and volunteers with various forms of support, such as:

- Information and counselling;
- Educational opportunities and exchange of experience;
- Participation in joint promotion of volunteering; and
- Cooperation in strengthening civil dialogue and systemic regulation of volunteering.

Other organisations that promote volunteering directly or indirectly include the following organisations (the list is not exhaustive):

- The Youth Council of Slovenia is an umbrella organisation of national youth organisations. Since 2002 and on yearly basis, the Youth Council organises a well-received event "Volunteer of the Year". The volunteers of the year receive the award from the Ministry of Work, Family and Social Affairs.
- MOVIT - Institute for Promotion of Youth Mobility performs the tasks of national agency under the European Community programme Erasmus+:Youth in Action.
- Network of youth centres MaMa which encourages youth volunteering among youth centres and on local level. Youth centres enable young people to obtain information on various possibilities for carrying out voluntary work, organise different voluntary work projects, offer training to volunteers and in many cases also act as operators of voluntary work programmes at schools, in social work centres and other public institutions.
- CNVOS - Centre for Information Service, Co-operation and Development of NGOs. It was established in early 2001 as an independent, non-profit and non-governmental organisation. The aim of 27 organisations who founded CNVOS is to empower NGOs in Slovenia, promote their role in the civil society, and ensure the realisation of their objectives.
- Institute Voluntariat is an organisation that offers various opportunities for international voluntary work.
- MISSS - Youth Information and Counselling Centre of Slovenia.
- SLOGA - The Association of Slovenian Societies, whose members are numerous societies that work with volunteers, organises an important promotional event every year under the framework of the Global Youth Service Day.

Key initiatives

"National Awards for Special Achievements in Volunteering" (Državna nagrada za izjemne dosežke na področju prostovoljstva)

The awards have the aim to increase the recognition of volunteering in the Slovene society. Committee of the Republic of Slovenia gives out awards for special achievements in volunteering. Each year the nominees are selected on the basis of the criteria set out in the in the Volunteering Act (Official Gazette of RS, No. 10/11, 16/11 amendments and supplements and 82/15) and Regulation on detailed arrangements to grant awards and recognitions of the Republic of Slovenia for volunteering (Official Gazette of RS, No. 62/11)

"Volunteer of the Year" (Prostovoljec leta)

Youth organisations significantly contribute to the stimulation of young people to be involved in voluntary work. Every year, the Youth Council of Slovenia organises a well-received event "Volunteer of the Year", in which several organisations take part. The volunteers of the year receive the awards from the Minister of Work, Family and Social Affairs.

"National Volunteering Week" (Nacionalni teden prostovoljstva)

During the National Volunteering Week, before the Festival of Volunteering, two main events are organised:

- Ceremonial Volunteer Day, where awards "Hero of Our Time" are granted to school children who, through their volunteer work, contributed significantly to the quality of life at school or in the local community.
- Happy Volunteering Day is the main event organised in the capital of Ljubljana where more than 100 voluntary organisations present themselves. Among them, one third come from youth or school sector.
- Beside the two main events in Ljubljana, local events are organised throughout Slovenia, traditionally in Maribor and Nova Gorica but also elsewhere.

"Youth-Friendly Voluntary Organisation" Award (Mladim prijazna prostovoljska organizacija)

An award provided by the Slovenian Network of Voluntary Organisations can be granted to all organisations which provide a quality mentorship to young volunteers under the age of 18. The list of organisations who obtained this award is available on the volunteer platform www.prostovoljstvo.net.

2.8 Skills recognition

Policy Framework

There are two main legally acceptable ways for recognition of non-formal learning in Slovenia: the first is through recognition of non-formal knowledge, skills and competence within the formal education system – through continuing interrupted education, continuing on higher levels of education, changing direction/sector in education etc. – when educational institutions recognise the acquired knowledge on the basis of relevant legislation and credit system (e.g. University of Ljubljana's rules and procedures related to recognition of non-formally acquired knowledge and skills 'Pravilnik o postopku in merilih za priznavanje neformalno pridobljenega znanja in spretnosti') and the second is through the National Vocational Qualifications System (Sistem nacionalne poklicne kvalifikacije) when non-formally acquired knowledge and skills is recognised by the labour market under the facilitation of the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training (Center Republike Slovenije za poklicno izobraževanje).

In the procedure of recognition of non-formal learning and by assessment of knowledge, the comparability of a candidate's non-formally obtained knowledge, skills and

competences with standards of knowledge is proven. For the labour market needs, Slovenia established a formalized system of national vocational qualifications. Here the standards established at national level in the forms of Occupational Standards and Catalogues of Standards for Technical Knowledge and Skills are compared with candidates' acquired knowledge and experience.

For further inclusion of candidates in the formal education system, educational standards are used (catalogues of knowledge, modules and current curriculum), based on education system which allows candidates to obtain recognition of learning acquired through different learning paths.

A recent educational reform has also given voluntary work an important place in the educational system. Voluntary work is now part of the compulsory curricula in general secondary level schools and certain types of high schools (with international baccalaureate). Pupils need to do voluntary work for a certain number of hours per year and they receive a certificate for it. These certificates however do not facilitate their entrance to further education courses.

New National Programme for Higher Education 2011-2020 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu visokega šolstva 2011–2020) encourages better conditions for lifelong learning at the tertiary level including the updating of procedures for the accreditation of study programmes, promoting flexible learning pathways and more transparent information on providers of higher education in Slovenia. In this process, higher education institutions and secondary vocational schools will be strongly encouraged to provide flexible learning pathways and recognize previously acquired knowledge and skills which complies with established academic standards. Non-formal and informal education will be therefore an individual's right and subject to assessment of higher education institutions. Higher education attainment and student's performance are measured in ECTS (the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) credits.

The Volunteering Act (Zakon o prostovoljstvu) imposes an obligation on organisations to keep a register of the performed 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 upon the completion of the volunteering period.

Existing arrangements

It is very important for young people that the non-formal knowledge and skills gained through youth work (volunteering or student work), are adequately recorded. A recording system for volunteering was introduced through the Volunteering Act. Appropriate recording of non-formal and informal learning has a multi-value in society today. It exceeds the dissemination of knowledge, skills and attitudes, being also an important tool for greater integration of the individual in community life. There are a series of examples of good practice, such as Nefiks – System of recording non-formally acquired knowledge, My experiences – a tool for validation and recognition of working experience, gained by student work (Moje izkušnje), Learning badges – Utilization of open digital badges to value and recognize learning during non-formal learning activities (Učne značke) and others. These tools are being developed in different contexts (international learning mobility, increasing employability, etc.) and different channels (youth work, volunteer, student work, full-time employment ...).

In promoting the recognition of the non-formal education of young people, Nefiks, a partner project of the Institute Nefiks and the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth is widely used. At its essence, Nefiks is based on the idea that the non-formal education of young people, carried out at different levels and organised by various institutions, needs to be given more recognition. The main aim is to establish a uniform system of validating knowledge and experience acquired in a non-formal manner by Slovenian young people working in Slovenia and abroad. For this reason, a record book of non-formal learning was introduced to collect the acquired knowledge and experience. It is

designed for various users (secondary school and university students, unemployed and any other persons of 14 years of age and above) and it serves for recording knowledge from six different fields:

- knowledge acquired through engagement as active citizens and serious work on projects,
- knowledge acquired through work (through student employment brokerage services),
- knowledge acquired through organised forms of education (courses and seminars),
- knowledge acquired in camps,
- knowledge acquired through voluntary work,
- other ways of acquiring knowledge.

2.9 Current debates and reforms

The most important debates in the field of volunteering are concerning the preparation of the national strategy. Based on the Volunteering Act (Zakon o prostovoljstvu), the Ministry of Public Administration is coordinating the preparation of the National strategy for the development of non-governmental sector and volunteering (Strategija razvoja nevladnih organizacij in prostovoljstva) still waiting to be adopted. Its content is being prepared in line with the following documents:

- Coalition Agreement on Cooperation in the Government of the Republic of Slovenia 2014 – 2018,
- partnership agreement between Slovenia and the European Commission 2014 - 2020 and Operational Programme for the Implementation of European Cohesion Policy 2014 – 2020,
- Volunteering Act,
- Strategy for Development of Public Administration 2015-2020,
- Strategy for Development of Local Self-Government
- Strategic Framework of Slovenia 2050.

Moreover, some other strategic public documents refer to volunteering (but not specifically to youth volunteering). There are no relevant current debates related to youth volunteering outside the above mentioned frameworks.

As regards the recognition of skills, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport wants to make a space for an in-depth discussion about recording of non-formally and informally acquired skills. The Ministry set up a working group with the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, the Ministry of Public Administration and other key actors from the education system and public, private and non-governmental sectors with the following aims:

a) to ensure the credibility of recording by improving the quality and verifiability of information;

b) to ensure the visibility of recording systems, both for potential users and those who provide recording tools;

c) ensuring greater interoperability between systems by providing a common platform;

d) ensuring the recognition of the system by the state.

3. Employment & Entrepreneurship

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

the share of unemployed graduates. Young people in Slovenia usually enter the labour market after concluding their education, and thus the majority of young people actively start seeking a job after the age of 20, especially in the latter half of their 20s. Due to their active presence in the education system, there are very few employed people below the age of 20.

Statistics indicate that young people's employment situation is improving (youth unemployment has been gradually declining since), but young people remain one of the most vulnerable groups on the labour market.

Less secure and more flexible forms of employment have replaced traditional forms of permanent employment, e.g. student labour is the most common form of flexible youth employment. The new labour legislation enacted in 2013 introduced the concept of flexicurity. Flexibility is becoming more common in the Slovenian labour market; fixed-term jobs (with contracts that typically last three months to one year) are increasing in popularity.

There is no single public body responsible for youth employment and entrepreneurship in Slovenia. Different ministries and government offices are involved the implementation of policies and programmes to address this issue, such as the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Family and Equal Opportunities; the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology; the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Employment Service of Slovenia.
To fight against youth unemployment, the Slovenian government developed an active employment policy. Through programmes to foster employment, the ESS enables subsides or partial reimbursement of expenses to be provided to employers for hiring new employees.

To foster entrepreneurship among youths, the Resolution on the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 was created in order to help youths begin their careers. Young entrepreneurs receive also a lot of information and financial incentives from the Slovene Enterprise Fund. The SEF offers financial support for newly established innovative enterprises.

Young people in Slovenia often find it difficult to reconcile work and family life, partially because employers perceive parenthood as disruptive to the work process rather than valuable. One of the main objectives of the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013–2022) is to make it easier for youths to coordinate work and family life.

Slovenia has not adopted any specific cross-border mobility programmes. However, some regulations regarding cross-border mobility were included in the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022. The EU Erasmus+ programme is the most important programme promoting mobility.

3.1 General context

Labour market situation in the country

The youth unemployment rate in Slovenia has increased considerably over the past 15 years, especially during the economic crisis between 2007 and 2013. In 2008, when the crisis began, the Employment Service of Slovenia (ESS) registered 18,223 unemployed persons aged between 15 and 29. In the first year of the crisis, the number of unemployed youth increased by 50.5% to 27,424 persons. From 2008 to 2013, the number of employed young people decreased by 34.9%, from more than 161,000 to 105,000. In 2013, the unemployment rate among youth (15–24 years old) in Slovenia was 21.6%, which was below the EU average of 23.5%. However, the increase in the youth unemployment rate was greater in Slovenia than in the EU as a whole, suggesting that youth unemployment is a relatively more pressing issue in Slovenia. Statistics indicate that young people's employment situation is improving, but they remain one of the most vulnerable groups on the labour market.

Youth unemployment has been gradually declining since 2013. According to the ESS, in September 2016, the number of registered unemployed persons was 41.8% lower (18,919) than at the end of 2013 (32,523), which saw the highest number of registered unemployed youth. Similarly, the youth unemployment rate fell by almost 40% in the same period: from 33.8% in December 2013 to 19.7% in August 2016. The registered unemployment rate among young people aged 25–29 years in the same period decreased by 32%, from 19.9% to 13.5%. The percentage of unemployed youths in 2009 was 28%, decreasing to 23% in 2012 and 20% in August 2016.

Obviously, with the decline in youth unemployment in Slovenia came increased youth employment. According to Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SORS), there were 110,471 economically active youths in June 2016, which is 4.5% more than in June last year. Nevertheless, the number of employed youths has been decreasing over the last decade. Young people in Slovenia usually enter the labour market after concluding their education, and thus the majority of young people actively start seeking a job after the age of 20, especially in the latter half of their 20s. Due to their active presence in the education system, there are very few employed people below the age of 20; there were 3,145 such employees at the end of 2005 and a mere 1,628 at the end of 2014. Slightly more than 24,000 people aged 20 to 24 and over 80,000 people aged 25 to 29 were employed in 2015.

The number of young people employed part-time has also gradually risen since 2000. In Slovenia, traditional forms of permanent employment have increasingly been replaced by less secure and more flexible forms of employment. Compared to 2005, in order to increase their employment options, young people were significantly more prepared for geographical mobility and more willing to accept temporary employment in 2010. In 2013, the proportion of temporary and part-time employees aged 15–24 in Slovenia (72%) exceeded that of the same group in European countries with the most advanced economies (EU-15) and the EU as a whole (EU-27). Permanent employment was within reach only for a small minority, while the majority likely faced unemployment and career casualisation. Compared to the average of the Slovenian labour forse, young people were still more flexible in terms of employment and more willing to accept short-term employment or jobs that did not fit their career goals in 2015. Because of this, young people were, on average, unemployed for shorter periods than the rest of the unemployed population.

Student labour is the most common form of flexible youth employment. In 2013, on average, students worked 26.3 hours per week, which is more than half the average number of hours per week (41.5) worked by formally employed youth. Together with the other two types of employment (part-time and self-employment), flexible forms of employment comprise the overwhelming majority of officially recognised work done by young people. As follow-ups to 2013 labour market reform, a number of measures were adopted in order to address the tendency to use other forms of work (author contract; the establishment of sole proprietor) when employment is terminated, such as the policy regulating student work that entered into force on 1 February 2015.

According to the study Slovenian Youth 2013, 'another dimension of workforce flexibility results from the level of preparedness and ability to work in different kinds of jobs'. In 2013, only 25% of employed young people worked within their desired field. Even if student workers are excluded, it appears that the majority of employed young people perform jobs that they were not formally educated to do. In 2013, approximately 58% of employed graduates worked within their profession; however, due to a lack of employment opportunities, many graduates were ready to take any job ('anything'), similar to the way in which young people are willing to take various actions in order to reduce the risk of unemployment. Work possibilities are seriously limited, and even blocked, by the ever-increasing instability of employment.

In 2014 and 2015, 36 instruments were used by the government in order to improve the transition from education to employment and reduce youth unemployment. For the

period from 2016 to 2017, instruments developed by different ministries were combined into 15 main measures, some of which are new and some of which were used previously.

In Slovenia, many young people enrol in tertiary education and enter the labour market late; most do not start to actively search for employment until the second half of their 20s. In light of the recent developments in the labour market, one can argue that including people up to 29 years of age improved the situation of youth in the labour market since youth unemployment was rapidly increasing.

Slovenia is facing significant demographic changes. The proportion of young people (15–29 years) is decreasing, and the average age is increasing. Approximately half of all young people are in the education system, and about one third are employed. Future demographic changes and the ageing of the Slovene population will have a significant impact on the labour market.

Main concepts

The most important definitions of youth employment and entrepreneurship were introduced in the Labour Market Regulation Act (Zakon o urejanju trga dela). The Slovenian government decided to extend the Youth Guarantee (YG) to persons up to 29 years of age, although the EU YG includes only 15–25 year olds.

The main goal of the active employment policy (Aktivna politika zaposlovanja) is the "flexicurity" concept. The purpose of flexibility as a measure is to help improve the socio-economic situation of young people with enabling faster and easier transition of young people from the education system to the labor market (see The Matrix of Measures Implemented in the Youth Policy Field by the National Authorities (Matrika ukrepov državnih organov na področju mladinske politke)).

3.2 Administration and Governance

Governance

There is no single public body responsible for youth employment and entrepreneurship in Slovenia. Different ministries and government offices are involved the implementation of policies and programmes to address this issue, such as the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Family and Equal Opportunities (MDDSZ); the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology (MGRT); the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (MIZŠ) and the ESS. The roles of different ministries can be categorised in the following manner:

- The MDDSZ is the principal body responsible for youth employment.
- The MGRT is the principal body responsible for entrepreneurship.
- The ESS is a key Slovenian labour market institution. It is a public, independent legal entity operating uniformly across the entire country.
- A range of ministries help fund employment programmes.

The following sectors are responsible for implementing the YG from 2014–2015 and 2016–2020:

- The MDDSZ,
- The MIZŠ,
- The MGRT,
- The Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment (MKGP) and
- The Ministry of Culture (MK).

The ESS perform activities related to employment, such as development of active employment policy programmes, distribution of career guidance, provision of unemployment insurance and regulation of employment and foreign workers through numerous laws and rules, including the following:

- Employment and Work of Foreigners Act,
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons Act, school legislation (career guidance, advice and education) and

- Labour regulations (redundant workers, trainee periods, employment contracts, inspections, etc.).

Main public actors are as follows:

- The Committee of the National Assembly of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and the Disabled (Odbor za delo, družino, socialne zadeve in invalide), which discusses draft laws, other acts and issues relating to employment relationships and rights related to employment and vocational training.
- The Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth (Svet Vlade RS za mladino), which was established in 2009 by the Slovenian government to serve as a consultative body. Article 8 of the Public Interest in Youth Sector Act states, '*[the] Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth as a consulting body shall offer assistance in making decisions on matters in the field of youth and the youth sector'*(see also Chapter 1.5).
- The Slovene Enterprise Fund (SEF) (Slovenski podjetniški sklad), or the Public Fund of Republic of Slovenia for Entrepreneurship, was established in order to improve access to financial resources for micro, small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to invest, including funding for start-ups and micro-financing.
- SPIRIT Slovenia - Public Agency for Entrepreneurship, Internationalisation, Foreign Investments and Technology (Javna agencija Republike Slovenije za spodbujanje podjetništva, internacionalizacije, tujih investicij in tehnologije), under the auspices of a single agency, implements the orientations of Slovenia's development programmes aiming to advertise innovative, technologically developed, export-oriented destinations to attract foreign investors.
- The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (Statistični urad Republike Slovenije) is the main producer and coordinator of national statistics in Slovenia.
- The Slovene Human Resources Development and Scholarship Fund (Javni sklad Republike Slovenije za razvoj kadrov in štipendije) is the central national management institution for the development of human resources. It also offers scholarships for study and research and increases opportunities for students and researchers to engage in international mobility.
- The Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training (Center RS za poklicno izobraževanje) is the central Slovenian institution dealing with development, research and counselling regarding vocational and technical education.
- The Career Centre for Students (Karierni centri) serves as a link between prospective graduates and employers.
- Primary and secondary schools conduct advisory and career guidance work with pupils and students.
- The Centre for Knowledge Promotion (Center za promocijo znanja) is registered as a research organisation at the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of Slovenia. It specialises in the evaluation, analysis and development of new systems of education.

The following are the main non-governmental organisations (NGO) actors in the youth sector:

- MOVIT, the Institute for Development of Youth Mobility, is a national agency that performs tasks in line with the EU programme Erasmus+: Youth in Action.
- The National Youth Council (MSS) is the umbrella organisation for youth organisations operating at the national level. MSS is also a national representative for young people in the EU.
- Ustvarjalnik teaches young people how to convert their skills into a source of income by providing opportunities for them to create business projects while in school.
- Institute Nefiks promotes non-formal learning and the recognition of skills gained through non-formal learning activities.

- Youth Network MaMa (Mladinska mreža MaMa) represents organisations that run youth centres or actively support youths in Slovenia by enabling them to spend their free time in productive ways.
- The Youth Council of Local Communities (Mladinski sveti lokalnih skupnosti) is the umbrella association of youth organisations at the local level, which represents the interests of young people and youth organisations.
- Trade Union Youth Plus (Sindikat Mladi plus) was established to protect the rights of students, pupils and unemployed youths. Trade Union operates within Free Trade Union of Slovenia which is a member of the Association of Free Trade Unions of Slovenia (Zveza svobodnih sindikatov Slovenije).

Cross-sectorial cooperation

MDDSZ is the principal body responsible for youth employment. MGRT is the principal body responsible for entrepreneurship. The third most important actor in youth employment is MIZŠ. The ESS (Zavodu RS za zaposlovanje) is a key Slovenian labour market institution that implements numerous projects aimed at improving the situation of youth in the labour market. The ESS actively contributes to the development of employment policy in Slovenia in cooperation with the MDDSZ. Young people mostly register as unemployed at the ESS due to termination of employment or loss of student status in order to become employed faster, obtain unemployment benefits or receive basic health insurance.

Cooperation of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities is also foreseen in some other measures of the Resolution on the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Nacionalni program za mladino). For example, several ministries (the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport) cooperate to improve the public policies to facilitate the rapid and appropriate entry of young people into the labor market.

The YG programme contributed to better cooperation between the ministries (and cooperation between ministries and other state bodies), although this cooperation could still be improved (For more, see Borut Cink: Youth policy in Slovenia (diploma paper)).

3.3 Skills Forecasting

Forecasting system(s)

The Slovenian government supports vocational education, training and practical skills that have been neglected too long in Slovenia. The Government of Slovenia prepared a new industrial policy in 2013 that might help to achieve greater orientation towards skills in the near future. Furthermore, it adopted the Scholarship Policy (2015–2019) (Politika štipendiranja (2015-2019)) in June 2015. In 2016, it established a monthly scholarship of 100 euros for education for in-demand professions (e.g. stonecutter, baker, butcher, carpenter, mason, forester, electrician, chimney sweep). This scholarship provided 1.2 million euros to individuals through 1000 scholarships and ensured that adequate human resources were available to employers. With such scholarships, Slovenia promotes the enrolment of young people in upper secondary vocational and upper secondary technical programmes training them for in-demand occupations.

In addition to scholarships, MDDSZ is also implementing a programme called 'Regional Scholarship Schemes'. Via this programme, the Ministry is co-financing corporate/company scholarships in order to prevent brain drain from certain regions of the Republic of Slovenia. In addition, the programme encourages employers to place more emphasis on the development and planning of human resources in their companies since they choose the recipients of the scholarships. The target group of this programme includes employers in different regions of Slovenia and young people enrolled in vocational education and training (VET), undergraduate or graduate education.

The project 'We Will be Engineers' (Inženirke in inženirji bomo!) attempts to meet the needs of the Slovenian economy, which lacks engineers. The project's creators and participating companies travel to high schools in order to generate interest in pursuing careers in engineering and science. The honorary patron of the project is President Borut Pahor.

In Slovenia, there is no comprehensive skills strategy or governmental platform for skill shortages on a national or regional level. The MDDSZ creates skill matching policies, making use of the work of ESS and several institutes, like the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development, that are involved in the collection and analysis of information about labour market demands. The ESS also performs regular surveys of employers' needs. However, there is no coordinated research on skill shortages or surpluses.

ICT professionals

The demand for information and communications technology (ICT) professionals in Slovenia has been increasing. In January 2016, the MIZŠ developed a new strategy for ICT in education: 'Strategic guidelines for continuous implementation of ICT in the Slovenian educational institutions until 2020'. The document involves all levels of education. The strategic guidelines were aligned with 'Digital Slovenia 2020 – Strategy for the development of an information society until 2020)' (DIGITALNA SLOVENIJA 2020 – Strategija razvoja informacijske družbe do leta 2020), which the Government of the Republic of Slovenian adopted in March 2016.

MIZŠ also supported the CODE Q project , an innovative initiative to promote programming skills (CODE Q - Učenje programiranja s samodejno generiranimi namigi). The programme is open to all and can be used for self-learning or as a supplement to regular courses.

In addition, the Centre for Knowledge Promotion developed an initiative aimed at matching individuals' capacities and skills with the needs of the labour market. It also offered training courses, such as those focusing on computer skills.

Health professionals

A decade ago, the state decided to increase enrolment at the Faculty of Medicine in Ljubljana, establish a new Faculty of Medicine in Maribor and adopt the Emergency Act (in 2011), which led to the import of foreign doctors. While preparing the strategic document 'Resolution on National Health Care Plan 2015–2025', the Ministry of Health prepared a systemic analysis of the need for doctors in Slovenia and developed a training plan for additional health personnel. They predicted changes in the education of medical specialists, additional funding to educate sufficient number of missing profiles of health professionals and measures to create additional motivation to specialise in high-demand fields.

Skills development

In 2013, the MIZŠ performed an analysis of the position of higher education graduates in the labour market, taking into account previous analyses of studies' efficacy, labour market situations and employability. Higher education institutions were invited to reduce the number of available places in humanities and social sciences programs by 20% for the 2012/13 academic year. All higher education institutions took this directive into consideration. The Faculty of Social Sciences began to reduce enrolment in programmes by over 20 spots, changed the programmes of study and announced major revisions for the 2018/2019 academic year. The *University of Maribor lowered the number of available seats in several programs for two consecutive academic years, decreasing the number of seats in economics by more than 50%, in law and civil engineering by around 30% and in logistics by around 18%.* However, in spite of reduction of enrolments into the social science and humanities programmes at public faculties, some new private faculties that exclusively operate within these two domains were created.

As stated in 'Resolution on the National Programme of Higher Education' (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu visokega šolstva 2011–2020), all programmes of study must ensure the acquisition of knowledge, skills and competences in accordance with the national framework of qualifications and key competences: innovation, critical thinking, communication in one's native tongue, cultural awareness and expression, ability to operate in the international arena and information literacy.

The MDDSZ has been trying to raise youths' competitiveness with the project 'Institutional Training of Unemployed Persons' (called 'Informal Education and Training for Young' in 2016). Young unemployed persons can attend courses, lectures and seminars on topics such as languages, computers, forklift operation, storekeeping, housemaid duties, welding and plumbing.

The programme 'Project Learning for Young Adults' (Projektno učenje za mlajše odrasle) was developed to motivate unemployed young adults who left school before graduating to complete their education and gain new skills and to offer them information and guidance about potential new learning paths. To make the programme more adaptable to the specific needs of vulnerable young people, the programme was recently expanded. In addition to encouraging young people to re-enter formal education, more emphasis is placed on the activities that will help young people who do not wish to continue their formal education more competitive in the labour market.

The Centre for Knowledge Promotion offered training in order to match individuals' capacities and skills with the labour market's needs. The courses offered included sales specialist training, accountancy training, German and English language courses and computer courses.

The strategy 'Slovenia's Development Strategy 2014–2020' (Strategija razvoja Slovenije 2014–2020) and the National Qualification Framework (NQF) provide frames for understanding how much importance the government places on skill development to alleviate skill shortages.

3.4 Career Guidance and Counselling

Career guidance and counselling services

Responsible authority

Article 24 of the Labour Market Regulation Act (Zakon o urejanju trga dela) states that 'lifelong career orientation services shall be provided for preventive purposes to pupils, secondary-school students, university students and their parents supporting the career orientation programme of schools and faculties'. Lifelong career orientation services include activities leading to insights about the labour market.

One of the measures of the YG is lifelong guidance. The aim of the measure is to increase the availability of information about careers, future employment opportunities and career management skills. For these purposes, the following actions are anticipated:

- **Career centres for youth (**Karierni centri za mlade**)**: The organisations responsible for this measure are the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Family and Equal Opportunities (MDDSZ) and the Employment Service of Slovenia (ESS). Implementation was expected to start in September 2016.
- **Open, responsive, high-quality system of higher education - Further development and implementation of career centres in higher education 2015–2020 (**Odprt, odziven in kakovosten sistem visokega šolstva- Nadaljnji razvoj in izvajanje dejavnosti kariernih centrov v visokem šolstvu 2015-2020**)**: The organisation responsible for this measure is the the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (MIZŠ)**.** A tender was published in June 2016.

Since the implementation of the YG in 2014, youths are offered more information and counselling within the first four months after registering as unemployed than other unemployed groups. At least two counselling sessions, short group presentations and

online communication are offered to each unemployed young person to help them achieve their career goals and find appropriate opportunities.

Progress has been made in terms of professionalizing lifelong career guidance in Slovenia. In 2015, postgraduate training was provided to professionals who offer guidance services, including advisers employed by the Employment Service of Slovenia (ESS), schools and Human resource management firms (HRM). Quality guidelines have been written and accepted by all stakeholders. The ESS continuously attempts to reach out to young not in employment, education or training (NEETs) through workshops organised by school counsellors. Such cooperation has been established on the national and regional levels.

According to the MDDSZ (2016), one of the objectives of the project 'Service development of Lifelong career guidance' is to develop tools for career counselling, especially aimed at young people. Career centres that operate within the ESS allow everyone to use LM information and other career support services. In this way, students are informed and advised regarding why, how and where to obtain ESS services and register as unemployed job seekers when they leave school. The ESS is updating web services, such as its Facebook page, with information about guidance, the labour market and opportunities for young entrepreneurs.

Main providers

The ESS provides information on the labour market for unemployed, help with individual career management, basic career counselling, in-depth career counselling and career management skill training. Lifelong career guidance for young people is offered by specially trained counsellors and advisors at career centres. Career counselling is offered by the ESS and school counsellors. The ESS's career counsellors also conduct workshops such as 'Different', 'Job as an Advantage', 'Collective Forms of Counselling – SOS' and 'After Studying in Employment'.

The Commerce Chamber of Slovenia, ESS and Nation Education Institute are running the project 'Career Day' (Karierni dan) in order to promote most promising future professions to pupils and their parents. Pupils and their parents are invited to visit different organisations and learn about the occupations. The project was piloted at the end of 2014. After good feedback and major organisational improvements to the online platform, it is being adopted as the part of the guidance system for students choosing their future career.

According to the National report for Slovenia, one of the priorities on youth employment & entrepreneurship was to develop career guidance and counselling services. '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 programme "Drugače o poklicih" (On professions — in a different way). The Employment Service cooperates with primary schools, offers them lectures on labour market and provides assistance in identifying and counselling to pupils having difficulties in choosing their careers'.

There have also been career centres (Karierni centri) at Slovenian universities for the past several years. They were 'established with purpose to facilitate the transition from education to labour market' (see the National report for Slovenia). In addition, there is the Career Centre (Karierno središče), previously known as the Centre for Informing and Vocational Counselling (Center za informiranje in poklicno svetovanje) at the ESS.

Other providers of counselling include the following:

- The trade union for students, pupils and employed youth, Mladi Plus (Sindikat Mladi plus), offers career counselling to its members. Career counsellors help individuals set career goals, examine their competencies and the needs of the labour market and improve their job applications and CVs.

- In December 2016, the Nefix **Institute created the course** 'Training for Youth Career Counsellors' (Usposabljanje za mladinske karierne svetovalce), which was intended for young people and youth workers who want to provide support to young people regarding career development. The project is co-financed by **the MIZŠ and the European Social Fund.**

Target group

The target group of these measures are young people who are still in the education system or are transitioning from the education system to the labour market.

Funding

According to the MDDSZ (2016), (national and European) funds allotted to the YG from 2014–2020 amount to more than 90 million EUR. Most of these funds will be spend on different programmes mentioned in the YG Implementation Plan.

Young people are generally not excluded from measures related to unemployment and can be targeted through counselling and job-seeking assistance. Young people who are registered as unemployed with the ESS can be involved in various programs regarding active labour market policy (ALMP) as a priority target group. The data from the MDDSZ suggests that youths are in fact the largest beneficiaries of ALMP measures in Slovenia; in 2014, more than 15,000 young people aged 15–29 years were enrolled in ALMP, which increased their employability or led directly to employment. This number amounts to 40% of all those enrolled in ALMP. A similar percentage was reached in 2015 as well. It is expected that more than 99 million EUR will have been spent on ALMP measures (for all target groups) in 2016.

Quality assurance

The results of a survey on satisfaction of young people related to the YG (Zadovoljstvo mladih z izvajanjem programa Jamstvo za mlade*) showed that young* people are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the counselling at the ESS. They desired less bureaucracy, shorter procedures, better information, more counselling on appropriate and available measures and more proactivity among counsellors. Other data from the surveys, which are performed annually by the ESS, show that youths' satisfaction increased after the introduction of the YG. Overall, young people are more satisfied with ESS services than other unemployed groups.

In 2014–15, young people who participated in the YG received 40% more active job mediation services (direct referrals to employers, meetings with employers at 'speed dating' events that were organised in the ESS' regional offices) than unemployed individuals over 30 years of age.

The Guidelines for Active Labour Market Policy Measures 2016–2020 were adopted by the government. The Guidelines, which form the basis for the implementation of ALMP measures/programmes focus on the most vulnerable groups, namely those suffering from long-term unemployment, older workers, low-skilled workers and unemployed youths. These measures stipulate that these groups must be offered training to increase their employability. The Guidelines also include specific indicators and targets for monitoring the effectiveness of ALMP measures. A short-term assessment of the effectiveness of these measures is presented each year in an annual report, 'Measures of the Labour Market'. It includes all relevant information regarding the implementation of all ALMP measures and a short analysis of their effectiveness. The ESS also examines the effect of some measures using a control group. For all measures financed by European Social Fund (ESF), a firm reporting and monitoring structure was established (indicators and targets for evaluation are part of Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy in the period 2014 – 2020).

3.5 Traineeships and Apprenticeships

Official guidelines on traineeships and apprenticeships

Traineeships and apprenticeships are regulated differently depending on the field; sometimes traineeships are mandatory parts of the learning process, and other times educational programs do not include any traineeships. Many areas have their own policies regarding the recognition of internships. There are, for example, rules regarding the traineeship of state prosecutors; health and allied health professionals in healthcare services, who must also undergo professional examinations; employees in the public forestry service, who must also undergo professional examinations and development; education professionals; social workers and sports experts, who also participate in internships and proficiency examinations.

In March 2015, the Committee of the National Assembly of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Disability called on the Government of the Republic of Slovenia to present a comprehensive analysis of regulated traineeship (internships) for graduates of tertiary education, mainly those intending to work in the state administration and public sectors. In April 2015, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia asked ministries (under the leadership of the MDDSZ) to prepare an analysis of traineeship (internships) in ministries and bodies they are responsible for (e.g. state bodies, public funds and local authorities). Following review of the analysis in July 2015, the Slovenian government adopted the Action Plan for the Organisation and Implementation of the Traineeship (Internship) in the Republic of Slovenia. The aim of this action plan is to eliminate regulated traineeships when possible to make the transition from formal education to the labour market easier for young people.

In the field of state administration, special quotas for trainees were adopted in the 'Joint Staff Plan for State Administration Bodies' (Skupni kadrovski načrt organov državne uprave za leti 2016 in 2017). Under this plan, state authorities could accept only 1–2% of all trainees every year. The recruitment of trainees is simplified (there are no longer special requirements for certain job posts), and work experience is no longer required (or student work experiences are taken into account). The proposal has been adopted and certain ministries have begun to implement it.

In the financial period from 2007–2013, several programmes/projects were implemented by the MDDSZ to support the inclusion of young people into the labour market. One of them was 'Training of Candidates for Graduation at the Workplace and Subsidy for Employment of Graduates/Candidates for Graduation - Activate and Employ Yourself!' (Usposabljanje absolventov na delovnem mestu in subvencija za zaposlitev diplomantov / absolvent – aktiviraj in zaposli se!), which was implemented from 2009 to 2012. According to the MDDSZ (2016), the '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 developed in cooperation with the Student organisation of Slovenia' but approved and implemented by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs. Under this programme, 600 young people were enrolled in a job training programme and were subsequently employed.

Promoting traineeships and apprenticeships

In 2016, a new traineeship programme for young people without work experience was implemented. The programme provides paid traineeships for young people under the age of 30 who completed a degree in law, economics, veterinary science, food technology or livestock production. There were 44 seats available in 2016, and 42 will be available in 2017. The programme allows young people to achieve regular employment and higher social security, receive training for independent work under the expert guidance of a mentor, undergo proficiency examinations and acquire practical knowledge and work experience, with which young people can improve their employment opportunities. The traineeship typically lasts 10 months.

'Initial vocational education and training (IVET) in Slovenia has very limited provision for apprenticeship training. The vast majority of IVET is school-based, with some work-based elements' (see The European Trade Union Confederatio's paper: European quality framework for apprenticeships (2016)). The basis for the regulatory framework for apprenticeship training in Slovenia is the Vocational Education Act (Zakon o poklicnem in strokovnem izobraževanju) of 2006, although the Act does not provide a specific definition of apprenticeship. According to Article 2, one of its aims is to provide the knowledge, skills and vocational competences required to carry out an occupation and access further education.

About 40% of vocational upper secondary education programmes, which last three years, are devoted to practical training. 'Part of this training is done in inter-company education centres, and another part – at least 24 weeks and not more than 53 weeks over a 3-year period – can be carried out in companies' (see The European Trade Union Confederatio's paper: European quality framework for apprenticeships (2016)).

Apprenticeship qualifications are classified as Level 4, equivalent to EQF Level 4, in the Slovenian Qualifications Framework.

'There is provision for trade union involvement in the design and implementation of IVET'. 'Trade unions have four (out of 14) representatives on the 'Expert Council for Vocational Education and Training' (Strokovnega sveta Republike Slovenije za poklicno in strokovno izobraževanje). Apprentices sign an individual learning contract with an employer. Although this contract is not an employment contracts, apprentices may join a trade union' (see The European Trade Union Confederatio's paper: European quality framework for apprenticeships (2016)).

Recognition of learning outcomes

Recognition of previous (and practical) education is governed by the Rules on the Recognition of the Previous Education in Higher Vocational Education (Pravilnik o priznavanju predhodno pridobljenega znanja v višjem strokovnem izobraževanju). According to one such rule, for example, the Doba Faculty demand that students prove the knowledge they acquired in formal education with certificates and other documents illustrating the content and scope of the students' work. Students who acquired knowledge through informal education have to prove so with other documents or portfolios (studies, experts' detailed reports, inventions, patents, publications, etc.). Students also have the option to transfer European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) from other higher education institutions.

Funding

Each ministry regulates traineeships in a specific manner. For example, they can be paid, unpaid or apply a mixed payment system. In the private sector, there are almost no traineeships, but in the public sector they still exist, sometimes as a precondition for a qualifying examination for a position. In the financial period from 2007–2013, several programmes / projects were implemented by the MDDSZ. Many of them were supported by the European Social Fund and implemented within the framework of the Operational Programme for Human Resources Development (2007–2013).

The MGRT supports the following action:

- At the level of vocational schools: Employers' costs for practical training of human resources in secondary vocational and technical education are co-financed by participating entities, including the Slovenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia, Slovenian Chamber of Craft and Small Business and Slovenian Chamber of Commerce. Actions to promote vocational education and training are also co-financed to ensure that students acquire professional competencies and employers are able to create human resources to meet the needs of the economy and build and train their staffs. This measure is important for meeting labour demands and reducing human resource deficits. The next step is to prepare a legal basis to support apprenticeships.

Quality assurance

The Slovenian government conducted an 'Analysis of Traineeships in Slovenia' (Analiza opravljanja pripravništva v Republiki Sloveniji), which served as a basis for the 'Action Plan for the Organisation and Implementation of Internships in Slovenia' (Akcijski načrt v zvezi z organizacijo in izvedbo opravljanja pripravništev v Sloveniji). MDDSZ prepared the 'Analysis of Traineeships in Slovenia' (Analiza opravljanja pripravništva v RS). The systemic changes to traineeships proposed in the analysis are as follows:

- The Government of the Republic of Slovenia is required by its ministries to eliminate provisions in legislation relating to volunteer internships. Organisations overseeing this measure include the **MIZŠ**, the Ministry of Public Administration, the MDDSZ, the Ministry of Health, the *MK* and the **Ministry of Justice**. Its implementation is already underway (legal bases have been amended).
- Measures related to rules regarding the provision of traineeships and professional examinations in the fields of social security, education, health and librarianship have been developed. Organisations overseeing these measures include the **MIZŠ**, the MDDSZ, the Ministry of Health and the *MK.* Its implementation is already underway (legal bases have been amended).
- Measures relating to the facilitation of youth employment in the public sector have been developed. Organisations overseeing these measures include the **MIZŠ**, the Ministry of Public Administration and the Ministry of Finance. Its implementation began on 1 January 2016 (government staff plan).
- A measure regarding internships in the public sector has been developed.

Under each measure, activities regarding the systemic regulation of internships, defined in the action plan as relating to the organisation and the implementation of traineeships in Slovenia, will be carried out. The most salient examples were found in the fields of social work, education, culture and justice. In the field of culture, there were some amendments to legislation; in the field of education there was a tender for internships and some rules were changed; in the field of social work the MDDSZ launched a tender for internships and in the field of justice, nothing has changed. One analysis about internships in Slovenia was performed, but nothing occurred that would begin systematic change.

3.6 Integration of Young People in the Labour Market

Youth employment measures

Subsidies aiming to foster youth employment:

Through programs to foster employment, the ESS enables subsides or partial reimbursement of expenses to be provided to employers for hiring new employees. In 2016, the government adopted a plan for implementing active employment policy measures in 2016 and 2017. Another measure promotes employment by providing various subsidies to employers.

A YG measure supported the permanent employment of unemployed youths (29 years of age or under), offering employers exemptions from their obligation to pay social contributions for an employed young individual for the first two years after hiring. The measure was in place from 1 November 2013 to 31 December 2015. More than 4,600 unemployed youths found employment with the help of this intervention measure.

In the programme 'The First Challenge 2015' (Prvi izziv 2015), Eastern Slovenian employers can receive a subsidy totalling 7,250 EUR for employing youths. Employment must be maintained for at least 15 months, including a 3-month probation period. The programme will enable 2,859 jobs to be subsidised.

Specific target groups:

Young people who are registered as unemployed at the ESS can be involved in various ALMP programs as a priority target group. The data from the MDDSZ suggest that youths are in fact the largest beneficiaries of ALMP measures in Slovenia.

National YG scheme:

In January 2014, the first Implementation Plan for the YG for 2014 and 2015 (Izvedbeni načrt Jamstva za mlade za leti 2014 in 2015) was adopted after the Government of the Republic of Slovenia consulted with key stakeholders. Since 2014, the Slovenian government has implemented many measures regarding the Slovene labour market and its economic situation, focusing on faster transition from the education system to the labour market as well as innovative incentives for employing youths. The YG target group in Slovenia is broad; since Slovenia is characterised by a large share of unemployed people aged 25–29 (as a result of high enrolment in tertiary education), the YG includes and/or takes into account an expanded target group of young people aged up to 29 (not only up to 25, as in the EU).

The Implementation Plan for YG 2016–2020 (Jamstvo za mlade. Izvedbeni načrt 2016–2020) was adopted on June 2016. From 2016 onwards, special focus was placed on youths suffering from long-term unemployment. The Plan involves 15 measures and can be divided into two main areas: so-called precautionary measures, which are intended for youths who are not yet in the labour market, and second measures, which are intended for rapid activation of youth in the labour market. The measures comprising the YG can be divided into two parts:

Early action and activation

Three main systemic measures concern early intervention and activation before the entry of young people in the labour market and two measures target young people during their education. The target group of these measures are young individuals who are still in the education system or are transitioning from the education system to the labour market. These are:

1. Lifelong guidance
2. Systemic changes to traineeship
3. Reform of the VET system
4. Promotion of creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation

This measure involves a variety of activities targeting young people during their education to enhance their creative and entrepreneurial skills.

- **Promotion of creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation among young people** – The organisations responsible for implementing this measure are the MGRT and SPIRIT Slovenia (Public Agency for Entrepreneurship, Internationalization, Foreign Investments and Technology). Public tender to elementary and secondary schools in June 2016.
- **Improvement of entrepreneurial skills and promotion of flexible learning pathways between education and the environment in gymnasiums and elementary schools** – The organisation responsible for implementing this measure is the **MIZŠ.** Public tender in September 2016.
- **YOUTH START** – This is an international entrepreneurial project. The organisation responsible for implementing this measure is the **MIZŠ.** It will be implemented from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2017 at gymnasiums and from 1 November 2015 to 31 August 2017 at schools.

5. **Scholarships**

Activation of young people in the labour market

Four systemic measures are being implemented for quick activation of young people in the labour market. Six measures target unemployed youths 29 years of age and under.

6. **Strengthening counselling work with youth at the ESS**

The aim of this measure is to strengthen work with the unemployed youths. By increasing the number of consultants who will be specifically trained, the quality of counselling will be improved and young people will be empowered to efficiently manage their own careers.

- **Counsellors for rapid activation of youths** – The organisations responsible for implementing this measure are the MDDSZ and the ESS. The measure is ongoing.
- **Consultants for youths suffering from long-term unemployment** – The organisations responsible for implementing this measure are the MDDSZ and the ESS. The measure is ongoing.

7. **Prevention and detection of in the labour market**

This measure aims to prevent precarious employment of young people by raising awareness about the problem among young people and employers and by strengthening inspection services.

8. **International mobility of young people**

The measure aims to help young people who want to try their chance on the European labour market.

9. **Information and communication regarding the YG**

10. **Training and education of unemployed youth**

The aim of the measure is to increase the employability of young people with additional training or education and help unemployed youths discover more sustainable and better forms of employment. Education and training programs are provided for in-demand occupations and are designed to meet the actual needs of employers.

- **Informal education and training for youths** – This measure increases the employability of unemployed persons by providing them more qualifications and informal training.
- **On-the-job training (Usposabljanje na delovnem mestu)** – This measure is targeted towards young people who have been unemployed for at least three months. Training is offered by employer to provide unemployed youths work experience. About 60–70% of participating employers provide routes to employment within 12 months after concluding the training. The organisations responsible for implementing this measure are the MDDSZ and the ESS. The measure was first implemented in July 2016.
- **PUM-on: Project Learning for Young Adults (PUM-o; Projektno učenje za mlajše odrasle)** – This programme addresses the unemployment of vulnerable youths with few opportunities to enter the labour market or re-enter higher education. It takes a more in-depth approach to the social integration of youths with difficult family backgrounds. The programme primarily aims to improve their skills and enhance their employability through personal support and project-based learning in groups. Highly qualified professionals provide specialised assistance in the form of a mentorship. The programme is intended to include 500 young people per year and help them to enter employment or re-enter and finish higher education. The organisations responsible for implementing this measure are the MDDSZ and the ESS. The measure is ongoing.
- **Support for new career prospects (Podpora novim kariernim perspektivam)** – The organisation responsible for implementing this measure is the MK. The measure is expected to begin in September 2016.

- **'I Can, Because I know' (Zmorem, ker znam)** – The organisations responsible for implementing this measure are the MDDSZ and the ESS. The measure is ongoing.

11. **Incentives for youth employment**

The aim is to promote the employment, particularly permanent employment, of unemployed youths, particularly first-time job seekers and youths with no work experience. The measure will increase the number of employment opportunities for unemployed youths and provide compulsory traineeships.

- **Youth Employment Initiative: The first challenge (YEI: Prvi izziv)** – This measure is currently being implemented. It offers a combination of on-the-job training and subventions for employers that hire unemployed youths 29 of age or under that reside in Eastern Slovenia. Under this measure, the MDDSZ plans to provide more than 3,000 jobs to unemployed youths. The organisations responsible for implementing this measure are the MDDSZ and the ESS.
- **Incentives for permanently employing youths (Spodbude za trajno zaposlovanje mladih)** – The organisations responsible for implementing this measure are the MDDSZ and the ESS. The measure is ongoing.
- **The first job in the field of education (Prva zaposlitev na področju vzgoje in izobraževanja)** – The aim of this measure is to recruit 300 teachers aged 29 or under. Another tender was launched in September 2016, under which 201 beginning teachers/educators would be employed until January 2018. The organisation responsible for implementing this measure is the **MIZŠ.** The measure is ongoing. The first public call for educators was published on 26 November 2015 (implementation occurred from 1 February 2016 to 30 November 2016). The second public call was published on 11 February 2016 (implementation occurred from 1 April 2016 to 30 November 2016). The third public call is expected to be published in August 2016 (implementation is expected to occur from 1 December 2016 to 30 September 2017).
- **Youth for youth (Mladi za mlade)** – The organisation responsible for implementing this measure is the **MIZŠ.** The measure is expected to begin in September 2016.

12. **Measures for vulnerable youth**

The aims of this measure are to activate youths who have been registered as unemployed at the ESS for more than 12 months and to help young people with disabilities transition to the labour market.

- **Promotion of the employment of youths suffering from long-term unemployment** – The organisations responsible for implementing this measure are the MDDSZ and the ESS. The measure is being prepared for implementation, and it is expected to launch in early 2017.
- **The transition of young people with disabilities into the labour market** – The organisations responsible for implementing this measure are the MDDSZ and the ESS. The measure is being prepared for implementation.

13. **Support to youth entrepreneurship** (see Chapter 3.7)

14. **Young people in rural areas**

This measure aims to help young people establish and develop agricultural careers and encourage the creation of new jobs.

- **Payment scheme for young farmers (Shema plačilo za mlade kmete)** – The organisation responsible for implementing this measure is the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food. The measure is ongoing.
- **Setting up support for young farmers** – The organisation responsible for implementing this measure is the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food. The measure is ongoing.

15. **Projects for youth**

The aim of this measure is to support projects that will provide faster and easier access to employment and/or create new jobs for unemployed youths.

- **Promoting active citizenship among young people to increase employability 2016–2018** – In 2016, the Office for Youth presented a public tender. The aim of the tender is to encourage innovative ways of working with youths and new approaches to solving the problem of youth unemployment. From 2016 to 2018, 464 young people will be employed: 195 in Eastern Slovenia and 269 in Western Slovenia. The organisations responsible for implementing this measure are the **MIZŠ** and the Office for Youth. The measure is ongoing.
- **Innovative projects for youth employment** – The organisations responsible for implementing this measure are the MDDSZ and the ESS. It will be implemented in early 2017.

Other measures for youth employment

- In 2010 and 2011, the programme **'Absolvent Activate and Employ Yourself' (Absolvent aktiviraj in zaposli se)** was implemented. It was intended to prevent young graduates from transitioning into unemployment and involved 321 young people.
- In September 2016, the Ypsilon Institute launched a project, **'Made with Y' (Narejeno z ipsilonom)**, that is intended to help young people achieve regular employment. The project aims to solve the problem of youth unemployment by promoting innovative approaches to working with youth. The goal is to create young professionals that meet employers' needs. The project is partially funded by the EU and the MIZŠ.
- The project **'Jobs for Youth' (Delo za mlade)**, carried out by Youth Network MaMa in cooperation with youth centres throughout Slovenia, was a national networking project involving youth organisations, institutions engaged in work with youths and other players in local communities that aimed to improve the employment prospects of young people. The project focused on the topic of work and the employability of youths and intended to find ways to protect youths from unemployment. The project lasted 9 months (2010–2011).
- From 2015–2016, the Institute Bob (Zavod Bob), in cooperation with other authorities within the youth sector, carried out the programme **'Display' (Prikaz)**. It focuses on informal learning and is targeted towards youths between 18 and 29. The specific target groups are vulnerable youth, such as those that did not complete their education or only have a low level of education, first-time job seekers, youth suffering from long-term unemployment and social science students. The main objective of Display is to develop a concrete idea for a project in which participants solve their life situations in a long-term way. The project involved four modules and lasted for a total of 320 hours.

Regulations intended to foster youth employment are also enacted at the local level. In 2016, the Municipality of Ljubljana proposed a project, 'Cool Job!'(Kul služba!), that was designed to help people that are considered harder to employ. The project is one of the key objectives of the MOL Strategy for Youth 2016–2025 (Strategija Mestne občine Ljubljana za mlade 2016-2025), a strategy aimed at increasing youth employment. Cool Job! offers opportunities for employment in occupations with a surplus of available jobs (e.g. printer, electrician, librarian).

Flexicurity measures focusing on young people

The new labour legislation enacted in 2013 introduced the concept of flexicurity. Its main aims were to increase flexibility (mainly by simplifying the procedures for concluding employment relationships), to encourage reduced segmentation in the labour market and to increase the effectiveness of workers' legal protections. According to the MDDSZ

(2016), the proportion of newly signed contracts permanent contracts among youth has increased considerably in the first few years after the reform.

Flexibility is becoming more common in the Slovenian labour market; fixed-term jobs (with contracts that typically last three months to one year) are increasing in popularity. In 2016, 52.8% of employees aged 15–29 had fixed-term contracts. In addition, approximately 32,000 people worked through student services, which also offers to be one of the most popular flexible job alternatives for young people in the Slovenian labour market. According to the programming document 'Youth Employment' (Zaposlovanje mladih), which was produced by the National Youth Council of Slovenia in 2013, the term 'flexicurity' is widely used in Slovenia and abroad. As written in the document, the purpose of flexicurity is to harmonise the needs of employers and employees. Furthermore, this document shows that, in some areas, the Slovenian labour market is too flexible and not secure enough. In Slovenia, more than 75% of offers in the labour market involve fixed-term employment, which does not provide youths with social and financial security. The National Youth Council of Slovenia and other organisations are fighting against this professional instability. They believe that the debate in Slovenia is not about flexicurity, but about how to reduce professional instability among young people and provide them with stable employment.

To avoid deepening this problem, one of the regulations in the Action Plan 2016/2017 of the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Izvedbeni načrt 2016/2017 Nacionalnega programa za mladino 2013-2022) is to provide stimulus for permanent youth employment (Spodbude za trajno zaposlovanje mladih). Under this regulation, employers who employ youths will receive subsidies, thus encouraging stable employment and social security among youths. In line with these calls, MDDSZ published 'For a Decent Work' (Za dostojno delo) in 2016; i.e. a document stressing the constant pressure, tight deadlines and unpredictable conditions young people face.

Since July 2013, employers in Slovenia are entitled to partial reimbursement for their contributions to pension and disability insurance for two years if they employ a person younger than 26 years of age with a permanent contract for at least two years. The aim of this measure is to stimulate employment with permanent contracts.

Reconciliation of private and working life for young people

Young people in Slovenia often find it difficult to reconcile work and family life, partially because employers perceive parenthood as disruptive to the work process rather than valuable. One of the main objectives of the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013–2022) is to make it easier for youths to coordinate work and family life. To realise this aim, one subfield was prioritised: reinforcement of activities to eliminate discrimination of parents and enable individuals to coordinate their private and family lives easier. The supervisors of this measure are the MDDSZ, the MIZŠ, the Labour Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia and other social partners.

One certificate award project, which was co-funded by the European Social Fund, is an example of good practice recognising parenthood as a value. This project, 'Family-Friendly Enterprise Certificate' (Certifikat družini prijazno podjetje) is organised by the Ekvilib Institute in cooperation with the MDDSZ and the Trade Union Mladi Plus.

Currently the largest number of young people ever are being integrated into the labour market by active employment policy. The Employment Relationship Act (Zakon o delovnih razmerjih) includes some provisions regarding mothers and their rights (night work, etc.), but in practice still falls short of allowing young parents to more successfully reconcile work and family life. Some other measures have also been adopted, such as subventions for housing for young families and benefits for student parents/families.

Youth 2010, the last in-depth survey of young people between 25 and 30 years of age, confirms that women are especially affected by the youth unemployment situation. The

unemployment rate of female graduates increased over the last decade from 4.3% to 17.8% (for male graduates, the rate increased from 2.8% to 7.5%).

Funding of existing schemes/initiatives

To fight against youth unemployment, the Slovenian government developed an active employment policy. Youths under 30 years of age who were insured for six months in the two years prior to their unemployment can receive unemployment benefits. According to the Youth Index 2016 (Indeks mladih 2016), 3,102 young people received compensation for unemployment.

Table 1: The Implementation Plan of YG 2016–2020: total funds equal 300 million EUR

Estimated funds for the Implementation Plan of YG 2016–2020:

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
70.1 million EUR	62.7 million EUR	58.0 million EUR	54.6 million EUR	53.9 million EUR

On-the-job training offered by the YG provided opportunities to 2,291 youths under 30 years of age. The programme has a budget of 4.4 million EUR.

For the period from 2016–2018, Slovenia will receive 5 million EUR from the European Social Fund to support innovative ways of working with youths and increasing the employability of young people.

Quality assurance

The 2015 Annual Report on the implementation of state actions regarding the labour market shows that, in terms of the transition to employment, one of the most successful training programs was 'On-the-Job Training' (Usposabljanje na delovnem mestu). On the other hand, there were delays in the implementation of the programmes 'The First Challenge 2015' (Prvi izziv 2015) and 'Promoting Apprenticeships' (Spodbujanje pripravništev). The final results of the programme 'The First Challenge 2015' (Prvi izziv 2015) will be announced at the end of 2017.

At the end of 2015, the National *Youth Council* of *Slovenia and* the ESS presented the results of an analysis of the survey 'Satisfaction of Youth with the Programme YG' (Zadovoljstvo mladih s programom Jamstvo za mlade*).* The analysis aimed to identify the satisfaction of youths who were involved in YG measures. In total, 5,823 youths participated in the YG until September 2015. Youths' satisfaction with YG measures was taken into account when designing further actions. The results of the survey on youths' satisfaction with the implementation of the YG (Zadovoljstvo mladih z izvajanjem programa Jamstvo za mlade*) showed the necessity of* increasing promotion of the measures, improving control over employers and developing more measures that produce jobs.

The MDDSZ prepared a report on the implementation of the YG 2014–2015 (Poročilo o izvajanju jamstva za mlade 2014-15). In 2014 and 2015, 49,181 young job seekers found employment. In 2015, 41.5 % of all ALMP participants were younger than 29. In total, 29.3 million EUR was spent on ALMP measures for youths in 2014, and 20.7 million EUR was spent in 2015. According to the ESS, there was a 40% increase in the number of unemployed persons who found jobs within four months of registering as unemployed in 2014 and 2015. However, in the same governmental document (Poročilo o izvajanju jamstva za mlade 2014-15), youth organisations that are actively involved in monitoring the implementation of the YG stated that there is still room for improvement in the measures and implementation of the YG.

Slovenia introduced a special intervention measure to promote employment for unemployed youths under 30 years of age. Under this measure, employers are exempted from making contributions to social security for two years after offering a permanent position to an unemployed person under 30 years of age. In the 24 months after the

implementation of this measure (1 November 2013 to 31 December 2015), according to the MDDSZ, more than 4,200 young people were employed.

One year after the completion of the training programme 'On-the-Job Training', more than 70% of participants were employed, making it one of the most successful active employment programmes.

The programme 'First Challenge', which was implemented from 2012 to 2014, has achieved good results. Of the unemployed youths that participated in that programme (3,365), 76% (2,553) found employment. However, for the First Challenge 2014–2015, only about 3 million EUR were spent of the estimated 20 million EUR. Thus, instead of the planned 3,400 participants, only 477 youths were provided paid traineeships and on-the-job training. The programme is being implemented again from 2015–2017 with the aim to reach estimates.

3.7 Cross-Border Mobility in Employment, Entrepreneurship and Vocational Opportunities

Programmes and schemes for cross-border mobility

One of the measures of the YG is **'International Mobility of Young People'**. It aims to help young people who want to try to find a job in the European labour market. It involves the following measures:

- **EURES - Your first EURES Job** – The organisations responsible for this measure are the MDDSZ and the ESS. The measure is ongoing.
- **Transnational mobility for young people with fewer opportunities (learning network for transnational mobility measures for disadvantaged youths and young adults - TLN mobility)** – The organisations responsible for this measure are the MDDSZ and the ESS. It was expected to be implemented in the second half of 2016.
- **Open, responsive and high-quality higher education system** – This measure aims to increase the mobility of students from less privileged backgrounds. The organisations responsible for this measure are the MDDSZ and the ESS. The project was expected to start in August 2016.

Slovenia has not developed any cross-border mobility programmes in the field of employment. The EU Erasmus+ programme is the most important programme promoting mobility because it represents the beginning of a legal way to support such projects and their goals. As a result, an increasing number of players in the youth field have prepared international youth activities.

According to the 'Slovenian National report', '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'.

YfEJ (Tvoja prva zaposlitev EURES) is a targeted mobility scheme to help young nationals aged 18–35 find work in EU EFTA/EEA countries that they were not born in. It targets both job seekers and employers and provides a comprehensive mobility package that includes financial support. Presently, the scheme is expected to ensure around 1,500 work placements. The project only supports jobs, not traineeships or apprenticeships. Its duration is February 2015 to January 2017. Specialized counsellors in EURES centres provide information, counselling and job-brokerage services for the European labour market. According to the Portal EURES, most social science graduates want to work abroad. Due to their language abilities, they usually seek job in Austria, Italy, Germany and the UK.

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 (see the Slovenian National report).

The purpose of the project 'Euroguidance Centre Slovenia' is to provide Slovenian citizens with information about opportunities for training and education in other European countries. The European Commission sees the project as a way to facilitate the flow of pupils, students, teachers and young workers between European countries. The project was scheduled for execution from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016.

In addition to initiatives and programmes mentioned above, the Trade Union Sindikat Mladi Plus offers counselling for traineeships and employment abroad.

Support to youth entrepreneurship

This measure aims to help young people who want to pursue an independent entrepreneurial path by providing a supportive environment as well as training, mentoring, counselling, tips for starting a business, and so on.

- **Promotion of entrepreneurship among young people** – The organisations responsible for implementing this measure are the MDDSZ and the ESS. The measure should be implemented by the end of 2016.
- **Promotion of entrepreneurship among young people with facilitation of access to entrepreneurial careers**– The organisation responsible for implementing this measure is the MGRT. The measure is being prepared for implementation and it aims at reducing barriers for young individuals to become entrepreneurs.
- **Basic counselling and assessment of business ideas** – The organisation responsible for implementing this measure is the MGRT. A public call was planned for June 2016.
- **Incentives for young companies** – The organisations responsible for implementing this measure are the MGRT and the SEF. The measure is ongoing.
- **Promotion of business cooperation and youth employment in youth cooperatives (Spodbujanje poslovnega sodelovanja in zaposlovanja mladih v mladinskih zadrugah)** – The organisation responsible for implementing this measure is the MGRT. The measure is ongoing
- **National support network for young people in the field of social entrepreneurship** – The organisations responsible for implementing this measure are the MDDSZ and the ESS. A public call was planned for October 2017.
- **Promoting entrepreneurship among women** – The organisations responsible for implementing this measure are the MDDSZ and the ESS. The measure is ongoing.

Legal framework

Slovenia has not adopted any specific cross-border mobility programmes. However, some regulations regarding cross-border mobility were included in the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022. The aim of this programme was to increase international mobility among youths, particularly students. The subfields that were prioritised are the reinforcement of instruments that support the return of youth to Slovenia and the improvement of cooperation between youth who live and work abroad and domestic enterprises and educational institutions.

3.8 Development of Entrepreneurship Competence

Policy Framework

One of the six key areas of the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Nacionalni program za mladino) emphasises the importance of understanding entrepreneurship education and their relationship to social responsibility and the development of social enterprises. In terms of specific objectives, the importance of encouraging

entrepreneurship education through school curricula is mentioned, but no actions are attached. In the key area 'Employment and Entrepreneurship' of the National Programme for Youth, it is considered a priority to 'promote innovation, creativity, initiative, entrepreneurship (including social entrepreneurship) and self-employment among young people and underline the increasing importance of developing socially responsible entrepreneurial attitudes and knowledge (see Eurydice Report)'.

There are three indicators relating specifically to entrepreneurship education:

1. Proportion of new and emerging entrepreneurs by age group;
2. Proportion of young entrepreneurs who have at least one employee in their company;
3. Proportion of young people who are receiving education in the field of innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship by gender

To implement these measures, different instruments/regulations were introduced in Action Plans. For instance, in the Action Plan 2016/2017, the following instruments/regulations were introduced:

- Service 'All in one place' (Storitve vstopnih točk 'Vse na enem mestu' (VEM)), which involves free support services for youths who decide to pursue an entrepreneurial career;
- University and social-entrepreneurial incubators that will conduct activities intended for youths who want to enter the world of entrepreneurship;
- National youth network for support in the field of social entrepreneurship;
- Innovative projects for youth employment and
- Activities to promote entrepreneurship among youths.

In the Action Plan for Active Policy Implementation (Načrt aktivne politike zaposlovanja), the measure 'promoting self-employment among youth' was introduced (Spodbujanje podjetništva med mladimi). This measure is intended to help unemployed individuals who would like to become self-employed. Projects promoting entrepreneurship among youths are funded by the ESS. The purpose of the project is to encourage activities for unemployed youths, promote innovation and creativity and support new ideas. Slovenia already has a broad strategy regarding entrepreneurship education and is currently developing a specific strategy.

Within the framework of the international project E3 – 'Entrepreneurship Education for Youth Employment' (Izobraževanje o podjetništvu za zaposlovanje mladih), a tender was launched for young people to develop social enterprises that can successfully and sustainably address social problems. E3 wants to contribute to fighting youth unemployment through providing youths with practical tools on Social Youth Entrepreneurship. Project's aim is to train NEET's on Social Youth Entrepreneurship, in which they might find interesting work opportunities, especially in social enterprise, a newly appeared labour market sector lacking HR which can employ society's fragile members.

The following measures were adopted to support entrepreneurship (see the OECD working paper 'Entrepreneurship support for the unemployed in Slovenia'):

- **YES Start**: The Young Executive Society (YES) organises the two-year programme YES Start for all unemployed people who have a desire to learn about entrepreneurship. The project provides them with an opportunity to develop business ideas and an entrepreneurial spirit. The programme is co-funded by the MGRT.
- **Entrepreneurially into the World of Business (Podjetno v svet podjetništva)**: This project is designed to help highly educated unemployed individuals under 35 years of age start a business or become employed. It provides an allowance, entrepreneurship training and individual support through regional development agencies. Participants are hired as employees and receive a monthly salary of 798 EUR while they attend full-time training. Training and

coaching are provided by staff in the regional development agencies and business consultants. Participants had access to a business advisory service for one year after starting a business. The project started as a regional pilot project but has been available nationally since 2013.

- **ARTUS**: This programme aims to help unemployed youth develop and implement creative and innovative projects. The pilot project was organised by the ESS, the Career Centre Maribor, the Centre for Civic Education in Maribor and Terra Parzival between 7 April 2014 and 20 May 2014. During the pilot, 12 unemployed youths attended workshops on developing business ideas to prepare for self-employment.
- **KonektOn**: The KonektOn entrepreneurship centre conducted a series of eight workshops in order to prepare unemployed youths for starting businesses. The workshops took place in May and June 2014 at the Centre for Vocational Guidance in Koper under the auspices of the ESS. In total, 17 unemployed youths with university degrees developed their business ideas, exchanged views and experiences and received advice. The workshops covered self-motivation, preparing business models, the value of collaboration, defining markets, communication and creative thinking. They were partly funded by the ESF under the Operational Programme Human Resources Development 2007–2013.
- **EnterYOUTH**: The Scientific Research Centre Bistra Ptuj is working with four other institutions, including the lead partner in Croatia, to promote entrepreneurship among youths and facilitate the acquisition of entrepreneurial skills to help youths identify and pursue business opportunities. The project included a total of 200 young people. It was implemented between February 2014 and January 2015 with a total budget of 221,179 EUR. The project was funded within the framework of the Instruments for Pre-Accession Assistance by the EU and the MGRT.

Formal learning

Entrepreneurship education is part of the Slovenian Operational Programmes 'Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy' from 2014–2020. 'Under the Priority Axis 10 – "Knowledge, skills and lifelong learning to enhance employability", there is a Specific Objective 3 – "Promote flexible learning pathways and support high-quality career orientation for school-age youth at all levels of the education system", directly linked to entrepreneurship education' (see Eurydice Report).

The Basic School Act of 2007 introduced the objective 'development of entrepreneurial attitudes in terms of effectiveness, innovation and creativity' into curricula at both primary and lower secondary schools. The teaching guidelines for entrepreneurship were also integrated into curricula.

'Entrepreneurship education is explicitly recognised as a cross-curricular objective for all subjects in ISCED 1-3 including school-based IVET, and is also part of other compulsory and optional subjects at different levels. In ISCED 1-2, the Basic School Act includes an Entrepreneurship education related objective and teachers in basic schools pursue this objective during lessons. The implementation of the updated subject curricula for basic schools started in school year 2011/12, including a competence approach (one of these competences is the sense of initiative and entrepreneurship)' (see Eurydice Report).

A comprehensive approach to including entrepreneurship in school education will be developed in the curricula. Currently, entrepreneurship education is provided only in upper secondary schools in Slovenia.

The subject of entrepreneurship was included in curricula at the secondary education level to increase entrepreneurship among youth. It is compulsory for students in the Secondary School of Economics, and the course takes 315 hours to complete. It is a professional course that provides fundamental business skills, discusses the role of enterprises in modern society and helps develop students' entrepreneurial competences,

knowledge and skills in order to allow them to start their own business. It also motivates students to study business.

A course about entrepreneurial informatics is also offered in secondary schools. It is an optional subject, and its main purpose is to offer a wide range of knowledge and skills concerning different aspects business and information technology (IT), such as strategic planning, IT support, management, decision making and marketing. The fundamental competences that are obtained in this course are self-initiative and enterprising. The course takes a minimum of 35 hours and a maximum of 105 hours.

Non-formal and informal learning

The 'Youth Entrepreneurship Sandbox' (Ustvarjalnik) allows young people to develop their first entrepreneurial ideas. The team helps them by providing mentorship and organising corporate events and clubs in Slovenia. Usually, business clubs are created in high schools and are run by young entrepreneurs.

The project 'Y.business', organised by the Ypsilon Institute (Zavod Ypsilon), enables young people between 20 and 30 years of age to gain competencies that they need in the modern business world and did not obtain during their formal education.

Some individual entrepreneurial clubs operate within primary and secondary schools and provide courses and seminars. Young people usually want to strengthen their entrepreneurial competencies (e.g. business etiquette, communications) when they want to start their own businesses.

'In partnership with the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth, 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. In parallel and in cooperation with Nefix, the Youth in Action national agency promoted Youthpass' (see the Slovenian National report).

'The web portal (www.talentiran.si) hosts the electronic version of the book in which users collect a record of their non-formal education in six different areas: active citizenship, work, summer work, student's jobs for at least 60 days), organised forms of education, cams and voluntary work, time spent in foreign countries, other ways of acquiring knowledge skills and experiences. The main aim of the Web portal is to link up young people and stakeholders such as employers, policy makers and experts who can help to raise the employment chances of young people. The portal is promoted among employers (in profit and non-profit sectors) and NGOs' (ibid.).

Model M 2014: This training programme was developed to help unemployed youths (up to 30 years old) with a university degree start a business or define a career path. The programme included an induction process and three training modules that covered business creation and different career options. The full-day workshops occurred twice per week for three months. The training was implemented by the Institute for the Development of Social Responsibility and the Career Centre of the University of Maribor and is co-financed by the Municipality of Maribor and the Maribor and Ptuj regional offices of the ESS. In total, 38 participants from the Municipalities of Maribor and Ptuj and their surrounding areas successfully completed the programme.

Other measures related to entrepreneurship education include the following:

- **'Brave. Creative. Enterprising.' (Pogumni. Kreativni. Podjetni.)**, a project supervised by the Institute for a Creative Society (Institute TiPovej!) that took place in 2015. It helped young people acquire social and entrepreneurial skills while in secondary school. They also strengthened their capacity for self-realisation and developed creative thinking skills. The programme, which was supported by the Office for Youth, lasted 30 hours at two secondary schools in Ljubljana.

- **'YES Slovenia'** (JA Slovenija), which was supervised by the Institute for the Promotion of Youth Entrepreneurship (Zavod za spodbujanje podjetnosti mladih), involves several programmes through which students develop a sense of entrepreneurship. Particularly, primary school pupils learn from the experience and become acquainted with the fundamentals of entrepreneurship.
- **'Promoting entrepreneurship and flexibility' (Spodbujanje podjetništva in prilagodljivosti)**, which was supervised by the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Training, was launched in March 2013 and lasted until October 2014. It promoted vocational education and training as ways for young people to learn about vocations as well as further education and employment opportunities.
- **'Opening Doors On My Own' (Vrata odpiram sam)** is led by the National Institute for Vocational Education and Training. The programme promotes entrepreneurship in education, targeting young people. The project arose from the need for new employment opportunities, and it encourages youths to search for innovative ways to prevent unemployment. There is a perceived lack of entrepreneurial skills, entrepreneurship and personal initiative among young people. The programme was evaluated in 2015. Teachers believed that, among all the entrepreneurial skills covered in the programme, students improved most in terms of teamwork and knowledge of business processes
- **'Young and Entrepreneurial' (Mladi in podjetni)** was adopted by the MIZŠ in 2011 and was targeted towards those who left school early. The main aim of the programme was to renew and acquire new knowledge and abilities to identify individuals' potentials and opportunities in the workplace. This was intended to increase the number of opportunities for youths in the labour market and encourage them to engage in the learning process. The programme was attended by three main target groups: those who left school early; youths who entered the labour market directly after the education and took low-qualified and unstable jobs and those with low educational qualifications (even if they completed primary education). The duration of the programme was 100 hours over 3 months.

Educators support in entrepreneurship education

'The virtual classroom on self-initiative and entrepreneurship, run by the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training, provides some materials and guidelines which were developed within the scope of different projects and can help teachers of entrepreneurship education at upper secondary level (general and school-based IVET). Slovenia is still involved in projects aimed at developing teaching methods and materials' (see Eurydice Report).

The Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training implemented the 'Opening Doors' project (Vrata odpiram sam), co-funded by the European Structural Funds and the state budget. This project involved the development of teaching materials.

3.9 Start-up Funding for Young Entrepreneurs

Access to information

To foster entrepreneurship among youths, the Resolution on the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Nacionalni program za mladino) was created in order to help youths begin their careers. The Resolution exposes the need to provide youths access to information services and high-quality information.

Young entrepreneurs receive a lot of information and financial incentives from the Slovene Enterprise Fund (SEF) through a special program, 'Youth' (Mladi), which was started in 2014. Young entrepreneurs can get support from various technological parks, such as Ljubljana Technology Park. The SEF is another large source of information on youth entrepreneurship in Slovenia.

Female entrepreneurs

According to the Public Employment Service (PES), women are much more cautious when deciding whether to begin an entrepreneurial journey. In May 2016, Slovenia launched a special ALMP programme to encourage and support the self-employment of women with higher levels of education. 'Supporting Women Entrepreneurs' is a joint ALPM programme supervised by MDDSZ and MGRT and implemented by the Public ESS and the Public Agency Spirit Slovenia. The programme offers training for unemployed women who want to start a business, followed by start-up support (lump-sum subvention for self-employment) and follow-up training and mentorship. The target group is unemployed women with higher professional education (level six or higher). The target group was selected based on the labour market, in which employment opportunities have diminished for women with tertiary education, especially during the economic crisis (which led to few new employment opportunities in the public sector).

Access to capital

The SEF (Javni Sklad Republike Slovenije za podjetništvo) offers financial support for newly established innovative enterprises. These incentives provide financial support to young enterprises in the first phase of development. 'This is the most extensive group of newly established innovative enterprises that show potential for rapid growth and require favourable financial sources when starting out.'

The MGRT supports the following actions, which represent the connection between the school system and the economy, as well as activities performed during the beginning phase of an enterprise:

- At the level of faculties: Services of university incubators. A university incubator is a legal entity that is under a contract or agreement regarding long-term cooperation with the university. It enables the realisation of entrepreneurial initiatives. Alone or in conjunction with the university, pre-incubation activities and entrepreneurial initiatives are carried out in order to allow innovative incubated companies to operate in a regulated business environment and obtain the necessary support for their development.

These measures are implemented in primary and secondary schools and faculties, but involve a very small percentage of young people. The matter is not systemically regulated and is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education.

Through SPIRIT, the MGRT carries out various activities that promote entrepreneurship:

- General promotion of entrepreneurship as a social category and

- Measures to support entrepreneurship among other target groups (for example, women).

Activities of the SEF

The SEF has created the programme 'Young Enterprises', which provides support to enterprises that have been operating for less than 5 years that, due to their development and lack of a track record, have difficulty obtaining the necessary financial resources in the market.

Within this programme, the SEF offers special incentives to young enterprises that are at the beginning phase of development, have economic importance and are identified by a gap analysis as extremely vulnerable on the market.

The SEF offers the following:

- Seed capital – 'Products designed for young enterprises with the potential for growth, and consequently for creating new jobs (especially young technological enterprises), and that are especially vulnerable in the early stages of development are provided to ensure that the business gets off to a successful start.'
- Microcredits for young enterprises – This provides enterprises within specific target groups access to favourable financing resources.

- Guarantees for young enterprises – 'The SEF provides guarantees for bank loans with interest rate subsidies, which enables SMEs to obtain bank loans to implement projects in a faster, easier and cheaper manner.'

'Young Enterprises' contributes to the development of enterprises, the successful transfer of business development ideas into successful commercial undertakings and the creation of innovation-oriented enterprises with the potential for growth. It focuses on the development and commercialisation of products, processes and services. Products are created based on the principle of '**SEF TWIN**', which means that the recipients of funds are entitled to financial incentives as well as substantive incentives (e.g. a **coaching programme**) that are intended to meet the needs of enterprises.

Recently, leading innovators have started to connect through the initiative Start:up Slovenia in order to create and strengthen national programmes for encouraging entrepreneurship and ensure that there is a comprehensive support network for launching and building start-up companies throughout Slovenia. Start:up Slovenia is an open platform that various organisations and individuals can join by providing a statement of support indicating that they wish to contribute to making Slovenia a dynamic, entrepreneurial and talent-friendly country. Programmes implemented by the initiative provide financial support (grants, guarantees, microloans, seed capital and venture capital) to encourage ideas, projects and start-ups. There are organised start-up weekends, and a national campaign that concludes with an international start-up and entrepreneurship event, PODIM.

3.10 Promotion of Entrepreneurship Culture

Special events and activities

The most important business fair in Slovenia is the International Trade and Business Fair (MOS – mednarodni sejem obrti in podjetnosti) in Celje. At this fair, the coordinators open a tender for youth entrepreneurs, titled MOS's Enterprising Talents (MOSovi podjetni talenti). This allows young entrepreneurs to obtain their first business contacts and begin successful businesses abroad.

In addition, the Fair Informativa (Sejem Informativa) is held each year. The purpose of the fair is to inform youth about educational possibilities and offer information about jobs and related topics. Exhibitors include educational institutions, employers, non-governmental organisations, organisations operating in the youth sector, coordinators of governmental programs and banks.

There are also individual events coordinated by NGO's (e.g. the Young Entrepreneur Institute – Zavod Mladi podjetnik).

To foster social entrepreneurship and increase its recognisability among youths, one strategic development aim was adopted by the Slovenian government: the Strategy of Social Entrepreneurship 2013–2016 (Strategija socialnega podjetništva 2013-2016). Its aim is to increase individuals' basic knowledge of social entrepreneurship. To achieve this goal, two measures were carried out, but only one involves youths. That measure includes at least 30 informational workshops a year at the entrance points 'All in one place' (Vstopne točke VEM). In addition, in line with the Action Plan 2014–2015 of the Strategy of Social Entrepreneurship (Izvedbeni načrt Strategije socialnega podjetništva), promotion of social entrepreneurship fairs, educational conferences on the meaning of social entrepreneurship, counselling and social entrepreneurship concerning farms was performed.

The European Fund for Regional Development provides financial support for social incubators (50,000 EUR per year (150,000 EUR), with the possibility to increase to 200,000 EUR for 3 years). Promotion of social entrepreneurship development is performed by public tenders that are co-funded by the European Social Fund (Evropski socialni sklad).

The MGRT supports the following actions:

- Through an agency, SPIRIT: Measures to promote creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation are implemented through SPIRIT. The purpose of those measures is to promote the development of personal qualities that are relevant to entrepreneurship:

- Creativity, initiative, acceptance of risk and responsibility and self-esteem;
- Basic skills and contacts within the business world, which improve individuals' understanding of the role of creativity, enterprises and entrepreneurship in society;
- Awareness of entrepreneurship as a social category, which allows individuals to decide to implement their own ideas and realise their own undertakings;
- Achieve the impact on society as a whole, which requires the involvement of young people, parents, teaching staff, companies and local communities and includes a number of regions.

Acceleration Business City, BTC CITY and Ypsilon Institute established 'Acceleration Business City', a group of young companies and start-ups that are eager to spread and create a healthy ecosystem in Slovenia. The group offers young company what they need for a successful start.

Networks and partnerships

The project 'My Market' (Moja Štacuna) is co-run by several partners: the Association Pelikan Karitas (Zavod Pelikan Karitas); the Idrija-Cerkno Development Agency (Idrijsko-Cerkljanska razvojna agencija) and the Institute for Revitalisation of Rural Areas (Potencial Inštitut. Inštitut za revitalizacijo podeželja).

3.11 Current Debates and Reforms

The MDDSZ is preparing grounds for a new apprenticeship model in Slovenia that includes, inter alia, reform of vocational education so emphasis is placed on developing models for practical training and preparing a law to regulate apprenticeships. Activities will be carried out in close cooperation with relevant social partners. The plan involves 1) reforming the system of vocational education; 2) gradually introducing an apprenticeship system and 3) promoting practical training among employers from 2016–2022. The Apprenticeship Act is currently under discussion by the Economic and Social Council. The Slovenian Student Union is involved in the discussion to represent youths.

In the National Reform Programme, which was adopted for 2016–2017, the Slovenian government set a goal to improve the effectiveness of the labour market. Section 2.1.2.1 (active employment policy and other actions in the labour market) notes that '*measures for 2016 and 2017 are oriented toward the long term unemployed, the elderly, persons with low level of education to those with lower education and youth*'. To allow youths to more easily enter the labour market, the government modified the Higher Education Act and implemented YG measures.

The Slovenian government addressed this issues (precariousness employment of young people, safe and healthy working environment) in the document 'For Decent Work' (Za dostojno delo), which includes a number of measures that could help prevent misuse of atypical (and often unstable) forms of work. These measures are currently being discussed with relevant social partners.

In September 2016, the Office for Youth published the results of a public tender issued in June to encourage active participation in increasing youth employment through youth work.

On 18 November 2016, the MDDSZ sent amendments to the Employment Relationship Act, Labour Market Regulation Act and Labour Inspection Act in a public debate. These changes were made based on an analysis of the labour market and proposals made by social partners and professional and executive institutions.

In order to create quality jobs that offer adequate levels of legal, economic and social security for employees as well as further eliminate segmentation, it is necessary to implement measures that will enable the following:

- More effective actions to be taken by the Inspectorate of Labour and greater legal certainty for employees in cases concerning civil law contracts and employment relationships;
- Employers to make decisions to conclude contracts of indefinite duration and
- Greater social security to be provided to employees upon termination of employment.

Along with measures to increase the involvement of citizens of working age in the labour market, the MDDSZ wants to do the following:

- Increase the efficiency and activation of all unemployed persons and
- Conduct intensive searches for new employment during the notice period.

4. Social Inclusion

According to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (2016), the number of young people in Slovenia is rapidly decreasing. These demographic changes imply that in terms of long-term stability and development of Slovenian society the importance of full social inclusion and activation of the potential of every young person is and will be greater than ever before. Despite lower expenditure on social protection (as a share of GDP) compared to the EU average, the Republic of Slovenia has so far managed to maintain a relatively low level of risk of poverty or social exclusion.

According to the Eurofound study Social Inclusion of Young People, Slovenia had the lowest level of perceived youth social exclusion across central and eastern European countries in 2013. According to a study 'Youth 2010', the main mechanisms for social inclusion in Slovenia are education and employment.

Youth social inclusion is not separately defined in the Slovenian legislation. The main agent of social inclusion in Slovenia is the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, which is responsible for implementing relevant programmes and appointing programme providers. Slovene municipalities are also involved in youth social inclusion.

To date, no specific national strategy or programme for youth social inclusion has been adopted in Slovenia. The National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013–2022) addresses poverty reduction and social inclusion of young people across a number of policy areas, including employment and the labour market, education, housing and health. The Programme has several measures/instruments and indicators for its implementation. The largest proportion of funding comes from government and municipal sources or from NGOs' own assets. The Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth and other competent supervisory authorities monitor the targeted use of funds.

Access to housing for young people in Slovenia is limited by a number of structural factors that include limited supply and affordability of housing for sale or rent. Another limiting factor is young people's financial situation, which is linked to their employment; as they are at the beginning of their employment career, they have lower incomes and are often employed on fixed term contracts.

4.1 General context

Main challenges to social inclusion

Despite lower expenditure on social protection (as a share of GDP) compared to the EU average, the Republic of Slovenia has so far managed to maintain a relatively low level of

risk of poverty or social exclusion.[1] In addition, the National Reform Programme 2011–2012 has set a 2020 target to reduce by 40,000 the number of people at high risk of poverty or social exclusion as compared to the base year of 2008. The latest research from the Youth Council of Slovenia, 'Youth Index 2016' (Indeks mladih 2016), reports that more than 50,000 young people are living below the poverty threshold. Of these, 28,000 are receiving financial social help, and 3,102 are in receipt of unemployment benefits.

According to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (2016), the number of young people in Slovenia is rapidly decreasing. In the last decade this number was reduced by 11 percent, and until 2020 we can expect a further 20-percent reduction. These demographic changes imply that in terms of long-term stability and development of Slovenian society the importance of full social inclusion and activation of the potential of every young person is and will be greater than ever before.

According to the Eurofound study Social Inclusion of Young People, Slovenia had the lowest level of perceived youth social exclusion across central and eastern European countries in 2013. In 'Youth 2010' (Mladina 2010), which documents the social profile of young people in Slovenia, one of the fundamental research goals related to participation and social inclusion. The study's findings indicated that 10.4% of young people in Slovenia were socially excluded and identified a number of key challenges in this regard. According to the study, the socio-demographic factors that raise the probability of social exclusion of young people in Slovenia are: higher age, lower education of father and mother, low monthly income, worse material standing of the respondent's family and growing up in an urban environment. Therefore, socially excluded youth in Slovenia come mainly from families with lower socio-economic status, in which authoritarian socialisation patterns in particular are dominant. The study also found that social exclusion has been linked to psychosocial variables and that social exclusion is negatively associated with numerous indicators of young people's psychosocial development and physical health.

According to 'Youth 2010', the main mechanisms for social inclusion in Slovenia are education and employment. The Eurofound study 'Social Inclusion of Young People' noted that 'exclusion from education is a strong determinant of ending up NEET and may lead to further social exclusion. The lowest rates across Europe were observed in Slovenia, where only 4.4% of young people are early school-leavers'. In contrast to the increasing proportion of young people in education, the proportion of youth (15-29 years) employees or self-employees decreased from 47.9% to 32.8% in the 10-year period 2000–2010, and Slovenian youth policy is faced with a growing number of tertiary level graduates who fail to find employment that is appropriate to their qualifications. 'Youth 2010' also highlighted the problem of work patterns among young people that include shifts and Saturday, Sunday and evening work, all of which contribute to social exclusion. This trend towards 'working in asocial time' among Slovenian youth differs from those in most developing EU societies, and Slovenia ranks first in the EU for temporary employment of young people. This situation adversely affects young people's capacity to achieve independence or to start a family and increases the risk of poverty.

Housing issues and, in particular, young people's relatively late departure from their parents' home remain topical in Slovenia. Youth 2010 reported that 'in the period 2000–2010, the percentage of youth between 25 and 29 who live in a shared household with their mother increased from 45.4 per cent to 66.8 per cent'. The figures clearly indicate a stable and relatively steep trend of delaying departure from the parental home; in 2010, '92.1 per cent of youths aged 15–18 wanted to move away from home by the time they are 29, at age 29 only 31.6 per cent lived completely separately from their parents'. Across the 28 EU countries, Slovenian youth were among the last to leave home, and the

(1) The at-risk-of-poverty rate is the share of people with an equivalised disposable income (after social transfer) below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold, which is set at 60 % of the national median equivalised disposable income after social transfers (see Eurostat).

role of material factors indicates a significant disparity between aspiration and reality. In 2015, Slovenia was still well above the EU average for youth aged 19–34 who still lived with their parents, although this percentage has dropped from 68.7% in 2006 to 60.8% in 2015. These data probably reflect the 'relatively favourable conditions of living with the parents (who mostly own houses), and unwillingness of the young (and their parents) to assume the risk of poverty in the early stages of managing their own household' (Youth 2010, p. 626).

Research on homelessness in Ljubljana in 2006[2] indicates that more than a third of homeless people is aged 15–25. According to the Youth Council of Slovenia (see Policy paper on youth housing), Slovenia faces an acute shortage of apartments for rent, as 90% of these are privately owned. This rate is extremely high and has several negative consequences; with so few apartments for long-term rent, people must choose between buying or unregulated short-term rental contracts. In providing non-profit housing, four groups of young people must be prioritised: young families, people with special needs, families with several children and the long-term unemployed. However, young homeless people are not mentioned as a priority group either in legislation or in national programs. Slovenia has no register of homeless people or indeed any database that might help to identify homeless (young) people. In the absence of any frank or visible acknowledgement of the problem, it can only be assumed that there is a (greater) hidden homeless population of young individuals.[3]

Main concepts

In developing policy measures, Slovenia takes account of the EU definition of social inclusion as a process that includes everything from social security (minimum) to active involvement (maximum). Slovenia's approach encompasses the following elements.

- **Adequate income support in combination with help to get a job** (linking out-of-work and in-work benefits and helping people to access their entitlements). In particular, this includes a set of individual rights financed from public funds (uveljavljanje pravic).
- **Inclusive labour markets** (making it easier for people to join the workforce, tackling in-work poverty and avoiding poverty traps and disincentives to work). This includes in particular employment policies and the labour market, education and training, matching supply and demand in the labour market.
- **Access to quality services** (helping people to participate actively in society). In particular, this includes education, health and social protection(including social insurance, social activation and social programs, affordable housing and participation in society).

Youth social inclusion is not separately defined in the Slovenian legislation. The principal relevant Act (the Public Interest in Youth Sector Act (Zakon o javnem interesu v mladinskem sektorju)) defines care for young people with fewer opportunities in the society as just one area of the youth sector (see Article 4). However, some definitions of social inclusion can be found in political and scientific papers, national resolutions and other documents adopted by youth organisations. The National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013–2022) borrowed the 'Youth 2010' definition of social exclusion as 'the involuntary exclusion/separation of individuals and groups from political, economic and social processes, thereby preventing their full participation in the society in which they live'. In the National Youth Council of Slovenia's (Mladinski svet Slovenije) 'Youth and Social inclusion' (Mladi in socialna vključenost (2014)), social exclusion is defined as non-acceptance of an individual or group of people within their social environment, based on a range of social factors and

(2) See article: Dekleva, B., Razpotnik, Š. and Vižintin, M., 2006. Kdo so ljubljanski brezdomci in kako so to postali?. *Kralji ulice,* 2(9), pp. 14-15.

(3) See article: Letnar, S., 2014, Brezdomstvo med mladimi: predstave o brezdomnih mladih: magistrsko delo. Ljubljana: Fakulteta za družbene vede (last accessed 19/09/2017).

circumstances such as race, ethnicity, culture, health, gender, language, age and social class.

A resolution on the National Social Assistance Programme 2013–2020' (ReNPSV13–20) stresses that the purpose of the social security system in Slovenia is to provide social security for citizens of the Republic of Slovenia and to ensure social inclusion. One of the three key objectives of this resolution is to reduce the risk of poverty and increase the social inclusion of socially disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. However, this key target is not youth-specific, and indeed, there is no general definition in Slovenia of the category of young people with fewer opportunities. This group usually includes unemployed youth with low educational background, as well as those with significantly reduced mobility because of a health condition, those from remote rural regions and those from certain minorities experiencing disadvantage and discrimination.

4.2 Administration and Governance

Governance

The main agent of social inclusion in Slovenia is the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, which is responsible for implementing relevant programmes and appointing programme providers. Other government departments offices and agencies with responsibility for implementing youth social inclusion policies and programmes include the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport; the Ministry of Interior; the Ministry of Infrastructure; the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth, the Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, the Employment Service of Slovenia and the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia. The tasks of these executive institutions are as follows.

- The Employment Service of Slovenia (ESS) (Zavod RS za zaposlovanje) is a key Slovenian labour market institution and implements numerous projects. Young people mostly apply to the ESS for the purposes of accessing employment, claiming unemployment benefits or meeting the costs of basic health insurance. Among the fundamental provisions for the work of the ESS are the Labour Market Regulation Act (Zakon o urejanju trga dela), the Fiscal Balance Act (Zakon za uravnoteženje javnih finance) and the Rules on the Implementation of Active Employment Policy Measures (Pravilnik o izvajanju ukrepov aktivne politike zaposlovanja)
- The Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia (Zavod za zdravstveno zavarovanje Slovenije) (ZZZS) is a public institute bound by statute to provide compulsory health insurance. Its principal task is to provide for the effective collection and distribution of public funds to ensure a high quality of services to insured persons in relation to said funds. The compulsory health insurance benefits basket includes the right to health care services and to certain financial benefits. The Institute's mandate and activities are regulated by the Statute of the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia (Statut Zavoda za zdravstveno zavarovanje Slovenije).
- The Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia (Inštitut RS za socialno varstvo) researches and analyses youth social inclusion/exclusion. The fundamental legislation governing the Institute's work includes the Resolution on the National Social Assistance Programme 2013–2020 (Resolucija o nacionalnem programu socialnega varstva za obdobje 2013-2020), the Statute of the Social Protection Institute (Statut Inštituta za socialno varstvo) and the Decision on the establishment of public institute Social Protection Institute (Sklep o ustanovitvi javnega zavoda Inštitut Republike Slovenije za socialno varstvo).

In Slovenia, the main government actor in the youth field is The Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth (Urad RS za mladino), which oversees preparation of the National Programme for Youth. Based largely on inter-ministerial cooperation and a holistic approach, the programme addresses poverty reduction and social inclusion of young

people across a number of policy areas, including employment and the labour market, education, housing and health.

Other important public actors include the following.

- 62 Centres for Social Work (Centri za socialno delo (CSD)) provide social services and related tasks. The Social Security Act (Zakon o socialnem varstvu) catalogues the tasks carried out by social work centers, including social protection services, tasks assigned to them by law as a public authority and tasks imposed on them by other regulations
- 34 Occupational Activity Centres (varstveno delovni centri) implement social protection services. The Social Security Act (Zakon o socialnem varstvu) states that these centres perform management and care tasks and organise employment under special conditions for mentally and physically handicapped adults.
- 10 Crisis Centres for Youth (Krizni centri za mlade) offer young people shelter and care, as well as other forms of assistance. These centres operate on the basis of an annual contract between the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal opportunities and the competent social work centre.
- The Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia (Inštitut RS za socialno varstvo) compiles and maintains a range of databases for social assistance and social services, including experimental and development programs. It monitors the implementation of various government programmes using specialised systems of indicators and provides informational support by collecting and analysing data. It was established as a public institute by the Government in 1996 (see the Decision on the establishment of public institute Social Protection Institute (Sklep o ustanovitvi javnega zavoda Inštitut Republike Slovenije za socialno varstvo).
- Youth Home Jarše (Mladinski dom Jarše) is a public institution whose mission is the upbringing and education of children and youth who are victims of violence, neglect and abuse (so-called 'children with special needs and behavioural disorders'). It supports children and adolescents who, for various reasons, are not living with their parents or guardians. Youth Home Jarše operates on the basis of an annual contract with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.
- Re-education Home Radeče (Prevzgojni dom Radeče) is a correctional facility for juveniles with a detention order for placement in a correctional facility.
- The Institute for Blind and Partially Sighted Children Ljubljana (Zavod za slepo in slabovidno mladino Ljubljana) is the only public institution in Slovenia addressing the education of children with a visual impairment (including those with multiple disabilities) from pre-school to the end of secondary education.
- The Slovene Human Resources Development and Scholarship Fund (Javni sklad Republike Slovenije za razvoj kadrov in štipendije) is a central national management institution for the development of human resources, offering scholarships for study and research.

In Slovenia, the implementation of certain services is being transferred from the public to the private sector. Some of these services can be delivered by non-governmental organisations, which often initiate provision of certain necessary services themselves. After assessing public interest in the service, the government may provide subsidies. This model has proved particularly effective in the sphere of social welfare, where user-friendly projects of high quality have been implemented.

The following are the main actors promoting the social inclusion of young people.

- The National Youth Council of Slovenia (Mladinski svet Slovenije) is a network of national youth organisations in Slovenia promoting social inclusion of young people that published the document 'Youth and Social Inclusion' (Mladi in socialna vključenost (2014)).
- Youth Network MaMa (Mladinska mreža MaMa) integrates and represents organisations engaged in youth centre activities. At local level, youth centres are important agents in promoting youth work and social inclusion.

- Pohorski Bataljon Foundation (Ustanova Pohorski bataljon) aims to encourage youth involvement in resolving social issues.
- The Youth Council of Local Communities (Mladinski sveti lokalnih skupnosti).
- The BOB Institute (Zavod BOB) is involved in non-formal education, youth street work, cultural activities, social entrepreneurship and promotion of young people's active participation in social events.
- Association Centre for helping the young (Društvo Center za pomoč mladim).

In addition to the actors mentioned above, PLYA is an officially recognised non-formal education programme for unemployed young people aged 15–25 who have no occupational qualifications or competences and experience a social vacuum caused by a lack of support and help. The underlying purpose of the programme is to help early school drop-outs with no occupational qualifications to overcome social exclusion by encouraging them to re-enter and complete the educational process to acquire qualifications or the targeted level of education. The programme also equips young people with skills and competences for job seeking and entry to the labour market.

The Learning for Young Adults project (Projektno učenje za mlajše odrasle (PUM)) is a publicly recognised general education programme adopted by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport in July 1999. PUM is one of the first public general adult education programmes prepared in accordance with the curricular reform. It is implemented by public and private institutions registered as providers of publicly recognised educational programmes for adults. Providers must meet requirements for a sufficient number of active mentors. The PUM programme is currently supported by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, and 12 organisations are implementing the programme (the list).

One way in which integrated approaches are favoured, particularly in place-based measures in the public sector, is through rewarding the adoption of comprehensive youth strategies. This has been done—for example—by the Youth Friendly Municipality Certificate (Certifikat Mladim prijazna občina) in Slovenia. One of the key criteria for receiving the certificate is dealing with youth issues in a strategic fashion.

The certificate recognises self-administered local communities that have successfully implemented vertical and horizontal youth policy measures that integrate the young generation to accelerate independence. Assessment of effective implementation places particular emphasis on the following areas: systematic treatment of youth issues, youth participation, youth organisations, youth information, youth employment, youth education, housing policy and youth mobility. At present, 28 Slovenian municipalities hold the certificate, but all municipalities are expected to meet these responsibilities.

Slovene municipalities are also involved in youth social inclusion, as for example in the area of housing, where municipalities have jurisdiction to resolve citizens' housing problems. Within the framework of the National Housing Programme, it was proposed that the Housing Fund of the Republic of Slovenia should construct a small residential community for young people as a pilot project, either independently or in cooperation with the interested municipality, which would contribute by providing land for the project. In addition, municipalities have jurisdiction in the area of employment policy (e.g. measures to promote the employment of young people) and health policy (e.g. subsidies for young women for vaccination against HPV). Municipalities also finance some social security programmes.

Cross-sectorial cooperation

As stated in the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022, several ministries are responsible for the social inclusion of young people, including the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities; the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology; the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport; the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning and the Ministry of the Interior.

In some measures of the Resolution on the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Nacionalni program za mladino), cooperation of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities is foreseen. For example, the MDDSZ cooperates with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport when it comes to improving and strengthening programs that promote and support the social inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities.

4.3 Strategy for the Social Inclusion of Young People

Existence of a National Strategy on social inclusion

To date, no specific national strategy or programme for youth social inclusion has been adopted in Slovenia. The National Programme for Youth in Slovenia (2013) identified key policies and guidelines, including the need to devote special attention to risk factors for poverty and social exclusion among young people. Its other guidelines refer to improving social inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities, the principle of equal opportunities for men and women and the prevention of discrimination, with particular attention to victims of social exclusion (e.g. Roma people, disabled persons).

Network of social programmes in Slovenia

Network social programmes aimed at preventing and resolving social distress of vulnerable population groups (also providing assistance to children and adolescents) are (see the Resolution on the national social assistance programme 2013-2020 (Resolucija o nacionalnem programu socialnega varstva za obdobje 2013-2020), Chapter C, point 3.2).

Other strategic public documents from the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and other public authorities (e.g. Resolution on the national social assistance programme 2013–2020 (Resolucija o nacionalnem programu socialnega varstva za obdobje 2013–2020), Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons Act (Zakon o zaposlitveni rehabilitaciji in zaposlovanju invalidov), Resolution on the National Housing Programme 2015–2025 (Resolucija o nacionalnem stanovanjskem programu 2015–2025) also refer to social inclusion among specific disadvantaged groups (e.g. Roma people, excluded communities, disabled people).

Social inclusion in other sectoral policies

Among three key objectives related directly to the development of the social protection system during the period 2013–2020, the National Social Assistance Programme 2013–2020 emphasises reducing the risk of poverty and increasing social inclusion among socially disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. One of the strategic goals of The Resolution on the National Programme of Sport of the Republic of Slovenia 2014–2023 is to help certain children and adolescents (e.g. children and adolescents with special needs, those who are socially excluded) in terms of social skills and healthy development. The Resolution on the National Programme on Illicit Drugs 2014–2020 promotes specific programmes for socially integrated drug users. The term *social inclusion* also features in other key documents in the fields of education (e.g. the Elementary School Act), health and housing (e.g. the National Housing Programme).

Scope and contents

National Programme for Youth

Section 6 (Youth and society and the significance of the youth sector) of the National Programme for Youth in Slovenia includes a special objective (Increased social inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities) addressing poverty and social exclusion. The expected developmental impact is to ensure full social participation of young people with fewer opportunities and to minimise the risk of poverty. Priority subsection 15 in the National Programme for Youth in Slovenia concerns improvement and strengthening of programmes that promote and support social inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities, under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and

Equal Opportunities. Other participants include the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and social partners. Funding is/will be provided within the available resources of the budget of the Republic of Slovenia; the priority will remain in place until 2022. Key success indicators include the following:

- number of calls for proposals related to the social inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities;
- number of calls for proposals on the topic of social inclusion, for which organisations in the youth sector may apply;
- number of programmes to increase social inclusion within the framework of the measures and active employment policy programmes;
- number of young people (to age 29) enrolled in programs for increasing social inclusion within the framework of measures and active employment policy programs, by gender;
- number of young people under age 29 who receive monetary compensation, by gender
- number of young people under age 29 who are receiving cash social assistance, by gender.

Network social programmes aimed at preventing and resolving social distress of vulnerable population groups:

- Programmes to prevent violence, programmes to help victims of violence and programs to work with perpetrators of violence: information and counselling programs and programs of telephone counselling; program coordination, support and implementation of help and self-help
- Programmes in the field of addiction, which are intended for users of illicit drugs and persons, who find themselves in social distress due to alcoholism or other addictions (eating disorders, gambling, etc.): harm reduction programmes; accommodation programmes; therapeutic programmes; activation programmes aimed at improving the employment prospects
- Programmes in the field of mental health: information and counselling programmes with field work; programmes of telephone counselling; advocacy and self-advocacy programmes; activation programmes aimed at improving employment opportunities
- Programmes for the homeless: accommodation programmes; social integration programmes; activation programmes aimed at improving employment opportunities
- Programmes for children and adolescents deprived of a suitable family life, and programmes for children and adolescents with problems growing up: prevention programmes; information and counselling programmes and programmes of telephone counselling; programmes of coordination, support and implementation of help and self-help; day care centres for counselling, support and self-help; therapeutic programmes; accommodation programmes (specialized residential groups with a comprehensive and all-day support); transitional group homes for disabled adult adolescents after the expiry of living in a foster family or an institution
- Programmes of supporting disabled persons and other specialized programmes for organising and promoting the independent living of persons with disabilities: activation programmes aimed at improving employment opportunities; programmes, aimed at maintaining social skills
- Specialized programmes of psychosocial assistance to children, adults or families aiming at resolving personal problems: prevention programmes; information and counselling programmes; therapeutic programmes
- Programmes for social integration/inclusion of Roma: prevention programmes; information and counselling programmes; programmes of coordination, support and implementation of help and self-help; counselling with field work; activation programmes aimed at improving employment opportunities.

- Other programmes which are aimed at eliminating social hardships of the people (applicants for international protection, refugees, economic migrants and their family members, ex-prisoners, people in the process of eviction, support for the dying and their relatives and bereaved, victims of maltreatment and trafficking in human beings, victims of traffic accidents, etc.): prevention programmes; information and counselling programmes; programmes of coordination, support and implementation of help and self-help; accommodation programmes; therapeutic programmes; activation programmes aimed at improving employment opportunities.

Responsible authority

The National Programme was prepared under the jurisdiction of the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth (Ministry of Education, Science and Sport); different ministries are responsible for different measures, as follows.

a. Measures in the field of youth housing are under the auspices of the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Ministry of Finance.
b. Measures in the field of youth and society and the significance of the youth sector are under the auspices of the Ministry of the Interior, the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food and the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

All authorities cooperate with other government or non-government institutions (e.g. National Youth Council of Slovenia, Youth Centres, youth organisations) in the implementation process.

Network social programmes aimed at preventing and resolving social distress of vulnerable population groups are under jurisdiction of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. Centres for social work actively participate in identifying specific needs on the local level.

Other programmes and its authority:

- Resolution on the national social assistance programme 2013-2020 (under jurisdiction of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities)
- The Resolution on the National Programme of Sport of the Republic of Slovenia 2014-2023 (under jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport)
- Resolution on the National Programme on Illicit Drugs 2014–2020 (under jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health)

Revisions/Updates

It is envisaged that the National Youth Programme will be revised every three years, based on research related to the social position of youth in Slovenia. The current strategy (National Programme for Youth 2013–2022) has undergone no revisions or updates, with only a few changes to the action plans through which the National Programme is realised—for example, the amount of financing has changed, some authorities have been replaced and new enforcement instruments have been introduced.

Resolution amending the Resolution on the national social assistance programme 2013-2020 is under preparation (see Resolucija o spremembi Resolucije o nacionalnem programu socialnega varstva za obdobje 2013-2020).

4.4 Inclusive Programmes for Young People

Programmes for vulnerable young people

In the sixth priority field of the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022, 'Youth and society and the significance of the youth sector', one priority subfield was introduced: *improvement and enforcement of programmes that encourage and support social*

inclusion of youth with fewer opportunities. For the years 2016 and 2017, the implementation plan (Izvedbeni načrt) for the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 for realisation of this subfield has the following eight measures/instruments.

1. **Act Amending the Social Protection Act (Zakon o spremembah in dopolnitvah zakona o socialnem varstvu)**. This includes programmes to prevent and resolve social distress of vulnerable population groups and a network of programmes for children and adolescents with developmental issues; under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.
2. **Preparation of a new national strategy for Roma integration (Priprava nove nacionalne strategije na področju vključevanja Romov)**. The Government adopted the National Programme of Measures for Roma in 2010 for the period 2010–2015 as a national strategy to integrate the Roma in Slovenia. In 2015, the current national strategy was finalised and will be applied to the preparation of a new national strategy for the period to 2020. Authorities will focus on concrete actions in key areas, including measures aimed at Roma and young Roma, involving a more intersectional approach and greater sensitivity to this group of disadvantaged young people; under the auspices of the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for National Minorities.
3. **Public tender for co-financing programmes of organisations of the Roma community (Javni razpis za sofinanciranje programov organizacij romske skupnosti)**. The focus here is on targeted groups, including Roma children, young Roma, Roma women and girls, representatives and representatives of the Roma community in the councils of local communities; under the auspices of the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for National Minorities.
4. **Public tender for co-financing of social programmes with subsections (Javni razpis za sofinanciranje socialnovarstvenih programov s podpodročji).** These programmes are for children and adolescents deprived of a suitable family life, and for children and adolescents with developmental issues; under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.
5. **PUM—**Project Learning for Young Adults project **(PUM—projektno učenje mlajših odraslih)**. The programme aims to encourage organisations to hire unemployed young people and other job seekers under the age of 26 years or make them return to education, with an increase in the general level of education, under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.
6. **Promoting the employment of long-term unemployed young people (Spodbujanje zaposlovanja dolgotrajno brezposelnih mladih.** This entails the integration of the long-term unemployed in public works programmes to encourage employment and social inclusion; under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.
7. **Consultants for long-term unemployed young people (Svetovalci za dolgotrajno brezposelne mlade)**. The aim is to strengthen work with the young unemployed and to increase the quality of counselling and empowerment of young people to efficiently manage their own careers; under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.
8. **Rules on subsidised student residence (Pravilnik o subvencioniranju bivanja študentov)**. To provide cheaper housing for students during their studies, they receive a government subsidy under the auspices of the **Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.**

Other state measures include the following.

- **Subsidising tickets:** By subsidising travel tickets for school pupils and students, the Ministry of Infrastructure contributes to changing young people's travel habits in the interests of greater social inclusion. The Ministry allocates €39,800,000 annually for these subventions.

- The School Meals Act (Zakon o šolski prehrani) applies to primary and secondary schools, and to primary schools within institutions for the education of children and youth with special needs. The Act also regulates subsidised school meals. Beneficiaries are entitled to full or partial subsidies, depending on their family's income or other details (e.g. pupils placed in a foster family; those who are seeking asylum); under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.
- **'Subsidised students meals'** (študentska prehrana) is partly financed by the Republic of Slovenia and is intended for students during their study. Slovenia is the only country in Europe with a system of this kind. The purpose of subsidised food is to ensure that every student has at least one hot meal each day, consisting of a subsidised part (currently €2.63) and an additional payment, which every student has to pay. Anyone with student status (full- or part-time and foreign students) is entitled to this benefit under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. For more information, see Rules on Subsidised Student Meals (Pravilnik o subvencioniranju študentske prehrane).
- **'Government scholarship'** (državna štipendija). The purpose of the government scholarship is to promote education, providing a higher level of education for beneficiaries and creating equal opportunities. The scholarship is intended to cover the costs associated with the educational process; it is awarded to those who fulfil the conditions for average monthly income per family member (i.e. students from poorer families); under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.
- **'Young and entrepreneurial'** (Mladi in podjetni). The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport prepared this programme in 2011 for early school leavers whose personal and social development is under serious threat.
- **The Programme for Children and Youth 2006–2016** (Program za otroke in mladino 2006-2016). The programme was adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on 5 October 2006 to reduce poverty and social exclusion of children and families; to ensure sufficient welfare benefits for the most vulnerable groups of children and youth; to reduce the drop-out rate in secondary schools; to increase the number of positions available in all education programmes and to improve the inclusiveness of vocational and education programmes for unemployed youth as the basic guidelines for ensuring the social inclusion of children and their families; under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.
- **'ZONE (Centre of children, adolescents and activists) Fužine'** (CONA: **C**enter **O**trok, **N**ajstnikov in **A**ktivistov Fužine) provides psychosocial support for children, adolescents and their families, who need and seek support and assistance due to the resulting life situations. These children and adolescents from socially and economically disadvantaged families, are struggling with behavioral, emotional and learning difficulties and hardship. At the same time, they feel the need for change. Holder is The Centre for Social Work Ljubljana Moste-Polje, which operates under the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.
- **'Youth center Vič'** (Mladinsko središče Vič) – prevention of social exclusion, integration of socially excluded children, adolescents and their families. Holder is The Centre for Social Work Ljubljana Vič Rudnik, which operates under the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.
- The **Public Work** (Javna dela) programme offers employment to the most vulnerable groups (including youth) for more than one year. However, as the programme does not usually allow for further employment, the problem of (youth) unemployment remains unresolved in the long term. Nevertheless, it does offer an opportunity to acquire (new) work experience and greater social inclusion for young people who are long-term unemployed. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

- **Reducing the employment rate gap between women and men** was a measure adopted within the National Programme for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men 2015–2020 to increase the employment rate among women, especially young women with tertiary education and other vulnerable or disadvantaged groups; under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology. The Ministry of the Interior, the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for National Minorities and the Office for Youth are also involved.
- **Structured dialogue** projects have included Youth dialogue! (2012) and Youth Dialogue 2.0: Including!' (Dialog mladih 2.0: Vključujemo! 2013-2014) and Youth Dialogue 2.1: Include yourself! (Dialog mladih 2.1: Vklopi se!). The central theme of the third cycle of the structured dialogue (2013–2014) was social inclusion. Structured dialogue is of great importance for the social inclusion of young people and for their social, cultural and civic competences.
- **The network of expert institutions to support children with special needs and their families**. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport published a public tender to co-finance activities for the establishment of specialist support centres for children and adolescents with special needs. Using new solutions, strategies and working methods, professionals will also provide support to families, kindergartens, schools and other institutions working with children and adolescents with special needs.
- The Implementation Plan for the National Social Assistance Programme 2013–2020 includes a measure involving inter-ministerial coordination to launch the project **'Transition into the labour market for young people with disabilities'** (Prehod mladih s posebnimi potrebami na trg dela). The aim is to increase the employability of young people with special needs to ensure greater equality with their peers; under the auspices of the Association of Occupational Rehabilitation in Slovenia (Združenje izvajalcev zaposlitvene rehabilitacije v Republiki Sloveniji). The deadline for implementation of the measure is December 31, 2018; activities within the framework of the measure will also be implemented after expiry of the deadline.
- **'Gostilna dela—vocational training of young people'** (Gostilna dela—poklicno učenje mladih) offers vocational training to vulnerable groups of young people (aged 17–25 without formal education, those with disabilities and those with special needs) who are at risk of long-term unemployment because of the specifics of their situation. Gostilna dela is one of the results of the 'Work factory' (Tovarna dela) project, which provides training for young people at risk of social exclusion. On completing the three-month training period, participants receive a National Vocational Qualifications Certificate.
- Local authority measures include **financial assistance;** in 2012, 16% of municipalities launched municipal grants for socially disadvantaged young people.
- Youth aid centre (Društvo center za pomoč mladim) – 'Counselling with the support programs' (Svetovalnica za mlade s podpornimi programi), where they tackle problems of young people, associated with school, relationships with loved ones, social exclusion, unemployment, drug abuse, or violence. Counselling is meant for young people in need and takes the form of personal conversations.

The main targets for levels of participation are based on the following indicators (see Implementation plan (Izvedbeni načrt)):

- **Act Amending the Social Protection Act**: Indicator: number of call for proposals on social inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities on an annual basis (1)
- **Preparation of a new national strategy for Roma integration:** Indicator: preparation of targeted actions to achieve more and faster integration of members of the Roma community

- **Public tender for co-financing programs of organisations of the Roma community:** Indicators: number of programmes; number of young people involved in the programme of activities of Roma community organisations
- **Public tender for co-financing of social programs with subsections:** Indicators: number of programmes; number of users
- **Project Learning for Young Adults (PUM):** Indicators: programme for increasing social inclusion within the framework of the measures and active employment policy programmes (1); number of young people under 26 years involved in programs for increasing social inclusion within the framework of the measures and active employment programmes, by gender; target of 500 per year (1,000 in 2016 and 2017), of which 50% are women
- **Rules on subsidised student residence:** Indicators: number of recipients of grants for housing and resources available; occupancy rate of beds in public and private institutions

Funding

The largest proportion of funding comes from government and municipal sources or from NGOs' own assets. Projects are financed principally by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Sport and the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth. In some cases, sources of funding for social inclusion activities are dispersed, and little systematic information is available on this matter.

In 2016 and 2017, funding for realisation of the Implementation plan (Izvedbeni načrt) is as follows.

- Public tender for co-financing programs of organisations of the Roma community: an indicative €250,000.00 annually
- Public tender for co-financing of social programs with subsections: €1,000,000
- PUM: 2016: €1,465,029; 2017: €2,478,518.10
- Promoting the employment of long term unemployed young people: 2016: €8,000,000; 2017: €8,000,000
- Consultants for long term unemployed young people: from 2,016 to 703,000 EUR; 2,017 to 703,000 EUR €703,000 annually in 2016 and 2017
- Rules on subsidised student residence: 2016: €3,338,846; 2017: €3,338,846

Funding of other programmes is as follows.

- **Subsidising tickets:** The Ministry of Infrastructure allocates €39,800,000 per year for the subventions.
- **Youth Dialogue 2.0: Including!'** (Dialog mladih 2.0: Vključujemo! 2013-2014)): The requested amount of funding was €49,648.50.
- **Youth Dialogue 2.1: Include yourself!** (Dialog mladih 2.1: Vklopi se!): The requested amount of funding was €23,710.
- The **'Young and entrepreneurial'** (Mladi in podjetni) project was financed by the Ministry of Education and Sport and the European Union (through the European Social Fund).
- **The network of expert institutions to support children with special needs and their families**: Budget is €4,000.000.
- **'Transition into the labour market for young people with disabilities'**: Funding of €4,200,000 (as confirmed by Decree of the Government) will be provided by the European Social Fund and the Operational Programme for the Implementation of the EU Cohesion Policy in the period 2014–2020. One of the indicators is integration of 420 young people with disabilities annually.
- Between 2009 and 2011, the **Gostilna dela** project was financed by the European Social Fund and the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. The project no longer receives any financial aid.

Quality assurance

The Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth and other competent supervisory authorities monitor the targeted use of funds acquired through public tender (see Rules on the Implementation of the Act on the Public Interest in Youth Sector, Article 20).

Some measures include monitoring of the numbers of beneficiaries reached (see Implementation plan (Izvedbeni načrt)).

- **Public tender for co-financing programs of organisations of the Roma community:** Number of young people involved in the programme of activities of Roma community organisations
- **Public tender for co-financing of social programs with subsections:** Number of users
- **PUM:** Number of young people under 26 years involved in programmes to increase social inclusion within the framework of the measures and active employment policy programmes, by gender; target of 500 per year (1,000 in 2016 and 2017), of which 50% are women
- **Rules on subsidised student residence:** Number of recipients of housing grants and resources available; occupancy rate of beds in public and private institutions.

An evaluation study of the PUM programme found that 83% of participants regarded their participation in programme as the reason for (positive) changes in their lives. More than 98% of participants described their experience of the PLYA programme as essentially different from formal education.

The Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia issued several research reports on poverty and social exclusion:

- Poverty and social exclusion among families with children - tangible and intangible face of poverty – 2015 (Revščina in socialna izključenost družin z otroki: materialni in nematerialni obraz revščine)
- Assessment of the extent discovered and hidden homelessness in Slovenia (Ocena obsega odkritega in skritega brezdomstva v Sloveniji)
- Poverty and social exclusion of single parent families (Revščina in socialna izključenost enostarševskih družin)
- Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the National Programme for the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010 (Spremljanje in ocenjevanje izvajanja Nacionalnega programa aktivnosti Evropskega leta boja proti revščini in socialni izključenosti 2010)

4.5 Initiatives promoting social inclusion and raising awareness

Intercultural awareness

In 2013, the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth Slovenia initiated the Council of Europe youth campaign **NO Hate Speech Movement**. Its main purpose was to raise youth awareness of the harm caused by hate speech. Activities during the campaign included seminars, workshops, conferences and symposia. In 2015, the campaign grew into the **Don't Hate** (Ne sovraži) movement. In Slovenia, the movement's national board is under the jurisdiction of the Youth Council of Slovenia.

Since 1995, when the Council of Europe launched the campaign **'All Different—All Equal'**, the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth has encouraged tolerance, equality, solidarity and understanding, along with human rights education. The Office for Youth co-finances programmes that encourage intercultural learning and competences. The key purposes of this project are as follows:

1. Fight against discrimination and promotion of diversity
2. Interreligious and intercultural dialogue

3. Participation, democracy and good governance as the fight against structural discrimination

Young ambassadors of intercultural dialogue (Mladi ambasadorji medkulturnega dialoga)

Supported by the European Social Fund, the project's activities focused on youth' understanding of other cultures. Through information and training activities for young people and promotion of the accessibility of culture, the project partners ensured dissemination of the project network's effects, as well as quality of structure and content. Following a public tender published by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the project was implemented by a network of youth organisations.

The Youth Centre of Dravinjska Dolina (Mladinski Center Dravinjske Doline) continues to work on a project under this initiative. The main goal of the project is to encourage greater tolerance in a multicultural society, where people of different cultures and ethnic groups living in the same place learn to maintain relations based on open interaction, exchange and diversity recognition. The project began in 2009 as a national initiative with 23 partners and was co-financed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the European Social Fund. The first phase of the project ended in 2012. Because of its success, the Youth Centres of Dravinjska Dolina, Celje (Mladinski Center Celje) and Trbovlje decided to upgrade the programme, and in 2013 and 2014, it included 12 high schools from 11 Slovenian regions. In a second upgrade by the Youth Council of Slovenske Konjice Municipality (Mladinski Svet občine Slovenske Konjice), the target group was primary school pupils. The Youth Centre of Dravinjska Dolina has organised free training courses for youth, educators and leaders. This training addressed intercultural dialogue, focusing on Muslim and Roma culture, migration and refugees. The project ended in October 2016.

A number of (youth) organisations have developed programmes to promote intercultural awareness.

- The Institute Circle (Zavod Krog) encourages intercultural dialogue, including open, tolerant and equal relations among people from different sociocultural, religious and ethical backgrounds. Through intercultural education, they aim to raise awareness of intercultural diversity among children, youth and others. For this purpose, the Institute Circle implemented interactive workshops designed to understand other cultures and nationalities and based on active participation.
- The Intercultural Dialogue Association (Društvo medkulturni dialog) was established in 2007 to promote dialogue across peoples and cultures and to integrate societal and personal values. The association organises events that include friendship dinners, cultural nights, debate forums and dialogue dinners.
- The Philanthropic Charity Society HOPE Jesenice (Človekoljubno dobrodelno društvo UP) implements projects that focus on learning about different cultures to raise awareness of the importance of intercultural activities among young people. The target groups are kindergarten children as well as primary and high school students.
- As an example of social inclusion projects, the Association Youth Guild (Društvo mladinski ceh) 'Social Innovators of the future' (Socialni inovatorji prihodnosti 2.0) supports young social innovators and entrepreneurs through incubator and accelerator programmes, as well as providing education and infrastructure. Targeting youth employment is an important means of promoting social inclusion, especially in the case of women, who are particularly vulnerable. Other programmes addressing the problem of social inclusion within the national structured dialogue include the following.

Young people's rights

Advocacy for youth (Zagovorništvo za mlade): The Youth Council of Slovenia represents young people in dealings with decision-makers at national and international level. The Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia promotes children's rights on its

website. The Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth (Zveza prijateljev mladine Slovenije) has its own children's rights committee, which calls for the exercise of those rights. In 2015, the Youth Council of Slovenia organised a round table entitled 'Human rights and the youth situation' (Okrogla miza: človekove pravice in položaj mladih). The main purpose of the discussion was to articulate the views of young people on the concept of human rights and to highlight the most common violations of those rights.

Key initiatives to safeguard democracy and prevent radicalisation leading to violent extremism

CivICT (Initiative for civic application of ICT) is a set of projects coordinated by Assoc. Prof. Tomaž Deželan at the University of Ljubljana Faculty of Social Sciences. One of these projects, called trACES: Tackling Radicalism through Active Citizenship of Europe in Schools (Reševanje radikalizma preko aktivnega evropskega državljanstva skozi šole), tackles radicalism by developing a curriculum to combat youth radicalisation. The trACES project addresses the growing concern about radicalisation through special seminars, developing educational tools for teachers and trainers to empower them to tackle radicalisation. The newly-designed anti-radicalisation curricula for primary schools, general secondary and VET schools and youth centres and youth clubs aims to improve young people's knowledge of European political processes and facilitate European values, steering them towards democracy and tolerance. Responding to the opportunities and challenges created in the EU by the increasing numbers of refugees, the curriculum condemns stereotyping and xenophobic violence against refugees and immigrants. Based on the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders, the project provides quality assurance and the translation of results into actual policies. The project is financed by the University of Ljubljana (Faculty of Social Sciences) and the Erasmus+ Programme.

4.6 Access to Quality Services

Housing

Data on the proportion of young people living in a parental household in Slovenia (see 'Youth 2010', Eurostat) show a clear and stable trend of delayed departure. Access to housing for young people in Slovenia is limited by a number of structural factors that include limited supply and affordability of housing for sale or rent. Another limiting factor young people's financial situation, which is linked to their employment; as they are at the beginning of their employment career, they have lower incomes and are often employed on fixed term contracts.

The Housing Act places particular emphasis on resolving the housing problems of young people and young families, identifying young people as the key target group for allocation of rented social housing by the municipalities. The Act Amending the Act on the National Housing Savings Scheme and Subsidies for Young Families Solving Their Housing Problem for the First Time was adopted in July 2007. The main goal of the proposed amendments was to provide subsidies to the broadest possible group of young families, who have started to resolve their housing problems by purchasing, constructing or reconstructing a housing unit or residential building, stimulated by state subsidies.

Youth and young families are classified as a vulnerable group in the context of housing and are prioritised in a number of state initiatives. However, their access to housing remains limited, as in the majority of cases, the number of applicants for subsidies, non-profit housing and financial assistance far outstrips the available funds.

The basic framework of housing policy and its measure in Slovenia comprises two policy documents: the 2003 Housing Act and the Resolution on the National Housing Programme 2015–2025 (Resolucija o nacionalnem stanovanjskem programu 2015–2025). Young people's housing conditions are also referred to in the National Programme for Youth, priority field 4: Housing conditions of youth. The National Programme for Youth in Slovenia defines two objectives in this regard:

1. The provision of capacity and systematically regulated availability of housing for young people
2. The availability of housing for young people and the establishment of support mechanisms

In aiming to attain the EU average for age of departure of young people from the parental household, the Programme lists the following eight priority subsections.

1. **Preparation of legal basis for the provision of housing for young people** (Ministry of Infrastructure). Indicators include the percentage of young people between 25 and 29 living with their parents and the average age of young people emigrating from parent households.
2. **Establishing favourable housing loans for young people** (Ministry of Finance). Indicator: Number of credits granted to young people under the guarantee scheme (or similar credit scheme).
3. **Strengthening and promoting the market for public rental housing (so controlling market rents)** (Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Finance).
4. **Optimising use of empty dwellings** (Ministry of Infrastructure).
5. **Promoting alternative housing—housing co-operatives** (Ministry of Infrastructure).
6. **Strengthening support mechanisms of the Housing Fund of the Republic of Slovenia; target population also includes young families and young couples, single and youth on leaving educational institutions and foster care** (Ministry of Infrastructure; Housing Fund of the Republic of Slovenia). Indicators: Subsidies to young families/young couples/single young people for the purchase, construction, reconstruction and rental of apartments following discharge from educational institutions and foster care.
7. **Creating a single focal point (website) where young people can find or get all information about access to housing** (under the auspices of the youth sector). Indicator: Visits to the information point (website).
8. **Evaluating existing measures (subsidies for ensuring access to housing for young people)** (Ministry of Infrastructure). Indicator: Number of evaluations.

Financial plan (funding) for housing: all 8 priority subsections are funded from the National budget of the Republic of Slovenia. The first priority subsection has additional sources from the Public-Private Partnership and the EU funds.

Based on the results of a survey of the rental market, the Youth Council of Slovenia decided to establish a housing counselling office to address young people's housing problems and to improve the activities of the Youth Council in this regard (Si21). Youth organisations have also voiced critical views concerning the suitability and efficiency of housing policies in addressing young people's key housing problems. However, only a small percentage of youth organisations actually deal with this issue.

Social services

The National Strategy for Literacy (Nacionalna strategija za razvoj pismenosti), under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, was adopted in 2006 to promote better integration of children and youth from migrant backgrounds into their new environment. In 2009, the Council of Experts of the RS adopted guidelines for the education of immigrant children as a supplement to the Strategy. In October 2012, the guidelines were renewed to encompass the inclusion of pre-school and school-age migrant children. The guidelines included instructions, ideas and recommendations for successful learning across all participants. The Resolution on the Master Plan for Adult Education in the Republic of Slovenia for 2013–2020 includes youth and migrants as a target group. The ministry responsible for education has also supported remedial classes on mother tongues and cultures for immigrant elementary school children for a number of years.

In accordance with the Organisation and Financing of Education Act (Zakon o organizaciji in financiranju vzgoje in izobraževanja), the state budget shall also provide

- funds for the drafting and subsidised prices of textbooks and learning materials for elementary school, for schools of national communities and for the education of Slovenian citizens living abroad and of the Roma;
- funds for the education of the Roma (Article 81).

Pupils and students who seek asylum are entitled to a free meal in schools (Exercise of Rights from Public Funds Act, Article 25). They can also borrow textbooks free of charge from the school library. Children from less favourable social and economic environments are also entitled to receive the support and assistance of a kindergarten or school. Schools receive funds for subsidising school meals for socially disadvantaged pupils and students and for subsidising extra-curricular activities for socially disadvantaged pupils.

Subsidies for student housing

The key student housing problem is the lack of student accommodation and of other forms of housing support during the period of study. The Republic of Slovenia grants subsidies to assist students financially in the form of lower rents, amounting to a reduction of at least 20% in average annual student housing costs in Slovenia. The monthly subsidy amounts to €19.50 for a stay in public dormitory, and €32 for a stay in private dormitory or at a private owner of dwelling. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, students and scholarship owners of dwellings must meet certain conditions to secure a guaranteed 10 months of subsidised accommodation annually (from October to June). For more information, see Rules on subsidising the accommodation of students (Pravilnik o subvencioniranju bivanja študentov).

Measures promoting specific support to young families

The Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs is responsible for transfers to families with children in Slovenia that include (financial) social assistance, family benefits, parental benefits and payment of contributions in case of part-time employment due to parenthood, service subsidies, expenses for education of children and youth and health care for children and youth (including sickness benefit for caring for a sick child).

Crisis centres for youth

Crisis centres for youth (Krizni centri za mlade) (KCM) have been in operation in the RS since 1995. These organisational units within the Social Work Centre are dedicated to the care of children and adolescents who have been deprived of a stable family life. The purpose of crisis centres is to offer young people shelter and care for a maximum of three weeks, with the possibility of extension. As the sole funder for implementation of KCM, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities allocates approximately €2,000,000 annually (almost double the 2008 budget of approximately €1,200,000). Crisis centres for youth operate under the Resolution of National Programme of Family Violence Prevention 2009–2014.

Health care

Preventive systematic examinations of new-borns, pre-school and school children, youth and students (Sistematski preventivni pregledi dojenčkov, otrok in mladine) up to 19 years of age are specified in the Rules for primary preventive health care. All such examinations are covered by compulsory health insurance. School children and youth up to 19 years of age are entitled to preventive examinations such as the systematic examination in the first and third grades of secondary school, in the first and third grades of high school and in higher education.

In 2015, the National Institute for Public Health (Nacionalni inštitut za javno zdravje) initiated the For Youth Health (Za zdravje mladih) project to promote a healthier lifestyle among Slovenian youth, youth workers and youth leaders, who have a direct impact on young people's health. The Institute cooperates with youth organisations such as the

National Youth Council of Slovenia, the Scouts Association of Slovenia and the Youth Network No Excuses Slovenia to introduce health promotion programs in the youth sector. The programme develops educational tools to facilitate upgraded and ongoing work in this area after the project ends. The target groups are children and youth, youth leaders and youth workers and parents. Within this project, a few projects ran at local level in 2016, including It is a Health Case! (Za zdravje gre), 5 Minutes for Me (5 minut zame), Silly doping (NeUMNI doping) and Take Action (Ukrepiziraj).

Treatment for illegal drug users is available through hospital-based and outpatient programmes. For outpatients, the Centres for the Prevention and Treatment of Addiction to Illegal Drugs (Centra za preprečevanje in zdravljenje odvisnih od prepovedanih drog) (CPZOPD) offer programmes at the primary health care level within the public health service framework. Most users are aged between 25 and 29 years, and most first-time CPZOPD users are aged between 20 and 24 years.

The National Act on Health Care Services envisions health centres for students, whose prime task is to provide student health care and preventive health activities (see Article 9).

Financial services

The government supports children and young people through a range of grants, including

- social assistance
- parental allowance
- child care allowance
- partial payment for lost income

To prevent social exclusion, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities provides adequate income support to vulnerable groups. Among these measures are child benefit, subsidies for kindergartens, subsidised school meals and scholarships. The Ministry offers different kinds of scholarships; as explained in Article 2 of The Scholarship Act (Zakon o štipendiranju), scholarships are intended to encourage education and a higher level of educational attainment, establishing equal opportunities in education, encouraging international mobility and shortening the period of studying. The various scholarships are listed in Article 8.

The State scholarship (Državna štipendija) targets vulnerable youth and is issued by the Centre for Social Work. Exercise of Rights from the Public Funds Act specifies that this kind of scholarship is for students above 18 years who are citizens of the Republic of Slovenia and whose monthly income per person in the previous year does not exceed 56% of the net average wage per person in Slovenia (Article 23). Additionally, some banks offer housing loans for young people under certain conditions (e.g. aged up to 35 years; regular monthly salary for at least one year or in permanent employment) and student loans (for all students).

Quality assurance

Research on youth policies in municipalities from 2012 (‘Lokalna mladinska politika’) showed that nearly 62% of municipalities implemented programmes for the allocation of social housing to young families. However, these provisions remain quite limited and fail to meet the real needs of young people in accessing housing. The report advanced some proposals for municipality youth housing policy at local level, such as subsidising the purchase, construction or renovation of apartments and houses for young people, and subsidising rents, providing social housing and developing local housing programmes tailored to youth.

4.7 Youth Work to Foster Social Inclusion

Policy/legal framework

The Public Interest in the Youth Sector Act (Zakon o javnem interesu v mladinskem sektorju) defines youth work as an

organised and targeted form of operation of young people and for young people, where young people, based on their own efforts to contribute to their own integration in society, strengthen their skills and contribute to the development community. Implementation of various forms of youth work is based on the voluntary participation of young people, regardless of their interest or cultural, ideological or political orientation. (Article 3)

The Public Interest in Youth Sector Act also specifies that state and local government represent the public interest in the youth sector (Article 6). The Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth is a consultative body that assists in deciding on matters of youth and the youth sector.

Two public policy approaches inform youth work in Slovenia: a vertical perspective and the more recently emphasised horizontal perspective. The development of youth work and expansion of the youth sector in general has been consolidated in recent years, enabling the introduction of legislation in 2010. Within the vertical view, the Youth Council Act was adopted; the horizontal perspective includes the Resolution on the National Programme for Youth, which is under the jurisdiction of a number of ministries (the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities; the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport; the Ministry of Culture; the Ministry of Health, to name just a few) and ensures that youth matters are included on the policy agenda.

Main inclusive Youth-Work programmes and target groups

Trigger the rumours (Sproži govorice): the key objectives of this project are to encourage active citizenship, active participation and integration of youth; to integrate different groups of young people through youth organisations and educational institutions; and to bring the policy decision making system closer to youth.

Youth work providers in the field of social inclusion for young people

The main youth work providers in Slovenia are organisations and NGOs working with youth. As these have the status of organisations operating in the public interest, they have access to a range of instruments in the youth sector that includes financial instruments. These youth work providers are responsible for

- spreading information about the needs of young people with fewer opportunities and
- advocating the interests of the socially excluded. Relevant projects include the following.

1. Several projects need to be mentioned: **Young Street Network** (Mreža Mlada ulica) from the BOB Institute (Zavod BOB) offers young people in Ljubljana alternative ways of spending their time than simply gathering in public spaces. With young people and local communities, the project creates new solutions that improve the quality of coexistence. The objective of the Young Street Network is to foster the social inclusion of young people through action, giving them a voice and shedding light on the issues from their perspective.
2. **The Youth Information and Counselling Centre of Slovenia (Dnevni center za otroke in mladostnike – MISSS)** is a non-governmental non-profit national youth information and counselling service, collaborating with 16 regional and local youth information and counselling centres throughout Slovenia. Applying European standards and principles of generalist youth information work, local centres disseminate information in their local space and provide counselling and assistance in choosing appropriate information. <http://www.misss.si/>

3. **The Social Academy** encourages social responsibility among Slovene citizens through education, research and cultural activities, which are its three constituent units. Its main activities include various forms of education, cultural and educational evenings, production of a number of publications, cultural events and international activity. <http://www.socialna-akademija.si/>
4. **Voluntariat - SCI Slovenia** is a non-profit non-governmental organisation that co-ordinates voluntary work and international work camps in Slovenia. Voluntariat organises training for volunteers and others to disseminate understanding of the ideals of voluntary work. It organises voluntary work as and where needed throughout Slovenia, in conjunction with local groups, associations and other organisations in such areas as nature conservation, peace education and help for the disadvantaged. Voluntariat supports the initiatives of groups and individuals who are working voluntarily to show solidarity with local communities and to promote self-help within disadvantaged communities. The organisation analyses and evaluates all the work it supports, taking into account both the local and wider context, and publishes project outcomes. Voluntariat provides and disseminates information about voluntary work in Slovenia and other countries and joins international actions promoting co-operation between people of different nations, religions, cultures and political beliefs, on the basis that such understanding of others can lead to non-violent conflict resolution. <http://www.zavod-voluntariat.si>
5. **Slovene Philanthropy** is a **humanitarian organisation,** operating in the public interest since 1992. Its programmes seek to enhance **quality of life** in the community and **provide advocacy for the socially weak.** The central activity of Slovene Philanthropy is the **promotion of volunteering.** <http://www.filantropija.org/en/>
6. **Society of Allies for Soft Landing** is a youth NGO working in the areas of youth culture, non-formal education, contemporary art and social and humanitarian acts. It has recently devoted special attention to projects in the field of media education, film, video and multimedia. The organisation is involved in a range of activities at local, national and international levels to stimulate the active participation of young people through different forms of media. <http://www.luksuz.si/eng/>

The programme 'For the Health of Youth' (Za zdravje mladih) aims to reduce and prevent diseases linked to unhealthy lifestyles among young people. It is coordinated by the national youth organisation No Excuse Slovenia. During an eighteen-month programme, No Excuse Slovenia has connected several membership-based youth organisations in Slovenia (Slovenian Catholic Girl Guides and Boy Scouts Association, Youth Network No Excuse Slovenia, National Scouting Association and the Slovenian National Youth Council), the Public Health Institute of Slovenia and the national TV and radio broadcaster in a campaign to alter perceptions of the role of health in youth work.

Training and support for youth workers engaged in social inclusion programmes

Youth work was integrated into the Operational Programme of the Republic of Slovenia to deploy structural and cohesion funds to support the development of quality systems in youth work, to provide a professional qualification for youth workers and to build on the education and training of youth workers. No formal education is currently required in order to become a youth worker or youth leader in Slovenia, and the various training and support provisions for youth workers are supplied by different organisations. One of the priority subfields of the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 is the creation of capacity for quality youth work and the establishment of a national system of education and training for youth workers and youth leaders. Under the auspices of the Office for Youth in collaboration with the youth sector, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the National Education Institute of Slovenia and local communities, funding will be provided within the available budget of the Republic of Slovenia and of local communities. The key indicator will be the number of persons who qualify as a youth

worker for educational programmes or parts of programmes at higher education institutions.

A number of organisations in Slovenia offer regular training. For example, the Slovenian Catholic Guides and Scouts Association (Združenje slovenskih katoliških skavtinj in skavtov) has a long tradition of regular training since its establishment. Regular training ensures quality development based on the needs of scouts, scout leaders and the organisation. The Scout Association of Slovenia (Zveza tabornikov Slovenije) has a similar regular training system. Its courses facilitate development of leadership and organisational skills and competences, expert knowledge in the scout's field, and knowledge and skills for implementation of supporting activities. Each course specifies terms for enrolment. Network MaMa combines and represents organisations that run youth centres or are active in youth work in Slovenia. It also provides some training programmes (for example). The Institute Voluntariat SCI Slovenia (Zavod za mednarodno prostovoljno delo Slovenija) also provides training courses for people interacting with youth, as well as organising free seminars for volunteers and camps for scout leaders.

Financial support

Taking European cohesion funds into account, the funding available for youth work activities fostering social inclusion has increased. Since its beginnings, the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth has been co-funding youth work and youth organisation programmes, typically providing between ten and thirty percent of an NGO's budget.

Quality assurance

At present, there is no system of quality assurance for the field of social inclusion in youth work in Slovenia. Tanja Pipan highlighted some of the relevant issues in her master paper entitled 'The role of youth work in the integration of socially excluded youth' (Vloga mladinskega dela pri integraciji socialno izključene mladine (2014)).

4.8 Current Debates and Reforms

In December 2016, members of Slovenia's Parliament supported an amendment to the Exercise of Rights from Public Funds Act (Zakon o uveljavljanju pravic iz javnih sredstev), enabling more children to receive free (subsidised) school meals. This means that children of families in the first as well as the second and third tax classes will be entitled to free school meals.[4] These are families whose average monthly income per person amounts to 36% of the average wage in Slovenia. The amendment will come into force on January 1, 2017.

Because there is no formal educational requirement or award to become a youth worker, the Office for Youth introduced an initiative to prepare the vocational standard and a catalogue of professional knowledge and skills standards for youth workers, based on the Resolution on the National Programme for Youth. This will become a national vocational qualification certificate for youth workers (Nacionalna poklicna kvalifikacija Mladinski delavec/Mladinska delavka; NPK). The aim is to make the NPK a formally recognised qualification, gained as follows.

1. Completion of program for vocational or professional education
2. Verification and validation of NPK

Prior to the appointment of the group that worked on the NPK initiative, a professional group was established as an initiative of the National Youth Council of Slovenia and the Social Academy to consult on the relevant standards. The aim was to provide professional support during the process of NPK development. The group comprised a number of youth organisations, including representatives of the Social Academy, Youth Network MaMa, Trade Union Youth Plus, Youth Association Without Excuse and the

(4) For more information, see the Annual assessment of income tax (Letna odmera dohodnine).

National Youth Council. In this case, it becomes clear that youth organisations can play a powerful role in the creation of public policy related to young people.

The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities has proposed two Acts highlighting measures to facilitate youth social inclusion in 2016. The Draft on changes and completion of the Social Security Act (Predlog Zakona o spremembah in dopolnitvah Zakona o socialno varstvenih prejemkih) and the Rules on implementation and co-financing of the social welfare programmes (Pravilnik o sofinanciranju socialnovarstvenih programov) are at the public consultation phase. Additionally, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport issued Regulations on tuition fees and accommodation in students' dormitories for Slovene nationals without Slovene citizenship and foreigners in the Republic of Slovenia (Pravilnik o šolninah in bivanju v študentskih domovih za Slovence brez slovenskega državljanstva in tujce v Republiki Sloveniji).

In addition to social transfers, the Committee on Work, Family, Social Affairs and Invalids has prepared the Draft Report on change and completion of the Exercise of Rights from Public Funds Act. Based on social justice principles, the Draft enables pupils to access free subsidised lunches where their families cannot bear the costs because of their economic situation. In 2015, the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth also prepared a public call for co-financing youth work in 2016 and 2017. At present, in addition to youth work, youth organisations continue to run projects to decrease social exclusion and to improve young people's active participation and mobility. For example, the project Youth in action encourages sustainable development goals (Mladi v akciji za doseganje ciljev trajnostnega razvoja) runs from 2016 to 2017.

5. Participation

Young people in Slovenia feel they have very little political influence, and in comparison with the EU average tend to be much less interested or involved in politics. But there is a strengthened potential for protests and participation in individualised forms of political participation, particularly those related to information technology.

Among Slovenian youth (compared to EU youth) the only notably lower membership is in political parties which might be due to a low level of trust in political officials and institutions, low conventional participation and so forth.

The age limit for voting in all elections (European, national, local and presidential) and referendums is set at 18 years old. There are no plans at this time to lower the voting age limit, although there were some proposals. There is no data collection on youth electoral turnout. Young people can become members of political parties' youth organisations at the age of 15.

The age limit on candidates running for office in Slovenia is 18 years old. There are no quotas or reserved seats for young candidates at any level.

The Public Interest in Youth Sector Act defines the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth as a consulting body that will offer assistance in making decisions on matters pertaining to youth and the youth sector. The Council of the Government for Youth offers the possibility of giving the Government and the relevant ministries proposals, incentives and recommendations for implementing the commitment to strengthening the youth dimension in particular sectoral public policies.

There is no specific strategy for increasing youth participation. Until recently, youth participation in Slovenia was relatively unregulated by the law. The National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013–2022), covers all the important areas, so that there was no need for specific sectoral strategy. One of the key directions of the National Programme was to ensure the participation of young people in (for them) important public policies in all areas of society. One of the objectives in the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 is 'promoting the

participation and representation of young women and men' (6.2.1). Different authorities are responsible for the implementation of the measures within the Resolution of the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022.

There is no policy measure focusing on promoting young people's e-participation. There is also no act or strategy on this subject.

5.1 General context

Main concepts

There is no distinct definition of youth participation in Slovenia. 'Youth' is defined as relating to individuals from 15 to 29 years of age, and all measures and programmes related to youth participation are designed for this age group.

Institutions of representative democracy

Constitutional structure

The Republic of Slovenia is a parliamentary democracy: it is a constitutional republic with a centralized form of government.

Head of state

The head of state is the President of the Republic, who is directly elected and holds only ceremonial powers.

Legislative authority

Slovenia has a bicameral parliament composed of the National Assembly (Državni zbor; or lower house) and the National Council (Državni svet; or upper house). The National Assembly has 90 deputies and serves as the main legislative chamber, while the National Council has 40 members representing social, economic, professional and local interests, and has minor legislative powers.

Executive authority

The executive authority in the country is the Government headed by the Prime Minister with a team of ministers. The Prime Minister and the ministers are elected by and responsible to the National Assembly.

Municipalities

Slovenia does not have regions. At the local level, there are 212 municipalities, each with a directly elected mayor as the executive branch, and a directly elected municipal council as the legislative branch of local government.

Main legal principles concerning elections

Elections in Slovenia are based on free universal suffrage by secret ballot. The right to elect a candidate, or active right, and the right to run for an office, or passive right, are optional (that is, not mandatory). Voters have many modalities of voting at their disposal: general voting (at the polling station), early voting (at a special polling station), postal voting (for voters in care in special facilities, hospitals or penal institutions), voting outside the district of permanent residence, conventional voting at home for citizens unable to visit polling stations, and voting from abroad.

5.2 Youth participation in representative democracy

Young people as voters

Voting age limit

The age limit for voting in all elections (European, national, local and presidential) and referendums is set at 18 years old.

Imminent plans to lower the voting age limit

There are no plans at this time to lower the voting age limit.

Special provisions

There are no special provisions for young people in the electoral laws/rules. No legislation aims at facilitating voting among specific groups of young people.

Turnout

There is no data collection on youth electoral turnout, as the State Election Commission does not record any data on youth participation in elections.

According to the World Values Survey Wave 6: 2010-2014, 36.8% of individuals aged 29 or below always vote in national elections while 33.3% always vote in the local elections.

Young people as political representatives

Members of political parties

Young people can become members of political parties' youth organisations at the age of 15. As defined in the Political Parties Act (Zakon o političnih strankah), when under-age, a young person can become a member of a political party with the written consent of their legal representative.

Candidacy

The age limit on candidates running for office in Slovenia is 18 years old. There are no quotas or reserved seats for young candidates at any level, and there are no provisions aiming to facilitate young people to stand for political functions.

Elected representatives

The average age of the elected representatives in the current term of the National Assembly is 48 years old. As of 1 December 2016, the proportion of young MPs in the National Assembly was 4.44% (four out of 90 MPs). No function within the representative assembly is explicitly reserved for young people.

5.3 Youth representation bodies

Youth parliament

There is no youth parliament in Slovenia. There is a Children's Parliament (Otroški parlament), a body that includes representation from children (primary school pupils).

Youth councils and/or youth advisory boards

The National Youth Council of Slovenia

Structure

The top-level legal frameworks establishing youth councils and other youth organisations in Slovenia are the Public Interest in Youth Sector Act (Zakon o javnem interesu v mladinskem sektorju) and the Youth Council Act (Zakon o mladinskih svetih), both of which define the National Youth Council of Slovenia (Mladinski svet Slovenije) as a voluntary association of national youth organisations with the status of an organisation in the public interest of the youth sector. Apart from a nation-level youth council, local communities' youth councils are also envisioned, but they have been set up only in a few local settings. Youth councils are not part of the country's fundamental institutions as mentioned in the constitution.

Composition

The National Youth Council of Slovenia has 12 full member organisations and two associated member organisations (2 November 2016). It is accountable to its member organisations and composed of an assembly, a supervisory board and a board. The

assembly is composed of two representatives from each of the 12 full-member organisations and a president of the National Youth Council. The Assembly meets at least twice per year. For the supervisory board and board positions, elections are held every two years. An individual can serve up to three consecutive terms and must not be older than 33 years of age on election day. The supervisory board meets at least once a year. Candidates for elected office can be proposed by member organisations, and the selection process is fully in the domain of member organisations. Nominations for board membership include written support for candidacy by at least four member organisations in addition to the organisation proposing the candidate. Elections are held by secret ballot. Public measures for facilitating greater inclusiveness or diversity do not exist.

Role and responsibilities

The National Youth Council defends the interests of young people and promotes youth participation in the formulation of policies that have a significant impact on their lives and work. In a narrower sense, it strives to improve the situation of young people as a specific social group. It encourages the development of voluntary organising by young people and seeks to strengthen the activity of youth organisations, irrespective of their different interests and ideological or political orientation. The National Youth Council aims to encourage the development of youth organisations as an instrument for active participation by young people in public life at all levels.

The National Youth Council's responsibilities are:

- the creation of youth policies
- youth advocacy
- cooperation with government institutions
- international cooperation
- preparation of various trainings and educational materials
- promotion of volunteering
- cooperation with academia
- providing information
- coordination of youth councils
- statutory activities and other activities for member organisations
- implementation of different projects.

The Council's role in policy-making:

- under the Youth Council Act and the Public Interest in Youth Sector Act, the National Youth Council is involved in a civil dialogue
- participation in the framework for the Council of the Government for Youth
- individual cooperation with the Ministries.

Funding

The National Youth Council receives public funding. Its resources are acquired from membership fees and other contributions from member organisations, the state budget and the budgets of local communities, property rights and donations, as well as other sources. The main funders are the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth, the National Agency of the programme Erasmus+: Youth in Action and the European Youth Foundation. When using funds, the National Youth Council is accountable to the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth.

Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth

Structure

In 2009, the Slovenian Government established the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth (Svet Vlade RS za mladino). The Council is not one of the country's fundamental institutions mentioned in the constitution.

The Office for Youth performs professional, organisational and administrative tasks for the Council.

Some municipalities have a special body (e.g., committee, commission) for youth, where young people are involved and can participate. They connect local youth organisations and represent the basic structure for participation of young people in public affairs at local level.

Composition

The Council is comprised of representatives from youth organisations and various ministries on an equal basis. It is chaired by the Minister of Education, Science and Sport.

The Council has a president and 19 members, appointed by the principle of bipartite composition (balance between the government and the youth sector).

Representatives of youth organisations and associations:

- three representatives of the national youth organisations
- one representative of the National Youth Council of Slovenia
- one representative of the local community youth councils
- one representative of the Slovenian Student Union
- one representative of the Secondary-School Student Organisation of Slovenia
- one representative of youth organisations in the representative trade unions
- one representative of the youth centres
- one representative of other NGOs active in the youth field.

The representatives of the Government:

- Minister of Education, Science and Sport as the President
- one representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
- one representative of the Ministry of Culture
- one representative of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
- one representative of the Ministry of Public Administration
- one representative of the Ministry of Health
- one representative of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning
- one representative of the Office of the Prime Minister
- one representative of the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy
- one representative of the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth.

The Council meets at least quarterly.

Role and responsibilities

The Council's work is regulated in the Rules of Procedure of the Council of the Government for Youth (Poslovnik Sveta Vlade RS za mladino). The Council is a consultative body that proposes measures and monitors the consideration of youth interests in various public policies at national level. The Council gives the Government and the responsible ministries incentives and suggestions for the regulation of youth matters and, in particular, promotes youth participation in these processes.

The Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth is envisioned as performing the following tasks (see Article 8 of the Public Interest in Youth Sector Act):

- to monitor, determine and assess the situation of youth in society
- to monitor and assess the consideration of the proposals on youth that relate to social changes
- propose measures in the youth sector and monitor the implementation of interests of youth in other policies at a national level
- to consider the proposals of acts and other regulations and measures of the Government relating to the field of youth work, youth policies and the life of youth in general, and give opinions on the act proposals
- to discuss current issues relating to youth and give opinions as to the competency of institutions on these issues
- give incentives and proposals for settling particular youth
- give proposals and recommendations relating to financing youth activities
- to consider the trends of programming and financial planning for youth organisations and other organisations participating in the youth sector
- to give the Government and the competent ministries proposals, incentives and recommendations for implementing the commitment towards strengthening the youth dimension in particular sectoral public policies
- stimulate the participation of youth in various consulting and decision-making bodies at national and local levels.

The activities of the Council are funded by the budget of the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth.

Higher education student union(s)

Slovenian Student Union (Študentska organizacija Slovenije)

Structure

Different member organisations are operating within the Slovenian Student Union (Študentska organizacija Slovenije) including the student organisations of three Slovenian universities (the Student Organisation of the University of Ljubljana – Študentska organizacija Univerze v Ljubljani, the Student Organisation of the University of Maribor – Študentska organizacija Univerze v Mariboru and the Student Organisation of the University of Primorska – Študentska organizacija Univerze na Primorskem) and 52 (local) student clubs acting within the Association of Student Clubs of Slovenia (Zveza študentskih klubov Slovenije – ŠKIS). The Slovenian Student Union was established in 1994 on the basis of the Students Association Act (Zakon o skupnosti študentov). The supreme legislation governing the Slovenian Student Union is the Student Constitution (Študentska ustava). It serves as the fundamental legislation of the self-governing community of students in Slovenia, which determines the democratic foundations for the functioning of the Slovenian Student Union. The main organs in the operation of the Slovenian Student Union are the Assembly, the Presidency, the Supervisory Commission and the Tribunal. According to the Students Association Act, the Slovenian Student Union is independent and autonomous, acting without any other public body supervising it.

Composition

The Assembly of the Slovenian Student Union consists of 127 members, and is divided into a convention and a council. The Presidency and Tribunal have nine members, while the Supervisory Commission consists of eight members. Assembly and Supervisory Commission members are elected to two-year terms, while Presidency members serve for one year.

The Slovenian Student Union Presidency consists of the president of the Slovenian Student Union, the presidents of the executive authority of each of the students' organisations of the University, the presidents of the Council of Student Organisations of Local Communities, one representative from each university students' organisation and one representative from the Council of Student Organisations of Local Communities.

The Supervisory Commission consists of two chosen/elected representatives from the student organisations of the three universities and the Council of Student Organisations of Local Communities. The same condition applies to the Student Union's Tribunal.

The Assembly is in session once or twice per year, although the Supervisory Commission is in regular session about once a month, and the Presidency is in regular session once a week (except in the summer). The Tribunal meets only if necessary.

There are no public measures or guidelines facilitating greater inclusiveness and diversity.

Role and responsibilities

The Slovenian Student Union is the main organisation of all students in Slovenia, and represents the interests of more than 100 000 students in Slovenian universities, colleges, high schools, vocational schools and higher education institutions abroad.

Activities of the Slovenian Student Union are to:

- receive, organise and implement programmes of interest and extracurricular activities of students in different fields in accordance with national programmes of higher education

- receive, organise and implement programmes affecting the socio-economic status of students

- provide advocacy for quality and affordable higher education in Slovenia

- provide conditions for the operation and development of extracurricular forms of student grouping

- ensure the participation of students in the management of local affairs, which are self-governed by municipalities, in dealing with areas affecting the life and work of students

- enable an impact of students in the management of public affairs and in the work of state and other bodies

- enable students to have an impact on the adoption of legal and other regulation governing the life and work of students

- appoint student representatives to organs and working bodies of international organisations and communities in which Slovenia is a member

- ensure the participation of student representatives in decision-making and management of higher education bodies that are obliged to cooperate

- carry out economic activities

- provide advocacy for student positions on social issues

- perform other tasks and achieve other goals set by the student constitution and other legislation adopted on the basis of the student constitution.

The 6th and 7th Articles of the Students Association Act establish the connection between the Slovenian Student Union and the state. The Government formed the Government Council for Student Affairs, where all legal acts relevant to students are debated. The Slovenian Student Union must be informed when the Government is preparing a new act that is relevant to students. However, the Union's position is not binding to the Government. According to the Higher Education Act (Zakon o visokem šolstvu), the Slovenian Student Union names representatives for public bodies, such as the Council for Higher Education (Svet RS za visoko šolstvo) and the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (Nacionalna agencija za kakovost v visokem šolstvu–NAKVIS).

Funding

The Slovenian Student Union receives about 96% of funds for its operations from public finance. The vast majority of these funds (over 80%) come from concession fees (sredstva iz koncesijskih dajatev). This distinction is particularly important because this is not a pre-guaranteed amount, but rather one that varies with the amount of work (temporary and occasional jobs for pupils and students) performed by students.

When using public funds, the Slovenian Student Union is supervised by the Court of Audit (Računsko sodišče) and the Information Commissioner(Informacijski pooblaščenec).

School student union(s)

Secondary-School Student Organisation of Slovenia (Dijaška organizacija Slovenije)

Structure

The legal framework establishing the Secondary-School Student Organisation of Slovenia (Dijaška organizacija Slovenije – DOS) is the decree on activity of the Secondary-School Student Organisation of Slovenia, adopted by the Slovenian Student Union. The School Student Organisation is a permanent project of the Slovenian Student Union. Hence, the Students Association Act is the legal framework for its functioning. The main organs of DOS are:

- the Parliament, which serves as the pupils' representative organ and the highest organ of the DOS
- the Council, which ensures implementation of the Parliament's and other organs' decisions
- the Presidency, which is an executive organ accountable to the Parliament and the Council and exercises the annual work programme, and
- the Leader, who represents the DOS and coordinates the work of the DOS's main organs.

Composition

The Secondary-School Student Organisation is an organisation of all secondary-school pupils. Each secondary school in Slovenia with a status of a 'legal person' has a right to have one delegate in the Parliament. The number of all delegates is around 150. The first regular session of the Parliament was attended by 130 pupils, 90 of whom were school representatives. The delegates are appointed by the democratic functioning body of the student secondary-school community at the school level. Delegates are appointed for each session of the Parliament, which is held every three months. The Council consists of the vice president of the DOS and at least five councillors, while the Presidency consists of the president of the DOS and at least five Presidency members. There is a single Leader. The Council is in session every two months, while the presidency is in session at the request of the Leader or one of the Presidency members. There are no public measures or guidelines facilitating greater inclusion and diversity, nor are there measures for greater participation by pupils.

Role and responsibilities

The objectives of the Secondary-School Student Organisation are to:

- improve the material situation of pupils

- promote and protect the right of pupils

- ensure the participation of pupils in activities of interest

- consolidate and expand the impact of pupils on the curriculum, the learning process and the method of examinations in secondary schools

- provide interconnection and representation in the organs of the DOS

- encourage international cooperation by Slovenian pupils

- improve the quality of relations in secondary schools

- help pupils to be informed and to have an impact in civil society

- provide and secure the impact of pupils on issues related to their material and spiritual growth

- provide a school of democracy, ensure equality in secondary schools and defend equal opportunities for all

- have a commitment to a secular and ideologically-neutral school.

The DOS, as pupils' representative, has a seat in the government's council for youth (Svet vlade RS za mladino), where representatives of youth debate all changes in the youth policy area.

The Secondary-School Student Organisation's decisions are not binding for policy-makers.

Funding

The work of the DOS is supervised by the Slovenian Student Union Presidency. When using public funds, the Slovenian Student Union is supervised by the Court of Audit (Računsko sodišče) and the Information Commissioner (Informacijski pooblaščenec).

Other bodies

The MaMa Network (Mreža MaMa) is a network of Slovenian youth centres. Currently it has 45 member youth centres and operates as a private institute under the regulation of the Institutes Act (Zakon o zavodih) and the Public Interest in Youth Sector Act. MaMa is perceived as one of the most influential actors in the youth sector as it:

- connects all organisations performing youth centre activities or operating in the field of youth work in Slovenia

- represents common interests of members against the government sector and other persons

- regularly informs members and other interested public of all activities concerning youth, and works with them

- organises meetings and encourages communication and project interaction between members

- offers professional help to members

- ensures interaction between members of the MaMa club and young artists

- enables young artists to access the youth scene and supports their cooperation

- provides informal education for youth and youth workers

- encourages and promotes creative activities among youth within MaMa

- emphasizes principles of tolerance and cooperation, as well as social awareness among MaMa members and the wider public.

Bodies of the Network MaMa are the Council, the Expert Council, the Director, the Deputy Director (not mandatory) and the Assembly. The youth network MaMa is funded from membership fees, founders' contributions, sponsorships, subsidies, gifts and volunteering, grants, voluntary contributions, public and private tenders, payments for services and products, legacies and bequests, other resources in accordance with the law, and its own activities.

Membership criteria: the MaMa Network currently includes 45 members, which are youth centres or perform the activities of youth centres.

The most important achievements and impacts of Network MaMa have been:

- the realization of two two-day clubs MaMa with different workshops
- the successful implementation of programmes of active employment policy
- the confirmation of a quality standard in NGOs
- participation in an international project with Demo Finland,
- the launching of the strategic partnership Boost your Possibilities,
- the implementation of the first group EVS project There is a World Outside your Window (which included 1000 young people, 20 youth centres, ten youth centre hostels, and 30 organisations), and
- the successful organisation and implementation of several Structured Dialogue projects (e.g., the conference with the Slovenian European Commissioner Violeta Bulc, with the inclusion of more than 380 young people and 50 organisations).

5.4 Young people's participation in policy-making

Formal Mechanisms of Consultation

Existence of legal provisions

In May 2010, the Public Interest in Youth Sector Act (Zakon o javnem interesu v mladinskem sektorju) was adopted. It defines the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth as a consulting body that will offer assistance in making decisions on matters pertaining to youth and the youth sector (see Article 8). The Council of the Government for Youth offers the possibility of giving the Government and the relevant ministries proposals, incentives and recommendations for implementing the commitment to strengthening the youth dimension in particular sectoral public policies.

The Students Association Act (Zakon o skupnosti študentov), which was adopted by the National Assembly in 1994, ensures in Article 6 the participation of the representatives of student organisations in all matters relating to the interest of students on national and local levels. The Students Association Act was also the legal basis for the government decision to establish a Government Council for Students Affairs.

The Youth Councils Act (Zakon o mladinskih svetih) provides opportunities for the participation of young people in adopting statutory and other regulations having an impact on the life and work of young people (see Article 5).

Levels of consultation, Consultation methods, Regularity of consultations

The **Council of the Government for Youth** is a consultative body for youth-related issues at national level. As an expert advisory body of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, it provides assistance in decision-making processes that cover student issues (see Chapter 5.3, Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth). Young people can also be consulted at local level, as some municipalities have a special body (e.g., committee or commission) for Youth, wherein young people are involved and can participate. The Council of the Government for Youth adopts positions or decisions by order of the agenda. A decision is adopted if it secures the votes of a majority of the members from the representatives of youth organisations and associations, and the majority of the representatives from the Government. The Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth meets at least quarterly, with meetings convened and chaired by the President of the Council.

Young people are also officially consulted at the **Council of the Government for Student Affairs** (national level). The Council for Student Affairs discusses and offers opinion on the material relating to the establishment and implementation of policies related to student issues. The Council of the Government for Student Affairs (Svet Vlade RS za študentska vprašanja) also adopts positions or decisions by order of the agenda. The decision is adopted if a majority of the members present vote for it. The Council of the Government for Student Affairs usually meets every month, or at least once every two months.

In 2010, the Public Interest in the Youth Sector Act was adopted, which defines the structured dialogue and its importance in shaping youth policy at the national and local levels. Structured dialogue is an open, transparent, long-term, continuous and systematic dialogue between young people and decision-makers at national and local levels in the youth sector. With this definition, the structured dialogue in Slovenia is not only linked to political debates and dialogue related to European cooperation in the field of youth, but it is a wider process of consultations with young people. The National Youth programme 2013–2022 defines the development of sustainable mechanisms for consultations with young people as one of the most important objectives, and emphasises structured dialogue as an important part of these consultations. To achieve these objectives, the Office of Youth has introduced the following instruments:

- Administrative support for the Government Council for Youth, including prior preparation of the Public Interest in Youth Sector Act, which defined the legal basis for its functioning
- Introducing the Mlad.si Portal, which is a website for encouraging members of the youth sector to participate in the shaping of youth policy
- A yearly contract with the Youth Council of Slovenia to implement the structured dialogue processes on national, regional and local levels
- Regional consultations with local key actors in youth policy-making, including young people, youth organisations, youth centres and decision-makers from local and national levels.

The main actor of the structured dialogue in Slovenia is the Youth Council of Slovenia. With financial support from the Office for Youth, the Youth Council of Slovenia uses various methods for consultation with young people, namely:

- local consultations/workshops with young people on a relevant topic held in different cities across Slovenia. The conclusions of these local consultations serve as a basis for the development of further activities on the national level
- a national conference, where young people, along with professionals from different areas of expertise, discuss topics and conclusions from the local consultations, and at which a final document that is usually presented at the European youth conference, and which presents a resolution about a discussed issue, is formed
- an online questionnaire for young people, in which different opinions from a wider group of young people are collected and analysed.

Actors

Youth actors

Within the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth, representatives of the following youth organisations defend the youth's interest (see Chapter 5.3 for more information on the Council of the Government of Republic of Slovenia for Youth):

- National youth organisations
- National Youth Council of Slovenia
- Slovenian Student Union
- Secondary-School Student Organisation of Slovenia
- youth organisations in the representative trade unions
- youth centres
- the local community youth councils, and
- other NGOs active in the youth field.

Within the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Student Affairs, representatives of the following actors defend the interests of students and youth:

- Slovenian Student Union
- Student Council of the University of Ljubljana

- Student Council of the University of Maribor
- Student Council of the University of Primorska, and
- Student Council of the University of Nova Gorica.

The national preparatory process for the implementation of the **structured dialogue** at the EU level is led by the Youth Council of Slovenia. The National Steering Committee guides the process. The Committee is composed of representatives of the following youth actors: Youth Council of Slovenia and the Network MaMa.

Specific target groups

There is no distinct provision for specific target groups. However, the Resolution of the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013–2022) underlines the need to increase political and social participation among youth with fewer opportunities.

For the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Student Affairs, the target group are students.

Public authorities

The Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth set up four different working groups to discuss the most relevant topics for the development of youth policy in Slovenia. Key public authorities, represented in those working groups are:

- the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth (that provides organisational and administrative tasks for the Council)
- the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
- the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
- the Ministry of Interior
- the Ministry of Public Administration
- the Ministry of Justice, and
- the Ministry of Finance.

Within the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Student Affairs the following public actors have their representatives:

- the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
- the Ministry of Culture
- the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
- the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, the Ministry of Health
- the Ministry of Finance
- the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning
- the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology
- the Ministry of Infrastructure, and
- the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth.

Within the process of the **structured dialogue,** the National Steering Committee that guides the process is composed of the following public actors:

- the National Agency of the programme Erasmus+: Youth in Action
- the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth
- the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, and
- the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

Additional stakeholders

Besides an extensive list of relevant governmental and non-governmental actors that participate in listed national consultation processes, youth organizations acting at local level demonstrate relevance in the policy-making process at the level of municipalities. In accordance with the Youth Council Act, the local community youth councils provide opportunities for the participation in making policies having an impact on the life and work of young people (see Article 5). However, local community youth councils have been set up only in a few local settings.

Information on the extent of youth participation

The extent of youth participation in policy-making processes is not measured separately. On the basis of minutes of the meetings, we can establish participation levels in the meetings of the Council of the Government for Youth (zapisniki sej) and the Council of the Government for Student Affairs (zapisniki sej).

An example of good practice for structured dialogue is an open, transparent, long-term, continuous and systematic dialogue between youth and decision-makers at the national and local levels in the youth sector. The Youth Council of Slovenia strives to open a space for discussion and exchange of views between young people and decision-makers on local, national and European issues that concern young people, and to establish cooperation between young people, youth organisations and decision-makers in developing common youth policies in Slovenia.

Outcomes

Main outcomes, Public availability of outcomes

The following outcomes may be identified for the three main consultation processes:

The Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth

Minutes of the meetings (zapisniki sej) of the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth are available on the web-pages of the Office for Youth. The minutes provide information on concrete initiatives proposed by young people. Based on the minutes of the meetings, the role of youth in particular is to:

- present proposals (simplification of initiatives from young people to decision-makers, introduction of age-based quotas, promotion of dialogue)
- present the responsibility of the work of ministries in the field of youth
- listen to reports on the implementation of programmes by the national authorities
- get information about the preparation of amendments to laws concerning youth in Slovenia.

The Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Student Affairs

Minutes of the meetings (zapisniki) of the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Student Affairs are available on the web-pages of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. Based on the minutes of the meetings, the role of youth in the Council is to:

- propose a review of activities in the policy areas that are of interest to students
- propose amendments to legislation in favour of greater rights for students (e.g., that a student who graduates retains the right of student status until the end of the academic year)
- suggest debate on all matters relating to students
- hear reporting on the implementation of policies relating to students.

Structured dialogue

The National Youth Council of Slovenia has also established a web-based platform, Pobuda.si, which allows young people to become actively involved in decision-making processes. In cooperation with other actors from the youth sector, the Youth Council of Slovenia organised a number of events of structured dialogue in Slovenia (more about these events may be learned at the website mlad.si). As a result, two national web-pages available for encouraging consultations among young people and public authorities have been set-up:

- 'Mlad.si' ('You are young')
- 'Pobuda.si' ('Initiative').

Mlad.si Portal

Mlad.si is a youth information and communication system. The portal is intended for gathering relevant information for the youth sector and presenting it in one place. These include initiatives and proposals for youth policy-making. It was developed by the Office for Youth to strengthen the supportive environment by providing information. Editorial policy is determined by the Office for Youth and Youth Network MaMa; the monitoring and editorial committees are intersectoral, and the proposals are also drafted and approved by the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth. Due to the heightened level of promotion for the portal, the number of users increased significantly in 2015, from 621 active users in January 2015 to 2 282 active users in January 2016.

Pobuda.si Portal

Pobuda.si is a portal developed by the National Youth Council, and is supported by the Office for Youth. Its purpose is to expand opportunities for young people to communicate with decision-makers, to inform young people and the general public about structured dialogue as an integral part of youth policy, and to promote structured dialogue as a mechanism for the integration of young people. It promotes active citizenship, and participation and inclusion among young people. It also aims at involving young people through a variety of youth organisations and educational institutions (high schools, colleges). Through the on-line portal, young people can propose activities, actions, and measures to different actors and participate in decision-making processes. The portal is divided into three levels, depending on whom the initiative addresses: local stakeholders, national stakeholders or European institutions. In 2014, more than 10 thousand young people were informed about the portal; among them, 680 participated directly in the promotion activities. There are 165 young people registered in the portal with 163 initiatives addressed to national authorities and 87 initiatives addressed to local authorities. In addition, there are 500 initiatives sent in writing to the Youth Council of Slovenia.

Concrete results of the structured dialogue in the period 2010–2015 were:

- More than 1 thousand young people and at least 100 decision-makers were involved in the projects involving consultations among young people and decision-makers

- Young people's 104 initiatives for the local level and 12 opinions for the national level about necessary measures were presented to respective decision-makers. Among others, the initiative 'First Challenge', which aimed to provide jobs for unemployed young people, was initiated by young people and implemented by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs, and Equal Opportunities

- The foundations for a continued dialogue between young people and decision-makers on the local level were established

- The Youth Council of Slovenia has been recognised by decision-makers from the national and local levels as a competent dialogue partner.

Another important result is a set of programmatic documents from the National Youth Council of Slovenia. They are 'umbrella' documents that identify the key issues in young people's participation in decision-making processes. In 2011, the National Youth Council issued a policy paper: 'Youth Participation' (Programski dokument: Participacija mladih). The purpose of the policy paper was to define the term 'youth participation' and its areas, to determine its meaning, to lay out problems and to propose measures that can improve youth participation and the conditions needed for it. In the document, the National Youth Council appealed to all Ministries to work in the youth field, so as to provide youth participation in the decision-making processes. In addition, the Ministries could have various possibilities, e.g., to regularly include youth representatives in their departments in which the preparation of regulation is taking place.

Large-scale initiatives for dialogue or debate between public institutions and young people

In addition to the already explained structured dialogue that serves as an open, transparent, long-term, continuous and systematic dialogue between the youth and decision-makers at national and local levels in the youth sector, the following large-scale dialogues have also taken place:

- **'Youth deciding' (2015–2016)**

In the period from 2015 to 2016, the project 'Youth deciding' (Mladi odloča(j)mo) was held throughout Slovenia. Meetings with young people were prepared in cooperation with youth organisations and educational institutions (secondary schools, universities). Youth coaches informed young people about the institutions and the EU's work in the field of youth, and encouraged young people to reflect and express their views. With the guided discussion they wished to reach the challenges and opportunities for the active participation of young people, both locally and nationally.

In addition, they invited young ambassadors (mlade ambasadorje), who were (are) responsible for implementing and promoting dialogue between young people and decision-makers. The purpose of this project was to establish a stronger partnership between youth and local authorities, and to connect the youth sector with national decision-makers. The last event of this project was a national conference, attended by youth, decision-makers from all three levels and the experts from the field of youth. At the conference, national regulations, which were designed by youth in cooperation with experts, were introduced.

- **'Give Voice' (2014–2015)**

The project consisted of three sections. Two aimed at creating a sustainable structured dialogue and representing a set of support mechanisms, while the third represented consultations with young people. The concrete results were:

- training for trainers and multipliers in the field of structured dialogue

- consultations with young people on the current topics within the process of structured dialogue at the EU level (20 local events and working meetings with youth representatives from (national) youth organisations)

- a sustainable online platform for communication between youth and political decision-makers.

- **'Youth Dialogue 2.0: Including!' (2013–2014)**

The national project of structured dialogue, 'Youth Dialogue 2.0: Including!', established space, possibilities and support for young people from all over Slovenia to actively participate in discussions in the third cycle of structured dialogue. These discussions were on topics of social inclusion through youth work. The most crucial challenges concerning social inclusion that young people face in local communities were addressed. The results were published in a special publication of the project and were distributed nationally. Ten local events and a national meeting were organised within the scope of the project.

- **'Youth Dialogue 2.1: Include yourself! (2013–2014)'**

The objective of the national project of structured dialogue, 'Include yourself!' (Vklopi se), was to provide space, opportunity and support for young people throughout Slovenia to actively participate in a national discussion on topics of the third cycle of the structured dialogue. These discussions outlined the theme of social inclusion of young people, with emphasis on youth employment. The requested amount for funding was 23 710 euros.

- **'Facing Youth' (2014–2015)**

The main objectives of the project were to raise awareness about the structured dialogue process by enhancing the visibility and promotion of the process, and to include more people from different backgrounds who had not yet taken part in the structured dialogue process.

Concrete results of the project were:

- ten face-to-face street activities addressing young people and presenting them the process of structured dialogue

- a video presentation of the structured dialogue

- a training module on structured dialogue and the process of consultation with young people for multipliers of the structured dialogue (youth leaders, youth workers, young activists, youth trainers)

- 'initiatives postcards' as space and opportunity to address the needs, proposals and recommendations of young people, and which were sent to the relevant stakeholders

- a consultative seminar on youth empowerment for addressing topics, such as youth participation or youth rights within the youth sector.

- **'Youth About Environment' (2012–2013)**

The national project 'Youth About Environment' was a project of structured dialogue on environment issues between youth organisations, youth and decision-makers from local and national levels. The main goal of the project was to open space for the possibility where young people from local communities from all parts of Slovenia could participate actively, express their voice to decision-makers and others interested in the environmental field, and show that they wanted to be involved with and influence youth politics. During the project, young people prepared and organised 12 local meetings in different places throughout Slovenia, where more than 230 young people participated, with the focus on discussions about crucial challenges that they were facing in their local communities regarding environmental topics. After all local activities, a national event took place in Velenje, where young people formed five measures and presented them to national decision-makers.

5.5 National strategy to increase youth participation

Existence of a national strategy to increase young people's political and civil society participation

There is no specific strategy for increasing youth participation. Until recently, youth participation in Slovenia was relatively unregulated by the law. The National Programme for Youth 2013–2022, adopted in 2013 by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, covered all the important areas, so that there was no need for specific sectoral strategies. One of the key directions of the National Programme was to ensure the participation of young people in (for them) important public policies in all areas of society, so that they had real influence on the decisions. Thus, the measures to increase political and civil society participation among youth are included in the National Programme for Youth. The participation issue was addressed in the fifth priority field, entitled 'Youth and Society and the Meaning of the Youth Sector' (Mladi in družba ter pomen mladinskega sektorja), which is further divided into priority subfields. The validity of the document expires in 2022.

There was also a Programme for Children and Youth 2006–2016 (Program za otroke in mladino 2006–2016 (POM)). The programme had two objectives: increasing the political engagement level of young people, and promote participation (i.e., access to information) and learning about participation. These objectives were implemented through different strategies.

Scope and contents

The National Programme for Youth

One of the objectives in the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 is 'promoting the participation and representation of young women and men' (6.2.1). The criterion to meet this objective is to increase the participation of young people in elections at all levels. At the same time, the goal is to reduce the proportion of young people (aged 18 to 29 years old) who do not vote in elections at all levels (e.g., 39.7% of those in 2008 in Slovenia, while the EU average was 28.2% according to the EVS). The expected developmental impact is increased participation of young people in the management of social affairs.

There are five main priority subsections:

1. **Promoting conventional political participation among young people, taking into account gender balance**. Funding will be provided within the available budget of the Republic of Slovenia and the budget of local communities. Ensuring the participation of young people is key to a successful and constructive involvement of young people in the life of society. With the participation of young people, they also learn about democracy and the functioning of the current political system, and acquire the skills needed for a functioning democracy, such as consultation, negotiation, lobbying, etc. With their own participation in the decision-making processes in childhood and early youth, they can also gain an idea as to how public (political) decision-making takes place. In any case, the participation of young people is more than just learning, and young people need to actually have a say in decision-making.
2. **Promoting and supporting unconventional political participation among young people**. Funding will be provided within the available budget of the Republic of Slovenia and the budget of local communities. The legislation governs various options for the active participation of young people in the management of public affairs that young people do not use because of a lack of interest or lack of information. Therefore, it is necessary to pay special attention to promoting awareness, inform young people and encourage their active participation in the following already-established forms of participation:
    - the possibility of active participation in the legislative process (Resolution on Legislative Regulation; predlagamvladi.si, E-government), where there are no restrictions on participation;
    - different forms of organisation and types of organisations in the youth sector, which brings together young people (youth centres, local community youth councils and national youth organisations).

3 **Promoting and strengthening permanent mechanisms of consultation with young people**. Funding will be provided within the available budget of the Republic of Slovenia and the budget of local communities. In this sense, structured dialogue is important. The aim of the structured dialogue is thus to deepen cooperation between young people and policy-makers. It should also strengthen consultation with young people and youth organisations at all levels, so that it will benefit all stakeholders: youth organisations, youth, youth researchers and (public) policy makers.

4 **Promoting the importance of youth participation**. Funding will be provided within the available budget of the Republic of Slovenia. One of the key barriers to participation in youth organisations and for youth participation is relatively weak information about the possibilities of participation. This priority subsection also covers the need and usefulness of promoting active citizenship.

5 **Strengthening of information and consultation in the youth sector**. Funding will be provided within the available budget of the Republic of Slovenia. Information is one of the key areas that affect the achievement of autonomy by young people and their active participation in society. Informing young people also

includes the participation of youth organisations and other NGOs in the education system and at the workplace, and public involvement in decisions by various mechanisms (political parties, standing as a candidate in elections, directly or indirectly communicating with decision-makers).

Responsible authority for the implementation of the strategy

Different authorities are responsible for the implementation of the measures within the Resolution of the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022. The main two holders of the aforementioned priority subfields are the Ministry of the Interior and the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth. The holders of the measure implement the provision in cooperation with different institutions that operate in the field of the youth sector (e.g., National Youth Council of Slovenia, local youth councils). Holders for each measure are:

1. **Promoting conventional political participation among young people, taking into account gender balance** – holder is the Ministry of the Interior. Other cooperating authorities are the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth, the local communities and the youth sector.
2. **Promoting and supporting unconventional political participation among young people** – holder is the Ministry of the Interior. Other cooperating authorities are the Office for Youth, the local communities and the youth sector.
3. **Promoting and strengthening permanent mechanisms of consultation with young people** – holder is the Office for Youth. Other cooperating actors include the National Youth Council of Slovenia, local community youth councils, the youth sector and youth communities.
4. **Promoting the importance of youth participation** – holder is the Office for Youth. Other cooperating actors are the youth sector and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.
5. **Strengthening of information and consultation in the youth sector** – holder is the Office for Youth. Other cooperating actor is the youth sector.

Holder of the measures under the Programme for Children and Youth 2006–2016 (POM) are the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the School Student Organisation of Slovenia.

Revisions/Updates

The National Programme for Youth covers a period of nine years, and is accompanied by the 'Implementation Plans' (adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia). The Implementation Plans follow the overall objectives and guidelines of the Programme with specific measures.

The Action plan 2016–2017 (Izvedbeni načrt 2016–2017) is now in place. Two new measures were introduced by the Ministry of Public Administration: first, preparation of the web manual for youth on elections and referendums (Spletni priročnik za mlade na temo volitev in referendumov), and second, preparation of the module and implementation of lectures on elections and referendums (Priprava modula in izvedba predavanj na temo volitev in referendumov).

In addition to the third priority subfield, one new measure was introduced: project Growing Together 2016 (Rastimo skupaj 2016).

The enforcement of Portal VEM-youth (Portal VEM-mladi) was introduced as the new instrument of the fifth priority subfield. The aim of this measure is to enable young people to access all of the information at one e-point. The holder of both measures is the Office for Youth.

5.6 Supporting youth organisations

Legal/policy framework for the functioning and development of youth organisations

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

The National Youth Council of Slovenia is an umbrella youth organisation that includes 14 youth NGOs (12 full and two associate members). It represents youth interest in relation to national and international authorities. The National Youth Council is regulated by the Youth Council Act. This Act regulates the status, operation, activities and financing of the National Youth Council of Slovenia and local community youth councils. The main principles of unification for the National Youth Council and for the local youth councils are set out in the third paragraph of Article 2, which stipulates that association in the National Youth Council of Slovenia and local community youth councils shall be based on the principles of freedom of association, equality and mutual respect of autonomy of every youth organisation. According to the same piece of legislation, the National Youth Council of Slovenia and local community youth councils represent the interests of youth organisations, which are their members.

The National Youth Organisation is a voluntary organisation whose majority leadership and membership represents young people aged between 14 and 29 years old. It is organised and operates on a national level, and has a large number of members organised into local units. Its purpose is to represent and develop the interests of young people, pursue youth work in accordance with the statutes of the organisation and encourage young people's integration and participation in society. In Slovenia there are 13 national youth organisations with the status of working in the public interest:

1. Združenje slovenskih katoliških skavtinj in skavtov
2. Slovenska demokratska mladina SDM
3. Društvo mladinski ceh
4. Zveza študentskih klubov Slovenije
5. Mlada Slovenija
6. Zveza tabornikov Slovenije
7. Društvo SKAM - Skupnost katoliške mladine
8. Mladi forum SD
9. Planinska zveza Slovenije, Mladinska komisija
10. Nova generacija SLS
11. Zveza slovenske podeželske mladine
12. Mladinska zveza Brez izgovora Slovenija
13. Gasilska zveza Slovenije – Youth Council

Public financial support

The issue of funding of Youth Councils is regulated in the Youth Council Act. Article 7 stipulates The National Youth Council and the local community youth councils shall obtain funds for their operation:

- from the budget of the Republic of Slovenia and the budgets of local communities based on a submitted programme

- with a membership fee

- from property rights

- with gifts and bequests

- from donations

- from own activities

- from any other sources.

Through its given status of operating in the public interest, an individual organisation has access to different instruments (including financial) in the youth sector. Public funds are obtained in the invitation to tender and a public call from the Office for Youth. The main support to youth organisations is carried out through a public tender for co-financing of the programmes in the youth sector (Articles 17–24 of the Public Interest in Youth Sector Act). The Public Interest in Youth Sector Act states in Article 17 that the programmes in the youth sector shall be co-financed based on the National Programme for Youth. The public call shall be used for the programmes in the youth sector implemented by:

- organisations in the youth sector with the status of organisations in the public interest in the youth sector
- youth councils
- public institutes operating in the youth sector.

The financial sources shall be allocated to the programmes, which are assessed or evaluated the highest in the selection procedure.

For co-financing the programmes in the youth sector at a local level, the provisions of the Public Interest in Youth Sector Act shall apply *mutatis mutandis*. Funding at the local level is less systematic and depends 'on the good will' of decision-makers in each local community. Invitations to tender are usually for youth organisations. It then depends on how much the local community's youth policies are developed; whether the invitation to tender aims to achieve a specific goal or just supports the activities of youth organisations in general.

The Youth Council Act enables financial support for local youth councils. Annually, an officially published tender for NGO's provides support for programmes and projects in the field of youth participation.

Initiatives to increase the diversity of participants

In accordance with the National Programme for Youth, the authorities have set the goal to increase social inclusion of youth with fewer opportunities. However, there is no specific provision for including underrepresented groups (e.g., youth Roma, the disabled) in the youth organisations.

There are some individual 'missions' to contribute to building a cohesive society by integrating socially excluded groups. For example, the 'Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo Mesto' (Društvo za razvijanje prostovoljnega dela Novo mesto) is including Roma children. The youth centre Infopekaincluded young migrants as co-creators of the programme so that they shared their stories.

5.7 "Learning to participate" through formal, non-formal and informal learning

Policy Framework

The National Programme for Youth sets as one of the major goals of organisations in the youth sector the promotion of participation. Social engagement and youth participation can be improved by increasing the participation of organisations in the youth sector or by participating in youth work. This represents a 'planned programme' (in particular, an experiential, non-formal education, as suggested in the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022).

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport allocates resources for the project on 'strengthening social and civic competences of professionals' in two substantive areas: 'the challenges of intercultural coexistence' (Izzivi medkulturnega sobivanja) and 'only with others we are' (Le z drugimi smo). The first project focuses on a special target group. The aim of the project is the preparation of the programme of work with immigrant children. There are seven themes, among which are: 1. Integration of immigrants and their families in Slovenia – the promotion of intercultural dialogue and the acceptance of differences, 2. Zero tolerance for violence, and 3. detection, management and resolution of conflicts; constructive and respectful communication.

Slovenia introduced important measures in the years just before the adoption of the Paris Declaration ('Declaration on promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education'). For this reason, Slovenia has made no policy developments in national education policies since the Paris Declaration.

Formal learning

At the upper secondary level, citizenship culture is implemented in 15 lessons per year in one grade of *gimnazija* (determined by the school schedule). It is cross-curricular, normally organised in the frame of so-called 'compulsory elective content'. Though 'open elective content' (OIV) is part of the curriculum, it is usually carried out in a less formal way. The OIV content is usually organised at the end of the school year or just before Christmas holidays, and are perceived as 'lighter' learning content, when the attention of students to the education process is poorer. Due to the small number of hours directly intended for citizenship education, teachers usually introduce civic education as a cross-curricular subject.

Unlike in Slovenian primary schools, citizenship education is not implemented in secondary schools as a separate subject. However, some fields of citizenship education are integrated with other subjects. For instance, sociology and foreign languages: culture and civilization and education for solidarity. One of the main aims of the subject 'Sociology' is that students develop the capability of empathy and tolerance of diversity, and so develop the capabilities for democratic citizenship. The subject has two levels; the first (elementary) level is carried out in 70 hours per school year, and the second ('mature') level is carried out in 210 hours in two school years. Through foreign languages, culture and civilization is an optional subject that is designed to be interdisciplinary. The feature of this subject is that it is carried out in two years (in second and third grade of secondary school; 210 hours). This enables development of personal, national and civic identity. The last one is 'Education for Solidarity', which is also an optional subject and is carried out in 70 hours per year. One of the main aims of this subject is to encourage a responsible, proactive and participating civic role for students.

At the primary level, citizenship education is, according to national curricula, integrated with Slovene language, foreign language, environmental education, social sciences, history and geography (ISCED 1); Slovene language, geography, history, foreign language and elective subjects (ISCED 2); Slovene language, foreign language, sociology, geography and history (ISCED 3).

Schools in Slovenia also represent an important source of information on participation, and a place where young people have the opportunity to gain practical experience in this area. For example, 'teacher guidelines in the subject curricula for history (in which citizenship education is integrated) state that teachers may use alternative forms of assessment, such as assessment of active participation in discussions and debates at class and school levels.'

Non-formal and informal learning

Non-formal and informal learning is not legally regulated. Youth organisations (councils) should, in accordance with the law, also carry out activities in the field of public information and international cooperation of young people. Although active in the field,

youth organisations struggle with the absence of a structured approach to citizenship education.

Participative structures within formal education setting

There is no top-level policy regulation or guidelines requiring or encouraging youth participation in decision-making in their educational institution.

In Slovenia, 'basic schools (ISCED 1 and 2) have autonomy in the way they determine the organisation of pupils, but it is common practice in the majority of schools for students to elect class representatives.' Basic schools (ISCED 1 and 2) also have 'autonomy in the way they determine the organisation of pupils, but it is common practice for the majority of schools to establish student councils, usually called the Children's Parliament, which is comprised of class representatives.'

The Basic School Act stipulates that all pupils (including therefore those at ISCED 1 and 2) from a particular class are members of a 'class unit' and, together with the teacher who is responsible for this particular class, they should discuss issues at class level. The curriculum specifies the number of discussion periods, and teachers are supposed to follow the official guidelines. No formal regulation exists for class councils at ISCED 1 and 2. Class community, the pupil's community and pupils' parliament are forms of pupils' organisation that aim at the active participation of pupils in the life and work of the school.

At faculties and universities student councils are set up for the purpose of co-decision, they both function as organs of the faculty or university, and the framework for their work is set by universities.

Measures to encourage student participation in the local community and wider society

Article 6 of the Public Interest in Youth Sector Act underlines in paragraph four that the bodies of the self-governing local community shall be responsible for implementing public interest in the youth sector at a local level. In addition, youth organisations and youth councils at local level have a legal background for the dialogue with the authorities of local communities. Youth councils of local communities are holders of youth work and youth policy, and furthermore are the entities of public interest in the youth sector at the local level.

The Institute for Youth Policy (Inštitut za mladinsko politiko) formulated the need for participation of youth organisations in a single local community. The local community has to enable youth to take part in the decision-making process. To encourage youth participation in the local community, authorities developed the web portal 'I recommend to the municipality' (predlagam-občini.si), which enables a higher participation level for youth in the local level processes. It is the instrument of direct integration of youth in the decision-making processes.

To encourage the performance of the youth council at the local level (Mladinski svet lokalnih skupnosti), the Youth Council of Slovenia and the Institute for Youth Policy introduced the new training form – Internet training for MSLS. Target groups for this portal are the youth councils of local communities that are at the initial phase of their operation, well-functioning youth councils that need new knowledge to upgrade their activities, and other youth organisations.

In the National Programme for Youth 2012–2021, the authorities stressed the problem that 11 Slovenian municipalities do not have youth infrastructure. That is why they set the priority subfield to improve the infrastructure activities in the youth sector. The holder of this measure is the Office for Youth in cooperation with local communities and the youth sector. One of the main areas for encouraging political participation among youth is to inform them. In addition, the priority field to encourage information and counselling in the youth sector is set in the National Programme for Youth. One of the indicators of this measure is the number of informational activities on the local level.

Partnerships between formal education providers, youth organisations and youth work providers

There are no partnerships between formal education providers, youth organisations and youth work providers, at least not any long-term partnerships. Cooperation takes place mostly in a way such that a youth organisation comes to the elementary or secondary school to present its work, programme or possibilities.

There are no policy initiatives aiming to encourage the formation of such partnerships. Lately, they were suggested at some cross-sectoral conferences (e.g., 'The Key to Inclusion').

There are no public funds available to support the formation of such partnerships.

Supporting non-formal learning initiatives focusing on social and civic competences

The Office for Youth has on this basis carried out three public tenders. The third public tender was the selection of the operations in the areas of social and civic competences of young people. The tender was published in 2013. Its purpose was to co-finance projects of NGOs in the youth sector that were dedicated to the development of the social and civic competences of each active participant. The main areas were support and implementation of unconventional political participation by young people and promotion or strengthening of permanent mechanisms of consultation with young people.

Currently there are no national programmes established to support non-formal learning on social and civic competences.

Quality assurance/quality guidelines for non-formal learning

In Slovenia, a comprehensive research project, 'Citizenship Education for the Multicultural and Globalised World,' was carried out between January 2010 and August 2011 (54). An interdisciplinary project group reviewed the content, concepts, approaches, strategies and institutional framework for citizenship education, in the light of contemporary theories on citizenship education and approaches used in other European countries. The research found that the Slovenian approach to citizenship education did not sufficiently address the general social and political environment or the issues that present the main challenges in the 21st century, and that teachers did not have sufficient skills. This research project resulted in proposals to bring contemporary global and multicultural content to the curricula of citizenship education and to provide new teaching materials.

In the publication 'Quality assurance recognition of non-formal and occasionally acquired knowledge' (Publikacija Zagotavljanje kakovosti priznavanja neformalno in priložnostno pridobljenega znanja), issued by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport in 2012, the evaluation of non-formal knowledge is divided into five steps. The first is identification, the second is documentation, the third is validation, the fourth is testing and the last one is recognition.

In the quality assurance/guidelines for recognition of non-formal learning, two legally regulated methods are used in Slovenia. In Slovenia, two basic purposes for the recognition of non-formal knowledge are established:

1. for further integration into existing formal education (to continue interrupted education, to change the direction of education, to continue education at a higher level of education than already achieved)

2. for recognition of professional qualifications (NVQ) in the labour market.

The process of recognition of non-formal learning takes place in several phases: identification, documentation, evaluation, recognition.

Educators' support

There are several possibilities offered to teachers, trainers and youth workers to upgrade expertise and the further development of their social and civic competences. CIVICT (Initiative for CIVIC application of ICT) organised a couple of events for teachers and students of citizenship education in the framework of the projects: Active Citizens for Europe through School (ACES), and Developing Active Citizens of Europe through School (dACES). Participants received the Certificate of Attendance after the event.

The Initiative for CIVIC application of ICT also issued pedagogical material, 'Selected topics in citizenship education' (Izbrane teme iz državljanske vzgoje), which was a comprehensive document to support educators teaching citizenship education.

On the website of CIVICT, an E-classroom on a freely accessible, open educational platform (Moodle) is available for teachers, trainers, non-formal education workers and youth workers in the field of citizenship education. The E-classroom has more than 55 topics, which are tailor-made for every individual group: elementary teachers, high school teachers and youth organisations. The project has been **labelled a 'success story'** by the European Commission.

The youth centre of Dravinja Valley is also offering some of the material on their website.

In 2015, the Youth Network MaMa cooperated as a project partner in 'Youth creating solutions for meaningful participation'. Within the project, four trainings for youth coaches were made in cooperating countries. The purpose of the project was to increase the qualifications of trainers in the field of youth integration, democracy and human rights. In Slovenia, the trainers were exploring the methods of informal learning and active participation among youth. The key outcome of this project was a final project publication.

5.8 Raising political awareness among young people

Information providers / counselling structures

Different youth organisations in Slovenia provide information on the importance of youth political participation so as to encourage it. For instance, MOVIT(The Institute for the Development of Youth Mobility) implements different projects on the topic of political participation among youth, e.g., the project 'I am voting for my EU' (Volim za svojo EU) in 2013. Besides this, they provide a free info service, Eurodesk, which offers information about European opportunities on the field of mobility, active participation of youth in society and activities to encourage youth innovation. Eurodesk also offers information through different channels on different levels, forms personal communication, web tools, regional info points to publications and printed materials.

The National Youth Council of Slovenia prepared the initiative of a voting programme for youth for the period 2011–2015 (Volilni program po meri mladih za obdobje 2011–2015). With this programme, the National Youth Council hopes to be a role model. The Youth Council of Slovenia also informs youth through their webpage about different projects, news and conferences; all important for active citizenship.

In the period 2009–2010, the Slovenian office for Youth developed and designed the Central Communications Youth Information Centre – Young.si (Mlad.si). The purpose of this web portal is the enforcement of a complete and sustainable system to inform the public about the youth sector. Target groups of this portal are youth, youth organisations, state and local community representatives and the general public.

The Youth Network MaMa also provides information about different youth projects, conferences, opportunities and news on youth on their website.

Youth-targeted information campaigns about democratic rights and democratic values

Also in 2014, the Slovenian Ombudsman, Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth, ZIPOM (the Centre for Advocating and Informing about Youth Rights) and the Student Organisation of Slovenia organised the Youth Participation Conference (Konferenca o participaciji otrok in mladostnikov) in cooperation with the National Assembly. The purpose of the conference was to encourage the discussion on the current situation and to further develop youth participation.

The project 'EU IS YOU' (EU SI TI) was implemented in 2014. The Government Communication Office, European Parliament Information Office in Slovenia and European Commission Representation in Slovenia tried to bring the EU institutions closer to youth and encourage youth to participate in the democratic processes. The main purpose of the project was to improve EU citizens' knowledge of civic rights, to encourage active citizenship among youth and increase their participation in the elections. The main outcome of the project is the guidebook 'EU Decision Making' (Popotniški vodnik Odločanje v EU).

Mentoring of trained youth workers has helped young Roma to acquire the necessary skills for active participation. In Slovenia, tensions between Roma and non-Roma communities are mostly based on preconceived ideas. With the support of the Slovenian Youth Ministry and the Youth in Action programme, two NGOs, the Society of Allies for Soft Landing–DZMP in Krsko (Slovenia) and Primi Piani in Trieste (Italy) involved six Roma and six non-Roma youngsters in the design and the shooting of 15 short documentaries on the life of young people from the Roma minority. Through active participation, peer-education and with the help of skilled mentors, they had gained basic knowledge of video production. The films were broadcast on public TV channels in Slovenia and in other European countries.

Promoting the intercultural dialogue among young people

The actual situation in society and the increase of 'hate speech' are two main reasons for the projects promoting tolerance and intercultural dialogue among youth. Promotion of intercultural dialogue is in general under the jurisdiction of youth organisations.

The project Youth Ambassadors of Intercultural Dialogue (Mladi ambasadorji medkulturnega dialoga) has been running since 2009. The main goal of the project is to create concrete opportunities for learning and coexistence between different cultures in a multicultural world, with the purpose of developing a sense of community and belonging. The major activity of the project is based on direct youth participation. The activities restore the circumstance for the quality informal learning of youth workers in the field of intercultural dialogue. The project has four content columns. The third one should be underlined: promotion, informing and dissemination of the project's outcomes. The emphasis is on the assurance of visibility of the project activities and on the visibility of youth and institutions integrated within the project on different levels. Four publications were issued within the project, two of them entitled 'Youth Ambassadors of Intercultural Dialogue', the third one, 'Hours of Intercultural Dialogue', and the fourth, 'Stories from a Coloured Pot'. The current websiteand Facebook profile were set up during the second project.

In 2015, the campaign 'No Hate Speech Movement' grew to become the movement 'Don't hate' (Ne sovraži). In Slovenia, the national board of this movement is under the jurisdiction of the Youth Council of Slovenia.

'Web eye' (Spletno oko) allows Slovenian users of the Internet to anonymously report hate speech and the distribution of materials depicting the sexual abuse of children. The website was created in 2006 with the financial support of the Safer Internet Programme. There is an established cooperation with the police. Spletno oko operates under the Safer Internet Centre, and is coordinated by the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, in collaboration with partners ARNES, the Slovenian Association of Friends of

Youth and the Youth Information and Counselling Centre of Slovenia (MISSS), It is financed by DG Connect (European Commission) and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

The Peace Institute – Institute for Contemporary Social and Political Studies (Mirovni inštitut – Inštitut za sodobne družbene in politične študije); the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana; the Ombudsman and the Multimedia Centre of RTV SLO were running the project 'With Speech on Hate Speech' (Z (od)govorom na sovražni govor). The aim of the project was to reduce the prevalence of hate speech in Slovenia, to empower vulnerable groups and to promote active citizenship. Within the framework of the project, the 'Anti-Hate Speech Council' (Svet za odziv na sovražni govor) was established. In the first year of its operation, it received around 50 initiatives (most of these associated with hate speech against refugees, migrants, the Islamic religion and the LGBT community).

On the 20th anniversary of the European Voluntary Service, Youth Network MaMa made aware the effects of mobility on the young people. One of the activities, 'Say Hello to Tolerance', was carried out in October 2016. Sixteen young people from eight different European countries participated. The main goal of the project was for the volunteers to gain real insight into the situation in society through fieldwork, and with that mark the promotion campaign in which they would spread the voice of tolerance.

Promoting transparent and youth-tailored public communication

There are no policy frameworks or guidelines on transparent public communication targeting young people, but there were some initiatives on this topic.

Slovenian youth organisations integrate into public decision-making by the structured dialogue (Strukturiran dialog). It is an instrument by which youth, youth organisations, youth councils and researchers from the field of youth actively integrate into political dialogue with authorities responsible for youth policy. The dialogue can be implemented on a local, regional, national or European level.

In May 2016, Youth Network Mama organised 'Training Relations and Public Communication in Youth Centres' (Odnosi in komuniciranje z javnostmi v mladinskih centrih). Through the training, 20 participants from different youth organisations learned about the theoretical basis and practical solutions in the field of communication's goals, tools and channels. Furthermore, each of them prepared a draft of communication's plan along the whole structure for their own project, which will be implemented by their organisations.

5.9 E-participation

Type of measure

There is no policy measure focusing on promoting young people's e-participation. There is also no act or strategy on this subject, nor has there been a public debate. This subject is not very well studied in Slovenia, and there are no guidelines as to how to demonstrate e-participation to young people, and especially how to educate them for proper use of IT (e.g., online social networks). Otherwise, non-conventional political participation (which includes e-participation, social networks, etc.) is part of the National Programme for Youth – second priority subsection: Promoting and supporting unconventional political participation of young people.

There are some projects from the organisations:

- In Slovenia, the leading role on the field of e-participation belongs to the Institute for Electronic Participation (INePA- Inštitut za elektronsko participacijo). The Institute is a professional, non-governmental and non-profit organisation, active in different areas of public policy, such as electronic participation (participation, cooperation and integration), digital democracy (electronic, internet, virtual and cybernetic democracy), electronic government, electronic administration and open

doors. Furthermore, the Institute also works on different projects that specifically include youth. One of these projects is DEEP-linking Youth 2015–2017. The core objective of this project is to explore how e-participation can foster active participation of youth in democratic life, including mapping existing youth mobility channels, developing online content and creating different analytic tools for monitoring. As mentioned on the project's website, one of the main outcomes will be the 'Digital Dashboard'. The latter could be used by policymakers to understand the concerns of youth and to take into account their perspectives in the policy-making process.

- Because of the low level of youth political participation, the Youth Council of Slovenia prepared a project 'Initiative.si: Youth for a Better Society' (Pobuda.si: Mladi za boljšo družbo). The key result of the project was, on the one hand, an interactive online portal, which promotes youth participation, and on the other the portal which enables youth to pass on their initiatives for improvement of their environment and situation.

A new tool available is Parlameter. Parlameter was produced within the Institute 'Today Is a New Day' (Inštitut Danes je nov dan), which focuses on digital political participation, transparency and control. With analysing ballots and transcripts of appearances, it facilitates monitoring of the work of the National Assembly. User-friendly visual design and technologically advanced modular design increase the transparency of the operation of the most important democratic institutions and facilitate effective access to the decision-making process. Because of the absence of publicly available machine-readable parliamentary data, Parlameter uses the documents from the websites dz-rs.si and dvk-rs.si.

ICT tools used

There are some tools where youth can participate:

- the web portal 'Initiative' (pobuda.si) – where youth can write their recommendation to the municipality, to the country or to the EU
- the web portal 'I recommend to the municipality' (predlagam-občini.si)
- Student organisation of the University of Ljubljana prepared the project 'Student, where does the shoe pinch?' (Študent, kje pa tebe čevelj žuli?) – the purpose of the campaign was to identify the problems students encountered during the

Data or studies

According to the research Yotuh2010, young people in 2009 were more involved in IT activities (web forums, articles on media websites, internet political forum or discussion group) compared to adults. The research, Slovenian Youth 2013, showed that 81% of Slovenian youth (aged 16–25) acquired information about politics from the Internet.

According to the Eurostat survey, 15% of Slovenian youth used the Internet for posting opinions (accessing or posting opinions on websites for discussing civic and political issues) from 2010–2013. Seventy-three percent of young people in Slovenia used the Internet for interaction with public authorities in 2014, as compared to 77% in 2013, 69% in 2012 and 64% in 2011 (see the Eurostat survey).

5.10 Current debates and reforms

The Office for Youth issued a public call for co-financing of youth work in 2016 and 2017 (Javni poziv za sofinanciranje programov mladinskega dela v letih 2016 in 2017). Conditions and criteria for invitations to tender were, among others: promoting and supporting the conventional political participation of young people, promoting and supporting unconventional political participation of young people, promoting and strengthening permanent mechanisms of consultation with young people and promoting the importance of youth participation. Programmes positioned in the youth sector participation in the management of public affairs of society were also co-financed. The programmes are ongoing.

Another priority is the establishment of the portal 'VEM-mladi'. Portal e-VEM is already functioning and offers information on business conditions in Slovenia and electronically supported processes that relate to setting up businesses and starting a business in Slovenia. The aim of the portal 'VEM-mladi' is to create one e-point access for young people, where they can get all of the information they need and facilitate their functioning in different life situations.

The other priority is to strengthen the segment of research and analysis in the field of youth, especially the establishment of a national organisation for the research of youth (through Youth Observatory at the Educational Research Institute).

A pending issue is the repeatedly expressed proposal/request to include youth representatives in social dialogue and assure them a 'seat at the table'. There has been no consensus yet.

The working group of the 'Council of the Government for Youth for Monitoring the Implementation of the National Programme for Youth' meets regularly. Currently, the Council discusses reports on the Implementation Plan of the National Programme for Youth. The Office for Youth receives notes, suggestions and comments about youth organisations and ministries. Ministries also present their future plans (e.g., making an online manual on participation – the measure of the Ministry of Public Administration).

The working group for the preparation of the new proposal for the Public Interest in Youth Sector Act was also established. Proposals for amendments to the Public Interest in Youth Sector Act tackle the need to:

- define the category of young people more accurately
- make more concrete and define more specifically the conditions that the organisations in the youth sector must meet to obtain the status of 'work in the public interest' in the youth sector
- provide the legal basis for the transfer of personal data to the Office for Youth, which are necessary for verifying compliance with the conditions for obtaining the status of 'work in the public interest'
- to set up and define the role of the Council for Research in the Youth Field responsible for research guidance and development of indicators
- regulate the procedure of granting public authorisation to carry out the tasks of the national agencies and focal points with accompanying activities.

On Thursday, 25 February 2016, a round table, 'Youth participation: the relationship between the system and individuals' (Participacija mladih: Razmerje med sistemom in posameznikom) was organised at the student campus in Ljubljana. The event was organised by the National Youth Council in cooperation with project dACES and with the support of the student campus. Participants identified challenges and problems for youth participation at two levels: the **system/structure level** and the individual level. Participants also tried to precisely identify the issue of youth participation, particularly in terms of changing modes, targets and agents of political activity.

On Wednesday, 1 June 2016, a conference, **'**Youth Participation: Challenges and Solutions' (Zaključna konferenca: Participacija mladih: Izzivi in rešitve) took place in the great hall of the Faculty of Social Sciences. The event was organised by the National Youth Council in cooperation with project dACES. The conference was organised with the purpose of finding solutions for the problems of (or lack of) youth participation. The groups of participants tried to develop solutions and recommendations for the challenges in the field of youth participation in terms of the system and the individual.

The last group of initiatives on the national level that were given by youth were in 2015. The first one was an appeal to authorities to lower the voting age from 18 to 16 years old. In Slovenia, the proposal to lower the voting age limit was first made in 2001 by a group of voters around Peter Levič of the Slovenian Party of Youth (Stranka Mladih Slovenije), but it received no support in the National Assembly. Lowering the age limit was also one of the election promises of the penultimate national elections winner in

2011 – Positive Slovenia (Pozitivna Slovenija). In 2013, the National Youth Council of Slovenia ran a campaign on the topic and made a survey among young people. Half of underage respondents would participate in elections if they had voting rights. A year later, when leading the conference for the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the current Slovenian president, Borut Pahor, expressed support for lowering the voting age.

The second appeal was to introduce electronic elections. In 2016, no initiative was given by young people about E-elections, although they are still a topic of discussion.

6. Education and Training

The share of young people included in the education system has been growing much faster in Slovenia compared to the EU average, and the share of dropouts in secondary school is among the lowest in the EU countries. Moreover, the share of higher-education students aged between 20 and 24 was by far the highest in EU. Although the share of population between age 19 and 24 who studies, decreased in the last five years in Slovenia by two percentage points, almost half (47,4%) of young people are studying. High enrolment in tertiary education and extended schooling period of young people (15-24) is related to the fact that majority of study programs are publicly funded, therefore students are not required to pay any tuition fees.

Whereas young people like the inclusiveness and friendliness of the education system, they express considerable dissatisfaction with the poor connection between the education system and the needs of the labour market.

The Ministry of education, science and sport is the main governmental authority for education and training. The Ministry is directly responsible for the drafting, evaluation, analysis and implementation of regulations for all levels of education. The Ministry consists of numerous services, directorates and sectors covering specific areas. The Council of the Government for Students Affairs (Svet Vlade RS za študentska vprašanja) is an expert and consultative body of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, which carries out expert tasks for it and provides assistance in deciding on students' issues.

To date, no specific national strategy or programme to prevent ELET has been adopted in Slovenia as ELET is not detected as a problem. The trigger for young people to remain in education is social security, as they gain some benefits, e.g. subsidized food, subsidized transport tickets etc.

The Vocational and Technical Education Act is the legal basis for the recognition of informally acquired knowledge in secondary vocational education. The certification of non-formally acquired knowledge for acquiring a qualification is the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. There is no national system for validation and thus skills audits are also a matter of each institution or field.

One of the objectives of the National Programme for Youth 2013-2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013-2022) is to increase the international (study) mobility of young people in Slovenia. Mobility of pupils in Slovenia is mainly enabled within the framework of the EU Programme Erasmus+.

Slovenia has no coherent document nor strategy for youth in the field of media literacy and safe use of new media.

6.1 General context

Main trends in young people's participation in education and training

The share of young people included in the education system has been growing quickly in Slovenia compared to the EU-27 average, and the share of dropouts from secondary

school in Slovenia is the lowest among EU-27 countries, according to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (Statistični urad Republike Slovenije). Moreover, the share of higher education students aged 20 to 24 was in 2016/2017 by far the highest in EU-27. The proportion of youth between 15 and 24 years of age, who are enrolled in education, was increasing up until 2008. In that time, it was considerably higher than the EU-27 average. In addition between 2000-2010, the share of students aged 19-24 increased from 38.5% to 53.5% (see 'Youth 2010' [Mladina 2010]).

However, there is an observable trend of declining enrolment in tertiary education. The number of students enrolled in tertiary education is gradually decreasing. In the academic year 2016/2017, 79,547 students were enrolled, which is about 1,000 less than the year before and 36,000 fewer than ten years prior (2006/07). In the academic year 2016/2017, fewer than 80,000 were enrolled in higher education, lower than any year since 1998/99. However, this decline has not affected the number of students enrolling in higher education for the first time. Thus far, initial enrolment is not decreasing. According to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, Slovenia still ranks among the leading countries in the European Union regarding the number of students per total inhabitants. However, the percentage of 19 to 24-year olds that are students has decreased in the last five years by two percentage points. Still, almost half (47.4%) of young people are studying. The reduction in enrolment can be attributed to fewer generations of young people.

In Slovenia, the higher education system underwent Bologna reform in 2004 and updated study programs were introduced gradually. In September 2016, the so-called pre-Bologna study programs expired, meaning that students were allowed to graduate under the parameters of the old study programs by the end of September 2016. About 15,000 students successfully finished their studies before the end of the pre-Bologna programs. Considering this circumstance, the statistical picture of graduates of higher education was influenced strongly. In 2015, 13,847 students successfully completed higher education studies. In 2016, this number more than doubled to 29,135, with half of graduates coming from pre-Bologna programs.

High enrolment in tertiary education and extended schooling of young people (aged 15-24) is related to a high percentage of young people enrolled in upper secondary education programmes and programmes for continuing education at the tertiary level. There is a favourable ratio between the number of applicants and the overall number of slots available in higher vocational programmes and higher education programmes available due to the absence of tuition fees for full-time level 1 and 2 studies and the benefits of student status.

Data from the Eurostudent international project show that in Slovenia, students with parents from lower levels of educational attainment are underrepresented in higher education, which reflects unequal access to education. On the other hand, students coming from families with higher educational attainment (university education) are over-represented. In addition, data show that uneven access to higher education in Slovenia also appears connected to the financial capacity of parents. Slovenian students who report financial difficulties, in 42.2 % of cases, think their parents' situation is not good. It should be noted that some public student support is dependent on the financial situation of their families.

There is no research or survey focusing exclusively on the involvement of young people in non-formal learning. However, some statistical data can be harvested from the Adult Education Survey (Anketa o izobraževanju odraslih) that is conducted by the Slovene Statistical Office every 5 years. The data from the survey done in 2016 show that 43,606 young people (aged 18-24), or 30.4% of all young people in that age cohort, participated in non-formal learning in 2016. The data is comparable with the findings of the national research report on vulnerable groups in the labour market (Ranljive skupine na trgu dela v Sloveniji). Another research study from 2016 (Accessibility of Services: Dostopnost do storitev) presents data on inclusion in non-formal education, but there is no special data on percentage of youth in non-formal education.

Among all students in the academic year 2016/2017, there were 3,090 or 4% mobile students (see the Statistical Office).

Organisation of the education and training system

The White Paper on Education in the Republic of Slovenia (Bela knjiga o vzgoji in izobraževanju v Republiki Sloveniji 2011) represents fundamental, systematic, professional reflection on the structure and operation of the Slovene education system, and proposes solutions assuring quality practice on the field of pre-school, compulsory basic, upper secondary, adult and music education. A brief overview of the structure of the national education system in Slovenia can be found on the Eurydice website.

In Slovenia, basic school education is compulsory. Basic school is comprised of primary and lower secondary education. In line with the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia's Article 57, basic school education is both compulsory and funded by the public revenues. Children must enrol in first grade at the age of six. Schools implement the single-structure curriculum over the course of nine years, so pupils typically conclude basic school education at the age of 15.

The main organisations of formal education are listed below:

- Upper Secondary Schools and Vocational Schools (see the portal of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport: Ministrstvo za izobraževanje, znanost in šport)
- Higher Education Institutions
- Adult Education and Training Institutions

The list of higher education institutions and study programs (including all accredited institutions and programs as of 1 August 2017) is available on the website of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

- University of Ljubljana (Univerza v Ljubljani)
- University of Maribor (Univerza v Mariboru)
- University of Primorska - Università del Litorale (Univerza na Primorskem)
- University of Nova Gorica (Univerza v Novi Gorici)

The list of adult education and training institutions is available at the portal of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

The list of folk high schools is available at the website of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Main concepts

The majority of study programs are publicly funded; therefore, students are not required to pay any tuition fees. Public higher education institutions and private higher education institutions that hold a concession cannot charge fees to citizens of the Republic of Slovenia or citizens of other EU Member States for studies in accredited full-time undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. In the academic year 2016/2017, the government Decree on the co-funding of doctoral studies (Uredba o sofinanciranju doktorskega študija) came into effect. However, the Decree was altered for the upcoming academic year, granting co-funding of doctoral studies only for public higher education institutions. Applicants can apply for co-funding up to 4,000 euros per academic year.

6.2 Administration and governance

Cross-sectorial cooperation

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport is the main governmental authority for education and training. The Ministry is directly responsible for the drafting, evaluation, analysis and implementation of regulations for all levels of education. The Ministry consists of numerous services, directorates and sectors covering specific areas; however, the most relevant directorates in the field of education and training for young people (aged 18-24) are:

- The Upper Secondary, Short-cycle Higher Vocational and Adult Education Directorate (Direktorat za srednje in višje šolstvo ter izobraževanje odraslih)
- The Education Development Office (Urad za razvoj in kakovost izobraževanja)
- The Higher Education Directorate (Direktorat za visoko šolstvo).

Additionally, the Ministry of Family, Labour, Social affairs and Equal Opportunities is responsible for the social status of pupils and their families and plays active and important role in the areas of vocational and adult education.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport is also comprised of consulting bodies. Two that are relevant are:

- The Council of Experts of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational and Technical Education (Strokovni svet RS za poklicno in strokovno izobraževanje)
- The National Council for Higher Education of the Republic of Slovenia (Svet RS za visoko šolstvo).

Two national agencies that are responsible for quality assurance, evaluation and assessment of education and training are:

- The National Examinations Centre (Državni izpitni center) is a central institution for external assessment of pupils, apprentices, and adults in Slovenia.
- The Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency (Nacionalna agencija Republike Slovenije za kakovost v visokem šolstvu) provides for development and operation of a quality assurance system in higher education.

In addition, two representative trade unions play an active role in the field of education and training:

- The Education, Science and Culture Trade Union of Slovenia (Sindikat vzgoje, izobraževanja, znanosti in kulture Slovenije) is a representative trade union mainly for teachers and employees of public higher education institutions.
- The Higher Education Trade Union of Slovenia (Visokošolski sindikat Slovenije) primarily represents employees.

Universities are associated under the Slovenian Rectors' Conference (Rektorska konferenca RS), which is a body tasked with representing universities and protecting their interests.

Students also have their own representative body. The Slovenian Student Union 5Študentska organizacija Slovenije) was established by the Student Association Act (Zakon o skupnosti študentov). SSU is an umbrella organization consisting of student organizations of the Universities of Ljubljana, Maribor, Primorska and the Student Clubs Association of Slovenia, which gathers 52 student clubs from around Slovenia (see Chapter 5.3).

Governance

Cross-sectoral cooperation is implemented within two councils. The Council of the Government for Student Affairs (Svet Vlade RS za študentska vprašanja) is an expert consultative body of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, which carries out expert tasks for it and provides assistance in decisions on topics related to students' issues. It consists of representatives from:

- the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport,
- the Ministry of Family, Labour, Social affairs and Equal Opportunities,
- the Ministry of Culture,
- the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food,
- the Ministry of Health,
- the Ministry of Finance,
- the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning,
- the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology,
- the Ministry of Infrastructure,

- the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth
- and student organisations.

Another example of cross-sectoral cooperation is the project Traditional Slovene Breakfast (Tradicionalni slovenski zajtrk). The aim of this project is to educate, inform and raise awareness of schoolchildren and the general public about the importance of breakfast in the context of eating habits, the meaning and advantages of locally-grown foods of Slovene origin, the essential nature of agricultural activities and beekeeping for production, the environment, economic activities and the proper handling of waste from day-to-day activities and the rational management of packaging. The project also raises youth awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle, including the importance of moving and performing sports activities. The following institutions are involved in the project:

- the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food,
- the Ministry of Health,
- the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport,
- the Ministry of Culture,
- the National Institute of Public Health,
- the National Education Institute Slovenia
- and other non-public institutions.

Guidelines for healthy nutrition in educational institutions (Smernice zdravega prehranjevanja v vzgojno-izobraževalnih ustanovah) were developed together by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry for Education, Science and Sport.

6.3 Preventing early leaving from education and training (ELET)

National strategy

To date, no specific national strategy or programme to prevent ELET has been adopted in Slovenia. In Slovenia, ELET is not detected as a problem since the percentage of early leavers from education and training (age group 18-24) is among the lowest in Europe (see Eurostat).

Formal education: main policy measures on ELET

Slovenia does not have any specific measure or policy on ELET. No recent policies and measures have been developed to tackle early leaving.

Each Slovenian school has an advisory service. In secondary schools, the counselling service consists of a psychologist and a social pedagogue. In addition, the primary incentive for young people to continue their educations is participation in social security programs, as they gain some benefits (e.g., subsidized food, subsidized transport tickets etc.).

Slovenia has established a national target of decreasing the rate of early leavers to 5% by 2020 and has nearly achieved that target as the share of early leavers was 4.9% in 2016 per Eurostat. It should be noted that in Education and Training Monitor 2015 – Slovenia, it has been pointed out that the challenge "shifts to the early leavers rate, which is estimated to be as high as 35%".

Specific targeted measures for groups at risk focus on students and pupils who are socially disadvantaged, have migrant and minority/Roma backgrounds, or have special educational needs or special abilities (such as students receiving hospital treatments, gifted students, etc.). For detailed information see the Thematic report and 6.6 Social inclusion through education and training.

Addressing ELET through non-formal and informal learning and quality youth work

As noted in the 2014 Eurydice report, "*Tackling Early Leaving from Education and Training in Europe: Strategies, Policies and Measures*", Slovenia has wider definition(s) of early leavers. In fact, two national operational definitions are used:

- younger adults who did not successfully complete basic education (lower secondary),
- unemployed young adults between 15 and 25 years old who do not have any vocational qualification and are not enrolled in a school.

The first target group is eligible for the Basic School for Adults Programme (Program osnovne šole za odrasle); the second target group is eligible for the Learning for Young Adults Project (Projektno učenje za mlajše odrasle – PUM-O), which was renewed in 2016. It targets a wider array of groups within youth population, specifically, young people aged 15–26 who are unemployed, searching for first employment, who are not involved in any kind of VET, early leavers and high school students who are in formal education but are facing obstacles and could be leaving education early. The main aim of the programme PUM-O is to develop the potential of vulnerable young adults in order to provide them with better opportunities to enter education, develop a vocational identity, achieve success in the labour market and integrate socially success. The programme has not been evaluated yet, as it was implemented just one year ago, in May 2016.

The programme is funded by the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and co-funded by the European Social Fund. The 2016-2020 budget for the programme is 12 million euros (9.6 million of which come from European Social Fund).

Cross-sector coordination and monitoring of ELET interventions

No new measures or actions have been put into effect since 2014. All the relevant information is available in the 2014 Eurydice report "Tackling Early Leaving from Education and Training in Europe: Strategies, Policies and Measures".

The Youth Guarantee scheme is an important part of youth policy. The Action Plan for National Youth Guarantee (Jamstvo za mlade – Izvedbeni načrt 2016–2020) was renewed for the 2016-2020 period; measure number 6 is aimed at continued education being offered to young people under the age of 29 within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education.

The Slovenian Institute for Adult Education (Andragoški center RS) develops and evaluates the programmes for ELET. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities cooperate within this Institute.

6.4 Validation of non-formal and informal learning

Arrangements for the validation of non-formal and informal learning

The Vocational and Technical Education Act is the legal basis for the recognition of informally acquired knowledge in secondary vocational education (Zakon o poklicnem in strokovnem izobraževanju – see Article 71). Statutory instruments regulate recognition of higher vocational education.

The certification of non-formally acquired knowledge is the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

In Slovenia, two legally-regulated channels or two fundamental purposes of recognizing non-formally and informally acquired knowledge were introduced:

- for further integration into formal education (continuation of interrupted education or continuation at a higher level, change in the direction of education, etc.) and

- recognition of professional competence (system of national vocational qualifications) in the labor market.

In the latter case, a valid certificate of a national vocational qualification (Nacionalna poklicna kvalifikacija [NPK]) can be obtained through the evaluation process.

National vocational qualifications can be acquired by young people who have become apprentices and have appropriate work experience or wish to progress in the careers without having to obtain a higher level of vocational education or complete a formal education programme.

The process of acquiring the NPK has 4 phases:

- Identification of the individual's skills and knowledge is carried out through counseling conducted by specially trained consultants. The counselor provides the candidate with information about the process of verification and validation of the NPK, helps in identifying non-formally and informally acquired knowledge and possibilities for the candidate's demonstration, advises on the appropriate qualification, and helps to create a portfolio (personal collection folder).
- Documentation of an individual's knowledge and skills is carried out by collecting evidence in a personal collection folder (see also the National Reference Point for Occupational Qualifications Slovenia).
- Evaluation in the NPK system is carried out in two phases: on the basis of the *validation of the evidence* in the personal collection folder and on the basis of a *direct examination of the candidate*.
- Recognition – in the recognition process, the candidate is officially recognized for the knowledge, skills and competencies acquired through non-formal or informal learning, and a public document is issued: a certificate of a National Vocational Qualification.

Procedures for the validation of skills and competencies gained through non-formal and informal learning are based on the:

- European guidelines for validating non-formal and informal learning (CEDEFOP, 2015), see chapter 2,
- Recommendation of the Council (of the European Union) on the validation of non-formal and informal learning (Priporočilo Sveta o potrjevanju neformalnega in priložnostnega učenja).

Procedures for obtaining formal education qualifications on the basis of skills and competencies gained through non-formal and informal learning are arranged in respective acts, depending on the type of education in which the individual is enrolled. Detailed information is in the European inventory on validation of non-formal and informal learning 2014: country report Slovenia under section 2.1 (the Post-secondary Education Act was amended in 2013; however, no changes were introduced regarding aspects of validation).

There is no national system for validation, and thus, skills audits are a matter of each institution or field. The same goes for the development of the professional competencies of staff involved in the validation processes. There is no single overarching policy to facilitate the comprehension (see section 2.4 in European inventory on validation of non-formal and informal learning 2014: country report Slovenia).

There are two specific systems in place for the validation of competencies acquired through non-formal learning. Students have an option to validate acquired competencies based on the Rules on the Recognition of the Previous Education in Higher Vocational Education, which were drafted on the basis of The Recognition and Evaluation of Education Act (Zakon o vrednotenju in priznavanju izobraževanja). The rules differ among faculties. The system for validation of competencies for pupils is based on the Vocational Education Act (Zakon o poklicnem in strokovnem izobraževanju) and prescribed in the Rules on the Assessment of Knowledge in the Vocational and Secondary Technical Education (Pravilnik o ocenjevanju znanja v poklicnem in srednjem strokovnem

izobraževanju). Other schools on the secondary level have to develop their own rules for validation.

Information and guidance

There are no specific outlets and services for disseminating and offering information on validation of non-formal and informal learning.

The project "Professional Support to Informative Advisory Activities and Evaluation of Informally-Accomplished Knowledge 2016-2021" (Strokovna podpora informativno svetovalni dejavnosti in vrednotenju neformalno pridobljenega znanja 2016–2021) was created as a continuation of activities in the field of information and counselling and the identification and evaluation of previously acquired knowledge in the past ESS programme timeframe. The Slovenian Institute for Adult Education is coordinating the project.

The Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training conducts activities that promote and increase the visibility of the system among users: companies and candidates (Nacionalne poklicne kvalifikacije). Through promotional activities, they provide the information about the system to the general public and offer the website: National Vocational Qualifications, which provides basic information on the certification system and examples of good practices in the use of the certificate system. They also distribute promotional materials to the units of the Employment Service of Slovenia, the Information and Career Advisory Centre, the adult education centres, the centres for lifelong learning, the Association of Employers of Slovenia and others. Promotional materials are also reasonably distributed to ministries, trade unions and chambers of commerce.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport established the website "Evaluation and recognition of non-formal learning" (Vrednotenje in priznavanje neformalnega znanja) with cooperation of the Slovenian Institute for Adult Education. The aim is to instruct and facilitate the process for individuals seeking evaluation and validation of their non-formal and informal education. The focus is on adults, but the website has value for all demographic groups, including youth.

Another similar information source on validation is offered by the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training (Center za poklicno izobraževanje) in the form of a website explaining their services and duties.

With specific respect to young people, a measure called "Activation of young people in the labour market" (Aktivacija mladih na trgu dela) was put in action, which is part of the Youth Guarantee scheme. Sub-section number 10 is comprised of measures specifically aimed at promotion of non-formal and informal learning (see also Chapter 3.6: Youth Employment Measures).

- Informal education and training for youth,
- On-the-job training – youth,
- PUM-o; Project learning for young adults,
- Support for new career prospects,
- Obtaining additional knowledge for young people in the field of cultural activities within the framework of the public fund for cultural activities (JSKD),
- Workplace trainings "I can, because I know".

Quality assurance

Quality assurance in the NPK system:

- In the process of acquiring the NPK, the candidate proves his/her qualification and knowledge for the effective performance of certain professional competencies (with regard to a particular professional standard and a catalog of standards of professional skills);

- The procedure for verification and validation of NPKs is carried out by the contractors, which are in the register of the National Examination Centre(Državni izpitni centre – RIC);
- Verification and validation of the NPK takes place in front of a three-member commission appointed by the RIC. The members of the verification and certification committees are experts in their field of work, which is proved by the required knowledge, education and work experience.
- In the framework of the system of obtaining National Vocational Qualifications, a process has been developed that includes four phases of recognition of non-formal and informal knowledge and is set out in the Rules on the method and procedure for the validation of national professional qualifications (Pravilnik o načinu in postopku preverjanja in potrjevanja nacionalnih poklicnih kvalifikacij). This ensures uniformity, transparency and quality of certificates for NPK.
- The candidate has the right to object the decision of the commission.
- The Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia in charge of labour is supervising the legality of procedures.
- The Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training is designated by the law to monitor the NPK system and monitor the work of consellors.
- National Examination Centre is designated by the law to monitor the work of the verification and certification commissions, and at the same time to ensure the quality, transparency and objectivity of the examination of knowledge.

Each educational level has its own quality assurance framework for institutional and programme evaluation and accreditation. Recognition and validation of non-formal education is a part of these frameworks. A system of quality assessment and assurance exists for each level of education. State-budgeted bodies (councils, agencies) are autonomous from the government and perform quality assessment.

The bodies responsible for quality assessment and assurance in cooperation with stakeholders prepare measures for quality assurance for each educational level and develop tools for evaluation and accreditation. Quality assurance is regulated by the acts for the respective fields of education and, more specifically, by national measures and regulations. These documents are based on international examples, EC guidance and international standards (see report).

Measures and regulations for validation are checked and so is the quality of the procedure of validation and recognition, required evidence and the body responsible for validation (type of committee, how members are chosen and appointed, how often they meet, how they work and cooperate, how are validation processes are performed).

The quality assurance checking process ends with an opinion from respective body and recommendations. If quality does not meet minimal standards, public validity can be cancelled, and subsequently public funding is withheld.

Further detailed information on validation of informal learning can be found in the European inventory on validation of non-formal and informal learning 2014: country report Slovenia, section 4 and subsequent sub-sections.

6.5 Cross-border learning mobility

Policy framework

One of the objectives of the National Programme for Youth 2013-2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013-2022) is to increase the international mobility of young people in Slovenia. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport wants to stimulate the Slovenian students towards mobility. Thus, the ministry has been implementing the project "Mobility of students from socially weaker environments" since 2016 (see the National Programme for Youth 2013-2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013-2022)). This programme co-finances additional monthly

allowances for students from socially-disadvantaged backgrounds through the funds from the European Social Fund and through the Erasmus programme. From the academic year 2016/17, funds incentivizing students from socially weaker environments are available in the amount of the monthly allowance of €270. This is paid to the student entirely before leaving for international mobility. In 2016, the incentive for the socially weak was paid out to 61 beneficiary students.

Basic orientations of international co-operation in education are laid out in the White Paper on Education in the Republic of Slovenia (Bela knjiga o vzgoji in izobraževanju v Republiki Sloveniji). This conceptual guideline underlies all substantive changes in the country's education system in recent years and is largely based on European dimensions, such as the common European heritage of political, cultural and moral values reflected in human rights, the rule of law, pluralistic democracy, tolerance, solidarity and intercultural education.

The legislation on education also defines basic aspects of the international dimension.

The Organisation and Financing of Education Act (Zakon o organizaciji in financiranju vzgoje in izobraževanja) states that enabling participation in European integration processes is one of the basic goals of the Slovene education system and one of the priorities of its further development (see Article 2).

The internationalization of higher education is one of the priorities of the Resolution on National programme of higher education for the 2011-2020 time period (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu visokega šolstva 2011–2020). Subsection *2.6* claims internationalization is of crucial importance for further development of higher education area.

As noted in the Mobility Scoreboard, sub-section *1.1.5,* Actions for improving the Provision of Information and Guidance on International Learning Mobility for IVET Learners*,* Resolution on the National Programme for Youth 2013-2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013-2022) youth mobility is a priority area, with a focus on strengthening the quality, promotion and support for studies and practical training abroad.

Moreover, we should note there is also an overarching strategy to promote mobility at tertiary level (Strategy of Internationalisation of Higher Education: Strategija internacionalizacije slovenskega visokega šolstva 2016–2020). The strategy emphasizes the importance of developing global relations with the world, especially with Slovenia being a small country. Strategies also aim at establishing Slovenia as and international centre of knowledge. The strategy is backed up by the action plan for 2016-2018 (Akcijski načrt 2016-2018).

Non-governmental actor, the National Youth Council of Slovenia adopted the Programme document for the mobility of young people (Policy paper on Youth Mobility).

Main cross-border mobility programmes for students in formal education

Mobility of pupils in Slovenia is mainly enabled within the framework of the EU Programme Erasmus+. This is coordinated and performed by the national agency CMEPIUS. The framework of the programme coordinates pupils and students in a variety of sub-programme activity. These include the Comenius and Leonardo da Vinci initiatives. The EU Programme Erasmus+ offers financially support for non-formal learning and mobility of young people (from 13 to 30 years) which contributes to the goals of European cooperation in the area of the young. The national agency MOVIT implements the Programme in Slovenia.

Slovenia is a founding member of the CEEPUS programme – Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies. The fundamental principles of the CEEPUS exchange programme and its contents are similar to the European Community programme. The programme enables equal partnerships between members and their university networks, and scholarships contribute to the EU’s objective of increasing mobility.

Bilateral cooperation between Slovenia and European and non-European countries is defined in bilateral agreements, programmes and protocols on cooperation in education, science and culture.

Four programmes are available for young people to consider when pursuing cross-border mobility in formal education:

- Co-shaping the European Higher Education Area (aims to finance CEEPUS and bilateral agreement exchanges; supports mobility of Higher Education staff and students),
- Public tender for financing mobility of students from socially weaker backgrounds (Ministrstvo za izobraževanje, znanost in šport),
- Ad Futura programmes for international mobility (Štipendije Af Futura za izobraževanje),
- Learning Network on Transnational Mobility Measures for Disadvantaged Youth and Young Adults (TLN Mobility).

For all the above programmes, approximately a budget of 5.4 million euros is provided.

Promoting mobility in the context of non-formal learning, and of youth work

In the context of non-formal learning, there are no incentives or actions by top level authorities to support cross-border mobility. However, in the field of youth work, Action Plan of a Resolution on the National Programme for Youth 2013-2022 for 2016/2017 (Izvedbeni načrt Resolucije o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013–2022 za leti 2016 in 2017) has this specific aim in the field: *Promoting inclusion in international youth work and learning mobility in youth work and strengthening them.* Two measures are provided in order to reach this goal: Erasmus+ Key Action 1 (Mobility projects for young people and youth workers) and Erasmus+ Key Action 2 (Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices). The Erasmus+ programme finances both measures.

Quality assurance

The Programme Erasmus+ has quality assurance built into the application process and other activities carried out during the implementation of projects. There is no other quality assurance system.

6.6 Social inclusion through education and training

Educational support

In Slovenia, social inclusion is provided through the entire educational and training vertical – from kindergarten to higher education.

Concerning the inclusion of young people we should note that new educational programs are adopted every year. The adoption of publicly valid educational programs is defined in Articles 15 and 17 of the Organization and Financing of Education Act (Zakon o organizaciji in financiranju vzgoje in izobraževanja).

Other relevant guidelines include:

- Instruction for the educational programs with tailored implementation and additional professional aid for gymnasium programs (Navodila za izobraževalni program s prilagojenim izvajanjem in dodatno strokovno pomočjo za gimnazijski program),
- Instruction for the implementation of vocational programs and upper secondary education with tailored implementation and additional professional aid (Navodila za izvajanje izobraževalnih programov poklicnega in strokovnega izobraževanja s prilagojenim izvajanjem in dodatno strokovno pomočjo) and
- Programme guidelines for programs of high school education: counselling service in secondary schools (Programske smernice. Svetovalna služba v gimnazijah, nižjih in srednjih poklicnih šolah ter strokovnih šolah in v dijaških domovih).

Additional support can be delivered in the form of extra hours of assistance to overcome deficiencies, barriers and/or disorders, or in the form of learning assistance to facilitate learning for a specific subject. A permanent or temporary assistant can be assigned to pupils or students with severe physical impairments to assist them during lessons or with other activities during school time. Target groups are adapted with regard to the level of education. Additionally, if necessary, appropriate measures are introduced based on the needs of specific target group. In the high school education (upper secondary schools, vocational schools, gymnasiums) there are the following target groups (hyperlinks provide further information on specific measurement and policies in the context of formal education):

- Members of the Italian and Hungarian national communities: right to education in their mother tongue and provision of education in ethnically mixed areas.
- Members of the Roma community: specified as a special group with special rights defined by the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia. The exercise of special rights is specified by the Roma Community Act (Zakon o romski skupnosti v RS).
- Migrants (foreign nationals): strategies, adjustments and methods of cooperation and integration of migrant children and their parents in view of assisting kindergartens and schools in planning education work with alien children (Smernice za izobraževanje otrok tujcev v vrtcih in šolah).
- Talented pupils or students: the provision of instruction to talented children or pupils may be adapted to their needs.
- Pupils or students with learning problems: the right to have adapted methodology.
- Children in hospital care: specific for pre-school and basic school education.
- Children from less favourable social and economic environments: may receive support and assistance.

The target groups in Higher Education are:

- students with special needs,
- immigrants,
- top athletes,
- students preparing for international competitions in a particular subject,
- students who become parents,
- students who live in extraordinary family circumstances,
- socially deprived students, and
- severely ill students.

Higher vocational colleges and higher education institutions are autonomous in their approach to students with special needs. They may adapt individual activities to the needs of SEN students and, thereby, provide equal opportunities. In the selection procedure for enrolment in undergraduate studies, candidates may receive special needs status. Institutions may customize study obligations also for top student athletes, students in training for international contests of knowledge, as well as gifted students. Student mothers who give birth during their studies are entitled to and extension of their student status by one year for each live born child. Additional information can be found on Eurydice.

Regarding social inclusion in Life-Long Learning programmes, dropouts and early leavers from education and training are also included as eligible applicants in the Adult Education Plan for 2017 (Letni program izobraževanja odraslih RS za leto 2017).

There are no specific programs or initiatives aiming at helping young people overcome obstacles in participation in non-formal and informal education. However, the national agency of Erasmus+: Youth in Action programme recognized the importance of participation in projects of non-formal learning. Participants improve their competencies, self-esteem and opportunities for employment. Furthermore, it is important factor in finding motivation for further development or becoming active in other ways, therefore reaching the aim of inclusion in society. This is important for vulnerable groups of young

people, to whom the programme pays special attention. The National agency has therefore set social inclusion as one of the four priorities until 2020. To this end, the series of events were held under the slogan "Key to inclusion" (Ključ do vključenosti), aimed at increasing the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities.

Social cohesion and equal opportunities

Slovenia implements several different measurements and approaches, depending on the needs and difficulties of respective group. However, according to the *Gender Differences in Educational Outcomes: Study on the Measures Taken and the Current Situation in Europe* (2010), addressing gender issues is not an explicit aim of the curriculum in Slovenia. Policy measures target both the improvement of the position of women in science and work-life balance. While addressing of gender issues is not the aim of curriculum, the opposite applies to the topic of discrimination. Further detailed information can be found in Citizenship Education in Europe; Eurydice Report (2012). Slovenia has also joined the Paris Declaration, called the "Declaration on promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education". According to follow-up report (Promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education: Overview of education policy developments in Europe following the Paris Declaration of 17 March 2015), Slovenia has not adopted any new education policy. Additionally, "policies contributing to the objectives of the Paris Declaration to various degrees are in place in all countries; and some countries have introduced important measures in the years just before the adoption of the Declaration".

A partnership agreement between Slovenia and the European Commission on implementation of cohesion policy was adopted in October 2014 for the 2014-2020 period. Among other, general horizontal principles are defined, such as partnership, promotion of gender equality, fight against discrimination and accessibility, and sustainable development. To this end, Priority axis 9: Promotion of Social Inclusion and fight against poverty and any kind of discrimination (Prednostna os 9: Spodbujanje socialnega vključevanja ter boj proti revščini in kakršnikoli diskriminaciji) have been put into action. The total assets amount to approximately 6.5 million euros.

To tackle violence, guidelines for analysis, prevention and dealing with/handling of violence in educational space (Smernice za analizo, preprečevanje in obravnavo/obvladovanje nasilja v šolskem prostoru) were introduced in 2004. The guidelines cover practical cases, international comparison, suggested measures and principles of dealing with and handling of violence.

In years 2009, 2010 and 2011, the project School of Equal Opportunities (Šola enakih možnosti) was prepared, designed and implemented. The aim of the project was successful integration of children and youth with special needs into the education system. The purpose was to develop the implementation curricula, forms and modes of education that will be adapted for children with special needs, not only at the primary level but also in secondary schools. The project started on September 1, 2009 and ended on March 31, 2013.

There is also a framework document "Guidelines for the inclusion of immigrant children in kindergartens and schools" (Smernice za vključevanje otrok priseljencev v vrtce in šole), adopted in 2012, with the purpose of helping with the general orientations for work and successful integration of immigrant pupils in the planning of educational work.

6.7 Skills for innovation

Innovation in formal education

In June 2005, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted Slovenia's Development Strategy. This document defined the vision and objectives of Slovenia's development through 2013. The document classified objectives into five development

priorities with action plans. The second priority was effective generation, two-way flow and application of the knowledge needed for economic development and quality jobs. Objectives linked to entrepreneurship in education included the development of programmes to enhance the entrepreneurial spirit and knowledge and systematically revamp programmes to stimulate creativity and innovation. Based on the strategies, action plans were adopted that specified that entrepreneurial skills should be developed on all education levels, the entrepreneurial spirit of young people should be encouraged and positive notion of entrepreneurship established and training programs for running small businesses should be provided.

Entrepreneurship education is explicitly recognized as a cross-curricular objective and as part of other compulsory and optional subjects. For ISCED 3, an update of the teaching subject curricula was launched in 2007. The update included the adoption of guidelines and the inclusion of a competence approach. Implementation started in 2008/09. For ISCED 3, entrepreneurship education is also part of compulsory subjects (Geography, IT and Social Sciences) and the optional subject of economics. In schools with a branch of economics, this subject is compulsory. In schools with a studies in technical engineering, the separate subject if entrepreneurship is compulsory. For ISCED 1-3, entrepreneurship is in one of the eight key competencies in curricular documents. Curricula for different subjects (such as social studies, natural science, technology, home economics) include some learning outcomes linked to developing entrepreneurial skills and attitudes. These include those in areas

Specific learning outcomes for entrepreneurship education are included in the learning outcomes of the subjects in which it is embedded. Example for ISCED 3:

- students gain the basic skills of entrepreneurial behavior (planning, organizing, analyzing, communicating, giving directions, managing tasks, evaluation, etc.).
- students develop the ability to work in the group, to take responsibility, to evaluate and take risks and initiatives.
- students proactively plan the process of solving the chosen problem, search the information and evaluate the quality of the proposed solutions.
- students explain the changing field of work, employment and economy in modern societies and assess its consequences for the society, the life of individuals.
- students investigate the relationship of work and leisure for different social groups and the importance of social organizations in modern societies.

Several continuing professional development courses have been developed by the Public Institute for VET and the Agency for the Promotion of Entrepreneurship, Internationalization, Foreign investment and Technology within projects, and by the Junior Achievement Slovenia for teachers from primary to secondary education, including school-based IVET. The Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training provides some materials and guidelines, which were developed within the scope of different projects and can help teachers of entrepreneurship education at upper secondary level (general and school-based IVET). Slovenia is still involved in projects aimed at developing teaching methods and materials.

Fostering innovation through non-formal and informal learning and youth work

Governmental fostering of innovation and entrepreneurship is implemented through programmes of the Public Agency for Entrepreneurship, Internationalization, Foreign Investments and Technology – SPIRIT Slovenia, which are part of the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology(Ministrstvo za gospodarski razvoj in tehnologijo). This public agency organizes programmes and workshops for young people (aged 15–29) under the trademark 'It's "happening" to youth' (Mladim se dogaja) such as:

- Challenges for Young people (Izzivi mladim),
- Workshops in the field of promotion of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship (Krožki s področja spodbujanja ustvarjalnosti, inovativnosti in podjetnosti),
- Short tasks 'Entrepreneurship Intersection' (Stičišče podjetnosti),

- Cooperation with young people from Basic and Upper Secondary Schools (Sodelovanje mladih z osnovnih in srednjih šol), etc.

The agency also hosts professional development trainings for educators and teachers (Usposabljanje pedagogov).

In the financial plan (Spremembe programa dela in FN 2017) of the public agency, a proposed budget of 575000 is proposed for Education and training with an additional 200,000 euros for stimulating young people.

6.8 Media literacy and safe use of new media

National strategy

Slovenia has no coherent document or strategy for youth in the field of media literacy and safe use of new media. In the initial strategy for media development up to 2024 (Strategija razvoja medijev v Republiki Sloveniji do leta 2024), there is a topic 'Media literacy and provision' stating that 'media and digital literacy are part of compulsory curriculum in basic school'. The initial strategy was a predecessor of the draft media strategy for 2017-2025 (Osnutek strategije na področju medijev za obdobje 2017 – 2025). A time frame for implementation has yet to be adopted. The strategy does not mention new media in any way. The draft strategy foresees the following measures:

- analysis of the situation of media literacy,
- introduction of the programmes media literacy or integration of media content literacy in other school subjects. Media literacy in connection with digital literacy is shaped as an essential learning content, possibly as part of another compulsory subject (e.g., civic education) instead of as an optional subject and
- ongoing monitoring of the media literacy situation with research every other year.

The indicators are:

- Comparison of the analysis of the state of media literacy from 2017 with the past analyses,
- the level of integration of content from the field of media literacy into school programs and
- the extent of adult involvement in media literacy programs.

Stakeholders are the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, folk universities and media companies.

Media literacy and online safety through formal education

In Slovenia, the provision of media education is currently limited to basic schools, where pupils have the opportunity to choose a separate subject of media education (Vzgoja za medije). Simultaneously, media education is included in other subjects in basic schools. Critical media education is most intensely present in the Slovene language (Slovenščina), while media education is actively pursued in the subject of Homeland and civic education and ethics (Domovinska in državljanska vzgoja ter etika).

In high school education, sociology (Sociologija) is an exception, as there is special learning topic regarding mass media and communication. In higher education, there are specific study programmes held at the Faculty of Social Sciences, named Communication Studies: Media and Communication Studies (Katedra za medijske in komunikacijske študije).

All major projects are in accordance with all the relevant activities of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. Online communities are established within the Slovenian educational network. The ministry funds the programme known as Safe Online (Varni na internetu) through Arnes (Academic and research network Slovenia). The programme is intended mainly for adult users and smaller companies, but it also involves meetings for basic school headmasters with wider context of information on security and online abuse. The Slovenian Centre for Mediation in Network Incidents (SI–CERT), which operates

under the auspices of the Arnes, is a national focal point of a public awareness campaign on information security. The project was financed entirely by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport's Directorate for Information Society. The Directorate was later moved under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Public Administration.

Promoting media literacy and online safety through non-formal and informal learning

Under the banner of SAFE.SI, established in 2005, a national programme to raise awareness among children and teenagers on the safe use of the Internet and mobile devices. Activities target four groups:

1. children,
2. adolescents,
3. parents and
4. professional workers (teachers, social workers, youth workers).

Raising awareness about the risks posed by new media

The project Safer Internet Centre (Center za varnejši internet) is implemented by the:

- University of Ljubljana (Faculty of Social Sciences),
- Arnes,
- Association of Friends of Youth of Slovenia and
- MISSS Institute (Youth Information Advisory Center of Slovenia).

It is financed by the INEA Agency at the European Commission (through the Connecting Europe instrument) and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

The Safer Internet Centre offers three main services:

- Awareness about the safe use of the Internet and new technologies aimed at children, teenagers, parents, teachers and social workers through various online and offline activities, trainings, workshops, materials, promotional campaigns and media campaigns on how to safely and responsibly use the internet and mobile devices.
- Advice Line for Online Problems – Tom Phone 166 111. Consultants answer questions, resolve dilemmas and solve problems related to using the Internet between 12 am and 8 pm each day. As of February 2013, the TOM chat room (TOM telefon za otroke in mladostnike) started to function, where children, adolescents and their parents can receive advice and help through online chat.
- Anonymous online reporting of illegal online content. This includes videos of child sexual abuse (child pornography) and hate speech. If a person encounters such content on the Internet, he/she can report it on the Web Eye (Spletno oko). Similar programmes throughout Europe have proven to be an effective measure in the fight to reduce illegal content on the Internet.

6.9 Awareness-raising about non-formal and informal learning and quality youth work

Information providers / counselling structures

The Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth develops suitable mechanisms for supporting youth organisations and organizations for youth, which are of key importance for promoting active youth participation. Every year, the Office for Youth issues a public call for co-financing the programmes of youth organisations and organisations for youth, which are all eligible for co-financing. In 2017, according to the results of public tender for co-funding programmes of youth work in 2016 and 2017 (Pregled in vrednotenje prijav v okviru izvedbe Javnega poziva za sofinanciranje programov mladinskega dela v letih 2016 in 2017), there were:

- 13 national youth organisations,

- 64 youth centres and
- 35 other non-governmental organisations.

The Employment Service of Slovenia is also one of the main actors carrying out non-formal education for young people, and it provides valuable information regarding specific local programmes of non-formal education.

Awareness raising initiatives

According to the Action Plan for National Programme for Youth 2013-2022 for 2016–2017 (Izvedbeni načrt Resolucije o nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013–2022 za leti 2016 in 2017), the measure named *non*-formal Education and Training for Youth aims to contribute to the sustainable inclusion of young people in the labour market. To this end, it promotes varied programmes of non-formal learning and training. The measure also aims to raise awareness, such as promoting the importance of training and acquired knowledge during non-formal education. The Employment Service of Slovenia carries out the measure. The Office for Youth also promotes non-formal learning processes to increase competencies among youth transitioning from childhood to adulthood.

6.10 Current debates and reforms

Currently, there are debates, policy proposals and legislation pending approval in Slovenia.

The Students' Status Act (Zakon o urejanju položaja študentov) is a proposal from the Slovenian Students Union. It is comprised of several propositions which aim at improving students' overall position. The act was supported by public campaign under the banner 'What about us?' (Kaj pa mi?). The proposal amends six different pieces of legislation, meaning the process is rather complex and still under debate in the government; specifically, it is in the phase of interdepartmental discussion. The proposal contains the following concrete measures:

- Personal income tax of students (higher special exemptions and relief for students working in the field of student jobs),
- Health insurance (prolonging the time period through age 26 for all regular students),
- Subsidized student meals (prolonged time period in which students can use student subsidies),
- Scholarships (proposal to allow other inhabitants that are not Slovenian to receive state scholarships),
- Additional money for students who study outside of their home towns (special addition within scholarship),
- Improvements in student status (help for special needs students and second-cycle students).

In the field of education and training, three acts are being amended:

- Vocational Education Act (Zakon o poklicnem in strokovnem izobraževanju),
- Gimnazije Act (Upper Secondary education) (Zakon o gimnazijah), and
- Adult Education Act (Zakon o izobraževanju odraslih).

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport opened a public debate in March 2017 on the draft Act amending the Gimnazije Act that the Government of the Republic of Slovenia passed on to the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia for further consultation in July 2017. The proposed amendments relate to the improvement of quality in education and specify in detail the duration of the student status in upper-secondary general education (gimnazija), as well as outlining the options of transferring and repeating.

There is also a debate underway concerning the Higher Education Act, which was amended at the end of the last year. The aim of current debate is complete, systematic renovation of the Act and the entire higher education area.

The Media Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia for the 2017-2025 period is also in the discussion phase. The aim of the strategy is a coherent document on the field of media, regarding governance, funding, meaning and purpose and education.

In the 2016-2021 period, the renovation of vocational education is under way, where the emphasis is on developing practical training models that will be adapted to the needs and conditions in Slovenia and implemented in close cooperation with the social partners.

The National Programme for Youth 2013-2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013-2022) has a special section on education. Priority subsection 1 is 'Establishing a holistic recognition of non-formal forms of knowledge and experience and linking formal and non-formal education'. The indicator is still in the implementation phase: the working group completed the work and sent the report to the competent authorities.

The validation of non-formal and informally acquired knowledge in formal education is not complete yet. Currently professional bases and internal material on the recognition of non-formal learning are being prepared at the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Vocational Education and Training and the Slovenian Institute for Adult Education. The first legal bases are expected to be issued in 2018.

7. Health and Well-Being

Every year all primary and secondary schools and also the university student population in Slovenia participate in **SLOfit**. SLOfit is a national surveillance system for physical and motor development of children and youth. In school year 2015/2016, a resurgence of excessive nutrition and the consequent decline in the childhood and youth physical performance was shown. Compared to other EU countries, there is a growing trend of increasing obesity in Slovenia. As many as a fifth of girls and a quarter of boys have a body weight higher than recommended. Therefore, the National Programme for Youth 2013-2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013-2022) foresees as an objective "Promoting regular physical activity, balanced nutrition and maintenance of the recommended body weight among young people".

Main governmental authorities responsible for youth health are the Ministry of Health and the National Institute of Public Health.

There are several national strategies and programmes addressing sport, youth fitness and physical activity:

1. The National Programme of Sports of the Republic of Slovenia 2014–2023 (Nacionalni program športa v Republiki Sloveniji 2014–2023) provides general framework for promotion and support of sport and physical activity
2. The National Programme for Youth 2013-2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013-2022)
3. The National Programme for Nutrition and Health Enhancing Physical Activity (HEPA) 2015–2025 (Nacionalni program o prehrani in telesni dejavnosti za zdravje 2015–2025)
4. The Strategy for the Health of Children and Youth in Connection with the Environment (2012–2020) (Strategija za zdravje otrok in mladostnikov v povezavi z okoljem 2012–2020).

At the upper secondary level, the health education and healthy lifestyles lessons are held as part of compulsory optional content (obvezne izbirne vsebine).

Resolution on National programme of Mental Health 2014-2018 (Resolucija o Nacionalem programu duševnega zdravja 2014-2018) is a strategical document, aiming to grasp measures in the field of mental health.

7.1 General context

Main trends in the health conditions of young people

SLOfit is a national surveillance system for the physical and motor development of children and youth that was formerly known as Sports Educational Chart. The system was implemented in 1982 with a sample of Slovenian schools, and after five years of testing, it was introduced to all Slovenian primary and secondary schools. Every year, all primary and secondary schools and the university student population in Slovenia participate in SLOfit.

After almost ten years of accelerated decline in movement capacity, a 2015/16 report found that, in the prior five years, children and youth had either stagnated or progressed, depending on age group and sex. In school year 2015/2016, a resurgence of excessive nutrition and a consequent decline in childhood and youth physical performance occurred. The study also found a deterioration in pupils' abilities; a slightly lesser decrease was found among female pupils and students. An increase in body-mass among female pupils and students was fortunately due not only to the increase in fat content. It is worrisome that the study observed once again an increased the share of less physically competent pupils and secondary school students, and in parallel, a reduced share of those who are physically talented.

According to the National Institute of Public Health (Nacionalni inštitut za javno zdravje), in 1993 13.7% of children and adolescents were overweight in Slovenia, and 3.1% of children and adolescents were obese. By 2010, these figures had risen to 19.6% overweight and 7.3% obese children and adolescents. After 2010, Slovenia witnessed a halt in the rise in childhood obesity, and in 2015, 18.2% were overweight and 6.6% were obese. Data from various studies show that Slovenia was more successful with youths than with the elderly, more successful with boys than with girls and more successful in Western and Central Slovenia than in Eastern Slovenia. A number of measures that are already being introduced or are under preparation will target the reduction of obesity in more vulnerable groups of children and adolescents.

As many as one-fifth of girls and one-quarter of boys have a body weight higher than recommended. Therefore, the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013–2022) has the objective of '[p]romoting regular physical activity, balanced nutrition and maintenance of the recommended body weight among young people'.

The national youth organisation No Excuse Slovenia (Mladinska zveza Brez izgovora Slovenija) has summarised the report of the National Institute of Public Health showing that the latest data on adolescents aged 11, 13 and 15 are encouraging, as the prevalence of smoking among these age groups significantly decreased between 2010 and 2014. According to data from 2014, every seventh 15-year-old youth smokes at least once a week, and every sixth smokes for the first time by age 13 or younger.

In the spirit of World Suicide Prevention Day, the National Institute of Public Health disclosed the latest information and data on suicide rates in Slovenia. RTV Slovenia (RTV Slovenija) says that the trends among young people remain unchanged. While the number of suicides has generally decreased, statistics show no significant change in suicide numbers among young people. About 20 young people annually commit suicide, a trend that has existed for quite some time. Among youth, there are many more so-called self-inflicted injuries, since young people often express their distress by cutting or otherwise harming themselves. There are also large differences between the sexes. Thus, girls often think about suicidal behaviour, but the number of deaths resulting from suicide is much higher among the young male population.

According to a diploma paper from 2016, 'Suicide among young people in Slovenia' (Samomorilnost med mladimi v Sloveniji), Slovenia has been among countries with higher suicide rates for years, which is also shown in EU data from 2010. With a suicide rate of 18.4 per 100,000 inhabitants, Slovenia is ranked fourth among EU member

states. In Slovenia, suicide among young people under the age of 25 is one of the three main causes of death of young people. Suicide is the most commonly recorded cause of death among adolescents aged between age 14 and 19. In 2009, the National Institute of Public Health published a report on suicides among Slovenian youth (Spregovorimo o samomoru med mladimi). The study found that every year in Slovenia, 20 young people commit suicide, which places Slovenia slightly above the European average. Among youth suicides, the number of boys is almost four times the number of girls.

See earlier data on youth health and trends below.

The 'Youth 2010' (Mladina 2010), comprehensive research and survey of young Slovenian people showed that demographic trends were not positive, as from 2010 to 2020 the number of young people in Slovenia (15–29 years) was expected to be reduced by more than 20%. Regarding trends in health and well-being, the researchers pointed out following seven trends among young people in Slovenia:

- Over the course of the 15 years prior to 2010 (when the research was conducted), the number of traffic accidents and suicides decreased as the most common causes of mortality among young people (they are still the most common ones but the numbers have gone down).
- The satisfaction of young people with their lives and health is comparable with other age groups. Compared with other European countries, Slovenian youth are relatively satisfied with life in general. Four-fifths of Slovenian youth are satisfied or very satisfied with their health.
- More than two-thirds of young people have a normal weight. However, compared with research conducted in 2000, the share of overweight or obese people is increasing. Males and people in rural areas make up larger numbers of overweight or obese young people.
- The use of tobacco and tobacco products among young people is slightly declining, but more young people have had experiences using alcohol and illicit drugs. The consumption of tobacco and alcohol among men in the 'student' age group and in the urban environment has grown more frequent. Experiences with illicit drugs are more typical among men in urban environments.
- In summary, in all the findings of the analysis of Slovenian youth's state of health (excluding subjective assessments on satisfaction with life, health and body image), males are expected to be the most differentiated risk group.
- The age group of young people between 19–24 years, so-called students or youth, is particularly vulnerable to the most common causes of death among young people (traffic accidents and suicides) and risky heath behaviour.
- In nutrition, special attention should be focused on young people in the countryside, as there are 10 percent more overweight and obese, compared with urban areas.

Slovenian Youth 2013, a successive study of young Slovenian people, shows the following trends among young people in respective fields:

- Self-rated health (SRH):
  - Of respondents (aged 15+), 61.7% rated their health as 'good' or 'very good'.
  - The same data indicate that the highest levels of self-rated health are among youth (aged 15–29), with 87.1% rating their health as 'good' or 'very good'.
  - A longitudinal analysis of the Slovenian Health Behaviour In School-Aged Children (HBSC) 2002, 2006 and 2010 data indicates a statistically significant decrease in the proportion of adolescents rating their health as 'poor' or 'fair'. The analysis also shows that the decrease during this period was detected only among girls. On the other hand, boys rated their health significantly higher than girls in each of the observed years.
- Alcohol use and attitudes toward alcohol:
  - Between 1995 and 2011, there was an increase in the proportion of adolescent respondents reporting the consumption of any alcoholic beverage during the

past 12 months (87% in 2011; 5th highest among participating countries) and an increase in the proportion having had five or more drinks on one occasion during the past 30 days (53% in 2011; 5th highest among participating countries). Between 2007 and 2011, there was an increase in estimated average alcohol consumption among those who reported using alcohol. Results from the Youth 2010 survey show similar results.
    - There was a significant increase in the proportion of 15-year-olds who reported having consumed their first alcoholic beverage at the age of 13 or earlier.
    - Boys reported drinking alcohol more frequently than girls did; trends from the observed period indicate that girls are beginning to drink as frequently as boys.
    - Widespread alcohol use among Slovenian youth is likely a consequence of the ubiquity of alcohol in Slovenian society. Slovenia is rather tolerant of the practice, and adults tend to consume alcohol frequently.
- Tobacco use:
    - In 2013, every fourth young person reported smoking daily, and 40% of Slovenian youth smoked at least occasionally (regularly or occasionally). Among youth, 60.0% were 'non-smokers'. Compared with the findings of the Youth 2010 study, the proportion of regular smokers increased (although minimally) in 2013.
    - The percentage of non-smokers also increased (from 54% to 60%).
    - Smoking has remained popular among one-quarter of Slovenian youth.
- Body-mass index (BMI):
    - Comparng youth study data from 2010 and 2013, the proportion of overweight young people increased minimally by 1.3%.
    - The proportion of youth within the 'normal' range fell from 74.1% to 71.6%, largely due to an increase in underweight youth from 3.8% to 5.0%.
    - The proportion of overweight or obese youth is higher among men, older youth and youths not enrolled in school.
- An unhealthy lifestyle and self-rated health:
    - Those who reported a higher frequency of smoking also consumed alcohol more frequently. Smoking was not significantly associated with BMI, while BMI was associated with alcohol use.
    - Associations between the three risk behaviours (alcohol, tobacco use and BMI) and self-rated health were examined, controlling for the same standard socio-demographic variables. Interestingly, alcohol use was not significantly associated with self-rated health, while more frequent tobacco use and higher body-mass index were associated with poorer self-health ratings.
- General trends:
    - In 2013, self-rated health levels among Slovenian youth were similar to youth populations from other countries.
    - Self-rated health was significantly higher among men.
    - Two per cent of Slovenian youth reported consuming alcohol 'regularly/daily', which was a decrease over 2010, when 4% reported being 'daily' drinkers.
    - In 2013, data showed an increase in the non-drinking population from 2010.
    - Almost three-quarters (74%) of Slovenian youth believed alcohol is 'acceptable'.
    - Compared with 2010, the proportion of 'regular' smokers remained stable in 2013.
    - The percentage of 'non-smokers' increased in this period (from 54% to 60%).
    - Between 2010 and 2013, the proportion of obese youth remained stable.
    - The proportion of overweight youth increased by 1.3 percentage points.
    - Youth who smoked also consumed alcohol more frequently.
    - Smoking was not significantly associated with the risk of being overweight or obese, while being overweight or obese was associated with alcohol use.
    - The healthiest youth in Slovenia (as measured by self-rated health) were non-smokers and those within the normal weight range.

Main concepts

According to the National Institute of Public Health, public health is defined as the science and skill of preventing disease, strengthening health and prolonging life through organized societal efforts.

7.2 Administration and governance

Governance

Governmental authorities are responsible for youth health in their respective areas:

- The Ministry of Health (Ministrstvo za zdravje) is the main authority responsible for public health, disease prevention and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle.
- The National Institute of Public Health (Nacionalni inštitut za javno zdravje; NIJZ) is a central national institution whose main purpose is to study, protect and increase the level of health and well-being among the population of the Republic of Slovenia through raising the awareness of the population and other preventive measures.
- The Public Health Directorate (Direktorat za javno zdravje) strives to prevent disease at the population level.
- The Directorate of Family (Direktorat za družino) of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities is responsible for measures and policies in the field of family; family policy is understood as a set of coherent social, economic, legal, pedagogical, health and other measures implemented to improve the quality of life of families and individual family members.
- The Directorate of Higher Education (Direktorat za visoko šolstvo) ensures the implementation of activities in the field of education, and thus also measures in the field of health.

Under the Health Services Act (Zakon o zdravstveni dejavnosti), responsibilities are distributed as follows:

According to Article 5:

- The network of public health services at the primary level is determined and provided by the municipality or city.
- The Republic of Slovenia participates in the provision of a public health service network at the primary level in demographically endangered areas in accordance with the healthcare plan.
- The Republic of Slovenia exceptionally determines and provides public health services at the primary level for the healthcare of students.

Regarding youth representatives:

- The National Youth Council of Slovenia (Mladinski svet Slovenije) is an umbrella organization of youth organizations operating at the national level that prepares program documents on the topic of youth health.
- No Excuse Slovenia (Mladinska zveza Brez izgovorov Slovenija) is a national youth organization acting in the public interest with a specific focus on the health and well-being of young people.
- The Slovenian Student Union (Študentska organizacija Slovenije) is the main organization representing the interests, including health, sport and social affairs, of all Slovenian students.

Cross-sectorial cooperation

Governmental authorities are responsible for cross-sectorial cooperation, depending on the issue being considered.

The National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013-2022) has a special section on health and well-being. According to different priority subsections, different public actors cooperate:

1. Priority subsection 1: ensuring systematic conditions for regular physical activity: the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport cooperates with the Ministry of Health.
2. Priority subsection 2: providing systematic conditions for balanced nutrition for young people aged 15–29: the Ministry of Health cooperates with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport; the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities; and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food.
3. Priority subsection 3: providing systemic conditions for monitoring and taking action with overweight or obese young people aged 15–29: the Ministry of Health cooperates the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.
4. Priority subsection 4: providing systemic conditions for reducing risky and harmful use of alcohol: the Ministry of Health cooperates the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport; the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food; and the Ministry of the Interior.
5. Priority subsection 5: providing systematic conditions for encouraging the cessation of smoking by young people: the Ministry of Health cooperates with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.
6. Priority subsection 6: reducing demand for illicit drugs and preventing the supply of illicit drugs: the Ministry of Health cooperates with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Ministry of the Interior.
7. Priority subsection 7: providing systematic conditions for the healthy and safe entertainment of young people and managing violence related to public events and sports, as well as vandalism: the Ministry of the Interior cooperates with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food; the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport; the Ministry of Health; the Administration of the Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief; and the Ministry of Justice.
8. Priority subsection 8: providing systematic conditions for improving the sexual and reproductive health of young people: the Ministry of Health cooperates with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.
9. Priority subsection 9: reducing the number of children and young people who commit suicide: the Ministry of Health cooperates with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport; the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities; and the Ministry of the Interior.
10. Priority subsection 10: developing mechanisms for early recognition and treatment of young people with mental health problems: the Ministry of Health cooperates with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport; the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities; and the Ministry of the Interior.
11. Priority subsection 11: raising awareness among employers, mentors and supervisors about the risks and measures related to the work of young workers, as well as promoting a culture of safety among youth, including the introduction of health and safety at work in education and training: the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities cooperates with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport; the National Institute of Public Health; the University Medical Centre (UKC) Ljubljana – Clinical Institute for Occupational, Traffic and Sport Medicine; social partners; and occupational safety and health professionals.
12. Priority subsection 12: providing systematic conditions for improving the traffic safety of young people: the Slovenian Traffic Safety Agency cooperates with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.
13. Priority subsection 13: increasing the number of young people using public passenger transport: the Slovenian Traffic Safety Agency cooperates with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

14. Priority subsection 14: inclusion of young people in the design, implementation and evaluation of health-related programs for the environment: the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning cooperates with the National Institute of Public Health; the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport; the Slovenian Traffic Safety Agency; and the Slovenian Environment Agency.
15. Priority subsection 15: raising awareness among young people and their training to carry out healthy lifestyle activities to reduce environmental health risk factors: the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning cooperates with the National Institute of Public Health; the University Medical Centre (UKC) Ljubljana; hospitals; and the Slovenian Environment Agency.

The framework for cross-sectorial cooperation is also set out in the Program for Children and Young People 2006–2016 (Program za otroke in mladino 2006–2016), which was renewed in 2013 (see Section 7.3).

7.3 Sport, youth fitness and physical activity

National strategy(ies)

There are several national strategies and programmes addressing sport, youth fitness and physical activity:

1. National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013–2022)

The programme defines priorities and measures that are in the public interest in the youth sector, among which are health and well-being. Led by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, it involves eight ministries and several agencies and institutes, among which are the following:

- Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (Ministrstvo za delo, družino, socialne zadeve in enake možnosti),
- Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (Ministrstvo za okolje in prostor),
- National Institute of Public Health (Nacionalni inštitut za javno zdravje),
- Slovenian Environmental Agency (Agencija RS za okolje),
- Office of Republic of Slovenia for Youth (Urad RS za mladino).

Proposed measures focus on the health and well-being of young people with an emphasis on the promotion of mental and sexual health, sports, physical activity and a healthy lifestyle, as well as the prevention and treatment of injuries, eating disorders, addiction and drug abuse. Two specific target groups are identified: Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) and Roma youth. The action plan (Izvedbeni načrt Resolucije o nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013–2022 za leti 2016 in 2017) for the implementation of measures was prepared for the years 2016 and 2017. Monitoring and evaluation of the programme is the responsibility of the Office of RS for Youth.

The National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013–2022) foresees several priority measures and their indicators:

Objective: Promoting regular physical activity, balanced nutrition and maintenance of the recommended body weight among young people (15–29 years).

i. *ensuring systematic conditions for regular physical activity*. Indicator: proportion of young people who are regularly physically active. Between 2006 and 2014, there was a significant increase in the proportion of adolescents who were active at least two to three times a week in their leisure time.

2. National Programme for Nutrition and Health Enhancing Physical Activity (HEPA) 2015–2025 (Nacionalni program o prehrani in telesni dejavnosti za zdravje 2015–2025)

The programme aims to address the physical activity habits of the Slovenian population from the early years of life to old age, as well as to promote daily physical activity. Led by the Ministry of Health, it involves 16 ministries or administrative agencies and institutes, in addition to non-governmental organizations and professional associations. Among those are the following:

- Ministry of Education, Science and Sport,
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (Ministrstvo za kmetijstvo, gozdarstvo in prehrano),
- Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning,
- Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities,
- National Institute of Public Health.

Proposed measures include:

- commitment to ensuring the availability of green open spaces for recreation and organized sports activities, especially for socially disadvantaged groups;
- promotion of nature as a space for recreation and physical activity;
- promotion of active transport;
- measures to ensure the affordability of high-quality sports and HEPA programmes, financed from public funds;
- cooperation among the health, education and social services sectors and sports clubs and local communities in increasing the physical activity levels of children, especially children from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.

No specific target group has been identified within the youth population. The action plan (Akcijski načrt za izvajanje Resolucije o nacionalnem programu o prehrani in telesni dejavnosti za zdravje 2015–2025 do leta 2018) was prepared for the implementation of specific measures, along with monitoring and evaluation, for the period up to 2018.

3. National Programme of Sports of the Republic of Slovenia 2014–2023 (Nacionalni program športa v Republiki Sloveniji 2014–2023).

Led by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, it involves numerous administrative agencies and institutes, in addition to non-governmental organizations and professional associations. Among these are the following:

- Ministry of Health,
- Ministry of Infrastructure (Ministrstvo za infrastrukturo),
- Faculty of Sport of University of Ljubljana,
- National Institute for Public Health.

Implemented on the basis of the action plan (Izvedbeni načrt nacionalnega programa športa v Republiki Sloveniji 2014–2023), the main objective of this programme is to increase the share of the population active in sports. It contains measures such as support to public entities implementing the programme (schools included) and other initiatives concerning youth (e.g. physical education in formal education, sports in extracurricular activities and physical education of children and youth with special needs). The programme identifies special-needs pupils and students as a specific target group and provides special measures.

4. Strategy for the Health of Children and Youth in Connection with the Environment (2012–2020) (Strategija za zdravje otrok in mladostnikov v povezavi z okoljem 2012–2020).

Led by the Ministry of Health, it involves eight ministries and two administrative agencies and institutes. It is implemented on the grounds of the action plan (Akcijski načrt za izvajanje strategije Republike Slovenije za zdravje otrok v povezavi z okoljem 2012–2020). The framework is set up until 2020. One of the four main topics covered in this strategy is reducing the problem of obesity and injuries by providing a safe environment for physical activity and healthy nutrition.

Promoting and supporting sport and physical activity among young people

The National Programme of Sports of the Republic of Slovenia 2014–2023 (Nacionalni program športa v Republiki Sloveniji 2014–2023) provides general framework for the promotion and support of sport and physical activity. The National Programme was followed by an action plan with a timeframe to 2020 (Izvedbeni načrt Nacionalnega programa športa v Republiki Sloveniji 2014-2023).

The sub-sections on sport programs, sport events and the promotion of sport, as well as on social and environmental responsibility in sport, contain various measures with the aim of promoting and supporting sport activities. Below, some of the aims provided in the programme are listed:

1. ensure at least one hour of quality guided sports exercises daily for everyone in the group of children and youth;
2. update and increase the quality and attractiveness of existing leisure programs for children's and young people's sports education;
3. provide at least two hours of free, quality guided leisure activities per week for pupils and high school students;
4. encourage the integration of schools and sport, charity and other associations on the local level for the implementation of mobile programmes for children and youth with special needs;
5. update and increase the quality and attractiveness of affordable sports activities in universities' extracurricular activities;
6. develop a national campaign to promote sports behaviour;
7. promote the ambassador for sport, tolerance and fair play;
8. have a national campaign to promote regular sporting, more exercise, healthful eating and the maintenance of a healthy living environment.

The programme provides specific measures aimed at monitoring and evaluating activities.

The following sources of public funding are available for the national programme:

1. local authorities (where activities take place).
2. government ministries:
   - Ministry of Education, Science and Sport,
   - Ministry of Finance,
   - Ministry of Defence,
   - Ministry for Economic Development and Technology,
   - Ministry of the Interior.
3. Sport Foundation (Fundacija za šport).
4. Foundation for financing disability and impairment organisations (Fundacija za financiranje invalidskih in humanitarnih organizacij).
5. European structural funds.

The annual sports program defines activities and projects for the implementation of national programme measures and the extent of public funds. The annual sports program 2017 (Letni program športa 2017) envisages public funding in the range of 5.065.772 EUR.

Several other initiatives promote and support sport and physical activity among young people:

1. Let's Learn Swimming (Naučimo se plavati), which has existed since 1994. The main purpose of this programme is to increase the number of swimmers and improve the swimming abilities of children and young people through swimming courses and swimming tests. Data obtained from the programme are used annually for a national-level analysis of swimming knowledge.

2. Young Mountain Hiker (Mladi planinec), which has existed since 1969. It directs youth toward healthy living in nature by familiarizing them with the basics of mountaineering activities and safety measures in the mountains.
3. programmes for the inclusion of young people with disabilities in sports and sports organizations.

The programmes listed above follow several EU physical activity guidelines.

Physical education in schools

It is mandatory for primary schools to provide 2–3 lessons (45 minutes each) of physical education (PE) per week. In secondary schools, it is mandatory to provide 1–3 lessons (45 minutes each) per week.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sports runs a national scheme for after-school HEPA promotion entitled Healthy Lifestyle (Zdrav življenjski slog). The aim of the project is to encourage primary school children to adopt a healthy lifestyle. The programme currently reaches 20–30% of the primary school population and provides a further five hours of physical activity per week on top of the mandatory PE lessons during school hours. The National Programme for Nutrition and HEPA 2015–2025, implemented in 2015, also promotes active travel to school.

The action plan for national programme envisages promotion of extracurricular activities in the field of sport and is backed by the following measures:

1. impacting the content and organizational update of sports programmes and promoting their implementation at the place of study,
2. co-financing year-round sports programmes offering an important health effect at the place of study,
3. co-financing sports events at the university and national level that have a high health impact,
4. promoting lower pricing for sports services and free programmes for students.

Regarding higher education, since the implementation of Bologna Process, physical education has been missing from the curricula. It should be noted that the action plan for the National programme for Youth 2016–2017 envisages the following measure: repositioning sports education as a compulsory subject in the first year of all study programmes.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport recommends that schools implement physical activities during school breaks called 'recreational breaks'. Some of the activities that take place are the following:

1. fit break/active breaks
    a. fit breaks aim to:
        i. satisfy the need for games, happiness, joy;
        ii. reduce fatigue and the negative consequences of sitting;
        iii. relax and renew mental energy;
        iv. influence motivation to work and support easier and better work;
        v. create a relaxed atmosphere;
        vi. promote a healthy life in the future.
    b. a fit break usually comprises:
        i. relay competitions,
        ii. elementary games,
        iii. ball games,
        iv. balloon games,
        v. games with a string,
        vi. games with stones,
        vii. fun games.
2. interesting sport activities

   a. This comprises activities that try to ensure the daily sports exercise of children, upgrade to compulsory school sports education or introduce other sport that are among the leisure sports on offer.

3. sport competitions
   a. School sport competitions are seen as an important link between school sports education and students' leisure activities.
   b. Presenting the overcoming obstacles as a challenge (which is also a competition) is important for a child's life, and at the same time, it is important for his or her healthy personality development. An appropriate number of requirements and limitations are urgently required.
   c. The basic purposes of school competitions are cooperation, mutual companionship and comparing knowledge. By encouraging appropriate competitiveness and cooperation, healthy rivalry, respect for sporting behaviour, tolerance and acceptance of difference, positive behavioural patterns are formed among pupils.

4. sport programmes
   a. Detailed information is available in the sub-section 'Promoting and supporting sport and physical activity among young people'.

Collaboration and partnerships

The National Programme of Sport in the Republic of Slovenia 2014–2023 (Nacionalni program športa v Republiki Sloveniji 2014–2023) envisages collaboration and partnership among several institutions and stakeholders throughout the strategy. However, emphasis is placed on the formation of partnerships among schools, sport associations, charity organisations and other associations at the local level regarding children and youth with special needs. To this end, measures under sub-section 6.1.3 of the action plan (Akcijski načrt za izvajanje strategije Republike Slovenije za zdravje otrok v povezavi z okoljem 2012–2020) were implemented.

7.4 Healthy lifestyles and healthy nutrition

National strategy(ies)

1. The National Programme for Nutrition and Health Enhancing Physical Activity (HEPA) 2015–2025 (Nacionalni program o prehrani in telesni dejavnosti za zdravje 2015–2025)

The programme not only encompasses a strategy for HEPA but also for nutrition. Regarding nutrition, the programme aims to address:

- ensuring healthful eating habits in accordance with guidelines and recommendations for different age groups (with special emphasis placed on organised school and student food; see chapter 5.1.1. and 5.1.2),
- ensuring access to healthful eating choices for socially and economically disadvantaged groups,
- raising consumer awareness,
- providing information and raising general awareness, including through public health campaigns.

2. Rules on carrying out preventive healthcare at the primary level (Pravilnik za izvajanje preventivnega zdravstvenega varstva na primarni ravni)

Introduced back in 1998, these rules aim to address following topics:

- reducing the risk of diseases related to reproduction, as well as addressing unplanned and unwanted pregnancies,
- supporting early detection of cancer causing premature disease, disability and mortality,

- ensuring the enforcement of reproductive rights and promotion of reproductive health.

On the basis of the rules, health education for children and adolescents (those who attend school) is carried out (Vzgoja za otroke in mladostnike (šolarje)) by the National Institute of Public Health. The programme is carried out annually.

The National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013-2022) anticipates several priority measures and their indicators.

Objective: Promoting regular physical activity, balanced nutrition and maintenance of the recommended body weight among young people (15–29 years)

i. *providing systematic conditions for balanced nutrition for young people aged 15–29*. Indicators: the share of young people eating the recommended quantities of fruit and vegetables; the share of young people enjoying sweet drinks and sweets; the proportion of young people regularly enjoying breakfast; the share of young people regularly eating organic food.
ii. *providing systemic conditions for monitoring and taking action with regard to overweight or obese young people aged 15–29*. Indicator: share of overweight and obese youth.

Objective: Prevention of smoking and first smoking attempts, risky and harmful use of alcohol and illicit drugs; ensuring healthy and safe youth entertainment; and managing violence related to sports, as well as vandalism

i. *providing systemic conditions for reducing risky and harmful use of alcohol*. Indicators: share of young people who do not drink alcoholic beverages by gender; proportion of young people who do not drink alcoholic beverages regularly by gender; proportion of young people who do not drink risky or harmful amounts.
ii. *providing systematic conditions for encouraging the cessation of smoking by young people*. Indicators: the proportion of young people who do not smoke and the proportion of young people who quit smoking by gender.
iii. *reducing demand for illicit drugs and preventing the supply of illicit drugs*. Indicator: the proportion of young drug users by gender.
iv. *providing systematic conditions for the healthy and safe entertainment of young people and managing violence related to public events and sports, as well as vandalism*. Indicators: establishment of business conditions for private entities that provide healthy and safe entertainment for young people and number of youth vandalism offenses.

Objective: Strengthening care for the sexual and reproductive health of young people and family planning

i. *providing systematic conditions for improving the sexual and reproductive health of young people*. Indicator: incidence of young people with sexually transmitted infections by gender.

Encouraging healthy lifestyles and healthy nutrition for young people

1. 'For Youth Health' (Za zdravje mladih)

The aim of the project was to address following topics and aims:

- development of evidence-based prevention initiatives for the growing Slovenian youth sector,
- work towards a healthier lifestyle for Slovenian children and adolescents aged 12 to 19,
- additionally, work with their parents, youth workers and youth leaders who have a direct impact on young people's health.

Duration of the project: 1 February 2015–31 October 2016. Funds available: EEA/Norway grants providing co-financing in the amount of 351.076,35 (75,8%) EUR and

the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy providing co-financing in the amount of 61.954,65 (13,4%) EUR. The total budget of the project amounted to 463.031.00 EUR. The project was led by the Slovenian Catholic Girl Guides and Boy Scouts Association (Skavti) and the Youth Network No Excuse Slovenia (Mladinska zveza Brez izgovora Slovenija), with the collaboration of the following:

- Scouts Association of Slovenia (Taborniki),
- National Youth Council of Slovenia (Mladinski svet Slovenije),
- National Public Health Institute, and
- Slovenian National Radio and Television (RTV Slovenija – Infodrom).

2. Wind in the Hair (Veter v laseh)

The aims are promoting a healthy lifestyle and preventing risky behaviour and substance usage. Sports social events aim to include those who are less active in sport, while at the same time raise the awareness of young people about the positive effects of a healthy and active lifestyle and the negative consequences of addictions (such as drugs and alcohol). It is annually carried out by the Sport Union of Slovenia (Športna Unija Slovenije). It is funded by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport; the Foundation of Sport (Fundacija za šport); and the Ministry of Health.

3. Model 'Healthy Lifestyle' (Model Zdrav življenjski slog)

The aims are promoting a healthy lifestyle and healthful eating and nutrition, as well as preventing risky behaviour and substance usage. The intention is to integrate the contents of a healthy lifestyle into the school space on various levels – from curricular to extracurricular activities – with the aims of involving pedagogic workers, parents and health workers and ensuring that every Slovenian child receives health-related content and has a related lifestyle during his or her schooling. The model was integrated into all basic schools in Slovenia. It does not target specific groups within youth. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport funded the model.

4. Slovenian Network of Healthy Schools (Slovenska mreža zdravih šol)

This is a permanent project coordinated by the National Institute of Public Health. The network responds to problems related to the health of children and youth, and it carries out proven programmes for the promotion of health in physical, mental, social and environmental aspects of pupils' health. No specific group is target within the project. The project is annually adjusted and an action plan is put together accordingly. Project outcomes are annually evaluated.

Health education and healthy lifestyles education in schools

Health education

At the upper secondary level, the health education and healthy lifestyles lessons are held as part of compulsory optional content (obvezne izbirne vsebine). The recommended duration is 15 hours in a single sitting. Topics covered are the following:

- concepts of health (medical, philosophical, cultural, psychological, etc., as well as intercultural differences),
- youth and health (physical, mental and social development from birth to death, as well as relationships with the body and gender differences),
- lifestyles, life conditions and culture (balanced diet; physical activity; importance of the environment for health; responsible attitude towards smoking, alcohol and drugs; sexuality and interpersonal relations; family planning; pregnancy and childbirth; sexual abuse, harassment and pornography; sexually transmitted diseases and prevention; and sexual orientation),
- health situation in Slovenia (life expectancy, fertility, mortality and major health problems, infectious diseases, chronic diseases, mental disorders, traumatism and health promotion and health education),

- healthcare (rights and obligations relating to health; health and accessibility; healing; presentation of, ways of using, and accessibility to information on when and where it is possible to access services and programs).

Sex education and personal relationships education

Slovenia does not have a specific sex education policy in basic schools and at later stages of education. The National Education Institute Slovenia states that the content set of healthy and safe sexuality is recorded in the program of elementary and secondary school work. The program has been prepared by a team of experts and is designed to provide recommendations for schools' overall orientation to health as a value. Content assemblies are defined with goals, content and recommended literature for teachers and pupils, but each individual teacher decides whether to teach the proposed programme.

Sex education and personal relationships education is part of the compulsory optional content (for more information, see above, 'Health education, third indent, life styles, life conditions and culture').

Graduate nurses are continually involved in the sexual education of children during preventive examinations, namely systematic examinations in elementary school, which are carried out in the 1st, 3rd, 6th and 8th grades of the basic school, as well as in the 1st and 3rd years of high school.

Peer-to-peer education approaches

Since 2012, the national youth organization No Excuse Slovenia (Brez izgovora Slovenija) has conducted peer-to-peer education programmes on the topic of reproductive health. There is no other peer-to-peer education approach.

Collaboration and partnerships

There is no top-level initiative for collaboration and the formation of partnerships among schools, youth workers and health professionals promoting youth health. However, the Youth Association No Excuse Slovenia (Mladinska zveza Brez izgovorov Slovenija) is active in the field of promoting health, focusing on following fields:

- tobacco,
- alcohol,
- illicit drugs,
- gambling,
- eating disorders,
- mental health.

Efforts so far have been upgraded through three pilot programmes with interventions:

1. My Campaign (Moja kampanja), aiming to present a realistic and unattractive picture of tobacco and smash smoking myths that are prevalent among young people.
2. Martin Krpan programme, providing an integrated approach to preventing the development of tobacco and alcohol addiction, involving both young people and their teachers and parents.
3. Project Thank You (Hvala), focusing on the prevention of peer violence.

No Excuse offers various workshops and lectures on the above-mentioned topics. Whether or not the collaboration comes to fruition depends on the agreement between the association and the respective school that is included in the annual work plan for the upcoming school year.

Raising awareness on healthy lifestyles and on factors affecting the health and well-being of young people

Information providers/counselling structures:

The National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013–2022) foresees several priority measures and their indicators:

Objective: Reducing the impact of a changing environment on the health of young people

i. *raising awareness among young people and training them to carry out healthy lifestyle activities to reduce environmental health risk factors*. Indicator: the number of young people aware of the health risks from exposure to environmental risk factors.

The National Institute of Public Health is the main provider of valuable and useful information regarding health in general and specifically on issues of youth health. The Institute is a publicly funded institution that implements several programmes and counselling:

- Health Education for Children and Youth (Vzgoja za zdravje za otroke in mladostnike)

The goal is to inform and motivate children and youth to take care of their health. Through various programmes, they are enabled to acquire knowledge and formulate attitudes and behaviours for a healthy lifestyle.

- Slovenian Network of Healthy Schools (Slovenska mreža zdravih šol)

The concept is to have a network of schools promoting health. They respond to the heath problems of children and youth.

- School Pot (Šolski lonec)

Includes a modern information tool that can be used by professionals in educational institutions and the general public in their everyday work and healthcare.

The youth network No Excuse Slovenia (Brez izgovora Slovenija) is one of the rare NGOs that conducts peer-to-peer awareness-raising campaigns on the topics of tobacco, alcohol, nutrition and reproductive health.

No specific contact point exists for youth to access and receive information on having a healthy lifestyle.

Youth-targeted information campaigns

- The Sport Institute of Republic of Slovenia Planica (Zavod RS za šport Planica) carries out the campaign Healthy Lifestyle 2015–2018 (Zdrav življenjski slog 2015–2018). The campaign seeks to promote a healthy lifestyle among Slovenian children and youth while they attend school. It is implemented through daily, regular and quality physical education. The timeframe is 2015–2018.
- The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport carries out the campaign Traditional Slovenian Breakfast (Tradicionalni slovenski zajtrk) with support of the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food. The aim of campaign is to promote healthy nutrition, support local production and promote health-enhancing physical activity. The project is carried out annually.
- The Agency for Agricultural Markets and Rural Development (Agencija RS za kmetijske trge in razvoj podeželja) carries out the measure School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme (Shema šolskega sadja in zelenjave). The aim of this measure is to stop the trend of reduced fruit and vegetable consumption and at the same time limit the rise in children's excessive body weight and obesity.
- The Agency for Agricultural Markets and Rural Development (Agencija RS za kmetijske trge in razvoj podeželja) implements the Reimbursement for Supply of

Milk and Certain Milk Products to School Institutions (Povračilo za dobavo mleka in določenih mlečnih izdelkov šolskim ustanovam). It is a specific measure of the agricultural market pricing policy. The purpose of the measure is to increase the intake milk and certain milk products produced from cow's milk in the territory of the EU. It is a longstanding project.

- The National Institute of Public Health carries out the programme Safe with the Sun (Varno s soncem). Through this preventive programme, attention is drawn to the importance of proper protection against the harmful effects of sunshine. It is a longstanding project.
- The National Institute of Public Health carries out the professional monitoring of compliance of school meals with professional guidelines (Strokovno spremljanje skladnosti šolske prehrane s strokovnimi usmeritvami). The professional monitoring of school nutrition through professional guidance and counselling for educational institutions in the field of healthful and balanced school nutrition is a continuous task.
- The project 'Let's Enjoy Health': To reduce the obesity of children and youth (Projekt 'Uživajmo v zdravju': Za zmanjšanje debelosti otrok in mladostnikov) is a coherent project intended to promote healthy lifestyles, health-enhancing physical activity and healthful nutrition. The project is carried out by the National Education Institute Slovenia with support of the National Institute of Public Health. The project comprises various approaches, such as the development of intervention programmes, models and tools for integrated treatment and prevention of obesity among children and youth. The purpose is to improve the functioning of the existing system, structures and interdepartmental and interdisciplinary cooperation in support of health.
- The National Institute of Public Health offers *Youth on Mental Health* (Mladostniki o duševnem zdravju), a publication with the aim of promoting mental health among children and youth. Detailed information is available in section 7.5 Mental health.
- The Ministry of Health implements the action Dance 0,0 – Drive 0,0 (Pleši 0,0 – Furam 0,0), which is supported by the National Institute of Public Health. The aim of the action is to prevent young people from drinking alcohol and driving under the influence.
- The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities implemented a campaign on preventing violence against women: 'Violence is #pointless' (Nasilje je #čistmim). This public and media campaign aimed at raising awareness of violence against women was introduced in the fall of 2015 and lasted for a couple of months.

7.5 Mental health

National strategy(ies)

Resolution on National programme of Mental Health 2014–2018 (Resolucija o Nacionalem programu duševnega zdravja 2014–2018) is a strategy document aiming to determine measures in the field of mental health. It was adopted at the beginning of 2014 with a timeframe lasting until 2018. The strategy defines different key objectives respective to the target group it addresses. Regarding the youth population, the following five objectives are defined (see also 2.1.6. 'Objectives, strategies and measures to improve the mental health of children and adolescents').

1. promoting mental health and preventing mental disorders,
2. diagnosing and treating mental disorders, rehabilitating and social reintegrating,
3. preventing suicidal behaviour,
4. combating stigma and social exclusion,
5. educating the general and professional public on mental health issues and research.

Every objective envisages several measures for its implementation. Monitoring and implementing the strategy is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health. The strategy includes an action plan and envisages its evaluation.

The National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013–2022) foresees several priority measures and their indicators:

Objective: Strengthening positive mental health and reducing suicide mortality among young people

i. *reducing the number of children and young people who commit suicide*. Indicator: the number of children and young people who commit suicide.
ii. *developing mechanisms for early recognition and treatment of young people with mental health problems*. Indicator: the number of children and young people who commit suicide.

Improving the mental health of young people

'This Is Me' (To sem jaz) prevention programme was designed by the Department of Social Medicine and Health Promotion of the Institute of Public Health Celje (NIJZ – Območna enota Celje). The National Institute of Public Health (Nacionalni inštitut za javno zdravje) has implemented it since 2014 with the support of the Ministry of Health. The programme is designed to support young people in developing a positive self-image and self-esteem and teaches them life skills, thus helping to prevent the development of mental disorders. The programme does not target a specific group but is intended for the general youth population encountering difficulties. Evaluations are scheduled annually (following the school year) and carried out by the National Institute of Public Health. Positive trends are for example, showing more positive relations and positive feelings in the classroom. The programme won five domestic and international awards (Prizma 2012, Izidor 2008, Netko 2007, best poster of the European Public Health Association, Izidor 2005).

7.6 Mechanisms of early detection and signposting of young people facing health risks

Policy framework

There are two top-level policy frameworks:

1. Resolution on the National Programme on Mental Health 2014–2018 (Resolucija o nacionalnem programu duševnega zdravja 2014–2018). Further information is available in section 7.5 *National Strategy(ies)*
2. Resolution on the National Social Assistance Programme 2013–2020 (Resolucija o nacionalnem programu socialnega varstva za obdobje 2013–2020), which aims to develop a coherent social welfare system. The resolution was proposed by the responsible ministry in the field of welfare, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. It was adopted in 2013, and its timeframe extends until 2020. Its aims are to establish 30-day centres for the implementation of prevention programmes and the organisation and implementation of assistance, support and self-help, including one telephone support line for children and youth and two housing units for youth.

Stakeholders

Governmental stakeholders (responsible for coordinating and monitoring activities):

- Ministry of Health;
- Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities;
- Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

Other public stakeholders:

- National Institute of Public Health (Nacionalni inštitut za javno zdravje),
- Centres of Social Work (Centri za socialno delo),
- schools in the national grid of public education.

The designated and mobilised staff are schoolteachers and personnel, social workers and professional health workers.

Non-governmental stakeholders:

- Salesianum Institute (Zavod Salesianum): Programme Rock – Youth Street Education (Skala – mladinska ulična vzgoja). This programme aims to provide each user with individual treatment and to develop a network approach to solve each youth's problems.
- Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth (Zveza prijateljev mladine): TOM telephone (Telefon TOM) is a phone help line for children and adolescents. TOM was created as an emotional support for children and young people who face various questions, dilemmas or distress in the process of growing up.
- Society for Preventive Work (Društvo za preventivno delo) organises various youth workshops on preventive work in the field of health.
- Institute BOB (Zavod BOB) organises various projects and initiatives regarding different health aspects of young people (e.g. Network Youth Street – Mreža Mlada ulica).

The designated and mobilised staff are mainly youth workers.

Guidance to stakeholders

Professional guidance is targeted toward school counsellors, psychologists, social workers, non-governmental organizations professionals, professional staff of centres for social work and other experts. The body designated as responsible is the National Institute of Public Health. Its tasks comprise providing information, skills and education, as well as training on identifying symptoms and preparing and publishing materials.

Examples of guidelines and handbooks:

- *When a pupil faces stress, what can a teacher do* (Ko učenca strese stres in kaj lahko pri tem naredi učitelj),
- *Support for tackling anxiety – handbook for workshop leaders* (Podpora pri spoprijemanju s tesnobo - priročnik za vodje delavnice),
- *Healthy lifestyle of secondary school students – mental health* (Zdrav življenjski slog srednješolcev - duševno zdravje),
- *Improving mental health at school* (Izboljševanje duševnega zdravja v šoli).

Target groups

Resolution on the National Programme of Mental Health 2014–2018 defines the following groups as its target (see 2.1 Children and young people – Otroci in mladostniki):

- those who require special care (children and youth who are chronically and often ill),
- children and youth with central nervous system disorders,
- children and youth with mental disorders,
- children and youth who are growing up in unfavourable family conditions and children who live among constant stress (e.g. due to separation from parents)
- early leavers from education and training,
- children and youth from families with a lower socioeconomic status,
- children and youth with fewer friends,
- children and youth who have poorer learning success and who attend a less demanding secondary school program.

Funding

Sources of public funding:

- the public budget of responsible ministries (Ministry of Health; Ministry of Education, Science and Sport; and Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities),
- local communities (municipalities).

Type of activities supported:

- education and training for workers in the field of mental health,
- implementation of programmes,
- counselling activities for children and youth,
- school counselling centres and professional centres for children and youth with special needs,
- new forms of placement for children and youth with mental disorders.

7.7 Making health facilities more youth friendly

Preventive health programmes for children and adolescents (Preventivni zdravstveni programi za otroke in mladostnike) are a cluster of measures taken to provide children and youth with preventive health programmes using the concept of a youth-friendly health service and a lifelong perspective approach.

NOW Programme – Health Today for Tomorrow (Program ZDAJ – program ZDRAVJE DANES ZA JUTRI) is an example of a programme that was part of a broader project, Together for Health (Skupaj za zdravje). The programme ran from 24 September 2013 until 30 September 2016 and was carried out by the National Institute of Public Health with the Norwegian Institute of Public Health as a partner. Project Together for Health was financed by the Norway Grants as part of the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009–2014.

7.8 Current debates and reforms

There are currently two reforms active in the field of health and well-being of youth in Slovenia:

1. Healthcare and Health Insurance Act (Zakon o zdravstvenem varstvu in zdravstvenem zavarovanju).

The compulsory insurance scheme for students over the age of 26 remains unchanged. Students are compulsorily insured as permanent residents in the Republic of Slovenia, which means that they themselves are liable for payment of the contribution and entitled to the medical benefit. If they are socially endangered, they can exercise the right to payment of the compulsory health insurance contribution in the social field, which means that the municipality where they are permanent residents pays the contribution, and they are entitled to the payment of health benefits. When they reach the age of 26, students become taxpayers for the payment of health benefits. At that time, all income is calculated according to the Income Tax Act, including family pensions. The bill is not yet final, and consequently, it is not yet known what the method of calculating health compensation and including young people within the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia (Zavod za zdravstveno zavarovanje Slovenije) will be.

2. Student Status Act (Zakon o urejanju položaja študentov)

A proposal from the Slovenian Students Union (Študentska organizacija Slovenije) includes several aspects that aim at improving students' overall position. The act was backed by a public campaign under the banner 'What about us?' (Kaj pa mi?). The proposal intervenes in six different pieces of legislation, meaning the process is rather complex, still underway and being discussed by the government, specifically in the interdepartmental phase. The aim of the amendment to the Healthcare and Health

Insurance Act (ZZVZZ) is to provide young people with compulsory health insurance for their parents for the entire duration of their education (insurance for the parents on behalf of the students). In this way, the right to insurance is linked to the student/student's status (and not to the age of 26). Additional conditions are also introduced to prevent abuse.

8. Creativity and Culture

Slovenian youth are (compared to EU youth) members in two types of organisation that have the most members: one of them are cultural organisations. Cultural institutions, at both national and local levels, 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.

Main governmental actor in the field of culture is the Ministry of Culture, responsible for regulating matters in the sphere of culture which are in the public interest.

There is no coherent strategy on creativity and culture for young people. However, the National Programme for Youth 2013-2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013-2022) has a special section on Culture, creativity, heritage and media. The Programme stresses the importance of "systematic cultural education and importance for culture to be present at all school levels and throughout the educational process, as well as public cultural infrastructure to be accessible to children and youth."

The topic addresses several measures intended to reduce obstacles to young people's access to culture. Implementation of measures within the Programme is responsibility of the Ministry of Culture and local communities and authorities. Programmes, measures and policies are financed by various public actors, mostly by the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports, the Public Fund of Republic of Slovenia for Cultural Activities and other public institutions in the field of culture.

Slovenia abolished special department for cultural management and/or cultural policy (see education). The proposed postgraduate study of cultural policies and cultural management was also rejected.

In general, the business environment for cultural management in Slovenia is poorly developed. However, according to report on Arts and Cultural Education at School in Europe, Slovenian education system comprises of the curricula that establishes a link between the development of pupils' creativity and the importance of encouraging 'entrepreneurial spirit'.

A new Resolution on the 2018-2025 National Programme for Culture is under preparation, but there is no targeted measure for young people.

8.1 General context

Main trends in young people's creativity and cultural participation

The National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013-2022) was adopted in 2013. This programme has a special section on culture, creativity, heritage and media, and it stresses the importance of "systematic cultural education and importance for culture to be present at all school levels and throughout the educational process, as well as to be accessible to children and youth public cultural infrastructure". However, systematic measures still have only an indirect effect on the culture and creativity of young people. Young people also apply for the same funds as other players, but they often come from a worse starting position, because they lack adequate skills and competences in obtaining public funds. The programme defines individual systematic measures directly targeting young people; thus, they are not deprived of the possibility of obtaining public funds for activities because of

their lack of knowledge and competences (the youth sector is mainly financed through public invitations and calls) (see also national report).

Cultural institutions at both the national and local levels as well as in all areas of culture enable young people to access facilities where they can creatively spend their leisure time, while offering them a number of cultural activities to join and actively participate in, in their spare time. By the provision of 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; some activities for young people are entirely free of charge, again, because the young begin in a position of lacking adequate skills and competences to obtain public funds.

A greater development level of individual institutions and facilities primarily intended for young people is still characteristic only of larger urban centres, for example the capital. On the other hand, in the rest of Slovenia, local youth centres, as already emphasised, represent the only practical forms of youth infrastructure in Slovenia, providing the majority of youth activities (see previous national report).

The Ministry of Culture (Ministrstvo za kulturo) conducted a survey, "Attitudes Towards Mother Tongue and Culture (Odnos do maternega jezika in culture)", in 2015 and a survey, "Attitudes towards Culture/Cultural Engagement (Odnos do kulture / udejstvovanje v kulturi)", in April 2017. Neither involved youth-specific research but focused on the general population.

According to the share of employees in culture and cultural tourism, Slovenia is close to the top among European countries with 3.6% (fourth place; see chapter 4 of the Final Report for the target research project (Končno poročilo za ciljni raziskovalni projekt)). Slovenia also stands out in terms of:

- the proportion of highly educated people in culture (47.4%; the average for all sectors is 21%);
- the proportion of fixed-term employees (30.7%; the highest among all studied countries) and
- the share of part-time employees (18.3%; the cultural sector more than twice exceeds the share of the entire economy).

Like many other countries, Slovenia also faces the problem of a lack of data on the creative and cultural industry. The Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia (SURS [Statistični urad RS]) does not monitor the creative industries as a separate category, which makes them difficult to analyse in detail or to compare to international data, not to mention analysing trends and policies related to youth. Nevertheless, some large international studies (such as UNCTAD, the European Competitiveness Report and KEA) contain certain data on Slovenia.

Main concepts

Those who are self-employed in culture (Samozaposleni v kulturi) are creators who engage in an independent specialised profession in the field of culture. For many artists, this is the first form of status.

The amateur culture (ljubiteljska kultura) is a unique phenomenon both in Slovenia and at the international level. About 110,000 people work in various cultural socities around the country, conducting around 25,000 events per year for 4 million visitors. Through amateur culture operate many (academic) choirs, folklore groups, musicals, theatre groups ... Everything works on a voluntary basis and is accessible to everyone.

8.2 Administration and governance

Governance

The main governmental actor is the Ministry of Culture (Ministrstvo za kulturo), responsible for regulating matters in the sphere of culture which are in the public interest.

Other public actors include the following:

- The Public Fund of the Republic of Slovenia for Cultural Activities (Javni sklad RS za kulturne dejavnosti).
- The Slovenian Book Agency (Javna agencija za knjigo Republike Slovenije) is a body governed by public law and established by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. It carries out professional, developmental and executive tasks related to the implementation of strategic documents and directives in the field of books as well as activities promoting development in the field of books and other tasks in the public interest provided by law.
- The goal of the Slovenian Film Centre (Slovenski filmski center) is to encourage creativity in the film and audiovisual fields in Slovenia by creating suitable conditions for film, audiovisual and cinematographic activities.
- The Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia (Zavod za varstvo kulturne dediščine) is a public institution which carries out professional and administrative tasks in the field of preservation of both stationary and accompanying movable and vivid cultural heritage.
- Museums and galleries (Muzeji in galerije); see the list. Some museums prepare workshops and programmes for young people and high schools.
- Libraries (knjižnice); see the list. Libraries are well attended in Slovenia,
- Theatres (gledališča).
- The Centre of Creativity was established in June 2017 as part of a project aiming to foster further development of the creative and cultural industry in Slovenia. The centre is under the supervision of the Museum of Architecture and Design (Muzej za arhitekturo in oblikovanje).

Other organisations include the following:

- The Slovenian Cinematheque (Kinoteka). Four departments carry out activities of the Cinematheque – the programme, archive and museum as well as the research and publishing department, which also takes care of the library and the mediatheque. In addition to these activities, the Cinematheque also publishes the film magazine, *Ekran*.
- Association (Asociacija) seeks to ensure sustainable conditions for the professional functioning of non-governmental organisations and of independent artists active in art and culture, and it seeks to improve their systemic position. The network began informally in 1992, and today it is a professionally coordinated modern advocacy and service organisation.
- Bunker is a non-profit organisation for the realisation and organisation of cultural events.

Since the creative and cultural industry policy in Slovenia is still fairly weak, none of these actors is specifically intended to face youth issues.

Cross-sectorial cooperation

The National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013-2022) has a special section on culture and creativity. Different public actors coordinate according to various priority subsections.

- Priority subsection 1: This provides conditions for enhancing the participation of young people in culture. It involves cooperation between the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Ministry of Culture.

- Priority subsection 2: This provides young people with the conditions for better access to cultural heritage and for their active involvement in heritage projects. It also involves cooperation between the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Ministry of Culture.
- Priority subsection 3: This provides conditions for the greater accessibility of active cultural creativity for young people in terms of a continuous form of non-formal education in various artistic fields. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Ministry of Culture cooperate with the Public Fund for Cultural Activities.
- Priority subsection 4: This provides spatial and technical conditions (infrastructure, etc.) for the artistic creation of young people, to introduce and deal with heritage. Local communities cooperate with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Ministry of Culture. The Public Fund for Cultural Activities also participates.
- Priority subsection 5: This is for the benefit of the national communities of the former SFRY in the Republic of Slovenia and other minority communities and vulnerable groups, ensuring the accessibility of the culture to young people from autochthonous ethnic communities, the Roma community and the communities in the Declaration of the Republic of Slovenia. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Ministry of Culture cooperate with the Public Fund for Cultural Activities.
- Priority subsection 6: This involves the development of reading literacy. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Ministry of Culture cooperate with the National Education Institute Slovenia, the Educational Research Institute, the Slovenian Institute for Adult Education and the Slovenian Book Agency.
- Priority subsection 7: This involves the promotion of reading and the systematic development of reading culture. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Ministry of Culture cooperate with the National Education Institute Slovenia and the Slovenian Book Agency.
- Priority subsection 8: This involves the development and promotion of media literacy and the preparation of an action plan for media literacy. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Ministry of Culture cooperate with the National Education Institute Slovenia.
- Priority subsection 9: This section involves professional training for professionals in education in the field of reading and media literacy and in the field of innovative approaches to education and art education, and it supports research in this field at the national level. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the Ministry of Culture and the National Education Institute Slovenia cooperate with the Slovenian Book Agency and the Educational Research Institute.
- Priority subsection 10: Cultural and arts education is given an appropriate place in the entire educational system. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Ministry of Culture cooperate with the National Education Institute Slovenia and the Educational Research Institute.

The draft of the Strategy of Design (Osnutek strategije s področja oblikovanja) mentions a few ideas and initiatives, but these still need to be put into action.

8.3 National strategy on creativity and culture for young people

Existence of a national strategy

There is no coherent strategy on creativity and culture for young people.

Currently, there is one valid national strategy in the field of culture, the National Programme for Culture 2014–2017 (Nacionalni program za kulturo 2014–2017). This is the strategic instrument of cultural policy development planning. However, the programme does not specifically address creativity and culture for young people; it is, rather, a general strategy in the field of culture. Some measures also include youth, but with specific regard to creativity and culture, none of the measures is intended for them.

The encouragement of the participation and education of youth is mentioned in the topic of education and training in culture.

The National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013-2022) includes a chapter named "Culture, Creativity, Heritage and Media".

Scope and contents

Within the National Programme for Culture 2014–2017 (Nacionalni program za kulturo 2014–2017), the following measures are aimed at youth:

- Increase the accessibility of quality theatre production. This includes targeted support for the projects of young producers, authors and directors as well as the inclusion of the productions of young creators in programmes of public institutions and NGOs.
- Better organisation of the ballet profession and archived Slovenian ballet heritage. This establishes a ballet ensemble for young ballet dancers.
- Better position of musicians and ballet dancers. This supports concert cycles, aimed particularly at presenting young, talented creators and performers, raising the competences and employment opportunities of young artists and performers in the field of music and ballet.
- At least 100 interdepartmental development projects which will promote amateur culture as an important factor in the creation of a creative society. This includes targeted support to cultural projects linking educational institutions in the direction of increasing quality cultural-artistic education (CAE) projects for children and youth.
- Establish a coherent CAE system, which can be planned in the long term, based on quality cultural production. The aim here is to increase CAE for young people from the age of 15, to strengthen their participation in the culture and to pay particular attention to programmes prepared by young people. It also promotes CAE for quality leisure time for children and young people and pays special attention to children and young people from socially disadvantaged or deprived families (measures in the field of social work at the local and national levels).
- At least once a year, provide children and young people a film education programme at the Slovenian Art Cinema Association (Art Kino mreža) or the Slovenian Cinematheque (Slovenska kinoteka) within the framework of formal education.
- Cultural and educational concert cycles for the student population. This supports cultural programmes for the more active participation of student audiences in quality concerts and supports cooperation between faculties and other student institutions to intensify listening to and enjoying quality music for the student population.
- Active participation of a quarter of Slovenian educational intuitions in the national intersectoral project, Cultural Heritage Week, by 2017. The project promotes innovative and contemporary approaches to integrating heritage content both into the educational process and more broadly.
- Within the framework of formal and non-formal education, quality education on architecture is provided to children and young people, including design, landscape architecture, urban planning, spatial culture or a fully built building. This supports CAE projects which provide quality education and education for children and young people on architecture and design.
- Five intersectoral network projects for CAE within the framework of the Cultural School project. CAE should be included in curriculum programmes and provide children and young people, especially those who are not adequately represented in the curriculum, with access to all areas of culture.
- Better self-employment and employment opportunities in all areas of culture, with emphasis on young creators. This gives priority support to youth training programmes by transferring the knowledge of older people to young people

(mentoring) entering the labour market for the first time, and it provides targeted support for the first projects of young self-employed people.

The National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013–2022) addresses the following relevant priority measures (and their indicators).

Objective: Concern for the availability of high-quality cultural services and the participation of young people in culture

1. To provide conditions for strengthening the participation of young people in culture. Indicators: increasing the share of quality programmes and projects which actively involve young people; increasing the proportion of programmes and projects prepared by young people (either students, employees, freelance cultural workers or volunteers).
2. To provide young people with the conditions for better access to cultural heritage and their active involvement in heritage projects. Indicators: the number of projects carried out, including the active participation of young people of all ages and from different social backgrounds in learning and protecting cultural heritage; the inclusion of different areas of fixed, movable and live heritage in curricula (within compulsory subjects/elective subjects/extracurricular activities).
3. To provide the conditions for greater accessibility of active cultural creativity for young people in terms of continuous forms of non-formal education for various artistic fields. Indicator: the number of new quality continuous forms of education (number of new areas).
4. To provide spatial and technical conditions for the artistic creation of young people (infrastructure, etc.), for becoming acquainted with and dealing with heritage. Indicators: an increase in the number of appropriately landscaped spaces in which young people can create or engage in artistic activities; better geographical coverage with MMC and other appropriately regulated spaces for young people.
5. For the youth of indigenous national communities, the Roma community, communities from the Declaration of the Republic of Slovenia on the status of the national communities of the former SFRY members in the Republic of Slovenia and other minority communities and other vulnerable groups, ensure the accessibility of culture, their active and creative role in the development of their culture, their equal participation in cultural life and at the same time, quality integration. Indicator: the number of cultural projects involving (or intended for) young people from autochthonous national communities, the Roma community, communities from the Declaration and other minority communities and other vulnerable groups.

Objective: Concern for literacy in Slovene, other mother tongues and foreign languages, and media literacy

6. Development of reading literacy. Indicators: improving international literacy research results and the results of national literacy examinations (graduation in high school).
7. Promotion of reading and the planned development of reading culture. Indicator: participation of young people in projects of reading culture – reading badge, Cankar competition and other reading projects (family literacy, etc.).
8. The development and promotion of media literacy and the preparation of an action plan for media literacy. Indicators: designing the starting points for the adoption of measures for the development and promotion of media literacy; the implementation of starting points; the introduction of media literacy in elementary and secondary education and the creation of programmes for lifelong education in the field of media literacy.
9. Professional training of professionals in education in the field of reading and media literacy and in the field of innovative approaches to education and art education, and support of research in this field at the national level. Indicator: the amount of research in this field.

Objective: Culture and creativity are recognised in the society as the cornerstone of the general education of each individual

10. Cultural and arts education gets an appropriate place in the entire educational system. Indicator: the inclusion of different fields of art and cultural heritage in curricula (compulsory/elective subjects).

Responsible authority for the implementation of the strategy

Within the National Programme for Culture 2014–2017 (Nacionalni program za kulturo 2014–2017), the following authorities are responsible for implementation:

- Increase the accessibility of quality theatre production
  - For the period 2014–2017, funding for the realisation of the measures is not definitively specified; the national programme envisages dedicated funds within the limits of the available resources.
  - The measures include monitoring the number of supported projects by young producers, authors and directors.
  - Implementation of the measures is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture and of local communities and authorities.

- Better organisation of the ballet profession and archived Slovenian ballet heritage
  - For the period 2014–2017, funding for the realisation of measures is not definitively specified but is defined as within the limits of the available resources and 50,000 EUR annually from EU funding.
  - The measures include monitoring the number of project staff in the ensemble for young people and of unemployed ballet dancers.
  - Implementation of the measures is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture.

- Better position of musicians and ballet dancers
  - For the period 2014–2017, funding for the realisation of the measures is not definitively specified, as the programme defines funding within the limits of the available resources and an additional 300,000 EUR annually from EU funds.
  - Measures include:
    - monitoring the number of ordered quality works by Slovenian composers and choreographers,
    - a share of representation of young people, especially talented creators,
    - a number of projects for raising the competences and employment opportunities of young people in the field of music and ballet art and
    - the number of referenced concert cycles of all musical genres intended for presentation by young, especially talented creators and performers.
  - Implementation of the measures is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, the Slovenian Intellectual Property Office (Urad RS za intelektualno lastnino), the Office of Republic of Slovenia for Youth (Urad RS za mladino), collective organisations for management of copyright and related rights, public institutions in the field of music and ballet art and Radio-television Slovenia (RTV Slovenija).

- Greater accessibility to quality visual arts
  - The monitoring of these measures includes the following indicator:
    - An increase in the share of young visitors up to 20 years old
  - For the period 2014–2017, funding for realisation of the measure is not definitively specified; the programme defines funding within the limits of the available resources and an additional 187,261 EUR from EU funds.
  - Implementation of the measure is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture and of local communities and authorities.

- At least 100 interdepartmental development projects which will promote amateur culture as an important factor in the creation of a creative society
  - For the period 2014–2017, funding for the realisation of the measures is estimated at about 70,000 EUR annually, within the limits of the available funds and 24,000 EUR per year for scholarships (EU funds).
  - The implementation of the measures is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture, the Public fund of the Republic of Slovenia for Cultural Activities (Javni sklad RS za kulturne dejavnosti) and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

- Establish a coherent cultural-artistic education system, which can be planned over the long term, based on quality cultural production
  - The programme does not specify public funding.
  - The measures include monitoring the preparation and implementation of a pilot national project which will allow children and young people to work with cultural institutions; the proportion of programmes or projects which actively involve young people since the age of 15 has established an interdepartmental offer of CAE, which also includes vulnerable social groups.
  - Implementation of the measures is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, local communities and authorities and the Slovenian National Commission of UNESCO (Slovenska nacionalna komisija za UNESCO).

- At least once a year, provide children and young people a film education programme at the Slovenian Art Cinema Association (Art Kino mreža) or the Slovenian Cinematheque (Slovenska kinoteka) within the framework of formal education
  - For the period 2014–2017, funding for the realisation of the measure is estimated at 100,000 EUR annually within the limits of available resources and EU funds.
  - Implementation of the measure is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the Slovenian Film Centre (Slovenski filmski center), the Slovenian Cinematheque and local communities and authorities.

- Cultural and educational concert cycles for the student population
  - For the period 2014–2017, funding for the realisation of the measures is estimated at 50,000 EUR annually.
  - The measures include:
    - monitoring the number of cultural programmes for active participation of the student audience at quality concert events;
    - monitoring the number of faculties and other student institutions which cooperate with music cultural and educational programmes for students.
  - The implementation of the measures is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

- Active participation of a quarter of Slovenian educational intuitions in the national intersectoral project, Cultural Heritage Week, by 2017
  - For the period 2014–2017, funding for the realisation of the measure is estimated at 40,000 EUR in 2014, 50,000 EUR in 2015 and 70,000 EUR in 2016 and 2017.
  - The measure includes monitoring the number of programme providers, participating children and youth and teaching staff at an annual level.
  - The implementation of the measure is the responsibility of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia (Zavod za zaščito kulturne dediščine Slovenije), the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport

and the Slovenian National Commission of UNESCO (Slovenska nacionalna komisija za UNESCO).

- Within the framework of formal and non-formal education, quality education on architecture is provided to children and young people, including design, landscape architecture, urban planning, spatial culture or a fully built building
  - For the period 2014–2017, funding for the realisation of the measures is not definitively specified; the programme envisages funding within the limits of available resources and of 200,000 EUR in additional funds from the EU.
  - The implementation of the measures is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, the Ministry of Infrastructure, local communities and authorities and the National Education Institute Slovenia (Zavod RS za šolstvo).

- Five intersectoral network projects of CAE within the framework of the Cultural School project
  - For the period 2014–2017, funding for the realisation of the measures is estimated at 100,000 EUR within the limits of available resources and of 100,000 EUR of additional funding from the EU.
  - Measures include the monitoring of:
    - the number of network projects for primary school pupils,
    - the number of qualified leaders' projects in the educational institutions,
    - an increase in the number of students enrolled by 10% by 2017 and
    - an increase in the number of schools involved in the Cultural School project by 50% by 2017.
  - Implementation of the measures is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the Public fund of Republic of Slovenia for Cultural Activities (Javni sklad RS za kulturne dejavnosti) and local communities and authorities.

- Better self-employment and employment opportunities in all areas of culture, with emphasis on young creators
  - For the period 2014–2017, funding for the realisation of the measure is 7,000,000 EUR from EU funds.
  - Implementation of the measure is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology and the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

For the authority responsible for the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013-2022), see Chapter 8.2 – Cross-sectorial cooperation.

Revisions/updates

A new Resolution on the 2018–2025 National Programme for Culture (Nacionalni program za kulturo 2018–2025) is in preparation.

8.4 Promoting culture and cultural participation

Reducing obstacles to young people's access to culture

The National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem program za mlade 2013–2022) defines as some of its priorities culture, creativity, heritage and media. The topic addresses several measures intended to reduce obstacles to young people’s access to culture. The Implementation Plan for the period 2016–2017 (Izvedbeni načrt Resolucije o Nacionalnem program za mladino 2013-2022 za leti 2016 in 2017)

follows up with several projects, public tenders and policies. One of the targets is defined as *Care for the accessibility of quality cultural service and the participation of youth in culture.*

The following actions target the reduction of obstacles to young people's access to culture:

- Cultural bazaar
  - This aims at strengthening the accessibility of high-quality cultural services as well as strengthening the participation of young people in culture.
  - The measure includes monitoring the increased share of quality programmes and projects which actively involve young people (indicator).
  - The measure is financed in the amount of 53,155 EUR in 2016 and 2017.
  - Implementation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture.
- Target support for young artists in the field of music and ballet
  - This includes co-financing the programmes and financing several individual projects of young creators. In the framework of the co-financing of national public institutes, cultural programmes and sponsorships for young people are underway.
  - The measure includes monitoring the increased share of quality programmes and projects which actively involve young people (indicator).
  - The measure is financed in the amount of 350,000 EUR in 2016 and 2017.
  - Implementation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture.
- Youth programme in the field of amateur cultural activities
  - This includes performing a programme of events for children and youth in the field of the following artistic types: choral, theatre and puppet theatre, literature, instrumental music, folklore dance, film and fine arts. The programme is implemented in cooperation with elementary schools.
  - The measure includes monitoring the increased share of quality programmes and projects which actively involve young people (indicator).
  - The measure is financed in the amount of 150,000 EUR in 2016 and 2017.
  - Implementation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture.
- Film education
  - This includes co-financing projects in the field of film education.
  - The measure includes monitoring the increased share of quality programmes and projects which actively involve young people (indicator).
  - The measure was financed in the amount of 30,000 EUR in 2016.
  - Implementation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture.
- Funding programmes for Slovenian film heritage intended for young people
  - This includes funding programmes of the Slovenian Cinematheque, including the Pedagogical Programme for Children and Youth.
  - The measure includes monitoring the increased share of quality programmes and projects which actively involve young people (indicator).
  - The measure is financed in the amount of 22,246 EUR in 2016 and 2017.
  - Implementation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture.
- Cultural School
  - The project, which is primarily aimed at extracurricular cultural activities in elementary schools, has a clear goal – to increase the quality and extent of active and passive cultural participation of pupils.
  - The measure includes monitoring the number of schools with the title Cultural School (indicator).
  - The measure is financed in the amount of 10,000 EUR in 2016 and 2017.
  - Implementation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture.
- Growing up with a book (Rastem s knjigo)

- This is a national project promoting reading culture, implemented and managed by the Slovenian Book Agency.
- The measure includes monitoring the increased share of quality programmes and projects which actively involve young people (indicator).
- The measure is financed in the amount of 80,000 EUR annually.
- Implementation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture.

- Support for new career perspectives
  - The measure is aimed at promoting employment and employability, ensuring social inclusion and promoting equal opportunities for unemployed and self-employed young people up to 29 years of age.
  - The measure includes monitoring the increased share of quality programmes and projects which actively involve young people (indicator).
  - The measure is financed in the amount of 400,000 EUR in 2016 and 2017.
  - Implementation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture.
- Scholarships for specialised professions in culture
  - The measure is aimed at increasing the share of quality programmes and projects which actively involve young people (indicator).
  - The measure is financed in the amount of 291,666 EUR in 2016 and 2017.
  - Implementation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture.
- Direct invitation to directors of public institutes in the field of culture
  - This includes supporting content which will enable young people better access to cultural heritage as well as their active participation in heritage projects.
  - The measure includes monitoring the number of educational programmes implemented and the number of participants on an annual basis (indicator).
  - The measure is financed within the framework of public service, estimated at 750,000 EUR annually.
  - Implementation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture.
- Obtaining additional knowledge for young people in the field of cultural activities within the framework of the Public Fund for Cultural Activities (Javni sklad RS za kulturne dejavnosti)
  - This measure of additional acquisition of knowledge and practical training with quality mentoring seeks to achieve, among others, the following goals:
    - providing incentives for the employment of unemployed young people up to and including 29 years of age,
    - promoting tailor-made training and the intergenerational transfer of knowledge and experience to young people,
    - promoting cultural entrepreneurship among young people and
    - supporting young people in implementing innovative projects.
  - The measure includes monitoring the number of projects carried out, including the active participation of young people of all ages and from different social backgrounds, in learning about and protecting cultural heritage (indicator).
  - The measure is financed in the amount of 400,000 EUR in 2016 and 2017.
  - Implementation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture.
- Educational programmes for mentors of children's and youth folklore groups – reproduction of songs from children and young people
  - This seminar is intended for anyone interested in singing folk songs and transferring singing to children.
  - The indicator is the number of participants in the training.
  - The measure is financed in the amount of 2,000 EUR in 2016 and 2017.
  - Implementation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture.
- Week of cultural heritage
  - This is a national interdepartmental project. The goal of the Cultural Heritage Week is to increase the content of heritage-related content in educational processes, in formal and non-formal education.

- The measure includes monitoring the number of primary and secondary schools involved and the number of young people involved (indicators).
- The measure is financed in the amount of 3,500 EUR in 2016 and 2017.
- Implementation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture.

- Education in theatre pedagogy
  - The purpose of this education is to present practical examples of how to motivate pupils through theatre pedagogy, to increase the quality of teaching and the understanding of the substance in the classroom. The training is intended for those who encounter and use the theatre in their work.
  - The indicator is the number of participants in the training.
  - The measure is financed in the amount of 5,000 EUR in 2016 and 2017.
  - Implementation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture.
- Educational module – film education
  - The seminar informs participants about the basic concepts and contents, methods of work, the animation of young people and the way of organising film-educational activities at various levels and in various forms.
  - The indicator is the number of participants in the training.
  - The measure is financed in the amount of 2,000 EUR in 2016 and 2017.
  - Implementation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture.
- Target support for projects involving young people from minority communities and other vulnerable groups
  - Co-financing enables young people to actively participate in the development of minority cultures, which strengthens their involvement and contributes to the very development of the cultures of their communities.
  - The measure involves monitoring the number of cultural projects which involve young people from minority communities and other vulnerable groups or which are intended for them (indicator).
  - The measure is financed in the amount of 80,000 EUR in 2016 and 2017 (40,000 from the Ministry of Culture and 40,000 from the Public Fund for Cultural Activities).
  - Implementation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture.

The action plan contains a priority subsection aimed at providing young people with the conditions for better access to cultural heritage and their active involvement in heritage projects.

Programmes, measures and policies are financed by various public actors, mostly by the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports, the Public Fund of Republic of Slovenia for Cultural Activities and other public institutions in the field of culture. The above listed measures are co-funded at roughly 3.7 million EUR.

Disseminating information on cultural opportunities

The Implementation Plan for Period 2016–2017 (Izvedbeni načrt Resolucije o Nacionalnem program za mladino 2013-2022 za leti 2016 in 2017) enlists the following measures:

- Week of cultural heritage
  - Project aims include: accessibility of content (events are free of charge), cross-curricular positioning of content from the field of heritage, an open learning environment, cross-curricular integration, the networking of organisations from different fields (heritage, culture, education, tourism, sport, local communities and non-governmental organisations) and principles of formal and non-formal education.
  - The project is co-funded by the Ministry of Culture in the amount of 3,500 EUR in a single year (2016 and 2017).
- Public call for co-financing of youth work in 2016 and 2017

- The conditions and criteria of the call for tenders also focuses on strengthening information and counselling in the youth sector.
- This is co-funded by the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth (Urad RS za mladino) in the amount of 150,000 EUR per year.

- Growing up with a book (Rastem s knjigo)
  - This is a national project promoting reading culture.
  - The project is carried out by the Slovenian Book Agency (Javna agencija za knjigo RS) in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Association of General Libraries (Združenje splošnih knjižnic) with the support of the National Education Institute Slovenia (Zavod RS za šolstvo), the Association of School Librarians of Slovenia (Društvo šolskih knjižničarjev Slovenije) and the Slovene Writers' Association (Društvo slovenskih pisateljev).
  - The project is co-funded by the Ministry of Culture in the amount of 80,000 EUR per year.

Knowledge of cultural heritage amongst young people

Some of the projects mentioned above, which are part of the Implementation Plan for Time Period 2016–2017 (Izvedbeni načrt Resolucije o Nacionalnem program za mladino 2013-2022 za leti 2016 in 2017), are described here:

- Funding programmes for Slovenian film heritage intended for young people
  - This finances programmes of the Slovenian Cinematheque (Slovenska kinoteka), including the Pedagogical Programme for Children and Youth.
  - It is co-funded by the Ministry of Culture in the amount of roughly 23,000 EUR per year.

- Week of cultural heritage
  - The national interdepartmental project of Cultural Heritage Week is closely linked to the Europe-wide project, Days of European Cultural Heritage, and represents its upgrading in terms of the development of the target audience (children and young people). The goal of Cultural Heritage Week is to increase the content of heritage-related content in educational processes, in both formal and non-formal education.

- Obtaining additional knowledge for young people in the field of cultural activities within the framework of the Public Fund of the Republic of Slovenia for Cultural Activities (Javni sklad RS za kulturne dejavnosti)
  - This promotes adapted training and the intergenerational transfer of knowledge and experience to young people (especially in the field of cultural heritage).
  - It is co-funded by the Ministry of Culture in the amount of 400,000 EUR per year.

8.5 Developing cultural and creative competences

Acquiring cultural and creative competences through education and training

Art forms are regarded as separate objects. The arts as a curricular area is compulsory through the entire first level of education (ISCED 1) and also in lower secondary education (ISCED 2).

The following is the status of different art subjects in the national curriculum:

- Art – an optional arts subject (Umetnost)
- Dance – part of another compulsory non-arts subject (Športna vzgoja)
- Drama – part of another compulsory non-arts subject (Slovenščina)
- Music – compulsory arts subject (Glasbena vzgoja)
- Visual arts – compulsory arts subject (Likovna vzgoja)

- Ethnology – Cultural Heritage and Ways of Life – optional subject (Etnologija – kulturna dediščina in načini življenja)

In ISCED 3, students must complete optional compulsory contents (obvezne izbirne vsebine), one of which is Cultural and Art Content, which include and interconnect activities in music, fine arts, film, dance, theatre and word art as well as the activities of learning and preserving the natural heritage. The duration of these contents is 15 hours.

Slovenia encourages cross-curricular links between the arts and all other subjects as part of the aims for the whole curriculum.

In 2009, the National Guidelines for Cultural and Arts Education in Training and Education (Državne smernice za kulturno-umetnostno vzgojo v vzgoji in izobraževanju) were adopted. The list of areas in accordance with the aims of cultural and arts education includes and connects:

- reading culture,
- film and audiovisual culture,
- musical art,
- Intermedia art (multimedia),
- cultural heritage and technical culture,
- fine arts (painting, sculpture, photography, architecture, design ...) and
- performing arts (theatre, puppets, contemporary dance ...).

This list of areas is open and is in no way complete. The aims of cultural and art education are intertwined and complementary:

- realising the fundamental human right to education and participation in the cultural field,
- developing creativity,
- developing individual abilities,
- improving the quality of education,
- developing an aesthetic sensitivity and a critical attitude towards culture and art,
- expressing cultural diversity,
- raising the level of cultural awareness and
- promoting awareness of the importance of national cultural heritage.

Non-formal learning is also supported and encouraged (see also Chapter 8.4 – Promoting culture and cultural participation):

- obtaining additional knowledge for young people in the field of cultural activities within the framework of the Public Fund for Cultural Activities (Javni sklad RS za kulturne dejavnosti),
- a youth programme in the field of amateur cultural activities,
- a public call in the field of youth work for co-financing in 2016 and 2017 (the conditions and criteria for the public tender are directed towards promoting the importance of youth participation) and
- a Cultural bazaar (Kulturni bazar).

Specialised training for professionals in the education, culture and youth fields

Professional workers in kindergartens and schools did not systematically encounter cultural education during their formal education, although in many study programmes (preschool education, classroom instruction etc.) they learned about individual fields of art.

Each year, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport issues a catalogue of programmes for further education and the training of professionals in education (Katalog programov nadaljnjega izobraževanja in usposabljanja strokovnih delavcev v vzgoji in izobraževanju). These kinds of professional training and seminars in the field of cultural and art education are carried out by various experts from different institutions. Quality training, involving professionals from cultural institutions and artists, is also presented

within the Cultural Bazaar (Kulturni bazar) in the catalogue of offerings of cultural and art education (Katalog ponudbe kulturnoumetnostne vzgoje (2016/17)). The Cultural Bazaar offers education and training for professionals in culture and youth fields as well as for the general public.

Providing quality access to creative environments

The Implementation Plan for the Period 2016–2017 (Izvedbeni načrt Resolucije o Nacionalnem program za mladino 2013-2022 za leti 2016 in 2017) envisages the following measure:

- A direct call for directors of public institutes in the field of culture to submit their financial plans and work programmes for 2016 and 2017.
  - In accordance with the proposals of the programmes of the work of public institutes in the field of cultural heritage, public institutions will provide spatial and technical possibilities (infrastructure, etc.).
  - The measure is financed in the amount of 200,000 EUR in 2016 and 2017.
  - Implementation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture.

8.6 Developing entrepreneurial skills through culture

Developing entrepreneurial skills through cultural activities

In terms of education, Slovenia abolished the special department for cultural management and/or cultural policy. The proposed postgraduate study of cultural policies and cultural management was also rejected.

In general, the business environment for cultural management in Slovenia is poorly developed; public funds which achieved enviable levels in the past have shrunk significantly. (Between 2009 and 2014, the funds of the Ministry of Culture fell by 21%.) There are no measures in the field of entrepreneurship in culture and the cultural and creative industries.

However, according to the report on Arts and Cultural Education at School in Europe, the Slovenian education system comprises curricula which establish a link between the development of pupils' creativity and the importance of encouraging an "entrepreneurial spirit". The Chair of Cultural Studies was established in 1994. It unites the emphases of British cultural studies, anthropology, religious studies and insights from contemporary sociology and philosophy. The Chair offers undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD programmes in Cultural Studies.

There are study programmes at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana (Fakulteta za družbene vede, Univerza v Ljubljani) in the field of culture: Undergraduate Programme Cultural Studies (Kulturologija), Master's Programme Cultural Studies – Studies in Culture and Religion (Kulturologija – kulturne in religijske študije) and several interdisciplinary doctoral programmes: Balkan Studies, Cultural Studies, Developmental Studies, Ethnic and Migration Studies, Religious Studies and Social and Political Anthropology. The Cultural Studies programme provides with a broad understanding of the various layers of cultural reality, allowing students to move between different planes of contemporary cultural landscapes. No emphasis, however, is put on entrepreneurship.

The Faculty of Arts (University of Ljubljana) implements a study programme, Sociology of Culture (Sociologija kulture), on the first and second Bologna level. On the first level, it lasts three years and on the second level, two years.

The situation is more favourable in the field of design, where the Faculty of Design, an associated member of the University of Primorska (Fakulteta za dizajn, pridružena članice Univerze na Primorskem), has implemented the study programme of Design Management at the under- and postgraduate levels.

The Summer School of Cultural Management (Poletna šola kulturnega menedžmenta) has existed since 2015. This school is a university project within the Art Council, jointly organised by four faculties of the University of Ljubljana: the Faculty of Economics, the Academy of Fine Arts and Design (Akademija za likovno umetnost in oblikovanje), the Academy of Music (Akademija za glasbo) and the Academy of Theatre, Radio, Film and Television (Akademija za gledališče, radio, film in televizijo).

Support young entrepreneurs in the cultural and creative sectors

There is no specific programme for young entrepreneurs in the cultural and creative sectors. It should be noted that the National Programme on Culture 2014–2017 (Nacionalni program za kulturo 2014-2017) envisaged the creation of the Centre of Creativity. It was established in June 2017 as part of a project aiming to foster further development of the cultural and creative industries in Slovenia. The centre is supposed to give priority to supporting innovative forms of the new economy emerging from the creative industries ("start-ups", "co-working", "service jam"), linking products with companies and supporting the development of social innovation and social entrepreneurship projects. At the moment, it is not yet known what the activities of the centre are or whether they are intended for young people, but some promise remains.

8.7 Fostering the creative use of new technologies

New technologies in support of creativity and innovation

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport adopted the Strategic Guidelines for Further Introduction of ICT in Slovenian Educational Institutions by 2020 (Strateške usmeritve nadaljnjega uvajanja IKT v slovenske VIZ do leta 2020) in January 2016. These guidelines call for fostering creativity and innovation, and in this context, the use of new technologies is a key factor in creating new value. The guidelines further rely on European Commission projects such as:

- DIGCOMP: A Framework for Developing and Understanding Digital Competence in Europe – to innovate with technology, to actively participate in collaborative digital and multimedia production and to express oneself creatively through digital media and technologies and
- Rethinking Education: Investing in Skills for Better Socio-economic Outcomes – to foster excellence and innovation and create new multidisciplinary curricula to promote skills such as entrepreneurship, real-time problem solving and creative thinking.

No lines of public funding devoted to support further introduction of ICT are specified in the document. However, chapter 8 of the Organisation and Financing of Education Act (Zakon o organizaciji in financiranju vzgoje in izobraževanja), the main act in the field of basic training and education, envisages the systematic financing of elementary education.

Facilitating access to culture through new technologies

The National Programme on Culture 2014–2017 (Nacionalni program za kulturo 2014-2017) envisages the following measures:

- better conditions for collecting, accessing and permanently preserving Slovenian written cultural heritage in libraries in classical and digital forms
- increased availability of specialised public library services and their higher quality
- a higher level of protection and accessibility of archival material and
- whole topics intended for digitisation:
- The aim is to digitise and store digital content from the field of culture, which is among the basic tasks of public institutions in the field of cultural heritage.
- The following measures are being taken:
  - a continuous increase in the scope and online accessibility of digital content in the field of culture

- digital preservation and public online availability of contemporary works
- Co-funding for the digitisation amounts to up to 6 million EUR for both measures plus additional funds if available.

8.8 Synergies and partnerships

Synergies between public policies and programmes

The National Programme on Culture 2014–2017 (Nacionalni program za kulturo 2014-2017) provides a basis for the creation of synergies between public policies and programmes. Examples of synergies include:

1. Cultural-artistic education: According to the Resolution on the 2014-2017 National Programme for Culture, "*In terms of content and mission, CAE appears at the crossroads of the cultural, educational and scientific sectors; therefore its planned development is the primary task of the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. Due to its recognisable effects on the integrated development of the individual and society as a whole, it is important to place it in all spheres of human activity and living, as well as in all periods of the individual's life, therefore its implementation and the responsibility of other departments (social, health, tourism, environment, economy, traffic, etc). Special attention is also being paid to various social groups and subcultures, which in one way or another involve various cultural activities*" (see page 105).

The aim in the respective fields is to establish a coherent CAE system, which can be planned over the long term, based on quality cultural production. The programme subsequently enlists the following measures:

- The appointment of the National Committee for CAE, which is responsible for implementing and monitoring the action plans in this area. Each area of culture has its own national coordinator for CAE; the committee includes representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Education Institute Slovenia, educational institutions and the Slovenian National Commission of UNESCO (Slovenska nacionalna komisija za UNESCO);
- To encourage educational institutions to prepare and implement CAE in their annual work plans and educational programmes;
- Participation of the National Network of Coordinators of CAE in the educational institutions;
- Five intersectoral network CAE projects within the framework of the Cultural School project;
  - The project is already in progress, as it was placed in the Action Plan for the Period 2016–2017 (Izvedbeni načrt Resolucije o Nacionalnem program za mladino 2013-2022 za leti 2016 in 2017) of the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem program za mlade 2013–2022).
- Cultural School is a project aimed primarily at extracurricular cultural activities in basic schools, and it has a clear goal – to increase the quality and extent of active and passive cultural participation of pupils and their parents, grandparents and mentors in the field of extracurricular activities which are not part of the school curriculum.

2. The development of the market for creative industries
   - The establishment of an interdepartmental working group to prepare a design strategy

3. The Draft of Strategy of Design (Osnutek strategije s področja oblikovanja)
   - This defines the aims in the field of education as follows: Raising competences in the field of design with an emphasis on project-based (experiential) learning to meet the needs of the public and private sectors; creating conditions for transition to a creative economic model through education; and promoting design as an integral part of all development processes and projects, raising

the competencies of existing designers by establishing international partnerships.
    - To this end, the draft envisages the following measure regarding young people: teaching twenty-first-century skills through an education system which can equip the population with this century's knowledge. These skills include the design and creative skills which are most easily acquired through practical work. In such cases, design becomes both the content and the method of achieving new knowledge. The aim of the proposal is to develop a design and creativity programme which would be introduced as a complementary activity at one of the schools in 2017.

The Action Plan for the Period 2016–2017 (Izvedbeni načrt Resolucije o Nacionalnem program za mladino 2013-2022 za leti 2016 in 2017) of the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem program za mlade 2013–2022) includes the following:

- Scholarships for specialised professions in culture
    - The scholarship policy under the Scholarship Act (Zakon o štipendiranju) is complemented by a scholarship policy based on the Exercising of the Public Interest in Culture Act (Zakona o uresničevanju javnega interesa za kulturo) and the National Programme on Culture.
    - Scholarships are intended for study programmes and fields, "*for some specific artistic professions in art and cultural heritage, [which] are aimed at raising key competences, increasing skills and acquiring additional skills as a condition for more successful integration of young people into the labour market*".
    - The measure is financed in the amount of 291,666 EUR per year.

Partnerships between the culture and creative sectors, youth organisations and youth workers

Examples of partnerships between the cultural and creative sectors include:

- Youth creative productions (Mladinske kreativne produkcije)
    - From 1 July 2016 to 15 September 2018
    - Led by the Youth Centre Dravinjske doline (Mladinski center Dravinjske doline), the project will help create mechanisms which will enable young people in the field of architecture and design to acquire working competences while at the same time increasing their visibility and the need for their services in the labour market.
    - The project is financed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and European Social Fund (in the amount of co-financing, 190c134.15 EUR).
- ŠILA Impro league (ŠILA Impro liga)
    - Led by the Society for Culture and Education IMPRO (Društvo za kulturo in izobraževanje IMPRO)
    - This is an annual project.
    - The programme is based on theatre improvisation, a form of theatre which does not use pre-prepared elements. ŠILA is set as a tournament within each season, linked to the school year.
    - Young people learn to become good improvisers through improvisational theatre, and they learn group work and altruism and search for innovative solutions, different ways of expressing, etc. The programme encourages young people, both actors and viewers, to engage in cultural life.
    - Target group: pupils between the ages of 15 and 19, about 300 participants
    - The programme is co-funded by the Society for Culture and Education IMPRO in the amount of 20,119 EUR in 2016 and 2017 on the basis of a public call for the co-financing of youth work programmes by the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth.

- Alternative Band
  - Led by the Youth Information and Cultural Club Murska Sobota (Mladinski informativni in kulturni klub Murska Sobota)
  - This is an annual project.
  - The project is based on the popularisation of media-ignored alternative genres, innovative and creative musical expressions of individual authors and performers and their non-commercial orientations. The project is also marked by an educational note, as many performers also perform free workshops for young people. The project addresses the public with respect to critical thinking, perceiving and accepting contemporary music production.
  - The project extends the horizons of critical thinking among young people and allows the local audience an insight into the musical offering.
  - Target group: young people at local and regional levels, 150 participants
  - The programme is co-funded in the amount of 16,707 EUR in 2016 and 2017 on the basis of a public call for the co-financing of youth work programmes by the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth.
- Platform BITI, Cultural-artistic society Pozitiv (KUD Pozitiv)
  - This project represents a continuation of the original project and it is connected with the areas of sustainable ways of living, responsible consumption and finding creative and innovative solutions to improve the quality of life and coexistence in a particular community.
  - The project permeates the research character and openness, following the interests and needs of the participants and the current associated social challenges.
  - Target group: young people aged 15–35, approx. 1,000 participants
  - The programme is co-funded in the amount of 23,690 EUR 2016 and 2017 on the basis of a public call for the co-financing of youth work programmes by the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth.
- Club scene
  - Led by the Public Institution for Culture, Youth and Sport Litija (Javni zavod za kulturo, mladino in šport Litija)
  - This involves the organisation of various musical and cultural events, especially of non-established authors, musicians, artists and genres which are not of a commercial nature.
  - In the premises of the Youth Centre Litija, a multimedia centre has been created. It enables young people to access technical equipment to share and co-create the programme of the centre.
  - Target group: young musicians, poets and creators, 100 participants
  - The programme is co-funded in the amount of 21,337 EUR in 2016 and 2017 on the basis of a public call for the co-financing youth work programmes by the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth.
- Youth Cultural Festival Kunigunda
  - Led by the Youth Centre Velenje (Mladinski center Velenje)
  - The beginning dates back to 1998. Kunigunda today is a symbol of young, alternative cultures in Velenje. Its programme consists of concerts, exhibitions, shows, lectures, performances, sports and intermedia contents reflecting the annual subcultural mosaic of interests which is created at the local level.
  - Its greatest achievement is the transfer of knowledge and quality leisure time.
  - Target group: Young people and fans of alternative culture, participation of at least 2,000 people
  - The programme is co-funded in the amount of 24,061 EUR in 2016 and 2017 on the basis of a public call for the co-financing of youth work programmes by the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth.

- Youth radio – Radio Galama
  - Led by the People's University Radovljica (Ljudska univerza Radovljica)
  - The mission of the radio is to connect young people on their educational paths. It enables creative expression, communication, professional development and the acquiring of various social and communication skills, and it thus also offers young people numerous opportunities.
  - The main achievements are that young people get their first experience with public speaking, they connect with other musicians, they improve their emotions, they learn to present themselves, they gain self-confidence etc.
  - Target group: youth sector at local and regional levels
  - The programme is co-funded in the amount of 12,712 EUR in 2016 and 2017 on the basis of a public call for the co-financing of youth work programmes by the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth.
- Urban creatives
  - Led by the Institute for Sport, Tourism and Leisure Sežana (Zavod za šport, turizem in prosti čas Sežana)
  - The Intervention Open gallery and My Umbrella can be a balloon, for one day they change the purpose of a public space in a living space. With this, young people point to multifunctionality, usability and aesthetics, and through art, they become co-creators of public space.
  - Young people recognise the medium in artistic intervention and how they can also contribute to the creation of public spaces and draw attention to these spaces' problems.
  - Target group: young people between 13 and 29 years, 10 participants
  - The programme is co-funded in the amount of 21,156 EUR in 2016 and 2017 on the basis of a public call for the co-financing of youth work programmes by the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth.
- Media engagement of young people
  - Led by the Association of Soft-landing Allies (Društvo zaveznikov mehkega pristanka)
  - Together with their partners and individuals, this association annually records more than 70 short film contributions for a monthly youth TV show, gives youth film workshops for young people, organises workshops in the field of film production etc.
  - In the process of informal, peer-to-peer learning through various workshops, young people explore and raise awareness of reality.
  - Target group: youth sector at local, regional, national and international levels
  - The programme is co-funded in the amount of 27,143 EUR in 2016 and 2017 on the basis of a public call for the co-financing of youth work programmes by the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth.
- Music workshops
  - Led by the LokalPatriot Youth Centre and the Youth club DNŠ (LokalPatriot, Mladinski klub DNŠ)
  - At the workshops, young people learn the basics of playing guitar, bass guitars and drums and of singing.
  - Young people have the opportunity to spend their free time with a visit, and under the guidance of experienced musicians, they can improve their knowledge or learn the basics.
  - Target group: young people (15–29 years), 20 participants per workshop
  - The programme is co-funded in the amount of 13,256 EUR in 2016 and 2017 on the basis of a public call for the co-financing of youth work programmes by the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth.
- Youth program

- Led by the Carinthian Youth Cultural Centre Kompleks (Koroški mladinski kulturni center Kompleks)
- The programme provides access to quality non-commercial cultural goods, such as weekly cultural events in the fields of music and art and the possibility of non-formal education.
- Through mediation between young people and local authorities, there is a possibility for dialogue and co-decision on important youth issues. The programme provides young people with space for personal and career development.
- Target group: young people between 15 and 29 years, 5,000 participants
- The programme is co-funded in the amount of 10,623 EUR in 2016 and 2017 on the basis of a public call for the co-financing of youth work programmes by the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth.

8.9 Enhancing social inclusion through culture

Fostering equality and young people involvement through cultural activities

The Implementation Plan for Time Period 2016–2017 (Izvedbeni načrt Resolucije o Nacionalnem program za mladino 2013-2022 za leti 2016 in 2017) of the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem program za mlade 2013–2022) enlists the following measures in order to foster equality and young people's involvement:

- Support for new career perspectives
  - The measure aims at promoting employment and employability, ensuring social inclusion and promoting equal opportunities for unemployed and self-employed young people up to 29 years of age.
  - The measure is financed in the amount of 400,000 EUR in 2016 and 2017.
- Development of innovative learning environments and flexible forms of learning to raise general competences in the field of culture
  - The aim is to introduce new methods, to look for creative ways of delivering knowledge and incorporate new technologies in the process, and also to learn how to use ICT creatively, thus increasing general competences (e.g. ability to plan and solve problems, independent work, analytical thinking, creativity, entrepreneurship, reading literacy) and other competences of pupils, high school students and students through their participation.
  - The indicator is the number of projects carried out, including the active participation of young people of all ages and from different social backgrounds in learning and protecting cultural heritage.
  - The measure is financed in the amount of 100,000 EUR in 2016 and 300,000 EUR in 2017.
  - Implementation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture.
- Obtaining additional knowledge for young people in the field of cultural activities within the framework of the Public Fund of the Republic of Slovenia for Cultural Activities
- With the additional acquisition of knowledge and practical training with quality mentoring, these measures seek to reach, among others, the following goals:
  - providing incentives for the employment of unemployed young people up to 29 years of age,
  - promoting tailor-made training and the intergenerational transfer of knowledge and experience to young people (especially in the field of cultural heritage),
  - promoting cultural entrepreneurship among young people,
  - supporting young people in implementing innovative projects which enable greater employability of this target group of the unemployed, developing appropriate competences and approaches to finding a job and

  - encouraging and developing the active citizenship of young people with the aim of employment in organisations active in the youth and non-governmental sectors.
  - The measure is financed in the amount of 400,000 EUR in 2016 and 2017.

- Scholarships for specialised professions in culture
  - This programme creates conditions for the acquiring of new knowledge and for access to culture, also encouraging research and creativity in areas which are deficient (see Chapter 8.8 – Synergies between Public Policies and Programmes).

Combating discrimination and poverty through cultural activities

The Implementation Plan for the Period 2016–2017 (Izvedbeni načrt Resolucije o Nacionalnem program za mladino 2013-2022 za leti 2016 in 2017) of the National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem program za mlade 2013–2022) enlists the following measures:

- Public tender for co-financing programmes of Roma community organisations
  - Encouraging the active functioning of the organised Roma community in various fields, especially through activities aimed at improving the situation of women and men belonging to the Roma community in the local environment; these activities include awareness-raising and anti-discrimination activities and the elimination of prejudices and stereotypes in relation to the target group of young people.
  - The measure is financed in the amount of 250,000 EUR in 2016 and 2017.

- Target support for projects involving young people from minority communities and other vulnerable groups
  - Projects enable young people to actively participate in the development of minority cultures, which strengthens their involvement and contributes to the very development of the cultures of their communities.
  - The measure is financed in the amount of 80,000 EUR in 2016 and 2017.

8.10 Current debates and reforms

A new Resolution on the 2018–2025 National Programme for Culture (Nacionalni program za kulturo 2018-2025) is in preparation in which there is no targeted measure for young people. A new National Programme for Language Policy is also being prepared.

The Draft of Strategy of Design (Osnutek strategije s področja oblikovanja) is available on the websites of the Ministry of Culture. The current status of the validity of the strategy is unknown; the draft is still under the section of "regulations in preparation". Nor is there yet news about whether or not the strategy was adopted. The due date for comments expired on 15 April 2017. The strategy foresees measures for youth in the field of education, as it aims for improvement of competences in design.

9. Youth and the World

The National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013-2022) addresses mainly structured dialogue, which is intended to ensure a timely and effective contribution of young people to the formulation of public policies that concern them.

Article 8 of the Public Interest in Youth Sector Act determines Council of the Government of Republic of Slovenia for Youth as a consultative body to assist with decision-making on matters of youth and youth sector.

UN Youth Delegate is a voice of young people from Slovenia in the UN. The annual participation of a youth delegate at the UN makes it possible for a delegate (and youth) to exchange views with other youth delegates, as well as with representatives of states and decision-makers at the international level. The Human rights sector of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs meets several times with a delegate in the framework of preparations for participation at international forums.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia also participates in events, where it seeks to promote knowledge and understanding of global issues among young people.

9.1 General context

Main concepts

The National Programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mlade 2013–2022) aims to support and foster the participation and representation of young women and men (see 6.2.1, priority sub-field 3: *encouraging and strengthening of permanent mechanisms for consultation with young people*). The programme mainly addresses structured dialogue in an attempt to ensure timely and effective contributions on the part of young people to the formulation of public policies that concern them. Young people should increase their awareness so that they can actively influence the shaping of public policies in the EU. Young people should also become awareness of their joint ownership of the European idea. Consequently, the main concepts of this program are in accordance with the new European Union's notion of 'structured dialogue'.

Slovenia made significant steps in establishing a national youth policy after joining the European Union. In 2010, the Public Interest in Youth Sector Act (Zakon o javnem interesu v mladinskem sektorju) was adopted, which established key youth policy definitions and provided the basis for the adoption of the National Youth Programme.

Youth interest in global issues

There have been no recent studies of young people's interest or participation in global issues.

A youth dialogue event was held with decision makers in November of 2016 (Dialog mladih s premierjem). This event included young people and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr. Miro Cerar. The conference program was based on concrete proposals and measures in support of the "For social changes" (Za družbene spremembe) movement, specifically three key areas of the 5th Structured Dialogue cycle that promote a more tolerant environment:

- entrepreneurship and job creation
- youth employment
- enabling young people to participate in a diverse, integrated and inclusive Europe.

In Sustainable Development:

- The Youth in the World of Energy project (Mladi v svetu energije) aims to increase the awareness of pupils, high school students, teachers, professors and mentors in Slovenian primary and secondary schools and high school dormitories regarding sustainable energy sources, the methods of electricity generation, the electricity supply and its use, measures for efficient energy use and the future of the electricity supply in Slovenia and the world.
- Youth Association No Excuse Slovenia (Mladinska zveza Brez izgovora Slovenija) actively informs youth about the latest developments and events concerning sustainable development.
- The National Youth Council of Slovenia (Mladinski svet Slovenije) has published a brochure on sustainable development in relation to the Slovenian youth sector called Sustainable Development and Youth Organisations (Trajnostni razvoj in

mladinske organizacije). In addition, the Council has recently asked youth about sustainable development goals (Cilji trajnostnega razvoja).
- The Youth Section of the United Nations Associations of Slovenia (Društvo za Združene narode za Slovenijo) unites young members (15–29 years) of UNAS and deals with UN topics that especially concern youth.

In Human Rights:

- For initiatives in informal learning, detailed information can be found in sub-section 9.4: Raising awareness about global issues, Informal Learning.
- Participation in the No Hate Speech Movement, which is coordinated by the National Youth Council of Slovenia and includes educational workshops on the topic of human rights and hate speech (Mlad.si).

In UN Millennium Development Goals:

- A public competition featuring contributions in the form of art work, photography, comic books or literary texts on the topic "Show the way to gender equality" (Mlad.si).
- Combating AIDS/HIV with annual Virus Project (Projekt Virus), which aims to increase the awareness of AIDS/HIV and is implemented by the Slovenian Medical Students' International Committee Ljubljana (Društvo študentov medicine Slovenija).

The UN Youth Delegate (mladinski delegat OZN) is a relatively new programme in Slovenia. The National Youth Council of Slovenia, in cooperation with the Office for Youth and the Ministry for foreign affairs, has coordinated this program since 2014. The UN Youth Delegate spreads the message of the work of the United Nations and acts as a voice for young people from Slovenia in the UN. At the international level, a delegate usually participates in the regular session of the UN General Assembly in New York and the Third Committee meeting dealing with social, humanitarian and cultural issues, and such a delegate can also be involved in other high-level meetings at the international level. In the course of a one-year mandate, the delegate accomplishes the following:

- advocating, preparing and conducting workshops for young people.
- preparing content articles regarding areas covered by the United Nations.
- linking himself or herself with actors who are closely associated with the functioning of the organisation.

9.2 Administration and governance

Governance

Governmental authority:

- The Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth (Urad RS za mladino) is a public authority responsible for the realisation of public interests in the youth sector at the national level. Structured dialogue falls under the auspices of this office.

Public actors:

- The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the home ministry of the Office of the RS for Youth, which is responsible for the majority of actions and policies regarding youth.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is responsible for international cooperation and humanitarian aid.

Non-public actors:

- SLOGA, a platform for non-governmental, non-profit organizations working in international development cooperation, global learning and humanitarian aid.

- The United Nations Association of Slovenia (Društvo za Združene narode za Slovenijo), a non-governmental organization that spreads the ideas and goals of the UN in Slovenia.
- No Excuse Slovenia (Brez izgovora Slovenija), a national youth organization that aims to encourage positive social change and the personal growth of young people. Through various projects, the organization promotes and advocates sustainable development, healthy lifestyles and active citizenship among young people.
- The National Youth Council of Slovenia (Mladinski svet Slovenije), an umbrella organization of youth organizations working at the national level and a member of the European Youth Forum since its origin in 1996.

The Public Interest in the Youth Sector Act (Zakon o javnem interesu v mladinskem sektorju), the main act regarding youth, determines the distribution of responsibilities regarding youth. Article 7 determines the jurisdiction of the administrative body responsible for youth, which helps represent the country in the bodies of the European Union and the Council of Europe, as well as globally, in matters relating to youth. Article 8 specifies the Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth as a consultative body that should assist with decision-making on matters of youth and the youth sector. This article also specifies this council's jurisdiction and tasks:

- Propose measures in the youth sector and monitor the realization of the interests of youth in other policies at the national level.
- Provide advice to the government and relevant ministries regarding proposals, initiatives and recommendations to strengthen the youth dimension in individual sectoral public policies.
- Encourage the participation of young people in various consultative and co-decision bodies at the national and local levels.

Cross-sectorial cooperation

Evidence of cross-sectorial cooperation can be found on the webpage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, under the "Materials on development cooperation for kindergartens, primary and secondary schools" tab (Gradiva o razvojnem sodelovanju za vrtce, osnovne in srednje šole), where the materials for classes are published. Education is under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. Children and youth in schools are encouraged to consider global developments and their consequences for the local environment. As stated on the website: global challenges, such as climate change and poverty, require global responses.

Education is the sectoral area that is under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. Nevertheless, some materials for classes and other activities in kindergartens and schools are published also on web page of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Namely the "Materials on development cooperation for kindergartens, primary and secondary schools" (Gradiva o razvojnem sodelovanju za vrtce, osnovne in srednje šole) represent an evidence of cross-sectoral cooperation in the area. Children and youth in schools are stimulated to think about developments on the global level and the consequences in the local environment. As stated on the website: global challenges, such as climate change or poverty, need global responses.

The Strategic framework for climate change adaptation (Strateški okvir prilagajanja podnebnim spremembam) includes activities in the field of education, training and awareness raising. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is not only one of the (new) curricular subjects, but instead it represents the strategic development guideline for the education system, requiring a change in the paradigm of knowledge and values. The strategic framework is outcome of cooperation between the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.

9.3 Exchanges between young people and policy-makers on global issues

Global issues exchanges with policy-makers at the domestic level

Structured dialogue is the only integrated top-level programme that allows young people to exchange views regarding global issues with policy-makers at the domestic level. According to mlad.si, the Youth Network MaMa, together with the National Youth Council of Slovenia, organised latest structured dialogue, which was dubbed For Social Changes. The dialogue began in August 2016.

The Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth (Svet Vlade RS za mladino) also represents a milieu in which this kind of exchange can take place. According to the Office for Youth (Urad RS za mladino), at the fourth regular session (in December of 2015), a report was presented by a Slovene UN youth delegate and a delegate to the UNESCO Youth Platform.

Several individual initiatives enable(d) young people to present their views, such as the following:

- A dialogue with the Vice President of the European Union, Frans Timmermans, on the future of the European union, as well as its integration and challenges (mlad.si).
- A dialogue with the European Commissioner, Violeta Bulc, on youth's perspective on future of the EU (mlad.si).
- A dialogue with the Prime Minister, Dr. Miro Cerar, and the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, on youth and the future of the EU (EU Dialog).

Global issues exchanges with policy-makers at the international level

Since 2014, every year, the Slovenian youth delegate to the UN has taken part in the session of the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, which is dedicated to human rights topics. The delegate participates regarding social development, and he or she appears together with the diplomatic representative of the Republic of Slovenia. The Slovenian youth delegate was also a member of the official Slovenian delegation at the Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, which was held on 21 and 22 November 2016 in Geneva and was dedicated to the role of young people in decision-making. The annual participation of a youth delegate at the UN during the autumn session of the General Assembly in New York allows this delegate to exchange views with other youth delegates, as well as with representatives of states and decision-makers at the international level.

Employees working in the human rights sector (Sektor za človekove pravice) meet several times with the delegate during his or her preparations for participation in international forums.

Structured dialogue evolved as a method of working in consultation with young people to encourage their active participation in society.

- The National Youth Council of Slovenia guides the national preparatory process for the implementation of a structured dialogue at the EU level. This council is guided by the National Steering Committee, which is composed of representatives of the following:
  - the National Youth Council of Slovenia,
  - the Youth Network MaMa (Mreža MaMa),
  - the National Agency of the Erasmus+: Youth in Action (Zavod MOVIT),
  - the Office of RS for Youth,
  - the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
  - the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

The »Initiative.si« (Pobuda.si) online platform, created by the National Youth Council of Slovenia, supports initiatives at the EU level (see also Chapter 5.4).

9.4 Raising awareness about global issues

Formal, non-formal and informal learning

Formal learning

The goals of the Slovenian educational system as specified in the Financing and Organisation of Education Act include:

- educating for mutual tolerance,
- developing awareness of gender equality,
- respect for human diversity and mutual cooperation,
- respect for children's and human rights and fundamental freedoms,
- developing the skills needed to live in a democratic society,
- developing linguistic skills,
- educating for sustainable development and active participation in a democratic society including a deep understanding of and a responsible attitude to, oneself,
- one's health
- one's own and other cultures,
- the natural and social environment, and
- future generations.

In formal education, these issues are transmitted through different subjects, cross-curriculum and with different out-of-school and project activities.

On upper-secondary level of education, they are covered across different subjects – as a planned programme – through subjects, such as philosophy, sociology, history, geography and the mother tongue, whole-school activities, and a range of opportunities for students through their participation in the life of the school and local community.

At the upper-secondary level of education, global issues are divided into two subjects:

- History (Zgodovina)
- Sociology (Sociologija)

These topics are discussed using a cross-curricular approach because they intertwine with other subjects, such as biology (ecology).

The issues covered and their key concepts, which represent the main learning objectives, are as follows:

- Work, modern social organisations and leisure are envisaged in curricula of sociology (key concepts covered: the consequences of work flexibility for society and individuals, the consequences of long-term unemployment, changing attitudes toward work, international companies, women in management, satisfaction and dissatisfaction at work and total institutions).
- Social development and environmental issues are envisaged within curricula of sociology (key concepts covered: the development of modern science; the revolution in biotechnology, including its consequences, the possibilities of its use and abuse and ethical issues related to the development of biological science and technology; global warming and its consequences; the development of information science and technology and its impact on privacy, the protection of personal data, human rights and control; the environment and growth limits; resource depletion and pollution).
- Civil society movements and human rights are envisaged within the curricula of history (key concepts: civil society movements, non-governmental organizations, civil rights, human rights, tolerance, globalisation, the women's equality movement and women's right to vote).

- Migration is envisaged within the curricula of history (key concepts: migration, economic crisis, urbanisation, exploitation, globalisation, citizenship, multicultural society, the friction between cultures, tolerance and terrorism).
- Science and technology in the twentieth century are envisaged within the curricula of history (key concepts: technical progress, scientific development, post-industrial society, ecological issues, sustainable development, education and the development/underdevelopment of the world).
- Challenges of the contemporary world are envisaged within the curricula of sociology (key concepts: European integration and globalization, globalisation and anti-globalisation movements, globalisation and the ecological crisis, new ecological and ethical views, migration flows in Europe, multiculturalism, inter-ethnic conflicts, biotechnology and information technology – opportunities and risks, the role of the media in global society and the impact of globalisation on the spheres of work, family, identity, migration, self-reliance, health, the body, disease, education and problems of modern urbanisation).

In terms of recommended teaching time, history represents 30-40% of the total time. Sociology addresses global issues as a coherent topic. The average time devoted to each issue results in a total teaching time of roughly 30 hours. A certified cross-curricular program regarding environmental education (Okoljska vzgoja) helps provide education and training regarding sustainable development.

The National Programme for Youth 2013-2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013-2022) promotes a holistic understanding of sustainable development, with an emphasis on the transition to a low-carbon society (see Priority subsection 14):

- Indicator 1: the systematic introduction of content on sustainable development into the national curriculum
- Indicator 2: the share of programmes and projects regarding sustainable development as compared to all programmes and projects regarding youth
- Indicator 3: public opinion polls about environmental awareness among young people

Non-formal learning

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs publishes public invitations to non-governmental organisations in the field of global learning and public awareness. Tenders are usually published cyclically to ensure the continuity of project implementation in a particular area. The last tender for two-year projects among non-governmental organisations regarding global learning and public awareness was published on December 31 2016, seeking a single global learning project worth up to 30,000 EUR and one public awareness project worth up to 40,000 EUR.

The conditions described in the tender are as follows:

- In the global learning project proposal, the contractor had to include both selected priority themes (training on global learning content and training on sustainable development objectives and humanitarian aid), and the project had to be carried out in such a way that it addressed both pedagogical workers and children and young people.
- In the public awareness campaign proposal, the contractor had to include all three selected priority themes (awareness of the objectives of sustainable development, awareness of international development cooperation projects and humanitarian aid and awareness of humanitarian aid challenges) and could choose the target public from among several options. However, the practice has been to address young people to a large extent.

In practice, such projects are generally implemented in the form of workshops in schools or other institutions and seminars and conferences for teachers.

Current projects are described below:

1. Sloga, the platform for NGOs for development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, in cooperation with twelve Slovenian NGOs from 2016 to 2017, is implementing a project entitlled 'Consortium of NGOs: 'Global Learning for Global Goals!' (Konzorcij NVO: Z globalnim učenjem do globalnih ciljev!). The main objectives of the project are as follows:

i. to contribute to greater support for global learning among pedagogical workers in at least six statistical regions,
ii. to contribute to greater visibility and support for the objectives of sustainable development and humanitarian assistance among children and young people from at least nine statistical regions and
iii. to encourage coordinated action by non-governmental organisations in relation to other stakeholders.

The main project activities are as follows:

- training principals and teachers,
- holding a national conference for principals and teachers,
- having a motivational day for teachers,
- preparing a manual regarding the link between global learning and the goals of sustainable development,
- issuing e-news for teachers,
- holding workshops for children and youth
- advocacy activities.

2. In 2016 and 2017, The Association for the United Nations for Slovenia in Slovenia is implementing a project entitled "STEP AND ACTION: the future we want" ("VSTANI IN UKREPAJ: prihodnost, ki jo želimo"). This project focuses primarily on the Agenda for Sustainable Development until 2030. The main objective of the project is to increase awareness of the objectives of sustainable development, international development cooperation and humanitarian aid, as well as the challenges involved in the latter. This association has prepared guidelines for communicating the objectives of sustainable development and a strategy for communicating regarding international development cooperation, humanitarian aid and its challenges, the online media and other tools through which international development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, as well as the challenges of the latter, can be explained to the public, with a focus on children and young people.

No project or programme was established in the context of non-formal learning.

- People's University Ajdovščina (Ljudska univerza Ajdovščina), which is primarily intended for young adults and adults, holds lectures on sustainable development under the banner of Green Education – Back to Nature (sl), which is a project conducted in cooperation with partners from Poland, France, Malta, Turkey, Italy, Great Britain and Spain. This project was first introduced in 2013. No specific target group was encouraged to participate. The project is financed by the Call for Lifelong Learning Programme 2013, the Grundtvig sectoral program and Action Learning Partnerships. The amount of financing is not available. No information on quality assurance was found.
- Week of the Children (Teden otroka) is a cooperative project between the Human Rights Ombudsman and the Slovenian Association of Friends of Youth. The purpose of this project is to raise awareness about the unacceptability of the corporal punishment of children. No specific group is targeted. No information on financing or quality assurance was available.
- The Children Assault Prevention (CAP) programme (Varni, močni in svobodni) is a preventive program designed to prevent verbal, physical and sexual violence against children. It uses a unique three-fold approach to preventing child abuse involving a one-time workshop for school staff, a parent workshop and a workshop for pupils. The CAP program addresses issues of child abuse in the

context of fundamental human rights. No specific group is targeted. No information on financing or quality assurance was found.

- The Eco School Programme (Program Ekošola) is an internationally recognised integrated environmental education program aimed at promoting awareness regarding sustainable development among children and students through active participation in the local community and wider world. No specific group is targeted. No information on financing or quality assurance was found.
- UNESCO's Associated Schools Project Network (Mreža UNESCO pridruženih šol) includes 64 elementary schools and 26 secondary schools.
- The Let's clean Slovenia in one day! (Očistimo Slovenijo!) project is managed by a group of Slovenian volunteers called Ecologists without borders*(Ekologi brez meja)*. The target group was the general public. However, 527 schools and 273 kindergartens were included in the project. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport supported the project and encouraged all schools in Slovenia to participate. More than 273.000 people volunteered in total. No data on the participation of young people are available. The project was partly funded by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning in the amount of 11.000 €. The objectives of the project were as follows:
- To bring together 200.000 people on April 17th and carry out the largest environmental project in the history of Slovenia.
- To clean up at least 20.000 tons of illegally dumped waste
- To update and combine all the current digital registers of illegal dump sites and create the first digital register of illegal dump sites in Slovenia.
- To unite all the clean-up actions taking place in Slovenia every spring.
- To help spread awareness of environmental issues and help in creating a positive and long-term change in current environmental legislation.

Educator support

Support for educators is usually provided within a given project (for example, the CAP programme). However, some guidelines and handbooks can be found on website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In an educational environment known as Moodle, workshops for teachers and educators covering radicalisation, social inclusion and school culture are held as a function of the trACES (Tackling Radicalism through Active Citizenship in Europe in Schools) project. The purpose of these workshops is to use the Moodle environment to address the challenges associated with radicalization and undemocratic impulses in schools.

We are Only With Others ("Le z drugimi smo") is a project (2016-2021) implemented with the support from the European Social Fund, to enhance social and citizenship competencies of the professional staff in education, including themes, such as respect for human rights and freedoms, solidarity and volunteer work, prevention of unhealthy lifestyles of young people.

Informal Learning

I Write for Rights (Pišem za pravice).

- Organisation in charge: Amnesty International Slovenia.
- An annual project that usually takes place in November and December, providing support for people who are wrongly imprisoned, tortured, intimidated or victims of discrimination and other human rights violations.
- Target groups: children, youth and the general public.
- More than 50 primary school and high school institutions have participated in this project. The project is largely financed by Amnesty International's own funds (funds obtained from members and supporters). However, it is co-financed by the Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth, the Youth Office of the Municipality of Ljubljana and the Norwegian section Amnesty International within the 'Empowerment of Tolerance' project. The funds obtained from the co-financers are mainly intended to help in the preparation, printing and distribution of educational

and support materials for students and teachers. This year, Amnesty International Slovenia is expected to spend 13.000 EUR on this project (the cost is approximately the same every year).

Youth-targeted information campaigns on global issues

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia (MFA) participates in events (e.g. the Cultural Bazaar) at which it seeks to promote the knowledge and understanding of global issues among young people. In 2017, the MFA participated in the Cultural Bazaar panel entitled 'On children's rights through culture' and interactive workshops that addressed teachers and students regarding the impact of individual actions at the global level, the importance of international development cooperation and humanitarian assistance and the achievement of the goals of sustainable development.

Global Learning (Globalno učenje)

- This project includes a set of principles for the education of various parts of society, as well as content that relates to an individual's role in society and interdependence with and engagement in global developments such as human rights, the environment and sustainable development, education for peace and conflict prevention, intercultural education, social justice, global citizenship and inequality. The goal of the Global Learning project is to emphasise these interconnections and explain the causes and consequences of individual problems at the global level, which the general public remains largely unaware of.
- Through the project, children and young people are transformed into responsible citizens of the world who understand and meet their responsibilities toward themselves, others and the environment. It promotes the independent work of young people regarding children's and human rights, a clean and safe environment, sustainable development, peace education, the prevention of peer violence and equality.
- By gaining informal competences within the framework of global learning projects, children and young people are directed, supported and encouraged to actively participate in social events, especially in youth or voluntary organisations.
- In 2014, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs co-financed a two-year project managed by the Slovenian Foundation for UNICEF, 'Youth and Global' (Mladi in globalni). The total cost of the project was 30.000 EUR, of which 15.000 EUR was realized in 2013.

Information providers

There are several public authorities responsible for the dissemination of information on global issues to young people:

- The Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth (Urad RS za mladino) disseminates information about projects targeted specifically toward youth.
- The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport disseminates information about educational projects.
- The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning disseminates information about projects regarding the environment and climate change.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs disseminations information about projects regarding fundamental/human rights.
- The Ministry of Economic Development and Technology disseminates information about projects regarding sustainable development and green production.

Key initiatives

The National Programme for Youth 2013-2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem programu za mladino 2013-2022) envisions several priority measures and their indicators:

Objective: Promoting a sustainable method of social action, focusing on the transition to a low-carbon society and the green economy

Priority subsection 13 explains the need to promote an understanding of the changes that affect the functioning of the global ecosystem, as well as an awareness of the importance of sustainable environmental performance.

- The Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning created the measure.
- Indicator 1: the number of comments and suggestions for changes made by youth representatives. This number was 0 within Slovenia's Plan B network (a network of non-governmental organizations for sustainable development).
- Indicator 2: a measurement of the environmental awareness of young people through public opinion research
- Indicator 3: the share of schools that implement sustainable development programs and/or projects
- Indicator 4: the number of non-governmental organizations in the youth sector that participated in sustainable development projects. Three NGOs in the youth sector participated in Slovenia's Plan B, namely the No Excuse Slovenia Youth Association, the Pina Cultural Educational Association and the Koper Education Institute.

Other key initiatives:

Transition to the green economy (Prehod v zeleno gospodarstvo)

- Create a long-term governmental strategic direction.
- Establish a change in the patterns of consumption and production, one of the key conditions for a successful transition to the green economy. Change in the lifestyles of wider society to increase environmental sustainability is possible only with the appropriate educational measures.
- Ministries, knowledge institutes and competence centres must prepare renewed educational programmes with an emphasis on acquiring skills, not just knowledge. Educational processes will include topics related to the green economy, and special attention must be paid to training for so-called green jobs. The transition to the green economy will also requires a number of changes in educational methods. These will include the greening of the educational infrastructure by reducing its environmental impact, increased material and energy efficiency and the introduction of sustainable lifestyles.

School of Human Rights (Šola človekovih pravic)

- This project is conducted by Amnesty International Slovenia (Amnesty Slovenija).
- This project encourages learning about human rights.
- Schools all over Slovenia participate in various ways. For example, they participate in the I Write for Rights (Pišem za pravice) writing marathon at the Nights of the Book, and teachers themselves carry out workshops).

The Volunteer of the Year (Prostovoljec leta)

- The project is implemented by the National Youth Council of Slovenia (Mladinski svet Slovenije).
- Over the years, the project and its open tender have developed a national dimension, rewarding volunteers and volunteer organisations for their contribution to society while encouraging others to become involved in volunteer activities.

9.5 Green volunteering, production and consumption

Green volunteering

Detailed information regarding the Let's clean Slovenia in one day! (Očistimo Slovenijo!) project can be found in 9.4: Raising awareness about global issues.

The Eco School Programme, as described in Chapter 9.4, is comprised of several projects and initiatives that promote green volunteering, such as the following:

- Eco-package (Eko-paket) encourages the proper handling of waste packaging for milk and juices, especially among young people, their teachers and their parents.
- Me, You, We for Slovenia – Old Bottle for a New Life (Jaz, ti, mi za Slovenijo – Stara plastenka za novo življenje) is an all-Slovenian environmental-humanitarian project that addresses the collection of waste bottles for humanitarian purposes, as well as the potential creation new recycled bottles).
- Biological Diversity (Biološka raznovrstnost) is devoted to understanding indigenous flora and fauna, the diversity within and between species and how plants and animals adapt to their environment. The project emphasises the importance of biodiversity in the sustainable management of our planet.
- I Collect Used Paper and thus Support my Companion (Star papir zbiram, prijatelja podpiram) is an all-Slovenian awareness and humanitarian project. This project aims to raise awareness of the fact that the active collection of old paper helps one's peers while also creating a cleaner environment, preserving natural resources and expressing social sensitivity, solidarity and charity.
- Knowledge of Forests (Znanje o gozdovih) is a programme aimed at reconnecting people with their forest heritage. It encourages adolescents to regain their sense of connection with the environment and also encourages the idea that our forests are a natural asset that we must value and protect for future generations.

Green production and consumption

The Eco School Programme, as described in Chapter 9.4, is comprised of several projects and initiatives that promote green production and consumption, such as following:

- The Eco Quiz for Elementary Schools (Eko-kviz za osnovne šole) is school competition regarding the knowledge of environmental and ecological concepts. It focuses on specific topics and issues each year.
- The Eco Quiz for High Schools operates similarly.
- Mission: Green Steps (Misija: Zeleni koraki) is a competition promoting creativity among young people regarding sustainable development, particularly green mobility. Young people are involved in creating artworks and promoting sustainable modes of transport.
- Food is Not for Waste (Hrana ni za tjavendan) is a project that aims to reduce and the production of discarded food at home and school, encourage the practical use of unused food, show the correct way of storing food products, encourage the proper recycling and disposal of food residues, increase awareness of responsible food management and strengthen education regarding responsible food management and discarded food.
- We Eat Responsibly (Odgovorno s hrano – We eat responsibly) is an international project involving nine European countries that is dedicated to critical thinking about consumer habits and global influences.
- The AlterMed Fair emphasises attitudes toward health, specifically the notion that we 'experience' health and perceive it as a source of value.
- Young Reporters (Mladi poročevalci) is a project that aims to report on the environmental challenges in the local environment and proactively seek solutions to these challenges. The Young Reporters project has had a significant impact on changing behaviours in light of modern environmental challenges.
- Young People in the World of Energy is described in Chapter 9.1.
- School Garden Classroom (Šolska vrtilnica) is a project that aims to foster the development of skills and knowledge that are crucial for effective sustainable development in the twenty-first century).

9.6 Intercontinental youth work and development cooperation

Intercontinental youth work cooperation

One of the aims defined in Chapter 6.2.3 of the 2016-2017 implementation plan (Izvedbeni načrt Resolucije o Nacionalnem program za mladino 2013-2022 za leti 2016 in 2017) for the National programme for Youth 2013–2022 (Resolucija o Nacionalnem program za mlade 2013–2022) is *Promoting inclusion in and support for youth work and learning mobility in youth work* (Spodbujanje vključevanja v mednarodno mladinsko delo in učnih mobilnosti v mladinskem delu ter njihova krepitev).

Two measures may help promote and support youth work and learning mobility via the Erasmus+: Youth in Action programme. Both of these measures are implemented by MOVIT, the National Agency for the Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme (Zavod MOVIT). The programme identifies social inclusion as a priority area and young people with few opportunities as a priority group. The timeframe for the measures is 2016 and 2017.

The first measure is aimed at supporting Key Action 1, Learning Mobility among Individuals, which aims to provide opportunities for individuals to improve their skills, enhance their employability and gain a sense of cultural awareness. The second measure is aimed at supporting Key Action 2, Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices. This action seeks to enable organisations to work together in order to improve their provisions for learners and share innovative practices.

Development cooperation activities

Global learning and public awareness campaigns also promote the understanding of international development cooperation (see 9.4). Initiatives that aim to promote developmental cooperation activities among young people can be found under the auspices of Slovenia's International Development Cooperation with the Western Balkans, during which attention was paid to empowering young entrepreneurs with innovative ideas, especially those who were considering independent business careers and start-up projects. Activities focusing on young people contributed to the implementation of the Positive Agenda for the Youth in the Western Balkans, which was launched on Slovenia's initiative. The major promoters of this agenda are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Directorate for Multilateral Affairs, the International Law Department and the Department for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance.

9.7 Current debates and reforms

A new strategy for development cooperation and humanitarian aid is being prepared. It should be adopted by the end of 2018. This strategy will include global learning and will be addressed to young people. Certain NGOs are applying for public tenders (javni razpisi) regarding global learning among children and teachers. In February 2018, a call for a new UN youth delegate will be made.

In the public debate is the Draft of the National Environment Protection Action Programme (Osnutek Nacionalnega programa varstva okolja). It includes education and training among supportive measures. Cooperation between the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning and The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport cooperate is already in progress.

Glossary

Aktivna politika zaposlovanja: Active employment policy. One of the measures by which the state can contribute to the increase in employment in the labour market and thus to reduce unemployment.

Deficitarni poklici: In-demand professions. Professions for which the gap between supply and demand is perceived in the labour market.

Denarno nadomestilo: Unemployment benefit. Youths under 30 years of age who were insured for six months in the two years prior to their unemployment can receive unemployment benefit. The benefit cannot be lower than 350 EUR and not higher than 892.50 EUR (gross).

Državna štipendija: State scholarship. A supplementary benefit intended to cover the costs incurred during schooling. It targets vulnerable youth and is issued by the Centre for Social Work.

Etični kodeks organiziranega prostovoljstva: The Ethical Code of Organized Volunteering. It sets out basic guidelines for organized volunteering and represents the basic guidance of good work in volunteering.

Gimnazija: Gymnasium. Educational institution for provision of upper secondary general education or programme of upper secondary general education. Students who have successfully completed the Gimnazija programme may continue education at the higher education institution.

Jamstvo za mlade: Youth Guarantee. Youth Guarantee in Slovenia applies to

Ljubiteljska kultura: Amateurish culture. A unique phenomenon through which many (academic) choirs, folklore groups, musicals, theatre groups work. It is performed on a voluntary basis and accessible to everyone.

Ljudska univerza: Folk high school. Adult education takes place in folk high schools.

Mladi: Youth. Young people and young adults of both genders aged between 15 and a completed 29 years.

Mladim prijazna prostovoljska organizacija: Youth-Friendly Voluntary Organisation. An award provided by the Slovenian Network of Voluntary Organisations can be granted to all organisations, which provide a quality mentorship to young volunteers under the age of 18.

Mladinska infrastruktura: Youth infrastructure. A physical space (land or building or part of building) intended particularly for the youth for carrying out the youth work.

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

Mladinska politika: Youth policy. A harmonised set of measures of various sectoral public policies with the purpose of promoting and facilitating the integration of youth in the economic, cultural and political life of the community and appropriate support mechanisms for developing youth work and operation of youth organisations, which is carried out in cooperation with autonomous and democratic representatives of youth organisations and professional and other organisations.

Mladinski program: Youth programme. A set of activities implemented by a youth organisation carried out among their peers continuously throughout most of the year and involving a large number of holders of activities and active participants.

Mladinski sektor: Youth sector. The fields where the process of making and implementing youth policies and the youth work is carried out.

Mladinski svet Slovenije: The National Youth Council of Slovenia. The umbrella organisation of national youth organisations and the key partner in the social dialogue in the field of youth.

Mladinsko delo: Youth work. An organised and target-oriented form of youth action and is for the youth, within which the youth, based on their own efforts, contribute to their own inclusion in society, strengthen their competences and contribute to the development of the community. The implementation of various forms of youth work is based on the volunteer participation of the youth regardless of their interest, cultural, principle or political orientation.

Nacionalna poklicna kvalifikacija: National Vocational Qualification. It gives you an opportunity to assess and validate knowledge and skills obtained through non-formal learning.

Namenitev dela dohodnine za donacije: Allocation of part of personal income tax for donations. 0.5% of income may be taxed and directed to financing activities of general public benefit (see Article 142, the Personal Income Tax Act (Zakon o dohodnini)). This is a new source of funding for voluntary organisations carrying out non-profit activities in the public interest.

Obvezne izbirne vsebine: Compulsory elective contents. Defined in the Gimnazije Act (Article 33), are activities that the school offers to pupils with a high degree of autonomy. They cannot be school subjects, compensation for teaching or limited activities with a rigorous curriculum.

Organizacija v mladinskem sektorju: Organisation in youth sector. A subject which operates in the youth sector and is organised as a youth organisation or an organisation for the youth or a youth council.

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

Osipnik: Early school leaver. Person who left school without completing the course or class or without enrolling in another school or other educational institution.

Program za mlade: Programme for the youth. A programme of measures in the youth sector implemented by organisations for youth with the purpose of providing the best living conditions, operation and organisation of youth, and carried out continuously through most of the year and involving a large number of active participants.

Prostovoljec: Volunteer. An individual performing volunteer work. *

* Young people under age of 15 can engage in voluntary activities only if these activities contribute to their educational and personal development, if they do not pose a threat to their health and do not prevent them to fulfil school obligations.

Prostovoljec leta: Volunteer of the Year. An individual performing volunteer work. Every year, the Youth Council of Slovenia organises a well-received event "Volunteer of the Year", in which several organisations take part. The volunteers of the year receive the awards from the Minister of Work, Family and Social Affairs.

Prostovoljstvo: Volunteering. Socially beneficial unpaid activity of individuals, who, through their work, knowledge and experience contribute to the quality of life of individuals and social groups, and to the development of a solidary, humane and equal society.

Prostovoljska služba: Voluntary Service. Organized volunteering by a volunteer performed at least 20 hours per week over a period of at least six months without interruption.

Prožna varnost: Flexicurity. The purpose of flexibility as a measure is to help improve the socio-economic situation of young people with enabling faster and easier transition of young people from the education system to the labor market.

Samozaposleni v kulturi: Self-employed in culture. Creators, artists (cultural actors) who perform an independent specialized profession in the field of culture.

Socialna izključenost: Social exclusion. "The involuntary exclusion/separation of individuals and groups from political, economic and social processes, thereby preventing their full participation in the society in which they live" (see the Public Interest in Youth Sector Act (Zakon o javnem interesu v mladinskem sektorju).

Strukturirani dialog: Structured dialogue. An open, transparent, long-term, continuous and systematic dialogue between the youth and the holders of power at national and local levels in the youth sector.

Svet Vlade RS za mladino: Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth. The Council is a consultative body that proposes measures and monitors the consideration of youth interests in various public policies at national level

Svet Vlade RS za spodbujanje razvoja prostovoljstva, prostovoljskih in nevladnih organizacij: The Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Promotion of Volunteering, Voluntary Organizations and NGOs. The Council monitors, identifies and assesses the situation of voluntary and non-governmental organizations and takes initiatives to encourage their development, gives suggestions for the development and adoption of regulations and measures necessary for the implementation of national policies related to voluntary and non-governmental organizations.

Šolska športna vzgoja: School sports education. Vocational guidance of physical education in the entire vertical of the educational system: in kindergartens, the subject is called movement (*gibanje*), in elementary school sport (*šport*) and in secondary school physical education (*športna vzgoja*). In higher education, it has several different denominations.

Študentska prehrana: Subsidised students meals. The purpose of subsidised food is to ensure that every student has at least one hot meal each day, consisting of a subsidised part (currently €2.63) and an additional payment, which every student has to pay Slovenia is the only country in Europe with a system of this kind.

Študentsko delo: Student labour. An occasional or temporary job that the student performs through an authorized organization based on a student's referral. Authorized organizations are those organizations that have a license (concession) for performing an activity.

Univerzitetni inkubator: University incubator. A legal entity that is under a contract or agreement regarding long-term cooperation with the university. It enables the realisation of entrepreneurial initiatives.

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