

YOUTH REPORT 2014



or Young people in Slovakia

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NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE IS DECLINING



According to the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic on 30 June 2013, the Slovak Republic had 5 410 836 inhabitants, of which 1 963 986 were under 30 (36,30%). Although this proportion is one of the highest in EU, the number of young people dropped by 4,38% compared with 2010.

EDUCATION

The aim of education cannot be to prepare a perfect staff for individual employers, but rather such employees who will be able to adapt to a rapidly changing reality of the labor market. A mismatch between education and the labor market is also reflected in the unemployment of graduates. The highest unemployment rate (45,10%) was found among graduates of teaching courses in agro-forestry and veterinary fields. The lowest unemployment rate (10,40%) was among the graduates of medical and pharmaceutical fields.

The learning outcomes from the perspective of the labor market follow the international PISA study. Slovakia is in mathematical literacy at the average OECD countries, in reading and scientific literacy, however, is below the OECD average. The lowest level was noticed in reading literacy – 53,50% for girls and 67,50% for boys from secondary vocational schools without GCE. This number is considered as a risk as it affects the ability of young people to continue in further education.

The need to strengthen the diverse educational opportunities is confirmed by the Declaration of Recognition of the Contribution of Non-formal Learning in Youth Work, signed by more than 40 representatives of employers and educational institutions and the Memorandum of Cooperation in the Development of further Education.

The formal education is still insufficiently responsive to the needs of young people in the 21st century. Pedagogues lack of competence to create an environment that supports learning and external motivation tools are much stronger than internal ability of schools to motivate students. Schools lack professional support for the change of management process. Although there are same possibilities to adapt the content of curricula, including consulting and coaching, their actual use in practice is still unsatisfactory.

Pupils and students are not led to the self-assessment, to the reflection of their knowledge, abilities and skills for their further career growth and the adequate choice of their future profession. This results in an inadequate distribution of young people mainly into secondary school and higher education school. The elite group of students is heading to colleges in abroad after graduation at secondary school and the quality of students and graduates of Slovak universities and colleges is therefore questionable.

In the future it will be important to develop a system of lifelong learning, which will include a functional link between formal and non-formal education of young people, as well as their permeability.

What is the opinion of young people on education?

„At school I missed idols. Teachers came to teach and even they did it well... in Slovakia we are learning subjects not the children are taught... and most importantly, we were never told at school that we are free and to do what we want in life. That is the setting of the Education. No inspiration, motivation – something the Americans excel in and in what we are failing.“ **Boris (24), entrepreneur**

“The school system, in my opinion, urgently needs a change. The quality of education is lowering, as well as the numbers of children and pupils, and schools are fighting for children and not vice versa as in the past. And there is very little practice in many schools, and even if there is one, it is not often at a professional level as it should be.” **Štefan (24), rural area**

“I just try to pass from one class to another with the best possible grades. I have divided my education into that at school and to my own personal education plan; I am interested into different subjects from psychology through marketing, languages and so on.” **Pavol (19), community activist**

“Last two years of college, I did in one... state degree examination as a proof that I was listening to the lectures? It did not make any sense to me... Today, it's not about the degree/title. The knowledge is important. Without the title – three letters in and a dot – I would dispend.” **Boris (24), entrepreneur**

“The school system requires a lot of memorization and rote learning. There is a little preparation for real life.” **Eva (17), from foster family**

“The school should focus more on providing practice. When I will be a graduate, the employer will not employ me because I will not have any practice. So the constant theory without practice is ineffective.” **Mirka (25), University student**



EMPLOYMENT



Young people on their way to adulthood face different challenges, but there is currently one that is greater than the others, to find a satisfactory job. The number of registered unemployed young people under 29 in Slovakia is from long-term perspective growing. While in 2010 there were 117 282 registered unemployed young people under 29 by the end of 2012 the number of registered unemployed young people has rose to 140 137. These numbers do not count the numbers of young people who are out of registration offices and even those who left Slovakia for work. Slovakia is the sixth country of the European Union with the highest unemployment rate among young people (33,60%). The important indicator of the seriousness of the situation is the proportion of young people who are not in education, training or work (NEET = Not in Education, Employment or Training), whose rate in Slovakia is 18,70% (the European average in 2011 was 15,40 %).

Employers have complained for a long time about the low level of not only professional but also social skills of young people. Therefore they prefer more experienced workers and young people are getting into a vicious circle, when they do not have the opportunity to obtain the required experience. High unemployment makes young people also to accept jobs requesting fewer skills. Lack of satisfactory (if any) work contributes to social tensions and hostility of young people to other generations.

The amendment to the Act on employment services in 2013 brought some changes that should contribute to addressing youth employment, such as modification of the terms of graduate practice, various education allowances, commuting to work and others. Based on the recommendations of the EU Council of Ministers on the implementation of Youth Guarantees also Slovakia prepares implementation plan designed to ensure that every young person in 4 months after leaving the school will receive an offer of employment or further education.

In the area of public employment services there is still a need of counseling, mentoring and accompanying of young people in their quest for employment. This is relevant In particular those groups of young people who have more difficult position in society, such as children and youth from foster homes or youth with disabilities. Employers need greater motivation to more open and support the access of young people in their recruitment.

The challenge is to improve the quality of vocational education and especially issues of professional practice which would allow to young people to be better prepared to enter the first job. Equally important challenge is the quality of career guidance where cooperation between different actors who are involved to education and training of young people to enter the labor market is particularly important.

What is the opinion of young people on employment and job?

"I'm a Gemini and one person in my inside says when I get home and I have a full fridge: Wow, I have a job and how many young people do not have. How it feels to have no income? But the other person inside me says: Why not to have a job that would fulfill my expectations more?"

Štefan (24), rural area

"For example, it is expected from me that I should be able to set up an assessment center - according to the paper. But at school we never had any experience with this, so I did not know how to deal with it. I can do it according to the book, but I cannot do it in practice."

Olga (26), migrant

"There are many pensioners who receive pensions while working and so they occupy a potential place for a young person."

Martin (27), disabled

"Skilled people are usually preferred or people with contacts, because contacts play a big role in the process of getting a job."

Patrick (24), a student activist

"Young people have no chance to be employed if they do not have influential friends."

Eva (17), a young Roma girl from foster family"



ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CREATIVITY

Most young people in Slovakia favor the position of employees, and only one in three young Slovak citizens would prefer to become entrepreneur. If they opt for the self-employed career, they are attracted particularly by the sense of personal freedom and self-realization (56%) and by the freedom of choice (27%). Almost two thirds of young people believe that it is unrealistic to start a business in the next five years or that this would be in future the source of their livelihood. The most serious reason for this is mainly lack of financial resources to start and then develop the business. The second most common obstacle is lack of a good business idea and 35% of young people believe that they lack the necessary skills and experience.

Almost half of young entrepreneurs (45%) agree with the statement that schooling gave them the skills and know-how needed to start the business, while only 32% agree that school education motivated them for a career of an entrepreneur. More than a quarter of young entrepreneurs „cradled“ in business without any assessment of their business idea and up to one third of young entrepreneurs were led to the business their hobby or their previous work in the position of employees.

More than three quarters of young entrepreneurs are interested in meeting with more experienced entrepreneurs. Meanwhile, the younger the budding entrepreneur is, the bigger is his interest in this kind of meetings. 73.77% of young respondents think that for the young entrepreneur is more important quality mentoring than access to concessional finances.

From the point of view of the public administration the problem is low effective coordination of business support. There is a need to link education and training for

entrepreneurship at schools with lifelong learning and counseling programs for small entrepreneurs and supporting activities aimed at young people. The support of young entrepreneurs is needed to focus on mentoring at which the successful businessmen transmit their experience in the development and management of businesses or where will be created a space where the entrepreneurs will exchange experiences with each other.

What is the opinion of young people on creativity and entrepreneurship?

"I do not like when someone is standing over me. In this respect, I would vote for entrepreneurship."

Pavol (19), community activist

"The state could assist with some subsidies or perhaps open a business school – e.g. if I would like to do business with a farm, an entrepreneur in this field could show me for a period of a year how to do business, how it can be done and so on." **Štefan (24), rural area**

"I cannot imagine that I should do it. I do not think I have any assumptions to do it and I do not want to do it. I can see how it works in Slovakia – if you want to do business, you have to have someone behind." **Mirka (25), University student**

"The space to start own business is always there. But the classic business (sole traders, small businesses), their environment is getting worse." **Patrick (24), a student activist**

PARTICIPATION



Youth participation in public affairs and society is not limited just to the right to vote and be elected activities. Its basis is the right of young people to be heard and said in matters that concern them and to be a part of decision making processes. However, to have courage and competence to take such a position young people themselves need to be prepared for this role.

The surveys at European level about citizens who do not participate in the elections shows that the most underrepresented group of voters is 18-24 years, followed by the age group 25-29 years. One of the reasons to this is a fact that politicians pay little attention to the issues that are interested to teenagers, as well as to the development of measures that can improve the quality of life of young people.

In 2010, there were only 252 young parliamentary candidates, the most frequently in the newly-established or small parties outside of parliament. In 2012 there was a significant increase, while their number reached 332 candidates. Although the right to be elected as a Member of Parliament according to the Slovak Constitution is from the age of 21, young people's representation in the parliament has been low for a long period. The share of the members of the Parliament under 30 was only 5 out of total 150 deputies in 2012 of which 4 were men and 1 woman.

Steady trend of civic participation is lack of interest in membership in youth organizations, clubs and so on. Young people generally do not have an interest to participate in the program activities of the political parties and if they want to be active, they prefer to participate in the election campaigns or in civic initiatives.

School and student governments are very promising space for „learning“ to democracy, civil behavior and civic responsibility. Reality, however, shows that although the legislation recognizes institute of student 's councils since 2003, their status and activities are different - they are rarely true school democracy for students. Pupil, student committees, parliaments or otherwise called school self-governments are mostly not involved in the school management and if they have possibility to express their opinion on the content and quality of education it was an exception.

Development of participation should be ensured by the system of consultation on all levels to help young people to influence the things that affect them. It is desirable to respond to the new forms of participation and develop their potential. The basis for this is the implementation of „e-Democracy „for the public administration institutions to engage more young people who are not members of NGOs in civic activities.

What is the opinion of young people on politics and active participation of young people in society?

"I am following basic things in the media, but in general I'm pretty frustrated with politics as the most of people in Slovakia, because I cannot see any prospect for a change ... I welcome each activity that has been developed in favor of young people to be involved in politics, but real engagement of young people is minimal and they can affect very few things." **Patrick (24), a student activist**

"When I see how it works here, I have no desire to be engaged in politics. Young people have no chance to change anything." **Boris (24), entrepreneur**

"The fact that someone is sitting from morning to night and over the weekend on Facebook and in games, so he cannot say that he do not have enough free time. They could raise their butts and do something meaningful. But that is what I cannot influence or change." **Natália (16), from foster family**

"I am not going to comment politics." **Matúš (23), a student and an artist**

"I feel that many people are afraid to open the mouth." **Natália (16), from foster family**

"Politics? I watch/follow ... I swear." **Alexandra (27), mother on parental leave**

"I do not trust politicians. I do not like that they say something to people but the reality is different." **Ján (24), homeless**



YOUTH AND THE WORLD

Several areas of life belongs to this field such as development and activities of young people in global education, environmental education, multicultural education, peace education and human rights education as well as mobility of young people, whether student mobility, mobility for work or mobility in the framework of non-formal education.

NGOs have brought a number of themes to schools, such as poverty issues, fair trade, climate changes, sustainable development, and the rights of children. They focused on teacher training, preparation of teaching guides, teaching materials, videos, and interactive exhibitions and workshops with pupils.

The researches have shown that it is necessary to further strengthen the awareness and transparency at all stages of development cooperation in order to increase confidence in its effectiveness. It is also necessary to explain the broader context and the importance of long-term projects, as public more perceive only immediate humanitarian assistance and less is aware of the interconnection of the situation in other parts of the world with our own situation.

Another area is the mobility of young people, which helps in gaining intercultural experience in recognizing human rights, suppression of manifestations of intolerance, xenophobia, the development of solidarity and at the same time creating conditions and support to these principles. The Eurobarometer survey shows that more than 70% of young workers are now aware that their career will require some form of mobility.



Several factors contribute to the fact that many young people are not considering a stay abroad: the time pressure to finish their studies or training and find a job quickly in pursuit of autonomy, lack of funding, lack of language skills, prejudices towards other cultures, as well as general reluctance to leave their homes.

Options and strategies for young people are also influence by EU policy towards youth. Increasing the participation of young people in the short and long term projects abroad is also allowed by the EU educational programs such as Erasmus +.

It is necessary to create opportunities for young people and develop their motivation to engage with global challenges at local and national level through youth activities. In the area of mobility it is necessary to support and recognize the benefits of youth mobility and youth workers and develop international cooperation in order to promote the transfer of know-how from other countries and improving the quality of youth work and awareness of the interdependence between local action and its global impact.

What is the opinion of young people on mobility, protection of the environment and globalization?

"I think that the more one sees the world, the more it gives him. He finds out how other people are living and how things work. And then he can compare. It is important for young people to see that there is something different from the surrounding valleys." **Patrick (24), a student activist**

"People have possibility to travel; they travel from one world side to another. Globalization is great. I see it as well as linking nations, cultures, creating something new." **Mirka (25), University student**

"I do not miss my hometown. All my friends are spread all around the world. When I'm there, I'm just with my family."

Boris (24), entrepreneur

"Garbage belongs into the trash. I was brought up like this and I literally draw attention on it in the street. If everybody throws the garbage everywhere in one moment the planet will change into one big waste bin. At the same time I suggest a higher appeal to environmental education of young people, because who else could be learned about it from an early childhood if no children?!?" **Mirka (25), University student**



HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Despite the fact that 90% of schoolchildren aged 11, 13 and 15 years assessed their health as excellent or good, almost every second girl and every third boy suffers from at least two health problems at least once a week.

Childhood obesity ranks among the most serious health problems due to its high prevalence and serious consequences for health in adulthood. In Slovakia, overweight and obesity prevalence reaches 10% for the pre-school children (2-6 years). Prevalence of overweight and obesity in school age children (7-18 years of age) is between 17 and 26% for girls and from 15 to 23% for boys depending on age. One from three women (31%) and almost half the men population (49%) aged 18-30 years suffer from overweight or obesity.

Current experience with smoking have more than half of the 15 years-old schoolchildren, while more than a third of them smoke at least once a month and almost one fifth smoke at least once a week. Almost one in three young people aged 18-30 years are daily smokers (39% males, 26% females). More than half of 15-years old schoolchildren indicate that they consumed alcohol at least once during the previous month, while nearly a third of boys consume alcohol at least once a week. Heavy episodic drinking in the last 30 days was confirmed by nearly half of school children. In this parameter, Slovakia highly exceeds the European average. Almost a quarter of 15-years old schoolchildren have experience with the use of cannabis. The use of other illicit drugs, the number reaches 7%.

The fact that more than 70% of respondents had no problems with the purchase of alcohol with respect to age is a very alarming figure. The perceived availability of marijuana among Slovak youth is also very high.

Compared with other countries, Slovakia has rather low percentage of related to first experience with sexual intercourse among 15-years-olds (13%). However, 40% of sexually active schoolchildren do not use condom or other form of contraception and thus there is a relatively high risk of possible exposure to sexually transmitted diseases.

Vandalism, truancy, bullying and physical conflicts among students, as well as verbal abuse of students towards teachers are among the most common and most serious perceived problems in schools. In 2009/2010, more than half of boys and about one-fifth of girls admitted involvement in a physical fight at least once during the past year. There is a concerned and serious twofold increase in the incidence of aggressive behavior among 11 and 13 year old girls compared to the period 2005/2006.

In recent years, we recorded a growing number of victims of sexual abuse in the virtual world. 37% of girls and 2% of boys have experienced sexual alludes on the Internet.

Improvement of the health is carried out not only by direct health care but also through various preventive measures. Slovak Republic has adopted a number of strategy papers that focus on key areas of public health in the area of prevention and health promotion. Attention should be paid to the practical and innovative solutions to real and current problems (obesity, excessive drinking among young people, increase of aggressive behavior) and the development of partnerships and inter-sectorial co-operation at national, regional and local levels to ensure effective coordination of activities.

What are the quotes of young people about health and wellbeing?

"I smoke because I like it, but I try to limit and stop. Especially since I go to the gym ... I also enjoy watching the trends of healthy nutrition, but it's often expensive and therefore not always affordable." **Pavol (19), student activist**

"Health is for me a very important thing. As for the health of my children, I try to pay attention to natural development, for example, I refuse baby-walker." **Alexandra (27), mother on parental leave**

"I do not consider gym or squash as my free time, I take it as something that keeps me balanced." **Boris (24), entrepreneur**

"I do not think about health, because I have it, I am a healthy person. Occasionally I drink beer, but not getting drunk. I do not smoke. I do some sports - cycling, because it makes me relaxed. I go to the doctor only when I have to. The world is beautiful unless you have a toothache. Lying in the bed, one has a lot of ideas what he can do instead." **Patrick (24), student activist**



SOCIAL INCLUSION

Social inclusion is preceded by exclusion which is often seen as a result of unequal access of individuals or groups to employment, housing, social protection, health care, education, services, and at the same time as the inability to execute own rights and carry out active citizenship.

Children under the age of 18 years are the most vulnerable to social exclusion in the Slovak Republic. Their poverty rate was at 21.9% in 2012. In practice, this means that almost every fourth young person under 18 years is at risk of social exclusion. The highest risk of poverty is recorded among the unemployed (44.6%), households with three or more children (35.1%) and one-parent families (27.5%).

Restricted employment opportunities in rural areas also contribute to social exclusion. Usually smaller companies operate in these areas with limited number of employees. Youth from rural areas migrate for work to escape poverty and as a consequence the rural areas are aging.

The Slovak Republic is the country with the third most numerous Roma minorities in Europe, the cultural differences between the minority and the majority also contribute to social exclusion.

Young people living in institutions of substitute child-care and youth in re-education centers are another groups in risk of social exclusion. Despite of different approaches to these groups, both have a common denominator, which is the absence of a stimulating environment and direct involvement of parents in raising children.

Doteraz sa v kontexte vzdelanostných prekážok zSo far, young people with health obstacles were mentioned mainly in the context of physical barriers and inte-

grated education of young people with learning disabilities. Currently, this target group is much broader. Further education possibilities for the hard of hearing and hard of seeing young people are minimal and often not taken into account the specifics of sensory disability.

In the area of social exclusion it is important to list and map the existing various forms of social exclusion of young people in Slovakia, identify trends, factors, forms and consequences of exclusion of different groups of young people in order to identify the needs of youth in relation to social inclusion. Early warning and needs prognosis will enable better and more effective prevention and intervention.

What young people in difficult living conditions think about this topic?

"Life in the health-care center is not bad, they take care of you in all directions, but exactly due to this approach they do not prepare you for a real life." **Martin (27), disabled**

"I would like to be employed again, but as a Roma I have certain difficulties finding a job. Many times I felt or I was directly told that they do not want a Roma person. If I was "white" I would have a better chance to be employed." **Marek (20), member of ethnic minority**

"When I left the orphanage, I was no longer the world champion, hero, as I had previously thought. But after all, this is normal. I thought it will be different in life, thought that I can take care of myself. The first job I had last half a year." **Ján (24), homeless**

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering enables young people to contribute to society. Volunteering is used as a tool to increase young people's potential, strengthens their solidarity and participation in social activities. At the same time it contributes to the development of the necessary competencies that make them attractive for the labor market. The voluntary engagement in Slovakia is 27.5% of the population and 25.7% of young people. 15-19 years old young people show the lowest interest in volunteering. The most common activities include running of the organization and carrying out its mission, provision of direct personal assistance to individuals and groups within organizations.

The biggest area of activity of young volunteers is, as in the case of the whole population, the area of social services for different target groups. 28.6% of volunteers operate in this area. The second most common specific field of youth is children and youth organizations. In this area, youth is more involved than the whole population. 22.6% of young volunteers are active in the field of children and youth organisations. Third most common areas include culture, art and environmental protection, in which 11.9% of young volunteers have been involved.

The challenge for the future is to involve as many young people as possible in volunteering from different groups through the creation of varied volunteering opportunities, responsive to the current needs of young people and trends in volunteering. Assistance is needed in creating specific programs for involvement of unemployed people, people with

low incomes and lower education, to enable them to acquire new knowledge, skills, abilities and experience and thereby increase their employability.



What do young volunteers say?

"People no longer see the values such as helping to others, they are not used to give, only to take and sometimes enjoy the failures of others, for example. Children often laugh at others when something bad happens to others." **Mirka (25), University student**

"It develops me personally, I learn things, interact with other organizations. It will be of benefit to me also after finishing school, I'll know what to do. I will know how to communicate, where to go. And maybe I will put it into my CV too." **Matúš (18), member of the Jewish community**

"In the future I plan to be a volunteer again. I am sure to do it again; it's the thing that fulfills me." **Olga (26), migrant**

"Young people need to experience volunteering, it is the only way how to get excited about it. I am volunteer myself, but I do not want to engage in politics." **Štefan (24), rural area**

YOUTH WORK

"Youth work is purposeful activity that responds to the needs of young people and leading to the positive development of their personality. It is based on the principle of voluntary participation and partnership and mutual respect. Its mission is to contribute to maturity of young people, finding a life direction and self-awareness of individuals and groups. It is implemented by professionally trained staff."

Although youth work has a history dating back to the last century, the challenge still exists in the society to understand youth work as a form of education. It is still often considered only as a fun and relaxation with children and youth. Work with young people in Slovakia is mainly associated with civic associations, foundations and non-profit organizations. According to information from the Ministry of Interior, there are 340 children, 68 student, 132 youth, 175 higher education organizations in Slovakia. They are complemented by various other non-governmental organizations (including youth information centers) reaching the number of 1074. Total number of 1 789 registered organizations orient their activities to children and youth. The percentage of organized young people in these structures is between 10-15%. There is also a network of "Leisure time centers" which are usually founded by municipalities and they are partly financed from the state budget. the leisure centers as the only type of device that remains of the original structure as a system of This network has a huge potential to develop youth work activities, however, current system of financing limits their possibilities to organize activities for young people over 15 years.

Informal groups are a relatively new player in the field of youth work. These groups of young people have the opportunity to implement projects including the possibilities to apply for financial grant. They are sometimes called citizens' initiatives. The target group of youth work is almost

two million young people under 30 years most of which have an average of four hours of free time during the working day. This time can be used for a variety of activities that can contribute to a better quality of life and acquiring new competencies essential for active citizenship not only for life, but also for success in the labor market.

There have been a number of activities aimed at the „recognition“ of youth work in recent years in order to gain official acknowledgment (e.g. recognition of the profession of youth worker, accreditation of programs). The law on the support of youth work creates conditions for political recognition of youth work, as well as the provision of financial resources for the area. Gradual improvement is noticeable and the providers themselves are more and more aware of the contribution and importance of their work.

It is necessary to consider the transformation of leisure time centers or the creation of another type of entity - the modern youth centers which would also focus on disadvantaged groups of young people and at the same time activities for young people over 15 years old. Use of non-formal learning to gain personal development of young people should be more widely used.

Youth as a group is affected by work of various ministries and municipal authorities. Compared to Germany or Serbia, where there is a ministry dealing comprehensively with youth conditions, in Slovakia, the conditions are significantly less favorable. Working with youth as a specific form of action for young people is closely linked with the agenda as the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic, but interdepartmental and cross-sectorial cooperation should be further strengthened.

YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT THEMSELVES

*„Society versus young people? Slovakia is aging, and what I noticed, the older generation sees youth as something terrible. „**Boris (24), entrepreneur***

“I feel that if I were somewhere abroad, I would have to take care about myself and then I'd feel like an adult.”

Marek (20), young Roma

*“I have been considered as a kid for long time, but now as I have kids, so I grew up, I feel responsibility for them. Well, I still feel young.” **Alexandra (27), mother on parental leave***

“Certainly I do not feel like an adult. I'm waiting for it after school. Everything will come and every question will get one answer. Adulthood comes with experience.”

Matúš (23), student and artist

*“It is difficult for young people. Youth is quite underrated and not so supported either by the state or older generation who grew up in different conditions. I would be happy if everyone did really what he likes and what interests him. So people could say that it was great and everything made sense.” **Štefan (24), rural area***



HOW DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN SLOVAKIA?



Certainly it is not possible to provide an exhaustive and complete picture of the conditions of young people in the broad context of the whole topics that make up the content of this publication and Youth Report 2014. The aim of this publication is to present only the most important findings. Department for Youth of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic was the official authority for the creation of texts. The work was coordinated by IUVENTA - Slovak Youth Institute.

Youth Report 2014 was established on the basis of information on the status of youth in the Slovak Republic, which was obtained from research and surveys. Background documents were discussed by members of the nine working groups (in accordance with Chapters) which included representatives of state and of government, employers, NGOs active in the area, as well as experts, researchers and young

people. It was created also on a basis of discussion with young people and representatives of relevant institutions in all regions of Slovakia. At the same time, more than 500 of young people and other relevant stakeholders had opportunity to express personal views on the contents of the youth in 2014, as well as on “Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Youth 2014 – 2020” which was prepared respecting the findings of the Youth Report.

Statements of young people used in the publication derived from personal meetings and interviews (2013) with young people from different youth groups: entrepreneurs, artists, activists, homeless people, migrants, members of various ethnic minorities, the disabled, young people from orphanages, and others.

The full report can be found at:
www.iuventa.sk

IUVENTA - Slovak Youth Institute is a contributory organization directly managed by the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports. It prepares and manages a number of interesting programs and projects for young people, youth workers and those responsible for youth policy. It seeks to ensure that young people are aware of their options were active and working on yourself to be once successful and to be usable in the labor market. IUVENTA is educating youth on human rights, supports the development of volunteering, educational programs, as well as young talents.

IUVENTA is the implementer of national projects in the field of youth work KomPrax - competences for practice and Praktik - practical life skills through non-formal education in youth work, which are supported by the European Social Fund. At the same time it is the administrator of the grant program of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport "Programy pre mládež 2014-2020" and as well is the National Agency of the EU Program Erasmus +: Youth in Action, the national partner of the European information network for youth: Eurodesk.

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